

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## Groups 8 Day Ireland Ballyfin & The Ultimate Celebrities & Passions



**CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS**

**8 Day GROUP ITINERARY**

**\*\*This is a sample Itinerary based on a group with 21 Rooms. Groups of all sizes can be accommodated on this itinerary. Accommodations will change depending on size of group.**

**This Itinerary Is A Celebrity Hosted Itinerary**

**Day 1 Arrival Ireland : US – Ireland – Dublin -**

### **Ireland Castles Experience**

**Assuming all the flights arrive at different times** it is proposed that individual transfers are arranged to the 12th Century private castle of Hon Desmond Guinness where coffee and Irish coffee, scones and biscuits will be served, a wandering minstrel will play.

**Once the entire group has assembled** they will set off in two coaches, stopping for lunch at the Fisherstown Inn at circa at 1 pm, where Irish Coffees will be served. There will be a group of strolling musicians in the pub who will be practicing for a really important gig that they have to play.

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**After lunch** it is a mere 40 minutes to Ballyfin House.

**On arrival** the group will be greeted by the local fox hounds - red coated horsemen blowing horns, & the entire pack of hounds. Drinks & nibbles will be laid out in the hall whilst the group are taken to their rooms. Check in, and relax.



© Adams & Butler

**At 6.30** everyone gets together for an informal buffet and the musicians who were rehearsing at the Inn earlier arrive with dancers to entertain the group.

## Day 2 Ireland : Ireland – County Kildare

### Breakfast in the Castle.

**After Breakfast** the groups will transfer to Huntington Castle - 30 minutes away, and the private home of Major Alexander Durdin Robertson, 23rd Baron Strathloch. There a medieval After Breakfast a medieval experience awaits.

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Within the ancient walls the group is divided into teams who vie with each other at bygone arts - weaving, dressing your knight in his armour (all 20 pieces of it), blacksmithing, candle making, word turning, archery...



Local alternative activities include: visiting a stud farm, shopping, and playing golf at Mountrath.

This evening enjoy a medieval dinner, roasted over an open fire.

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### **Other activities for the day:**

Jousting (non-contact) demonstration with real horses and weapons skills from horseback.  
Falconry demonstration and hands-on.

### **Day 3 Ireland : Dublin**

#### **Breakfast in the Castles.**

**After breakfast** tour to Dublin – an hour away. A tour of Art and Architecture – private curator lead visits to some of the top galleries in the city and visits to some of the historic houses.

Visit the prehistoric gold at the **National Museum** . On to the Chester Beatty Library - an art museum and library which houses the great collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and some decorative arts assembled by Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968).

The Library's exhibitions open a window on the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world. Its rich collection from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

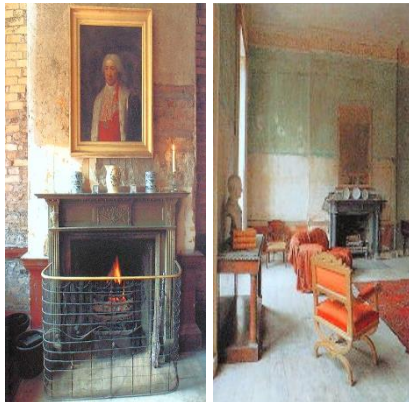
**You will experience A Joycean Lunch at a highly eccentric private city palace** dating from the early 18th Century being slowly restored by its owner.

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"Mr Leopold Bloom ate with relish the inner organs of beasts and fowls", He heaped up the food on Stephen's plate and served uncle Charles and Mr Casey to large pieces of turkey and splashes of sauce



There's a tasty bit here we call the pope's nose. Maria superintended the distribution of the barmbrack

You will move on to see Francis Bacon's Studio at The Hugh Lane Gallery and finish the day at Joe and Marie Donnelly's purpose-built gallery overlooking Killiney Bay in County Dublin, where hang highly significant works by such artists as Picasso, De Kooning and Baselitz, as well as an acute portrait of Mrs Donnelly by Francesco Clemente.



Donnelly Gallery



Bacon's Studio



Donnelly Gallery

**Return to Ballyfin.** You will be at leisure until dinner.

At 8 pm a formal dinner in the grand hall of Humewood Castle with entertainment from The Drawing Room Opera Company.

**Day 4 Ireland : County Kildare – Kilkenny**

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## **Breakfast in the Castle.**

**After breakfast** you will depart for the medieval city of Kilkenny, an hour away. Enjoy an exploration of the city – visit the great castle, the crafts centre of Ireland, in the castle’s stables and the narrow medieval streets.

**From Kilkenny carry on to New Ross for lunch with Countess Bernstorff** in her enchanting 18th century home, where Bishop Berkley, after whom Berkley Ca is named, once lived.

The Countess is a very distinguished artist and after lunch the group will be brought into the neighbouring village of New Ross where her Ross Tapestry is the centrepiece of the Irish Heritage Museum, that includes the replica emigration sailing ship the JFK Dunbrody.

**Continue on to Woodbrook House** where H.E. Gyles Fitzherbert, British ambassador to Venezuela, will entertain the group to tea.

**Return to Ballyfin** for an Informal supper.

## **Day 5 Ireland : County Kildare**

### **Breakfast in the Castle.**

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**After breakfast**, you are off to the National Stud to see the cream of the Bloodstock Industry (the Queen's favourite whilst she was here) .



**Lunch at Birr Castle with The Eal of Rosse, the Queen's brother in law.** Visit Lord Rosse's amazing gardens, one of the finest in Europe, laid out mostly by his mother and uncle, the designer Oliver Messel.

Return to Ballyfin for the night.

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**For Dinner tonight**, you will enjoy a meal of local food producers - the dining room will be done up as a barn with lots of different stands offering local delicacies with local producers manning them and describing their dishes (and drinks!).

**After dinner** there will be a chocolate and whiskey tasting event to end your day.

## Day 6 Ireland : Glendalough

**Breakfast in the Castles.**

**After breakfast** head to the River Shannon for a morning cruise along Lough Derg.



After a delicious lunch and head back to Ballyfin for a rest.





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**For Dinner Tonight** you will have a short transfer to the horribly haunted Cuffsborough House for dinner served by actors who will re-enact some of the gruesome scenes from the past.

## Day 7 Ireland : US – Ireland – County Kildare - Dublin

### Breakfast in the Castles.



After breakfast, you will have a day of comparative relaxation – spend the day wandering the city of Dublin. A couple of guides will be on hand – a shopping guide and a cultural guide.

**Lunch at the Guinness Storehouse**, with Guinness Pint Pulling training and certificates!

**At 5 pm** the coaches will return to **Ballyfin**.

**At 7 pm** The group will then transfer to **Ballaghmore Castle**, a restored Medieval towerhouse, for a farewell dinner.

**10 pm** The group will be returned to your accommodations at Ballyfin.

## Day 8 Ireland : Ireland – County Kildare – Dublin – US & Home

### Breakfast in the Castles.

**After breakfast**, you are at leisure until time for your coach departure for Dublin Airport, 90 minutes from the castle.

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**\*\*This itinerary can be further customized & extended  
for up to 15 days**

**End of Services.**

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**