

## Europe and Ireland

Depart Cairns 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.50PM arrive Hong Kong 8.00PM – Cathay

Depart Hong Kong 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 12.40AM arrive Rome 7.25AM – Cathay

Commence the following tour in Rome on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and ending in London on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October

1. **ARRIVE IN ROME, ITALY.**

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore this lively ancient capital. In the afternoon, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers.

2. **ROME.**

Today's sightseeing with a Local Guide features St. Peter's Square, and includes an inside visit of the COLOSSEUM and the ROMAN FORUM. (B)

3. **ROME-PISA-FLORENCE.**

Vistas of rolling hills, austere rows of cypress trees, terraced vineyards, olive groves, and rural villages form the backdrop of your journey through Tuscany. Take a break in Pisa to see the SQUARE OF MIRACLES and the amazing Leaning Tower, then on to Florence. (B,D)

4. **FLORENCE-VENICE AREA.**

Birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence was for centuries a leading power. On the included walking tour with an expert Local Guide, discover the landmarks of this amazing city, like Piazza Signoria with the Loggia dei Lanzi, Palazzo Vecchio, and the breathtaking cathedral on Piazza del Duomo. Later, watch how leather is embossed with gold, and enjoy free time to shop. In the afternoon, drive north across the Po River for two overnights in the Venice area. (B)

5. **VENICE AREA.**

Venice is known worldwide for its carnival, its film festival, and its incredible location on the water. Today, reach Venice by private MOTORBOAT to view the Bridge of Sighs, Doges' Palace, and St. Mark's Square before the visit to a GLASSBLOWING WORKSHOP. Don't miss out on the optional gondola trip, gliding along the picturesque canals with a local troubadour to serenade you. (B,D)

6. **VENICE AREA-CORTINA-INNSBRUCK AREA, AUSTRIA.**

Leave the plains of the Veneto region behind and drive northwards to spot the spectacular peaks of the Dolomites. Stop awhile in Cortina to enjoy the grand scenery. Later, cross over the Europa Bridge and Brenner Pass into Austria to reach Innsbruck in time to see the famous GOLDEN ROOF, emblem of the city. (B)

7. **INNSBRUCK AREA-LIECHTENSTEIN-LUCERNE AREA, SWITZERLAND.**

Drive through the valleys and villages of the mountainous Tyrol to the Arlberg Tunnel, descending into Switzerland. Stop briefly in Vaduz, Liechtenstein's capital. Absorb the majestic alpine scenery and glimpses of Lake Walen on the way to the Lucerne area. (B)

8. **LUCERNE AREA.**

One of Switzerland's finest cities, Lucerne is nestled amid its snowcapped Alps, surrounded by its lake, and embellished by the clear mountain waters of the Reuss River. The orientation includes the LION MONUMENT, erected in memory of the 800 Swiss Guards who defended Louis XVI and his

wife. Also see the famous wooden CHAPEL BRIDGE. A grand selection of optional activities completes the day: a cable-car ride to the 3048-metre (10,000-foot) summit of Mount Titlis; a cruise on the fjord-like lake; and, of course, time to shop for an authentic Swiss watch. (B)

9. **LUCERNE AREA-PARIS, FRANCE.**

Enjoy vistas of green pastures and rustic chalets, then cross into France and drive past some of its most famous Burgundy vineyards to Paris. Get a taste of Parisian joie de vivre at an optional cabaret show. (B)

10. **PARIS.**

Paris is a world-class city that probably has more familiar landmarks than almost any other city in the world. This morning, see them during the included city tour. View the famous Arc de Triomphe, Opera, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, and much more with a Local Guide. Later, feel like a French aristocrat on the optional walking tour through the opulent Palace of Versailles. Tonight, consider joining the optional farewell dinner in a typical French restaurant. (B)

11. **PARIS-LONDON, ENGLAND.**

Relax and let the countryside whiz by on the road north to the coast, where you board your Channel FERRY. Through Kent to London for an evening arrival. (B)

12. **LONDON.**

Your holiday ends after breakfast

Cosmos Hotel London IN: 3<sup>rd</sup> October OUT: 4<sup>th</sup> October

Depart London 4<sup>th</sup> October at 11.05AM arrive Dublin 12.25PM – Aer Lingus

Commence the following tour in Dublin on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and ending in Dublin on the 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Day 1: Dublin Tour & Book of Kells**

Your Irish trip starts at 2:00 pm when you meet your guide at your Dublin hotel and set out on an introductory tour of central Dublin. See elegant 18th century Georgian houses with brightly-painted doors, tranquil parks and the wide O'Connell Street. Take a guided walking tour through the campus of Trinity College to view the illuminated manuscript of the Book of Kells. In the evening meet your tour director over a welcome drink to discuss your trip and dine independently.

**Day 2: 6th Century Glendalough & Dunbrody Famine Ship**

This morning travel through the delightful scenery of the Wicklow Mountains on the way to Glendalough. Learn about St. Kevin's 6th century monastery in the Glendalough Visitor Centre and walk through the deep valley to view the picturesque ruins of a round tower, churches and Celtic crosses. Continue south to New Ross to walk around the Dunbrody Famine Ship, a reconstructed 19th century vessel showing the harsh sailing conditions for emigrants on the way to North America. Drive to your hotel in Waterford and, after dinner, take a gentle stroll around the narrow streets of the historic city with a local guide.  
(B, D)

**Day 3: Waterford Crystal & Blarney Castle**

Visit the House of Waterford Crystal to view glass blowing and watch the creation of one-of-a-kind trophies. Travel via Dungarvan to Cobh, the last port of call of the Titanic. A walking tour will reveal many of the places that still remain over a century since travelers embarked

on that fateful voyage. Head to nearby Blarney to kiss the “Stone of Eloquence” located in the ramparts of Blarney Castle. You will also have time to shop for Irish products at the Blarney Woollen Mills. Journey west through rugged countryside and settle in to your centrally-located hotel in Killarney.

**(B, D)**

#### **Day 4: Ring of Kerry Drive & Skellig Experience**

Enjoy the highlights of Ireland’s natural scenery on the Ring of Kerry route. The road winds between the Macgillycuddy’s Reeks Mountains on one side and the Atlantic coastline on the other. Drive through Killorglin and Cahirciveen to cross the bridge to Valentia Island. Visit the Skellig Experience, which explains the life of early Christian hermits on Skellig Michael, a rocky offshore island, and how it featured in the “Star Wars VII” movie. Enjoy a casual lunch and stop in the pretty village of Sneem. Pause at Moll’s Gap for panoramic mountain views and return to Killarney where the evening is free.

**(B, L)**

#### **Day 5: Cliffs of Moher & Galway**

Travel north from Killarney and take a ferry ride across the River Shannon Estuary. View the awesome Cliffs of Moher rising to heights of 700 feet above the wild Atlantic swells. Pass through the rounded limestone hills of the Burren and around Galway Bay to Galway for a walking tour in the city center.

**(B, D)**

#### **Day 6: Sheepdogs & Derry’s Medieval Walls**

Head north to the pilgrimage town of Knock, one of the world’s leading shrines. See the church where villagers saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1879. Travel through County Sligo and visit a farm to watch trained sheepdogs round up mountain sheep. Follow the shoreline of Donegal Bay to Donegal town and past the lovely Blue Stack Mountains to Derry. On arrival in Derry meet a local guide to learn about the development of the city, which retains its medieval fortification walls dating from 1613. Drive around the main areas and walk along the historic walls.

**(B, D)**

#### **Day 7: Giant's Causeway & Glyde Inn Dinner/Show**

Today explore the northern coastline, stopping for photos at the sprawling ruins of Dunluce Castle. Visit the Giant’s Causeway, enormous hexagonal columns formed by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. The huge rocks have given rise to many stories about Finn McCool, a legendary giant. Drive to Belfast to visit Titanic Belfast and learn about RMS Titanic through state-of-the-art displays. See the docks where this famous liner was built just over a century ago. Stop just south of Dundalk at the Glyde Inn for a farewell dinner with Irish specialties and entertaining traditional Irish songs and music. This cozy tavern dates back to 1770. Continue south to check in to your hotel in Dublin.

**(B, D)**

#### **Day 8: Independent Bus Tour**

Spend an additional day in Dublin with an independent Dublin open-top bus tour (valid for 48 hours), plus a visit to Guinness Storehouse or General Post Office Museum.

**(B)**

#### **Day 9: Depart Dublin for Home**

Your tour ends after breakfast.

**(B)**

*B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner*

Depart Dublin 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.10AM arrive London 8.45AM – Aer Lingus

Depart London 12<sup>th</sup> October at 12.50PM arrive Hong Kong 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.20AM – Cathay

Depart Hong Kong 13<sup>th</sup> October at 9.20PM arrive Cairns 6.30AM – Cathay

Cost per person \$6702.00 and includes the following:

Airfares

Airport taxes

12 day tour Rome to London including breakfast daily and 2 dinners and sightseeing as per itinerary

Extra night in London at the end of the tour

9 day tour of Ireland including 14 meals and sightseeing as per itinerary