

IRELAND - In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick

PRIVATE PERSONALIZED GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS

Tour Director: Sandy Lidka
Local Tour Guide: Joe Fahy

The story of St. Patrick has fascinated the world for centuries – his legacy clearly seen around the island of Ireland. Experience the intriguing aspects of Irish Culture as we trace the path of Christianity, in the footsteps of one of the world's most beloved saints. Be inspired by the ancient heritage as you explore the abbeys, monasteries and medieval sites, all which have been carefully preserved. Experience an authentic Ireland.

Elevate Your Experience




FURTHER AFIELD
TRAVEL AND TOURS

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1 Depart Toronto, overnight flight to Dublin

Day 2 Dublin • Newcastle, Co. Down

Our journey begins as we set off for County Down. The story of Ireland starts here in the words of Saint Patrick himself - here we will begin exploring Patrick's life and legacy. Visit the **Hill of Tara**, the ceremonial capital of the High Kings and the **Hill of Slane**, where Patrick confronted the Druid King Laoghaire. This evening join your group for a Welcome Dinner. Accommodation, 2 nights.

Day 3 Newcastle, Co. Down

Today we set off to **Saul Church** which is built on the site of Saint Patrick's earliest place of Christian worship in Ireland. See the **tallest statue of St Patrick** in the world, built in 1932 and visit **the grave of Saint Patrick**. Step inside **Down Cathedral**, an important location for Celtic worship for thousands of years before Saint Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland.

Day 4 Newcastle, Co. Down • Armagh • Donegal

Set off to explore the city of **Armagh**, the ecclesiastical centre of the island. Hundreds of years ago, this is where St. Patrick chose to establish his original church. It is here, that two magnificent cathedrals stand, **Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral and St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral**. To the west of Armagh City lies **Navan Fort**, the ancient "Emain Macha" of Irish history and legend and one of the earliest provincial capital of Ulster. Accommodation, 1 night.

Day 5 Westport

*Today we spend time at **Croagh Patrick***, considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. The tradition of pilgrimage to this holy mountain stretches back over 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present day without interruption. Its religious significance dates back to the time of the pagans, when people are thought to have gathered here to celebrate the beginning of harvest season. Accommodation, 2 nights.

Day 6 Westport

Visit **Kylemore Abbey**, built in the late 1800s by Mitchell Henry MP, a wealthy business man and liberal politician. The story of Kylemore Abbey is a truly remarkable one that spans over 150 year of tragedy, romance, innovation, education and spirituality. Built as a breathtaking Castle in 1868, it is now the Abbey and home of the Benedictine community of nuns. The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the charming town of Westport.

Day 7 Westport • Galway • Kilkenny

Depart Westport, and travel to **Galway City**, where traces of old Galway, including the city walls and the distinctive Spanish Arch, give the city an ancient atmosphere. Enjoy a **Guided Walking Tour of Galway**. Arrive **Kilkenny**, a captivating city in the centre of Ireland's Ancient East. Famous for its majestic castle, a bustling craft industry, cobbled lanes and secret passages along with 1,000 years of history. Visit the magnificent **Kilkenny Castle** which rises above the River Nore. Accommodation, 2 nights.

Day 8 Kilkenny

Set out to experience the **Rock of Cashel (Carraig Phádraig)**, more formally St. Patrick's Rock, it is also known as Cashel of the Kings. It's on this spot that St Patrick converted King Aengus to Christianity. Learn about 'the Great Hunger' (an gorta mor, in Irish), the famine, one of the most traumatic times in Irish history during our visit to **the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience**. Follow the footsteps of the those who left during the Great Famine.

Day 9 Dublin

Depart Kilkenny and travel to the **Wicklow Mountains** and a visit to **Glendalough**, 'Gleann dá' Loch, meaning 'Valley of two lakes'. Glendalough is a deeply tranquil and spiritual place that will still your mind, inspire your heart and fill your soul. The substantial remains of this important monastic settlement are certainly impressive. Upon arriving Dublin, we visit to **Saint Patrick's Cathedral**, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Ireland, and said to be the site where Saint Patrick Baptized Pagans dating back 800 years. The Cathedral has witnessed some of the most important developments and changes in Christianity in Ireland. Accommodation, 2 nights.

Day 10 Dublin

Start the day with a walk through the cobbled stones of **Trinity College**, bringing visitors back to the 18th century, when the magnificent old library building was constructed and displays **The Book of Kells**. The Book of Kells (Trinity College Dublin MS 58) contains the four Gospels in Latin based on the Vulgate text St. Jerome completed in 384AD, intermixed with readings from the earlier Old Latin translation. Afternoon at your leisure to explore Ireland's capital, layered in history. Tonight join your fellow tour members for a **Farewell Dinner with Traditional Irish entertainment**.

Day 11 Dublin

After breakfast, we depart for the airport for your flight home.

Ireland

Dublin

The vibrant and lively capital city of Dublin is home to authors, musicians, playwrights, painters, pragmatists and balladeers. Consequently, the city boasts an impressive depth of creativity. St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College and the GPO Museum are on the list of must sees.



Linesman Statue, Dublin

Westport

Bright and vibrant, Westport is a photogenic Georgian town with tree-lined streets. It's a hugely popular place yet has never sold its soul to tourism. Experience great restaurants and pubs renowned for their music.



Kilkenny

Kilkenny (from the Gaelic 'Cill Chainnigh', meaning the Church of St Canice) is also known as 'the marble city'. Its picturesque 'Medieval Mile' of narrow lanes and historic buildings strung between castle and cathedral along the bank of the River Nore.



Newcastle, County Down, a small seaside resort in Northern Ireland. It lies on the Irish Sea at the foot of Slieve Donard, one of the Mourne Mountains. The town lies within the Newry, Mourne and Down District – the heartland of our Saint and the gateway to explore the local places of interest.



Newcastle, Co. Down

Inclusions and Highlights

- 9 Nights Accommodation
- Services of professional English speaking local guide(s)
- Services of Further Afield Travel, Tour Director
- All tours and admissions at no additional cost
- All customary gratuities for guides and sightseeing
- Luggage handling while on tour
- Optional Air inclusion with transfers
- Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner including a traditional Irish Show

Hill of Tara

Galway City Tour

Hill of Slaine

Kilkenny Castle

Saul Church

Rock of Cashel

Grave of Saint Patrick

Dunbrody Famine Shop

Down Cathedral

Glendalough

Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland

Saint Patrick's Cathedral

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic

Trinity College

Cathedral

Book of Kells

Kylemore Abbey

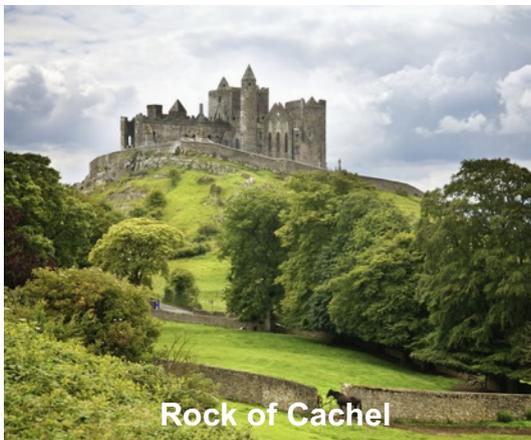
Navan Fort

Croagh Patrick



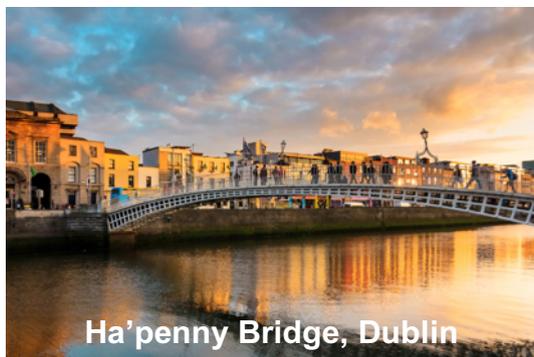
Kilkenny Castle

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Private Personalized Group Tours (minimum group size 20)

Tailor this tour to your members' dates and preferences. Please inquire.



FURTHER AFIELD
TRAVEL AND TOURS

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Further Afield Travel and Tours recommends Manulife Travel Insurance

Cancellation Penalties: 120 days – 96 days prior to departure, 50% of deposit is non refundable / 95 days – 70 days prior to departure, 75% of total fare is non refundable / 69 days – 0 days prior to departure, 100% of the total fare is non refundable. Air tickets are payable at time of issue and 100% non refundable.

Please note: Should accommodations change, accommodations of a similar status will be substituted.



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