



Ireland #2

Field Hockey Tour

Dublin, Galway & Limerick

10 Day / 8 Night Program



SUGGESTED PROGRAM

PLEASE NOTE: Actual sequence and timing of activities will revolve around your game & practice schedule, which will be finalized in the weeks prior to your team's arrival at its destination. All times are approximate and may vary according to flight schedules and other logistical factors.

ALL FIELD HOCKEY ACTIVITIES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.

Day 1 **USA – DUBLIN**

Evening Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Dublin with a possible change of plane enroute. Enjoy Dinner and Breakfast aloft as you journey east to the Emerald Isle.

Day 2 **DUBLIN**

Morning Arrive at Dublin Airport.

Greeting by your highly-qualified **Tour Manager**. The Tour Managers we select are chosen for their high-energy and commitment to customer satisfaction. For the duration of your stay, your Tour Manager will be coordinating and managing all of your scheduled activities and will be available to you on a 24-hour basis should you need special assistance.

Dublin is Ireland's capital and largest city situated on the Irish Sea in the eastern part of the island. Ireland is commonly known as the "Emerald Isle" for its lush green landscapes dotted by centuries-old castles and rocky-cliffed shores. With 1.2 million people and over a quarter of the country's population, Dublin is famous for its literary tradition, claiming such giants as Nobel laureates William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett plus Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift. On a more pedestrian level, the city is known for its ubiquitous pubs and vibrant nightlife.

Transfer to your Three-Star Hotel in or near Dublin.

Afternoon Free time for lunch on your own and to explore the neighborhood around your hotel.

Afternoon **PRACTICE SESSION at an astroturf field to warm-up for the next few days.**

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 3 **DUBLIN**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning **City Sightseeing Tour**



Dublin Castle



Dunlaoghaire Harbour



Trinity College

Board your private motorcoach with your Tour Guide for a tour viewing some of Dublin's most interesting sights with special focus on the neighborhoods south of the **River Liffey**.

View **Dublin Castle**, with its high defensive walls and signature **Bedford** and **Record Towers**, and **Trinity College** featuring attractive grounds and many fine landmark buildings evoking Dublin's past. **Temple Bar**, with its tight medieval street pattern typified by narrow cobblestone roads, is known as the city's "Cultural Quarter" for the many cultural and arts institutions based there.

St. Stephen's Green, with 22 acres of lush green landscaping, is Dublin's most popular park and is surrounded by many buildings in the elegant and understated Georgian-style of architecture popular in late-18th and early-19th century Britain. Continue to **Merrion Square**, also bordered by fine Georgian buildings, many of which were home to some of Ireland's most prominent intellectuals, ranging from poets and playwrights to political leaders and even a Nobel laureate.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening **MATCH # 1 vs. IRISH FIELD HOCKEY TEAM**



Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

This evening (and other evenings) visit **Temple Bar** with its many pubs and entertaining nightlife.

Day 4 **DUBLIN**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning **PRACTICE SESSION at a local hockey field.**

Afternoon **Kilmainham Jail**



Transfer to the west side of Dublin to tour **Kilmainham Jail**, a grey forbidding structure that is one of Ireland's most notorious landmarks. Many Irish rebelling against British colonial rule in the early 20th-century were imprisoned and even executed here, especially after the famous 1916 Easter Rising. The prison closed in 1924.

The tour starts with an engaging audiovisual introduction into the prison's history, followed by a tour of the building's grim facilities, including now-abandoned jail cells, winding up in the sobering yard where the 1916 executions took place.

Afternoon **Trinity College**



Visit the sprawling campus of Ireland's most prestigious university, dating back to 1592 and officially known as the **University of Dublin**. Chapels, statues, manicured gardens, and impressive architecture make for a lively and engaging cultural experience. Top attraction is the **Book of Kells**, a mammoth and lavishly illustrated manuscript of the four Gospels of the New Testament, which attracts over a half million visitors per year.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 5 **DUBLIN**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Afternoon

Guinness Storehouse (optional with entry and possible transfer fees additional)



Transfer by private motorcoach to the brewery of the legendary “black” beer that is identified with Ireland as much as pubs, shamrocks, lush green rolling hills, and Gaelic songs. Enter the massive seven-story storehouse tower shaped like a pint of Guinness and enjoy an entertaining and interactive multimedia show telling the story of the classic brew as you make your way up the stunning central atrium to the **Gravity Bar** at the “head” of the beer-like building. Take in the view of the sprawling 65-acre **St. James’s Gate Brewery** and top off your visit with a pint of the famous beer. Be sure to visit the gift and memorabilia stores for authentic Guinness souvenirs !

Afternoon

Free time in Dublin’s city center to enjoy its many offerings. Dublin is a very walkable city with most attractions concentrated on the south side of the **River Liffey** and along **O’Connell Street** on the north side.

Free-Time Suggestions:

Go to **Grafton Street**, a pedestrian promenade that is Dublin’s most popular shopping street, or visit the imposing domed **Government Buildings** for a tour including the prime minister’s office, the cabinet room, and the ceremonial staircase.

Bike Ride - Your guide will take you through the city on an easy 2-hour ride giving you an overview of Dublin including its history and many of its most significant sites. (optional - approx. US\$ 40)

Kayak Ride - View Dublin from the perspective of the **River Liffey** as you glide effortlessly on its waters under multiple bridges in the heart of the city. (optional - approx. US\$ 40)

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening

MATCH # 2 vs. IRISH FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 6

DUBLIN – GALWAY

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Galway (3:00 hours transfer time).

Galway is Ireland's third-largest city, situated on the island's west coast, on Galway Bay. Known as a "university city", Galway is very dynamic, with young people coming from different parts of the country and Europe to study at one of its two universities, the National University of Ireland and GMIT. The city was founded in the 13th-century, and today is one of the most vital and growing regions of Ireland.

Afternoon Check into your Three-Star Hotel and free time for lunch on your own.

Afternoon **Galway City Tour**



Dunguaire Castle



Galway Bay



Galway Cathedral

You will visit the city's main sights such as **Galway Cathedral**, the most recently built of Europe's great stone cathedrals, **The National University of Ireland**, founded in 1849, and **Salmon Weir Bridge**, that links the old Gaol (on the site of the cathedral) with the courthouse. Continue on to **Salthill**, a traditional seaside resort located just minutes away from the city, and **The Claddagh** in the **Galway Bay**, just across the river from the **Spanish Arch**.

Free time to get further acquainted with the city. Walk along the **Prom in Salthill** beside **Galway Bay** or visit **Eyre Square Park**.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 7 **GALWAY – CONNEMARA – KYLEMORE ABBEY**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning & Afternoon **Connemara & Kylemore Abbey – Full-Day Tour**



Kylemore Abbey



Pollacappul Lake



Kylemore Church

Transfer through the **Connemara** region's Atlantic Coast to **Spiddal** where you will make a brief stop at a sweater and souvenir shop for refreshment before proceeding to **Kylemore Abbey**.

Entering **Connemara**, admire the beauty of the **Maam Valley**, and the spectacular mountains surrounding it.

Reach **Kylemore Abbey**, to appreciate this beautiful structure built in 1867, first as a castle, before becoming an Abbey in 1920. Opened to the public in the 1970's, visitors are welcome to enjoy the breathtaking views and the majestic landscape.

Transfer back to Galway (1:45 transfer time).

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening MATCH # 3 vs. IRISH FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 8 GALWAY – CLIFFS OF MOHER – LIMERICK

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning Check out of your hotel and transfer to the Cliffs of Moher (2:00 hours transfer time).

Morning & Afternoon **Cliffs of Moher tour**



Visit the breath-taking scenery, run by **County Clare**, and designated a **UNESCO** geographic park. The **Cliffs of Moher** are one of Ireland's top visitor attractions. Nominated to be one of the new seven wonders of nature, the cliffs are 700 feet tall at their highest point and stretch out five miles along the Atlantic Ocean. Time to enjoy the **Visitor Centre** and explore its facilities like the **Atlantic Edge interpretative exhibition**.

Free time for lunch on your own before continuing to Limerick (1:45 hours transfer time).

Afternoon Check in to your Three-Star Hotel in Limerick.

Limerick is Ireland's fourth-largest city after Dublin, Cork and Galway. Located in the country's middle west coast with a population of about 56,000 people, Limerick is closely identified with Frank McCourt, author of the book "Angela's Ashes", which was a sensation back in 1996. The city is large enough to be engaging but compact enough to have a small-town feel.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 9

LIMERICK – BUNRATTY

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning

Limerick Walking City Tour



Thomond Bridge



St. John's Castle



St. Mary's Cathedral

Visit Limerick's main attractions in the city's compact medieval quarter, located on the banks of the **River Shannon**.

Tour **King John's Castle**, built in the 12th-century to strengthen the city's defenses. View displays detailing the history of the region from Viking days to the present. Climb the castle's towers for panoramic views of the city and the river.

Visit ancient **St. Mary's Cathedral**, an impressive structure built of stone dating back to 1168. View its colorful stained-glass windows, stone columns and adjacent cemetery with prominent Celtic cross headstones, reminiscent of Ireland's ancient heritage.

Continue on to **The Hunt Museum**, which has one of the most important private medieval collections in the world. (optional - approx. US\$ 10)

Limerick "Foodie" Tour - Join a 90-minute guided walking tour around food stalls of the **Milk Market** and adjacent areas to sample Irish delicacies, including a wide variety of sweet concoctions. (optional - approx. US\$ 30)

Free time for lunch on your own before proceeding to Bunratty to visit its legendary castle.

Afternoon

Bunratty Castle Tour



Bunratty Castle



Bunratty Castle Bridge



Medieval Banquet Hall

Visit the most complete and authentic **medieval fortress** in Ireland. It was originally built in 1425, and restored to its original splendor in 1954. Wander through the castle and marvel at the finest collection of medieval furniture.

Surrounding the castle you will find the **Bunratty Folk Park**, offering visitors a step back in time to view 19th-century Irish life in the form of a "**living Irish village**". You can enjoy yourself walking by Irish cottages, a post office, a school, a printer, a pub, and characters in Irish garb.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program).

Evening

MATCH # 4 vs. IRISH FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 10

LIMERICK – USA

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Shannon Airport for your flight to the USA.

Afternoon

Depart Shannon on your flight back to the USA.

Arrive in the USA later the same afternoon.

Your Irish Field Hockey & Cultural Adventure comes to a close with many great memories to cherish for a lifetime !

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Travel Services:

- Economy-class Air Transportation USA – Ireland round-trip.
- Four Nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Dublin.
- Two Nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Galway.
- Two Nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Limerick.
- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers by private motorcoach.
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily (latter includes one soft drink per meal).
- Dublin City Sightseeing Tour
- Kilmainham Jail tour
- Trinity College tour
- Galway City Sightseeing Tour
- Connemara & Kylemore Abbey Full-Day Tour
- Cliffs of Moher tour
- Limerick Walking City Tour
- St. John's Castle
- St. Mary's Cathedral
- Bunratty Castle tour
- All of the above tours are with an English-speaking Tour Guide.
- **Tour Manager** available as necessary in Ireland and 24/7 access in case of emergency.
- 4/7 Emergency Support from **Victory Sports Tours**' Operations Office.

Field Hockey Program:

- ***Four Games*** with clubs at your level.
- ***Two Practice Sessions.***
- **Bottle of Water** provided to each player, each game / practice.
- **Round-trip Transfers** to above Field Hockey Activities by private motorcoach.

Summary of Included Meals:

- 8 Breakfasts
- 8 Dinners

Tour Price:

- For the most up-to-date pricing information on this tour, please visit our website:

<http://www.victorysportstours.com/sport/field-hockey/>

Scroll down to the tour named "**Ireland #2**"

- Price is based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers.
- Prices are subject to availability of airfares at time of booking.
- One **FREE COACH'S TRIP** is included based on 20 paying travelers (21st is free).
- Coach would share twin room with paying traveler and pay only taxes/fees.

Notes:

- The itinerary text outlines both included services and suggested free time activities. For a definitive indication of what is included in the tour price, please refer exclusively to the "TOUR INCLUSIONS" section above.
- No booking has been made yet. Tour dates are subject to availability.
- Tour price is based on current U.S. dollar / foreign currency exchange rate. Price may vary if the exchange rate were to change significantly prior to receiving your tour deposit.
- Air taxes/fees are determined by the various governments/airlines involved and are those currently in effect. By government regulation, actual air taxes/fees collected will be those in effect at ticketing, approx. 45 days before departure.
- Airlines may add a fuel surcharge if the price of fuel increases significantly.
- Final fuel surcharge is determined 30 days prior to departure.
- Full Terms & Conditions to be provided upon acceptance of this proposal.