

The logo for Craig travel, featuring the word "Craig" in a white serif font with a small crown above the 'i', and the word "travel" in a white sans-serif font below it, all contained within a red circular background.

Craig
travel

BEST OF IRELAND

BOOK BY JAN 10
SAVE \$200 PP

NORTH AND SOUTH • SMALL GROUP

MAY 22 – JUN 6, 2025 | 16 DAYS | 23 MEALS

JOURNEY LEADER: JOHAN OLIVIER

The amazing views in Connemara

Ireland, Eire, the Emerald Isle - each name conjures a vision of a fair green island, with rolling fields, warm-hearted people, dramatic coastlines, and a history as long as any in the world.

Come with us as we explore this famous island, uncovering Dublin's history and architecture, the stunning landscapes of the Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and Connemara, and the natural wonders of the north, including one of the world's truly unique features, the Giant's Causeway. To ensure a leisurely pace and to fully savour the Irish experience, we'll stay multiple nights in most cities, giving you time to enjoy local pubs and embrace the easy-going lifestyles of the Irish.

LIMITED TO JUST 26 TRAVELLERS

This **SMALL GROUP** offers a truly intimate experience

Tour Highlights

- Magnificent scenery - Glens of Antrim, Connemara, Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula, Ring of Kerry
- The Giant's Causeway, the incredible result of an ancient volcanic eruption
- Explore the Aran Islands off Ireland's West Coast
- Enjoy a banquet at a Medieval Castle with wine
- Experience Epic Ireland in Dublin
- Visit the National Museum of Country Life
- Live cooking demonstration at Dingle Cookery School
- Visit the Ulster American Folk Park
- Farewell dinner with traditional Irish entertainment

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Dublin
- Comfortable centrally located hotels as indicated or similar
- 23 meals included as noted in the itinerary (shown as B - 14 Irish breakfasts, D - 9 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Services of your journey leader and professional local driver / guide throughout Ireland

Journey Leader

We are very pleased to have **Johan Olivier** escorting this fascinating adventure. Johan is a born South African that came to Canada in 2003, became a Canadian citizen in 2006, and retired from 40 years of full-time congregational ministry in March 2023. His love of travelling the world and leading tours started in 1994. One of the rewards of travelling with groups has been building an ever-growing circle of travel friendships all over Canada. He has led groups to Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Thailand, Singapore, Europe, South Africa, Namibia, Turkey, Greece, Croatia and Slovenia, China, Vietnam and Cambodia, Peru and the Galapagos Islands and Iceland. He looks forward to sharing his love of travel with all who join him on this unique discovery of the Emerald Isle.



MAY 22, Thursday

DEPART CANADA

Intrepid travellers gather in Toronto for our flight to Dublin.

MAY 23, Friday

DUBLIN / MOURNE / BELFAST

We are met on arrival by our driver / guide. Heading north, we enjoy a picturesque drive via Dundalk and Newry, sitting snugly amidst the natural splendour of the Mourne Mountains before reaching Belfast to check in to our hotel. This evening, gather with your fellow group members to enjoy your welcome dinner.

Clayton Hotel Belfast (2 nights)

D

MAY 24 Saturday

BELFAST

Explore Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland and the birthplace of the epic Titanic. Enjoy the sights of this historic city, with views of the Grand Opera House, Linen Hall Library, Stormont Buildings and the world-famous murals. Explore the ten interactive galleries of the Titanic as well as the SS Nomadic on self-guided visits.

B

MAY 25, Sunday

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY / LETTERKENNY

Departing Belfast, we follow the Marine Drive, passing the *Green Glens of Antrim* via Carrickfergus and Carnlough all the way to the Giant's Causeway, one of Ireland's most famous and dramatic sites. Marvel at this remarkable natural rock formation, a virtual cascade of geometric basaltic columns descending into the sea. We venture on to Northern Donegal, passing the eerie ruins of Dunluce Castle and the walls of Derry, before arriving in Letterkenny. **Radisson Letterkenny** (2 nights)

BD

MAY 26, Monday

OMAGH / LONDONDERRY

The Ulster American Folk Park tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Visit this iconic site in Omagh, then return to the historic city of Derry with some free time for lunch. This afternoon, take a guided walking tour along Derry's Walls to learn about its history, followed by a visit to the award-winning Tower Museum. Time permitting, we may also visit Derry's historic Guildhall and the new Heritage Centre dedicated to St. Columba.

B

MAY 27, Tuesday SLIGO/TURLOUGH PARK/WESTPORT

We travel to Belleek Pottery for a guided tour, then continue to the picturesque county of Sligo. Enter the romantic domain of poet W.B. Yeats as we travel through areas associated with his life and works, including Drumcliffe. We pass through the charming towns of Collooney and Tobercurry. At the National Museum of Country Life in the magnificent Turlough Park, we discover what life was like in rural Ireland in the 1800s and 1900s. We then continue to Westport on Clew Bay.

Castlecourt Hotel Westport (2 nights)

BD

MAY 28, Wednesday

CONNEMARA

Connemara remains the wildest and most romantic place in Ireland. We round the Murrisk Peninsula to Killary Harbour, Ireland's only true fjord. Enjoy a visit to Kylemore Abbey on the shores of Kylemore Lough before circling Connemara and crossing the picturesque Maam Valley where black-headed sheep make up a large part of the population. Explore the lovely town of Westport later today.

MAY 29, Thursday GALWAY / MEDIEVAL BANQUET

We're in for a delightful experience today with a one-hour cruise on Lough Corrib, offering stunning views of the Connemara Mountains, Ashford Castle, and Lord Ardilaun's Obelisk. We'll also visit the historic Old Steamers Quay. As we travel through the ever-changing countryside to arrive at Galway City, known as "the City of the Tribes", we discover its unique and charming atmosphere. The bustling streets leading down from Eyre Square to the busy harbour and the Latin Quarter where portions of the medieval city walls still remain, offer great areas to explore in your free time. A visit to St. Nicholas' Cathedral is also well worthwhile. Be sure to hit up a local pub for lunch before we continue towards Limerick and our hotel, located just outside the city. This evening we join in on the fun of a medieval banquet at a 15th-century castle.

Greenhills Hotel (2 nights)

BD

MAY 30, Friday ARAN ISLANDS / CLIFFS OF MOHER

Travel along the Wild Atlantic Way to Doolin, where we board a ferry to Inis Oirr, the smallest of the Aran Islands. Explore its stunning beaches and vistas on a guided walking tour, and perhaps visit the arts and cultural centre to meet the islanders. On the return cruise, enjoy a unique view of the Cliffs of Moher, followed by a stop at the Visitor Centre, pathways, and viewing areas. This breathtaking journey showcases the majesty of the Cliffs and offers insight into the area's remarkable geology.

BD

MAY 31, Saturday DINGLE PENINSULA / KILLARNEY

As we travel to the town of Dingle via Tralee, we enjoy the picturesque towns of Anascaul and Sleah Head and explore the wild, rugged scenery of Dingle Peninsula, vividly captured in the film *Ryan's Daughter*. Get ready for a traditional culinary experience - watch a live cooking demonstration of local dishes, and then savour a delicious sample of the final masterpiece! We end the day in the resort town of Killarney, near Lough Leane and Muckross House. After dinner, we enjoy an entertaining evening of Irish storytelling.

Randles Hotel Killarney (2 nights)

BD

JUN 1, Sunday RING OF KERRY / IRISH EVENING

Enjoy Ireland's most scenic drive today as we travel via Killorglin and Glenbeigh with views of Dingle Bay and onto the fishing village of Cahirciveen. As we reach the outer end of the Ring, we have views of the Atlantic and the



Cliffs of Moher, Ireland



The colourful doors of Dublin



Enjoy traditional Irish entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy Pub



Earn the "gift of the gab" at the famous Blarney castle

isolated Skellig Islands, 12 km off the coast. The larger of the islands was a monastic settlement for over 600 years starting in the 6th century. Enjoy the Skellig Experience, offering an introduction to life on the islands. Rocky headlands, isolated island clusters, and spectacular seascapes, each compete for attention whilst journeying to the scenic town of Sneem. Turning inland, we descend through the heart of the Kerry Mountains, through Molls Gap, to view the legendary Lakes of Killarney. B

JUN 2, Monday BLARNEY / WATERFORD / KILKENNY

We travel via delightful Macroom to Blarney where we stop for handicrafts and an opportunity to kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence". This afternoon we visit the historic city of Waterford, founded by the Vikings some 1,100 years ago and the exceptional Waterford House of Crystal with free time in the gift shop. We overnight in the medieval city of Kilkenny. **River Court Hotel** (1 night) BD

JUN 3, Tuesday NATIONAL STUD / DUBLIN

Only a town in size, Kilkenny has the status of a city having vied with Dublin to become the capital in the 17th Century. Explore the quaint city centre and visit the Castle at your leisure, the principal seat of the Butler Family since the 12th century. En route to Dublin, we travel through the Curragh of Kildare with a guided tour of the Irish National Stud, home to some of Ireland's finest thoroughbred horses. Visit the Horse Museum and both the Japanese and Saint Fiachra's Gardens. We end our day in the capital city of Dublin. **Trinity City Hotel** (3 nights) BD

JUN 4, Wednesday DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

We will enjoy a tour of "Dublin Town" today. Our first stop is the imposing St. Patrick's Cathedral, where Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels, was once the Dean. A highlight is the beautifully restored Lady's Chapel, dating back to 1270. Relive the history of the city and enjoy the elegant architecture of Dublin's Georgian Squares. Later, we move to Epic Ireland in Dublin's Docklands, which tells the stories of Irish emigrants and their influence globally. Perhaps trace your ancestry at the Irish Family History Centre. In the afternoon, we are free to explore and enjoy Dublin's "Fair City", an ancient city that is as intimate as a village and as friendly as a pub. In the evening, consider attending a theatre performance or concert at the National Concert Hall or Abbey Theatre. B

JUNE 5, Thursday DUBLIN

We will immerse ourselves in world-class beauty in Powerscourt Gardens' 47 acres of carefully curated and maintained gardens this morning. Upon returning to Dublin, enjoy free time to explore on your own. Consider a visit to the National Art Gallery, the National Museum, or even the impressive City Hall. Other options that you might consider include Trinity College, or perhaps some last-minute shopping. Our special farewell dinner with traditional Irish entertainment will be at the Merry Ploughboy Pub. BD

JUN 6, Friday DUBLIN / CANADA

Regretfully our Irish journey must draw to a close as we say farewell to our Irish friends and fly home to Canada. B



Kylemore Abbey, founded in 1920

**Book by January 10, 2025
and save \$200 per person**

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Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only (Join Belfast hotel / Leave Dublin hotel) ..	\$7,675
Toronto	\$8,845
Ottawa / Montreal	\$8,985
Halifax.....	\$9,085
St. John's / Winnipeg.....	\$9,125
Saskatoon / Regina	\$9,225
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$9,145
Victoria.....	\$9,225
Single Supplement	\$1,875

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Refer to inclusive features for details. Land only clients join at the hotel in Belfast and leave at the hotel in Dublin. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 15 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective July 2024. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is **NOT INCLUDED** but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due February 19, 2025
Deposit is \$600 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



Experiencing Our World
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CT Rating 3/5 - Moderately Challenging: This coach tour is designed as a leisurely, in-depth experience with two or three nights at most hotels. Members should be aware that the journey includes a number of longer walks, some over uneven terrain and with changes in elevation.