

**SOUTHERN IRELAND GRAND TOUR 2024 & 2025 – 11 DAYS**

**TOUR PRICE: £3,635**  
**Single Supplement: £490**  
**Maximum 7 members per tour**

**NO PRICE INCREASE FOR 2025**

**INCLUDES ALL LISTED ON THIS PAGE:**

**FLIGHTS** – From and to the UK.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

**10** nights en suite rooms in high standard hotels.

**FOOD:**

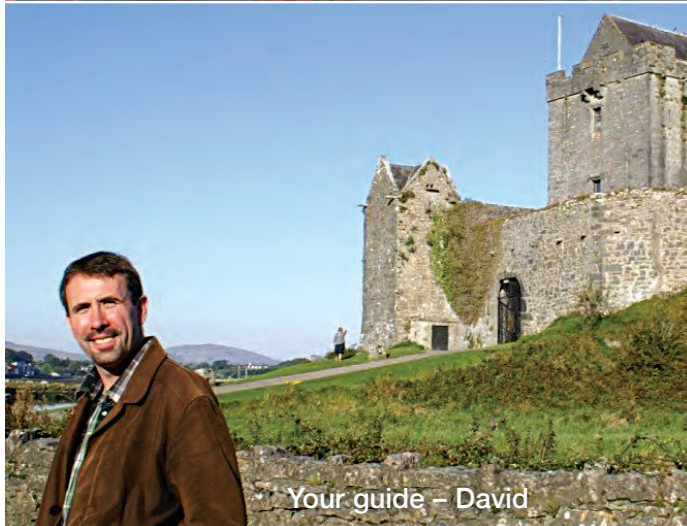
**10** full Irish breakfasts,  
**10** two course lunches,  
**10** three course evening meals.

**PRIVATE GUIDE, COACH AND DRIVER.**

**GRATUITIES TO GUIDE AND DRIVER.**

**EXCURSIONS, VISITS AND ENTRANCE FEES:**

- Guinness storehouse.
- Trinity College and Book of Kells.
- National Museum.
- Clonmacnoise.
- Kylemore Abbey and Gardens.
- Killarney National Park.
- Dingle Peninsula.
- Cliffs of Moher and boat cruise.
- Cork City.
- Bunratty Castle and Folkpark.
- Muckross House and Gardens.
- Killorglin Smokehouse with salmon and wine tasting.
- Full day tour of Gap of Dunloe with Jaunting Cars and boats.
- Gallarus Oratory.
- Drink at the South Pole Inn.
- Saint Finbarr's Cathedral.
- County Tipperary.
- Old Midleton Distillery with full tasting of all.
- Cahir Castle.
- Rock of Cashel.
- Tralee's National Folk Theatre.



Your guide – David



**Jóna Tours – S Ireland**  
*Some personally conducted by Jóna*

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Jóna Sparey has been organising and personally conducting tours to Iceland and other countries since 1985, with every aspect of each holiday being carefully planned. 57% of members now return again for more adventures.

**Southern Ireland Grand Tour**

**2024 Tour: 24 Sep to 4 Oct & 2025 Tour: 22 Sep to 2 Oct**  
**Maximum 7 members per tour**

**11 days**

Ever since I can remember, I have had a longing to see Southern Ireland. Through the years I have heard stories of dance, music and wonderful landscapes in places like Cork, Dublin, Connemara, Galway, Limerick, The Burren, Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry, Killarney, Dingle, Kilkenny. But I never had the opportunity to visit these romantic places, until a few years ago. By organising a Grand Tour of Southern Ireland, for me and my members, my dream came true. Are you like me? Had never been there, but have dreamt of going? Maybe your dream has already come true and you have visited Southern Ireland, I do not know, but I thought if not, you might well be interested to visit this magical country, by joining my very comprehensive tour there in 2024.

Although it took me some time to prepare, it proved to be a most stunning and comprehensive tour of Southern Ireland.

At the Paris Travel Show I met this larger than life character called David, half



Irish and half French, a professional story teller. He told me he had a real passion for guiding and touring, and said he had a very personal way of conducting his tours, putting his very heart and soul into the organising of everything. David worked many years for the "Land and Heritage Organisation of Ireland", so through this experience, his knowledge of the areas in Ireland are boundless. He knows the most interesting places to visit and the best hotels to stay in. You can understand why I thought then, that he would be perfect as "our guide, and organiser" and after many tours later, I knew I had been absolutely right.

**Tour price includes – see page 4**

**Full itinerary on page 2 (overleaf)**



# Southern Ireland Grand Tour

11 days

2024 Tour: 24 Sep to 4 Oct & 2025 Tour: 22 Sep to 2 Oct

**Day 1** Dublin panoramic tour. Lunch will be taken in a typical city centre pub. During the meal a sample tasting of locally brewed beer will be served: Lager, Ale, and the typically Irish "Stout".

Visits to the Georgian Squares, the cathedrals of Saint Patrick and Christchurch, and the "Four Courts". During the tour you will stop to visit: The National Museum of Ireland. Then onto the Guinness Storehouse. Check in to our hotel, located in the heart of the city. Dinner in the hotel.

**Day 2** Before leaving Dublin for the West Coast, one last visit to a building steeped in Irish History and Culture: Trinity College University. Lunch in a restaurant on the way.

In the very centre of the Island of Ireland flows the mighty river Shannon, largest river in the British Isles. And at the ancient crossroads of "Old Erin", in a spot today completely isolated, you can find the extensive ruins of Clonmacnoise. Having crossed the Shannon you will continue West until you reach the Atlantic coast and the city of Galway. Check into our hotel. Dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**Day 3** This entire day will be dedicated to Connemara: a remote, wild and mythical landscape like no other. On small, narrow and winding roads you will be driven along a scenic itinerary, passing through the scattered villages of Moycullen and Oughterard. You will descend into Killary Harbour, known to be the only fjord in Ireland similar to the ones found in Norway. You will visit Kylemore: a former 19th century fairy tale castle. The itinerary continues through Clifden, Connemara's small capital, and onto the Atlantic coast which you will follow. A stop in Mannin's Bay will show an example of a white coral beach. Finally Roundstone, one of the prettiest fishing villages in Connemara. One last stop on the shores of Lough Derryclare. Second night in the same hotel and dinner.

**Day 4** Depart from Galway heading South into County Clare. Here, on the opposite shore of Galway Bay, you can find a stunning contrast with the landscape of Connemara: the Burren plateau. The scenery is most dramatic along the coast. On the way you will make many stops to take the rich heritage of this region: Dunguaire Castle. Corker Pass and its panoramic views and Corcomroe Abbey. Lunch in Ballyvaughan village. A scenic drive will bring you around Black Head. Returning to greener pastures you will climb a series of gentle hills, eaten away by a voracious ocean, creating the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. Then you will be driven down to Liscannor, a small fishing village, where a boat (roofed) will take you on an exciting trip to see the cliffs from the sea! Back to our hotel and dinner.

**Day 5** You will leave the coast to venture in the heart of the O'Brien territory. You will start by visiting Bunratty Castle & Folk Park. Lunch in Bunratty village.

Heading South you will come to Limerick City, third city in Ireland. You will cross the mighty river Shannon and continue for another welcome stop, in the charming village of Adare.

Once in County Kerry the landscape changes back into poor farming soil where grazing and cattle breeding dominates. The most famous National Park in the country is found here. You will visit the grand Muckross House, and its sumptuous gardens. Check into our hotel and dinner.

**Day 6** Depart for a full day touring around the celebrated "Ring of Kerry". This is one of the most scenic itineraries in the country, making a grand circle around the Iveragh Peninsula. This is the Irish

Highlands of Kerry, home to remote communities. First stop will be in Killorglin village to visit a small family-run fishery making smoked salmon. There will be a tasting in the bar with white wine!

The tour will continue along the Ring of Kerry, on a cliff road overlooking Dingle Bay and Dingle Peninsula beyond. Lunch will be taken in a restaurant belonging to the "Butler Arms Hotel", where Charlie Chaplin spent many of his holidays.

After Waterville the road climbs up to Coomakesta Pass with stunning views over the Skellig islands and Kenmare Bay. Crossing part of the National Park you will stop at "Ladies View", an awe-inspiring panorama over a landscape of wild hills. You will also get your legs moving with a small walk to see the Torc Waterfalls.

Return to our hotel for dinner.

**Day 7** Today we spend exploring the rich natural environment of the National Park. The adventure will begin at Kate Kearney's Cottage, start of the "Gap of Dunloe Trail".

Traditional small jaunting cars drawn by local horses, and lead by mountain men (or women!), will be waiting for you.

At lunch time you will arrive at Lord Brandon's Cottage. Here you will enjoy a rest and a tasty barbecue with Irish meat products. You will continue your adventure on large traditional wooden boats, steered, and cut across the three lakes. On the lower Lough Leane you will stop to visit Innisfallen Island and the ruins of an old monastery. Back to our hotel for dinner.

**Day 8** This morning we will head towards the end of the world!

Amongst all the scenic peninsulas of South West Ireland, one can find the dramatic Dingle Peninsula. Also "Slea Head", is indeed the most westerly point in Europe!

Stopping on way to enjoy views over Dingle Bay, and the famous Inch Beach: one of the longest sandy beaches in Ireland.

The scenery is powerful, striking and leaves no one unmoved. You have reached Slea Head, the most westerly point in Europe! Lunch will be had in a local restaurant.

Later that afternoon, we will reach Annascaul village. A visit to "The South Pole Inn"! On retiring, the Antarctic hero and native of Annascaul Tom Crean, came home to open this pub in 1920. Back to our hotel for dinner.

**Day 9** Depart from Killarney heading for today's destination: the South Coast of the Celtic Sea and County Cork.

Cork. The city tour will inform you on its rich History, going back to St Finnbar who founded a monastery here in the 6th century and has the largest natural harbour in Europe. In 2005 Cork was voted Cultural Capital of Europe. Visit of St Finnbar Cathedral.

Lunch in Cork. Visit of Midleton Distillery.

Return to our hotel and dinner.

**Day 10** Today we will be heading for County Tipperary. Visit of Cahir Castle. Lunch in the town of Cahiri. You will also visit what is certainly the most iconic site in the whole island: the Rock of Cashel.

The site is the traditional seat of the kings of Munster.

Dinner at our hotel. Evening at the National Folk Theatre of Ireland.

**Day 11** Depending on your flight times, many options can be organised on this last day. A tour of Howth Peninsula, jutting out into the Irish Sea, this peninsula shelters Dublin Bay and port from the high sea. Depart to UK.

