

IRELAND THEATRE TOURS

Dublin holds theatre close to its heart. Throughout history, Irish theatre has played out the fears and anxiety of a nation divided with incredible passion. The legacy is a colourful theatrical scene in Dublin, with the plays of Beckett and Wilde alongside contemporary and experimental works, as well as the annual Theatre and Fringe festivals in September and October.

Day 1 – Arrival Dublin

Meet with your English speaking guide and enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City, discovering the north side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. Visit to Trinity College which was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st. Within its walls, you will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices. Trinity has had many famous students such as Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett who later became a lecturer in French at the university. The Inter-denominational Church is very much worth a visit. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner.



Overnight Dublin

Day 2 – Literary Dublin



Today enjoy a tour of the city with a literary flavour, with particular emphasis on its Georgian architecture, saluting Oscar Wilde's modernistic sculpture facing his first home in Merrion Square. Visit the Dublin Writers Museum in Parnell Square, which traces Ireland's rich heritage of writers and literary figures. The collection features the lives and works of Dublin's literary celebrities over the past 300 years. Swift and Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett are among those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items.

Then visit the James Joyce Museum in the Martello tower, built in 1804 by the British Army as part of their defences against a feared Napoleonic invasion. It became the private residence of Oliver St. John Gogarty in 1904 when James Joyce (then 22) was invited to stay. The museum was opened in 1962 by Sylvia Beach, the 1st publisher of *Ulysses*. The museum has photographs, letters, documents, various editions of his work and two death masks of Joyce on display. This evening attend a performance in a Dublin theatre.

Overnight Dublin

Day 3 – Workshop

Workshop at the Independent Theatre in Ranelagh. Includes voice production, Irish dialects and working with Irish authors and playwrights. There will also be a preview of tonight's production. Evening performance.

Overnight Dublin



Day 4 – Irish for a Day

A definite break from theatre today. We spend the day outside Dublin at Causey Farm, a working farm in County Meath, which opens its doors to the visitor and allows the visitor to see, first hand, how farmers earn their living. It is not all work for the visitor and during your visit you will experience how the Irish traditionally enjoy themselves with food, sports, music and dance. There are several activities organised to entertain ~ bread making ~ learn the art of Hurling ~ become an Irish Dancer ~ learn to speak Gaelic or become an expert in handling sheep and sheep dogs.

Overnight Dublin



Day 5 – Abbey Theatre

Backstage tour of the The Abbey Theatre, founded in 1903 by W. B. Yeats and Lady Augusta Gregory. Its precursors were the Irish Literary Theatre and Frank and Willie Fay's National Dramatic Society. With patronage from Miss Annie Horniman, premises were purchased on Old Abbey Street and on December 27th 1904, the Abbey Theatre opened its doors for the first time. The tour includes an introduction to the historic art collection of the Abbey Theatre, a backstage tour to experience the creative processes and the opportunity to tread the hallowed boards of the Abbey stage. The expert theatre staff are knowledgeable and passionate about the national theatre and will make your visit an unforgettable experience. Balance of the day at leisure or afternoon workshop available.

Overnight Dublin

Day 6 – Co. Wicklow

South of Dublin, is County Wicklow. Known as "the Garden of Ireland" it is home to Powerscourt, Mount Usher and Russborough, to name a few of its many houses and gardens. This region features all the various types of scenery that makes Ireland so beautiful. The coastline is bordered by charming sea resorts such as Bray or Greystones. In the heart of its gentle and rounded hills are nestled Enniskerry and Avoca, both very picturesque villages. Discover its romantic and quiet beauty, the deserted mounts where nothing but heather grows, the small forests and the lush prairies illuminated by yellow gorse in spring.

Enjoy one hour theatre during lunchtime at Bewleys Cafe Theatre. This is a year round lunchtime theatre in the heart of the city featuring high quality productions showcasing some of Ireland's best writing and performing talent.

Pre-theatre dinner followed by the final production of the trip.

Overnight Dublin

Day 7 – Home

Transfer to the airport and return flight home.



Included Highlights

Accommodations:

6 Nights Hotel

Sightseeing:

Backstage at the Abbey and Gate Theatres, 3 Workshops, 3 Productions, Trinity College, Causey Farm, Co. Wicklow,

Also Included:

Airport-hotel transfers, hotel and local taxes, baggage handling, touring by deluxe private motorcoach, services of a professional tour manager, local specialist guides,