

**Cinematic Ireland:
A Scenic and Dramatic Encounter with Irish History, Culture, People and Places
June 18-June 26, 2019**

Dublin, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Youghal, Cork City, Kinsale, Bantry, Dingle, Kildare, Dublin

In this special small-group tour, Ireland is ready for its close-up as we travel to some of its most scenic locations with an eye to the films that have been inspired by them and the history and culture they represent. Each day we will focus on several key aspects of Irish history, customs, and traditions, using the scenic richness of our route as our classroom and cinema!

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 June 18 Pick-up in Dublin for an overnight in Wicklow: Early arrivals can participate in the annual Bloomsday celebration in Dublin on June 16 and all things Joycean. Tour pick-up will be at Dublin Airport mid-morning for our departure into the Dublin Mountains and Wicklow, which has been called “the Hollywood of Europe,” scene of such films as *Excalibur*, *Michael Collins*, *Braveheart*, and the current *Vikings* TV series. After a tour of either Ardmore or Ashford Studios, we will plunge into the breathtaking and diverse locations in Wicklow. Our overnight will be near Avoca, the stand-in for “Ballykissangel.”

Day 2 June 19 Kilkenny: Today we will pass through the historical towns of Enniscorthy and New Ross, and the village of Inistioge, the location for the film *Circle of Friends* and *The Secret Scripture*, before reaching Kilkenny. We will also visit the beach at Ballinesker where the D-Day Landing in *Saving Private Ryan* was filmed.

Kilkenny with its well-preserved castle is the ideal location to consider Ireland’s medieval past. We will enjoy a walking tour of its key sights with a local guide. One of the dynamic cultural centers of Ireland, Kilkenny is also a foodie destination of note.

Day 3 June 20 Into Cork: Today’s first stop is one of Ireland’s wonders, the momentous Rock of Cashel and its ecclesiastical ruins before crossing into the Rebel Country of Cork. Our destination is the picturesque seaside town of Youghal, one of the most scenic places in Ireland and the stand-in for New Bedford in John Huston’s *Moby Dick*.

Day 4 June 21 Cork City to Kinsale: After a morning stop in Cobh, the great exodus port for the Irish diaspora, we will spend the day in Cork City, Ireland’s Second City, including lunch in its famous English Market. Cork, not Limerick, was the backdrop for the film version of *Angela’s Ashes*. Then off to historical and picturesque Kinsale is our overnight destination. Kinsale is the site of one of the great turning-points in Irish history. Now a foodie destination, dinner along one of several of Kinsale’s narrow streets will be a treat.

Day 5 June 22 Kinsale and environs: In the morning we take a historical walking tour of Kinsale. After lunch we head out for a tour of the spectacular scenery and notable sites surrounding Kinsale, including the Signal Tower and Lusitania Museum.

Day 6 June 23 West Cork to Bantry: Today we head out into West Cork along one of Ireland’s most scenic routes and through several of Ireland’s most picturesque and historical towns, including Clonakilty, voted the “Best Town in Europe” in 2017 and the notorious Skibbereen. This scenery has been used in numerous films, including *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, *War of the Buttons*, *Ondine*, *Byzantium*, *The Young Offenders*, and *The Lobster*. We spend the night in magnificent Bantry, at the head of mighty Bantry Bay.

Day 7: June 24 Into the Kingdom and the Dingle Peninsula: Leaving West Cork, we cross over into the Kingdom of Kerry. Our route takes up by scenic Kenmare and across Killarney National Park, and out along the magnificent Dingle Peninsula for our overnight in Dingle town.

Day 8 June 25 Dingle to Kildare: After a tour round Dingle and some of the most striking scenery in Ireland, including glimpses of the Blasket Islands and Skellig Michael, we head east across Ireland's midlands from Tralee into County Kildare for our final overnight.

Day 9 June 25 Return to Dublin Airport: Return to Dublin airport for afternoon flights or extended time in Dublin.

• What's Included:

• Accommodation in 3-4-star hotels • Full Irish breakfasts • Three evening meals • All tour transportation and admissions fees • Dublin Airport pick up and return.

Cost per person double occupancy:: \$2590. Single Supplement: \$600

See www.uniqueirishtours.com for Terms and Conditions.