



# MEJDI TOURS

## MEJDI Tours Group Departure

- Tour:** A Country Divided: A Dual Narrative of Ireland
- Included:** 9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Clayton Hotel (Belfast), Maldron Hotel (Derry), Menlo Park Hotel (Galway), The Gresham (Dublin)  
1 local nationalist guide for 9 days  
1 local unionist guide for 9 days  
9 days of private bus transportation  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**  
Single Supplement-\$600  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Drinks at included meals  
Airport transfers  
Gratuities  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing<sup>2</sup>:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$3,995 Per Person

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

## Overview:

Immerse yourself in the land of Éire, renowned for its unquenchable spirit and incredible beauty. Join us as we journey through a nation divided on a dual narrative of Ireland. Tour the rolling emerald hills of Northern Ireland and the rocky cliffs and castles of the Republic of Ireland with two guides - one unionist and one nationalist. Dive deep into the history of the Troubles, examine conflicting national narratives, and confront contemporary issues, while celebrating the culture and fortitude of the Irish people. Explore the role of human engagement in conflict, learn how to approach uncomfortable conversations from a place of understanding rather than persuasion, and unpack lessons from the Troubles that can be applied to current events in the U.S. today. Experience Irish hospitality with visits to local parishes and pubs and explore the country's Catholic and Protestant heritages, literary legacies, and personal memoirs of political turmoil. Engage with community activists, artists, politicians, and religious leaders who continue to work toward a more peaceful Ireland.

## Itinerary:

### Day 1: Arrival - Belfast, Northern Ireland

Arrive in Belfast and transfer to your hotel (on own). Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel and **visit the innovative and engaging Titanic Belfast Museum**, an exploration of emigration, the shipyards, and maritime industry that shaped this historic city. Continue on to **Belfast Castle**, for a scenic city view and **discussion about the Plantation of Ulster and the history of the Troubles of Belfast**. Enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant evening.

*Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (D)*

### Day 2: Belfast: A Dual Narrative

This morning, **take a walk along the Peace Wall**, an ever-changing message board of political slogans and graffiti and a litmus test for current sentiments in the surrounding neighborhoods. **Tour the wall from the Nationalist side of the divide, hear political narratives from the Nationalist/Republican perspective, and visit a Nationalist Museum for a meeting with a former Nationalist fighter**. Enjoy lunch at an **Irish language center, and discuss the importance of teaching language as a means of preserving culture**. This afternoon, **explore the Crumlin Road Gaol** and walk through the history of the Penal Laws and War of Independence. Then, **explore the Belfast of the author and theologian, C.S. Lewis**, with a visit to C.S. Lewis square, the house where he was born, the church where he was baptised, and a visit to his favorite pub. Later, **meet with a journalist to learn about current affairs in Northern Ireland** before enjoying dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (B, L)*

### Day 3: Today's Belfast

Today, **tour the Loyalist monuments and colorful political murals of Shankill Road and hear the Unionist/Loyalist narrative from a former Unionist fighter**. Visit the **Skainos Project, a \$30 million post-conflict community regeneration initiative**. Tour this shared space urban village featuring economic, religious, environmental, and social

justice enterprises and learn how its inhabitants are sharing space peacefully in a contested neighborhood. After lunch on your own, learn about the many efforts to end the conflict. Take time for reflection at the **Art of the Troubles gallery in the Ulster Museum**, and **meet with a local organization that has been working toward Catholic-Protestant reconciliation**. This evening, **meet with a local playwright/songwriter and a local Irish language activist over dinner and explore how art develops and enhances empathy, changes perspectives, and promotes understanding**.

*Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (B, D)*

#### **Day 4: Dunluce Castle, Bushmills Distillery, & Giant's Causeway**

Today, take a trip up the Antrim Plateau, past the Glens to the northern coast of Ireland. Start with **Dunluce Castle**, one of the most impressive in Northern Ireland. For lunch, stop at Bushmills Distillery, the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world. Afterwards, enjoy brisk coastal breezes at the swaying **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge** (weather permitting) and visit **Giant's Causeway**, whose hexagonal volcanic formations have earned it's distinction as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, hear charming tales of the Celtic giant for whom the site was named. Learn about Northern Ireland's economy and the efforts for joint ventures with Catholics and Protestants. Continue to your hotel in Derry.

*Hotel: Maldron Hotel, Derry (B, L)*

#### **Day 5: Diving Deeper into the Troubles in Derry**

Today, **learn about the harrowing events of the Battle of the Bogside and Bloody Sunday**. See the **Free Derry Corner**, and walk through the **People's Gallery**, a series of political murals dedicated to the victims of the Troubles and local civil rights efforts. **Meet with families of victims of the Troubles and hear their stories**. Then, **walk the ramparts of Derry's walls**, constructed during the Plantation of Ulster to defend the English and Scottish settlements. In the afternoon, **meet with an expert on conflict resolution and learn about how the good Friday agreement came to fruition, and what lessons Americans can take forward from the Irish Peace Process**. Enjoy dinner on your own and rest of the evening at your leisure.

*Hotel: Maldron Hotel, Derry (B)*

#### **Day 6: Derry to Galway**

This morning drive towards **Sligo**, **meet with a local expert to learn about the author W. B. Yeats and Irish literature**, then continue to visit the **Tobernalt Holy Well**, a tranquil place of reflection used for religious ceremonies. Afterwards, continue to **Galway for an evening cultural tour of the city**. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening in Galway.

*Hotel: Menlo Park Hotel, Galway (B)*

#### **Day 7: Gaelic Culture & The Beauty of Connemara**

**Visit Cnoc Suain where you will partake in their cultural and natural history program, followed by a home-cooked lunch**. Then visit **Kylemore Abbey**, located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. The house is one of the most photographed and admired properties in the west of Ireland. Return to Galway for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Menlo Park Hotel, Galway (B, L)*

### **Day 8: Galway to Dublin**

Arise early this morning and depart for **Dublin** (2.5 hours). Upon arrival, dive deeper into Irish history at the **Kilmainham Gaol museum**. Then, continue on to **explore Trinity College on a student-led tour of campus**. Visit Long Library, where you will learn about the legacy of Catholicism in Ireland and set eyes on the renowned **Book of Kells**, an illuminated manuscript of the Gospels.

*Hotel: The Gresham Dublin (B)*

### **Day 9: Modern-Day Dublin**

Depart to Glasnevin to visit **Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum** to hear the stories of Michael Collins, Daniel O'Connell, and other foundational figures in modern Irish history. Visit the **EPIC Emigration Museum** to learn about the Irish diaspora and emigration to other countries. Enjoy some free time this afternoon to explore the city further. This evening, **meet the group for a farewell dinner and a traditional Irish evening of music and storytelling at the Merry Ploughboy Pub**.

*Hotel: The Gresham Dublin (B, D)*

### **Day 10: Departure**

Depart for home today. *(B)*