



American Bank &  
American State Bank  
Member FDIC

# THE BEST OF THE EMERALD ISLE

July 4-14, 2024

A magical journey across the Emerald Isle will introduce you to Irish artisans, wow you with breathtaking vistas, and send you back in time at historic castles. Craftsmen will showcase their talents, Irish shepherds will proudly demonstrate their sheep dogs' herding abilities, and the Ashford Castle falconer will teach you to fly hawks. Every day brings another amazing experience, whether you're standing on the Cliffs of Moher or relaxing in a five-star castle!

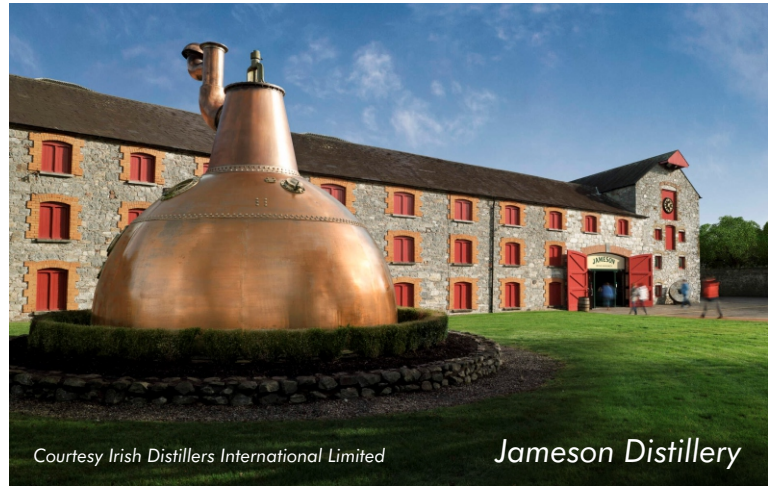
Space is limited.  
**Register  
today!**







*Irish National Stud and Gardens*



*Courtesy Irish Distillers International Limited*

*Jameson Distillery*

#### **DAY 1 THURSDAY, JULY 4**

#### **FLIGHT TO DUBLIN**

Today we will transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to **Dublin, Ireland**.

*Note: The airport location and airline will be confirmed nine months before departure.*

#### **DAY 2 FRIDAY, JULY 5**

#### **CORK**

#### **(Dinner)**

Upon landing in the Emerald Isle, we will be met by our favorite Irish driver/guide and board a deluxe motorcoach to begin our exciting adventure. As we journey south toward Cork, our first stop will be at the **Irish National Stud and Gardens** for a private guided tour. This state-run thoroughbred horse breeding farm has produced many winners for the Crown and is home to many retired equine superstars. The neighboring Japanese Gardens were planned to symbolize the “Life of Man” and are now world-renowned as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe. Then we are off to the **Rock of Cashel**, a historic site that served as the seat of kings and medieval bishops for 900 years and flourished until the seventeenth century. Brian Boru was crowned King of Munster here in 977 and later became High King of Ireland in 1002. Legend has it the devil took a bite from the mountain and spat it back out. It landed in the middle of Tipperary’s countryside and became the Rock of Cashel! After a full day, we’ll settle into **The River Lee Hotel** in **Cork** for a two-night stay. Take some time to freshen up before we gather for a wonderful welcome dinner.

#### **DAY 3 SATURDAY, JULY 6**

#### **CORK**

#### **(Breakfast)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and time to relax before we head to the **Old Jameson Distillery** to learn about the hard-working people and field-to-glass processes responsible for the whiskey that bears John Jameson’s name. Our tour of the old distillery will introduce us to the machinery and manual tools used in the past and the giant waterwheel which once powered all the machinery. The tour will end at the Jameson bar for a tasting. With the taste of delicious Irish whiskey on our lips, we’ll continue on to the delightful little town of Kinsale tucked neatly into an Irish harbor and famous for its brightly painted rows of shops. Here we will visit a **small crystal cutting shop** established in 1992 by master cutter Gerry Daly. The master cutters are of Waterford fame and practice the skill of deep cutting crystal that is a dying art today. The return to the hotel for an evening at leisure will round out our day.

#### **DAY 4 SUNDAY, JULY 7**

#### **KILLARNEY**

#### **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

After our hotel’s filling breakfast, we’ll say goodbye to Cork and begin the day’s sightseeing as we make our way toward Killarney. A visit to Ireland would not be complete without a stop at **Blarney Castle**. We will follow in the footsteps of countless world leaders, literary giants, and movie stars as we climb the stairs to kiss the famous Blarney Stone that promises the gift of eloquence, or “the gift of gab” as the locals would say! The gardens at the castle are gorgeous and a wonderful alternative for those who wish to skip the climb to the castle ramparts. Afterward, we will enjoy a little retail therapy at the nearby **Blarney Woollen Mills** where traditional Irish wares such as Belleek, Waterford Crystal, Celtic jewelry, and woolen knitwear await. Our day will come to an end in the fun-loving town of **Killarney** as we check in to our accommodations at the **five-star Great Southern Killarney Hotel** for the next two nights. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure followed by a lovely dinner served at this beautiful hotel property located in the heart of this charming town.

#### **DAY 5 MONDAY, JULY 8**

#### **KILLARNEY**

#### **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

Today’s tour will have us exploring the Irish countryside and the sites at the beginning of the **Ring of Kerry**. A stop in **Kenmare** will include a delightful lunch overlooking a peaceful and quiet Atlantic inlet. The afternoon will begin with a visit to a **traditional working sheep farm**. The farm is run by a father and son and has been in the family for 150 years. These accomplished shepherds will show us some varieties of sheep that are raised in Ireland and also demonstrate how they move their flocks with well-trained sheep dogs. Next up is **Killarney National Park** and the **gardens of Muckross House**. At this magnificent Victorian mansion, one can find a rock garden on a natural outcrop of limestone which has winding steps and small paths to enjoy the collection of dwarf conifers and shrubs. Vistas of grass lead the eye through mounds of mature rhododendrons punctuated by the boles of Scots pine. From here we will hop aboard one of Killarney’s famed **horse-drawn jaunting carts for a breathtaking ride** through the park. Once back in Killarney, the evening is yours to explore and have dinner on your own. Within walking distance of our hotel there are dozens of fun Irish restaurants to try and countless pubs with great food and lively music!



## DAY 6 TUESDAY, JULY 9

### GALWAY

(Breakfast, Dinner)

We depart Killarney after breakfast this morning, heading north to ferry across the Shannon Estuary and then drive through **the Burren**, one of the most remarkable geological formations in Ireland. The Burren is famous for its lunar-like limestone and unique flora, including the approximately twenty species of orchids growing wild here! Our journey along the craggy coastline will include a stop at the awe-inspiring **Cliffs of Moher**. Here we will witness the incredible 700-foot wall of rock that rises from the Atlantic Ocean and stand high on the cliffs to catch a glimpse of the jaw-dropping view that has inspired artists, musicians, and poets for generations. We'll then head to the **five-star Glenlo Abbey Hotel and Estate** to check in and freshen up for dinner on the Abbey property.

## DAY 7 WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

### DONEGAL

(Breakfast, Lunch)

Relax on the short, yet scenic, journey north to **Ashford Castle**, once owned by the Guinness family. It was on these historic grounds that John Ford filmed *The Quiet Man*, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. We will **meet the falconer at Ashford for a "Hawk Walk"** on the castle grounds to learn how to feed these stunning creatures, call them to our gloved arms, and send them off again! An elegant lunch will cap off our time at Ashford before we make our way north toward Donegal with a stop at the historic **Tobernalt Holy Well**. This natural spring is set in a primeval forest and was used as a place of worship in the hills during the penal times of Ireland. Our final destination this evening is **Lough Eske**, the lovely castle where we will spend the next two nights. Tucked into the magnificent green lands of the Irish countryside, this splendid five-star castle hotel is waiting for our arrival. The evening is yours to have dinner on your own, relax, or take a leisurely stroll around the castle.

## DAY 8 THURSDAY, JULY 11

### DONEGAL

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Today you are free to do as you wish! Lough Eske offers easy access to golf, fishing, lakeside strolls, horseback riding on the beach or forest trails, and the slower-paced charms of Irish village life. The hotel can help you arrange activities such as the famous "Bluestack walkway," visiting a WWII crash site in the Bluestack Mountains, walking the Wild Atlantic Way, wildlife watching, and much more. Bikes are available to rent at Lough Eske with many great trails around the lake and through the mountains. Visit nearby Belleek Pottery or indulge in a little shopping time in Donegal, including a visit to a Donegal weaver for some fine-crafted, hand-woven tweed products. If you'd like to simply enjoy a quiet day, spend time at the hotel exploring the magical grounds or relaxing in the wonderful spa. Be sure to pack your swimsuit! This evening our group will come back together for dinner in an elegant setting.

## DAY 9 FRIDAY, JULY 12

### DUBLIN

(Breakfast)

After breakfast we'll leave our delightful castle and head toward Dublin. Along the way, we will make a stop at the **Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre**. While removing peat from the bog in 1984, a great timber roadway that had been buried for centuries was uncovered. Tree ring analysis revealed the trees used for this roadway were felled in late 148 BC or early 147 BC and identified the roadway as the only known example of an Early Iron Age road. Inside the center is a stretch of the road that has been preserved. We will then continue on to **Dublin** to check in to the **Riu Gresham Hotel** for the next two nights. Dinner this evening is on your own at one of the dozen great eateries located right outside our door!

## DAY 10 SATURDAY, JULY 13

### DUBLIN

(Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we will begin a **panoramic sightseeing tour** including O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, and Leinster House. Due to the renovation of Trinity College's library, we'll visit the **Book of Kells** at its temporary exhibit. The Book of Kells contains a Latin text of the four gospels copied and decorated by Irish monks around the year 800 AD. Afterward, enjoy time on your own for lunch and exploration. Our hotel is perfectly located to allow for a leisurely walk to Dublin's top museums, the Guinness Storehouse, and many wonderful restaurants and shops. This evening our group will gather for a delightful farewell dinner planned as a very special experience!

## DAY 11 SUNDAY, JULY 14

### HOME

(Breakfast)

We will transfer to the airport after breakfast for our flight home.





## TOUR PRICING

**\$6,399 per person, Double Occupancy**  
**\$7,799 per person, Single Occupancy**

### OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

**American Bank and American State Bank RECOMMEND that all travelers purchase a Travel Protection Plan. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan provided by Travel Insurance Services:**

**\$644 per person, double; \$736 per person, single**  
 (Payment may be sent with your deposit or with final payment to American State Bank)

Travel Protection Plan may be purchased any time before or with final payment to American State Bank.

To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. Travel Insurance Services Inc. ("Travel Insurance") maintains an updated list of alerts and financial defaults on its website available at <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/customer-service/travel-alerts/travel-supplier>.

Visit <https://travelexinsurance.com/docs/ny-phn-covid-19-comp> to view a special notice for NY residents regarding coverage related to COVID-19. Travel Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. 716

## INCLUSIONS

- Round-Trip Airport Transfers
- Round-Trip Air to Dublin (air allowance of \$1,300)
- Private Motorcoach Transportation
- 9 Nights' Accommodations
- 16 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
- Admission to Attractions as Stated on Itinerary
- Porter Service of One Bag Per Person at Hotels When Available
- Taxes & Gratuities for Included Services
- Audio Listeners
- Professional Tour Manager

**Not included in the price of this tour:** meals other than those listed on the itinerary, beverages other than tea/coffee/water with included meals, items of a personal nature/souvenirs, phone calls and faxes from hotels, travel protection plan, passport fees, visa fees (if applicable), current baggage fees at the airport as assessed by the airline, fees related to any COVID-19 requirements for this destination, and any service not listed in the above inclusions

### Activity Level: Moderate

In order to participate in this tour, **you must:**

- Be able to walk/stand 3-4 hours at a time at an easy pace in all weather conditions
- Be able to regularly maneuver stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces without assistance

**A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form in order to reserve your spot:**

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE:  
MARCH 1, 2024**

For further information or questions, please contact:  
**Loreen Marra, American Spirit Club Coordinator**  
**American State Bank**  
**525 N Main Ave, Sioux Center, IA 51250**  
**(712) 722-4846 or (866) 938-4846**

Custom designed  
tour by **STAR DESTINATIONS**  **40**  
years

**DOCUMENTATION:** Each U.S. citizen must have a valid passport through January 14, 2025, to participate. If you don't have a passport, call our office and we'll tell you how to apply for one. Holders of non-U.S. passports have different entry requirements. Please NOTE: Due to airline security measures, your passport name must match your airline ticket name and your tour reservation name or you may be denied aircraft boarding. **Effective 2024 (Expected): All travelers to the Schengen zone of Europe will need to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver.**

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN:** American Bank and American State Bank recommend that you purchase a Travel Protection Plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected so you can relax and enjoy your trip. Participants may purchase this coverage from the provider of your choice. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan, 360° Group Premier provided by Travel Insurance Services, that helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage, and more. For more information, please see the product flyer included with this brochure. If you would like to purchase the offered plan, please check the applicable box on the registration form. Please Note: The plan cannot be purchased after final payment. To view/download the Policy, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, go to: <https://policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPB-0521>. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. The purchase of this product is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service. Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You may have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel policy offered through Travel Insurance Services with any existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Travel Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is offered on behalf of and under the direction of Travel Insurance Services. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. 7D4

**CANCELLATION:** Full refund of all monies is made if cancellation is received in writing to American Bank and American State Bank prior to final payment. A 100% fee is charged if the cancellation occurs between final payment and departure. If the reason for cancellation is due to a medical or other reason that is covered by Travel Protection, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider.

**TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** You must advise Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) at the time of registration of any disability requiring special attention. SDI will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of travelers. The Americans with Disabilities Act is applicable only in the U.S., and accommodations outside the U.S. may be more limited. Travelers requiring assistance are required to be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the assistance. Neither SDI personnel nor its suppliers may lift or physically assist with travelers' special needs including, but not limited to, walking, dining, or other routine activities. Travelers thinking they may need assistance should call SDI to determine what accommodations may reasonably be provided. Arrangements at an additional cost are the financial responsibility of the traveler.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) acts as an agent for suppliers such as airlines, hotels or activities to provide you with the travel services and accommodations. Although great care is taken in choosing suppliers, we are unable to control them and therefore cannot be held responsible or liable for their acts or omissions. Should a contracted supplier be unable to perform required services, SDI reserves the right to substitute advertised services with similar services. SDI is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs or expenses arising out of injury, accident or death, damage, loss, trip delay or delay of baggage, or other inconvenience resulting from mechanical breakdowns, fire, theft, civil disturbances, government actions, weather, and other factors beyond our control. In the case of a pandemic or worldwide disturbance that interrupts or cancels your planned tour, SDI will do everything possible to retrieve any refundable components of your tour but cannot be held responsible for any non-refundable portions of the tour. In addition, SDI reserves the right to vary the tour price advertised or printed to cover any increase in air fare, volatile fuel prices, government taxes and charges, exchange rate fluctuations, or other tour-related tariffs or newly announced travel costs. The price of this tour is based on the EUR/USD exchange rate of \$1.07 as of 6/2/23. In the current travel environment, pricing may be increased due to unexpected requirements for health and safety of tour members. Due to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, destination areas may implement restrictions and requirements that may add additional costs beyond our control. Be aware that any public interaction carries a risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Travelers assume personal risk upon tour registration, and SDI cannot be held responsible in the event of infectious disease exposure. If you request a variation or change to your booking, SDI may choose to accept or reject that request. If accepted, you are responsible for any fees associated with it. If the minimum number of passengers required to operate the tour is not met, SDI reserves the right to cancel the tour.

It is the sole discretion of SDI to refuse transport to any passenger, or require any passenger to leave the tour, if it is reasonably believed that the passenger (1) is dangerous to others or to himself or herself; (2) is engaged in, or is threatening to engage in behavior that may adversely affect the safety, security, enjoyment, or well-being of other passengers, including behavior that is disruptive, verbally or physically abusive, obnoxious, harassing, or obscene; or (3) has failed or refused to follow SDI's rules and procedures or the instructions of its representatives. In the event a passenger is removed, such passenger may be left at any location without any liability to SDI or its representatives. SDI shall not be required to refund any portion of the price paid by any passenger who is removed, nor shall SDI be responsible for any further expenses incurred by the passenger. SDI shall be entitled to recover from the passenger any costs or expenses incurred by SDI or its representatives in the removal of the passenger or the exercise or enforcement of this clause.