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## GEEO ITINERARY

IRELAND – Summer

### **Day 1: Dublin Arrive at any time. Attend a welcome meeting in the evening, if possible.**

Arrive at any time. We recommend arriving a day early to fully explore this lively city. There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting. Check the notice boards or ask at reception for the exact time and location of the group meeting, typically 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, you might like to take the option of heading out for a meal in a nearby local restaurant to further get to know your tour leader and traveling companions. Please make every effort to arrive on time for this welcome meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up. We *highly* recommend you stay a day longer in Dublin, so feel free to arrive a few days early or leave a few days late. Make sure you go on a day tour of Newgrange and the Hill of Tara.

### **Day 2: Dublin (B) Take a free day to roam the cobblestone streets of this historic city.**

Today, you are free to roam the cobblestone streets of this historic city. Walk along the River Liffey or marvel at the city's medieval castles and cathedrals. Don't tire yourself out too much – you'll want to get out later tonight and experience the nightlife for which the Temple Bar area is known. If you've already seen the city, this would be a good time to take a day tour of Newgrange and the Hill of Tara. See our optional activities list below for some ideas on how to spend your time.

### **Day 3: Dublin/Killarney (B) Continue on to Killarney. Use your free time to enjoy the town or explore the nearby national park.**

This morning, we drive to Killarney. After we arrive, you will have the rest of the day free to explore the area at your leisure. You may want to take a traditional Jaunting Cart (horse and buggy ride), visit Muckross House and Abbey, or see Ross Castle along the banks of Lough Leane. You can also visit Killarney National Park, home to the only native red deer in the country. The National Park is a great place to enjoy nature by walking along the edge of the famous and scenic Killarney Lakes or biking on the trails through the forest to seek out some of the waterfalls in the area. If time and weather permits, we recommend taking an optional boat tour to explore the ruins of Inisfallen Abbey. Approximate travel time: 4 to 4.5 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 4: Killarney (B) Enjoy a day trip to experience some sights along the famous Ring of Kerry. Return to Killarney for another night in town.**

We enjoy a day trip to experience some sights along the famous Ring of Kerry today. One of Ireland's most popular destinations, the Ring is a winding coastal road through a gorgeous mountainous and lake-spattered region. Visitors since Victorian times have been drawn to this evocative chunk of the Emerald Isle, where mysterious ancient ring forts stand sentinel on mossy hillsides. Afterward, we return to Killarney for another night in town.

### **Day 5: Killarney/Galway City (B) Travel to Ireland's west coast to Galway City. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city.**

This morning, we travel to Ireland's west coast to Galway City, where you will enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city's colorful streets and bohemian atmosphere. Galway is known as Ireland's Cultural Heart and is renowned for its vibrant lifestyle and numerous festivals, celebrations, and events. In the evening, head out for an optional dinner and drinks in a local pub. Approximate travel time: 2.5 to 3 hrs by private vehicle

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**Day 6 Galway City (B) Travel to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. Walk through picturesque countryside along the cliffs. Return to Galway for the evening. Opt for a night out at the local pub.**

Today, we drive and hike along the Wild Atlantic Way route from Doolin to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. The Wild Atlantic Way, 1,600 miles in length, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world, winding its way all along the Irish west coast. We will walk along the cliffs, with a maximum height of 214 m (702 ft) above the Atlantic taking in the amazing in the views. The hike on the Cliffs of Moher can be difficult for some people. It also can be muddy, so boots are handy there. After spending time along the coast, we return to Galway for the evening. You might want to have a night out at the local pub.

**Day 7: Galway City/Belfast (B, L) Travel along the coast towards Northern Ireland. Stop for lunch in the historic city of Derry. Visit Dark Hedges. End the day in Belfast.**

Today we travel along the coast towards Northern Ireland. We will stop for lunch in the historic city of Derry, known for the intact 17th-century Walls with 7 gates. We will then visit Dark Hedges, an avenue of beech trees that form an atmospheric tunnel that has been used as a location in HBO's popular television series Game of Thrones. We'll end the day in Belfast in time for dinner and evening out at a local pub. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 8: Belfast (B) Stop at the Giant's Causeway and marvel at the natural phenomenon of its volcanic columns. Continue on to Bushmills Distillery for a guided tour of the oldest working distillery in Ireland. Return to Belfast.**

This morning we'll get in our vehicle and drive to the Giant's Causeway - a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most stunning coastlines in Europe. This area is known for its unique, polygonal column rock formations that were created by a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago. You don't want to forget your camera for this one. Then we will take a guided tour of the Old Bushmills Distillery - the oldest working distillery in Ireland. For over 400 years, this distillery believes the secret to good whiskey is crafting the spirit in small batches; taste the difference yourself as you indulge in a whiskey tasting. We'll return to Belfast for a final night out on the town with the group and raise a pint to this beautiful island! Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 9: Belfast (B) Depart Belfast at any time.**

Depart Belfast at any time. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!