

Enchanting Isle

A culinary & cultural adventure
in Ireland

May 30–June 7, 2026

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️
EST 2014



Ireland has long been one of Onward Travel's favorite destinations! For this culinary adventure, planned exclusively for The Chopping Block, we're exploring this special place with a foodie lens.

Ireland has a wonderful food culture thanks to the fertile, mild maritime climate (a gardener's dream!) and a strong commitment to farm to table. Artisan producers continue centuries of culinary tradition that we can taste as we enjoy smoked fish, farmhouse cheeses, fresh breads, distillations, and so much more.

Join an optional pre-tour in Dublin or fly into Shannon, as the tour begins in County Clare for easy access to the spellbinding Cliffs of Moher. Travel counterclockwise to Killarney, for three nights on the Iveragh Peninsula to take in breathtakingly beautiful scenery and a bit of Irish music. The next part of the tour is spent in County Cork, home to two legendary food enthusiasts with storied careers: Sally Barnes and Darina Allen. A hands-on day will be spent at Woodcock Smokery where Sally smokes wild West Cork fish. And nearby is Darina Allen's Ballymaloe Cookery School and the landmark country inn, Ballymaloe House, our home for the second half of the week.

In Ireland, the windswept and picturesque craggy coastlines give way to green, lush countryside. It's a refreshing and wonderful place in which to immerse yourself. Warm Irish hospitality, lovely hotels, and beautiful views combine for an unforgettable adventure.

OnwardTravel.co Based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley, New York



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Gazing at the Cliffs of Moher and colorful sailboats in Kinsale

Cooking a hyper-local feast at Ballymaloe Cookery School

Tasting smoked wild fish on the West Cork coast

Don't miss Dublin!

see page 6
for tour extension details

Welcome to the Land of Smiles

DAY 1: SATURDAY MAY 30

- Explore medieval Ennis on a stopover in County Clare
- Toast your traveling companions ~ Sláinte!

Our tour will start today in beautiful County Clare. Fly into the convenient Shannon Airport and you're just 20 minutes from our first home away from home: The Old Ground Hotel. It's an elegant, comfortable hotel, perfect for weary travelers! *Alternatively, arrive early to Dublin for the pre-tour, see page 6.*

Fit in some R&R and stretch your legs, too. This afternoon, take a stroll into Ennis at your leisure. Ennis dubs itself "The Friendliest Town in Ireland" and is located on the River Fergus. For our group's first delightful meal together, we'll have a 3-course dinner at the hotel's charming restaurant.

Meals Dinner

Irish Inspiration

DAY 2: SUNDAY MAY 31

- Feel tiny and inspired at the Cliffs of Moher
- Settle in to vacation-mode at The Lake Hotel

Enjoy a nice breakfast spread before we set off for the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are absolutely striking: reaching over 700 feet above the Atlantic ocean. Some of the best views in the world, no doubt. There's also an excellent walking path for those looking to get their steps in and see the Cliffs from another vantage point.

Midday, we'll backtrack towards Ennis then head south to the absolutely iconic County Kerry. Before reaching Killarney, we'll stop in Adare, a picturesque and high-end village. For lunch, we'll enjoy a classic afternoon tea served on vintage china then some time for strolling and shopping.

Early evening, arrive in Killarney, a charming place where there are numerous shops, restaurants, pubs, and hiking opportunities to enjoy. We're staying just outside of town at The Lake Hotel, a 131-room hotel that has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. Your room will have a beautiful view of Lake Leane, and the property is adjacent to Killarney National Park. This evening we'll meet for a gourmet dinner at the hotel.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Ring of Kerry Highlights

DAY 3: MONDAY JUNE 1

- Be thoroughly entertained watching a sheep herding demo
- Admire the talent of world-class Irish dancers

Enjoy a slow morning, then have your camera at-the-ready because today we are seeing some lovely sights. First Muckross House and Gardens, a nineteenth-century Victorian mansion and estate poised along the shore of Muckross Lake in Killarney National Park. The azaleas and rhododendrons should still be in bloom. We'll stroll the beautiful grounds and then you're on your own to grab a bite in the quick service garden restaurant.

From there, we'll drive counterclockwise to take in the most prized views from the Ring of Kerry (without driving the entire ringroad). First, Moll's Gap (a mountain pass with views for days!), and then a sheep farm, home to over 1000 sheep where we'll enjoy a sheepdog demonstration and see sheep being shorn. Then, Ladies View, a sweeping, elevated lookout offering stunning vistas over the lakes of Killarney framed by mountains. And lastly, the 20 meter Torc Waterfall!

After a full day taking in the most beautiful vistas, enjoy a quick respite before a group dinner at a local pub. And the day's fun isn't over yet because tonight we're attending Celtic Steps. Incredibly talented Irish dancers and musicians put on this toe tapping show that features an assortment of wonderful Irish music.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

A HISTORIC HOUSE IN ADARE



A Scenic Day in the Park

DAY 4: TUESDAY JUNE 2

- [Take in Killarney National Park from a horse-drawn cart and a boat](#)
- [Sip a pint of whatever's on draught in the pubs](#)

Mid morning let's head to "Kate's Cottage" to meet a jaunting car for a captivating journey through the Gap of Dunloe, a picturesque narrow mountain pass. The jaunting car is actually a horse-drawn cart and the driver will share interesting stories during the 7 km scenic ride. Enjoy a break for lunch at Lord Brandon's cottage in the Killarney National Park before continuing on for a lovely boat journey through the lakes, surrounded by the rugged McGillicuddy Mountain Range. End back at Ross Castle, exhilarated!

The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to enjoy as you please. It's a great opportunity to have a pub crawl for those so inclined!

Meals Breakfast

Wild Fish in West Cork

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

- [Woodcock Smokery & Ballymaloe: the stuff of foodie dreams](#)
- [Savor the locally inspired dinner menu at Ballymaloe House](#)

This morning we're off and running to West Cork to convene with Sally Barnes. An absolute fish smoking legend, the subject of a new documentary short "The Keep," and the last person in Ireland to exclusively smoke wild fish. For over 45 years, Sally has worked exclusively with wild fish in West Cork, preserving them the traditional way, by hand, with nothing more than salt, smoke, and time. We'll join Sally to forage for wild herbs, shellfish, and seasonal bounty from the coast and countryside, then return to her smokery for lunch at the long table. Nosh on smoked wild fish, salads, West Cork cheeses, bread, and pickles and enjoy Sally's stories and passion.

Now we head across County Cork to Ireland's rural West Coast where Ballymaloe is located in East Cork. The next four nights, we'll stay at Ballymaloe House, a country inn that has inspired and supported food artisans for decades. Enjoy the inn and relax - croquet, bicycles, a heated pool, a 5-hole golf course, and tennis are all available and included with your stay. Stroll the grounds and admire this iconic Irish hotel and the resplendent gardens. Tonight we'll dine together at the Ballymaloe House Restaurant, enjoying a 5-course dinner that is locally sourced, expertly prepared and so very Irish. It even concludes with a cart of desserts, and yes, you may have a little of everything. After this day, you may think you've died and gone to heaven. Don't worry, you didn't, the fun continues tomorrow!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

County Cork Sightseeing

DAY 6: THURSDAY JUNE 4

- [Tick an item off your bucket list: kiss the Blarney Stone](#)
- [Experience Kinsale's maritime charm and picture perfect harbor](#)

Savor the morning and enjoy a delicious breakfast in the wonderful Ballymaloe style. Make sure to check out the walled garden and peruse the well curated shop. We'll pass through Cork City midday to make a pitstop at the historic English Market. You can pick something up for lunch as we're heading to the expansive Blarney Castle and Gardens, a lovely place for a picnic. You can't visit Ireland without kissing the Blarney Stone, the stone of eloquence, to attain the gift of gab! The castle is beautiful and the spiral staircase and precarious lean backwards to kiss the stone make great memories. The extensive gardens and massive gift shop are fun, too!

Late afternoon we're off to Kinsale, a colorful harbor town with winding streets lined with boutiques and art galleries. With sweeping coastal views and a postcard-perfect waterfront, Kinsale is a lovely place to spend some free time. We'll convene for a delicious seafood-forward dinner.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



Cookery School Heaven

DAY 7: FRIDAY JUNE 5

- Walk a craggy cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean
- Take a cookery course at world-famous Ballymaloe Cookery School

Enjoy another stunning breakfast at Ballymaloe and time to relax at the hotel. We'll visit nearby Shanagarry village late morning and pop into a design store/café for a bite to eat, then tour Shanagarry Potters to see the well known Stephen Pearce pottery. Then we'll stretch our legs for the invigorating Ballycotton Cliff Walk, you may also hang back and enjoy the views from the small fishing village. It is beautiful to walk along the cliffs amid the meadow and ocean views.

Mid afternoon we're off for a private hands-on cookery class at Ballymaloe Cookery School, home to a 100-acre organic farm and Darina Allen, Ireland's most important chef and slow food trailblazer. We'll tour the beautiful farm and gardens, enjoy our hands-on intensive class at the world famous cookery school, and take home a packet of recipes. To conclude the class, we'll sit down for a delicious supper enjoying the fruits of our labor.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Foodie Fun in Midleton

DAY 8: SATURDAY JUNE 6

- Stroll the lively Midleton farmer's market
- Sip whiskey at the source and hear the origin story

Today is all about appreciating Irish makers and artisans! We'll visit the excellent Midleton farmer's market and taste some local products like Ardsallagh goat cheese and Frank Hederman's smoked salmon. Midleton Farmers Market is one of Ireland's most celebrated food markets, a perfect place to have a genuinely Irish gourmet experience.

Our second stop is the original home of Jameson Whiskey where we'll have a guided tour of the beautifully restored 19th-century distillery campus, to reveal the art of triple distillation and the heritage of Irish whiskey-making. It's quite impressive to learn every drop of Jameson enjoyed around the world hails from Midleton, Ireland! Yes, we'll taste test, too!

Tonight we'll enjoy a second sparkling dinner at Ballymaloe House. What fun it is to reflect on the week we shared while savoring one last dinner of quintessential farm-to-table Irish country cuisine.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Farewell

DAY 9: SUNDAY JUNE 7

No activities are planned today. The tour will conclude with a transfer to Cork Int'l Airport for departures and the Cork Railway station for onward travels.

If you'd like a transfer to Dublin (3.5 hours plus stops), that can be arranged, with a captivating pitstop to explore the famous Rock of Cashel, a fortress and ancient royal site of the Kings of Munster. Please inquire! Price will vary depending on the interest. You would want to book a flight departing from Dublin on Monday June 8.

May the road rise up to meet you!

Meals Breakfast



DUBLIN PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

May 28—30

Our adventure does not include Dublin but you may like to visit this lively and walkable capital city.

Onward Travel has organized a self guided two-night pre tour.

Arrive in the morning on **Thursday May 28** and grab a taxi or the Aircoach bus into the city. Stave off the jetlag with a midday walk with Dubliner and foodie, Ann, to nosh around the city trying Irish specialties and learning about the city as you go. This is an entertaining and interactive way to orient to Dublin. Mid afternoon check into Buswells Hotel, your character-ful home base and put those feet up. Dinner ressesies will be made at Hugo's, a classy bistro that is a short walk from the hotel and home to creative and absolutely delicious French-inspired Irish food (dinner not included; order a la carte).

On **Friday May 29**, start the day at Trinity College where a current student will provide a walking tour of campus and share some of the university's interesting and entertaining history. Then, view the famous illuminated manuscript the Book of Kells, Ireland's national treasure. You're on your own for the rest of the day to check off whatever's on your bucket list. Dublin has some amazing museums, shopping on Grafton Street, distilleries, and so much more! Onward will provide sightseeing suggestions ahead of the tour.

Optional activity: Partake in a cooking class in Ann's home this evening. It's a special opportunity to prepare traditional Irish recipes with a local: soda bread, beef and guinness casserole, colcannon, and Irish coffee! (add'l \$95/person)

On **Saturday May 30** it's time to head east to Ennis to officially start the tour. Your friendly driver/guide will collect you at the hotel and make a day of it! First stop: the Irish National Stud, one of the only thoroughbred breeding farms open to the public. It's a gorgeous place and The Irish Racehorse Experience is very engaging. The second stop will be the Rock of Dunamase, a dramatic limestone outcrop crowned with the ruins of a 9th-century fortress, offering sweeping views over the Laois countryside. A tasty boxed lunch will be provided. Late afternoon you'll arrive in Ennis to commence the tour at the Old Ground Hotel.

Inclusions: 2-nights accommodations at Buswells Hotel, daily breakfast, tour and lunch with Ann, Trinity College tour & Book of Kells admission, minibus transportation to Ennis, Irish National Stud admission, boxed lunch

Price \$950 per person based on double occupancy
Single supplement +\$350



BEGINS	<p>Shannon, Ireland on Saturday, May 30, 2026</p> <p>Airport transfer provided from Shannon Airport to Old Ground Hotel, or participate in the Dublin Pre-Tour May 28–30 ~ see page 6. Please inquire if you'd like to book any early arrival nights at Old Ground Hotel.</p>
ENDS	<p>Cork City, Ireland, on Sunday, June 7, 2026</p> <p>No activities scheduled 6/7.</p> <p>Transfers provided to Cork Airport & Cork Railway. Or inquire for a transfer back to Dublin via minicoach and depart from DUB on 6/8 or continue your travels.</p>
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<p><u>This tour includes walking for up to 30 minutes at a time, plus stairs, uneven natural terrain and cobblestones. Travelers should be able to walk a mile at a comfortable pace.</u> If you have limited mobility, we may be able to accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.</p>
TOUR DATES & PRICE	<p>May 30—June 7, 2026</p> <p>Double Occupancy \$5,975 per traveler</p> <p>Single Supplement \$1200 additional</p> <p>Contact Onward if you are interested in a room upgrade.</p> <p>You are welcome to pay by credit card, a 3% surcharge applies.</p>
LODGING	<p>The Old Ground Hotel <u>1 Night</u> A friendly, comfortable hotel located in a tranquil town setting with dining on site.</p> <p>The Lake Hotel <u>3 Nights</u> Grand ca. 1820 hotel with lake-view rooms and dining, adjacent Killarney National Park.</p> <p>Ballymaloe House <u>4 Nights</u> Classic ivy-covered country inn in Shanagarry with a destination restaurant.</p>

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers as specified and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- 8 nights private en suite accommodations
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and seven dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences planned, with wine, beer & cocktails included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Ireland and Onward Travel Tour Director Andrea at your service.
- Comfortable minibus and informative driver/guide with us throughout the tour.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

Air Travel

The tour will start in Shannon (SNN) and end in Dublin (DUB). Travelers will need to book a multi-city flight.

If you arrive early, an airport transfer will not be included, plan to take a taxi to the hotel.

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking airfare.

Contact Onward Travel for assistance booking flights.



The Onward
Travel Tour
Director
for this trip
is **Andrea**

For over two decades, **Andrea Miller** has been working to inspire home cooks with The Chopping Block, Chicago's renowned recreational cooking school. She lives in Florida and enjoys gardening, reading, and stand up paddleboarding.

TRAVELER INFORMATION Enchanting Isle May 30—June 7, 2026

Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit www.travelexinsurance.com and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Ireland it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full Terms & Conditions at www.onwardtravel.co/terms

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by March 1, 2026.



Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:
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THE FAMOUS BALLYMALOE HOUSE DESSERT TROLLEY