

Ireland: Galway and Connemara Coast

Pre-Trip-Extension - Cork Pre-Trip Extension

2 Nights from \$395.00 per person, double occupancy

- 2 nights at The Imperial Hotel or Hayfield Manor
- Daily Irish breakfast
- City Information
- Airport transfers

Only available with the Air Inclusive Package.

DAY 1: Depart home / Fly overnight to Cork

Depart home for Ireland. The particulars of your arrival overseas are detailed with your flight itinerary.

DAY 2: Arrive in Cork / Begin your Trip Extension

Upon arrival at the Cork airport, claim your luggage and clear customs. If your luggage is lost, fill in a PIR form before leaving the customs area; VBT representatives are not allowed into the customs area. Please note: Make certain your VBT luggage tags are affixed to your bag so your VBT representative can identify you.

After exiting customs, enter the arrival hall and look for your VBT representative or driver, who will be holding a VBT sign and who will make arrangements for your transfer via taxi or van to your Cork hotel (approximately 20 minutes, depending on traffic). Your VBT representative will also confirm your transfer time to Ennis at the conclusion of your Cork extension.

VBT provides you with City Information that includes information and recommendations on what to see and do in Cork during your stay. Please note that the hotel check-in time is 3:00 p.m., but the staff will do their best to get you to your room as soon as possible. You have the rest of the day to relax or to begin your exploration of the city.

Accommodation: The Imperial Hotel or Hayfield Manor, Cork

DAY 3: Independent exploration of Cork

Enjoy your first day of independent exploration in the Republic of Ireland's second-largest city. The bustle of the Victorian English Market is probably the best place to experience its essence. This indoor covered

market on the Grand Parade is a very short walk from the hotel. After exploring the rest of the downtown area, you may wish to take a short walk (just over a mile) from the city center up to the restored and atmospheric City Gaol, complete with furnished cells. Both the exhibition and multimedia display trace the lives of individual inmates imprisoned here during the 19th and 20th centuries. You will also find the Cork Heritage Centre here, depicting life in Cork during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

You may wish to head farther afield to visit one of several nearby attractions. Blarney Castle, about 5 miles (8 km) from Cork city center, was built nearly 600 years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney, including a host of American Presidents, making it an internationally renowned landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures. Here, you will find the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of the Tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be at a loss for words.

About 14 miles (22.5 km) away is Cobh, the last port of call for the *Titanic* on her maiden voyage. Here, you can visit the Queenstown Story Heritage Centre, which tells the story of emigration from Cobh. You can learn about the 1845 famine, the great transatlantic ocean liners that docked here in the 1950s, and the historic role played by the port of Cobh.

The day is yours to enjoy!

Accommodation: The Imperial Hotel or Hayfield Manor, Cork

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4: Transfer to Ennis / Join VBT Air Package guests

Check out of your hotel, meet your driver in the hotel reception area at 10:30 a.m., and transfer by coach to Ennis (about 2 ½ hours).

After checking into your Ennis hotel, the remainder of the day is free. You may wish to wander around the narrow streets of this small market town or even arrange a round of golf at the Ennis Golf Club, an immaculately manicured 18-hole, par 70, parkland course. Golf clubs, cart, and buggy can be rented here; we recommend you contact the club in advance online at ennisgolfclub.ie.

VBT Air Package guests will arrive throughout the day.

Accommodation: Old Ground Hotel, Ennis

Included Meals: Breakfast