

Pilgrim Center of Hope



A Pilgrimage to Ireland
Discover the Emerald Isle's ancient & living faith.
May 11 – 21, 2026

The Catholic Church in Ireland is the largest Christian church in Ireland; with 3.5 million members. Ireland has given us many Saints such as St. Patrick, St. Columbanus, St. Brigid and others. And we will spend time at a Marian Apparition site: Our Lady of Knock.

Focused on Faith

- Daily Mass & Spiritual Activities
- Full Day - Knock Shrine
- Historic Monasteries
- Pray at tombs of Venerable Matt Talbot (d. 1925) & Blessed John Sullivan (d. 1933) & Shrine of St. Valentine with his relics &
 - Our Lady of Dublin Icon
 - ... and more!

Inspiring History & Natural Beauty

- Rock of Cashel
- Book of Kells - Trinity College
- Glendalough
- Ancient Castles
- Wicklow Mountains | Ring of Kerry
- Cliffs of Moher
- Connemara
- Dublin - Panoramic Tour & National Museum
- ...and more!

Journey of A Lifetime

- Roundtrip Airfare from San Antonio to Dublin
- | All airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- 4-Star Hotels |
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily with wine
- Local guides throughout
- Private, air-conditioned motorcoach |
- Luggage handling |
- *Whisper* headset use
- Pre-Pilgrimage Orientation Meetings
- Custom Pilgrim Book
- ...and more!

Airline Schedule from San Antonio to Dublin

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|-------------|-------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| Delta #2528 | San Antonio | 02:00pm | Minneapolis | 04:52pm |
| Delta # 258 | Minneapolis | 06:25pm | Dublin | 07:55am +1 |



Daily Schedule

Day 1 Arrive in Dublin.

Welcome to Ireland! We will meet our local English-speaking guide and driver; they have been chosen to be with us throughout the pilgrimage.

Enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin City**, seeing both sides of the River Liffey, where we pass by Phoenix Park, the largest city park in Europe! We will spend time at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, here we will have Mass. And we will have the opportunity to venerate the tomb of **Venerable Matt Talbot** in this Church.

Matt Talbot was an Irish ascetic, now venerated as a venerable by the Catholic Church. Born in Dublin in 1856, he battled addiction for many years before dedicating his life to prayer, penance, and service to others. He is considered a patron saint of those struggling with alcoholism and other addictions. Pope Paul VI gave Matt Talbot the title venerable. His liturgical feast is celebrated on June 19.

Continue to our hotel and check in. Enjoy our first evening Meal with wine and/or beer.

Our first night in Dublin.

Day 2 – Dublin

We will visit the world-famous **Book of Kells exhibition located at Trinity College**. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest university in Ireland. The Campanile, erected in 1852, was built on what is believed to be the centre of the monastery. Built to further the education of the ruling Anglo-Irish families, restrictions were imposed to prevent Catholic from attending courses. These restrictions were not fully lifted until the 1970's. Trinity however admitted women in 1902, earlier than most British universities. Most of the main buildings off the main square were built during the Georgian period, some of which replaced older buildings. Within its walls, visitors will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices.

Continue to visit Shrine of Saint Valentine & the Icon of Our Lady of Dublin. The relics of Saint Valentine are located here as well as an ancient Icon of our Lady of Dublin. Nearby is the Church of St. Francis, here we will venerate the tomb of a Jesuit priest, Venerable John Sullivan.

Father John Sullivan, SJ, is remembered as a healing and holy priest from Ireland.

John Sullivan was born into a prominent family on May 8, 1861. His Protestant father, Edward, was a brilliant barrister who would later become Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His mother, Elizabeth Bailey, was a Catholic from a land-owning family. As was the custom of the time, the boys in the family were baptized in the father's Protestant faith, and the girls were baptized as Catholics. John liked to dress well, and was considered at the time the best dressed man in Dublin. During this period he traveled Europe extensively, especially spending time taking walking tours of Macedonia, Greece, and Asia Minor.

To the surprise of his family, John Sullivan was received into the Catholic Church in 1896. His decision to become Catholic led to a change in lifestyle, exemplified by John stripping his room of anything that appeared luxurious.

Sullivan's fancy clothes disappeared in favor of the most ordinary garb.

On September 7, 1900, at the age of 40, Sullivan entered the Society of Jesus. After seven years of study, he was ordained July 28, 1907. Next came an appointment to the teaching staff of Clongowes Wood College, where he spent most of the rest of his life.

Sullivan's priestly life was one of prayer, personal sacrifice, care for his students, and, most especially, concern for the ill and the poor. Sullivan spent hours in prayer on his knees before the Blessed Sacrament or in his room praying the Rosary. Many more hours were spent walking the roads of Ireland to pray for the sick, especially those with incurable illnesses. From the 1920s until his death in 1933, there were many instances of spiritual and physical healing through the mediation of his prayers. John Sullivan, SJ, died in 1933. He was beatified May 13, 2017.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in Dublin City.

Dinner, at your hotel in **Dublin** or area. Our second night in Dublin.

Day 3 – Dublin to Tipperary (120 miles)

This morning we depart Dublin to see the beautiful Wicklow Mountains. **County Wicklow is known as "the Garden of Ireland"**. This region features all the various types of scenery that makes Ireland so beautiful.

En-route visit Glendalough

The English name Glendalough originated from the Irish "Gleann Dá Locha", which translates as "The valley of the two lakes". It was here that St. Kevin, son of the king of Leinster, founded a monastery in the 6th century.

It was a very important center of learning as well as a pilgrimage destination. There are many legends concerning **St. Kevin** and he is often compared to **St. Francis of Assisi**. The Interpretative Centre traces the history of its community through an exhibition and an audio-visual, which relates to the **Golden Age** of early **Christian Ireland**.

We'll take a guided tour of the site, which includes a Round Tower, the ruins of the Cathedral, and "**St. Kevin's Kitchen**" surrounded by an old cemetery. This route continues to Baltinglass where the ruins of a **Cistercian Abbey** are found.

Stop at Baltinglass Abbey

The Abbey is situated on the east bank of the River Slaney on the North side of Baltinglass town. The six beautiful Gothic arches on either side of the nave, supported by alternate round and square pillars, are a noteworthy feature of the ruins. The Abbey was founded in 1148 by Dermot McMurrough. Dermot McMurrough brought Cistercian monks here. It was established for the Cistercians which was called "The Valley of Salvation". In 1228 the records show that there were 36 monks and 50 lay brothers living in the abbey. In the early 16th Century Baltinglass abbey was one the richest abbeys in Ireland until the reformation by Henry VIII which saw the dissolution of the order. Fragments of the Church and traces of the cloister still stand to this day. The church consisted of the nave with aisles, chancel and two tapestries. The decorative stonework at the abbey shows a very interesting combination of Cistercian and Irish Romanesque architecture.

Dinner at your hotel in **Tipperary** or area. Our third night in Ireland.

Day4 Tipperary to Killarney (82 miles)

This morning depart for County Kerry. We will visit the famous **Rock of Cashel** on the way.

Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster.

St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Arrive in Killarney in the afternoon and enjoy some free time. In Killarney, we see the many quaint and colorful homes and businesses that are unique to Killarney.

Dinner at our hotel in **Killarney** or area. Our fourth night in Ireland.

Day 5 – Highlights of the Ring of Kerry

This morning, we will enjoy a *Highlights of the Ring of Kerr* Tour. On this route, we will pass through the beauty of **Killarney National Park**. The park is famous for its native natural habitats and species including oak holly woods, yew woods and red deer. En-route to Kenmare, stop at the breathtaking **Ladies View** and the equally stunning Molls Gap.

The view from the traditional area is probably the best known of Killarney and is a major stopping point for visitors. Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting visited here during the royal visit in 1861 and were so enchanted with the view that it was named after them.

This panoramic site is visited by thousands of tourists every year.

Return to Killarney in the afternoon

Dinner at our hotel in **Killarney** or area. Our fifth night in Ireland.

Day 6 – Cliffs of Moher and Galway (70 miles)

This morning our journey continues to Galway. We will embark on the Shannon Car Ferry to cross over to County Clare and see the Cliffs of Moher. Situated on the Atlantic, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The

respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of 'Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views That Rival The Grand Canyon'.

Then continue to **Galway the Burren region** with a landscape similar to a moonscape yet shelters a mixture of lora and archaeological sites.

Continue to your hotel in **Galway**. Dinner at our hotel in **Galway** or area. Our sixth night in Ireland.

Day 7 – Connemara to Galway (40 miles)

Today we will enjoy a full day visit of Connemara.

We will visit **Kylemore Abbey** which is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They established a private school for young girls, which was the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School. The school eventually closed in 2010. Facilities at Kylemore include a visitor centre, an exhibition housed in the main reception rooms of the house and a video which takes the visitor through the history of the house and its occupants. The Gothic church is available to visit and as a venue for choir groups to sing in.

Continue to your hotel in **Galway**.

Dinner at our hotel in **Galway** or area. Our seventh night in Ireland.

Day 8 – Galway to Knock Shrine (55 miles)

Knock Shrine, located in County Mayo is Ireland's National Marian Shrine where over 1.5 million pilgrims visit each year. It is one of the world's leading **Marian shrines**. On 21st August 1879, at about 8 o'clock, fifteen people; women, men and children, witnessed an Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist along with angels and the Lamb of God In **1979 Pope John Paul II** visited this holy place.

We will spend the day at this Shrine, which includes Mass and time to visit the site.

Dinner at our hotel in **Mayo** or area. Our eighth night in Ireland.

Day 9 Mayo to Dublin

This morning depart towards Dublin. Today as we leave Knock, we will enjoy plenty of breathtaking scenery while traveling to Dublin. And **the National Museum**, situated in the heart of the city. You will be particularly interested in the Celtic finery, as well as numerous early Christian artifacts and incredible relics.

Continue to your hotel and check in. Dinner.

Day 10 Depart Ireland

This morning, we will depart our hotel for our route to the Dublin Airport for our journey home.

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| Delta #177 | Dublin | 11:00am | Arrive Atlanta | 02:50pm |
| Delta #2893 | Atlanta | 06:45pm | Arrive San Antonio | 08:17pm |

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