

Concert tour Dublin-Cork/Ireland – 6 days – by flight

Target group: Choirs

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival Dublin – guided tours

Arrival in Dublin and **Panoramic City Tour**: Starting your stay with a panoramic tour of Dublin is the ideal introduction to “Dublin’s Fair City”. The tour will introduce you to the principal sites. You will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for its architecture and of course its famous –doors. Highlights of the tour will be walking the grounds of the famous Trinity College, one of Ireland’s most prestigious universities. Pass by Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Norman’s in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on your way to the Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal cross.

Dinner in the hotel in Dublin area (3-course-menu incl. tea & coffee)

Day 2: Guided tours Trinity Colleague and St Patricks-Cathedrale – Matinee-Concert

Visit the **Trinity College with Book of Kells**: Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland’s most illustrious books, the 9th century “Book of Kells”. Before viewing the famous book visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the book of Kells visitors are invited to visit the long room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over 200,000 books and manuscripts of the Trinity’s oldest volumes. Brian Boru’s harp said to be the “oldest harp in Ireland” and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the long room.

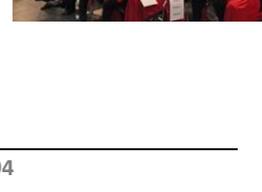
During lunch time you have the possibility to **perform at Christchurch Cathedral**.

Built in honour of Ireland’s patron saint, **Saint Patrick’s Cathedral** stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. The parish church of Saint Patrick on this site was granted collegiate status in 1191, and raised to cathedral status in 1224. The present building dates from 1220. The Cathedral is today the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (a church of the Anglican communion). St Patrick’s is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift (author of Gulliver’s Travels). Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St Patrick, adjoin the Altar. The massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

Dinner in the hotel in Dublin area (3-course-menu incl. tea & coffee)

Day 3: Dublin - Cork

Start the day with a visit of the **Powerscourt Gardens**. Situated at the foot of the **Wicklow mountains**, Powerscourt is one of the most beautiful estates in Ireland. Powerscourt Gardens are a magnificent example of aristocratic gardens from the 19th century. The gardens were initiated around 1745 and restyled in the 19th century. The gardens have many features including the Triton pool with its 30m fountain. To the left are American and Italian gardens; while below them is a Japanese garden. The Bamberg Gates to the walled garden are believed to come from a German Cathedral in Bamberg in Bavaria.



There are many rare plants and wonderful views of the Great Sugar Loaf Mountain. Not to be missed is the pet cemetery with its headstones dedicated to the family dogs.

En route, photo stop at the **Rock of Cashel**. Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's leading tourist attractions. Towering over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone, the Rock of Cashel was once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the 1st high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, the Rock became the seat of the archbishop of Cashel. It was during this period that Cormac's Chapel was built. In 1647 Cromwellian forces under the leadership of Lord Inchiquin ransacked the Rock. Today, impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The gothic cathedral dates back to the thirteenth century and attached to it is the palace of the Archbishop of Cashel. Cormac's chapel, smaller in structure, displays some typical Romanesque features while the Hall of the Vicar's Choral, at the entrance to the Rock, is a fifteenth century house. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artefacts found on the site.

Dinner in the hotel in Cork area (3-course-menu incl. tea & coffee)

Day 4: Guided tour Cork - Friendship concert

This morning enjoy a **city tour** of Cork where you'll see St. Fin Barre's Church, St. Ann's Shandon Church & the Opera House.

Subsequently, you will visit Cork Gaol. **Cork City Gaol** is located 2 kilometres from Patrick's Street and while the magnificent castle-like building is now a major and unique visitor attraction, this gaol once housed 19th century prisoners. Visitors get a fascinating insight into day-to-day prison life at a time when the high walls ensured no escape and denied law-abiding citizens the opportunity to see one of the finest examples of Ireland's architectural heritage.

In the afternoon, you will visit **Blarney Castle**. Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney 8 km from Cork City. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone - The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend.

In the evening **Friendship Concert** with a local choir in Cork or surrounding.

Dinner in the hotel in Cork area (3-course-menu incl. tea & coffee)

Day 5: Cork-Dublin

The **Old Midleton Distillery** was founded by the Murphy brothers in 1825. The 45 minute guided tour of the distillery commences with a short audio-visual, after which visitors are taken on a tour of the old distillery by local guides. Follow the old distillery trail through mills, maltings, stillhouse, warehouses and kilns and view the largest pot still in the world - some of these buildings date back to 1795. The tour ends in the Distillery pub, where all are invited to enjoy a glass of Irish Whiskey.

Afterwards, continue to Kilkenny, where you will stop for a photo opportunity at **Kilkenny Castle** (no visit included). One of the most instantly recognised buildings in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. The castle has been remodelled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands which was the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde.



Dinner in the hotel in Dublin area (3-course-menu incl. tea & coffee)

Day 6: Departure

Transfer to the airport Dublin.

Without flight to/from Dublin, all transfers and guided tours, mid-class hotels including dinner, organisation of 2 concerts, tour guide (available in all main languages) in Ireland: Costs about € 550 with 45 travellers in April 2016.

More round trips in Ireland on request.

For music groups performance in the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin possible and Concerts with Irish music groups in Dublin or other cities.

