



**WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST**

Travel Solo Together

# IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

The Grand Journey

with Women of the Midwest

May 8-21, 2025



Dear Women of the Midwest,

Are you ready for our Grand Journey?

This is my dream trip to the land of Saints, fairy folk, leprechauns, and shamrocks. It is mystical, magical, and oh, so much more! Close your eyes, picture it...!

Let us experience the highlights of both Ireland and Northern Ireland together on one journey while we uncover the mysteries of Monasterboice, tour the capitals, witness the Giant's Causeway, Ring of Kerry, the Cliffs of Moher, Stone Age ruins, and quaint and colorful villages with cobblestone streets. All relaxing and exhilarating at the same time.

Envision medieval castles, ancient lighthouses, popular local pubs, flocks of roaming sheep, family homesteads, and bustling cities. Ireland and Northern Ireland are lands that mix the old with the new, the ordinary with the extraordinary.

Imagine the music, the sounds, the laughter. Everyday people happily sharing their lives, their humor, their wisdom, and their talents - people with histories and dreams. Taste the local produce, from Irish coffee to cheeses and cider, and how about a traditional afternoon tea? It all sounds fabulous to me!

Top-notch accommodations will lull us asleep after days of wandering the seemingly endless emerald countryside.

This journey is all about the above.

Please take a look at our detailed tour brochure. Once you have read it, I hope you will join me on a journey of a lifetime!

Lisa Anderson,  
Ambassador



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888.549.1186. Space is limited.

## Doors of Dublin



### May 8, 2025 - Thursday

Traveling to Dublin, Ireland

Our once-in-a-lifetime adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Dublin. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you embark on a trip of a lifetime.

### May 9, 2025 - Friday

Welcome to Dublin! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the center to enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. For such a small city, Dublin has a big past. The iconic city has survived Viking attacks, devastating fires, and even the plague. It is also the founder of one of the oldest universities in Europe, Trinity College, and is home to Ireland's legendary brew, Guinness. We will swing by the Docklands, rich in maritime history, engineering triumphs, and landmark architecture. Lunch is served at a traditional Irish pub, followed by an Irish coffee-making demonstration. Check-in to our centrally located hotel, and the remainder of the afternoon and evening are yours to explore more of Dublin. L | T

### May 10, 2025 - Saturday

Dublin

We are off on foot to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Built in honor of Ireland's patron saint, the Cathedral stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. If you believe in wonderful food, you will enjoy our next stop! It is dedicated to discovering what tastes great. This is THE place to consummate your love of all things delicious - Irish cheese tasting is up! Before we let you explore more of Dublin on your own, we will take a walking tour of the famous Temple Bar, Dublin's popular creative and cultural neighborhood, a breathing hub of music, markets, and munchies. B | T

## Titanic Memorial, Belfast



### May 11, 2025 - Sunday

Dublin - Belfast

After breakfast, we will depart Dublin and head north. Our first stop is nestled in the sweeping landscape of County Louth, the celebrated monastic site of Monasterboice, meaning "monastery of Buithe." An eerily atmospheric and haunting spot with its cemetery, two age-old church ruins, and the country's two most celebrated High Crosses - the jaw-dropping Muiredach's High Cross depicting exquisite biblical carvings of both the Old and New Testaments, and the equally impressive West Cross, depicting David slaying a lion and a bear. Next, a refreshing cider tour. The family-owned farm has been growing apples for over 50 years, and all their products are 100% natural as well as gluten-free. Walking through the orchards, we will learn about the different apple growing systems, and visit the apple storage facilities and cider press. Lunch is served at a local pub before we reach our centrally located hotel in Belfast. We will enjoy dinner together, and the remainder of the evening is yours to enjoy. B | T | L | D

### May 12, 2025 - Monday

Belfast

Hillsborough Castle and Gardens is a historic estate and serves as both the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and a royal residence when members of the British Royal Family visit the region. We will experience the castle - a grand Georgian mansion built in the 18th century - featuring staterooms that are still used today for official functions, as well as the gardens, which are some of the most famous in Northern Ireland. We will return to Belfast for an in-depth tour through the narrow streets and listen to the stories behind the murals featuring pleas for civil rights and peace and some paying homage to the British Monarchy.

## Dark Hedges



We will see the 25-foot Peace Walls that keep the Catholic and Protestant communities apart to this day, 25 years after the Good Friday Agreement. We will explore a side of Belfast that is as spine-tingling as it is emotional. Time for a leisurely lunch before visiting the state-of-the-art Titanic Museum, standing majestically at the head of the slipway where the Titanic was built. Our tour will take us through the shipyard, the decks, get to know the passengers, and learn about the wreck. Dinner at our hotel. B | D

### May 13, 2025 - Tuesday

Belfast - Derry Area

After breakfast, we head out to learn more about the historical connection between the United States and Northern Ireland. The Andrew Jackson Cottage and US Rangers Museum is a restored 18th-century thatched cottage that was the ancestral home of US President Andrew Jackson's parents. Exhibits showcase the lifestyle of an Ulster-Scots family in the 18th century. Cameras out! We will stop at Dark Hedges - one of the most photographed natural phenomena in Northern Ireland. A favorite local ghost story features the grey lady, a specter that glides along the Bregagh Road, sashaying between the gnarled trees. The iconic trees have also been used as a filming location in HBO's epic series Game of Thrones. Lunch is enjoyed at a local restaurant before we reach our next breathtaking site: The Giant's Causeway. At the foot of the cliffs that skirt the edge of the 60 million years old Antrim plateau, the 40Kbasalt stone columns that make up the spectacular Giant's Causeway are one of Ireland's most recognized landmarks. Take a walk with our well-versed guide and dive into the area's unique history and geology. You will enjoy our beautiful hotel and a lovely dinner tonight. B | L | D

## Kylemore Abbey



### May 14, 2025 - Wednesday

Derry - Enniskillen Area

The walls surrounding Derry were built between 1614 and 1619 and are today considered among the finest examples of a fortified commune in Europe. We will join an expert local guide, walking a full circuit on and around the walls and exploring the unique and colorful history of Derry, including the mass emigration that saw 10 million men, women, and children leave the Emerald Isle for a new life overseas. Next is the Ulster American Folk Park, an open-air museum that tells the story of the Ulster-Scots people who emigrated to North America in the 18th and 19th centuries, with over 30 exhibit buildings to explore. We will get an insight into the lives of those who left their homes for a new life in America, an emotional experience. Our Manor House Country Hotel is a story for itself, charming and with an elegance of a bygone era, nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes on the shores of Lough Erne. We will relax, unwind, and enjoy dinner at this beautiful property. B | D

### May 15, 2025 - Thursday

Ashford Castle - Kylemore Abbey - Galway  
We are off to the Fairy Bridges and the Wishing Chair this morning. We will make a photo stop to capture the enchanting beauty of the Emerald Isle and The Wishing Chair, a large stone seat formed by nature's hand, inviting you to sit and make a wish, adding a touch of folklore to the scenic vista. Our visit to Ashford Castle will create memories of a lifetime. The rich history extends back to 1228 and the famous Guinness family. We will enjoy an exceptional and delightfully elegant lunch at the castle, followed by a private hawk walk. This will give you the incredible opportunity to fly your very own Harris Hawk under the guidance of our instructors. After you have been

## Afternoon Tea



introduced to your hawk, you will set off into the magnificent woodlands to fly your bird as it follows you from tree to tree through the woods before swooping down to land on your gloved fist. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our last stop today is one of the most beautiful places in the region: Kylemore Abbey and its Victorian Walled Garden. Galway is at your leisure tonight. B | L

### May 16, 2025 - Friday

Cliffs of Moher - Sheepdog - Killarney  
We head out to meet John, his sheep, and Border Collie. You are about to experience Burren's leading sheepdog demonstration. Since the age of 16, John has been training dogs in an attempt to preserve the culture that has been a part of Burren's life for generations. Next up are the famous Cliffs of Moher. Scenic cliffs stretching 700 feet over the rugged Atlantic coast. The cliffs are Ireland's most visited natural attraction, with a magical vista that will capture your heart! Our day ends in Killarney after a cozy and quick ferry crossing from Killimer to Tarbert. B | L

### May 17, 2025 - Saturday

Ring of Kerry - Muckcross House & Garden  
Meandering roads, incredible views, lofty peaks, and glittering loughs ...welcome to the Ring of Kerry! Sit back and take in the waterfalls and the Gap of Dunloe. In the afternoon, Muckcross House invites us inside one of the country's most iconic stately homes, once visited by Queen Victoria and today home to a working farm. To top off our day, we will travel back in time with what is undoubtedly one of the best ways to experience this beautiful part of the world: the Killarney jaunting cars. B | L

### May 18, 2025 - Sunday

Blarney Castle - Cork - Waterford  
We start our day in a mystical place around

## Celtic Harp



an ancient druidic settlement, one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, Blarney. If you are a hearty soul, climb the ramparts of the castle walls and kiss the magic stone reputed to endow the "power of conferring eloquence," better known as the "Gift of the Gab." We will then enjoy Cork's most beloved spot, The English Market, before visiting Mount Congreve House and Gardens, including an afternoon tea session. B | T

### May 19, 2025 - Monday

Waterford - Dublin  
Waterford Crystal Factory needs no further introduction. Ladies, enjoy! On our way toward Dublin, we will pay a visit to The Kennedy Homestead, a unique cultural museum dedicated to celebrating five generations of the Kennedy dynasty. Check in to our hotel in Dublin, and the rest of the day will be spent at leisure. B

### May 20, 2025 - Tuesday

Wool - Gardens - Irish Night  
We will visit Powerscourt Gardens, which was voted "No. 3 Garden in the World" by National Geographic! The Gardens offer a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes, and secret hollows. Avoca is next for a unique shopping experience of the best Ireland has to offer! Tonight's farewell dinner is at our favorite tavern and promises a fun night! B | D

### May 21, 2025 - Wednesday

Traveling Home  
All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Dublin airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B



To register contact:



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ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website [www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys](http://www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys)

**Package Price:**

Per person in a shared double room: \$5,795

Per person in a single room: \$7,495

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, T = Tasting, D = Dinner

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on January 8, 2025, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid in cash or by check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

**SPECIAL OFFER - NOVEMBER 2024:**

Register by November 30, 2024,  
and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 22 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

**Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4**

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas. We walk between 3 and 5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

**Group airfare:**

See separate insert and note that we are happy to assist with airfare from any city in the U.S.

**Travel Insurance:**

We strongly recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

*Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.*

**Hotel Accommodations** (announced 30 days prior to dep.): Hyatt Centric (Dublin), Hotel Europa (Belfast), Roe Park Resort (Derry area), Manor House (Enniskillen area), Galway Bay Hotel (Galway), Gleneagle Hotel (Killarney), Tower Hotel (Waterford), or similar accommodations.

**Included:**

- 12 nights during the tour in Ireland/Northern Ireland at local 4-star hotels
- 12 x breakfast
- 6 x lunch
- 1 x traditional afternoon tea
- 4 x dinner
- Tastings (Irish coffee, cheese, cider)
- All transfers and motor coach services as per itinerary
- Ferry crossing Tarbert-Killimer
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- Admissions to sites mentioned in the itinerary
- English-speaking professional tour director
- Step-on guides where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, May 8-21, 2025
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of July 7, 2024

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at [executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours](http://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours)

**Not Included:**

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for your second checked bag (the first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals & beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Gratuities (estimate \$15 per day in total)
- Professional fee, \$75 pp, due at the time of booking
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

The itinerary is subject to change.



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A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel Inc.