

Ireland Revealed: Landscapes, Legends, and Traditions

with Dr. Edward G. Lengel

May 9–16, 2027 | October 16–23, 2027



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From: \$7,195 per person

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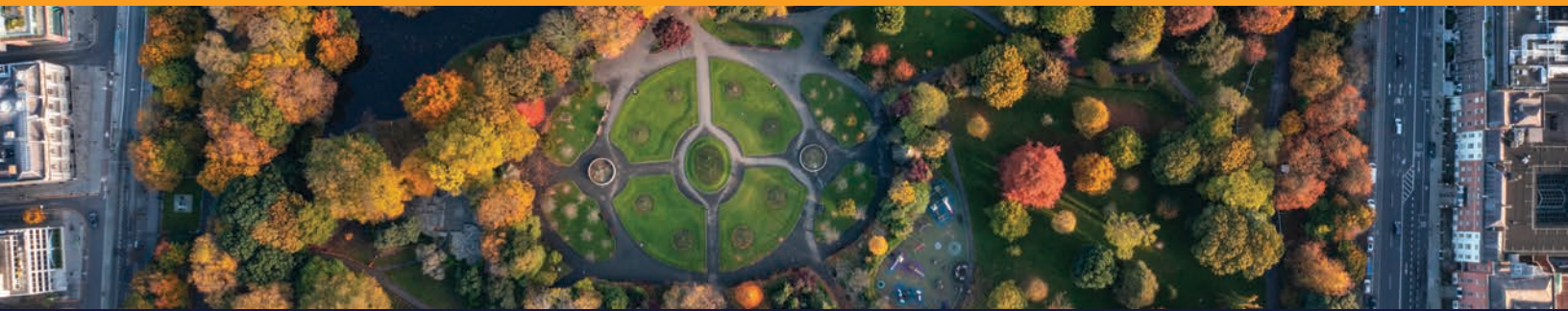
with Dr. Edward G. Lengel



Step into the heart of Ireland's storied past with a renowned Great Courses expert on a journey that blends breathtaking landscapes, ancient wonders, and fascinating cultural heritage. From the haunting beauty of the Cliffs of Moher to the mystical Dún Aonghasa ringfort on Inishmore, the Emerald Isle becomes a living classroom where history, myth, and memory converge.

With astute commentary and compelling storytelling from your expert, you'll explore medieval friaries, megalithic tombs, and monastic sites; marvel at the 9th-century Book of Kells; and reflect on Ireland's resilient spirit at famine memorials and independence tributes. Whether savoring smoked salmon in the Burren or raising a glass of whiskey in Dublin, you'll experience traditional Irish hospitality and deepen your understanding of the country's history and enduring legacy.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Edward G. Lengel is an award-winning historian and educator. He received his PhD in Irish and British history from the University of Virginia, and wrote his first book about the Irish Famine, which was the focus of his dissertation. He has conducted archaeology in Ireland, and traveled and studied there over the past 35 years, including learning about Irish architect, James Hoban, who designed the White House. Professor Lengel previously directed the Washington Papers Project for many years. Also a professional author, speaker and battlefield tour guide, he has written 15 books on Irish, European, and American history. Professor Lengel is a co-recipient of the National Humanities Medal and has won two writing awards from the Army Historical Foundation. With The Great Courses he produced the Audible Original *Ireland in the 1990s: The Path to Peace*.

Highlights

- Gain deeper insight into Ireland's history, mythology, and culture through engaging commentary and discussions with your Great Courses expert throughout the journey.
- Uncover Ireland's spiritual and archaeological heritage with visits to ancient wonders like the 6th-century monastic site of Clonmacnoise and the prehistoric Poul nabrone Dolmen.
- Experience life in the Aran Island of Inishmore, where Irish remains the primary language and ancient customs still shape daily life.
- Travel to Dublin for a look at the brilliantly illuminated Book of Kells at Trinity College, then explore the "Fair City's" cathedrals, museums, and monuments with scholarly interpretation.
- Celebrate Ireland's local flavors and culinary traditions with artisan salmon tastings, hearty pub lunches, and a whiskey tour at a renowned distillery.



Questions? Call 1-855-476-5080

Discover More 

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Itinerary



Day 1: Cead Mile Fáilte!

Arrive on individual flights into Ireland's Shannon Airport and begin your journey into the country's storied past with a visit to the ruins of Ennis Friary, a Franciscan school dating back to 1375. Continue to Leamenah Castle, a 15th-century fortified tower-house once ruled by the legendary "Red Mary," whose fiery spirit still lingers in local lore. Join your Great Courses Journeys expert and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Included Meal: Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Woodstock

Day 2: Cliffs, Megaliths, and the Ancient Burren

Begin the day at the awe-inspiring Cliffs of Moher, where sheer rock faces rise 700 feet above the wild Atlantic and offer some of Ireland's most spectacular views. Continue to Burren National Park for a guided walk through its otherworldly limestone landscape, rich with rare flora and ancient beauty. Savor a tasting of locally smoked salmon at the Burren Smokehouse, followed by lunch at the cozy Roadside Tavern. This afternoon, journey deep into Ireland's past with visits to Caherconnell Fort, a remarkably preserved 1,000-year-old stone ringfort, and Poul nabrone Dolmen, the country's oldest dated megalithic tomb. Return to Ennis for an evening and dinner at your leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel Woodstock

Day 3: Island Life on Inishmore

Take the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. Isolated from the mainland and encrusted with fossil-rich limestone, these islands are part of the Gaeltacht, where Irish is the principal language and age-old traditions hold strong. Acquaint yourself with a timeless way of life as you explore the island and walk up to the mystical Celtic ring fort of Dún Aonghasa, perched at the edge of a 300-foot cliff. Throughout the day, your professor will provide additional insights that illuminate the island's ancient history and culture. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Woodstock



“I love Ireland like no other country on earth, and especially I love the Irish people, who are quite simply the best in the world. I have studied Ireland’s history and culture for all of my adult life, formed lasting friendships, and made Irish heritage an important part of my family. I hope guests will feel equally transformed.”

—Dr. Edward Lengel



Day 4: Faith and Famine in Connemara

Cross into County Mayo for a day steeped in Irish history and lush natural backdrops. See the poignant Doolough Famine Memorial, honoring those who perished during the devastating famine years of 1845-1849. Continue into the wilds of Connemara to visit Kylemore Abbey, a stunning lakeside monastery established by Benedictine nuns fleeing Belgium during World War I. As the day draws to a close, settle into the historic Renvyle House Hotel and share a group dinner, reflecting with your expert and fellow travelers on the day’s encounters.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Renvyle House Hotel



Day 5: The Rocky Road to Dublin

Journey east across the countryside towards Dublin, stopping along the way to explore Clonmacnoise, founded on the banks of the River Shannon in the 6th century and one of Ireland’s most important early monastic sites. Pause in the lively town of Athlone for an independent lunch before continuing to the capital. Arrive in Dublin and check in to your hotel before dining as a group in a local restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Iveagh Garden Hotel

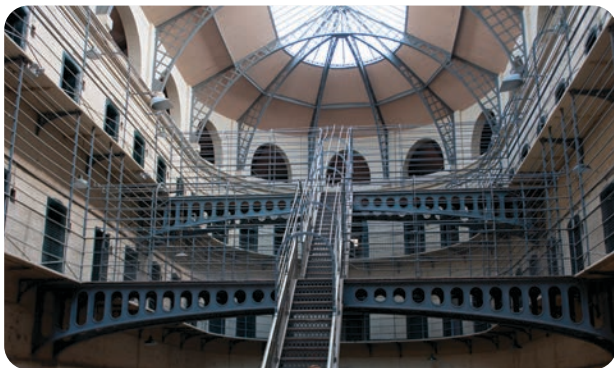


Day 6: Treasures, Tributes, and Tales of Ireland’s Past

Spend today exploring the “Fair City,” Dublin’s affectionate nickname derived from the opening line of the traditional song “Molly Malone.” Admire the ornate details of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, visit the medieval Christchurch Cathedral, and stroll through the elegant Georgian expanse of St. Stephen’s Green. Continue to Trinity College and view the exquisite Book of Kells, a 9th century illuminated manuscript of the four Gospels that stands as one of Ireland’s greatest cultural treasures. Finally, enjoy a guided tour of Pearse Lyons Distillery and learn about the craftsmanship and passion that define the art of Irish whiskey-making. The evening is yours to enjoy Dublin at your own pace.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Accommodations: Iveagh Garden Hotel



Day 7: Erin go Bragh

Travel back in time as you learn about 1916 Easter Rising Rebellion, one of the most dramatic events in the history of Ireland's struggle for independence from the British Empire. See the bullet holes marking the exterior of the General Post Office, hear stories about revolutionary figures such as James Connolly and Michael Collins, and pay your respects at the Garden of Remembrance, where your expert will offer thoughtful commentary on the nation's path to freedom. Then visit Kilmainham Gaol, whose somber walls tell the story of Ireland's struggle for self-determination. In the evening, say *sláinte* as you raise a toast to your travels through Ireland during a festive farewell dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Iveagh Garden Hotel

Day 8: Departures

Transfer individually to the Dublin airport for your journey home

Included Meal: Breakfast

Accommodations



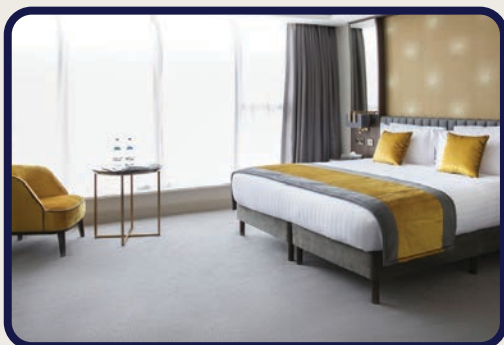
Hotel Woodstock | Ennis, Ireland

Nestled in the heart of Ennis, the family-run Hotel Woodstock combines modern comfort with a warm Irish welcome. Spacious rooms offer flat screen televisions, tea and coffee facilities, and a writing desk, while the Leisure Club is equipped with a gym, indoor pool, and steam room. The onsite Shanaway Bistro serves classic Irish fare and overlooks the nearby golf course. **(3 nights)**



Renvyle House Hotel | County Galway, Ireland

Set amidst the wild beauty of Connemara and a favorite of W.B. Yeats, Renvyle House Hotel offers historic charm alongside breathtaking views. Bright rooms are simply designed in traditional Arts & Crafts style and outfitted with locally-made furniture. Rusheeduff Restaurant sources much of its ingredients from the hotel's own gardens and orchards, while other facilities found on the 150-acre estate include a putting green, pebble beach, and outdoor heated swimming pool. **(1 night)**



Iveagh Garden Hotel | Dublin, Ireland

Located in Dublin's vibrant Portobello neighborhood, the 145 warmly decorated rooms of the Iveagh Garden Hotel feature flat-screen TVs, a writing desk, and tea and coffeemaking facilities. Relax in the cozy Ellie's Bar & Bistro, serving delicious casual dining and craft cocktails. From sourcing energy from the nearby River Swan to smart-control, low-power lighting systems, the Iveagh Garden Hotel is widely considered to be Europe's first sustainable hotel. **(3 nights)**



Pricing:

Departure	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Deposit	
May 9–16, 2027	\$7,495	\$8,545	\$650	BOOK NOW
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What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses expert, travel director, and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights, and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials, with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance