



PHOTOGRAPHY ONLINE
ADVENTURES



IRELAND

THE EMERALD ISLE



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The Emerald Isle

Price

£2,995

Dates

5th - 13th May 2025

Group Size

Max. 8

Includes

All accommodation, breakfasts, local transport, boat transfers and tour, photo tuition

Start/End Point

Shannon Airport, Ireland

Fitness

Good level of fitness and agility required

Trip Overview

Journey to the very edge of Europe, to a land of rugged coastline, dramatic islands, rolling green hills and spectacular mountains - welcome to Ireland.

We focus on a small area of Ireland which offers amazing diversity of photographic subjects, but avoids having to travel too far during the trip. We have identified four locations, spending a couple of nights in each, before moving on to the next.

One of the highlights of the trip will be a stay on the Blasket Islands, which will offer a great experience of isolation, where all you need to worry about is what to take a photo of next - the seals on the beach, the village ruins, or the stunning seascapes. Combine this with the vast range of subjects from the other three locations - castles, shipwrecks, bluebell woodlands, dramatic mountains, waterfalls, classic seascapes and the charm of the small Irish towns we will be staying in, and you'll get an amazing eight days of diverse photography and adventure.

ITINERARY

Monday 5th May

- Pickups from Shannon airport or town between 10am-midday.
- Photo session at Cliffs of Moher or The Burren
- Boat to Inisheer island
- Check In to hotel
- Dinner
- Sunset shoot at shipwreck

Tuesday 6th May

- Dawn shoot at shipwreck
- Breakfast at hotel.
- Photo walk around walled lanes
- Lunch
- Free time to explore island
- Dinner
- Sunset shoot

Wednesday 7th May

- Dawn shoot
- Breakfast
- Ferry to Doolin
- Lunch
- Drive to Dingle
- Free time to walk around town
- Dinner
- Sunset photo drive

Thursday 8th May

- Dawn shoot over Smerwick Harbour
- Breakfast
- Photo walk to Three Sisters Coast
- Photo walk to Clogher Beach
- Dunquin Pier shoot
- Dinner
- Sunset shoot from Clogher Head

Friday 9th May

- Breakfast
- Boat to Blasket Islands
- Lunch

- Afternoon photo session
- Dinner
- Sunset photo shoot

Saturday 10th May

- Sunrise shoot
- Breakfast
- Rest period
- Lunch
- Boat tour around islands (3 hours)
- Dinner
- Sunset shoot

Sunday 11th May

- Dawn shoot in abandoned village
- Breakfast
- Transfer to Dunquin pier
- Drive to Killarney
- Lunch
- Woodland /waterfall shoot
- Dinner

Monday 12th May

- Dawn photo drive around Killarney National Park
- Breakfast
- Rest period/explore town
- Lunch
- Black Valley tour
- Farewell dinner

Tuesday 13th May

- Dawn shoot
- Breakfast
- Return to Shannon airport

Shannon airport departures can be any time after 2pm. We can also drop you at Dublin airport for 3pm or in Belfast for 6pm.



MEET THE TEAM



MARCUS MCADAM



JAMES MCCORMICK



HARRY MARTIN



RUTH TAYLOR

Our guides come from a wide range of backgrounds, bringing with them a diverse skillset to pass on to our trip members. We always use **two guides** for every trip of four or more participants, ensuring that everyone gets a good amount of personal attention. You'll be notified of your allocated guides once they have been confirmed.

Marcus - An award winning pro photographer since 2005, Marcus started his career as a travel photographer. He's visited over 50 countries and lived in a few too. A bit of a purist and a traditionalist, Marcus can often be found with a film camera from last century rather than toting the latest technology around his neck.

James - Coming from a commercial photographic background, James tends to focus on the creative side of things as opposed to the technicalities of his equipment. For James, it's not so much how to take an image, but more why to take an image. Of course, he knows the former too, but James will likely have you thinking in new ways.

Harry - As a zoologist, Harry's initial interest in photography was wildlife based, but living on the Isle of Skye, among some of the UK's most dramatic landscapes, it's not surprising that he now points his camera at geology as much as zoology. Being young (well, relative to the others!), Harry loves his technology and uses this to his advantage with his photography.

Ruth - As the host of our popular Photography Online show, Ruth is the team member everyone wants to meet (much to the envy of the others). She's in her element when photographing "life" - manmade things in their natural state. Faced with the option of shooting a row of bins or mountains, she's unlikely to head for the hills. It takes all sorts to make the world go round!





Photography sessions

Our aim for this trip is capture the character of Ireland by offering a wide variety of subjects, all of which typify this remote corner of Europe which is steeped in tradition and history. The diverse subjects will also give you the opportunity to work on a wider range of camera skills such as low light, long exposures, shallow depth of field, seascapes, use of filters, focal lengths and most importantly - an understanding of light.

Regardless of what level you are at or which camera you have, this trip is guaranteed to have your skills elevated to the next level. As those who have been on previous trips with us will know, we make learning fun and don't get bogged down with structured lessons and technical jargon - we just want you to have a good time taking great photos. We encourage everyone to be as independent or as mentored as they wish - this is your holiday and we want you to enjoy your time behind the camera.

Room sharing

In order to keep costs as economical as possible, we have based the price of this trip on two people sharing a room. Whether this be a couple, two friends sharing a twin room, or sharing with a fellow group member, this often adds to the

dynamics in the group. If, however, you prefer to have your own room, this is possible by paying a little extra for single occupancy.

Food & Drink

All hotel stays include breakfast, but this won't be the case for our stay on the Blasket Islands. Everyone is responsible for their own lunches and dinners. Most days we will eat together in affordable restaurants which offer a wide variety of options. On days when we are staying in Dingle and Killarney, if you would prefer to do your own thing at dinner time, then you will be perfectly welcome. Trying to secure a booking for a group of 8-10 is much more difficult than eating separately in groups of three or fours (not to mention much quicker).

Prior to our stay on the Blasket islands, we will make a visit to a decent supermarket which sells a wide variety of freshly prepared ready meals which simply need to be heated up or cooked in the packaging (such as lasagnes, pasta bakes, pies, etc). The only cooking facility in each cottage is a gas stove and oven, so keeping things simple with ready-meals is our recommendation. You can also buy salads and sandwiches for lunch and pastries for breakfast. Please note there is no electricity on the island, so no refrigeration, no microwave, no toaster, etc.



Photo sessions and Free time

We will arrange various photo sessions, photo drives and walks throughout the trip, but there will also be ample down time when you are welcome to rest, edit photos, or go for a wander by yourself. The two main towns we will be based in (Dingle and Killarney) are both full of character and charm, plus offer great opportunity for shopping or relaxing with a coffee and cake.

We will sometimes be waking up well before dawn or staying out late, so rest time is important, especially towards the end of the trip. If at any time you would prefer to sleep in rather than participate in a dawn photo session, this is perfectly okay - this is not a boot camp!

Fitness & Agility

Although this is not a hiking trip, there will be a substantial amount of walking involved. The most demanding of these will be on the Blasket Islands where we will hike to the opposite end of the island to where we are based. This is a demanding five hour round walk, but we will

take things slowly and make regular stops along the way to take photos of the every changing but constantly stunning scenery. For anyone not wanting to do such a long hike, there will be other options to shoot subjects closer to the village.

One thing we do insist on is that everyone has a good degree of agility. There is lots of getting in and out of small boats and dinghies, clambering over uneven rocks and down short but steep inclines to get to various locations. If you are not good on your feet, then this is probably not the best trip for you.

Climate

The west coast of Ireland is one of the wettest places on the planet, so expect rain at some point, if not, everyday. There should be periods of great light between rain showers though, and this is when Ireland looks its best.

Expect temperatures to be anywhere from 10C - 20C. It's very possible there will be high winds at some point. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear.







What to pack

Camera equipment

- DSLR, mirrorless or film camera (all available to rent on request)
- Lenses. Anything from super wide to long telephoto (14mm-400mm) is useful but not essential. A macro lens will also get plenty of use if you have one.
- Sturdy tripod. Please avoid flimsy travel tripods. (tripods available on request)
- Camera backpack large enough to hold equipment plus lunch and a drink.
- Misc: chargers, lens cloths, filters, spare memory cards and batteries

Clothing

- Comfortable hiking boots plus second pair of shoes for walking around town.

- Rain jacket and waterproof over-trousers.
- Multiple thin layers to adapt to changing temperatures throughout the day.
- Sun hat and sunglasses (let's be optimistic!).

Misc

- Toothpaste, toothbrush, suncream, lip balm
- Any medication you require
- Head torch and batteries
- Water bottle
- Laptop for editing and downloading images
- Towel (for Blasket Island stay)
- Travel insurance
- A sense of adventure (please don't forget this!)



HOW TO BOOK

Price: £2,995 per person

Deposit: £995 deposit is required to secure your place. The remaining balance of £2,000 is due at the end of February 2025. For details on how to pay your booking deposit please get in touch.

Single occupancy surcharge = £580 (please note that there are no single rooms available on the Blasket Islands)

Included: All accommodation, local transport, boat transfers, boat tour, photo tuition, entry fees.

Not included: Transport to and from start/end point, travel insurance, food and drink (although breakfasts are included except for days on Blasket Islands).

Cancellations

In the unlikely event the trip is cancelled by us in advance, then a full refund of deposits will be offered. Should you need to pull out of the trip for any reason, or cancel your place due to changing circumstances any monies paid will be returned in full (minus a £50 admin fee) on the condition that your place can be resold.

Extending Your Stay

Shannon airport is well served with international flights, including daily flights from the UK and New York. As our meeting time is on the Monday morning, we recommend everyone arrives in the area the day before to avoid any delays. There are several affordable hotels to choose from in Shannon. At the end of the trip, after our drop off at Shannon our vehicles will be heading past Dublin Airport and Belfast city so we will be happy to drop you here if it is more convenient for your onward journey.

GET IN TOUCH TO BOOK YOUR PLACE