



Great National

# Sample Itinerary

South Court  
Hotel

## Day 1:

You will visit **Craggaunowen** for the Living Past Experience in Ireland's original Pre-historic Park. Why not delve into the lives of our Celtic ancestors of over 1000 years ago. This tour will allow you to travel back in time to view what life was like in the Bronze Age in Ireland. Explore the Crannog, an ancient island dwelling and discover the Ring Forts. Experience a 16<sup>th</sup> Century restored Castle in a beautiful rural setting, and enjoy home-made delights in the farming tea-room.

Next you will Visit **Knappogue Castle**, a 15<sup>th</sup> Century restored tower house while taking in the rolling hills of Quin, Co. Clare. The history of Knappogue Castle starts with the MacNamara clan in 1467 (who also built Bunratty Castle), and includes it's evolution from a battle field to a dwelling place. Feel free to roam around the luxurious Castle State rooms and take a stroll in the romantic walled garden which dates back to 1817.

Finally visit the **Brian Boru Heritage Centre and Killaloe Village** with the stunning backdrop of the Clare and Tipperary mountains, and an impressive 13 arch bridge linking Killaloe to the pretty village of Ballina. Killaloe, hailed at one time as the capital of Ireland by the 11<sup>th</sup> century high King Brian Boru, is now a centre of leisure activity on Ireland's natural water park, Lough Derg. This is a favourite place for locals and tourists to pass away the time observing or partaking in sailing or cruising activities in a beautiful scenic area.

Head back to the South Court Hotel in Limerick for a sumptuous meal in one of our restaurants, and a good night's sleep, before progressing onto day 2 of your tour.

## Day 2.

Today starts with a visit to the beautiful **Cliffs of Moher** in County Clare! The Cliffs stand tall at 214m (702 feet) at their highest point, and stretch for a distance of 8 kilometres (5 miles). The views on a clear day extend to the Aran Islands, Galway Bay and the 12 pins amongst others. Climb to the top of O'Brien's Tower which serves as a viewing point for visitors, and finish at the Visitor Centre for a unique visitor experience and refreshments.

Travel on through the scenic seaside town of **Lahinch** on the way to the quaint town of **Ennis** full of boutique shops and picturesque streets. A perfect place to enjoy some lunch! Continue on to explore **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park** for a truly delightful afternoon. Bunratty Castle built in 1425 and restored in 1954, now exhibits many 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century furnishings, tapestries and artefacts from this era. The Folk park enables visitors to take a stroll back in time, and experience life as it was, complete with houses, schools, post offices and of course, the popular local pub McNamara's.



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## Day 3.

Start the day with a visit to **King John's Castle** which dates back to between 1200 and 1210, and has been repaired and extended many times over the centuries. It presents the perfect opportunity to explore over 800 years of local Limerick History including The Great Siege of Limerick in 1642 and the Williamite sieges of 1690 and 1691, which resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Limerick. The Treaty Stone, said to be the site where the Treaty was signed, is clearly visible from the castle.

Other medieval delights include the oldest building in Limerick, **St. Mary's Cathedral**, which is still in daily use, **Limerick Museum** and **The Hunt Museum**. These bring you into the centre of a vibrant friendly city with plenty of pubs, hotels and café's to enjoy a leisurely lunch in. After lunch enjoy a stroll around the **Georgian Quarter**, and sample life during this period, by visiting the **Georgian House and Gardens**. Close by is the **Limerick City Art Gallery**, and the award-winning **Peoples' Park**

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