



## GREAT HOUSES & GARDENS *in* IRELAND: WATERFORD COUNTY & BEYOND

June 2 to 8, 2025 – Monday to Sunday  
Starting from Dublin Airport, and ending back in Dublin

*Arrangements by Classical Excursions*

*Overview of our days...*

**MEALS:** Breakfast and lunch daily, plus three dinners (Welcome Dinner, Lismore Castle, and Farewell Dinner).

**MONDAY • JUNE 2:** Arrive Dublin Airport, depart by deluxe motor coach at 8am heading southwest for a visit and lunch, later arriving to **Cliff House Hotel** in County Waterford, where we stay for four-nights. Welcome dinner.

**TUESDAY • JUNE 3 THROUGH THURSDAY • JUNE 5:** Touring in and around County Waterford for three days. Enjoy several lunches at private homes and a special private dinner at Lismore Castle.

**FRIDAY • JUNE 6:** We depart for Dublin with visits along the way. Arrive Dublin and check-in to our hotel.

**SATURDAY • JUNE 7:** Touring outside Dublin. Farewell Dinner

**SUNDAY • JUNE 8:** Day for departures or further independent touring.

*Plans and Itinerary as of September 2024, and are subject to change.*



## ACCOMMODATIONS ON OUR TRIP

**Cliff House Hotel** is a 5-star luxury hotel located close to Waterford. The building seems to defy gravity, clinging to a cliff on the south side of Ardmore Bay where there has long been a fishing village. It is a 39-room seaside boutique hotel that is privately owned and also features an intimate Irish destination spa as well as a one Michelin-star restaurant. The hotel is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World. Images below.

In Dublin, we will be staying for two-nights at a centrally located luxury hotel.



**Day 1 – Monday - June 2, 2025**

**8:00 am** Early morning flight arrivals. We will gather and depart from Dublin Airport.

**11:00 am** We enjoy a morning visit to **Ballysallagh House and Gardens**, County Kilkenny. The charming mid-18<sup>th</sup> century house was restored and decorated by the present owners along with the gardens. Image right.



**1:00 pm** **Private lunch at Dangan Cottage homeowner with Christopher Moore.** Originally a late 18<sup>th</sup> century cottage orné built in the grounds of a larger, now lost, country house. [Cottage orné, translated as decorated cottage, dates back to a movement of ‘rustic’ stylised cottages of the late 18th and early 19th century.] With the River Nore flowing past at the bottom of its garden, the building was subsequently extended so that it is now a substantial property, perfectly suited to owner who has a renowned collection of Irish furniture and pictures that fill all the rooms and act as a living museum of Georgian taste.

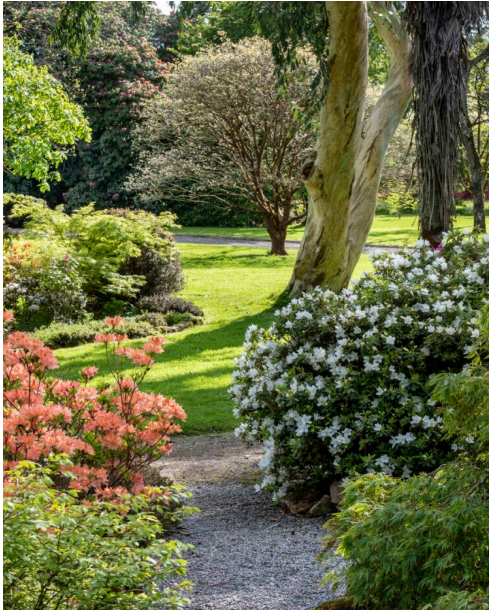


**4:30 pm** Check-in at the **Cliff House Hotel**, County Waterford – staying four-nights.

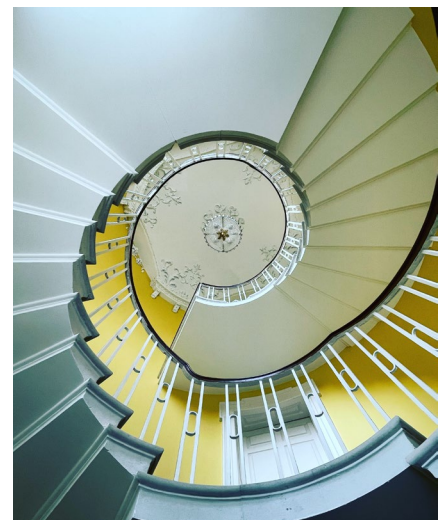
**6:30 pm** Dinner at **The Cliff House**.

**Day 2 – Tuesday – June 3**

**9:00 am**      **Tourin House and Garden**, situated on the banks of the River Blackwater, home to the famous Jameson Whiskey family. Walled gardens, rock gardens, formal gardens and a woodland walk. There are 15 acres of gardens.



**12:30 pm**      Lunch and a visit at **Kilshannig**, County Cork. One of the finest Palladian houses in Ireland with superlative plaster work by the Lafranchini brothers. Built in 1760 it was designed by architect Davis Ducart. Kilshannig has four formal fronts. The main facades are of rose red brick while the other fronts are of cut sandstone, all with limestone dressings. Surrounding the house are manicured parklands and has a walled garden. The gardens were designed in the faux-natural style that was popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



**4:00 pm**      Return to the Cliff House Hotel.

**Day 3 – Wednesday - June 4**

**10:00 am**

Departure for **Dromana House and Garden** for a **tour and lunch** with the owner Barbara Villiers-Stuart, whose family has lived on this site for more than 800 years. Perched high above the River Blackwater, Dromana was originally a castle, then a 17<sup>th</sup> century house and finally an 18<sup>th</sup> century house. Parts of the house were demolished some 50 years ago, but the most important interiors and contents remain and were sensitively restored by Barbara, while her husband Nicholas Grubb, himself a descendent of a very old Quaker family, has rescued large portions of the gardens.



**1:30 pm**

**Cappoquin House and Gardens**, County Waterford. The Keanes have lived at Cappoquin since the first of their number bought the estate in the 1770s and built a house above the river Blackwater. It survived until burnt in 1923 during the Irish Civil War. However, Sir John Keane – who had wisely removed all furniture and pictures before the fire – immediately embarked on a rebuilding programme and today it is impossible to tell Cappoquin had ever been damaged. Surrounded by exquisite gardens, the house today is home to Sir Charles Keane and his wife Corinne.



**4:00 pm**

Return To the hotel  
Overnight at the Cliff House Hotel.



#### **Day 4 – Thursday - June 5**

**10:00 am** Departure for **Curraghmore Estate** for a visit and lunch with the owners – image above. Curraghmore has been home to the same family for the past 800 years, and today is home to the ninth Marquess of Waterford and his wife. At the core of the building is a mediaeval tower, the first floor of which now contains spectacular plasterwork created by the Lafranchini brothers in the 1740s. Much of the rest of the house was designed some thirty years later by James Wyatt, and today these are the finest set of rooms by that architect in Ireland. On the grounds is the only surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century shell house, decorated in 1754 by Catherine, Countess of Tyrone. The grounds consist of 2,500 acres of formal gardens, woodlands etc.

**2:00 pm** Visit to **Mount Congreve Gardens** or **LafCadio Hearn Japanese Garden**.

**5:45 pm** Departure for a **private dinner at Lismore Castle**, County Waterford, for a private tour and dinner. Since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the Irish residence of the Dukes of Devonshire, Lismore Castle is much older, its origins going back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century when commissioned by King John. Since then, it has passed through various guises, but much of the present building



was commissioned by the 6<sup>th</sup> 'Bachelor' Duke of Devonshire who invited his architect Sir Joseph Paxton to renovate and extend the existing castle which perches dramatically above the river Blackwater. Little has changed since then, and the main rooms today contain the largest collection in private hands of furniture designed by Augustus Welby Pugin.

Final overnight at the Cliff House Hotel.

## Day 5 – Friday - June 6

Following breakfast, check-out of the hotel and depart for Dublin with stops en route.

**10:00 am** Departure for a visit to **Gloster House and Gardens**, a well-preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century house thought to be designed by the period's pre-eminent architect Sir Edward Lovette Pearce.



**12:00 pm** **Birr Castle**, County Offaly, for lunch with the **Earl and Countess of Rosse**. The castle has been home to the Parsons family for 400 years and contains much of the original furniture and paintings collected throughout generations. Renowned gardens as well. Our private tour is conducted by the Countesse of Rosse.



Late afternoon check in at a four-star hotel in **Dublin** for two-nights. Dinner on your own tonight.



### **DAY 6 – Saturday – June 7**

A private tour at **Burtown House and Garden** – images above. Burtown House has always belonged to the same Quaker family since being built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Now home to photographer James Fennell and his wife Joanna, who have built a barn on the grounds offering fresh food from the gardens. Burtown was home to Ireland’s finest botanical artist, Wendy Walsh (James’ grandmother) and is still home to her daughter, landscape artist Lesley Fennell. We will tour the house, which is not open to the public. Lunch at the Green Barn at Burton following our tour of the house and extensive gardens.

**Irish National Stud’s Japanese Gardens** are renowned for their unique beauty. These gardens were created in 1906-1910 and laid out by Japanese craftsmen for Colonel William Hall-Walker (later Lord Wavertree).

Farewell Dinner in Dublin.

### **Day 7 – Sunday - June 8**

Day for departures or further independent touring.



Tour Cost is \$4,975 per person for 6-nights including deluxe accommodations, private motor coach transportation, all visit entries, six breakfasts, six lunches and three dinners. The price also includes a \$500 tax deductible donation to BBG. The single traveler supplement is \$1,500.

To reserve your space on this unique excursion supporting the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, please contact [office@classicalexursions.com](mailto:office@classicalexursions.com) or call Lani Summerville at 413-446-8728

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*Itinerary as of September 2024 and subject to updating by Classical Excursions.*