

# Ireland Photo Workshop with Reed Hoffmann

From May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 to May 21<sup>st</sup> 2025



*Figure 1- Dromoland Castle*

Join Reed and me for what will be a wonderful trip through the Emerald Isle. We'll discover unique vistas, learn about Ireland's history, experience Irish culture, meet with friendly locals, and visit castles (and sleep in one!). Reed and I have created an itinerary that we hope you will appreciate, using Reed's experiences from leading a trip there in 2014.

This photography workshop is available to all levels of photographers, from the novice wanting to learn the basics to the advanced amateur that wishes to continue growing their skills. The workshop is offered by Highlight Photo Tours and its owner, René Bastien. We have been offering successful workshops since 2018.

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## Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two of those working at newspapers in the Midwest, South and Eastern U.S. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, NCAA Photos, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the instructors through 2018. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include workshops by Highlight Photo Tours since 2018 (Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Rockies, Hawaii, and Croatia-Slovenia-Venice). Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/> and <https://www.instagram.com/reedhoffmann/>.

### Day 1; Tuesday May 13

Arrival in Dublin at your convenience and recover from your travels during the day. Extra nights prior to May 13<sup>th</sup> can be arranged on demand, subject to availability.

We will start with a get-together to at 17:45, before heading out for dinner, around 18:30

After dinner, we will head out for an evening shoot. The locations are all near the hotel, within a 10-15 minutes' walk.



Figure 2-Ha'Penny Bridge

- The Temple Bar
- Ha'Penny Bridge
- Bachelor's walk
- South William Street
- Stag's Head pub
- Samuel Beckett bridge

## Day 2; Wednesday May 14

We'll have a local guide to help us discover Dublin, and our day will include:

- Mount Usher Gardens
- St-Patrick Cathedral
- Merrion Square
- Buskers on Grafton Street
- Jameson Distillery tour; an introduction to Irish whiskey



## Day 3; Thursday May 15

We will leave Dublin on our tour bus and make our way towards Clifden, in the Connemara (west coast of Ireland). We will make a few stops on the way. The main activity will be to visit Kylemore Abbey and the Victoria Walled Garden. We will have lunch at the Abbey.



A review session with Reed will be possible during the evening. We will also walk around Clifden in the evening and shoot this beautiful little town in the Golden Light.



Figure 3-Kylemore Abbey

## Day 4; Friday May 16

Today we'll spend most of the day discovering Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands. The ferry will take us to Inis Mor. It is home to Dun Aonghasa, a 2,500-year-old fort located 300 feet above the sea. It is also home to amazing vistas and little villages.



*Figure 4-Typical Irish Coastal Scene*

We'll have dinner in Galway, which will be our home for two nights. Afterwards we've planned a sunset shoot of a Castle; very pretty, with a nice reflection in the water.

## Day 5; Saturday May 17

On our itinerary today are some of the unique vistas that Ireland is famous for. This will include stopping by a dolmen, visiting the ruins of an abandoned abbey and a visit to the famous Cliffs of Moher.

On returning to Galway, we're planning a special shoot for the group centered on typical Irish culture.



*Figure 5-Cliffs of Moher*

## Day 6; Sunday May 18

Today we leave Galway and make our way to Killarney. Our main activity will be to visit Killarney National Park and take in its famous vistas, such as Molls Gap and Ladies View; we will also stop for a dog and sheep demo.

*Figure 6-Dog and Sheep Demo*



## Day 7; Monday May 19

Today we will spend most of the day visiting the Dingle Peninsula. We will stop to visit some of the locales and take in more of the unique vistas of Ireland.

After dinner, we will go to Ross Castle nearby for an evening/golden hour shoot.



## Day 8; Tuesday May 20

On our penultimate day in Ireland, we will leave Killarney to spend time at Folk Park, by the Bunratty Castle. We will then travel to one of the jewels of Ireland: Dromoland Castle. Many activities are available for you to choose from at the castle and lend themselves to photo opportunities. This includes falconry, archery, a walk in the Castle Gardens (designed by the same architect that did the Versailles Gardens). Or you could elect to get pampered at the spa.

We will have our farewell dinner at the Castle. We will then go for a golden hour shoot of the Castle's reflection in water.

## Day 9; Wednesday May 21

After breakfast at the Castle, we will board our bus for the last time. We will get dropped off at Shannon Airport early in the morning. We ask you not to book flights before 10.



## Requirements

The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great shots!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended. As this is Ireland, proper rain gear should be close by...

## What to expect

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Current is 50 Hertz/220 V, which most laptops and battery chargers are usually compatible with; please check in advance. You will need an adaptor to plug in; Ireland uses the same plug type as the UK. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads.



Our hotels have free WiFi and breakfast is included. Our hotels are:

- Travelodge Plus City Centre Dublin (2 nights)
- Clifden Station House (1 night)
- Hardiman Hotel Galway (2 nights)
- Killarney International Hotel (2 nights)
- Dromoland Castle Hotel (1 night)

Ireland time in May is GMT+1. This means Ireland is 5 hours ahead of New York City.

Ireland uses the Euro. As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Euros with you, for tips and some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds in most cities and ATMs are readily available in the cities.

## Photo Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure.

## Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763 and email [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com)

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444 and email [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com)

## Included in the Cost

- All guide and photo instructor services.
- All lodging, double occupancy, from May 13 to May 21, 2024, with breakfast.
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor.
- All in-country transportation with the group in our bus. It will be a Class C air-conditioned coach.
- Park fees.
- Water while in the vehicle.

## Excluded from the Cost

- Flights to Dublin (airport code DUB) and from Shannon (airport code SNN).
- Visas if required (you will need a valid passport).
- All hotel incidentals.

- All lunches and dinners except the farewell dinner, and all beverages, including alcoholic beverages.
- Airport transfers from Dublin airport, and to Shannon airport if you elect not to share the bus to the airport in the morning.
- Participants are required to purchase their own travel insurance, that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary for them to cancel after payment, or to return home in case of a medical emergency.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for the driver and hotel staff. I will collect tips for the bus driver on our last day. I suggest cash, and €100

## Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US \$6,950, taxes included. Single occupancy extra US \$1,350.
- Payment through PayPal (Visa, MasterCard) or wire transfers.
- Deposit of US \$1,000 required to reserve your seat.
- The deposit is refundable until December 31 2024.
- Balance required on invoicing by January 15 2025.
- No refund 90 days before trip departure, as we engage funds on your behalf. This is one key reason why we required purchase of travel insurance.
- Minimum of 4 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 10 attendees.

## Reservations

To reserve seats, please send me an email at [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com) and I will send you a link to pay the deposit.

