



The Davenport Hotel Dublin

[The Davenport Hotel](#) is one of Dublin's most iconic hotels. Located in the heart of Georgian Dublin, it's just a 20-minute cab from the airport and minutes from the Pearse Street DART Station. There's so much to see just outside the front door; [Merrion Square](#), [The National Museum of Ireland](#), [Trinity College](#), the [National Gallery of Ireland](#), and [Grafton Street](#), one of Europe's busiest shopping streets!

Check-In

Conference Check-In is available from 12pm to 5pm in the Gandon Boardroom. Dropoff silent auction donations. Raffle tickets will only be on sale during check-in, so be sure to buy here to increase your chances of winning!



Welcome Reception

We will kick off the 44th Annual ISA+21 Conference with our "Welcome Reception" in the Gandon North Ballroom. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served, drinks will be toasted, and dancing will most definitely take place. The online Silent Auction items will be displayed, and bidding will close promptly at 9:30pm, and all payments will be made online.

Wednesday

Breakfast at the 1863 Lounge is included in your room rate at The Davenport Hotel. Our annual members-only business meeting will take place from 0830-12pm in the Gandon North Ballroom, immediately followed by our traditional group photo. As always, uniforms (or similar attire) are required!

The Luncheon and Captain's Club inductions will begin at 1:30 in the Gandon Suite.



The Merry Ploughboy

On Wednesday evening we will raise a pint and feast on traditional Irish fare as we enjoy music and dancing at The Merry Ploughboy Gastro Pub. [The Merry Ploughboys](#) is the only pub in Ireland owned and managed but the performers! They have been performing together for over thirty-years and their show is top ranked in the country; you won't want to miss it!



Dublin Day Trip

Due to the large size of our group, and the small spaces in Dublin, we will be splitting into smaller groups for the day trip to ensure everyone has the best experience possible! Our Thursday excursion will include a walking tour with a Dublin City Guide, a visit to The Dublin Liberties Distillery, a self-guided tour of the Epic Museum, and lunch at Bang Restaurant! Space will be limited, so be sure to sign up early!

The Dublin Liberties Distillery

[The Dublin Liberties Distillery](#) is nestled in the heart of Dublin's historic distilling district called the Liberties. The Liberties is a place where every stone tells a story. History is buried deep within its walls. It was the bedrock for the working-class people of Dublin, whether you were high in society, low in society, no matter what your vice was everyone wanted to be in the Liberties. In the late 1800's/1900's the Liberties was the hub for creatives, thinkers, distillers, brewers....there were no rules!



Epic: The Irish Immigration Museum

You won't find leprechauns or pots of gold here but you will discover that what it means to be Irish expands far beyond the borders of Ireland through the stories of Irish emigrants who became scientists, politicians, poets, artists and even outlaws all over the world. Discover Ireland from the outside in at [Epic](#) and find out why saying "I'm Irish" is one of the biggest conversation starters, no matter where you are.

Bang Restaurant

We will enjoy a stop between our tours at the [Bang Restaurant and Wine Bar](#). One of the top rated restaurants in Dublin, Bang offers refined yet casual dining inspired by carefully sourced, world-class ingredients creating the finest flavors of the season.



Pre-Conference Side Trip

We will begin our pre-conference festivities with a two hour trip to the west coast of Ireland. In Galway, we will stay at the [Maldron Hotel Sandy Road](#), just a few minutes from the city center where you'll find lively pubs, independent shops and winding cobblestone streets packed with students, artists, writers and craftspeople. Bring your appetite, we'll start the weekend with a wonderful culinary walking tour of Galway where you can experience local produce from oysters to cheese, Sushi to Crab, and doughnuts to strawberry tarts, local beers and more. The tour includes a trip to the famous Galway Market and many award-winning restaurants and cafes.

Sunday morning we will depart the hotel for one of Ireland's top tourist attractions, Kylemore Abbey. In the heart of Connemara countryside, the Castle was built in the late 1800's by Mitchell Henry MP, a wealthy business man and liberal politician. Inspired by his love for his wife Margaret, and his hope for his beloved Ireland, Henry created an estate boasting "all the innovations of the Modern Age." Once home to the Benedictine Nuns, Kylemore is steeped in history and tales of tragedy, romance, engineering initiatives, model farms, royal visits, spirituality, and education. Explore the beautiful Victorian Walled Garden and magical Fairy Village before we have lunch in the Garden Tea House. Don't miss your chance to pet the rare breed pigs and Connemara ponies!

After lunch we trek to the iconic Cliffs of Moher, whose natural beauty and unique landscape has inspired artists, musicians, and poets for generations. The spectacular cliffs stretch 700 feet over the rugged Atlantic Coast and will leave you awestruck. Don't miss O'Brien's Tower for an excellent view and find the Visitor's Center hidden underneath the hillside. Dinner will be on your own in Galway, and you're sure to find many suitable options in town.

Monday morning, we will depart for Dublin, but not before stopping in "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands," Athlone. Be prepared to step back 1,200 year and join the Vikings on an upstream cruise of Ireland's longest river, River Shannon. We'll enjoy an Irish coffee while Viking Mike delivers his spirited commentary on local history, the religious settlements on the islands and tales of Viking treasure. Lunch will be at the Hodson Bay Hotel, a renowned lakeside resort. The Waterfront Bar is known for its warmth and character, and a spectacular menu boasting the finest locally sourced, quality ingredients.

Post-Conference Side Trip

When the conference finally winds down, we will depart Dublin for Belfast where we will tour the famous Titanic: Belfast. Located beside the Titanic Slipways, the Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock - the very place where *Titanic* was designed, built and launched, Titanic Belfast tells the story of *Titanic* from her conception, through her construction and launch, to her maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. Throughout the exhibition you and your party will encounter individuals with stories to tell, many of them Belfast people; these include chief designer Thomas Andrews, pioneering entrepreneur Lord Pirrie, members of the Harland and Wolff Guarantee Group who sailed on the maiden voyage, local craftsmen who worked on the ship and some of her passengers. Take the opportunity to walk the decks of the RMS Titanic's tender ship, the SS Nomadic, the last remaining White Star Line vessel in the world! Explore the ship and it's 100 plus years of authentic maritime and social history.

On Saturday we will slip into one of the greatest fantasy novel series ever written, *Game of Thrones!* The ancient untouched landscapes, deserted islands, and crumbling castles set the perfect backdrop for the largest TV show in the world. At [Old Ward Castle](#), now globally recognized as "Winterfell," we will don the Medieval Cloak of House Stark, sit on the Iron Throne, and practice our archery and axe throwing! We'll have a Medieval Feast in the Long Hall for lunch. With dimly lit church candles, bench seat draped with reindeer skin, and smoke billowing from the open fireplace, this is sure to be your most memorable dining experience in Ireland!

After lunch, we will step out of costume and travel to the Giants Causeway, an iconic World Heritage Site. Flanked by the wild Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of dramatic cliffs, the Causeway has captured the imagination of all who see it. Take a guided tour from an award-winning storyteller or unlock the secrets of the landscape at your own pace with an audio guide. You will enjoy the views from the clifftop trails, sit in the famous Wishing Chair, and find the Giant Boot and Camel in the rugged stones. Dinner will be on your own in Belfast, and we will share several recommendations for you to enjoy.

Sunday morning, we will bid farewell to our ISA+21 sisters as we depart for Dublin. It is less than two hours from Belfast to Dublin, and if desired by many we can arrange transportation to the airport if your Irish itinerary ends here.