

# **HOLSET**<sup>®</sup>

## **TURBOCHARGERS**

**HOLSET IRELAND • ADARE & DUBLIN, IRELAND • MAY 1 – 8, 2026**

Welcome to the Holset Challenge 2025 Award Trip to Ireland! We are thrilled to join Holset's top performers, and hosts, for an unforgettable journey through the heart of the Emerald Isle. This itinerary has been specifically designed to showcase the very best of Irish culture, history, and breathtaking landscapes.

Our home-away-from-home for the first five nights of the journey is the award-winning Fitzgeralds Woodlands House in the charming village of Adare. From our base in County Limerick, we'll strike out to witness the awe-inspiring Cliffs of Moher and experience a true taste of rural life with a Sheepdog Demonstration at Caherconnell Farm. Our adventures take us deep into the rugged beauty of the west, from the colorful streets of Dingle Town and the dramatic Dingle Peninsula to the legendary Ring of Kerry. Along the way, we'll stop for pints and stories at local icons like Paul Geany's and the historic South Pole Inn. Experience the timeless tradition of a Jaunting Car ride in Killarney, explore the history of the Titanic Trail in Cobh, and climb the battlements of Blarney Castle to kiss the world-famous Blarney Stone.

From the thatched-roof charm of Adare to the vibrant pulse of The Liberties, this journey takes us from Ireland's "prettiest village" to the historic heart of the capital and our final evening at The Hyatt Centric The Liberties – Dublin a stone's throw from Teeling's Whiskey Distillery and St. Patrick's Cathedral. We'll experience a tour and lunch at the legendary Guinness Storehouse, followed by a grand farewell dinner at Nancy Hands Bar & Restaurant.

We look forward to celebrating the top performers from Holset Challenge 2025!

Steve, Carol, and Jack  
Your Holset Guest Services Team



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## FRIDAY – MAY 1, 2026

As your adventure begins, the excitement builds at your home city airport as you prepare for the overnight journey across the Atlantic. Checking in for your international flight marks the official start of your Irish getaway, and we recommend arriving at least three hours before departure to allow plenty of time for security processes.

Once you've cleared the gate, you'll board for the transatlantic crossing. These "red-eye" flights are designed to maximize your time in Ireland, departing in the evening and whisking you East as the world below goes to sleep. Onboard, you can settle into your seat and prepare for "active resting".

To make the most of your flight so you can hit the ground running:

- Pack Sleep Essentials: Bring a neck pillow, eye mask, and noise-canceling headphones to create your own quiet sanctuary.
- Stay Hydrated: Skip the caffeine and alcohol in favor of water to help your body adjust to the new time zone.
- Dress in Layers: Cabin temperatures can fluctuate, so cozy layers and flight compression socks are key for comfort.

As the sun rises over the Atlantic, you'll catch your first glimpse of the Emerald Isle from above, landing in Dublin, ready to begin the journey



## SATURDAY – MAY 2, 2026

### Welcome to Ireland!

Upon landing at Dublin Airport, proceed through passport control and collect your luggage. After clearing customs at Dublin Airport, look for the friendly faces – Jack, Steve and Carol - of your Holset Guest Services Team in the arrivals hall. We'll be easy to spot, holding signs featuring the Holset logo waiting to give you a warm "Céad Míle Fáilte" (a hundred thousand welcomes). Once we have everyone, we'll load up onto our private coach and leave the bustle of the capital behind and head west into the heart of the country.

### Lunch at "Dead Centre"

Our first destination is the historic town of Athlone, situated on the banks of the River Shannon. We'll stop for a revitalizing lunch at Dead Centre Brewing, a local favorite known for its "farm to fork" philosophy and stunning river views and laid-back atmosphere with a balcony overlooking Athlone Castle. It's a great chance to stretch your legs and catch up with everyone in the group and your Holset hosts for the week - Andy Rawson and Yury Penalosa.

### The Road to Adare

Refreshed from lunch, we'll continue our scenic drive into the heart of County Limerick. Our destination is the postcard-perfect village of Adare, often called the prettiest village in Ireland. Before we head to the hotel, we'll stretch our legs with a guided walking tour through the village's charming streets. You'll stroll past iconic thatch-roofed cottages, the medieval ruins of Desmond Castle, and the serene grounds of the local friaries. It's the perfect introduction to the history and character of your home for the next five days. Following the tour, we'll make the short trip to the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House to check in, drop our bags, and settle in for an incredible stay.

To kick off Holset Challenge 2025 in style, we'll gather this evening for our official Group Welcome Dinner at the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House. Set against the backdrop of the hotel's award-winning hospitality, this evening is all about celebrating your arrival and the incredible achievements that brought you here. Enjoy a custom menu featuring the very best of locally sourced Irish ingredients, from garden-fresh produce to premium regional meats. It's the perfect setting to raise a glass with your fellow top performers, and hosts, and to meet the Holset Guest Services Team, and toast to the unforgettable week ahead in the Emerald Isle.



## SUNDAY – MAY 3, 2026

Each day on the Emerald Isle begins exactly as it should: with a traditional Irish breakfast that fuels you for the adventures ahead. More than just a meal, it's a morning ritual designed to keep you going from the first castle tour to the final coastal hike.

You'll find the classics—sizzling sausages, crisp rashers (bacon), and both black and white pudding—alongside perfectly fried eggs and grilled tomatoes. No Irish morning is complete without a side of brown soda bread topped with rich, creamy Irish butter and a steaming pot of tea or coffee.

### **The Majestic Cliffs of Moher**

We'll begin our first full day with a visit to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most iconic natural wonders. Towering over 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, these limestone giants stretch for five miles along the rugged coast. Take a leisurely walk along the cliff-edge paths to capture panoramic views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay.

### **Coastal Drive through County Clare & The Burren**

Experience the Wild Atlantic Way at its most evocative as we drive along the coast of County Clare. The route takes us through the Burren National Park, a unique "lunar-like" landscape of glacio-karst limestone. Keep an eye out for the region's rare alpine and arctic flora that bloom between the rocky "clints and grykes". We will pass through picturesque villages like Ballyvaughan and Fanore where the grey hills meet the turquoise sea.

### **Teamwork!**

We will visit the family-run Caherconnell Farm, Stone Fort & Sheepdog Demonstrations for a true taste of rural Irish life.

- Sheepdog Trials: Watch in awe as expert handlers use distinctive whistles to direct highly trained Border Collies to gather and herd sheep with precision.
- Meet the Team: After the demo, there is often an opportunity to meet the clever dogs and, depending on the season, even hold a newborn lamb.
- Lunch: Settle into the Mountain View Café for a hearty group lunch featuring fresh, locally sourced ingredients.
- Ancient History: You will also have time to explore the exceptionally well-preserved 1,000-year-old stone ringfort located right on the farm.

### **Return to Adare for Group Dinner**

After a day of exploration, return to the comfort of Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel. Dinner this evening is at our hotel with a menu crafted from the hotel's own organic Mary's Garden, served with the warm, family-style hospitality for which the Fitzgerald family is renowned.



## MONDAY – MAY 4, 2026

### Ireland's Open Air Museum

Today we journey into the heart of the Dingle Peninsula, a region National Geographic once described as "the most beautiful place on earth". Our route follows the scenic south shore, offering dramatic views of the Atlantic as we pause at strategic overlooks for photos of the jagged coastline. We then arrive in Dingle Town, a vibrant fishing port nestled at the foot of Slievanea Mountain. You will have time to wander its colorful streets, famous for eclectic shops, traditional pubs, and a rich heritage of Irish music and language.

### Pub Lunch at Paul Geaney's

We gather for a hearty group lunch at Paul Geaney's Bar & Restaurant on Dingle's Main Street. This family-run landmark is steeped in local sporting history—owned by a world champion Gaelic football player—and decorated with memorabilia.

### The Legend of Tom Crean

On our return journey, we stop in the quiet village of Annascaul to visit the iconic South Pole Inn for traditional Irish Coffee's! This historic pub was founded in 1917 by the legendary Antarctic explorer Tom Crean. Learn the incredible story of this "unsung hero" who served on three of history's most perilous polar expeditions alongside Scott and Shackleton. The inn is a living museum, packed with original memorabilia and photos from his expeditions to the frozen south.

### Classic Irish Hospitality

After returning to Adare, the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure—perhaps a stroll through the village's thatched-roof streets or a relaxing visit to the hotel spa.

Tonight, we'll head into the heart of the village to Aunty Lena's Bar for a group dinner. Originally established in 1806, this award-winning pub is renowned for its:

- Historic Ambiance: A cozy, traditional setting that has served the Adare community for over two centuries.
- Gourmet Pub Dining: Popular dishes include their signature Fish and Chips and creamy seafood chowder.
- Live Entertainment: The perfect place to toast to your journey with some local music and a pint!



## TUESDAY – MAY 5, 2026

### **The Final Port of Call**

This morning, we journey to the picturesque, colorful port town of Cobh (formerly Queenstown) in County Cork. Known for its steep streets and the towering St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh holds a significant place in maritime history as the final port of call for the RMS Titanic on April 11, 1912. We will embark on "The Titanic Trail," a guided walking tour that brings the ship's final hours to life. We'll walk through the town's historic streets, pointing out the original pier where the 123 final passengers boarded and sharing the personal stories of those who sailed into history.

### **The Scenic Drive to Blarney**

Leaving the salty air of Cobh our route continues on to the mystical heights of Blarney, a transition from Ireland's maritime past to its legendary folklore. Our first stop is a hearty lunch at Christy's Bar & Grill. Located within the famous Blarney Woollen Mills complex, Christy's is known for its warm, traditional atmosphere and delicious local fare. After lunch, take a few moments to browse the world's largest Irish shop for high-quality knitwear, crystal, and gifts.

### **Kiss the Stone!**

High atop the battlements of Blarney Castle, the legendary Stone of Eloquence awaits. For over 200 years, millions—from world leaders to literary giants—have climbed the 127 narrow stone steps to perform this world-famous ritual.

- **The Ritual:** For those feeling adventurous, climb the stone spiral staircase to the castle's battlements to Kiss the Blarney Stone. Legend says those who do will be granted the "gift of the gab"—the power of eloquent and persuasive speech.
- **The Gardens:** If you prefer to stay on solid ground, explore the stunning grounds, including the mystical Rock Close, the Poison Garden, and the prehistoric ferns of the Himalayan Walk.

### **The Essence of the Woodlands**

Following a day steeped in history at the colorful harbor of Cobh and the legendary grounds of Blarney Castle, we'll return to the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House to relax and unwind.

Tonight's dinner is the perfect chance to share stories from the day—whether you successfully kissed the Blarney Stone or captured the perfect photo of the "Deck of Cards" houses. Relax in the warm, welcoming atmosphere of the hotel as we enjoy another exceptional meal featuring the finest local Tipperary and Limerick produce. It's a wonderful way to cap off a day of exploring the best of Ireland's south coast.



## WEDNESDAY – MAY 6, 2026

### A Symphony of Land and Sea

Beyond the historic docks of Cobh and the legends of Blarney lies Ireland's most celebrated coastal drive: The Ring of Kerry. This 111-mile circuit around the Iveragh Peninsula is a masterpiece of nature, where the rugged Atlantic coast meets emerald-green valleys and mist-covered mountains.

This isn't just a drive; it's a portal into the deep history of County Kerry:

- The Skellig Coast: Gaze out at the haunting silhouette of Skellig Michael, a jagged rock rising from the ocean where monks once lived in solitude and Star Wars Jedi later found refuge.
- The High Passes: We'll climb to Moll's Gap and Ladies View, offering panoramic vistas of the shimmering Lakes of Killarney that once enchanted Queen Victoria's court.

'The Ring' is a sensory experience. It is a landscape that has inspired poets, smugglers, and explorers for centuries.

### Where Nature Meets Heritage

Nestled at the foot of the MacGillycuddy's Reeks—Ireland's highest mountain range—Killarney is a town of pure Irish charm. It's a place where traditional "trad" music (Irish traditional music and the social heartbeat of the country) spills out of brightly painted pubs and the clip-clop of Jaunting Cars provides a rhythmic soundtrack to the afternoon.

### Clip-Clop

To truly step back in time, we will experience Killarney's most beloved tradition: the Jaunting Car. For generations, these horse-drawn carriages have been the primary way to navigate the National Park's car-free zones. It's more than just a ride; it's an audience with a Jarvey (the driver). These local legends are famous for their "gift of the gab," regaling passengers with tall tales, local folklore, and history as you clip-clop through Killarney National Park.

- The View: Without the hum of an engine, you can fully immerse yourself in the sounds of the arbutus forests and the sight of wild Red Deer.
- The Comfort: Snuggle under a heavy wool rug as your Jarvey points out hidden gems like the Torc Waterfall or the quiet cloisters of Muckross Abbey.

### Free Time!

Following your carriage ride, enjoy free time to explore Killarney on your own.

- Shop: Browse for authentic Irish crafts at the Quills Woolen Market or high-quality knitwear at the Aran Sweater Market
- Stroll: Visit the impressive St. Mary's Cathedral or wander the town's boutique-lined streets.
- Taste: Enjoy a quick coffee or a local treat in one of the many traditional tea rooms.

### A True Taste of the Golden Vale

Tonight's farewell dinner is a tribute to the land itself. At the heart of the Woodlands experience is the "Field to Fork" philosophy, fueled by the hotel's own Mary Fitzgerald Organic Farm. We return to the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House for our farewell to Adare dinner this evening. After dinner, take some time to pre-pack and prepare for our morning check-out and transfer to Dublin.

## THURSDAY – MAY 7, 2026

### All Roads Lead to Dublin

After a final, hearty Irish breakfast at the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House, we bid farewell to Adare and begin our journey east. We'll leave behind the thatched-roof charm of Adare, as we begin the final leg of our trip across the heart of the country. This route takes us through the lush Golden Vale, where the ruggedness of the Wild Atlantic Way softens into rolling, fertile plains, historic strongholds. Crossing the threshold into Dublin is a transition from nature's masterpiece to man's historical canvas. The quiet country lanes are traded for the cobblestones of Temple Bar, and the roar of the ocean is replaced by the lively "trad" sessions spilling out of 19th-century pubs. ... Dublin is where our journey finds its Grand Finale!

### The Liquid Heartbeat of Ireland

It is more than just a beer; it's a national icon poured into a glass. Often called "The Black Stuff" or a "Pint of Plain," Guinness is a velvety, ruby-red stout (not actually black!) that has defined Irish hospitality since Arthur Guinness signed that 9,000-year lease on the St. James's Gate Brewery in 1759. Here at the Guinness Storehouse we will enjoy a self-guided immersion into the history of Ireland's most famous export. The journey through the Seven Floors of brewing heritage culminates at the iconic Gravity Bar, where we'll savor a perfectly poured pint of Guinness while taking in 360-degree views of the Dublin skyline. We'll also gather as a group for a delicious lunch right in the heart of the Storehouse.

After the velvet surge and settle of our final pint at the Guinness Storehouse, it's time to transition from the heights of the Gravity Bar to the modern comfort of the Hyatt Centric, located in the heart of the historic Liberties district.

### A Farewell Toast

To close out an unforgettable journey, we gather at Nancy Hands, a quintessential Dublin landmark.

- The Legend of Nancy: The pub is named after its first female proprietor, Nancy Hand, who famously bypassed 18th-century "Holy Hour" closure laws by serving pints through a small hatch in the wall. With only her hands visible to customers outside, the name was born—a testament to her spirited Irish wit.
- Historic Interior: The decor is a treasure trove of Irish heritage. You'll find a staircase from Trinity College (once trodden by Oscar Wilde), a kitchen built from an old bank vault, and rare "Guinntiques"—original Guinness advertising and memorabilia dating back over a century.

It's a night of laughter, shared stories, and a heartfelt toast to the Emerald Isle. Sláinte to a trip of a lifetime!



## **FRIDAY – MAY 8, 2026**

### **May The Road Rise To Meet You!**

All good things must come to an end, and today we bid a fond Slán abhaile (safe home) to the Emerald Isle. From the Viking streets of Dublin to the wild edges of the Atlantic, this award trip has been a masterclass in the Irish spirit. We traced the island's rugged spine, moving from the thatched-roof elegance of Adare to the dizzying heights of the Cliffs of Moher. In County Clare, we wandered the lunar limestone of The Burren and watched history come to life through the ancient skills of the sheepdogs at Caherconnell Farm.

The adventure turned coastal as we explored the Dingle Peninsula, sharing a pint and a story at Paul Geany's before paying homage to the legendary explorer Tom Crean at The South Pole Inn in Annascaul. We stood on the hallowed docks of Cobh, felt the magic of the Blarney Stone, and wound our way through the emerald valleys of the Ring of Kerry. In Killarney, the clip-clop of Jaunting Cars provided the soundtrack to a timeless landscape. Finally, the road led us home to the capital for a pilgrimage to the Guinness Storehouse—where the "Black Stuff" began—and a spirited farewell at Nancy Hands. We leave with more than just photos; we leave with the "gift of the gab," a bit of mist in our hair, and a heart full of memories from the Emerald Isle.

After one final, legendary Irish breakfast at the Hyatt Centric, we'll meet in the lobby to board our private transfer for the final leg of our journey: the transfer to Dublin Airport (DUB). As we make our way to the terminal this is the time to wish all of you a safe and smooth flight home. Go n-éirí an bóthar leat—may the road rise to meet you!

Whether you're heading straight to your gate or grabbing a last-minute bottle of Irish whiskey at Duty-Free, the Holset Guest Services Team wishes you a seamless journey. We hope the memories of this trip stay with you long after you land back home.