



Passport To Dreams

TOP 5 ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADES

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1. Chicago

- The Irish Miracle started in 1962, when the city of Chicago dumped orange dye into the river and it turned the entire thing green. Saturday, March 12th, they'll do it again. The best places to see the spectacle are the East side of the Michigan Avenue Bridge, the West side of the Columbus Drive Bridge or upper and lower Wacker Drive between Michigan Avenue and Columbus Drive. After that, the parade kicks off on Balbo Ave and Columbus Drive in Grant Park at noon.



2. London

Which will draw more celebration -- St. Patrick's Day or Kate and Will's Royal Wedding? We're betting on the latter, but more than 100,000 people are expected to celebrate on Sunday, March 13 to watch colorful floats, marching bands, and Irish groups to raise a glass to Ireland. Specific groups will represent Irish counties, there will be performances of traditional and contemporary dance, and the parade will process through central London from Green Park to Trafalgar Square at noon.



3. Sydney

While most of these locales require patrons to button up and brave the cold, Sydney will celebrate its Irish heritage in sizzling sunshine. On Sunday, March 20, parade goers will don green sunglasses and green t-shirts. Fun-filled and exciting, the parade will represent all 32 counties, and have plenty of floats, costumes, music and Irish traditions. Keep an eye out for the green fountains all over the city.





4. Boston

The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the U.S. was in Boston in 1737, and the first parade came along in 1901. Now, more than 600,000 parade goers rally each year to watch marching bands, pipe bands, and green-wearing partiers celebrate through South Boston. This year, it will be held on March 20, and begin on Broadway, through West and East Broadway, and then onto Thomas Park, Telegraph Street, and end in Andrew Square. Even if you can't catch the parade, the city's many Irish pubs go nuts for the festivities.



5. New Orleans

Sunday, March 13 marks one of the biggest street parties in New Orleans -- a St. Patrick's Day parade that trades beads for potatoes and cabbages. Bring a picnic basket and enjoy the costumes, flowers, floats, and moon pies, or simply meander from club to club enjoying the festive atmosphere. Be prepared for floats passing by to throw cabbages, carrots, onions and potatoes. It all starts on Metairie Road at 11 am. True to form in New Or-



10 Day Classic Ireland



Ideal Itinerary

DAY 1, Saturday - Depart USA

Depart the USA for Ireland. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment for the journey

DAY 2, Sunday - Arrive in Dublin

Arrive and transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink and orientation with your tour manager

Overnight: Dublin

DAY 3, Monday - Dublin City Tour, Travel to Galway

This morning's sightseeing includes a panoramic tour of Dublin including a visit to Trinity College, home to the *Book of Kells*. View St. Stephen's Green, Phoenix Park and St. Patrick's Cathedral. After time for lunch, continue westwards to Galway, a seafaring town steeped in tradition. Enjoy free time to discover this colorful town and to view the Lynch Stone and Galway Cathedral. After dinner, we suggest a stroll to the historic squares and pubs of Galway

Overnight: Galway

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Tuesday - Connemara Excursion

Today, enjoy a full day excursion into the Irish Countryside. Travel west towards Clifden before a visit to Kylemore Abbey in the heart of Connemara National Park. There, admire the lakes, mountains, and calm shades of green for which Ireland is renowned

Overnight: Galway

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Wednesday - Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle, Killarney

Begin with a drive south from Galway Bay through the rugged plateau known as the Burren and on view the mighty Cliffs of Moher, an impressive wall of rock that towers some 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Next, visit Bunratty Castle and the Folk Park, offering a unique insight into Irish life around the turn of the century. A drive through the pretty town of Adare brings you at last to scenic Killarney

Overnight: Killarney

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Thursday - Ring of Kerry Tour

Today's sightseeing begins with a tour through Killarney National Park and the world-famous "Ring of Kerry," perhaps the most picturesque locale in all of Ireland. Pass by the remote villages of Cahirciveen and Sneem, which are full of traditional colorful houses. Return to Killarney in the late afternoon

Overnight: Killarney

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Friday - Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal Showroom

This morning drive through the scenic south of Ireland to visit the 15th-century Blarney Castle, where you will have the opportunity to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Enjoy some free time for shopping at the Blarney Woollen Mills before stopping at the world-famous Waterford Crystal showroom for a factory tour to see the collection of exquisite glassware in its city of origin

Overnight: Waterford

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Saturday - Kilkenny En Route to Dublin

Today, head for Kilkenny, a small city located on the banks of the River Nore. Enjoy the sights of this historic town, and view the 12th-century Kilkenny Castle. This afternoon, return to Dublin for a farewell dinner and lively traditional entertainment

Overnight: Dublin

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Sunday - Dublin

Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore Dublin independently

Overnight: Dublin

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Monday - Depart for the USA

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Book By Date: February 24, 2012

Departure Day: March 31, 2012

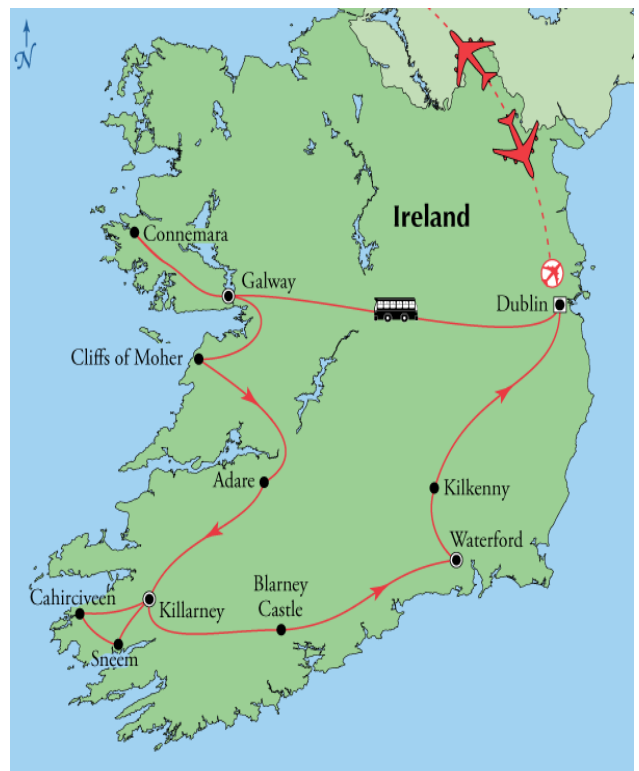
Retail Price: \$2563.55

Member Price: \$1429.00

Savings: \$1134.55

*Taxes and Fees are not included

**Flights not included; Please call for flight pricing and information.





Top Five Valentine's Day Luxury Travel Getaways

Old European Charm in a Luxury Hotel

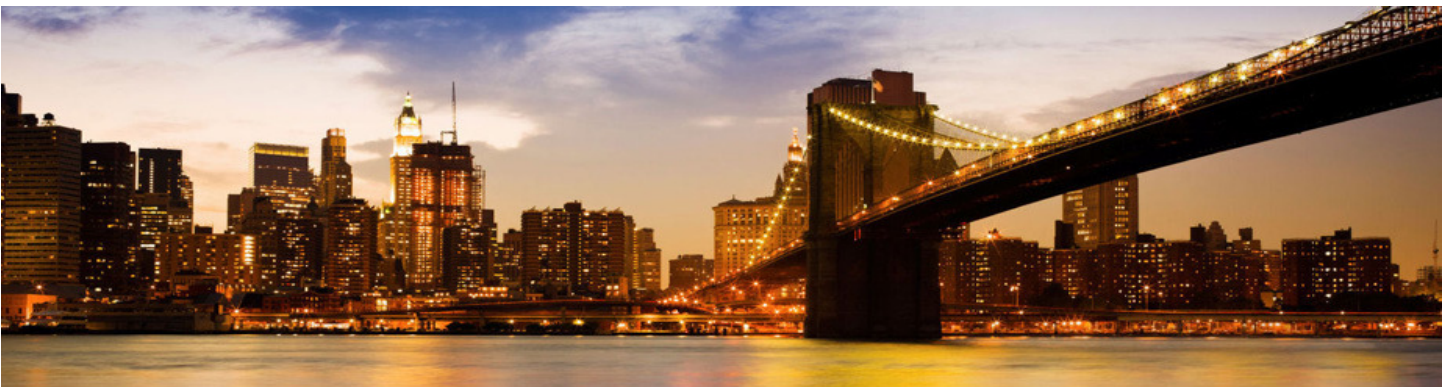
Kicking off this affectionate list is the Orient Express, who offer a variety of luxury travel packages for their hotels, trains and cruises. The Orient-Express invites all Casanovas to treat their ladies to an elegant, old European weekend at the premier St. Petersburg luxury hotel, the Grand Hotel Europe. Welcome to the romantic city in Russia and enjoy a tantalizing weekend, soaking up culture, indulging in delectable cuisine and keeping warm with your special someone.

The Grand Hotel Europe in St. Petersburg offers a one night accommodation in a classic room, full buffet breakfast, candle-lit dinner for two the the Caviar Bar accompanied by live music and fine chocolates in your room. The Grand Hotel Europe is an elegant luxury hotel located in the heart of St. Petersburg. As an historical and cultural landmark, the sumptuous hotel offers deluxe accommodations and top-rate dining options from world-renowned chefs.



Personalized Tours of New York City

If you're looking for something a bit more modern, how about spending the day falling in love with the Big Apple? Pinacoteca will take you on a wild ride through the exciting world of New York City, even New Yorkers themselves will have the chance to discover another side to the exuberant city. Pinacoteca offers a variety of programs to fully maximize your stay in New York. With week-long, three-day and one-day programs, you will have an unforgettable look into the city's famed art world, including exclusive access to private collections. Spend your Valentine's Day with Pinacoteca's Paseo Program, which includes a personal curator to accompany you throughout your customized itinerary, a gourmet lunch, transportation to and from all sites in a Mercedes Benz sedan/SUV, admissions to all public collections at any hour and complimentary dinner reservations with a carefully designed choice of wines courtesy of Pinacoteca.



Have a Personal Concierge Design a Luxury Ski Experience

For the more active couple who is eager to take full advantage of this frosty winter, why not celebrate your love out on the slopes? Working on a tight schedule? You can hire a personal concierge to design your dream trip for you, leaving you free to finish up those presentations so you can fully enjoy and relax on your special weekend with your love. Premium Experiences offers fully customized luxury vacations in hot ski resorts around the world like Aspen, Courchevel, Bariloche, Niseko, Verbier and more.



Luxury Spa Treatments in Exotic Destinations

If you really want to pamper your loved one, what better way than a surprise trip to a luxury spa? Take it to the next level by organizing a trip to one of the top spas in the world, the Six Senses Hideaway Samui in Thailand. You don't know the true meaning of indulgence and serenity until you've tried a Six Senses spa. This luxury spa offers both outdoor and indoor treatment rooms, signature massages from highly skilled therapists and a lengthy menu of supreme spa services that will leave you feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and relaxed.



Private Chef Brings Gourmet to your Door

And last but certainly not least, is something you can plan without ever having to leave the house. A candlelit dinner with roses and chocolates is always a winner for any Valentine's Day. Put a special spin on an old classic by hiring a private chef to create an unforgettable meal. It's the perfect way to relax in your home while enjoying an extraordinary experience. Gone are the days of worrying over your chocolate soufflé that resembles a charred brick, a private chef invites you to relish a tailor-made menu of tantalizing dishes. Try experienced private chefs like Worldwide Flavors, and your mate will be swept off her feet with the attention to detail, supreme service and of course, unforgettable food.

STRICT 'DISNEY LOOK' DRESS CODE GETS AN UPDATE

No, Snow White's seven dwarfs won't need to worry about getting upstaged by bearded Disney theme park employees any time soon.

But the so-called "Disney Look" - a legendarily strict dress code that dates from Disneyland's inception in 1955 - is getting a rare update. Starting Feb. 3, male employees at Disney's theme park resorts in Orlando and Anaheim will be allowed to sport beards and goatees, as long as they "create an overall neat, polished and professional look" and the facial hair is no more than a quarter-inch long.

"Ironically, the rigid code was instituted by Walt Disney himself, a self-loathing Mustached American who felt the need to distinguish his theme park from what he called 'filthy carnies,'" writes the American Mustache Institute, which says it lobbied for the change. Disney employees were permitted to wear "fully grown in, well-maintained" mustaches in 2000.

In another Disney update, non-costumed theme park employees who don't interact with visitors will be able to dress casually on Fridays.

The last major alteration to the Disney Look came in 2010. The company let male employees wear untucked, camp-style shirts, and women employees could sport bare legs instead of pantyhose and wear capri pants, open-toed, slingback shoes and sleeveless tops with straps at least three inches wide.

Still on Disney's books: Rules governing fingernails (neutral polish, no more than one-quarter inch beyond the fingertips for women or tip of the finger for men), eyewear (conservative color and style) and body alteration (no "visible tattoos, brands, body piercing other than traditional ear piercing for women, tongue piercing or splitting, tooth filing, earlobe expansion and disfiguring skin implants.")

Readers, what do you think? Is a clean-cut "Disney Look" one of the reasons you enjoy visiting a Disney theme park?





::February 2012 Passport to Dreams Game::

Write your own Valentines Poem! Fill in the blanks with your own romantic rhymes! The first three members to submit their entries will receive a \$100.00 Condo Coupon!

Roses are red

Your lips are so sweet

My heart beats faster when you are near

Happy Valentines Day!

::CONGRATULATIONS::

Shane Locke

**Shane was the first to send in the game results for the
January 2012 Passport to Dreams game! He has won \$100.00
off of his next Condo Vacation!!**

**Remember::
You Must Play to Win!!**

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