

• There's something for all tastes at St George's Market in Belfast.



Photo credit: Tourism Northern Ireland.

Taste your way across Ireland

Tickle your group's tastebuds with this delicious selection of food and drink experiences across the island of Ireland..

Buzzing with incredible food experiences, it's not just about the taste on the island of Ireland. It's about the place, the experience and most importantly, the people behind the creations. From amazing food tours and thriving markets to unusual experiences, here's a taster of ten fantastic offers to tempt you into a visit.

1. St George's Market, Belfast: the ideal place to get a sense of the city's food scene, St George's was built in the 19th century and is known for being one of the finest food markets in Northern Ireland. It kicks off with the Variety Market each Friday with more than 200 stalls laden with fruit, vegetables, books and more. Saturdays are for the City Food and Craft Market while Sundays are a blend of the two.

2. Galway Food & Cycling Tour, Co. Galway: combine cycling and eating as you explore streets and waterways with Galway Food Tours. You'll meet artisan producers along the way, sample their wonderful products and pick up interesting facts and fables from an informative tour guide. During the four-and-a-half-hour tour, you'll discover why Galway is one of Ireland's gourmet jewels.

3. Irish Soda Bread Way, Westport, Co. Mayo: learn how to make traditional soda bread and have a go at baking your own tasty scones with hosts Carmel and Mary. And the best bit? Taste your creations with creamy butter and locally made jam while enjoying a cuppa and a chat. You'll also learn how the butter is made and the superstitions linked to this particular skill.

The island of Ireland benefits from quick and easy access from Great Britain with plenty of air and sea routes to choose from. The continuation of the **Common Travel Area (CTA)** means British and Irish citizens can travel between the two islands without a passport or visa restrictions, subject to ID requirements from the travel provider.

For more information and itinerary inspiration visit trade.ireland.com

4. Foraging & Coastal Tour, Kinsale, Co Cork: your group will travel to the coast to forage and identify edible wild shellfish, seaweed and plants during this package with Kinsale Food Tours. Enjoy a gourmet picnic which showcases a range of local producers.

5. Canoe & Cake, Killinchy, Co. Down: join the team in beautiful Ballymorran Bay for a paddle around the islands of Strangford Lough with the chance of seeing amazing sea life along the way. Once you have worked up an appetite, there will be warm bread and homemade cake waiting afterwards before a demonstration of how to make soda bread.

6. The English Market, Cork: one of the oldest municipal markets in the world invites groups to experience its history and incredible energy. You'll come across traditional Cork foods such as drisheen (blood sausage) as well as delicious local favourites.

7. Delicious Dublin Tours: these are a great introduction to Irish food and Dublin's food scene. Ideal for small groups, you'll spend three hours walking around the city, stopping at award-winning eateries and food shops. You won't go hungry with plenty of tastings of food and/or drink at each location.

8. Cocktail Class at Rebel City Distillery, Cork: the first distillery to open in the city of Cork for almost 50 years has given the former Ford factory building a new lease of life. Groups can start with a guided tour before learning the basics of Mixology and make their own bespoke cocktails to enjoy in the eclectic Drink Studio. Check out their very own Maharani Gin too which is enriched with aromatic spices from Kerala, South India.



• Take your group on a culinary journey of oyster tasting in County Clare.



• Learn how to make traditional Irish soda bread with the Canoe & Cake team in County Down.

9. Belfast Crafty Beer & Tasty Bites Tour, Belfast: join the team at Taste & Tour to whisk your members through a range of craft beers and foodie hotspots across the city. You'll taste seven different beers, including some wild and wacky, and enjoy three very different tasty bites. Described as a must for beer enthusiasts and foodies, the tour shows the best that Belfast has to offer for both.

10. Flaggy Shore Oyster Experience Co. Clare: learn all there is to know about oysters during this fun and educational journey in the heart of the Burren. Find out about the area's rich history of oyster bays, the life cycle of an oyster, sea weeds and sea creatures of the Flaggy Shore, before learning how to shuck (open) them and taste them with a glass of wine, delicious! ■



• The English Market is one of the oldest municipal markets in the world.



AMBASSADOR TO HOST THREE SHIP VISITS EXCLUSIVE TO GTOs

THE WARMEST WELCOME AT SEA

All-new initiative sees GTOs offered the chance to experience a taste of Ambassador at a port that's close to home.

Eager to get on board an Ambassador Cruise Line ship, to see what all the fuss is about? You're in luck - Ambassador has recently launched a 2025 UK ship visit programme designed exclusively for group tour organisers, and registration is now open.

In May, July and September this year, each ship visit will offer GTOs the opportunity to immerse themselves in the 'Ambassador experience' onboard both *Ambience* and her sister ship, *Ambition* at three regional ports in the UK: London Tilbury, Liverpool and Bristol.

Delivering a taste of Ambassador's unique product offering, visitors will be welcomed with tea and coffee by the company's dedicated Groups team, followed by a short verbal introduction to the brand, its affordable quality offering, and an overview of the types of sailing offered. GTOs will then embark on a full ship tour before enjoying a delicious five course lunch!

GTO SHIP TOUR DATES FOR 2025 ARE:

1st May 2025: London Cruise Terminal: *Ambience*
 13th July 2025: Bristol Royal Portbury: *Ambition*
 16th September 2025: Liverpool: *Ambition*

Alan Rennie, groups business development manager, says: "We're incredibly proud to be launching a full ship visit programme for group travel organisers for the very first time so they can sample the 'warmest welcome at sea'.

"We appreciate all the hard work group travel organisers continue to do to put the Ambassador offering on the map, and we know there is nothing like seeing and experiencing a product first-hand."

Group travel organisers who would like to register for a ship visit should email groupsales@ambassadorcruiseline.com for a registration form. Get in quick as places are limited! ■

Ambassador has a full programme of no-fly sailings from the UK available from eight regional ports available up until March 2027. Group benefits include:

- **Generous Discounts:** Enjoy an impressive 5% group discount on all bookings.
- **Complimentary Places:** Earn free onboard places – 1 after 25 guests, 2 after 50 guests booked.
- **Exclusive Perks:** Receive a private cocktail party on sailings of 4 nights or longer.
- **Dining Privileges:** Guaranteed group dining arrangements.

- **Venue Flexibility:** Explore options for private use of onboard venues.
- **Flexible Booking:** Free name changes up to 90 days before departure.
- **Dedicated Support:** Personal assistance from our specialised Group Sales Team including assistance with promotional materials.

Contact:

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WADDESDON

Waddesdon Manor



Photo credit: © National Trust / Waddesdon Manor.

• Enjoy stunning Waddesdon on a tour or visit the new Guercino exhibition.



Photo credit: Guercino, King David, 1651
© Waddesdon, A Rothschild House and Gardens.

Visit Waddesdon for tours, exhibitions and more

Groups can enjoy a range of top benefits and exclusive offers when visiting the weekend home of the Rothschild family.

The house reopens with a new exhibition, *Guercino at Waddesdon: King David and the Wise Women*, spotlighting one of the great painters of 17th-century Italy, Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Guercino (1591-1666).

In this historic exhibition, five paintings are displayed together for the first time since leaving the artist's studio over 350 years ago. Included are Waddesdon's King David, alongside two associated paintings of sibyls from the National Gallery and another sibyl from the Royal Collection, painted the same year. This is an opportunity to explore how King David relates to the sibyls and to view Guercino's recently rediscovered depiction of Moses, never before seen in public. The exhibition runs from 20th March until 27th October 2024 and is included in house and grounds admission.

More about Waddesdon Manor

The impressive French Renaissance-style château is set in Buckinghamshire, with sweeping landscapes and manicured gardens. Originally developed in the 1870s and 1880s for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to house his collections of decorative arts, Old Master paintings and 18th-century portraits, Waddesdon welcomed the fashionable world with Saturday to Monday house parties.

Ferdinand's social circle spanned royalty, including the Prince of Wales, historians, explorers and writers.

To secure its future, Waddesdon was left to the National Trust in 1957. The Rothschild Foundation now manages Waddesdon on behalf of the National Trust, and has continued to add to the collections, with both 18th-century and contemporary art.

Today, focal points in the garden include an iconic Victorian-style Parterre - famed for its colourful seasonal bedding, an ornate Rococo-style Aviary - conserving rare birds, Pulham rockwork and 3D bird bedding sculptures that are examples of the Rothschild's pioneering gardening.

Highlights for groups

On a visit to this unique French Renaissance-style château, groups can admire treasures from the collection, displayed within opulent interiors, explore landscaped gardens, find rare birds at the Aviary and taste fine wines in the cellars.

The team can plan a special trip for your group with guided tours and a selection of dining options available including a delicious cream tea, a two or three course lunch or a luxurious afternoon tea. The team are always happy to discuss specific requirements to make your visit as memorable as possible. ■

Groups can contact the team by calling 01296 653285 or emailing groups@waddesdon.org.uk. Further information can be found at waddesdon.org.uk.



Award-winning dining experience

The West End's longest-running immersive dining experience scooped the Group Leisure & Travel Award for the Best Group Dining Experience 2023.

Photo credit: ©Jane Hobson.



Artistic Director Alison Pollard-Mansergh, Producer Jared Harford, and the whole team at Interactive Theatre International are celebrating that, after 11 years in the West End, Faulty Towers The Dining Experience has (finally) won the coveted trophy at the 2023 Group Leisure & Travel Awards.

The critically acclaimed international immersive dining phenomenon has also just celebrated its 15th year in the UK and more than 25 years worldwide.

"Wow. What can you say when they hand you a GLT? I'm going to say 'about time!' I am a humble man, but I always knew that my hard work, brains and indomitable British spirit would pay off in the end."

Basil Faulty, the honoured recipient of the Best Group Dining Experience Award



• Basil and co with their GLT Award.

first show at the Ridges Hotel in Brisbane on 24th April 1997 and has appeared in 43 countries to date.

When the audience become diners in the 'Faulty Towers' restaurant, pretty much anything can happen – because 70% of the show is improvised. The fun starts as guests wait to be seated. It then hurtles along in a 2-hour tour de force of gags and shambolic service as Basil, Sybil and Manuel serve a '70s-style 3-course meal together with a good dollop of mayhem.

Expect the unexpected!

Faulty Towers the Dining Experience is now the longest running immersive production, the longest running *Fawlty Towers* production in the West End and the longest running show based on a TV series in the West End. It is also the longest-running *Fawlty Towers* production of any kind at venues worldwide.

2023 has also seen sell-out residencies in Manchester and Leicester, which will return in 2024. Other short residencies have been announced for Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, York and Chester; with London open year-round and booking until December 2024. ■

What groups can expect from the experience

Faulty Towers The Dining Experience is a highly interactive experience, where groups enjoy a 3-course meal and 5-star comedy.

A loving tribute to the BBC's classic TV series, the show has been seen by over a million people worldwide since the very

Groups can email customerservice@imagination-workshop.com for information and exclusive group rates, or call 0845 1544 145. Visit www.faultytowersdining.com for more information.