

**Recess 4 Grownups**  
**Specialist in Travel to Ireland**



*Recess 4 Grownups*

**3 THINGS NOBODY TELLS YOU:  
THE INSIDER'S  
GUIDE TO  
SEEING YOUR  
TEAM PLAY IN  
IRELAND!**



The waiting for the rescheduling of the Notre Dame vs Navy football match in Dublin is finally over with the announcement of the season opener set for Saturday, August 26, 2023. The Aer Lingus College Football Classic will be played in Aviva Stadium.

Dublin has established itself as the home of American football games

abroad, with the Notre Dame vs. Navy game played in 2012, Penn State vs. University of Central Florida in 2014, and Georgia Tech vs. Boston College in 2016.

Our experience hosting fans at those events can give you great insight into what to expect for the Aer Lingus College Football Classic so you can better plan your trip.



## What to expect the weekend of the game

The game will be played on Saturday, August 26, 2023. While the specific agenda will be clarified much closer to the game, assuming a similar weekend schedule as the football games in 2012, 2014, and 2016, here's what you can expect:

On Friday afternoon, all the fans will gather together for a pep rally. The site in the past has been at Dublin Castle, Temple Bar, or Trinity College, all city centre locations. It's a fun time to gather all the fans together and it's the first official event of the weekend. Typically, the teams, cheerleaders, and usual pep rally attendees will all be there.



On Saturday morning, there will be a 'tailgate party' in the streets of Temple Bar, an area of pubs and restaurants in central Dublin, or around the Trinity College campus. The Irish don't really do tailgates – as a matter of fact, they are quite fascinated by our concept of tailgating with all the cars and cooking. Of course, we don't have our cars in Dublin, so tailgating will really just be a gathering of the fans in one of the fan areas, where folks will walk around between the various pubs or tents.

Usually some of the pubs will be designated specifically as a Notre Dame College Tailgate Pub or Navy Tailgate Pub.

The tailgate usually starts around 10am, and then fans start making their way to the stadium. Tours will usually have their transportation originating at the tour hotel and sometimes the city of Dublin offers a shuttle between Temple Bar and the stadium.

The transportation that takes fans to Aviva Stadium will not be able to pull up to the stadium, as the area is so congested that the motor coaches will park near the stadium and fans will walk the remainder of the way, around half a mile or so (those with walking issues should check with their tour operator to ensure there will be alternate arrangements to get closer).



Game fans will be arriving in Ireland starting about ten days prior to the game building up to the full weekend, and then various tours will continue the week after the game. The weekend in Dublin will be packed with fans and the atmosphere is electric as all the Americans and expats from around Europe come together.

Fans will be traveling all over Ireland as various tours take them to see all the iconic sights such as the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, and Blarney Castle. It's great fun to be traveling in Ireland and run into an old friend in a pub in Galway or see a crowd of folks in Killarney decked out in your team's colors.

Late August/early September is an active time for Gaelic sports finals so it's a busy time in Ireland in general, so thousands of American fans will mean it's particularly busy. But the Irish have experience handling the large crowds so that things run very smoothly.



## What to expect regarding tours

At each of these American football games in Ireland, there is an “official tour provider” authorized and promoted by the universities. The official tour provider will be featured on the college website and promoted as the key tour provider to see the game and the source for tours with tickets.

***What they won't tell you:***  
*There are several Ireland tour providers offering Ireland packages centered around the game.*

There are a number of additional tour companies (such as Recess 4 Grownups, along with a number of others) who focus on Ireland specifically, and they will offer tour packages to the game. These tour companies will also have the capability provide full tour packages built around this fun football event.

These alternate tour companies often provide a more cost-effective set of tour options with more inclusions in the tour package.

There is also more variety in the itinerary offerings so fans have more choices on where they would like to travel while touring Ireland.

We've seen in the past where fans see the initial game announcement and are concerned about missing a spot on the official tour package and move too quickly to reserve a space.

Then their friends and family see alternate tours that they prefer, so they end up on separate tours. While the 'official' tours may have some limited slots that fill up, there are typically many other tour choices that will be available within a month of the official announcement.

Most tour companies allocate their game ticket seating based on the date of reservations. So the best course of action is to wait to see what tour itineraries are available from a few of the tour providers, but once you have made an informed decision, take action to reserve your spot for higher seating priority.



The tour packages built around the game and touring Ireland include a variety of components, such as:

- ✓ Game tickets
- ✓ Accommodations
- ✓ Meals
- ✓ Game Day Transportation - to and from the game
- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Irish Entertainment Dinner Shows/Game-related Party Events
- ✓ Sightseeing and day tours during travel in Ireland

**What they won't tell you:**  
*It's all in the details –  
check out inclusions, location,  
and timing of tour options*



The secret is to take the time to go through the details of the tour inclusions. Most tours will include some basic components at a minimum – game tickets, accommodations, breakfast daily. Even with these basic inclusions, you want to look closely:

- **Game tickets** – Are the tickets in the fan section of your team?
- **Accommodations** – 3-star, 4-star, or 5-star? Are the hotels in city center or located far out of town? If on the edge of town, are there options of restaurants/pubs nearby, or are you stuck on the hotel property, or else paying for cabs into town?

Beyond these key elements of the tour, closely review the other aspects of your travel that may be included in the tour package, or available as options for additional cost:

- **Meals** – Besides breakfast which is offered as standard through most tours, look for details on any other meal inclusions. Are there any dinners or lunches included in the tour?
- **Game Day Transportation** - Does the tour include transportation to and from the game, or are you on your own to figure this out. Hotel location in Dublin or on the outskirts makes a big difference here.
- **Airport transfers** – Are these included or are you on your own to pay for those arrangements?
- **Irish Entertainment/Party Events** – Does the tour include any special events or opportunity for Irish entertainment?
- **Sightseeing** – Are there sightseeing excursions included in the tour, both in Dublin the weekend of the game and as you travel throughout Ireland? Do they charge extra for basic options, or is it all included? Are there any special experiences offered?





As you are comparing tour packages, consider the costs for any features that are not included in one package versus another, such as airport

transfers, sightseeing or Irish entertainment dinners, to determine the tour that offers the best value of location, experiences, and inclusions.



## What to do now to plan your trip

If Ireland has been on your bucket list, or if it's time for a return visit, now is the time to think about the key sights you want to see and areas of Ireland you are interested in. Ireland is a beautiful, fascinating country, and because of their wonderful hospitality, your first visit will probably not be your last.

If you are not quite sure what you want to do or what would be the best tour for you, we'll be glad to help you figure that out

– we'll discuss your interests and sights you've heard of but may not be familiar with, and give you some guidance on what is the best fit for you.

**What they won't tell you:**  
*Boutique Tour Operators such as Recess 4 Grownups can create a more personalized experience for your trip to Ireland.*



## What to expect from a Recess 4 Grownups tour:

When you contact Recess 4 Grownups, you are talking with a small dedicated team focused on making this the trip of a lifetime – you're not calling into a big call center with order takers. Our deep experience in Ireland can help you determine the tour that is the best fit for you.

At Recess 4 Grownups we focus on creating a great experience with the right balance of included sightseeing and experiences as well a good amount of free time for independent exploration.

For those that have been to Ireland before, we offer coordinated packages that include touring in Scotland or Iceland before traveling to Dublin for the weekend of the game.

If a group of family or friends book over a period of time, or even if you choose totally different tour packages, as long as you notify us by final payment that you are traveling together, we will ensure your game seats in Aviva Stadium are assigned together.

Our custom tours are designed to provide the perfect mix of sightseeing and Irish experiences, mixed with time to explore independently. For your free time, we'll offer suggestions of pubs, restaurants, and shops you may want to explore, and other local attractions that may fit your interests.

We have some great tours planned for the Notre Dame-Navy game in Dublin, and we'll send you the details as soon the tours are released.

