



# Claddagh School of Irish Dance

## Tour of Ireland

June 29, 2022- July 7, 2022

**Total Price: \$2,675\* per person, double occupancy**

### **Tour Includes:**

- Round trip airfare via Aer Lingus
- Luxury coach with Con Collins as our Guide
- Hotel accommodations with private bath

7 Full Breakfasts, 4 Dinners, 1 Medieval Banquet at Dunguaire Castle

### **Visits and Admission Fees to the following:**

- **Cahir Castle**
- **Mitchelstown Caves**
- **Blarney Castle**
- **Cliffs of Moher**
- **Kylemore Abbey**
- **Celtic Crystal Factory**
- **Medieval Banquet at Dunguaire Castle**
- **Kilbegans Distillery**
- **Guinness Storehouse**

**Deposit: \$500 per person due by October 15, 2021. Final payment due January 14, 2022.**

Make checks payable to Mary Quinn.

Optional Trip Protection is suggested. See [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) for details and fees.

For more information, contact Mary and Bill Quinn: 413-567-6729

\* **Note: Price and Itinerary subject to change. Gratuity for Driver and Guide is not included. As of July, 2021, airline pricing and departure airport is unavailable.**

**Wednesday June 29** Depart the airport aboard an Aer Lingus flight in the evening and arrive in Dublin, Ireland on Thursday morning.

**Thursday June 30 Dublin Arrival** After collecting your luggage and completing immigration formalities, we will meet our Guide for the week, Mr. Con Collins. Our first stop will be to enjoy a traditional Irish breakfast\*. After enjoying a fine cup of Irish tea, we will begin our Irish adventure by leaving Dublin behind us and begin our journey into Tipperary. We will stop at Cahir Castle located on the River Suir. Cahir Castle is one of Ireland's largest and best-preserved Castles. It has been featured in movie and TV productions, such as the Tudors and Excalibur. After our stop at the Castle, we will continue our first day in Ireland by visiting Mitchelstown Caves. The Caves unusual formations, shapes and colors make this an enthralling visit. After exploring beneath the landscape, we will make our way to the hotel for the night.

**\*Breakfast and Dinner is not included. Overnight at Blarney Castle Hotel, Blarney.**

**Friday July 1** After good night's rest we will breakfast at the hotel and then depart to visit Blarney Castle. Here you can see the Blarney Stone and roam the Castles beautiful gardens or you may want to do a "bit" of shopping at the famous Blarney Woolen Mills. Once we have all received the "Gift of Eloquence" from the castle and spent some of our money shopping we will make our way into the beautiful area of Gougán Barra. At Gougán Barra you are met with the natural beauty of the hills which tower over Gougán Barra Lake and then the well-known St Finbarr's Oratory or Small Church out in the Lake on the little island all on its own. Just behind the Oratory are the remains of St. Finbarr's monastery from the 6th century. We will continue to see more beautiful countryside as our next stop is Garnish Island. Garnish is world renowned for its gardens which are laid out in beautiful walks and it has some stunning specimen plants which are rare in Ireland's climate.

**Breakfast & Dinner is provided this evening.**

**Overnight at the Rose Hotel, Tralee \*\*Tralee is the Sister City to Springfield**

**Saturday July 2** We will be leaving Tralee this morning and continue our journey around County Kerry. This world-famous drive will amaze and inspire you as you wind your way along the rocky coastline and get close-up views of unspoiled beaches and the wild Atlantic just outside your window with the rugged mountains in the distance. Today we will travel into the town of Dingle and tour the Dingle Peninsula. Sleah Head Drive, one of Ireland's most scenic routes, takes you on a journey through historic sites, Irish speaking villages, famous Hollywood film locations and views of the Blasket Islands.

**Breakfast & Dinner is provided. Overnight at Rose Hotel, Tralee**

**Sunday July 3** Today we will leave the Kingdom of Kerry and travel through Listowell towards the Shannon Car ferry and into County Clare. We will follow the coastal road and arrive at the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are one of Ireland's top visitor attractions. They are 700 feet high and extend for 5 miles along the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland from which one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay and Connemara – if the day is clear! The Cliffs of Moher have been used as the location for many movies over the years such as Harry Potter & the Half Blood Prince, The Princess Bride, Ryan's Daughter and many more. After taking in the views from the Cliffs we will make our way into Galway through the Burren. The Burren is a 48-square-mile region with some of the most unique "limestone pavement" ground you will see. It is an area of limestone rock covering imposing majestic mountains, and tranquil valleys. With its innate sense of spiritual peace, extraordinary and unique array of flora and wildlife, and megalithic tombs and monuments older than Egypt's pyramids, the Burren is a tapestry of color.

**Breakfast & Dinner is provided. Overnight at Victoria Hotel, Galway**

**Monday July 4** Today we are going to tour the beautiful region of Connemara. The name Connemara translates to "Inlets of the Sea" and the road along the peninsula shoreline bears this out as they wind around

the coves of this breathtaking stretch of Ireland rugged coast. Our first stop will be at Cong Abbey. The ruins of the former Augustinian abbey mostly date to the 13th century and have been described as featuring some of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Ireland. We will continue on to Kylemore Abbey, one of the most photographed sites in Ireland. The Abbey is famous for its postcard perfect scenery, the iconic image of a baronial castle reflected in a Connemara Lake. As we continue our journey through Connemara, we will view the Inagh Valley. Get your camera out as you are about to embark on one of the most scenic drives in the world! There is a photo opportunity at every turn as the Inagh Valley Road winds its way through the majestic heather covered mountains of the Twelve Bens from the Maamturks which are separated by the valley and its picturesque lakes. Before returning to Galway, we will stop at the Celtic Crystal Factory and Shop. This factory is known for some of Ireland's most beautiful Crystal – including crystal in a variety of colors. We will see some of their award-winning pieces and learn how it is made. This evening we will attend a Medieval Banquet at Dungaire Castle. We will enjoy a four-course medieval meal with Irish song and music during the evening.

**Breakfast & Dinner: MEDIEVAL BANQUET. Overnight at Victoria Hotel, Galway**

**Tuesday July 5 Free day.** Following breakfast, you will have an opportunity to join in a walking tour of Galway City. You will learn about the city's historical past through its buildings and its colorful characters. Visit the Magnificent Galway Cathedral and take a walk down by the Claddagh Village. The shops are plentiful in this town and many other activities are available, such as – golfing, horseback riding, or a trip to the Aran Islands.

**Breakfast is provided. NO DINNER Provided. Overnight at Victoria Hotel, Galway**

**Wednesday July 6** Today we depart Galway and head to our final hotel. Before reaching Dublin, we will stop at Kilbegans Irish Whisky Distillery for a tour and “taste” of some Irish spirits. Continuing onto Dublin we will have a city tour to view the many historical sites throughout Dublin City. We could not be in Dublin without a stop at the famous Guinness Storehouse. Here you see how the famous stout is made, become a certified pourer of the stout, and sample a taste in the famous Rooftop bar overlooking Dublin city.

**Breakfast & Dinner. Overnight at West County Hotel, Dublin**

**Thursday July 7 Departure** Following breakfast, we will depart for Dublin airport for the return journey home. We will allow time for everyone to pick up those last-minute souvenirs at Dublin's Duty Free Shop - known as one of Europe's largest duty free shopping centers.