



Claddagh School of Irish Dance

Tour of Ireland

June 26, 2023- July 4, 2023

Total Price: \$2,910* 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, Dinner and Show at Merry Ploughboy

Visits and Admission Fees to the following:

- **Cahir Castle**
- **Mitchelstown Caves**
- **Blarney Castle**
- **Cliffs of Moher**
- **Kylemore Abbey**
- **Celtic Crystal Factory**
- **Dinner and Show at Merry Ploughboy**
- **Sneem Distillery**
- **Sheepdog Herding Demonstration**
- **Guinness Storehouse**

Deposit: \$500 per person due by December 17, 2022. Final payment due March 1, 2023.
Make checks payable to Mary Quinn.

Optional Trip Protection is strongly suggested. See 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.

Monday June 26 Depart Bradley Airport aboard an Aer Lingus flight in the evening and arrive in Dublin, Ireland on Tuesday morning.

Tuesday June 27 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.**

Wednesday June 28 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 Gougan Barra. At Gougan Barra you are met with the natural beauty of the hills which tower over Gougan 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 Ash Hotel, Tralee**

****Tralee is the Sister City to Springfield**

Thursday June 29 We will be leaving Tralee this morning and continue our journey around County Kerry. This world-famous drive will amaze and inspire you as we wind our 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. Sleat 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. We will see some of the hardest working dogs in Ireland as they show us how they herd the sheep in the rugged mountain terrains. We will stop along the way at the Sneem Distillery to "sample" a taste of some fine Irish whiskey.

Breakfast & Dinner is provided. Overnight at Ash Hotel, Tralee

Friday June 30 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 Western Hotel, Galway

Saturday July 1 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’s 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.

Breakfast & Dinner: Overnight at Western Hotel, Galway

Sunday July 2 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 Western Hotel, Galway

Monday July 3 Today we depart Galway and head to our final hotel. We will be driving cross country and make our way back to the Capital City of Ireland – Dublin. 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. This evening we will enjoy a night of Irish music and dance at the Merry Ploughboy. This venue is the only pub in Ireland owned by traditional musicians who perform at every show!

Breakfast & Dinner. Overnight at West County Hotel, Dublin

Tuesday July 4 Departure Following breakfast, we will depart for Dublin airport at 9am 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.