

# Itinerary

## Cairde Léann na hÉireann – The Friends of Irish Studies

Join the Friends of Irish Studies, Idaho, on a nine-day tour of Ireland this coming summer. This is a journey home, to the place where it all began for many of you. You will see the sites, meet and talk with the people, and immerse yourself in the culture. This tour is about reconnecting with the past and with the soul of a people whose descendants live all over the world. The tour runs from June 02 - June 10, is led by Dr. Traolach Ó Ríordáin, Professor of Irish language and Literature at the University of Montana, and is limited to 20 people.

**MUST BE AT THE SHANNON AIRPORT IN SHANNON (SNN) IRELAND @ 1100AM (GMT) JUNE 2, 2020**

IRELAND JUNE 02-10, 2020

\$1999 per person sharing

\$299 Single Traveler Supplement

Reservations require a \$300 non-refundable deposit by Friday, April 03, 2020, trip balance needs to be paid by May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



### **June 01: Ag Tabhairt fé Éirinn/Heading to Ireland**

Today we leave the United States and head across the broad Atlantic to Ireland. So say good-bye to Uncle Sam and hello to Mother Ireland. **MUST BE AT SHANNON AIRPORT @ 1100AM (GMT) JUNE 2, 2020.**

### **June 02: Fáilte Romhat go hÉirinn/Welcome to Ireland**

Arrive at Shannon Airport (SNN) Shannon, County Clare on the beautiful west coast of Ireland no later than 11:00am (GMT). Pick up your bags, proceed through passport control and meet your genial host in the arrivals area where you'll receive a nice warm cup of Irish tea and a heavily buttered scone! We'll board the coach and then off to Galway - the "City of the Tribes" and gateway to the west - via the Burren. The Burren [from the Irish word "Boireann" meaning rocky place], is an unpolluted and unspoiled expanse of limestone rock that covers over 100 square miles. The barren appearance belies the richness of life here. The Burren is home to a diverse ecosystem of Arctic,

Mediterranean and Alpine plants that extends into the Atlantic to form the Aran Islands. Our first stop will be at the Cliffs of Moher to take in the majestic beauty of the cliffs and look out upon the Aran Islands. We will have lunch (on your own) here before heading north to see Poul nabrone Dolmen, one of the most iconic and frequently photographed sites in Ireland. Meandering along we will eventually

arrive in Loughrea, a historic and rural town, known for its hospitality and love of hurling! It's here where we will spend the first night and experience the hospitality of the people.

Included:

Dinner & Overnight: *Loughrea*

### **June 03: An Turas go Conamara/The Trip to Connemara**

Today we make our way north and west into the rugged and majestic beauty of Connemara. Our first stop will be in Gaeltacht village of An Cheathrú Rua where we pick up our guides, Breandán and Máire, two locals who have forgotten more about the history and culture of the area than most people will ever know! From here we head through the heartland of Connemara to the village of Cong, over the border from Galway, in co. Mayo. This was the location of the famous John Ford film *The Quiet Man*; it is also the site of the ruins of a 13<sup>th</sup> century Augustine abbey where the last High-King of Ireland, Rory O'Connor spent his last days. Nearby is Ashford Castle, a five-star luxury hotel originally built as a fortress for the Burke family. From here we head west to Leenane where the movie *The Field* was filmed, and Kylemore Abbey one of Ireland's most iconic buildings. We stop for lunch (on your own) and to stretch our legs in the beautiful village of Clifden. Our journey back takes along the south shore of Galway and through the most scenic landscape of Ireland. We will spend a few hours in the evening in Galway city.

Included:

Overnight: *Loughrea*

### **June 04: Cuairt ar Chluain Mhic Nóis/Visit to Clonmacnoise**

A fine hearty Irish breakfast will serve your constitution well for the next stage of our adventure. Today we travel north east to monastery of Clonmacnoise. Established by St. Ciarán in the 6<sup>th</sup> century it quickly grew because of its location to become a major centre of religious and intellectual life renowned throughout Europe. Its importance declined from the 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards as Ireland moved from a monastic to a diocesan church. It is still the most well-known of Ireland's ancient monasteries. Leaving Clonmacnoise we head to Aghrim, the scene of the bloodiest battle every fought in Ireland when the forces of James II and William of Orange met on July 12, 1690. This was the battle that ended the reign of the Stuart monarchs and established the House of Orange on the throne of England. Lunch on your own.

Our afternoon itinerary takes us to a peat bog where we learn about harvesting and using peat, Ireland traditional source of fuel. We leave the bog and go to a dairy farm, watch the cows being milked, and feed the calves. Once we are done, we spend the evening with an Irish family, eating and drinking while sharing our stories.

Included:

Dinner & Overnight: *Loughrea*

### **June 05: Cuairt ar Charraig Phádraig/Visit to the Rock of Cashel**

A fine hearty Irish breakfast will serve your constitution well for the next stage of our adventure. It is southwards and east into Co. Tipperary, the home of hurling. Our first stop will be at Portumna Castle and Demesne, a period house that was originally built by the Burkes, the Earls of Clanrickard. The architecture of the main dwelling embodies the transition from Tower House to Manor house and is one of the finest examples of its kind in Ireland. From here we head to Holy Cross Abbey, a 12<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian Abbey that continues to function as a parish church. Holy Cross is also home to two relics of the True Cross of Christ. This is a very historic and spiritual place, relaxing to the body and pleasing to the soul. We then travel 9 miles to the Rock of Cashel, traditional seat of the Kings of Munster, where St. Patrick began the conversion of Munster. It is on this rock that Irish church architecture reached its highest achievement with the completion of King Cormac's Chapel and the Cathedral. This is probably the most impressive medieval site in the south of Ireland and we plan to spend as much time as possible here. In keeping with our medieval theme, we will head to the old walled town of Kilmallock where we will have dinner and spend the night.

Included:

Dinner & Overnight: *Kilmallock, Co. Limerick*

### **June 06: Cill Chais agus Cluain Meala /Kilcash and Clonmel**

Our first visit today will be to the ancient castle and monastery of Kilcash, long associated with the Butlers, the Earls of Ormond, and the inspiration for one of the best-known songs in the Irish language. It was near here that the grandfather of Thomas Francis Meagher was born and raised. We leave Kilcash and head to Clonmel where Thomas Francis Meagher and the leaders of the 1848 Rebellion were tried and sentenced to death. We plan to visit the actual courtroom where the trial took place! We will have lunch (on your own) in Clonmel and take a more extended tour of the town with our guide.

Included:

Overnight: *Kilmallock, Co. Limerick*

### **June 07: An Daingean/Dingle**

Our itinerary now swings southwest to Kerry. Our first stop will be in Killarney at Ross Castle, the beautifully restored stronghold of the O'Donoghues, for a guided tour of this most picturesque building. We will travel to Killarney for lunch (on your own) and will spend a few hours touring the town before making our way to Dingle. There will be a few stops along the way to take in the panoramic beauty of this part of Ireland.

Included:

Dinner & Overnight: *Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry*

### **June 08: Leithinis Chorca Dhuibhne/The Dingle Peninsula**

Today will be spent savoring the delights of the Dingle Peninsula, a place celebrated in story, song and poetry for centuries. Our morning will begin with a trip to Sleat Head and its panoramic views of Dingle Bay, South Kerry, the Skellig Rocks, and the Blasket Islands. Our first main stop will be the Blasket Heritage Centre in Dunquin, followed by a visit to the museum in Ballyferriter. It is here that we will

have lunch (on your own) before stopping at Gallarus and the ancient monastic site of Kilmalkedar. We return early to Dingle, leaving time to walk the town, visit the shops, restaurants and bars of this popular destination. Dinner tonight is on your own, but fish is highly recommended. The best 'chipper' in town is the Reel Inn, run by a pair of characters who would give you the shirts off their backs.

Included:

Overnight: *Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry*

### **June 09: Ag Filleadh ar an gClár/Going back to County Clare**

This morning we begin our journey back to Shannon. We stop in Adare along the way to have lunch (on your own) and to savor our last full day in Ireland. From here we make our way to Bunratty in county Clare. We will visit the folk museum and have night of Irish music, dance and song.

Included:

Dinner & Overnight: *Bunratty*

### **June 10: Slán Abhaile/Safe Home**

Make sure you have all your belongings, your bags, gifts and passports because today you leave for home. The bus will take you to the airport two hours before your flight and bid you a tearful farewell. We know that you will return again to the "Land of Hundred Thousands Welcomes" and the home of your ancestors in the not-too-distant future. You are responsible for all your meals.

## **TRIP INCLUDES:**

### **Accommodations Confirmed: 8 Hotel Nights**

June 02, 03, and 04: Loughrea – Dinner included June 02 and June 04

June 05 & 06: Kilmallock – Dinner included June 05

June 07 & 08 – Dingle - Dinner included June 07

June 09: Bunratty – Dinner at Bunratty Folk Park included

### **Meals:**

Full Irish breakfast daily

5 Dinners included

Lunch on your own all days

### **Sightseeing:**

**Clare:** The Burren; The Cliffs of Moher; Poul nabrone; and Bunratty

**Galway:** Loughrea; Connemara; Kylemore Abbey; Clifden; Rosmuc; Galway City; Aghrim; Portumna

**Mayo:** Cong; Leenane; Killary Harbor

**Offaly:** Clonmacnoise

**Tipperary:** Cashel; Cahir; Clonmel; Kilcash

**Limerick:** Kilmallock; Adare

**Kerry:** Lakes of Killarney; Ross Castle; Dingle; Gallarus; Kilmalkedar; Dunquin;

### **Transportation and Other:**

Luxury air-conditioned Coach throughout

Professional Irish Driver Guide throughout

All Hotel Taxes and service charges

Hotel Porterage for 1 bag per person