



Cairde Léann na hÉireann – The Friends of Irish Studies

Join the Friends of Irish Studies 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 18 to June 27, is led by Dr. Traolach Ó Ríordáin, Professor of Irish language and Literature at the University of Montana, and is limited to 20 people.



IRELAND JUNE 18 - 27, 2020

\$1999 per person sharing

[\$1899 for members of the Friends of Irish Studies]

\$299 Single Traveler Supplement

Itinerary



June 18: 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.

June 19: Fáilte Romhat go hÉirinn/Welcome to Ireland

This morning we arrive in Shannon, County Clare on the beautiful west

coast of Ireland. 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 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.

Dinner and Overnight: *Loughrea*

June 20: An Turas go Conamara/The Trip to Connemara

Today we make our way into the rugged and majestic beauty of Connemara. Our first stop will be in Ceathrú Rua, a little Irish-speaking village on the western Atlantic. Here we pick up our friends, Breandán and Máire, who have forgotten more about this area than most will ever know! We go west to Ros Muc, and the little cottage by the sea where a revolution began. This was the home of Pádraig Pearse, Irish language revivalists and leader of the Easter Rising. From here we continue west, learning about the topography and history of the area. We stop in Cliftden to enjoy lunch and to stretch our legs. After lunch we visit Kylemore Abbey, one of Ireland's most iconic and most frequently photographed buildings. A little ways further north is Ireland's only fjord, Killary Harbor, and the village of Leenane where the film, *The Field*, was made. One of the subjects of films, our next stop will be the village of Cong, the location where *The Quiet Man*, that great Irish American movie directed by John Ford and starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, was filmed. It was here also, in the ruins of a 13th century Augustine abbey, that the last High-King of Ireland, Rory O'Connor spent his dying days. Nearby is Ashford Castle, a five-star luxury hotel originally built as a fortress for the Burke family. We will walk the grounds of Ashford Castle before heading to Galway City. We will have an evening in Galway before returning to our accommodations in Loughrea.

Overnight: *Loughrea*



June 21: 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 northeast to the monastery of Clonmacnoise. Established by St. Ciarán in the 6th century this monastery quickly grew to become a major centre of religious and intellectual life renowned throughout Europe. Its importance declined from the 11th 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 Aughrim, the scene of the bloodiest battle

every fought in Ireland when the forces of William of Orange defeated those of James II on July 12, 1690. This battle ended the reign of the Stuart monarchs and established the House of Orange on the throne of England.

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 to watch the cows being milked and to feed the calves. Nothing like country life to sharpen an appetite, so we leave the farm to spend the evening with an Irish family, eating, drinking, and sharing our stories.

Dinner and Overnight: *Loughrea*

June 22: Ó Dheas Don Daingean/Southwards to Dingle

A fine hearty Irish breakfast will serve your constitution well for the next stage of our adventure. It is southwards we go through Galway and west Clare, over the Shannon Estuary, and westwards to the beautiful seaside town of Dingle. Our first stop will be at Coole House and Gardens, home to Lady Gregory and inspiration for the great Irish writers of the Celtic Revival. Yeats, Synge, Shaw and many others visited here consulted the Muse, and carved their initials in the copper beach tree that still stands today. You can photograph this tree, walk the grounds at your ease, and get a sense of what inspired some of Ireland's greatest writers. Leaving Coole, we travel back 14 centuries to the the impressive Kilmacduagh Churches and Round Tower. First built in the 7th century, Kilmacduagh is home to the tallest round tower in Ireland and stands as witness to the golden days of monastic culture in Ireland. Leaving Kilmacduagh, we go south to the beautiful village of Adare where we stop to eat lunch and to relax. Once we have eaten our fill, we head for Dingle and the little Irish-speaking village of Ballyferriter.

Dinner and Overnight: *Ceann Sibéal Hotel - Ballyferriter*



June 23: Corca 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 Sleah 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 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. June 23rd is midsummer's night, *Oíche Shan Sheáin*, and we don't want to miss the evening's festivities. It could be a long night!

Dinner and Overnight: *Ceann Sibéal Hotel - Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry*



June 24: Contae Chorcaí/County Cork

We depart Dingle and travel at a leisurely pace to the town and Lakes of Killarney. We will visit Ross Castle and spend some time walking the grounds of Muckross House. This is where we will have lunch before making our way into Rebel Cork. Our stop will be at an old monastic site, St. Gobnait's Well in Ballyvourney. The church, with its mixture of Christian and pre-Christian icons, testifies to the incorporation of the old into the new and the graveyard surrounding the church holds the bones of some of the greatest singers, storytellers and poets ever recorded. It is at places like St. Gobnait's the one comes into contact with the ancestral spirit and soul of Ireland. We head from here to Béal na Blath where the man who broke the power of the English in Ireland, Michael Collins, died in an ambush on August 22, 1922. Many have claimed the hopes and aspirations of Ireland died with Collins on that day. I leave it to you to make up your own minds on that question. Having said that, there is no denying that Béal na Blath has become a place sacred to Irish nationalists, a spiritual site that draws hundreds every year to commemorate the life and death of Collins. From here we head to Blarney where we spend the next two nights.

Dinner and Overnight: *Blarney Wollen Mills, Cork*

June 25: Oirthear Chorcaí/East Cork

East Cork was possibly the last place in Ireland most emigrants saw before embarking for a new life on foreign shores. It is here that the town of Cobh (formerly known as Queenstown) is located. This was the main port of departure for the United States. It was at Cobh that the ill-fated *Titantic* made its final stop. Cobh is also the resting place of the victims recovered after the sinking of the *Lusitania*. We will visit Cobh Heritage Center and then walk part of this beautiful seaside town, stopping at the *Lusitania* Monument and St. Colman's Cathedral. We will also have lunch here.



Leaving Cobh we head to the Midleton Distillery, where all the spirits come out of a bottle! Here is where such well-known liquors as Jameson, Paddy, Power's, Redbreast and many more are distilled. Everybody who takes the tour leaves feeling much, much better about of life!

Overnight: *Blarney Wollen Mills, Cork*

June 26: Ag Filleadh ar an gClár/Returning to Co. Clare

This morning we begin our day in Blarney, with a visit to the Woolen Mills or the castle. Some of you may want to kiss the stone; others may wish to do some last minute shopping - it will be up to you. The grounds around the castle are beautiful and, weather permitting, make for a great walk.

After this, we head for Bunratty in county Clare where we will tour the folk park and round off the evening with a farewell celebration of Irish music, dance and food.

Overnight and Dinner: *Bunratty Castle Hotel*

June 27: 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.



TRIP INCLUDES:

Accommodations Confirmed: 8 Hotel Nights

June 19, 20 & 21: Loughrea, Co. Galway – Dinner included June 19 and 21

June 22 & 23: Ballyferriter, Dingle – Dinner included June 22

June 24 & 25: Cork – Dinner included June 24

June 26: Bunratty – Dinner at Bunratty Folk Park included

Sightseeing

- ❖ **Clare:** The Burren; The Cliffs of Moher; and Bunratty
- ❖ **Galway:** Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, Clifden, Coole Park, Kilmacduagh
- ❖ **Mayo:** Cong
- ❖ **Kerry:** Lakes of Killarney; Muckross House; Dingle; Gallarus; Kilmalkedar; Dunquin; and Dingle Town
- ❖ **Cork:** Ballyvourney; Béal na Blath; Blarney, Cork City; Cobh and Midleton
- ❖ **Limerick:** Adare; Newcastlewest

Transportation and Other

Luxury air-conditioned Coach throughout

Professional Irish Driver Guide
throughout All Hotel Taxes and service
charges Hotel Porterage for 1 bag.

Reservations require a \$300 non-refundable deposit by **Friday, April 3, 2020**

**[Please go to next page for form to complete and
mail]**

THE FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES IN THE WEST

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Missoula, MT 59806

406-544-0311

friendsofirishstudies@gmail.com

TOUR TO IRELAND REGISTRATION AND RELEASE

To register for the tour, complete and sign this Tour Registration/Release Form and return it with your deposit (\$300.00 per passenger) in the form of a check to The Friends of Irish Studies in the West, Full payment of the tour fee is due by May 31.

Passenger #1:

Name of Passenger #1: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____

Name and date of birth must match passport

Country of Origin: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact/

Relationship: _____

Primary Physician

Name/Tel. _____

Passenger #2:

Name of Passenger #2: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____

Name and date of birth must match passport

Country of Origin: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact/

Relationship: _____ Primary

Physician

Name/Tel. _____

Room:

Type of Room: Twin Provide name of Roomate: _____

Double

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____.

This request for registration is made subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document. Please read this entire document carefully. All registrants must sign this release. Your registration can not be confirmed until your deposit is received and this agreement is signed.

AGREEMENT TO RELEASE AND INDEMNIFY

Each of the Undersigned registrants requests to participate in the FISW Tour to Ireland. Therefore, to the extent permitted by applicable law, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily waives, releases, saves, holds harmless and indemnifies The Friends of Irish Studies in the West ("FISW"), P.O. Box 4693, Missoula, MT 59806, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys and contractors, past, present and future, and its respective heirs, legal and personal representatives, successor and assigns (collectively "Released Parties"), and all of its respective properties, assets and interests ("Released Property") from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, demands, rights, damages, costs losses, liabilities, expenses, compensation, controversies, disputes, obligations, debts, dues and liens whatsoever, on account of, or in any way arising out of, any and all known

and unknown, foreseen or unforeseen loss of life or personal injury, loss or damage to property, and the consequence thereof, directly or indirectly, resulting from, incident to, in connection with, or arising out of that registrant's participation in the tour(s) (collectively, "Claims"). It is my/our intention that this agreement to release and indemnify shall apply to all of the claims without limit and, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, regardless of whether founded, in whole or in part, on any negligent act or omission of any of the released parties. I/we understand and agree that The Friends of Irish Studies in the West LLC has no liability for my personal medical expenses and/or medical care. I/we certify that I/we am in good health and physical condition and do not have any physical disability, medical condition or other limiting factor that would create a hazardous situation for myself/us or other passengers. Further, I/we understand that certain risks are inherent in the activities to be undertaken by me/us, including snorkeling, swimming, hiking, climbing ruins, boat travel, surface transportation, travel to remote locations, contact with wildlife or hazardous plants, and that inclement weather and unavailability of first aid or emergency medical treatment as well as other unknown or unanticipated risks may occur such as war or terrorism, and I/we accept full responsibility for such specified inherent risks and those not specifically identified. I have read, understand, and accept FISW's deposit, cancellation and refund policies and terms and conditions as described in the tour itinerary and accompanying documents. I/we have read and understand this Agreement to Release and Indemnify, which contains the entire and final agreement relating to the subject matter hereof. Its terms shall be binding on me/us and on my/our heirs, legal representatives and assigns. Liability under this Agreement to Release and Indemnify shall be joint and several. If any provision of this Agreement to Release and Indemnify is determined to be void, unenforceable, ineffective or against public policy, that provision shall be disregarded and deemed removed from this Agreement to Release and Indemnify and shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Agreement to Release and Indemnify. I/we understand that tour prices for both land and air can vary due to supplier charges, currency fluctuations, park fees, and other increased costs and that the cost of this tour is subject to change to reflect such variations. I/we have been advised of obtaining insurance coverage for trip cancellation, medical assistance, and baggage loss. I/we understand and accept all terms and conditions and the undersigned=s signature below is evidence of this acknowledgement. The receipt of this signed form and your tour deposit shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. This agreement to release and indemnify shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the state of Montana. Venue for enforcement of this release and indemnity agreement shall be in Missoula County, Montana. This request for registration is made subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document. Please read this entire document carefully. All registrants must sign this release. Registration can not be confirmed until your deposit is received and this agreement is signed. Registration and/or attendance imply agreement with the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document.

I have read, understand, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document:

Passenger #1

_____ Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

Passenger #2

_____ Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

TOUR TO IRELAND REGISTRATION AND RELEASE

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