



Andy Cooney's
Musical Tour of Ireland
October 9th to 19th, 2018



HOTELS

October 10th & 11th
Crover House Hotel
Lough Sheelin
Mount Nugent, Co. Cavan
Tel + 353 49 854 0206
<https://www.croverhousehotel.ie/>

October 12th & 13th
The Europa Hotel
Great Victoria St, Belfast
Tel + 44 28 9027 1066
<https://www.hastingshotels.com/europa-belfast/>

October 14th & 15th
The Mill Park Hotel
Prehen Road, Derry
Tel + 33 74 972 2880
<https://www.millparkhotel.com/>

October 16th
Lough Rynn Castle
Mohill, Co. Leitrim
Tel + 353 71 963 2700
<https://www.loughrynn.ie/>

October 17th & 18th
The Old Ground Hotel
O'Connell St
Ennis, Co. Clare
Tel + 353 65 682 8127
<https://www.oldgroundhotelennis.com/>

ITINERARY

Tuesday, October 9th - UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart JFK on **Aer Lingus flight 108** nonstop to Dublin departing at **8:50pm**. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your vacation. For those of you booked on other airlines we'll meet you upon arrival at Dublin Airport.

Wednesday, October 10th - DUBLIN ARRIVAL & CAVAN

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our drivers/guides will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. We'll drive north to **Taylor's** in Johnstown near Navan to enjoy breakfast. Continue north to Cavan where we'll spend two nights at **Crover House Hotel**. Relax and explore the grounds, play some golf before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: CROVER HOUSE HOTEL (B,D)

Thursday, October 11th - CAVAN COUNTY MUSEUM

After breakfast we meet our driver/guides at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. Today, visit **Cavan County Museum** and is housed in the former Convent of St. Clare in Ballyjamesduff. The Museum was established to collect, conserve and display the material heritage and culture of County Cavan, over its 6000-year history, for the benefit of the people. The former convent building comprises the exhibition spaces and gardens. [The collections range from prehistoric to modern objects, including the Killycluggin Stone, the Lavey Sheela na gig, costumes in the Pighthouse Collection, and GAA paraphernalia. We'll have lunch at **Farnham Arms Hotel** in Cavan Town where the **Percy French Bar** pays tribute to the Irish Songwriter, Entertainer, Poet and Painter, is a favorite among Cavan people whether for an informal meeting, a drink after work.

Return to your hotel and relax before dinner at the hotel restaurant with the group followed by a performance by **Andy Cooney and friends**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: CROVER HOUSE HOTEL (B,D)

Friday, October 12th - TITANIC MUSEUM BELFAST

This morning meet your driver guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. Today, visit **Titanic Museum in Belfast (12:45pm arrival)**. A trip to Belfast would not be complete without a visit to the renown Titanic Belfast Visitor Attraction which uses full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features for us to explore the Titanic story from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. After lunch we'll check into your hotel and spend the balance of the afternoon free to relax or freshen up before dinner at the hotel restaurant with your fellow travelers.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HOTEL EUROPA (B,D)

Saturday, October 13th - GIANTS CAUSEWAY & BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. Today, we depart Belfast for a tour of **Bushmills Distillery (11am, 11:10am, 11:20am & 11:30am)** - founded in 1608 this is the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Here you will see the entire distillation process and also get to sample the product! Continue on to the **Giant's Causeway**, a world heritage site (**2pm visit - bus#1 and 2:30pm bus#2**). Stand on the hills and you'll look down on thousands of basalt columns tumbling down into the Atlantic Ocean. It's an epic sight, with a whopping 40,000 hexagonal-shaped pillars, formed during a volcanic age almost 60 million years ago. Return to your hotel and relax before dinner at the hotel restaurant with the group followed by a performance by **Andy Cooney and friends**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HOTEL EUROPA (B,D)

Sunday, October 14th - ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. Attend **10am Mass at St. Mary's Church in Belfast**. Continue to Omagh to visit the **Ulster American Folk Park (1pm visit)** - Today, we visit the Ulster American Folk Park, which is located on their farm of Thomas Mellon. Visit the cottage home and many other cottages, a school, a church and farms to see the rural way of life for the past centuries. Continue your journey into Donegal, check into your hotel and enjoy some free time to explore the beautiful grounds before dinner at the hotel restaurant.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: MILL PARK HOTEL (B,D)

Monday, October 15th - SLIEVE LEAGUE AND TRIONA DESIGN

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. After breakfast **Bus # 1** departs on to **Killybegs and Teelin** to view Slieve League sea cliffs, (**11am**) where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. The cliffs drop straight down to the wild Atlantic waves below and you will see marvelous vistas. Enjoy tea and homemade scones before driving through the majestic **Glengesh Pass**. Visit **Triona Design** in Adara where the Centre remains the epicentre of Donegal Tweed production to this day and has a proud heritage that is renowned across the world. The Visitors Centre is based in the location where Donegal Tweed was born and within the centre you will see our Master Weavers working on Looms that have been used for centuries, a replica Weavers Cottage and a warm welcome to our Tax Free Shop and have an complimentary Irish Coffee. **Bus # 2** will depart for Adara and **Triona Design** first and visit **Slieve League at 12:30pm**. Tea/coffee and scones will be served upon you arrival for **Bus # 1** and **2**. Return to our hotel and have dinner tonight followed by a performance by **Andy Cooney & friends**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: MILL PARK HOTEL (B,D)

Tuesday, October 16th - DRUMCLIFF & BELLEEK POTTERY

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. After breakfast depart for **Drumcliff** - burial ground of one of Ireland's famous poets - William Butler Yeats. Discover the secrets that have made **Belleek Pottery (10:15am visit)** one of the most enduring success stories of Irish craftsmanship during a tour. You'll go behind the scenes to see how this world-famous fine china is made. We make our way to our 4 Star hotel and one of Ireland's most luxurious castles, **Lough Rynn Castle**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: LOUGH RYNN CASTLE, MOHILL (B,D)

Wednesday, October 17th - KNOCK SHRINE & MEDIEVAL BANQUET

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. The Story of Knock began on the 21st August, 1879 when, at approximately 8 o'clock in the evening, fifteen people from the village of Knock in Co. Mayo, witnessed an Apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, a Lamb and cross on an altar at the gable wall of the Parish Church. The witnesses watched the Apparition in the pouring rain for two hours, reciting the Rosary. Although they themselves were saturated not a single drop of rain fell on the gable or vision. There were fifteen official witnesses to the Apparition, most of whom were from the village of Knock and surrounding areas and ranged in age from just 5 years old to 74 years old. Each of the witnesses gave testimonies to a Commission of Enquiry in October 1879. Time to shop and have lunch before we leave in the afternoon for Ennis. Continue your journey into Co. Clare, check into your hotel and enjoy some free time to freshen up before we attend the medieval banquet at **Knappogue in nearby town of Quin (starts at 6:30pm)**. You will be captivated from the moment you arrive. At Knappogue, the ladies of the castle perform a program of Music Song and Irish Traditional Dance. Sean Lord of Clancullen's reputation for lavish parties and royal entertainment surpassed that of his father, we are delighted to honor the tradition of entertainment and hospitality today at **Knappogue Castle**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HERBERT PARK HOTEL, BALLSBRIDGE (B,D)

Thursday, October 18th - CLIFFS OF MOHER

This morning meet your driver/guide at **9:30am** in the hotel lobby. We drive through the Burren Region, an area of rocky limestone hills where a number of unique flowers thrive to view the **Cliffs of Moher (10:30am visit)** one of the country's most magnificent rock formations. We'll stop in the town of **Lisdoonvarna** where over 60,000 gather every year to have fun, party and find love at the Matchmaking Festival. We'll meet **matchmaker Willie Daly** at the **Matchmaker pub** for lunch (**1pm**) and explore the town before we return to our hotel and relax before dinner at the hotel restaurant with the group followed by a farewell concert by **Andy Cooney and friends**.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HERBERT PARK HOTEL, BALLSBRIDGE (B,D)

Friday, October 19th - RETURN TO THE US

Transfer to Shannon Airport in plenty of time to check in for Aer Lingus **flight 111 departing at 12:45pm for JFK**. The beauty of flying from Shannon Airport is that you will clear customs and immigration there. There is no Duty Free on board the return flight however but there is ample shopping and duty free stores in the airport.

Crover House Hotel & Golf Club is located on the North-East shores of Lough Sheelin Lake between Cavan and Ballyjamesduff. This charming country house is set in beautiful mature gardens with a 9-hole golf course. Each of the rooms at Crover House Hotel & Golf Club has traditional design. There is free WiFi, a flat-screen TV and tea and coffee-making facilities. Most rooms offer lake and garden views.

You can enjoy home-cooked dishes in the restaurant, which also serves a Sunday carvery and features a lakeside terrace. The Sailor's Bar and Lakeside Bar offer a cozy setting for a drink, along with lovely views.

You can go walking, cycling, fishing and horse riding in the surrounding Cavan countryside.

The Europa Hotel is in the heart the center of of Belfast where guests can enjoy luxurious rooms and dining in the contemporary bistro. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in all public areas.

Spacious and elegant, The Europa Hotel's rooms feature modern bathrooms decorated with glass and chrome. Guests can enjoy luxury bedding with designer fabrics from Ralph Lauren, and a flat-screen TV.

The Europa Hotel is on Belfast's Golden Mile, next to the Grand Opera House and facing the famous Crown Bar.

Offering free WiFi, a swimming pool, a restaurant and free parking, Mill Park is located within a 10-minute walk from Donegal Castle and the Old Franciscan Abbey.

The spacious rooms at the **Mill Park Hotel** have flat-screen TVs, telephones and hairdryers. Some rooms have views over the Mill's landscaped gardens.

The Granary Restaurant offers fine cuisine, fish specials and a Sunday carvery. The Café Bar serves stone-baked pizzas, a grill menu and an extensive range of drinks.

With a stunning, secluded setting on the shore of Lough Rynn, surrounded by over 300 acres of breathtaking scenery and ancient forests, this magnificent castle is now an elegant 4-star hotel.

Rich in ancient character and original charm, **Lough Rynn Castle** still retains all of its historic splendor, with antique furnishings, open fires, wood paneling and decorative stone and glasswork. Today, the hotel combines its traditional elegance with modern comforts and facilities.

The castle bedrooms feature air conditioning and broadband internet access, while the estate's former stables and pheasantry have also been converted into luxurious accommodations. All rooms are tastefully decorated with rich, luxurious fabrics and beautifully preserved original features.

The Sandstone Restaurant offers an elegant fine-dining experience and has received an AA Rosette award. The restaurant offers a series of set menus and regular menus, created using the finest, freshest seasonal produce from Leitrim and the surrounding counties.

The Old Ground Hotel was a former manor house dating back to the 18th century, this ivy-clad residence has been totally refurbished to provide the warmth of a country home with the style of a luxury hotel.

Located in the center of the attractive medieval town of Ennis, County Clare, the hotel provides an ideal starting point from which to explore the famous attractions of Ireland's west coast. The Burren, Cliffs of Moher, Ailwee Caves and Bunnatty Folk Park are all within easy reach, while Connemara and the Aran Islands provide spectacular options for day trips.

In the evenings, while admiring the views of the pretty winding streets of Ennis and the rugged beauty of County Clare and the West of Ireland beyond, you can relax by the warmth of the blazing fire inside the Old Ground Hotel.

General Information on Ireland

Ireland also known as Eire or the Emerald Isle is an island on the northwestern edge of Europe and is 300 miles long and 150 miles wide. The principal language is English though Irish or "Gaelic" is experiencing a renaissance and is spoken in pockets of the West and Southwest. Ireland is divided into 4 provinces Ulster, Leinster, Connacht and Munster consisting of a total of 32 counties, 26 of which are in the Republic and 6 in Northern Ireland. The republic of Ireland is a parliamentary democracy and headed by the President of Ireland. Northern Ireland has its own regional government and is also part of the United Kingdom. The population is about 5.7 million and is considered to be one of the youngest populations in Europe with almost half of the inhabitants being under 30 years.

Passport Requirements

A valid passport is required for US Citizens visiting Ireland. Non US citizens should check with the relevant Embassy or consulate. Please ensure you keep your passport with you at all times - do not check it in with your suitcase. We also recommend that you leave a copy of it with a friend here in the US in the unlikely event it is misplaced; this will expedite the renewal process.

Weather

Ireland experiences a mild, temperate climate. Typical summer temperatures can average 60F, spring and fall 50F and winter around 40F. Rain can occur at any time of the day or year, so be prepared! Because of this climate Ireland is known for its lush green landscape. www.weather.ie

Time Zone

Ireland is on GMT and is 5 hours ahead of EST. So, when it is 12 NOON in New York it is 5:00 PM in Ireland.

Electricity

Ireland uses 220 volts and 3 prong square plugs. You will need to bring an adapter for your electrical items. Most hotels will have hairdryers and irons available to you.

Luggage/Packing Information

As you are aware on an escorted motorcoach tour, you are limited to ONE suitcase per person not to exceed 30x20x10 and must not weigh over 44 pounds. You are also allowed one small tote bag for your personal and valuable items. Please be advised that the airlines have implemented fees for bags in excess of weight limits. Please pack light.

Do NOT pack your valuables, passports, tickets, prescription medications or money in your checked luggage. These items should remain with you at all times.

Dress code in Ireland is casual and unless otherwise noted jacket & Tie are not required for our tours. We suggest you pack lightly and in layers this way you can shed items if the day becomes warmer. A windbreaker or light raincoat is highly recommended, as are strong comfortable shoes for visiting outdoor historical sites. A small umbrella is also a good item to bring along.

Before you go don't forget to:

- 1) Give your contact information to family member or friend.
- 2) Ensure you have checked that your passport is valid and that you have airline ticket or E-ticket receipts, travel insurance and a supply of prescription medications.
- 3) Complete your Caddie Tours luggage labels and attach to your suitcase.
- 4) Cancel all deliveries to your home and arrange for a neighbor to keep a watch on your home.
- 5) Unplug electrical appliances and remove all perishable foods.
- 6) Arrange for pets and plants to be taken care of.
- 7) Arrange for transportation to the airport.

Check in at the airport

We suggest a minimum of 2 hours to allow time to comfortably check in and go through security and shop in the duty free. If you are on a connecting flight be sure you ask the agent to check your bags through to Ireland.

Communications

When calling from Ireland to the USA, you need to dial 001 and then the area code and phone number. You may call from your hotel, however surcharges will apply. We suggest you check with your hotel about the per minute cost. Prepaid phone cards are widely available for purchase and can be used from most phones.

Hotels may charge a nominal fee for this. If you wish to use your cell phone, you need to contact your provider.

Internet: Some hotels will have this facility for a nominal charge and Ireland has adequate Internet cafes in major towns where you will be able to log on for a small fee.

Out & About

Pubs in Ireland are usually open from 10:30am to 11:30pm.

In major cities, restaurants will take orders up until 9:30pm with smaller fast food places staying open until around 11pm.

Nightclubs are open until 2am and most have full liquor licenses.

Currency

The republic of Ireland uses the Euro. You may change money before your departure at American Express, Thomas Cook, or your bank can order it for you. If you use an ATM card we suggest you use this in Ireland to take Euros out, as you need them. It is advisable to check with your bank prior to departure, that you can use your ATM card overseas. Department stores etc...will accept major credit cards like Visa, Amex, and Mastercard, however you will need some Euros for day-to-day expenses like lunches. You may also bring USD traveler checks and change them while in Ireland, however you will need to go to a bank in order to do this.

Northern Ireland uses the British Pound however they will exchange either Euros or US dollars for you.

We also recommend you advise your credit card company of your dates of travel.

Shopping

Ireland offers visitors a wide variety of attractive locally produced goods and souvenirs. Woolen goods, tweeds, cashmere, handcrafted items, jewelry, china and crystal are probably the most popular. Major stores can arrange to ship the goods back to the USA for you and advise you on any import duties. Duty Free shops are available at both Shannon and Dublin airports.

Tax free shopping and tax refunds

All goods in Ireland have the tax included in the price. This is referred to as VAT. VAT can be claimed back on many items. Be sure to check with each store as you make your purchases.

Customs & Excise

Here is a general guide of what you are allowed to bring into Ireland:

- 200 cigarettes
- 1 liter of liquor
- 2 liters of wine

Full details can be found on www.revenue.ie

For returning back to the states, please check the following website:

www.customs.ustreas.gov

Arriving in Ireland

On arrival at Shannon or Dublin you will need to pass through immigration and then claim your baggage and meet your driver guide in the Arrivals Hall. He will have a sign, "Caddie Tours".

Hotel Facilities

Most of the hotels on our tours have a small gym or work out area with some having a swimming pool or spa. Please check with us in advance so you can take along your workout clothing or swim wear.

Porterage of luggage

While touring one suitcase will be transferred between the coach and your hotel rooms. You will have to carry your own hand luggage. Carry on luggage and personal items are your responsibility and should be removed from the coach daily.

Dining

Breakfast is included daily while on tour and consists of juice, tea, coffee, cereal (hot & cold), breads, preserves and the typical Irish cooked breakfast of bacon, sausage, egg, tomatoes, black and white pudding and toast. Breakfast is usually served buffet style.

Dinners, where included are usually the table d'hote or fixed menu style with a choice of 3 appetizers, entrees with vegetables, dessert and tea or coffee. Beverages are additional.

Details will be provided on your itinerary.

Meal times are determined by the itinerary and you will be requested to dine at that assigned time with your group.

Lunches are not included but ample stops will be made to avail of them.

Smoking

Ireland became the first country in Europe to ban smoking in all public places including pubs, restaurants, theatres, etc. Some hotels are entirely non-smoking however some of them will allow you to smoke in your bedroom. There is absolutely no smoking while on the motor coach.

Rotation of seats on motor coach

On all tours the seats are rotated at the beginning of each day to allow all participants an opportunity to sit in the front of the coach. We ask that you comply with this request.

Special requests

If you have a special request please ensure that you advise us of this prior to traveling. We will gladly forward your request to the appropriate person.

Gratuities

This is generally included in service and if not, it is at your discretion to tip anywhere from 10-15%.

****** Driver/guide gratuities are not included in your tour price.**

The recommended amount is \$10 Euro per person, per day. This can be given directly to the driver/guide at the end of your trip.****

Today's Topic: Electricity in Ireland

The plugs and sockets are different from the USA. The electrical supply in Ireland is 230V, 50Hz, the same as the United Kingdom. You will need a plug adapter and/or voltage converter for your American devices. Which of these you'll need depends on your device. Some devices support dual voltage and dual frequency; these will only need a plug adapter. Devices that are single-voltage rated will need a voltage converter .

Plug adapter- allows a plug to be plugged into a different type of wall socket and does not change the electricity. This is for a device that supports dual voltage and dual frequency, which will be indicated by a tag or plate on the item stating 120/240v, 50/60Hz. Most laptop computers and battery chargers are dual voltage.

Voltage converter- steps down (converts) the voltage from 240V to 120V, allowing equipment that is not dual voltage to operate at the voltage for which it is designed. A voltage converter also adapts the plug, it just costs a little more than a simple plug adapter. REI gives some detail on reading your device power supply label here:

<http://www.rei.com/learn/expertadvice/world-electricity-guide.html>

Here are a few reminders of simple things to do before you leave:

- (1) Make space on your camera phone and memory cards for the hundreds of picture you'll take.
- (2) Make two copies of your passports & travel itinerary and bring one with you, leave the other with a relative or friend
- (3) Pack warm hats, gloves +/- or scarf.
- (4) Pack for layered clothing, while the sun may shine, it can still seem cold.
- (5) Register your Tax Free Shopping card before you go.
- (6) Contact your bank and credit card company to inform them of your travel dates.

First is a video explaining the process of US Preclearance with USA Customs. It will give you an idea what to expect.

<http://www.dublinairport.com/gns/at-the-airport/US-Preclearance.aspx>

Second link is an article about what not to pack for a trip. Seriously, every time I go home I pack stuff I don't wear!

<http://www.independenttraveler.com/travel-tips/packing-and-accessories/what-not-to-pack>



Custom Vacations to Ireland
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More information on the tour and follow us for updates of the trip:

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