

\$2399 per person sharing land only
\$599 single supplement limit 4 per tour.

ITINERARY

Monday May 18th - GLENDALOUGH & AVOCA

Our host Gerry Timlin will meet the group along with your coach driver **Eamonn Dempsey** at the **Iveagh Garden hotel** 9am and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Our first today will be **Glendalough National Park**, a place of stunning natural beauty and awe-inspiring landscapes. The park contains the ruins of a 1500 year old ancient monastic city founded by **Saint Kevin** in the 6th century, two magnificent lakes surrounded by cliffs and rocks, nearby forests as well as waterfalls which all create a tapestry of unforgettable scenery. For thousands of years, people have been drawn to this valley that was carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age where two lakes were formed when the ice thawed and inspired the name of Glendalough (**Gleann Da Loch - valley of the two lakes**). We will travel to the little village of **Avoca**, home to the famous Avoca Hand weavers built on the banks of the Avoca River from where you'll find a hardworking hand-weaving mill dating back to 1723. We will stop for lunch and also give you a chance to see weavers in action at the loom and an opportunity to do some shopping if you're so inclined. Join your fellow travelers for welcome dinner in your hotel tonight.



DINNER & OVERNIGHT: KILKENNY RIVER COURT HOTEL (BB&D)

Tuesday May 19th - SHENANIGANS WALKING TOUR & KILKENNY CASTLE

After breakfast we will offer a very entertaining walking tour of this gorgeous compact city entitled, "**Shenanigans, The Kilkenny City Walk**". Our hosts for the walking tour, **Nevin Cody and Brendan Byrne**, are magicians, storytellers and very funny men who will weave our way through the city regaling us with unique anecdotes blending comedy, magic, history, whimsical fun, and a good dollop of humor followed by a visit to **Kilkenny Castle**. This evening will attend an evening of dinner and entertainment at **Kytellers Inn** within walking distance of our hotel.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: KILKENNY RIVER COURT HOTEL (BB&D)

Wednesday May 20th - HOLYCROSS ABBEY

After breakfast we head to Tipperary to visit **Holycross Abbey** - Holycross is a very special and sacred place where you can walk in the footsteps of ancient Monks. Experience firsthand, through local guides, the story of Holycross, spanning 10 centuries of a changing social, political and religious landscape, in the very heart of Ireland. Then we continue to **Macroom** in Co. Cork to the luxury boutique **Castle Hotel**, nestled between Blarney & Killarney, where we will lunch in their award winning bar & restaurant. Next stop - **Beal Na Blath** to visit the **Michael Collins** monument, the site of his ambush and assassination. Michael Collins was an Irish revolutionary, soldier and politician who was a leading figure in the early-20th-century Irish struggle for independence.



Afterwards we head to Bantry for our 2 night stay at the stylish **Maritime Hotel** set on Bantry Bay amid the three rugged peninsulas of Mizen Head, Sheep's Head and Beara. Feast on a wonderful dinner in our luxurious hotel which also features a spa and swimming pool.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARITIME HOTEL BANTRY (BB&D)

Thursday May 21st - GARNISH ISLAND & MICHAEL COLLINS CENTRE

After breakfast we drive to **Glengarriff** and board a ferry that takes us to **Garnish Island**. **Garnish Island or Illnacullin** is a small island consisting of 37 acres known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an Island garden of great beauty. Along the ferry ride through the sheltered harbour, we'll observe the local colony of seals and other marine life including ducks, swans, herons, swallows and the occasional dolphin or porpoise. We have lunch across the street at the **Park Bistro** in the **Glengarriff Park** hotel. Continue on to **Clonakilty** where we'll visit the **Michael Collins Centre** and learn about one of Ireland's greatest patriots who was a leading figure gure in the early 20th century Irish struggle for independence and return to our hotel via **Skibbereen**. On your own for dinner



OVERNIGHT: MARITIME HOTEL BANTRY (B&B)

Friday May 22nd - GOUGANE BARRA & KILLARNEY

After breakfast we visit **Gougane Barra Park** enroute to **Killarney**. Never has there been a prettier location for a church (Glendalough included) than **St Finbarr**, patron saint of Cork's Oratory here on the lake. A deep U shaped valley carved out of the mountains of West Cork at the end of the last ice age, **Gougane Barra** is also where the **Lee River** rises. Up until the 1930's this area was covered with smallholdings, with farmers and shepherds following the pilgrim paths for 100s of years, down to the small church on the lake to get mass, do the stations or take a dip in the healing stream.

We will stop in **Killarney** at the **Killarney National Park**. Explore the park in a traditional Irish horse and carriage ("jaunting car"). Learn about **Killarney's** history and culture from your carriage driver. See **Muckross House**, a furnished 19th-century mansion set among mountains and woodland, with shop, cafe and working farms. Head down to **Ross Castle**, the 15th-century tower house and look for native red deer. You'll have free time to shop and have lunch (on your own). Stop at the **South Pole Inn**, home to famous Antarctic explorer **Tom Crean**. The inn is in **Annascaul**, **Kerry** near **Inch Strand** where they made the movie 'Ryan's Daughter' with actor **Robert Mitchum**. Continue on to **Dingle** for our 2 night stay at the **Dingle Benners Hotel** which has old world charm and elegance. Join your fellow travelers for welcome dinner in your hotel tonight.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL (BB&D)



Saturday May 23rd - SLEA HEAD DRIVE & BLASKET ISLANDS CENTRE

After breakfast we take a day tour to explore the **Dingle Peninsula**, **Slea Head drive**, and **Blasket Islands Centre**. With stunning views of the wild Atlantic coast and islands at the halfway point of the **Slea Head Drive**, the **Blasket Centre** is a fascinating heritage and cultural centre/ museum, honoring the unique community who lived on the remote **Blasket Islands** until their evacuation in 1953. Our last stop on the day tour takes us to the **Dingle Distillery** for a tour and taste of **Gin**, **Whiskey** & **Vodka**. **Dingle** is famed for its hospitality and this is seen no better than in the **Dingle Distillery**. On your own for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL (B&B)

Sunday May 24th - FLYING BOAT MUSEUM

After breakfast we visit **Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum** and discover the maritime history of the majestic **Shannon River**. Travel back to the 1930s and '40s, when **Foynes** played a pivotal role in establishing commercial transatlantic passenger flights. Discover the story behind the **Irish Coffee** and sample this authentic drink. We'll have lunch at **Ryan's** next door before we cross the **Shannon Estuary** by ferry and on to **Lahinch Coast Hotel** for 2 nights where the **Irish Open** was played in July, 2019. The hotel enjoys a prominent location in the famous coastal town on the West coast of **Clare**. Our **Clare Hotel** is a stone's throw away from **Lahinch's** famous **Blue Flag** beach and a short walk from the renowned championship links at **Lahinch Golf Club**. On your own for dinner.



OVERNIGHT: LAHINCH COAST HOTEL (B)

Monday May 25th - CLIFFS OF MOHER

After breakfast we'll visit **Lisssdonvarna** - home of the Matchmaking Festival that takes place each September with music and dancing all day! You might want to schedule an appointment to meet **Willy Daly, Ireland's only traditional matchmaker** where legend has it if you touch his lucky book with both hands, you'll be married in six months! You just never know, you might come back from Ireland with more than just beautiful memories!!! If it's scenery you are after, look no further than 10 miles away to check out the amazing sea views and vistas along the **Wild Atlantic Way** by visiting one of Ireland most celebrated sites, the mighty **Cliffs of Moher**. The bus will travel through the Burren National Park consisting of 3700 acres of awesome sights of Limestone rock and flora unique to the area. Return to our hotel where we'll have a farewell dinner followed by music and entertainment.



DINNER & OVERNIGHT: LAHINCH COAST HOTEL (BB&D)

Tuesday May 26th - SAFE TRAVELS HOME

Sadly our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go!! Our coach driver will get you to **Shannon Airport** in plenty of time for you to check in for your flight and clear customs and emigration avoiding the long lines that you can meet you in America. There is ample duty free shopping available at the airport for any last minute gifts or mementos. Thank you for trusting us with you vacation and we certainly hope you had a great time!

