



**Tom Comerford**  
presents  
**Ireland South/Southwest Tour**



**November 7<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**\$1950 per person sharing land only**  
**\$2270 per single room limited to 5 per tour**

\*Caddie Tours will be happy to organize flights from any US city to Ireland

## ITINERARY

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> - SHANNON ARRIVAL & DINGLE

After landing at Shannon Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Your Caddie Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Next, stop for breakfast at the **Inn at Dromoland** with the group. Our first stop will be **Castleisland**, with its big, straight, unusually wide main street where we will meet Tom's aunt, who runs a beautiful "Mom 'n' Pop" gift-store right in the town center. Onwards then, to **Dingle**, our resting place for the next three nights. The little town of Dingle is straight out of a story book. The fishing boats in the harbor and tiny brightly painted pubs portray a time that has continued to stand still. The population of 1500 people and only 52 pubs are ready to welcome you this afternoon. Worth the wait is the native seafood chowder served up at lunch time with freshly baked brown bread. Check-in to our hotel, the **Dingle Skellig Hotel**, so you can join your fellow travelers for welcome dinner in the **Coastguard restaurant**.

#### DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B&D)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> – SLEAD HEAD DRIVE

After breakfast we take a day tour to explore the **Dingle Peninsula**. Along the way, we will see bee hive style huts, originally inhabited by 12th century monks, which overlook the rugged Blasket Islands, beaches, cliffs, wild Atlantic Ocean views and famine cottages. The awe inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments as found on the Dingle Peninsula. On our way back, we're going to stop at **Paidi O'Se's pub**, which is truly an institution amongst local and international visitors alike. It's situated in the heart of the Gaeltacht, where the locals speak gaelic as their first language. We plan on having an afternoon music session so let's have a refreshment or two, perhaps maybe even an adult beverage, sing some songs, and soak up the ambience. Explore one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and lively music session.



#### OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B)

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> - INCH STRAND/TRALEE/KERRY MUSEUM

Today will be a free day to explore the town of **Dingle**, or the hotel facilities and spa, or you may wish to join us as we explore Inch Strand & Tralee. When we get to the beach, which is only a short ride from the hotel, maybe you might fancy a windswept walk, before heading onto Tralee, which is widely known for The Rose of Tralee International Festival. A glass wall in Tralee Town Park bears the names of all the previous contestants in that festival's beauty pageant. Tom personally knows one of the ladies who is honored there, so ask him to show-and-tell. **The Kerry County Museum** has galleries on local history and a re-creation of medieval Tralee. Although it's the county town, **Tralee** is down-to-earth and more engaged with the business of everyday life than the tourist trade, but a great museum and a wetlands centre make it well worth a stop. Founded by the Normans in 1216, Tralee has a long history of rebellion. In the 16th century the last ruling earl of the Desmonds was captured and executed here. His head was sent to Elizabeth I, who spiked it on London Bridge. The Desmond Castle once stood at the junction of Denny Street and the Mall, but any trace of medieval Tralee that survived the Desmond Wars was razed during the Cromwellian period. Elegant Denny Street and Day Place are the oldest parts of town, with 18th century Georgian buildings, while the Square, just south of the Mall, is a contemporary open space. If time permits we may stop at the South Pole Inn, home to famous Antarctic explorer Tom Crean for an Irish coffee and learn more about the famous explorer. The inn is in Annascaul, Kerry, near Inch Strand where they made the movie 'Ryan's Daughter' with actor Robert Mitchum. Join your fellow travelers for dinner in the **Coastguard restaurant** tonight.

#### DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B&D)

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> – GOUGANE BARRA & CLONAKILTY

After breakfast we visit **Gougane Barra Park** via **Killarney** with some free time to explore this bustling town. The town of **Killarney** hardly needs an introduction. Nationally and internationally renowned as the undisputed centre of tourism in the South West of Ireland, Killarney has it all. While its wild beauty and glorious scenery have, for centuries, established it firmly in the affections of all who have visited, Killarney is also a thriving commercial town offering an abundance of attractions and entertainment. The popularity of the town is not a modern day phenomenon though. It has welcomed visitors for over 200 years. Famously, one particular lake view was dedicated to the Ladies in Waiting of Queen Victoria, who visited the area in 1861. Their visit has been commemorated by the naming of 'Ladies' View', reminding present day pilgrims of the longevity of Killarney's popularity. The tourists of yesteryear also consisted of poets, artists, writers and composers who surprisingly found much to absorb them here. 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 small holdings, 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. After our lunch stop we will complete today's journey by continuing south to our hotel for the next three nights, **The Clonakilty Park Hotel**. The town of Clonakilty itself, is everything you would expect from a rural gem. Cozy pubs, narrow streets, and family owned businesses. Join your



fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the **Conservatory restaurant**.

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE CLONAKILITY PARK HOTEL (B&D)**

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th - BANTRY & GARNISH ISLAND**



After breakfast we travel to the town of **Bantry**, this former fishing port with major connections to Europe, is now a typical sleepy, small-town settlement where contentment can be derived simply from walking around Wolfe Tone Square, or popping in to McCarthy's famous bar for a "quiet one". After lunch we travel to Glengarriff to take the ferry that brings us to **Garnish Island**, or "Illnacullin" as it is referred to by the locals. It's a small uninhabited outcrop consisting of 37 acres, known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as a wild garden of great beauty. Throughout the boat ride along this naturally 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. Upon our return to Clonakilty, you have the option to explore one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and drinks.

### **OVERNIGHT: THE CLONAKILITY PARK HOTEL (B)**

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th – MICHAEL COLLINS CENTER & KINSALE**

After breakfast we depart the hotel where we'll visit **The Michael Collins Center** and learn about one of Ireland's greatest patriots, who was a leading figure in the early 20th century Irish struggle for independence. Owned and operated by a cousin of General Collins, within the confines of their own farmyard, this lovingly maintained exhibition contains many of Collins' personal belongings. But more importantly, the family connection means that the stories we hear, are personal, salient, and imparted with utter pride. Upon leaving here we take the road less traveled in the direction of Kinsale, enjoying the coastal views along the way. We'll have free time in Kinsale...one of the most beautiful, scenic, lauded, "foodie" towns in Ireland. We will gather for a Kodak-moment at Charles Fort later, overlooking Kinsale Harbor before we head back to our hotel. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the **Conservatory restaurant**.

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE CLONAKILITY PARK HOTEL (B&D)**

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th – SPIKE ISLAND & TITANIC WALKING TRAIL**

The waterfront town of **Cobh** (pronounced as COVE) in County Cork, has a long and fascinating maritime history, with Spike Island located just off the coast, encompassing over 1300 years of Irish history inside its walls. You will experience an island monastery and fortress, the world's largest prison in the 1850's, and centuries of island homes. Your journey starts with a ferry ride at **11am**, before local storytellers take you on a guided tour, where you can explore the cells, fortifications, and beautiful island walks. Note-worthy here, are the 1850's punishment block with its dark interior, the 1980's prison cells and riot exhibition, Ireland's largest artillery gun park, and several penal, military and social history museums. Back on the mainland after lunch, we will meet Dr. Michael Martin (renowned local historian) from the Titanic Trail, who will illuminate just how important this port was - the very fact that it was once known as "Queenstown" - speaks volumes. Enjoy this walking tour, as you observe the key maritime sights around town, learn about Cobh's connections to the Titanic and Lusitania, and about the many millions of Irish emigrants who departed on ships from its port. We then make our way to the village of Enfield in County Meath to The Johnstown Estate and Spa, where we will stay for the next two nights. Enjoy and relax at the spa, or take a nap before we meet for dinner in the **Fire & Salt restaurant**.



### **DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN HOUSE HOTEL (B, D)**

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th - RELAX, SLEEP LATE, OR ENJOY THE CHOCOLATE GARDEN OF IRELAND**

After breakfast you can simply relax, sleep late and enjoy the amenities at the hotel from the refurbished spa, the hair salon, pool, the coach bar or the 120 acres of parkland. We will also offer an optional tour for those wishing to visit The Chocolate Garden of Ireland. Owned and operated by the Healy Family, this artisan confectionery tour will give you an even deeper affection and appreciation for the humble cocoa product that we all take for granted. Return to our hotel and join your fellow travelers for the farewell dinner in **Fire & Salt restaurant**.

### **DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN HOUSE HOTEL (B, D)**

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th - SAFE TRAVELS HOME**

Sadly, our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go!! We will get you to Dublin Airport in plenty of time for check-in, and completion of customs and immigration formalities, thus avoiding the long lines that can sometimes be experienced when landing in American airports.

