



# Gerry Finlay Musical Tour to Ireland

May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

\$3499 per person sharing w/airfare

\$799 single supplement - limit 4 per tour



## ITINERARY

### SUNDAY, May 14<sup>th</sup> - JFK TO DUBLIN, IRELAND

Depart JFK on **Aer Lingus flight 106** to Dublin at 9.05pm. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service on your overnight flight.

### MONDAY, May 15<sup>th</sup> - TRANSFER TO MONAGHAN

Upon arrival at Dublin Airport, we will be greeted by our driver/guide and board our private coach bus as we head north. On the way to our hotel, we will stop at the family owned **Casey Farm** in County Meath for some traditional Irish refreshments of tea and homemade scones. Watch a demonstration of brown bread making and listen to some Irish tunes. Continue on up to **Slane Castle** where U2 and The Rolling Stones have performed. We will head into the **distillery**, housed within the 250-year-old stables of the iconic estate. There we explore where three different types of Irish whiskey are made: Malt, Grain and Pot Still, and of course finish with a whiskey tasting. Onwards to our hotel set amongst private grounds on the outskirts of Monaghan town, our award-winning hotel is just over an hour's drive from Dublin, less from Belfast and a mere 5-minutes walk from the beautiful town centre. Featuring 87 stunning bedrooms, a leisure club with a 20-metre heated swimming pool, a rejuvenating spa, whatever you're here for, we're here for you. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at Vettriano Restaurant in the hotel.

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HILLGROVE HOTEL MONAGHAN (B,D)

### TUESDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup> - TITANIC BELFAST & BALLYBAY

After breakfast we travel to Belfast to visit **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. During the Titanic Experience, you will uncover the sights, sounds, smells, and stories of the ship, as well as the people and the city that made her. We will travel to the depths of the ocean and uncover the true legend of the Titanic in the city where it all began. Return to Monaghan where we'll enjoy an early dinner at the hotel followed music by Gerry Finlay at the local Ballybay GAA football club - Gerry's home town.



### DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HILLGROVE HOTEL MONAGHAN (B,D)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 17<sup>th</sup> - GIANTS CAUSEWAY & DUNLUCE CASTLE

After breakfast we travel to visit the **Giant's Causeway** and Museum. Marvel at the volcanic columns formed over 60 million years ago and hear the ancient fables of the Causeway - N. Ireland's premier tourist attraction. Geologists explain that these hexagonal columns were formed 60 million years ago when lava solidified but Irish mythology claims that Finn McCool was paving his way across to Scotland. The iconic ruin of **Dunluce Castle** bears witness to a long and tumultuous history. First built on the dramatic coastal cliffs of north County Antrim by the MacQuillan family around 1500, the earliest written record of the castle was in 1513. Continue on to Derry for our two-night stay at the **City Hotel** - Derry is the only remaining, completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples in all of Europe. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at **The Walled City Brewery**. The Walled City Brewery is a multi-award winning restaurant and brewhouse based in Ebrington Square, Derry. By having a fully operating brewery and accompanying restaurant in the same building,



It is the first of its kind in the country. The ethos behind the business is to provide both locals and tourists with a "Taste of the North West" through crafting local, authentic, premium quality, flavorsome beer and food

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT: CITY HOTEL DERRY (B,D)

### THURSDAY, MAY 18<sup>th</sup> - TOURING THE INISHOWEN PENINSULA

After breakfast we travel to visit the **Inishowen Peninsula** jutting out into the Atlantic ocean at the most northerly point of Ireland. A scenic route called the Inishowen 100 (km) runs around the perimeter boasting more views per square mile than most of Ireland and that's saying something! In fact, you can see the sea from just about everywhere on Inishowen. At the very top of Inishowen is **Malin**

**Head**, a birders paradise and the latest location for Star Wars (is anywhere safe) with its famous weather station next door to Farren's Pub. The most northerly in Ireland which makes a change from oldest, highest, you name them, I've surely seen them all! Following the road back towards Carndonagh you will pass the Five Fingers Strand and the highest (we are into superlatives again ) sand dunes in Ireland. Malin village itself is beautifully kept and has won numerous Tidy Town awards. Cross over the pretty stone bridge with its ten stone arches and head on into Carndonagh where you can take the road back to Derry via Quigley's Point or take a right for Ballyliffen, the Isle of Doagh and the Famine Village. This is an excellent local initiative which tells it like it was (and is) according to "the older people" from the actual cottages that were occupied by the same family that runs this site, right up until the 1980s. Along the way visit the prehistoric fort Grianan of Aileach. Built in 1700. B.C. On a hill overlooking the whole of Inishowen. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at Thompson's Restaurant in the hotel.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: CITY HOTEL DERRY (B,D)**

#### **FRIDAY, MAY 19<sup>th</sup> - WALKING TOUR OF DERRY & ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK**

After breakfast we depart for the **Bogside History Tour**. Beginning at the Guildhall in Derry's city center, we will gain insight into the Civil Rights era, learn about the lasting political and social implications of Bloody Sunday, and other local incidents of the Troubles. The tour passes the world-famous Bogside Murals, offering in-depth histories of each and stops by the iconic Free Derry Corner. Continue our journey south now to Omagh and the **Ulster American Folk Park**. This open air museum takes you from the thatched cottages of Ulster to the log cabins of the American frontier. You'll immerse yourself in three centuries of Irish emigration, walking in the footsteps of the bold migrants who set sail for the New World in the 18th and 19th centuries. Meet costumed characters with traditional crafts to show, tales to tell, and food to share as you wander the well-trodden pathways of rural Ulster. Continue the migration experience as you board the Brig Union ship and emerge in the New World! Discover historic buildings, including the famous Mellon Homestead, as well as buildings from America, which have been relocated to the museum. Continue to the Mill Park Hotel for our 2 night stay. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the hotel

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE MILL PARK HOTEL, DONEGAL TOWN (B,D)**



#### **SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup> - SLIEVE LEAGUE AND TRIONA DESIGN**

After breakfast we drive through the fishing village of Killybegs and Teelin and travel to **Slieve League Sea Cliffs**, one of Ireland's best-kept secrets and a signature point of interest along the Wild Atlantic Way. Take in the astounding panoramic views of Slieve League swooping down from the mountain with a staggering 2000 feet drop into the swirling Atlantic Ocean below with amazing vistas. This stunning sight is three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher! We'll travel through gorgeous Glencolmcille onto the town of Ardara for lunch and a visit to the **Triona Design Donegal Tweed Center** where we'll watch the fine art of hand weaving tweed at the loom woven with the same traditional skills that have been used for centuries. We then cross the Glengesh Pass stopping in Donegal Town for a stroll through the town before dinner where Gerry Finlay will entertain you in the bar after dinner! Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the hotel.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE MILL PARK HOTEL, DONEGAL TOWN (B,D)**

#### **Sunday, 21 May - DRUMCLIFF AND SHED DISTILLERY**

After breakfast we will stop at Drumcliff - burial ground of one of Ireland's famous poets – **William Butler Yeats**. We will continue to on Shannon, stopping at the **Glencar Waterfall**, famous for inspiring Ireland's greatest poet William Butler Yeats, Glencar features in his poem 'The Stolen Child'. A short, picturesque wooded walk brings us to the viewing platforms to enjoy the waterfall. The waterfall reaches 50ft high, creating a truly magical, romantic atmosphere. Travel through the unspoilt lakelands of Co Leitrim. Here in the heart of rural Ireland, in the beautiful village of Drumshanbo, on the shores of Lough Allen enjoy a fully guided tour of the first distillery in Connacht in 101 years: **The Shed Distillery of PJ Rigney**. The tour includes two expert tastings - A special whiskey tasting in the Whiskey Maturation Hall and a gin tasting in the Honey Badger Bar. Check into the **Landmark Hotel** for a 2 night stay. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the Boardwalk restaurant.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE LANDMARK HOTEL, CARRICK ON SHANNON (B,D)**

#### **Monday, 22 May - ATHLONE & DUBLIN**

After breakfast we drive south to Athlone Castle. The group will receive a guided tour of Athlone Castle Visitor Centre including the castle keep and castle grounds, tour of the exhibitions and artefacts on display. Our guides will encourage your group to engage with the spaces, dress up and ensure they experience all the exhibitions while providing stories about the history of the town, castle and people of Athlone. We will visit one of the oldest pubs in Ireland – **Sean's Bar** situated across the street from the Castle. Sean's Bar plays host to visitors from all around the world. Whether absorbing the history, listening to music, visiting with friends and family or simply enjoying the perfect pint, the appeal is equally strong for everyone. Listed by Lonely Planet in both "25 of the Most Incredible Bars in the World" and "50 Bars to Blow Your Mind". We will check into our hotel giving some free time before we depart at **6pm for Taylor's Three Rock** - an evening of traditional Irish song and dance accompanied by a delightful dinner.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE GREEN HOTEL, DUBLIN (B,D)**

## Tuesday, 23 May

After breakfast , we visit **Trinity College** Library which houses 200,000 antique texts, marble busts of scholars and the oldest surviving harp in Ireland as well as the **Book of Kells**. This illuminated manuscript of the Gospels was created by Irish monks around the year 800. Trinity College builds on its four-hundred-year-old tradition of scholarship to confirm its position as one of the great universities of the world. It has been the educator of many of Ireland's great writers from Swift to Wilde. Continue to **EPIC**, Dublin's award winning, immersive, interactive and fully digital museum. At EPIC through the story of our emigrants and how they shaped the world you will gain a deeper understanding of Ireland and what it means to be Irish. You'll discover the far reaching influence of Irish history and culture, and the impact the 10 million Irish men and women who left Ireland had on the world. After lunch on your own, we visit the Guinness Storehouse in the afternoon, located in the heart of the St James's Gate Brewery, the **Guinness Storehouse** celebrates the fascinating industrial heritage and rich tradition of the Guinness brand in Dublin. Join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at the hotel.



## **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE GREEN HOTEL, DUBLIN (B,D)**

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 24<sup>th</sup> - SAFE TRAVELS HOME!**

Sadly, our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go! Our coach driver will get you to Dublin Airport in plenty of time for the flight and clear customs and immigration avoiding the long lines that 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!