

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH – SHANNON AIRPORT ~ GALWAY CITY ~ CONNEMARA

Welcome to County Clare! Our group will gather at Shannon Airport at 10AM, where you'll be met by your hosts Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan along with your Coach Driver. Once everyone is onboard, we'll drive north, just over an hour to bustling Galway City & Eyre Square, where we will stop for lunch and have some free time to explore this wonderful city. Our next destination is due west to Connemara. On our drive, enjoy breathtaking views as we travel one of Ireland's most scenic drives through the glaciated Inagh Valley which separates the majestic Twelve Bens from the Maamturk Mountains. After a photo stop at the impressive Kylemore Abbey, we'll continue the short distance to Renvyle House, a four-star historic country house hotel located right on the Atlantic Ocean for our two-night stay. Upon arrival feel free to take a stroll around the 150-acre estate or have a rest before we get together for our welcome dinner followed by fabulous entertainment from Joanie, Mary, and their special guests.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL, LETTERFRACK, CONNEMARA (B, D)



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST-GLEN KEEN FARM ~ KILLARY HARBOR CRUISE

Today, we will literally be going to the dogs as our first destination is Glen Keen Farm, one of Ireland's largest family-owned sheep farms. Following our hearty breakfast, we'll depart the hotel at 10AM and travel an hour through the hauntingly beautiful Dhulough pass and arrive at Glen Keen Farm which is located on 5,500 acres in Louisburgh in County Mayo on the Galway border. Today we'll enjoy an introduction to the friendly border collies and watch the dogs herd the sheep on verbal and whistle instruction. Stepping back in time we'll experience the farm's beautiful landscape and venture onto the peatlands, where the traditional method used for cutting turf (peat), once the main source of heat and cooking will be demonstrated. We will finish our visit with a cup of tea along with some homemade scones and cream. Enroute to our next destination, we'll travel through the picturesque village of Leenane which took center stage in Jim Sheridan's award-winning movie, "The Field" starring John Hurt, Brenda Fricker, Tom Berenger and Oscar nominated Richard Harris, who famously played the driven Bull McCabe. At 2:30, we'll step aboard the Killary Harbour Cruise for a 90-minute trip to enjoy uninterrupted views of the breathtaking scenery on the Killary - Ireland's only fjord. There's a running informative commentary of the area that you can listen to while taking in the amazing panoramic views or grab a seat in the spacious warm lounge and enjoy lunch or an Irish coffee. Back on land, it's about a half hour to our hotel where you can take some time to relax before another night of fabulous food and music featuring Joanie, Mary and incredible guests!!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL LETTERFRACK, CONNEMARA (B, D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND – CONG ~ THE MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE

Following breakfast, we'll depart at 10am traveling on to Cong in County Mayo. This charming little village, built on a narrow spit of land between Lough Corrib and Lough Mask, was made famous as the location where John Ford's 1952 landmark film The Quiet Man (starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara) was filmed. We'll experience The Quiet Man Walking Tour, a guided tour that will bring us to the original notable film locations including Inisfree, Castletown, Pat Cohan's Bar, the Dying Man's House, the Reverend Playfair's House, the fight scenes, the courting scenes and the "no patty fingers in the holy water" scene and more! After our walk, we've arranged for some soup and sandwiches at the Crowe's Nest in town. Our next scheduled stop brings us to Castlebar and the Museum of Country Life. Set on magnificent grounds, the Museum of Country Life is the award-winning Museum that is home to the National Folklife Collection which represents traditional life in Ireland throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with fascinating exhibits and insightful interpretation of rural life, including trade, crafts, home life and more. It's then onto Westport where we'll stay for two nights at the four-star Castlecourt Hotel, located in the heart of town. Relax at the spa or take a stroll before we meet for dinner and more fabulous music from Joanie, Mary and surprise guests!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE CASTLECOURT HOTEL WESTPORT (B, L, D)



SATURDAY, SEPT 23rd-WESTPORT HOUSE ~ CHERISH THE LADIES CONCERT

Following breakfast, we travel a small distance to Westport House and Gardens, situated in a superb parkland setting with magnificent views overlooking Clew Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, Clare Island, and Ireland's Holy Mountain, Croagh Patrick. Known as "Ireland's Most Beautiful Home", Westport House has a story that matches its beauty. Westport House was built by the Browne family whose connections to Mayo date back to the 1500s and even relates them to the trail-blazing pirate queen and chieftain, Grace O'Malley. Hear the tales of pirates and slave emancipators and gain a fascinating insight into the families who made their home there. Take some free time this afternoon to have a ramble around this beautiful market town before we gear up for a fantastic night of music featuring Cherish the Ladies in Concert at the Town Hall Theatre. Tonight, dinner will be served at 6PM, with the concert starting at 8pm. After the show, why not join Joanie, Mary and Cherish the Ladies at Matt Molloy's famous Irish Music Pub to experience a traditional Irish pub and session. You can then make your way own home as our hotel is located just a short, five-minute walk away.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE CASTLECOURT HOTEL WESTPORT (B, D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - FOXFORD WOOLLEN MILLS ~ GLENCAR WATERFALL, COUNTY LEITRIM

After enjoying another bountiful breakfast, we will depart the hotel at 11am and travel north for 35 minutes to visit the Foxford Woollen Mills, one of the last working mills in Ireland. Founded by an Irish Sister of Charity in 1892, they harnessed the power of the River Moy to help drive prosperity to a region that had been hard hit by the great famine. The Mill had to overcome many challenges over the years to survive and today, it is a thriving working mill with master craftspeople creating the world's finest weaves which are considered treasured possessions worldwide. Amble throughout the grounds, explore the jewelery workshops and art galleries and treat yourself to lunch at the Olde Mill Restaurant. After lunch our destination will be decided by the weather - if it is a nice day, we'll travel to County Leitrim and the tranquil Glencar Waterfall - if it's raining, we'll head north to visit the famous Beleek Pottery Visitor Centre which is home to one of the oldest potteries in the world as they have been in existence since 1857. We will then continue to County Donegal and onto Harvey's Point, a 4 star luxury hotel set in the idyllic surroundings of Lough Eske with the Bluestack Mountains in the background.

We will be dining in the main restaurant followed by wonderful music in the Garden Suite.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT (B, D)



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th - SLIEVE LEAGUE CLIFFS - DONEGAL TOWN

After a gorgeous breakfast we drive through the villages of Killybegs and Teelin, enroute to one of Ireland's best kept secrets, the Slieve League Sea Cliffs. A major signature point on the Wild Atlantic Way, the awesome cliffs rise almost 2000 ft from the Atlantic Ocean and are Europe's highest sea cliffs - no doubt one of the most magnificent views in Ireland! Enjoy tea and homemade scones before returning to Donegal Town where we will have some free time to shop and explore the Diamond shopping area. We'll return to Harvey's Point and meet for dinner followed up by more fantastic music from Joanie, Mary and their special guests.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT (B, D)



TUESDAY, SEPT. 26th – ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK, MOURNE MOUNTAINS

This morning we depart for Omagh in County Tyrone and visit 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. We'll stop for lunch and then head southeast driving through the beautiful Mountains of Mourne in County Louth before we arrive at the 4 star Carrickdale House and Gardens Hotel for our final night with a fabulous dining experience followed by our farewell music party.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: CARRICKDALE HOUSE AND SPA (B, D)



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th - 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 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 your vacation, and we certainly hope you had a great time and will think of joining us again on another one of our adventures! We wish you a safe journey home! Slan Abhaile!



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