



# Andy Cooney's Musical Tour of Ireland

October 2nd to October 12th, 2023

\$2899 per person (land only) sharing

\$799 single supplement – limit 4 per tour

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



## ITINERARY

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup> - UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart the US for Dublin. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your vacation.

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> POWERSCOURT HOUSE AND WATERFORD

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our driver/guide **Eamonn Dempsey** will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. We will visit one of the world's greatest Gardens, **Powerscourt**, voted number 3 In the Top 10 gardens of the World by National Geographic. Powerscourt is located just outside of Dublin in the foothills of the Wicklow mountains and the garden was begun by Richard Wingfield in the 1740's and stretches out over 47 acres. It is a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, and ornamental lakes together with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 varieties of trees and shrubs. Continue onto **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. Traveling south to County Waterford and onto the 4 star **Tower Hotel and Leisure Center** located in the heart of Waterford City, Ireland's oldest city founded by the Vikings in 914 AD. Relax in the leisure center before we meet later on for dinner.



**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE TOWER HOTEL WATERFORD (B, D)**

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> - KENNEDY HOMESTEAD AND HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Following breakfast, we travel to New Ross in County Wexford to the **Kennedy Homestead**, birthplace of President John F. Kennedy's great-grandfather Patrick Kennedy which celebrates the story of five generations of the Kennedy dynasty and is still today farmed by his descendants. The curators of the Kennedy Homestead Visitor Centre, using the Kennedy Library archival collection in Boston, have created a state of the art interpretative exhibit which explores the circumstances of Patrick Kennedy's departure from Ireland in 1848 and pieces together the story of the most famous Irish-American family through the 20th century to the present day. We will have lunch at The Rhu Glenn Hotel in Slieverue before we arrive at **Waterford Crystal**. Experience the making of the world renowned Waterford Crystal which comprises of a manufacturing facility, visitor center and retail outlet. Visitors can enjoy all aspects of the manufacturing process through the factory tour and learn about both historical and contemporary production techniques through direct interaction with the craftsmen and audiovisual materials. The manufacturing facility contains a brand-new continuous melt tank furnace that uses leading edge technology to deliver molten crystal, for skilled master blowers to handshape and hand-blow into Waterford Crystal's legendary range of premium products. The retail center represents the largest display of Waterford Crystal in the world. Join your fellow travelers for dinner followed by a performance by Andy Cooney and friends.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE TOWER HOTEL WATERFORD (B, L, D)**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup> – LOCAL TOUR WITH GUIDE OF WATERFORD CITY & JAMESON DISTILLERY

After breakfast we explore The Viking Triangle at 10am. We will avail of walking tour for approx an hour to get a flavor of everything, including the Viking Boat replica, the Viking Sword and Regional Towers and be done by 11am before we continue on Midleton Co. Cork and **The Jameson Distillery**. The Jameson Experience Tour is a fully guided tour around the original Midleton Distillery which brings the stories of Jameson's rich heritage to life. You'll learn about the hard working people and field-to-glass processes responsible for the whiskey that bears John Jameson's name. On this tour, one of our friendly Jameson Ambassadors will guide you around some of our key buildings, including the warehouses and the Microdistillery. The tour finishes with your chance to do a guided comparative tasting of three famous whiskeys, one being Jameson. It is just a short ride over to the **Imperial 4-star Hotel** where we will call home for two nights. Join your fellow travelers for dinner in the Thyme restaurant.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: IMPERIAL HOTEL CORK CITY (B, D)**



## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> – FREE DAY TO EXPLORE CORK CITY**

The Rebel City has a strong independence and Corkonians are proud of their stomping ground. Experience a warm welcome as you walk through the busy Cork City centre streets. Stop by Cork City Gaol and get to know the city's past and enjoy the incredible grounds. Refuel at an artisan coffee shop and discover the city's food market. Visit a flea market in the Victorian Quarter and soak up the energetic atmosphere. Back to the hotel to rest up before dinner and music!

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: IMPERIAL HOTEL CORK CITY (B, D )**

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> - BLARNEY CASTLE & KILLARNEY**

After breakfast we'll depart for **Blarney Castle** - Here you'll have an opportunity to climb the steps of the fortress and kiss the world famous Blarney Stone to gain the gift of eloquence, wit and wisdom. Just a stone's throw away we'll also visit the Blarney Woolen Mills, the largest emporium of Irish crafts in the country where we can browse the finely woven Irish woolen products. Situated just 5 miles from Cork City, this historic castle is most famous for its stone, which has the traditional of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word Blarney was introduced into the English language by Queen Elizabeth I and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. The stone is set in the wall below the battlements, and to kiss it one has to lean backwards (grasping an iron railing) from the parapet walk. Travel through County Cork and onto Killarney and check in our hotel – **The Great Southern** for the next 3 nights. Enjoy some free time before dinner in our hotel.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE GREAT SOUTHERN, KILLARNEY (B, D )**

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> - KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK**

After breakfast for those wishing to attend Mass, St Mary's Cathedral in Killarney has a 10:30am service. At Noon or so We will take a **traditional horse-drawn jaunting car** through Killarney National Park to Ross Castle, set on the magical shores of Lough Leane. Start your tour onboard a traditional Jaunting Car and enjoy the unique beauty of Killarney National Park and its wildlife as you ramble through its tree-lined avenues before your arrival at Ross Castle. Learn about the history, legends and folklore of the area from your local Jarvey Guide and also catch a glimpse of the Park's unique wildlife including the Red Deer, the last native herd in Ireland. On arrival at Ross Castle, you will be invited to board our MV Lake Cruiser and set upon a voyage through Killarney's largest and most picturesque Lake, Lough Léin from the comfort of our glass-covered, heated vessel. Immerse yourself in the unique ecosystem of the National Park with its glistening Lakeland and majestic mountains for miles and learn about the folklore and legends of the area as well as its landmarks with live commentary from your informative Captain. Free time in Killarney in the afternoon before dinner and music at Kate Kearney's tonight.

**DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE GREAT SOUTHERN, KILLARNEY (B, D )**

## **MONDAY OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> – DINGLE PENINSULA**

After breakfast we will explore the **Dingle Peninsula**. The journey begins with some of the most magnificent scenery in All of Ireland. This morning we visit the **Slea Head Famine Cottages** where we will see working sheepdog performances. Visitors can view a local sheep-farmer skillfully working his sheepdogs in gathering and controlling sheep movement. This skill has been handed down from generation to generation as sheep have been kept here on Mount Eagle for hundreds of years. This is the only location in West Kerry offering such an attraction. Visitors are also given valuable insights into the sheep-farmers way of working. Learn how local farmers could forecast the weather long go, tell the time when many of the poor could not afford a watch, or even how they managed to communicate with relatives living ten miles away. We continue on to Slea Head. Along the way, we will see bee hive style huts, originally inhabited by 12th century monks, which overlook the rugged Blasket Islands. 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. We will have time in Dingle to have lunch, explore and shop before we return to Killarney. Stop at **South Pole Inn** on our return to learn about the great explorer Tom Crean and to sip an Irish coffee. Back to the hotel to rest up before dinner and music!

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL, KILLARNEY (B,D)**



## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup> – FOYNES FLYING BOAT MUSEUM & BUNRATTY FOLK PARK**

After breakfast we depart for Foynes to visit the **Flying Boat Boat & Maritime Museum** and see how these great machines changed the world of travel. Discover the story behind the Irish Coffee and sample this authentic drink. We will have lunch and an Irish Coffee is Ryan's Pub before we depart for Bunratty. Prepare to experience village life in 19th century Ireland. The village houses and shops in the **Bunratty Folk Park** have been chosen from many different areas, to form a collection of typical 19th century urban Irish buildings including the School, Doctor's house, Pawnbrokers, Pub, Drapery, Printworks, Grocery, Hardware shop, Pottery and a Post Office. The village is set at a time of fundamental change in Irish society, and as such illustrates the growing money-orientated lifestyle of many of the villagers alongside the traditional, self-sufficient rural culture. Travel onto Ennis and check in our hotel – **The Old Ground** for our final 2 nights on the tour. Enjoy some free time before dinner in our hotel.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE OLD GROUND HOTEL, ENNIS (B, L, D)**

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup> – CLIFFS OF MOHER & MEDIEVAL BANQUET BUNRATTY CASTLE



After breakfast we'll drive through Ireland's stony place – **The Burren** County Clare. You can find villages abandoned since famine times and green roads on which you can walk for miles without ever seeing a car. This is not the green Ireland of postcards. But there are wildflowers in spring, giving the 560-sq-km Burren brilliant, if ephemeral, color amid its ascetic beauty. Continuing on to the **Cliffs of Moher** here you will see astonishing impressive and staggeringly beautiful. The entirely vertical cliffs rise to a height of 203m, their edge falling away abruptly into a ceaselessly churning Atlantic. A progression of vast heads, the dark limestone marches in a rigid formation that's gob-smacking, no matter how many times you look at it. As you leave the cliffs you'll travel through the little village of Liscannor and just across the bay, you'll see the beautiful seaside village and golfers' mecca, Lahinch. Return to Ennis to relax

and freshen up before we drive to Bunratty. Experience a truly unique entertainment and dining experience in the iconic setting of the world famous Bunratty Castle. The lifestyle of medieval Ireland is recaptured at the Castles with our medieval banquet nights. Once the preserve of the nobility who resided in these fortresses, it can now be experienced by everyone.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE OLD GROUND HOTEL, ENNIS (B, D)**

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12<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 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 once again with your vacation and we certainly hope you had a great time

