



Sean Fleming's Stargazing Tour to Ireland

October 15th to 22nd 2023

\$2299 per person sharing land only

\$599 single supplement – limit 4 per tour

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



ITINERARY

The Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve has been designated Ireland's first International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association, one of only 3 Gold Tier Reserves on the planet, and the only Gold Tier Reserve in the Northern Hemisphere. This means that on clear nights the sky in this South West region of Ireland is simply stunning, with many astronomical sights seen through the naked eye as can be seen say in the Grand Canyon or the desert plains of Africa. Constellations can be viewed here with many more stars than are shown on the usual sky maps. The beautiful band of the Milky Way, the Andromeda Galaxy, Star Clusters and Nebula's are just some of the naked eye wonders to see without the aid of any astronomical equipment or filters. The Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve is located in the South West coast of Ireland in what is called an Isthmus – a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas, usually with water on either side. The Reserve is protected by the Kerry Mountains and Hills on one side and the Atlantic ocean on the other, is approx. 700 sq km in size and offers dark unlit polluted skies, inhabited villages, helpful locals, remote wilderness, long sandy beaches, and numerous lakes, islands and rivers.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th - UNITED STATES TO SHANNON

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

MONDAY OCTOBER 16th – SHANNON ARRIVAL & KILLARNEY

Upon arrival at Shannon Airport, you'll be met by your host Sean Fleming along with by our driver/guide to begin our journey. We will travel south through Adare onto Killarney to have a hearty Irish breakfast at Aghadoe Heights Hotel overlooking the Lakes of Killarney. Continue to The International Hotel in Killarney for our five-night stay. Join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in the Shelbourne Suite.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: INTERNATIONAL HOTEL KILLARNEY (B,D)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17th - BEST OF BEARA FOOD EXPERIENCE

After breakfast we will drive to Kenmare to meet Karen Coakley from Kenmare Foodie Tours. On this bespoke guided tour, Karen will take you on the trip of a lifetime out on The Beara Peninsula where you will see some of Ireland's most spectacular views and meet some of the Country's best loved award-winning Food Producers at home on their farms. Learn about the challenges of being a small farmer, the 5-star restaurants they supply and what it takes to become an award winning Cheese Maker. Not only does this tour give you long lasting memories but also a unique insight into Irish farming from farm to plate that not many experiences. You will see rugged coastlines, travel winding roads with stop you in your track views and cast your eyes on Ireland's largest Mountain range. And if all this isn't enough, we will finish off with a bowl of Mussels and a Pint of Guinness at Helens Bar on Kilmacalogue Pier where you will learn about Ireland's large Mussel Farming Traditions. Back to the hotel to freshen up and explore one of the many restaurants or pubs in town for dinner tonight.

OVERNIGHT: INTERNATIONAL HOTEL KILLARNEY (B,L)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18th – JAUNTING CAR RIDE & FREE TIME IN KILLARNEY

After breakfast we depart for Killarney to 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. Enjoy some free time to explore the town of Killarney on your own before meeting up with the group later. Join your fellow travelers at Kate Kearney's Cottage at the foot of the Gap of Dunloe for dinner and entertainment.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: INTERNATIONAL HOTEL KILLARNEY.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 19th – DAY TOUR ON THE RING OF KERRY with STARGAZING (WEATHER PERMITTING)

After lunch we explore The Ring of Kerry – 110-mile circular journey on the Iveragh Peninsula, with some of Ireland’s finest coastal scenery. This tour from Killarney makes it possible to complete the route in a day, plus take in traditional coastal villages such as Cahersiveen, Derrynane, and Glenbeigh. Visit the historic Bog Village with a guide, and discover top natural attractions including the Killarney Lakes, Rossbeigh Beach, and Macgillycuddy’s Reeks. Delve into the pretty Killarney National Park. After dinner as the sunsets at 6.30pm we plan on Stargazing near Ireland’s first Dark Sky Reserve incorporates a 270-square-mile area of County Kerry in the southwest corner of Ireland. Designated in 2014, the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve is set in an area known for beautiful, rugged landscapes and a low population density—just 4,000 people live in the area. The reserve runs along part of the Wild Atlantic Way and the Ring of Kerry, stretching from Kells Bay on the north side of the Iveragh Peninsula to Caherdaniel on the south, between the mountains and the Atlantic coast. Some of the best places to observe the dark skies and surrounding views are at the 1,000-foot-high Coomanaspig Pass on the Skellig Ring walk near Portmagee, or at the old watchtower on Bray Head on Valentia Island, which looks out to both the Skellig and Blasket islands, so we plan on watching the stars from Cahirsiveen having dinner in town.

OVERNIGHT: INTERNATIONAL HOTEL KILLARNEY.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20TH – DAY TOUR OF THE DINGLE PENINSULA

After breakfast we depart our hotel at 9.30am for The Dingle Peninsula. Scattered with ancient huts and historic buildings, the Dingle Peninsula has the most rugged coastline in Ireland. Considered by many to have some of Europe’s most spectacular scenery, the peninsula also supports a rare and unique assortment of flora and fauna. However, a great deal of traditional Irish heritage is maintained in this Irish-speaking (Gaelic) region (a Gaeltacht), including traditional Irish music, art and crafts. Sit back and relax as you journey west along Ireland’s rocky Atlantic coast to Dingle Peninsula. Marvel at the majestic landscape dotted with scenes of Irish life, and stop to explore wind-swept beaches, formidable cliffs, and unique flora and fauna. Your coach passes Inch Beach, a favorite location for peace-seeking kite flyers and surfers. Head into the lovely town of Dingle, where you break to have lunch (own expense), explore the town’s vibrant and colorful streets, and perhaps spot Fungie, Dingle’s famed local dolphin. Sweets enthusiasts won’t want to miss a stop at Murphy’s for some signature local ice cream! Afterward, continue on to Sleah Head, the most westerly point in Europe. Along the way, glimpse beehive-shaped huts and life in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) communities that line the route. At Sleah Head, imagine the excitement that westward emigrants experienced in passing this point, and enjoy wonderful views of the Blasket Islands, a desolate area that was once inhabited by thriving Irish-speaking islanders. On the return trip to Killarney, your coach will stop at Gallarus Oratory, one of the region’s mysterious archeological gems. Walk through the site that is considered the best-preserved early Christian church in Ireland, and enjoy stunning views of Smerwick Harbor and Mount Brandon. Back to the hotel to freshen up and Join your fellow travelers for a group dinner at Harrow – a local restaurant within walking distance of our hotel.



DINNER & OVERNIGHT: INTERNATIONAL HOTEL KILLARNEY (B,D)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st – CLIFFS OF MOHER & LAHINCH

After breakfast, we will travel from Killarney passing through the towns of Tralee and Listowel before reaching the pier in Tarbert to board the ferry across the Shannon Estuary to Co. Clare and continuing north to the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are astonishingly impressive and staggeringly beautiful. The entire vertical cliffs rise to a height of 700 feet, 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. We will check in to our hotel for our final night at Vaughan Lodge in the nearby town of Lahinch known for its world-class golf links and surfing. Join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner in the hotel and stroll into town afterwards to hear to some music.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: VAUGHAN LODGE LAHINCH (B,D)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22nd – 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 US Customs and Immigration, avoiding the long lines that you can meet at US Airports. 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.