



TourMagination

discovery+community

Sights, Sounds & Sacred Spaces of Ireland

May 26 to June 6, 2021

Leaders: Bob & Margaret Nally



Church ruins.



Inis Mór Island. Photo credit: Antoinette Morrow

Experience Ireland, a land rich in Celtic Christian spirituality, beauty, legend, music, and history. Visit stone ruins of historic monasteries founded centuries ago. See pre-Christian sites with spiritual significance that are thousands of years old. Marvel at the natural beauty of green hills dotted with sheep, dramatic seascapes, and incredible rock formations. As you walk pilgrim routes, and enjoy traditional music, storytelling, and good humour, you will encounter the heart and spirit of a people. Irish-born tour leaders Bob and Margaret Nally will give you an insider view on this 12-day tour of their beloved homeland. Includes opportunities for optional hiking and deeper reflection.

Itinerary

Wednesday, May 26 Dublin

Arrive in Dublin by early afternoon. Begin your introduction to Ireland with a tour of the city. Relax before a group welcome dinner and orientation.

Thursday, May 27 Dublin

Enjoy a full day in Dublin city! Visit the treasures of the National Museum followed by a stroll through the elegant St. Stephen's Green. Browse the shops along Grafton Street—a cobblestone pedestrian street. End the evening with dinner and music in Temple Bar district as we do a final stroll through the charming city.

Friday, May 28 Tullamore

Drive through the Dublin Mountains to Annamoe to see a modern-day shepherd demonstrate the skills of his sheepdogs. At Glendalough, learn about the life of St. Kevin and the monastic settlement he founded in the 6th century. Reflect as you walk along the ancient Green Road through verdant trees beside a large pond. Historic stone churches, a round tower, and other buildings date from the 10th century on this site. Then, drive to Kildare to

visit with the sisters of St. Brigid on a beautiful site that includes St. Brigid's well, a historic round tower, and a modern monastery.

Saturday, May 29 Galway

By the River Shannon, visit the ancient monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise, founded in the 6th century by St. Ciarán at an important crossroad on an ancient pilgrim route. See the ruins of churches, a round tower, and other buildings. Later, stroll through Galway—a city rich with poetry, music and history. See the Spanish Arches and St. Nicholas of Myra Church where Christopher Columbus is said to have prayed before his journey to the New World. Dinner will be in a local pub with live music.

Sunday, May 30 Galway

After a short ferry ride to Inis Mór, one of the Aran Islands, hike up a gentle slope to Dun Aengus, an amazing ancient fort built of layers of stacked rocks. Stunning views of the cliffs can be seen from the top. Ride a mini bus around the compact island to see churches, seashores and quaint shops, or rent bicycles to tour the island instead if you prefer.

Monday, May 31 Westport

On a tour of Ballintubber Abbey and grounds, reflect as you hear about this place of worship founded in 1216 that was destroyed and renewed many times. Be drawn into worship by its stained-glass windows and art. For those interested, take a 4-5-hour pilgrim walk up Croagh Patrick and enjoy incredible views from Ireland's holy mountain. Or visit Westport House and the town of Westport—a lively place with lovely shops and good music.

Tuesday, June 1 Sligo Town

Drive to Carrowmore for a tour of this 5000-year-old burial ground and ceremonial ritual site. Visit Céide Fields—another Neolithic site that was discovered under the Irish bog lands. At Drumcliffe, see an ancient round tower, a church, and the burial site of renowned poet W.B. Yeats.

Wednesday, June 2 Letterkenny

See breathtaking views on a short walk by Slieve League's high sea cliffs. Take a reflective pilgrim walk around Glencolmcille—a site with pre-Christian and Christian significance. Enjoy lunch at the Folk Village and visit cottages from centuries of rural life. Drive through the mighty Barnesmore Gap to Letterkenny.

Tour Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$4,906
Single Supplement \$670

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,922
Single Supplement \$536

Fare includes

- Transportation by coach and ferry within Ireland
- Arrival and departure group transfers
- Hotel accommodations throughout the tour
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- All breakfasts
- 1 lunch, 8 dinners, farewell dinner with show
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfer at beginning of tour
- All remaining meals, Beverages with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Thursday, June 3 Ballycastle, Northern Ireland

Take in the beautiful view of the surrounding countryside from the walls of an ancient stone ring fort called Grianan Aileach, the inaugural site where chieftains were crowned. Walk on the storied city walls of Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland and learn about its recovery from centuries of conflict. Enjoy the incredible rock formations of UNESCO world heritage site Giant's Causeway. Lodge at Corrymeela, a centre for peace and reconciliation in the coastal village of Ballycastle.

Friday, June 4 Belfast, Northern Ireland

Worship with the Corrymeela community and learn about this group's faithfulness in the Irish peace process. Visit the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Stay overnight in the city and enjoy its culture.

Saturday, June 5 Dublin

Visit the renowned Brú na Bóinne, a UNESCO heritage site of ancient passage graves. Drive to the Hill of Tara, once the seat of High Kings. Enjoy an evening of Irish culture and music in Dublin.

Sunday, June 6

Say farewell to each other and the beautiful land of Ireland as you depart for home.

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 03/19. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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