

IRELAND I

Haunted by History, Rich in Legends

June 25 – July 5 , 2019

4 Hours Graduate Level Credit Available

Cost: \$1,900 - includes ground transportation, entry fees, and all lodging with full Irish breakfast.

Tuition cost: \$175. .

Day 1, June 25, 2019 - Tuesday – Leave the US – Arrive in Dublin (next day)

Day 2 –June 26, 2019 - Wednesday- Pick up minibuses at Dublin Airport. Take a drive thru the Wicklow Mountains on a Military Road over Sally Gap for some spectacular scenery and multiple peat fields. On to Glendolough, a Celtic Monastery that was established in the 6th century by Saint Kevin.. Walk to the lakes and hike the trails there. . **Staying in B&B's allows us to meet the local people and hear their take on Irish history and modern day Ireland.** We will spend the night in Rathdrum, a charming little Irish village.

www.stiraboutlane.com

Day 3 – June 27, 2019 - Thursday- Tour the Dunbrody Famine Ship in New Ross. Drive to Cahir and have a guided tour of the Cahir Castle, one of Ireland's largest and best preserved castles, retaining its dramatic keep, tower, and much of its original defensive structures. On to the Swiss Cottage in Cahir, a superb example of an early 19th century thatched roof. This cottage was built by the Butler family after they moved out of the castle. Do a late afternoon tour of the Rock of Cashel, an awe inspiring site connected with royalty and mysticism. Spend the night in Cashel at Rock Side House. www.joyrockside.com

Day 4 – June 28, 2019- Friday - Drive to Cliffs of Moher (Ailltreacha Mothair- “The Cliffs of the Ruin”) where we will have lunch - After lunch we will drive to the Burrens, (An Bhoireann _”The Stony District”) a 161 square mile expanse that is one of the Ireland's strangest landscapes with a stop at the Burren Center for a film on the area – then on through Kinvarra, a fishing village in Galway Bay, where we will pass by Dunguaire Castle, a 7th century home of the King of Connacht, that stands on a promontory in Kinvarra Bay. (A great photo opportunity) Drive to Spiddal, *County Galway*, where we will spend the night at Ardmor Country House.

www.ardmorecountryhouse.com

Day 5 – June 29, 2019 - Saturday -Leave Spidall - Take a ferry, Aran Islands Direct (Oileain Arann Direach) to Aran Islands leaving Rossaveal Harbor at 10:30 AM. Tour the Island, Inishmore, the Aran Heritage Center and Dun Aenghus, a 2000 year old fort on the Island plus the ruins of Seven Churches with ancient high cross. The Aran Islands is a Gaeltacht area (an area that speaks Gaelic). We can take a van or rent bikes to tour the island. This island is the home of the famous Aran sweaters. All participants sleep on the island near the pier at Pier House Guesthouse. www.pierhousearan.com

Day 6 – June 30, 2019 – Sunday - Take the ferry back to mainland. Be on pier with luggage by 8 AM - We will drive south to the mouth of the Shannon River then cross the river by car ferry – Killimer Tarbert Ferry. A quick stop at Ballybunion, a resort town with a beautiful beach and the ruins of an old castle. On our way we

will stop at a round tower and an Irish cemetery. Drive on to An Daingean (Dingle) over Connor Pass –with an opportunity to hike up to one of the hanging lakes– Sleep in An Daingean at Milestone House.

www.milestonedingle.com

Day 7– July 1, 2019 - Monday -Tour An Daingean Peninsula, the western most tip of Ireland. Stop at the Great Blasket Center where we will learn about the people that lived on the Blasket Islands. Take a 30 mile driving loop where we will see ancient archaeological wonders like beehive huts, tour a 1300 old Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian church shaped like an upturned boat and Kilmalkedar Church, a 12th century Irish Romanesque Church. Then back to Dingle to see Ohm stones and for dinner. Sleep in Dingle. Dingle is a Gaeltacht area, also. Gaeltacht means that it is a region where the government subsidizes the survival of the Irish language and culture. Signs, menus and songs are in Gaelic. Stay in An Daingean again.

Day 8–July 2, 2019 - Thursday - Drive to Gap of Dunloe, stopping at Inch beach on the way (used in Ryan’s Daughter, the film). Stop at Moriarty’s before entering the Gap. Drive through the Gap. Stop at Moll’s Gap for lunch. . On to Killarney National Park. Stop at the Torc Waterfall. The park has red deer and the old growth oak, yew and alder groves are the best preserved in Ireland. Spend the night at [Adare Country House](#) – Blackabbey Road – in Adare – **011 35361395986**

Day 9 –July 3, 2019- Friday Drive to Trim Castle which is the largest Norman Castle in Europe and was used in the film, Braveheart. After lunch, walk the Hill of Tara and tour Slane Castle. On to Monasterbolce, a ruined monastery with a round tower and two of the best carved high crosses in Ireland. Spend the night in Malahide at IslandView Hotel

Day 10 – July 4, 2019 - Saturday- Drive to Newgrange Historical Passage Grave Site, which is one of the top prehistoric sites in the world. Newgrange is constructed with an astronomical orientation, which shows that prehistoric people understood an astronomical year. During the winter solstice, a narrow beam of light illuminates to the end of a long underground passage. Tour Newgrange and get a glimpse of prerecorded Ireland. Off to the Battle of the Boyne (1690) site, one of Europe’ lesser known battlegrounds but huge in Irish and British history. This battle had far reaching effects up to the current day. Sleep in Malahide again!!

Day 11 – July 5, 2019 - Sunday– fly home.