

# \* Spring Time Tour of Ireland / May 8 – 18, 2017 \*

## Visiting Killarney, Dingle and Galway - Ireland's Three Gems

*The Irish Cultural Center's Rose Baker & Pat Baker to Host the Trip!*

*Please Join Us!*



*Tour the wild and beautiful West Coast of Ireland! Embrace Ireland's gems, Killarney, Dingle and Galway, on a leisurely paced springtime tour through gorgeous countryside, charming towns, and bustling cities. Multiple night stays in Killarney, Dingle & Galway allow you to immerse yourself in the beauty, hospitality and culture of Ireland's Historic West Coast Towns.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Total Cost: \$2,630 per person / double room occupancy; \$2,950 single room occupancy (limited availability)**

### **What You Need To Do! Deposits, Payments and Application:**

- **Initial Deposit:** \$1,000 to reserve your seat on the trip (see forms of payment on page 3).  
Tour is limited (45 passengers) and will be filled on a **first come, first serve** basis.
- **Application:** Your Initial Deposit must accompany a **completed reservation application** and **copy of your passport**.
- **Final Payment Due:** March 10, 2017. Balance due: \$1,630 per person / double room occupancy; \$1,950 single room.
- **Travel Insurance:** Information available upon request.

### **The Irish Cultural Center Tour Includes:**

- Round trip bus coach transportation from the Irish Cultural Center to Boston's Logan Airport, including driver's tip
- Round trip airfare from Boston to Shannon, Ireland via Aer Lingus
- Nine (9) Nights Top Rated Hotel Accommodations
  - Killarney International Hotel: [www.killarneyinternational.com](http://www.killarneyinternational.com); Dingle Skellig Hotel: [www.dingleskellig.com](http://www.dingleskellig.com) and the Salthill Hotel: [www.salthillhotel.com](http://www.salthillhotel.com)
- Full Breakfast and Dinner Meals included
  - Full Irish breakfast daily, except day of arrival
  - Tea, coffee and soup/sandwiches at Meadowlands Hotel in Tralee on day of arrival
  - Nine (9) dinners
  - Two (2) lunches: South County Pub in Douglas, Co. Cork and Gus O'Connor's Pub in Doolin, Co. Clare
- Admission to: Blarney Castle, Blasket Centre, Cliffs of Moher, Gallarus Oratory, Dingle Brewing Company, Horse-drawn Jaunting Cart Ride in Killarney
- Optional day trips: day trip to Blarney, Kenmare, Sleah Head Drive tour of Dingle Peninsula; Gallarus Oratory, Kilmalkedar Church, trip to Spiddal and Moycullen for shopping at Standun's, Celtic Crystal and Connemara Marble
- Deluxe touring motor coach for all transportation and sightseeing with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide throughout
- Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person
- Tips & taxes while in Ireland (Note: Gratuity to the driver/guide in Ireland is included in tour cost)

**The ICC reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary as needed, due to weather or other circumstances.**

## Trip Details and Itinerary

- Day 1:  
Monday, May 8 Depart by coach from ICC in West Springfield by bus to Boston's Logan Airport. Leave Logan at 7:15 pm aboard Aer Lingus flight EI 134.
- Day 2:  
Tuesday, May 9 Arrive at Shannon Airport at 6:15 am local Irish time. Board bus coach for land transportation. Stop at Meadowlands Hotel in Tralee, Co. Kerry for tour sponsored coffee, tea, and soup/sandwiches. Arrive at Killarney International Hotel around 4:00 p.m. Unpack and relax, or freshen up before a welcome get-together drink at Hannigans Pub at 6:30 pm followed by dinner at 7:30 pm in the Killarney International Hotel restaurant.
- Day 3:  
Wednesday, May 10 After Killarney International Hotel breakfast, enjoy a traditional horse-drawn jaunting cart ride to experience the hidden delights of Killarney. Afterwards, the bus will leave at 11:30 am for an optional day trip to Kenmare with time to explore this picturesque County Kerry town with its unique charm and inherent beauty. This town has been officially recognized for its historical, cultural, and environmental significance and has been bestowed the title of Kerry's first Heritage Town in Ireland by the Ireland Tourist Board. On our return journey to Killarney, we will travel part of the King of Kerry through the picturesque Molls Gap with its sweeping views of the MacGillycuddy Reeks mountain range, which includes Carrantuohill, the highest mountain in Ireland. The remainder of the day is free for you to discover the many charms that this town has to offer. Dinner at the Killarney International Hotel at 7:30 pm.
- Day 4:  
Thursday, May 11 After Killarney International Hotel breakfast, bus leaves at 9:30 am for an optional day trip to Blarney Castle. We will drive through the rich farming county of Cork. At Blarney, stop to climb to the battlements of Blarney Castle to kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence." Also visit the Blarney Woolen Mills, which has an excellent range of Irish products of all types. You will also have time to browse around the village, charmingly set around a large village green. After our visit to Blarney, we will stop for a tour-sponsored lunch at the South County Pub in Douglas, Co. Cork. Returning to Killarney for dinner at the Killarney International Hotel for 7:30 pm.
- Day 5:  
Friday, May 12 After Killarney International Hotel breakfast, bus leaves at 9:30 am for Dingle. We will travel via Inch Strand to Dingle with lovely scenery along the way. We will stop at Brian De Staic's workshop and store in Dingle. Brian de Staic has been designing and handcrafting jewelry for 40 years, with one of the largest workshops in Ireland. Treat yourself or that special someone to a piece of jewelry made on the Peninsula. Afterwards, we will make our way to the Dingle Brewing Company, nestled at the base of the majestic Conor Pass in the historic former Dingle Creamery building, which dates back to 1888 and was at the heart of Dingle commercial life until the 1970s. During our visit, you will learn about the brewing process, in which the use of the site's own pure spring water is crucial, and the history of the Creamery itself. At the conclusion of our tour, you will be able to savor a pint of their finely crafted Tom Crean's Lager (named in honor of the local Antarctic hero from Annascaul). After checking into your hotel room, the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to discover the many charms that this town has to offer. Dinner at the Skellig Hotel at 7:00 pm.
- Day 6:  
Saturday, May 13 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, the day is free to relax or explore Dingle and the surrounding area. Tour hosts will provide suggestions to make sure you experience the best of Dingle. You can take a harbor tour to see Dingle's most famous resident, Fungi the Dolphin. Stroll around town and enjoy one or more of Dingle's 52 pubs. Your choices are many as you savor your time in this colorful and charming harbor town. Dinner at the Dingle Skellig Hotel at 6:00 pm. \*Catholic Mass is held at St. Mary's Church on Green Street at 8:00 pm.
- Day 7:  
Sunday, May 14 After Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:30 am for an optional tour around the scenic Dingle Peninsula. We will drive past little harbors and wide stretches of sandy beaches, leading southward to Sleah Head. This is the most westerly point in Europe, "Next Parish America" and off this coast many an Armada was lost. The awe-inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. Enjoy a visit to the Blasket Centre where you will learn about life on the Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953, and about the families who immigrated directly to Springfield, MA. You are on your own for lunch at the Blasket Centre. We will also visit Kilmalkedar Church, a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site and the Gallarus Oratory, more than 1,000 years old and one of Ireland's oldest religious structures, built of stone without mortar. Dinner at Foley's Pub in Inch with Irish music with bus departing from the Skellig Hotel at 6:00 pm. \*Catholic Mass is held at St. Mary's Church on Green Street at 11:30 am.
- Day 8:  
Monday, May 15 After Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart Dingle for Galway at 8:15 am. We travel to Tarbert in Co. Kerry to board a ferry (weather permitting) for the short ride across the River Shannon Estuary to Killimer, Co. Clare. We will make our way (weather permitting), to the amazing Cliffs of Moher, which rise some 700 feet above the unforgiving Atlantic coastline. Afterwards, we will visit Gus O'Connor's Pub in Doolin for a tour-sponsored lunch. We then continue on to the Salthill Hotel in Salthill, Co. Galway. Dinner at the Salthill Hotel at 8:00 pm.

- Day 9:  
Tuesday, May 16      After Salthill Hotel breakfast, leave at 10:00 am for an optional shopping trip to Standun's (excellent prices and great quality) in Spiddal, then to Moycullen to visit Celtic Crystal and Connemara Marble. Celtic is the only maker of colored crystal in Ireland. Back to Galway City Center to drop off those who want to enjoy the European Union's fastest growing city. Those dropped off will be picked up in the late afternoon. Dinner at the Salthill Hotel at 6:00 pm.
- Day 10:  
Wednesday, May 17      After Salthill Hotel breakfast, enjoy a free day in Galway City Center to shop and independently explore the "City of the Tribes." The bus will drop off those who want to enjoy and explore Galway City with pick-up later in the day. Dinner at the Salthill Hotel at 7:00 pm.
- Day 11:  
Thursday, May 18      After Salthill Hotel breakfast, depart for Shannon Airport. Enjoy last minute shopping at Shannon's Duty Free Shop. Our Aer Lingus flight EI 135 departs at 12:00 pm, arriving in Boston's Logan Airport at 1:50 pm local time. We will arrive by coach back at the ICC in West Springfield.

## Forms of Payment

- Check: made payable to the Irish Cultural Center or Cash.  
Mail payment, Reservation Application and copy of passport to the Irish Cultural Center at 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.
- Credit Card: visit the Spring Tour page on our website at [www.IrishCenterwne.org](http://www.IrishCenterwne.org) to pay online with a credit card through PayPal. A charge of 2.2% and \$0.30 per transaction fee will be added to credit card payments. Mail Reservation Application and copy of passport to the Irish Cultural Center at 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.
- Members in good standing of the Irish Cultural Center are entitled to a refund of €25 to be provided by the tour hosts upon arrival in Ireland.



## For more information or reservations

Visit the ICC website at [www.irishcenterwne.org](http://www.irishcenterwne.org) or contact:

**Rose Baker** at 413-519-2135 or [rbaker2811@yahoo.com](mailto:rbaker2811@yahoo.com)

**Pat Baker** at 413-348-3263 or [pkbaker@verizon.net](mailto:pkbaker@verizon.net)

**ICC office** at 413-333-4951 or [irishcenterwne@gmail.com](mailto:irishcenterwne@gmail.com)