

**\* Spring Time Tour of Ireland / May 15 – 25, 2018 \***  
**Visiting Dingle, Killarney and Galway - Ireland's Three Gems**  
*The Irish Cultural Center's Rose Baker & Pat Baker to Host the Trip!*  
**Please Join Us!**



Photos ©Kathleen Doe

*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.*

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**Total Cost: \$2,795 per person / double room occupancy; \$3,195 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 (46 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 8, 2018. Balance due: \$1,795 per person / double room occupancy; \$2,195 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
  - Dingle Skellig Hotel: [www.dingleskellig.com](http://www.dingleskellig.com)
  - Killarney International Hotel: [www.killarneyinternational.com](http://www.killarneyinternational.com)
  - Jurys Inn Galway: [www.jurysinns.com/hotels/galway](http://www.jurysinns.com/hotels/galway)
- Full Breakfast and Dinner Meals included
  - Full Irish breakfast daily, except day of arrival
  - Tea, coffee and scones at Meadowlands Hotel in Tralee on day of arrival
  - Nine (9) dinners
  - One (1) lunch: Gus O'Connor's Pub in Doolin, Co. Clare
- Admission to: Blarney Castle, Blasket Centre, Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Brewing Company, Corrib River and Lake Cruise, Horse-drawn Jaunting Cart Ride in Killarney, and Celtic Steps Irish Music/Dance Show.
- Optional day trips (no extra cost): day trip to Blarney, Sleah Head Drive tour of Dingle Peninsula; Kilmalkedar Church, trip to Moycullen for shopping at Celtic Crystal and Connemara Marble
- Deluxe touring motor coach for all transportation/sightseeing with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide throughout
- Portage 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:  
Tuesday, May 15 Depart by coach from ICC in West Springfield by bus to Boston's Logan Airport. Leave Logan at 7:20 pm aboard Aer Lingus Flight EI 134.
- Day 2:  
Wednesday, May 16 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 scones around 9:30 pm. Arrive at Dingle Skellig Hotel around 1:30 p.m. Unpack and relax, or freshen up before a welcome get-together drink in the Blasket Pub Pub at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm in the Skellig Hotel restaurant.
- Day 3:  
Thursday, May 17 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:45 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. We will make a stop (weather permitting) to visit an ancient Celtic settlement dating back to 500 B.C. along the Sleah Head drive. We will also 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. On our return to Dingle, we will stop at Dingle Goldsmiths. Jerry and Aideen Baker have fifty years combined making handcrafted jewelry and are masters of the trade. Treat yourself or that special someone to a piece of jewelry made on the Peninsula. Dinner at Skellig Hotel at 6:30 pm.
- Day 4:  
Friday, May 18 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, bus leaves at 9:45 am for a 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. Brian de Staic will give us a brief overview of the stories and the stones of the Dingle Peninsula's Celtic history. Brian and his highly skilled team of artisans also create personalized, one-of-a-kind bracelets, pendants, and rings using the ancient Ogham script (Ireland's first written language) found on the standing stones on the Peninsula. 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. 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). Return to Dingle town and the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to discover the many charms that this town has to offer. Dinner at 6:30 pm at Foley's Pub in Inch with a special evening of Irish music. Bus will depart Dingle Skellig Hotel at 6:00 pm.
- Day 5:  
Saturday, May 19  
**FREE DAY!** 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, Fungie the Dolphin. Stroll around town and enjoy one or more of Dingle's 52 pubs. If you are interested in crystal, go to Sean Daly's crystal store across from St. Mary's Church on Green Street. Sean is a former Waterford Master Cutter who does beautiful work. Your choices are many as you savor your time in this colorful and charming harbor town. Dinner at the Dingle Skellig Hotel at 5:30 pm. **\*Catholic Mass is held at St. Mary's Church on Green Street at 8:00 pm.**
- Day 6:  
Sunday, May 20 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart at 10:00 am for Killarney. We will travel via Inch Strand and the small town of Milltown to Killarney. We will enjoy a traditional horse-drawn jaunting cart ride through the Killarney National Park. The Killarney National Park is internationally renowned both for its scenic beauty and scientific interest. Stop at the mighty Ross Castle to admire the unspoiled scenery all around. After checking into your hotel room, the remainder of the day is free to independently explore this lovely town. Enjoy shopping or a stop at a pub. Dinner at the Killarney International Hotel at 5:30 pm. Following dinner, we will make our way to the Killarney Racecourse to attend one of Ireland's top traditional Irish music, song and dance shows called Celtic Steps (8:30 - 10:30 pm). Following the show, we will return to the Killarney International Hotel.
- Day 7:  
Monday, May 21 After Killarney International Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:45 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." Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. From the top of the castle, take in the wonderful views of over 60 acres of sprawling parklands, which include gardens, avenues, arboretums and waterways. Afterwards, take time to wander around Blarney Castle gardens where there is a lot more than meets the eye! Also visit the nearby Blarney Woolen Mills, which has an excellent selection of Irish products. You will also have time to browse around Blarney village. Lunch is on your own in Blarney. After our visit to Blarney, we will return to Killarney for dinner at the Killarney International Hotel for 7:00 pm.

- Day 8:  
Tuesday, May 22 After Killarney International Hotel breakfast, depart Killarney at 9:00 am We will make a stop at the beautiful village of Adare and then 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 through the Burren region to Galway City. Upon arrival to Galway City, we will enjoy a brief panoramic city tour. Afterwards, we will check into our hotel in Galway, the Jurys Inn Galway. Dinner at the Jurys Inn Hotel at 7:30 pm.
- Day 9:  
Wednesday, May 23 After Jurys Inn Galway breakfast, leave at 10:00 am to travel to scenic Connemara to visit Celtic Crystal and Connemara Marble in Moycullen. Afterwards, we will set sail from Woodquay in the heart of Galway City for an afternoon 90-minute guided cruise along the majestic River Corrib and on to Lough Corrib, Ireland's second largest lake, providing unsurpassed views that make this the most spectacular waterway in Ireland. Our journey will take us past castles and various sites of historical and cultural interest. The Corrib River cruise is sure to delight! Afterwards, the remainder of the day is free to enjoy Galway City - the European Union's fastest growing city. Dinner at the Jurys Inn Galway at 6:30 pm.
- Day 10:  
Thursday, May 24  
**FREE DAY!** After Jurys Inn Galway breakfast, enjoy a free day in Galway City to shop and independently explore the "City of the Tribes." Galway is a delightful city with narrow streets, old stone and wooden shop fronts, bustling restaurants and busy pubs. The city has attracted many musicians and artists, which add to its unique character. Dinner at the Jurys Inn Galway at 6:00 pm.
- Day 11:  
Friday, May 25 After Jurys Inn Galway breakfast, depart at 7:20 am 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 around 5:00 pm.

## 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.
- Patrons in good standing of the Irish Cultural Center are entitled to a refund of €20 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)