

*** Autumn Tour of Ireland / October 17 – 27, 2018 ***
Visiting Dingle, Kilkenny and Dublin – Ireland’s Triple Delight!
The Irish Cultural Center’s Patrick Baker and Eric Bergstrom to Host the Trip!
Please Join Us!



Tour beautiful Ireland! Embrace Ireland’s three treasures, Dingle, Kilkenny and Dublin, on a leisurely paced tour through gorgeous countryside, charming towns, and bustling cities. Multiple night stays in Dingle, Kilkenny & Dublin allow you to immerse yourself in the beauty, hospitality and culture of Ireland’s Historic Towns.

Total Cost: \$2,995 per person / double room occupancy; \$3,395 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-paid basis**.
- **Application:** Your Initial Deposit must accompany a **completed reservation application** and **copy of your passport**.
- **Final Payment Due:** June 25, 2018. Balance due: \$1,995 per person / double room occupancy: \$2,395 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 airports and back, including driver’s tip
- Round trip airfare via Aer Lingus: from Logan Airport (Boston) to Shannon, Ireland / from Dublin, Ireland to Bradley Airport (Hartford)
- Nine (9) Nights Top Rated Hotel Accommodations:
 - Dingle, Co. Kerry: Dingle Skellig Hotel: www.dingleskellig.com
 - Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny: Hotel Kilkenny: www.hotelkilkenny.ie
 - Dublin, Co. Dublin: Camden Court Hotel: www.camdencourthotel.com
- 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
- Admission to: Blasket Centre, Horse-drawn Jaunting Cart Ride in Killarney, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Castle, Smithwick’s Experience, Powerscourt Gardens, Kilmainham Gaol, Guinness Brewery Storehouse and Glasnevin Cemetery
- Optional day trips (included in the trip cost): Sleah Head Drive tour of Dingle Peninsula, Kilmalkedar Church, Nicholas Mosse Pottery
- Deluxe touring motor coach for all transportation and 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:
Wednesday, Oct. 17 Depart at 1:00 pm by coach from ICC in West Springfield to Boston's Logan Airport. Leave Logan at 7:15 pm aboard Aer Lingus Flight EI 134.
- Day 2:
Thursday, Oct. 18 Arrive at Shannon Airport at 6:20 am local Irish time. Board coach for land transportation. Stop at Meadowlands Hotel in Tralee, Co. Kerry for tour-sponsored coffee, tea, and scones around 9:30 am. Arrive at Dingle Skellig Hotel around 1:30 pm. Unpack and relax, or freshen up before a welcome get-together drink in the Blasket Pub at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 pm in the Dingle Skellig Hotel restaurant.
- Day 3:
Friday, Oct. 19 After Dingle 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. We will stop (weather permitting) at the Cashel Murphy National Monument dating back to 500 BC, situated on the slopes of Mount Eagle, at Glenfahan, Ventry overlooking Dingle Bay. Here, five families would have lived in the stone huts called Clochauns, or Beehive Huts. The Cashel was occupied until about 1200 A.D. This is one of the best examples of an early Celtic settlement that can be seen in Ireland. Afterwards, we will 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 located on Strand Street in Dingle. Aileen and Jerry Baker have 50 years combined experience making handcrafted jewelry and are masters of the trade. All of their pieces are guaranteed Irish and handmade in their studio. Their jewelry is Celtic with a modern look and they have something for all occasions. Treat yourself or that special someone to a piece of jewelry made in Dingle. Dinner at Foley's Pub in Inch with Irish music, with bus departing from the Skellig Hotel at 6:00 pm.
- Day 4:
Saturday, Oct. 20 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, bus leaves at 9:30 am for a visit to Brian De Staic's workshop and store. 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 head to Killarney (via Inch Strand and the small town of Milltown) to enjoy a traditional horse drawn jaunting cart ride through 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. Afterwards, you are on your own to stroll through the streets of this quaint town to enjoy lunch or shopping or its great pubs. In the evening we will drive to Kate Kearney's Cottage at 6:15 pm for dinner and music/dance entertainment. Following the show, we will return to the Dingle Skellig Hotel.
- Day 5:
Sunday, Oct. 21
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 6:00 pm. ***Catholic Mass** is held at St. Mary's Church on Green Street at 11:30 a.m.
- Day 6:
Monday, Oct. 22 After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart Dingle at 9:00 am for Kilkenny. We will make a brief stop at the beautiful village of Adare. We will then travel to Cashel in Tipperary. In Cashel, we will enjoy a tour-sponsored lunch at the Rock House Restaurant. Following lunch, we will visit the iconic Rock of Cashel. Cashel was once the seat of the Kings of Munster prior to the Norman invasion. The Rock, which rears above the plain, dominated the land routes southwards. Kings of Ireland as well as Munster came to this spot and St. Patrick is known to have preached on the rock and converted the local King, Aenghus, here in the 5th Century. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries when the rock was gifted to the Church. After our visit to Cashel, we will travel to Kilkenny. After checking into the hotel, relax before dinner. Dinner at the Hotel Kilkenny at 7:30 pm.
- Day 7:
Tuesday, Oct. 23 After Hotel Kilkenny breakfast, we will tour the landmark medieval 12th century Kilkenny Castle and its beautiful 49-acre gardens and grounds at 10:00 am. Afterwards, you may visit the National Craft Gallery, known for both its fine nationally designed giftware and specialty items, across the road from Kilkenny Castle, or the Kilkenny Design Centre Restaurant, Café and Food Court for lunch. At 12:40 pm, we will travel a short distance to Smithwick's Experience. Upon arrival, we will embark on a guided tour and learn about the history and fine crafting of this famous 300+ year-old ale, and at the conclusion of our tour, you will be able to enjoy and savor a pint in their tasting room. Afterwards, we will travel a short distance (10 minutes) to Bennettsbridge to visit Nicholas Mosse Pottery located in a beautiful old mill on the River Nore.

Nicholas Mosse's pottery is made from Irish clay, fired with home grown Irish waterpower and decorated with traditional motifs inspired by old Irish stoneware. Its universal charm and appeal have made it loved and sought after throughout the world. You may browse among a huge selection of Nicholas Mosse pottery, linen and glass, over three floors of the store. You may also visit the Mill Cafe at Nicholas Mosse Pottery for its terrific tea, coffee, scones and light lunches. Return to hotel for dinner at the Hotel Kilkenny at 7:00 pm.

Day 8:
Wednesday, Oct. 24

After Hotel Kilkenny breakfast, we will depart Kilkenny at 9:00 am for Dublin. We will drive through the Irish countryside to Powerscourt Gardens in Co. Wicklow, one of the most beautiful gardens in Ireland. Powerscourt Gardens were recently voted No. 3 in the World's Top Ten Gardens by National Geographic. Explore 47 acres of gardens, meander through the charismatic stores in Powerscourt House and indulge at the Avoca Terrace Cafe for lunch. Following our visit at Powerscourt Gardens, we will travel to Dublin. Our driver/guide will highlight some of Dublin's attractions as we make our way to our hotel. Dinner at the Camden Court Hotel at 7:30 pm.

Day 9:
Thursday, Oct. 25

After Camden Court Hotel breakfast, leave at 9:20 am for a tour of Kilmainham Gaol where many of Ireland's leaders, including Robert Emmett, Eamon DeValera and Padraig Pearse, were imprisoned during the 19th and early 20th centuries. After our visit to Kilmainham Gaol, we will make our way to the Guinness Storehouse to learn about Ireland's "black beer" and enjoy a creamy pint in the Gravity Bar with panoramic views of Dublin. Afterwards, we will visit Glasnevin Cemetery, which is the final resting place of Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Charles Stewart Parnell, Brendan Behan and other prominent people. The afternoon is free to enjoy the capital city. Dublin has plenty of shops, cafes, museums and more for you to enjoy. Dinner at the Camden Court Hotel at 7:30 pm.

Day 10:
Friday, Oct. 26
FREE DAY!

After Camden Court Hotel breakfast, enjoy a free day in Dublin to shop and independently explore the capital city. Tour hosts will provide suggestions to make sure you experience the best of Dublin. Dinner at the Camden Court Hotel at 5:00 pm.

Day 11:
Saturday, Oct. 27

After Camden Court Hotel breakfast, depart at 10:00 am for Dublin Airport. Enjoy last minute shopping at Dublin Airport's Duty Free Shop. Our Aer Lingus Flight EI 131 departs at 1:50 pm, arriving in Hartford's Bradley Airport at 4:05 pm local time. We will arrive by coach back at the ICC around 6:00 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 Autumn Tour page on our website at 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 or contact:

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