

**\* Early Springtime Tour of Ireland / March 27 – April 5, 2019 \***  
**Visiting Kilkea Castle, Galway, Dingle & Kilkenny**

*The Irish Cultural Center's Cindy & Dan Murphy to Host the Trip! Please Join Us!*



*Tour the panoramic wild West Coast and travel through central Ireland! Embrace Ireland's gems, Kilkea Castle, Galway, Dingle Peninsula and Kilkenny on a leisurely paced springtime tour through gorgeous countryside, charming towns, castles and bustling cities. Multiple night stays in Galway, Dingle and Kilkenny allow you to immerse yourself in the scenery, hospitality and culture of Ireland's Historic towns, castles and the breathtaking beautiful West Coast.*

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**Total Cost: \$2,595 per person / double room occupancy; \$2,995 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.  
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:** December 21, 2018. Balance due: \$1,595 per person / double room occupancy; \$1,995 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 Bradley Airport (Hartford)
- Round trip airfare from Hartford to Dublin, Ireland via Aer Lingus
- Ground transportation to all Irish destinations provided by Kennedy Coach. A deluxe touring motor coach company will provide for all transportation/sightseeing with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide throughout
- Eight (8) Nights with Top Rated Hotel Accommodations
  - Kilkea Castle, Kildare with rooms on the grounds of the estate: [www.kilkeacastle.ie](http://www.kilkeacastle.ie)
  - Park House Hotel Galway: [www.parkhousehotel.ie](http://www.parkhousehotel.ie)
  - Dingle Skellig Hotel: [www.dingleskellig.com](http://www.dingleskellig.com)
  - Hotel Kilkenny: [www.hotelkilkenny.ie](http://www.hotelkilkenny.ie)
- Full Breakfast and Dinner Meals included
  - Full Irish breakfast daily, except day of arrival
  - Arrival day lunch at Kilkea Castle
  - Seven (7) dinners
  - One (1) lunch: Gus O'Connor's Pub in Doolin
- Admission to: Kilkea Castle, Blasket Centre, Cliffs of Moher, Tullamore Distillery, Corrib River and Lake Cruise, Saint Canice's Cathedral, Smithwick's Brewery, Rock of Cashel and Kilkenny Castle
- Optional day trips (no extra cost): Sleah Head Drive tour of Dingle Peninsula, Kilmalkedar Church, Fungie dolphin boat tour *or* the Dingle Distillery, as well as Celtic Crystal and Connemara Marble
- 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:  
Wednesday, March 27 Meet at the Irish Cultural Center in West Springfield at 2:00 pm. Depart by coach at 3:00 pm for Bradley Airport. Flight departs for Dublin at 7:10 pm.
- Day 2:  
Thursday, March 28 Arrive at Dublin Airport at 5:10 am local time - Kennedy Coach's James Finn, our Irish bus driver/guide, will pick us up. Travel from Dublin Airport to Kilkea Castle, an hour plus drive from the airport. We arrive, check in then enjoy a lunch steak buffet. Prepare to feel impressed when you enter the grounds of one of the oldest inhabited castles in Ireland. With history dating back to 1180, Kilkea Castle captures the mystical charm of a 12th century castle. Once the medieval stronghold of the Fitzgeralds, Earls of Kildare, the castle was built by Hugh de Lacy for one of Strongbow's Norman Noblemen. The castle and grounds are family owned and managed by the Cashman Family of Boston. The owners' aim is to share their passion for the destination through authentic, enriching experiences and thoughtful, intuitive service.
- Offerings at the castle include group falconry demonstrations and archery lessons, with the afternoon to tour the grounds. Complimentary drink at 6:00 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm, a real treat; an exclusive 3 course dinner for the Irish Cultural Center guests. Then get your rest; your first night in Ireland will be spent on the grounds of an ancient castle.
- Day 3:  
Friday, March 29 Full Irish breakfast at the Kilkea Resort Center. We then board the coach to travel to Galway, with a stop halfway for a tour of the 1829 Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery; lunch is on your own at the distillery. Then depart for Galway, and check in at the Park House Hotel. The day is yours with free time for the afternoon & evening to explore the fastest growing city in Ireland. Dinner at 7:00 pm at the Park House Hotel.
- Day 4:  
Saturday, March 30 Full Irish breakfast at the Park House Hotel, then the coach leaves at 9:30 am for a tour of Celtic Crystal, and shopping at Connemara Marble. A 90-minute boat cruise on the Corrib River follows at 12:30 pm. Lough Corrib is the second largest lake in Ireland and is reputed to have 365 islands. It is a vast lake of 44,000 acres and stretches some thirty-five miles in length; the lake drains via the Corrib River through Galway City into Galway Bay. Lough Corrib is one of the best game fisheries in the world and is a wonderful place to experience game angling. There is an abundance of wildlife in Lough Corrib including birds and hawks, otters, mink and much more. Enjoy free time for the afternoon and evening. Dinner at 7:00 pm at the Park House Hotel.
- Day 5:  
Sunday, March 31 Full Irish breakfast at the Park House Hotel, then the coach departs Galway at 9:30 am for the Cliffs of Moher. Step on to the edge of the world and into an awe-inspiring view that dreams are made of – at the Cliffs of Moher you will encounter nature in its wildest, purest form. See the rugged cliffs facing the mighty Atlantic Ocean, taste the salt air, hear the birds cry, feel the ancient rocks beneath your feet (weather permitting). From there we head to Gus O'Connor's Pub in Doolin for a tour-sponsored lunch. We then take a brief ferry ride across the Shannon River, and continue on to Dingle. Arrive at the Dingle Skellig Hotel around 5:00 pm. Dinner at 7:00 pm at the Skellig Hotel.
- Day 6:  
Monday, April 1 Irish breakfast buffet at the Skellig Hotel, then the coach leaves at 9:30 am for the Fungie Dolphin Boat Tour OR the Dingle Distillery Tour (your choice). Then you have free time for the afternoon. Dinner and country music at Foley's Pub in the evening. The coach leaves at 5:00 pm for Inch Village, an hour-long ride.
- Day 7:  
Tuesday, April 2 Irish breakfast buffet at the Skellig Hotel, then the coach leaves at 9:30 am for a stop at Brian de Staic Jewelry. Then it's off to the Blasket Centre via the scenic coastal Sleah Head Drive, with a stop on the way at an ancient Celtic settlement dating back to 500 B.C. At the Centre, 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. Then it's back to Dingle Town for the afternoon, with free time on your own. Dinner at 6:30 pm at the Skellig Hotel.
- Day 8:  
Wednesday, April 3 Irish breakfast buffet at the Skellig Hotel, then the coach departs Dingle at 9:15 am for Kilkenny, with a stop in the very scenic town of Cashel for lunch on your own and a tour of The Rock Of Cashel, reputedly the site of the conversion of the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century. The Rock of Cashel was the seat of the High Kings of Munster. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries when the Rock was gifted to the Church. Then it's off to Kilkenny to check in to our hotel. You have the rest of the day free to explore the town. We recommend walking the Medieval Mile and visiting the Dominican Black Abbey. Dinner at 6:30 pm at the Kilkenny Hotel.

Day 9:  
Thursday, April 4 Full Irish breakfast at the Hotel Kilkenny, then the coach leaves at 9:30 am for a tour of Saint Canice's Cathedral. Our next stop is at Smithwick's Brewery, then it's off to Kilkenny Castle for a guided tour. You have the rest of the day free to walk the old streets of Kilkenny. Enjoy a farewell drink for our last night in Ireland at 6:00 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm at the Kilkenny Hotel.

Day 10:  
Friday, April 5 After a full Irish breakfast at the Hotel Kilkenny, it's time to pack up and head home. The coach leaves from the hotel at 10:00 am for Dublin Airport. Upon arrival at the airport we will clear customs in Dublin, then board our Aer Lingus flight, departing Ireland at 2:20 pm. Arrive at Bradley Airport at 4:35 pm. We will arrive by bus back at the ICC in West Springfield around 6:00 – 6:30 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 Early 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 of the Irish Cultural Center in good standing who have made a current 2018 or a 2019 annual donation will receive a €20 "Patron Benefit Refund" upon arrival in Ireland.

#### **For more information or reservations:**

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

**Dan Murphy, Tour Host** at 413-531-8791 or [murphsmagik@gmail.com](mailto:murphsmagik@gmail.com)

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



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