

A Special Ireland Program

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: ARRIVE / SWORDS. Guests arrive into Dublin airport and are met by a top class IQOTC driver/guide and a deluxe vehicle before being transferred to the elegant **Roganstown Golf & Country Club** (www.roganstown.com) for overnight. Time to relax before a welcome dinner is included at the hotel this evening.



DAY 2: GWEEDORE (CO. DONEGAL). Depart Roganstown after a hearty Irish breakfast and travel northwest through Cavan, where a visit is included to the Cavan Crystal Factory – great craftsmanship at even greater prices! Continue to Belleek China for a tour of this famous factory (and the chance to buy) before travelling into Co. Donegal. An Irish fashion show at Moya Ned's in the village of Gweedore will be a hoot before arriving at **An Chuir Hotel** – www.anchuir-hotel.ie-, where 2 nights are included for all guests. Dinner is included tonight at the hotel, after some great traditional music.



DAY 3: LOCAL TOURING. Early departure from hotel this morning and (if the weather is suitable) guests will take the ferry to Tory Island, off the coast of Co. Donegal, where guests will meet Patsai Dan McRuadhrih - the last-recognized King in Ireland - subject, of course, to Patsai's availability. A short walking tour of the island and a light lunch (accompanied by some special music from the island) before returning to the mainland on the ferry. Upon return guests will travel to Leo's Tavern (Leo is Enya's father and one of the most revered musicians in the country) for some traditional music and dancing.

GOLF OPTION: Instead of Tory Island, guests can play a round of golf at Dunfanaghy Golf Club. IQOTC will book the golf etc if available; guests would settle all fees direct.

DAY 4: CONNEMARA. After breakfast travel southeast to Donegal Town for another Irish fashion show at Magee's Donegal Tweed, the most famous outlet in Co. Donegal. From here south to Drumcliffe to visit the church and graveyard where W. B. Yeats is buried. On south to Tom Hennigan's Heritage Farm, where an optional farm lunch and a tour, before continuing into Connemara for 2 nights at either **Mal Dua House** (www.maldua.com), OR **Rock Glen Country House** (www.connemara.net/rockglen-hotel). Dinner included tonight.



DAY 5: LOCAL TOURING. A relaxing day of local sightseeing to include the spectacular Kylemore Abbey, the village of Roundstone (used in many films) and the fishing town of Clifden. An evening at leisure.

GOLF OPTION: Instead of local touring guests can play a round of golf at Connemara Golf Club. Again, IQOTC will book the golf etc if available; guests would settle all fees direct.

DAY 6: KILLARNEY. Depart Connemara heading east along Lough Corrib to Galway and southwest across the rugged Burren to visit the Cliffs of Moher. From here through Ennis to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, where a pause for an optional lunch at the infamous “Durt Nelly’s” pub and (after) a wander through the Folk Park. Continue south, bypassing Limerick to Adare, where a brief stop in this pretty thatched village before arriving in Killarney. 2 nights at the **Old Weir Lodge** (www.oldweirlodge.com) OR the **Killarney Park Hotel** (www.killarneyparkhotel.ie). Dinner included this evening.



DAY 7: LOCAL TOURING. Tour the Dingle Peninsula today, one of the most spectacular parts of Ireland. This area is as beautiful as the Ring of Kerry but much less crowded and "touristy". Those magnificent scenes from the award-winning film, "Ryan's Daughter", were shot along the Dingle Peninsula. Return to Killarney for an independent evening with the chance to enjoy more traditional music in one of the many local pubs.

GOLF OPTION: Instead of local touring guests can play a round of golf at the Killarney Golf & Fishing Club.

DAY 8: WATERFORD. Depart Killarney after breakfast and head east to the legendary Blarney Castle, where time to kiss “The Stone of Eloquence” (or, better, kiss someone of the opposite sex who is good looking and can prove they’ve recently kissed it!) and pillage of Blarney Woollen Mills. From here through Cork to Fota House, perhaps the best country house visit in Ireland at present. After, continue east to Waterford, where 2 nights at **Faithlegg House** (www.faithlegg.com) OR **Waterford Castle** (www.waterfordcastle.com). Dinner included this evening.



DAY 9: LOCAL TOURING. Visits and guided tours today to the Waterford Glass Factory and the Dunbrody Famine Ship in New Ross. This evening be our guests at the amazing Jack Meade’s Pub, with traditional music. Optional dinner in the pub.

GOLF OPTION: Instead of local touring guests can play a round of golf at the Faithlegg Golf Club.

DAY 10: DUBLIN. After breakfast head north to visit Kilkenny Castle and (opposite) the Design Centre before continuing on to Dublin, where an orientation tour before checking in for 2 nights at **The Mont Clare** (www.ocallaghanhotels.ie), OR **The Merrion** (www.merrionhotel.com). Rest of the day is free.



DAY 11: DUBLIN. A free day to enjoy Dublin. You'll find many shops on or close to Grafton Street, where you'll see a great selection of crystal, woolens, lacework and other Irish crafts. If you're interested in Irish literature, you should visit the Dublin Writers' Museum. Dublin is famous as a city of writers and literature, and the Dublin Writers' Museum is an essential visit for anyone who wants to discover, explore, or simply enjoy Dublin's immense literary heritage. Maybe a visit to the Guinness brewery to get some advance "knowledge and practice" for later...?! This evening we'll include a pub tour to 3 famous pubs in the city centre (a pint of beer or glass of wine in each pub) and a pub dinner in one.

DAY 12: DEPART. A departure transfer to Dublin airport.

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