

Jim Gold International Folk Dance & Cultural Tours



Travel to
Ireland
broadens
one!

Ireland!

Folk Dancing, Culture, Art, History, Adventure !

July 25-August 6, 2014

Led by Jim Gold



- ★ Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Belfast, Dublin!
- ★ Kiss the Blarney stone in Blarney Castle!
- ★ Meet and dance with Irish folk dance groups! Traditional Irish music and dance at Doolin Folk Festival!
- ★ International folk dancing!
- ★ Optional biking led by Barry Walter!
- ★ See picturesque villages, medieval castles, remote cottages, wild and rugged beauty, valleys, mountains, lakes and cliffs!
- ★ Hear spoken Gaelic language in all its glory!
- ★ Traditional Irish nights, Trinity College, Book of Kells, legends and history, drive the ring of Kerry, explore Bunratty Castle, visit the ship Titanic in Belfast, dance a jig, ride in horse drawn carriage, Ceili dancing, step-dancing, whiskey, whimsy, ancient forts, and more!
- ★ Price includes round-trip air, transfers, hotels, private bus, guide, sightseeing, all breakfasts and dinners

Itinerary

Day 1: Friday, July 25: Depart on Aer Lingus from New York's JFK airport.

Day 2: Saturday, July 26:

Arrive at Shannon Airport and transfer to Clarion Hotel in Limerick. Walking tour of this charming city passing the monument to one of Limerick's famous sons, actor Richard Harris. Evening, we'll gather in



Bunratty Castle for a mediaeval banquet with Irish music, song, dance, and storytelling.
Overnight at Clarion hotel in Limerick.

Day 3: Sunday, July 27:

Today we'll visit **county Tipperary**. This part of the country is known as The Golden Vale due to its fertile lands and agriculture benefits hugely from its richness. Our day begins with a visit to the famous castle, the **Rock of Cashel**. Afterwards return to Limerick city to freshen up and enjoy an evening meal at the hotel. Then we'll join the locals of a small rural area in East County Limerick – Ballinvreena. Here we'll **learn steps of Irish dancing and partake in set dancing**. Dancing at the crossroads was a popular social meeting for rural communities in the past and Ballinvreena is keen to keep the tradition alive. Overnight in Limerick.



Day 4: Monday, July 28:

Morning drive along the rugged coastline, passing stone walls, bogland and lakes to arrive in **Connemara** and the National Park. In many parts of Connemara, the Irish language is the first language. We'll visit Kylemore Abbey, Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns, an excellent example of Irish neo-gothic architecture. Late afternoon arrival in Galway city. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight at your Galway hotel.



Day 5: Tuesday, July 29:

Ferry to the **Aran Islands**. En route, view dramatic **Cliffs of Moher** rising from the sea. Dock in **Inis Mór, largest of the Islands**. We'll visit **Dun Aenghus**, a fort dating back 3000 years. (Note: Visit of the Island depends on weather.) Ferry back to Doolin in County Clare to visit the incredible Burren landscape with its glacial limestone deposits, and fascinating flora and fauna. Overnight, dinner and live music entertainment. At our Armada hotel.



Day 6: Wednesday, July 30:

Drive to **North County Kerry**. We'll cross Shannon Estuary where friendly Dolphins and other wildlife dwell, then tour the beautiful **Dingle Peninsula**. Visit Gallarus Oratory built by early Christian monks. Then we'll travel on to Killarney, passing **Inch Beach**, the setting for the movie Ryan's Daughter. Overnight, dinner and folk dancing in Brehon Hotel Killarney.

Day 7: Thursday, July, 31:

Beautiful **Killarney!** **Ride a Horse & Jaunting Car through Killarney National Park to Muckross House & Gardens**. This National Park is Ireland's largest, covering over 25,000 acres of mountain, garden, park, woodland, waterway and moorland. You'll see Muckross Abbey, built in 1448 and its huge Yew tree, said to be as old as the abbey itself. Drive to Torc Waterfall and Ladies View and Molls Gap. The stunning view overlooks the entire valley and Lakes of Killarney. We'll finish our day with a **boat cruise on Loch Lein**, largest of the three Killarney lakes. Return to Killarney. Evening dinner and a **performance at Siamsa Tire in Tralee or Lord of the Dance in Killarney**.



Day 8 - Friday, August 1

The Rebel County of Cork. After a panoramic tour of Cork City we'll visit the English Market on Grand Parade, known for local and exotic delicacies, traditional to Cork. Continue to village of Blarney and **Blarney Castle to receive the "gift of the gab" by kissing the Blarney Stone**. Browse among the Irish goods and souvenirs at the Blarney Woolen Mills shop. Then drive

to Waterford for the **annual Spraoi festival**, a flamboyant event showcasing modern arts, drama, music and dance. Overnight and dinner at Waterford city center hotel.

Day 9: Saturday, August 2:

Walking tour of **Waterford City**, one of the original Viking strongholds in Ireland and an important as a trading port. Visit Viking Triangle, Reginald's tower, Bishop's Palace and the Museum of Treasures. In the city center is the famous **House of Waterford Crystal glass makers**. From Waterford, we'll head north towards the garden county of Wicklow, stopping at Glendalough to see the National Park and the monastic ruins. Overnight, dinner, and folk dancing at Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel in Killiney in South County Dublin.



Day 10: Sunday, August 3

Depart for the **Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland and the Giant's Causeway**: The beautiful coastal scenery is most awe inspiring. Overnight in the Europa Hotel in Belfast city center, a landmark with a remarkable recent history dating back to 1971.

Day 11: Monday, August 4:



Panoramic tour of Belfast including the **Titanic Quarter to visit the newly launched Titanic Experience**. Travel south from Belfast to Boyne Valley and Bru Na Boinne to explore the three **Neolithic chamber tombs** and other prehistoric enclosures, which predate the Great Pyramids. Arrive in Dublin. Dinner, dancing, and overnight in Dublin City Center at O'Callaghan's Hotel .



Day 12: Tuesday, August 5:

Panoramic tour of **Dublin City**, capital of Ireland, located on the River Liffey and founded as a Viking settlement in 841. See the Georgian quarter, Merrion Square, Stephen's Green, and Trinity College Library with the illuminated manuscripts of **The Book of Kells, written around 800 AD**. In the evening, we'll visit to the **Irish Dance Museum** for a history of traditional dancing in Ireland followed by a session with live music, dancing demonstrations and plenty of Jigs and Reels. Dinner and overnight in Dublin.

Day 13 - Wednesday, August 6

After breakfast depart for Dublin Airport for return flight home.

Land Only: \$3995

Land and Air: \$4895

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$795. Additional charges: air tax/fuel charge: \$245. Service charges: \$85. Gratuities and drinks during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 60 days prior to departure: Refund: 50% of total price. Less than 45 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended. **Total balance due April 1, 2014**

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone (____) _____

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