Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours



Ireland!

Folk Dancing, Culture, Art, History, Adventure!

July 13-25, 2019

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman

- ★ Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Dingle, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin!
- ★ Kiss the Blarney stone in Blarney Castle!
- ★ Meet and dance with Irish folk dance groups!
- ★ International folk dancing!
- ★ 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, dance a jig, jam with local musicians, 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: Saturday, July 13: Depart on Aer Lingus from New York's JFK airport.
- Day 2: Sunday, July 14: Limerick

Arrive at Shannon Airport. 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 Clayton hotel in Limerick.

- Day 3: Monday, July 15: Cliffs of Moher and the Burren
 - Morning drive to Cliffs of Moher and the Burren with its lunar landscape of limestone rock, majestic mountains, tranquil valleys and meandering streams. Overnight, dinner and live music entertainment at our Armada hotel in County Clare.
- Day 4: Tuesday, July 16: Galway

Visit Galway – the city of the Tribes. Music, festivals, pubs, restaurants, shops, theaters and most of all Galway people, combine to create this atmospheric mediaeval city of culture. Explore Spanish Arch, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Shop Street and sample world famous Galway Bay oysters.

Evening featuring legendary traditional musician Máirín Fahy, soloist with Riverdance, guest musicians, and world champion Irish dancers.. **Overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.**

Day 5: Wednesday, July 17: Aran Islands

All day trip to Inis Mór – the largest of the **Aran Islands.** After ferry ride, drive to **Dun Aonghasa** Fort, largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.

Day 6: Thursday, July 18: Connemara and Kylemore Abbey

Tour Connemara National Park with its stone walls, bogland, lakes, and mountains, In a large part of Connemara Irish is still the first language. Visit **Kylemore Abbey**, Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns and example of Irish neo-gothic architecture. **Dinner**, **folk dancing**, **and overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway**.

Day 7: Friday, July 19: Killimer and ferry to County. Kerry

See pods of Dolphin and wildlife while crossing the Shannon Estuary. Arrive in Kingdom of Kerry. Tour of the Dingle Peninsula. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Skellig Hotel in Dingle.

Day 8: Saturday, July 20: Dingle

Leisurely drive on the Slea Head Peninsula, with its cluster of ancient sites, cozy villages, and breathtaking scenery. En route visit the tiny church of Gallarus Oratory and the Irish Romanesque church of. Kilmalkedar. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Skellig Hotel in Dingle.

Day 9: Sunday, July 21: Ring of Kerry and Killarney

Pass Inch Beach on our way to Killarney setting of the movie Ryan's Daughter. Tour Killarney National Park and Muckross Abbey, built in 1448. Drive to Torc Waterfall and view the entire valley and the Lakes of Killarney. **Evening dinner and performance of Irish song, dance, and story at Siamsa Tire**. Overnight Brehon Hotel in Killarney,

Day 10: Monday, July 22: Cork, Kinsale, Blarney Castle, and the English Market

Travel to the Rebel County of Cork and **Blarney Castle!** Kiss the Blarney Stone to receive the "gift of the gab", a talent for eloquence the Irish famously possess. Panoramic tour of Cork City Stroll through the **English Market**, a hive of activity with exotic and local delicacies. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight at Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork.

Day 11: Tuesday, July 23: Dublin

Visit historic Glendalough, and the National Park on our way to Dublin. **Glendalough** means the valley of the two lakes in English. The early history of the East Coast of Ireland is heavily influenced by Viking invasions and the round tower here gives an insight into the defenses used by the monks and locals. Overnight at Mespil Hotel in Dublin.

Day 12: Wednesday, July 23: Dublin

After a panoramic tour of Dublin, see Trinity College Library and The Book of Kells written around 800 AD. Then visit one of Dublin's most famous attractions – **The Guinness Storehouse** to learn about the brewing process, history of the storehouse and influence of Guinness family on Dublin city. Overnight at Mespil Hotel in Dublin.

Day 13: Thursday, July 25:

After breakfast depart for Dublin Airport for return flight home.

Land Only: \$3795 Land and Air: \$4695

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Ireland single supplement: \$750. Hotel taxes and service charges:\$145. Gratuities not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund: Less than 60 days: No refund. Travel insurance always recommended. **Total balance due April 10 2019**

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