

## 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!
- ★ Traditional Irish music and dance.
- ★ 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, 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: Saturday, July 13:** Depart on Aer Lingus from New York's JFK airport.

**Day 2: Sunday, July 14: Limerick**

Arrive at Shannon Airport and transfer to Clayton Hotel in Limerick. Welcome tea, coffee, and scones upon arrival. Take a walking tour of Limerick city. Enjoy a riverside walk whilst learning about the city. Pass the local rowing clubs as you cross the Sarsfield Bridge. See the Curragower falls on the river and the boardwalk takes the path up to the Treaty Stone. The Treaty of Limerick was signed on this stone and it remains a symbol for the city to this day. Striking an imposing figure across the bridge from the Treaty Stone you will see King John's Castle. A 12<sup>th</sup> century castle built by King John of England, it

stands as a testament to 800 years of history. The area around the castle, known as King's Island is the oldest part of Limerick, its network of narrow, winding streets and alleyways are consistent with its medieval town planning. This area of Limerick known as Englishtown was originally walled and served as the administrative centre of the town in earlier times. **Visit King John's Castle.** En- route back to the hotel pass by Arthurs Quay Park and O'Connell Street, which is the main shopping street of the city. On Bedford Row there is a monument to one of Limerick's most famous sons – Richard Harris the actor. Evening, we'll gather in **Bunratty Castle for a mediaeval banquet with Irish music, song, dance, and storytelling** at the Banquet. Overnight Clayton Hotel in Limerick.

### Day 3: Monday, July 15: Cliffs of Moher and the Burren

After breakfast today, you will depart your hotel and visit the majestic Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. The Cliffs are 214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. The Cliffs take their name from a ruined promontory fort 'Mohtar' – which was demolished during the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800's, to make room for a signal tower at Hag's Head. The word 'Mohtar' in old Gaelic means 'the ruin of a fort'. The Burren is of huge international significance for three reasons – geological, botanical and archaeological. The Burren lunar like landscape is an area of limestone rock formed 360 million years ago and consists of imposing majestic mountains, and tranquil valleys with gently meandering streams. Overnight, dinner and live music entertainment at our Armada hotel in County Clare.



### Day 4: Tuesday, July 16: Galway

Today you will leave Clare and head northwards towards Galway – the city of the Tribes. Following a short walking tour with your tour guide, you are free to explore Galway City Centre. This historic city of the tribes dances to a beat uniquely its own. There is certain chemistry and vibrancy to this friendly University City, which many delight in, and few forget. Music, festivals, horse racing, pubs, restaurants, shops, theaters and most of all

Galway people, combine to create this atmospheric mediaeval city of culture. Explore highlights like the Spanish Arch, St. Nicholas Cathedral, colorful Shop Street or sample some world famous Galway Bay oysters. Following dinner at the hotel, you will board a coach to take you to the Galway Bay Hotel for "Trad on the Prom" Performers who have captivated audiences in extraordinary productions such as 'Riverdance', 'The Chieftains', 'Lord of the Dance' and 'Feet of Flames' have gathered together on one stage to make this an **unforgettable Irish dance entertainment experience.**

Showcasing the talents of legendary trad musician Máirín Fahy, soloist with Riverdance and The Chieftains, as well as an amazing selection of guest musicians and world champion Irish dancers, it's a remarkable experience. **Overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.**

### Day 5: Wednesday, July 17: Aran Islands

Drive to Rossaveal Harbour for the ferry to Inis Mór – largest of the **Aran Islands.** From the ferry see the twelve Bens in Connemara in the distance behind you along with Galway Bay. We'll visit **Dun Aonghasa** Fort perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This largest of the prehistoric stone forts on the Aran Islands is enclosed by three massive dry-stone walls and a "chevaux-de-frise" with tall blocks of limestone to deter attackers. Dinner, folk dancing, overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.

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



After breakfast, we'll tour Connemara National Park. Stone walls, bogland and lakes will fill the landscape along with the Park's mountains, namely Benbaun, Bencullagh, Benbrack and Muckanaght, part of the famous Twelve Bens or Beanna Beola range. The Irish language is still the first language in Connemara. We'll visit **Kylemore Abbey** the only Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns. Built as a Castle in 1868, it is one of the best examples of Irish neo-gothic architecture, featuring a Victorian Walled Garden, restored Abbey reception rooms and Gothic Church. **Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.**



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

This morning we'll travel southwards towards Killimer in County Clare. We'll board a river Ferry which to transport us from Clare into North Kerry. While crossing the Shannon Estuary look for pods of Dolphin and other wildlife. Arrive in Kingdom of Kerry, and the tour of Dingle Peninsula begins. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Skellig Hotel in Dingle.



**Day 8: Saturday, July 20: Dingle**

Today, a leisurely drive on the Sleat Head Peninsula. Located on Ireland's western-most edge, Sleat Head treats visitors to a cluster of ancient sites, cozy villages, and breathtaking scenery. This quintessential Irish circular driving route starts and ends in the town of Dingle. Visit **Gallarus Oratory** a tiny church whose stone roof and walls has been around for over 1,000 years. Visit Kilmalkedar Church: The remains of this Irish Romanesque church are surrounded by an old cemetery filled with ancient carved stones and a striking view. Free time in charming Dingle this afternoon and evening. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Skellig Hotel in Dingle.

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

Morning drive to Killarney. En route we'll pass Inch Beach the setting of the movie Ryan's. We'll visit Killarney National Park, Ireland's first and largest national park covering 25,000 acres of mountain, garden, park, woodland, waterway and moorland. The



remoteness and inaccessibility of some areas helps the continued survival of Ireland's only remaining wild herd of native Red Deer. On the lower mountain slopes, the largest remaining area of Oakwoods, which once covered the entire island, can be seen. You'll see Muckross Abbey, built in 1448, with its huge Yew Tree, said to be as old as the abbey itself. **Muckross House** has been visited by Queen Victoria and a linked history with the Bourne



Vincent's and their Filoli House in San Francisco. From Muckross Estate drive to Torc Waterfall and view the entire valley and the Lakes of Killarney. Free time in the afternoon to explore Killarney town. **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**

Today our tour continues to the Rebel County of Cork. We'll drive through the scenic mountainous region that surrounds the county. Visit famous **Blarney Castle** and Village. Kiss the Blarney Stone and receive the "gift of the gab", a talent for eloquence the Irish famously possess. After visiting the castle and grounds enjoy Blarney Woollen Mills shop. After a panoramic tour of Cork City we'll stroll through the **English Market** on Grand Parade. This Victorian indoor market, a hive of activity to awaken the senses. has survived since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Delicacies both local and exotic can be seen and you'll will experience the unique local fare that is traditional to Cork. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight at Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork.

**Day 11: Tuesday, July 23: Dublin**

Morning drive to Dublin via Glendalough in Co. Wicklow to see the National Park and the monastic ruins. Beautiful **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 Glendalough round tower gives insight into the defenses used by the monks and locals. Overnight at Mespil Hotel in Dublin.

**Day 12: Wednesday, July 23: Dublin**

Full day of sightseeing in this capital city. Panoramic tour of Dublin and visit Trinity College Library. See the beautiful illuminated manuscripts of **The Book of Kells**. Written around the year 800 AD it contains the four gospels, preceded by prefaces, summaries, and gospel passages.. We'll tour one of Dublin's most famous attractions – **The Guinness Storehouse**. Learn about the brewing process, the history of the storehouse and influence of the Guinness family on Dublin city. At the Gravity bar, while enjoying the vista above the city, everyone will get to sample "The Black Stuff." 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**

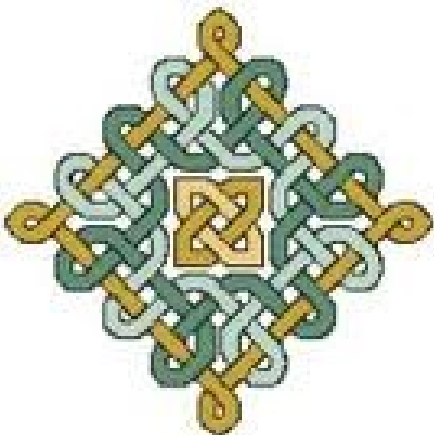
**REGISTRATION FORM:** I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Ireland single supplement: \$750. Hotel taxes and service charges:\$145. Gratuities not included. Program subject to change without notice. Total refund if cancellation is 90 days prior to departure: 90-60 days: 50% refund. Less than 60 days: No refund. Travel insurance always recommended.. **Total balance due April 10 2019**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of people \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reservations:** Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

**Changes:** Prices and program subject to change without notice

**Baggage:** One baggage per person and a carry on is allowed.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations 75 days prior to departure: Refund 50% of total price. Less than 60 days: No refund. Additionally, any cancellation fees imposed by the respective hotels, airlines, tour companies and cruise lines will be charged. Travel Insurance is non-refundable as are unused services.

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