

Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours



Travel to
Ireland
broadens
one!

Ireland!

Folk Dancing, Culture, Art, History, Adventure !

August 5-17, 2023

Led by 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, Irish traditional music at Dolan's pub, dance a jig, ride in horse drawn carriage, Ceili dancing, step-dancing, whiskey, whimsy, ancient forts, and more.
- ★ Price includes hotels, private bus, guide, sightseeing, all breakfasts, most dinners.
- ★ Folk dance and tour videos at: www.jimgold.com

Itinerary

Day 1: Saturday, August 5: Depart for Ireland on airlines of your choice.

Day 2: Sunday, August 6: Limerick

Walking tour of Limerick 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. Across the bridge from the Treaty Stone you will see King John's 12th 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. This area of Limerick, known as Englishtown, originally served as the administrative center of the town. Visit King John's Castle. En-route back to the hotel pass by Arthur's Quay Park and O'Connell Street, the main shopping street of the city. On Bedford Row is a monument to one of Limerick's most famous sons –

Richard Harris the actor. Evening will be a Welcome Dinner at Dolan's Pub followed by live traditional Irish music starting at 9:00 pm, Overnight Clayton Hotel in Limerick.

Day 3: Monday, August 7: Cliffs of Moher and the Burren

After breakfast today, depart to visit the majestic Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. The Cliffs are the highest point and range for 8 kilometers over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. They take their name from a ruined promontory fort 'Mohtar' – demolished during the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800's to make room for the signal tower at Hag's Head. The word 'Mohtar' in old Gaelic means 'the ruin of a fort'. 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, live Irish music at our Armada hotel in County Clare.

Day 4: Tuesday, August 8: Galway

Today we'll leave Clare and head north towards Galway – the city of the Tribes. Following a short walking tour with your tour guide, you are free to explore Galway City Center. This historic city has a beat uniquely its own, a friendly University City, which many delight in. Music, festivals, horse racing, pubs, restaurants, shops, theaters and most of all, Galway people, combine to create the atmospheric in this 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 evening. **Overnight Meyrick Hotel in Galway.**

Day 5: Wednesday, August 9: 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. 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, August 10: 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, August 11: 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, August 12: 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. Dinner, folk dancing, and overnight Skellig Hotel in Dingle.

Day 9: Sunday, August 13: 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. You'll see Muckross Abbey, built in 1448. **Muckross House** has been visited by Queen Victoria Drive to Torc Waterfall and view the entire valley and the Lakes of Killarney. Free time in the afternoon to explore Killarney town. Folk dancing and overnight Brehon Hotel in Killarney,

Day 10: Monday, August 14: Cork, Kinsale, Blarney Castle, English Market

Visit the Rebel County of Cork. Drive through the scenic mountainous region surrounding the county. Visit **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. Then a panoramic tour of Cork City. We'll stroll through the **English Market** on Grand Parade. This Victorian indoor market has survived since the 18th Century. Delicacies both local and exotic, 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, August 15: 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 influenced by Viking invasions and Glendalough round tower shows defenses used by the monks and locals. Overnight at Mespil Hotel in Dublin.

Day 12: Wednesday, August 16: 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.. Overnight at Mespil Hotel in Dublin.

Day 13: Thursday, August 17:

After breakfast depart for Dublin Airport for return flight home.

Land Only: \$3995 (approx)

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 90 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended.

Total balance due May 1, 2023

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone_(_____)_____

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