



John Boyle O'Reilly Club's
2017 West Coast of Ireland Tour
Galway ~ Dingle ~ Killarney
11-Day / 9-Night Customized Tour
Sunday, October 1 – Wednesday, October 11, 2017



Tour pricing will be available in late fall 2016 -- we are awaiting Aer Lingus airfare pricing.

Day 1 – Sunday, October 1. US – SHANNON, IRELAND: Depart Boston/Logan International airport for your overnight flight to Shannon, Ireland via Aer Lingus. Enjoy in-flight entertainment. Dinner will be served shortly after takeoff.

Day 2 – Monday, October 2. SHANNON - ENNIS - GALWAY: Upon arrival at Shannon Airport, you welcomed by your Celtic Tours Irish driver/guide in the Arrivals Hall and then escorted to your waiting luxury motor coach, which will transfer you in style to Galway, “the City of Tribes.” Our first stop on our journey will be in County Clare at the Old Ground Hotel in the old market town of Ennis for a full Irish breakfast. We will then continue onto Galway and stop to enjoy a photo stop and picturesque stroll along the Salthill Promenade overlooking beautiful Galway Bay [weather permitting]. As we proceed to our hotel, we will enjoy a brief panoramic tour of Galway City. Arrive and check into your Galway hotel, **Jurys Inn Galway**, with time to rest or enjoy a free afternoon. Dinner and overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 3 – Tuesday, October 3. GALWAY - ARAN ISLAND EXCURSION - GALWAY: Enjoy your full Irish breakfast before departing for a day trip to Inishmore, the largest Aran Island, via a ferry at Rossaveal Harbour at mid-morning. Once on the island, enjoy a 2-1/2 hour mini-bus tour of island including a visit to the ancient monastic settlement of the Seven Churches and an optional climb to the Iron Age (around 1100 BC) three ringed-fort of Dun Aengus, dramatically perched on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Surrounding the walls of this fort is a network of upright defensive stones known as chevaux de frise. After our tour, there will be time to explore the island on your own, enjoy lunch in the village of Kilronan, and shop for Aran handknits and giftware. Return from Inishmore and arrive in Galway City late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 4 – Wednesday, October 4. GALWAY – CONNEMARA - GALWAY: After a full Irish breakfast, we depart this morning on a tour of the rugged yet serenely beautiful Connemara area. This rocky land of broad-back mountains and pearl-like lakes is the largest Irish speaking section of the country where the old traditions and way of life are as much a part of Connemara’s attractions as is the scenery. We drive along the shores of Lough Corrib and then westward through Maam Cross and the Maamturk Mountains to Leenane and Kylemore. A visit to Ireland, and especially to the West of Ireland and Connemara, is not complete without experiencing the beauty and tranquility that is Kylemore Abbey and Victorian-Walled Garden. Kylemore Abbey has been the home to a community of nuns from the Benedictine Order since 1920, and in the 1930s, the Benedictine Order created a world-renowned boarding school for girls, which operated for 60+ years until its closure in 2010. The award-winning 6-acre walled garden was one of the last walled gardens to be built in the Victorian period in Ireland, and the only walled garden constructed in bogland (peatland). After our visit, we return to Galway and arrive mid-afternoon with the remainder of the afternoon free. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own and overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 5 – Thursday, October 5. GALWAY – CLIFFS OF MOHER - DINGLE: This morning, after a full Irish breakfast, we will depart for our journey to Dingle. Our drive will be along Galway Bay, through the charming villages of Kinvara and Ballyvaughan, through the Burren region and to the coastline of County Clare. We stop at the mighty Cliffs of Moher, rising to almost 700 feet above the sea and stretching for 5 miles. From here, you can gaze far out into the Atlantic Ocean and pick out the form of the Aran Islands in the distance. From the cliffs, we travel through Lahinch to Killimer. Here we board our ferry for the short ride across the River Shannon Estuary to Tarbert and arrive in County Kerry. We will continue south through Tralee past the beautiful wide expanse of Tralee Bay, which falls under the shadow of the Slieve Mish mountains and on to Dingle, arriving late afternoon for check into your **Dingle Benners Hotel**. Dinner and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 6 – Friday, October 6. DINGLE: Enjoy a leisurely full Irish breakfast before departing for a late morning tour of the small craft Dingle Brewing Company, nestled at the base of the majestic Conor Pass in the historic former Dingle Creamery building, which dates back to 1888 and was at the heart of Dingle commercial life until the 1970s. During our visit, we will learn about the brewing process, in which the use of the site’s own pure spring water is crucial, and the history of the Creamery itself. At the conclusion of our tour, we will be able savor a pint of their finely crafted Tom Crean’s Lager (named in honor of the local Antarctic hero from Annascaul). Return to Dingle Town and the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to discover the many charms that this town has to offer. Dinner and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 7 – Saturday, October 7. DINGLE – DINGLE PENINSULA - DINGLE: After a full Irish breakfast, we begin our day touring the magnificent coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula. Beyond Sleat Head, we’ll see the Blasket Islands, which is the last outpost of Europe. We will travel on to Dunquin to visit The Blasket Centre. Here the Centre celebrates and explores the history and life of the Blasket Islanders, who inhabited the Islands until 1953 and the many families that emigrated directly to

Springfield, Massachusetts. We will also discover the unique literary achievements of the Islands' writers and their native language, culture, and tradition. Next, we continue on our journey through the quaint villages of peninsula and visit the Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian church built between the 7th and 8th centuries overlooking picturesque Smerwick Harbour. Your visit here will conjure up visions of monks in early Christian times in this "land of saints and scholars". The Oratory is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland, constructed of dry-stone corbelling (using techniques first developed by neolithic tombmakers), and it resembles an upturned boat. We return to Dingle with the remainder of day free. Tonight, dinner on your own and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 8 – Sunday, October 8. DINGLE – FREE DAY!!: After your leisurely full Irish breakfast, you have the entire day free to independently explore Dingle. Enjoy the many colorful shops, pubs, and restaurants that Dingle has to offer or take a walk down to Dingle Harbour and soak in the beautiful vistas of Dingle Bay. Or perhaps, take a fun Dingle Dolphin boat tour and see Dingle's famous friendly dolphin, Fungie, as he visits and travels alongside your boat. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 9 – Monday, October 9. DINGLE – INCH STRAND - KILLARNEY: After your Irish breakfast, we will depart Dingle and travel to Killarney. Before reaching Killarney, we will visit and stroll along Inch Strand, the 3-mile beach location chosen by David Lean for his film, "Ryan's Daughter". Arrive in Killarney where we will check into your **Killarney Plaza Hotel** in the early afternoon. *Perhaps enjoy an optional early afternoon jaunting car journey through Killarney National Park and a brief visit to 15th century Ross Castle.* The remainder of the afternoon is free before we gather and depart for our special group dinner and entertainment event at Kate Kearney's Cottage in the Gap of Dunloe. Overnight at your Killarney hotel.

Day 10 – Tuesday, October 10. KILLARNEY – KENMARE - KILLARNEY: Enjoy a full Irish breakfast before departing for Kenmare with time to explore this picturesque County Kerry town with its unique charm and inherent beauty. This town has been officially recognized for its historical, cultural, and environmental significance and has been bestowed the title of Kerry's first Heritage Town in Ireland by the Ireland Tourist Board. On our return journey, we will travel through the picturesque Molls Gap with its sweeping views of the MacGillycuddy Reeks mountain range, which includes Carruntuohill, the highest mountain Ireland. We will arrive back in Killarney by mid-afternoon with remainder of the afternoon free. Dinner and overnight at your Killarney hotel.

Day 11 – Wednesday, October 11. KILLARNEY - SHANNON - US: Before saying goodbye to our Irish driver/guide and the enchanting Emerald Isle, enjoy a full Irish breakfast prior to our departure to Shannon Airport. There will be time for last-minute shopping at duty-free before our return flight home to Boston/Logan via Aer Lingus.

YOUR HOTELS:

- **Galway: Jurys Inn Galway** (3 nights, 2 hotel dinners)
Quay Street, Galway City, County Galway, Ireland
Phone in Ireland: 091 566 444 Phone from USA: 011 353 91 566 444
www.jurysinngalway@jurysinns.com
- **Dingle: Dingle Benners Hotel** (4 nights, 2 hotel dinners)
Main Street, Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland
Phone in Ireland: 066 915 1638 Phone from USA: 011 353 66 915 1638
www.dinglebenners.com

- **Killarney: Killarney Plaza Hotel** (2 nights, 1 hotel dinner)
 Kenmare Place, Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland
 Phone in Ireland: 064 662 1100 Phone from USA: 011 353 64 662 1100
 www.killarneyplaza.com

INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR:

- Local roundtrip bus transportation – JBO Club to and from Boston/Logan Airport
- Roundtrip airfare from Boston to Shannon on 10/1-10/2 and Shannon to Boston on 10/11 via Aer Lingus
- All transportation and sightseeing via deluxe touring motor coach with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide throughout our tour
- Nine (9) First Class and Superior Class hotel accommodations – all rooms with private facilities
- Ten (10) full Irish breakfasts (including day of arrival in Ennis)
- Five (5) hotel dinners
- One (1) special group dinner and entertainment event at Kate Kearney’s Cottage in the Gap of Dunloe
- All entrance fees to exhibits/tours, etc: Roundtrip ferry excursion to/from largest Aran Island (Inishmore) with mini-bus island tour, Dun Aengus Fort, Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden, Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Brewing Company, Blasket Centre and Gallarus Oratory
- AND surprises and treats along our tour, courtesy of the JBO Club Ireland Tour Committee!!
- Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person
- Celtic Tours flight bag and portfolio of travel documents
- All other standard items: airfare and departure taxes, land, all hotel gratuities, portorage, etc.
- **All gratuities to local bus drivers and Celtic Tours Irish driver/guide included in your price**

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING JBO CLUB IRELAND TOUR PRICING: As you will see from this detailed itinerary, we have many very special visits included in this tour. Please note that our itinerary is all-inclusive, which includes land, air and departure taxes, admissions to all sites/events, roundtrip local bus transportation to and from the JBO Club/Boston Logan, and all gratuities (including hotels, local bus drivers as well as our Irish driver/guide). It is very rare to find a tour that bundles all gratuities into their tour price – there is no digging in your pockets or purse on your last tour day for Euros for your Irish driver/guide. The only items that you will be responsible for paying for are your daily lunches and three dinners (one in Galway and two in Dingle) -- ten breakfasts, five dinners, and one special group dinner/ entertainment event in Killarney are all included in our tour price. Unlike other tours, we do not inflate our tour price. As with our past five annual tours, we have priced our tour at the net cost pricing that we receive directly from our tour company. We then pass on any free land or air bonuses that we receive from our tour company to our tour passengers in the form of special surprises and treats all along our tour. Each JBO Club Ireland Tour Committee Member [Eric Devine, Dick Devine & Joyce Bosworth] pays the full tour price so that we can pass the savings and treats on to our tour passengers.

**For additional information,
 please contact Eric Devine (413.222.0676) or
 Joyce Bosworth (413.330.6363 or IrelandTours@jbo-club.com).**

www.jbo-club.com