

# ***JOURNEY TO IRELAND ITINERARY:***

## **PRE EXTENSION IN LONDON BEGINS HERE:**

### **DAY 1 – Saturday: NEW YORK / LONDON**

Today we will meet at JFK International airport for our flight to London via wide-body aircraft arriving the next day. Meals served on board.

### **DAY 2 – Sunday: LONDON**

This morning we arrive in London and are met by our guide. We begin our tour by driving through the historic streets of London, we pass through Trafalgar Square with the Nelson Monument and National Gallery. We also see Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the Metropolitan Tabernacle, which is a large [Reformed Baptist](#) church in the [Elephant and Castle](#) in [London](#). It was the largest church edifice of its day in 1861 and can be considered a precursor to the modern "[megachurch](#)." We continue our sightseeing tour of London where we will view such highlights as Buckingham Palace (with the changing of the guards), the British Museum and visits to St. Paul's Cathedral. We will see Westminster Abbey, where most of the English kings and queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. We will visit the Tower of London before taking a breathtaking boat ride on the River Thames. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### **DAY 3 – Monday: LONDON**

We will have the day free to explore the city on your own, shop or relax at the hotel. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### **DAY 4 – Tuesday: LONDON / SHANNON / BUNRATTY / KILLARNEY**

This morning we will be taken to the airport and meet the rest of our group for our flight to Shannon. We arrive in Shannon and are met by our escort. Our first stop in Ireland is Bunratty Castle a Viking Trading Camp in 970. The present structure is the last of four castles to be built on the site. We will see the Bunratty Folk Park a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago.

Killarney, 'Heaven's Reflex', one of Ireland's most lovely districts. Poets, painters, writers and musicians have never fully succeeded in conveying the varied beauty of form and color of this wonderland of mountains and lakes. Check into our hotel for dinner and overnight

## **BASIC TOUR BEGINS HERE:**

### **Day 1 – Monday: NEW YORK / LONDON / SHANNON**

This evening we board our wide body aircraft at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York. Dinner will be served on our overnight flight to London.

### **DAY 2 – Tuesday: LONDON / SHANNON / BUNRATTY / KILLARNEY**

This morning we arrive in Shannon and are met by our escort. Our first stop in Ireland is Bunratty Castle a Viking Trading Camp in 970. The present structure is the last of four castles to be built on the site. We will see the Bunratty Folk Park a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago.

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### **DAY 3 – Wednesday: RING OF KERRY - KILLARNEY**

Today after breakfast it is off on one of the most beautiful rides you will ever have . . . a full day tour of scenic contrasts from golden coastline to majestic mountains. En route you will see in the distance, 9 miles off Valentia Island, The Great Skellig, an enormous mass of precipitous rock rising sheer out of the ocean to a height of 700 feet. Stone steps, hewn by the ancient monks lead from the ocean to the monastic ruins on the summit. As you continue your Ring of Kerry tour, you will see Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, who was known as 'The Liberator' because of his efforts to secure Catholic Emancipation in the 18th-19th centuries. Enjoy a sheep show with a Kerry farmer. Pass through the colorful villages of Killorglin, Cahirciveen, Waterville and Sneem. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 4 – Thursday: KILLARNEY / CASHEL / KILKENNY**

This morning we board your motorcoach journey to the Rock of Cashel, a 200 foot hill, with its famous St. Patrick's Cross. It was the seat of the Munster kings from A.D. 370-1101. The original cross remains on the pedestal where St. Patrick crowned the reigning king in A.D. 450; other relics are the cathedral, Cormac's Chapel and round tower.

This afternoon we will head to Kilkenny. Here the medieval heritage is evident in the city's treasure trove of historical buildings and landmarks, exemplified by the magnificent Kilkenny Castle. Kilkenny is arguably the pre-eminent medieval city in Ireland. Continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 5 – Friday: KILKENNY / WICKLOW / DUBLIN**

This morning we will drive through the scenic mountains to Glendalough, restored monastic settlement. It gets its name from the Irish language. Gleann dá locha literally means the 'Glen of the two lakes'.

This afternoon continue to Dublin, capital of the Republic of Ireland, one of the loveliest settings in Europe. On Dublin Bay, it is sheltered on the north by the rocky mass of Howth Head. The Liffey River flows through the center of the city and is crossed by many picturesque bridges. The name Dublin is derived from the Gaelic word for black pool, dubhlinn. Continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 6 - Saturday: DUBLIN**

This morning tour you will see statue-filled O'Connell Street; the Post Office, scene of the Easter Rising in 1916; St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1190 and restored in the 19th Century; Merrion Square; Dublin Castle, the city's most outstanding heritage of the Middle Ages. You will also visit Trinity College, whose College Library, completed in 1732, has a collection of 5,000,000 books and 2,000 manuscripts. The most famous manuscript is the brilliantly illuminated 8th Century 'Book of Kells' may be seen here. Our last stop will be at Kimainham Jail.

Remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel.

**DAY 7 – Sunday: DUBLIN / BOYNE VALLEY / BELFAST**

This morning we leave Dublin to get a better cross-section of the best of Ireland's Historic monuments in the Boyne Valley. We will see the splendor of Newgrange, one of Europe's most spectacular prehistoric tombs to the magic and mystery of Tara, ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Visit the Hill of Tara.

This afternoon we visit a few of Ireland's High Crosses. We visit Monasterboice, nearby Newgrange to see some of these High Crosses. Continue to Belfast where we will check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 8 – Monday: BELFAST / LONDONDERRY**

This morning we will go see the political murals before we go to Derry, one of the longest continuously inhabited places in Ireland. The earliest historical references date to the sixth century A.D. when a monastery was founded there, but for thousands of years before that people had been living in the vicinity. Continue to the Giant's Causeway and tour the Bushmill distillery before going to our hotel.

Remainder of the day is at leisure and dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 9 – Tuesday: LONDONDERRY**

This morning we will walk on the City Walls that has not been broken after many sieges. See the cannons that still guard the city. We will go to the Tower Museum.

This afternoon is on your own. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 10 – Wednesday: LONDONDERRY / SLIGO / OMAGH GALWAY**

This morning we go to Sligo, described by William Butler Yeats as the "land of heart's desire". Here surrounded by the Ox Mountains, the great poet spent many years of his life.

Welcome to the Ulster American Folk Park, an open-air museum in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland. The museum tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18th & 19th centuries and provides visitors with a "living history" experience on its outdoor site. Costumed demonstrators go about their everyday tasks in the traditional manner in authentically furnished Old and New World buildings. Continue through Cong to Galway, founded by the Normans, who built a high wall to keep out the Irish. You will see the three bridges crossing the River Corrib and the city's charming waterfront. Check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 11 – Thursday: GALWAY / INSHMOARE / ARAN / GALWAY**

This morning we will board our boat and go to Inishmore or Inishmór (the big island), an island of about sixteen square miles, contains all that is special about the Aran Islands. Beautiful scenery, rich archaeological sites, thousands of miles of stone walls (built in order to delimit one's property as well as to protect the gardens from erosion brought on from the strong winds), cliff and coastal walks along the stretches of limestone pavement and a community still living the Celtic traditions of generations gone by all make this a very special place. The rugged natural beauty is accentuated by the thatched roofs of the traditional Irish stone cottages that dot the countryside.

Return to Galway for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 12 – Friday: GALWAY / CLIFFS OF MOHR / ENNIS**

After breakfast we head to Limerick to the awesome Cliffs of Moher and the lunar landscape of the Burren Country to Ennis. Here you will visit the beautiful Franciscan Abbey founded in 1241, with its 14th Century sculptures. Continue to Ennis where you will check in at your hotel.

**DAY 13 – Saturday: ENNIS / SHANNON / USA**

We make our journey home today, cherishing our memories, relishing in what we've learned about the faith of our fathers and the people who have given us such a rich Christian heritage. Upon arrival in New York we will be transferred to our domestic airlines for the flight home.