



John Boyle O'Reilly Club's
2018 West Coast "Mayo to Kerry" Ireland Tour
Westport ~ Galway ~ Dingle
11-Day / 9-Night Customized Tour
Saturday, October 6 – Tuesday, October 16, 2018



**Tour pricing will be available in late autumn 2017 -- we are awaiting
Aer Lingus airfare pricing.**

Day 1 – Saturday, October 6. 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 – Sunday, October 7. SHANNON - GALWAY - WESTPORT: Upon arrival at Shannon Airport, you will be 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 the elegant estate town of Westport, planned by 18th century Georgian architect, James Wyatt, on the River Carrowbeg. Wyatt's spoke-like designed streets, emanating from its unique central octagon and marked by a diminutive clock tower, contributes to this gorgeous, easily walkable town. Our first stop on our journey will be to enjoy a full Irish breakfast on our way to County Galway. We will then continue on through County Galway to Murrisk, County Mayo, and visit the holy mountain of Ireland's patron saint, Croagh Patrick. It was on the summit of this mountain that Saint Patrick fasted for forty days in 441 AD. Across the roadway from Croagh Patrick and overlooking Clew Bay, we will have a brief photo stop at the National Famine Memorial, which commemorates the Great Famine of the 1840s. John Behan's sculpture is a bronze ship with skeletal figures symbolizing the many emigrants from the Irish Famine who died in appalling

conditions aboard the “coffin ships” on which they left Ireland. We will proceed to your Westport hotel, **Westport Plaza Hotel**, with an early afternoon check-in. Time to rest or enjoy a free afternoon. Dinner and overnight at your Westport hotel.

Day 3 – Monday, October 8. WESTPORT – ACHILL ISLAND -- WESTPORT: Enjoy your full Irish breakfast before heading northeast to tour the stunning Corraun Peninsula and visit breathtaking Achill Island. Achill Island is the largest island off the coast of Ireland and is joined to the mainland by a 200-meter swing bridge named after 19th century patriot and Land League founder, Michael Davitt. Enjoy a photo stop at the 15th century Kildownet Castle, the birthplace of Grace O’Malley (Granuaile), the Pirate Queen. The O’Malley Clan were a powerful seafaring family, and Grace became a fearless leader. She gained much fame as a sea captain and pirate. We will continue our excursion around Achill Island’s heather-filled slip of land with sandy beaches, spectacular views of waves crashing against rocky cliffs, and its lush blankets of bog. You will want to have your cameras ready! We will then return to Westport mid-afternoon with time to enjoy a stroll around this brightly painted town, pop in a shop or two, or perhaps savor a tasty pint at the “The Chieftains” Matt Molloy’s lively pub. Dinner and overnight at your Westport hotel.

Day 4 – Tuesday, October 9. WESTPORT-- CONNEMARA - GALWAY: This morning, enjoy a full Irish breakfast before we depart Westport and tour southwesterly to Galway “the City of Tribes.” Along our way, we experience 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 peat land. As we continue on our journey to Galway, we 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 eastward to Leenane, through the Maamturk Mountains and Maam Cross, and then along the shores of Lough Corrib. Upon arrival to Galway City, we enjoy a brief panoramic city tour, with a mid-afternoon check-in to your Galway hotel, **Jurys Inn Galway**. Dinner and overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 6 – Wednesday, October 10. GALWAY-- KINVARA - GALWAY: Enjoy a leisurely full Irish breakfast this morning before we set sail from Woodquay, in the heart of Galway City, for an early afternoon 90-minute guided journey along the majestic River Corrib and onto Lough (lake) Corrib (Ireland’s second largest lake) providing unsurpassed views and natural amenities that make this the most spectacular waterway in Ireland. Our cruise will take us past castles and various sites of both historical and cultural interest. Sit back, relax, and savor this natural wonderland. After our tour, the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to discover the many offerings of this vibrant, compact city before we gather and depart for our medieval banquet and a special evening of music, song, and merriment at the 16th century Dunguaire Castle in Kinvara, overlooking picturesque Galway Bay. Overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 5 – Thursday, October 11. GALWAY –CLAREGALWAY - GALWAY: After a full leisurely Irish breakfast, we depart this morning to the village of Claregalway to visit the 15th century Claregalway Castle. This fully restored Anglo-Norman tower house is nestled on the banks of the River Clare. We will explore this medieval castle and its environs through a guided tour and learn about its fascinating, often turbulent, 600-year history. After our tour, take a moment to stroll around the beautifully maintained, picturesque grounds. We then return to Galway and arrive mid-afternoon with the remainder of the afternoon free to relax or explore. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own and overnight at your Galway hotel.

Day 7 – Friday, October 12. 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-in to your **Dingle Banners Hotel**. Dinner and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 8 – Saturday, October 13. 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. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 9 – Sunday, October 14. DINGLE – DINGLE PENINSULA - DINGLE: This morning, enjoy a full Irish breakfast before we begin our day in Dingle visiting Brian de Staic Jewellery. You will meet Ireland’s master craftsman and leading goldsmith himself, Brian de Staic, who will give us a brief overview of the stories and the stones of the Dingle Peninsula’s Celtic history. His award-winning, distinctive jewellery designs are at the heart of this special West Kerry history. Brian and his highly skilled team of artisans also create personalized, one-of-a-kind bracelets, pendants, brooches, and rings using the ancient Ogham script found on the standing stones on the Peninsula. All of Brian De Staic’s jewellery is handcrafted in Dingle and hallmarked in Dublin Castle. We then tour and view the magnificent coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula. Beyond Sleah 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 the Peninsula enjoying the stunning land and seascapes along our way. We return to Dingle mid-afternoon. Enjoy dinner on your own and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 10 – Monday, October 15. DINGLE: After a full leisurely Irish breakfast, we visit the Dingle Crystal workshop and meet the founder and master craftsman certified by Waterford Crystal, Sean Daly. We will be able to watch firsthand as Sean creates one of his signature crystal pieces before our eyes. Sean is renowned for the weight of his crystal pieces, his Celtic themes (especially his Celtic knots and circles), superb product quality, and each piece bearing his signature. If you wish, during your free time in Dingle, you can also visit Sean’s retail shop on Green Street in Dingle Town. Next, we travel a brief distance to Dingle Whiskey Distillery to tour this newer, small specialty distillery, where their spirits only began to trickle from their stills in November of 2012. It is the mild, moist climate of Dingle’s southwest coast that matures this one-of-a-kind whiskey blend. No whiskey in Ireland or Scotland experiences such a maturation process. After the tour, we will be able to taste this artisan (low-output) Dingle-produced whiskey, which gives it its superlative quality and unique character. We return to Dingle Town mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day is free for you to discover the many charms that this town has to offer. Dinner and overnight at your Dingle hotel.

Day 11 – Tuesday, October 16. DINGLE - 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:

- **Westport: Westport Plaza Hotel** (2 nights, 1 hotel dinner)
Castlebar Street, Westport, County Mayo, Ireland
Phone in Ireland: 098 51166 Phone from USA: 011 353 98 51166
www.westportplazahotel.ie

- **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

INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR:

- Local roundtrip bus transportation – JBO Club to and from Boston/Logan Airport
- Roundtrip airfare from Boston to Shannon on 10/6-10/7 and Shannon to Boston on 10/16 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)
- Five (5) hotel dinners
- One (1) special group medieval banquet and entertainment event at Dunguaire Castle in Kinvara
- All entrance fees to exhibits/tours, etc: Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden; Corrib River and Lake cruise; Claregalway Castle; Cliffs of Moher; River Shannon ferry from Killimer to Tarbert; Blasket Centre; and Dingle Whiskey Distillery
- 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 tour 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 medieval banquet/ entertainment event in Kinvara are all included in our tour price. Unlike other tours, we do not inflate our tour price. As with our past seven 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 at IrelandTours@jbo-club.com or
Joyce Bosworth at 413.330.6363.**

www.jbo-club.com