

**VILLAGE AT RIVER'S EDGE
GRAND TOUR OF IRELAND ITINERARY
OCTOBER 1 – 9, 2018**

Day 1: Monday, Oct. 01st ~ Boston - Dublin

Depart Boston's Logan International Airport aboard our overnight flight to Dublin with meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight.

Day 2: Tuesday, Oct. 02nd ~ Dublin - Limerick

Welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival at Dublin Airport, we will meet our Tour Escort and take a panoramic tour of the capital. We will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for their architecture and brightly-colored doors. Continue to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Built in 1192, it is one of Ireland's largest cathedrals made famous by its former dean Jonathan Swift, author of "Gulliver's Travels." We will also see Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Normans in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on our way to Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal cross. Return to the city center via the Quays, past the Guinness brewery, and Collins Barrack, before arriving back on O'Connell Street and the city center. We will visit Trinity College to see the 9th century "Book of Kells." Before viewing the famous book, we will pass through an excellent exhibition based on it and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the Book of Kells, we will visit the Long Room. Built in 1745, it contains over 200,000 books, Brian Boru's harp (said to be the "oldest harp in Ireland") and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation. Travel to Limerick and check into our hotel. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel. Overnight. (Dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/02 to 10/09:

George Hotel

OConnell St,

Limerick City, CO Limerick

0035361460400

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c

www.georgelimerick.com

Day 3: Wednesday, Oct. 03rd ~ Limerick - Adare

After a full Irish breakfast, we travel to one of Ireland's most picturesque villages, Adare, a small village with thatched cottages dotted throughout the town, created by the third Earl of Dunraven in the 1820's for his estate workers. Today they are mostly used as craft shops or restaurants. We will enjoy some free time in Adare before returning to Limerick. The Vikings founded Limerick in the 9th century as a base for raiding local monasteries and Celtic settlements. Today, Limerick is the main city of County Limerick and is Ireland's third largest city, with a population in excess of 80,000. The city has recently achieved fame as the setting for Frank McCourt's best-selling autobiography "Angela's Ashes." Enjoy an Angela's Ashes Walking Tour of Limerick and a visit to the Frank McCourt Museum. Dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 4: Thursday, Oct. 04th ~ **Cashell - Cahir - Waterford**

After breakfast, we travel to Waterford via the town of Cahir. We will have a photo stop at Cahir Castle which is superbly set on a rocky island in the River Suir. We continue to Waterford to visit the Waterford Crystal Visitor Center at its magnificent new home in the heart of Waterford. After the tour, we can browse the world's most famous crystal in a lavish retail store, which houses the largest collection of Waterford Crystal found anywhere in the world. After some free time for lunch (on our own), we will return to Limerick via Cashel to visit the Rock of Cashel. One of the most photographed sites in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the 10th century. Today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a 12th century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. Return to Limerick for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 5: Friday, Oct. 05th ~ **Galway - The Burren - The Cliffs of Moher**

After breakfast, we travel to the coast and visit the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. We will then travel through the Burren Region on our way to Galway. The Burren is a unique place. It is a Karst limestone region of approximately 300 sq. km, whose pavements have been eroded to a distinctive pattern. On arrival in Galway, we will enjoy a panoramic city tour. Galway, at the mouth of Galway Bay, is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture. It has many relics of its medieval past and is worth taking time to explore. The center of the city is compact enough to ramble around comfortably. Enjoy free time at leisure for personal sightseeing and shopping. Return to Limerick for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 6: Saturday, Oct. 06th ~ **The Ring of Kerry**

After breakfast, we travel to the town of Kenmare. Kenmare's location, nestled between the high mountains and the sea, explains its name in Irish, Neidin - "little nest." A heritage town, built by the first Marquess of Lansdowne in 1775, is laid out in an X-plan and has a fine, wide main street and square. It is better known today as an attractive tourist town with many fine restaurants, hotels, and interesting craft shops. We will continue north to Killarney, taking in the highlights of the Ring of Kerry, including Molls Gap and Ladies View. In Killarney we will enjoy time at leisure for our own personal sightseeing or shopping. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 7: Sunday, Oct. 07th ~ **Blarney - Cobh**

After breakfast, we travel south to Cobh. Cobh began to develop at the end of the 18th century when Cork was used as a harbour for British military ships. Transatlantic ships such as the Queen Mary or the Queen Elizabeth stopped there. Thousands of Irish emigrants also left from Cobh. Today it is a pleasant town whose streets climb the steep slope of a hill, the top of which is crowned by St. Colman's Cathedral. Visit the Titanic Experience Cobh situated in the original offices of The White Star Line, the departure point for the last 123 passengers who boarded the Titanic on its fateful maiden voyage to America. We will enjoy some free time in Cobh for lunch (on our own) and then continue towards Cork and Blarney Castle, which we will visit. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney Stone, The Stone of Eloquence,

which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 8: Monday, Oct. 08th ~ Dingle peninsula

After breakfast, enjoy a full-day tour of the Dingle Peninsula, with some of the finest coastal scenery in Ireland. Famous for its Celtic pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches, it is also "Gaeltacht" (Irish-speaking). Dingle itself is a thriving fishing town with opportunity for shopping or simply enjoying a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets, and busy harbor. The road around the peninsula is truly spectacular. It passes through a chain of mountains, called Slieve Mish. From Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's Daughter," admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. From Dingle, we drive around the coast to Sleah Head. Here the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands, deserted since 1953. We will visit the Blasket Island Heritage Center in Dún Chaoin, located on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula. It celebrates the unique literary achievements of the island's writers. Tonight we will enjoy dinner and entertainment at the Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet. Bunratty Castle was built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond on the banks of the Rathy River. The evening begins with a mead reception in the Great Hall of the castle, then continues downstairs with a four-course meal with red and white wines, followed by entertainment by the Bunratty Castle Entertainers with harp and violin. Overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 9: Tuesday, Oct. 9th ~ Limerick - Boston

Today we say farewell to Ireland. After breakfast and hotel check-out, we will transfer to Shannon Airport for our return flight home to Boston, with meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight. (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE