

# Guided Tour of IRELAND

Land of Saints and Scholars



**Saturday 22 September – Saturday 13 October 2018**

**Think epic. Think exhilarating. Think enchanting.**

**I**n Ireland you can expect the very best, with incredible landscapes, warm friendly people and villages that are pure charm. We will delve into Ireland's Ancient East, where compelling stories will grab your attention; feel the ocean's blast and travel a coastline like no other on the Wild Atlantic Way; and we'll explore many unforgettable sights along the way.

**The time is right... join with us, and jump into Ireland!**

The best way to see and appreciate Ireland's history, culture, nature and stunning views is on foot. A wealth of quiet tracks, charming people, beautiful scenery and famous pubs will make the tour a leading destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The trip will give you the opportunity to experience 'real' people and 'feel' the atmosphere that makes Ireland so unique.

We will explore delightful *Paris* on-route and take in the wonder of *Edinburgh* before we journey home.



The walks are optional. Other alternatives will be available.

*"It is good to have an end to journey toward;  
but it is the journey that matters, in the end".* ERNEST HEMINGWAY

**Book your place today for this exciting 22 day journey**



## Guided Tour of

## INCLUDED

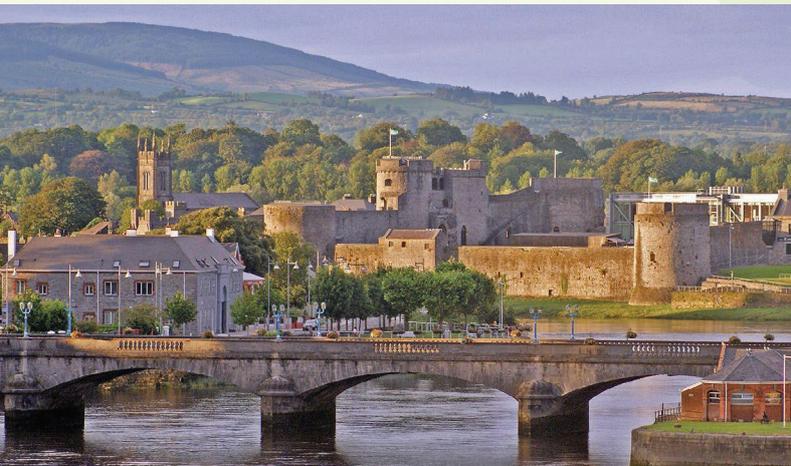
- Economy class airfares throughout.
- Fully escorted guided tour.
- Quality Accommodation throughout. (14 nights Ireland, 3 nights Paris, 2 nights Edinburgh).
- Breakfast daily & 4 dinners.
- Luxury mini-coach in Ireland (with professional driver).
- Aran Island Ferry and minibus.
- English speaking tour guides for specified tours.
- Airport transfers throughout.

## PRICING AND PAYMENTS

- Twin share from \$10,500 per person\* includes airfares all major cities (regional cities on request).
- Single supplement \$2,500\* (added to twin cost).
- Deposit of \$4000 per person to confirm booking.
- Balance due on or before 20 July 2018.

\*Subject to change if minimum numbers not reached for the group

### Also visiting Paris and Edinburgh





## Saturday 22 September 2018

Depart Australia for Paris



## Sunday 23 September 2018

Arrive Paris – Free afternoon

Overnight Paris

## Monday 24 September 2018

Paris City Tour – Welcome Dinner

Overnight Paris

Paris has a timeless familiarity for first-time and frequent visitors, with instantly recognisable architectural icons, along with exquisite cuisine, chic boutiques and priceless artistic treasures. Entry to **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Eiffel Tower level 2** is included. This evening a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

## Tuesday 25 September 2018

Versailles Palace & Monet's Garden Tour

Overnight Paris

This morning we travel to the **Palace of Versailles**, a royal chateau just 20 kilometres southwest of the French capital. It is now open as a museum and is a beautiful and very popular tourist attraction. Evolving with the chateau the gardens of Versailles represent one of the finest extant examples of the “jardin a la francaise” created by Andre Le Notre. Entrance to **Versailles Garden and Water Fountains** (music & water show) are also included. This afternoon we will venture to **Monet's Garden** where his paintings come alive.



## Wednesday 26 September 2018

Paris to Dublin AM - Howth Cliff Path Loop Walk (6km)

Overnight Enniskerry



Howth Cliff Path Loop Walk, is located on Howth Head, a peninsula 15km northwest of Dublin City, has been immortalized in James Joyce's Ulysses. Take in the stunning views of Lambay Island and Ireland's Eye, and be overwhelmed by the beauty that surrounds you each and every step of the walk.



## Thursday 27 September 2018

Glendalough Lake Walk (6km) – Free Afternoon

Overnight Enniskerry

Glendalough is a glacial valley in County Wicklow, renowned for an early medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin. The present ruins in Glendalough tell only a small part of its story. The monastery in its heyday included workshops, areas for manuscript and copying, guest houses, an infirmary, farm buildings and dwellings for both the monks and a large lay population. The buildings which survive date from between the 10th and 12th centuries. The Glendalough Lake Walk is a most beautiful easy walk taking in both lakes.

## Friday 28 September 2018

Avoca 'Ballykissangel' – Tullow (Bishop Daniel Delany) – Carlow

Overnight Kilkenny

Avoca is a small town in County Wicklow. It is situated on the River Avoca. The Avoca area has been immortalized by Thomas Moore in the famous song 'The Meeting of the Waters'. Avoca is also famous for its handweaving. Avoca is the village where the BBC series 'Ballykissangel' was filmed. We will then travel to Tullow, the story behind Bishop Daniel Delany and the Brigidine Sisters, pay a visit to beautiful Carlow and head into Kilkenny City, our medieval base for a couple of days.



## Saturday 29 September 2018

Kilkenny City Tour – Afternoon City Walk

Overnight Kilkenny

Kilkenny is a medieval town in southwest Ireland. Its grand Kilkenny Castle was built in 1195 by Norman occupiers. The town has deep religious roots and many well-preserved churches and monasteries, including imposing St. Canice's Cathedral and the Black Abbey Dominican priory, both from the 13th century. It's also a crafts hub, with shops along its winding lanes selling pottery, painting and jewellery. Be warned, Kilkenny loves to party! An endless stream of arts festivals celebrating theatre, comedy and dance is constantly pumping the city with new life, toe-tapping energy and international flavour. Pack your dancing shoes!

## Sunday 30 September 2018

### Callan (Edmund Rice) – Waterford

Overnight Cork

We will begin our day visiting the quaint market town of Callan, just south of Kilkenny close to the border of County Tipperary. We will visit the birthplace of Edmund Ignatius Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers. Waterford is Ireland's oldest city – it was founded in the 9th century by the Vikings. Of course, it's not just history that makes Waterford such a compelling destination. The city is also known for its craftbeers, fine bread, and Waterford Crystal, one of the world's most prestigious cut-glass brands. (Bring your credit card!)

## Monday 1 October 2018

### Cobh – 'Titanic Experience' – 'Cobh Heritage Centre' (Irish – Australian Emigration Story)

#### Old Head of Kinsale Loop Walk (6km)

Overnight Cork

Cobh is a pleasant waterside town, with brightly coloured houses where its streets climb the steep slope of a hill, the top of which is crowned by the imposing St. Coleman's Cathedral with its carillon of 47 bells. It's also known as the Titanic's last port of call in 1912. We will visit the 'Titanic Experience' attraction. Learn about the Irish Emigration story, trace your ancestors, hear about the ill-fated Titanic and immerse yourself in Irish naval and military history at Cobh Heritage Centre. This beautiful, informative and sometimes emotive cultural centre is situated within Cobh's beautifully restored Victorian railway station. The Old Head of Kinsale Loop Walk is an easy 1.5 hour loop walking route on the famous Old Head of Kinsale with spectacular views at every turn.

## Tuesday 2 October 2018

### Blarney Castle – Ballygriffin (Nano Nagle) – Free afternoon in Killarney

Overnight Killarney

Blarney Castle, built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftans, Cormac MacCarthy, and has been attracting attention ever since. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney making it a world landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures. Now that might have something to do with the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of the tower. Kiss it and you'll never be lost for words. Killarney is a very special place indeed. Brim full of history, heritage, activities, and world class hospitality.

## Wednesday 3 October 2018

### Ring of Kerry via Torc Mountain Walking Route (7km)

Overnight Killarney

The Ring of Kerry is a scenic drive around the Iveragh Peninsula in southwest Ireland's County Kerry. Its 179km long, circular route takes in rugged and verdant coastal landscapes and rural seaside villages. Skellig Michael, a rocky island with an abandoned 7th-century Christian monastery, is a major destination point. Torc Mountain is an extremely popular and scenic 7km walking route to the summit of Torc Mountain with spectacular 360 degree views of Killarney town and the surrounding countryside of County Kerry.

## Thursday 4 October 2018

### Adare Village – Limerick – Free afternoon to explore Limerick

Overnight Ennis

Adare is a small town in County Limerick, located southwest of the city of Limerick. Renowned as one of Ireland's prettiest towns, Adare is designated as a heritage town by the Irish government. A delightful little spot for souvenir shopping and morning tea! Limerick is a major city in the Republic of Ireland, set in Munster province in the south of the country. Its compact old town is known for the medieval-era. St Mary's Cathedral and St. John's Square, which is lined with Georgian townhouses. Standing along the River Shannon the 13th-century King John's Castle is one of the city's most recognisable sites.

## Friday 5 October 2018

### Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk (14km)

Overnight Galway

The Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk is a moderate 4 – 5 hour (14km) walking route along a new spectacular coastal path from Liscannor in the south, to Hags Head and the world famous Cliffs of Moher. The walk is fairly flat with only a slight and gradual rise to the higher cliffs. We will allow plenty of time to stop for photos, breaks and take in the scenery with views to the Aran Islands, Galway Bay and the Atlantic Ocean well below your feet! You can do the entire walk or just a section of the walk starting at a number of different vantage points along the way. Visit to the **Cliffs of Moher** Visitor Centre with the **Atlantic Edge Exhibition**.

## Saturday 6 October 2018

### Aran Islands Excursion – Dinner/Show

Overnight Galway

The Aran Islands are 3 rocky isles guarding the mouth of Galway Bay. They're known for their ancient sites. The largest island, Inishmore, is home to the prehistoric fort of Dún Aonghasa, perched on top of a high cliff. Nearby is the Worm Hole, a rectangular natural pool. The medieval ruins of the Seven Churches are in the northwest. Clochán na Carraige is a stone structure with a beehive roof. A delightful day awaits!

## Sunday 7 October 2018

### Connemara – Connemara National Park

Overnight Galway

Connemara is a district in western Ireland, facing the Atlantic. Its coastline has tiny coves, bays and fishing villages. The area's main town, Clifden, has several venues for traditional Irish music. Here, too, are the ruins of Gothic Revival-style Clifden Castle. Connemara National Park covers some 2,957 hectares of scenic mountains, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Tonight enjoy dinner at the award winning **Lobster Pot Restaurant**.

## Monday 8 October 2018

### Clonmacnoise Monastery (ancient site) – Athlone – Kildare (St Brigid)

Overnight Dublin

The monastery of Clonmacnoise is situated in County Offaly, on the River Shannon. Clonmacnoise was founded in 544 by St. Ciarán, a young man from Rathcroghan. In the modern day, the site stands as a preserved ruin. Athlone is a town in central Ireland. The medieval Athlone Castle offers views from its battlements, plus displays of local history. Rich in heritage and history, Kildare dates from the 5th century, when it was the site of the original 'Church of the Oak' and monastery founded by St. Brigid. This became one of the three most important Christian foundations in Celtic Ireland.

## Tuesday 9 October 2018

### Dublin City Tour – Catherine McAuley – Free afternoon – Dinner/Comedy Show

Overnight Dublin

Dublin, capital of the Republic of Ireland, is on Ireland's east coast at the mouth of the River Liffey. Its historic buildings include Dublin Castle, dating to the 13th century, and imposing St Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1191. City parks include landscaped St. Stephen's Green and huge Phoenix Park, containing Dublin Zoo. **Dublin Castle** where you have an included guided tour. Entrance to **Phoenix Park visitor centre** and **Ashdown Castle** with an Audio-Visual show telling of its history. The **National Museum of Ireland** explores Irish heritage and culture. We will visit Catherine's house, the first House of Mercy built by Catherine McAuley in response to the needs of the poor in Dublin. A great day of exploring this magnificent city awaits before we head out for dinner and Irish comedy show.

## Wednesday 10 October 2018

### Fly Dublin to Edinburgh – Free afternoon

Overnight Edinburgh

Today we leave Ireland after two weeks of exploring and head for Edinburgh, Scotland (pack your kilt!).

## Thursday 11 October 2018

### Edinburgh City Tour

Overnight Edinburgh

Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials. Today's City Tour will take in the delights of both the Old Town and the New Town. An amazing day of exploring lies ahead. **Edinburgh Castle** (entrance included) and **Holyrood House** (entrance included). One last dinner at a local restaurant to farewell our travelling companions.

## Friday 12 October 2018

### Free morning

Depart Edinburgh PM

We depart Edinburgh today and head home with great memories and a smartphone of photos.

## Saturday 13 October 2018 – Arrive Australia





*"Thank-you so much, Paul and Marina, for organising the 2017 European Tour & Camino! Paul Skippen, our Tour Guide Extraordinaire, is a fountain of knowledge. He is funny, jovial, kind, extremely well organised and looked after us very well indeed! My Instagram photos, dutifully catalogued & captioned, evoke treasured memories of this much-anticipated pilgrimage. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the journey and would cheerfully repeat the experience in a 'heartbeat'! Needless to say, family, friends & colleagues were all highly and justifiably envious!"*

Teresa Mercuri  
Religious Education Leader  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Ascot Vale, Melbourne



*Paul Skippen has had many years in ministry in Catholic schools and parishes, is editor of the GPBS website and is a gifted presenter of staff inservice days, parish renewal events and retreats for all ages. Paul is an avid traveller and has experienced many of the world's Catholic spiritual heart-lands. Paul has led four annual pilgrimages walking the Camino in Spain. With a real passion for his Irish heritage, this will be Paul's 15th journey to Ireland.*

Variations to the itinerary beyond our control in relation to unexpected circumstances may be experienced.

**Make your booking today via the contact details below.**

**Contact the tour leader Paul Skippen on 0412 850 883 TODAY.**

**Email: [info@gpbs.com.au](mailto:info@gpbs.com.au)**



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Tour collaboration with:

