

Ireland Pilgrimage
The World Meeting of Families 2018
9 Days in Ireland
Aug 19 – 27 2018

Sun Aug 19

Heading for the Emerald Isle

Today we start our journey by flying across the United States and taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Ireland.

Mon Aug 20

Welcome to Ireland

This morning we will land in Shannon Airport and once you proceed through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination amongst the wild beauty and haunting landscapes of Co. Mayo.

Before we reach Co. Mayo, **we will enjoy a morning visit to the mighty Cliffs of Moher** which stand over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular views are in abundance at this iconic attraction, on a clear day you can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. We will enjoy breakfast at the beautiful cliffs before leaving this majestic location to reach Castlebar in Co. Mayo.



Afterwards, we will check in to relax before **meeting for a welcome mass this evening. We will share dinner together**, toasting to the start of an Irish adventure. **Dinner & Overnight: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar**

Tue Aug 21

Exclusively Mayo

Once you have had your breakfast, get set to head out and tour the wonders of Co. Mayo. **Our first visit takes us to Ballintubber Abbey**, which has a dual role as a national monument and a rural parish church and has become again a Christian center for prayer and retreats. The story of Ballintubber Abbey began when, in 441, St Patrick baptized the people at the Druidic Well and established a church here. There are still



remains of that early church in the graveyard and the Irish name, Baile Tobair Phádraig, means the townland of St Patrick's Well which is still flowing today. We will enjoy mass at Ballintubber Abbey, one of Ireland's rich symbols and resources of Christian Heritage.

We will drive out to see Croagh Patrick, considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. Croagh Patrick is renowned for its Patrician Pilgrimage in honor of Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. It was on the summit of the mountain that Saint Patrick fasted for forty days in 441 AD and the custom has been faithfully handed down from generation to generation. The tradition of pilgrimage to this holy mountain stretches back over 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present day without interruption.

Next, we will arrive at Westport House, dubbed the 'most beautiful house in Ireland' and one of Ireland's best loved heritages attractions. The historic house welcomes visitors can immerse themselves in life as far back as the 16th century when Grace O'Malley the Pirate Queen of Connacht ruled the land and seas around the estate. **We will enjoy a guided tour of this historic home and afternoon tea in the 'Old Kitchens'** before leaving for our final stop of today. We will visit Westport, the charming Georgian town with tree-lined streets, a riverside mall and a great vibe. With an excellent choice of local crafts and traditional stores, fine restaurants and pubs renowned for their music, it's the perfect place to spend free time and explore on your own.

Later, we will return to the hotel to share dinner together followed by a special and touching performance of Emigrants Tale. Enjoy the remainder of your evening in Mayo as you please.

Dinner & Overnight: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar

Wed Aug 22 Reflection at Knock Shrine

This morning, finish your breakfast as we set out to visit two important sites in Ireland's Christian Heritage. **We will visit the beautiful and spiritual Fr Peyton Centre**, a memorial center dedicated to telling the fascinating story of Fr Patrick Peyton C.S.C, an Attymass man who brought his simple message of Peace & Family Unity to 26 million people around the globe.

We will then visit the Knock Shrine, which received international fame after local people reported seeing the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist at their parish church on August 21, 1879. We will hear the remarkable story of Knock which is told here in great detail, as well as the stories of all of the ordinary people who witnessed the Apparition in 1879.



We will attend mass and tour of grounds before enjoying time to prayerfully roam the ground at this beautiful pilgrimage site and National Shrine.

Afterwards, we will return to the hotel to share dinner together and the remainder of the evening as you please. **Dinner & Overnight: Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar**

Thu Aug 23

Next Stop...Dublin

Once breakfast is finished up this morning, we will prepare to bid Mayo farewell in search of new adventures in Dublin, the small capital with a huge reputation. **On route, we will stop in free spirited Galway**, where the amazing land and seascapes makes Irish culture come to life. Galway, known as 'The City of Tribes' after the 14 family tribes that founded it, has something for everyone to enjoy.



Departing from Mayo, **enjoy your journey on the Wild Atlantic Way**, one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world **before reaching and visiting the sacred structure of Galway Cathedral**. Just as impressive on the outside as it is on the inside, the imposing stone exterior balances the regal Connemara Marble sourced flooring. We will enjoy mass in this striking and recently built, great European stone cathedral on the banks of River Corrib. Afterwards, **we will enjoy a walking tour of this lively city**, famed as a hub of traditional and contemporary Irish culture, and some free time to explore on our own.

Later on, we will reach our Dublin hotel to check-in. We will meet to share dinner together and the rest of your evening as you please. **Dinner & Overnight: Dublin Hotel**

Fri Aug 24

Dublin's Fair City

Refuel on your breakfast this morning as we set out for sightseeing in Dublin City. **We will take a panoramic tour of Dublin** to see local landmarks such as the historic GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street, the vast Georgian Squares such as Merrion Square where Oscar Wilde's house can still be found (today owned by the American College) as well as Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe and home to Aras an Uachtarain (the Irish President's Residence) and the American Ambassador's Residence. **We will stop and enjoy a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral**, built in honour of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick's. The cathedral was founded in 1191 and stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin.



After that introduction to Dublin, use the remainder of your evening exploring the city in your own way. Consider visiting the historic Book of Kells at Trinity College or Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's oldest building and home to a famous 12th Century crypt, one of the oldest in Ireland and Britain. With St. Ann's Church, built in 1707 and complete with a memorial dedicated to those lost in World War I and II and St. Audoen's Church, the capital's only remaining medieval parish church, all centrally located – enjoy exploring the famous city of Dublin on your own for the rest of the day! **Overnight: Dublin Hotel**

Sat Aug 25

Relax and Recovery

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we will set out for sightseeing. **Our first visit takes us out of the city and into neighboring Co. Wicklow, known as 'The Garden of Ireland'**. This morning's visit will take us to one of Ireland's most famous attractions, Glendalough, a fascinating early Christian settlement positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes and founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century. **Afterwards,**



we will enjoy free time in the city before meeting for a vigil evening mass and enjoying dinner together this evening. Dinner & Overnight: Dublin Hotel

Sun Aug 26

Pope Francis Visits Ireland

Pope Francis visits Dublin today to host the World Meeting of Families in what will be the first papal tour of Ireland since John Paul II's historic trip in 1979. Nearly three million people turned out in 1979, phenomenal numbers when you consider that the population of Ireland was 3,368,217 in 1979.



The World Meeting of Families 2018 will see families from around the world gather in Dublin to pray, learn, and celebrate the gift of the family. **Enjoy this very special day of memorable experiences, people and prayer in Ireland.**

Later, we will return to the hotel to prepare for a farewell dinner in true Irish style. **We will enjoy dinner and an evening of Irish Entertainment**, the perfect way to celebrate a successful trip full of cherished memories and new friendships – enjoy! **Dinner & Overnight: Dublin Hotel**

Mon Aug 27

Homeward Bound...

Pack your bags as we head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. ‘The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes’ will be expecting you again soon.