

Treasures of Ireland

Hosted by
Father Louis Lohan and Paula Spears

Ten days - April 5-14, 2024

**Athlone • Newbridge • Ennis • Adare
Killarney • Kildare • Dublin**

**Trim Castle • Lisquell Home of Father Louis
Cliffs of Moher • Muckross Farms**

**Medieval Banquet • Killarney Distillery • Ring of Kerry
Jaunting Cars • Kilkenny • Dublin • EPIC Museum**

Air & Land cost: **\$5,175** per person sharing Double/Twin & **\$5,799** single occupancy
Land only: **\$3,755** per person sharing Double/Twin & **\$4,399** single occupancy



Day 1 April 5th: Heading to Ireland!

This evening you board your flight for an overnight transatlantic journey to Ireland.

Day 2 April 6th: – ‘Céad Míle Fáilte’ – A Hundred Thousand Welcomes

This morning we arrive in Dublin Airport, grab our baggage and head out to the arrivals area where we meet our friendly Irish tour guide who will spend the next 8 days with us. We then depart on our journey to the town of **Athlone** where we spend our first night on the island. On route we make a stop at **Trim Castle**. The castle is the largest Anglo-Norman fortification in Ireland. Hugh de Lacy and his successors took 30 years to build it.



The castle is often called King John’s Castle although when he visited the town he preferred to stay in his tent on the other side of the river. Richard II visited Trim in 1399 and left Prince Hal, later Henry V, as a prisoner in the castle. We continue our journey to Athlone, making a brief stop for lunch before we check into our hotel, drop off our baggage. That afternoon we are free to explore this beautiful medieval town at your own discretion! There is

much to see here, including many castles and churches dating back as far as 1897. We gather later that night for a group welcome dinner, at our hotel.

Overnight: Athlone – Sheraton Hotel (D)

Day 3 April 7th: Father Louis' Irish Family, Friends & Memories for a Lifetime!

If you have been missing those warm and wonderful Irish smiles of Father Louis and his family, then today will be a very special one. We spend an unforgettable day in Fr. Louis' home village of Lisquell, Co. Galway. Receive a very special welcome from *Father Louis' family, friends and neighbors*. We walk the land, visiting the family homestead and farm, which has belonged to the Lohan family for over 150 years. We celebrate Mass in Father's home church where he was baptized, received his First Holy Communion, served as an Altar boy and said his first Mass after being ordained. Enjoy a wonderful afternoon with Irish entertainment and a delicious lunch served by the Lohan clan. After a special day in Father Louis' home place, we continue our journey south to Ennis where we check into our hotel, spend some time relaxing in our scenic surroundings. Enjoy dinner on our own tonight.



Overnight Ennis – The Old Gound Hotel ..(B, Lunch at Father Louis', Dinner on our own)

Day 4 April 8th: Day Trip to Cliffs of Moher



This morning after breakfast, we head off on our day trip, to the rugged coastline of County Clare where we visit the mighty *Cliffs of Moher*. The Cliffs are over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. On a clear day we can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head, to the South. We return to our hotel to relax. Later this evening, we turn back time with dinner and entertainment at a medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle.

Overnight Ennis – The Old Gound Hotel(B . Dinner/Medieval Banquet)

Day 5 April 9th: Ennis – Adare – Killarney

This morning after breakfast we check out of our hotel and head south to Killarney. Our route will take us through the beautiful, *picturesque village of Adare*. The best way to discover this delightful town is to walk around by foot. Take time to stroll up and down the city streets, marveling at the cozy houses and medieval stonework. Here we are free to explore some of the beautiful restaurants that the village has to offer and grab a bite to eat or do some souvenir shopping before we continue our journey to Killarney where we



spend the next two nights. Upon arrival in Killarney, we make our way to the *Irish Whiskey Experience Distillery* where we take part in a whiskey and artisan chocolate tasting. Later, we check into our hotel and are then free to take short panoramic tour of the town or spend the evening relaxing as you wish. Tonight, we will gather for a group dinner at the Lake Hotel.

Overnight: Killarney – The Lake Hotel(B, D)

Day 6 April 10th: Jaunting Cars and Day Trip to Muckross Traditional Farms

This morning after breakfast we head off on our day through the *Killarney National Park on the Ring of Kerry* - a trip to *Muckross Gardens and Traditional Farms*. We are greeted this morning by the traditional *Jaunting Cars* to take us to our next destination in Muckross. We are in for a very fun hands-on experience at *Muckross Traditional Farms*. Upon arrival we get a private guided tour of the working farm where we are immersed in farm life such as baking soda bread on the open fire using a griddle, hand-milking the cows, watch the blacksmith work the forge and much more. We arrive at *Quills Farmhouse* for a butter making demonstration and tasting. Next, we head to Muckross Schoolhouse to learn a few words of Gaelic (Irish language). Now that we have worked the farm and learned to speak Irish, we enjoy a delicious lunch while being entertained with traditional Irish music. This afternoon and evening you are free to relax. Enjoy the hotel or spend some time in the town, experience the many great restaurants and enjoy a music session in one of the many pubs. You can't go wrong in this lively town there is something for everyone.



Overnight: Killarney – The Lake Hotel (B, L)

Day 7 April 11th: Medieval City of Kilkenny



After breakfast we bid farewell to Killarney and head east across the southern part of Ireland to Ireland's Medieval City Kilkenny. Home to the 12th century Kilkenny Castle, 18th century St. Marys Cathedral and the Medieval Mile, a trail running through the city where you can explore the history and heritage of this historic place. After check-in you will have some free time to enjoy wandering the narrow walks that open up to the New Canal Square. Pass time watching the River Nore peak out from beneath Green's Bridge and John's

Bridge. Art galleries, historic buildings, craft and design workshops, theatre, comedy, public gardens and museums all await you in this enchanting city. Enjoy the vibrant music scene—deeply rooted in traditional Irish Music—and fantastic cuisine, all live the Irish life in Kilkenny. We will then enjoy dinner together at our hotel .

Overnight: Kilkenny – The Pembroke Hotel..... (B, D)

Day 8 April 12th: Killkenny – National Stud and Gardens – Dublin

After a hearty breakfast in our hotel today, we depart Killkenny and continue our journey to Dublin with a stop in Kildare to visit the very famous *Irish National Stud* and Gardens. A visit to the foaling unit is highly recommended at this time of year where we might be lucky enough to see the first steps of a future champion as the best time to see a foal being born is between February and April. We can also get up close to the spectacular stallions at the paddock, spot lively yearlings or watch the protective mares with their frolicking foals. Even if you're not a



racing aficionado, you'll be able to appreciate the historical success that has built this place and the passion that has sustained it. We also experience the beautiful *Japanese Gardens designed by craftsman Tassa Eida*. These gardens combine art, philosophy and nature in perfect balance to create a tranquil and contemplative environment. Upon arrival in Dublin, we check into our hotel, and we are free to enjoy this evening as we wish. There are lots of great local options for dinner on our own tonight.

Overnight: Dublin – Aloft Hotel (B, Dinner on our own)

Day 9 April 13th: Exploring Dublin's Fair City

This morning you are free to partake in a *panoramic tour of Dublin City* after breakfast at the hotel. In the early afternoon, we will take a tour of the *EPIC museum* where we learn that over the centuries more than 10 million people emigrated from Ireland – at the EPIC museum we can find out why they left, where they went and how they shaped the world. The museum was founded on the belief that emigration is one of the most interesting ways to fully understand a country. As we uncover the stories of our emigrants, we'll realize that emigration is not about what people leave behind, but what they bring with them. We may even be able to trace our ancestry here! To celebrate our last night on the island, we will enjoy an *Irish Cabaret Experience with some traditional Irish music and food* to give us the perfect send off!



Overnight: Dublin – Aloft Hotel..... (B, D)

Day 10 April 14th: Homeward Bound...

With bags packed, enjoy your breakfast before heading to the airport where you will board your flight 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!

HOTELS IN IRELAND

April 6	Athlone	Sheraton Hotel (4 star)	Phone: +353 90 645 1000	1 night
			https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/gwysi-sheraton-athlone-hotel/overview/	
April 7, 8	Ennis	The Old Ground Hotel (4 star)	Phone: +353 65 682 8127	2 nights
			https://www.oldgroundhoteleennis.com/	
April 9, 10	Killarney	The Lake Hotel (4 star)	Phone: +353 64 663 1035	2 nights
			https://www.lakehotelkillarney.ie	
April 11:	Kilkenny	The Pembroke Hotel (4star)	Phone: +353 56 778 3500	1 night
			https://www.pembrokekilkenny.com/	
April 12, 13	Dublin	Aloft Hotel (4 star)	Phone: +353 1 963 1800	2 nights
			https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/dubal-aloft-dublin-city/overview/	

Dublin

Athlone

Newbridge (Lisquell)

Ennis

Killarney

Ring of Kerry

Killarney

Kilkenny

Dublin

