

**Aer Lingus Classic
Notre Dame vs Navy
Game and Northern Route Tour of Ireland
Thursday, August 27 - Sunday, September 6, 2020**



Thursday, August 27th - Depart USA for your overnight flight to Ireland.

Friday, August 28th - Upon your arrival at Dublin airport you transfer to Dublin city where you will have a free day in Dublin to pursue your personal Dublin discoveries. Harrigan Holidays will be happy to make recommendations. There will also be pre-game activities today. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Saturday, August 29th - Game Day (B)

Sunday, August 30th - Depart for Derry with a stop en-route where you will learn about the linen industry in Northern Ireland at the **Wellsbrook Beetling Mill**. The last water-driven beetling mill to survive in Northern Ireland, the Wellbrook Beetling Mill is now a museum dedicated to preserving the old-fashioned linen making process. The term "beetling" refers to the often-noisy process of water-powered hammers pounding the linen cloth to give it a smooth finish.

Continue on to **Derry** where upon your arrival you will, enjoy a **walking tour of the walled city**. Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland and has a moving history that you can experience walking along the still-intact city walls. See Guildhall, Derry's town hall, which fell victim to a bomb attack in the 1970s and has now been rebuilt.

Check into your Derry hotel where dinner is included this evening. (B, D)

Monday, August 31st - Today you will tour the Antrim Coast. Your first visit today will be to the **Giants Causeway**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The new Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history. The causeway consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. Next you will visit the **Old Bushmills Distillery** the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery having received its license to distill in 1608. The visit finishes in the distillery pub where all are invited to partake of a wee Bush (a sample of Bushmills Whiskey). On your way back to Derry you will stop at **Dunluce Castle** for a photo stop. Dunluce Castle may look familiar to you, it has been a filming site for HBO's Game of Thrones. Return to your Derry area hotel. Dinner is under your own arrangements this evening. (B)

Tuesday, September 1 - Today explore **County Donegal**. This breath-taking county promises wild landscapes blanketed in bog and heather, isolated white sandy beaches and a roughly hewn coastline. Visit **Glenveagh National Park and Castle**- A spectacular 16,500 hectares (40,000 acres) of scenic mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a herd of red deer, Glenveagh is one of Ireland's protected natural parks managed by the State. A Scottish style castle within the estate is surrounded by one of the finest gardens in Ireland, which contrast with the rugged surroundings. A return shuttle minibus service is available to bring clients from the visitor centre to the area of the castle and the gardens. Built in the years 1870 - 1873, the castle consists of a four storey rectangular keep. The last private owner was Mr Henry McIlhenny of Philadelphia who bought the estate in 1937. Henry McIlhenny was an Irish American whose Grandfather John McIlhenny grew up in Milford a few miles north of Glenveagh. After buying the estate Mr McIlhenny devoted much time to restoring the castle and developing its gardens. In 1983 he bestowed the castle to the nation along with its gardens and much of the contents.

Enjoy your dinner at a local pub/restaurant. Overnight, bed and breakfast at Co. Donegal hotel. (B,D)

Wednesday, September 2nd - This morning, visit **Slieve League**, Europe's highest sea cliffs, although less famous than the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Slieve League's Cliffs reach almost three times higher, but you won't really notice. The site is largely untouched with un-spoilt landscape that gives visitors spectacular views of the coast and the cliff face. Enjoy the spectacular views of the sea, Sligo Mountains and Donegal Bay that can be clearly seen as you walk towards the top of Slieve League.

Continue to **Killybegs International Carpet Making & Fishing Centre**. The Killybegs International Carpet Making & Fishing Centre offers a unique experience in the fishing and carpet-making history for visitors who venture to the shores of this picturesque town situated on the Donegal coastline. During the tour, it is possible to see the actual carpet factory which once designed, dyed and thread wool by hand-knotters, and produced world-class Donegal carpets that can still be seen in such places as Dublin Castle, The Oval Room at the White House, the Vatican, Buckingham Palace, stately homes, and foreign embassies throughout the globe; also, visitors can see the largest hand-knotted loom in the world, view live demonstrations of how hand-knotting is done, and also have the opportunity to test their own skills at the loom. Finally, it is possible to view the largest fishing fleet in Ireland in its natural harbour, the home-place of the Atlantic Dawn, which was one of the largest fishing vessels in country; step into the boots of a fisherman via the "bridge simulator", replica of a boat wheelhouse, and experience the virtual reality of the ocean. Dinner will be under your own arrangements this evening. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your Donegal hotel or area. **(B)**

Thursday, September 3rd - This morning we will depart from Donegal for Galway. En-route, visit **Lissadell House and Gardens**. The Lissadell Estate is the home of Edward Walsh, his wife Constance Cassidy and their seven children. After 70 years of neglect, an intensive programme of restoration has taken place in the House, Gardens, Stable Block and grounds since 2004 and Lissadell is once again a place of beauty. Lissadell is famous as the childhood home of Constance Markievicz, her sister Eva Gore-Booth and her brother Josslyn Gore-Booth. Constance was one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, and was the first woman to be elected to Dáil Eireann, where she served as Minister for Labour (thus becoming the first woman minister in a modern Western European democracy), and was also the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons at Westminster, London (where she declined to take her seat). Eva was a poet of distinction and an active suffragist, clashing with the young Winston Churchill over barmaids' rights in 1908. The great poet W. B. Yeats was friendly with the Gore Booth sisters and stayed at Lissadell in 1892 and 1893.

Visit **Arigna Mining Experience**. The Arigna Mining Experience is a centre dedicated to the coal mining history of Arigna over a period of 400 years, local geology and coal, as well as new forms of renewable energy. It is Ireland's first museum dedicated to coal mining. With the closure of the mine in the 1990s, the site was redeveloped as a cultural destination. The tour includes a visit to the mines, with many of the tour guides being former miners. The tours bring visitors down into the mining main tunnel, which was only four feet high when it was used as a mine, but has been widened and deepened to allow for public access. As with the collections, the tour tells the social history of the mine, how miners worked, the rituals and customs of the mine, as well as its central role as the main employer in the area. The site also retains some spoil heaps, which demonstrate the scale of the mining that was taking place during the sites operation. Continue to Galway and check into your hotel. Dinner, Overnight, bed and breakfast at your Galway area hotel. **(B, D)**

Friday, September 4th- Spend the day on Inishmore. Today take the ferry to **Inishmore** the largest of the Aran Islands. The three Aran Islands, Inisheer, Inishmaan and Inishmore, standing out in the Galway bay, form a mass of limestone, similar to the Burren's geology. Today the inhabitants live essentially off fishing and tourism while remaining strongly attached to Gaelic traditions. These islands are the last real "Gaelthacht" of the modern Ireland. Inishmore is the largest of them, it is covered in old stone walls and little fields. On the West Coast of the island, majestic cliffs drop into the wild Atlantic ocean. This area is dominated by **Dun Aengus**, one of the most impressive Neolithic forts in Europe. Dun Aengus Perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic ocean, this is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. It is enclosed by three massive dry-stone walls and a "chevaux-de-frise" consisting of tall blocks of limestone set vertically into the ground to deter attackers. The fort is about 900m from the Visitor Centre and is approached over rising ground. There is access for visitors with disabilities to the Visitor Centre but the route to the fort is over rough terrain in parts that is not suitable for wheelchairs.

Saturday, September 5th - Galway to County Clare

Following some free time in beautiful Galway travel to County Clare for your last night in Ireland. Enjoy a tour thru **The Burren**. The Burren landscape covers over 150 square kilometres and is one of Ireland's 6 National Parks. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites which have attracted visitors for centuries. Man came here over 6000 years ago, cleared the forests and set in motion soil erosion. Centuries of weathering has produced a terrain of fissured limestone pavements, disappearing lakes, terraced mountains, and underground cave systems. For millennia man has left his mark, megalithic tombs and cooking sites litter the pavements, while medieval towerhouses and churches guard the valleys. Today man is absent from most of the upland, leaving behind ancient field systems, routeways and placenames. Today's visitors to the Burren will find Arctic, Alpine and Mediterranean plants growing together.

Enjoy a tour at **Burren Smokehouse**

At Burren Smokehouse visitor centre you can get a tasting of Burren smoked salmon. You can discover mosaics inside and outside the shop, and look at the first kiln used when the Burren Smokehouse was first set up. You can also watch a DVD presentation about the smoking process. Overnight, farewell dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Co Clare. **(B,D)**

Sunday, September 6th - return flight to USA

Price per person sharing a twin/double room is \$3100 per person land only Price is subject to change based on value of currency, fuel surcharges, or taxes. Single Supplement \$899

What's included?

9 nights accommodations in 3 & 4* hotels, Full Irish breakfast at hotel each day and 4 dinners (B,D), visits and admission as noted on the itinerary.

Visits and admissions to the following:

Wellbrook Beetling Mill
Bushmills Distillery
Killybegs Carpet Factory
Ferry to Aran Island

Giants Causeway
Glenveagh National Park
Lissadell House
Dun Aengus Fort

Slieve League
Arigna Mining Experience
Burren Smokehouse

Not included:

Optional Travel Insurance
Meals not included on itinerary

Airfare
Gratuity for Driver/Guide

Personal Expenses

Game Ticket will be available.

Contact Harrigan Holidays at 717-818-3024 or by email kathy@harriganholidays.com

Please note - itinerary is subject to change based on availability.