

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IRELAND TOUR ITINERARY
September 27 - October 7, 2018

Day 1: Thursday, September 27, 2018 - Overnight Flight to Shannon

Day 2: Friday, September 28, 2018 - Welcome to Ireland

Arrive at Shannon Airport, meet with your driver/guide and depart for Limerick.

Visit **Bunratty Castle & Folk Park** and experience a window on Ireland's past and explore the acclaimed 15th century Bunratty Castle and the 19th century Bunratty Folk Park. Bunratty Castle is the most complete and authentic medieval castle in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings, tapestries, and works of art which capture the mood of those times. At Bunratty Folk Park you will enjoy the sights, sounds tastes, scents, of this enchanting place as you stroll from house to house or around the charming village street complete with school, post office, doctors house, hardware shop, printers and of course McNamara's pub! The gardens at Bunratty Folk Park have been restored to their former glory. The gardens are modeled on the original Regency period garden which supplied fruit, vegetables, and flowers to Bunratty House (built in 1804) and are refurbished in typical Victorian style.

Before checking into your hotel in Limerick see Limerick thru the eyes of Frank McCourt on the **Angela Ashes Walking Tour**. The guided tour around the streets where Frank grew up covers a vast amount of Limerick city. Following the footsteps of Frank McCourt takes you through various locations mentioned in the book-through historic Georgian Limerick viewing the stone-faced Georgian offices and townhouses which frame St. John's Square. Through the streets & parks Frank played in, the street where the McCourt's family resided, to the Leamy House, the school Frank attended until his 14th birthday. The tour covers it all providing a truly immersive experience.

Check into **Savoy Hotel** in Limerick where you will be spending the next two nights. Dinner is included this evening. **(D)**

Day 3: Saturday, September 29, 2018 - Loop Head Peninsula

After breakfast depart for **Loop Head Route** on the Wild Atlantic Way where you will discover the spectacular **Kilkee Cliffs** and the beautiful undisturbed sites of the Loop Head Peninsula. Along the way you will see the Loop Head Lighthouse, entry at your own expense, and visit the **Little Church of the Ark**.

Return to Limerick where dinner will be under your own arrangements. **(B)**

Day 4: Sunday, September 30, 2018 - County Clare to County Kerry

On the way to Killarney you will visit **Foynes Flying Boat Museum**. From 1939 to 1945 Foynes was the centre of the aviation world for air traffic between the United States and Europe. The museum features the original Terminal Building including the authentic 1940's cinema; the Radio and Weather Rooms, complete with transmitters, receivers and Morse code equipment. The exhibits feature an introduction to the first transatlantic passenger service from Foynes during the war years and the only full sized replica B314 flying boat. Irish Coffee was invented in Foynes. Chef Joe Sheridan made the first in 1942 to warm up some damp and miserable passengers. Since then Irish Coffee has become one the most popular welcoming drinks in the world. Before departing you will enjoy an Irish Coffee.

Continue to Killarney and on arrival enjoy a **jaunting car ride in Killarney National Park** and a visit to **Muckross House and Gardens**. This nineteenth century Victorian Mansion is set against the stunning beauty of Killarney National Park. The house was built for Henry Arthur Herbert and his wife Mary Balfour-Herbert. The building commenced in 1839 and was completed in 1843.

Check into the **Killarney Plaza Hotel**, your home of the next two nights. Dinner is included this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 4: Monday, October 1, 2018 - Ring of Kerry

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. While touring this scenic route you will see castle ruins, old stone forts, breathtaking scenery and even a Charlie Chaplin statue in Waterville.

Return Killarney where dinner is under your own arrangements at any of the numerous restaurants in town. Be sure to visit Murphy's Ice Cream on Main Street for dessert. **(B)**

Day 5: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Killarney to Waterford

This morning you will depart your hotel in Killarney and travel to Waterford with a visit to **Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills** en-route. Blarney Castle, as viewed by the visitor today, is the third to have been erected on this site. The first building in the tenth century was a wooden structure. Around 1210 A.D. this was replaced by a stone structure which had the entrance some twenty feet above the ground on the north face. This building was demolished for foundations. In 1446 the third castle was built by Dermot McCarthy, King of Munster of which the keep still remains standing. There will be time for shopping at Blarney Woollen Mills and lunch before traveling on to Waterford.

On your arrival in you will have a **walking tour of Waterford** before checking into the lovely **Granville Hotel**. The historic Granville Hotel is a destination onto its own. While there learn its fascinating history dating back to one of Ireland's oldest hotels in the early 1700's and its most famous resident, when a family home, Thomas Frances Meagher. Dinner at the hotel is included this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 6: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 - Exploring County Wexford

Today visit **Dunbrody Famine Ship**. The *Dunbrody* is a full-scale seagoing replica of the Dunbrody launched in 1845 and wrecked in 1875. Incorporating guided tour, costumed performers and themed exhibitions of the highest quality, 'The Dunbrody' provides a unique insight into the bravery and fortitude with which Irish people faced up to a desperate situation.

Next visit **Johnstown Castle Gardens and Agriculture Museum**. The Johnstown Castle estate has been home to two prominent Wexford families. The first owners were the Esmondes; a Norman family who settled in the county in the 1170s. They constructed the tower houses at Johnstown and Rathlannon during the 15th or 16th century. During the Cromwellian period of 1640s the estate was confiscated and changed hands several times before being acquired by John Grogan in 1692, whose descendants remained at Johnstown up until 1945. In this year Maurice Victor Lakin presented Johnstown Castle estate as a gift to the Nation. By 1863 Johnstown Castle estate was at its peak of development and comprised of a large demesne of over 1,000 acres. It was divided in two with a deer park to the north, and the castle, pleasure grounds, home farm and two lakes (with a third lake under construction) to the south. Today the property houses an Agriculture Museum showing exhibitions that have been designed to display and explore a history of Irish agricultural life from the turn of the 18th century until the middle of the 20th century.

Enjoy some free time for lunch and exploring the gardens before traveling on to Hook Lighthouse. The **Hook Lighthouse** is situated at the tip of the Hook Peninsula. It is one of the oldest lighthouses in the world, and the oldest operating lighthouse in Ireland.

On your way back to Waterford, pass by Duncannon Fort. Duncannon Fort is an impressive presentation of a bastioned fortress perched on the side of the stunning Hook Peninsula, County Wexford, part of Ireland's Ancient East.

Dinner this evening is under your own arrangements **(B)**

Day 7: Thursday, October 4, 2018 - Waterford to Dublin

Today you will travel stop in Kilkenny on the way to Dublin. There you will visit **Kilkenny Castle**. Kilkenny Castle stands dramatically on a strategic height that commands a crossing on the River Nore and dominates the 'High Town' of Kilkenny City. Over the eight centuries of its existence, many additions and alterations have been made to the fabric of the building, making Kilkenny Castle today a complex structure of various architectural styles. The original Anglo-Norman stone castle was built for William Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke (c.1146-1219) during the first decade of the thirteenth century. Kilkenny Castle later became the principal Irish residence of the powerful Butler family for almost 600 years. The Butler ownership began when James (c.1360-1405), 3rd Earl of Ormond, purchased the castle in c.1391, and lasted until 1967 when Arthur, 6th Marquess of Ormonde (1893-1971), presented it to the people of Kilkenny in return for a token payment of £50.

After lunch visit the **Smithwick's Experience** before continuing on to Dublin. During the tour you will learn about the ale being created by the monks at the Abbey of St. Francis in 1231 to the present day. Of course your tour will conclude with a visit to the tasting room.

Continue on to Dublin and check into the Jury's Christchurch Hotel where you will stay for the remainder of your visit to Ireland. Dinner is included this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 8: Friday, October 5, 2018 - Dublin's Fair City

This morning enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin** that will include a visit to **Trinity College**. After lunch visit the **Richmond Barracks**. Over 3,000 rebels; men and women of the Easter Rising, were held and sorted in the barracks buildings. The front line soldiers, rounded up from across Ireland, were packed in tightly, awaiting their sentence to prison camps in England or Wales. The leaders were plucked out of the crowd and set aside in the barracks gymnasium to await their courts-martial and fate. 90 death sentences were handed out over the first 2 weeks of May, and 14 executions carried out in Kilmainham, including the seven signatories of the proclamation. Many of the architects of the new Irish state were held in the barracks including; Michael Collins, Eamon De Valera, Arthur Griffith, William T. Cosgrave, and many more.

Next visit **Kilmainham Gaol**. Kilmainham Gaol opened in 1796 as the new County Gaol for Dublin. It closed its doors in 1924. Today the building symbolizes the tradition of militant and constitutional nationalism from the rebellion of 1798 to the Irish Civil War of 1922-23. Leaders of the rebellions of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were detained and in some cases executed here. Many members of the Irish Republican movement during the Anglo-Irish War (1919-21) were also detained in Kilmainham Gaol, guarded by British troops. Names such as Henry Joy McCracken, Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin, Charles Stewart Parnell and the leaders of 1916 will always be associated with the building. It should not be forgotten however that, as a county gaol, Kilmainham held thousands of ordinary men, women and children. Their crimes ranged from petty offences such as stealing food to more serious crimes such as murder or rape. Convicts from many parts of Ireland were held here for long periods waiting to be transported to Australia.

Dinner this evening is under your own arrangement. **(B)**

Day 9: Saturday, October 6, 2018 - Day at Leisure

Today you will have the full day at leisure to explore Dublin on your own before joining together for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 10: Sunday, October 7, 2018 - Farewell

Transfer to Dublin Airport for return flight.

Member price per person sharing a twin/double room is \$3300* and includes land, air and round trip bus service to/from airport. sharing. A Single Supplement of \$559 applies.

9 nights hotel accommodations, all rooms with private bath or shower
Breakfast daily and 5 dinners

VISITS:

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park	Foynes Flying Boat Museum	Muckross House
Blarney Castle	Blarney Woollen Mills	Dunbrody Famine Ship
Johnstown Castle	Hook Lighthouse	Kilkenny Castle
Smithwick's Experience	Trinity College	Richmond Barracks
Kilmainham Gaol	Kilkee Cliffs	Loop Head Peninsula
Ring of Kerry	Church of Little Ark	Loop Head Lighthouse

Angela Ashes walking tour in Limerick, walking tour of Waterford, and guided Dublin City tour

Not included:

Optional Travel Insurance \$194	Lunch Daily
Four Dinners	Personal Expenses
Gratuity for driver/guide and tour guides in Limerick, Waterford and Dublin	

*Please note: Itinerary is subject to change based on availability. Prices are subject to change due to market change in currency, fuel surcharges and tax changes.