

## Harrigan Holidays 2016 Anniversary Tour June 21 - July 1, 2016

**2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of Ireland's fight for independence. This tour incorporates the anniversary along with some well known tourist spots and some less visited places.**

**Tuesday, June 21st** - Depart USA for your overnight flight to Ireland.

**Wednesday, June 22nd** - Welcome to Ireland! After clearing customs and collecting your luggage you will be met by your guide. Once introductions are made you will travel to **Dysert O' Dea Castle and Clare Archaeology Centre**. The authentically restored 15th century Dysert O' Dea Castle, the stronghold of the O' Dea clan, houses the Clare Archaeology Centre which was opened in July 1986 and has been the recipient of numerous national awards. It is located on the original site where Saint Tola founded an 8th century monastic centre. The castle houses an extensive museum, an audio visual presentation and various exhibitions. Dysert O' Dea Church, which stands on the site of an early Christian monastery, dates mainly from the 12th century, its most famous feature is the Romanesque Doorway. Near the church's north western corner stands the remains of a Round Tower and The High Cross, situated east of the church, dates from the 12th century and is one of the finest examples of its kind in Ireland. The Archaeology/History Trail features 25 sites all within a few kilometres radius of the castle.

Enjoy lunch at the tea rooms under own arrangements.

Continue to Burkes Armada Hotel where you will be spending the next two nights. Welcome dinner is included at your hotel. **(D)**

**Thursday, June 23rd**- After breakfast depart for the **Cliffs of Moher**. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru. Atlantic Edge is the exciting new interpretive centre at the Cliffs of Moher and is built into the natural landscape. The centre is a huge domed cave that contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences exploring different elements of the mighty Cliffs of Moher: Ocean, Rock, Nature and Man.



Travel through the **Burren Region**. The Burren is a strange and unique region in Europe. "Burren" means "large stones": in fact its name describes this impressive scenery perfectly well. Often described as lunar, the Burren is a high plateau of porous limestone situated in Northern Clare between Ballyvaughan and Kilfenora. No trees are growing here, no land is covering the stone, the limestone is bare, but the Burren is not as deserted as we believe, the cracks allow different types of flowers to grow all year round, though Spring would be the best season for the botanists to explore. The rocks hide many caves like Ailwee, as well as "Turloughs", an interesting phenomenon which transforms lakes into fields during the summer. There will be plenty of photo stops along the way.

Return to your hotel where dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)**

**Friday, June 24th** - Following breakfast you will depart for the little fishing port of Dingle. First stop of the day is **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. Irish Coffee was invented in Foynes. Chef Joe Sheridan made the first in 1942 to warm up some damp and miserable passengers. Of course your visit includes an Irish Coffee making demonstration and tasting.

Continue to Dingle where you will stop at the *South Pole Inn* that was once run by the great Antarctic explorer Tom Crean. You will have time for lunch or a drink at your own expense.

Following lunch you will tour the **Dingle Brewing Company** where Tom Crean lager is brewed. The Dingle Brewing Company opened the doors of its microbrewery in July 2011. The guided tour of the Dingle Brewing Company brings visitors through the brewery where one will learn all about how Tom Crean's Lager is produced. The guide will explain the brew process from start to finish. As the brewery is located on the site of an original creamery dating back to 1889, the guide will bring you through the history of the creamery and explain how the local farmers delivered milk on a daily basis. The tour finishes by introducing the story of Tom Crean, the famous local Antarctic explorer giving an overview of his life. Of course you can enjoy a complimentary pint of Crean's after the tour.

Check into the Dingle Benner Hotel where you will spend the next two nights. Dinner is included tonight. **(B, D)**

**Saturday, June 25th** - After breakfast depart for a tour of the **Dingle Peninsula**. Some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry, on the Dingle Peninsula. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers plenty of opportunity for shopping or simply savouring the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets and busy harbour. See Inch Beach, the Sleat Head etc.



Visit the **Dingle Distillery**. The Dingle Whiskey Distillery is not in the business of creating megabrands, or do they distil for anyone else. Their scale is modest, their approach to what they make is essentially artisan and they have rekindled the tradition of independent distilling in Ireland. You can sample the fruits of the labours in the form of Dingle Original Gin and Dingle Distillery Vodka. You are in luck, their first batch of whiskey will be released in 2016 so you can sample it also.

Return to your hotel in Dingle where dinner is on your own. **(B)**

**Sunday, June 26th** - This morning after breakfast depart Dingle for the lovely village of Kinsale, the Gourmet Capital of Ireland. First stop at **St. Gobnait's Monastic Site** in Ballyvourney. Here you will find the ruins of an early monastic settlement as well as two holy wells. This was a holy settlement for women and became a famous place for healing.

You will next have a photo stop in Macroom. **Macroom Castle** was childhood home of William Penn. The castle was granted to his father, Admiral William Penn, by Cromwell. It was here that William Penn met George Fox and was introduced to the Religious Society of Friends.

Last stop of the day before arriving in Kinsale is the **Michael Collins Centre**. The Michael Collins Memorial Centre, provides a comprehensive presentation on the life and times of Michael Collins. Explore the Big Fella's childhood, his family history, his school days and the important Collins' sites around Clonakilty. A guide then continues the presentation, using slides, large photographs or film clips, the visitor is taken through the 1916 rebellion, War of Independence, Treaty talks and the Civil War. The tragic death of Michael Collins at Beal Na Blath and his Legacy are also discussed.

Upon arriving in Kinsale you will check into the Trident Hotel. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)**

**Monday, June 27th** - Discover Kinsale

Today will be a leisurely day in lovely Kinsale. The only thing scheduled today is **Don and Barry's Kinsale Historic Stroll** as seen on Rick Steves Ireland. The pace is leisurely and you will hear a colourful story of Kinsale down the ages from Medieval walled town to the sinking of the Lusitania.

Kinsale is one of Ireland's best known small towns and is considered the gastronomic centre of Ireland, Kinsale is a popular weekend destination for the Irish & visitor alike. You will find plenty of pubs, shopping, a few museums etc. Maybe you want to take the evening ghost tour.

Dinner is under your own arrangements in the Gourmet Capital of Ireland. **(B)**

**Tuesday, June 28th** - Off to Dublin!

The first stop today is at the **Belvelly Smokehouse**. Established in 1982, Belvelly Smoke House is the only traditional timber smoke house in Ireland where fish are hung for smoking. Frank Hederman, its founder, has been smoking salmon in this way for 30 years. Decades of smoking have created a sticky black surface of tar on the wooden boards of the smokehouse and the unique atmosphere that contributes to the distinctive character and flavour of the fish produced here. In addition to smoked salmon you will find smoked mackerel, smoked mussels, smoked garlic and smoked butter. Tasting included.

Continue on to **Holycross Abbey**. The picturesque Cistercian Holycross Abbey was originally built in 1168 by Donal Mor O'Brien for the Benedictine Order. The monastery was colonised by monks from Monasteranenagh in County Limerick. It was given the name Holy Cross as the monastery housed a portion of the true cross. This relic is now enshrined in the Abbey. It became a place of pilgrimage for people from all over the country. Under the patronage of James Butler, the fourth Earl of Ormonde, much of the abbey was rebuilt in the 15th century, but after suppression, it was eventually left in ruins. The church has many interesting features including a variety of fascinating windows, mural paintings and many fine carvings. The abbey was in ruins until the early 1970's, but a massive restoration project turned the Cistercian cloisters and chapels into a living church.

Stop briefly in County Laois in an area called **Clonadadoran**. Did you know that the first shot of the rebellion was fired in Laois? Unsurprisingly, the first shot of the Rising has more than one claimant. One claim that has many supporters is that the first shots came from the Volunteers of Laois, who destroyed a section of railway track at a place called Colt Wood near Clonadadoran, on the night of April 23rd – the day before the Rising began in Dublin. A monument to the event bears three plaques: a copy of the proclamation; a picture of a derailed train; and a dedication which names the Volunteers and reads: “On Easter Sunday night, 23rd April, 1916, acting under the direct orders of Patrick Pearse, the Laois Volunteers participated in the demolition of a section of the Abbeyleix-Portlaoise railway line at a location near here. The purpose of this exercise was to prevent British military reinforcements from reaching Dublin via Waterford after the Rising had started.

Check into the Ashling Hotel where you will be staying the next three nights. Dinner at your hotel is included. **(B, D)**

**Wednesday, June 29th -** This morning visit **Glasnevin Cemetery & Museum**. Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum are both the guardians and storytellers for over 1.2 million people. There are over one million stories buried in Glasnevin Cemetery; Gravediggers, Body Snatchers, Rebels & Revolutionaries, from the ordinary to the truly extraordinary, these people helped shape the Ireland of today. You will see the final resting place of a number of those that had major roles in the fight for Irish Independence including Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera.

Enjoy lunch under your own expense at John Kavanaghs otherwise known as the *Gravediggers Pub*. As the nickname implies this pub was a favourite of the cemetery gravediggers and is ranked as one of the best pubs in Dublin. Please note they accept cash only!

In the afternoon visit **Kilmainham Gaol**. One of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe, Kilmainham Gaol witnessed some of the most heroic and tragic events in Ireland's emergence as a modern nation from 1780s to the 1920s. Attractions include a major exhibition detailing the political and penal history of the prison and its restoration. The tour of the prison includes an audio-visual show.

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

**Thursday, June 30th - Dublin's Fair City**

The day is yours to do as your please. You are free to shop, visit museums, grab a hop-on hop-off bus, what ever you want. There is a farewell dinner included this evening. **(B, D)**

**Friday, July 1st -** Depart to Dublin Airport for your return flight to the USA. Of course you have the option to extend your stay in Dublin.

**Price is \$2710 for land, air and transportation to/from the airport, per person sharing Single Supplement \$420.00**

The flight is on United out of Newark Airport. If you want to use airline miles or fly from a different airport contact us. You may also extend your trip if you would like.

**Price Includes:**

Airfare, transportation to/from the airport, 9 nights accommodations in 4\* hotels, Full Irish breakfast at hotel each day, 6 dinners, portorage, service charges and taxes at existing rates. **\*\*Please note that a change in service charges, taxes, and a large currency rate fluctuation could change the price of tour.**

**Visits and admissions to the following:**

|                                         |                                          |                             |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dysert O'Dea Castle & Archeology Center | Foynes Flying Boat Museum w/Irish Coffee |                             |
| Cliffs of Moher                         | The Burren Region                        | South Pole Inn              |
| Dingle Brewing Company w/tasting        | Dingle Peninsula                         | Dingle Distillery w/tasting |
| St. Golbrait's Monastic Site            | Michael Collins Centre                   | Macroom Castle-photo only   |
| Belvelly Smokehouse w/tasting           | Holycross Abbey                          | Clonadadoran                |
| Glasnevin Cemetery & Museum             | Gravediggers Pub                         | Kilmainhaim Goal            |
| Kinsale Walking Tour                    |                                          |                             |

**Not included:**

|                                   |                           |           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Optional Travel Insurance - \$174 | Lunch Daily               | 3 Dinners |
| Personal Expenses                 | Gratuity for Driver/Guide |           |