

**Susquehanna Folk Music Society  
Tour of Ireland w/Cork Folk Festival**

**Sunday, September 25 - Thursday, October 6, 2022**



**Sunday, September 25th** - Depart USA for your overnight flight to Ireland. Group air is on United.

**Monday, September 26th** - Following your arrival at Shannon Airport, you will meet your driver and guide. Today you will, visit **Doolin Music House**. Christy Barry and his partner Sheila have entertained friends and musicians at their home for many years, sitting around the fire playing music and telling stories. Although the pub sessions are extremely popular they realized that many of their visitors preferred to listen to traditional music in the intimate environment of their home. As a result, they open up their atmospheric home to visitors so they can experience local Irish music in the relaxed surroundings of their home. Christy talks and discusses the history of traditional Irish music and plays great tunes together with his friend James Devitt. You will enjoy the experience of visiting a local home, enjoying local company and listening to a good traditional music session around the fire. Sheila is an artist and her works surround the rooms in the house creating a truly art home atmosphere.

Today you will also visit the **Cliffs of Moher**. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, 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 as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of 'Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views That Rival The Grand Canyon'.

The group will be split into two groups. While one is at Doolin Music House the other will be at Cliffs of Moher and vice versa. This is to accommodate the group at Doolin Music House.

Check into the beautiful waterfront hotel The Armada located at Spanish Point in Co. Clare where you will be staying for the next two nights. A welcome dinner is included this evening. **(D)**

**Tuesday, September 27th** - Travel to County Galway today.

In Galway, tour **Connemara**. Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south ~ a land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas.

Stop in Roundstone to learn about **Bodhrán Making**. Roundstone Music and Crafts is located in a former Franciscan monastery in Roundstone, in the heart of Connemara. It is here that you will find the workshop of Malachy Kearns, better known as Malachy Bodhrán, who is famous for the manufacture of bodhráns, the oldest instruments that accompany traditional Irish music. Malachy makes bodhráns for the world famous Riverdance troupe and he is currently the only full-time bodhrán maker in Ireland. Malachy is always delighted to talk about his work and all the traditions that surround it. There is also a small shop near the workshop where it is possible to purchase instruments that he has made.

Lunch is included at a local pub/restaurant. Return to Armada Hotel for the evening where dinner will be on your own. **(B,L)**

**Wednesday, September 28th** - Depart Clare today and travel to Kerry, via Limerick.

In County Limerick, 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. Located 35 km west of Limerick city on the Shannon estuary, the Foynes Museum recalls this era with a comprehensive range of exhibits and graphic illustrations. The museum features the original Terminal Building including the authentic 1940s 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. While here learn of the Irish-American actress Maureen O'Hara's relationship to the Foynes Flying Boat Museum and get to see her Oscar and a few costumes that are among her memorabilia displayed at the museum. 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 of the most popular welcoming drinks in the world. You will learn how to make the perfect Irish coffee and of course enjoy an Irish Coffee at the source.

Continue to Killarney where upon arrival, enjoy a **Celtic Concert** at Killarney School of Music performed by the students of the school. The school is family-run, and the artistic director Padraig Buckley, leads the students during this memorable concert. The show is a combination of Celtic music, song and dance.

Check into Scotts Hotel in lively Killarney Town and enjoy a free evening. Scott's Hotel is well located in Killarney Town giving you a wide range of places to dine, shop, and listen to Irish music. **(B)**

**Thursday, September 29th** - Today tour **Dingle Peninsula**. Some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry, on the Dingle Peninsula, the most northern of the Kerry Peninsulas. 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. The road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular. It passes through a chain of Mountains, called Slieve Mish. From Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's daughter," admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. From Dingle, drive around the coast to Sleah Head. Here the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands, deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Skellig islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The Dingle Peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colours and will bewitch you with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.

Stop at **Kilmalkedar church**. Kilmalkedar is a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site found about 8 km from Dingle, in County Kerry. Among the ruins on the site you will find a 12th-century Hiberno-Romanesque church and several fascinating artefacts, such as an alphabet stone, holed Ogham stone, sundial and large stone cross.

En-route, experience a **working sheepdog demonstration**. Dingle Sheepdogs Farm is located on Sleah Head Drive, on the Dingle Peninsula. Here, you can enjoy beautiful views of the Ring of Kerry, Dingle Bay and the Skellig Islands. Watch as a local sheep farmer orders his herding dogs to encircle and control the sheep. These impressive have been handed down from generation to generation, with sheep farming in this region of the country for hundreds of years. During your visit, you will also learn interesting insights into the lives of sheep farmers, for example learn how farmers predicted the weather many years ago or communicated with distant relatives.

Lunch is included today at a local pub/restaurant. Enjoy some free time at leisure in Dingle before returning to Killarney for the night. Dinner will be on your own this evening. **(B,L)**

**Friday, September 30th** - Travel from Kerry to Cork today.

En-route to Cork City you will stop in Clonakilty to visit the **Michael Collins Centre**. As soon as visitors arrive at the Michael Collins Centre, they are welcomed to the Cottage/theatre. A twenty minute audio/ visual explores the Michael Collins 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. The presentation ends with a guided tour of the ambush trail, a life size replica of an ambush site complete with Crossley Tender and replica of Michael Collins, famous Rolls Royce Armoured Car, "Sliabh Na mBan". Here the events at Beal na Blath and the history of the vehicles in the Collins convoy are explained in more detail. Visitors can then return to the Cottage/ Theatre to view the exhibition of photographs, documents and militaria.

After, visit **Timoleague Abbey**. Timoleague Abbey was founded by the Franciscan Order in 1240 A.D. The abbey was built on the site of a monastic settlement founded by Saint Molaga in the 6th century. The village's name comes from the Irish for House of Molaga, Tigh Mologa. The Abbey was extended by Donal Glas McCarthy in 1312, and by Irish and Norman patrons in the 16th Century. In 1480, the Book of Lismore was written here. The monks were dispersed by the Reformation, but returned in 1604. In 1612 the abbey was sacked by English soldiers who also smashed all of the stained glass windows, but much of the significant architecture remains. The friars remained in the abbey until 1629. In 1642, the Friary was burnt down by Cromwellian soldiers. ***Festival information will be shared with you when it's available.***

Continue toward Cork and check into Jury's Hotel Cork that will be your home for the next 3 nights. **(B)**

**Saturday, October 1st** - Travel to the coastal town of Kinsale today. Upon arrival, learn the fascinating history of this town on **walking tour of Kinsale** with local a guide. Kinsale was a strategic naval base during the conflict for New World treasure. It was also the beachhead for the last Spanish Armada leading to The Battle of Kinsale in 1601, and a sailing port for Dampier and Robinson Crusoe and such a hub for fleets as to lead one 17th c. observer to describe Kinsale as 'laying in the road of the Chieftest trade in all the Worlde'.

Lunch is included at a local restaurant or pub.

After lunch, visit **Charles Fort**. Overlooking Kinsale harbour and located approximately 3 km from Kinsale town, Charles Fort is a classic example of a late 17th Century star-shaped fort. William Robinson, architect of the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham, Dublin is credited with designing the fort. As one of the largest military installations in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. The most significant of these are the Williamite War 1689-91 and the Civil War 1922-23. Charles Fort was declared a National Monument in 1973. Across the estuary is James Fort designed by Paul Ive in 1602.

If time allows visit **Garden of Remembrance**. This garden is located in the townland of Ringfinnan, Kinsale, County Cork in the south of Ireland and is dedicated to the memory of the 343 firefighters who lost their live in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York. This garden of Remembrance was established by Kathleen Murphy in November 2001. Following the 9/11 attacks she decided to establish the garden of remembrance in memory to the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11th 2001.

Return to Cork city where your time is free to enjoy the Cork Folk Festival. **(B,L)**

**Sunday, October 2nd** - After breakfast travel to **Cobh Heritage Centre**. A unique Irish port town, Cobh is situated on the southern shore and is one of the world's finest natural harbours. Between 1848 and 1950, over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland including over 2.5 million from Cobh, making it the single most important port of emigration in the country. The Heritage Centre is located in the old Victorian Railway station in Cobh formally known as Queenstown. The Centre hosts a multi-media exhibition of the Origins, History and Legacy of Cobh. The Queenstown Story relates Cobh's dramatic maritime history including how it was the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic. The steamers and ocean liners continued carrying the Irish to new lives and new lands for many years afterwards. Return to Cork where the remainder of your day is yours to enjoy the festival! **(B)**

**Monday, October 3rd** - Depart Cork City today for Dublin City. En route, visit **Bru Boru Heritage Centre**. Brú Ború (translated as “The Palace of Boru”) is a national heritage centre at the foot of the Rock of Cashel. This cultural and interpretative village is designed around a village green and is home to the study and celebration of Irish music, song, dance, storytelling, theatre and Celtic studies. Located at the foot of the historic Rock of Cashel, Brú Ború is an affiliate of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the Irish cultural movement which has over 400 branches worldwide. The Teach Ceoil (house of music) comes alive with the sound of Irish traditions; from singing a song, to dancing a step, playing an air or telling a story. The Sounds of History exhibition takes place in subterranean chambers, seven metres underground, which echo to the story of Ireland from ancient times to the present day. Through the passage of time, the journey is marked by milestones of achievement, conflict and renewal. A recent state-of-the-art extension has been added, where visitors can explore 3000 years of Ireland’s rich cultural heritage.

Travel on to Dublin and check into Jury’s Christchurch Hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy. The hotel is well located to a wide variety of restaurants and is only a stone’s throw away from the famed Temple Bar area. **(B)**

**Tuesday, October 4th** - This morning after breakfast enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin**. Discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O’Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde’s House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen’s Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

Visit **Epic Ireland**. EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum is a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House Quarter building in Dublin’s Docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland’s emigrants. It will inspire and guide you on a journey to discover the stories of Irish emigration around the world, from early times to the modern day. Over the centuries, some 10 million people have left the island of Ireland. At EPIC you can step through 20 themed galleries to find out why people left, see how they influenced the world they found, and experience the connection between their descendants and Ireland today. Immerse yourself in the stories of some of the most remarkable tales of sacrifice, endurance, adventure, and discovery the world has ever known. EPIC brings these amazing stories to life in a unique and spectacular way.

The remainder of your day is free to pursue your own interests. **(B)**

**Wednesday, October 5th** - This morning enjoy a relaxing breakfast before exploring Dublin on your own with your **Hop on/off City Bus Ticket**. (There are two hop/on hop/off stops near the hotel.) Your hotel is well located to many “must see’s and do’s” depending on your interest. We will be happy to help you with your Dublin plans and will be providing suggestions. A few suggestions for now are the Kilmainham Goal, Book of Kells, Guinness Storehouse, one of the many distilleries in Dublin city, the GPO museum, Chester Beatty Museum, and one of the many free National Museums through out the city. There is something for everyone so you should not be lacking in finding something to do in your free time. Some of these places will require tickets purchased well in advance of your visit. We will work with you to help make the most of your time in Dublin.

This evening enjoy an **Irish Dancing Workshop and dinner**

Return back to your hotel for the evening. **(B, D)**

**Price per person sharing a twin/double room is \$3499 per person sharing for members or \$3699 for non-members. Single Supplement \$690**

**Susquehanna Folk Music Membership:**

Annual membership to SFMS is only \$40 for a family or \$25 for an individual. You may join SFMS Susquehanna Folk Music Society at their website [susquehannafolk.org](http://susquehannafolk.org). Just click on the Support Tab.

**The price includes:** visits and admissions mentioned below, transportation to/from airport from Harrisburg area, round trip airfare from Newark on United Airlines, hotel accommodations, breakfast daily (**B**), 3 lunches (**L**), 2 dinners (**D**) including farewell dinner with Irish Dance Workshop, a driver & tour guide in Ireland.

Cliffs of Moher	Doolin Music House	Foynes Flying Boat Museum
Kilmalkedar Church	Michael Collins Centre	Charles Fort
Timoleague Abbey	Cobh Heritage Centre	Garden of Remembrance
Bru Boru Heritage Centre	Epic Ireland	Dublin HO/HO Bus Pass
Connemara	Dingle Peninsula	Sheepdog Demonstration
Walking tour Kinsale	Panoramic Tour Dublin	Irish Coffee Demonstration

Bodhrán making talk at Roundstone Music & Crafts

Celtic concert at Killarney School of Music

Irish Dance Workshop

**Not Included:** optional travel insurance, meals not included above, gratuity for driver & guide, Folk Festival Tickets, and personal expenses.

You are welcome to bring your instrument from home but be away it could be subject to additional baggage charges.

**\*\* Important Notes:** The itinerary is subject to change due to availability. The tour price can also fluctuate if the number of participants falls below 25 or if there are extreme fluctuations in the value of currency, fuel surcharges, taxes, etc.