

Father Tommy's Ireland Adventure
10 Days ~ 8 Nights
June 12- 22, 2023

Day 1- Monday, June 12

Heading to Ireland

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

Day 2 – Tuesday, June 13

Welcome to Ireland



This morning we land in Shannon Airport. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Irish Tour Director will meet you. Once aboard we will be transferred down to Cork. Along the way we'll stop to *have a hearty Irish breakfast*. Following breakfast you'll be taken to your first hotel where you can check in, relax, and later meet for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Welcome Dinner & Overnight: Actons Hotel (B, D)

Day 3 – Wednesday, June 14

Explore Cobh & Kinsale

Today we'll enjoy a **walking tour of Cobh**, a seaport town on the south coast of County Cork. We'll visit the **Cobh Heritage Center** where you'll learn how over 2.5 million Irish people emigrated from this port. Many would have attended mass at the beautiful Cathedral overlooking the port prior to their departure. Cobh was also the last port from which the Titanic left on April 11th, 1912. Then we'll board the bus and return to Kinsale where you'll have the rest of the afternoon free *to explore Kinsale, the 'Gourmet Capital of Ireland'*. But it's not all about fine dining... you'll find great pub grub, cafes and bars as well as delis and stores packed full with local artisan products. The town nestles between the hills and the shoreline, a maze of narrow streets, never far from the water and little changed in many hundreds of years. Amongst buildings of later periods are those of another age with historical links to the Americans, French, Spanish, and British.

Overnight: Actons Hotel (B)

Day 4 – Thursday, June 15

West Cork Peninsula & Michael Collins Centre



This morning after a hearty breakfast, we will *depart for the West Cork Peninsula*. we will take you on a tour of the region and the further west we head, you will notice the more rugged and "wild west" the landscape becomes. When you hit the coastline of little ports, bays, inlets and harbours, expect to share it with the other adventure-seeking surfers, anglers and kayakers who all get drawn there. We'll *visit the Michael Collins Centre* where you'll learn about the life and times of Michael Collins. We'll then continue west passing Skibbereen, which means "little boat harbour", on

your way to Baltimore to *see the Baltimore Beacon*, aka Lot's Wife (or Pillar of Salt), the major landmark that guards the entrance of the harbour. After a day of touring we'll head back to our hotel in Cork for a group dinner.

Overnight: Actons Hotel (B, D)

Day 5 – Friday, June 16

Galway, the City of Tribes

In the morning we'll say goodbye to Cork and head north, stopping along the way at *St. Fin Barre's Cathedral*. After this visit you'll enjoy lunch on your own *in Limerick* before heading *to Galway, known as the City of Tribes* after the 14 merchant families that prospered here in the middle ages. We enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of this lively city. You'll have the rest of the afternoon to explore at your leisure before checking in to your new hotel to freshen up before a group dinner at the hotel

Overnight: The Park House Hotel (B, D)

Day 6- Saturday, June 17

Visit the Aran Islands



A highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way with its Cliffs and spectacular coastal views is "*The Aran Islands*" (*Islands of Saints and Scholars*) located just off Galway in the Atlantic. You will have the opportunity to try out your new Irish speaking skills because locals speak Irish as well as English. The islands are scattered with Celtic churches of historical importance and on Inis Mor you can visit the spectacular *Fort of Dun Aonghasa*. These islands are the home of the Aran sweater and while we are in the 21st century, many things on the islands have not changed much in the past 200 years.

Overnight: The Park House Hotel (B)

Day 7- Sunday, June 18

Father Tommy's Welcome



After breakfast today, we will depart for a day which will write its own adventure. *We will head for Fr. Tommy's hometown, Newbridge in Co. Galway where we will bask in the warmth of some authentic Irish hospitality.* Ireland is known as the place of one hundred thousand welcomes and today you will experience that and so much more. This is Ireland at its best, its people. After an eventful day, we will return to the hotel.

Overnight: The Park House Hotel (B)

Day 8 – Monday, June 19

Mighty Cliffs and Cuddly Sheepdogs

Today we bid farewell to Father Tommy's county and continue on our journey to Ennis. Along the way we'll *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. We'll *spend the afternoon at Caherconnell for, one of the best preserved stone forts in the Burren*, built around 900 AD. Explore the Fort and witness the amazing skill of the Border Collie guiding sheep. Following this incredible experience we'll head to our new hotel for a group dinner.

Overnight: The Lakeside Hotel (D, B)

Day 9- Tuesday, June 20

Cruising on the Shannon

Today we explore this beautiful location with a *River Cruise on the Spirit of Killaloe* as we head up the Shannon River. On our return, free for lunch before taking a scenic tour to the Arra Mountains area whose highest peak Tountinna (Hill above the Wave) is 465m. It is from these mountains, which skirt the shores of Lough Derg between Ballina and Portroe, that the true majesty of the Shannon's greatest Lake can be appreciated.

Overnight: The Lakeside Hotel (B)

Day 10- Wednesday, June 21

Rock of Cashel and Farewell Dinner



Also known as Cashel of the Kings and St. Patrick's rock, today after breakfast we'll board the bus to the *Rock of Cashel*. This historic site was the traditional seat of the Kings of Munster for several hundred years prior to the Norman invasion. We will then have a celebratory farewell meal together at the hotel before your journey home!

Overnight: The Lakeside Hotel (B, D)

Day 11- Thursday, June 22

Homeward Bound...

Pack your bags as we head for Shannon Airport, where you will board your flight for 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!

Hotels

Actons Hotel
Pier Rd, Kinsale
+353 (21) 4779900

The Park House Hotel
Eyre Square, Galway
+353 (91) 564 924

The Lakeside Hotel & Leisure Centre
Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare
+353 (61) 376 122

