

# *Maine Irish Tour Itinerary Ireland/Scotland 2017*

## **October 6th**

Depart from Portland at park and ride facility on Marginal way and the adventure begins. We travel together by coach to Logan, allowing plenty time to check in and settle in for the overnight flight to Shannon.

## **October 7th**

Arriving into Shannon we take it slow and keep a leisurely pace out towards Loop Head, an area that doesn't get nearly the attention it deserves, before continuing onto Limerick a city that doesn't always feature on an itinerary, but it is a wonderful base for a evening, with a fascinating history. St John's castle and The Hunt Museum are stops well worth exploring and then you can take a ramble through the city streets or have an early night in preparation for the amazing trip ahead.

Accommodation: Clayton Hotel, Limerick

## **October 8th**

Our journey into the sunny Southeast begins as we make our way down to through County Cork. Cork tells many a tale, but the town of Cobh has something special to reveal. Between the story of Annie Moore, and many like her, that crossed over to Ellis Island. To the hundreds whose last sight of land would be off the coast of Cobh as they made their trip across the atlantic on the ill fated Titanic.

Later that evening we will have a group dinner and get to explore a few pubs in the bustling city of Cork.

Accommodation: Metropole Hotel, Cork

## **October 9th**

I'm excited to bring this group down to this part of the country! Its coastline offers amazing views that rival any part of the country. After a visit the Cliff House hotel for afternoon tea and some of the local food from the region, while over looking the coastline below. The drive from Cork to Waterford is one we will be doing slowly, and purposefully. The Copper Coast is drizzled with a beautifully rugged coastline and many golden sandy beaches. Hopefully we will get a few easy walks in to stretch the legs and take in the fresh salty Celtic Sea.

We arrive into Waterford in the early evening and you will be free to select a quaint local restaurant and become familiar with the city.

Accommodation: Dooley's Hotel, Waterford

### ***October 10th***

Today will be free for you to do as you wish, Waterford has a number of great attractions. It's a very walkable area and has a great history involving the Vikings. The Waterford Crystal Visitor Center and the Treasures museum are both well worth some time. As we have the coach and Seamus available to us, we will head into the Ancient East a little and explore Dunbrody Famine ship and Jerpoint Abbey and weather permitting, a trip down to Hook head.

Accommodation: Dooleys Hotel

### ***October 11th***

This morning we continue East towards Wexford and the Irish National Heritage Park and then on up through beautiful Wicklow and Powerscourt House and Gardens, voted 3rd in the Best Gardens of the World by Nat Geo. From here, we travel back into Dublin, and no matter how many times you've been, Dublin does not disappoint.

Especially when you know a guy who knows some of the better spots around the city!

Accommodation : O'Callaghan Stephens Green

### ***October 12th***

So much to see, so little time! But a new exhibition in Dublin is called Epic Ireland and is a must do new attraction. Telling the story of the millions of Irish emigrants and their international outreach. Located in the city center it couldn't be easier to access. But Dublin's list of attractions is long and because of this, it best explored

independently. If it's your first time, You are in for a treat indeed. If it's your fifth...

welcome back, you're gonna love it.

Accommodation: O'Callaghan Stephens Green

### ***October 13th***

So for those that want to call it a day and leave us, as we embark on the next chapter of this adventure. We will do an early airport drop for those departing out of Dublin airport.

The rest of us will be leaving early to make a ferry crossing out of Belfast and onto the welcoming shores on Scotland. The ferry crossing is just over two hours and from there we will travel up towards Glasgow with our local guide via Robert Burns birthplace, after we visit a Distillery nearby and not only learn about their whisky, but about six other well known Scotch's and the delicate differences between them. Then it's onto Glasgow for a quick tour before checking into our accommodation.

Accommodation: Novotel Glasgow

### ***October 14th***

A beautiful day of driving through the Highlands of Scotland, with some lovely stops along the way, including Loch Lomond, an region known for its outstanding beauty. We will also visit a fascinating and very interactive Jail experience, Inveraray Castle (as featured in Downton Abbey) and Glen coe Visitor center (recently voted most romantic glen in Scotland). This is the Scotland that you've always imagined, a leisurely day through a landscape that is guaranteed to impress. That evening we will stay in the charming town of Fort William.

Accommodation: Ben Nevis Hotel

### ***October 15th***

Another leisurely day through this amazing landscape, we leave Fort William and travel the perimeter of Cairngorm National Park onto Pitlochry where you will have the option to visit a small brewery or to join a sightseeing guide and explore the region a little further. From there, its onto Sterling and a visit to the iconic Sterling Castle. its said that during the wars of Independence both William Wallace and Robert the Bruce knew Stirling Castle was key to the Kingdom of Scotland. An impressive sight indeed. We should be arriving into Edinburgh in the late evening with plenty time to explore by night and appreciate the impressive illuminated skyline.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn, Edinburgh.

### ***October 16th***

We will have our own guide to walk us through Edinburgh and the Castle and Holyrood House. If your rather be free and flexible, you have the option to explore at your own pace. In the evening we will come together for dinner and our infamous last night of fun and merriment!

### ***October 17th***

Departure day. Making our way to Edinburgh to catch our connecting flight to Boston and onwards on our coach back to Portland.