

October Ireland Tour • October 15–24, 2026
The Sights and Culture of Western Ireland
Dingle and Galway



Tour the wild and beautiful West Coast of Ireland! Embrace Ireland's distinctive culture and history in County Kerry, County Clare and County Galway, on a leisurely paced fall tour through gorgeous countryside, charming towns, and breathtaking scenery. Multiple night stays in Dingle and Galway allow you to immerse yourself in the beauty, hospitality, music and culture of Ireland's Historic West Coast Towns.

Total Cost Per Person:

\$3,999 double room occupancy / \$4,925 single room occupancy (*very limited availability*)

Deposits, Payments and Application:

- **Tour is limited** (42 passengers) and will be filled on a first come, first served basis
- **Initial Deposit of \$2,000 p.p.** must accompany a **completed reservation application and copy of your passport**
- **Final Balance Payment Due August 10, 2026:** \$1,999 per person double room; \$2,925 single room
- **Travel Insurance is required**, information available upon request

The Irish Cultural Center Tour Includes:

- Round trip bus coach transportation from the Irish Cultural Center to Boston Logan Airport
- Round trip airfare from Boston to Shannon, Ireland via Aer Lingus
- Ground transportation to all Irish destinations provided by Kennedy Coach; this deluxe touring motor coach company will provide for all transportation/sightseeing with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide
- Eight (8) nights with top rated hotel accommodations: four (4) nights each in the Dingle Skellig and Hardiman Galway
- Full Irish breakfast daily and six (6) dinners
- Admission to all events, with optional day trips (no extra cost): Visit Ennis, Sleat Head Drive, sheep herding demonstration, ancient stone forts, The Blasket Center, Kilmalkedar Church, Dingle Harbor Cruise, Dingle Distillery, village of Adare, Knock Shrine, Cong, Cliffs of Moher, Doolin
- Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person
- Tips & taxes while in Ireland (Note: Gratuity to the driver/guide in Ireland is included in tour cost)

For more information or to make reservations please contact:

Conor Driscoll at cdriscoll@icwne.org / 413-342-4358

Trip Details and Itinerary:

- Day 1
Thursday, Oct. 15
- Depart by coach (approx. 12:30 pm) from the ICC in West Springfield to Boston's Logan Airport. Leave Logan at 6:35 pm aboard Aer Lingus Flight EI 134.
- Day 2
Friday, Oct. 16
- Arrive at Shannon Airport at 5:35 am local Irish time. We'll meet our driver/guide and board the coach. Stop at Temple Gate Hotel in Ennis, Co. Clare for tour-sponsored full Irish breakfast. While in Ennis you can tour the Clare County Museum, the famous Custys Music Shop and visit the ATM to get your euros. We will then leave for Dingle, stopping in Tralee, Co. Kerry to stretch our legs. Arrive at Dingle Skellig Hotel around 2:00 pm. We will conduct a short walk to familiarize you with the town upon our arrival. Unpack and relax or freshen up before a welcome get-together drink in the Blasket Bar at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm in the hotel's Coast Guard restaurant.
- Day 3
Saturday, Oct. 17
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:00 am for a tour around the scenic Dingle Peninsula. We will drive past little harbors and wide stretches of sandy beaches, leading southward to Slea Head. This is the most westerly point in Europe, "Next Parish America," and off this coast many an Armada was lost. The awe-inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. We are off to see how the locals lived during the years of the Famine and will observe sheep herding techniques by a local shepherd. We will make a stop (weather permitting) to visit an ancient Celtic settlement dating back to 500 B.C. along the Slea Head drive. We will also enjoy a visit to the Blasket Centre where you will learn about life on the Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953, and about the families who immigrated directly to Springfield, MA. You are on your own for lunch at the Blasket Centre. We may also visit Kilmalkedar Church, a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site. See if you can fit through the eye of the needle and guarantee your entry into heaven. Dinner will be at the Dingle Skellig Hotel.
- Day 4
Sunday, Oct. 18
FREE DAY!
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, the day is free to relax or explore Dingle and the surrounding area. Tour hosts will provide suggestions to make sure you experience the best of Dingle. You can catch a boat to the Blaskets, visit the penguins and otters at the local Aquarium or stroll around town and enjoy one or more of Dingle's 52 pubs. If you are interested in crystal, go to Sean Daly's crystal store across from St. Mary's Church on Green Street. Sean is a former Waterford Master Cutter who does beautiful work. Your choices are many as you savor your time in this colorful and charming harbor town. Dinner is on your own tonight. Enjoy one of the many fine restaurants in Dingle and sample the local fare. We will be glad to make recommendations. **O'Sullivan's Courthouse Pub, Nelligan's** or the **Little Bridge** are great music venues as well as the **Dingle Pub** owned by world champion dancer David Geaney.
- Day 5
Monday, Oct. 19
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, the morning is yours to relax and enjoy the town. Later this morning we will visit the Dingle Distillery and see how they make Irish Whiskey as well as their award-winning Gin. This afternoon the group will take the coach to the Conor Pass which provides a breathtaking view of Dingle on one side and the Northern side of the peninsula from the other. This has always proven to be a great photo site, and we will probably take a group photo as well. Then we will take a tour of Dingle Bay by boat and learn about the local history and observe the local wildlife. The coach will return to the hotel and this evening you will dine at the Dingle Skellig Hotel.
- Day 6
Tuesday, Oct. 20
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, we will depart for Co. Galway. We will make a stop at the beautiful village of Adare where you can enjoy the thatched cottages, cathedral and catch a quick bite. Then we are off to the City of Tribes! Our destination is the medieval town of Galway where we'll stay for 4 nights at the 4-star Hardiman Hotel, overlooking Eyre Square. After Hardiman Hotel dinner check out #13 on the Green right next door for traditional music.

- Day 7
Wednesday, Oct. 21
- After Hardiman Hotel breakfast our first stop today will be the famous Knock Shrine which is a pilgrimage site in the village of Knock, Co. Mayo. It is stated that as many as 25 observers saw an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint John the Evangelist several angels and a lamb meant to signify Jesus in the year 1879. The site holds the original church, the new and majestic Basilica, and a museum depicting life in the year of the apparition. Then we are off to Cong, the village which was the site for the movie *The Quiet Man*. We will stop for lunch on the way or perhaps in the village itself. The ride today will provide you with views of Connemara which is renowned for its picturesque setting and beautiful scenery. There are scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Connemara has been chosen as the site for many famous movies as well as several Irish TV shows. Make your way back to the Hardiman Hotel and enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.
- Day 8
Thursday, Oct. 22
FREE DAY!
- After Hardiman Hotel breakfast, enjoy a free day in Galway City to shop and independently explore the “City of the Tribes.” Galway is a delightful city with narrow streets, old stone and wooden shop fronts, bustling restaurants and busy pubs. Dinner is on your own tonight. We will make recommendations for you to enjoy the amazing restaurants this city has to offer. Also, the hotel is right next to the railway station so you can take a ride to somewhere else in Ireland or perhaps take a boat trip to the Aran Islands.
- Day 9
Friday, Oct. 23
- After Hardiman Hotel breakfast we depart at 8:30 am and travel south through the Burren region of Co. Clare for a tour of the Cliffs of Moher. The iconic sea cliffs are amazing to see and explore. See O'Brien's Tower at the highest point, and the famous sea cave and sea stack that featured in the Harry Potter movie, *The Half-Blood Prince*. We then continue along the coast of Clare and stop at St. Bridget's Well – said to have miraculous healing powers. We will then stop in Doolin for lunch before we head back to the city of Galway and dinner at the Hardiman Hotel. Enjoy your last evening in lovely Ireland.
- Day 10
Saturday, Oct. 24
- After Hardiman Hotel breakfast we depart for Shannon Airport at 8:30 am. Do some last-minute shopping at the DUTY FREE. Our flight on Aer Lingus EI135 departs at 1:45 pm and arrives at Boston Logan at 3:45 pm local time. We will arrive back at the ICC in West Springfield in the early evening.

The ICC reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary as needed, due to weather or other circumstances.

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