



Failte Music Tour with Tara O'Grady

October 24th to November 1st, 2016

\$2599 price, with airfare - \$1799 land only



Jump on the band wagon with Tara O'Grady & her Black Velvet Band as they invite you to tour Ireland with them from top to bottom. See Ireland through Tara's eyes where she spent every summer with her family in Donegal. Visit castles and craft shops. Listen to storytellers at sessions with traditional Irish musicians. Drive down the Wild Atlantic Way to experience the most breathtaking ocean views in Europe. Tour Galway, one of Tara's favorite cities, where majestic swans greet you in the bay. Continue south to the Cork Guinness Jazz Festival, one of the best music festivals on the planet with over 1,000 musicians from around the globe performing on 60 stages. End the tour in Dublin on Halloween where the superstitious holiday began, and have a pint in an 800 year old pub while listening to local ghost stories.

Tara and her band will be performing in each location, but don't be surprised if there is an impromptu jam session on the road. There will be music and merriment, conversation and craic around every corner. Let Tara be your tour guide to Ireland in 2016, and be a part of a once in a life time experience to celebrate Irish music, culture and history during the centennial commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising.

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Monday October 24th - UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN (If flying from destinations other than the United States, please contact Niall)

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Tuesday October 25th – GLASNEVIN MUSEUM & DONEGAL TOWN

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our driver/guide Lesley Daunt will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. After you land enjoy breakfast at Glasnevin Museum, Ireland's national necropolis. It's the final resting place for Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Charles Stewart Parnell, Brendan Behan and other prominent people. Drive onto Donegal for our two night stay in Donegal Town. Check in to our hotel and relax before dinner.

Overnight: Mill Park Hotel (B,D)

Wednesday October 26th – GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK & GRAND ATLANTIC DRIVE

After breakfast enjoy some free time to explore Donegal Castle built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th century before we leave for Glenveagh National Park where Captain Adair evicted 225 tenants to build Glenveagh Castle in 1870. Learn about the history of the mansion, owners and guests as you tour the rooms and walk around the extensive gardens filled with exotic plants. Then experience the glorious natural beauty of the Grand Atlantic Drive, which winds through Downings and Rosapenna and around the coastline. Tara and her band will perform tonight. Enjoy dinner before the show and discover some excellent restaurants within walking distance of the theater. Return to the Mill Park Hotel after the show.

Overnight: Mill Park Hotel (B)



Thursday October 27th – DRUMCLIFF & FOXFORD MILLS

After breakfast we depart south to County Sligo, called "Yeats' Country" as the poet spent time there. Pause to view his grave in Drumcliffe Churchyard. Drive onto Foxford in County Mayo and visit the famous Foxford Mill, one of the last working mills in Ireland, Foxford was founded by an Irish Sister of Charity in 1892 and overcame many challenges over the years, in order to survive. Today, it is a thriving mill with master craftspeople creating beautiful pieces for sale in Foxford's four stores around Ireland, and in stores all over the world. After lunch at the Mill continue south to Galway City for our 2 night stay at the Park House Hotel. Hotel check in and relax before dinner.

Overnight: Park House Hotel (B,D)



Friday 28th – CLIFFS OF MOHER & GALWAY CITY

After breakfast drive around the shores of Galway Bay and through the Burren Country, a unique region of limestone hills where many rare flowers thrive. Stop at the Cliffs of Moher, a wall of rock that plunges 700 feet to the churning Atlantic Ocean below weather permitting. Otherwise we'll avail of the walking tour for those interested in learning about the history of the city with my good friend Brian Nolan from Galway Walks. Get to know Galway by taking a walking tour — it's the best way to get around the compact (and largely pedestrianized) city center. Start at the newly revitalized Eyre Square — the city's focal point, originally a market area and now a public park. Head westward to the city's main thoroughfare — a street (famed for its buskers and street art) that changes its name five times, from Williamsgate and William to Shop, High, and Quay Streets, before it crosses the River Corrib and changes its name again! And then stroll the River Walk along the River Corrib from the cathedral to the Claddagh. Enjoy some free time for dinner and discover some excellent restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. Tara and her band will perform tonight.

Overnight: Park House Hotel (B)

Saturday 29th October – GUINNESS JAZZ FESTIVAL

After breakfast drive to Cork City and attend the famous Guinness Jazz Festival where there are 1,200 musicians on 60 stages with 90% free performances. Hotel check in for our two night stay at the Hayfield Manor. Depending on Tara's schedule the band is set to play at the famous Guinness Jazz Festival so more details to follow. The majority of the locations are within walking distance of our hotel.

Overnight: Hayfield Manor (B)



Sunday 30th October – CORK CITY & GUINNESS JAZZ FESTIVAL

Jokingly referred to as The People's Republic of Cork by its fiercely proud residents, the city hugs the banks of the River Lee in the south of Ireland. Cork takes its name from corcaigh, the Gaelic word for marshy. Its heart is set on an island sandwiched between two channels of the river Lee before it opens out into one of Europe's largest natural harbours at Cobh, which brought the city much prosperity and was also the final port of call for the ill-fated Titanic in 1912. This is also where Tara's mother Mary, age 17, took a boat from Cobh to New York. She made the journey by car from Donegal to Cork and then boarded the ship full of emotion. Tara has never seen the harbour, and perhaps she will be inspired to write a new song about the occasion. After breakfast explore the city on foot by taking a walk down The Mardyke a leafy promenade overlooking the Lee where people have strolled for centuries. Cross Mardyke Bridge and take the Lee Walkway with the river on your right. Pass the remains of the old Jameson Whiskey Distillery and cross the river again via St Vincent's Bridge. Visit the famous English Market. It's been in business since 1788 and is of such importance that even the Queen stopped in on her state visit in 2011.

Overnight: Hayfield Manor (B)

Monday 31st October – DUBLIN CITY & THE BRAZEN HEAD

After breakfast depart Cork City driving north to Dublin and explore the city and the sites such as Trinity College (which hosts the Books of Kells), Dublin Castle and Kilmainham Jail just a few to mention. We'll end the tour by attending an enchanting evening of Irish folklore and storytelling while enjoying a candlelit traditional Irish dinner in The Brazen Head.

Overnight: Brooks Hotel Dublin (B,D)



Tuesday 1st November – RETURN TO THE US

The tour has come to its final day on All Soul's Day. We hope your spirit has been filled with love for the land Tara refers to as 'home'. Transfer to Dublin Airport in good time to check in for your flight. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your aircraft and flying across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States and will clear US Immigration and Customs in Dublin and arrive in the US as a cleared flight.

More information on the tour and follow us for updates of the trip:

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