



JOANIE MADDEN'S
MUSICAL TOUR OF IRELAND



October 3rd to October 13th, 2018

**\$2499 per person sharing land only
single supplement \$699 - limit 4 to tour.**

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd - UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart the USA to Dublin. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your vacation.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th - DUBLIN ARRIVAL & THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE

Upon arrival in Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration and proceed to the arrivals hall where Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan along with your Caddie Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. First stop is Tollymore Forest Park in County Down, situated at the foot of the Mourne Mountains. The park covers some 1,600 acres and enjoys stunning views of both the Mountains of Mourne and the seas at Newcastle. The Shimna River, a spawning ground for salmon and trout, flows through the forest where it is crossed by 16 bridges, the earliest dating back to 1726. We will stop for lunch before heading onto Belfast and our first 4 star hotel located in the heart of the city, The Europa. Feel free to explore the town on your own or take a nap and rest up before joining up with your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner followed by Joanie & Mary's entertainment in the hotel restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: EUROPA HOTEL, BELFAST (B,D)



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5th - BELFAST CITY TOUR & TITANIC MUSEUM

Today we embark on a guided sightseeing tour where we visit notable sights including the Peace Wall and other landmarks that give us an inside look into the history of the Northern Ireland troubles. A trip to Belfast would not be complete without a visit to the renowned Titanic Belfast Visitor Attraction which uses full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features for us to explore the Titanic story from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. We'll return to the hotel and you can enjoy the balance of the afternoon at your leisure. We'll meet up for dinner, followed by entertainment hosted by Joanie and Mary and some great local entertainers.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: EUROPA HOTEL, BELFAST (B,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6th - GIANT'S CAUSEWAY & DERRY

This morning, we depart Belfast for a tour of Northern Ireland's spectacular Antrim Coast and the Giant's Causeway, a world heritage site. Stand on the hills and you'll look down on thousands of basalt columns tumbling down into the Atlantic Ocean. It's an epic sight, with a whopping 40,000 hexagonal-shaped pillars, formed during a volcanic age almost 60 million years ago. Stop at the cliff-top ruins of Dunluce Castle for a photo stop and learn the history of this former medieval stronghold. We then travel to one of the most photographed natural phenomena in Ireland, Dark Hedges, the magnificent avenue of beech trees made famous by HBO's Game of Thrones and planted by the Stuart family two centuries ago. Onto lovely Derry, a city on the River Foyle in Northern Ireland to check into our 4 star hotel, followed by dinner and music provided in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: EVERGLADES HOTEL DERRY (B,D)



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th - GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, a guide will give us the history of beautiful Derry. We'll see the Peace Bridge and Derry's Walls, the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of Walled Cities in Europe. The Walls were built during the period 1613-1618 as defenses for early seventeenth century settlers from England and Scotland. Leaving Derry, we continue west to Glenveagh National Park that lies in the heart of the Derryveagh Mountains in northwest Donegal. The park covers 40,000 acres, a remote and hauntingly beautiful wilderness of rugged mountains, deep glens, pristine lakes and a resident red deer herd. The centerpiece of the park is the 19th century Glenveagh Castle with its ornate gardens. The Visitors Center provides an audio-visual display and exhibits the history of the park. We'll also see the highest mountain in Donegal, Mount Errigal on our way to Gweedore in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht and onto Leo's Tavern for lunch, the ancestral home of Clannad, Enya and Moya Brennan. We'll travel down through the Blue Stack Mountains through Dungloe before checking into another 4 star hotel, Harvey's Point, named Ireland's Top hotel yet again for 2017 and located right on the shores of beautiful Lough Eske.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT DONEGAL (B,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8th - SLIEVE LEAGUE & DONEGAL TOWN



Following breakfast, we drive through the fishing village of Killybegs and Teelin and travel to The Slieve League Sea Cliffs, one of Ireland's best-kept secrets and a signature point of interest along the Wild Atlantic Way. Take in the astounding panoramic views of Slieve League swooping down from the mountain with a staggering 2000 feet drop into the swirling Atlantic Ocean below with amazing vistas. This stunning sight is three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher! We'll travel through gorgeous Glencolmille onto the town of Ardara for lunch and a visit to the Donegal Tweed Center where we'll watch the fine art of hand weaving tweed at the loom woven with the same traditional skills that have been used for centuries. We then cross the Glengesh Pass stopping in Donegal Town for a stroll through the town before dinner. Joanie, Mary and guests will entertain you in the bar after dinner!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT DONEGAL (B,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th - LOVELY LEITRIM

After breakfast we head for 400-year-old Parkes Castle that once was an important stronghold of the local O'Rourke family where we take a boat cruise on beautiful Lough Gill. We'll sail around the Isle of Inishfree made famous by noted poet, William Butler Yeats. We'll view serene and tranquil waters against a backdrop of the sweeping Benbulbin Mountain and the gorgeous scenery of County Sligo. We then travel to the hill country of Arigna in Northern Roscommon to visit the Arigna Mining Museum that was active in Arigna for 400 years until 1990 when the mines finally closed. An ex-miner will guide us through an informative talk discussing the working conditions while leading us underground and showing us how the coal was mined. We make our way to our 4 Star hotel and one of Ireland's most luxurious castles, Lough Rynne Castle for dinner and music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: LOUGH RYNN CASTLE (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10th - ROSCOMMON & GALWAY

After a hearty breakfast, our destination is Strokestown House and Famine Museum, an 18th century Palladian style mansion that has been restored to its original glory and The Famine Museum located in the original Stable Yards. The museum chronicles the great famine, regarded as the single greatest social disaster of 19th century Europe. Back on the bus, we'll drive through the bustling city of Athlone and onto Aughrim in County Galway for lunch at Valerie's of Aughrim for an afternoon's entertainment. Following lunch, we travel through Athenry and onto Galway City where we'll be staying right in the heart of town on Shop Street at Jury's Inn, another 4 Star hotel. Have a little wander by yourself! Dinner served followed by another evening of Joanie & Mary's friends where great entertainment is promised!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: JURY'S INN GALWAY CITY (B,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th - ARAN ISLANDS

Today you have a choice to make, Galway City or the Aran Islands. Feel free to stay in Galway and shop and explore the city on your own or stretch your legs with the optional Brian Nolan's escorted walking tour of Galway City, guaranteed to be interesting and fun! Or, take the optional Aran Islands tour. The Aran Islands consist of three islands located within Galway Bay, Inishmaan, Inisheer and the largest one that we will be visiting, Inismór. The boat will depart from Rossaveel in Connemara for a 45-minute ferry ride over to the port where we will be met by pony and trap and shown the idyllic sites and stone walls of this beautiful 12-mile island. We'll explore Dún Aonghasa, a 2000-year-old semi circular stone fort overlooking the Atlantic with daunting and dramatic sea views that stretch the length of the Island. It's one of Ireland's most visited attractions, located on the 300 foot south side of Inismór. Archaeologists, scholars and tourists come here from all over the world to study Dún Aonghasa, and it is likely to be given the official status of a world heritage site in the near future. It's no wonder that National Geographic has named Inismór one of the Worlds Top Island Destinations! Stop back to the village of Kiltonan for lunch, some shopping and catch the afternoon ferry back to Galway. Dinner and Music again tonight with some of Galway's leading musicians! Enjoy some free time for dinner and discover some excellent restaurants and pubs within walking distance of the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: JURY'S INN GALWAY CITY (B)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th - PORTUMNA CASTLE & GARDENS & ENNIS, COUNTY CLARE

After breakfast, we'll visit Joanie's father's ancestral hometown of Portumna in East Galway. We'll begin with a visit to the Portumna Workhouse, built in 1852 and one of the last surviving workhouses of the 163 that were built across Ireland by the British following the Great Famine. The Workhouse was the most feared and hated institution ever established in Ireland. This is a sad part of our Irish history, but an important one that few are aware of and this workhouse has been restored to its original state for us to experience the unimaginable times in rural Ireland. We'll then take a short jaunt to visit the gorgeous Portumna Castle and Gardens and take a walk around the picturesque estate before traveling onto our final hotel, The Old Ground, a 4 Star hotel located on the main shopping street of Ennis in the market town in County Clare. Enjoy the afternoon on your own visiting the many shops and cafés. A concert by Cherish the Ladies and friends at Glór Theatre in Ennis will follow our farewell dinner.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: OLD GROUND HOTEL ENNIS (B,D)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th - RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Sadly our time together is over and we will transfer you to Shannon Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight to the USA. You may also do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your flight across the Atlantic Ocean.