



# John McGrath Musical Tour to Ireland

## October 11th to 21st, 2018

\$2999 per person sharing

Single supplement - \$699 limit to 4 per tour

### ITINERARY

This tour will offer 9 nights' accommodation with breakfast every morning and 6 evening meals. Entry to all of the attractions is also included. The hotels are all well-appointed, 4 star or better. The tour will include all transport between the 5 destinations, in a luxury air-conditioned coach with wifi. John will perform several times during the tour and occasionally he will be accompanied by other musicians. Below is the proposed itinerary but, if the weather is foul on any particular day, we will forsake an outside activity for something under cover. On occasions we will just 'go with the flow' - all part of the Irish experience... Caddie Tours will be happy to organize flights from any US city.

#### Thursday, OCT 11th - UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart Dulles on United 126 nonstop to Dublin at 10:25pm

#### Friday, OCT 12th - DUBLIN ARRIVAL & BELFAST

Cead Mile Failte -(literally 'one hundred thousand welcomes') Welcome to Ireland! After claiming your luggage and passing through Irish customs your Caddie Tours driver/guide will escort you to your luxury coach which is air conditioned and has wifi. We'll have a full Irish breakfast at the Coachman's Inn, Swords, which is only 6 minutes from Dublin Airport. Leaving Dublin we begin our adventure by driving north through the bustling towns of Drogheda and Newry and passing through the mountains of south Armagh. It's less than two hours to the intriguing and beautiful city of Belfast, birthplace of the Titanic - (and once the second richest city in the British Empire!) We check in at the centrally located, Europa Hotel and you are free to take a nap or explore the city that afternoon. Join your fellow travelers later for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

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

#### Saturday, OCT 13th - BELFAST CITY TOUR & TITANIC MUSEUM



Embark on a guided sightseeing tour of the city. Belfast is an attractive city today but has many remnants of its troubled past. Most notable are the impressive murals which depict the struggles as seen from the Republican and Loyalist sides but there is also an abundance of attractive pubs and restaurants and plenty of good shopping. Visit Titanic Belfast. This is a wonderful visitor attraction where you embark on a journey through the life of the Titanic, from her conception to her tragic end. It is located on the former site of Harland & Wolf Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and from where it set sail in 1912. There are several pubs and restaurants very convenient to the hotel and this is a night when you can go out and discover what the city has to offer. It is a Saturday so Belfast will be buzzing!

**OVERNIGHT: EUROPA HOTEL, BELFAST**

#### Sunday, OCT 14th - CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE, DARK HEDGES, CAIRNCASTLE & SHILLANAVOGY VALLEY

After a hearty Irish breakfast we continue our journey north past Napoleon's Nose (which inspired Jonathon Swift to write Gulliver's Travels) and on to nearby Carrickfergus. Here, on the shore of Belfast Lough, stands the impressive Carrickfergus Castle. We will have an extensive tour of the castle which was built in 1177 and is in excellent condition. Continue along the beautiful coast road enjoying the lovely views of mountains, valleys and into the Nine Glens of Antrim. Game of Thrones has been filmed extensively in County Antrim and we will visit where Arya Stark made her escape down Kings Road - known locally as The Dark Hedges. Explore the Cushendun Caves where Melisandre gave birth to the shadow creature. Continue your travels to stop and view Cairncastle, an open area of many hills and beauty and used to film scenes from season one, four and five. Visit Shillanavogy Valley which sits under Slemish Mountain and enjoy a close up look at the area filmed as the Dothraki grasslands. Arrive at Bushmills Inn, a delightful 4 star hotel in the center of Bushmills, the village which gives its name to the famous whiskey. After dinner John will provide an evening of entertainment with local musicians.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN, BUSHMILLS**



#### Monday, OCT 15th - DUNLUCE CASTLE, BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY & GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Tour of Bushmills Distillery - founded in 1608 this is the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Here you will see the entire distillation process and also get to sample the product! On then to the picturesque ruins of Dunluce Castle, which is perched atop basalt rock, jutting out over the sea. The castle was filmed in the popular television series as the House of Greyjoy on the Iron Islands. Continue your journey to the unique and legendary Giant's Causeway - N. Ireland's premier tourist attraction. Geologists explain that

these hexagonal columns were formed 60 million years ago when lava solidified but Irish mythology claims that Finn McCool was paving his way across to Scotland - hence the name. End your day exploring the Seven Kingdoms with a visit to Ballintoy Harbour and the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge. Dinner tonight at Portrush Harbour.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN, BUSHMILLS**

**Tuesday, OCT 16th - CITY OF DERRY TOUR, ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK & MARKREE CASTLE**

After breakfast, we depart Bushmills and make our way to Derry or the Maiden City (this will be explained during the tour.) Derry is the only remaining, completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples in all of Europe. To help understand its intriguing history a local guide will join us on the coach as we circle the walls and explain its past - and present. Continue our journey south now to Omagh and the Ulster American Folk Park. This is an open air museum which tells the story of 3 centuries of Irish emigration to America with an emphasis on those leaving the northern province of Ulster. Continue to Markree Castle, County Sligo with a pause at Drumcliff to see the grave of William Butler Yeats, perhaps Ireland's most celebrated poet. The original Markree Castle dates back to the 14th century and stands on 300 acres of land. After checking in, you are free to explore the grounds then join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant. John will perform again tonight.



**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARKREE CASTLE, SLIGO**

**Wednesday, OCT 17th - CONG WALKING TOUR & GALWAY**

After breakfast we travel south to Cong, Co. Mayo. This was the setting for the famous movie "The Quiet Man" starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. Discover places featured in the movie on a brief walking tour around this tranquil village and see some of the movie memorabilia in the Heritage Cottage. Have lunch at the Crowe's Nest before leaving for Galway City where we will be staying at the charming Park House Hotel. The hotel is in the heart of Galway, next to Eyre Square. Galway City, or Cathair na Gaillimhe in Gaelic, means 'stony river', but is often translated wrongly as the 'place of the strangers'. (An old Irish proverb says 'Strangers are friends you haven't yet met'.) Today, Galway is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland. It is a vibrant, thriving city, rich in artistic and musical culture. The old city of Galway comprises less than 50 acres and is perfect for exploring on foot. We offer an optional walking tour with Brian Nolan as he wanders the streets of Galway recounting tales of war and conquest, joy and tragedy, emigration and slavery, success and folly. Walk in the footsteps of Irish revolutionaries and literary giants who have strolled the cobble-stoned streets. Evening is free to explore the many lively bars and restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: PARK HOUSE HOTEL, GALWAY CITY**

**Thursday, OCT 18th - RATHBAUN FARM & CLIFFS OF MOHER**

We depart south from Galway to Rathbaun Farm where we see a farming family carry out everyday chores. We see sheep-shearing, watch sheep dogs maneuver the flock and enjoy some farmhouse scones with tea and coffee. We continue onto the acclaimed Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. The views are spectacular and it is small wonder that these cliffs are one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions and have been featured in several movies and music videos. Return to Galway and join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: PARK HOUSE HOTEL, GALWAY CITY**

**Friday, OCT 19th - CLONMACNOISE & DUBLIN CITY**

Journey across the rolling pastures of Ireland's heartland to visit Clonmacnoise. This monastic settlement was founded in 545AD by St. Ciaran and is set on the banks of the mighty Shannon, Ireland's longest river. See elaborate, Celtic Crosses, adorned with biblical scenes and walk around the church ruins and those of two Round Towers. Continue to nearby Athlone (which is situated in the very centre of Ireland) and stop for lunch at Sean's Bar. Many bars claim to be Ireland's oldest but this delightful pub has a documented history going back to 900AD and is possibly the oldest in the world. Drive to Dublin and check into Camden Court Hotel which is located beside St Stephen's Green, again at the heart of the city. You are free then to explore the city and join your fellow travelers later, for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: CAMDEN COURT HOTEL DUBLIN CITY**



**Saturday, OCT 21st - DUBLIN CITY & BRAZEN HEAD**

Enjoy a free day in Dublin to explore the wonderful sights and attractions it has to offer - Dublin Castle, Book of Kells, Trinity College, Killmainham Jail, Temple Bar, Guinness Storehouse, etc. Meet back at the hotel where your driver will take you for an enchanting evening of Irish folklore and storytelling while enjoying a candlelit, traditional Irish dinner in The Brazen Head. This pub dates back to 1198 (oldest in Dublin) and was frequented by Irish revolutionaries, Statesmen and great literary figures such as Jonathon Swift, Brendan Behan and James Joyce who mentioned it in Ulysses.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: CAMDEN COURT HOTEL DUBLIN CITY**

**Sunday, OCT 21st - RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES**

Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in United flight 127 departing at 12:30pm for Washington. The beauty of flying from Dublin Airport is that you will clear customs and emigration there. Lines are short in Dublin and then arrival in USA is very simple. There is no Duty Free on board the return flight however but there is ample shopping and duty free stores in the airport.