



JOANIE MADDEN'S
MUSICAL TOUR OF IRELAND



September 8th to 17th 2019
\$2399 per person sharing land only
single supplement \$599 - limit 4 to tour.

ITINERARY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - UNITED STATES TO SHANNON

Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your vacation.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th - SHANNON ARRIVAL

Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan will welcome you to County Clare along with your coach driver **Eamonn Dempsey** at the arrival hall in **Shannon Airport** at **10:00 AM** and escort you and your luggage to the coach. We'll travel through Limerick and onto County Tipperary where we will stop in the Heritage Town of Roscrea for lunch at the **White House Restaurant** in the square that is attached to the **13th century Roscrea Castle and Gardens**. After lunch, our journey continues onto the medieval city of **Kilkenny** where we will check into the **4 Star Hibernian Hotel** for two nights, located right in the heart of town. Shortly following our arrival, we will offer a very entertaining walking tour of this gorgeous compact city entitled, "**Shenanigans, The Kilkenny City Walk**". Our hosts for the walking tour, **Nevin Cody and Brendan Byrne**, are magicians, storytellers and very funny men who will weave our way through the city regaling us with unique anecdotes blending comedy, magic, history, whimsical fun, and a good dollop of humor. After the tour, head back to the hotel to rest up and relax before our dinner at 7 in the great room followed by our first night of Joanie & Mary's outstanding entertainment.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE HIBERNIAN HOTEL, KILKENNY (L, D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th - WICKLOW MOUNTAINS & KILKENNY

After a hearty breakfast we'll travel northwest through Counties Carlow and Kildare to visit the majestic Wicklow Mountains, known as the Garden of Ireland and home to **Glendalough National Park**, a place of stunning natural beauty and awe-inspiring landscapes. The park contains the ruins of a 1500 year old ancient monastic city founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century, two magnificent lakes surrounded by cliffs and rocks, nearby forests as well as waterfalls which all create a tapestry of unforgettable scenery. For thousands of years, people have been drawn to this valley that was carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age where two lakes were formed when the ice thawed and inspired the name of Glendalough (*Gleann Da Loch* - valley of the two lakes). We will travel to the little village of **Avoca**, home to the famous Avoca Hand weavers built on the banks of the Avoca River from where you'll find a hardworking hand-weaving mill dating back to 1723. We will stop for lunch and also give you a chance to see weavers in action at the loom and an opportunity to do some shopping if you're so inclined. Afterwards, we head back to Kilkenny where this evening you get the opportunity to venture out and dine on your own with an array of restaurants within walking distance and a chance to meet the locals! Meet back in the hotel for entertainment in the hotel later that evening.

OVERNIGHT: THE HIBERNIAN HOTEL, KILKENNY (B)



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th - ROCK OF CASHEL, GARDEN AND KINSALE

After breakfast, our first stop takes us to a place with a history of ancient kings, patron saints and unparalleled beauty - the **Rock of Cashel**. Silhouetted against the sky, rising above the lush green fields of the surrounding countryside, the Rock is home to over 1,000 years of history, right at the heart of Ireland's Ancient East. Cashel is reputed to be the site of the conversion of the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century. The Rock of Cashel was the traditional seat of the kings of Munster for several hundred years. We'll continue to travel southeast and stop in the bustling town of **Fermoy** in County Cork for lunch with a chance to walk around on your own. Following our lunch break, we'll start our journey to Kinsale with first honoring the anniversary of 9/11 with a visit to **Ringfinnan Garden of Remembrance**, a memorial built by Kathleen Murphy, a local nurse from the area who emigrated to America and worked at New York's Lennox Hill Hospital for over 40 years. Following the tragedy of 9/11 attacks she was so moved that she decided to establish the garden of remembrance in memory to the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11th 2001. It's just a short way to our home for the next two nights, **Kinsale's 4 Star Trident Hotel**. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at Harvey's in the hotel followed by Joanie & Mary's entertainment in the restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE TRIDENT HOTEL, KINSALE (B, D)



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th - CHARLES FORT AND OLD HEAD

After breakfast we'll visit one of Ireland's National Monuments, **Charles Fort**, a classic example of the late 17th century star-shaped fort that is one of the largest military installations in the country. Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history including the Williamite War 1689-91 and the Civil War 1922-23. We'll travel a short distance to the Old Head of Kinsale one of Ireland's most spectacular coastal areas. This large promontory juts out into the Atlantic Ocean, rising hundreds of feet above the water with towering sea cliffs. Along this stretch of coastal bliss, you'll see the black and white striped Old Head Lighthouse, where just below, a German torpedo sank the Lusitania and the wreck still lies beneath the waves. We'll head back to Kinsale for you to have some free time to ramble around the beautiful town. Kinsale is known as the gourmet capital of Ireland and tonight dinner is on your own to indulge in the unbelievable variety of restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. We'll arrange to meet up at a local pub for some music in town tonight!

OVERNIGHT: THE TRIDENT HOTEL, KINSALE (B)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th - CLONAKILTY AND GARNISH ISLAND

After breakfast we depart the hotel and travel due west to Clonakilty where we'll visit the **Michael Collins Centre** and learn about one of Ireland's greatest patriots who was a leading figure in the early 20th century Irish struggle for independence. From there we'll travel to legendary **Bantry Bay** where we'll stop for lunch in **Glengarriff** before boarding a ferry that takes us to **Garnish Island**. Garnish Island or Illnacullin is a small island consisting of 37 acres known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an Island garden of great beauty. Along the ferry ride through the sheltered harbour, we'll observe the local colony of seals and other marine life including ducks, swans, herons, swallows and the occasional dolphin or porpoise. Bantry is just a short ride and our next destination for another 2 night stay at the **4 Star Maritime Hotel**. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight followed by Joanie & Mary's entertainment in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARITIME HOTEL, BANTRY (B, D)



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH - THE BEARA PENINSULA

Today we travel to the **Beara Peninsula** one of Ireland's natural tranquil and unspoiled terrains. We'll begin our journey in picturesque Kenmare in County Kerry where we'll start the circular drive with its intricate coast and sharp-featured mountains that create a dramatic scene at almost every turn. We'll cut across the peninsula at Lauragh to Adrigole taking the Healy Pass, built in 1847 during the famine years in order to help prevent starvation. Traveling along this spectacular drive, we'll be passing between two of the highest summits in the Caha mountain range rising to 1100 feet above sea level. We'll stop for lunch and some free time in **Castletownbere**, the bustling fishing town nestled at the heart of the beautiful peninsula and within Berehaven Harbour, the second largest natural harbour in the world. As Ireland's premier whitefish fishing port, you are guaranteed the freshest of fish in the many bars and restaurants in and around the town. We'll then make our way back to the Maritime Hotel for dinner tonight followed by Joanie & Mary's entertainment in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARITIME HOTEL, BANTRY (B, D)



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th - KILLARNEY AND SPANISH POINT

We can't leave Bantry without visiting **Bantry House and Gardens**, the stately home with panoramic views of the bay and the Caha Mountains. We'll stop to see the ancient gardens laid out over 7 terraces with a fountain, large wisteria circle and 100 steps leading up to the woodland with a spectacular view at the top. We'll then travel North to the vibrant town of **Killarney** in County Kerry, brimming with history, shopping, hospitality and restaurants. Grab some lunch or feel free to take a jaunting cart through Killarney National Park or take advantage of the amazing shopping the town has to offer. After our visit, we'll continue North crossing the Shannon Estuary by ferry to County Clare where we'll make our way to Spanish Point for our two night stay at the gorgeous **4 Star Armada Hotel** located right on the Atlantic Ocean.

DINNER, MUSIC & OVERNIGHT: THE ARMADA HOTEL, SPANISH POINT (B,D)



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th - CLIFFS OF MOHER & MATCHMAKING FESTIVAL

Today, you have a choice to make - **Sightseeing or Dancing and Craic!!** The bus will first make a stop in **Lisdoonvarna** to drop off any of our passengers who are interested in attending the famous month long **Matchmaking Festival** that takes place each September with music and dancing all day! You might want to schedule an appointment to meet **Willy Daly**, Ireland's only traditional matchmaker where legend has it if you touch his lucky book with both hands, you'll be married in six months! You just never know, you might come back from Ireland with more than just beautiful memories!!! If it's scenery you are after, look no further than 10 miles away to check out the amazing sea views and vistas along the Wild Atlantic Way by visiting one of Ireland most celebrated sites, the mighty **Cliffs of Moher**. The bus will travel through the **Burren**

National Park consisting of 3700 acres of awesome sights of Limestone rock and flora unique to the area. You'll stop and visit the **Burren Smokehouse** and learn the secret to how smoked salmon is handcrafted while sampling superb cheeses, fish specialties, honeys, chocolates and other sweet treats. The bus will backtrack to Lisdoonvarna to pick up our dancing revelers and return us all to the Armada for our farewell dinner and last night's music.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE ARMADA HOTEL, SPANISH POINT (B, D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th - SAFE TRAVELS HOME!

Sadly our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go!! Our coach driver will get you to Shannon Airport in plenty of time for you to check in for your flight and clear customs and emigration avoiding the long lines that you can meet you in America. There is ample duty free shopping available at the airport for any last minute gifts or mementos. Thank you for trusting us with your vacation and we certainly hope you had a great time!



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