



Joanie Madden's Musical Tour to Ireland

May 18th to May 26th, 2021

\$2399 per person sharing
*land only

** \$599 single supplement
Limited to 5 single travelers

ITINERARY

TUESDAY, MAY 18th – Arrive into Dublin – POWERSCOURT HOUSE AND GARDENS

The group will meet at Dublin Airport at 10AM where you will be welcomed by your hosts Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan along with your Coach Driver. To get the day going, we'll stop for a hearty breakfast at the Coachman's Inn just outside of Dublin Airport. Following breakfast, we'll visit one of the world's greatest Gardens, Powerscourt, voted number 3 In the Top 10 gardens of the World by National Geographic. Powerscourt is located just outside of Dublin in the foothills of the Wicklow mountains and the garden was begun by Richard Wingfield in the 1740's and stretches out over 47 acres. It is a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, and ornamental lakes together with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 varieties of trees and shrubs. We then make our way to the village of Enfield in County Meath to the first of our first 4-star hotels, The Johnstown Estate and Spa, where we will stay for two nights. Enjoy and relax at the spa or take a nap before we meet for dinner and our first night of music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN HOUSE HOTEL (B, D)



WEDNESDAY, MAY 19th – NEWGRANGE AND HILL OF TARA

After enjoying a tasty Irish Breakfast, we will travel north to County Meath to visit the historic Newgrange, a 5,200-year-old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley in Ireland's Ancient East. Newgrange was built by Stone Age farmers, the mound is 279 feet in diameter and 43 feet high which is an area of about 1 acre. We'll explore the inside of the passage of the tomb that measures 62 feet and leads into a chamber with 3 alcoves. The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun on the mornings around the Winter Solstice. Newgrange is surrounded by 97 large stones called kerbstones some of which are engraved with megalithic art and the most striking is the entrance stone. We'll stop for lunch on your own at Brambles Cafe located in the Bru Na Boinne Visitors Centre. Following our visit to Newgrange we'll make our way to the Hill of Tara, once the ancient capital of Ireland where the High Kings of Ireland once lived. Tara contains a host of historic monuments and commands a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. Back to the hotel to relax and freshen up before dinner and music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN HOUSE HOTEL (B, D)

THURSDAY, MAY 20th – NATIONAL STUD AND JAPANESE GARDENS

Following breakfast, we travel to County Kildare and visit the historic National Stud and Japanese Gardens. The National Stud is the home of equine royalty, immaculately bred stallions who can be seen and admired alongside protective mares, frolicking foals and athletic yearlings. Nowhere better symbolizes all that is great about County Kildare, the beating heart of Ireland's thoroughbred industry than the stud, a unique attraction of outstanding natural beauty that is home to some of the most magnificent horses and sumptuous gardens to be found anywhere in the world. For well over 100 years, the pride of Tully has been a working stud farm, its central objective being to produce for Ireland thoroughbreds capable of being crowned champions at home and abroad. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Japanese Garden Restaurant before we hit the road, traveling south to County Waterford and onto the 4 star Tower Hotel and Leisure Center located in the heart of Waterford City, Ireland's oldest city founded by the Vikings in 914 AD. Relax in the leisure center before we meet later on for dinner



and music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE TOWER HOTEL WATERFORD (B, D)

FRIDAY, MAY 21st - KENNEDY HOMESTEAD AND HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Following breakfast, we travel to New Ross in County Wexford to the Kennedy Homestead, birthplace of President John F. Kennedy's great-grandfather Patrick Kennedy which celebrates the story of five generations of the Kennedy dynasty and is still today farmed by his descendants. The curators of the Kennedy Homestead Visitor Centre, using the Kennedy Library archival collection in Boston, have created a state of the art interpretative exhibit which explores the circumstances of Patrick Kennedy's departure from Ireland in 1848 and pieces together the story of the most famous Irish-American family through the 20th century to the present day. You can't go to Waterford without experiencing the making of the world renowned Waterford Crystal. We'll visit the House of Waterford Crystal which comprises of a manufacturing facility, visitor center and retail outlet. Visitors can enjoy all aspects of the manufacturing process through the factory tour and learn about both historical and contemporary production techniques through direct interaction with the craftsmen and audiovisual materials. The manufacturing facility contains a brand-new continuous melt tank furnace that uses leading edge technology to deliver molten crystal, for skilled master blowers to handshape and hand-blow into Waterford Crystal's legendary range of premium products. The retail center represents the largest display of Waterford Crystal in the world. Dinner and music once again this evening in the hotel!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE TOWER HOTEL WATERFORD (B, D)

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND - DUNGARVAN & CORK CITY

Today we will depart the hotel at 11:00 AM. This morning, feel free to enjoy a lie in, head out to explore the city on your own or take advantage of the spa before we depart the hotel and travel west to the beautiful town of Dungarvan, a harbor town located at the heart of County Waterford. We'll travel through some beautiful scenery with the Comeragh mountains in sight as we head to visit with one of Ireland's finest bodhrán players, Donnchadh Gough at his pub and restaurant, "The Local", where Donnchadh will bring together some excellent musicians for some music and craic. We'll enjoy some homemade soup and sandwiches before heading onto the bustling city of County Cork where we'll experience a walking tour of this historic city. It is just a short ride over to the Kingsley Luxurious 4-star Hotel where we will call home for two nights. Rest up for another great night of Dinner and Music.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE KINGSLEY HOTEL CORK (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD – SPIKE ISLAND

Following breakfast, we'll discover Ireland's Captains & Convicts, Rebels and Rioters & Sinners and Saints at Spike Island, voted Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction of 2017. The Island is located off the coast of Cobh in Cork harbour & has over 1300 years of Irish history inside its walls. From an island monastery & fortress to the world's largest prison in the 1850's and centuries of island homes. Your journey starts with a ferry ride at 11am before Ireland's best storytellers take you on a guided tour of the outer island and fortress. You can then explore the prison cells, fortress, beautiful island walks and also use our on-site cafe. Attractions include the 1850's punishment block with its dark cells, the 1980's prison cells and riot exhibition, Ireland's largest artillery gun park and several penal, military and social history museums. Back to the hotel to rest up before dinner and music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE KINGSLEY HOTEL CORK (B, D)

MONDAY, MAY 24TH – BLARNEY CASTLE AND DURTY NELLY'S



Following breakfast, we'll depart the hotel and make a short jaunt to the world-famous Blarney Castle and Woolen Mills. Kiss the Blarney stone or do some shopping at their wonderful establishment. Situated just 5 miles from Cork City, this historic castle is most famous for its stone, which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word Blarney was introduced into the English language by Queen Elizabeth I and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. The stone is set in the wall below the battlements, and to kiss it one has to lean backwards (grasping an iron railing) from the parapet walk. We'll then travel north to Bunratty Castle in County Clare where we'll stop at the quintessential Irish pub, Durty Nelly's, a favorite watering hole for both visitors and locals alike for lunch before traveling to Ennis in County Clare to the Old Ground Hotel located in the heart of Ennis for the first of our 2 nights at the 4 star, Old Ground Hotel. If it's music you want, come to County Clare! Dinner and fantastic Music to follow this evening!

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

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH – ARAN ISLANDS AND CLIFFS OF MOHER CRUISE

Today we will travel to the legendary town of Doolin in West Clare and board the Doolin ferry to visit the smallest of the Aran Islands, Inisheer (Inis Oírr). At roughly 2 miles wide by 2 miles long, the island has a palpable sense of enchantment, enhanced by the island's wildflower-strewn landscapes, deep-rooted mythology and enduring traditional culture. Upon arrival on the island, we will be met by the local Jarvey's and they're horse jaunting cars and they will give you a personalized tour of the island with its majestic stonewalls and beautiful scenery. We will then board the ferry back towards Doolin via the Cliffs of Moher sea cliffs on the County Clare coastline which provides an unrivalled view across the vast wildness along the Wild Atlantic Way in Ireland, a world unchanged since the pre-Celtic masters of magic, the Tuatha Dé Danann ruled Ireland. The Cliffs rise to height of 702 feet providing dramatic views by sea. The Great Sea Stack plays host to thousands of rare birds of which you can see up close. Don't forget the cameras! Our farewell dinner and music to follow this evening.

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



WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH - 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 once again with your vacation and we certainly hope you had a great time!