



# Andy Cooney's Musical Tour of Ireland

October 3rd to October 13th, 2022

\$3199\* per per person sharing  
\$699 single supplement – limit 4 per tour  
\*subject to airline schedule



## ITINERARY

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> - UNITED STATES TO SHANNON

Depart JFK on **Aer Lingus flight 110** nonstop to Shannon **departing at 6.10pm**. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your vacation. For those of you booked on other airlines we'll meet you upon arrival at Shannon Airport.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> - GALWAY & WESTPORT

After landing at Shannon Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our driver/guide Eamonn Dempsey will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. . Next, stop for breakfast at the **Inn at Dromoland** a short distance away. Continue north to Galway City & Eyre Square where we will give some free time to explore this bohemian city before we arrive in Westport for our two night stay at the **Castlecourt Hotel**. Relax and explore the grounds before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

### DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: CASTLECOURT HOTEL WESTPORT (B,D)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup> - ACHILL ISLAND & THE DESERTED VILLAGE

After breakfast we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. Prepare for some stunning scenery this morning, as we travel along Curraun Peninsula to reach **Achill Island**, which is joined to the mainland by a bridge of just 800ft long. Before the first bridge was built in 1887, the narrow sea channel at Achill Sound could only be crossed at low tide on foot or on horseback! Follow the Atlantic Drive to capture wonderful and wild scenic views of steeply sloped mountains plunging into the shimmering Atlantic Ocean. We'll stop at **Keem Bay Beach**, described as one of the top ten beaches in the world by Lonely Planet. Before lunch at the Beehive Café, considered to be the most authentic and uniquely Irish cafes in Ireland, we'll visit The Deserted Village providing a haunting reminder of times past on Achill Island. This 'village' consists of the remains of almost 100 traditional stone cottages which date to at least the 12th Century AD. Then it's back to our hotel where the remainder of the day is free for you to enjoy as you please. Perhaps you can stroll up to the famous Matt Molloy's pub for a pint. Matt is a member of The Chieftains, and his pub is well known for its fine traditional Irish music. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at the hotel followed by entertainment by Andy Cooney & friends.



### DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: CASTLECOURT HOTEL WESTPORT (B,D)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> – MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE & KNOCK

After a hearty breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. We depart for Castlebar to visit the **Museum of Country Life** which features exhibits of domestic goods in daily use during the 19th & 20th centuries. Have some lunch in the cafe before we continue onto the pilgrimage town of **Knock**, one of the world's leading shrines. See the church where the villagers saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1879. We make our way to one of Ireland's most luxurious castles, **Lough Rynn Castle**. Relax and explore the grounds before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

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



### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> - THE SHED DISTILLERY & ATHLONE

After breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. A curious quest for curious minds. Experience the fully operational authentic distillery. An incredible journey into the heart of rural Ireland and the inner sanctum of the first distillery inn Connaught in over 100 years. - **the home of Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin, Drumshanbo Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey** and other remarkable creations from the curious mind of PJ Rigney. A fully-guided experience including an expert tasting their Single Pot Whiskey and finishing off with a refreshing Gunpowder Gin and tonic at the Honey Badger Bar in the majestic botanical glasshouse. We will have lunch here also before we continue our way south to Athlone for our two night stay at the **Sheraton Athlone**. Relax and

explore the grounds before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

### DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE SHERATON HOTEL ATHLONE (B,L,D)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> - CLONMACNOISE

After breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. This monastic settlement was founded in 545 ad by St. Ciaran and is delightfully set on the banks of the River Shannon. The monastery flourished and became a great seat of learning, a University of its time with students from all over Europe. The ruins include a Cathedral, two round Towers, three high crosses, nine Churches and over

700 Early Christian graveslabs. The original high crosses, including the magnificent 10th century Cross of the Scriptures area on display in a purpose built visitor centre adjacent the monastic enclosure. An audiovisual presentation will give you an insight into the history of this hallowed space. Return to have lunch on your own in Athlone and visit **Athlone Castle**. The group will receive a guided tour of Athlone Castle Visitor Centre including the castle keep and castle grounds, tour of the exhibitions and artefacts on display. Our guides will encourage your group to engage with the spaces, dress up and ensure they experience all the exhibitions while providing stories about the history of the town, castle and people of Athlone. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at the hotel followed by entertainment by Andy Cooney & friends.

#### **DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE SHERATON HOTEL ATHLONE (B,D)**

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> – PORTUMNA WORKHOUSE & KILKENNY**

After breakfast for those wishing to attend Mass, **St Mary's Church** has a **10am** service within a 5 minute walk of the Sheraton hotel. 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. We will stop in the **Heritage town of Roscrea** for lunch at the **White House** before traveling onto Kilkenny for our two night stay at the **Newpark Hotel**. Relax and explore the grounds before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: NEWPARK HOTEL KILKENNY (B,L,D)**

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup> - KILKENNY CASTLE & KYTELEERS INN**

After breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby and will drop us off across from **Kilkenny Castle**. Built in the twelfth century, Kilkenny Castle was the principal seat of the Butlers, earls, marquesses and dukes of Ormond for almost 600 years. Under the powerful Butler family, Kilkenny grew into a thriving and vibrant city. Its lively atmosphere can still be felt today. The castle, set in extensive parkland, was remodelled in Victorian times. It was formally taken over by the Irish State in 1969 and since then has undergone ambitious restoration works. It now welcomes thousands of visitors a year. The central block includes a library, drawing room, nursery and bedrooms decorated in 1830s splendour. The magnificent Picture Gallery is situated in the east wing of Kilkenny Castle. This stunning space dates from the 19th century and was built primarily to house the Butler Family's fine collection of paintings. We will meet **Nevin Cody from Shenanigans Walk** in the to give us a walking tour of this old medieval city and 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, you are free for lunch so we will return to the city later to the famous Kyteler's Inn for dinner and some fantastic Irish music.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: NEWPARK HOTEL KILKENNY (B,D)**



#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup> - THE NATIONAL STUD & DUBLIN CITY**

After breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. We will 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. We will have lunch at Fallons in nearby Kilcullen before

we arrive in Dublin for our two night stay at the **Davenport Hotel**. We will have a panoramic tour of the city to see its many landmarks before we check in to our hotel. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight at the hotel.

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE DAVENPORT HOTEL DUBLIN (B,L,D)**

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup> - EPIC MUSEUM, THE BOOK OF KELLS & TAYLOR'S THREE ROCK**

After breakfast, we meet our driver/guides at 9:30am in the hotel lobby. We will visit **The EPIC Museum** -this wonderful spot celebrates the dramatic story of the spread of Irish culture around the globe, and how Ireland has changed throughout the years. Having won European Tourism Destination of the year for two years running, we think you will enjoy this trip through the Irish diaspora. The coach will drop you off by the side of Trinity College where you can view the illuminated manuscript of the **Book of Kells** and walk through the famous grounds of **Trinity College**. Tonight, on our last night in Ireland, prepare for a rip-roaring evening of traditional Irish song and dance accompanied by a delightful dinner. We'll kick up our heels and enjoy that last drink (for now!)

#### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE DAVENPORT HOTEL DUBLIN (B,D)**

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> - SAFE TRAVELS HOME!**

Sadly, our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go! Our coach driver will get you to Dublin Airport in plenty of time for the flight and clear customs and immigration avoiding the long lines that 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!