



Tom Comerford
presents
Ireland South/Southwest Tour



November 7th to November 15th, 2022

\$1950 per person sharing land only
\$2270 per single room limited to 5 per tour

*Caddie Tours will be happy to organize flights from any US city to Ireland

ITINERARY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th – DUBLIN ARRIVAL & FARNEY CASTLE

After landing at Dublin Airport, and having completed customs and immigration formalities, your Caddie Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Next, we stop for breakfast at **Avoca Cafe** in Rathcoole before we continue south, close to the town of Thurles, in County Tipperary, to visit **Farney Castle**. As well as being the family home of the **Cullen Family**, Cryil Cullen Knitwear and Porcelain is designed and produced in the converted 'Old Stables' in the castle courtyard. The unique parian/porcelain designs are sold in what was the old dairy at **Farney Castle**, the knitwear boutique is situated in the original kitchen of the castle. It's the only Round Tower in Ireland occupied as a family home. We will stop at Cahir in County Tipperary to have lunch at **The Cahir House Hotel** before we finally arrive at our hotel – **The Clonakilty Park Hotel** for the next 3 nights. Join your fellow travelers for group dinner in the Conservatory restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: CLONAKILTY PARK HOTEL (B,L,D)



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th – BANTRY BAY & GARNISH ISLAND

After a hearty breakfast, we make our way traveling west through the countryside to our first stop - **Bantry**. This former fishing port, with major connections to Europe, is now a typical sleepy, small-town settlement where contentment can be derived simply from walking around Wolfe Tone Square or popping into McCarthy's famous bar for a "quiet one". After lunch, we travel to **Glengarriff** to take the ferry that brings us to **Garnish Island**, or "Illnacullin" as it is referred to by the locals. It's a small, uninhabited outcrop consisting of 37 acres, known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as a wild garden of great beauty. Throughout the boat ride along this naturally 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. We will have lunch at the **Glengarriff Park Hotel** before returning to Clonakilty, where you have the option to explore one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and drinks.

OVERNIGHT: THE CLONAKILTY PARK HOTEL (B)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th – MICHAEL COLLINS CENTER & CLONAKILTY DISTILLERY



After breakfast, we depart the hotel where we'll visit **The Michael Collins Center** and learn about one of Ireland's greatest patriots, who was a leading figure in the early 20th century Irish struggle for independence. Owned and operated by a cousin of General Collins, within the confines of their own farmyard, this lovingly maintained exhibition contains many of Collins' personal belongings. But more importantly, the family connection means that the stories we hear, are personal, salient, and imparted with utter pride. Upon leaving here we take the road less traveled in the direction of **Kinsale**, enjoying the coastal views along the way. We'll have free time in **Kinsale**...one of the most beautiful, scenic, lauded, "foodie" towns in

Ireland. We will gather for a Kodak-moment at **Charles Fort** later, overlooking **Kinsale Harbor**. Immerse yourself in the unique sensory experience of a working distillery of the new **Clonakilty Distillery**. A must see for the growing numbers of Irish whiskey fans, those with an interest in the history of distilling or anyone wanting a hands-on experience of a real working distillery. Combining world-class visitor facilities, the very best in multi-media presentation technology and

knowledgeable expert guides, you will experience first-hand the smell, sound, feel and taste of a distillery creating genuine Irish spirits. **Clonakilty Distillery** will manufacture on-site premium Single Pot Still Whiskey and innovative Gin using heritage barley grown on the family farm and wild botanicals harvested from the shoreline adjacent to the iconic **Galley Head Lighthouse**. You will learn about the importance of our Wild Atlantic location and the influence of this environment on our unique spirit collection. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the Conservatory restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE CLONAKILTY PARK HOTEL (B&D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th – GOUGANE BARRA & KILLARNEY

After breakfast, we visit **Gougane Barra Park**. Never has there been a prettier location for a church (Glendalough included) than **St. Finbarr's**, (patron saint of Cork) **Oratory**, here on the lake. A deep 'U' shaped valley carved out of the mountains of West Cork at the end of the last ice age, **Gougane Barra** is also where the Lee River rises. Up until the 1930's, this area was covered with small holdings, with farmers and shepherds following the pilgrim paths for hundreds of years, down to the small church on the lake to get to mass, do the stations or take a dip in the healing stream. The town of **Killarney** hardly needs an introduction. Nationally and internationally renowned as the undisputed center of tourism in the Southwest of Ireland, **Killarney** has it all. While its wild beauty and glorious scenery have, for centuries, established it firmly in the affections of all who have visited, Killarney is also a thriving commercial town offering an abundance of attractions and entertainment. The popularity of the town is not a modern-day phenomenon though. It has welcomed visitors for over 200 years. Famously, one particular lake view was dedicated to the Ladies in Waiting of Queen Victoria, who visited the area in 1861. Their visit has been commemorated by the naming of 'Ladies' View', reminding present day pilgrims of the longevity of **Killarney's** popularity. The tourists of yesteryear also consisted of poets, artists, writers and composers who surprisingly found much to absorb them here. After our lunch stop, we will complete today's journey to the **Dingle Peninsula** and check in to the **Dingle Skellig Hotel** for the next three nights. Join your fellow travelers for welcome dinner in the Coastguard restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B&D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th – SLEA HEAD DRIVE



After breakfast, we take a day tour to explore the **Dingle Peninsula**. Along the way, we will see beehive style huts, originally inhabited by 12th century monks, which overlook the rugged Blasket Islands, beaches, cliffs, wild Atlantic Ocean views and famine cottages. The awe-inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments as found on the **Dingle Peninsula**. On our way back, we're going to stop at **Paidi O'Se's pub**, which is truly an institution amongst local and international visitors alike. It's situated in the heart of the Gaeltacht, where the locals speak Gaelic as their first language. We plan on having an afternoon music

session, so let's have a refreshment or two, perhaps maybe even an adult beverage, sing some songs, and soak up the ambience. Explore one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and lively music session.

OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th - INCH STRAND/TRALEE/KERRY MUSEUM

Today will be a free day to explore the town of **Dingle**, or the hotel facilities and spa, OR you may wish to join us as we explore **Inch Strand & Tralee**. When we get to the beach, which is only a short ride from the hotel, maybe you might fancy a windswept walk, before heading onto **Tralee**, which is widely known for The Rose of Tralee International Festival. A glass wall in Tralee Town Park bears the names of all the previous contestants in that festival's beauty pageant. Tom personally knows one of the ladies who is honored there, so ask him to show-and-tell. **The Kerry County Museum** has galleries on local history and a re-creation of medieval Tralee. Although it's the county town, Tralee is down-to-earth and more engaged with the business of everyday life than the tourist trade, but a great museum and a wetlands center make it well worth a stop. Founded by the Normans in 1216,

Tralee has a long history of rebellion. In the 16th century, the last ruling earl of the Desmonds was captured and executed here. His head was sent to Elizabeth I, who spiked it on London Bridge. The **Desmond Castle** once stood at the junction



of Denny Street and the Mall, but any trace of medieval **Tralee** that survived the Desmond Wars was razed during the Cromwellian period. Elegant Denny Street and Day Place are the oldest parts of town, with 18th century Georgian buildings, while the Square, just south of the mall, is a contemporary open space. If time permits, we may stop at **The South Pole Inn**, home to famous Antarctic explorer Tom Crean, for an Irish coffee and learn more about the famous explorer. The inn is in **Annascaul**, Kerry, near **Inch Strand** where they made the movie 'Ryan's Daughter' with actor Robert Mitchum. Join your fellow travelers for dinner in the Coastguard restaurant tonight.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B&D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th – CASTLEISLAND & JOHNSTOWN ESTATE

Leaving **Dingle** is never easy. Our first stop will be **Castleisland**, with it's big, straight, unusually wide Main Street. We will meet Tom's aunt, who runs a beautiful "Mom 'n' Pop" gift store right in town center. There's a couple of nice coffee shops close by. 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. We then make our way to the village of Enfield in County Meath to **The Johnstown Estate and Spa**, where we will stay for the next two nights. Enjoy and relax at the spa or take a nap before we meet for dinner in the Fire & Salt restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN ESTATE (B&D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th - RELAX, SLEEP LATE, OR ENJOY THE CHOCOLATE GARDEN OF IRELAND

After breakfast, you can simply relax, sleep late, and enjoy the amenities at the hotel from the refurbished spa, the hair salon, pool, the coach bar or the 120 acres of parkland. We are offering an optional tour to **The Chocolate Garden of Ireland (\$40 person)**. Visitors and chocolate-tasting participants are trained in how to be aware of the multi-faceted elements of tasting chocolate, really sensing all its characteristics, and are often surprised by employing senses they never used before. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Japanese Gardens restaurant. Return to our hotel and join your fellow travelers for the farewell dinner in Fire & Salt restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: THE JOHNSTOWN ESTATE (B&D)



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th - 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 you to check in for your flight and clear customs and US emigration. 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!

