

TUESDAY, MAY 13th - WELCOME TO IRELAND!

A warm welcome awaits you at Dublin Airport from your hosts Joanie Madden and Mary Coogan along with our coach driver. Once everyone is onboard, we will drive north 1 hour and 15 minutes to the coastal town of Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula in County Louth for some lunch. We'll then travel four miles to Greenore and board the Carlingford ferry. The twenty minute sail on what is considered one of Ireland's most scenic loughs will bring us to Greencastle, County Down, our entry point into Northern Ireland. It's just a 40-minute drive along the gorgeous Mourne coastal route until we arrive at our 4-star Slieve Donard Hotel and Spa, which is nestled at the foot of the Mountains of Mourne. This magnificent hotel stands among six acres of immaculate private grounds with a golden strand of beach bordering one side while the mighty Royal County Down golf course frames the other. This lovingly maintained Victorian hotel, is home to one of Europe's finest resort spas and it will be our home for the next two nights. Feel free to rest or explore the hotel before we meet up for our welcome dinner followed by outstanding music.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, DOWN (L, D)



WEDNESDAY, MAY 14th - DOWNPATRICK, MOUNT STEWART GARDENS Following breakfast, we will depart the hotel and head for one of Ireland's most ancient and historic towns, Downpatrick. Downpatrick takes its name from a fort which once stood on the hill that dominates the town and on which Down Cathedral stands. Downpatrick was anglicized from Dún Phádraig due to the town's connection with the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, who was reputedly buried here in 461 on Cathedral Hill within the grounds of Down Cathedral. We'll visit the Saint Patrick Centre which is the only permanent exhibition in the world devoted to Ireland's Patron Saint. The center tells the history of Ireland through Patrick's words, utilizing an amazing multimedia exhibition. We'll then journey onto Mount Stewart, one of the most inspiring and unusual gardens in Northern Ireland, located on the banks of Strangford Lough. The gardens formal areas exude a strong Mediterranean feel and resembles an Italian villa landscape; the wooded areas support a range of plants from all corners of the world, ensuring something to see whatever the season. One mile of walking trails wind through a landscape 'lost in time' and establishes Mount Stewart's reputation as one of the best-preserved Irish country manors. It's then back to the Slieve Donard via the Strangford Lough Ferry which links the beautiful Ards Peninsula to the scenic Lecale Peninsula and the villages of Strangford and Portaferry, crossing a stretch of water known as the "Narrows", where 350 million cubic meters of sea water surge in and out of Strangford Lough with each tide. Rest up, take a swim or visit the spa before we meet up for more fabulous food and entertainment!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, DOWN (B, D)

THURSDAY, MAY 15th - TITANIC EXPERIENCE MUSEUM & BELFAST CITY We depart the hotel after breakfast and drive an hour to visit Northern Ireland's top attraction, The Titanic Experience. This amazing visit extends over nine galleries including full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features. You will explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. Following the tour, we'll check into our 5-star Hotel, The Grand Central for two nights, located in the heart of Belfast's Linen district with charming cobbled streets, pubs, history and shopping right on our doorstep. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own to explore National Geographics 2024 choice as one of the coolest and most exciting destinations to visit in the world! Tonight, we gather for an amazing culinary experience followed by more world class music.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE GRAND CENTRAL (B, D)

FRIDAY, MAY 16th - THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY, GLENS OF ANTRIM

After breakfast, we depart the hotel and drive north into County Antrim to visit Northern Ireland's only World Unesco Heritage site, the phenomenal Giant's Causeway. The Giant's Causeway is made up of some 40,000 black basalt columns sticking out of the sea. The dramatic sight has inspired legends of giants striding over the sea to Scotland, but this striking landscape was caused by volcanic activity 60 million years ago. Celebrated in both the arts and in science, it has been a top visitor attraction for 300 years and has come to be regarded as a symbol for Northern Ireland. It's then just a few miles to our next stop to visit Bushmills, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world, and maker of the famous Bushmills and Blackbush whiskeys. We'll take a guided tour and see first-hand how the masters craft the whiskey experiencing the impressive sights and rich scents of each stage from mash tun to pot still to barrel. We'll then complete our tour in the 1608 bar tasting a wee dram of whiskey. Departing Bushmills, we will travel along the outstanding Antrim Coast Road taking in the Glens of Antrim which consistently ranks among the best scenic road trips in the world. We'll stop at Johnny Joe's in Cushendall for a rest break before heading back to the Grand Central for another fantastic night of outstanding food and music!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE GRAND CENTRAL (B, D)



SATURDAY, MAY 17th – SEAMUS HEANEY'S HOMEPLACE, GLENSHANE COUNTRY FARM, DERRY CITY TOUR

Our first stop today will be the Seamus Heaney's HomePlace in County Derry. Seamus Heaney is widely recognized as one of the major poets of the 20th century. A native of Northern Ireland and professor of poetry at both Harvard and Oxford University, he authored over 20 volumes of poetry and for his life's work, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. On our visit, we will immerse ourselves in the extraordinary world of Seamus Heaney and explore through his words and imagination the people and place that so inspired him. We're then literally going to the dogs as we visit Glenshane Country Farm where we will watch the dogs herd the sheep on verbal and whistle instructions given by the shepherd. Derry City is our next stop for some lunch before we meet up with a local guide who will board the coach and take us around to the major sites of this historic city.



Our tour will cover all aspects of the city's rich history from the 6th century Christian settlement right up to the modern day troubles including Bloody Sunday. We'll cross the Derry Peace Bridge crossing over the River Foyle which bridges a 400-year-old physical and political gap between two sides of a once, bitterly divided community. It's then onto our 4-star Shandon Hotel and Spa for the next two nights overlooking beautiful Sheephaven Bay in County Donegal. Of course, we have another incredible dining experience with outstanding music planned this evening by Joanie and Mary!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE SHANDON HOTEL & SPA (B, D)

SUNDAY, MAY 18th – GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK, LEO'S TAVERN

Today it's all about the best of County Donegal. After breakfast, we'll depart the hotel and visit Glenveagh National Park and Castle found in the wild and rugged landscape of the Derryveagh Mountains. Its 40,000 acres are filled with magnificent mountains, pristine lakes, waterfalls and a picturesque castle with all its original furnishings.

Then it's onto Leo's Tavern for some lunch and music. Leo's historic tavern can be found in the Donegal Gaeltacht, where they still speak the native language of Irish and Leo's is known around the world for its warm welcome and as the actual home of legendary music artists Glannad, Enya and Moya Brennan. There will be music to welcome us into the pub and we'll enjoy some soup and sandwiches while we are entertained by the staff. We have a beautiful forty-minute drive back to our hotel before we enjoy dinner with more fabulous entertainment.

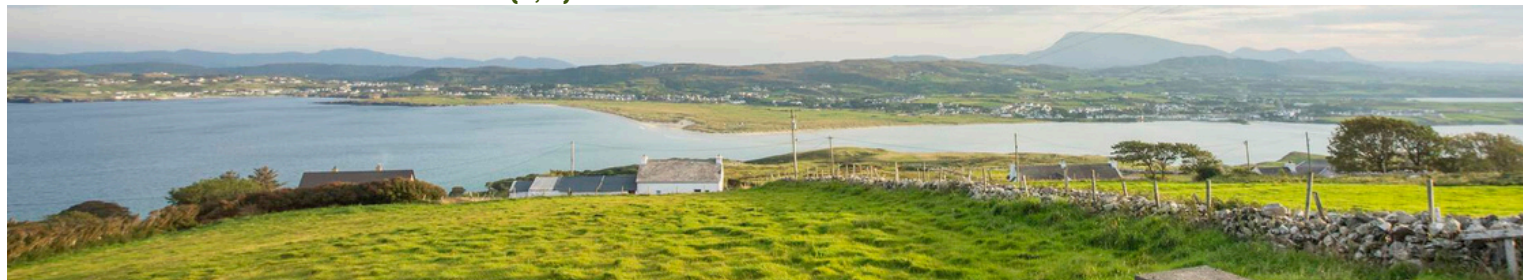
DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE SHANDON HOTEL & SPA (B, L, D)



MONDAY MAY 19th – DONEGAL BAY WATER CRUISE, CROVER HOUSE

Leaving the hotel, we'll travel an hour and twenty minutes to bustling Donegal Town where we'll board a one-hour boat cruise that taking in stunning views of the Donegal Bay and the Bluestack Mountains. Our cruise will also offer us the opportunity to view an amazing seal island with over 200 seals. Back on land, we'll give everyone an hour of free time to do some last-minute shopping. The Diamond is a wonderful shopping area with gift shops galore to get the perfect souvenir or gift for friends and loved ones. We'll then drive south one hour to the largest town in County Fermanagh, Enniskillen for a lunch stop before making the last leg of our journey onto Crover House, an award-winning Four-star Hotel that was built in the 18th Century and is situated in the most beautiful Irish countryside in County Cavan. This Georgian Manor House, resting majestically on the private shores of Lough Sheelin, emanates elegance and class with breathtaking views of the historic lake and 41 acres of meticulously landscaped grounds. Take a walk around this beautiful setting before we meet up for our last night of music, songs and scrumptious dinner!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE CROVER HOUSE (B, D)



TUESDAY, MAY 20th - 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 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 and will think of joining us again on another one of our adventures! We wish you a safe journey home! Slan Abhaile!

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WHAT'S INCLUDED!

- Nightly Entertainment led by Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan & Special Guests!
- Professional Driver | Guide for 8 days
- Porterage of 1 suitcase
- Admission to all activities on the itinerary
- Welcome pack from Caddie Tours

HOTELS: 7 NIGHTS FIRST CLASS ACCOMODATION | GOURMET MEALS

2 Nights at the 4 Star Slieve Donard Hotel & Spa, Down
2 Nights at the 5 Star Grand Central Hotel, Belfast
2 Nights at the 4 Star Shandon Hotel & Spa, Donegal
1 Night at the 4 Star Crover House Hotel, Cavan

7 Dinners
7 Irish Breakfasts
2 Lunches

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Mountains of Mourne
St. Patrick's Centre
Mount Stewart Gardens
Titanic Experience
The Giant's Causeway
Bushmills Distillery
Johnny Joe's Pub
Glens of Antrim
Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Glenshane Country Farm
Derry City Tour
Glenveagh National Park
Leo's Tavern
Donegal Bay Water Cruise
Nightly Entertainment
Ceol agus Craic (Music and Fun)

TOUR COSTS PER PERSON

- \$2989 For Land Only
- \$899 Single Supplement (Limited Availability)
- Gratuity To Driver (minimum of €5 per day / per person recommended)
- Travel Insurance is Highly Recommended

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- A deposit of \$500 is due at time of booking
- Final Payment is due February 13th, 2025
- Credit Card Payments subject to 3.5% fee, For ACH check payment there is no fee.
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended and can be facilitated by Caddie Tours.
- Caddie Tours will also gladly handle all your flights & extra hotel needs for your trip.
- Itinerary subject to change

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