



The New Barleycorn's Shamrock & Thistle Tour



**10 Days/9 Nights in Ireland & Scotland
September 21 – October 1, 2018**

Fri. Sept. 21: Heading for the Emerald Isle

Today we start our journey by flying from the United States on an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Ireland.

Sat. Sept 22: Welcome to Ireland



This morning, you will land in Shannon Airport and proceed to the Arrivals Hall where you will be met by your Driver/Guide who **will transfer you to your first destination, beautiful Galway** known as 'The City of Tribes' after the 14 family tribes that founded it.

Free spirited, artistic and bohemian, Galway has an ambience all of its own. It is a vibrant place, full of life and character in its people thronging its pedestrianized shopping streets or stopping for a famous bite in one of its many cafes and bars. From narrow streets alive with activity and Irish culture to amazing landscapes and seascapes, **this lively city is yours to explore at your leisure today. Later, meet with the rest of the group to enjoy our Welcome Dinner in our hotel this evening. Dinner & Overnight: The Radisson Galway**

Sun. Sept. 23: The Wildest West - Connemara



Enjoy your Irish Breakfast this morning before **we head out and tour "The Wild West of Ireland" Connemara**, a wild region of bog land, pristine lakes and mountains which is sparsely populated and the landscape much more open. Because the area is so remote, the Irish language and traditions have survived here and Irish is the first tongue of many of the inhabitants. **We will enjoy a cruise on Ireland's only Fjord along with tea and scones.** This cruise is a great way to take in the dramatic sweep of landscape, as we pass between the Twelve Bens and the Maam Turk mountains to the South in County Galway, the Mweelrea mountains to the North in County Mayo, as well as views out to the Atlantic at the mouth of the Fjord. The views of the surrounding landscape are lovely – hills rising steeply from silvery sea, with different colors on the peaks and valleys. **Afterwards, we will return to our Galway Hotel and this evening**

we will enjoy a visit to a traditional pub for dinner and music. Dinner & Overnight: The Radisson Galway

Mon. Sept. 24: Wandering on the Wild Atlantic Way



Refuel on your breakfast this morning and get set to bid Galway farewell and embark on **Donegal**, known as the 'wild child of Ireland', thanks in part to its rugged interior and characterful pubs. On route, **we will travel along the Wild Atlantic Way**, one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world, **to stop in the beautifully located Drumcliffe to visit the resting place of famous Irish poet, W.B. Yeats**. As we reach Donegal we check into our hotel and enjoy dinner together. **Dinner & Overnight:**

The Mill Park Hotel Donegal

Tue. Sept. 25: Local Sights & Sounds of Donegal



After a leisurely breakfast this morning, **we will set out to explore Donegal**, dubbed 'a place like no other on the island'. **Our first stop will be in Killybegs**, Ireland's largest fishing port, to visit the village which bustles with the atmosphere of a charming working town. We will spend time in Killybegs where 'the welcome and hospitality is second to none' before setting out to **visit the Slieve League Cliffs**, spectacular sea cliffs which are among the highest in Europe plunging some 600m to the sea. Promising unforgettable

views, look down to see two rocks nicknamed the 'giant's desk and chair' for reasons that are immediately obvious. Afterwards, we will return to our hotel via the Glengesh Pass, a stunning setting of spectacular views with old cottages, farms and sheep dotted along the route. **This evening we enjoy a traditional pub night with dinner, drink & music to celebrate our last night in this special place. Dinner & Overnight: The Mill Park Hotel Donegal**

Wed. Sept. 26: Introducing....Northern Ireland

Once you have had your breakfast, we will bid Donegal farewell in search of new adventures in the rejuvenated and unmissable, Northern Ireland. On route, **we will stop in the heather-clad hills of Co. Tyrone at The Ulster American Folk Park**, a colorful indoor and outdoor museum exploring the story of Irish emigration to the New World. You will be immersed into the story of Irish emigration that brings it to life. **Next we will journey to Armagh**, known as the 'Orchard County', owing to the rich apple growing country centered in the north of the county. Armagh is perhaps better known as the spiritual capital of Ireland since Saint Patrick founded his first church on the hilltop site of the present **Church of Ireland Cathedral** around 445AD. On the opposite hill, the twin-spired **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (started



in 1840) is flanked by two large marble archbishops who look mildly across town. **We will visit both of these churches, the respective seats of the Protestant and Catholic archbishops.** We check into our hotel and enjoy dinner together. **Dinner & Overnight: The Armagh City Hotel**

Thur. Sept. 27: Day Tripping to Belfast



Fill up on breakfast this morning as **we visit Northern Ireland's capital city for a day of sightseeing, providing you with a comprehensive look at the very special city of Belfast.** We will hear the history of areas like the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road, the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road and the Titanic Quarter. **The tour concludes at Titanic Belfast,** named 'World's Leading Tourist Attraction' at the prestigious World Travel Awards 2016, which is located in the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched in 1912, which is located in the very place where Titanic was designed, built and

launched in 1912. **We will visit the award winning attraction to experience the story of the Titanic,** from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to its maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. **We will return to Armagh and enjoy dinner together. Dinner & Overnight: The Armagh City Hotel**

Fri. Sept. 28: Next Stop...Scotland

Once you have had your breakfast, we will bid Armagh and Northern Ireland farewell in search of new adventures in the treasure-trove of experiences, Scotland. **We will board the ferry from Belfast to Edinburgh,** one of Europe's most beautiful cities draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea. Enjoy the ride into Edinburgh, a city of high culture and lofty ideals, of art and literature, philosophy and science. It is here that each summer the world's biggest arts festival rises, phoenix-like, from the ashes of last year's rave reviews and broken box-office records to produce yet another string of superlatives. And it is here, beneath the Greek temples of Calton Hill – Edinburgh's acropolis – that the Scottish parliament sits again after a 300-year absence. **This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel** and toast the adventures which await us in Scotland. **Dinner & Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel (TBD)**



Sat. Sept. 29: Exploring Edinburgh



Enjoy a hearty Scottish breakfast together before enjoying a sightseeing tour of Edinburgh where we explore The Old Town and The New Town including The Royal Mile. The tour will conclude at Edinburgh Castle, the historic fortress which dominates the skyline of the city and contains the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Scone. **We will take a tour of Edinburgh Castle, a world famous icon of Scotland.**

We will then visit The Royal Yacht Britannia, the floating Royal residence which was the home for the British Royal Family for over 40 years. We will use our boarding passes to follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences. Following this, we will return to Edinburgh to spend the remainder of the day as you please. Edinburgh nightlife has a vast number of bars, restaurants and, particularly, atmospheric old pubs in which to pass a few spare hours. **Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel**



Sun. Sept. 30: A Day Well Spent By The Lochs

After breakfast this morning, **we will set out to explore the famous Loch Lomond**, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty. Loch Lomond is the centerpiece of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and is the largest expanse of freshwater in Great Britain. The Trossachs, with its lochs, glens and heather-covered mountains was a favorite destination of Sir Walter Scott, who used the location as the backdrop for his novel "Rob Roy" and poem "The Lady of the Lake".



We will enjoy a cruise on Loch Lomond and afterwards, we will visit Glengoyne Distillery which is located in the southern Highlands and has been producing an exceptional single malt scotch whiskey for nearly 200 years. It is one of the few distilleries producing whiskey in this part of Scotland today. Knowledge is passed from generation to generation, nothing is written down. They focus on distilling slowly to create the best whiskey possible.

We return to Edinburgh and this evening we toast our tour with **an evening of food, drink and entertainment at The Spirit of Scotland – a true showcase of Scottish Hospitality! Dinner & Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel**

Mon. Oct. 1: Homeward Bound...

Pack your bags as we head for the airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of Scotland and the Emerald Isle home with you. 'The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes' will be expecting you again soon.



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