

**Fr O Connor
Tour of Ireland
Mon Jun 25th – Thu Jul 5th 2018**

Mon Jun 25th: Heading for the Emerald Isle

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

Tue Jun 26th: Welcome to Ireland

This morning we will land in Dublin Airport and once you proceed through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination, Co. Dublin, the small capital of Ireland with a huge reputation.

We will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin to see local landmarks and historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street and Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells. **We will stop and enjoy a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral**, built in honour of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick's. The cathedral was founded in 1191 and stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin.



After that introduction to Dublin, we will check into the hotel and you are free to explore the city in your own way for the remainder of your day. Meet later at the hotel to share dinner with the group and toast to the start of this special tour with Fr O Connor.

Overnight: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel (D)

Wed Jun 27th: Out In Dublin's Docklands

After a leisurely breakfast, **we will get set to visit EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum**, a wonderfully dramatic modern interactive experience that showcases the unique global journey of the Irish people. Enjoy journeying through the exhibition which showcases the impacts of the Irish here and further ashore and quite often, is equally emotional as it is an empowering experience.





Following this visit, you will be dropped outside the internationally recognized Trinity College, Ireland's oldest and leading university. From here, you are free to enjoy the iconic city of Dublin at leisure. You may consider visiting The Book of Kells Exhibition which displays the world's most famous medieval manuscript and Ireland's greatest cultural treasures inside of Trinity College's iconic Old Library & Long Room. Whatever you do, enjoy your afternoon before

meeting the group to journey to The Brazen Head, the official oldest pub in Ireland dating back to 1198. We will enjoy a dining experience in the award winning restaurant and with live Irish music here, you are sure to enjoy last evening in Dublin in true Irish hospitality. Overnight: Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel (B, D)

Thu Jun 28th: Introducing...Limerick

This morning we will prepare to depart Dublin to spend one night in Limerick, home to Ireland's first ever City of Culture thanks to its engaging mix of history, arts and sports. Located at the mouth of the River Shannon, Limerick is where Fr O Connor's calls home which will explore today on tour.

On route, we will stop in Tipperary, the largest inland county in the country and a very picturesque region, to visit the Rock of Cashel. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most spectacular archaeological sites, a prominent green hill, banded with limestone outcrops, rising from a grassy plain and bristling with ancient fortifications. Sturdy walls circle an enclosure containing a complete round tower, a 13th-century Gothic cathedral and the finest 12th-century Romanesque chapel in Ireland, home to some of the land's oldest frescoes.



Afterwards, we will arrive into Limerick City for a sightseeing tour of this city famed for its unique combination of a historic and Georgian feel with a quirky, vibrant and utterly individual vibe. Enjoy taking in the main areas of Ireland's first City of Culture including the historic St Mary's Cathedral located at the very heart of the city. The Cathedral of St Mary Blessed Virgin was founded in 1168 on the site of a palace donated by Donal Mor O'Brien, King of Munster. Experts believe parts of the palace are incorporated into the



present structure which was previously a Viking meetinghouse. The cathedral's architecture is a mixture of the Gothic and Romanesque styles. It contains many interesting features, such as a stone altar and Lepers' Squint, an opening in the wall that permitted lepers to hear Mass and receive Communion.

Later, we journey to the nearby village of Bunratty for check-in at our hotel. **This evening, prepare to turn back the clock and recapture the lifestyle of medieval Ireland in the 15th century Bunratty Castle as we attend a Medieval Banquet.** Enjoy quality food and live entertainment in the castle which was once the splendid home of noble medieval lords – enjoy! **Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel (B, D)**

Fri Jun 29th:

Returning Home with Fr O'Connor

Following breakfast this morning, we will bid farewell to Limerick to search to new adventure in Killarney in Co. Kerry, known as 'The Kingdom' and one of the most famous and beautiful of Ireland's 32 counties. Before we depart the county of Limerick, we will take in the village of Adare located here. Adare is dubbed 'Ireland's prettiest village' and after driving through this Heritage Town of Ireland, you may just agree. An architectural wealth of scenic beauty, Adare's main street is punctuated with beautiful stone buildings, medieval monasteries, ruins and a picturesque village park.



We journey onwards to Fr O Connor's hometown of Newcastle West to enjoy lunch here and celebrate mass in the home church of Father. We then leave Limerick and continue onwards for Killarney, glorious by location thanks to Killarney National Park. Renowned by many as the "Jewel in Kerry's crown", the park boasts parks, mountains, lakes, islands and flatlands of incomparable beauty which stretches right to the outskirts of

the town. Upon arrival, we will check-into our hotel to relax, share dinner together and the remainder of your evening as you please. **Overnight: The Cahernane Hotel (B, L, D)**

Sat Jun 30th: Exclusively Kerry

Refuel on a hearty breakfast as we will set out to explore the beauty of an area that has attracted visitors for centuries. **We travel west of Killarney to visit the Ring of Kerry**, a majestic circular loop that pairs overwhelming natural beauty with immersive heritage attractions, a true jewel in the Kingdom of Kerry's crown.



Along this route you will pass through vast glacial valleys (Moll's Gap) and see Skellig Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site known throughout the world of archaeology as the site of a well-preserved monastic outpost of the Early Christian period and in the world of Hollywood, a featured scenes in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens'. Enjoy a full day tour of unforgettable sights and photo opportunities to cherish memories. See mystical & unspoilt countryside surrounded by spectacular beauty with mountains, lakes, woods and rugged coastline dotted around the 110 mile route. The Ring of Kerry also provides an amazing insight into Ireland's ancient heritage - see the Iron Age Forts & Ogham Stones, Old Monasteries and a landscape carved out of rock by the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. We return to the hotel where you are free to spend the evening at leisure in one of Ireland's liveliest towns. **Overnight: The Cahernane Hotel (B)**

Sun Jul 1st: A Dingle Day Trip

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we will set out to explore more of Kerry, famed to contain some of Ireland's most iconic scenery. We travel southwest to reach Dingle, which is the only town in one of Ireland's most beautiful coastal regions, the Dingle Peninsula. **Today we will enjoy a scenic day of beautiful beaches and mountains of the Dingle Peninsula dubbed one of "the most beautiful place on earth"**. The Dingle Peninsula is one of Ireland's most rugged



Peninsulas with breathtaking views and mysterious huts called 'clochans' that line the road, thought to be built by 7th century monks. It is an area that suffered the Vikings, welcomed

Hollywood and has its own famous Dolphin called “Fungie”. We will also stop in the small fishing town of Dingle to enjoy its eclectic little fashion and jewelry shops and intimate cozy pubs – an all-round very special place with great atmosphere and you may even hear Irish Gaelic being used fluently.

Later, we return to the hotel to enjoy dinner together and a production at Killarney Avenue Hotel which brings together all that is great about the traditions of music, song and dance in Ireland. **Overnight: The Cahernane Hotel (B, D)**

Mon Jul 2nd: On the Move to Galway

Once breakfast is over, we will bid Killarney farewell in search of new adventures in eccentric Galway. Free spirited, artistic and bohemian, Galway has an ambience of its own as you may experience over the next two nights. Before we reach this lively city, **we will take the ferry transfer across the River Shannon** to reach the Banner County of Clare to visit one of Ireland’s most famous attractions.



Today on tour, **we will visit the iconic Cliffs of Moher** which stand over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular views are in abundance here, on a clear day you can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the south. **We will then stop in Doolin**, the little seaside village on the northwest coast of County Clare with an international reputation

as ‘the traditional music capital of Ireland’. Enjoy free time in Doolin, a place of natural and breathtaking beauty and the heart and soul of Irish music. We will then journey on to Galway, known as ‘The City of Tribes’ after the 14 family tribes that founded it to check into our hotel and enjoying the evening as you wish. **Overnight: Park House Hotel (B)**

Tue Jul 3rd: Exploring Galway

This morning following breakfast, **we will set out to take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Galway City**, complete with its amazing landscapes and seascapes alive with Irish culture. **We then head out and tour “The Wild West of Ireland” in 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.



On our tour today, we will visit Kylemore Abbey, a former girl's boarding school that is now in the care of the Benedictine nuns and is one of the oldest Abbeys in Ireland. Its Gothic Church built in 1881 is beautiful and interesting with its Crypt and carved angelic gargoyles. The dramatic landscape and iconic image of a gothic castle reflected in a Connemara Lake has made Kylemore Abbey world-famous and it is now the largest tourist attraction in the west of Ireland.

We will also enjoy a boat to tour the **Killary Fjord in North Connemara, unique to Ireland as the Isle's only fjord**. We enjoy tea and scones among the dramatic sweep of the surrounding views – hills rising steeply from the silvery sea, with frequent shifts in light and shadow creating different colors on the peaks and valleys. Deep green fields and occasional stands of trees contrast with heathery bogs.



As we return to the hotel later, you may conclude and agree with Oscar Wilde when he said, 'Connemara is a savage beauty'. After an exciting day of sightseeing, prepare for dinner with the group and **an unforgettable entertainment experience at Trad on the Prom**, a production where the music touches the soul and the dancing takes your breath away.
Overnight: Park House Hotel (B, D)

Wed Jul 4th: Last Stops on the Emerald Isle

This morning, finish your breakfast as we prepare to embark on a luxurious stay in Carton House in Co. Kildare, a former estate and great house that was the ancestral seat of the Earls of Kildare and Dukes of Leinster.

On route, we will journey via the wild beauty and haunting landscapes of Mayo, arriving in village of Knock to visit one of Ireland's National Marian Shrine of Knock. Today a major international Catholic pilgrimage shrine, it received international fame after local people

reported seeing the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist at their parish church on August 21, 1879. Today, we will hear the remarkable story of Knock, which is told here in detail, as well as the stories of all the ordinary people who witnessed the Apparition in 1879. Enjoy time to reflect on these holy and special grounds.



Following this, we will continue traveling east to arrive in Maynooth for check at Carton House, the 1,100-acre private parkland estate with a history that dates back to 1170. Queen Victoria stayed in the famous Chinese Room on her visits (1849 & 1897), along with Grace Kelly who stayed while on holidays with Prince Rainier and her young family. Peter Sellars lived in one of the wings of the house for many years in the 1970s. Carton



House has also been the location of many movies including *Scarlet*, the sequel to ‘*Gone with the Wind*’ as well as *Barry Lydon*, *Aristocrats* and *The Treaty*. **Enjoy your surroundings before meeting later for a farewell dinner together.** Reflect on the memories, friendships and magic created during your stay in Ireland and toast to a successful trip in the Emerald Isle. **Overnight: Carton House Hotel (B, D)**

Thu Jul 5th: Homeward Bound...

Following breakfast, grab your packed bags as we head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. ‘The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes’ will be expecting you again soon.

Date: November 14th 2017
doconnor@cablone.net

Email:

Quote for Fr O Connor

Tour of Ireland ~ June 25th - July 5th
2018 Land Package ~ 11 Days / 9 Nights

AIR & LAND PACKAGE DETAILS

Airfare with Delta Airline:

- 06/25/18 JAN > ATL 06/25/18
- 06/25/18 ATL > DUB 06/26/18 (+1 Day)
- 07/05/18 DUB > ATL 07/05/18
- 07/05/18 ATL > JAN 07/05/18

Flight schedule to be confirmed

Accommodation (9 Nights - Space Held):

- Jun 26th, 27th: 2 Nights Dublin - [Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel](#)
- Jun 28th: 1 Night Limerick - [Radisson Blu Limerick](#)
- Jun 29th, 30th, Jul 1st: 3 Nights Killarney - [The Cahernane Hotel](#)
- Jul 2nd, 3rd: 2 Nights Galway - [Park House Hotel](#)
- Jul 4th: 1 Night Maynooth - [Carton House Hotel](#)

Meals:

- Breakfast Each Morning (except morning of arrival)
- 4 Hotel Dinners
- Medieval Banquet Dinner at Bunratty Castle
- Lunch in the Devon Inn, Newcastle West

Dinner on own in Dublin (2nd night), Limerick (1st night), Killarney (2nd and 3rd night), Galway (1st night)

Features:

- Dublin City Sightseeing Tour, Dublin
- Visit to St Patricks Cathedral, Dublin
- Visit to EPIC Museum of Emigration, Dublin
- Visit to the Rock of Cashel, Tipperary

- Limerick City Sightseeing Tour, Limerick
- Visit to the Cliffs of Moher, Clare
- Tour of Connemara, Galway
- Visit to Kylemore Abbey, Galway
- Killary Fjord Cruise, Galway
- Ticket for Trad on the Prom Traditional Music and Dance Show, Galway
- Visit to Knock, Ireland’s National Marian Shrine, Mayo

Transport

- Private Coach Round-trip Airport Transfers
- Private Coach Throughout for Transfers and Sightseeing
- One-way Ferry Transfer **Other:**
- Tour Escort Throughout
- All Taxes & Fees

Not Included:

- Trip Insurance (available upon request)
- Gratuities

PACKAGE PRICE

Air & Land Price: Prices are based per person on a per coach basis. Per person in Double / Twin Rooms.	
Minimum of 20 Paying Passengers	\$3,966.00 Per Person
Minimum of 30 Paying Passengers	\$3,884.00 Per Person
Single Supplement	\$725.00 Per Person

Payment Details:		
Individual Deposit	\$300 PP	Due: To Secure Tour Place

Trip Insurance	Available Upon Request	Due: With Deposit
Final Payment	Remaining Balance Due 60 Days Prior to Departure	Due: Thursday April 26 th 2018

CANCELLATION

Land Cancellation:

- From 61 to 90 days prior to departure: \$250 per person after deposit
- From 60 to 30 days prior to departure: 50% penalty
- From 0-29 days prior to departure: 100% penalty

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Rate Guarantee:

Upon the signature of this contract Cara Group Travel is willing to guarantee the package price against and increases in exchange rate or other market conditions.

Final Payment:

For all portions on the package outlined above must be paid in full 60 days prior to each tour.

Failure to pay in full by this date may result in certain services not being available.

Rooming List:

The full list of traveler names will be requested by Cara Group Travel 60 days prior to departure to finalize travel arrangements.

Unforeseen Events:

If for any reason beyond Cara Group Travel's control, but limited to strike, labor disputes, accident, act of war, act of God, fire, flood or other emergency conditions, Cara Group Travel or one of its suppliers is unable to perform its obligation under this agreement, such nonperformance is excused and Cara Group Travel and or suppliers may terminate the agreement without further liability of any nature, upon return of deposits paid. In no event shall Cara Group Travel and or suppliers be liable for consequential damages of any nature for any reason whatsoever.

I understand and agree with the terms outlined above:

Authorized Signature: _____

Date:
