

Christ Church, Greenwich: A Celtic Pilgrimage through Ireland

22nd August - 1st September 2024

Introduction

Welcome to Ireland!

Ireland is an ancient mythical land enriched with history, culture, magical sites, music and dance, and a warmth from the people that rivals few other places in the world. On our 10 night journey, we will experience this together as we visit holy sites bearing significance to Christianity, we will travel through rich, rural landscapes with their small towns and villages and visit places that have played an important part in Ireland's history. We will stay in comfortable accommodation with good food and enjoy our time together as a group enriched by Irish hospitality, its culture, its music and its people.

Highlights

- The Book of Kells, containing the four gospels dating back to the 8th century and hailed as one of the most sublime examples of medieval painting in existence.
- Kilmainham Gaol, known for incarcerating the political prisoners involved in Ireland's struggle for independence.
- Newgrange, one of Europe's most remarkable prehistoric sites, known for the illumination of its passage tomb during the winter solstice.
- The Hill of Tara, an ancient ceremonial and burial site and once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland.
- Glendalough, the former hermitage of St Kevin with its stunning landscape and monastic sites founded in the 6th century.
- The Rock of Cashel is reputed to be the site of the conversion of the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century.
- The Dingle Peninsula, voted the most beautiful place in the world by National Geographic with its small town charm full of arts, crafts and music.
- The breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, 700 feet above sea level and ascend over five miles of the rugged landscape.

Your Hosts



MAREK ZABRISKIE

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is Rector of Christ Church, Greenwich. He attended Emory University and the Yale Divinity School and has served churches in Nashville, Richmond and Fort Washington. In 2011, he founded The Bible Challenge and the Center for Biblical Studies, which has helped nearly a million Anglicans read the entire Bible. He is the author and editor of ten books and has walked 1,600 miles across Spain on seven Camino pilgrimages.



JOANNA WIVELL

Having lived in Madrid for 19 years, Joanna is now based back in the UK from where she runs Insider's Travel, working all over Europe, connecting guests with the people and places that make a country so special. After embarking on an 18 month trip through Asia and South America, Joanna moved to Spain where she first worked in television for the lifestyle channel, Canal Estilo in Madrid, and then the National Geographic Channel. Born from her love to travel and experience the real deal, Joanna started running tours, first through Spain and now through Europe. Joanna had the pleasure of hosting the Christ Church Greenwich Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in June 2022 with Marek and is looking forward to the Celtic Pilgrimage this coming August with Christ Church.

Looking after all her guests while helping them learn, experience and of course enjoy the journey is important to her on all the tours she hosts. She is also brushing up her Irish broom dance techniques especially for this trip!



DARA MACARTHY

Dara has worked for over 10 years as a guide both in Dublin and across Ireland. With a degree in History from University College Dublin and over 10 years of tour guiding experience, he works for the Irish tourist board as well as Rick Steves. Over the years, Dara has shown Ireland to political figures, journalists and actors and is looking forward to spending time with Christ Church Greenwich for our journey through Ireland.



Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Thursday, August 22nd

Meet at the hotel and drive into Dublin for an afternoon orientational walk of the city including the Georgian Squares; Fitzwilliam Square, Merrion Square, and St. Stephen's Green. Dinner in Dublin before traveling back to the hotel.

Hotel: The Johnstown Estate, Enfield, Co. Meath, Ireland. The Johnstown Estate is a Georgian 18th century residence outside of Dublin. The hotel is a 30 mile drive from Dublin and the airport. *Insider's Travel can arrange private or group transfers to the hotel from the airport.

Day 2. Friday, August 23rd

We return to Dublin for a historical walking tour with a local expert to see the Book of Kells and the Trinity Hall Library at Trinity College, founded in 1592. *Please note that renovation is scheduled. At the time of print, we do not know if its completion will coincide with our visit.

We visit Christ Church Cathedral, where Handel's Messiah was first performed in 1742, and St. Patrick's Cathedral, where the author Jonathan Swift served as Dean.

We go on to visit Kilmainham Gaol, the monument and shrine to the heroes of the 1917 Easter Rising for independence.

We return to the hotel for dinner.

Hotel: The Johnstown Estate

Day 3. Saturday, August 24th

This morning, we visit the Newgrange Neolithic Tomb in the Boyne Valley, moving on in the afternoon to explore the ancient burial site, the Hill of Tara. This is where disputes among the clans were settled, new laws were passed and Christianity was eventually proclaimed by St. Patrick. This overlooks the Hill of Slane, where St. Patrick lit the New Fire signaling Ireland's first Easter celebration and consecrated a church.

We have dinner and spend the night in Kilkenny, where author and satirist, Jonathan Swift was born and died.

Hotel: The Pembroke, Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Ireland

Day 4. Sunday, August 25th

Today we follow in the footsteps of St Kevin through the hills of Wicklow to the mysterious valley of Glendalough where he spent the rest of his life in solitary prayer and contemplation. St. Kevin started a monastic community here, which grew in size and grandeur after his death. We have the opportunity to walk a part of the Way of St Kevin and go on to the visitors' centre. Time to enjoy the beauty of the Wicklow Mountains National Park, with its tower, monastic ruins, scenic lakes, valleys, walks, and trails. We return to Kilkenny and visit St Canice's Cathedral.

We enjoy dinner in Kilkenny.

Hotel: [The Pembroke](#), for a second night

Day 5. Monday, August 26th

(9am departure) We leave Kilkenny to visit the Rock of Cashel, one of Ireland's most impressive clusters of medieval buildings, where St Patrick is said to have converted King Aenghus to Christianity. In 1101 the site was granted to the church and Cashel swiftly rose to prominence as one of the most significant centers of ecclesiastical power in the country.

The surviving buildings are remarkable. Cormac's Chapel, for example, contains the only surviving Romanesque frescoes in Ireland. After lunch, we continue to Kinsale, one of Ireland's most beautiful towns for dinner and tonight's accommodation.

Hotel: [Actons Hotel](#) Kinsale, Ireland

Day 6. Tuesday, August 27th

We leave Kinsale and head for the world-famous Dingle Peninsula, stopping to visit the picturesque town of Kenmare. We continue our drive through the beautiful National Park and meander our way to Dingle.

Hotel: [The Dingle Skelligs Hotel](#), Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland



Day 7. Wednesday, August 28th

Today we take one of Ireland's most scenic routes, the Slea Head Drive forming part of the Wild Atlantic Way to the most northwesterly point of Ireland. We learn about the flora and fauna while taking in the breathtaking scenery and visiting some of the ancient sites. We stop at the historic Milltown House to see falconry including the Golden Eagle.

We return to Dingle for our group dinner. We have our own private river dance show.

Hotel: [The Dingle Skelligs Hotel](#), Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland for a second night

Day 8. Thursday, August 29th

Optional free day to relax and enjoy Dingle with the possibility of a group walk for those who would like it. Dinner in Dingle.

Hotel: [The Dingle Skelligs Hotel](#), Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland for a third night

Day 9. Friday, August 30th

8.30 am We leave Dingle, stopping for coffee in Adare and continue to Galway, visiting en route the famous Cliffs of Moher and the Burren which ascend over 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean and spread over five miles to the picturesque village of Doolin. We continue to Galway for a walking tour and dinner.

Hotel: [The Victoria](#)

Day 10. Saturday, August 31st

This morning, we drive to Clonmacnoise to visit the 6th-century monastery founded by St Ciaran on the banks of the River Shannon. We continue our drive to Dublin arriving in the afternoon and check into Clontarf Castle Hotel, the Free time before our farewell dinner.

Hotel: [Clontarf Castle Hotel](#)

Day 11. Sunday, September 1st

This morning, we have breakfast & say our goodbyes.

Transport to the airport.

End of tour

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Trip Price: \$7,650 USD

Single supplement: \$1,050 USD

Deposit: \$650 USD non-refundable deposit

What's included:

- ♥ 10 nights accommodation in first-class accommodation
- ♥ Our expert Ireland guide
- ♥ Tour host
- ♥ All meals, apart from lunch on the free day in Dingle, wine with dinner
- ♥ Comfortable coach
- ♥ Expert driver
- ♥ All entrances
- ♥ Private Irish dance show.

Sales tax included.

Not included: Flights, airport transfers, travel insurance and guide /driver tips.

Contact:

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