



Corpus Christi Parish & Choir Pilgrimage

Fr. Leo Edgertly, Jr. Pastor
Joseph Hébert, Music Ministry Director

Heart of Ireland

10-Day Pilgrimage:
June 17 – 26, 2024

Galway ♣ Connemara ♣ Knock ♣ Cliffs of Moher ♣ Killarney ♣ Blarney Castle ♣ Dublin

INCLUSIONS:

- **Airlines:** Round-trip economy class airfare via Aer Lingus: San Francisco/Dublin/San Francisco.
- Departure tax; Customs user fee; security tax and all airport departure tax.
- **Accommodations:** Eight (8) nights' accommodations in twin rooms with private facilities in first-class hotels throughout your tour.
- **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner daily, including a traditional Irish Medieval banquet at Bunratty Folk Park Castle and a special dinner show with live traditional music and Irish dancers at The Merry Ploughboy.
- **Coach Transportation:** Deluxe motor-coach transportation for the entire tour.
- **Tour Management:** One full-time tour manager/guide throughout the entire tour, including arrival and departure transfers. Peter's Way tour managers and overseas office staff are easily available 24 hours daily to render assistance whenever needed.
- **Excursions:** All sightseeing conducted by licensed, professional, English-speaking guides as outlined in the day-by-day tour itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all sights, as per itinerary included.
- Portage of one piece of luggage, per person, at hotels throughout.
- **Coordination of all liturgies and venues as per attached itinerary.**
- **Tour brochures:** Special promotional brochures printed free for your distribution.
- Peter's Way travel documents, travel wallet, luggage tags, name badge, and travel bag.
- **Liability Insurance:** Three million-dollar Peter's Way Tours Inc. Liability Insurance coverage.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Health, trip cancellation/interruption, or baggage insurance. Purchase is strongly recommended. Peter's Way Tours offers a comprehensive policy at additional cost.
- Passport & visa costs, if any.
- **U.S. Passports must be valid for at least the duration of your visit.**
- Meals not specified in the program.
- Items of a personal nature (hotel extras, laundry, phone calls, etc.).
- Gratuities to the tour manager/guide and driver.

A special invitation to families and friends of
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Ireland is a unique part of our world. It has the power of making those who visit it step back in time. The change is subtle and hardly noticeable if you aren't paying attention. Maybe it'll hit you as you walk along the Cliffs of Moher and realize that millions of people from all different walks of life and different time periods have been left breathless at this same sight. Or maybe it's when you visit an ancient site and suddenly you feel like you're back in Ireland during the days as Christianity was forming. Perhaps it's when you celebrate Holy Mass in sacred spaces that have stood the test of time. It's not really a question of if, but rather when, Ireland will get to you. With the breathtaking views, extensive history, intriguing culture, and happy people, it's impossible to return home without stories that you can share for years to come. Ireland will take your breath away!



Tentative flight schedule via Aer Lingus from San Francisco International Airport
 (Subject to confirmation by July 30, 2023)

Departure City	Arrival City	Airline/Flight	Departure Date/Time	Arrival Date/Time
San Francisco	Dublin DUB	Aer Lingus EI 60	June 17 – 5:45 pm	June 18 – 11:45 am
Dublin DUB	San Francisco	Aer Lingus EI 61	June 26 – 12:50 pm	June 26 – 3:55 pm

Please note: Flight itinerary subject to change without notice.

- ITINERARY -

Day 1, June 17, Monday: Depart for Ireland

Today: Depart San Francisco International Airport via Aer Lingus for our non-stop flight to Dublin, Ireland. Complimentary meals and beverages will be served on board. (D)

Day 2, June 18, Tuesday: Arrive in Dublin | Galway.

Afternoon: Early afternoon, arrive at Dublin International Airport, proceed through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and meet our Peter's Way tour manager/guide as we exit from Customs. Board our comfortable touring bus, and we will be on our way to Galway, the capital of the west, affectionately known as "The City of the Tribes." **Upon arrival, we'll visit the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St. Nicholas.** After our visit we'll check-in at our hotel in Galway.

Evening: Welcome dinner and overnight at Salthill hotel in Galway. (B,D)
<https://www.salthillhotel.com/>

Day 3, June 19, Wednesday: Connemara | Kylemore Abbey | Sung Mass at the National Shrine of Knock

Morning: Irish breakfast at our hotel.
 Today, we'll travel through the Connemara Region en route to Kylemore Abbey. This is the country of *The Quiet Man* and *The Purple Taxi*, two famous films made in this region. It is an area full of contrast, with granite mountains populated only by sheep, hundreds of lakes forming a fisherman's paradise, and a seacoast with many sandy beaches. Its stone walls, small farms, and thatched cottages in isolated splendor, with its heather covered hills, create an unforgettable scene for all its visitors. A tour takes us from Galway to the lake-dotted center of Connemara at Maam Cross. Continue to visit the famous lakeside Kylemore Abbey in the heart of Connemara. Originally a castle built in 1867 as a romantic gift, Kylemore is now home to Ireland's only community of Benedictine nuns since 1920. This 1,000-acre estate offers visitors the experience of a Victorian atmosphere in the restored rooms of the Abbey, a miniature Gothic church, and the Head Gardener's House. Relax in the coffee shop and enjoy the Kylemore Abbey Craft & Design Shop. Independent lunch.



Afternoon: Continue to Ireland's National Marian Shrine in Knock, County Mayo. The Story of Knock began on the evening of August 21, 1879, when the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of the church at Knock. Beside them was an altar with a cross and the figure of a lamb, around which angels hovered. There were fifteen official witnesses to the apparition who watched and prayed for two hours in the pouring rain. Since then, this Marian Shrine has attracted millions of pilgrims each year from all over the world. The special message of Knock is the need for penance.



Celebrate 3:00 p.m. scheduled Mass and blessing of the sick at the Basilica of Knock, sung by Corpus Christi Parish Choir.

Late afternoon, return to Galway.
 Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Galway. (B,D)

Day 4, June 20, Thursday: Burren Region | Cliffs of Moher | Medieval Castle Dinner

Morning: Irish breakfast at our hotel.
 This morning, ride through the most spectacular Burren Region. The area got its name from its polished limestone landscape ('Boirean' is the Irish word for rocky). The region was largely sculpted over the last two million years by glaciers, through the exposure and submergence of its landscape to ice, ocean, and the plate movements of the earth. The whole area, with its flora and fauna, is heaven for geologists and botanists. We will stop at the Cliffs of Moher, the most majestic cliffs in Ireland that rise over 700 feet from the Atlantic Ocean and extend for over four miles. From this height, admire the Aran Islands and the Connemara Mountains, and listen to the many sea birds that colonize this place from springtime on.

Afternoon: Independent lunch en-route.
 \ Continue to Ennis for hotel check-in.

Evening: **This evening, enjoy a medieval banquet at Bunratty Folk Park Castle. (Pending confirmation)** The world-famous medieval banquet is a testament to the cultural and social life of its former inhabitants. The ladies of the castle, aided and abetted by the Earl's butler, ensure an evening of entertainment, which follows in the best tradition of Irish hospitality. The wine flows as the entertainers recreate the magical atmosphere of the Earl's banquet through drama, music, and song.
 Overnight at the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis.
<https://www.oldgroundhotelennis.com/>



(B,D)

Day 5, June 21, Friday: Dingle Peninsula | Killarney | Evening Concert presentation at St. Mary's Church of Ireland

Morning: Irish breakfast at our hotel.
 This morning, head south through the Dingle Peninsula, one of Ireland's most popular coastal scenery drives. Dingle is the most northern of the Kerry peninsulas. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers plenty of opportunity for shopping or simply savoring the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets, and busy harbor.
 Independent lunch in Dingle.

Afternoon: Continue on the road around the Dingle Peninsula and pass through a chain of mountains, called Slieve Mish. From Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie *Ryan's Daughter*, admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. Drive around the coast to Slea Head. Here, the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands, deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Skellig islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The Dingle Peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colors and bewitch you with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes. We will visit Gallarus Oratory, the most impressive early Christian monument on the Dingle peninsula. It has withstood the passage of time for over 1200 years. Built in the shape of an upturned boat, the oratory formed part of a larger monastic site and was used as a place of prayer and reflection. Continue to Killarney for hotel check-in. Freshen-up.
We'll be transferred to St. Mary's Church of Ireland for rehearsal and evening Concert presented by Corpus Christi Parish Choir

Evening: Dinner and overnight at hotel in Killarney. (we need to split hotels) (B,D)
<https://www.thebrehon.com/>
<https://www.gleneaglehotel.com/>



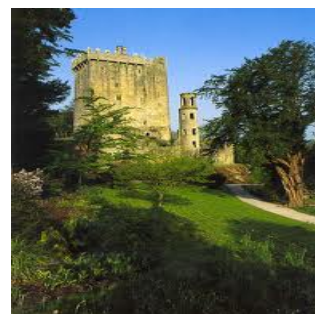
Day 6, June 22, Saturday: Molls Gap & Ladies View | Muckross House | Sung Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney

- Morning:** Irish breakfast at our hotel.
 Today we'll drive through the the Molls Gap and Ladies View, with superb views of Mac Gillycuddy's Reeks and the famous Lakes of Killarney. Continue on to visit Muckross House & Gardens. Muckross is a magnificent Victorian mansion built in 1843 and one of Ireland's leading stately homes. Built on the shores of Muckross Lake, it is beautifully situated amidst the spectacular scenery of Killarney National Park. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyle of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement one can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the house. The gardens of Muckross House are famed for their beauty worldwide. In particular they are noted for their collections of azaleas and rhododendrons. The extensive water garden, children's sunken garden, and outstanding rock garden, hewn out of natural limestone, are just some of the features to be discovered. Independent lunch and afternoon at leisure to enjoy Killarney.
At 5:30pm. Transfer to St. Mary's Cathedral for the 6:30 p.m. Vigil Sung by Corpus Christi Parish Choir.
- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at our hotels Killarney. (B,D)





Day 7, June 23, Sunday: Blarney Castle | Waterford | Kilkenny

- Morning:** Irish breakfast at our hotel. This morning, depart for County Cork to visit Blarney Castle, where you will feel compelled to kiss the Blarney Stone and gain the gift of eloquence, or as an 18th century French consul put it, to "gain the privilege of telling lies for seven years." The castle itself, a tower house, dates from 1446 and is built on solid limestone. Stop for shopping at Blarney Woolen Mills, which sells high quality Irish crafts. Continue to the city of Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland. A walled city of Viking origin, it retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th-century expansion. Visit the new Waterford Crystal Visitor Center. This manufacturing facility employs highly skilled local craftsmen and produces 40,000 crystal pieces per year using traditional methods. The factory tour will include the following traditional production areas: wooden mold making, crystal blowing, quality inspection and finishing, crystal cutting, crystal sculpting and engraving, chandelier assembly, and design inspiration. Independent lunch.
- Afternoon:** This afternoon, continue to Kilkenny, the Medieval capital of Ireland. The capital of County Kilkenny, the town of Kilkenny is often referred to as "the Marble City." It is the most interesting and best preserved of the medieval Irish cities. It owes its immense charm to the various impressive historical monuments. It is small and compact enough to explore on foot, yet full of fascinating historical buildings and contemporary shops, design galleries, and restaurants.
- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at hotel Kilkenny. (B,D)
<https://hotelkilkenny.ie/>



Day 8, June 24, Monday: Kilkenny Castle | Glendalough | Dublin

- Morning:** Irish breakfast at our hotel.
 Begin our day with a visit to Kilkenny Castle. One of the most instantly recognized buildings in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. William the Earl Marshall built the first stone castle on this site in 1260, a square-shaped castle with towers at each corner. Three of these original four towers survive to this day. The Butler family bought the castle in 1391 and lived there continuously until 1935. The castle lay vacant and in ruin until 1967, when it was given to the nation. It has been restored to a Victorian period and its long gallery again houses portraits of the Butler family. The castle has an excellent guided tour during which visitors learn about life in the castle over the many centuries of its existence. After our visit we'll leave Kilkenny for Glendalough.
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- Afternoon:** Independent lunch upon arrival.
 Tucked away in the Wicklow Hills, Glendalough is a valley of two lakes and a monastery of two saints. The latter of the pair is St. Laurence O'Toole, one of the few Irish saints to have been formally canonized. He was an abbot and builder of churches in the 12th century before he became Archbishop of Dublin. But it is the earlier of the two, St. Kevin, whom we most associate with Glendalough, for he was responsible for the foundation of the monastery, which expanded around his tomb after his death (allegedly at the biblical age of 120) around 618. The monastery has two foci, one at each of the two lakes in the valley. The upper one is simpler and more austere, evocative of the eremitical side of St. Kevin's life; the lower one has the more famous monuments and one of the best-preserved round towers in the country, the diminutive Priest's House, which is probably the saint's tomb-shrine.
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- Evening:** Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Dublin.
<https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/ireland/dublin>
<https://www.iveaghgardenhotel.ie/>

(B,D)

Better Alternative perhaps stay at Fitzpatrick Castle:

<https://www.fitzpatrickcastle.com/>

Day 9, June 25, Tuesday: Highlight Tour of Dublin | Concert Presentation at St. Patrick's Cathedral | Farewell Dinner at the Merry Ploughboy Pub

Morning:

Irish breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin**. First, we will discover the north side of the river Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, the Custom House along the quays, and Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's house can still be found. Visit Grafton Street, with its colorful doors and quality shops. Not far from St. Stephen's Green, on Kildare Street, we will see the house of



Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*. **Visit Trinity College to view the eighth-century illustrated manuscript, *The Book of Kells***, followed by a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Built in honor of Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick's Cathedral stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition says St. Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. St. Patrick's is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift (author of *Gulliver's Travels*). Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The chancel has ornate stained-glass windows and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St. Patrick, that adjoin the altar. The massive west towers house a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

Lunchtime concert presentation at St. Patrick's Cathedral, presented by Corpus Christi Parish Choir. Independent lunch.

Afternoon:

At Leisure to enjoy Dublin on your own. Option perhaps, you would like to visit EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum, a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House building in Dublin's Docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants.

Evening:

This evening, enjoy dinner and entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy Pub. Their lively show features contemporary Irish dancing and well-known guest artists. Fine food is a very important element. At the Merry Ploughboy Pub, youthful vibrancy has successfully combined with traditional craftsmanship to provide excellent evening entertainment.

Overnight at our hotel in Dublin.

(B,D)

Day 10, June 26, Wednesday: Return from Dublin

Morning:

Irish breakfast at our hotel. After breakfast, we will be transferred by coach to Dublin Airport for our flight home.