

# The Faith and Beauty of Ireland: Slow Down and Smell the Heather

Suggested Pilgrimage #2 (8 nights/10 days)

## Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Shannon

## Day 2

### Cliffs of Moher / Galway (D)

Arrive in Shannon

Meet your Faith Journeys Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach. Travel along the Cliffs of Moher to enjoy the spectacular views that attract over a million visitors a year

Continue to Galway via Corcomroe Abbey. The Abbey lies close to another monastic settlement, a group of three small early Christian Churches

Late afternoon check-in at the hotel

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

## Day 3

### Connemara (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit the Connemara Region, famous for its scenic lakes and mountains. See Lough Corrib (the second largest lake in Ireland) then proceed through Maam Cross to the village of Leenane and Kylemore Abbey

Lunch, on own

Explore Kylemore Abbey, a monastery founded in 1920 for Benedictine Nuns who fled Belgium in World War I. A craft shop, pottery studio, restaurant, and gardens also surround the Abbey. Stop at the Celtic Crystal Factory for a guided tour and glass cutting demonstration

Return to Galway for evening dinner and overnight

## Day 4

### Knock / Ballintubber Abbey (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

We will start the morning at the Shrine at Knock, often referred to the " Lourdes of Ireland". We will also see a portrayal of the aspects of rural life in Ireland at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century at Knock Museum

Lunch, on own

Visit Ballintubber Abbey, said to be the only church in Ireland founded by an Irish king that is still in regular use. Indeed, Mass has been celebrated here continually for almost 800 years even after damage during the reformation

Return to Galway for evening dinner and overnight

## Day 5

### Glenstal Abbey / Kerry (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart Galway and journey to Kerry

En-route, enjoy a tour and tea and scones at Glenstal Abbey, a Benedictine monastery dedicated to Saint Joseph and Saint Columba

Continue to Kerry for dinner and overnight



**Day 6****Ring of Kerry****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning we will enjoy mountains, peat bogs, lakes, cliffs, and magnificent views of the ocean all in one drive. We will start in Killarney and pass through Killorglin, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff byway affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula

Lunch, on own

Continue through Cahirciveen and Waterville to Sneem Village and the magnificent mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney

Return to Kerry region for time at leisure for additional sightseeing

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 7****Kerry / Waterford****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland. We will see Mount Melleray, a Cistercian monastery founded in 1833 and still fully functional. We will also visit Reginald's Tower and the oldest monument to retain its Viking name.

Lunch, on own

Waterford is known for Waterford Crystal, a legacy of the city's former glass making industry.

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 8****Dublin / Glendalough****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning we will stop at Glendalough en route to Dublin. This glacial valley is renowned for its Early Medieval Monastic settlement founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by the hermit priest, St. Kevin

Lunch, on own

The extensive ruins of Glendalough include several early churches, a graceful round tower, and various sites associated with the life of St. Kevin

Continue to Dublin for evening dinner and overnight

**Day 9****Dublin****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a panoramic tour of vibrant, soulful Dublin. We will visit O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, Trinity College, and Christchurch Cathedral

Lunch, on own

Visit the Guinness Brewery, Europe's largest stout producing brewery which opened in 1904. We'll learn about the craft and passion of brewing and enjoy perusing the retail store, gallery, and exhibition area, as well as sampling the wares at the restaurant and bars.

Farewell dinner and overnight

**Day 10****Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Dublin Airport for return flight



***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable

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