



*Moments full of History, Elegance, Music and Magic  
In the South East of Ireland  
August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

***Ireland ~ from the sacred to the profane (and a lot in between)  
Abbeys, Pubs, Castles, Monasteries, and, of course, the music that weaves  
Through it all and is the **SOUL OF IRELAND*****

*~Lareen Kunze*

#### **Thursday August, 28th~ Depart Chicago (O'Hare) for Dublin, Ireland**

Packed and ready to go, passports in hand and a journey of a lifetime ahead. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing for our overnight flight. Dinner and a continental breakfast will be served en route. If sleep does not come easy, there will be a film available for your viewing.

#### **Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Dublin airport arrival, Dublin City Tour**

**“Cead Mile Failte!”** (One hundred thousand welcomes!!!) Upon clearing customs, we will be met by our coach driver/guide who with his outstanding wit, humor, song and passion for his country which he portrays in song and storytelling will start us on our journey.

We will leave the Dublin airport behind and head toward the city to take a tour of the history, culture, legendary literary tradition, shops, pubs and restaurants, Dublin has it all. After our tour, we will have time to unwind in our elegant, award winning Merrion Hall Hotel. We will have dinner in one of the finer restaurants that is close to our hotel, after which you may want to walk around in the evening air and take in a pub or two before retiring for the evening.

**Dinner and overnight: Merrion Hall Hotel**



#### **Saturday, August 30th~ New Grange, Monasterboice**

This morning begins with a full Irish breakfast at our hotel. Then we board our motorcoach and head North towards Drogheda where we will visit New Grange. The Megalithic Passage Tomb at Newgrange was built about 3200 B.C., It is one of the most remarkable sites in Europe. The kidney shaped mound covers an area of over one acre and is surrounded by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 19 meter long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. It is estimated that the construction of the Passage Tomb at Newgrange would have taken a work force of 300 at least 20 years.

The passage and chamber of Newgrange are illuminated by the winter solstice sunrise. A shaft of sunlight shines through the roof box over the entrance and penetrates the passage to light up the chamber. The dramatic event lasts for 17 minutes at dawn from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.

On to Monasterboice, near Drogheda, was founded by St. Buite, a disciple of St. Patrick, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century. It is one of Ireland's most famous religious sights, which includes the ruins of the medieval monastery and two fine high crosses.

We will return to the year 2008 and the vibrant city of Dublin. The rest of the day is on your own, there are many pubs, shops, restaurants and places of interest in the area. The bus service and Dart are next to our hotel for transportation to the city or any other events you may want to visit. Check out [www.visitdublin.com](http://www.visitdublin.com) for any theater or shows you may want to experience.

**Overnight: Merrion Hall Hotel**

### **Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> Dunmore East**

Another full Irish Breakfast at our hotel and we are on our way to Dunmore East. We will head inland a bit through the towns of Kildare and Kilkenny. Kilkenny is an extraordinary meeting point for ancient history and contemporary culture. For those of you who just love castles, we will tour Kilkenny Castle, one of the most magnificent in Ireland; it was established by the Normans who arrived in the city during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. On to Dunmore East, a small fishing village whose surrounding area has been inhabited since before the Iron Age. Dunmore East is one of the South East most picturesque fishing villages. Our accommodation is just across the way from sandy beaches that invite you to take a swim or stroll with views of thatched cottages, and a busy fishing harbor which together creates a peaceful and relaxing ambiance. Golf is also available upon request. There are several restaurants within walking distance for dinner on our own this evening.

**Overnight – Beach House Hotel**

### **Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Kinsale**

After breakfast at our Hotel we can make a stop at the Waterford Glass factory for anyone who might want to purchase a bit of crystal before we drive through the towns of Dungarvan and Youghal on our way to Kinsale. Kinsale is one of the prettiest small towns in Ireland. It is famed for the wonderful food and known as the “Culinary Capital” of Ireland. After checking into our Waterfront Hotel, you can get out and explore this charming town. We will gather for dinner at the Savannah Waterfront Restaurant located in our hotel and enjoy some of the culinary delights with sea views in the background.

**Dinner and overnight: Trident Hotel**



### **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Blarney Castle and Woolen Mills**

After a full Irish Breakfast, we will travel through Cork City to Blarney, where you have the option of climbing to the top of Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone or spending time at the Blarney Woolen Mills. Legend connects kissing the Blarney Stone with the gift of eloquence, however, if you have a fear of heights and tight enclosed stairways that spiral to the top 85 feet up, you may want to consider just shopping in the world famed Woolen Mills – an adventure in itself. We will return to our quaint town of Kinsale for an afternoon and evening on your own. Remember, Kinsale is known for “culinary delights” many of these fabulous restaurants, pubs and wine bars are located on the charming main street.

**Overnight: Trident Hotel**

**Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Skibbereen, Kenmare** A delightful breakfast at our hotel and alas, we bid our lovely Kinsale farewell. Anyone who has read *The Great Hunger* by Cecil Woodham-Smith will appreciate a stop to the Skibbereen Heritage Centre. The

Heritage Centre is located in the award winning, beautifully restored old Gasworks building. In Skibbereen, one of West Cork's most picturesque towns, **The Great Famine Commemoration Exhibition** commemorates the tragic period in the 1840's that is known in Irish History as the Great Hunger, Skibbereen was one of the worst affected areas, and the events of the era are depicted using local characters and events. On to Kenmare by way of Bantry Bay, the largest natural harbor in Europe, and is bathed in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Kenmare is a tiny, magical town full of pubs, shops, and friendly locals. Our Hotel, The Lansdowne Arms Hotel was built in the 1790's and is owned by the Quill family. Relax and enjoy the atmosphere in front of open fires, we will gather later in the early evening for dinner and discuss our journey thus far.

**Overnight and Dinner: Lansdowne Arms Hotel**



#### **Thursday, September 4th ~ Ring of Kerry, Killarney**

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast at our hotel; be sure to take some final pictures of the lovely town of Kenmare before we depart. Keep your cameras ready for some spectacular photos as we tour the famous Ring of Kerry. We will pass through towns by the name of Waterville and Sneem and make several photo stops along the way. Our elegant hotel is set in the heart of the charming town Killarney (**Cill A'irne**, The church of the slopes. Killarney is Ireland's best-known tourist destination and probably the most written-about and sung-about place in the land. The Plaza hotel has a lovely pool and spa area for your comfort after our busy day. We gather together for a delicious dinner in the Blue Pool Room. After dinner, we will enjoy music, song and dance at the famed **Liam O'Connor** show.

**Dinner & Overnight Killarney Plaza Hotel**

#### **Friday September 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Rest and unwind**

My, how time does fly, we are almost to the end of our tour. Today is a good day to rest and relax in our beautiful accommodations. You can plan your day, there is golf, horse back riding, shopping, walking tours, ([www.killarneyguidedwalks.com](http://www.killarneyguidedwalks.com)) pubs and several restaurants for your exploring. There is shuttle service from the hotel into town; however, if you want to enjoy the night life till the late hours, you may have to catch a cab back to the hotel as it is about a 2 mile hike. For things to do in the area check out: [www.corkkerry.ie](http://www.corkkerry.ie). We can also arrange for an organized tour through the Gap of Dunloe. Amid mountains and lake lands, the Gap of Dunloe is situated about six miles west of Killarney. Some of you may want to tour the beautiful Muckross House and Gardens, there is a lovely tea room for lunch and a shop with beautiful Muckross scarves and many other delights. There are many pubs and restaurants just outside the Hotel to choose from for dinner on your own this evening.

**Overnight: Killarney Plaza Hotel**

#### **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Glenstal Abbey, Limerick**

We will gather for another scrumptious breakfast, although we are "so in love" with our surroundings we must move on for our final day of adventure. We head towards Limerick, the setting for Frank McCourt's award winning memoir, *Angela's Ashes*. Many get to visit and stay in Castles while on a tour, but few get to tour a real Benedictine Monastery – we will get to do this. **Glenstal Abbey**, a Benedictine monastery in County

Limerick. A 500 acre estate with streams, lakes and woodland paths surrounds a castle built in the romantic Norman style. There will be time to walk the grounds, tour the Abbey and just take in the beauty and harmony of this place of worship. Donations are always appreciated and used for a good cause. With peace in our hearts we will settle in for our final evening at the charming CarryGerry Country family owned House that was built in 1793 near Shannon. We can do our final packing and then get out and stroll about this quaint, tranquil setting before we have dinner together and share once again all of the fun and adventure we have had. There are pubs within walking distance if you feel the need to chat and have a pint with the locals before our departure tomorrow morning.

**Dinner and Overnight: CarryGerry Country House**

### **Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> , ~ Depart for Home**

Departing Ireland is never easy; you will leave a part of your heart behind for sure. Take time to pack and linger over a gracious breakfast. We will depart from the Shannon Airport, where there is a grand duty free shopping area in case you forgot to buy something. You can also hand in your tax-back and tax-free paperwork. We will board our flight home, settle in our seats and relive our time in Ireland. It is our hope that you were able to experience part of the Magic that is Ireland and that you will one day return to this Beautiful, Mystical Land.

**Safe Home**

**Land Only Price: \$2350.00**

**Single supplement \$300.00**

**Deposit to hold space \$400.00**

(Air can be arranged through I. Travel, Inc.)

#### **The Fare Includes**

10 day land tour (9 nights)

- ~Transport by luxury motor coach with a driver/guide (one man)
- ~Nine nights' first class hotels and guest houses with private bath
- ~Full Irish breakfast daily
- ~Five dinners

(Four ad'hote dinners at overnight hotels  
One dinner at an upscale restaurant in Dublin)

~Admission to:

NewGrange & Monasterboise  
Kilkenny Castle and Blarney Castle  
Skibereen Heritage Center  
Liam O'Connor Show

- ~Services of an experienced Irish driver/guide
- ~Porterage of one suitcase per person
- ~Services of your tour Manager
- ~Trip Insurance for **Land Portion Only**

*[I. Travel Inc. 22 Crissey Ave. Geneva, IL ~Mobile 815-712-9048 ~ask for Martha Conover](http://www.packlight.com)*  
*[www.packlight.com](http://www.packlight.com)*