

“Into the West”

The New Barleycorn

September 10 – 20, 2022

Saturday September 10th: Departure

Today we start our journey by flying on an overnight flight across the Atlantic sea to Ireland.

Sunday September 11th: Welcome to Ireland!

This morning we land in **Shannon Airport**. Once you go through passport control, collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where you will be met by one of our **private transfer** representatives who will take you to the hotel and enjoy your first full Irish breakfast.

You will then have the afternoon to relax and enjoy at your own leisure. **Bunratty** is an adorable village known as a shopper’s paradise with everything you could wish for.

The Blarney Woolen Mills store sells a wide selection of Irish gifts including Waterford Crystal, Belleek China, Irish Aran knit wear, jewelry, linen and tweeds.

We will then meet for a beautiful **welcome cocktail reception** at our hotel.

Overnight: [Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty](#)



Monday September 12th: Dingle Dolphin Tour, Dingle Distillery and Killarney



After your morning meal, we will drive south to County Kerry. Our first visit is to the charming seaside town of **Dingle**. Here we board a boat to tour the stunning bay and meet its most famous resident – **Fungie**, a magical bottle-nosed dolphin that has made Dingle his home. Have you ever met an Irish Dolphin? Well today will be quite the fun experience. He will delight adults and children alike with his games and play beside your boat. No holiday in Dingle is complete without a magical boat

tour out to see him and to soak in the stunning scenery in abundance that awaits you too.

Next we will stop at the **Dingle Distillery** to enjoy a tour of our facility where the entire production process is explained, and a gin/vodka sample is provided. The distillery tour will give you an introduction into Irish whiskey and into the Dingle Distillery. Later, we will check into our hotel – be prepared! The Lake Hotel enjoys the most magnificent setting with the truly unique backdrop of the mountains, islands, and the 12th century McCarthy Mor castle ruins. Tonight, we enjoy dinner at the hotel in this incredible setting.

Overnight & Dinner: [The Lake Hotel, Killarney](#)

Tuesday September 13th: Ring of Kerry and Evening Performance

After enjoying breakfast in our wonderful surroundings, we will set out on one of Ireland's most beautiful and scenic drives – **the Ring of Kerry**. It circles the impressive Mountain Range called the MacGillycuddy Reeks, which are the highest mountains in Ireland. At the base of the mountains you have the truly mystical Lakes of Killarney and landscapes carved out of rock by the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. The coastline is where you will find some of the most spectacular beaches in Ireland. The Ring of Kerry also



offers an insight into the ancient heritage of Ireland with the Iron Age Forts & Ogham Stones, Old Monasteries and many more interesting sites. Our day around the Ring of Kerry will include a stop at **Ladies View** – called after Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting, who were so taken with the view during their royal visit in 1861, that it was named after them! Afterwards, we will go back to our hotel to get ready for dinner and the **first performance from The New Barleycorn!**

Overnight & Dinner: [The Lake Hotel, Killarney](#)

Wednesday September 14th: Enjoy Killarney and a Jaunting Car Ride



This morning after an included breakfast, step back in time and experience Ireland's most traditional mode of transport with a jaunting car tour/ horse and carriage.

The tours operate where no motor traffic is permitted- offering you a unique tour. As you ramble along on your tour you are informed of the history, legends and folklore of the area – with some Irish wit thrown in for good measure!!

After your jaunting cart ride, you are free to enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening in the lively town of Killarney. Discover some of its delightful restaurants and lively pubs.

Overnight: [The Lake Hotel, Killarney](#)

Thursday September 15th: Aillwee Cave and Falconry Show

This morning following a delicious Irish breakfast, we bid farewell to Killarney and head north to Westport. On route we visit **Aillwee Cave**, one of the most ancient caves in the Burren and perhaps in Ireland. The story of Aillwee Cave began millions of years ago when the landscape was very different to that which we see today. They began to form when streams sinking underground on Aillwee Mountain started dissolving channels through the lines of weakness in the limestone. The earliest history of the cave is preserved in its roof. Marvel at the frozen waterfall and explore the hibernation chambers of long-extinct brown bears.



We will also visit the **Birds of Prey Center** at the Aillwee cave which has been educating and entertaining visitors with dynamic flying displays set against the dramatic Burren Landscape. The mission of the Centre is to aid the conservation of Birds of Prey through visitor awareness and education, whilst actively fundraising for raptor conservation monitoring efforts within Ireland. Afterwards, we will continue to County Mayo and the lively town of Westport. This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

Overnight & Dinner : [Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport](#)

Friday September 16th: Crough Patrick and Glen Keen far & Performance

After breakfast this morning, we will travel to **Crough Patrick**, a place of ancient history, **Patrick's sacred mountain**. Magnificent views of Clew Bay and the surrounding Mayo countryside are to be had from all stages of the ascent of the mountain. Follow the steps of Patrick and in doing so meet people from far and near. Crough Patrick's history as a place of worship reaches back in time as far as 3,000 BC.





The mountain's popularity among religious pilgrims' dates to the time of St. Patrick, who is said to have completed a forty-day Lenten ritual of fasting and penance here.

Next we will head to **Glen Keen Farms** which is one of Ireland's largest working sheep farms. The Farm is equipped with a beautiful

purpose-built visitor center, craft shop and cafe. On site we will enjoy a demonstration of Sheep Dog Herding, Traditional Turf Cutting, some Irish music and delicious tea and scones. Save some energy for tonight's performance from **The New Barleycorn**.

Overnight & Dinner: [Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport](#)

Saturday September 17th: Achill Island, Achill Distillery and Exploring Westport



After a lovely breakfast, we set off to **Achill Island**, an area among the most remote and scenic areas in Ireland. Some of the roads that follow the coastline of Achill boast some of the most spectacular views of the area known as 'The Atlantic Drive'. We will also see the Deserted Village – a reminder of the 1840s Famine, consisting of 80-100 stone cottages located along a mile stretch of road on the southern slopes of Slievemore Mountain.

Sit back and take in the magnificent scenery – mountains, lakes and miles of rugged coastline with refreshing Atlantic sea breezes.

Afterwards we will visit **Achill Island Distillery** for a tour where you will be able to experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of a fully operational distillery on a guided tour, followed by a range of tasting options, to suit all tastes from whiskey beginners to connoisseurs.

We return to our hotel in the afternoon where you are free for the rest of the day. Check out some of Westport's best restaurants and pubs for your dinner on own tonight.

Overnight: [Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport](#)

Sunday September 18th: Ballintubber Abbey and Quiet Man Museum

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we will make a stop to visit **Ballintubber Abbey**. Among the medieval religious foundations whose ruins dot the Irish countryside, the Abbey is unique. This remarkable Abbey is the only church in Ireland where, for 800 years, Mass has been offered without a break. Experience for yourself the story of “the Abbey that refused to die”. Spend some time to savor the atmosphere of quiet contemplation in the grounds, incorporating strands of Celtic Spirituality.



Next we will make our way to Cong where we will stop to visit **the Quiet Man Museum** which is an exact replica of the exterior of White O'Morn, the ancestral cottage bought by Sean Thornton on his return to Ireland. The Museum is also an exact replica of the White O'Morn interior, which was a Hollywood set. Afterwards we continue to the 'City of Tribes' - Galway. After a panoramic tour of the city, we check into our

centrally located hotel. You are then free to explore this bustling city and dinner this evening. Stroll up along Shop Street, a cobblestoned pedestrian street lined with lively pubs and restaurants, shops, bookstores and street entertainers.

Overnight: [Park House Hotel, Galway](#)

Monday September 19th: Galway Pub and Craft Beer Tour

This morning we are free most of the day to explore Galway which is one of the brightest and most intriguing jewels of West Ireland. It marks the halfway point on the Wild Atlantic Way and is the only city on the entire 2500 km route. The city is wild and bohemian, and at the same time full of culture, artistry, exceptional food and music. As well as being popular seaside destination with long sandy beaches, Galway is also a thriving and cosmopolitan city center. Afterwards we will be offering a **Galway Pub and Craft Beer Tour**.



During this tour, we will walk you around Galway and take you to four of our favorite craft beer venues and amazing pubs in different parts of Galway city. The places we visit will vary slightly depending upon the time of the tour, but we promise to take you to some sound venues and introduce you to tasty Irish Craft Beer. Our main focus is to showcase the breweries from the West of Ireland as much as possible, but we'll include fabulous beer from all across Ireland, too!

This evening we get together at a local pub for our **last performance with The New Barleycorn** followed by dinner at our hotel.

Overnight & Dinner: [Park House Hotel, Galway](#)

Tuesday September 20th: Homeward Bound

Pack your bags and head for **Shannon 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 a Hundred Thousand Welcomes' will be expecting you again soon.

→CLICK [HERE](#) FOR PRICING AND THE REQUIRED RESERVATION FORM.



**TRAVEL
CONCEPTS**

For information contact:

Chris Celorier, Travel Concepts

Kelly Short, Travel Concepts

Email: groups@travelconcept.com

Phone: 508 879-8600

www.travelconcept.com

Hotel Information:

September 11 Bunratty- Castle Hotel Bunratty Tel: 353 61 478 700

September 12, 13, 14 Killarney – The Lake Hotel Tel: 353 64 663 1035

September 15, 16, 17 Westport – Westport Plaza – Tel: 353 98 51166

September 18, 19, 20 Galway – The Park House Hotel – Tel: +353 91 564 924