



Megan Allen Tour

May 2 - 11, 2014

Itinerary

Fri, May 2

UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Sat, May 3

DUBLIN ARRIVAL & STROKESTOWN HOUSE

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Then your CIE Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Stop at The Coachman's Inn in the town of Roscommon and enjoy an Irish style breakfast. Continue through the countryside to Strokestown to visit the Strokestown Park House which dates from the 17th century. This fine mansion shows the lifestyle of the affluent owners and also the conditions of the servants and farmers of the area, particularly during the Famine era of the 1840s when many Irish emigrated to the United States. The Museum of the Famine shows a large collection of documents relating to conditions during that dreadful time. Then check into your hotel and spend the balance of the day free to relax and settle in before dinner.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT HOTEL, DONEGAL

Sun, May 4

DONEGAL AT LEISURE

Enjoy some leisure time in Donegal where the entire day is free for independent pursuits. In the evening join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT HOTEL, DONEGAL

Mon, May 5

GALWAY PANORAMIC

This morning drive to Galway and embark on a panoramic tour to see the principal sights of the city. A drive around will take you to the large modern cathedral set on an island on the River Corrib. See the Spanish Arch in the Claddagh area, formerly a fishing village, the City Museum, National University of Galway and the Cathedral of Our Lady, which is built on the site of the former county jail. Then drive along the countryside to Lahinch and check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

OVERNIGHT: LAHINCH GOLF & LEISURE CLUB, LAHINCH

Tue, May 6

FOYNES MUSEUM & DINGLE

This morning there will be some time for golfers to play a round in the morning if interested. The rest of the group will drive to the coast of Clare to view the Cliffs of Moher. This impressive wall of rock rises to almost 700 feet above the foaming Atlantic breakers. Return to Lahinch to pick up the rest of the group and take a short ferry ride across the River Shannon Estuary to Tarbert. Drive east to the town of Foynes and visit the Foynes Flying Boat Museum. During the 1930s and early 1940s, the port of Foynes was the fulcrum point for air traffic between the United States and Europe. The famous flying boats were frequent visitors, carrying passengers who ranged from celebrities to refugees. The Foynes museum recalls the era with a comprehensive range of exhibits and graphic illustrations. Enjoy Irish coffee with your fellow travelers. From Foynes, journey south into the mountainous country of Kerry and out along the Dingle Peninsula to reach Dingle town. Upon arrival check into your hotel and enjoy some time to settle in before dinner.

Tonight you will enjoy dinner at The South Pole Inn with your group.

OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL, DINGLE

Wed, May 7

DINGLE PENINSULA TOUR & DINGLE BREWERY

Today discover the beauties of the Dingle Peninsula, made famous by David Lean's movie, "Ryan's Daughter." Drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach and rocky headlands. There will be frequent stops at strategic locations to admire the views and take photos. At the base of Conor Pass, stop at the Dingle Brewing company. Learn about the brewery's rich and varied past before sampling a pint of this local lager. Continue your drive on to the western tip of the peninsula. Here the scenery becomes wilder as the influence of the open Atlantic Ocean strengthens. You will pass early Christian monastic beehive huts and small fishing villages. Return to Dingle in time to dine on your own.

OVERNIGHT: DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL, DINGLE

Thu, May 8

BANTRY BAY & KINSALE

Leaving Dingle travel through the lovely mountain scenery to Glengarriff and Bantry Bay where the mild climate allows sub-tropical vegetation to thrive. Continue along the coast through peaceful fishing towns to Kinsale, nowadays a popular yachting center. Upon checking into your hotel enjoy some free time to settle in or explore the scenery and Irish pubs. This evening you will join your group for dinner at the White House Restaurant in Kinsale.

OVERNIGHT: ACTONS HOTEL, KINSALE

Fri, May 9

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

This morning visit The Kinsale Garden of Remembrance which was established by a Kinsale lady, Kathleen Cait Murphy who worked as a nurse for over 30 years in New York City. During that time she came to admire the work of the firemen and was shocked at the deaths of 343 people who died in 9/11. As a result she decided to provide a memorial in Ireland, on her land at Ringfinnan, Kinsale, with a tree for each of the firemen who died as well as one for their chaplain Father Michael Judge who was a personal friend of hers. Since the garden was planted many relatives and friends of the dead have come to visit and leave prayers, photographs and flowers. Stop for a visit to Ringaskiddy which is a village on the western tip of Cork Harhour. After your visit return to your hotel and enjoy the balance of the afternoon and evening free for independent pursuits.

OVERNIGHT: ACTONS HOTEL, KINSALE

Sat, May 10

DUBLIN

Depart Kinsale this morning and travel northeast via the outskirts of Cork city and drive through the midland region where you will see many farms and marketing towns. Your route will take you past the towns of Portlaoise and Kildare and into the metropolitan area of Dublin. Check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

OVERNIGHT: ASHLING HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sun, May 11

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

All too soon, your vacation in Ireland has come to the end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your aircraft and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.