

Irish Byways

P.O. Box 897, River Falls, WI 54022

Website: www.irishbyways.com Email: irishbyways@yahoo.com Phone: 920 850 2789

Greetings! We are pleased you are planning on touring the Republic of Ireland with us!

Each Irish Byways group is led by brilliant guides with thorough knowledge of the areas covered by the tours. Dave Hogan, our guide for “Landscape & Lore, Music & Myth” and also our “University Study Tour”, leads us into the remote and largely untouched region known as Connemara. Our overnights will be primarily in the Clifden on the Atlantic coast. Here we travel through three counties of geological and historical significance: Clare, Galway and Mayo.

Garry Jones, Kate Hennessy and Timothy Dobson, our guides for “Pilgrimage to the Otherworld”, take us on a spiritual journey to significant sacred sites through the center of Ireland including Counties of Clare, Galway, Mayo, Offaly, Westmeath, Meath, Longford, Roscommon, and Sligo.

In the past five years, tour manager, Carolyn Germaine, has welcomed many travelers to the tours. Their testimonies, including published poetry, journal articles, and paintings reflect the depth of their experience.

All tours offer a relaxed pace with typical days beginning about 10 a.m. and daily excursions often ending by 5 p.m. We have been told repeatedly that the pace is just right.

We think so too and welcome your decision to journey with us!

To reserve your place on one of our ten day in-Ireland tours, please complete and return the six page Traveler Application Form which follows here (five months in advance of your tour is highly recommended) with \$200 down payment to “Irish Byways”. P.O. Box 897, River Falls, WI 54022

(We suggest you keep a copy of this form for your own records.)

Tour Costs cover:

- 10 overnight stays at high quality B&Bs/Guest Houses with traditional Irish hospitality
- Professional in-Ireland bus service throughout the tour
- Knowledgeable guides
- Experienced managers
- All breakfasts, one lunch at Brigit's Garden, three ample bagged lunches, two festive evening meals
- A special Music Night planned by Irish Byways with local musicians
- Intimate meetings with local artists, musicians, storytellers/historians
- A boat trip to an island of historical significance
- All entry fees to special sites

Not covered in Tour Cost:

- Airfare and in-Ireland travel insurance (described below)
- Personal choice expenses (taxis and additional activities such as horseback riding)

NOTE: Irishbyways reserves the right to substitute any activity depending on availability or weather conditions

Brief Review of some travel matters:**Packing and Baggage:**

- Pack light in one mid-large size suitcase, plus a regular carry-on, purse and/or fanny pack.
- No over-sized large suitcases which become burdensome and complicate travel
- **IMPORTANT:** Contact your airline in advance for limits on luggage weight, fees for luggage and size for carry-on luggage. Be informed about any restrictions on what is acceptable to pack: liquids, lotions, metals, sharp objects, etc. You do not want to miss your flight.
- Bring rainproof hiking boots and an extra pair of indoor shoes
- Bring a long rainproof coat with hood or hat.
- Except for summer months, often needed are long underwear, wool socks, wool sweater and neck scarf for protection from wind and rain.
- Plan for casual attire throughout the tour.
- Bring a collapsible bag to hold newly purchased items
- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Bring a small amount of hand laundry soap. There are no washing machines at B&Bs.
- B&B's provide alarm clocks and hair dryers

Pack as your needs require and consider wearing your bulkiest clothing on the flight.

Bring your own Song, Poetry, Story to share on Music Night if you wish.

Travel Documents: No visas are required for US citizens. Bring valid passport and a photo copy backup.

Credit and Debit Cards are preferred. Travelers checks are not. Remember to notify your bank and credit card company of your intentions to travel abroad.

When you arrive at the airport you may withdraw Euro cash with your debit card.

Cash machines are easily found on the streets. Be sure to have an additional way to access your cash in case your debit card becomes inactive while in Ireland!

Phones and internet use are mostly not available at B&Bs. If you wish to call home, you may purchase an international calling card in Ireland for use with pay phones.

Meals: Plan for a high estimate of 30-40 Euro for one day's meals (lunch and dinner).

Irish Byways Traveler Application Form

Please return this six page application to Irish Byways, PO Box 897, River Falls, WI 54022

Keep a copy for your own records.

Questions: Contact us at 920 850 2789 or through our website or email

irishbyways@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Physician and Contact Information: _____

Names, addresses and phone numbers of two USA family contacts in case of emergency:

1. _____

2. _____

All travelers should be in good health and enjoy an average level of fitness. While walking is moderate on some uneven and rocky terrain, pauses for interpretation allow for rest and enjoyment of scenes and photography along the way. On most days, travelers may, if they wish, choose an alternative recommended by *Irish Byways*.

Any Medications, Health Issues or Dietary Restrictions:

Please check your tour choice of Irish Byways 2009 – 2010 Tour Schedule

Join one of our scheduled tours (below) OR schedule your choice of tour dates with your own group of 24-30 travelers. All tours are ten days in-Ireland, beginning on morning of arrival date and not including departure date. To apply for a tour:

1. Notify us of your interest by phone 920 850 2789 or through our website
2. If openings remain on your choice of tour, you will be invited to complete our Traveler Application Form.
3. After your Application is accepted with \$200 down payment, and after the tour has been filled/guaranteed, then you will be advised to purchase your plane ticket.
4. While no tour has ever been cancelled, do not purchase your plane ticket until you are notified that the tour is advancing.

Landscape & Lore, Music & Myth 2009 -2010 Tours with Dave Hogan, guide

() LANDSCAPE, LORE, MUSIC, MYTH (Tour One)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Sunday, August 2, 2009

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Wednesday, August 12, 2009

() LANDSCAPE, LORE, MUSIC, MYTH (Tour Two)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Friday, September 4, 2009

() LANDSCAPE, LORE, MUSIC, MYTH (Tour Three)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Monday, July 19, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Thursday, July 29, 2010

() LANDSCAPE, LORE, MUSIC, MYTH (Tour Four)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Sunday, August 1, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Pilgrimage to the Other World 2010 Tours

with Garry Jones, Kate Hennessy, Timothy Dobson, guides

() PILGRIMAGE TO THE OTHERWORLD (Tour One)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Monday, April 12, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Thursday, April 22, 2010

() PILGRIMAGE TO THE OTHERWORLD (Tour Two)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Monday, April 26, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Depart Thursday, May 6, 2010

() PILGRIMAGE TO THE OTHERWORLD (Tour Three)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Sunday, August 15, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Wednesday, August 25, 2010

() PILGRIMAGE TO THE OTHERWORLD (Tour Four)

Arrive Shannon Airport the morning of Sunday, August 29, 2010

Depart Shannon Airport the morning of Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Securing Flights:

- Irish Byways meets travelers at the Shannon Airport and continues to offer transportation following the itinerary including returning travelers to the airport for departure at end of tour. Therefore the tour begins at the Shannon Airport and ends at Shannon Airport when travelers depart the tour..
- It is the responsibility of each traveler to secure their own roundtrip flight and the cost of the flight is not included in the tour fee. **IMPORTANT:** Once you are notified by Irish Byways that your application has been accepted and the group has been filled, you may then secure your flight.
- Note that the departure and arrival dates are not the same when you secure an overnight flight, as you arrive the day after you leave the USA (other departure countries vary).
- Travelers are required to choose a flight with a morning arrival time on day one of the tour. If your flight is delayed beyond noon, Irish Byways takes responsibility to meet you at the airport at the delayed arrival time but, at that point, travelers must pay for their own taxi to join the group staying less than 30 minutes from the Airport.
- Travelers are asked to provide a copy of their flight itinerary at least one month before departure date.

Your signature here indicates that you have read and understand this section on securing flights. If anything is unclear, please contact irishbyways@yahoo.com or 920 850 2789 before signing.

Travel Insurance (coverage *during* tour) Travelers are required to carry in-Ireland travel insurance to provide the level of protection needed if a medical emergency of any nature should arise. Such insurance is required for protection against unforeseen circumstances which may also cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip. The insurance must cover the possibility for airlift, medical care and hospitalization in Ireland. It also must cover the possibility of an emergency flight for care at home. You may visit www.insuremytrip.com to compare travel insurance policies and reasonable fees. A copy of your travel insurance will be requested by Irish Byways one month before departure. Irish Byways is a small business with limited tours and cannot bear the cost of such insurance for travelers.

Your signature here indicates that you have read and understand this section on travel insurance. If anything is unclear, please contact us irishbyways@yahoo.com or 920 850 2789 before signing.

Accommodations:

Your Choice of Accommodations:

- Single Room, with 15 Euro additional cost to traveler per night
- Room for two – circle: (twin beds) (dbl. bed) (either is fine)
- Room for three or four (always spacious)

My choice of roommate(s): _____

I am willing to be matched with another traveler yes no

Please note: Travelers with sleep disorders are requested to reserve a single room OR plan to sleep outside with the fairies.

Smoking and Alcoholic Beverages:

In Ireland, the Guinness is fine! Travelers who enjoy alcoholic beverages are asked to drink in moderation. Smoking is prohibited on all of our tours.

If inappropriate behavior of a traveler repeatedly interrupts or threatens the pleasure of the tour for other travelers, managers or guides, and a warning is not heeded, Irish Byways reserves the right to terminate contract with the traveler mid-tour at traveler's expense.

Note of Caution:

Traffic flows in opposite direction in Ireland. Consequently it is quite easy to look in the wrong direction for oncoming traffic when stepping into the street. Please be attentive and use caution in looking in both directions before entering a street on foot.

Your signature here indicates that you have read and understand this section on alcoholic beverages, smoking, courteous behavior and note of caution.

If anything is unclear, please contact us irishbyways@yahoo.com or 920 850 2789 before signing.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

In the unlikely event that the tour is canceled due to circumstances beyond the control of Irish Byways, Irish Byways shall have no responsibility other than the full refund of all deposits paid by travelers. Airfare and travel insurance not included.

**TRAVELER PAYMENT SCHEDULE
PLUS CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION POLICY**

Tour costs have been based on one Euro = \$1.40. Two weeks before departure, if Euro exceeds \$1.40, a cost adjustment will be calculated regarding only accommodations and tour bus expenses, billed to travelers and due to Irish Byways on arrival in Shannon.

I agree to this payment schedule:

\$200 (non-refundable) due with Traveler Application Form

\$1,000 due five months before departure date

Balance due four months before departure date

If a traveler cancels participation in this tour, the following charges will be assessed:

Canceling more than four months or 120 days before departure date: Full refund less \$200 down payment. Canceling less than four months or 120 days before departure date: There is no refund.

However: You may substitute a person in place of yourself for a \$150 administrative fee with the understanding that their arrival time is by noon the morning of day one of the tour.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS OF ANY KIND.

NOTE: Participation in this tour, constitutes acceptance of the above noted terms and conditions.

Traveler Signature _____ Date: _____

Please review and contact Irish Byways if you have any questions or suggested revisions before signing.

Irish Byways: 920 850 2789 irishbyways@yahoo.com

Disclaimer and Waiver of Responsibility:

Please review and contact Irish Byways if you have any questions or suggested revisions before signing.
Irish Byways: 920 850 2789 irishbyways@yahoo.com

Irish Byways is responsible for arranging all in-Ireland ground transportation, accommodations and other services as offered by www.irishbyways.com

In traveling with Irish Byways, I agree that Irish Byways shall not be liable for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property in connection with any transportation, any off-path walking/ hiking, accommodations, or other services resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrence or condition beyond Irish Byways control, including but not limited to defects, breakdown of equipment, acts of God, acts of governments or other authorities, wars, or civil disturbances. Irish Byways is not responsible for incidental or consequential losses or damages. It is understood that all accommodations, services, and facilities are subject to the laws and customs of the countries in which these accommodations, services and facilities are rendered. Unforeseen conditions may necessitate tour changes and the right is reserved to make such changes and alter the tour as deemed advisable.

Services in connection with the in-Ireland trip are rendered by suppliers acting as independent contractors and not as agents or employees of Irish Byways. The aforementioned conditions apply equally to the individuals or companies providing services for this tour. These providers can assume no responsibility for any loss, injury, or damage to participants or their property in connection with any aspect of this tour.

NOTE: Participation in this tour, constitutes acceptance by the above noted terms and conditions.

Traveler Signature _____ Date: _____

