



## Spiritus Mundi and Ron Shive Invite You to Ireland: Land of Saints and Spirits April 25–May 4, 2025

Trip duration: 10 days  
Travelers: 20 Maximum

Ireland is history in stone and windswept beauty.  
Is a sublime countryside and a journey into the imagination.

**Day 1 — Departure Day**  
Friday, April 25

**Day 2 — Welcome to Ireland**  
Saturday, April 26

Arrival in Dublin  
Lunch at leisure  
Guinness Storehouse  
Iveagh Garden Hotel  
Dinner at The Merry Ploughboy  
Irish Music Pub

**Day 3 — Explore Dublin!**  
Sunday, April 27

Panoramic Tour of Dublin  
Lunch at leisure  
Trinity College and Book of Kells  
Dinner at leisure



**Day 4 — Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains, Monday, April 28**

Powerscourt Distillery  
Glendalough Monastic Site  
Lunch at leisure — Suggestion: Seed Cafe — Avondale House  
House of Waterford Crystal Factory Tour  
The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre  
Dinner at the hotel

**Day 5 — Rock of Cashel — Blarney Castle & Gardens, Tuesday, April 29**

Rock of Cashel  
Lunch at leisure in Cork  
Blarney Castle & Gardens  
Killarney Oaks Hotel  
Dinner at the hotel

**Day 6 — Ring of Kerry, Wednesday, April 30**

Ring of Kerry  
Lunch in a local pub/restaurant  
Dinner at O'Connors Traditional Pub

**Day 7 — Dingle Peninsula — The Sleah Head Drive, Thursday, May 1**

Dingle Peninsula — The Sleah Head Drive (Slí Cheann Sléibhe)  
Lunch at leisure in Dingle town  
Adare Village — short walk  
Clayton Hotel Limerick  
Dinner at the Hotel

**Day 8 — Burren — Cliffs of Moher — Medieval Galway, Friday, May 2**

Caherconnell Sheepdog Demonstrations  
Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark  
Lunch at leisure  
The Galmont Hotel & Spa  
Dinner at leisure in Galway

**Day 9 — The National Famine Museum — Newgrange, Saturday, May 3**

The National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park  
Lunch at leisure  
Newgrange  
Pillo Hotel Ashbourne  
Dinner at the hotel

**Day 10 — Farewell!, Sunday, May 4**

Departures from Dublin Airport

## Included in Trip Cost

- 8 nights at 4 star hotels
  - 2 x Dublin — Iveagh Garden Hotel or similar
  - 1 x Waterford — The Tower Hotel and Leisure Center or similar
  - 2 x Kilarney — Killarney Oaks Hotel or similar
  - 1 x Limerick — Clayton Hotel or similar
  - 1 x Galway — The Glamont Hotel and Spa or similar
  - 1 x Ashbourne — Pillo Hotel or similar
- MEALS :
  - 8 x Breakfast (cooked or continental)
  - 1 x Lunch - 2 course meal ( Ring of Kerry )
  - 4 x Dinners in Hotels - 3 course meal
  - Dinner at The Merry Ploughboy Irish Music Pub
  - Dinner at O'Connors Traditional Pub or similar
  - Dinners on your own on day 2 and day 7
- Entry to all places on the Itinerary
- Professional Irish Guide for 8 days
- Coach transportation for 8 days, and two nights involving dinner
- Airport transportation on return
- Porterage at all hotels — one piece of luggage both ways

## Not Included in Trip Cost

- Airfare — Each person should arrive at the Dublin Iveagh Garden Hotel by noon on Saturday, April 26
- Drinks
- Personal Expenses
- Travel Insurance — This is recommended if you have any concerns.
- Gratuity for Tour Guide and Driver

## Cost of Trip

\$3800 — per person in shared DBL/TW room

\$1125 — single room supplement

**\$1000 nonrefundable deposit is due by August 31, 2024.** This deposit will be refunded after that date if you find a replacement.

The balance of the trip cost is due February 28, 2025.

**Send deposit payable to Spiritus Mundi Travel, LLC: 22 Jones Avenue, Greenville, SC 29601.**

**Physical Conditioning Needed:** This is an active trip, and covers a good amount of ground each day. For every touring day, expect two to three hours walking where you will encounter uneven surfaces, stairs, steps with significant slopes, as well as considerable time standing.

## EXPANDED ITINERARY

### DAY 1 — Depart United States, Friday, April 25

### DAY 2 — Arrival in Dublin, Saturday, April 26

#### Dublin Airport

Welcome to Ireland. Meet your guide in Arrivals Hall and proceed to awaiting coach.



#### Guinness Storehouse

##### St James's Gate, Dublin 8, Dublin, Ireland

Located in the heart of the city's St James's Gate, the 7-story Guinness Storehouse has been the site of the world-famous Guinness Brewery since 1759 when Arthur Guinness famously signed a 9,000-year lease ensuring he had more than enough time to secure the future of one of the world's most iconic drinks. The building itself was constructed in 1902 as a fermentation plant for the St. James's Gate Brewery, and since opening in 2000, this distinctive landmark has welcomed over twenty million visitors, keen to see the birthplace of the legendary velvet beer and to sample its distinctive taste straight from the barrel.

Built in the unmistakable shape of a pint glass, its seven floors invite you to explore the past, present and future of the ebony nectar ... discover the ingredients and brewing process that creates the unmistakable beer, explore the history of its award-winning advertising campaigns and an interactive exhibit on responsible drinking. Then head for everyone's favorite, the seventh floor, home to the fabulous Gravity Bar complete with sensational views of Dublin and where you can kick back and enjoy a well-deserved pint of the black custard.



#### Iveagh Garden Hotel (Bed & Breakfast —2 nights)

##### Harcourt St, Dublin, Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Enjoying a wonderful location in the very center of Dublin and within a couple of minutes' stroll of two of the city's loveliest parks, the Iveagh Garden Hotel offers creature comforts combined with a definite smartness and style. The spacious lobby features black-and-gold notes, elegantly low-key chandeliers, globe lighting and a library motif — all of which combine to offer a restful introduction to the hotel. Elsewhere, the tones lighten into contemporary, airy, clean-lined, unfussy and highly individual — it all works very well. The hotel has considerable green kudos too, having harnessed the underground Swan River to provide a power supply. Standard rooms are well-sized and comfortable, with mod cons including USB ports, smart televisions, air conditioning and laptop-friendly safes. Décor is clean and calm, with a balancing bright yellow trim.



Complimentary water and Barry's Irish tea (a nice touch) are included. All rooms are guaranteed to be sound-proofed — a necessity on nightclub-heavy Harcourt Street. Bathrooms are excellent: powerful showers, mildly Scandinavian wooden trims and the hotel's own Iveagh toiletries.

### **Dinner at The Merry Ploughboy Irish Music Pub**

Edmondstown Road, Ireland

**Have dinner in one of the most famous traditional Irish Pubs in Dublin and enjoy a truly authentic Irish night.**

Named after the ballad of the 1916 rebellion, The Merry Ploughboys are a traditional folk group from Dublin, who have been “singing it like they mean it” for 30 years, with gutsy and engaging vocals backed by arrangements of fiddle, mandolin and guitar and often joined by uilleann pipes, whistle or tenor banjo. The repertoire spans humorous old Dublin music hall and street-songs, classic ballads from 19th and 20th century Irish history, timeless songs of emigration and romance, and peppered with traditional Irish dance tunes and their own original material. The Ploughboys are fundamentally about the Irish song tradition, and influenced by the collective legacy of the Irish folk music revival scene of the 1960s-1980s. Their sound has the raw authentic energy of the classic balladeer as they work effortlessly through a packed set list that is often funny, compelling, engaging, exhilarating, and always entertaining.



### **DAY 3 — Explore Dublin!, Sunday, April 27**

#### **Panoramic Tour of Dublin**

**Capital Beds by the leinster picker, Dublin, Ireland**

Through our panoramic tour of Dublin, you will get a true sense of the history of Ireland. You will discover that Celts, Vikings and Anglo-Normans came to Ireland and settled down, leaving not only a huge wealth of artworks and artifacts, preserved in the National Museum of Ireland, but also impressive architectural landmarks, the oldest being **Christchurch**, dated from 1172 & **St. Patrick Cathedrals**, along with **Trinity College**, founded in 1592. Former second capital of the British Empire, Dublin had to be as beautiful as London with its 17th & 18th century beautiful **Georgians quarters** and its important buildings such as the **Custom House**, the **Bank of Ireland** (old Parliament) & **Leinster House** which houses the senate and parliament nowadays. Waves of Irish freedom struck Dublin and changed the making of the city. The Easter 1916 rebellion, which started at the **GPO** (General Post Office) was followed by the Irish War of Independence. This resulted in significant physical destruction in central Dublin.



#### **Trinity College and Book of Kells**

**Trinity College, Dublin, Co. Dublin, Ireland**

Ireland's most esteemed university, **Trinity College** opposite the former Irish Houses of Parliament attracts over two million visitors each year — and as you stroll around the cobblestone squares, wander its magnificent library and feast your eyes upon the world-famous **Book of Kells**, it's easy to see why! Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, and Samuel Beckett are amongst the university's impressive alumni — alongside Oscar-nominated actor Ruth Negga, and author Sally Rooney whose novel-turned-tv-series *Normal People* was set in and around this iconic seat of learning. And what a seat! The college buildings are a breathtaking masterclass in architecture reflecting the many changes that Dublin has witnessed over the centuries, but it's indoors that you'll want to head to soak up the real Trinity and what draws so many to this remarkable university.



## DAY 4 — Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains, Monday, April 28

### Powerscourt Distillery

**Powerscourt Distillery, Powerscourt Demesne, Enniskerry, Ireland**

Surrounded by the beautiful Wicklow Mountains, guarded by the mighty Sugarloaf, enjoying a temperate coastline climate and bathed by pure spring waters, Powerscourt provides the perfect stage for distilling Irish Whiskey. And so, after years of careful planning at precisely 11:30 a.m. on June 13, 2018, came a great celebration. The first drops of new spirit danced from the copper spirit still at the newly-commissioned Powerscourt Distillery, the home of Fercullen whiskey, Fercullen being the ancient name for the lands in this area. This 10-year-old single grain has been finished for one and half years in two barrels which previously held The Wicklow Brewery's Imperial Stout. What immediately sets Powerscourt Distillery apart is the influence of Master-Distiller and Blender Noel Sweeney. Noel brings decades of expertise and knowledge which are now being passed down to a new generation of apprentice distillers on a daily basis. Whiskey tastings can be enjoyed with food pairings or indeed visitors can enjoy the full selection of local foods specifically chosen to compliment the tastings of Fercullen Irish Whiskey.



### Glendalough Monastic Site

**Glendalough WW, Glendalough, Ireland**

In a narrow, glaciated valley nestled between two lakes stand the haunting ruins of the ancient monastic settlement of Glendalough, one of the most significant medieval monastic sites in Ireland — in one of the most spectacular landscapes. Also known as The City of the Seven churches, Glendalough was enclosed within a circular wall. Enter the site via the magnificent Gateway — Ireland's only surviving example of a medieval gateway to an early monastic city — and discover one of the country's most spellbinding landmarks. From the breathtaking 1000-year-old Round Tower to the remarkable Cathedral — the site's largest church — to the small Romanesque Priest's House, this relatively unaltered 'city' reflects the close ties between church and community and is utterly unique in both Ireland and Britain. There's a fabulous visitor center where you can learn more about this incredible place, and if you're so inclined, various great hikes are to be found around the valley, but however you choose to spend your time at Glendalough, you'll leave this spot utterly infatuated.



### Lunch at Leisure

**Glendalough WW, Glendalough, Ireland**

**Suggestion: Seed Café — Avondale House WW, Ireland**

The Seed Café is an oasis of charm nestled within the historic embrace of Avondale House. Its tasteful blend of warmth and sophistication, compliments perfectly the Georgian elegance of Avondale House. As you step through its doors, you're greeted by the inviting aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the promise of culinary delights. The ambiance is a seamless fusion of contemporary comfort and the timeless allure of the estate's surroundings. The menu at The Seed Café is a symphony of flavors, featuring



locally sourced ingredients and culinary creations that pay homage to the region's rich gastronomic heritage. Whether you're in the mood for a leisurely brunch or a quick pick-me-up, the offerings cater to every palate and preference. The interior design reflects a commitment to sustainability and a love for the environment, creating a space that feels both modern and harmonious with its surroundings. Sip on a perfectly crafted coffee or indulge in a decadent pastry as you soak in the ambiance of The Seed Café.



### **House of Waterford Crystal Factory Tour**

**28 The Mall, Waterford WD, Ireland**

Home of picturesque harbors, charming seaside towns, a cornucopia of historic landmarks and stunning parkland, County Waterford is one of Ireland's most visited areas, not least because its fabulous 'capital', Waterford city. It's in this beautiful part of the country that you'll find the inimitable Waterford Crystal factory, founded in 1783 and since then, enjoying an unrivalled reputation for its world-famous crystal production. Join a truly fascinating tour of this iconic brand's past, present and future,



and explore the unique process of creating the exquisite pieces of world-famous cut glass that have included the chandeliers in Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle and the Kennedy Center, and the exquisite 2,688 crystals for the famous New Year's Eve Ball dropped each year in New York City's Times Square. You'll visit the breathtaking 'blowing room' where Waterford's craftsmen shape balls of molten crystal into exquisite works of art; explore the ancient art of mould-making, and find out what goes into their rigorous inspection process which decides whether or not each piece makes it out of the factory — or into the trash. And of course, you'll also have the chance to purchase your own piece of Waterford at their eye-popping store ... from bottle coasters to chandeliers to an extraordinary rendering of Cinderella's carriage, you'll be here for some time — just make sure you bring your credit card!



or into the trash. And of course, you'll also have the chance to purchase your own piece of Waterford at their eye-popping store ... from bottle coasters to chandeliers to an extraordinary rendering of Cinderella's carriage, you'll be here for some time — just make sure you bring your credit card!

### **The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre (Bed & Breakfast — 1 night)**

**The Mall, Waterford, X91 VXE0, Ireland**

The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre stands as a gateway to an unforgettable experience. From the warm welcome at check-in to the breathtaking views from your room, every aspect of your stay is designed to create lasting memories. As you step into the lobby, the contemporary design and welcoming ambiance set the tone for a memorable stay. The attention to detail ensures that every guest feels right at home, whether they are here for business or leisure. The leisure centre is a sanctuary



for relaxation and rejuvenation, featuring a fully equipped gym, a luxurious swimming pool, and indulgent spa facilities. After a day of exploring Waterford's attractions or business meetings, unwind with a dip in the pool or a pampering spa treatment, allowing the stresses of the day to melt away. The hotel's dining options promise a culinary journey that satisfies every palate. The Bistro at The Tower serves a delectable array of dishes crafted with locally sourced ingredients, providing a taste of the region's gastronomic delights. The chic and vibrant bar offers a cozy setting to unwind with a carefully curated selection of drinks, making it the perfect spot for socializing or enjoying a quiet moment by the river.

## **DAY 5 — Rock of Cashel — Blarney Castle & Gardens, Tuesday, April 29**

### **Rock of Cashel**

#### **Rock of Cashel, Cashel, Ireland**

Legend tells us that one day the Devil was pursuing one of his many foes when overwhelmed by hunger, he stopped to take a bite from one of the northern hills. Once replenished, he resumed the chase, spitting out the rocky segment at his enemy and thus forming the Rock of Cashel. Today, this fortress is home to a spectacular collection of medieval buildings set atop a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale at the heart of Tipperary. A quick five-minute walk from the town center up to the Rock, a ramble around this extraordinary site is a real treat for the history lover. Explore the fabulous 12th-century round tower, the oldest surviving building on the Rock; discover the replica of St Patrick's Cross, the base of which is reputed to be the inauguration stone for the Kings of Cashel; and simply savor the peace and tranquility of the exquisite 'Cormac's Chapel', one of the earliest churches of Romanesque style with exquisitely carved doorways — including a tympanum depicting a small centaur hunting a lion — and the remains of beautifully preserved wall paintings. From the summit of the Rock, the views over the surrounding landscape are magnificent — see if you can spot the ruins of the beautiful Cistercian Hore Abbey in the distance — well worth a visit if you have the time.



### **Lunch at Leisure in Cork**

#### **Cork, Ireland**

### **Blarney Castle & Gardens**

#### **CO, Ireland**

Just a stone's throw from Cork, the world-famous medieval stronghold built 600 years ago by legendary Irish chieftain Cormac MacCarthy, Blarney Castle sits impressively amongst 60 beautiful acres of stunning gardens and sweeping valleys. Most people visit here to plant a kiss on the legendary Blarney stone — according to ancient superstition, puckering up on the 330-million-year-old limestone is said to bestow the kisser with the 'gift of the gab', aka a pretty good way with words.



Tempted? Reaching the stone involves a steep climb up a narrow spiral staircase, and once you reach the top, you bend backwards over a very, very high drop to kiss the stone — don't worry, there's a strategically placed safety grill and supervisor on hand to prevent your untimely death. Is it worth it? If you find yourself dazzling friends and colleagues with a newfound way with words, then probably, and for the craic, definitely! But of course, Blarney Castle has more to offer than getting to first base with a slab of stone. Explore the castle's beautiful grounds and discover the haunting Dungeon, the eerie Witch's Stone, and the mysterious Wishing Steps — if you can walk down and back up these steps with your eyes closed while you make a wish, then your wish will come true within a year. There's also the delightful Fern Garden and Arboretum, and the fascinating Poison Garden, a garden in which the plants are so toxic that they're kept in large, cage-like structures. Probably one of the most unique and quirky castle experiences in Ireland!

### **Killarney Oaks Hotel (Bed & Breakfast — 2 nights, )**

#### **Muckross Road, Killarney KY, Killarney, Ireland**

Overlooking Mangerton Mountain and The National Park, The Killarney Oaks is on the edge of Killarney National Park and just five minutes' walk from the INEC. It offers large rooms with free Wi-Fi, a restaurant and free parking. Standard Rooms are spacious with a double and single bed, en suite, seating area, satellite TV and tea/coffee facilities. Deluxe rooms feature king sized bed, fabulous bespoke interiors,



seating area, flat-screen TV and en suite with bath. The chic Oaks Bar & Restaurant renowned for high quality food, extensive menu, and beautiful views of Mangerton Mountain. Compliment your meal with our popular cocktail menu or let our bar staff advise on the best Irish whiskey. Catering to individual dietary needs. Serving extensive breakfast in The Garden Restaurant. The shores of Loch Leane are a five-minute walk from the hotel. Muckcross House and the Fitzgerald Stadium are both within a five-minute drive from the Oaks.



## DAY 6 — Ring of Kerry, Wednesday, April 30

### Ring of Kerry

#### Ring of Kerry KY, Ireland

With its meandering roads, incredible views, lofty peaks, and glittering loughs, the iconic Ring of Kerry embodies the quintessential fantasy of Ireland come to glorious life, beginning and ending in Killarney and including pretty much all of the county’s iconic landmarks — Moll’s Gap, the Torc Waterfall, and the Gap of Dunloe being the big scene-stealers — this 179-kilometre-long circular route of the Iveragh (pronounced eev- raa) Peninsula in County Kerry is literally breathtaking. You’ve got the choice of driving the loop of the Iveragh Peninsula, exploring it on one of the many bus tours — all running in an anti-clockwise direction as the roads are too narrow for them to pass each other! There are a lot of sites to see — from stately homes to castles, loughs to waterfalls, stone circles to abbeys ... there’s literally something around every corner to stop you in your tracks and make you stare — and ensure that you leave with memories that will last a lifetime!



#### Dinner at O’Connors Traditional Pub

7 High Street, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 DV26, Ireland

Relaxing pub with live music, an upstairs restaurant with whiskey & beer tastings



## DAY 7 — Dingle Peninsula — The Sleat Head Drive,

### Thursday, May 1

#### The Sleat Head Drive (Slí Cheann Sléibhe)

#### Dingle Peninsula, Ireland

Departing Killarney, continue through **Milltown**, which is the venue for the annual World Bodhrán Championships. Continuing on, pass through Castlemaine, most famous for being the home town of the Australian outlaw The Wild Colonial Boy, Jack Donahue.

Traveling on from here, you can make your first stop at **Inch Beach**. This is a spectacular sand spit jutting out into Dingle Bay. Playboy of the Western World and David Leans “Ryan’s Daughter” were filmed here.

Pass by **Annascaul village**, the home of Ireland’s famous Antarctic explorer Tom Crean. The pub he owned, The South Pole Inn, is still in operation to this day.



You are now nearing **Dingle town**. In medieval days, Dingle was the principal harbour in County Kerry. Today Dingle Town is one of the most popular little towns in Ireland with an array of fine restaurants & pubs — a good town for a lunch stop.

Leaving Dingle, take the rugged coast road out around **Slea Head**. This is the most westerly point in Ireland. Dún Chaoin, is the most westerly settlement on the Dingle Peninsula, and is sometimes jokingly referred to as “the next parish to America.” From the tip of the peninsula you can see the now-deserted **Blasket Islands**.

Next on stop on the tour is **Gallarus Oratory**. Thought to have been built by early Christians as part of a monastic settlement some time between the 6th and 9th century. It was built without mortar using a technique called corbel vaulting. According to folklore, if a person climbs through the window their soul will be cleansed.

Leaving here we will return to Dingle via **Ventry village**, where Ron Howard filmed his movie “Far and Away” starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

From here we continue back to Killarney.

### **Lunch at Leisure in Dingle town** Dingle, Ireland

#### **Adare Village — short walk**

N21, Blackabbey, Adare, Co. Limerick, Ireland

On the banks of the River Maigue, and with a population of less than 3,000, the tiny village of Adare has a big reputation — prepare to be enchanted! Often referred to as Ireland’s prettiest town, and designated as a ‘heritage town’ thanks to its plethora of charming thatched cottages and magnificent architectural delights, this is one town you’ll want to spend hours getting lost in ...

But it’s not just pleasing to the eye — Adare has an

intriguing history that you’ll want to explore alongside its pretty streets. Built by the 19th-century landlord, the Earl of Dunraven, for workers constructing Adare Manor (now a hotel), there’s plenty to discover. Start at the wonderful Adare Castle, a captivating 13th-century Norman ruin, razed to the ground in 1657 by Cromwell’s troops. The nearby Heritage Centre does a great job of reconstructing the town’s rich history, and the beautiful Holy Trinity Abbey Church — the only Trinitarian Abbey in Ireland — is well worth a visit. You’ll also discover an impressive choice of fabulous little craft shops to explore — perfect for bagging a souvenir or two to remember this enchanting town. If you can, work up an appetite and grab a table at the renowned Restaurant 1826 Adare — one of Ireland’s most celebrated chefs, Wade Murphy cooks up a smorgasbord of gastronomic delights at this magnificent thatched cottage — a real treat on which to end your day.



#### **Clayton Hotel Limerick (One night)**

**Steamboat Quay, Limerick, Ireland**

On banks of River Shannon with stunning views, Clayton Hotel Limerick offers stylish, modern rooms, waterfront dining and leisure center with indoor swimming pool, gym, Jacuzzi, steam room and sauna.

Relax and unwind in comfortable, modern rooms in Limerick city center, many with impressive river views. All rooms boast 32” flat screen TVs, safe, air-conditioning, free WiFi and full use of Club Vitae leisure center.



## DAY 8 — Burren — Cliffs of Moher — Medieval Galway, Friday, May 2

### Caherconnell Sheepdog Demonstrations

#### Caherconnell Stone Fort & Sheepdog Demonstrations, Carran, Ireland

Caherconnell is home to the Burren's leading sheepdog demonstrations which was created by the landowner, John Davoren. These famous demonstrations attract visitors from all over the world to see the combined skills of the Border collie and his master.

Since the age of 16, John has been training dogs, teaching a variety of dogs to work with both sheep and cattle. In an attempt to preserve the culture that has been a part of Burren life for generations, John is now passing on his expertise on to the next generation.

The sheepdog is an integral part of farming culture and here you will see just how much a well-trained Border collie can help its master. The sheepdog is of untold value when trying to move or direct sheep or cattle across open areas of the karst Burren landscape.

The use of a small number of well understood directions enables the sheepdog to complete tasks in half the time it would take several people. This, along with the qualities of loyalty and hard work, make the sheepdog the very best pet a farming family could hope for.



### Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Lislorkan North, Co. Clare, Ireland

“There is a world apart, of elemental beauty carved by glacier, where tiny wildflowers pierce through limestone..”

*The Breathing Burren* by Maureen Grady



### Lunch at Leisure

Galway, Ireland

### Galway, Ireland

The Galway City walking tour will bring you to all the must see locations and some of the hidden gems in the City including:

#### Eyre Square

The focal point of the City, Eyre Square has undergone many changes over the years. John F. Kennedy came here before his assassination and the park is now called Kennedy memorial park in his honor.

#### The Town Walls

The earliest account of the walling of Galway is from 1270 of which significant sections of the walls are still in place today.

#### Lynch's Castle

Located at the center of the old medieval town, Lynch's Castle is one of the oldest buildings in Ireland still used for commercial purposes.

#### Collegiate Church of St Nicholas

Dating from the 1300s, Christopher Columbus stopped off here on his way to the new world in 1477.



### **Historic Pubs**

Learn the stories behind some of Galway's most famous landmark pubs such as The Kings Head, De Burgos and O'Connells.

### **The Lynch Memorial window**

One of Galway's most famous attractions and famous legends, this window holds many secrets.

### **Pro Cathedral**

The Catholic Pro Cathedral has been closed as a place of worship since 1965 when the new Cathedral opened. This building has a rich and at times tragic history.

### **Town Hall & Courthouse**

These elegant buildings have an interesting history and also some hidden mysteries.

### **The River walkway & Mill Streams**

Enjoy breathtaking scenery and learn the the stories behind the powerful Corrib River.

### **The Galmont Hotel & Spa (Bed & Breakfast – One night)**

#### **Lough Atalia Road, Galway, Ireland**

Located in the center of Galway City, the Galmont Hotel & Spa is your gateway to all that the west of Ireland has to offer.

If you need to relax, our Spirit One Spa is the perfect place to wind down. We also have a sauna, jacuzzi, outdoor hot tub and state-of-the-art gym facilities. For business travellers we offer comfortable rooms with a work desk and electronic safe, on-site meeting facilities and complimentary wifi throughout the hotel.



### **DAY 9 – The National Famine Museum – Newgrange, Saturday, May 3**

#### **The National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park Park & The National Famine Museum, Cloonradoo, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, F42 H282, Ireland**

The immersive, new National Famine Museum brings compelling stories from the Great Irish Famine powerfully to life for visitors of all ages.

State-of-the-art exhibits and interactive displays draw on local accounts and documents, as well as intriguing objects and national perspectives, to shed light on the darkest chapter in Ireland's past.



### **Lunch at Leisure**

Mullingar, Ireland

### **Newgrange**

#### **Newgrange, Ireland**

One of the most important and extraordinary constructions of the Stone Age alongside Dowth and Knowth, the ancient tomb of Newgrange towers above the haunting landscape of County Meath, a site so ancient that it predates the great pyramids of Egypt by some six centuries. No one really knows the intended purpose of Newgrange,



but the most common theories are that it was a center for rituals, or perhaps a burial place for kings. The tomb's alignment with the sun at winter solstice indicates that it was also intended to act as a calendar. Access is by guided tour from the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre from where a shuttle bus will take you to the site. Inside, you can wander down the 19m passage flanked by 43 stones and leading you into the tomb chamber, constructed by Stone Age craftsmen in such a way that even after more than 5,000 years no water has penetrated – an utterly astounding feat! A rather inconspicuous shaft is located directly above the entrance to the tomb and is the focal point of a spectacular phenomenon on the winter solstice. In the early hours of the 21st of December, the light of the sun beams through the shaft and illuminates the passage and chamber for a few glorious minutes, a significant event that marked the close of the dark season and the start of the next for the settlers who lived here.

**Pillo Hotel Ashbourne** (Bed & Breakfast – One night)

**Ashbourne MH, Ashbourne, Ireland**

Nestled in the picturesque town of Ashbourne, County Meath, the Pillo Hotel Ashbourne stands as a modern haven of comfort and relaxation, offering a delightful escape for both business and leisure travellers. The hotel's striking glass atrium serves as a welcoming beacon, inviting guests into a world of stylish elegance and contemporary design. The spacious lobby, adorned with warm lighting and plush furnishings, sets the tone for a tranquil and inviting atmosphere. Upon ascending to the guest rooms, guests are greeted by a minimalist aesthetic that seamlessly blends modern comforts with a touch of Irish charm. The spacious bedrooms exude a sense of tranquillity, featuring king-sized or twin beds, plush bedding, and well-appointed bathrooms. For those seeking a truly rejuvenating experience, the hotel's comprehensive leisure facilities provide an array of options to pamper oneself. The 16-meter swimming pool, flanked by sun loungers and offering panoramic views, beckons to those seeking aquatic tranquility.



**DAY 10 – Farewell, Sunday, May 4**

**Departures from Dublin Airport**

Dublin, Ireland





Contact Information for Spiritus Mundi Travel:

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