



Email: [maggie@soulgypsies.com](mailto:maggie@soulgypsies.com) Website: [www.soulgypsies.com](http://www.soulgypsies.com) Address 2553 Ciro Ave, Thousand Oaks CA91360 Phone +1 (805) 390-

## ITINERARY FOR SOUL GYPSIES IRELAND-SCOTLAND, AUG 2018



### **25AUG** Day 1 - Welcome to Ireland (D)

Arrive at Dublin airport, meet with your airport assistant and transfer to your hotel in Dublin. Please note you may not be able to check into your room until 3.00pm. Spend the balance of the day at leisure exploring the neighbourhoods. We are a block from the legendary O'Connell Street in Dublin.

Dinner is included at the hotel.

Accommodation in Dublin: Academy Plaza Hotel or similar, standard rooms, 1 night

### **26AUG** Day 2 - Blarney Castle (B)

This morning meet your driver/guide and depart Dublin for County Kerry.

#### Visit the Jameson Distillery

Whiskey has been distilled in the town of Midleton, County Cork since the early 9th Century. The Jameson Distillery Midleton was founded by the Murphy brothers in 1825. The 45 minute guided tour of the distillery commences with a short audio-visual, after which visitors are taken on a tour of the old distillery by local guides. Follow the old distillery trail through mills, maltings, stillhouse, warehouses and kilns and view the largest pot still in the world - some of these buildings date back to 1795. The tour ends in the Distillery pub, where all are invited to enjoy a glass of Irish Whiskey. During the visit a number of volunteers are selected to take part in a tasting session to compare a Jameson whiskey with a Scottish Whisky and American bourbon. Participants will receive a diploma for their achievement! It is possible for the whole group to participate in the whiskey comparison tasting. The visitor attraction has a Malt House Restaurant and a shop where guests can buy a range of whiskeys and souvenirs.

#### Visit Blarney Castle

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney village, 8 km from Cork City. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is

famous for its Blarney stone, The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to the visitor

Continue to Kerry and check into our hotel in Kerry or nearby area.

We'll look for a local eatery or pub for dinner.

Accommodation in Kerry: Hotel Killarney or similar, standard rooms, 2 nights

### **27AUG Day 3 - County Kerry (B)**

This morning drive the **Ring of Kerry** (166km), the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point on the famous Ring of Kerry Tour. The visitor is presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point with gives a different perspective of this magnificent countryside, with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here.

#### Late this afternoon, enjoy a Yin Yoga Workshop

Experience the magic of Yin Yoga in a mindful workshop where we will focus on detoxing and cleansing the body. You can relax as we meditate and clear the mind and soul. When we find stillness in the pose, we get stillness in the mind, and clarity arrives.

***OR. Take a wonderful exploratory walk around the area.***

Enjoy dinner on your own. We'll pick a local eatery of our choice.

### **28AUG Day 4 - Kerry to Limerick (B)**

This morning depart Kerry for Limerick.

#### Board the Shannon Car Ferry at Tarbert and cross the river Shannon to Killimer in County Clare

The main tourist routes of the West of Ireland's Shannon Region are linked via the Killimer-Tarbert car ferry. This pleasant, 20 minute journey travels across the Shannon Estuary which is almost 100km in length and 13km wide at its widest point. Ecologically, the Shannon estuary has a unique value with a group of bottle nosed dolphins resident in the estuary. As well as this, the estuary is an important habitat for migrating birds and wild fowl. The ferry can take car and coach vehicles. The ferry trip will save 85

miles (137 km) from ferry terminal to ferry terminal providing a staging point for the many attractions of Clare, Kerry and adjoining counties

### Visit the Cliffs of Moher

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. To the south of the cliffs is Hag's Head and was once the site of a castle. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower. Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru (he who defeated the Vikings in battle), built a Tower at the cliffs in order to enjoy some tea with his lady friends. The Tower is adjacent to the seastack, Breanan Mór, which stands over 70 metres above the foaming waves and is home to some of the Burren's wildlife.

### Continue through the Burren Region

The Burren, part of which forms the 100 square km Burren National Park, is a unique place. It is a Karst limestone region of approximately 300 sq. km, which lies in the North West corner of Co Clare. It is composed of limestone pavements, which have been eroded to a distinctive pattern. This pavement is crisscrossed by cracks known as grykes in which grow a myriad of wild flora and under which are huge caves and rivers which suddenly flood when it rains. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs and Celtic crosses as well as a ruined Cistercian Abbey dating back to the 12th century. You will discover small villages abandoned during the famine period and green roads on which you can walk for miles without ever seeing a car. The flora on the Burren is a mixture Arctic and Mediterranean and rare flowers such as gentian, orchids and bloody cranesbill are the rule rather than the exception. The Burren is truly an exceptional part of Ireland. Check into our hotel in Limerick (or area).

Accommodation in Limerick: Limerick City Hotel or similar, standard rooms, 1 night

## **29AUG Day 5 - Galway (BD)**

This morning depart Limerick for Galway.

### Visit Galway Cathedral

The largest catholic church in Galway, the cathedral is located on Nun's Island, on the west bank of the River Corrib near Salmon Weir Bridge. It was the last large church in Ireland to be made from stone, and features a huge octagonal dome that complements the skyline of the City of Galway. The cathedral combines many features from different styles and periods of architecture. There are many treasures of art inside and outside. Erected on the site of an old jail, the parking lot of the cathedral contains a white cross in the pavement. It marks the site of the prison graveyard.

### Enjoy a cruise on Corrib River with the Corrib Princess

The Corrib Princess sails from Woodquay in the heart of Galway city, along the famous Steamers Line, which is the lakes traditional trade route. The journey takes passengers along the majestic River Corrib and onto the lake providing visitors with a guided commentary in a number of languages on the historic monuments and natural amenities on this waterway that leads to the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. There is an abundance of wild life and the Corrib has a peace and tranquillity all of its own. The normal sightseeing tour is 90 minutes in duration with indoor seating for guests and tea/coffee plus

traditional scones are included during the cruise. Irish coffee demonstrations can be organised during the cruise. Check into your hotel in Galway (or area).

Dinner is included at the hotel.

Accommodation in Galway: Connacht Hotel or similar, standard rooms, 2 nights

### **30AUG Day 6 - Connemara Region (B)**

This morning we visit the Connemara Region.

Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south ~ a land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas. Connemara is a real paradise for Nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions. In 1951, John Ford's great movie "The Quiet Man" starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was made, and filming was centred in the village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border.

#### Visit Kylemore Abbey

Kylemore Abbey is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They established a private school for young girls, which was the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School. The school eventually closed in 2010. Facilities at Kylemore include a visitor centre, an exhibition housed in the main reception rooms of the house and a video which takes the visitor through the history of the house and its occupants. The Gothic church is available to visit and as a venue for choir groups to sing in.

Drive back to Galway and spend the balance of the day at leisure exploring the streets and discovering our own delights.

### **31AUG Day 7 - Galway to Dublin (B)**

This morning depart Galway for Dublin.

#### En-route and visit Clonmacnoise

Clonmacnoise is a wonderful early Christian site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. In a stunning setting, the site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th -13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of early Christian graveslabs in Western Europe. The original high crosses and a selection of graveslabs are on display in the visitor centre. In 1979 Pope John Paul II celebrated mass at this site. Guided tours are provided and the long and varied history of Clonmacnoise is recounted in an audio-visual presentation shown in the visitor centre. There are also exhibitions that deal with the flora, fauna and landscape of the region.

Continue to Dublin.

On arrival in Dublin enjoy a panoramic city tour

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

Visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells

Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland's most illustrious books, the 9th century "Book of Kells". Before viewing the famous book, visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the Book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the Book of Kells visitors are invited to visit the Long Room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over two hundred thousand books and manuscripts of the Trinity's oldest volumes. Brian Boru's harp said to be the "oldest harp in Ireland" and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the Long Room. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveler magazine included visiting the Book of Kells as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'.

Check into your Hotel in Dublin (or area).

Accommodation in Dublin: Academy Plaza Hotel or similar, standard rooms, 1 night

**01SEP Day 8 - Dublin to Edinburgh (B) TRAVEL DAY**

This morning depart your hotel and transfer to Dublin Airport. Fly to Edinburgh (flight not included). Upon arrival, meet with your new driver and guide at Edinburgh Airport. Check into your hotel. Please note that this may not be possible before 3.00pm. (Flight time 1hour and 20 minutes. Expected cost \$120 - 150.)

Accommodation in Edinburgh: Premier Inn or similar, standard rooms, 2 nights

**02SEP Day 9 - Exploring Edinburgh (B)**

This morning, meet with your driver and guide.

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Edinburgh

Edinburgh is one of the world's finest capital cities, because of its cultural diversity and impressive history. The medieval streets run through the whole city telling their own story about the 1000 year old traditions and myths of Edinburgh. Throughout your city tour you will get to know different parts of this

city, such as the Royal Mile, the Princes Street Gardens, the Calton Hill and many more. Here you will also have a fantastic view of the city and Leith – the port of the city and many more.

### Visit Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbound with its wonderful story.

Return back to your hotel and enjoy your evening at leisure.

### **03SEP Day 10 - Edinburgh to Kennecraig (BD)**

This morning we will depart Edinburgh for Kennecraig with a scenic drive through Loch Lomond National Park. At the heart of Loch Lomond National Park is Loch Lomond itself. You won't find a bigger loch or lake in the whole of Britain and you'll have a hard time finding a more beautiful one, too.

Continue to the Kennecraig area to check into your hotel located in Tarbet. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Accommodation in Tarbert: West Loch Hotel, standard rooms, 1 night

### **04SEP Day 11 – Kennecraig to Isle of Islay (BD) in the Hebrides.**

This morning we will have an early start to catch the 7.00am ferry to Port Ellen (the hotel may have to prepare a boxed breakfast). Please note the ferry journey takes approx. 2hrs 30mins.

### Visit Kilchoman Distillery

Established in 2005, Kilchoman (pronounced Kil-ho-man) is one of the smallest distilleries in Scotland. Based on a farm on the rugged west coast of Islay, Kilchoman was the first distillery to be built on the island for 125 years. Kilchoman displays all that is great about the grass-roots traditions of Scotch whisky distilling. As well as being one of only a handful of distilleries still practicing floor malting, barley is also grown on the farm, making Kilchoman the only distillery to complete all parts of the whisky making process on site. Kilchoman truly is Islay's farm distillery - from barley to bottling.

### Visit Ardbeg Distillery

Through the years, a warm welcome, as well as a friendly greeting from Jackie and Co. Whether you're an Ardbeg beginner or a seasoned connoisseur, come and learn more about their wonderful whisky and explore this beautiful Distillery on one of their fascinating tours.

Explore the coast and the lovely sandy beaches before checking into your hotel. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Accommodation in Islay: Bridgend Hotel or similar, standard rooms, 2 night **05SEP**

**Day 12 - Isle of Islay (B)**

Open day to hike, explore or continue on the single malt quest!

**06SEP Day 13 - Isle of Islay to Glasgow (BD)**

This morning we will depart for Glasgow by taking the ferry back to the mainland and continuing by vehicle to Luss, a quaint destination is on the banks of the famous Loch Lomond

Journey to Luss and enjoy a cruise on Loch Lomond

Cruise Loch Lomond offers cruises throughout the year allowing you to experience the beauty, tranquillity and adventure on Loch Lomond ~ the jewel in Scotland's first National Park.

Continue to Glasgow and check in to your hotel. Enjoy a relaxing farewell dinner.

Accommodation in Glasgow: Lorne Hotel or similar, standard rooms 1 night

**07SEP Day 14 - Farewell (B)**

This morning we will depart for Glasgow Airport where the tour ends.

**Cost: USD \$4,965.00 NETT per person**  
**Single room supplement: USD\$710.00 NETT per person**

**Inclusions in above prices:**

- 13 nights at good 3 star hotels, all rooms with private bath or shower, based on double occupancy
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Full Irish breakfast at hotel on days 2 – 13 inclusive
- Dinner at your hotel x 5 on days 1, 5, 10, 11 & 13
- Visits: Jameson Distillery, Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Galway Cathedral, Kylemore Abbey, Clonmacnoise, Trinity College, Edinburgh Castle, Kilchoman Distillery, Ardbeg Distillery
- Yin Yoga Workshop on day 3
- Shannon Car Ferry on day 4
- Cruise on Corrib River with an Irish Coffee demonstration and scones on day 5
- Return Kennacraig to Port Ellen Ferry on days 11/13
- Cruise Loch Lomond on day 13
- Modern motor-coach with driver and guide x 6 full days in Ireland, days 2 – 7 inclusive (09h00-17h30)
- Airport transfer with modern motor-coach x 4, on days 1, 8 & 14
- English speaking guide both in Ireland and again in Scotland.
- Airport assistant x 2, on days 1 & 8

**Exclusions in above prices:**

- All airfares, departure taxes & fuel surcharges, seat selection
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Beverages at meals
- Tips & Gratuities
- Early check-in & late check out of rooms (standard check-in time is 2pm and check out 10am)
- Travel Insurance