

©Karen & Joel Schulman

# Ireland Photo Tour from Mayo to Dingle
# Photography & the Creative Spirit

## Led by Karen Gordon Schulman & Joel Schulman
## April 29-May 10, 2027

***Tour Highlights* ~ A Photographic and Cultural Adventure**

- ***The focus will be photography, including people and culture.***
- **11 days** with accomplished **photographers** and **tour leaders Karen and Joel Schulman**.
- Photograph the beautiful and quiet side of Ireland from **County Mayo** to the **Dingle Peninsula** in **County Kerry.** There will also be photography stops between these locations in **County Clare.**
- **Tour limited to 12 participants**.
- Enjoy **photography, music, and the Irish spirit in traditional Irish pubs**.
- **Relaxed & flexible** itinerary to make the most of opportunities that come your way.
- **All ensuite** accommodations in a charming hotel in the center of **Westport** and completing the journey in a traditional **Gaelic town** on the **Dingle Peninsula** close to wonderful landscape and seascape photo opportunities.

For more information or to register contact
Strabo Photo Tour Collection: 607-423-2525
**www.phototc.com**

STRABO TOURS
PHOTO TOUR COLLECTION

## Tour Overview




**Going to Ireland is like going home again. This photo tour is focused on the 'real' Ireland or the areas where the majority of tourists don't see. Karen and Joel** have designed this itinerary to incorporate not only their favorite town of **Westport** but traveling further afield to a lovely **fishing village along the South Coast** and then continue for some of the most dramatic landscape in all of Ireland on the **Dingle Peninsula**.

You will stay in charming hotels, located near your photo opportunities, all boasting a welcoming atmosphere and Irish service. You will enjoy traditional Irish or American breakfasts during your stay. Lunch will be at various restaurants and pubs, or the group can stop in town and have a picnic lunch wrapped for your daily excursions in the field. Transportation is provided in a roomy tour van, which is large enough for both the group and your equipment.

This is an opportunity to expand your personal vision, make new friends and experience a very special place through new eyes. From the lush, green mountains to the broad peat lowlands, the ancient abbeys to the colorful villages, each place will stimulate the mind and enrich the spirit. There are spectacular monastic and megalithic ruins to seek out in your daily adventures. The soft pastel shades of the mountains and clouds appeal to the artist and photographer. These natural landscapes, along with the people, render this Isle a place of inspirational beauty.

## Photo Leaders:



**Karen and Joel** have been working in the photographic field for over 40 years and are both accomplished professional photographers. Karen is a skilled and sensitive photographic artist and educator and during our tour will share ideas and knowledge to help you create great travel photographs, whether you are using a DSLR or an iPhone! Joel is an expert in the digital imaging world and has done photographic printing for some of the most notable names in fine art photography. He will share his knowledge of both the technical and creative aspects of the photographic medium.



In addition, Karen and Joel will offer visual presentations and discussions highlighting the development of personal vision and awareness, and show how light, color, composition, gesture and 'the moment' contribute to the success of a photograph. There will also be opportunities to have photo reviews of your images, so everyone can share and learn from each other, or private photo reviews can be arranged. Both Karen and Joel are passionate iPhoneographers and during your tour will offer optional creative iPhoneography instruction. Our goal is to make this tour enjoyable and fun for both serious and casual photographers!

From Karen: "I encourage each person to give themselves permission to make mistakes, permission to create. The more we learn to 'see' with our mind, heart and spirit, the more of an adventure life becomes." If you wish to review Joel's work or contact him: www.photographicsart.com, joel@photographicsart.com, Karen www.focusadventures.com, karen@focusadventures.com



## Testimonials:

*What a wonderful Ireland trip we had. Thanks for everything you did to make it possible and so enjoyable. Given how much fun we had and how delighted we were with the trip, we have just one suggestion, to add more leisure time in villages. All and all the guides were 10 out of 10. Everyone was a wonderful help. The relationships we forged, particularly with Karen and Joel was the highlight. – C. Potyen*

*What a fabulous balance of our presence as well as great instructional knowledge. Karen and Joel's attention to detail was beyond all expectations. Best Trip!!! Amazing countryside and meeting a 'new family'. Tapping into creative spirit, thinking outside the box. - T&J Kelleway*

*This was my third Ireland tour with the Schulman's, and it was great to go to County Donegal, a new, beautiful part of the country. Karen, Joel, and Connie are the best! They are always helpful and informative. Connie is not only a fantastic Irish guide but also a wonderful musician and friend to all. I'm looking forward to going anywhere Karen and Joel lead tours!– J. Klenk*




## Itinerary



**April 29  Home**
Your journey to Ireland begins with an overnight flight to Shannon Airport (SNN).

**April 30  Shannon – Westport**
You will be met at Ireland's Shannon International Airport and driven north to Westport, on the shores of Clew Bay. The first afternoon you can relax; if the group is feeling a bit energetic, you can have a brief walk to get acclimated to your home for the next few days and listen to some traditional Irish music. (Dinner)

**May 1-4  County Mayo**
County Mayo is the Ireland of your imagination, beautiful and inspiring, with breathtaking landscapes, fascinating countryside and culture. Music and history inspire your curiosity. Mayo people are warm and friendly and take pride in making their land your land!

Each day visit some of these typical areas from your home base. It is not possible to see everything during each tour, as there is so much to see and photograph, and there will also be time for unscheduled stops and special events. The town of **Westport** offers wonderful street photography with winding streets, stone bridges over the river, and daily life. Drive along the shores of **Clew Bay**, stopping at **Murrisk Abbey**, and the **Famine Memorial** standing at the foot of **Croagh Patrick**.



Ireland is well known for its **traditional music**. The Irish people have always loved their music and this relationship dates over many centuries to the present day. Westport has many traditional music pubs and you will be able to join in the fun on a few of the evenings.

Spend a morning photographing in and around the interesting town of **Cong**. Photo locations include **Ashford Castle**, **Cong Abbey**, the River Cong and forest, as well as the town itself. This picturesque village was the setting for John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara's film *The Quiet Man*. Turlough O'Connor, the King of Connacht and High King of Ireland founded the Augustinian Abbey in the early twelfth century.

As you explore along the coast of **Achill Island,** you can photograph in many beautiful locations, one being lovely Keem Bay and Beach, recently named one of the 50 best beaches in the world. If time allows you will wind up at the deserted famine village at Keel. Achill Island is the largest island off the Irish coast. Wrought by wind and water, accessible by bridge over the sound.



Another day may be spent on the shores of **Doo Lough** and the **Connemara Mountains**, where you will see some of the most stunning landscapes in all of Ireland. **Sheeffrey Wood**, a place where you must be careful not to disturb the leprechauns who inhabit the forest is along the way. Afterwards visit the town of Leenane, where you will have lunch with the residents, and have time for photographing in the small pub, known as Gaynor's (film location of *The Field*). (Breakfast each day, Dinner last evening)

**May 5-8 Dingle Peninsula County Kerry**

Your journey today takes you south through County Clare, with photo opportunities on the way to the mighty **Dingle Peninsula**, which thrusts out into the Atlantic, claiming Ireland's most westerly point. Here, majestic hills soar over vast bowls of unspoiled valleys, glittering mountain streams tumble down to lakes, summer hedgerows blaze with fuchsias, and soft, golden beaches stretch for miles.

The region boasts of some 2000 prehistoric and early Christian remains. We make our way along the lovely **Slea Head Drive**, looking out onto the resplendent **Blasket Islands**, offering us a grand land and seascape. There will be photographic opportunities as we will be overwhelmed with Iron Age and early Christian rocks and ruins. Clustered on hillsides over the cliffs are beehive-shaped stone huts built by monks as a place of worship. The **Town of Dingle** has a lovely harbor, and painted storefronts will delight your senses.

Your hotel is located in the small **Gaelic village of Baile an Fheirtéaraigh or Ballyferriter**, which is nestled in a stunning green valley – to the east is **Smerwick Harbour** and a two-mile stretch of white, sandy beach. To the west is the mighty **Atlantic Ocean** with high, rocky cliffs, tiny coves and beaches. Ballyferriter is the center for Irish language and studies, and the language can be heard throughout the village – and of course in the local pubs!
Overnight Dingle Peninsula(Breakfast each day, two Dinners)



**May 9 Dingle- Shannon**
After breakfast this morning, say goodbye to the Dingle Peninsula and make your way to **Shannon**, with photographic opportunities along the way. Depending on time and the interests of the group, you may make stops in the charming town of **Listowel**, located on the **River Feale**, or the village of **Adare**, known as one of Ireland's prettiest villages, with its unique thatched roof cottages. Check into your hotel in Shannon and enjoy a farewell dinner with your guides.
Overnight Shannon hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)

**May 10 Shannon – U.S.**
You can depart anytime today as the airport is walking distance from your hotel. Majority of flights depart morning or early afternoon, which should coordinate with the checkout time. There should be luggage carts outside the hotel which you can leave at the airport. (Breakfast given time)

## General Information

**Land cost**: **$4895* per person,** based upon double occupancy and minimum of 9 paying passengers, maximum of 12. There is a small group surcharge of $400 if there are 7 - 8 paying passengers.
**Single room supplement: $995**.

**Note*: The trip cost is based upon the current exchange rate between the Euro and U.S. Dollar. Although the rate has been relatively stable, should it change, there may need to be an adjustment in the trip price.

**The land cost includes*:***

- Group transportation for tour events in the tour van.
- Accommodations based on double occupancy.
- Services of driver and local guide during the tour.
- Meals as listed in itinerary.
- Extensive pre-departure information and services.
- Photo Instruction

**The land cost does not include:** International air fare; air fare tax; airport transfers; additional transfers or accommodations that may be required by those not traveling with the group; meals not included in itinerary; activities listed as optional, or those taken on your own; passport expenses; personal medical or

travel insurance; any expenses of a personal nature or those not listed in what is included; tips to guides and service staff.

Please contact Strabo if you would like assistance on **International Airfare**.

## Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds

A deposit of $750 per person is required. Specific tours may require an additional deposit due to accommodation bookings or transportation requirements. If applicable these will be noted on your invoice. Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 120 days before the departure date. Space is subject to cancellation by Strabo if payment is not received when due.



If a passenger wishes to cancel they must send notification in writing to: Strabo International Tour, Co., P.O. Box 580, Dryden, NY 13053. At the time we receive your notification, the following per person charges apply:

• 121 days or more before departure: $300 cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation.

• 91-120 days before departure: $500 minimum cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation. Fees may range from 25% to 100% of tour costs.

• 90 days or less before departure or any time after departure: NO REFUND.

Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used by you cannot be made.

## Fitness and Health

The trip is not strenuous and anyone who is reasonably fit should be able to take part in most of the activities. You may experience general fatigue due to the long flights and the change in time zones. You will need to be sufficiently agile to climb in and out of the tour van and should be able to carry and manage your own equipment. We will frequently hike trails ranging from easy to moderate. Some hotels do not have elevators.

If you have any special needs or any physical condition that you feel might prevent you from fully participating, please contact Strabo Tours with your concerns (607-423-2525).

# Insurance

Each participant must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas**.**

***We strongly urge you to evaluate your risk and to take out insurance on your trip.*** It is vital for you to realize that if you experience a delay or find it necessary to cancel or cut short your trip for any reason, you will lose part or the entire sum you've invested in it (see the section "Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds" in the trip brochure). Your tour could also be cancelled or cut short due to reasons out of Strabo's control (pandemic, outbreak, or natural disaster are just some examples) and Strabo cannot be held responsible.



Travel insurance helps to minimize the risk of monetary losses you would incur in the event of a delay of your departure due to weather, airline strike, missed connection, etc., your inability to travel for reasons such as illness, injury, unforeseen financial complications and other personal circumstances, or if you were required to cut your trip short for medical or any other reasons.

**There are restrictions and limitations on any insurance program.** For this reason, please read carefully the enclosed pamphlets, which outline their program of trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance. There are various levels of coverage you should be aware of before making your purchase. Trained agents are available to answer your questions, so don't hesitate to call the toll-free number in their brochure. It is to your advantage to apply for insurance at the earliest possible time, so don't delay in making a decision.