

Ireland: The Wild Atlantic Way & Dublin

April 18 - May 1, 2023



Travel Registration is Now Available

Contact: OLLI Office
(989)964-2207

Online registration is not available for multiple day



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR ADULT LEARNING
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Ireland: The Wild Atlantic Way & Dublin (14 - Day Adventure)

April 18 - May 1, 2023

The western coast of Ireland is home to some of the Emerald Isle's most astounding scenery. After exploring historic Belfast, set out to discover the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way, from Donegal to the Cliffs of Moher. Between the breathtaking views of stunning seascapes and green landscapes, you'll step off the beaten path to get a feel for Ireland's quieter side.

Included highlights:

- Belfast
- Glenveagh National Park
- Slieve League cliffs
- Drumcliffe Cemetery
- Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery
- Achill Island
- Kylemore Abbey
- Cliffs of Moher
- Killarney National Park
- Temple Bar
- Guinness Storehouse



General Information:

Travel Providers

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Go Ahead Tours. GAT was the travel provider for our Tuscany, Canadian Rockies, Charleston to Savannah, Germany, Spain, Iceland, Ontario to Quebec, and the American South: Nashville to New Orleans trips.

Registrations:

Please fill out the registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Trip reservations are on first-come-first served basis. A passport and Covid vaccination card is required at time of registration and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour.

Tour Activity Level:

This tour requires average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, walking up to two hours per day, possibly over uneven ground and cobblestone streets. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at all times. If you have any mobility concerns or physical restrictions, please contact our OLLI office for additional information.

About Our Lodging

We will stay in accommodations handpicked to ensure quality and comfort. Specific hotel details will be given at the pre-trip dinner.

Travel Protection:*

Go Ahead's trip protection will be included in the price of this trip and must be paid at the time of deposit upon registration. The "Trip protection" package has pre-existing condition coverage. Details about the travel protection package terms and conditions may be found on their website at: go-aheadtours.com/about/travel-protection. Please note that insurance fees are not refundable. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase.

* If you choose not to take travel protection for your trip - your registration/situation will be reviewed

Air Details:

Our package includes round-trip air from Detroit, air taxes and fees/surcharges. Specific flight information will be provided at a later date. If our flight is scheduled early, we may stay the night prior to departure in Detroit. If this is the case, there will be an added cost per person and these details will be forwarded to you closer to departure.

Waitlist & Roommates Needed:

If you are looking for a roommate please contact our office by September 9, and we can share names of others looking for roommates. Our office will also maintain a waitlist if this trip fills to capacity of (35) travelers.

Included in Your 14 - Day Package

- Twelve nights lodging in hand-picked hotels
- Twelve- breakfasts
- Twelve Guided sightseeing tours with expert tour director & local guides as outlined in brochure.
- Six dinners with beer or wine, (1) Beer tasting, and (1) food tasting
- Private deluxe motor coach
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU approximately two weeks prior to departure.
- Round-trip air transportation from Detroit, and ground transportation from SVSU to the Detroit airport and from DTW back to SVSU on the return.
- Post-trip gathering to share photos and memories approximately two weeks following the return of your trip.

Travel Requirements:

We currently require proof of vaccination, & masks may be required for multiple day travel with SVSU-OLLI. We will provide any known updates closer to departure dates. Please call the OLLI office with any questions (989)964-4475.

Cancellation:

All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office and are subject to a cancellation fee of \$50. Go Ahead's cancellation policies will prevail.



Day 1: Depart SVSU via motorcoach for our overnight flight from Detroit to Belfast Ireland.

Day 2: Arrival in Belfast (County Antrim)

Welcome to the Emerald Isle! Settle in, then gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Belfast (County Antrim)

Learn about Belfast's role in the conflict known as "the Troubles" during today's walking tour. Learn about the city's history and your guide's experience growing up during the troubles. Listen to expert commentary from your guide as you stop at sites in downtown Belfast connected to the Catholic-Protestant conflict. Enjoy a free afternoon in County Antrim OR add an excursion. + Giant's Causeway Cliff Walk County Donegal (B,D)

Day 4: Donegal via Derry & Glenveagh National Park (County Donegal)

Depart Northern Ireland and cross into the Republic of Ireland, where you'll travel through the dramatic scenery along a portion of the Wild Atlantic Way. We'll stop in Derry, where you'll learn about the city's history on a tour with a local guide and see the well-preserved 17th-century city walls and learn about the history of the conflicts that took place between the Protestant and Catholic populations. We'll visit Glenveagh National Park and set off on an easy, scenic walk along Lough Beagh. We'll tour Glenveagh Castle and admire the park's waterfalls, lakes, and mountains. Following our tour we'll continue through the beautiful Irish countryside to County Donegal. This evening enjoy an included dinner with your group. (B,D)

Day 5: Slieve League (County Donegal)

Today we'll head west to see the highest cliffs in Europe today. Pay a visit to the Slieve League Cultural Centre, then continue on to the Slieve League Cliffs for incredible panoramic views from nearly 2,000 feet above sea level. Opt to join your guide on a walk along the cliffs. Today you'll meet up with a teacher at a local college in the village of Glen-columbkille for an Irish language lesson. This afternoon we'll visit a local weaving shop in Donegal to see a demonstration and learn about the famous Donegal tweed. (B)

Day 6: County Mayo via Drumcliffe & Sligo (County Mayo)

After breakfast our journey takes us south along the Wild Atlantic Way and through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of William Butler Yeats. We'll stop at Mullaghmore Head to snap photos of Classiebawn Castle, an estate built during the 19th century; and pay your respects at Yeats' grave in the Drumcliffe churchyard and learn about this cemetery's unique history from a chaplain. This afternoon you'll enjoy free time for lunch on your own in the town of Sligo. Perhaps you might try a cup of Irish coffee! Then join an archaeologist local guide at the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, which is home to tombs that are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Europe. Our final stop today is in the village of Westport where we will have an included dinner this evening. (B,D)

Day 7: Achill Island & Glen Keen Farm

(County Mayo)

Make your way to Achill Island, an idyllic destination along the Wild Atlantic Way. We'll pass by many blanket bogs en route to the charming village of Dooagh. We'll walk through the landscapes surrounding Keem Bay and visit Keem Beach. We'll cross the Michael Davitt Bridge on our way back to Westport. Later, head to Glen Keen Farm, one of Ireland's largest sheep farms, to learn about sheep farming while soaking in the natural beauty that defines the area. We'll have the opportunity to watch an interactive sheep herding demonstration followed by a guided walk to a nearby ring fort where we'll learn how the fortified settlements can be found all throughout Ireland and most were built during the Bronze Age. Later we'll head back to the farm for a traditional dinner of Glen Keen Farm Lamb Stew, dessert, coffee, and tea. Please note: *Vegetarian options are available for the included dinner.* (B,D)

Day 8: County Clare via Connemara National Park & Galway (County Clare)

This morning we'll venture down the coast to County Clare, making several scenic stops en route. Included is a visit to the charming village of Leenane and get a view of Ireland's only fjord in Killary Harbor, then soak in views of the Maumturk mountain range en route to Connemara National Park. Today we'll tour Kylemore Abbey and take time to explore its Victorian walled garden. Then we'll drive through the picture-perfect landscapes of Connemara, stopping at the Inagh Valley and Maam Cross. Later in the afternoon we'll arrive in Galway, where you'll follow your tour director on a guided walking tour, stroll past Lynch's Castle, the Druid Theatre Company, and the broad expanse of Eyre Square. You'll view the city's medieval walls and Spanish Arch, then continue on to your hotel in County Clare (B)

Day 9: The Cliffs of Moher & Bunratty Castle

(County Clare)

After breakfast you'll join a local guide for a scenic walk along the Cliffs of Moher. Set off on a trail along the mesmerizing coastline of the Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Take this chance to soak in the views from Hag's Head, the southernmost point of the cliffs and enjoy free time at the visitor's center. This evening, enjoy traditional Irish entertainment in Bunratty Castle's Corn Barn, with an included 3-course dinner as you hear stories and music throughout the evening. (B,D)

***"OLLI gives people the chance
to get out in the world and enjoy life!"***

-OLLI Member



Day 10: County Kerry via Muckross House & Killarney (County Kerry)

Today we'll transfer to County Kerry, making stops along the way. We'll visit the stately Tudor-style Muckross House, donated to the Irish state in 1932. Exploring the house at your own pace and stroll through its beautifully manicured gardens. Then we'll travel to Killarney to enjoy free time to shop and eat lunch, and enjoy a tasting of local ice cream before settling in to your hotel in County Kerry (B)

Day 11: Free day in County Kerry (County Kerry)

Spend a free day exploring County Kerry on your own. OR Choose to include the optional excursion on Dingle Peninsula. (+ Dingle Peninsula Walk & Whiskey Tasting) (B)

Day 12: Killarney National Park & transfer to Dublin

After breakfast we'll head to Killarney National Park, Ireland's first national park, which has grown to 25,000 acres of diverse ecological landscapes. We'll have a guided walking tour through Killarney National Park's most magnificent landscapes around Muckross Lake. Enjoy a walk along Muckross Peninsula, which separates Muckross Lake from Lough Leane. Look for the red squirrels, red deer, lush ferns, and green moss throughout Reenadonna Wood. In the afternoon we'll stop at the 200-year-old Dinish Cottage and stroll along a short path that leads to the Meeting of the Waters, where Killarney's Upper Lake flows down to join the lower loughs, then continue to Dublin, enjoy a free evening & dinner on your own. (B)

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Dublin & Guinness Storehouse

This morning we'll have a comprehensive tour of Ireland's capital city with a local expert leading the way. We'll stop in Phoenix Park, site of the presidential residence, and pass by the Guinness Brewery. You'll have the opportunity to step inside the soaring St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church, and pass St Stephen's Green and admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square as you go. We'll also see Trinity College and walk past Grafton Street to the Molly Malone statue, ending in the Temple Bar district.

This afternoon, take a self-guided tour of the famous Guinness Storehouse. Explore the many fun, colorful exhibits that highlight how the Irish brand has evolved since Arthur Guinness crafted the first beer in 1759. You'll learn how to pour a perfect glass of the famous stout then head up to the top floor to sip your beer and soak in 360-degree views of Dublin. Tonight, celebrate your trip with your group during a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 14: Departure

Today our Go Ahead representative will escort group to the Dublin airport for our return flight home. You'll be transferred from the Detroit airport to SVSU via motorcoach (B)

Trip Optional Excursions to Consider

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Add your optional excursions at time of registration or prices may increase.

Day 3: Giant's Causeway Cliff Walk

Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of 40,000 naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal columns, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that mythical giant Finn McCool built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. Explore the Giant's Causeway Visitor's Center to learn more about its history. You'll also have the option to join your Tour Director for a cliff walk to soak in spectacular views of the causeway and coastline. On a clear day, you can see Scotland and a stretch of the beautiful northern Irish coastline. Please note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion. The cliff walk is optional and travelers can opt to enjoy the visitors center at their own pace.

\$89 (6 hours, departure time varies)

Day 11: Dingle Peninsula Walk & Whiskey Tasting

Spend the day getting to know the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula. Take a scenic drive to the Blasket Centre, where you'll embark on a coastal walk along the Lúb na Cille loop trail. This two-hour hike is filled with incredible views of the Irish coastline and farmlands. After, head to the charming, colorful town of Dingle. You'll have free time to visit the shops and restaurants before heading to Dingle Distillery. Join a local guide for a tour of the distillery, which produces whiskey, gin, and vodka. Sit down to enjoy a tasting of their signature whisky, which the distillers have been producing in small, craft batches since 2015.

\$89 (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Registration

Group Organization Name: SVSU-OLLI
Group Reference Number: 65019955

Tour Name: Ireland: The Wild Atlantic Way & Dublin

Have you traveled with:

SVSU-OLLI prior to this trip Yes No
EF Go Ahead Tours before Yes No

Please ensure that your name matches what appears on your passport:

First: _____ Middle: _____

Optional nickname for trip nametag _____

Last: _____

Male/Female: _____ D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell# _____

Passport # _____

Country of Issue: _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____

Special dietary needs/medical conditions/mobility issues
(if none, please write N/A): _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Tel: (____) _____

Accommodations

2 Twin 1 in Double bed (sleeps 2)

Single room \$715 Limited

(Single room -Private accommodations; single supplement charges apply)

Roommate Name (if none please write N/A)

Roommate Phone # _____

(Please note: Roommates need to be confirmed at time of registration)

I have enclosed a check or money order for the total fee of: \$ _____

I authorize you to charge my credit card for the total fee of: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Deposit & Insurance Due at time of Registration

■ \$5,893 SVSU-OLLI Members* (double occupancy)

*This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$449

■ \$5,953 Non-Members* (double occupancy)

*This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$449 and an OLLI membership, expiring 8/31/2023

■ \$6,608 SVSU-OLLI Single* (limited singles available)

*This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$449 and \$715 for single supplement fee

■ \$6,668 Non-Member Single* (limited singles available)

*This cost includes trip protection insurance of \$449, \$715 single supplement fee and an OLLI membership, expiring 8/31/2023

Optional Excursions:

Giant's Causeway Cliff Walk (Day 3) \$89 _____

Dingle Peninsula Walk & Whiskey Tasting (Day 11) \$89 _____

Excursion Total _____

Travel Protection:

() Yes, I understand trip protection is included in my trip cost \$449

() No, I decline the trip protection offered for this trip

Signature: _____

Details about the travel protection package terms & conditions can be found on their website at: goaheadtours.com/about/travel-protection

Deposit & Payments:

\$899 per person OLLI members
(double occupancy, includes travel protection) _____

\$959 per person non-members
(double occupancy, insurance & 2022/23 membership) _____

\$1,614 per person OLLI members
(single occupancy includes insurance) _____

\$1,674 per person non-member
(single occupancy, insurance & 2022/23 membership) _____

Total Excursions _____

Check (payable to Go Ahead) Amount Enclosed _____

OLLI Membership payable to SVSU \$60 _____

*Final balance is due by December 12, 2022

Total _____

Credit Card:

MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Will you be using any Go Ahead Travel vouchers?

* The final balance is due by December 12, 2022.

You will receive your final balance details approximately one month

In Office Checklist: Registration Date _____ Initials _____

____ Passport Copy ____ Good thru Oct. 30, 2023 ____ Covid Vac Copy ____ Emergency form ____ Travel protection

Other _____