

EXPLORING IRELAND'S BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN COUNTIES
WITH
BRENDAN NOLAN
Oct. 2 through 13, 2024

- OCT. 2** Depart for overnight flight to Dublin. (meal served on board)
- OCT. 3** Arrive in Dublin in the morning where we will be met by our fantastic driver/guide, Liam Finnegan. Once on board our private motorcoach we begin our journey with our first stop in **Glendalough**, in beautiful Co. Wicklow. Here we will have a **walking tour with a local guide** which includes the 6th century monastic site founded by St. Kevin. After our visit we continue heading south to Co. Wexford. Take some time to relax and freshen up before we meet for **dinner** in our hotel. **(D) Talbot Hotel, Wexford**
- OCT. 4** After breakfast we will make a visit to **The Irish National Heritage Park**. Here we will enjoy a **tour led by guides** in their medieval costumes sharing facts and stories covering 9,000 years of Ireland's pre-history and history. After our visit we'll visit **Johnstown Castle** for a tour and time for some lunch. It's then back to our hotel with the remainder of the afternoon and evening free to check out the pubs and shops. **(B) Talbot Hotel, Wexford**
- OCT. 5** We say so long to Wexford town and make our first stop today in the town of **New Ross**, home of John F. Kennedy's ancestors. Here we will take a guided tour on the **Dunbrody Famine Ship**. This is a replica of a Famine Ship which many of your ancestors may have sailed on to the USA. We then continue onto Co. Cork and make a visit to the famous **Blarney Castle and Woolen Mills**. Take some time to climb to the top of the castle to kiss the "magical stone", walk around the gardens and do some major shopping. Our final destination today is the village of **Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**. Tonight we will enjoy **dinner** together in our lovely hotel. **(B & D) Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery**
- OCT. 6** This morning we make the short journey to **Clonakilty** to visit the **Michael Collins Centre and Museum run by the Crowley Family**. Here we will learn about the great Irish Hero and see some amazing memorabilia. After our visit we head for the coast and the most southerly point of Ireland, **Mizen Head**. Here we can enjoy some spectacular scenery & go exploring. It's then back to Rosscarbery. Tonight we'll have a session with Brendan either in the hotel or one of the local pubs. **(B) Celtic Ross Hotel**
- OCT. 7** Today's journey takes us on a boat out to **Garnish Island**. This is a peaceful setting to walk around at your own pace and enjoy the gardens and many different plant varieties. This is a serenity day as our next stop is in the beautiful area of **Gougane Barra** situated in a scenic valley surrounded by the Shehy Mountains. Take some time to stroll around and visit the church and surrounding area. Our final destination is the busy little town of **Killarney**. Tonight we will enjoy **dinner** together in our hotel. **(B & D) Plaza Hotel, Killarney**

- OCT. 8** Today is a **FREE day in Killarney**. There is plenty to see and do in this hustling and bustling town. Maybe a horse and buggy ride thru the National Park, maybe a round of golf, more shopping!! Maybe just sit back and relax. Tonight we will enjoy some wonderful entertainment, **Celtic Steps**. This is a great night of music, singing and dancing! **(B) Plaza Hotel**
- OCT. 9** Enjoy a bit of a leisurely morning before we head for the town of **Listowel**. Here we will stop at **John B. Keane's Pub**, home of the famous playwright. Hi son Billy will greet us with some local entertainment as we enjoy a pint together. It's then time to catch the **ferry to cross the River Shannon** on our way to the seaside town of **Kilkee**. Our hotel is right on the beach in this beautiful little town. After **dinner** tonight in the hotel it's time for another **session with Brendan in the pub**. **(B & D) Stella Maris Hotel, Kilkee**
- OCT. 10** Enjoy another leisurely morning before we head out to some of the most spectacular scenery in Ireland. Liam will take us on a slow and magnificent drive out to **Loop Head** with plenty of stops along the way. It's back to Kilkee with the remainder of the day to relax and check out the town and meet the locals. **(B) Stella Maris Hotel**
- OCT 11** So long to Co. Clare as we head inland and make a stop at **Sean's Bar** in Co. Westmeath. Sean's is the oldest pub in Ireland and is in the Guinness Book of Records. One of the managers will greet us and give us the history of Athlone and Sean's Bar while we can enjoy a pint or maybe try some of Sean's very own whiskey. After our visit we'll make the short walk across the bridge and visit **Gertie Browns Pub** for a bite of lunch. It's then on to our final destination for the last two nights in the seaside town of **Malahide**. Tonight we will enjoy **dinner** together in our hotel. **(B & D) Grand Hotel, Malahide**
- OCT. 12** Today is a FREE Day to explore Dublin or relax in Malahide. Liam will bring some into Dublin and pick them up in the afternoon. Tonight we will enjoy a **farewell dinner and session** at our hotel. **(B D) Grand Hotel**
- OCT. 13** Sadly our journey together has come to an end. Liam will take us to the airport in plenty of time for check in and duty free shopping. For those with very early flights we will help you with arrangements.

This itinerary is subject to change
We hope to have pricing available Fall of 2023