



“On Sacred Ground”

Exploring the Mythology ~ Folklore and Literature of Ireland
April 8th to April 17, 2016

Details

9 nights/11 days

Highlights

- **Eddie Lenihan**
- **Michael Gibbons**
- **Archaeological Field Trip Burren**
- **Medieval Museum in Waterford**
- **Clara Bog**
- **Aran Islands & Padraigin Clancy**

Cost per person

\$ 2,587 sharing

(Plus Air) approx. \$1100

Single Supplement:

\$500

Singles are limited

Deposit: \$500 per

person secures space

Included in your trip:

Accommodation for 9 nights with full breakfast each morning.

5 Dinners including dinner at a local restaurant

Transportation with a professional Driver/guide and local guides

Visit to Loughcrew Passage Tombs and Cairn

Visit to the Medieval Museum with a Private Tour and Wine Reception.

Tour of the Burren with Michael Gibbons and Storytelling with Eddie Lenihan

Day exploring the Aran Islands and a visit with Padraigin Clancy

Not Included:

International Airfare

Items of a personal nature

(laundry, telephone, etc.,)

Gratuities for driver/guide.

Fri 8 : Depart USA for Ireland - Depart USA on your overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Sat 9: Dublin

Arrive Dublin, after clearing customs & immigration your driver/guide will be waiting to take you to your city centre hotel. Begin a city tour taking in all aspects of Dublin's rich history and enjoy a visit to the Dublin Writers Museum. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure to explore Dublin. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening.

Sun 10: Dublin - Dublin Exploration

Breakfast at your hotel followed by a walking tour which includes a visit to the Bogman Exhibit at the National Museum, the Long Library at Trinity College and of course the Book of Kells. The afternoon and evening are at leisure for you to explore some of your preferred sights of Dublin. Option available to see a play at the Abbey Theatre should you wish.



Mon 11: Dublin - Loughcrew Cairn & Passage Tombs

This morning travel north to the town of Oldcastle and a visit to the Loughcrew (*also known as Slieve na Calliagh meaning hill*) Passage Tombs and Cairn, Take in its spectacular views over Westmeath as you step back in time to this Megalithic area of Ireland. A visit this afternoon to the archaeological dig at a 15th century Black Abbey, and a chance to learn about the dig and its finds. The name "Black Abbey" was derived from the cloak worn by the Dominicans. "Black Friars" over their white habits. Return to Dublin for the evening and enjoy an evening at the Brazen Head of Folklore and Fairytales with some Irish music and dinner.

Tue 12: Dublin - Waterford

Today we leave Dublin and make our way through Wicklow to the 6th century monastic site of St Kevin's at Glendalough, continue over the Wicklow Gap onwards towards Kilkenny and stop here to explore the Medieval Streets. Onwards to Waterford for your overnight. This evening you will visit the Medieval Museum for a private tour and a chance to see the city's charter and "Heavens Embroidered Cloth", the largest collection of Medieval Vestments in existence, embroidered in Italian Silk. View the vaulted ceiling of the Choristers Hall dating back to the 13th Century, before a wine reception in the Medieval Mayors Wine Vault. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Wed 13: Waterford - Dingle

Following breakfast head west through County Tipperary and into County Limerick to Lough Gur. Meet our guide and visit stone circles, and wedge tombs. Continue through Co. Kerry and onwards through Tralee and out to Dingle for overnight. Dinner at the hotel.

Thur 14: Dingle

A leisurely morning before going to see the Ogham Stones carved with the ancient script. We continue along the peninsula through Ventry and learn of Fir Bolg and the Tuatha De Dannin from our Irish folklore. We then make our way towards Ballyferriter and visit the West Kerry Museum which is situated in an old schoolhouse West of the fishing port of Dingle. Continue on to visit Kilmalkeader Church one of the most important Church sites on the Dingle Peninsula. Return to Dingle for overnight. Free for dinner this evening.





Fri 15: Dingle - Burren—Galway - with Michael Gibbons and Eddie Lenihan

Following breakfast continue north and cross the River Shannon into Co Clare and through the rugged Limestone Region of the Burren. Enjoy time with Michael Gibbons , a unique opportunity for an intimate look at The Burren described as one of the richest archaeological landscapes in western Europe. Described in 1681 by Thomas Dineley “ ***this barony affordeth not a piece of timber sufficient to hang a man, water in any one place to drown a man, or earth enough in any part to bury him***” Continue to Galway and after dinner visit with Eddie Lenihan (a renowned storyteller) and hear his vast repertoire on haunted places, fairy paths and holy places.

Sat 16: - Aran Islands with Padraigin Clancy

This morning we travel to Inish Mor (Big Island) on the Aran Islands and spend the day exploring the island and its heritage with Padraigin Clancy. Padraigin is a graduate of Irish Folklore and History from the National University of Ireland in Dublin. Return to Galway for overnight.

Sun 17: Galway - Barberstown Castle

This morning head East through the midlands of Ireland and a visit to Clara Bog Visitor Center. Clara Bog is one of the best remaining examples of a relatively intact raised bog in Western Europe. It has been said that you can experience ten thousand years of history in the ten square kilometers that accommodate Clara Bog and its surroundings. Continue on to Co. Kildare and spend our last night at Barberstown Castle. This evening a farewell dinner at Barberstown Castle.

Mon 18: - Dublin to the USA

Depart Dublin Airport on your return flight to the USA.

Options available for extending your stay in Ireland before or after the tour

Erin Hart: *Erin came to writing quite late, and by way of her first love theater. Starting graduate school in the mid-1980's the available choices were business administration or creative writing— she chose writing by default, and embarked on a second career as a freelance arts journalist and theater critic. Throughout the 1980's, her work appeared in print in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Star and Tribune and Minnesota Monthly*



While visiting Ireland one Summer, Erin heard an intriguing tale about a beautiful red haired girl whose perfectly preserved head was discovered in a desolate Irish bog. That true story was the inspiration for her first debut novel “Haunted Ground”, the first in a planned series of crime novels set mostly in Ireland, revolving around archaeology, forensics, history, traditional music and folklore.

“People often ask why I chose Ireland as a setting, and I have to say that I think Ireland chose me”

