

False Mermaid Tour to Ireland

With Erin Hart

July 06 - 17, 2021

Tuesday 06: Depart USA for Dublin, Ireland

Depart USA on your overnight flight to Ireland. Please ensure you have your passport valid for 6 months beyond the date of travel.

Wednesday 07: Hill of Uisneach - Durrow High Cross & Holy Well - Tullamore

Arrive Dublin and after clearing customs & immigration your driver/guide will be waiting to greet you. Travel across the midlands and to the mythological and spiritual center of Ireland at the Hill of Uisneach. During a guided tour learn of the many ancient monuments and the story of Eiru, from whom Ireland is named. Eiru is believed to be buried beneath the Catstone at Uisneach. Continue to Durrow, the site of the monastery founded by St. Columcille, to see a High Cross and Holy Well. From Durrow continue to Tullamore where you will have some time to relax and refresh before a welcome dinner at your hotel. **(D)**

Thursday 08: Clara Bog - Saint Manchan's Reliquary - Ballinahown Craft Village

After breakfast, travel to Clara Bog Visitor Centre for a guided tour and learn of these ancient fuel sources and amazing finds within the bogs. Later visit St. Manchan's shrine, an outstanding example of early Irish decorative work, commissioned by the High King of Ireland, Turlough O' Connor. After time for lunch, visit Ballinahown Craft Village to see handmade sculptured bogwood reclaimed from Midland bogs. Return to Tullamore for dinner at leisure and overnight. **(B)**

Friday 09: Birr Castle & Gardens - Tullamore Dew

Following breakfast travel to the town of Birr to visit Birr Castle and gardens, with rare trees, flowers, and wonderful wildlife. Celebrating 400 years this year, the Castle is home to the 7th Earl of Rosse. Visit the distillery of Tullamore Dew. The original triple distilled Irish whiskey is known all over the world for its smooth and gentle complexity. Return to Tullamore for overnight and dinner at leisure. **(B)**

Saturday 10: Corlea Trackway Center - Dooney Rock - Ardara

After breakfast, travel to the town of Longford and visit the Corlea Trackway. Following in the footsteps of the Celts learn how they used this Trackway to traverse the bogs and cross the country in ancient times. Onwards past Rath Cruachan and through Boyle to Sligo for lunch. Later travel to Slish Woods and take the woodland walk around Dooney Rock, where W.B Yeats wrote the "Fiddler of Dooney". Continue around Lough Gill to Ardara for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Sunday 11: Triona Design - Sliabh Liag Distillery - Sliabh League

We start this morning with a visit to Triona Design to see the traditional Donegal Tweed woven in this old family business. Continue on to Killybegs, with a little time for a stroll along the pier in one of Ireland's largest fishing ports. Stop for lunch in Carrick and visit the Sliabh Liag Distillery. Continue to Teelin Pier for a boat trip to see the highest sea cliffs in Europe at Sliabh League. Afterwards travel to the top of the cliffs, before taking the Glengesh Pass back to Ardara for dinner overnight. **(B,D)**

Monday 12: Creeveykeel Court Tomb - Mullaghmore - Clifden

After breakfast begin the journey south with a brief stop at Creeveykeel megalithic tomb, and thin place. Travel further south and along the coast road to Mullaghmore and the gothic look of Classybawn Castle. Onward to Sligo and the town of Cong (filming location of the 1950's classic the Quiet Man). Continue through the Maamturk Mountains to the Maam Valley and rugged Connemara to the town of Clifden for dinner and over night **(B,D)**

Tuesday 13: Inis Mor - Gabriel O Fatharta - Dun Aengus

Breakfast at the hotel and then travel to Rossaveel to board the ferry to the Aran Islands. Visit Gabriel O Fatharta and his herd of Inis Mor goats. Minibus tour of the Island with time to explore the Ring Fort at Dun Aengus. Return to the mainland with dinner at Abbeyglan, and the remainder of the evening free to enjoy the pubs of Clifden. **(B,D)**



Wednesday 14: Connemara day tour - Killary Sheep Farm - Glassillaun Beach

After a leisurely breakfast, drive through the unique bog landscape of Connemara surrounded by the Twelve Ben Mountains. Visit the Killary Sheep Farm overlooking Killary Fjord, and enjoy a walk to the bog to cut some turf and have an Irish Coffee with Tom Nee. Enjoy a stroll on Glassillaun beach a true gem on the Connemara west coast. Return to Clifden for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Thursday 15: Clonmacnoise & Dublin

Depart Clifden after breakfast and make your way across the midlands to the 6th century monastic settlement founded by St. Ciaran on the banks of the River Shannon. Continue to Dublin for afternoon arrival with a panoramic tour of the city to acquaint you with the historic sites. Evening at leisure for dinner on your own. **(B)**

Friday 16: Walking Tour Dublin & Farewell Dinner

After breakfast, start the day on a walking tour with Lorcan Collins, highlighting the tragic history of the 1916 Rising. The remainder of the afternoon free to explore the city. Tonight, a farewell dinner to share the memories of the tour. **(B,D)**

Saturday 17: Dublin to the USA

Depart for Dublin Airport and your return flight to the US. Please allow 3 hours for check in, as you will clear US customs and immigration before departure.

DETAILS: July 06 - 17, 2021 (10 nights/12 days)

COST: \$3,200.00 per person based on sharing a room **Single Supplement: \$875.00** Singles are limited.

AIR (Not Included) approx. \$1,300

DEPOSIT: \$700 per person secures your place

Highlights: Hill of Uisneach - Clara Bog - Ballinahown Craft Village - Corlea Trackway - Aran Islands
Gabriel O Fatharta - Lorcan Collins walking tour in Dublin - Stay in a Castle hotel

Included in your trip: Hill of Uisneach - Durrow High Cross & Holy Well - Clara Bog - Saint Manchan's Shrine - Ballinahown Craft Village - Birr Castle & Gardens - Tullamore Dew - Corlea Trackway - Dooney Rock - Triona Design - Sliabh Liag Distillery - Sliabh League boat trip - Creevykeel Court Tomb - Mullaghmore Beach - Gabriel O Fatharta - Killary Sheep Farm - Glassillaun Beach - Clonmacnoise - Walking tour of Dublin with Lorcan Collins

Hotels: Tullamore - Tullamore Court (3 nights)/Ardara - Nesbitt Arms (2 nights)/Clifden - Abbeyglan Castle (3 nights) /Dublin - Ashling Hotel (2 nights)



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"

