

# PADDY NOONAN'S 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE TOUR OF IRELAND

September 19 – 28, 2010

## Itinerary (more details to follow)

Sept 19

### UNITED STATES TO SHANNON

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Sept 20

### SHANNON ARRIVAL & GALWAY

After customs and immigration formalities at Shannon Airport, your CIE Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and take you to your motorcoach. Leaving Shannonside drive through Ennis and Gort and the pleasant countryside of Country Clare, which is dotted with ruined castles. Drive around the shores of Galway Bay to Galway, a bustling city with a unique Irish flavor. Upon arrival check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure before dinner. You may choose to relax in your hotel or spend some time around Eyre Square, the hub of the city. Most of the shops are within easy reach and there are also many quaint pubs where Irish traditional music is played.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GALWAY BAY HOTEL, GALWAY

Sept 21

### CONNEMARA & QUIET MAN TOUR

Today tour Connemara and admire the sweeping views of boglands and misty mountains. As you drive along you will see many sheep that graze freely and also tracts of bogland where some people hand-cut peat for home heating. Drive to the attractive village of Cong. Upon arrival take a short walking tour through the village to discover places that appeared in the movie "The Quiet Man" was filmed with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara in 1952. Finish your walk at the Quiet Man Heritage Cottage, filled with memorabilia of the movie. After your visit, return to Galway and enjoy some free time before dinner.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GALWAY BAY HOTEL, GALWAY

Sept 22

### CLIFFS OF MOHER & DINGLE

Drive around Galway Bay and through the Burren Country, a unique region of limestone hills renowned for its flora and prehistoric stone monuments. Stop to view the majestic Cliffs of Moher, a rocky wall that rises nearly 700 feet above the foaming Atlantic Ocean. Take a short ferry ride across the River Shannon Estuary to the mountainous countryside of Kerry. Arrive in Dingle and check into your hotel. Then you will have the afternoon free to relax or stroll around town before dinner.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: SKELLIG HOTEL, DINGLE

Sept 23

## **DINGLE PENINSULA & BLASKET CENTRE**

Today discover the beauties of the Dingle Peninsula, made famous by David Lean's movie, "Ryan's Daughter." Drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach and rocky headlands. There will be frequent stops at strategic locations to admire the views and take photos. Continue to the western tip of the peninsula to visit the Blasket Centre in Dunquin to learn about the Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953 by hardy families who eked out a living by farming and fishing. Return to Dingle for some free time before dinner.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: SKELLIG HOTEL, DINGLE

Sept 24

## **BANTRY BAY & KINSALE TOUR**

Leaving Dingle travel southeast through Killarney and lovely mountain scenery to Kenmare and Bantry Bay, where the mild climate allows sub-tropical vegetation to thrive. Continue along the coast through peaceful fishing towns to Kinsale, nowadays a popular yachting center. Upon arrival take a walking tour with a local guide to learn the history of the town. In the center see the Old Courthouse, now a regional museum and a few miles outside the town see Charles Fort, built in the 1670s to protect the area against naval attack from the Continent. Then check into your hotel and enjoy some free time to relax or do some exploring on your own before dinner.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: TRIDENT HOTEL, KINSALE

Sept 25

## **COBH HERITAGE CENTRE & KINSALE FREE TIME**

This morning drive a short distance to the east of Cork to Cobh, the harbor town for large ships. Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre, which depicts the varied history of emigration from Ireland and many European countries to the United States over the past 150 years. Cobh was the last port of call for the "Titanic" and many liners that carried emigrants to the New World. This informative display is housed in the rail station through which all of the Irish emigrants had to pass. Then return to Kinsale where the balance of the day is free for individual pursuits. In the evening join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: TRIDENT HOTEL, KINSALE

Sept 26

## **IRISH NATIONAL STUD & DUBLIN**

Depart Kinsale this morning and travel northeast via the outskirts of Cork city and into County Tipperary. Continue your drive through the midland region where you will see many farms and marketing towns. Your route will take you past the town of Portlaoise and into Kildare. A visit to the Irish National Stud will show you the history and current trends of horse-breeding in Ireland. See some of the magnificent horses and learn about horse-breeding. Then take a walk around the Japanese Gardens which were established in 1908 and represent the "Life of Man" from cradle to grave in the traditional Japanese style of gardening. Also see the charming St. Fiachra's Garden with water features and beehive huts. After your visit drive into the metropolitan area of Dublin and check into your hotel. Enjoy the balance of the afternoon and evening at leisure for independent activities and dining.

OVERNIGHT: ASHLING HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sept 27

## **DUBLIN - CAPITAL CITY**

This morning enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Dublin, an elegant and artistic city with spacious Georgian squares. Stop to tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, which is almost as old as the city itself and famous for its connections with the brilliantly eccentric Dean Jonathan Swift. Next visit the Guinness Storehouse to see exhibits on how this world famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today. Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, Gravity, overlooking the city center where you can sample a draft Guinness and enjoy the view of the city. The afternoon is at leisure so that you can browse, shop and sightsee independently.

In the evening join your fellow travelers for dinner and entertainment at a cabaret in the Burlington Hotel.

OVERNIGHT: ASHLING HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sept 28

## **RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES**

All too soon, your vacation in Ireland has come to the end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores. Then clear U.S. Immigration before boarding your aircraft and fly west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.