

Traveling Matters



SOJOURN *in* SOUTHWEST IRELAND • July 26-August 5, 2017



If you are looking for an opportunity for a trip of a lifetime, Traveling Matters invites you to join our journey to Ireland, July 26-August 5, 2017. We will explore Ireland's stunning landscape, Gaelic culture, history, artistic venues, and of course the music and pubs during our 11-day in-country stay.

Dates: Depart USA Tuesday, July 25.

Arrive Dublin International Airport Wednesday, July 26.

Depart Dublin International Airport Sunday, August 6.

Contact info@travelingmatters.com for more information or to add your name to interested participants. Price does not include international airfare. More information can be found on our web site: www.travelingmatters.com



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights in the capitol city of Dublin
- Accommodations in 4* and 5* Hotels & Inns
- Visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells
- 2 nights in the medieval city of Kilkenny and tour of Kilkenny Castle
- 3 nights in the town of Killarney surrounded by the Killarney National Parklands
- 3 nights in the seaside town of Baltimore, and visits to nearby islands, historical sites and villages.
- Midleton Whiskey Distillery Tour
- Cobh Heritage Center and the departure port of the Titanic
- Weather permitting, options for sailings on a 75-foot Yacht
- Music, Pubs and Culinary Delights

ABOUT TRAVELING MATTERS

For more than twenty years, **Margarita Ramirez-Dalton**, owner of **Traveling Matters** has been writing and organizing travel itineraries to destinations around the world. She plans each day and co-leads each journey with other guides. Her focus is crafting journeys with a special focus on an aspect of the culture, often lead by writers, scientists, philosophers or just marvelous travel guides who are in love with their country of origin. In 1998, Margarita became deeply connected with the landscape and peoples of Ireland, married an Irish Native, **Peadar Dalton** who will co-lead the journey to Ireland.

Tuesday: July 25, 2017: Depart USA from your gateway airport to Dublin. **Arrive: Wednesday, July 26** at Dublin Airport within designated group pick-up time. Your group will be greeted by a privately hired vehicle and driver.

Official Tour Begins

Day 1, Wednesday, July 26: Welcome to the Emerald Isle. Once we all meet up and luggage is loaded, we will head to our first city of interest, the ancient medieval city of Kilkenny. Kilkenny was occupied by Celtic, Viking, Norman and English invaders. The city is surrounded by the 13th century St. Canines Cathedral and the Kilkenny Castle built in 1195. Kilkenny is known for its vibrant artisan works, colorful history and inspiring architecture. You'll enjoy fine shopping in the many artisan shops. (B,LL,D)

Day 2, Thursday, July 27: A full day in Kilkenny with a walking tour, a visit to the Kilkenny Castle and exploring the many artisan shops and nearby restaurants, pubs, and medieval alleys. We might be lucky enough to enjoy a local farmers market! Options for music in the pubs.(B)

Day 3, Friday, July 28: We say farewell to Kilkenny and travel southwest to Co. Cork to the charming seaside town of Baltimore. Our first stop involves whiskey! It is very much the heart and soul of Ireland and its history represents more than just the liquid. We will visit Midleton and enjoy a guided tour of the oldest operating distillery of Jameson Whiskey. Of course we'll sample some of the finest whiskey. Enjoy lunch on your own from the cafe. A short drive away we arrive to the Heritage Center in the port of Cobh which was the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic in 1912. Two and a half million people emigrated from Ireland during hard times searching for a better life in America. Here you can get onboard a replica and learn about this unfortunate journey. Early evening we arrive into our cozy country inn in Baltimore for dinner and music at the pub. (B, D)

Day 4, Saturday, July 29: Today we enjoy Baltimore with its nearby Clear Island and perhaps a sail on the Bay; explore nearby charming towns or hike on Lough Hyne. We'll end the day with dinner and music in the pub. B,L)

Day 5, Sunday, July 30: This part of southwest Cork is rarely offered in a tour itinerary, This area played a major role in several timelines of Irish history — in particular the famine and the legendary Michael Collins, who was an integral part of Irish Independence. We'll head to the nearby town of Skibbereen and the Heritage Center. We will see and

hear through the exhibition about the Great Famine of the 1840s when over a million died. Time permitting we'll also visit the charming small village of Clonakilty. (B,L)

Day 6, Monday, July 31: After breakfast we continue the adventure traveling west to County Kerry and the vibrant city of Killarney where we'll get comfortable for the next 3 nights. Killarney was one of the first Irish towns to develop visitors to Ireland. It is known as the friendliest town with music on every corner. (B,D)

Day 7, Tuesday, August 1: After breakfast we meet for an overview of the daily itinerary and orientation to Killarney town. A short coach ride out to the famous Muckross House and Gardens and the nearby Muckross Farms which depict early century Ireland with the backdrop of the most cherished National Park. You can choose to hire a pony and trap ride through Killarney National Park and to Ross Castle. Tonight we may have a chance to enjoy a concert.(B)



Day 8, Wednesday, August 2: Hotel (B,D)

There is nothing more spectacular than the 3-hour journey through the Gap of Dunloe, a glaciated valley with its high peaks and the three lakes of Killarney. We will enjoy traversing the Gap by horse-drawn jaunting cars, and partially walking the trail. We rest at Lord Brandon's outlook for Irish Coffees and a lite lunch. We then cross the three lakes of Killarney back to the shores of Killarney.



Day 9, Thursday, August 3: We leave Killarney and head back to Dublin City. We'll take a tour of the city and visit the newly opened Diaspora Museum, a high-technical achievement in the most talked about area of Dublin - the Docklands. There are lots of nearby cafes and shops to compliment the tour. Later in the day we'll arrive to our hotel located in one of the best locations of Dublin City a few feet from the glorious public park, St. Stephens Green. (B,D)

Day 10, Friday, August 4: No visit to Dublin is complete without a visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells, the ancient written transcripts c.800. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to shop or visit one of the museums all within walking distance. Options for pub crawls and music. (B)

Day 11, Saturday, August 5: Enjoy Dublin and the spirit and energy of Dublin City. This is our last day of our journey. We'll meet up for a final early dinner and sharing our stories and prepare for safe travels home. (B,D)

Day 12, Sunday, August 6: Departures back to USA with airport transfer included. (B)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip ground transportation to and from airport within designated arrival times
- Private coach throughout the journey
- 11 nights 4-5 star hotel accommodations. All rooms ensuite (private bathroom)
- Group lectures by accomplished guides
- Expert trip leaders and trip management on journey
- Daily buffet breakfast; many lunches, dinners and extras
- Entrance fees to all arranged tours and sites
- Bottled water on coach during travel days
- All required gratuities to guides, porters, and other service staff
- Pre-trip materials, packing lists, luggage tags
- All facilities are non-smoking
- All meals sourced from many local food purveyors. We strive to provide healthy food options where possible.

NOT INCLUDED:

International air; trip cancellation insurance; personal items; alcohol and other beverages not included in meals; laundry service; discretionary gratuities for daily in-room service in hotel rooms. Transportation to/from airport if you choose to augment the itinerary.

INCLUSIVE COST: \$4,250.00

\$785.00 add-on fee for occupying a room on your own. Single hotel room cost is calculated by each hotel property and each property contract may limit number of single occupied rooms. If you are requesting to occupy a room on your own it is necessary to state that in your registration.

We reserve the right to adjust the cost should the group size not meet the budgeted pricing scheme.