

Celtic Invasion Of Ireland June 13 until June 20th 2011

Day Month Date Time

Activity

The theme of this vacation is **"Erin Experience, Advenute & Ceili"**

2 nights in rural Co. Sligo to recover from flight and time changes
settle into Ireland and be introduced to its myserious mythology
Accommodation is eco friendly farm with several animals rescued from cruelty

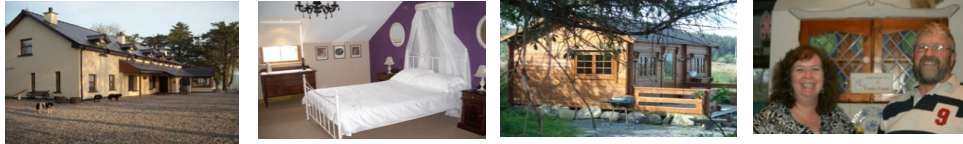
3 nights at Glencolumcille, a beautiful place in SW Co. Donegal
to share and enjoy a mix of traditional activities including
building a curragh boat, learn a bit of gaelic, find out more about
traditional music, traditional cottage living, gathering wild food from the shore
- space for optional quiet time at ancient sites to allow inspiration to be received

2 nights in Dublin, lots of choices in the day and for the evening
hop on hop off bus ticket for the day gets you around Dublin
and to a selection of sites, visitor's centres, museums and galleries
or take a Mary Gibbons guided bus tour to Newgrange and Tara Hill
or Glendalough and Powerscourt in Co. Wicklow.
Finish with a ceili and music session evening

Tour Itinerary

Accommodation Your first two nights will be at **Ballaghboy Lodge**, Co. Sligo

- eco farm that is also home for "rescue" animals
- extremely comfortable and well designed themed bedrooms
- very spacious, quiet, no light pollution on night skies
- dining provides outstanding views over the surreal Lough Arrow
- exceptional four course evening meal dining
- excellent broadband internet and cell/mobile phone signals if needed
- Karen and Eddie, the proprietors are the best hosts you could ever find
- truly home from home without intrusion when you need quiet and space
- can set up ceili at Ballaghboy Lodge or session at nearby Mayfly pub.



video clip: - watch this video of Ballaghboy Lodge ...
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yu9dRmuj3tE>

Then three nights at **Áras Ghleann Cholm Cille**, Co. Donegal
in the heart of traditional rural Gealteach Ireland

- budget friendly but with a high standard, en suite bathrooms
- excellent broadband internet and cell/mobile phone signals if needed
- wonderful helpful and informative hosts
- 100% comments of praise on Trip Advisor



video clip: - This video clip is of the area around here ...
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Wlm2Qa0uWc>

Then two nights at the **Marine Hotel**, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

- a high standard at half the price compared to Dublin City hotels
- frequent low cost trains to and from Dublin City, only 3 minutes from hotel
- Dun Laoghaire is also a fascinating traditional town too
- visit the local People's Park farmer's and fisher's market on Sunday morning
- frequent buses to Dublin Airport direct from the hotel entrance



Tour Itinerary

Mon: June 13 Theme:

Arrive at Dublin, travel to Co. Sligo

Dublin Airport – all flights usually arrive by approx 11:30 am
immigration, baggage collection and customs
ATM machines for cash are to the far right after you exit customs into Arrivals
everything usually takes 60 mins

Dublin Airport – depart approx 12:30 pm

lunch on the way, picnic style, sandwiches, snacks etc.

arrival at Ballaghboy Lodge approx 4:00 pm

Optional visit to Sidhe Beg, Sidhe Mor and Lasir's Well
Sidhe Beg is legendary burial place of Grainne, a Co. Sligo woman chieftain
but most people are familiar with the popular Shee Beg Shee Mor O'Carolan tune
Lasir's tradition, of Lasir's Well, is much like Brigid but she led sheep, Brigid led cows
but Lasir (became St. Lucie) was also an important visionary for women



Evening relax
Overnight Ballaghboy Lodge

Tour Itinerary

Tue: June 14 Theme:

Introduction to Irish Mythology

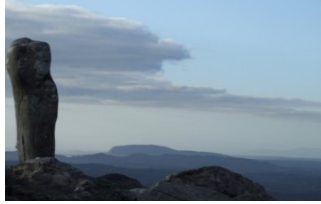
A day to introduce Bride (Brigid) and the Morrighu (Morrigan)

An first day of adventure and opportunities for inspiration.
Paced according to your energy, do what you feel most comfortable doing.
There's very little road travel today, probably no more than 20 miles total

Morning

Céis Coarran of the Morrighu

*the fertility of Ireland is said to have started here
from the breaking of waters from the womb of Morrighu fertilizing the land
and the goddess spirit of Bride, of Brigid was born*



Morning

Carrowkeel Passage Cairns

*many visitors write back to tell us that this was the best experience of their tour
ancient 5500 years old mountain passage cairns
On a clear day visitors can view over up to 18 counties of Ireland
Also visit to nearby Donkey Sanctuary and make friends with the donkeys
We share traditions of the connections of Cynus, the Northern Cross
and stories of Bride flying down as a swan to be midwife for new births.*



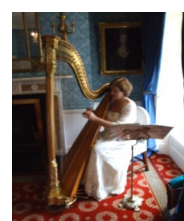
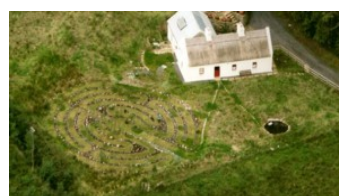
Lunch

Carrowcroy Cottage, our restored thatched cottage for hearthside ceilis

Afternoon

Two Worlds Labyrinth Gardens

*introduction to labyrinths and how to use them for contemplation and playing
making Brigid's crosses
performance of songs and harps in the cottage by Claire Roche
some time of extra relaxed ceili and stories too*



*Optional return to Céis Corran to climb
which is an attractive idea if the western sun is shining*

Evening

relax or session at local Mayfly pub

Overnight

Ballaghboy Lodge

Tour Itinerary

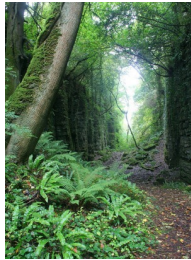
Wed: June 15 Theme: **Sligo and Donegal Coasts**

All Day

Everyone loves the coast!
and Co. Sligo never disappoints

We'll head for the supermarkets and buy our stash for a picnic
then here is a selection of sites you may enjoy

- *Climb Knocknarea to Maeve's Cairn*
- *Creevykeel 4000 year old court cairn*
- *Mullaghmore coast road, cliffs, maybe dolphins, quaint fishing village*
- *Streedagh or Ross's Point strands for the walk along the beach*



Evening

relax or session at local Bidy's pub

Overnight

Glencolumcille

Tour Itinerary

Thu: June 16 Theme: **Activities In Co. Donegal**

Morning Explore Glencolumcille

- *The restored folk village, gaelic school and beaches*

- *Try some of the ancient 15 station turas walk of carved stones, holy wells etc.*

With enough people interested (needs at least 8 people)
build two ancient style traditional curragh boats
then go out and have a fishing competition in them



Lunch Cruachan royal court visitor's centre

Afternoon Explore Slieve League Cliffs

*actually higher than Cliffs of Moher
more colourful and in a much remoter location
optional guided walks on stroll, intermediate and hardy hillwalker levels*



Evening session at Bidy's

Overnight Glencolumcille

Tour Itinerary

Fri: June 17 Theme:

Co. Donegal tour & Leo's Tavern

All Day

- *Glenveagh National Park with Scottish style castle, scenic walks, tea rooms ..*

- *Doon Rock, King and Chieftain seat of Dhomhnaill clan who became the O'Donnells and MacDonalds obtained kingship as being the biggest cattle owners descendants became the biggest burget makers some interesting things here, mass rock, holy wells, rare trees*



Evening

session at Leo's Tavern (home of Clannad and Enya)
Mcs for these are often one of ...
Moya Brennan (Clannad), Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (Altan)
Triona Ní Dhomhnaill (ex Bothy Band), Manus Lunny (Caperceillie)

Overnight

Glencolumcille

Tour Itinerary

Sat: June 18 Theme: travel to Dublin

All Day

Mystery Tour

*choose an interesting lunch stop en route
get to Dublin in good time to eat and hit the town for the Saturday night life
or if preferred quiet walk on the various walks of Dun Laoghaire harbour*



Evening free time, or follow Marc to sessions

Overnight Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire

Sun: June 19 Theme: Free Day In Dublin

All Day

Suggestions :-)

- Leprechaun Museum
<http://www.leprechaunmuseum.ie/>

- Viking Splash, a lot of fun
<http://www.vikingsplash.ie/>

- Hop On Hop Off Bus Day Pass
<http://www.dublinsightseeing.ie/>

- Day trips to Newgrange, Tara or Glendalough, great service by Mary Higgins
<http://www.newgrangetours.com/>



Evening Dinner in Temple Bar followed by early sessions

Overnight Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire

Mon: June 20 Theme: Airport & Home

Airport buses run from hotel hourly 24 hours, journey time 1 hour
You should allow at least 3 hours at the airport
to check in and go through security
Allow at least 4 hours between hotel departure and airport
Buses leave the hotel at 5 minutes past each hour