



A TASTE OF IRELAND PUB TOUR November 2010....

Ireland is country known for its stunning landscapes, vibrant colourful villages, ancient Celtic relics, lush green valleys and abandoned castles. It is also known worldwide for its great pubs! There is something unique about the Irish Pub... something that brings people from far & wide each year for this unbeatable experience... Now you'll know why

DAY 1 **ARRIVE DUBLIN** *Cead Mile Failte. Welcome to Ireland!!*

On arrival into Dublin airport this morning, your *Funtrek* driver/guide will greet you with an introduction to one of Europe's most vibrant cities. Over a thousand years old, the turbulent history and rich traditions of the city have inspired writers, artists and musicians down the ages. Today, artists are still attracted by Dublin's youthful enthusiasms and easy-going lifestyle and the city has become a thriving center of culture and enjoyment. The new wave of cafes and restaurants are meeting places for all ages while traditional Dublin pubs are rightly world-famous for their informal atmosphere and lively conversation. The city oozes atmosphere, not least in the heady scents that cling to it – the rich aroma of the hops being roasted in the Guinness brewery and the salty tang of the sea. Nighttime entertainment is a rich mix of world-class theater, concerts from classical to rock, jazz clubs, traditional music sessions and old-style cabaret. Above all, Dublin is a small city, where visitors can feel at home after even the shortest stay.

What better way to begin your experience than with a visit the *Guinness Storehouse*. The core of the Guinness Storehouse building is modeled on a giant pint glass, stretching up from reception on the ground floor to The Gravity Bar in the sky. If filled, this giant pint would hold approximately 14.3 million pints of Guinness! The guided tour ends, as it should, with a pint of 'plain' in the Gravity Bar with its bird's-eye views of the city.

Relax over dinner at your city centre hotel – some may wish to retire early after their long flight, others will head out to experience the diverse range of pubs within a short walk of your hotel

DAY 2 **DUBLIN - GALWAY**

Sustain yourself for the day with a hearty 'Irish breakfast' at your hotel before heading into the West to discover rural Ireland – your destination being Galway – the City of the Tribes.

A trip to Ireland would not be complete without experiencing some of the ancient Christian Heritage, so en route you will stop at the spectacular *Clonmacnoise*, where in the 6th century St. Ciaran founded an early Christian site, which is now one of Ireland's most famous monastic sites. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, eight churches (10th-13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and a large collection of early Christian grave slabs and is well worth a visit.

Onwards to *Galway* – which is celebrated in song and story throughout the world. A spectacularly beautiful county, it is a medley of contrasts - the wildest and remotest of countryside teamed with a vibrant and popular city. Drawn as if by a magnet, visitors come again and again, captivated by this most special of Irish counties.

Enjoy dinner with the group at your centrally located hotel, after which the energetic can head out, map & guide in hand, for ‘ceol, caint agus craic’ (music, chat & fun) in Galways finest pubs

DAY 3

DAY AT LEISURE OR OPTIONAL TOUR OF CONNEMARA

Today you can choose to enjoy a day at leisure exploring Galway City at your own pace or to take an optional excursion to the stunning scenery of Connemara, with its rolling hills, flowing rivers and coastal landscapes.

A tour of *Connemara* takes you through some of the strangest and most beautiful scenery in the far west of Ireland, a region with an unsurpassed sense of remoteness. To one person’s eye, the hallmarks are its shapes and colours; the varying pewters of over-present water and stone; walls and rocky outcrops swelling out in lumps and bumps from an intense green turf, occasionally splashed white by a solitary cottage. To others it may be the variety of russets on the slopes of the rugged peaks of the Maamturk Mountains cut by so many valleys, lakes and rivers; of the flat, saw-toothed coastline of rocky promontories joined by sandy, shell-filled coves. It is a Gaelic- speaking region and has attracted many artisans, who can be visited at work in their studios. The centre of Connemara is composed of mountain peaks, the Twelve Bens or Pins, which culminate in Benbaun. The sharp grey peaks of quartzite rock which is resistant to weathering are too steep and hard to be clothed in blanket bog. The region is now largely uninhabited, although in the past the more fertile lowlands were cultivated and the uplands were used as pasture for cattle and sheep.

Overnight again in Galway City Centre.

DAY 4

GALWAY - DUBLIN

After a leisurely morning & a fond farewell to Galway, you will journey along the western coast to the world renowned *Cliffs of Moher*. These great dark sandstone cliffs (600ft) rise sheer from the Atlantic Ocean for nearly 5 miles. Screaming sea birds throng the ledges or wheel and swoop about the waves.

Following this you will continue to the village of Bunratty... famous for its Castle and Folk Park, and also for its great pub – *Durty Nellies!!* Stop for a pint – or a visit to the castle before returning to the Capital City.

This evening you can set out at your own pace, to return to one of the pubs you visited on your arrival, explore some others or join in a pub crawl and toast your time in Ireland!

DAY 5

DEPART IRELAND

Depart your hotel this morning & return to Dublin Airport for your departure flight to the US.

Slan Abhaile (Safe Home)!

Price 499.00 USD per person sharing (land only)

Price includes:

- 4 nights superior hotel accommodation
- Full Irish breakfast daily
- 2 evening meals
- Entrance to the Guinness Storehouse & Clonmacnoise
- Deluxe touring coach throughout with driver/guide
- Porterage of 1 bag per person at hotels

*** Optional day tour to Connemara**

Single supplement 179.00 USD

Tour starts Friday November 12th 2010 (departs the US on Nov 11th)

Tour starts Friday November 26th 2010 (departs the US on Nov 25th)

Tour starts Friday February 18th 2011 (departs the US on Feb 17th)

Tour starts Friday March 11th 2011 (departs the US on March 10th)