



FEG & ATGI Pre-Meeting Tour to Connemara and the West of Ireland

Saturday 18 November – Tuesday 21 November 2017

Payment deadline: 30th July 2017



Saturday 18th November

8.30 Depart the Camden Court Hotel in Dublin for the **West of Ireland and Connemara**

Our first stop will be in the town of Trim in County Meath to visit **Trim Castle**



Trim Castle is the largest, best-preserved & most impressive Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. It was constructed over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter in the late 12th century. This magnificent ruin was used in the filming of 'Braveheart'.

11.30 Following a guided tour of Trim Castle we continue our journey to **Strokestown House** and **Famine Museum**

Visit Strokestown House and Famine Museum

Lunch included

The Famine Museum uses a combination of original documents and images from the Strokestown Park collection to explain the circumstances of the Great Irish Famine of the 1840's.



16.00 Depart Strokestown House and continue to **Westport**. Westport is a charming heritage town on the Atlantic coast.

Overnight and dinner at The Wyatt Hotel, Westport

Sunday 19th November

09.00 Following breakfast we travel south from **Westport to Galway** through the spectacular mountain and coastal scenery of **Delphi and Killary Fjord**.



Ashleigh Falls

09.45 Visit to **Glen Keen Farm** for sheep herding and an **Irish Coffee Making** demonstration



Glen Keen one of Ireland's largest sheep farms on the Wild Atlantic Way. The area is designated by Europe as a special area of conservation for its natural beauty, unique habitats & wildlife.

12.00 Continue to **Kylemore Abbey**, where we will have time to explore the Abbey, the Gothic Chapel and the beautifully restored Victorian gardens.

Lunch included

Kylemore, first a castle and now an abbey, is home to a community of nuns of the Benedictine Order who came here in 1920 after their abbey in Ypres, Belgium was destroyed in World War I. Settling at Kylemore, the Benedictine Community opened a world renowned boarding school for girls and began restoring the Abbey, Gothic Church and Victorian Walled Garden to their former glory.



Dinner this evening will be in a restaurant in the centre of Galway city

Overnight in Galway

Monday 20th November

9.00 Walking tour of **Galway** city.



Galway street scene

11.00 Drive via Salthill along the coast road of **Galway Bay**. Short shore walk in **Spiddal** before lunch in the village

Lunch included

13.00 Afternoon activities in **Cnoc Suain – Connemara Gaelic Cultural Experience**



Cnoc Suain is a restored rural hill-village set in 200 acres of Connemara wilderness – a 20 minute drive from Galway city. In this evocative natural setting you will be offered a unique window into Irish Gaelic culture – past and present.

15.00 Return to **Galway**

Free time in Galway. At leisure for dinner

Overnight in Galway

Tuesday 21st November

08.30 Depart Galway

10.30 Visit **Cliffs of Moher**



The Cliffs of Moher stand over 200 metres above the Atlantic Ocean. The rocks that make up the Cliffs of Moher were formed over 300 million years ago. The sandstone, siltstone and shale that are exposed in a spectacular fashion were formed by the sand, silt and mud that built up in the delta of large rivers that flowed north eastwards!

The sea at the mouth of great delta

11.15 Depart Cliffs of Moher

12.30 Lunch followed by visit to **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**



The present castle, built on the site of a Vikings trading camp, dates to the 15th century and was, at one time, the seat of the O'Briens, the great Earls of Thomond

Bunratty Folk Park is a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Rural farmhouses, village shops and streets are recreated and furnished as they would have appeared at that time according to their social standing, from the poorest one roomed dwelling to Bunratty House a fine example of a Georgian residence for the gentry built 1804.

14.30 Depart Bunratty

16.30/17.00 Arrive at **Dublin** for the Main Meeting Programme

Important notice:

For specific terms on the main programme, as well as on pre-meeting and post-meeting tours, please see the Registration Form before you book and pay.

Registrations must be confirmed by the host organisers to each participant before booking their flights, due to limited places in some of the venues.

Bookings will be strictly done in first come first served basis with online registration or by email to our ATGI hosts.