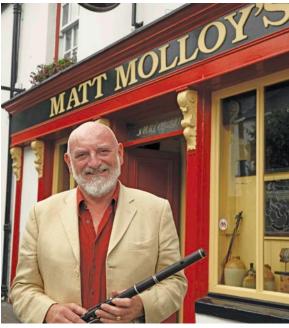


# **Coastal Gems** of the Emerald Isle

# featuring the Wild Atlantic Way

# **Inspiring Moments**

- ► Witness the Wild Atlantic Way's sensational beauty at The Burren and Cliffs of Moher, a UNESCO Global Geopark.
- ► Take in the towering Slieve League sea cliffs and the otherworldly stones of Giant's Causeway.
- ► Tap your toes to a rousing **Irish music and dance** performance.
- Taste the best of contemporary and classic Irish cuisine on a Donegal food tour.
- Explore Northern Ireland's walled city of Derry-Londonderry.
- Visit Kylemore Abbey and Glenveagh Castle, two grand, 19th-century castles.
- ▶ Watch in delight as talented dogs herd sheep at a family farm in Connemara.



Westport

The Emerald Isle's spectacular beauty awaits you on this heartwarming, culture-filled journey that includes less explored County Donegal and Northern Ireland! Feast your eyes on the majestic Wild Atlantic Way and discover the ruggedly beautiful islands of Inishmore and Achill. Gaze across Connemara's glaciercarved landscapes, stand atop Ireland's highest sea cliffs and wonder at intriguing Giant's Causeway. You'll also feel the warm, welcoming ambience of small towns and lively cities like Galway and Derry-Londonderry. Along the way, listen to a storyteller and watch border collies corral sheep!

# **Day-by-Day Itinerary**

# Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Shannon, Republic of Ireland.

#### Day 2 | Shannon, Republic of Ireland | Ennis

Transfer 🕽 to the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis.

Join your Travel Director for a short stroll around Ennis. Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner, capped off by music and dancing by local performers!

## Day 3 | The Burren | Cliffs of Moher

Enrichment: Irish Seanchaí. Eddie Lenihan, Ireland's premier folklorist/seanchaí, tells traditional tales of folk heroes, mythology and the supernatural.

The Burren and the Cliffs of Moher. Take in these marvelous natural wonders on the Wild Atlantic Way. Expert Tony Kirby leads you on an exclusive, guided walk across the Burren's striking landscape of karstic limestone and diverse flora. After lunch at a pub, see the megalithic portal tomb, Poulnabrone. Next, admire the dramatic Cliffs of Moher, rising 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, and the sweeping coastal vistas.

#### Day 4 | Aran Islands

Aran Island of Inishmore. Ferry across Galway Bay to the largest of the Aran Islands. As you explore on a minibus, your local guide will share entertaining stories about life on this starkly beautiful island, where Gaelic is the first language. Visit a family-run business that hand-harvests edible seaweeds for a talk and tasting of this ancient food source. Afterward, see cliffside Dun Aengus, the most famous of the Aran Islands' Bronze Age forts, and pause for lunch before your return ferry.

### Day 5 | Galway | Westport

Check out of the hotel and head toward Westport. Galway. Delight in this spirited city's medieval lanes buzzing with street performers and students. Take a guided walk and find a nice spot for lunch on your own. Depart for Westport and check in to your hotel.

D JOURN

Below: Giant's Causeway Right: Derry-Londonderry



**Westport Walking Tour.** Get acquainted with this charming town and its elegant Georgian architecture.

#### Day 6 | Achill Island

**Enrichment: A Vision of Ireland.** A local artist and art historian reveals the history within Irish works of art. **Achill Island.** Amid Achill's untamed splendor, see the Deserted Village of Slievemore dotted with the ruins of nearly 80 abandoned stone cottages. After lunch on the island, learn how to make an authentic Irish coffee.

#### Day 7 | Connemara

**Connemara.** Witness this brooding terrain of craggy mountains and windswept bogs. Stand at the base of Croagh Patrick, where St. Patrick is said to have fasted for 40 days in the fifth century, and visit the National Famine Memorial. Head next to romantic Kylemore Abbey, a 19th-century castle, for a guided tour.

**Connects:** Glen Keen Farm. Observe border collies herding a flock on a family-owned farm and learn more about the dogs and sheep farming.

#### Day 8 | County Sligo | Donegal | Slieve League | Rathmullan

**County Sligo.** In "Yeats' Country," appreciate the stirring scenery beloved by poet William Butler Yeats, and visit his grave at Drumcliffe Cemetery.

**Free Time:** Enjoy lunch in the small town of Donegal. **Slieve League.** Take in breathtaking views of Donegal Bay on a walk at Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs. Check in to the Rathmullan House in Rathmullan.

#### Day 9 | Donegal

**Free Time:** Relish a leisurely morning at the hotel. **Donegal Food Tour.** Savor the county's innovative, exciting food scene as you travel from town to town.

#### Day 10 | Glenveagh National Park

**Glenveagh National Park.** Tour stately Glenveagh Castle in this wild, remote park, followed by lunch and free time in the lush gardens.

**Glebe House & Gallery.** Visit the former home of a renowned artist filled with an eclectic art collection. **Leo's Tavern.** Relax at this famous pub owned by





present and former members of the band Clannad, including Enya and Moya Brennan.

#### Day 11 | Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland | Giant's Causeway | Glaslough, Republic of Ireland

After breakfast, check out of the hotel.

**Derry-Londonderry and Giant's Causeway.** Delve into the fascinating history of vibrant Derry-Londonderry on a guided stroll and enjoy lunch. Then, journey to Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Marvel at the huge, basalt columns left behind by the giant Finn McCool or an ancient volcanic eruption. Continue to Glaslough and check in to The Lodge at Castle Leslie Estate, set on 1,000 acres of countryside.

#### Day 12 | Glaslough

**Free Time:** Enjoy the grounds filled with sparkling lakes and ancient woods, or choose from optional activities such as spa treatments, fishing and archery. Share in a Farewell Reception and Dinner tonight.

# Day 13 | **In Transit**

Transfer **C** to the airport in Dublin for the return flight **C** to your gateway city.

# **Included Features**

# Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **3 nights** in Ennis, County Clare,
- at the first-class Old Ground Hotel.
- 3 nights in Westport, County Mayo, at the first-class Westport Plaza Hotel.
- 3 nights in Rathmullan, County Donegal,
- at the first-class Rathmullan House.
- 2 nights in Glaslough, County Monaghan, at The Lodge at Castle Leslie Estate, a first-class property.

## Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coaches during the Land Program.

#### **Extensive Meal Program**

 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

#### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- AHI Travel Assurance covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- SAHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



# 2024 Departures & Pricing

# June 16-28, 2024

¢1 005*
\$250
\$5,245

Special Price from \$4,995

\*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details. VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$795 (limited availability). Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https:// washst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1834A?schoolld=188. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

**Note:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights ① and transfers ⑦ provided for AHI FlexAir participants. ⑦ Electives available at an additional cost.