

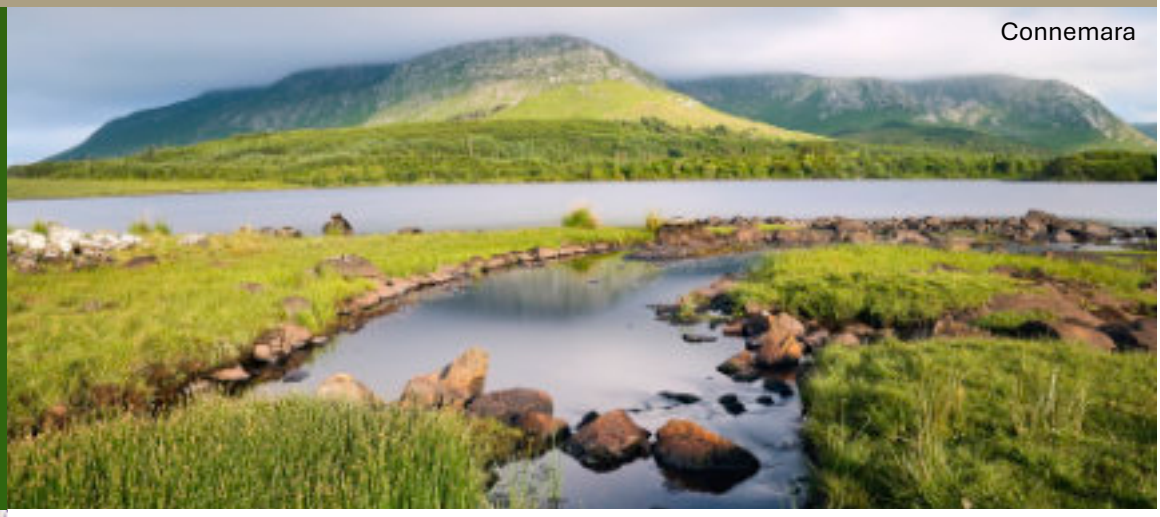
St. Patrick's Cathedral

Tour Code: SJIR27

St. James Coffee House Presents...

Ireland: Saints, Scenes, & Sacred Places

September 20–29, 2027



Connemara



Japanese Gardens

To Register,
Visit or Scan:

tinyurl.com/SJIR27

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Galway Cathedral


Galway

Day 1: Monday, September 20, 2027 • Depart
Today we begin our journey of faith to the Emerald Isle, a land where Christianity has shaped the culture, traditions, and lives of its people for more than 1,500 years. We depart on our overnight transatlantic flight to Dublin, looking forward to following in the footsteps of St. Patrick and discovering the enduring faith of Ireland.

Day 2: Tuesday, September 21, 2027 • Armagh
Welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival in Dublin, we meet our Irish guide and travel into the beautiful Boyne Valley. We stop at the prehistoric **Newgrange Visitor Centre**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and burial mound older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. Next, we visit the **Hill of Slane**, where tradition holds that St. Patrick lit the Paschal fire in defiance of the pagan High King, proclaiming the light of Christ throughout Ireland. Lastly, we pay a short visit at **Monasterboice**, an early Christian monastic settlement renowned for its magnificent high crosses and round tower. These remarkable monuments remind us of the important role Ireland played in preserving Christian faith and learning during the early Middle Ages. We continue north to Armagh, regarded as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and closely associated with St. Patrick's ministry. Following hotel check-in, we gather for a welcome dinner and fellowship. **D**

Day 3: Wednesday, September 22, 2027 • Armagh
Today promises to be one of the spiritual highlights of our pilgrimage as we travel to **Downpatrick** and participate in a special **St. Patrick's Camino** experience. Following in the footsteps of Ireland's patron saint, we walk a six-mile portion of the historic pilgrimage route connecting places associated with his life and ministry. Our guided pilgrimage may include 1000-year-old ruins of Inch Abbey, Saul Church, traditionally regarded as the site of Patrick's first church in Ireland, and Down Cathedral, where St. Patrick is traditionally believed to be buried. Along the way, we pause for Scripture, prayer, and reflection on St. Patrick's remarkable journey from captivity to faith and missionary service. A pilgrim's lunch is included. (A shorter, less strenuous alternative may be arranged for those who prefer it, allowing everyone to share in the spiritual significance of the day.) We also visit the **Saint Patrick Centre** to learn more about the life and legacy of Ireland's patron saint. Mass will be arranged at a nearby Catholic church, subject to availability, before returning to Armagh. **B/L/D**

Day 4: Thursday, September 23, 2027 • Galway
This morning we visit the magnificent Catholic **Cathedral of St. Patrick in Armagh**, a city where Patrick established his principal church. We celebrate Mass, subject to arrangements, and reflect on the missionary spirit that helped bring Christianity throughout Ireland. Traveling southwest, we drive to **Galway**, our home for the next three nights. On arrival, we have a short orientation **walking tour** and free time to explore its colorful streets, shops, and lively Irish atmosphere. **B/D**

Day 5: Friday, September 24, 2027 • Galway
After breakfast, we travel to **Knock**, one of the world's important Marian pilgrimage destinations. In 1879, fifteen witnesses reported an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist. Rather than making this simply a sightseeing stop, we devote meaningful time to the spiritual experience of Knock. We celebrate Mass together and learn about the apparition and the history of the shrine, have opportunities to pray the Rosary, visit the Apparition Chapel, and spend time in personal prayer and reflection. Those who wish may participate in the traditional pilgrimage devotions. **B**

Day 6: Saturday, September 25, 2027 • Galway
We drive to the charming town of Westport, nestled near Clew Bay and Croagh Patrick, the mountain traditionally associated with St. Patrick's forty days of prayer and fasting. We visit the base of **Croagh Patrick**, Ireland's holy mountain, where pilgrims have come for centuries. We learn about the mountain's spiritual significance and enjoy time for prayer at the foot of this sacred landmark. A mountain climb is not included. Next, departing County Mayo, we explore the rugged beauty of **Connemara**, a region of mountains, lakes, stone walls, and traditional Irish villages. Our destination is **Kylemore Abbey**, home to a community of Benedictine nuns whose lives reflect the traditions of prayer, hospitality, and service. We tour the abbey and its grounds, learning about the Benedictine community and its history. We hope to arrange a special encounter with a member of the religious community or another local Catholic representative to hear about the role of faith in contemporary Ireland, the challenges facing the Church, and the continuing importance of prayer and service. Returning to Galway, we have dinner in one of Galway's welcoming pubs, likely to be alive with music and craic! **B/D**

Day 7: Sunday, September 26, 2027 • Dublin
Today we attend Sunday Mass at **Galway Cathedral.** We journey towards Dublin today and make a couple fun stops along the way. Our first stop is at **Clonmacnoise**, one of Ireland's most important early Christian monastic settlements. Founded by St. Ciarán in the sixth century, this center of faith and learning became renowned throughout Europe. We explore its ancient churches, high crosses, and round towers overlooking the River Shannon, reflecting on the extraordinary influence of Irish missionaries who carried Christianity and learning throughout Europe. Next, we stop at the **Tullamore Distillery** for a late lunch in the cafeteria and a quick look around at one of Ireland's premier distilleries and enjoy a taste. We continue to Dublin, where


Kylemore Abbey

a **panoramic introduction** acquaints us with the Irish capital. The evening is at leisure to enjoy Dublin's welcoming atmosphere and restaurants. **B/D**

Day 8: Monday, September 27, 2027 • Dublin
We travel into the beautiful Wicklow Mountains to visit **Glendalough**, the remarkable monastic settlement founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. Surrounded by peaceful lakes and wooded hills, Glendalough offers a glimpse into the prayerful lives of Ireland's early monks. We explore the ancient churches, round tower, and monastic ruins, with time for quiet reflection. We consider how the Irish monastic tradition helped spread Christianity and learning throughout Europe. On our return, we stop to see the **Japanese Gardens & Irish National Stud Farm**, where we can learn how the lands around Tully have been associated with the breeding of horses since about 1300, when it is likely that war horses were bred here for the Knights of Malta. The gardens are a living monument to the meeting of Eastern and Western cultures in a Western setting and tell of "The Life of Man" from The Cradle to the Grave. **B**

Day 9: Tuesday, September 28, 2027 • Dublin
After celebrating our final pilgrimage Mass, we explore a bit more of Dublin. On our city tour, we visit Trinity College where we can walk through the Long Room and Gaia in the Old Library and embark on an immersive digital journey which highlights the famous **Book of Kells**, the ancient Latin manuscript of the four gospels dating back to the year 800. We also visit the impressive **St. Patrick's Cathedral** and the towering **Papal Cross** memorial in Phoenix Park. Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis celebrated outdoor Mass there for over a million people. We have a free afternoon in Dublin – perfect for last minute shopping, stopping at a favorite museum or site, or exploring more. This evening we gather for a special farewell dinner, perhaps accompanied by traditional Irish music and storytelling. It is an opportunity to share memories of our journey, reflect on the experiences we have shared, and celebrate the friendships formed along the way. **B/D**

Day 10: Wednesday, September 29, 2027 • Return
Following breakfast, we transfer to Dublin Airport for our return flight to the United States. We return home with wonderful memories of Ireland's beauty, history, and people, and a deeper appreciation for the faith of St. Patrick and the generations who followed him. **B**

Abbreviations for Meals
Breakfast / **L**unch / **D**inner

Tour Price: $5,749

per person, double occupancy, land & estimated air
with a minimum of 25 paying participants

Single Supplement: $1,300

Your Tour Includes

- Accommodations (double occupancy) in superior three and moderate four-star class hotels
- Estimated round-trip air transportation, including all related taxes & fees, of $1,450 from Minneapolis to Dublin and return
- Private, deluxe touring motor coach and driver
- Meals per the itinerary
- Admission to all activities per the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour guide
- Step-on guides for tour highlights and city tours
- Luggage handling of one piece per person at hotels, where available
- All taxes and tips for provided services, except as indicated below

Your Tour Does Not Include

- Optional end-of-tour gratuities of $175 to coach driver (€6 per person per day) and tour guide (€8 per person per day) - tour tips can be collected at time of final invoicing
- Beverages, except with breakfast
- Meals, other than as indicated above
- Personal travel documents and related fees, including passports and visas *(Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond tour return date.)*
- Optional travel insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption ***(This insurance is strongly recommeded and available from Ed-Ventures.)***

Payment Schedule

- A deposit of $500 per person is due with reservation.
- Final payment is due June 22, 2027. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Early registration is encouraged.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure, a $100/person administrative fee plus any airfare & land penalties will be assessed. From 119-46 days, a $300/person cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets, once purchased, are non-refundable. Anyone canceling less than 45 days prior to departure will receive no refund. Please refer to the terms and conditions on your brochure for further information.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

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Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

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