



## O'Brien Clan Foundation Pilgrimage 2020

### **Day 1: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

We suggest you plan your travel to arrive in Dublin the day before the tour to recover from jetlag and take a taxi to the pre-tour hotel or a hotel of your choice. Alternatively, you can arrive at Dublin Airport and meet with your experienced Irish driver who will transfer you to your accommodation. Your room may not be available until mid-afternoon but you will be able to leave your luggage in a secure location at the hotel. The remainder of the day will be free to acclimatize yourself. Overnight *Hyatt Centric Hotel*, Dublin BB

### **Day 2: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

After breakfast enjoy a panoramic tour of Ireland's capital city which will include visits to Trinity College Library and the Book of Kells Exhibition and Guinness Storehouse. We will also visit the GPO Witness History or Kilmainham Gaol. Return to your hotel where the remainder of the day is free for independent sightseeing and dining. Overnight *Hyatt Centric Hotel*, Dublin BB

### **Day 3: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Check out of your hotel this morning and begin your journey south towards the picturesque harbour town of Kinsale. On the way, pay a visit to the iconic Rock of Cashel, a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale including the 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century Castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars Choral. Afterwards it's onto the Jameson Distillery in Midleton, home to the golden Irish nectar where you will see the process of how the famous whiskey is made along with enjoying a sample. Travel onwards to Kinsale for hotel check-in. Overnight *Trident Hotel*, Kinsale BB

#### Day 4: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Today, visit Charles Fort, a bastion-fort that guards the entrance to Kinsale Harbour and dates back to 1677 in the reign of Charles II, along with the Ringfinnan Garden of Remembrance which was established by a Kinsale lady who worked as a nurse for over 30 years in New York. Over the years she felt great admiration for the work of firemen and was so deeply saddened by the large death toll within the force after 9/11 that she decided to set up a memorial garden on her land. Next, it's on to Blarney where the famous Blarney Stone will be found. For those brave enough climb the ramparts of the castle and kiss the stone which is said to grant the gift of eloquence. There will be time for lunch and a visit to the nearby Blarney Woollen Mills which stocks many quality Irish made goods to remind you of your visit to the Emerald Isle before journeying onwards to Killarney, a town that is set amidst sublime scenery. Overnight *Europe Hotel* (Lake View Rooms), Killarney DBB

#### Day 5: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Following breakfast there will be an optional tour to the Dingle Peninsula. Perhaps not as well-known as the Iveragh Peninsula where the Ring of Kerry is located, the Dingle Peninsula is less busy but every bit as beautiful. The town of Dingle is a small fishing port where you will find plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants to have lunch. Then to the west of the town the scenery is particularly rugged with views out to the formerly inhabited Blasket Islands. Visit the Blasket Center which celebrates the story of the Blasket Islanders, the unique literary achievements of the island writers and their native language, culture and tradition. Sadly An Blascaod Mór was abandoned in 1953 as a result of the decline of its once vibrant population. Return to Killarney where the remainder of the day will be at leisure. You may of course decide to stay in Killarney or play a round of golf at one of the internationally renowned Kerry courses. Overnight *Europe Hotel* (Lake View Rooms), Killarney BB

#### Day 6: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Enjoy an early breakfast at your hotel and board your coach to travel to County Clare crossing the Shannon Estuary by ferry. Once in Clare, enjoy the scenery as you travel to one of Ireland's natural wonders, the Cliffs of Moher. The cliffs rise to 214 meters (702 ft) at the visitor centre where the views are magnificent and the Atlantic Edge Experience describes life above and below the ocean around the cliffs. Visit O'Brien's Tower which was built in 1835 by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru (entrance to tower not included). Drive through the Burren, an area of limestone rock covering imposing majestic mountains, and tranquil valleys with gently meandering streams. With its innate sense of spiritual peace, extraordinary array of flora and wildlife and megalithic tombs and monuments older than Egypt's pyramids, the Burren creates a tapestry of colour and a seductively magical aura which few people leave without wanting to experience again. On arrival in the vibrant and bohemian city of Galway, check in to your hotel. The remainder of the evening is free to explore at your own pace in search of the many quality pubs and restaurants on offer. Overnight *Park House Hotel*, Galway BB

### **Day 7: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Today explore one of Ireland's famous scenic regions, Connemara. Here the constantly-changing cloud formations give hills, lakes and peat bogs an added dimension. Visit Celtic Crystal Visitor Centre and see a live glass cutting demonstration; stop at Kylemore Abbey which is home to Ireland's Benedictine Nuns and where you can visit their walled garden and Gothic church whilst enjoying the tranquility of the estate; the Connemara History & Heritage Centre where you will be introduced to the history of the area from prehistoric times to the foundation of the Irish Free State and visit Dan O'Hara's Homestead and experience turf cutting and much more. Return to Galway late afternoon where there will be time for shopping. This evening is free to enjoy some of the local fare and craic in one of Galway's lively pubs or restaurants. Overnight *Park House Hotel*, Galway BB

### **Day 8: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel to what was once the capital of Ireland and Brian Boru's home town, Killaloe. Visit the Brian Boru Heritage Centre which houses an exhibition tracing the history of Killaloe from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, St. Flannan's Cathedral which was built in the 1180's by Donal O'Brien, Beal Boru which is Brian Boru's fort and St. Cronan's Church in Tuamgraney, believed to be the oldest church in continuous use in Ireland and the only surviving building that would have been used by Brian Boru and enjoy a cruise on Lough Derg. Then travel to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Dromoland Castle. The remainder of the day will be free to enjoy the facilities at this luxury resort before your dinner at the hotel. Overnight *Dromoland Castle Hotel* (De-Luxe Rooms), Newmarket on Fergus DBB

### **Day 9: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

This morning travel the short distance to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings, tapestries, and works of art which capture the mood of those times. Within the grounds of Bunratty Castle is Bunratty Folk Park where 19th century life is vividly recreated. Lunch (not included) can be had at Durty Nelly's, one of Ireland's most famous pubs. Legend has it that Nelly herself introduced poitin to Ireland! Return to Dromoland where the remainder of the day will be free to enjoy the facilities. This evening enjoy a farewell medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle. Overnight *Dromoland Castle Hotel* (De-Luxe Rooms), Newmarket on Fergus BB

### **Day 10: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Transfer to nearby Shannon Airport for your return flight.

*BB = Bed & Irish Breakfast  
DBB = Dinner, Bed & Irish Breakfast*

### Included in the cost of the tour

- Transfers on arrival & departure by private coach
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced Irish driver/ guide
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 9 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 2 hotel table d'hote dinners
- Lough Derg cruise
- Farewell medieval banquet

Entrance fees to the following sites and attractions: Trinity College Library and Book of Kells Exhibition, Guinness Storehouse, GPO Witness History or Kilmainham Gaol, Rock of Cashel, Jameson's Distillery, Charles Fort, Blarney Castle, Blasket Centre, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre, Kylemore Abbey, Connemara History & Heritage Centre, Brian Boru Heritage Centre, St. Flannan's Cathedral, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at each hotel
- Hotel service charges and tax (at current rate)
- Contribution to the O'Brien Foundation – Euro 100 per person

### Not included in the cost of the tour

- Travel to or from Ireland
- Items of a personal nature such as wines, laundry, etc.
- Entrance to O'Brien's Tower at the Cliffs of Moher – EUR 2.00
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities

### Prices

The cost of this tour will be **EUR 3399.00** per person sharing a twin or double room. The single supplement will be **EUR 1625.00** per person.

### Payment Terms

Bookings will be secured with a non-refundable deposit of **EUR 500.00** per person and the balance will be due 62 days prior to arrival into Ireland.

Payment can be made by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express) or wire transfer directly to our bank account. If paying by credit card, details should be entered through our securely encrypted link - <https://www.d-ireland-bookings.com/booking-confirmation-form.php> - and once received, we will process the payment and forward you an updated invoice on your booking. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, we will send our bank details to you.