

2020

# Maria Forde Ireland Celtic Tour



**19 SEPTEMBER – 03 OCTOBER**

**15 Days / 14 Nights**

**CONTACT:**



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# DAY ONE

Saturday, 19 September 2020

## ARRIVE DUBLIN



Land at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities before meeting your driver, who will welcome you to Ireland. Transfer to your hotel, check in and settle into your room.

You will have the day at leisure

There are plenty of museums of Irish interest such as the National Museum, the National Gallery or the Writers Museum, EPIC Ireland.

There are also plenty of shops along Nassau Street and the pedestrianized Grafton Street or Henry Street. You may like to explore Temple Bar or visit some of the traditional pubs.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers for dinner in the hotel restaurant. (D)

## DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

The Alex Hotel, Co. Dublin (or similar)

# DAY TWO

Sunday, 20 September 2020

## DUBLIN HIGHLIGHTS



Set off with a local guide who will show you around Dublin. The city has been molded through the centuries by economic, political and artistic influences that has shaped its architecture. Stop at Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, an 8th century illuminated manuscript of the gospels and see the Old Library. Tour Guinness Storehouse to see exhibits on how this world-famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today. Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, where you can sample a draft of Guinness.

Next, head to County Wicklow and visit the 6th century monastic ruins of Glendalough. The visitor centre explains how St. Kevin founded this settlement at a time when Christianity was burgeoning throughout Ireland. After your visit, check into your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

## DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Glendalough Hotel, Co Wicklow (or similar)

# DAY THREE

Monday, 21 September 2020

## KILMOKEA GARDENS & WEXFORD



This morning, we head to New Ross and visit Dunbrody Emigrant Ship, a replica of a sailing vessel built in 1845. The visit will give you an insight as to what life on board ship was like as well as filling you in on the history of the famine years.

We continue our travels to Campile and visit the gardens at Kilmokea Gardens. The gardens are divided into two distinct parts. Around the house are the formal walled gardens and then behind a wooden door leads you to a charming lower garden with many rare plants.

Later on we visit the Hook Lighthouse, one of the oldest lighthouses in the world, and the oldest operating lighthouse in Ireland.

Final stop for the day is Wexford where we will stay overnight (B, D)

## DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford (or similar)

# DAY FOUR

Tuesday, 22 September 2020

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## OLD MIDLETON DISTILLERY



After breakfast, travel to Midleton and visit the Old Midleton Distillery. While here, discover how whiskey is made as you walk through the old buildings. At the end of your tour, enjoy a sampling of the finished product.

From Midleton, drive to Cobh, where you can enjoy some free time to explore this picturesque waterside town that was known as the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic voyage in 1912.

Then make your way to Cork, Ireland's second largest city and check into your hotel. Once you settle into your room, join your fellow travelers for dinner. (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

River Lee Hotel, Co. Cork (or similar)

# DAY FIVE

Wednesday, 23 September 2020

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## KINSALE WALK & CORK



Today, we travel to the beautiful town of Kinsale. The town has been a favorite for artists due to its steep, narrow streets, quirky shopfronts and many fine Georgian houses.

Return to Cork and embark on a guided tour, see Shandon Church, a famous Cork landmark dating from 1722 and Crawford Art Gallery.

Also, view Paul Street, known for its trendy restaurants and shops of all types. The afternoon is free to sightsee and shop.

In the evening, join your group for dinner in the hotel restaurant. (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

River Lee Hotel, Co. Cork (or similar)

# DAY SIX

Thursday, 24 September 2020

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## CORK TO DINGLE



Departing Cork, we travel via Bantry, Ballylickey, Glengarriff, Kenmare, and Killarney to Dingle.

Our first stop is Bantry - a lovely little harbour town in West Cork and on the Wild Atlantic Way. At the head of Bantry bay, is a busy market town and fishing port. In past centuries, Bantry was a base for major fisheries and was visited by fishing fleets from Spain, France and the Netherlands.

Later in the afternoon we make our next stop in Killarney, situated on the shores of Lough Leane. This town is full of history, heritage, activities, and world class hospitality.

On arrival in Dingle, check into your hotel for overnight stay and dinner (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Dingle Skellig Hotel, Co. Kerry (or similar)



# DAY SEVEN

Friday, 25 September 2020

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## DINGLE



Today, discover the beauties of the Dingle Peninsula, once described by the National Geographic Traveler as “the most beautiful place on earth.”

Afternoon at Leisure (B, D)

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT:**

Dingle Skellig Hotel, Co. Kerry (or similar)

# DAY EIGHT

Saturday, 26 September 2020

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## CLIFFS OF MOHER



Today, we enjoy a visit to Tralee before boarding a ferry from Tarbert to Killimer to visit the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most beloved, natural landmarks.

See magical vistas, overlooking the shimmering Atlantic Ocean along with Ireland's Western coastline.

Later we continue travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way for our overnight in Spanish Point (B, D)

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT:**

The Armada Hotel, Co. Clare (or similar)

# DAY NINE

Sunday, 27 September 2020

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## INIS MOR - ARAN ISLANDS



Travel to Doolin before boarding a ferry to Inis Mor the largest of the three Aran Islands. These rocky islands are renowned for the hardy islanders who maintained traditional fishing and farming. The Irish language is still spoken widely.

Later return to Rossaveel, Co. Galway before checking into your hotel for the night. (B, D)

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT:**

Meyrick Hotel, Co. Galway (or similar)

# DAY TEN

Monday, 28 September 2020

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## CONNEMARA SIGHTSEEING



Travel through Connemara Region to admire the sweeping views of boglands and misty mountains.

As you drive along you will see many sheep that graze freely and tracts of bogland where some people hand-cut peat for home heating.

Stop at Kylemore Abbey for a tour of the elegant mansion and church, set beside a tranquil lake. Also, walk through the magical Victorian walled garden.

Have lunch at the Abbey before heading back to Galway for time at leisure.

After dinner, head out for a night of Irish entertainment at the Trad on the Prom. The show features the best of Irish music, song and dance. (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Meyrick Hotel, Co. Galway (or similar)

# DAY ELEVEN

Tuesday, 29 September 2020

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## W.B. YEATS



This morning, we drive by Classiebawn Castle, a country house which was originally built on 10,000 acres for Viscount Palmerston in the Baronial style.

Next, head to Drumcliffe Churchyard so you can view W.B. Yeats' grave

Have lunch before making your way to Donegal.

Check into your hotel and settle into your room before dinner with your group. (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Harvey's Point Hotel, Donegal (or similar)

# DAY TWELVE

Wednesday, 30 September 2020

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## SLIEVE LEAGUE



This morning, visit Slieve League Sea Cliffs, where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. The cliffs drop straight down to the wild Atlantic waves below and you will see marvelous vistas.

Later visit Glenveagh Castle, set in some 16500 hectares of County Donegal mountains, lakes, glens and woods.

Return to Donegal, where you can sightsee and shop.

After your day of independent sightseeing, enjoy dinner with your group. (B, D)

### DINNER & OVERNIGHT:

Harvey's Point Hotel, Donegal (or similar)

# DAY THIRTEEN

Thursday, 01 October 2020

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## TITANIC BELFAST



Leaving Donegal, this morning we journey to the capital of the Northern Ireland, Belfast.

Embark on a panoramic tour of the city before visiting Titanic Belfast to learn about the evolution of the Titanic from concept until her ill-fated end in 1912.

Later check into your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT:**

Europa Hotel, Belfast (or similar)

# DAY FOURTEEN

Friday, 02 October 2020

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## KILMAINHAM



Departing Belfast, travel via Drogheda to Dublin.

Upon arrival visit Kilmainham Gaol to see what punishment was like during its years of operation from 1796 to 1924. Learn about political prisoners, especially from the 1916 Rising, detained here because of their efforts to shape Ireland's history.

Check into your nearby hotel and spend the afternoon at leisure.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers you're your farewell group dinner in the hotel restaurant (B, D)

### **DINNER & OVERNIGHT:**

Alex Hotel, Dublin (or similar)

# DAY FIFTEEN

Saturday, 03 October 2020

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## TOUR ENDS IN DUBLIN



After your final Irish Breakfast, we must bid adieu, or as the Irish say Slán (Farewell).

After completing your check-out procedures, Group transfer to Dublin Airport for your onward flight (B)

# MEET YOUR HOST

## Maria Forde



*Maria is a fine singer and a gifted songwriter. Like all good songwriters her lyrics often reflect an understanding of, and compassion for the human condition, with all its*

*triumphs and disasters, all its bright peaks and dark corners.*

*She presents her songs with sincerity, passion and more than a dash of humour, and these very human attributes, along with her beautiful singing voice, is why she invariably establishes such a seemingly effortless rapport with her audiences.*

*Maria is an Irish – Australian and offers a wealth of knowledge about Ireland. This truly showcases “Her Ireland”*

*This intimate and personalised tour has a maximum of 20 participants; so places are limited.*

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Arrival and Departure Transfers
- Sightseeing by small luxury coach throughout the tour
- English-Speaking driver/guide
- 3-star & 4-star hotel accommodation as listed with private bath or shower for 14 nights
- 14 Full Irish breakfasts
- 14 Dinners including a special Trad Show
- Visits & Admissions to attractions as outlined in itinerary
- Hotel portorage for one bag per person
- Hotel service charges
- All local taxes
- Custom Designed Itineraries should you wish to stay longer or travel elsewhere in Europe before or after the Tour

# COST PER PERSON

**Based on Twin Share**  
**AUD \$9,860.00**

**Single Supplement**  
**AUD \$1,690.00**

**Tour Only (No flights)**  
**AUD \$7,960.00**

**PRICE: Includes Economy Class Airfare ex. Melbourne / Brisbane / Sydney**

**Airport taxes are additional Approx. \$150 - \$200 Taxes quoted are based on travel to Scotland & Ireland. Subject to change based on your individual itinerary**

IMPORTANT: Itinerary & hotels are subject to change.

B = Breakfast  
D = Dinner