

The Arts Society East Sussex

IRELAND'S WILD WEST - CONNEMARA, CO MAYO & GALWAY

16th – 20th September 2024

5 days – 4 nights. £1, 099 per person*

Counties Galway & Mayo form the heart of west coast Ireland, and running through them is a section of the Wild Atlantic Way – Ireland's spectacular coastal route. The vibrant city of Galway is surrounded by the jaw-dropping terrain of the romantic Connemara Peninsula, known for its looming mountains and vast lakes. Windswept islands dapple the coastline, rugged with cliffs. The dramatic Killary Harbour, Ireland's only glacially formed fjord, forms the county border and County Mayo shares these wildly beautiful landscapes, yet sees far fewer tourists. Alongside this incredible scenery, the region offers a strong sense of tradition, a warm welcome, and historic sites.



Price is based on a minimum of 20 travelling. If 25 members travel the price will reduce.

Our Tour



What's included

- * Return flights from London to Ireland
- * Return airport transfers in Ireland
- * Local guide in Ireland
- * 4 nights half board accommodation
- * Porterage
- * Dinner each evening
- * Gratuities for guide and coach driver in Ireland
- * A full programme of excursions including:-
- * Westport House and Gardens
- * Westport walking tour
- * Kylemore Abbey
- * Killary Fjord Cruise with scones &

Refreshments

- * Clare Island and Achill Island, including the castle and heritage centre and lunch
- * Galway city tour

(see overleaf for further details)

Extras

- * Twin / double room for sole use—£135 per person

Our Hotel – Westport Woods Hotel & Spa, Westport

Located in 300 year old Woods and in its own grounds, just outside glorious Westport town, this comfortable hotel offers a very warm Irish welcome. All bedrooms have en suite bathrooms, TV, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel features a light airy restaurant, bar, indoor swimming pool and spa.



01225 764205
successtours.com

How to book:

Please complete a booking form and return to Nick Goldsmith, ASAP with your deposit.

Booking forms are available from Nick Goldsmith.

Email: goldsmith.nicholas@yahoo.co.uk (or see overleaf for further contact details)



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Westport House and Gardens - The foundations of this grand property lie in the 16th century – it was once a castle built by the infamous Pirate Queen of Connacht, Grace O'Malley. The current Georgian stately home was built upon the castle ruins in the 18th century, and boasts classical symmetry and beautiful balustraded terraces. Inside, the house is architecturally stunning with fascinating collections, including fine antiquities and paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds. There will be a guided tour of the house included, and free time to explore the gardens.

Kylemore Abbey - a dramatic neo-Gothic castle dating back to the Victorian era. Originally built thanks to the romantic vision of a wealthy businessman who was enamoured by the wilds of Connemara, it has been home to Benedictine nuns since the 1920s. With a picturesque location on the shores of Lough Pollacapall, the abbey also has a 6-acre walled garden – the largest in Ireland. A guided tour of the Walled Garden, Abbey and neo-Gothic Church is included.

Fjord Cruise - The stunning Killary Harbour is Ireland's only glacial fjord, running a deep slice between Counties Galway and Mayo. There will be a 90-minute boat trip on the harbour, which is surrounded by the majestic mountain landscapes of Connemara to the south and Mount Mweelrea to the north, which are burnished with shades of gold and green. If you're lucky, you might even spot the fjord's resident pod of dolphins. Scones and refreshments included.

Clare Island - Famous as the ancestral home of the legendary Pirate Queen Grace O'Malley (Granuaile), the island is just 5 miles by 3 miles long but for such a small island is rich in history and culture. A guide will give an Island Heritage Talk before visiting Granuaile's Castle. Time to enjoy a stroll around the picturesque harbour and a soup and sandwich lunch at the Sailor's Bar is included. Continues by ferry to Achill Island, to meet the coach for a visit to Keel, which boasts a beautiful 3km white sandy beach, returning to the mainland via the bridge, to enjoying the stunning scenery.

Galway - Richly historic, the bohemian city of Galway heaves with remnants of medieval history, lively Irish pubs and Gaelic culture. Galway Cathedral and the Spanish Arch are amongst the town's most interesting sights, and the Galway City Museum tells the story of this colourful port. There will be a short walking tour of the city and Cathedral tour, with free time, flight times permitting.

Flight times will be given in due course.

The exact order of excursions will be given in your final travel pack, sent approx. 3 weeks before departure.

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