

INTRODUCTION

John Wesley (28 June 1703 – 2 March 1791) was an Anglican cleric and Christian theologian. Wesley is largely credited, along with his brother Charles Wesley, as founding the **Methodist movement** which began when he took to open-air preaching in a similar manner to George Whitefield. In contrast to George Whitefield's Calvinism, Wesley embraced the Arminian doctrines that were dominant in the 18th-century Church of England. Methodism in both forms was a highly successful evangelical movement in the United Kingdom, which encouraged people to experience Jesus Christ personally.

Wesley's teachings, known as **Wesleyanism**, provided the seeds for the modern Methodist movement, the Holiness movement, Pentecostalism, the Charismatic Movement, and Neo-charismatic churches, which encompass numerous denominations across the world. In addition, he refined Arminianism with a strong evangelical emphasis on the Reformed doctrine of justification by faith.

Reverend John Wesley was a major early influence in evangelicalism and there are a number of sights in Ireland that we can focus on to do with John Wesley that may tie in nicely with an evangelical gospel programme. They include; St. Mary's Church Dublin, St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, St. Stephen's Green Dublin, Franciscan Friary in Adare County Limerick. With possible performances at the following locations:

- The Gothic Church in Kylemore Abbey
- Franciscan Friary
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Powerscourt House

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Depart USA

Depart on your international overnight flight.

Day 2 - Welcome to Ireland

Arrival at Dublin Airport, meet with English Speaking Guide and coach driver and depart for County Galway, the largest county in Connaught, Galway is celebrated in song and story throughout the world and takes centre stage on Ireland's western seaboard. A spectacularly beautiful county, it is a medley of contrasts - the wildest and remotest of Connemara teamed with one of Europe's most vibrant and popular cities. Galway City at the mouth of Galway Bay is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture. The city has many relics of its medieval past and is worth taking time to explore. It has changed considerably over the last number of years and features a fascinating juxtaposition of new and ancient architecture. The centre of the city is conveniently compact enough to ramble around comfortably.

On arrival enjoy a **walking Tour of Galway** with your Guide

The city centre of Galway is mainly pedestrian, so a walking tour is the best way to enjoy its atmosphere and discover some of its most important monument. The tour starts on Eyre Square and finishes at the Claddagh. During the tour you will see Lynch Castle, home to the mayors of Galway, Saint Nicholas Church founded in the 13th century, and the famous Spanish Arch. You can walk along the Corrib River to the Claddagh village or to the majestic Cathedral.

Enjoy a Cruise on Lough Corrib with tea & scones

This journey on the Corrib Princess takes passengers along the Majestic River Corrib and onto the lake, providing visitors with wonderful views of the historic monuments and scenery, which make this one of the most spectacular waterways in Ireland. The visitors will see unsurpassed views of the historic monuments and natural amenities that make this one of the most spectacular waterway in Ireland. The cruise lasts 90 minutes approximately and is taken aboard The Corrib Princess a purposed built leisure cruiser with a capacity for 157 passengers. The Princess sails from Woodquay in the heart of Galway City.

Continue to Hotel and check in for overnight, dinner bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Galway or area.

Day 3 - Connemara

This morning depart for **Connemara**, a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed little since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south ~ a land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas. Connemara is a real paradise for Nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions.

Visit **Kylemore Abbey**

Kylemore Abbey is located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. A Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They bought the house in 1920, having fled their convent in war-torn Belgium in 1914. They established a private school for young girls, which today is the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School for young girls. Facilities at Kylemore include a visitor centre, an exhibition housed in the main reception rooms of the house and a video which takes the visitor through the history of the house and its occupants.

Enjoy a possible informal performance at The Gothic Church in Kylemore Abbey.

Continue to **Cong**, whose Gaelic name means a narrow strip of land and is situated on a narrow isthmus of cavernous limestone between Lough Mask and Lough Corrib. A stroll through Cong and its hinterland is a

microcosmic trip through the history of Ireland and its people. No trace today remains of Feichin's haven by the river but the tranquillity, clear water and abundant supply of fish that tempted Feichin to settle in Cong are still there to be savoured, enjoyed and appreciated nearly 1400 years later.

Enjoy a photo stop at **Ashford Castle**

Ashford is founded by the Anglo-Norman de Burgo family following their defeat of the native O'Connors of Connaught. The de Burgo's would build several such castles throughout the province, but Ashford would remain the principal stronghold. The native O'Connors also leave a legacy in the form of the nearby 12th century Augustinian abbey of Cong, built on the site of a 6th century monastery.

Return to hotel for overnight, dinner bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Galway or area.

Day 4 - Galway to Limerick

This morning depart for Limerick via the Burren

The Burren, part of which forms the 100 square km Burren National Park, is a unique place. It is a Karst limestone region of approximately 300 sq. km, which lies in the north west corner of Co Clare. It is composed of limestone pavements, which have been eroded to a distinctive pattern. This pavement is criss-crossed by cracks known as grykes in which grow a myriad of wild flora and under which are huge caves and rivers which suddenly flood when it rains. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs and Celtic crosses as well as a ruined Cistercian Abbey dating back to the 12th century. You will discover small villages abandoned during the famine period and green roads on which you can walk for miles without ever seeing a car. The flora on the Burren is a mixture Arctic and Mediterranean and rare flowers such as gentian, orchids and bloody cranesbill are the rule rather than the exception. The Burren is truly an exceptional part of Ireland.

Visit the **Cliffs of Moher**

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. To the south of the cliffs is Hag's Head and was once the site of a castle. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower. Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru (he who defeated the Vikings in battle), built a Tower at the cliffs in order to enjoy some tea with his lady friends. The Tower is adjacent to the seastack, *Breanan Mór*, which stands over 70 metres above the foaming waves and is home to some of the Burren's wildlife.

On arrival in Limerick view the **Grand Central Cinema**

While this early twentieth-century façade is interesting in itself, it is the earlier Gothick Revival façade of the Methodist preaching house, which is historical and architecturally more significant. Together the two quite disparate developments form an unsettling, though noteworthy, essay in the adaptation of religious buildings to secular uses. The Methodist Church was established in 1739 by John Wesley, as an evangelical Protestant Christian cultivation. **The first conference of the Irish Methodists Church was held in Limerick in 1752, and it was chaired by John Wesley.**

Overnight, dinner bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Limerick or area.

Day 5 – Limerick to Killarney

This morning depart for Killarney via **Adare**. Adare is regarded as one of Ireland's most picturesque villages, with thatched cottages dotted throughout the town. This atmosphere was created by the 3rd Earl of Dunraven in the 1820's for his estate workers. Today they are mostly used as craft shops or restaurants. A small town it offers a lot. No visitor should leave with a visit to the Trinitarian Abbey, The Wishing Pools or partaking of a drink in the famous Dunraven Arms hotel. The village has a Desmond castle and a Manor, once the home of Lord Dunraven, today it is the 5-star Adare Manor Hotel.

Visit the Franciscan Friary Adare

John Wesley preached to the people of Adare in 1765 from the shade of an ash tree close to the east wall of the Franciscan Friary. This tree was still there until about 1860. Today a stone marks the site where this tree stood. The Methodists hold a ceremony here in June each year.

Enjoy a possible performance at the Franciscan Friary.

Continue on to the town of Foynes where you will enjoy a visit to **Foynes Flying Boat Museum**. From 1939 to 1945 Foynes was the centre of the aviation world for air traffic between the United States and Europe. Located 35 km west of Limerick city on the Shannon estuary, the Foynes Museum recalls this era with a comprehensive range of exhibits and graphic illustrations. The museum features the original Terminal Building including the authentic 1940's cinema; the Radio and Weather Rooms, complete with transmitters, receivers and Morse code equipment. The exhibits feature an introduction to the first transatlantic passenger service from Foynes during the war years and the only full sized replica B314 flying boat. Irish Coffee was invented in Foynes. Chef Joe Sheridan made the first in 1942 to warm up some damp and miserable passengers. Since then Irish Coffee has become one of the most popular welcoming drinks in the world. Guided tours for groups are available.

Continue to Killarney for overnight, dinner bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Killarney or area.

Day 6 – Ring of Kerry

This morning enjoy a performance at a local church.

Today enjoy a full day tour of the **Ring of Kerry** (166km), one of the most famous and panoramic routes in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney.

Visit Muckross House & Gardens

Muckross is a magnificent Victorian mansion built in 1843 and is one of Ireland's leading stately homes. Built on the shores of Muckross Lake, it is beautifully situated amidst the spectacular scenery of Killarney National Park. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyle of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement area one can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the house. The Gardens of Muckross House are famed for their beauty worldwide. In particular they are noted for their collections of azaleas and rhododendrons. However the extensive water garden, the children's sunken garden and the outstanding rock garden, hewn out of natural limestone, are just some of the features to be discovered. Access for visitors with disabilities, including platform lifts and elevators. There is also a self service café / restaurant and ample free coach and car parking in the grounds.

Return to your hotel for overnight, dinner bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Killarney or area.

Day 7 – Blarney Castle & Cobh

Depart Killarney and travel to County Cork

Visit Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney village, 8 km from Cork City. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the

truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to the visitor.

Continue to the town of Cobh. **Cobh** began to develop at the end of the 18th century when Cork was used as a harbor for British military ships. Transatlantic ships such as the Queen Mary or the Queen Elizabeth used to stop in Cobh. Thousand of Irish emigrants also transited through Cobh. Today it is a pleasant town; its streets climb the steep slope of a hill, the top of which is crowned by the very fine St. Coleman's Cathedral which has a carillon of 47 bells.

Enjoy a walking tour of Cobh and the Titanic Trail

Join Historian Michael Martin on one of Ireland's very best town guided walking tours. See all the real buildings, streets and piers where Titanic passengers embarked. We'll enjoy an engrossing historical walk through Cobh exploring its fascinating diversity of military, maritime and social heritage.

Visit the Titanic Experience Cobh

Situated in the original offices of The White Star Line, the location marks the departure point for the last 123 passengers who boarded the Titanic on its fateful maiden voyage to America. Our story is told using innovative audio visual technology bringing our characters to life through cinematic shows, scenes, sets, holographic imagery and touch screen technology.

Return to Cork City. The **balance of the evening is free** with overnight, bed & full Irish breakfast at your Hotel in Cork or area.

Day 8 – Cork to Dublin

This morning enjoy a performance at a local church in Cork.

Visit the Rock of Cashel, possibly the most photographed site in Ireland. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's leading tourist attractions. Towering over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone, the Rock of Cashel was once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the 1st high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, the Rock became the seat of the archbishop of Cashel. It was during this period that Cormac's Chapel was built. In 1647 Cromwellian forces under the leadership of Lord Inchiquin ransacked the Rock. Today, impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The gothic cathedral dates back to the thirteenth century and attached to it is the palace of the Archbishop of Cashel. Cormac's chapel, smaller in structure, displays some typical Romanesque features while the Hall of the Vicar's Choral, at the entrance to the Rock, is a fifteenth century house. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artefacts found on the site. A guided tour is strongly recommended.

Continue to Dublin and visit **St. Mary's Church**. The day of Wesley's first arrival was a Sunday and on that afternoon, he preached at what was called Evening Prayer in St. Mary's Church to 'as gay and senseless a congregation as ever I saw'. The Archbishop of Dublin strongly disapproved and Wesley did not again preach in any parish church in the archdiocese. A brass plate, commemorative of the event, was placed in the church by the Dublin Methodist Council in the 20th Century. When the church ceased to be used by the Church of Ireland and the memorials were removed, this plate was taken to the nearest Methodist Church, the **Dublin Central Mission on Lower Abbey Street**, where it may be seen on the back wall by people attending services.

Overnight, dinner bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area

Day 9 – Dublin's Fair City

A **panoramic tour** is the ideal introduction to "Dublin's Fair City". The tour will introduce you to the principal sites, which you may then revisit at your leisure. You will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for its architecture and of course its famous doors. Pass by Trinity College, with the 8th century *Book of Kells* and the long room with its 200,000 books. Continue to St Patrick's Cathedral. Built in 1192, it is one of Ireland's largest

Cathedrals made famous by its former dean Jonathan Swift, author of "Gulliver's Travels." You will also see Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Normans in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on your way to the Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal cross. Return to the city centre via the Quays, passing by the Guinness brewery, Blackhall Place, a chapel which was closed in the 1960s and sold. It is now badly defaced but is the only remaining Methodist building in Dublin in which Wesley preached and Collins Barrack, now part of the national museum, before arriving back into O'Connell Street and the city centre.

Visit **Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church**

John Wesley failed to obtain a freehold site for a building in Dublin and therefore took a ninety-nine year lease of a site in Whitefriar Street, on which the first Methodist chapel in Ireland was built and opened in 1752. It was a nearly square building with an internal porch, a gallery on three sides and furnished with backless benches. Men sat on one side of the building and women on the other, the division being carried through to the gallery, with access by separate staircases in the corners. Over the chapel was a hall of the same size, divided into rooms by moveable partitions, which could provide living accommodation for the preachers or meeting rooms of various sizes. Later leases enlarged the site, which eventually contained the chapel, schools for boys and girls, an almshouse for widows, a bookroom and houses for two preachers and their families. When the lease fell due for renewal, the landlord was unwilling to renew. The neighbouring Carmelite Fathers wanted to expand their work and he wished to give them the site. The Methodist institutions scattered to other locations. For some time, the Carmelites used the chapel as a school for boys but later demolished it to make way for a purpose-built school.

Enjoy a lunchtime performance at **St. Patrick's Cathedral**

Built in honour of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick's Cathedral stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. The parish church of Saint Patrick on this site was granted collegiate status in 1191, and raised to cathedral status in 1224. The present building dates from 1220. The Cathedral is today the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (a church of the Anglican communion). St Patrick's is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift (author of Gulliver's Travels). Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St Patrick, adjoin the Altar. The massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

It is noted that due to the opposition of the Archbishop, Wesley did not preach in any of the parish churches of the archdiocese after 1747. However, in 1789, Wesley led a large number of Dublin Methodists to the Cathedral for Holy Communion and was invited by the Dean, William Cradock, to assist in the administration of the sacrament. The chalices, which he used on this occasion, were stolen a few years later but replicas were made and these are now displayed in a special case in the Cathedral.

This afternoon visit to Trinity College with Book of Kells.

Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland's most illustrious books, the 9th century "Book of Kells". Before viewing the famous book visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the book of Kells visitors are invited to visit the long room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over 200,000 books and manuscripts of the Trinity's oldest volumes. Brian Boru's harp said to be the "oldest harp in Ireland" and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the long room.

This evening enjoy dinner and entertainment at **Merry Ploughboys Pub**

This is a state-of-the-art music venue open seven nights a week, all year round. Their lively show features contemporary Irish dancing and well-known guest artists. Fine food is a very important element. At Merry Ploughboy's Pub, youthful vibrancy has successfully combined with traditional craftsmanship to provide an excellent evening entertainment

Overnight, bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

Day 10 – Wicklow

Today enjoy a day tour to Wicklow. South of Dublin, is County Wicklow. Known as “the Garden of Ireland” it is home to Powerscourt, Mount Usher and Russborough, to name a few of its many houses and gardens. This region features all the various types of scenery that makes Ireland so beautiful. The coastline is bordered by charming sea resorts such as Bray or Greystones. In the heart of its gentle and rounded hills are nestled Enniskerry and Avoca, both very picturesque villages. Discover its romantic and quiet beauty, the deserted mounts where nothing but heather grows, the small forests and the lush prairies illuminated by yellow gorse in spring. Glendalough, a 6th century monastic site and Powerscourt house and gardens are a must for any visit to Wicklow.

Visit Powerscourt House

Originally built as a castle in 1300 and home to the Wingfield family from 1603 for 350 years Powerscourt House was much altered in the 18th century, when the famous German born architect Richard Castle remodelled the castle and grounds. It involved the creation of a magnificent mansion in the Palladian style around the shell of the earlier castle. The house was gutted by fire in 1974 but recently has been reborn as an exceptional tourist destination. A small exhibition brings to life the rich history of the estate, while the double height Georgian ballroom has been restored and hosts weddings and corporate events. The house is now home to the best of Irish design in gifts, clothes, and furniture in the Avoca Stores and the Interiors Gallery. You can also treat yourself to a dish from the Avoca Cookbook in the Terrace Cafe. Visitors to Powerscourt can also enjoy a visit to Tara’s Palace on the upper floor of the House.

Enjoy a possible informal performance on the steps of Powerscourt House

You will return to Dublin and in the evening enjoy a possible joint performance with a local Gospel Choir.

Overnight, bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

Day 11 - Farewell

After a final farewell breakfast at your hotel depart for Dublin Airport for your return flight home.