

POETRY, MYTH & MUSIC FOR THE SOUL
A Week in the west of Ireland with David Whyte

JUNE 9 = 16, 2018



David's tour to the west of Ireland is a celebration of Ireland's Celtic culture, both traditional and emerging, set on Galway Bay in County Clare. The tour offers an intimate experience of Ireland from the inside out, with morning poetry sessions setting the stage for afternoon walking pilgrimages. You will have the opportunity to hear world-class musicians and experience why County Clare is renowned for carrying the soul of traditional Irish music.

David will introduce people not only to the place and culture, but also to some of his closest friends - people deeply connected to the landscape, firmly occupying their unique place in the world.

THE PARTICIPANTS.

An eclectic, often international group of 35 fellow adventurers interested in both the poetry talks and the Celtic culture of Ireland. Almost everyone has previous experience of at least one of David's talks, or has followed his work on audio recordings.

ACCOMMODATION.

Our lodgings are rustic, traditional cottages grouped in twos, threes and fours at the edge of the village of Ballyvaughan on the shores of Galway Bay. Each cottage holds four or five people with a living room and peat fire, and includes a kitchen, one or two bathrooms with both bathtub and shower, and laundry facilities. David's morning talks occur in the staff cottage. Rooms are shared with one other person, with a limited number of single rooms available for a supplement of \$500. **Please note that we are not able to guarantee en suite bathrooms. Even with a single supplement, you may still be sharing a bathroom.**

THE WALKING AND HIKING.

Most of our walks are through the limestone, wildflowers, wind and sea of the Burren. Walking this landscape requires a high degree of attention and sure-footedness due to rocky, uneven ground and deep fissures in the stone that can turn an ankle in an instant, often partially hidden by wild grasses. Several of the walks last four or more hours in duration. While they are not strenuous in the traditional sense of steep and continuous elevation gain, we find that for some, the physical balance and stamina required in sustained walking over this rough terrain can be too difficult, especially if you have any challenges with balance or limitations of mobility with knees or hips. Before applying for the tour we ask that you be as realistic as possible in assessing your abilities in this regard.

A WORD ABOUT MEALS AND DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.

All breakfasts, together with either lunch or dinner, are provided. You will be responsible for either lunch or dinner each day. Budget 10-15 euros for lunch and 20-25 for dinner.

Meals will be buffet feasts or generous packed lunches, depending on our walks or travels on a particular day. There will always be a hearty vegetarian option, as well as fruit and vegetables. We do our best to cover all bases, however, if you are gluten free, vegan, or have other food intolerances, there is a market in Ballyvaughan where you can purchase things to fill in the occasional gap.

AMENITIES.

There is no wifi in the cottages. It is somewhat nomadically available at establishments in Ballyvaughan. There is good signal for cellular services.

ARRIVAL.

Please time your flights to arrive at Shannon Airport in the west of Ireland by two o'clock on Saturday, June 9th, 2018. If you are arriving in Ireland before the 9th of June, you will arrange with Thomas to either meet the group at Shannon airport or make your own way to Ballyvaughan.

DEPARTURE.

The minibuses will depart Ballyvaughan for Shannon Airport the morning of June 16th. Please schedule your departing flight no earlier than 8:30am, as the first minibus will arrive at Shannon Airport at 6:30am. If you need to depart earlier, please let us know, as this will require a taxicab at an additional charge. We apologize that we are unable to transport people in the afternoon.

PASSPORT.

Each participant needs a valid passport.

COST.

Total cost for the tour is \$4070. If you request a single room, there is an additional charge of \$500, bringing the total to \$4570.

If all payments are made by check, the cost of the trip is \$3950.

WHAT THE TRIP PRICE INCLUDES.

David's services as seminar leader and guide. All accommodations for the nights of June 9th through 15th, inclusive. All breakfasts and either lunch or dinner each day. All transport in-country during the trip (with the possible exception of additional taxi fare if your flight is scheduled outside the time parameters), pick up from Shannon Airport on June 9th and return to Shannon airport the morning of June 16th.

NOT INCLUDED. Airfare. Lunch or dinner each day, depending upon the day's activities.

APPLICATION PROCESS.

We do not accept participants on a first come, first served basis. Instead, we collect applications through December 31st, and notify you of the status of your application on February 1st, 2018.

CANCELLATION POLICY.

If, after you are accepted on the trip, you should need to withdraw your application prior to March 1st, 2018, we retain 10% of the trip cost, or \$407. If you withdraw after March 1st, any refund will depend upon whether we are able to find someone else to fill your place, but in any case, will still be subject to the 10% retention fee.

WHAT TO BRING.

Please limit yourself to one medium-sized bag and one small carry-on, as we have limited space for luggage in the minibuses.

Your selection of clothing for the trip should be based on comfort and preparation for changeable weather, from 75 degrees and humid to chilly and wet (with the latter being most likely). Combination washer/dryer machines are available in the cottages. Plan your clothing around the principle of layering, so you can easily adjust for comfort. Lightweight hiking boots with ankle support are required, though running or walking shoes are sufficient for some of the shorter, low-land walks. Here is a basic list:

- day pack and water bottle
- outdoor pants
- socks
- shorts (if you like them)
- walking or running shoes
- lightweight hiking boots
- outdoor shirts
- long sleeved wool sweater or fleece
- rain-proof windbreaker
- rain-proof pants
- wool hat
- sun hat, sunglasses, swim suit and sunscreen (in the spirit of optimism)
- toiletries, prescription medication, etc.

CURRENCY AND SPENDING MONEY.

You are advised to bring at least \$40 per day for a meal, drinks, etc. - more if you wish to buy local crafts and woolens, or if your appetites extend to the gourmet. The currency in Ireland is the euro. There is no ATM in Ballyvaughan, so it is best to withdraw money at Shannon Airport. Credit cards are accepted most places.

WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT YOU COVER YOURSELF FOR BAGGAGE, ACCIDENT AND TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE.