

DISCOVER *Ireland*

WITH NHPBS AND WILLEM LANGE

APRIL 19 - 29, 2022



NH  PBS



Travel in the footsteps of great Irish literary artists on the journey of a lifetime! Take in Ireland's incredible natural landscapes, unique culture, and fascinating history from the Dingle Peninsula to the streets of Dublin.



New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions invite you to explore the enchanting land of Ireland with New England's favorite storyteller, Willem Lange. Rich in historical and natural treasures, the Emerald Isle resonates with the melodies of traditional music. Rolling green hills, dotted with herds of sheep and lined with ancient stone walls, and the imposing cliffs of the Wild Atlantic Way, are equally distinctive landmarks of the birthplace of many of the greats of literature from the last two centuries.

Our adventures begin in Killarney, nestled on the shores of Lough Leane and dating back to 640 AD. Full of cozy pubs and shops selling locally made handicrafts, the town is a perfect starting point for exploring Ireland's most beautiful natural attractions.

From our home base in Killarney, we'll explore the spectacular coastal scenery on the Dingle Peninsula, the most northern of Kerry's peninsulas. Scattered with Celtic monuments and early Christian churches, this is a Gaeltacht area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Traveling along the Wild Atlantic Way, we'll visit the Great Blasket Island, now uninhabited by man, but home to a huge number of breeding seabirds, grey seals, and a few friendly dolphins.

We'll also visit a lovely manor house and traditional farm and enjoy a workshop on Irish Gaelic, the oldest vernacular language in Western Europe.

En route to Galway, we will enjoy a spectacular cruise of the dramatic Cliffs of Moher. From the sea, we'll marvel at the stunning cliffs and hear and see thousands of seabirds, including Ireland's largest Puffin colony. This day will conclude with a visit with Christy Barry at the Doolen Music House to enjoy traditional Irish music and stories in front of the fireplace.

On the way to Dublin, we'll explore the natural beauty of the Connemara region, which is considered the wildest and most romantic part of Ireland. In the region's villages, we'll visit a traditional bodhran maker and meet a local sheep farmer while marveling at the talents of the working dogs.

Our tour culminates with three nights in Dublin, where we will delve deep into the Irish struggle for independence that led to the Easter Uprising. In Dublin, we'll learn the tales of the many Irish literary legends, including Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, C.S. Lewis, and George Bernard Shaw, who called the city home. See some of the oldest sites of Irish Christianity in Glendalough and visit the farm that produces the milk for Baileys Irish Cream – complete with a tasting. Our final evening in Ireland will include Irish storytelling, traditional music, and remarkable Irish dance.

Explore the scenery from the rugged coastline to the rolling green hills; discover the island's unique musical traditions, culinary specialties, and friendly and welcoming people; learn about this small country's important role in the history of Europe, and forge friendships with fellow viewers, all while supporting New Hampshire PBS!



DISCOVER Ireland

APRIL 19 - 29, 2022



Bunratty Castle



Water Mill at Bunratty



Dingle Peninsula



Blasket Island

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 *Depart from North America*

Meet a **NHPBS representative** at Logan Airport in Boston and depart in the evening for **Shannon, Ireland**. Select meals, snacks, and refreshments will be served on the flight. Be sure to read through the great tips and travel information in your American Expeditions tour handbook!

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 *Arrive in Ireland*

Upon arrival at the Shannon Airport, **NHPBS tour host Willem Lange** and a friendly **American Expeditions tour manager** will greet and assist us with changing dollars into euros. Then, we will board our private motor coach and make the short journey to **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**. One of the most complete and authentic medieval castles in Ireland, Bunratty Castle was built in 1425 and was restored in 1954. On the castle grounds, you'll discover Bunratty Folk Park, where 19th-century life is vividly recreated on the park's 26 acres.

Enjoy getting to know your fellow NHPBS travelers while stretching your legs as you stroll the grounds, wandering from house to house around the charming village complete with a school, post office, doctor's home, hardware shop – and of course the pub! Take a moment to enjoy some Irish tea and scones made on site.

Next, we'll board our coach and travel through beautiful County Kerry to the town of **Killarney**, located on the shores of Lough Leane. Located in the southern part of the County, Killarney is a sweet town full of cozy pubs and shops selling locally made handicrafts. It is a perfect starting point for exploring some of Ireland's most beautiful natural attractions.

Upon arrival, check in to your comfortable hotel and join your tour manager on an optional orientation walk of the town, which established itself as a local center when a Franciscan monastery was built in 1448. The downtown is charming and walkable, and you'll soon have a good grasp of the layout of your first Irish home base.

Tonight, we'll have **dinner** as a group this evening in a local restaurant serving Irish specialties, as Willem narrates, and our guide previews our exciting days to come!

DAY 3 THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 *Dingle Peninsula*

After a hearty Irish breakfast at the hotel, our first full day in Ireland begins with a **trip along the Wild Atlantic Way**.

Some of the finest coastal scenery to be found in Ireland lies in West Kerry, on the **Dingle Peninsula**, the most northern of Kerry's peninsulas. This area is noted for its Celtic monuments and early Christian churches and is a Gaeltacht area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. As you travel on the spectacular road around the Peninsula, passing through a chain of Mountains called Slieve Mish, your local guide will share insight on the region, where people have made their home for over 6,000 years. The area is blessed with never-ending sandy beaches, Ireland's highest mountain pass, and no shortage of enchanting scenery.

In this section of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, you'll make your way along the Iveragh Peninsula and the MacGillycuddy Reeks, Ireland's highest mountain range. Pass Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes, en route to Dingle town, a thriving fishing village, and Ireland's westernmost town. Continue along the coast to Sleat Head, where the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands.

In the afternoon, stop at the **Blasket Island Centre**, on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula. This heritage center honors the unique community that lived on the now deserted remote Blasket Islands. The Blasket Centre narrates island life, subsistence fishing, and farming, traditional life including modes of work and transport, home life, housing, and entertainment. The Centre details the community's struggle for existence, their language and culture, and the extraordinary literary legacy they left behind, including classics like *The Islandman*, *Twenty Years A-Growing*, and *Peig*.

Continue by boat to the **Great Blasket Island**, now uninhabited by man, but home to a huge number of breeding seabirds, grey seals, and a few friendly dolphins. Visit the deserted village and perhaps take a short hike around the quiet island.

After immersing yourself in the Centre's interactive displays, exhibitions, artifacts, artwork, and audio-visual presentations, and exploring Great Blasket Island, continue to the **Dingle Whiskey Distillery**.



Lake of Killarney



Muckross House



Cliffs of Moher



Galway



Galway Cathedral

In 2017, Dingle Distillery became the first independent Irish distillery to release a single pot still whiskey for decades. This is a signal of the resurgence of the Irish whiskey industry, which suffered a period of severe decline in the 20th century, with most of the country's distilleries closing, and those remaining in operation amalgamating under the ownership of Irish Distillers. In the 1980s, there were only two distilleries operating in Ireland. Dingle was the fifth when it opened in 2012 – now, there are nearly 20.

It released its first bottles of whiskey in late 2016 since, by Irish law, a spirit must be matured for at least three years to be called “whiskey.” Enjoy a visit to the distillery, learn about how the Dingle Distillery team achieves the unique flavors that can be found in its spirits, and how the revitalization of craft distilling is impacting the Irish economy, and of course enjoy a taste or two.

This evening, return to Killarney, your tour manager will be happy to make recommendations for dinner.

DAY 4 FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022 Killarney

After breakfast, board your motor coach and transfer to nearby **Killarney National Park**. Here, tour Ireland's first National Park in a **Jaunting Car**. On board this traditional Irish horse and buggy ramble through the Killarney National Park with a local Jarvey, who will share the history, legends, and folklore of the area, as he drives you through areas otherwise difficult to access.

After admiring the region's natural beauty in the park that was created thanks to the donation of Muckross Estate to the Irish Free State in 1932, visit **Muckross House and Gardens**, a nineteenth-century Victorian mansion set close to the shores of Muckross Lake. Built for Henry Arthur Herbert and his wife, the water-colorist Mary Balfour Herbert, the house was constructed between 1839 and 1843, and its extensive gardens were prepared in the 1850s to prepare for a visit by Queen Victoria.

After visiting this lovely manor house, visit **Muckross Traditional Farms**, where you'll participate in a **workshop on the Irish Language**. Irish Gaelic is still spoken by about 138,000 as a primary language, and over a million people as a second language. This Celtic language has been the dominant language of the Irish people for most of their recorded history and was brought with them to other regions – notably Scotland and the Isle of Man, where it eventually gave rise to Scottish Gaelic and Manx. Irish Gaelic has the oldest vernacular literature in Western Europe and has constitutional status as the national and first official language of the Republic of Ireland.

Equipped with a greater understanding of the structure and history of the language, and armed with a few Gaelic phrases, return to Killarney for an evening on your own.

DAY 5 SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 Cliffs of Moher

Arise this morning in Killarney and enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out of your hotel and departing Kerry bound for Galway.

Take the **Shannon Car Ferry** to Clare, and from here, enjoy a spectacular cruise of the famous **Cliffs of Moher**. Admire the Cliffs from the sea and hear and see the thousands of seabirds, including Guillemots, Razorbill, Kittiwake, Herring Gull, and Ireland's largest Puffin colony.

Next, visit the **Doolin Music House**, where Christy Barry and his partner Sheila have entertained friends and musicians for many years, sitting around the fire playing songs and tells stories. Listen to traditional music in the intimate and relaxed environment of their home, where Christy discusses the history of traditional Irish music and plays great tunes together with his friend James Devitt. Enjoy a light lunch during your visit, and truly experience Irish hospitality.

Continue on to **Galway** and check in to your hotel upon arrival.

Galway is a delight with its narrow streets, old stone and woodshop fronts, lively restaurants, and busy pubs. The city has attracted a bohemian crowd of musicians and artists, which adds much to the character of this interesting town. Your tour manager can lead the group on an orientation walk of the neighborhood near the hotel, on which you'll get an excellent opportunity to scope out some of the local pubs and restaurants to consider for dinner on your own this evening.

DAY 6 SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 Galway

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, then depart on a walking tour of Galway led by an Irish local guide. The city center of Galway is mainly pedestrian, so a **walking tour** is an ideal way to enjoy its atmosphere and discover some of its most famous landmarks and monuments. Begin at **Eyre Square**, passing **Lynch Castle**, home to the mayors of Galway; the 13th-century **Saint Nicholas Church**; and the famed **Spanish Arch**, as you make your way to the **Claddagh village**.

Prior to a free afternoon, visit **Galway Cathedral**, the largest Catholic church in the city. Located on Nun's Island, on the west bank of the River Corrib near the Salmon Weir Bridge. The Cathedral was the last church in Ireland to be constructed from stone and features a huge octagonal dome. The inside and outside of the church are filled with treasures of religious art.

The remainder of the day will be left free for you to explore Galway based on your own interests, or have a relaxing afternoon at the hotel or curled up with a book in a pub.

This evening, experience the culinary offerings of Galway on an **Irish Food Trail**, exploring Galway's most popular – and hidden – Irish restaurants. This is a wonderful opportunity to become immersed in the local atmosphere and history and meet friendly local people – and of course, taste delicious local food!



Connemara Blackface Sheep



River Liffey



Deer Grazing in Phoenix Park



Glasnevin Cemetery



Temple Bar Pub in Central Dublin

DAY 7 MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 Connemara

Following breakfast in the hotel, depart for a full-day excursion into the countryside.

Today you'll explore the **Connemara** region, a land of lakes, rivers, bogs, and mountains. In this region, small villages dot the landscape, Gaelic is still the spoken language, and little has changed in centuries. Considered the wildest and most romantic part of Ireland, Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south. On its northern shore, the land is harsher and less hospitable but offers spectacular views of the ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as steep mountains overlooking lakes and large bogs.

As you travel through the heart of Connemara, make a stop in Roundstone. Located in a former Franciscan monastery, **Roundstone Music and Crafts** is the home of Malachy Kearns – better known as Malachy Bodhran, a master craftsman who manufactures **bodhrans** – the oldest instruments that accompany traditional Irish music. Malachy is currently the only fulltime bodhran maker in Ireland and will be delighted to talk about his work and the traditions that surround it. He'll share insight on the construction of these frame drums and will demonstrate how they are played.

Depart Roundstone and travel north, bound for **Joyce County Sheepdogs**, a family-run farm. This working hill sheep farm is nestled between the Maumturk and Partry Mountains, where Joe Joyce is the third generation of farmers to farm sheep using border collies to maintain his herd of Connemara Blackface Sheep. The Joyce family will be happy to welcome NHPBS travelers to the farm and share their love of sheep farming and dog handling.

Return to Galway, traveling through the beautiful Connemara landscape, and return to the hotel for your final night in Galway.

DAY 8 TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 En Route to Dublin

After breakfast, this morning, bid farewell to Galway and check out of the hotel. Travel east from Galway on your motor coach, bound for Dublin.

En route, make a stop in County Kildare to visit the **Irish National Stud & Gardens**. Home to some of the most magnificent horses in the world, responsible for producing Irish thoroughbreds, the Stud was formally established in 1946. In addition to the state-owned National Stud Farm, where you can admire the stallions whose racing track records allow them to command gigantic fees to cover mares, and see young foals who may be destined for racing greatness, visitors can experience a world-famous Japanese Garden and St Fiachra's Garden, a reflection in woodland, rock and water, of Ireland's natural beauty.

After lunch at the Stud, continue on to Dublin, about an hour east of Kildare. Upon arrival, embark on a **panoramic tour** of the city's capital. First, discover the north side of the **River Liffey**, which offers striking monuments such as the **General Post Office** on the city's main thoroughfare, **O'Connell Street**. See the **Custom House**, located along the quays of the river, and **Phoenix Park**, the largest public park in Europe.

The south side of the river appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, including **Marrion Square**, where Oscar Wilde's house can still be found. In this part of the city, you'll find colorful doors adding personality to the rigid symmetry and elegant beauty of the Georgian rowhouses. Dublin's

high-end shops and boutiques can be found along **Grafton Street**. **Trinity College** dominates the area facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

Your tour will end at your hotel, where you'll check in to your rooms. **Dinner** will be arranged for the group at a nearby restaurant.

DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 Discover Dublin

After breakfast in the hotel dining room, spend the morning with a local guide visiting sites that will reveal fascinating details on the Irish struggle for independence.

Visit **Glasnevin Cemetery**, Ireland's largest, and the final resting place of over 1.5 million people – rich and famous, paupers and politicians, artists, warriors, and heroes, all resting side by side in this Victorian garden cemetery. Established by Daniel O'Connell as a place where people of "all religions and none" could bury their dead with dignity, the cemetery has grown to become a national monument and stands as a vital reminder of Irish Heritage. A visit to the award-winning museum and a guided tour of the cemetery itself allows for amazing context into the social, historical, political, and artistic development of modern Ireland through the lives of the generations buried there, and through stories of gravediggers and grave robbers, epidemics and wars.

Continue on to the **GPO Museum**. Here at the General Post Office building on O'Connell Street, visit the **Witness of History** exhibition, an immersive look at the 1916 Easter Rising, which set into motion an unstoppable chain of events which would ultimately result in the creation of the Irish Republic. The GPO served as the headquarters of the men and women who were responsible for the armed insurrection during Easter week, 1916.

At the conclusion of these visits, join your **local expert guide** at a pub to discuss the transition to Irish independence.

Enjoy a relaxed afternoon and an early dinner on your own before gathering this evening for a **Musical Pub Crawl**. This musical visit of Dublin pubs is led by two professional musicians, who will explain the history of Irish music as well as its influence on contemporary music, all while playing traditional airs. Your group will move from pub to pub in the company of the musicians, enjoying the unique atmosphere of a number of pubs in the Temple Bar area.



Glendalough Monastery



St. Kevin's Chapel in Glendalough



Walking trail in Dublin



Exterior of Galway Cathedral



Wicklow Landscape

DAY 10 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 County Wicklow

Following breakfast, depart for a day-long excursion to **County Wicklow**. Known as the "Garden of Ireland," Wicklow has been a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts due to its scenery, beaches, walking, hiking, and climbing options. As you pass the beautiful scenery, enjoy a "lecture on wheels," as a local expert details the early history of Christianity in Ireland.

Your first stop will be to the **Glendalough Monastic Site**, where St. Kevin, son of the King of Leinster, founded a monastery in the 6th century, which grew to become a famous center of learning throughout Europe. Located in a glacial valley (its name Gleann Da Loch, translates as Valley of two lakes), the site features a 1000-year-old round tower, several ancient churches, and St. Kevin's Cross, which has arms over a meter in length and was remarkably carved from a single granite stone.

Transfer from Glendalough to **Orchard Farm**, a 200-acre farm which is home to a 140 cow dairy herd, which produces milk for **Baileys Irish Cream**. Upon arrival to the Farm, enjoy **lunch**, then gather for a Baileys Talk and Tasting.

Return to Dublin and take a few moments to freshen up for this **evening's farewell dinner**. Your group will celebrate your time together in Ireland at the **Merry Ploughboy Pub**, where you'll enjoy dinner, along with a highly entertaining performance of live traditional music, song, and dance.

DAY 11 FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022 Depart for the North America

After breakfast, transfer to the **Dublin Airport** and your return flight back to the United States. Arrive in **Boston** in the late afternoon.

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

ACCOMMODATIONS

9 nights double occupancy accommodation in well-located four-star hotels, including all hotel service charges and taxes and portage at check-in and check-out:

- 3 nights Killarney
- 3 nights Galway
- 3 nights Dublin

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation as described in the itinerary in a modern motor coach with a professional driver
- Ferry service as described in the itinerary

TOUR HOST, TOUR MANAGER & LOCAL GUIDE

- NHPBS' Willem Lange will host the tour
- A full-time American Expeditions Tour Manager to accompany your group from arrival to departure

GUIDED TOURS AND SPECIAL LECTURES

- Dingle Peninsula Excursion
- Cliffs of Moher cruise
- Galway walking tour
- Connemara excursion
- Dublin City Tour
- Dublin visits to Glasnevin Cemetery and GPO followed by Irish Independence Discussion
- County Wicklow Excursion

ENTRANCES & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Bunratty Castle and Folk Park
- Blasket Island Centre
- Great Blasket Island Ferry
- Dingle Distillery
- Killarney National Park with Jaunting Car Ride
- Muckross House and Gardens with Irish Language Workshop
- Cliffs of Moher Cruise
- Doolin Music House
- Galway Cathedral
- Roundstone Music & Crafts Bodhran demonstration
- Joyce County Sheepdog Visit and Demonstration
- Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- Glasnevin Cemetery
- GPO Witness History Museum
- Musical Pub Crawl in Dublin
- Glendalough Monastic Site
- Orchard Farm Tour and Baileys Tasting



Aerial View of Muckross Lake



Grafton Street, Dublin



Lake in Connemara



Aerial View of Corrib River in Galway



Coastal View from the Dingle Peninsula

MEALS

- Full buffet breakfast served daily in the hotel dining room
- Light lunch at Doolin Music House
- Lunch served to the group at the Orchard Farm
- Welcome dinner in Killarney
- Irish Food Trail in Galway
- Dinner in Dublin on the evening of arrival
- Festive farewell dinner and entertainment in Dublin at the Merry Ploughboy Pub

ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

- Allows each traveler to make individual trip payments online with a debit or credit card. Individuals receive electronic reminders, receipts, and statements.

EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP WILL RECEIVE:

- A customized handbook with detailed tour itinerary and travel information
- Electrical adapter
- Luggage tag
- Passport holder

PACKAGE PRICE

American Expeditions will contract group airfare for your tour.

(BOSTON – SHANNON & DUBLIN – BOSTON):

Please anticipate an additional \$900-1,200 per paying traveler for airfare, including all taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

PACKAGE PRICE with NO FLIGHTS

\$5,353.00 per person in double occupancy for a minimum of 20 paying travelers.

SINGLE ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$980.00 per person single supplement

Please note the prices quoted above are based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers.

**Price includes group airfare, which is subject to changes in tax and fuel.*

DETAILS

TOUR ADMINISTRATION

This tour of Ireland is designed by New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions. The trip is designed to give NHPBS travelers a flavor of the culture, history, and traditions of Ireland through site visits and commentary from host Willem Lange and friends in Ireland. A portion of the tour proceeds benefits New Hampshire PBS but is not considered a tax-deductible contribution according to IRS regulations. If a minimum number of participants is not reached, NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to re-price or cancel the tour. In the case of cancellation, all payments made will be refunded.

CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM

NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to alter the travel program and to make changes deemed necessary for the quality of the program and the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will always be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties, or other circumstances could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

RESERVATION PROCEDURE

To register for this tour, please go online to
<http://nhpbs2022.americanexpeditions.net>
or call American Expeditions at 1-800-624-0166.

A \$1,500 per person registration fee is required at the time of registration to reserve your place on the tour.

Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. Space is limited.

Tour Registration closes on Friday, January 14, 2022



TOUR HOST WILLEM LANGE

Avid outdoorsman, author and award-winning *Windows to the Wild* host, Willem Lange has been called "one of the most beloved storytellers in Northern New England." Willem writes a weekly newspaper column entitled *A Yankee Notebook* and his book, *Words from the Wild*, was published in 2015.

In addition to hosting 17 seasons of New Hampshire PBS' *Windows to the Wild* series, Willem is the host of five NHPBS birding documentaries that have won New England Emmy, Telly, and New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters awards: *Journey of the Broad-Winged Hawk*, *Saving Songbirds*, *Bird Tales*, *Counting on Birds*, and *Plight of the Grassland Birds*. He has published 10 books and several audio recordings. His knack for storytelling, background in education, and love for the outdoors make Willem the perfect host and tour guide.

Willem was born in 1935. A child of deaf parents, he grew up speaking sign language and first came to New England for prep school in 1950 as an alternative to reform school in his native New York state. During a few absences from New England, Willem earned a degree in only nine years at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He has worked as a ranch hand, Adirondack guide, preacher, construction laborer, bobsled run announcer, assembly line worker, cab driver, bookkeeper, and bartender.

From 1968 to 1972, Willem directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. From 1972 until his "retirement" in 2007, he was a building and remodeling contractor in Hanover, NH. In 1973, Willem founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, and Himalayas, and bushwhacked on skis through northern New England. Willem lives in East Montpelier, VT with his dog Kiki, and has three children and four grandchildren.



**American
Expeditions**

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