



**SAMPLE OF TOURS, SPOUSE PROGRAMME &
ENTERTAINMENT IN GALWAY**

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PRE OR POST CONFERENCE TOUR PACKAGES

Golf – 3 day package

The golfers in the group will enjoy golfing on some of the best courses in the West of Ireland. A three day itinerary is proposed including:

Connemara Golf Course

At the Edge of Europe, in Connemara, on the wild Atlantic coast lies a links course that is a challenge to all who play her. Nestled between the mountains and the sea in the West of Ireland, the Connemara Championship Golf Links is an exhilarating golfing experience.



Galway Golf Club

Galway Golf club, located in Salthill, an 18hole parkland course is recognized as one of the finest courses in the country.

Lahinch Golf Course

Lahinch Golf Club is frequently referred to as “the St. Andrew's of Ireland” because of its close proximity and interaction with the local village. The links is situated on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The combination of bracing air and wind from the sea is one of the enduring attractions for golfers who ply their skills on two magnificent championship courses – the Old Course measuring 6950 yards and the Castle Course, measuring 5556 yards.

Go West will book and co-ordinate this 3 day itinerary including:

Transportation
Green Fees
Buggy hire
Club Hire
Refreshments.

“Experience the Best of Irelands West Coast” - Leisure Package – 3 days

Go West will book and coordinate a three day leisure package including:

Coach hire

Professional Tour Guide

Itinerary planning

Refreshments

Day 1: Tour of Connemara

Connemara is one of Europe's last great natural wildernesses with towns and villages existing along a beautiful, indented coastline. The beauty of the area lies in its rocky and rugged landscape. Connemara is covered in purple heather and desolate tracts of brown bog-land, dotted with lakes with a backdrop of purple mountains. The tour which is led by a Professional Tour Guide will accompany you from the hotel and follow the scenic route along Lough Corrib and through the villages of Moycullen, and Oughterard. It will continue through the Inagh Valley to Kylemore Abbey with its picturesque lake and famous abbey. Kylemore Abbey is the only Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns. Built originally as a Castle (1868) it is one of the best examples of Irish neo-gothic architecture. The estate features include a Victorian Walled Garden, restored Abbey, Reception rooms, Gothic Church, tranquil walks, craft shop, pottery, and restaurant.



We will visit Connemara Smoked Salmon Smokehouse, a small family-run business with over 26 years experience passed down from generation to generation and Connemara's longest established Smokehouse. They have become one of the world's leading manufacturers of high quality Seafood where every product is hand produced in the traditional way. You will be met by Graham who will explain about the various smoking methods and you will enjoy a tasting of this fantastic Smoked Salmon.



Day 2: Full day Tour to The Aran Islands

This morning the group will depart their hotel to Rossaveal accompanied by our Professional Tour Guide for their visit to the Aran Islands.

10h30 Depart **Rossaveal** by ferry to Inis Mor, the largest of the 3 Aran Islands. Inis Mor is criss-crossed by dry stone walls and the landscape is bleak with soaring cliffs rising out of the Atlantic. Aran has retained much of old Gaelic culture and Gaelic is still the spoken language of the Islanders. Traditional music and song have been well preserved there. Guests are transferred by minibus for a guided tour of the Island including **The Dun Aengus Fort**, a 4000 year old fort situated on top of 400-ft high cliffs. They will walk to the fort and on their return they will continue their tour by minibus. The tour will finish back in Kilronan Village where they can enjoy an appetising lunch and have some free time in the village to explore the local craft shops and pubs.



17h00 Depart Aran by ferry.

The Burren & Cliffs of Moher

This morning we will travel to The Burren, in North County Clare. This unique place is like no other place in Ireland. There are no bogs and very few pastures, instead there are huge pavements of limestone. The word "Burren" comes from an Irish word "Boíreann" meaning a rocky place. This is an extremely appropriate name when you consider the lack of soil cover and the extent of exposed Limestone Pavement. However it has been referred to in the past as "Fertile rock" due to the mixture of nutrient rich herb and floral species.



We will continue to the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are 214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in



Connemara and Loop Head to the South. Lunch is arranged in O Connors, one of the most famous pubs in Ireland. The pub is located in the heart of the picturesque village of Doolin, set amongst the rolling hills of West Clare, a stones throw from the Atlantic Ocean. We will return to Galway via Blackhead and the scenic coast road.

SPOUSE PROGRAMME

Guided Walking Tour of Galway City

Our professional tour guide will meet the group at a designated point in Eyre Square.

The tour will start with a visit to Kirwan's Lane, one of Galway's last remaining late Medieval Lanes. A unique development, Design Concourse Ireland is situated here in a 17th century merchant's house. The Design Concourse promotes Irish design and manufacture in a living exhibition environment. Judy Greene the owner and world renowned potter will meet the group and demonstrate how her pottery is created and hand painted here in Galway.

The remainder of the tour will include a visit to the historic St Nicholas Church, Lynches Castle, Cathedral, University, Spanish Arch and Eyre Square. It is a great way for visitors to become familiar with the city centre.



Cruise of the Corrib River on board the Corrib Princess (90 minutes)

The group will enjoy a cruise on board the Corrib Princess. The Corrib Princess is a luxury river cruiser which will depart from Woodquay in the heart of Galway City for a scenic cruise of the River and Lough Corrib. Passengers will enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and the lake. Lough Corrib is the second largest fresh water lake in Ireland and there is an abundance of wildlife including birds, hawks, otters, mink, stoat, and much more.



The Corrib Princess has a full bar with tea/coffee service on board. The Captain gives a commentary on all points of interest. This 90 minute can be added to the walking tour of Galway.



Visit a Thatched Private Home for an Afternoon of Music and Irish Culture



This tour starts in Galway city and takes visitors along the Connemara coastline to a **family home** in Spiddal where the group will enjoy a unique opportunity to experience native Irish culture, language, music and dance in a private family setting. This experience is not available to the general public.

On arrival to the cottage, they will be welcomed by Maire a family member and invited into the living room which has an open fire and is still decorated in a traditional style. All members of the family are native Gaelic speakers offering the visitors a rare opportunity to hear the Irish language spoken in a natural environment. Maire will relay the history of the local area and of the house which is over 100 years old. She will demonstrate bread making and bake the bread in the traditional manner over an open fire. Maire will make and serve Irish coffees as Eilis Lennon, another family member and a well know fiddle player will explain some of the history of Irish music. Eilis will play a selection of jigs and reels accompanied by Seosamh Naughton on accordion. Seosamh is not only a gifted musician but is one of the most talented, purest and acclaimed Sean Nos dancers in Ireland and he will amaze guests with a dance performance.



This afternoon has to be experienced to be appreciated.

Ashford Castle & Cong Village



This morning a Professional Tour Guide will accompany the group to Ashford Castle, one of the most exclusive luxury hotels in the World. Standing over the shores of Lough Corrib, and hidden deep in over 350 acres of wooded parkland, this 13th Century Castle is a monument to a fascinating history of a bygone age. Once the estate of the Guinness Family, the Castle opened its doors as an exclusive hotel in 1939.

We will have a guided walk on the grounds of the castle before enjoying morning coffee in the castle itself.

There will be some free time for a stroll through Cong Village, location for scenes from The Quiet Man movie which starred John Wayne and Maureen O Hara before journeying back to Galway through scenic Connemara.

A TASTE OF IRELAND

THEMED ENTERTAINMENT IN THE RADISSON BLU, GALWAY

As guests mingle during the buffet a number of different Irish themed activities will take place around the room and pre conference area offering guests the opportunity to move around the room and experience different aspects of Irish Culture at their leisure.

Whiskey Tasting

During the whiskey tasting, guests will sample different Irish Whiskeys and discover the many stories and secrets about Irish whiskey, such as

- The fascinating history of Irish Whiskey
- The differences between Irish, Scotch and Bourbon
- Distilling techniques, methods of maturation and cask types
- The World of Aged Whiskeys and Malt Whiskeys
- Different Whiskey glasses and how best to drink Whiskey



Everyone that participates will receive their very own personalised Irish Whiskey Tasting Certificate

Falconry

Falconry is an ancient art, reputed to be the oldest sport in the world. Guests can experience these magnificent birds up close and intimate. They will have the opportunity to handle a trained hawk and may even enjoy the thrill of seeing it flying free and returning to a gloved fist.



Basket maker

Joe Hogan is renowned worldwide for his experience in basket making and design using wonderful age old techniques. Joe has demonstrated, taught and exhibited both at home and abroad. His work is in many private and public collections, including the National Museum of Ireland. Guests will be delighted to watch the ancient craft demonstrated by Joe.



Sean Nos Dancers

An award winning family of five **Sean-nós dancers** from Connemara will demonstrate sean nos dancing. The reputation of these gifted dancers has gone from strength to strength over the past few years, having



performed for Mary McAllesse's Presidential visit to Japan & North Korea, alongside Altan. They have shared the stage with Frankie Gavin, Sharon Shannon, Seamus Begley, Ronnie Drew, Mairfín O'Connor, Phil Coulter, The Chieftains, Tim Edey, Liam óg O Flynn & Seamie O'Dowd in Denmark. The family have made Television appearances many times on shows such as The Late Late Show, Nationwide, Up for the match, The Weetabix Awards, BBC television and many more programmes in Denmark. They will amaze the audience with their display of this style dancing.



Bodhrán Playing Demonstration

The bodhrán is the heartbeat of Irish music. This ancient frame drum is traditionally made with a wooden body and a goat-skin head, and is played with a double-headed stick called a *cipín*, *tipper*, or *beater*. Jimmy Higgins will give a demonstration on bodhrán playing and encourage some of the guests to try and play this instrument. Jim Higgins plays a variety of instruments, including all kinds of percussion, piano and trumpet. His bodhrán playing is full of baselines and very supportive for the tunes. No wonder he is in high demand as a live and studio artist. He is featured on the recent Altan and Lunasa recordings. He also toured with the famous dance show "Riverdance". He works as an arranger and producer and produced albums for the Sawdoctors and Reelfime



Grand Finale

Towards the end of the evening, the dancers and bodhrán player will perform on stage in the main function room. They will be joined on stage by an accordion and fiddle player and will complete a short showcase performance to round off the night

CONFERENCE WELCOME RECEPTION RADISSON BLU, GALWAY

The objective of the entertainment described is to create a relaxed almost carnival atmosphere for delegates to enjoy as they mingle and network with colleagues.

Manilla Strings

This unique trio from Manilla and now based in Dublin consists of Vocals, Double Bass, Guitar and Bongo Percussions. They perform popular music with a twist. They will perform background music acoustically as guests arrive for the event. As the venue fills, they will wander amongst the guests and perform to small groups by serenading them.



Caricaturist



A Caricaturist will mingle and draw caricatures of guests, which they can then take away as a special souvenir of the evening.



Magician

Close up and walk around magic, sometimes referred to, as "Table Hopping" is very popular as the performer mingles with guests and the magic is performed to small groups of people seated at tables or standing in groups.

Mime Artists



Two professionally trained mime artists in bright costumes interact with guests and perform meet and greet in the lobby as they arrive for drinks. Both artists have been professionally trained in Paris and will mime climbing walls, tugging rope and opening doors for guests. They do not speak to guests but are very animated and great fun.

Irish Pub Evening and Concert by Cois Cladaigh in St Nicholas Church

Tonight we will have two social events an Irish Pub Night at the Quays Pub and a concert in St. Nicholas's Church.

St. Nicholas's was originally built in 1320 and the present day structure is the result of over 600 years of rebuilding and extension. As such it is one of the main tourist attractions in Galway and is an extremely fitting setting for a concert. Music will be provided by **Cois Cladaigh**, a mixed voice chamber choir based in Galway and founded in 1982. The name - Cois Cladaigh is Irish and can be translated as "beside the Claddagh" which is a well-known area in Galway City. This 34 mixed voice choir specialises in European music from the late 15th and early 16th centuries and contemporary choral music, particularly from Ireland. Since its foundation, Cois Cladaigh has travelled widely throughout Ireland and has made a number of foreign tours, including Italy, France, Belgium, Portugal, Holland, Boston, the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain and Estonia.



After the concert the group will walk across the road to the Quays pub for dinner. The **Quays pub** which is housed in a 19th century building is situated in the centre of Galway City and has an international reputation for music and atmosphere. A buffet dinner will be provided in the upstairs of the Quays pub where delegates be entertained by a Traditional Irish band



GALA NIGHT
RADISSON HOTEL GALWAY

Décor, Lighting & Draping



A lighting rig is installed to provide lighting for the stage and create an ambience in the function room. There will be colour changing up lighters around room and additional moving head lights with gobo wash to light tables and create beams of light.

The full length of the ballroom will be draped with dramatic black star cloth suspended to the rear of a large screen. This impressive screen is 30ft x 10ft and ideally could be used the conference backdrop during the day.



Table décor

An iridescent midnight blue tablecloth is used to cover tables. Chairs are covered with white chair covers and matching and matching blue ties.

Table Centre Pieces

The table centre is a large glass vase hand painted by a local artist and filled with exotic flowers and enhanced with led lighting which are inserted into the vase.



Entertainment

The Slovak Festival Orchestra

Vladimir Jablokov is the conductor, solo player and founder of the Slovak Festival Orchestra. From the age of five he has been playing violin and is the fourth generation of his family to make music his career. Since 1995 he has performed regularly with his family on concert stages in Slovakia, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany. The Slovak Festival Orchestra will perform during pre dinner drinks and then move into the dining room to play background music during dinner.



After dinner Entertainment

After tea/coffee time guests will enjoy a show

Option A – Showcase Performance by Trad on the Prom (45 minutes)

This is a contemporary Irish show featuring an electrifying mix of music, song and dance featuring:

Mairín Fahy: (Featured soloist in Riverdance) Fiddle, Whistles, Vocals. Since the year 2000, Máirín has also been a regular guest with the Irish super group the Chieftains.

Chris Kelly: Guitars, Vocals.

Gerard Fahy: Uilleann Pipes. Gerard has toured intensively with first Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance and later the Feet of Flames Victory Tour.

Yvonne Fahy: is an accomplished multi instrumentalist with all Ireland titles in accordion, whistle and bodhran.

Brian Morrissey: Lecturer in the World Irish Music Academy University of Limerick, plays Bodhran, Whistles and Banjo



Sean Costello, Tenor: A native of Ballinrobe, County Mayo, Sean won the national AIMS Award for 'Best Voice' no fewer than six times. He is a regular soloist in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. Most recently he played the part of King Cormac in the highly acclaimed production of 'Tara' in the prestigious Luxor Theater, Rotterdam.



Dancers:

Cian Nolan (Lead dancer Lord of the Dance)

Mary McDonagh (Riverdance) will be joined by another world class three female dancers.

Cathal and Fergal Keaney- World Champion dancers and winners of TV programme Class Act.



Option B – Showcase performance by Aoife Mulholland (45 minutes)

Aoife Mulholland, originally from Galway and now based in London is a successful actress and Musical Theatre performer. She is currently a leading lady in London's West End. Aoife has played notable roles, such as Roxie Hart in Chicago, (at the Cambridge Theatre) and as Maria Rainer/von Trapp in The Sound of Music, (at the London Palladium). Whilst in the West End Aoife has been highly praised by critics for her excellent Soprano singing voice, her dancing and her acting skills



Reviews:

"Aoife Mulholland is currently lighting up the stage at the London Palladium as Maria von Trapp in the West End production of The Sound of Music, she has the training and talent to become a huge musical star."

"Aoife, makes a brilliant Roxie. She is likeable and manipulative simultaneously, sexy and girlish at the same time."

"Her voice is just as I remember Maria, which would be as Julie Andrews played her in one of my favourite childhood films, honest, genuine, heartfelt and passionate, and her songs were pitch-perfect."



Pyramid

Pyramid will round off the evening with a lively set guaranteed to get everyone onto the dance floor. They are an all round Dance, Pop, Rock and Party, Entertainment Band. A great live band who play a comprehensive selection of music to suit all tastes