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## O'Brien Foundation Brian Boru Trail Tour October 2017

### **Day 1: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Arrive at Shannon Airport and meet with your professional driver/guide who will transfer you for a welcome breakfast. Feeling suitably refreshed transfer to one of Ireland's natural wonders, the Cliffs of Moher. The cliffs rise to over 700 feet and the views from the visitor centre are just magnificent. Visit O'Brien's Tower which was built in 1835 by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru (entrance to tower not included). Travel through the limestone landscape of the Burren around the coast to the vibrant city of Galway with a stop en-route for lunch. After checking into your hotel the remainder of the day is free for independent sightseeing, shopping or relaxing before dinner at your hotel. Overnight Park House Hotel, Galway DBB

### **Day 2: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Today explore one of Ireland's famous scenic regions, Connemara. Here the constantly changing cloud formations give hills, lakes and peat bogs an added dimension. Visit Celtic Crystal Visitor Centre and see a live glass cutting demonstration or Connemara Marble and marvel at the master craftsmen's skills as they cut this unique stone. Stop at Kylemore Abbey which is home to the Benedictine Nuns. Here you can visit their walled garden and Gothic church whilst enjoying the tranquility of the estate. Continue around Connemara to Clifden and the Connemara History & Heritage Centre where you will be introduced to the history of the area from prehistoric times to the foundation of the Irish Free State and visit Dan O'Hara's Homestead. Return to Galway late afternoon where there will be time for shopping. This evening is free to enjoy some of the local fare and craic in one of Galway's lively pubs or restaurants. Overnight Park House Hotel, Galway BB



### **Day 3: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

After breakfast take the ferry to Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands. The rugged, natural beauty along with thatch roofed stone cottages that dot the islands provide a splendid example of Celtic and early Christian heritage and gives one the impression that they have just travelled back in time. The forts, churches and monasteries will leave you in bewildered awe at how people lived on this rock infested island. The islanders still speak their native language but will have no problem in communicating in English. Then return to Galway where the remainder of the day will be free for individual sightseeing and shopping. Overnight Park House Hotel, Galway BB



### **Day 4: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel to what was once the capital of Ireland and Brian Boru's home town, Killaloe. Visit the Brian Boru Heritage Centre which houses an exhibition tracing the history of Killaloe from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, St. Flannan's Cathedral which was built in the 1180's by Donal O'Brien and enjoy a cruise on Lough Derg. This evening stay on the Dromoland Estate once owned by the O'Brien family. Here you will stay at the 3 star Inn at Dromoland but do have the opportunity to upgrade and stay in the 5 Star Dromoland Castle Hotel. This evening enjoy a medieval banquet at Knappogue or Bunratty Castle. Overnight Inn at Dromoland, Dromoland Estate BB

### **Day 5: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Today travel to the Rock of Cashel where Brian Boru was crowned High King of Ireland in 978 and where his descendants ruled for over 100 years following his death. Continue on to the medieval city of Kilkenny and enjoy a tour of Smithwick's Brewery where, until recently, ale has been brewed for over 300 years. Before returning to County Clare visit Kilkenny Castle. Overnight Inn at Dromoland, Dromoland Estate DBB



**Day 6: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

After breakfast check out of your hotel and travel to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Bunratty Castle and its associated theme park. The park recreates life during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has a building from each of the 32 counties in Ireland including shops, school, doctors and of course the pub! Continue then to Ireland's modern capital with a stop at the Kildare Village Shopping Outlet for some retail therapy before arriving in Dublin. Overnight Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin BB

**Day 7: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Toady travel north to the Boyne Valley and the 5000 year old passage tomb at Newgrange. Then continue to Brian Boru's final resting place in Armagh. Visit the two St. Patrick Cathedrals before visiting the only center in the world dedicated to Ireland's Patron Saint, St. Patrick. Overnight Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin BB

**Day 8: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

This morning enjoy a half day tour of Dublin including visits to Trinity College Library and the Book of Kells exhibition, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse. The afternoon will be free for individual sightseeing and shopping before this evening's farewell Irish Night which includes dinner and a show of traditional Irish music, song and dance. Overnight Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin BB



**Day 9: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

After your final Irish breakfast transfer to Dublin Airport for your flight home.

*BB = Bed & Irish Breakfast*

*DBB = Dinner, Bed & Irish Breakfast*

### Included in the cost of your tour

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private coach
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with professional driver/guide or driver and accredited guide
- 8 nights accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- Irish breakfast daily
- 2 hotel table d'hote dinner
- Welcome breakfast
- Aran Islands Day Trip including Island Tour
- Lough Derg Cruise
- Medieval Banquet
- Farewell Irish Night
- Entrance fees to the following attractions and sites: Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, Connemara History & Heritage Centre, Dun Aengus Fort, Brian Boru Heritage Centre, St. Flannan's Cathedral, Rock of Cashel, Smithwick's Brewery, Kilkenny Castle, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral Armagh, St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral Armagh, St. Patrick's Centre, Bru na Boinne Visitor Centre and Newgrange or Knowth Passage Tomb, Trinity College Library and Book of Kells Exhibition, St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, Guinness Storehouse
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at each hotel
- Hotel service charges and taxes (at current rate)
- Contribution to the O'Brien Foundation

### Not included in the cost of your tour

- Travel to or from Ireland
- Items of a personal nature such as wines, laundry etc.
- Entrance to O'Brien's Tower – Euro 2.00
- Upgrade to Dromoland Castle Hotel (Queen Anne Room) – Euro 186 per person sharing
- Upgrade to Dromoland Castle Hotel (De-Luxe Room) – Euro 300 per person sharing
- Tips and gratuities to your driver/guide

## Prices

Paying Passengers	Euro	US Dollar	Free Places
15-19	1499	1679	0 Free
20-24	1499	1679	1 Free
25-29	1459	1634	1 Free
30-34	1415	1585	1 Free
35-39	1379	1544	1 Free
40-44	1379	1544	2 Free
45-49	1355	1518	2 Free
Single Supplement	459	514	
Dromoland Castle Queen Anne*	186	208	
Dromoland Castle DeLuxe*	300	336	

**Note: \* Additional single room supplements will apply – details on request**

## Hotels

Park House Hotel, Galway

Inn at Dromoland, Dromoland Castle Estate or Dromoland Castle Hotel

Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin

*Note: For passengers wishing to arrive the day before the tour starts we have a special rate at the Inn at Dromoland, where the welcome breakfast will be held. Superior Room – Euro 35 per person sharing, Euro 59 single; Premier Room – Euro 45 per person sharing, Euro 69 single.*

## Payment Terms

Bookings will be secured with a payment of Euro 300 per person and the balance will be due 60 days prior to arrival into Ireland.

Payment can be made by credit card (Visa or Mastercard) or wire transfer directly to our bank account. If paying by credit card details should be entered on our secure site - <https://www.irishtourism.com/payment/standard/2844> - and once received we will process the payment. If you wish to pay by wire transfer, we will send our bank details to you.

Terms and conditions of booking will be sent separately.