

# GUSS HAYES TOUR OF IRELAND

April 28 – May 5, 2017

## April 29. Shannon – Killarney

Following early morning arrival at Shannon Airport, you will be met by your driver/guide and escorted to your awaiting motor coach. This morning you travel southward to the picturesque village of Adare where you will stop for breakfast. You then continue to Killarney for a two-night stay in the centrally located Killarney Plaza Hotel. Following hotel check-in, you will have some time to rest. This afternoon you will travel a short distance to the 15th century Ross Castle where you will board the Lily of Killarney Watercoach for a relaxing cruise on Killarney's largest and most picturesque lake, Lough Leane. This evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner in your hotel. (B, D)



## April 30 Ring of Kerry



Today you embark on one of Ireland's most famous tours- The Ring of Kerry. Your first stop this morning will be the Kerry Bog Village where you can visit little thatched cottages and get an insight into how people lived and worked in Ireland in the 18th Century. From here your tour continues through the wild and rugged landscape the Iveragh Peninsula which has some breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline. Your next stop is in Sneem where you will have lunch in the Old Bank House, a privately owned

Georgian house filled with antiques and old world charm in the heart of one of Ireland's most picturesque villages. Your tour then winds its way through the Killarney National Park, with some fine views of the Lakes of Killarney and the Ladies View before returning to Killarney. (B, L)

## May 1. West Cork- Mizen Head – Kinsale

This morning you bid farewell to Killarney and travel to Kenmare before continuing over to Cahah Pass to Glengariff. Travelling through West Cork, festooned with little ports, bays, inlets and harbours you will get some spectacular panoramic views of what rugged & rural Ireland offers. You travel to Mizen Head - the most southerly point of Ireland where you will visit the award winning Maritime Museum and Heritage Attraction. You can also take a ten minute walk along the path, down the 99 steps and across the Arched Bridge over the crashing waves to the Signal Station. Following this adventure, you continue the coast road to Kinsale where you check into the Trident Hotel, overlooking Kinsale Harbour. Kinsale is a historic fishing town on the southern coastline of County Cork. It has some old cobble stone streets and many interesting shops and pubs. It is also renowned for its restaurants and is known as the gourmet capital of Ireland. This evening you will enjoy dinner in the hotel's Pier One waterfront restaurant. (B, D)



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## May 2. Queenstown Story – Spike Island

This morning you travel to Cobh one of the main points of emigration during the great famine and was also the last port of call of the Titanic. Here you will visit "The Queenstown Story" which portrays the hardship of life on board the ship as it sailed to the "New World". Annie Moore, the first ever emigrant to be processed on Ellis Island when it officially opened on January 1, 1892 also left from Cobh with her two brothers. Following your visit you will take a short ferry crossing to Spike Island located off the coast of Cobh in beautiful Cork Harbour. The island has a rich history and includes a 24-acre star shaped fortress that became the largest convict depot in the world in Victorian times, holding over 2,300 prisoners. On returning to Kinsale, the remainder of the evening is free to enjoy this picturesque and historic fishing town and check out some of its many fine pubs and restaurants. (B)

## May 3. Blarney – Kings John's Castle – Ennistymon



This morning depart Kinsale and travel to Blarney where you will have an opportunity to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the famous Blarney Stone said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who dare. You will also have some free time to visit the Blarney Woollen Mills before departing. You continue to



Limerick City where you will visit 13th century King John's Castle located on King's Island overlooking the River Shannon. Following a guided tour of the castle, you travel to Ennistymon for a two-night stay in the Falls Hotel, overlooking the river Cullenagh. This evening you will travel to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Knappogue Castle where you will enjoy an evening of music and song at the castle's medieval banquet. (B, D)



## May 4. The Burren Center- Cliffs of Moher

This morning you travel through the lunar type landscape of the Burren, an area of limestone rock with an extraordinary array of flora and wildlife. Your first stop will be in Kilfenora where you will visit the Burren Center and take a walk through time. Discover the secrets of the Burren and learn of the many plants and flowers that grow in its rock crevices. Following the visit, your tour winds its way around this limestone mountain to the Poul nabrone Dolmen. This portal tomb dates back to the Neolithic period between 4200 BC to 2900 BC and is one of the most famous landmarks in the Burren. You continue to Ballyvaughan and take the coast road to the majestic Cliffs of Moher standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point; they stretch for 8 kilometers (5 miles) along the Atlantic Coastline. From here, you travel to Lahinch, famous for its golf course before returning to your hotel. This evening you will have dinner in your hotel. (B, D)

## May 5 Depart Shannon.

Today sadly you bid farewell to the Emerald Isle, for your flight home. (B)