

# WALKING THE FESTIVE SHORES

Featuring the Galway Arts Festival



## Days 1 – 2

Your holiday gets underway with a four-night stay in **Galway**, Ireland's capital of the Arts. Enjoy a wide variety of exciting Galway Arts Festival events, a leisurely walk by Galway Bay and an evening of world-class theatrical performances. ● We'll escape for the day into the wild heart of Connemara with a variety of classic treks – the Errisbeg hill walk, a stroll in Connemara National Park, or the hike above majestic Kylemore Abbey. The colorful villages of Clifden and Roundstone also serve up tasty diversions along the way.

## Days 3 – 4

One day is never enough in Connemara, so today our favorite walks include parts of the Western Way near Leenane and pathways around Cong, made famous as the principle film locale for *The Quiet Man*. The breathtaking vistas of Killary Harbour and Joyce's Country (near our own home) rule the day. ● Take a day to relax and wander among the marvelous streets of Galway. We know you'll find a myriad of possibilities amidst this lively city. Discover lunchtime theatre, arts and more to add the usual verve of our favorite Irish metropolis.

## Days 5 – 6

The world will seem far removed once we journey by boat to the Aran Islands, where Irish is still the dominant tongue. History comes alive on delightful walks to ancient Celtic fortresses and early Christian churches on **Inis Mór**. ● Upon our return to the mainland, we ramble to **Doolin**, a tiny settlement on the Atlantic in Co. Clare where traditional Irish music reigns supreme. En route we'll explore the magical domain of that unique Irish landscape, the Burren, as we follow ancient footsteps on guided day hikes and visits to prominent landmarks.

## Days 7 – 8

From our doorstep in Doolin, we'll walk along a thousand-year-old path that ascends the magnificent 700-foot Cliffs of Moher. A subsequent visit to St. Brigid's Well, a precious and well-known holy site, is always an added delight. Enjoy our last hurrah with a banquet and an evening of merriment.

After breakfast we'll see you safely to Shannon, where you'll receive our heart-felt "Slán Abhaile" for your journey onward.

Imagine an international cavalcade of theatrical, musical and literary talents assembled in one spectacular setting—in Ireland's most beautiful city on the shores of Galway Bay. Combine that with quiet walks in the rural countryside surrounding Galway, and you've discovered the delightful contrasts that transform our special adventure into an exclusive mixture of fun and inspiration you won't find anywhere else.

Our days are filled with rambles along dramatic ocean side trails and among mountains and moors where sensational vistas captivate the senses. We witness the untamed beauty of Connemara, where breathtaking scenery is second only to the timeless sense of history etched into the Irish landscape. We follow ancient footsteps across the limestone pavements of the Burren and Inis Mór.

To top it off, experience the best of modern-day Ireland at the lively Galway Arts Festival. We'll share our passion for theatre, music and the arts with you at the annual edition of this free-spirited event. From the legendary Macnas productions, to world-class theatre premiers, you'll be center stage for Galway's annual festivities, Ireland's most comprehensive celebration of the arts!

Tour length: 8 days/7 nights.

Terrain: Gentle grades with some moderate climbs.

Mileage: Average 5-9 miles/day.

Arrive/depart: Shannon, Ireland





*“Fantastic! The trip was a dream come true!”*

Elise Murphy Rowe, Dillon, CO

## 2008 TOUR DETAILS

### WALKING THE FESTIVE SHORES

Featuring the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Galway Arts Festival

TOUR DATES: July 19 – 26, 2008

COST: \$2395 for 8 days/7 nights.

- INCLUDES:
- All accommodations in deluxe B&Bs and guesthouses w/private bath
  - All meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner (with exception of free time)
  - All internal land transportation (including airport transfers)
  - All ferries
  - Experienced guides & naturalists
  - Support vehicle for you and your gear
  - Admission to select theatre events & other attractions
  - Detailed maps and other interpretive information
  - Pre-departure packet and assistance
  - Planet Earth Adventures T-shirt

TERRAIN & MILEAGE: Gentle grades with some moderate climbs. Average 5 - 9 miles/day.

ARRIVE/DEPART: Shannon, Ireland

# WELCOME

## TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PLANET EARTH ADVENTURES

We are a small, family run outfitter with but one mission – to share our love of some very special places with you.

We specialize in the select destinations of Ireland, Texas (and sometimes Scotland) because we know these places intimately. We live, work and play here, and each is so extraordinary we feel they must be shared. Since 1987 we have been proud to offer unforgettable bicycling, walking and tailor-made vacations reflecting that passion.

Furthermore, each of these legendary locales is blessed with a unique cultural identity, a wealth of natural beauty and some of the friendliest folks on the face of this Earth. Our goal is to distill the best of these elements into a richly rewarding experience you'll remember long after your visit is over.

To do so, we skillfully blend elements of cultural discovery, fun, fitness, great food and creature comforts, all backed by our total devotion to you and your enjoyment of our time together. Our adventures are fashioned as journeys of the mind and of the senses. The pace is relaxed, the

atmosphere one of fun and friendship. Best of all, you'll never have to worry about getting lost in the shuffle. Because ours is still a family run business, personal attention is a foregone conclusion. To us, you are like a friend with whom we'd like to share our favorite places.

What can you expect when you travel with us? Small, personable groups that allow you more freedom and a greater sense of place. The best routes and itineraries created with our extensive knowledge and research. Cozy accommodations selected for their quality and character. Unforgettable cuisine chosen from our favorite culinary discoveries. Expert guidance from experienced staff and local resources. And our complete support both before the tour and on the road.

So come along and experience the excitement we feel for these parts of the planet! We're eager to share our world with you!



To find out more about all our tours, visit us on the web at:

[www.planetearthadventures.com](http://www.planetearthadventures.com)

For reservations and additional information call or email us at:

800-923-4453

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Planet Earth Adventures

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