

GOTHIC IMAGE

Tours of Ancient Britain and Ireland Enchanted Ireland

16 - 25 May 2019

DAY ONE: Thursday 16 May

Dublin to Clonmel

We rendezvous at 1.15pm at Dublin Airport Terminal 2 Arrivals - adjacent to the SPAR Shop where there is a seating area.



We travel by coach to Kildare, where we visit the charming St Brigid's Holy Well and gardens and the 13thC St Brigid's Cathedral, the site of a 5thC nunnery founded by St Brigid and her followers. After her

death, a perpetual fire was kept to honour her memory. From Kildare we travel to Clonmel where we are joined by Eimear Burke.

Overnight: Clonmel

DAY TWO: Friday 17 May

Clonmel to Lough Gur

Our day starts with a visit to the Knockroe Neolithic passage tomb



in Kilkenny, a megalithic burial site, which dates back more than 5,000 years. Known as the Newgrange of the south, it is unique in that it aligns with both the rising and the setting sun on the Winter Solstice. Here we hold a ceremony to celebrate the full moon.

Then to the spectacular Rock of Cashel, the power centre of

southern Ireland. This massive and imposing outcrop of limestone rises to 200 feet with commanding views across fertile plains. In the 9thC, the legendary hero Brian Boru overcame it and became the King of Munster.

Our day ends at the sacred and delightful lake of Lough Gur. Legend has it that the lake was formed by the goddess Aine, who appears in different forms as mermaid, young woman and hag.

Overnight near Lough Gur



Your tour hosts

Jamie George, Director of *Gothic Image Tours* and **Linda Marson**, Director of *Global Spiritual Studies*, share a



passion for providing travel experiences that connect people to the spirit of place in a relaxed, supportive environment that opens them to exploring their full potential.

Jamie has been taking people on soul journeys through the ancient sacred sites and



landscapes of Britain and Ireland since the mid 1980s. Linda, a professional Tarot reader, author and video producer, has taken people on Tarot-guided journeys to Peru and in her homeland, Australia. A working partnership quickly formed after

Linda joined Jamie's tours in Britain and Scotland in 2013.

Your tour guests

Eimear Burke is a psychologist, celebrant and practising Druid. She



is the Chosen Chief elect of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. Gatherings in her Kilkenny Druid Grove celebrate Druidry as a creative way of living in balance with the natural world. As a story-

teller (and harpist), she takes a particular pride in continuing the oral tradition of Irish folklore, and focus on Irish mythology.

Jack Roberts is an independent researcher, publisher and author of *Sheela-Na-Gigs of Ireland and Britain: The Divine Hag of the Christian Celts* and *The Sun Circles of Ireland*. As an expert guide on the tour, his



wealth of knowledge and lively mind bring the ancient sites of this megalithic wonderland to life.

DAY THREE: Saturday 18 May

Grange and Tipperary

Today we visit Ireland's largest stone circle of Lois at Grange near Lough Gur. This exquisite circle dates to around 2000BC. Its entrance aligns to the setting sun at the Celtic festivals of Lammass and Beltane. Free time in the afternoon in Tipperary.

Overnight near Lough Gur

DAY FOUR: Sunday 19 May

Kilgarvan and Kenmare

We travel to Kilgarvan where lies the impressive recumbent stone circle of Gurteen overlooking the Slaheny valley. From there we travel on to the market town of Kenmare and visit its atmospheric stone circle with a huge seven ton boulder burial stone. Time for lunch and shopping. Onwards via Sneem to the quiet coastal village of Waterville.

Overnight: Waterville

DAY FIVE: Monday 20 May

Skellig Michael

Today, weather permitting, we sail to the awe inspiring and otherworldly island of Skellig Michael. This lonely rock was where early Christian hermits found refuge and sat in contemplation at the edge of the known world. We climb the rock to find the extraordinary bee-hive huts and chapel studded with quartz crystal and are overwhelmed by the breathtaking views across the Atlantic ocean and the wonder of this hallowed place. Picnic lunch.

Overnight: Waterville

DAY SIX: Tuesday 21 May

Ring of Kerry

We continue along the Ring of Kerry via Kilorglin - along the edge of Dingle bay to the delightful town of Dingle. Afternoon free to explore the town and its many shops.

Overnight: Dingle

DAY SEVEN: Wednesday 22 May

Dingle area

A place of unfading beauty, Dingle has a cornucopia of sacred sites including the remarkable and beautifully constructed 8thC Gallarus Oratory. We also visit the site of 7thC Kilmalkedar Monastery with its ogham and sundial stones and the ruins of St Brendan's Oratory with the nearby enigmatic Keeler stones. In the evening, we have the opportunity to enjoy some of the famous traditional Irish music.

Overnight: Dingle

DAY EIGHT: Thursday 23 May

Hill of Tara

Today we travel to Drogheda to the north of Dublin via Tralee and Limerick. En route we visit the Hill of Tara, the womb of Mother Ireland and the traditional burial place of Tea, ancestor queen and goddess of the Celts. We visit her 3000BC tomb which is aligned to the rising sun at the Celtic fire festivals of Samhain and Imbolc. Tara is the site where the sacred marriage took place between the new king and the goddess who held power over the fertility of the land. With this union the people would enjoy prosperity and plenty. We also visit two delightful holy wells known for their healing power.

Overnight: Drogheda



Stone circle of Gurteen



Skellig Michael



Kilmalkedar Church in Dingle



The Lia Fail on the Hill of Tara

DAY NINE: Friday 24 May

Newgrange and Knowth

As our journey begins to come to a close, our day is spent exploring the Boyne Valley where lie the most revered and eminent of all the sacred sites in Ireland - Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. These sites represent the flowering of the megalithic age and reveal astonishing examples of some of the finest megalithic art in the world. Newgrange was the abode of Aengus og and Daghdha gods of the faerie race of the Tuatha de Danann. Here a beam of light of the rising sun penetrates the mound on the shortest day of the year at the winter solstice illuminating the wondrous art in the back chamber. At Knowth, the largest of the monuments, the sun sends its light through the passageway at the spring and autumn Equinoxes. At Dowth, the sun sends its rays at sunset on the winter solstice.

Overnight: Drogheda

DAY TEN: Saturday 25 May

To Dublin airport

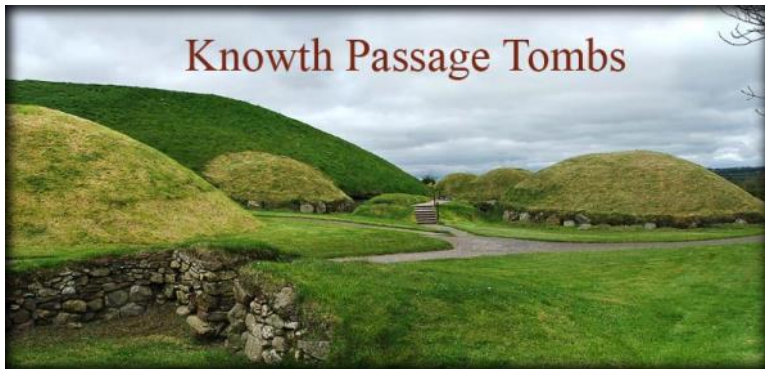
We travel to Dublin Airport for international flights and transfers arriving **9.30am** for flight departures from **NOON** onwards.



Newgrange

Dublin

If you have time, consider spending a day or so in the lively city of Dublin either before or after the tour. Highlights of the city include Trinity College, with its magnificent Book of Kells, and the National Museum, repository of many stunning treasures of Ireland's past, such as the beautiful golden torques of the Celtic period and the Ardagh Chalice.



Source: www.megalithicireland.com/Knowth.htm

Cost

Early bird: £2,595 per person twin share.

To qualify for this price, you must book and pay your deposit by **30 November 2018**.

Full price: £2,695 per person, twin share.
(from 1 December 2018)

Single supplement: £350 per person. Single rooms are few and on a first come first served basis.

Deposit: £500, payable upon booking

Final payment is due by **16 March 2019**.

Price includes:

- fully escorted tour throughout
- excellent, comfortable accommodation
- quality coach travel
- full English breakfasts **and** dinners each day
- entrance fees to sites
- guide fees, taxes and gratuities (excl. driver).

Not included:

- international airfares and travel insurance
- gratuities for the coach driver
- lunch and services not specified.

Special offer!

£4,645 per person, twin share for two tours – *Sacred Scotland* and *Enchanted Ireland*. This special offer of £150 off the early bird price of each tour is valid until **30 November 2018**, and only for a twin share booking. If you are not registering with a friend or partner, we can help you find a kindred spirit room mate.

If you book a single room for both tours, you pay the early bird rate for both tours but the single supplement is reduced to **£300** per tour. Discounts are applied on the invoice for your final payment.

Payment options

Payment is in UK pounds sterling only. This can be done online through PayPal using a debit or credit card (with **OR** without a PayPal account). Registration and payment of deposit can be made on this page of the Gothic Image Tours website:

<http://www.gothicimagetours.co.uk/long-tours/tour-registration/>

You can also provide your credit card details by phone, if you prefer.

Cancellation policy

If you cancel your booking by **15 March 2019**, your deposit minus a £75 administration fee will be refunded. If you cancel after that date, your full tour payment can only be refunded if you find someone to take your place.

We **strongly** recommend that you take out travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances that could lead to you cancelling your place on the tour.

The Gothic Image approach

We always spend a good amount of time at each site so that you benefit fully from the ambience and subtle magic of the experience. Ours are not 'now you see it - now you don't' tours. Our focus is on experiencing the 'spirit of place' and the peculiar enchantment that each site offers, and learning something from it.

We visit inspiring locations where the ancient spirits of each place still reside. In addition, some of you will be returning to the homes of your ancestors. This can raise spiritual and emotional issues. On our tours we seek to build a supportive atmosphere, and your fellow travellers tend to be of a supportive and understanding disposition. At different sites that we visit, you will be given opportunity for reflection and peace. This inner dimension is what makes our tours especially memorable - a pilgrimage and nourishment for the soul.

The pace is not rushed. There are some areas where we climb steps or hills, but otherwise each site is easily accessible and within walking distance from the coach. Nevertheless, you will get some physical exercise! We reserve the right to vary the itinerary as necessary, to provide the best possible experience under the circumstances prevailing at the time.

