

## Tour Option 2 – West Coast – 4 days / 4 nights

### Day 1



The tour begins with a four hour journey west, by coach, from Dublin to **Kylemore Abbey** 77 km (48 miles) from Galway city, stopping en route for lunch. Kylemore Abbey is a Benedictine monastery founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle, the abbey was founded for Benedictine Nuns who fled Belgium in World War I. Kylemore is the oldest of the Irish Benedictine Abbeys and today the abbey, castle and grounds offer visitors scenic photographic opportunities as well as woodland walks, garden tours, fascinating history, beautiful architecture, ample shopping in the craft shop and tempting homemade delights in the restaurant and tea rooms.



Guests will then travel through the scenic landscape and rugged beauty of **Connemara**, for overnight and dinner in a Galway hotel.

You will have time at leisure to explore Galway City. **Galway** is unique among Irish Cities because of the strength of its Irish Language, music, song and dancing traditions, it is often referred to as the "Bilingual Capital" of Ireland. The city is well known for its Irishness, and mainly due to the fact that it has on its doorstep, the Galway Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area). The Irish language can be heard in use by locals and is visible on the city streets. Guests will also have the opportunity to visit **Galway Cathedral**, situated on the banks of the River Corrib in Galway city, it is the most recently built of Europe's great stone cathedrals, and is the centre of a vibrant community.



### Day 2



After breakfast, Pilgrims will take a short coach journey to Rossaveal 37 km (23 miles) from Galway city. The journey begins with a must see boat trip to **Inis Mór** on the Aran Islands, where you will enjoy a mini bus tour of the island.



The **Aran Islands** are located about 48km (30 miles) from the mouth of Galway Bay. Inis Mór is the largest of the three islands which measures just 14km (9 miles) in length and 4.8km (3 miles) at its widest point. The islands are famous for their prehistoric and Christian monuments including the spectacular **Dún Aengus** fort that is one of best examples of this type of fort in all of Europe. You will get the opportunity to walk to this fort during the tour. This walk is on a steep

incline with uneven surfaces but those that feel unable to make the climb can still enjoy all the other sites the island has to offer. After a day out on the Atlantic Coast, return to **Galway** for an overnight and dinner with time to experience the many Galway pubs and some traditional Irish music.

### Day 3

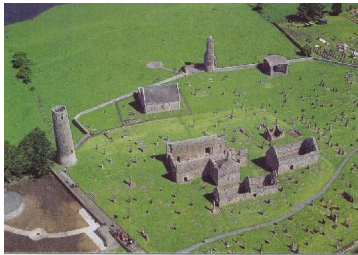


An early start, the tour will travel to **Knock** a small town in County Mayo that has received international fame after local people reported seeing the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist at their parish church on August 21<sup>st</sup> 1879. The Catholic Church has declared the visions trustworthy and in 1979 Pope John Paul II made a personal pilgrimage to Knock. Mother Teresa visited in 1993. Today, over one and a half million pilgrims visit the Knock Shrine every year.



The tour takes you through the beautifully landscaped Knock Shrine grounds visiting all places of interest including the Apparition Chapel and original Gable Wall, Papal Cross, Basilica, and Chapel of Reconciliation. Pilgrims will get the opportunity to attend Mass during the day. The full day will be spent in Knock with a return coach transfer to your Galway hotel for an overnight and dinner.

### Day 4



Travelling east back to Dublin, the tour will take in **Clonmacnoise** a monastic site overlooking the River Shannon in County Offaly. The extensive ruins include a cathedral, castle, round tower, numerous churches, two important high crosses, and a large collection of early Christian grave slabs (the last two on display in the excellent site museum).



From here, the tour will travel to **Belvedere House** where Pilgrims will have the opportunity to have lunch at their own leisure. Belvedere House Gardens and Park is a magnificent parkland estate on the shores of Lough Ennel in the Irish Midlands. The house, built originally as a hunting and fishing lodge, is set in the midst of 160 acres of parkland on the lake shore. The tour will then travel back to Dublin for an overnight and dinner in a Dublin hotel.

**Price per Person: €675**

**Single Room Supplement: €50 per night**

#### **Tour Includes:**

- 3 nights in Galway hotel
- 1 night in Dublin hotel
- 4 full Irish breakfasts
- Set menu dinner in hotel each evening
- Ferry to Aran Island (Inis Mór)
- Minibus tour of Inis Mór
- Entry to Kylemore Abbey
- Visit to Knock and Mass at the Marian shrine – Private masses can be arranged in the Chapel, please note that donations are expected of €3.00 per person
- Entry to Clonmacnoise
- Entry to Belvedere House
- Service of a luxury coach with English speaking tour guide/driver for duration of tour
- All local taxes

**Not Included:**

- Foreign language speaking tour guide – prices available on request

*Tours are subject to a minimum of 25 people per tour.  
Private Tours available on request based on minimum numbers.*