

**Travel Classics Post-Fam  
South Wild Atlantic Way**

**Fam 1**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Travel Classics Farewell Brunch

Depart Kilkenny on post-conference fam trip and head for the Wild Atlantic Way



**Wild Atlantic Way**

From the wind-whipped tip of Malin Head to the safe haven of Kinsale Harbour, wrap yourself in the wilderness of the west coast of Ireland on the world's longest defined coastal touring route. The Wild Atlantic Way is a sensational journey of soaring cliffs, buzzing towns, hidden beaches and epic bays. So whether you drive it from end-to-end, or dip into it as the mood strikes, it's going to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Light refreshments in the Park Hotel, Kenmare, before setting off through Killarney National Park as you drive the iconic Ring of Kerry

<http://www.parkkenmare.com/>

Overnight & dinner in Portmagee

Joined for dinner by the Manager of Kerry Dark Skies, Julie Ormond. The Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve has been designated Ireland's first International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association, one of only 3 GOLD TIER Reserves on the planet, and the *only* GOLD TIER Reserve in the Northern Hemisphere. This means that on clear nights the sky in this South West region of Ireland is simply stunning, with many astronomical sights seen through the naked eye. Julie is the author of *Constellation: Stories of Ireland and Astronomy under a River of Stars*.

[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

Dark Skies tour with Julie (weather/moonlight permitting).



## **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Tour of Valentia Island visiting:

### **Cromwell Point Lighthouse**

One of 70 lighthouses operated by the Commissioners of Irish Lights around the coast of Ireland and plays a vital role in maritime safety. It is also one of twelve lighthouses which make up Great Lighthouses of Ireland, a new all-island tourism initiative. Visitors from home and abroad now have the chance to visit or stay in a lighthouse and to find out about our history and heritage, to appreciate the spectacular natural world around us, to discover the technology at work today and to engage with our coastal communities.

### **Geokaun Mountain:**

We will drive to the top of Geokaun Mountain, one of the Ring of Kerry's highest points, where you will enjoy 360 degree views at the summit.

### **Dinosaur Footprints:**

In 1993, an undergraduate geology student discovered a tetrapod track on the north east of Valentia Island. The tetrapod tracks are in lay person's terms footprints of an animal believed to have been created some 385 million years ago (give or take a year or two). The Valentia Island track way is of international importance as it provides some of the oldest evidence of one of the first water dwelling creatures which crawled out of the water and made the important evolutionary step toward land dwelling leaving its footprints on the muddy shoreline when Valentia Island was a swampland near the equator.

### **The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre**

Over 1400 years ago Skellig Michael became home to a small group of men seeking religious solitude and isolation on one of the most extraordinary locations on earth. The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre is devoted to the UNESCO World Heritage Site where you can experience many aspects of the offshore Skellig Islands while remaining on the mainland – it tells the story of the Skellig Rocks from the early Christian monks who called it home, the sea birds that now inhabit the island, through to the building of the lighthouses & the 161 years of service on the island.

<http://www.skelligexperience.com/>

Weather permitting; take a helicopter trip around Skellig Rock.

Fans of the iconic Star Wars films will see one of Ireland's most important early Christian sites on the big screen, as the idyllic and magical Skelligs Islands feature in the latest instalment of the franchise, The Force Awakens. It's no surprise that filmmakers chose to set part of the film on this secluded UNESCO world heritage site; as Irish poet GB Shaw noted in 1910, it's an "incredible, impossible, mad place" that's "part of our dream world"





The helicopter will drop you off at Dingle, where the coach will re-join the group with your luggage

Dinner in Global Village Restaurant, Dingle. The head chef, Martin Bealin is a Fáilte Ireland Food Champion, and a key organiser of the Dingle Food Festival

<http://www.globalvillagedingle.com/>

## Overnight in Dingle



### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Today you will explore the highlights of the Dingle Peninsula, including:

Cycling the Sleat Head – Sleat Head is one of the best and most spectacular driving and cycling routes in Ireland, if not the world, with breathtaking views of the coastline, offshore islands, cliff top roads and awe inspiring things to see and do along the way. Take in the stunning views along Ireland's most westerly point on Wild Atlantic Way.



### Dingle Distillery

Get your spirits up on a visit to Dingle Distillery and experience the first purpose built distillery for a new whiskey in Ireland in over 200 years. The best Irish malted barley is used to make whiskey which is put in casks, letting the mild, moist Dingle air do the rest! The special hand-crafted copper stills are a key part of the story and Dingle Original Gin and Dingle Distillery Vodka is also produced here. Of course, making whiskey is all about patience. The first Dingle Whiskey was released in 2016 which happens to be the centenary of Irish independence.

[www.dingledistillery.ie](http://www.dingledistillery.ie)

### Dingle Cookery School

‘Dingle Cookery School offers exciting lessons in the Art of Irish Cookery which include amongst others, “Eat like an Irishman”, a lesson in the making and tasting of Traditional Pork Sausages and Colcannon. Tastings and recipe ideas provided. You could also “Warm your senses”, and bake your own homemade traditional brown soda bread, smell it baking and taste with a slab of local butter. You will learn a few Gaelic Phrases and a local rhyme along the way

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

### Overnight in Dingle





## **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Journey from Kerry to Clare with Shannon Ferries**

This is a lovely experience for visitors who would like a short break in their journey to relax as they sail across the majestic Shannon Estuary. And if you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of the dolphins, which in the summer, can sometimes swim so near the ferry, as if just to entertain you.

As the only vehicle ferry trip on the main spine of the Wild Atlantic Way, this invigorating journey allows you experience the rugged nature of land and sea as you breath in the fresh salty sea air that encapsulates Irelands Wild Atlantic Way.

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

### **Explore Loophead with Laura Foley of Long Way Round Walking Tours (2 hour walk)**

The Long Way Round provides guided walks and hikes of one of the last truly unspoilt landscapes in Ireland. Join with nature and learn about the history, geology, botany and wildlife of the Loophead region of West Clare. With your Local guide Laura Foley gain access to areas of beauty which are otherwise inaccessible to visitors. An hour's drive from the world renowned Burren, The Loop Head Peninsula offers a vastly different landscape and geology. In a fantastic position situated between the Atlantic Coast and Shannon Estuary and much like the Cliffs of Moher, this section of Atlantic coast offers a string of magnificent Cliff views. The Shannon estuary is home to an array of sealife and pods of Dolphins which on occasions can be viewed from vantage points along the walks.

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

### **Medieval Banquet in Bunratty Castle**

Join the Earl of Thomond for a glorious medieval banquet at this majestic 15th century Bunratty Castle. The Earl's Butler welcomes guests from the four corners of the world toasting an era of great Irish taste with excellent food, fine wine and honey mead.

<https://www.shannonheritage.com/BunrattyCastleMedievalBanquet/>

## Overnight in Dromoland Castle Hotel





**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Cliffs of Moher Cruise with Doolin Ferry Company



Witness breath-taking views of Ireland's most famous vista by sea. Set sail from Doolin on a one hour journey to the Cliffs of Moher as they climb to their great heights. The Cliffs of Moher rise to a height of over 214 meters (700ft). This cruise sets out from Doolin Pier and follows the cliffs as they climb to their magnificent height.

The Cliffs of Moher have Ireland's largest mainland nesting bird colony on its lands. The Great Sea Stack (Branaunmore) plays host to thousands of sea birds that make it their summer home, and this cruise gets you up close to view birds such as Puffins, Guillemots, and Razorbills just to name a few!

Guided foraging walk along the seashore with picnic lunch

Wild Kitchen

Enjoy some quality time together out in nature and learn a thing or two with Oonagh from Wild Kitchen, on her foraging walk in Lahinch. Everyone gets involved when foraging for their lunch! Enjoy the spoils of your labours with a picnic by the sea. Wild Kitchen is a house & garden where salads, herbs and plants are grown using organic methods of production and they use locally sourced wild plants from land and sea to make a range of nutritious, seasonal, dips, sauces and preserves, which are on sale locally.

[www.wildkitchen.ie](http://www.wildkitchen.ie)

Enjoy your final day in the Burren with a guided walk

Heart of the Burren Walks

Take a fantastic guided walk in the Burren with Heart of the Burren Walks. Starting at the Burren Centre in Kilfenora the walks feature entertaining and informative commentaries on the geology, flora, archaeology, fauna, farming and folklore of the Burren. Your guide Tony Kirby, is the author of the critically-acclaimed book *The Burren and the Aran Islands – A walking guide* which is in its third print run.

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



Enjoy a delicious dinner at Wild Honey Inn

Relax and enjoy some amazing food in a beautiful setting at the Wild Honey Inn. Awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand within six months of opening, other awards include National Hospitality Awards 'Best Pub with Food' 2011 and 2012. The food emphasis is on the wild, free-range, seasonal and local, with a modern bistro style. You will not be disappointed!

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

Overnight at Sheedy's House Hotel, Lisdoonvarna

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

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Departures from Shannon Airport