

Ireland

WILD ATLANTIC WAY



**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

SPONSORED BY



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



May 15-23, 2018



Inspiring Moments

A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in the rhythms of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, brimming with spectacular scenery, wonderful food and rousing music!

► Take in **Achill Island's majestic, untamed beauty**, from moorlands to verdant mountains to magnificent shoreline.

► Feel the animated pulse of life in **vibrant and colorful Galway**.

► Visit romantic **Kylemore Abbey**, nestled along a lakeshore in the Connemara mountains.

► Explore **warm and welcoming Westport**, home to traditional music and Irish food at its best.

► Explore Stone Age tombs over 5,000 years old in **Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery**.

► Marvel at the sensational, rugged, cliff-lined coastal scenery along Ireland's **Wild Atlantic Way**.



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Howdy, Ags!

Join us as we delight in a quintessentially Irish experience based in charming, laid-back Westport along Ireland's magical western coast! For seven nights, you'll make your home in this friendly, flower-filled town of colorful shopfronts, lively cafes, wonderful restaurants and cheery local pubs humming with the stirring beat of classic Irish melodies.

From Westport, we'll set out to delve more deeply into Irish history and culture and to marvel at the spectacular scenery of the Wild Atlantic Way. In County Sligo, discover the glorious countryside that gripped the imagination of poet W.B. Yeats, and wander among Stone Age tombs in an ancient cemetery. Admire Achill Island's beguiling, untamed landscapes, and be charmed by romantic Kylemore Abbey, nestled among the Connemara mountains. Delight in the quaint towns of Cong and Clifden, and in Galway, feel the city's lighthearted energy radiating along its medieval lanes.

Enjoy the ease, camaraderie and value of group travel with opportunities to explore on your own. Ensure your spot on this exclusive Irish adventure by reserving today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel

Herding demonstration, Connemara





Westport

Day One

In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Shannon, Ireland. ✈

Day Two

D

Westport, Ireland

Upon arrival in Shannon, transfer ✈ to Westport and check in to the Westport Plaza Hotel.

Discovery: Westport. Get to know your new home base on a walking tour of the bustling town center along the Carrowbeg River.

This evening, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception featuring a performance by local dancers and musicians, and then gather for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Day Three

B | L

Westport

Enrichment: Irish Folklife. Delve into the traditions of rural life with a visit to the County Mayo branch of the National Museum of Ireland. Enjoy an engaging talk, then explore the exhibits that reveal the heritage of Irish trades, crafts, domestic life and more.

Savor a delicious lunch in town.

Discovery: Westport House. Set within a parkland estate, this stately, 18th-century manor house was built by the descendants of Grace O'Malley, the 16th-century Pirate Queen of Connaught, who followed in the footsteps of her father, a seafaring Gaelic chieftain. On a guided tour, step back in time as you wander through beautifully decorated period rooms.



Westport House

Day Four

B | L | D

Foxford | County Sligo

Discovery: Sligo and William Butler Yeats. Head to County Sligo, known as "Yeats' Country," to discover the majestic countryside that so enthralled the legendary poet and Nobel Prize winner. Begin at one of Ireland's famous woollen mills, Foxford, established in 1892 by a Sister of Charity. See firsthand how craftspeople produce fine blankets, tweeds and other items using traditional techniques. Then visit Lissadell House, a grand Greek Revival manor built in the 1830s and the former residence of Constance Markievicz, an Irish nationalist and the first woman elected to the British House of Commons. Markievicz and her family entertained William Butler Yeats at Lissadell. Later, at Drumcliff Cemetery, pay a short visit to Yeats' final resting place. Enjoy a relaxing lunch break in Sligo town.



Kylemore Abbey

Enrichment: W.B. Yeats. The childhood summers Yeats spent in County Sligo resonated deeply with him. During a presentation by a Yeats Society Fellow, learn about the poetry and life of Yeats.

Discovery: Megalithic Ireland. Visit the otherworldly Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Ireland's largest Stone Age burial site. Contemplate what life must have been like for Ireland's ancient inhabitants as you gaze at monuments they constructed over 5,000 years ago.

Day Five

B | L

Achill Island

Enrichment: A Vision of Ireland. A local artist and art history lecturer shares how Irish culture and history are portrayed in the works of the country's major artists.

Discovery: Ireland's Rugged Beauty.

Explore remote Achill Island, the largest island off Ireland's coast, noted for its magnificent, wild beauty and pristine beaches. Visit the Deserted Village at Slievemore, a haunting reminder of Ireland's pastoral history, with more than 80 abandoned stone cottages. Try local specialties at lunch in the village of Keel on Achill Island.

In Mulranny, learn how to make Irish coffee and then sip your delicious drink while enjoying stunning views over Clew Bay.

Day Six

B

Connemara

Discovery: Connemara. Marvel at the



Slievemore



Cycling the Great Western Greenway

starkly beautiful landscape shaped by ancient glaciers that Oscar Wilde described as "savage." See Croagh Patrick Mountain, where St. Patrick is said to have fasted for 40 days in the fifth century. Visit the family-owned Glen Keen farm for a sheepdog demonstration and chat about sheep farming with a member of the family. Continue to Kylemore Abbey, a romantic, 19th-century castle overlooking a beautiful lake, where you will tour the home and gardens. Originally built by a wealthy Londoner for his beloved wife, the castle was later purchased by Benedictine nuns in 1920. Conclude your day with a trip to the delightful town of Clifden and return via scenic Inagh Valley.

Day Seven

B

Cong | Galway

Discovery: Cong. Journey to the picturesque village featured in "The Quiet Man," starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. Meander in the splendid grounds of Cong's Augustinian abbey, founded in the early 12th century by Turlough O'Connor, High King of Ireland.

Discovery: Galway. This spirited city radiates energy with live music, street performers and students from the National University of Ireland/Galway. On a guided walking tour, explore its network of medieval cobbled streets. Discover more of Galway on your own during free time after the tour.

INCLUDED FEATURES

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Seven nights in Westport, Ireland, at the first-class Westport Plaza Hotel.

TRANSFERS

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the land program, including baggage handling.

EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Seven breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- Expert-led Enrichment programs enhance your insight into the region.
- Discovery excursions highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - Tour the Georgian streets of Westport.
 - Study Irish culture at the National Museum of Ireland–Country Life.
 - Visit Westport House and learn about the legendary pirate queen.
 - Discover County Sligo and the renowned poet, William Butler Yeats.
 - See traditional textiles being made at the Foxford Woollen Mills.
 - Tour the elegant Lissadell House.
 - Step back into the Stone Age at Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery.
 - Ponder Ireland’s past at the Deserted Village at Slievemore on Achill Island.
 - Witness Connemara’s striking beauty.
 - Watch frisky sheepdogs maneuver a flock during a herding demonstration.
 - Admire the majestic Kylemore Abbey.
 - Spend time in picturesque Clifden.
 - Journey to the quaint village of Cong.
 - Enjoy Galway’s medieval charm.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Clearly hear your English-speaking guide with your own VOX headset.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Connemara



Day Eight

B | D

Westport

Free Time: Spend your final day at leisure.

Hike Croagh Patrick, take a cruise to Clare Island, go fishing or rent bikes for a leisurely ride along the Great Western Greenway.

This evening, raise a glass and wish your fellow travelers “Sláinte” as you share in a celebratory Farewell Dinner.

Day Nine

B


In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the Shannon airport for the return flights to your gateway city. ✈

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

✈ Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants

B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost

Lively music in a Galway pub



AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



WESTPORT PLAZA HOTEL | WESTPORT



Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class hotel in the heart of Westport, near the town's shops and restaurants. It is ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

Reserve your Ireland trip today!

Trip #:5-23636W

Send to The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: **979-845-7514**
Fax: **979-845-9263**
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1) _____
Title First Middle Last

Email: _____ Date of Birth _____

Guest 2) _____
Title First Middle Last

Email: _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

1) _____ Class Year _____

2) _____ Class Year _____

Three-Night Pre-Trip Extension in Ennis, Ireland.

Please make _____ reservations for me (us) on the Elective Pre-Trip Extension in Ennis. Single supplement charges apply.

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Shannon, Ireland, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **March 1, 2018** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600/person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: May 15-23, 2018

Land Program dates: May 16-23, 2018

LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Let us arrange your flights!

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



| ELECTIVE | PRE-TRIP EXTENSION IN ENNIS

Experience County Clare's magnificent coastline, traditional Irish music and dance, and friendly locals. Stay three nights at the first-class Old Ground Hotel in Ennis. Learn about the town's legends on a walking tour, explore the unusual Burren region with an expert, and witness the incredible beauty of the Cliffs of Moher. Includes three nights at the hotel; three breakfasts and one lunch; the noted excursions; deluxe motor coach from Ennis to Westport; and the services of an expert guide and a Travel Director.

Price: USD \$895 per person, double occupancy; USD \$1,090 single occupancy

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare.

VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

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CANCELLATION-All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS**-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

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Matt Molloy's, a popular Westport pub



Wild Atlantic Way

Experience the remarkable beauty of Ireland's captivating west coast!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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