



Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School & All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Tour 13th - 24th August 2016



Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School & All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Tour

13th - 24th August 2016

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Arrive at Dublin airport transfer to Galway
Afternoon: Free time
Evening: Irish Traditional Music & Dancing

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare
Afternoon: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare
Evening: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare

MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Burren Walking Tour
Afternoon: Cliffs of Moher
Evening: Music in Doolin

TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Galway City
Afternoon: Connemara/Galway Bay Tour
Evening: Music in Clare

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare
Afternoon: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare
Evening: Flead Cheoil, Ennis, Co. Clare

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Transfer to Carlingford via Dublin
Afternoon: Kilmainham Gaol, Shopping/Sightseeing
Evening: Session in Newry, Co. Down

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Belfast
Afternoon: Titanic, "Troubles" Tour
Evening: Mourne Mountains

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Newgrange
Afternoon: The Boyne Valley
Evening: Free time in Carlingford

SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Options: Golf, Sailing on Carlingford Lough, Hiking in Cooley Mountains
Evening: Free Time

MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Morning: Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School
Afternoon: Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School
Evening: Free Time

TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Morning: Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School
Afternoon: Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School
Evening: Canadian/Irish Fok Night

WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Morning: Return home

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE SUMMER SCHOOL

An engaging, entertaining academic and political programme, as in other years, will include animated debate, a variety of views, original drama and music in the idyllic setting of Carlingford. Thomas D'Arcy McGee 5th Annual Summer School will be held in Carlingford Heritage Centre on Aug. 22nd and 23rd.

D'Arcy McGee, 1916 and Revolutionary Republicanism

Internationally renowned historians, academics, politicians and political activists will debate and reflect on McGee's relevance to the current peace process, and the changing nature of revolutionary republicanism. This is a topic that is especially relevant in this decade of significant anniversaries.

visit www.thomasdarcymcgee.com for more information

LAST LEPRECHAUNS OF IRELAND

The underground Leprechaun and Fairy Cavern has its origins in a story that happened in 1989 when a Leprechaun suit with 4 gold coins in the pocket was found on Foy Mountain above Carlingford, Co Louth. Beside it were some bones and an area of scorched earth. The man who found it, a local publican PJ O'Hare told a friend of his McCoillte (Woods) what he had found. McCoillte was very sceptical about the existence of such beings and set out to prove that Leprechauns did not exist. But he failed!

Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School & All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Tour

13th - 24th August 2016

THE BURREN AND THE CLIFFS OF MOHER, CO CLARE

The unique landscape of the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way is internationally famous for its landscape and flora. A visit to the Burren during the summer months will leave a person amazed by the colourful diversity of flowering plants living together within the one ecosystem. Also found here are certain species which although rare elsewhere are abundant in the Burren. Even more amazingly they all survive in a land that appears to be composed entirely of rock. From the Cliffs visitors can see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay, the Maumturks and Twelve Pins mountain ranges to the north in County Galway, and Loop Head to the south. The cliffs rank amongst the top-visited tourist sites in Ireland and receive almost one million visitors a year.

DOOLIN, CO CLARE

Doolin is a charming small seaside village on the northwest coast of County Clare on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. Set against the rugged Atlantic Ocean and surrounded by the spectacular bare limestone landscape of the Burren, Doolin is a place of breathtaking beauty. It is situated 8km from the famous cliffs of Moher. The small village is a mecca for Irish traditional musicians and fans from across the globe, yet it hasn't lost any of its unique character.

ALL-IRELAND FLEADH, ENNIS, CO CLARE

The All-Ireland Fleadh comprises a ten-day cultural festival attracting over 400,000 people, including thousands of overseas visitors. It will have 10,000 national and international performers. The event is supported by 420 branches and 50,000 volunteers worldwide.

KILMAINHAM GAOL, DUBLIN

Kilmainham Gaol is a former prison in and is now a museum. Many Irish revolutionaries, including the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, were imprisoned and executed in the prison by the British.

TITANIC, BELFAST

Titanic Belfast is a visitor attraction and a monument to Belfast's maritime heritage on the site of the former Harland & Wolff shipyard in the city's Titanic Quarter where the RMS Titanic was built. It tells the stories of the ill-fated Titanic, which hit an iceberg and sank during her maiden voyage in 1912.

TOURS, WEST BELFAST

Belfast is synonymous with the story of Ireland's recent political 'troubles'. The tour are designed to help explain the troubles. The tour will showcase key sites and stories of our recent past;

Political wall art, The Murals, The Belfast Peace Wall
The Crumlin Road Jail and Courthouse, The Shankill Road and The Falls Road

NEWGRANGE, CO MEATH

Newgrange is a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland, located about one kilometre north of the River Boyne. It was built during the Neolithic period around 3000 BC to 2500 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

THE BOYNE VALLEY, CO MEATH

Places to visit include the 5000 year old tombs at Newgrange and Knowth, Monasterboice round tower and Celtic Crosses, Old Mellifont Abbey and the Hill of Tara

CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE CENTRE, CARLINGFORD

Set against the natural beauty of a true medieval Irish coastal town, the Carlingford Adventure Centre's facilities, provides the perfect mix of character and modern comforts. With a huge array of land, sea & sky outdoor activities designed to challenge and reward all ages and abilities, Carlingford Adventure Centre lets you experience action packed adventure holidays in Ireland that you'll talk about for a lifetime.

CARLINGFORD

Carlingford and The Cooley Peninsula are situated in the north east corner of county Louth, midway between Belfast and Dublin. The area has a rich historical heritage primarily because of the Tain Bo Culainge or the Cattle Raid of Cooley, an ancient Irish saga., The Cooley Mountains (highest point Sleive Foy , 588metres) are ideal for walkers and hikers of all experience levels and form, and with Carlingford Lough dramatic views from wherever you are in the peninsula. Carlingford and Cooley also has a number of important pre-historic and medieval sites, especially within the confines of Carlingford itself. For instance, the village itself is dominated by the remains of King Johns Castle, the first major construction in Carlingford's history built in the 12th century.

THE SUPPORT TEAM

OLIVER O'CONNELL

Oliver was born in Doolin, Co Clare, the home of Irish traditional music, and is an accomplished accordion player, Ceili band drummer, singer songwriter and author (Co authored Free Spirits with Tommy fegan). His recent dance performance on board a transatlantic flight from New York to Shannon was a sensation, and went viral;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yarLP5evhsg>

Oliver has organized walking tours, with a mix of music, dance and song for visitors throughout his native Burren landscape. Oliver will be responsible for arrangements during the first stage of the trip in the West.

TOM QUINN

Tom Quinn and Irish dancing (both Céilí and sets) have become synonymous. He began dancing at the age of three, learning his first steps from his great aunt Nan Quinn, the lady instrumental in the revival of the now famous Armagh ceilidh dances. Tom has won all Ireland and world titles as a dancer, and has since moved on to be one of the most established dancing instructors in Ireland, as well as providing workshops throughout Europe and the United States. Tom was the producer of the Sweets of May (the Céilí Band era, music and dance of South Armagh) DVD. Tom will provide a half days workshop for the group, guaranteeing that they will have learnt three very distinct Irish dances, to bring back to Newfoundland.

MARK BURNS

Coach driver; Mark Burns is an All Ireland uilleann piper, and has provided accompaniment for his local dancer, All Ireland Winners for many years in the 1990s and early 2000s. Mark and his brothers also won All Ireland titles in trio and duets. His children are all award winning traditional musicians, and he certainly knows his way around Ennis, Co Clare and the Carlingford/Mourne areas. Mark will ensure quality music and dance opportunities are engaged throughout the trip.

ANTHONY RUSSELL

Anthony has researched, written about and produced multimedia exhibitions on the 1798 Rebellion, the Act of Union, the Great Famine, the 'Walking Nuns' (the Mercy Order), the development of the Irish town and '1848 Rebels and Loyalists'. He is the author of the Merrion Press's recently published 'Between Two Flags – John Mitchel and Jenny Verner'. Anthony was the creative director of the Thomas D'Arcy McGee exhibition (opened in 2015) in Carlingford, and has conducted historical tours in Belfast, Dublin and Newry. His witty and informative style is engaging and greatly appreciated by tour groups.

TOMMY FEGAN

Tommy is the Director of the annual Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School, and has lectured along with former Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Heron in St John's Newfoundland in 2015. Tommy is an accomplished uilleann piper, and has written and lectured extensively on Irish traditional music including co-author of two productions; Sweets of May (the Céilí Band era, music and dance of South Armagh) and Free Spirits-Irish Travellers and Irish Traditional Music. He was recently awarded an MA for his work on the latter subject, and has produced extensive documentaries on these subjects.

PETER CONNOLLY

Peter has had a lifetime experience in the tourism sector in Ireland, specialising in arranging and delivering cultural and historical tour packages for overseas visitors, mainly from North America. Peter's expertise and reputation in the tourism sector, north and south, insures that he can negotiate the most favourable rates and quality services for clients.



Package includes; full board, all entry fees, Summer School fees, coach provision from airport and throughout. The above programme can be changed to reflect interest of specific groups.

Price; final prices dependent on quality of accomodation required and group numbers

Contact; tourism@thomasdarcymcgee.com or visit www.thomasdarcymcgee.com

