



# Terry Flynn Tours



Tom Comerford proudly presents,  
in conjunction with Terry Flynn Tours,  
"The Four Provinces, Revisited, Ireland 2018"  
Nov 4th - 12th 2018

The hotels:

*Nov 4 & 5 : Hotel Minella. [www.hotelminella.com](http://www.hotelminella.com)*

*Nov 6, 7 & 8: Station House Hotel. [www.clifdenstationhouse.com](http://www.clifdenstationhouse.com)*

*Nov 9 & 10: Slieve Russell Hotel. [www.slieverussell.ie](http://www.slieverussell.ie)*

*Nov 11: Waterside Hotel. [www.watersidehousehotel.ie](http://www.watersidehousehotel.ie)*



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Included:

8 nights accommodation.

Breakfast daily.

6 Evening meals.

Entertainment from Tom and friends along the way.

Coach transportation.

Driver/guide.

Porterage.

Entrance fees to Kilkenny Castle, Kylemore Abbey, Athlone Castle, Arigna mining experience.

\$1580 (land package) per person sharing. Single supplement is €320 and limited to 3 people.

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In 2009, I did a tour of Ireland, the theme of which, was, that we would visit, and stay overnight, in each of the Four provinces of Ireland. This tour will explore that theme once again, but the attractions/visits, the itinerary, and accommodations, are completely different.

Welcome to my 2018 presentation, "The Four Provinces of Ireland, Revisited", which will denote the diversities, and similarities, of Munster, Leinster, Connaught, and Ulster.

I am featuring two of the fine Country Houses of Ireland, a Boutique hotel, and an ocean-front hotel.....and, you know this is important to me, most of our accommodations are family-owned.



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Allow me, if I may, to outline the itinerary for you.

The tour will begin and end, in Dublin airport, and we are always happy to assist and advise anyone who might like to arrive a little earlier to get rid of the jet-lag, or indeed, stay a little longer.

**Nov 4th:** We will meet and greet newly-arrived guests at Dublin airport, collect the ones who might have arrived a day or two before, and embark on our "Four Provinces of Ireland, Revisited", Tour. We will head South-Southwest this morning, travelling along the Interstate, and we will stop in the town of Carlow. It's a small provincial town with a population of approx. 20,000 inhabitants, with some interesting pockets of architecture, a plethora of cosy pubs, and tea shops/cafes, and is easily explored at a relaxed walking pace. Upon re-embarking the coach, we set our sights on the Hotel Minella, which is nestled between the Comeragh Mountains and the River Suir in Clonmel Co. Tipperary. The original Georgian house was built by the Malcomsom family in 1863, and the Minella was opened as a hotel by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nallen in 1963. Situated on the River Suir, (it's pronounced "sure", not "sewer") in beautiful tranquil surroundings, the hotel is only a 10 minute walk from the town centre. This will be our accommodation for two nights. (we will have travelled through, and visited in, Leinster, and our hotel is in Munster)

**Nov 5th:** Let's go sightseeing. Kilkenny is our destination today, and what a destination it is. We will have plenty of time here to wander at our leisure. We have organised a tour of Kilkenny Castle, the signature symbol of the Medieval city, (and indeed Leinster) and afterwards there will be plenty of time to walk around and check out some of the other attractions. If you want to google them, here is a selection: St. Canices Cathedral and round tower, the Rothe house, St. John's Abbey, the Smithwicks brewery. I will be happy to conduct a walking tour at a leisurely pace, if the weather permits. I'm not going to pretend that I'm an authority on medieval history, because I am not. But I do know where to easily locate AND show you some of these historical delights.

And, again.....plenty of pubs/cafes, tea shops, such as Kytellers Inn, The Tea Rooms at Langtons, Bridies pub, Tynans bridge bar, Matt the Millers....



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**Nov 6th:** Departing the Hotel Minella, our destination for the next three nights, is the Station House Hotel, Clifden, in the Western county of Galway. But, of course, there is plenty to see and do along the way. If you have some retail therapy in mind, your needs will be addressed today. Our recommended shopping stop on this tour, is at the family owned Blarney Woollen Mills at Bunratty, where you will find a huge array of Irish fare, ranging from small souvenirs, to traditional apparel, crystal, etc. Just across the street from here, is the famed Bunratty Castle and folk park, and also Durty Nelly's pub. Later in the afternoon, we will have a city tour on our coach, of Galway, the provincial capital of Connaught, a stop at the family owned and operated Connemara Marble, before taking in some of the Wild Atlantic Way enroute to our hotel, (which, in itself, is an archaeological delight if you have an interest in railways) We will be here, in the heart of the wild and wonderful province of Connaught, for three nights.

**Nov 7th:** Let's get on the road. Driving through this area of Galway County, known as Connemara, is surreal. Panaoramic? Yes. Barren, bleak, and breath-takingly beautiful, are just some of the other adjectives you could use. One of our highlights today, besides all the scenery, will be a visit to Kylemore Abbey, originally the home of an eccentric English businessman, and latterly the home to Benedictine nuns. An architectural delight where one can wander, and wonder, marvel, and explore. Also on the agenda, is a visit to Leenane, situated at the mouth of Killary harbour, which is one of only 3 fjords in Ireland.

**Nov 8th:** The pace today is slightly more relaxed, the reason being, we want to give you time to take a look around Clifden, later, and maybe just enjoy some relaxation time in the hotel itself. But, that aside, today we will converge on the village of Cong. A small settlement that still enjoys notoriety from it's association with one of the greatest movies from the golden era of Hollywood. Yes, we are talking about "The Quiet Man", which starred John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. For fans of the movie, this village is regarded as the epicenter of the shoot. There's another attraction to be viewed here, too. Ashford Castle!! It's the hangout of the rich and famous..... We can look at it, and take some photographs, but unless we are key-carrying residents, we can't actually go inside. Anyway, that's no big deal.....back to Clifden we go, to do whatsoever should take our fancy.



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**Nov 9th:** The county of Cavan is our destination today, in the province of Ulster, and our billet for the next two nights is at the acclaimed Country House, known as The Slieve Russell Hotel, situated in the rural area of Ballyconnell. We will travel East, into the midlands town of Athlone first, before we veer North-Northwest to our lodgings. Athlone is a great little town, it really is. It is reckoned to be the exact geographical centre of Ireland. It's situated on both banks of the River Shannon, (the longest river in the British Isles), and by walking across the stone-built bridge in the town, you are not only crossing from one county to another (Westmeath to Roscommon), but you are also traversing two provinces, they being Leinster and Connaught. We have arranged a visit to one of Ireland's lesser-known castles, but a very important one, nonetheless, and that is Athlone Castle. Also nearby, is a fabulous little pub, which is constantly at good-natured loggerheads with The Brazen Head pub in Dublin, in proclaiming itself as the oldest pub in Ireland. Ladies and gentlemen, do yourselves a favour here, and pop into Sean's Pub (it's a two min walk from the castle and the bridge), which in my opinion, (and I have an innate feeling for these things), IS, the oldest pub in Ireland. But don't forget to come back to the coach, we have a fine hotel awaiting us.

**Nov 10th:** What's on the agenda for today? A visit to the town of Carrick On Shannon, and the Arigna Mining Experience, is the answer. Carrick On Shannon is the county town of Leitrim, and is one of the smallest "main" towns in Ireland, with a population of just over five and a half thousand. It's also one of the main fording points of the River Shannon. You can enjoy a river-walk here, or stroll around this beautifully preserved old market town. Our visit to the Arigna coal mines will include a historical presentation and a tour given by a former miner. The total walking distance of the tour is only about 300 metres (less than a thousand feet), and the terrain is level, but bring your jacket because the underground temperature is approx 55 fahrenheit. After all that, let's head back to the sumptuous surroundings of the Slieve Russell hotel.

**Nov 11th:** Our last full day. On our way from Cavan to Dublin, we will stop in the town of Kells, in Meath County. This town is renowned for a couple of things, one of which, is, it's the birthplace of the afore-mentioned Hollywood actress, Maureen O'Hara. In fact, there's a statue of her in Farrell Street, in Kells. But let's be honest, it's best known as the site of the Abbey of Kells, from which the world famous book of Kells,



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takes its name. The round tower, and the Celtic crosses can still be seen, if you want to make a visit there. I also must profess a fondness for the Headfort Arms hotel, located in the centre of the town. It's been a hotel for almost 200 years, and it's been owned by the Duff family since the 1980's. There's a nice "stepping back in time" quality to this hostelry which always appeals to me. We are going to try to get to our final hotel, while we still have daylight. The family-owned Waterside House Hotel, is right on the beach, in the village of Donabate, in Dublin County, and weather permitting, you might just like to take a stroll and get some sand in your shoes.

**Nov 12th:** All too soon, our tour will have come to an end, and I have the challenge ahead of dreaming up another interesting itinerary for 2019.

We will arrange airport transfers for anyone who is going home directly today, and will gladly offer assistance and advice to those who intend to stay a little while longer. As we like to say in Ireland, "don't be a stranger", and come back soon. "Go raibh maith agat as do chuideachta, bhí sé an-áthas"

Legal stuff: If a visit or attraction should be unavailable it will be replaced by another of similar nature and value.