

Trevor Marmalade's

GAELIC FOOTBALL TOUR

2002 ITINERARY

- Fri 11th
October Individually check in at the Emirates check in counter. Then make your way, to the "Sports Bar" which is to the right of the International departure gates. Here we will have a few drinks and have an opportunity to meet you're your host Trevor Marmalade and your fellow tour members. Depart Melbourne for Dubai on Emirates Airways flight 405 at 1920. This flight will have a brief stop in Singapore before flying on to Dubai.
- Sat. 12th
October Emirates Airways flight 405 arrives in Dubai at 05.10. Dubai has the best duty free shopping in the world so save your money until you get to Dubai. Remain in the International terminal and then Depart Dubai for London on Emirates flight 1 at 07.45 which arrives in London (Heathrow) at 12.25. We will then board the Eir Lingus flight 165, which departs Heathrow at 14.25 which arrives in Dublin at 15.40. Welcome to Dublin, Ireland's capital! Our professional Irish driver/guide will meet us in the arrival hall. You will then be transferred directly to your accommodation for a well earned rest. Evenings itinerary is to find a local pub for a counter meal and enjoy a few ales. Possibly a quite night as we want to be fresh for the footy the next day.
Stay: Burlington Hotel Dublin
- Sat. 13th
October Slow start this morning to allow us to get over any jet lag. This afternoon we will see the first game of the International Challenge between Australia and Ireland at Croke Park. A capacity crowd of 35,000 is expected. Enjoy the reserved seating and the coach transfers to and from the ground. Evening is to celebrate the victory or drown our sorrows at a local pub. Wearing our footy gear is a must to show our support regardless of the result. There may be an opportunity to catch up with some of the players after the game.
Stay: Burlington Hotel Dublin
- Mon. 14th
October In the mid morning we will make our way westwards to Galway. Lunch will be at a local. On the way we will make a stop at Clonmacnoise, a great monastic settlement founded by St. Ciaran in 545AD. It is situated on the banks of the River Shannon close to Athlone and contains a round tower and the remains of nine churches. Drive on west and check in at our accommodation at the Menlo Park Hotel and enjoy dinner. The evening is free for you to go into town and make friends at one of the many pubs.
Stay: Menlo Park Hotel
- Tues. 15th
October After your Irish breakfast, we will set off on a full day tour of the Connemara and admire the sweeping views of boglands and misty mountains. Travel along the shoreline of Galway Bay to the quaint village of Spiddal, which retains the Irish language and many traditional lifestyles. Continue West to Clifden, a delightful town on the western seaboard. Stop for a counter meal and a few ales at a local pub. We will also stop at Kylemore Abbey which was built in 1868, and then enjoy a stroll by the lake to the Gothic Church in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Drive back to Galway and enjoy an evening of Irish entertainment and dinner in the cozy settings of Padraicins at the Galway Bay.
Stay: Menlo Park Hotel
- Wed. 16th
October Today we will drive through the Burren Country, an area of rocky limestone hills where many unique flowers thrive. This region contains many prehistoric monuments formed from the large slabs of limestone. Visit Aillwee Caves, whose entrance is shaped

like a Stone Age cairn and contains a restaurant and craft shop. We will then drive to the imposing Cliffs of Moher that are 7 km in length and tower 200m above the Atlantic Ocean. The Cliffs of Moher is one of Ireland's most recognised features. If the weather is nice, you will have an excellent view on the Aran Islands and see the varying colours of the different rock strata. Drive south and take a ride across the River Shannon Estuary to the mountainous countryside of Kerry. Drive into Killarney and check into your hotel for overnight and dinner.

Stay: Killarney Avenue Hotel

Thurs. 17th Today you will embark on Ireland's most popular scenic drive, the Ring of Kerry, October which reveals breathtaking views of mountains and sea. A camera is an absolute must today. See Ireland's highest mountain the Macgillycuddy's Reeks and pass scenic villages like Glenbeigh with palm trees and beautiful beaches, remote Waterville and the colourful village of Sneem.. All along the route there will be opportunities to get out of the coach and admire or photograph the many scenic vistas. Stop at Muckross House, a 19th century mansion that houses a folk museum, as well as being a great visit in its own right. After dinner visit the Laurel's pub where a lively session of ballads takes place. By now we will have experts on Irish music.
Stay: Killarney Avenue Hotel

Fri. 18th Leave Killarney and drive via Cork to Blarney Castle, one of Ireland's oldest and October most historic castles. Here, you have the opportunity to acquire the gift of eloquence by kissing the famous Blarney stone. No tour to Ireland is complete without doing this. Afterwards, we will visit the Midleton Distillery. Almost like a tour of a working distillery you can follow the fascinating craft of whiskey making. Finally the tour culminates in the bar for a session of traditional Irish whiskey tasting. I am sure we will have no shortage of volunteers. Drive along the scenic coast route to Waterford for check-in.
Stay: Ard Ri Hotel

Sat. 19th After your Irish breakfast, you will visit the Waterford Crystal Factory to see how October crystal is blown and cut by the skilled craftspeople. No doubt we will have a number of orders from Australia. We will then drive north back to Dublin. We can marvel at the scenic Wicklow Mountains and then stop at Glendalough to tour the famous 6th century monastic settlement with its round tower and Celtic crosses. Check in at your Dublin hotel for overnight accommodation.
Stay: Burlington Hotel Dublin

Sun 20th Game two and the final game of the International Series. Australian must win October both games to regain the trophy. Regardless of the result we will have plenty of fun after the game. An opportunity to make friends with our Irish hosts.
Stay: Burlington Hotel Dublin

Mon 21st Today is a free day for personal sightseeing or shopping. It maybe a good day to October take it easy. Those energetic people may like to have a round of golf at one of Dublin's picturesque courses. For our final night as a group together we will book a local pub for a meal and drinks. An opportunity to say Slan – Farewell to the locals tonight.
Stay: Burlington Hotel Dublin

Tue 22nd Early morning transfer from Dublin to London this morning. Depart Dublin for October London on Eir Lingus flight 158 at 0950 which arrives in London at 11.10. Then depart London for Dubai on Emirates flight 2 at 14.00 which arrives at 23.55.

Wed 23rd Remain in the international terminal and board Emirates flight 404 to Melbourne October at 02.45. A great opportunity to catch up on sleep on the way home.

Thurs. 24th Emirates flight 404 arrives in Melbourne at 12.25am after a brief transit stop in October Singapore