

Travel off the beaten track into the *Hidden Ireland* rarely seen by tourists and visitors with Mick Moloney, Professor of music and Irish Studies at New York University and one of Ireland's best known musicians and folklorists. Enjoy learning first hand about the complex history and culture of a land which has a deep Celtic imprint but has been populated for over 10,000 years by people who created some of the most extraordinary antiquities in Western Europe. Stay in 4 star hotels with wonderful haute cuisine. Enjoy matchless scenery during the day and every night attend special concerts and sessions featuring the best musicians and dancers in the land.

NORTH AND NORTHWEST: MAY 18-28, 2012

We'll begin our journey in Sligo with its beautiful lakes and hills and profusion of historic sites, literary and mythological associations and brilliant traditional musicians. We'll head up to Donegal town, the bustling fishing village of Killybegs and beautiful Glencolumcille. We will explore the enchanting mountain and ocean scenery of West Donegal and visit Derry, which began as a monastery founded by St. Columcille in the sixth century. We'll explore the city, walk the historic walls and enjoy concerts and sessions with some of the greatest musicians in the Northwest of Ireland. We'll visit the lovely town of Omagh, spend an afternoon at the Ulster American Folk Park and learn about the background to the huge migrations of the Ulster Scots to North America in the 18th and early 19th century. We'll travel via Ballycastle through the enchanting glens of Antrim and visit the famous Giants Causeway one of the greatest World Heritage Sites. We'll spend a couple of nights in Belfast once divided by sectarian tensions and now one of the most attractive and safest cities in Western Europe. We'll talk at length with social and community activists involved in the peace process. From there we'll head to County Down where we will hear the best of traditional music from members of the famed Sands Family. We'll end our trip in Dublin and on the way visit the famed archeological sites at Newgrange and Dowth. Throughout our trip we will enjoy wonderfully presented haute cuisine in some of the finest and most picturesque hotels in the country.

INTO THE WEST: JULY 19-29, 2012

This tour will hug the stunningly beautiful Atlantic shoreline as we travel from the enchanting Dingle Peninsula up the west coast of Ireland through Limerick, Clare, Galway and Mayo. The tour will draw threads from folklore, history, language, music, literature and nature and bring the Irish landscape alive in exhilarating fashion and enable participants to reflect on how the Celts through settlement, pilgrimage or escape ended up in these spectacular regions. The music and dance on this itinerary every night will be extraordinary as we travel through some of the greatest repositories of traditional culture in the country. We will enjoy wonderfully presented haute cuisine at memorable dinners in the stately dining rooms of four star hotel in country including Benner's Hotel in Dingle, The Old Ground Hotel in Ennis, the Renyle House Hotel in Connemara and the Knockgranny House Hotel in Westport. We will take leisurely day trips to a variety of cultural and historical sites in Munster and Connaught including visits to the cities of Galway, Ennis and Limerick and visits to the Aran Islands and Achill.

Mick Moloney's Irish Cultural Tours

\$2995 double occupancy, excluding air fare.
\$400 single supplement.

For more information and detailed itineraries
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