From the bustling city of Dublin to the sprawling landscape of County Clare, discover the magic of Ireland on this 10-day journey through its most breathtaking sights. Join a renowned local guide for a walking tour of Dublin City and get a private viewing of the Book of Kells. Journey to Belfast, stopping along the way to take in the beautiful scenery of The Cooley Peninsula. In Galway, pay a visit to Kylemore Abbey, the Jewel of the West. Venture to County Clare to see the fabled Cliffs of Moher and spend a day with a local expert exploring the Dingle Peninsula where you will visit Inch Beach before stopping by the artisan Dingle Whiskey Distillery. Throughout your journey, witness the beauty of the landscapes and experience the warm welcome of the Irish people.

**GROUP SIZE:** 8-24 guests

**PRICING:** $5,995 per person double occupancy / $900 Single supplement

**STUDY LEADER:** CATHERINE MCKENNA, is Harvard’s Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures, specializing in the literature and legends of the Celtic-speaking peoples of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, and Cornwall. From ancient times down to the present, the peoples of Scotland, Ireland and Scandinavia have been linked by the waterways that seem to divide them—the North Atlantic, the North Sea, the Irish Sea—in what is sometimes described as ‘the Irish Sea Cultural Province’. Our trip will take us to places that bear witness to this interconnection at many different moments in history, from the prehistoric, to the medieval, to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and on into our own day.

Catherine McKenna has studied and taught the history and culture of the Gaelic and British worlds throughout all these periods. Prior to coming to Harvard, she spent 15 years as director of an undergraduate and graduate program in Irish studies in New York, and is currently working on a book on the cult of Saint Brigit of Ireland from its origins in the 6th century to the present day. She received her PhD from the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard.
FRIDAY, JUNE 7
DEPART U.S. FOR IRELAND

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
ARRIVE DUBLIN

Upon arrival in Dublin this morning, transfer to your hotel and partake in a traditional Full Irish Breakfast.

Later, take a walking tour of Dublin City with a renowned local guide. Enjoy the history, architecture, and stories of the city that go back to its Viking and Medieval origins. Trace the history and anecdotes of Dublin from today all the way back to early medieval times and even beyond. You will be taken through the heart of Dublin to give you a glimpse of hidden gems and surprises often missed by tourist and Dubliner alike. Finish your tour at Chester Beatty Library.

Tonight enjoy a welcome reception and private viewing of the Book of Kells with the Curator of the Old Library in Trinity College Dublin. The library will be closed to the public during this event — the Obamas and Queen Elizabeth had a similar experience on their visits to Ireland.

Overnight: Brooks Hotel (B, L)

MONDAY, JUNE 10
DUBLIN

This morning enjoy a private tour of the critically acclaimed exhibition: GPO: Witness History. You will then enjoy a tour of the landmark Kilmainham Jail.

Later, take a private guided tour of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, where Jonathan Swift is buried beneath an epitaph of his own creation.

Next, take a short stroll to Marsh’s Library, the first public library in Ireland and one of the very few 18th century buildings left in Dublin that is still being used for its original purpose. Many of the collections in the Library are still kept on the dark oak bookcases built three hundred years ago. A specialist tour of the library, featuring privileged access to view rare books and manuscripts can be organized.

This evening, enjoy dinner at gastro pub followed by a private theatre showing.

Overnight: Brooks Hotel (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 11
SLIGO / GALWAY

Today depart Dublin for Galway, stopping to spend the morning in Sligo, widely regarded as Yeats country with most of its attractions associated in some way with the poet, W.B. Yeats.

Later, arrive at Temple House, a classical Georgian manor overlooking a 13th century lakeside castle of the Knights Templar. Enjoy a tour of this private estate and house and an intimate lunch hosted by the owners, Roderick and Helena Perceval. Temple house has been the Perceval family home since 1665.

Continue on to Galway and check into Ardilaun House Hotel.
After dinner at the hotel, experience an evening recital with traditional musicians in the drawing room in the Ardilaun.

Overnight: Ardilaun House Hotel (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
CONNEMARA / CLIFDEN

After breakfast, visit Kylemore Abbey, “the Jewel of the West,” and tour the Connemara Smokehouse.

Later, enjoy lunch and shopping in Clifden town.

This afternoon, take a private “Hawk Walk” on the grounds of Ashford Castle and enjoy a tapas dinner in Ashford Lodge tonight.

Overnight: Ardilaun House Hotel (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 13
GALWAY CITY

Enjoy a full day of independent exploration in Galway City today.

Overnight: Ardilaun House Hotel (B)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14
COUNTY CLARE

This morning, depart for Dingle and Killarney with excursions in County Clare.

Visit Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Continue on to Bunratty Folk Park, a living museum set over 26 acres, and the perfect reconstruction of the homes and environment in Ireland from over a century ago. Walk through the grounds and imagine yourself in a different era.

This afternoon, venture to the west coast to see the Cliffs of Moher, one of the most outstanding coastal features of Ireland. Rising slowly from Doolin the cliffs ascend to over 700 feet, stretching south for nearly five miles. Being almost vertical, their sheer drop into the Atlantic Ocean is a haven for sea birds including the Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, Chough and Common Gull. The area is designated as a Refuge for Fauna since 1988 and as a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive in 1989.

From the top of the cliffs, one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, The Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk Mountains to the north in Connemara, and Loop Head to the South. A walk along the paved pathways near the cliffs edge is not to be missed.

Tonight, check in to the Skellig Hotel in Dingle, where you will have dinner tonight.

Overnight: Dingle Skellig Hotel (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
KERRY (DINGLE AREA)

Spend today touring the Dingle peninsula with a local expert guide who knows the area like the back of his hand. The day will likely take on a life of its own once you get to know your local guide. Some of the sights may include: Inch Beach, famous for the film Ryan’s daughter and one of the most beautiful beaches in the world; Blasket Heritage Centre, a fascinating heritage center and museum honoring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953; and Louis Mulcahy’s Irish craft pottery workshop in Ballyferriter.

Enjoy a picnic lunch during your exploration.

This afternoon, pay a visit to The Dingle Distillery. Experience a gin and whiskey tasting session and a private guided tour of the small artisan distillery.

Later this evening, explore Dingle town at leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Overnight: Dingle Skellig Hotel (B, L)

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
KERRY (KILLARNEY)

Today, depart for Killarney, stopping first at the Ring of Kerry. Also called the Iveragh Peninsula, the Kerry tourist trail is a natural
center for outdoor pursuits from golf to fishing. It features some of Europe's finest beaches and provides insight into the ancient heritage of Ireland with the Iron Age Forts, Old Monasteries, and a landscape carved out of rock by the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago.

Continue on to Muckross House and Gardens, the focal point of Killarney National Park, Ireland's oldest National Park. This nineteenth century Victorian mansion stands close to the shores of Muckross Lake, famed worldwide for its splendor and beauty.

Tonight, celebrate with a farewell reception and dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Dingle Skellig Hotel (B, L, D)

**MONDAY, JUNE 17**
**DEPART SHANNON FOR U.S.**

Today, you will depart from Shannon on return flights to the U.S.