



SAMHAIN IN IRELAND TOUR 2026

Donegal Square Travels ▪ donegalsquare.com

Guides: *Fiona Gillespie & Kate Scuffie*

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- OCT 23, Fri** ▪ Depart **Philly** airport PM – to **Dublin airport**.
- OCT 24, Sat**
Imperial Hotel
Galway

 - Arrive Dublin airport AM - Bus To **Galway City** w/short stops,
 - Check in to **Imperial Hotel**, on Eyre Square, Galway.
 - Galway activities (music pub & storytelling, A-Boo Fest events, etc).
- OCT 25, Sun**
Imperial Hotel
Galway

 - Morning visit: St. Nicholas Market in medieval city centre.
 - Daytrip to Brigits Garden (award-winning Celtic gardens) tour & workshop/session.
 - Galway: City Museum, historic walking tours, St. Nicholas Church, A-Boo Fest, etc.
 - Macnas Halloween Parade: 5:30pm. Renowned company, spectacular performance.
 - Music pub and/or late dinner.
- OCT 26, Mon**
Imperial Hotel
Galway

 - Burren Touring Day: Burren Interpretive Centre in Kilfenora, Poul nabrone Dolmen, Brigits Well, Cliffs of Moher, Ailwee Caves, and more.
 - Evening: Music pub and/or folklore session w/guides.
- OCT 27, Tues**
Ellison Hotel
Castlebar, Mayo

 - To Cong village: Monks Fishing House, Cong Forest, 12th century Abbey, etc.
 - To Castlebar: The Irish National Museum of Folklife at historic Turlough Park visit: Samhain exhibits & programming, award-winning galleries & exhibits.
 - Check in: **Ellison Hotel**, Castlebar town.
 - Evening: Music pubs, etc.
- OCT 28, Wed**
Knightsbrook Hotel
Trim, Meath

 - Morning: Irish National Museum of Folklife – bespoke workshops/crafts for us.
 - Then to Clonmacnoise ancient monastic site – ruins include Cathedral, 2 round towers, 3 high crosses, 9 Churches & over 700 Early Christian graveslabs.
 - Check in: **Knightsbrook Hotel**, Heritage Town of Trim, Co Meath.
 - Evening in town and/or folklore & music session w/guides.
- OCT 29, Thur**
Knightsbrook Hotel
Trim, Meath

 - Tour Boyne Valley (UNESCO World Heritage site): Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Newgrange/Brú na Bóinne, Hill of Tara, Hill of Ward.
 - Evening: Púca Festival events (celebrating Celtic origins of Halloween), and/or folklore session w/guides.
- OCT 30, Fri**
Knightsbrook Hotel
Trim, Meath

 - Dublin visit: Book of Kells & Trinity, Stephens Green, Oscar Wilde House, etc.
 - (All day: Puca Fest – immersive *festival* brings ancient traditions to life through music, fire, stories in Athboy & Trim. Shuttle bus runs between both).
 - Puca Fire Procession/Parade, evening – streets of Trim.
- OCT 31, Sat**
Knightsbrook Hotel
Trim, Meath

 - Puca Festival in Trim/Athboy (brings ancient traditions to life thru music, fire, stories, markets, & mischief in historic towns of Athboy and Trim).
 - Guided Tours (Hill of Ward, etc) optional.
 - Puca Festival Samhain Fire Ceremony Finale – Athboy.
- NOV 1, Sun** ▪ Travel to **Dublin Airport** for departure.

TOUR LOGISTICS

- All transportation is provided via coach bus or, in the case of Puca Festival, shuttle buses from Trim to Athboy for both festival sites.
- All hotels include full Irish breakfasts
- Select meals at restaurants/pubs included
- Free Time: self-exploration & relaxation times included
- Alternatives: most sites with walking components (Tombs, Forests, Festivals) may include alternate option suggestions (visitors centers, cafes, etc.) for those wishing to take it easy.
- Group Sessions w/ Guides: song circles, history & folklore, storytelling, folk crafts, & mini Irish language phrase shares

IRELAND IN LATE OCTOBER

- Expect temperatures to be about the same as the mid-Atlantic US: 40s – 60s
- Overcast & Sun mix (ok.. more overcast in Ireland)
- Rain typically “spits” more than pours, but always possible.
- Standard is to stick to scheduled outdoor activities unless heavy rain.
- Attire:
 - Walking/hiking shoes, socks, waterproof over layers, wool, ponchos, hats & hoods...again - layers!

FINANCIALS

- Cost Projection: \$3,500
 - slightly variable depending on number of travelers
- Airfare: not included.
- Airport Transfer (USA)
 - Bus to Philadelphia airport provided by Donegal Square (leave Walnut St. Bethlehem.
- Lodgings, Transportation, workshops & all entry fees included
- Upgrade:
 - Solo room lodgings: additional \$700 – invite a friend for rooming if you want!

DEADLINES

- **End of March!**
- Donegal Square Celtic Heritage Tours will make a decision about the viability of the tour by early April, 2025
- Sign up before the end of ST. PATRICK’S MONTH!