



Ireland Photo Tour Counties Mayo & Donegal Photography & the Creative Spirit

Led by Karen Gordon Schulman & Joel Schulman
May 12-23, 2022

Tour Highlights~ A Photographic and Cultural Adventure

- ***The focus will be photography, including people and culture.***
- 11 days with accomplished photographers and tour leaders.
- Photograph the quiet side of Ireland ~ **Counties Mayo & Donegal.**
- **Tour limited to 12 participants.**
- Enjoy **photography, music, and the Irish spirit in traditional Irish pubs.**
- The remote, romantic peninsula of **Donegal** with fishing villages, lighthouses and immense beaches.
- **Relaxed & flexible** itinerary to make the most of opportunities that come your way.
- **All ensuite accommodations with Waterfront rooms on the Quay in Westport and a lovely hotel located city center of Donegal Town.**

For more information or to register contact
Strabo Photo Tour Collection: 607-756-8676

www.phototc.com



STRABO TOURS
PHOTO TOUR COLLECTION

Going to Ireland is like going home again. This photo tour is focused on the 'real' Ireland or the areas where majority of tourists don't see. Stay in two lovely cities, Westport in County Mayo and Donegal town on the Donegal Peninsula.

Your hotel in Westport has a pool and optional spa facilities available. You will enjoy traditional Irish or American breakfasts during your stay. Lunch will be at various restaurants and pubs, or the group can stop in town and have a picnic lunch wrapped for your daily excursions in the field. Transportation is provided in a roomy tour van, which is large enough for both the group and your equipment.

Karen and Joel have designed this itinerary to incorporate additional hours of photography along the dramatic coastline and fishing villages of **County Donegal**. This is an opportunity to expand your personal vision, make new friends and experience a very special place through new eyes. From the lush, green mountains to the broad peat lowlands, the ancient abbeys to the colorful villages, each place will stimulate the mind and enrich the spirit. There are spectacular monastic and megalithic ruins to seek out in your daily adventures. The soft pastel shades of the mountains and clouds appeal to the artist and photographer. These natural landscapes, along with the people, render this Isle a place of inspirational beauty.



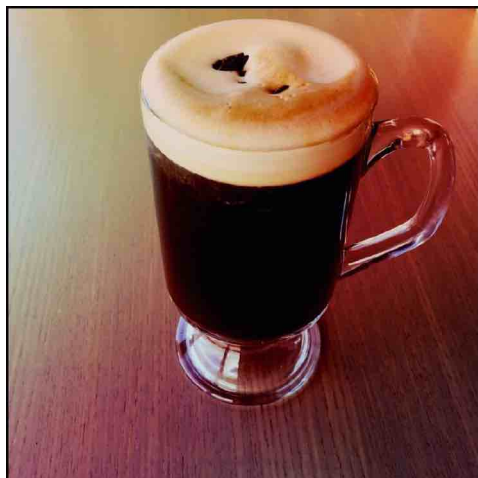
Photo Leaders:

Karen and Joel have been working in the photographic field for over 40 years and are both accomplished professional photographers. Karen is a skilled and sensitive photographic artist and educator and during our tour will share ideas and knowledge to help you create great travel photographs, whether you are using a DSLR or an iPhone! Joel is an expert in the digital imaging world and has done photographic printing for some of the most notable names in fine art photography. He will share his knowledge of both the technical and creative aspects of the photographic medium.

In addition, Karen and Joel will offer visual presentations and discussions highlighting the development of personal vision and awareness, and show how light, color, composition, gesture and 'the moment' contribute to the success of a photograph. There will also be opportunities to have photo reviews of your images, so everyone can share and learn from each other, or private photo reviews can be arranged. Both Karen and Joel are passionate iPhoneographers and during your tour will offer optional creative iPhoneography instruction. Our goal is to make this tour enjoyable and fun for both serious and casual photographers!

From Karen: "I encourage each person to give themselves permission to make mistakes, permission to create. The more we learn to 'see' with our mind, heart and spirit, the more of an adventure life becomes." If you wish to review Joel's work or contact him: www.photographicsart.com, joel@photographicsart.com, Karen www.focusadventures.com, karen@focusadventures.com

Testimonials:



What a wonderful Ireland trip we had. Thanks for everything you did to make it possible and so enjoyable. Given how much fun we had and how delighted we were with the trip, we have just one suggestion to add more leisure time in villages. It and all the guides were 10 out of 10. Everyone was a wonderful help. The relationships we forged, particularly with Karen and Joel was the highlight. – C. Potyen

What a fabulous balance of our presence as well as great instructional knowledge. Karen and Joel attention to detail was beyond all expectations. Best Trip!!! Amazing countryside and meeting a 'new family'. Tapping in to creative spriit, thinking outside the box. - T&J Kelleway

The trip was absolutely amazing!!! Joel and Karen did a great job of balancing our interests with those of the more serious, photographers in our group. The entire trip was very relaxed, with just the right balance of structure, sightseeing, and socializing. The entire group got along very well, and our guide, was a tremendous resource! Our driver could not have been better. – T.Schwall



Itinerary

May 12 Home

Our journey to Ireland begins with an overnight flight from the U.S.

May 13 Shannon – Westport

You will be met at Ireland's Shannon International Airport and driven north to Westport, on the shores of Clew Bay. The first afternoon you can relax; if the group is feeling a bit energetic, you can walk to town and listen to some traditional Irish music. Please Note: **Waterfront rooms have been included**, if you prefer standard room, a discount is available per room. (D)

May 14-17 County Mayo

County Mayo is the Ireland of your imagination, beautiful and inspiring, with breathtaking landscapes, fascinating countryside and culture. Music and history inspire your curiosity. Mayo people are warm and friendly and take pride in making their land your land!



Each day visit some of these typical areas from your home base. It is not possible to see everything during each tour, as there is so much to see and photograph, and there will also be time for unscheduled stops and special events in both County Mayo and County Donegal. The City of **Westport** offers wonderful street

photography with winding streets, stone bridges over the river, and daily life. Drive along the shores of **Clew Bay**, stopping at **Murrisk Abbey**, and the **Famine Memorial** standing at the foot of **Croagh Patrick**.



Ireland is well known for its **traditional music**. The people have always loved their music and this relationship dates over many centuries to the present day. Westport has many traditional music pubs and you will be able to join in the fun on a few of the evenings.

Spend a morning photographing in and around the town of **Cong**. Photo locations include **Ashford Castle, Cong Abbey**, the forest and river, as well as the town itself. After lunch you will have the opportunity to photograph an area of rolling hill, sheep, and a myriad of stonewall, on a hillside flowing down to **Lough Corrib**. The picturesque village of **Cong** was the setting for John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara's film *The Quiet Man*. The King of Connacht founded the abbey ruins in the twelfth century. In 1198 the last High

King of Ireland died in the abbey.

As you explore along the coast of **Achill Island**, you can photograph in many beautiful locations, one being lovely Keem Bay and Beach, recently named one of the 50 best beaches in the world. If time allows you will wind up at the deserted famine village at Keel. Achill Island is the largest island off the Irish coast. Wrought by wind and water, accessible by bridge over the sound.



Another day may be spent on the shores of **Doo Lough** and the **Connemara Mountains**, where you will see some of the most stunning landscapes

in all of Ireland. **Sheeffrey Woods**, a place where you must be careful not to disturb the leprechauns who inhabit the forest is along the way. Afterwards visit the town of Leenane, where you will have lunch with the residents, and have time for photographing in the small pub, known as Gaynor's (film location of *The Field*).



Not too far from Westport is **Carrigahowley or Rockfleet Castle**, one of the many strongholds of **Grace O'Malley**, the adventurous sixteenth century Pirate Queen. Later in the afternoon visit **Letterkeen Forest**. (B each day, D last evening)

May 18-21 County Donegal

After breakfast the group will depart for the **Donegal Peninsula**. Before reaching the peninsula is **County**

Sligo, where W.B. Yeats is buried, and **Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery** is located. It is home to the largest and oldest collection of stone circles and dolmens known from neolithic Ireland.



Donegal is thought of as a lesser-known region, untouched and crying out for exploration. Nature abounds from the sheer granite walls of some of Europe's highest sea cliffs at **Slieve League**, and there is warmth and wit to be found among the vibrant, Irish speaking communities. Given time you will travel to the immense beach at **Inishowen and Fanad Lighthouse**. This journey will lift your spirits and present huge panoramas that will look different from every segment of the road you travel. Bright azure skies appear next to blue gray, shafts of rain, which bolt sea and sky together. Donegal Bay majestically swoops towards you, with its quaint fishing villages and harbors. The traditions of Irish music and dance, colorful small shops and cozy pubs, traditional cottages and houses are a few of the

locations and activities you will enjoy in this region.

Photographic opportunities await you at the lovely **Cathedral of St. Eunan and St. Columba of Letterkenny**, and 30 minutes south is the **Beltany Stone Circle**. Other possible photographic locations include **Dolman rock tomb of Kilclooney, Glenveagh Castle and National Park**, and to the West is **Burtonport**, a traditional fishing village. **Glencolumbkille** is very much a favorite with an abundance of ancient ruins spanning from stone age monuments, up to the castles, forts, and church monuments of more recent times. With its small hamlet, it remains the heart of County Donegal's shrinking Gaeltacht region, with strong rural Irish flavor and brightly painted row houses.



Your guides will need to take in to account the weather and local events in the area, but rest assured they will fill your days with photography, leaving time to learn from your photo leaders and local Irish guide. Overnight in Donegal Town four evenings. (B, B D, B, B)



May 22 Donegal - Shannon

After breakfast this morning, say goodbye to Donegal and make your way south to Shannon, with photographic opportunities along the way. Depending on the interests of the group there are several colorful villages, castles, or loughs to stop and photograph before reaching Shannon. Enjoy a wonderful

farewell dinner and experience with your guides. Overnight airport hotel (B, D)

May 23 Shannon – U.S.

You can depart anytime today as the airport is walking distance from your hotel. Majority of flights depart morning or early afternoon, which should coordinate with the checkout time. There should be luggage carts outside the hotel which you can leave at the airport. (B)

Covid-19 Update



Strabo Tours is committed to continuing the wonderful photography/cultural programs that we have offered for almost 20 years. We are very committed to providing you with a safe journey and therefore have adopted new protocols for Strabo and our partners. We need each of our guests to understand and commit to adopting these protocols as well. What we have all learned in 2020 is that we know how to better protect ourselves and those around us, whether we are at home or abroad.

The new protocols will discuss the issues that have the greatest impact on reducing the

transmission of illnesses. In order to have the broadest protection for Strabo, our partners, and guests, we will all need to follow these guidelines to protect the health of each other. Please note that several resources have been reviewed to develop these new protocols including the CDC, WHO and WTTC.

Please contact Strabo Tours if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help and guide you through your journey.

General Information

Land cost: \$4195* per person, based upon double occupancy and minimum of 9 paying passengers, maximum of 12. There is a small group surcharge of \$400 if there are 6 - 8 paying passengers.

Single room supplement: \$595*, check with us for availability.

Please Note: Waterfront rooms have been included, if you prefer standard room, a discount is available per room, contact Strabo Tours for details.

*Note: The trip cost is based upon the current exchange rate between the Euro and U.S. Dollar. Although the rate has been relatively stable, should it change, there may need to be an adjustment in the trip price.

The land cost includes:

- Group transportation for tour events in the tour van.
- Accommodations based on double occupancy.
- Services of driver and local guide during the tour.



- Meals as listed in itinerary.
- Extensive pre-departure information and services.
- Photo Instruction

The land cost does not include: International air fare; air fare tax; airport transfers; additional transfers or accommodations that may be required by those not traveling with the group; meals not included in itinerary; activities listed as optional, or those taken on your own; passport expenses; personal medical or travel insurance; any expenses of a personal nature or those not listed in what is included; tips to guides and service staff.

Please contact Strabo if you would like assistance on **International Airfare**.



Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds

A deposit of \$750 (\$500 on domestic tours) per person is required. Specific tours may require an additional deposit due to accommodation bookings or transportation requirements. If applicable these will be noted on your invoice. Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 120 days before the departure date. Space is subject to cancellation by Strabo if payment is not received when due.

If a passenger wishes to cancel they must send notification in writing to: Strabo International Tour, Co., P.O. Box 580, Dryden, NY 13053; fax 208-545-4119. At the time we receive your notification, the following per

person charges apply:

- 91 days or more before departure: \$300 cancellation fee (\$150 fee on domestic tours), plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation.
- 61-90 days before departure: \$500 (\$250 on domestic tours) minimum cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation. Fees may range from 25% to 100% of tour costs.
- 60 days or less before departure or any time after departure: NO REFUND.

Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used by you cannot be made.

Fitness and Health

The trip is not strenuous and anyone who is reasonably fit should be able to take part in most of the activities. You may experience general fatigue due to the long flights and the change in time zones. You will need to be sufficiently agile to climb in and out of the tour van and should be able to carry and manage your own equipment. We will frequently hike trails ranging from easy to moderate. Some hotels do not have elevators.

If you have any special needs or any physical condition that you feel might prevent you from fully participating, please contact Strabo Tours with your concerns (607-756-8676).

Insurance

Each participant must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas.

We strongly urge you to evaluate your risk and to take out insurance on your trip. It is vital for you to realize that if you experience a delay or find it necessary to cancel or cut short your trip for any reason, you will lose part or the entire sum you've invested in it (see the section "Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds" in the trip brochure). Your tour could also be cancelled or cut short due to reasons out of Strabo's control (pandemic, outbreak, or natural disaster are just some examples) and Strabo cannot be held responsible.

Travel insurance helps to minimize the risk of monetary losses you would incur in the event of a delay of your departure due to weather, airline strike, missed connection, etc., your inability to travel for reasons such as illness, injury, unforeseen financial complications and other personal circumstances, or if you were required to cut your trip short for medical or any other reasons.

There are restrictions and limitations on any insurance program. For this reason, please read carefully the enclosed pamphlets, which outline their program of trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance. There are various levels of coverage you should be aware of before making your purchase. Trained agents are available to answer your questions, so don't hesitate to call the toll-free number in their brochure. It is to your advantage to apply for insurance at the earliest possible time, so don't delay in making a decision.