

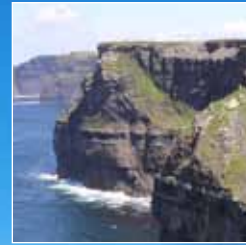


ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Limited to
12 participants

Walking Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way

September 4 - 15, 2017 (12 Days) with archaeologist Stephen Mandal



View from the top of Dún Aonghasa

This active walking journey takes you through the archaeology and history of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, from south to north along the west coast of Ireland. Spend two days walking in the breath-taking landscape of the Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry, visiting numerous off-the-beaten-track monuments from all periods of Irish history. Heading northwards into the incredible karst limestone region of the Burren, County Clare, you will enjoy stunning cliff-top views out to the Atlantic and visit intriguing sites set in a unique geological and ecological landscape. Onwards to County Sligo and Yeats's country, you will explore the lives and monuments of the first farmers in Ireland; plus the wonderfully remote and stunningly beautiful County of Donegal, where you will walk in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims, who in turn respected the traditions of even more ancient peoples. The final leg of your journey will be in Northern Ireland, walking in a wonderfully intact relict geological landscape laced with archaeological monuments and learning about the region's turbulent modern history. Travel in a small group of no more than 12 participants and enjoy the personal attention and service of a highly respected Irish academic lecturer/host and a charming tour manager, plus a host of specialist guest guides.

ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (R)=Reception, (D)= Dinner

Monday, September 4, 2017: Depart Home | Arrive Dublin, Ireland | Limerick | Lough Gur | Limerick

2 miles and little ascent – rough pathways

Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Dublin (DUB), Ireland, where a group transfer (time TBD) will take you to our hotel in Limerick, *No. 1 Pery Square*. At 12:30pm you will meet study leader Dr. Stephen Mandal and tour manager Lisanne O'Loughlin. After a light lunch, we will drive the short distance to Lough Gur, a lake that has seen over 6,000 years of human activity and habitation, from the Stone Age through to the post-medieval period. Highlights of our gentle walk here include the Early Christian 'crannog' (a man-made island that served as a defended dwelling), ringforts, an early prehistoric wedge tomb, and the Great Grange Stone Circle, Ireland's largest stone circle, comprising 113 standing stones. We return to our hotel for a welcome reception and introductory lecture, followed by dinner. *Overnight at the No. 1 Pery Square Hotel.* (L,R,D)

Tuesday, September 5: Limerick | The Dingle Peninsula | Ballyferriter

2 miles and little ascent – rough pathways (Dingle Peninsula), plus optional 3 miles and steep ascent (Connor Pass mountain walk)

Today we travel to Dingle, where we will be joined by local archaeologist, folklorist and traditional musician Dr. Billy Mag Fhlionn for a tour of the breath-taking Dingle Peninsula. Some of Ireland's finest coastal scenery can be found in West Kerry, on the Peninsula, and the road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and its Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish-speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town with plentiful pubs, narrow streets and a busy harbor. We will visit the enigmatic Reask Monastic site (An Riasc), the ruins of an early Christian religious community, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch. Afterward, we return to Dingle and have the option of exploring the town or driving up to the spectacular Connor Pass for a breath-taking hill walk. *Overnight at the Ceann Sibeal Bed & Breakfast in Ballyferriter for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, September 6: Ballyferriter | The Blasket Islands | Ballyferriter

4 miles and little ascent – rough pathways

This morning we drive into the wilderness of the Dingle Peninsula and take a boat trip to visit the iconic Blasket Islands. These islands were inhabited by a completely Irish-speaking population until 1953, when the inhabitants were forcefully evacuated by the government to the mainland. The islanders were the subject of anthropological and linguistic studies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, thanks to which a number of books were written by islanders that recorded much of their traditions and way of life. These include *The Islandman* by Tomás O'Crohan, *Peig* by Peig Sayers, and *Twenty Years A-Growing*



Above, AIA travelers visiting a wedge tomb at Lough Gur. Below, Reask Monastic site, Dingle Peninsula.



by Maurice O'Sullivan. After a picnic lunch on-island, we continue our boat journey around Blasket Island archipelago, past the awe-inspiring Cathedral Rocks on Inis na Bró and the Puffin colony on Inisvickalaun, where we might spot some of the herd of native Red Deer. On the remotest of all the islands, Tearacht, we will see the westernmost lighthouse and steepest funicular rail track in Europe, with all the buildings set into the island's steep, rocky face. We also have a very good chance of seeing the abundant sea life, including several breeds of dolphins and seals, as well as (if we are lucky) minke whales. This evening, back at our hotel, there will be a short lecture on the Burren landscape, our destination for the next two days. (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 7: Ballyferriter | Alice and Gwendoline Cave | The Burren | Cliffs of Moher | Lahinch

2 miles and ascent by steps – pathways

Today we will depart the Dingle Peninsula and start our journey northwards along the Wild Atlantic Way. Our first stop will be Alice and Gwendoline Cave, scene of a remarkable archaeological discovery that established the earliest date of human occupation of Ireland to be 2,500 years earlier than previously thought. We will be joined there by the lead author of the study, cave archaeology expert Dr. Marion Dowd. Continue on through the Burren, a National Park with a dramatic landscape renowned for its unusual geology and unique mixture of Arctic and Mediterranean flora. This limestone wonderland boasts archaeology from the Neolithic, early Christian, and early medieval periods. After a picnic lunch we will visit the iconic Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Five miles long and 750 feet at their highest point, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay, as are the valleys and hills of Connemara. *Overnight at the Lahinch Golf & Leisure Hotel.* (B,L,D)

Friday, September 8: Lahinch | Hazel Mountain Farm | Poul nabrone | Galway

3 miles and steep ascent in places – mountain walk on karst limestone (Hazel Mountain), 0.5 miles and little ascent – pathway (Poul nabrone)

Today we further explore the Burren landscape with a local guide whose family has farmed here for generations. Our walk through his family farmland will include archaeology, history, mythology, geology and ecology. After lunch on the farm we drive to Poul nabrone dolmen, a dramatic Neolithic portal tomb and the earliest megalithic tomb in Ireland, built ca. 3800 B.C. Time permitting, en route to Galway we will stop at Finavarra Point to visit an excellent example of a Martello tower, one of the approximately 50 small, circular forts built in Ireland in the early 19th century to defend the area against possible attacks from France. *Overnight at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Galway for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Saturday, September 9: Galway | Inishmore, Aran Islands | Dún Aonghasa | Galway

3 miles and steep ascent in places – mixed walk; roads, paths, uneven terrain

This morning we travel west to the fishing port of Rossaveel, where (weather-permitting) we will catch a ferry to Inishmore, largest of the Aran Islands. With a population of about 800, the island is famous for its strong Irish culture, loyalty to the Irish language, and a wealth of Iron Age and Christian ancient sites. Perhaps its most notable monument is Dún Aonghasa (Dun Aengus), a semi-circular stone fort built ca. 1100 B.C. at the edge of a 300-foot-high cliff, offering spectacular views out over the Atlantic. (B,L,D)

Sunday, September 10: Galway | Clonmacnoise | Carrowkeel | Sligo

2.5 miles and little ascent – pathways and uneven grass (Clonmacnoise), 2 miles and 200 ft. of ascent, steep in places – mountain walk (Carrowkeel)

This morning we will drive to the Midlands of Ireland and walk along a pilgrim path that is over 1,500 years old to the Early Christian site of Clonmacnoise. The monastery was founded in the 6th century by St. Ciaran in a strategic position, at an ancient crossroads where the River Shannon and Esker Way meet: the ancient east-west pathway across the wetlands of Ireland from earliest prehistory. By the 9th century, the monastery became a center of learning, craftsmanship, and trade, and its remains include two round towers, high crosses, and several churches from the medieval period. After lunch we will drive to County Sligo, stopping on the way to climb to the summit of Carrowkeel, a complex of 14 megalithic passage tombs with stunning views. Our walk will be in the company of Sam Moore, lecturer in Applied Archaeology at the Sligo Institute of Technology, who is completing his Ph.D. thesis on these monuments and their landscape. *Overnight at the Glasshouse Hotel Sligo for two nights.* (B,L,D)



Above, AIA travelers with Dr. Stephen Mandal at the Cliffs of Moher. Below, AIA travelers with Poul nabrone Dolmen in the background. Bottom, AIA travelers at Clonmacnoise.



Monday, September 11: Sligo | Knocknarea | Strandhill | Culleenamore | Sligo

2 miles and 1000 ft. of ascent – mountain path (Knocknarea), 1.5 miles and little ascent – uneven beach walk, sandy and rocky (Culleenamore)

This morning, again accompanied by Sam Moore, we will drive the short distance to Knocknarea Mountain, well-known for its huge, flat-topped cairn (passage tomb) believed to be the resting place of the legendary Queen Maeve of Connacht. A hike to the top of the mountain affords an incredible view of the surrounding landscape, inland and out across the Atlantic. From here we drive to Strandhill, where we enjoy a traditional lunch in a local pub before walking to Culleenamore to see the shell middens (ancient refuse heaps), ten feet deep in places, exposed along the shore and in the dunes. Evidence suggests that they were used for several millennia, beginning around 3000 B.C. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, September 12: Sligo | Drumcliffe | Creevykeel | The Cavan Burren, Northern Ireland | Derry-Londonderry

5 miles and 200 ft. of ascent - pathways

This morning we drive northwards, stopping in Drumcliffe to visit the grave of W.B. Yeats, in the shadow of the beautiful Benbulbin Mountains, the inspiration for much of his work. Also visit Creevykeel, one of Ireland's finest examples of a full-court tomb, dating from the Neolithic period but reused in Early Christian times by iron smelters. From here we continue on to walk in the Cavan Burren, home to a wealth of archaeological monuments (dating from the Neolithic period right up to the early 20th century) and a wonderfully intact relict geological landscape. Continue on to Derry-Londonderry, where we check-in to our hotel.

Overnight at the Best Western Plus White Horse Hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, September 13: Derry-Londonderry | The City of Derry | Grianan of Aileach | Derry-Londonderry

1.5 miles and 150 ft. of ascent – pathways (Derry-Londonderry), 0.5 miles and 350 ft. of ascent – mountain pathway (Grianan of Aileach)

This morning we will be joined by a local guide for a tour of the city of Derry, which is steeped in history and was pivotal to so much of Irish, British and European history. Derry is the only completely walled city in Ireland, and its impressive early-17th century walls acted as a defense from Scottish and English attacks. Derry has a turbulent past and was divided as a city during 'The Troubles,' also known as the Northern Ireland Conflict, which began in the 1960's and ended in 1998 with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. We will see the city murals, known as 'The People's Gallery;' these 12 paintings depict key events during 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland. After lunch we will drive to Grianan of Aileach, an impressive stone fort that dates back to 1700 B.C. and was restored in the late 19th century. Here we will explore the intersection of mythology, history and archaeology. (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 14: Derry-Londonderry | Dublin

This morning we leave behind the west coast and journey southwards to Dublin. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. We gather for a farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Ashling Hotel Dublin.* (B,D)

Friday, September 15: Dublin | Home

Transfer as a group to Dublin Airport (DUB) for return flights home. (B)



Above, the Neolithic tomb at Creevykeel. Below, the stone fort of Grianan of Aileach. Bottom, AIA travelers overlook Derry, Northern Ireland.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LECTURER & HOST



Dr. Stephen Mandal is an expert on the Irish landscape, its archaeology, history and geology. The AIA's Site Preservation program awarded funding for the medieval Blackfriary in Trim, an initiative of Stephen's Irish Archaeology Field School and Cultural Tourism Ireland. On completion of his Ph.D. in Geoarchaeology (Trinity College, Dublin) he spent two years as a post-doctoral research fellow and lecturer in the Archaeology Department, University College Dublin. Stephen has served as Vice Chairperson of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Archaeology (2009-2014); as External Examiner to Sligo Institute of Technology (2012-2015); and on a European committee to review cultural heritage tourism across the European Union (2013). He is a professional member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, and the European Federation of Professional Geologists. Stephen has undertaken research on many of the sites that you will visit on this tour, including Lough Gur, Ferriter's Cove, the Dingle Peninsula and the Burren. He is a standing international guest speaker for the AIA's national lecture program. Stephen has a wealth of experience in communicating geology, archaeology, and history at all levels, and on this AIA tour he will assist you in viewing the Irish landscape from the perspective of the people who lived there in the past.



What to Expect

This exclusive tour has been tailor-made to combine active walking with expert-led visits to archaeological sites, and is ideal for people with basic levels of fitness who are interested in Ireland's rich heritage and landscape. The duration of each walk is estimated within the enclosed itinerary. **The average daily walking distance is about three miles (plus some optional walks for those who are interested), with varying amounts of ascent (generally around 200 feet or less). In terms of maximum daily walking and ascent, there is one day (Sept. 12th) when the overall walking totals five miles, and one day (Sept. 11th) with about 1,000 feet of ascent.** In general, we do not expect to walk for longer than three hours at a time and although we will mostly walk on rough pathways, quiet roads, and uneven terrain, there will be some steps and/or steep ascents along the way and surfaces may be wet. There will be two minibuses with drivers, and one may transport to the next destination anyone who chooses to skip a walk, but bear in mind that some sites can only be visited if you walk to them.

The actual itinerary is subject to variables such as the abilities and interests of the group and the weather conditions. All participants are expected to be physically active, not be an impediment to others on excursions, and enjoy traveling as part of a group. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Lunches may be packed and eaten outside when appropriate or, where possible, lunch will be taken in a local restaurant or pub. Early September conditions vary from cool to warm and back again within a week—or even within a day. While we can hope for a maximum daytime temperature of 60-70°F, it is important to be prepared for cooler temperatures. Average temperatures at night will usually drop to around 50°F. You need to be prepared with clothing to cope with rain, which could be blustery and heavy, and with anything from cool, windy weather to warmth. Coastal walks, in particular, are likely to be breezy and on the hills it can turn cold quickly. Our office will provide you with comprehensive pre-departure information, including packing suggestions.

Air Arrangements

Airfare from/to home is not included in the tour cost. Group transfers (times TBD) are provided upon arrival on September 4th and departure on September 15th. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact AIA Tours first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

The Archaeological Institute of America & the AIA Tours Program

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (10-12 participants).....	\$7,795
Double Occupancy (8-9 participants).....	\$7,995
Single Supplement	\$965

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

PRICES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of Lecturer & Host Dr. Stephen Mandal
- Accommodations in four- and five-star hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals except for one lunch, as indicated in the itinerary
- Services of a professional, local tour manager/guide throughout
- All sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, weather permitting
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation by two air-conditioned mini-buses, including bottled water, parking fees, highway tolls, and local taxes
- Baggage handling (one bag per person)
- Gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff and porters
- Gratuities to the tour manager/guide and drivers
- Group airport transfer upon arrival on September 4th and for departure on September 15th (based on times TBD)
- Complete pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide and packing suggestions

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic and other beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION PENALTIES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least one hundred (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of three hundred dollars (\$300) per person. Cancellations received between ninety (90) and one hundred nineteen (119) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per person. Cancellations received between sixty (60) and eighty nine (89) days prior to departure subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total tour cost per person. Cancellations received within sixty (60) days of departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. **Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. (An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.)**

To make a reservation please contact us:



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

800-748-6262

Toll: 603-756-2884 Fax: 603-756-2922

PO Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608

Email: aia@studytours.org Website: www.ariatours.org



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September 4 - 15, 2017 (12 Days) with archaeologist Stephen Mandal

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org

Name 1: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (h) _____

Phone (w) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a Non-smoker Smoker

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. **Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.** All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA IrelandWalking9/17

Visa Master Card American Express

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

Archaeological Institute of America Tours

P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

Fax: 603-756-2922 • aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions on the reverse.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Terms & Conditions

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter "Operator") assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that the AIA bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. **AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY: RELEASE:** Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.