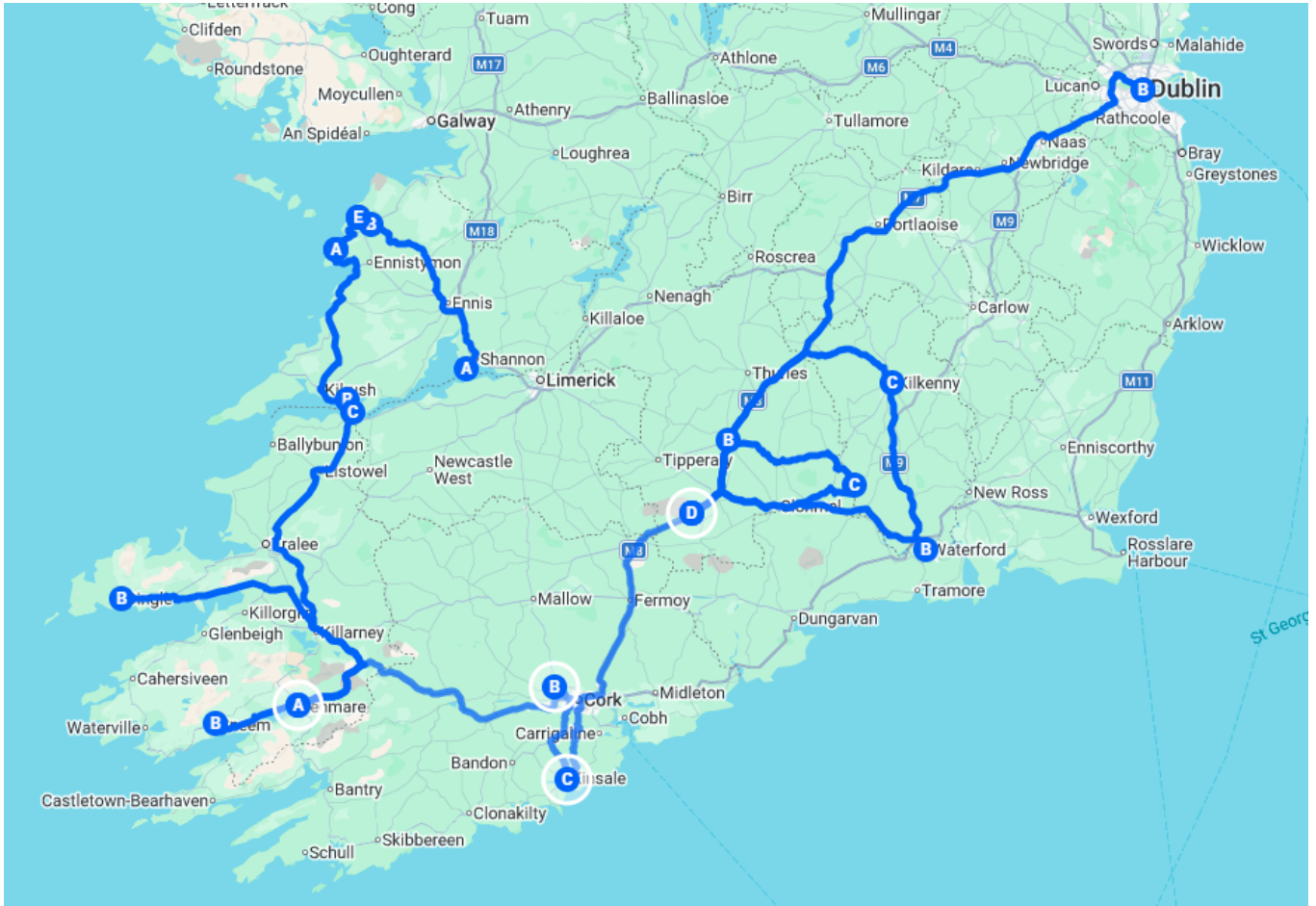


Rock Family Ireland 2007 Travelogue

September 11 – September 22, 2007



Overview Comments

I wrote this travelogue in July 2026, 19 years after our Rock family journey to Ireland and 3 years after I caught the bug to create travelogues of our trips. Christopher was helping me build the deaconrogerfraser.com website, and as I was searching for content for the Travelogue section. I came across an itinerary, a cost spreadsheet and 576 photos of the Ireland trip! While I was viewing the photos, the memories came flooding back!

GG, the Rock family matriarch, had a lifelong desire to go to Ireland. In 2007 at 83 years of age she said, "Let's do it. My treat!" The trip came together quickly for 9 of us to join the adventure...5 Rocks (Gerry, Ginny, Kathy, Peggy, Pat) and 3 married-into's (Joe, Nora, Roger)...and one more, Ellie Bennett, Kathy's sister-in-law, timed her Ireland trip to correspond to ours.

Pat and I planned the trip by establishing the daily locations where we would be and then selecting the Airbnb's to stay at. We assigned days for each of the four "sisters" to plan what we would do each day and where we would eat lunch and dinner. This worked perfectly because it eliminated debates each day.

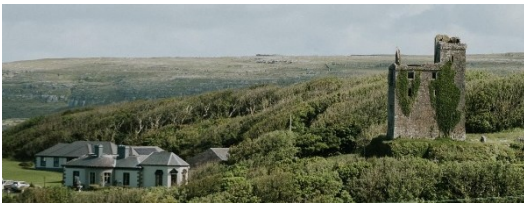
We knew that we wanted to visit both Dingle in southwest Ireland where Pat's Dad, Bob Rock ancestors hailed from, and Tipperary, where Pat's mom's relatives were from. We decided to fly into Shannon and do a counterclockwise circle of Ireland heading west to the Cliffs of Mohr, then south to Dingle and the Ring of Kerry, then east to Cork and back north visiting Tipperary, and Waterford before ending up in Dublin. With that outline, we looked for Airbnb's to stay at and discovered these four:

1. The Ballinalacken Castle Hotel

Coast Road, Doolin, county Clare

<https://www.ballinalackencastle.com/>

Perfect first-night-in-Ireland...loved the pub and food...we're spoiled...5 Stars!



High on a hilltop, set against the wild and rugged beauty of the West of Ireland, sits a special sanctuary from the world. Here time stands still, as our historic 16th century castle watches over our exclusive, bespoke-service country hotel.

Standing tall on a limestone outcrop, our very own Castle, Ballinalacken Castle, is a two-stage tower house which was built in the early 16th century. It is thought the name comes from the Irish Baile na leachan (which means "town of the flagstones/tombstones"). The property history was traced:

- 10th Century: The original fortress is built by famous Irish clan, the O'Connors – rulers of West Corcomroe.
- 14th Century: The fortress itself is founded, and Lochlan MacCon O'Connor is in charge of its rebuilding.
- 1564: Control of West Corcomroe passes to Donal O'Brien of the O'Brien family.
- 1582: The lands are formally granted by deed to Turlough O'Brien of Ennistymon. After the Cromwellians triumphed in the area, five of Turlough's castles are razed to the ground – but Ballinalacken is saved as it was not on the list of "overthrowing and demolishing castles in Connaught and Clare."
- 1662: Daniel dies and grandson Donough is listed as rightful holder of the Castle.

From the bay-windowed bedrooms with views of the Cliffs of Moher and Aran Islands, to the welcoming Lounge fire and the cozy Pub - Ballinalacken Castle Hotel, Doolin is your connection to a gracious time gone by.

Ballinalacken Castle Hotel has been in the O'Callaghan family for three generations and is currently run and owned by hosts Declan and Cecilia O'Callaghan. The original house was owned by the famous O'Brien clan – a dynasty who were descendants of the High King of Ireland, Brian Ború. The house, castle and 100 acres of land was bought by Declan's grandfather Daniel O'Callaghan, in 1938.

2. The Shelburne Lodge

Cork Road Kenmare, county Kerry

<https://www.shelburnelodge.com/>

Great B&B...wonderful location, accommodations, food and hosts...5 Stars!



Shelburne Lodge has been a Georgian style country house since the mid 1990's, and a Historic House dating back to the mid 1700's.

Set a 5-minute walk from Kenmare town, it offered comfort & elegance in historic surroundings with contemporary Irish art, antiques, individually appointed ensuite rooms with restored polished wooden floors and, beautiful trees and back gardens.



Enjoyed exploring the picturesque town of Kenmare and it was the ideal base for touring Ireland's southwest Wild Atlantic Way, nestled in between the Ring of Kerry and Ring of Beara. Shelburne Lodge was a home away from home.

Shelburne Lodge originally was the house in the Kenmare area of the Petty - Fitzmaurice family William Petty Fitzmaurice (1737-1805), known as Lord Shelburne. Lord

Shelburne was commissioned with the design of the town of Kenmare which was completed in 1775.

William Petty Fitzmaurice (1737-1805) was born in Dublin. Around 1760, now known as Lord Shelburne, inherited vast areas of land in the Kenmare area through his mother, a granddaughter of William Petty, Cromwell's map maker. He came to Kenmare and built Shelburne Lodge around 1769. This was the first house built in the area.

Breakfast in the formal dining room was always a treat with offerings of fresh Irish salmon, eggs, fruit, cheese, cereals, bread, muffins and delicious coffee and teas.

3. The Kilcoran Lodge Hotel

Castle Street Cahir E21 P652 Tipperary

<https://www.kilcoranlodge.ie/>

Good location for us...adequate...we're spoiled...maybe 3 Stars



Here's a generous overview: Nestled in the Galtee Mountains near Cahir, just off the M8 Dublin to Cork Motorway, the Kilcoran Lodge has views of the Knockmealdowns mountains. Once the Earl of Glengall's hunting lodge, it offers 25 unique en-suite rooms, antique furnishings, a pool, gardens, and on-site dining. Perfectly located for exploring Tipperary, Cork, and Limerick.

The Knockmealdown Mountains are a mountain range located on the border of counties Tipperary and Waterford in Ireland, running east and west between the two counties. The highest peak of the range is Knockmealdown at 2,600 feet, in County Waterford.

4. The Eliza Lodge

23/24 wellington quay, Dublin, Ireland, 2

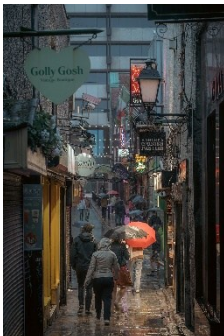
Great Location...Beautiful view...basic, maybe 2+ Stars...a place to sleep and shower



The Eliza Lodge is a small, mid-range property that appeals to partygoers looking to be in the center of Temple Bar's lively (and oftentimes noisy) nightlife scene. The 18 guest rooms are homey, if dated, with simple pinewood furniture. Some have views of Liffey River and the Millennium Bridge. The Italian Corner Restaurant is situated on the ground floor.



Temple Bar is a vibrant cultural quarter, known for its lively nightlife, historic significance, and artistic atmosphere...and being a tourist trap! It's located on the south bank of the River Liffey in central Dublin, Ireland. It is bounded by the Liffey to the north and Dame Street to the south, making it a central hub for both locals and tourists. The area is often promoted as Dublin's cultural quarter, featuring a mix of pubs, restaurants, galleries, and cultural institutions.



Originally part of St. Andrews Parish, Temple Bar has a rich history dating back to medieval times. The area fell into disuse in the 14th century but was redeveloped in the 17th century, becoming a vibrant neighborhood filled with gardens and homes for wealthy families. Over the years, it has transformed into a bustling district known for its eclectic atmosphere and cultural offerings

Day 1 Tuesday Sept 11 Atlanta – Shannon

ATL High: 89°F, Low: 79°F, Sunrise: 7:17AM, Sunset: 7:49PM

- Left home in Seven Oaks, Alpharetta at 8:00am. Drove to Conway Street Park'n Fly
 - LV Atlanta ATL, Tuesday Sept 11, Delta –
ARR Shannon SNN, Wednesday Sept 12 7:30am (dur 7hr 30min) (3836 miles)
-

Day 2 Wednesday Sept 12 Shannon – Doolin

Doolin High: 67°F, Low: 57°F, Sunrise: 6:52AM, Sunset: 7:49PM

- ARR Shannon SNN, Wednesday Sept 12 7:30am
- Bone tired and after collecting our luggage, we rented two Europcar diesel VW Caravelle 9-passenger vans....with Garmin GPS! We needed two vans for the 9 of us because of our voluminous luggage. We needed GPS because there are NO SIGNS in Ireland! I truly do not know what we would have done without the GPS...other than argue where we were going! The diesel engines turned out to be very responsive and had great milage!
- We quickly learned that Ireland is NOT a big place. Shannon Airport to Ballinalacktin Castle Hotel is only 40 miles...closer than our Atlanta Airport from Cumming - 45 miles!
- Driving north from Shannon airport 15 miles north of the airport, at Ennis, the GPS took us "cross country" away from the major highways towards "The Burren."



In Ennis, low and behold we saw a sign: "**Failte – Gerry Quinn's Traditional Bar**" located at 7 Lower Market Street, Clonroad Beg, Ennis, County Clare. Of course, we had to stop for our GG (Great Grandma, Gerry Rock nee Quinn) for a photo opp. Failte means "welcome" in Irish.

- The Burren is located in County Clare on Ireland's west coast, extending into parts of County Galway. It covers roughly 200 square miles, bounded by the villages of Lisdoonvarna, Corofin, Gort, and Kinvara. It is adjacent to the Cliffs of Moher and Galway Bay, with the Aran Islands forming a geological extension of its limestone hills

The Burren is a karstic plateau, formed primarily of limestone pavements with cracks called grikes and isolated blocks called clints. Its rocks date back to the Carboniferous period (359–299 million years ago), originally formed in a tropical sea near the equator. Fossils of corals, crinoids, brachiopods, and ammonites are embedded in the limestone. The landscape was shaped by glaciation during the last Ice Age, which scraped away soil and exposed the rocky terrain

While the iconic image of the Burren is its bare limestone pavement, only about 100 square miles are barren rock. The rest includes calcareous grasslands, hazel scrub, woodland, lakes, and seasonal turloughs (disappearing lakes). The region supports a remarkable diversity of flora and

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fauna, with lime-loving and acid-loving plants growing side by side, and woodland species thriving in open areas. The Burren is rich in archaeological sites, including Poul nabrone dolmen and Caherconnell Stone Fort. Human settlement in the area dates back thousands of years, and traditional farming methods continue to shape the landscape.



- 13 miles northwest of Ennis we stopped at the roadside Leamaneh Castle, a ruined castle located in the townland of Leamaneh North, parish of Kilnaboy, between the villages of Corofin and Kilfenora...The border of the region is known as the Burren in County Clare, Ireland.

The castle was originally a basic, 5-storied Irish tower house which was built 1490, probably by Toirdhealbhach Donn Ó Briain, one of the last of the High Kings of Ireland and a direct descendant of Brian Boru.

Today, the ruins include both the tower house with its arrow slits (or "loops") and the four walls of the adjoining manor house with their mullioned and transomed windows. Some of the remains of the outbuildings and the walled gardens/deer park can still be seen. Unlike many of the castles in Ireland, Leamaneh is unmaintained and due to its poor state of repair is not accessible.



- 5 miles further we stopped at Poul nabrone dolmen, a large dolmen (or cromlech a type of single-chamber portal tomb).

Situated on one of the region's most desolate and highest points, it comprises three standing portal stones supporting a heavy horizontal capstone and dates to the early Neolithic period, with estimates from 3800 and 3200 BC. Although not the largest, it is the best known of the approximately 172 dolmens in Ireland.



The dolmen was built by Neolithic farmers, who chose the location either for ritual, as a territorial marker, or as a collective burial site. What remains today is only the "stone skeleton" of the original monument; originally, it would have been covered with soil, and its flagstone capped by a cairn.

When the site was excavated in 1986 and again in 1988, 33 human remains, including both adults and children, were found buried underneath it. The human remains and objects are estimated to have been buried intermittently during the period between 3800 and 3200 BC.



- We continued 10 miles onto Lisdoonvarna for an early lunch at the infamous 2-star Rathbaun Hotel dining room.

Our research indicated that the Rathbaun Hotel was known as THE spot for "accommodations, live music, and dancing events during the month-long Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival." We were intrigued. When we walked into the building around 11:00am, we noticed immediately that the bar was full ...full of 70- and 80-year-olds!! And the dining room was empty!

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OMG! The joke was on us...little did we know...the festival is a hookup convention for octogenarians!

Our first meal in Ireland was a bust. We should have researched a better restaurant because Lisdoonvarna is known to be THE salmon producing city in Ireland. I had a “memorable” ham sandwich with butter AND mayonnaise...it just came that way...and a bowl of vegetable soup...it was fine. The rest of us grumbled more than ate...disappointing at best.



- Fortunately, we were somewhat refreshed by lunch, and the Ballinalacken Castle Hotel was only 4 miles away...overlooking the Ocean!

We dropped off our bags because the rooms weren't ready and decided to take a boat excursion to see the Cliffs of Mohr from below.



- The Cliffs of Moher Cruise from Doolin offered a unique perspective of Ireland's iconic cliffs, rising over 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Departing from Doolin Pier, the 1-hour tour allowed visitors to sail beneath the cliffs, past landmarks like O'Brien's Tower, the An Branán Mór sea stack, and the Harry Potter sea cave, while enjoying live commentary on the cliffs' history, geology, and wildlife. We got up close to many of the cliffs.



- Some of us were hungry, so we stopped in the McGann's Pub in Doolin for a wee something.

- When we got back to Ballinalacken Castle, it was time to check-in. All of our rooms were in the same wing of the hotel. Our room had a nice bay window where we could sit and see the ocean.

As Ginny and Joe were visiting our room before popping into the lower-level Pub, Ginny walked past our clothes dresser which had the lower drawer sticking out a few inches... the drawer suddenly closed by itself! Well, Ginny freaked out! “DID YOU SEE THAT?” She screamed!

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I started laughing. I said, “Ginny, *the Leprechauns must be messing with us!*” “It’s my fault. On the way here, we were talking about capturing a Leprechaun and taking him home for good luck and the “pot of gold!” It took Ginny a while to calm down...until our next hotel.

They opened the lower-level pub for us to have our first Guinness in Ireland. Then we proceeded to enjoy a great dinner and...Boned tired, we fell into bed for a good night’s sleep!!



Day 3 Thursday Sept 13 Doolin –Kenmare

Kenmare High: 68°F, Low: 56°F, Sunrise: 7:04AM, Sunset: 7:54PM

- At breakfast we all looked refreshed and ready for a full day.
- We checked out and headed to the top of the Cliffs of Mohr.



We were then off 38 miles south to meet our scheduled ferry to cross the Shannon River.



- We met the **Shannon Ferry** to cross the Shannon River.

Kilrush, Co Clare Killimer V15 FK09

<https://www.shannonferries.com>

From early morning as the mist descends the Shannon estuary to the Wild Atlantic Sea, to the setting of the sun in the late of the evening, the Shannon Ferry will take you

and your vehicle on a 20-minute journey across the estuary linking the iconic tourist destinations of Killimer of county Clare to Tarbert Ferry in the Kingdom of Kerry.

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- Once across the Shannon River we headed 73 miles to The Shelburne Lodge in Kenmare.



- We checked into The Shelburne Lodge and settled into our rooms.

I don't recall where we ate dinner, but the town was a short walk away with many restaurants and pubs to eat in.



Pat and I stayed in a second-floor room under the eaves.

In the middle of the night, I went to the bathroom...the door was next to an armoire...its door was closed.

As I exited, I left the light on for a moment to see my way into the bedroom...the armoire door was OPEN...I would have banged into it if it had been dark...I immediately thought:

"The Leprechauns are messing with us!"

Day 4 Friday Sept 14 Kenmare – Dingle – Kenmare

Kenmare High: 64°F, Low: 56°F, Sunrise: 7:06AM, Sunset: 7:52PM



- Next morning I asked Ginny, "did anything happen in your room last night?" it hadn't...As she looked dubiously at me, I said with conviction, *"The Leprechauns are messing with us!"*

Breakfast was elegant and tasty!



- Off through some tight lanes to Dingle Town and Dingle Peninsula for some sightseeing...



...And some coffee and ice cream

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Visited Ventry Beach...water was freezing, but one hearty soul was swimming! It's 3 miles of beautiful sandy beach set on the Natural Heritage Area of the Dingle Peninsula. The main beach, Ventry Strand is

backed by a small dune system, wet grasslands and an extensive reed bed.



- We visited traditional “beehive huts” on the Dingle Peninsula which were built from dry stone with a rounded, corbelled roof. These ancient structures, found across County Kerry, are among the most well-preserved examples of Ireland’s Neolithic and early medieval heritage.



- Got stuck behind a farmer moving some cattle to another field.
- Made it back to The Shelburne Lodge for dinner somewhere in Kenmare and overnight.

Well, wouldn't you know, that night while fast asleep under the eaves, something poked me in the chest three times...poke, poke, poke! I quickly opened my eyes and sat up in bed...I looked to my left...Pat was asleep! I looked to my right...no one! What's going on??

Ah, “*The Leprechauns are messing with us!*”

Next morning I asked Ginny, “did anything happen in your room last night?” it hadn't...As she looked dubiously at me, I said with conviction, “*The Leprechauns are messing with us!*”

Pat just rolled her eyes,” You were snoring!”

Finally, we're getting somewhere in the *mystery of the Leprechauns!*

Day 5 Saturday Sept 15 Kenmare – Ring of Kerry – Kenmare

Kenmare High: 65°F, Low: 50°F, Sunrise: 7:07AM, Sunset: 7:49PM



- Next morning had another filling breakfast with Irish salmon and other delights.
- Off to do a Ring of Kerry Bus Tour.



- The King Puck statue is in Killorglin, county Kerry, Ireland, known for the annual Puck Fair festival, which traditionally starts with the crowning of a "king" goat. The large bronze King Puck statue is on the edge of town next to the Killorglin bridge. This statue was commissioned by the Killorglin Millennium Committee and designed by Valentia Island Sculptor Alan Ryan Hall. The King Puck Statue and Puck Garden was completed in 2001.



- We saw peat being harvested from a bog.



- We explored the thatched cottages and period displays at the Kerry Bog Village Museum in County Kerry. The open-air museum recreates rural life in Ireland during the 18th century, offering a glimpse into

traditional farming, customs, and daily routines.



- We saw an amazing demonstration of dogs herding sheep from far atop the field with whistles and hand gestures to silently bring 7 sheep down to line up in a row in front of us!

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- The girls were conspiring to go to dinner at this restaurant...just for fun, the guys went along 😊

The Lime Tree Restaurant,

Shelbourne St, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, Ireland V93 YD93

<https://limetreerestaurant.com/>



2026: The Sculpture is GONE!!

Day 6 Sunday Sept 16 Kenmare

Kenmare High: 63°F, Low: 53°F, Sunrise: 7:09AM, Sunset: 7:47PM

- We dilly-dallied around Kenmare today with church, shopping, eating and such.
- Foley's was our favorite Pub for hearty, traditional Irish food, great drinks, and live traditional Irish music and watching football in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Foleys of Kenmare

Henry St. Kenmare Kerry

<https://foleyskenmare.com>

"Heah sisters, you're blocking the front door!"

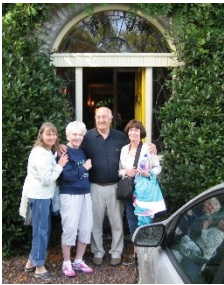




- On the way back to The Shelburne after dinner we found “**Jer’s Fast Food Take Away,**” on **ROCK Street!** Yep! The Rocks ARE Irish!

Day 7 Monday Sept 17 Kenmare – Cork – Tipperary

Tipperary High: 57°F, Low: 48°F, Sunrise: 7:09AM, Sunset: 7:44PM



- We checked out of The Shelburne, thanked our hosts Maura and Tom, and we were off to Tipperary.

- First stop Blarney Castle and Gardens, 23 miles east of Shelburne Lodge, just north of Cork.

The Blarney Stone, located at Blarney Castle in County Cork, Ireland, is a block of Carboniferous limestone set into the castle's battlements in 1446. The stone is steeped in legend, with various stories explaining its origins and the tradition of kissing it.

One popular tale involves the goddess Clíodhna, who advised Cormac Laidir MacCarthy, the castle's builder, to kiss the first stone he encountered on his way to court. Following her advice, he won his legal case with great eloquence, leading to the belief that kissing the stone bestows persuasive speaking abilities.

We had all heard the stories about kissing the Blarney Stone, but we weren't prepared for the beautiful grounds around the Blarney Castle!

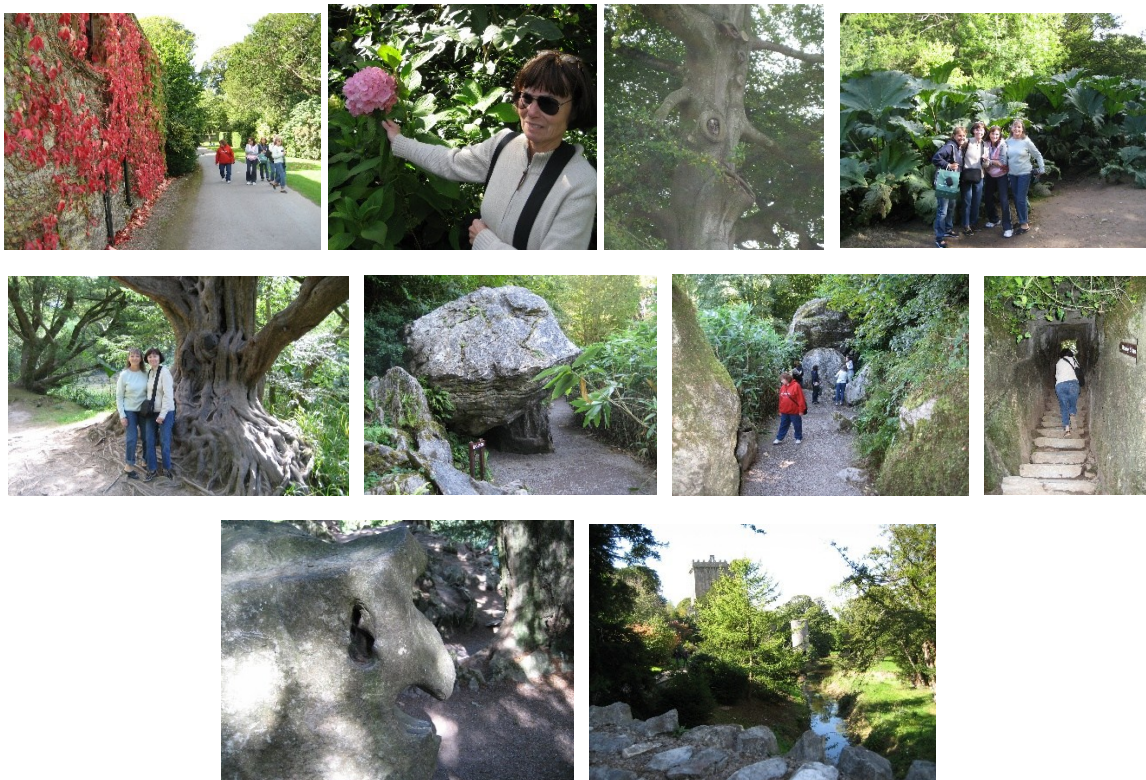


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The climb up the tower on the narrow staircase to the Blarney Stone was an adventure in itself. The higher we climbed, the less I thought this was a good idea. No way was I going to lean out, on my back, precariously hanging out 4 stories up with some guy holding me. I would never have imagined my germophobic Pat would kiss that thing bare-lipped! I got that experience off my bucket list...get me outta here!



What surprised us all were the amazing, fanciful and colorful gardens we saw after the Castle. The plants were HUGE! The trees and rocks had FACES! Wishing Steps! The place had a mysterious feeling to it. My opinion of Blarney Castle went up 1000%! Who knew?





- **Fishy Fishy Restaurant**
Denis Quay, Kinsale P17, county Cork
<https://fishyfishy.ie>

We drove 23 miles south to Kinsale to see the ocean and eat lunch here after we heard recommendations back home.

Owner Martin Shanahan is one of Ireland's leading seafood chefs. The early 1980s saw Martin move to San Francisco to chef at the renowned Huntington Hotel, where his love of fish cookery intensified. After returning from San Francisco, Martin and his wife, Marie, set up the original Kinsale Gourmet Store, a small fish shop and deli in the Market Place.

After seven years as a fish retailer, Martin launched his first Fishy Fishy café at Guardwell in Kinsale. His passion and skill with fish became apparent, and the town's first dedicated seafood café proved to carve the path of his success. Ever forward thinking in his business approach, Martin decided the next natural progression was to further expand on the café's success.

2006 saw Martin purchase a large Gallery and convert it into the formidable Fishy Fishy Restaurant. Martin and his team have stuck with an ethos of using and cooking local, fresh, seasonal fish served in an informal context, with staff who take real pride in their work.

- On to Tipperary, north 58 miles to check into Kilcoran Lodge Hotel...had dinner and slept like babies.

Day 8 Tuesday Sept 18 Tipperary – Waterford – Kilkenny – Tipperary

Tipperary High: 58°F, Low: 40°F, Sunrise: 7:11AM, Sunset: 7:41PM

- After breakfast, we headed off 47 miles to Waterford.
- Waterford Crystal was established in 1783 by brothers George and William Penrose in the Irish harbor town of Waterford, with the goal of producing the finest quality crystal for drinking vessels and decorative objects. The Penrose's invested heavily in the factory, employing skilled craftsmen, blowers, cutters, and engravers to ensure exceptional quality. A key figure in the early enterprise was John Hill, a master glassmaker from Stourbridge, England, who brought expertise in glass mixing and polishing, helping to define the clarity and brilliance that became Waterford's signature. The factory quickly gained a reputation for producing crystal of unparalleled clarity and purity of color, becoming highly sought after across Europe. Despite its success, the original Waterford Glassworks faced economic challenges and ultimately closed in 1853, ending nearly 70 years of continuous production.

After almost a century of dormancy, Waterford Crystal was revived in 1947 by Czech glassmaker Karel Bacik, who hired fellow Czech Miroslav Havel as Chief Designer. Havel studied surviving Penrose crystal at the National Museum of Ireland and drew inspiration from traditional cutting patterns. In 1952, he created the Lismore pattern, which became the brand's most iconic and best-selling design.

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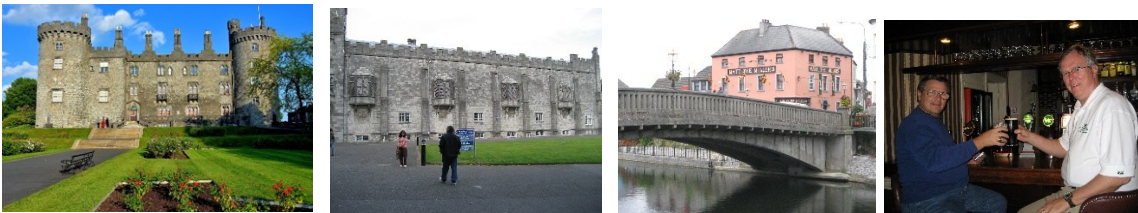
Today, Waterford Crystal maintains strong links to its heritage, producing crystal with the same purity, clarity, and intricate designs that defined the original Penrose creations. The company operates a manufacturing facility and visitor center in Waterford city, showcasing the world's largest collection of Waterford Crystal. Since 2009, the brand has been owned by Fiskars Corporation, and while much of the production occurs outside Ireland, the Waterford name continues to symbolize luxury, artistry, and Irish cultural heritage



We toured the factory while it was producing crystal glasses, bowls and sculptures.

Pat bought a tiny crystal Irish cottage that cost nearly as much as our first house in Wheaton, IL.

- We drove 30 miles north to visit Kilkenny Castle, county Kilkenny and walk the town of Kilkenny.
- Then back to The Kilcoran Lodge for a little R&R, dinner and sleep.



Day 9 Wednesday Sept 19 Tipperary – Rock of Cashel – Tipperary

Tipperary High: 64°F, Low: 52°F, Sunrise: 7:12AM, Sunset: 7:39PM

- We took GG to the local library to research her Quinn family genealogy.
 - With help of the staff, we discovered the Quinns in the Tipperary census documents dating back to 1850 and those after 1900. Records from 1850 to 1900 were destroyed in a fire.
- From Nora Rock the genealogy research:
 - **Geraldine Patrice Quinn:** born July 1, 1924 – Chicago; died June 13, 2019 – Hinsdale
 - **Mother: Mary Margaret (Mazie) Reidy** born May 22, 1890; died Jan 29, 1927
 - Mother: Mollie Daly: born??; died??
 - Father: Martin J. Reidy: born May 3, 1869 – Cleveland; died January 18, 1938 – Chicago
1910 Census listed as Ready
 - Mother: Margaret Christopher: born 1836 – Waterford, Ireland; died??
 - Father: Nicholas Reidy: born 1833 – Cork, Ireland; died??
1860 listed as Ready
1870 listed as Ready
 - **Father: Charles Anthony Quinn:** born Dec 17, 1891 – Kansas; died March 29, 1932 – Chicago
 - Mother: Henrietta (Etta) Moeller: born 1870; died 1946
 - Father: Harry J. Quinn: born August 8, 1862 – Maryland; died??
 - Second spouse: Mary Conners
 - Mother: Bridget: born March 1842 – Baltimore; died March 14, 1909 – Chicago
 - Father: Harry Quinn: born April 1845 – Ireland
 - After GG's father died in 1932, she was raised by her paternal grandparents, stepmother Mary and Harry J., with whom they had been living since her mother died
 - **Robert Lawrence Rock:** born July 26, 1922 – Chicago; died: May 1, 2001 – Oak Lawn
 - **Mother: Helen Grace (Nell) Allman:** born July 7, 1894; died March 28, 1979
 - Mother: Bridget E. Dowd: born 1867 – county Kerry, IR; died??
 - Father: David Allman: born March 1864 – county Kerry, IR; died 1900
 - **Father: Lawrence J. Rock:** born 1894; died??
 - Mother: Margaret (Maggie) Rafter: born December 1869 – Cleveland
 - Mother: Mary Rafter Cull: born 1855 – Ohio; died??
 - Father: Michael J. Rock: born May 1863 – Tauton, MA; died??

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- Sometime after 2007 The Tipperary Family History Research facility (TFHR) was established to provide a research service to people who have Tipperary ancestry, enabling them to see ancestors' records and increase their knowledge of family history.

Tipperary Excel Heritage Co. Ltd administers the records on behalf of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly and is a non-profit-making organization and a registered charity.

Tipperary Family History Research is the only facility to offer a research service based on access to the Baptismal and Marriage records of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly, covering 46 parishes in most of county Tipperary and part of county Limerick.

<https://www.tipperaryexcel.com/tfhr.html>

- We drove 11 miles north to visit the Rock of Cashel.

Set on a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale, The Rock of Cashel possesses the most impressive cluster of medieval buildings in Ireland. Among the monuments to be found there is a round tower, a high cross, a Romanesque chapel, a Gothic cathedral, an abbey, the Hall of the Vicars Choral and a fifteenth-century Tower House.

Originally the seat of the kings of Munster, according to legend St. Patrick himself came here to convert King Aenghus to Christianity. Brian Boru was crowned High King at Cashel in 978 and made it his capital. In 1101 the site was granted to the Catholic Church and Cashel swiftly rose to prominence as one of the most significant centers of ecclesiastical power in the country.

- We visited the weathered stone ruins of Bective Abbey in County Meath, Ireland to explore its historic remains. The 12th-century Cistercian abbey is one of the most significant religious sites in the region, known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and spiritual heritage.



- We visited the Cathedral of the Assumption in Thurles, county Tipperary, Ireland, with its distinctive grey stone façade, large rose window, and twin towers. The cathedral, consecrated in 1879, serves as the mother church of the Metropolitan Province of Cashel.



- We drove 10 miles north from the Rock of Cashel to The Holycross Abbey in County Tipperary, with its distinctive stone walls and arched walkway. Founded in the 12th century, the abbey is a major pilgrimage site and a key example of early Irish monastic architecture.

Nestled along the banks of the River Suir the Abbey is a place where history, faith, and legend intertwine. Just 10 minutes from the Rock of Cashel, this beautifully restored, 12th century Cistercian Monastery, stands as a testament to Ireland's rich heritage. Founded in 1182, the Abbey flourished for centuries before falling into ruin in the 16th century. It was meticulously restored in the 20th century.

A site of living faith, the Abbey is also home to two revered relics of the true cross of Christ:



- The Ormond Relic is a wood fragment of the True Cross presented to the Butlers of Ormond, Earls of Ormond, in 1223 AD by King John (Richard the Lionheart's brother) as a gesture of gratitude for their role in securing Richard's release from captivity in Austria after the Third Crusade. This relic was brought to Ireland by Queen Isabella of Angoulême around 1233, transforming Holycross into a significant pilgrimage destination during the medieval period. After the dissolution of the Abbey in the 16th century, the relic remained with the Butlers. In 1632, , bequeathed it to his physician, Dr. Fennell, shortly before his death. It passed through various hands, including to the 11th Earl, Walter of the Rosaries to Dame, a Mary Kavanagh Butler, who gave it to Bishop Moylan of Cork.
- The second wood fragment relic was a gift from the Vatican presented in 1977 to commemorate the Abbey restoration.
- We returned 25 miles to Kilcorn Lodge for dinner and over night

Day 10 Thursday Sept 20 Tipperary – Dublin

Dublin High: 62°F, Low: 54°F, Sunrise: 7:06AM, Sunset: 7:29PM



- Bright and early, we checked out, and drove 120 miles to Dublin
- We dropped off our luggage and checked in at The Eliza Lodge before dropping off the vans.

- From the photos I can see that we ate lunch at a nice restaurant...can't remember the name of course.
- Then we were picked up by the Hop-On Hop-Off Bus Tours of Dublin (duration 1 hr 45 min) and went past:
 - o Fox House
 - o Irish Whiskey Museum
 - o Dublin Castle
 - o Christ Church Cathedral
 - o St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
 - o The Dublin Liberties Distillery
 - o Guinness Storehouse
 - o Pearse Lyons Whiskey Distillery
 - o Irish Museum of Modern Art
 - o Heuston Station
 - o Phoenix Park
 - o Parkgate Street
 - o Jameson Distillery Bow St.
 - o Temple Bar
 - o Dublin Writers Museum
 - o O'Connell Street y
 - o GPO Museum
 - o EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum
 - o The Convention Centre Dublin
 - o Bord Gáis Energy Theatre
 - o Merrion Square
 - o National Gallery of Ireland
 - o St. Stephen's Green
 - o Mansion House
 - o Back at Fox House



Rock Family Ireland 2007 Travelogue

- We ended the day back at the Eliza Lodge and then went out on a Pub Crawl...quite an experience!

We started at Oliver St. John Gogerty's in Temple Bar...we were on a ROLL! The music took us over as we hopped to 4 or 5 Pubs. GG was a trooper keeping up the pace with us!

And, then on the last stop...they called for the audience to contribute...wouldn't you know our very own, shy Joe Deacon entertained the crowd with his memorable "*Which Came First, the Chicken or the Egg?*" story...with an Irish brogue no less!

The Rest of the Story: the next day we were out and a woman who had heard Joe came up to him saying, "*That story was hilarious...we haven't stopped talking about it because all the girls in our group were the only ones who understood your joke! The guys didn't get it!*"



Day 11 Friday Sept 21 Dublin

Dublin High: 60°F, Low: 52°F, Sunrise: 7:08AM, Sunset: 7:27PM



- We were out all day walking around Dublin.

Unfortunately, we weren't in the market for Knobs & Knockers.



- We visited Trinity College.

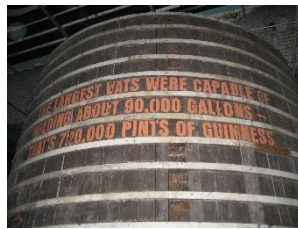
Trinity College Dublin (TCD) is Ireland's oldest and most prestigious university, renowned for its academic excellence, historic campus, and global influence. Its name was inspired by Trinity College, Cambridge, and it has maintained historic academic partnerships with Oriel College, Oxford, and St

John's College, Cambridge.

Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I, Trinity College Dublin is the sole constituent college of the University of Dublin and one of the seven ancient universities of Great Britain and Ireland. It was established to consolidate Tudor rule in Ireland; it was built on the site of the former Priory of All Hallows and served as a Protestant university for the Ascendancy elite for over two centuries.

The historic campus features landmarks such as the Campanile, the GMB, The Rubrics, and the 16th-century Trinity Library, which houses the Book of Kells, the Brian Boru harp, and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

Trinity is a major tourist destination, attracting over two million visitors annually, and has inspired literary figures like Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, Bram Stoker, and Jonathan Swift. The university also hosts the world's oldest student society, The Hist, founded in 1770.



- We went on a tour of Guinness Storehouse, a famous tourist attraction at St. James's Gate Brewery. Since opening in 2000, it has received over twenty million visitors.

The Storehouse covers seven floors surrounding a glass atrium shaped in the form of a pint of Guinness.

- The ground floor introduces the beer's four ingredients (water, barley, hops and yeast), and the brewery's founder, Arthur Guinness.
- Other floors feature the history of Guinness advertising and include an interactive exhibit on responsible drinking.
- The seventh floor houses the Gravity Bar with views of Dublin and where we sampled a pint of Guinness...even Pat said her's tasted good...then she let me finish it...we discovered you could easily get a 2nd or 3rd pint if you stayed close to the bar.

Rock Family Ireland 2007 Travelogue



- To wrap up our journey to Ireland, Peggy discovered (and Pat remembered with the aid of her Google machine) a very exclusive 2-star Michelin Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud in the 5-Star luxury hotel, The Merrion...and it had a doorman in a top hat!

The Merrion

Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2

<https://restaurantpatrickguilbaud.ie/>

<https://www.merrionhotel.com/>

We started with cocktails in a drawing room near the entrance. Then we were escorted to a private dining room for dinner. When the entrees were served, 9 butlers appeared with each of our servings covered by silver domes...they proceeded to place the plates in front of each of us, and then simultaneously lifted the domes to present our meals! Quite spectacular I must say!



- Several of us walked back to the Eliza Lodge. We discovered “**The Dawson Lounge, Dublin’s Smallest Pub.**”

The Dawson Lounge

25 Dawson Street Dublin

<https://dawsonlounge.ie>



The License of the bar dates back to 1850. With a seating capacity of just 26 people, you can't help but have a great time and get to know everybody in our cozy pub.

Day 12 Saturday Sept 22 Dublin – Atlanta

Dublin High: 64°F, Low: 47°F, Sunrise: 7:09AM, Sunset: 7:24PM

Atlanta High: 86°F, Low: 72°F, Sunrise: 7:25AM, Sunset: 7:34PM



- At first light we lined up in the tiny Eliza Lodge lobby/hall waiting for our taxis to Dublin Airport DUB.
- 7:30am Departed the Eliza Lodge for DUB
- After we made it through security, we gathered for coffee and breakfast goodies near our gates.
- LV Dublin DUB, Delta 10:35am
 - ARR Atlanta ATL ~2:10pm (dur 8 hr 50min) (3950 miles)

Home Again, Home Again, Jiggety Jig!