

Return to the cradle of Celtic civilization and celebrate Samhain Halloween in Ireland with Ken O'Malley this year. Samhain is the pagan religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. In modern times, Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "sow-win") is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in "the dark half of the year." Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld. The days when the veil between the dead, undead and the living was at its thinnest.

Around the 6thC, Pope Gregory had the bright idea to fuse the old Celtic customs and beliefs with Christian celebrations and it actually worked for the missionaries in Ireland at the time. Samhain became All Hallows Eve, hallowed meaning sacred, and the next day became All Saint's Day. Halloween had arrived.

October 24th,

Our group will meet in the morning at Dublin Airport, unless other arrangements are made with individual travelers. Our tour this time will be a little different as we are spending the first three nights in Dublin. We will take a shuttle to the Harding Hotel on Fishamble St, at the edge of temple Bar in the heart of the city. The Bram Stoker Festival begins on the 23rd and ends on the 26th. <https://bramstokerfestival.com/>

As we approach the date and I receive more information, we will make choices among the myriad of events we can attend. From ghoulish theater to the grand parade.

October 27th, Tuesday morning we will join our driver Paul, board our luxury coach and drive to Belfast. On our way we will visit the neolithic passage tombs of Newgrange and Nowth in the Boyne Valley, older than the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge. This place of worship, and sacred burials is still a mystery as to it's mathematical design. Is there an Alien connection ? Our group will enter the 5000 year old tomb at Newgrange, a privilege not available to the general public at all times. On to Belfast for two nights arriving late afternoon at the Europa Hotel, most famous for being "the most bombed hotel in Europe" from its numerous explosions during the late 60's and 70's during "the Troubles". It is one of the finest hotels in Belfast.

October 28th, we will visit the Titanic Museum, a must see for any fans of the great liner's story. Built and launched in Belfast, the museum holds many original artifacts and a look into the past of shipbuilding in Belfast's past. In the afternoon, I will have a friend of mine join us on the coach and give us a guided tour of the City, and it's troubled history, "Up the Catholic Falls Road and down the Protestant Shankill Road", visiting the Peace Walls, historically dividing neighborhoods.

October 29th, Our tour will take us across to the City of Derry and its famous Halloween Festival, for three days through Halloween night and the extravaganza of events while we are there.

October 30th, We will have a private guided tour of the historic Walls of Derry and the history from the Siege of Derry in 1689 when the Apprentice Boys held back the forces of Catholic King James for months and were victorious, to the story of Bloody Sunday in 1972 when 14 Catholic civilians

were killed and 12 more wounded by British Paratroopers during a peaceful Civil Rights march.

October 31st, we will drive into Donegal and visit a 6thC stone ring fort built by the Clan O'Neill overlooking Derry and Donegal Bay. The view is spectacular and the fort is really impressive.

Nov 1st, We will drive back to Dublin for one final night before many of us will travel home to US. This tour promises to be a very exciting and spiritual return to the All Hollows Eve and All Saints Day (Day of the Dead) that were the celebrations of the ancient Celts and their Druid priests. There will be more trick or treats on this tour than you can imagine. Join me, Ken O'Malley, if you dare !!!

Nov 2nd, Return to the US for those not traveling further or staying on in Ireland.

I will be happy to assist questions regarding traveling to Ireland prior to the beginning of the tour or any travel plans after we return to Dublin at the end of the tour. Hotels, destinations, travel arrangements etc.