

## Retired Staff Association / Agallamh na Seanórach Co. Roscommon & Co. Leitrim, 28-30 May 2024

### Tuesday 28 May: prehistoric Connacht, the Famine decades, gardens, a historic castle by a lake

- 08.00 Depart from the Archway for Tulsk.
- 09.45 Tea/coffee pause in the Táin café in the [Rathcroghan Heritage Centre](#), followed by a guided visit of the Centre's interpretive rooms. If the weather is suitable we will visit Ráth Cruachan or Cruachan Aí, Connacht's ancient capital and royal site, guided by John Waddell, a leading expert on the Rathcroghan complex.
- 11.45 Leave Ráth Cruachan/Tulsk for Strokestown House.
- 12.15 Guided tour of [Strokestown Park House, Gardens & National Famine Museum](#), approximately 1 hour.
- 13.15 Lunch (self-service) in the Woodland Café at Strokestown House. There will be time to visit the gardens and woodland, including the walled garden and one of the longest herbaceous borders in Ireland, or to shop or spend longer in the Museum.
- 15.15 Leave Strokestown for Dromod, 20 minutes away, where, weather permitting, at 15.45 we will visit the Cavan & Leitrim Railway display to see a collection of steam and diesel engines, vintage buses and aviation items.
- 16.30 Leave Dromod for nearby [Lough Rynn Castle Estate and Gardens](#) (4 star), for a 2-night stay. Take time to relax, or explore the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Castle, former home of the Clements family, and its grounds, including the newly restored walled garden.
- 18.30 Meet for an apéritif (optional), followed by à la carte dinner together at 19.30 in the Sandstone Restaurant.



### Wednesday 29 May: local economy & heritage, industry, waterways, railways, distilling, folk life

- 09.30 Depart Lough Rynn Castle for Arigna, 40 minutes away.
- 10.30 Visit the [Arigna Mining Experience](#) for a guided tour (45 minutes). Some of this tour is underground. You will need a fleece or warm jacket. There will be time for tea/coffee in the café.
- 12.00 Depart from Arigna to go to [Kilronan Abbey and O'Carolan's Grave](#) and nearby St. Lasair's Holy Well.
- 13.00 Leave for Drumshanbo, 12 minutes away.
- 13.15 Lunch (self-service) in the Jackalope café at [The Shed Distillery](#), Drumshanbo, home of Gunpowder gin. After lunch there are two options. Please indicate your choice on the booking form.  
*Group A* (€17 supplement): starting at 14.30, a one-hour group tour of the distillery. This includes whiskey tasting and a complimentary gin in the Honey Badger Bar, "a botanical glasshouse". There will be a little time to browse in the shop, stroll in Drumshanbo.  
*Group B*: at 14.30 go by coach to [Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre](#) (1.5 km away) for audio-visual displays on the heritage of the region, including coal, industry, transport, the canal, musical traditions. Weather permitting, walk the 600m floating boardwalk on Acres Lake (Shannon Blueway). Gather at 15.45 to return by coach to The Shed.
- 16.00 Depart Drumshanbo to visit the [Glenview Folk Museum](#) with displays ranging from old household & farm items to vehicles and a full street scene evoking 1930s Ireland, and items associated with John McGahern.

17.30 Depart for Lough Rynn Castle, arriving shortly before 18.00.

Evening Dinner to be booked *in advance* by each of us, choosing between casual food in the [Drawing-rooms](#) or à la carte dinner in the [Sandstone Restaurant](#). Closing time in both is 21.00.



**Thursday 30 May: a river cruise, the homeland of the O'Conors, Roscommon's medieval abbey & castle**

08.45 Leave Lough Rynn Castle for Carrick-on-Shannon, 20 minutes away.

09.30 [Moon River Cruise](#) from Carrick, 1 hour, with tea and scone on board.

10.45 Leave Carrick for Clonalis House, 40 minutes away.

11.45 Tour of [Clonalis House](#), now home to the 27<sup>th</sup> generation of the O'Conor family.

13.00 Leave Clonalis for Roscommon town, 30 minutes.

13.45 Lunch in [Abbey Hotel Roscommon](#); carvery/bar food in the Abbey Bar.

14.45 Guided visit of [Roscommon Abbey](#), just beside the hotel. Booklets describing the Abbey and the Castle will be distributed to all in our group. At 15.15 we will take the coach to go 1.5 km to [Roscommon Castle](#), built in 1269 by Robert Ufford, Justiciar of Ireland. For our visit to both the Abbey and the Castle we will be led by Dr Kieran O'Conor, a leading expert on archaeology, architecture and society in medieval Ireland.

16.15 Leave for Galway, 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 50 minutes away depending on traffic.

c17.30 Arrival back at the Archway.

or 18.00



## Cost

- **Accommodation in Lough Rynn Castle Hotel** (2 nights B&B, 1 dinner) to be booked direct with the hotel by 15 March. Please say that you are with the University of Galway group. Rates: €520 for 2 sharing or €445 p.p. not sharing. €520 for 2 or €445 for 1
- **Travel & Tours**, to be paid by 8 March using the attached booking form. €198 or €181  
*depending on option chosen on Day 2*  
Included:
  - Coach transport
  - Entrance charges and tour fees as follows: Rathcroghan Visitor Centre; Strokestown House, Garden & Famine Museum tour; Cavan & Leitrim Railway exhibition; Arigna Mining Experience; Drumshanbo Distillery tour or Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre; Glenview Folk Museum; short Moon Cruise with tea & scone; Clonalis House tour; guided tours of Roscommon Abbey and Roscommon Castle.

Not included: meals (apart from 1 dinner included in the hotel rate); tea & coffee stops; drinks.

**Travel Insurance is not included but is strongly recommended.**

Early booking is advised as places are limited.