



An Incredible Journey Through The Heart Of Hidden Ireland

Shannon Princess Cruises provides a personalized option to tour The Emerald Isle.

DUBLIN, IRELAND: Cruises are an American pastime. The allure of visiting off the beaten path destinations is appealing.

Rory and Olivia Gibbons, owners of Shannon Princess, have elevated the cruise experience to the next level. “We are family owned and our attention to detail shows,” explained Rory. “I am your skipper and Olivia is your master chef. Our luxury barge has just five spacious cabins for a maximum of ten guests. Accommodations are beautifully appointed with private bathrooms and cabin length windows for uninterrupted views of the passing countryside. WiFi is on board to send Facebook updates to your jealous friends.”

Each trip begins and ends in Dublin. “We offer three different itineraries,” said Rory. “*Exploring the Heart of Ireland* is our classic tour. We also offer a *Walking and Cruising* excursion, and a *Golf Journey*, wherein you have an opportunity to play four of Ireland’s best courses, including the K Club, host to the 2007 Ryder Cup. No matter which vacation you choose, every itinerary passes by a whiskey distillery, crumbling ivy-covered ruins, medieval garrisons, and shoreline villages. We even visit a monastery established in the 6th century.”

UNSPOILED RIVER SCENERY

“Come aboard and marvel at a countryside that is little changed for centuries,” welcomed Rory.

“The River Shannon, named after the Celtic goddess Sionn, is a series of lakes, rivers, and tiny canals. At almost 200 miles in length, it is Ireland’s longest river. For 10,000



years, the river was vital for survival to people living along its banks. After Christianity, it became the refuge of saints and scholars.

“Best of all, you enjoy the scenery comfortably aboard your own private floating ‘luxury hotel.’

“Above deck,” explained Rory, “we have a large terrace area with a Jacuzzi, tables, BBQ, and lounge chairs. While honored, I am not sur-

prised we were awarded as a ‘Once in a Lifetime Trip’ in Chris Santella’s travel book.”

On-board meals are served at the Captain’s table. “I promise a gourmet feast,” beamed Olivia. “I source food en route from local farms and artisan bakeries. Everything is freshly prepared and I try to add surprise to each meal. For breakfast, my duck egg with crispy Palma ham has become a guest favorite.”

After your day of adventure, enjoying a cocktail at sunset as the pastoral countryside passes by is always a highlight. “My guess is you will have worked up an appetite,” said Olivia. “Over vintage port, I invite you to enjoy famous Irish cheeses, roast sea bass, and my home-made petit fours.” ■

The Shannon Princess can be booked per room or as a whole boat charter, ideal for family reunions and corporate incentive trips.

For more information on cruise itineraries, please visit their website, ShannonPrincess.com. To contact Rory and Olivia, please e-mail them at info@ShannonPrincess.com.