

A photograph of a stone archway in a green landscape under a cloudy sky. The archway is made of large, dark stones and is the central focus of the image. The background shows rolling green hills and a blue sky with white clouds.

SACRED IRELAND

A Wise Woman Journey

A time comes when the call is strong to take counsel with our soul as we navigate the transitions and thresholds of our lives. The call to step through a portal and commune with the sacred. Welcome to the portals of Ireland.

There is an ancient wisdom that reverberates here. It echoes through history, lore, and legend. It emanates from the land. It vibrates through the megalithic landscapes. It lives in the people. *A Wise Woman Journey* is an invitation to encounter this living heritage of wisdom and spirituality. An invitation to nurture your Soul and explore, to paraphrase poet Mary Oliver, what you will do with the rest of your one wild and precious life.

This is not simply a tour of sacred sites, although we will visit many. It is a journey of sacred connection woven through ceremony and meditation in ancient landscapes, workshops and guided journeys, music and stories. It is a weaving of land and legend, history and mythology. Threads of wisdom to weave the patterns of your life.

2018 Journeys

May 11 - 22

September 14 - 25

Your Itinerary

Music of The Burren *Days One, Two & Three Doolin Lodging*

Arrive Shannon airport early morning where we collect you for the short drive to Doolin. Nestled on the coast between the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, and Aran Islands, the village of Doolin is renowned as the traditional music capital of Ireland. It's remote location, magnificent landscapes, and intimate music scenes provide the perfect portal for relaxing into the rhythms of this magical land. Our journey begins with a seaside meditation, visit to one of Brigit's holy wells, and wandering through the village before an evening of music.



Mary O'Halloran grew up in this mystical Burren landscape. She holds both a deep knowing of this place and a family heritage of music, storytelling, and healing. She will share her knowledge of the Coptic Egyptian influences on the early Christian church as she guides us to some of her favorite sites, and leads us through ancient patterns of ceremony and meditation. We close our day with an intimate music session in a private home.



Exploring the bounty of this area's ancient sites, we meet the mysterious Sheela-na-Gig, walk the patterns of a holy well, visit a monastic site and round tower, and honor the legacy of Lady Gregory, author and antiquarian, in her beloved Coole Park home. We return to our Doolin lodging for another night of traditional music in the pubs.

Brigit Traditions *Days Four & Five Spiddal Lodging*

Brigit is both Goddess and Saint to the Irish people who still call on her healing power. We welcome her inspiring influence through quiet reflection and guided meditation within the landscape of Brigit's Garden. Set within eleven acres of woodlands and wildflower meadows are four themed gardens based on the symbolism and traditions of ancient Earth festivals. Traveling through spectacular Connemara landscapes, we step through the portals of the Glebe stone circle near the village of Cong.



Photos

Doolin

Christy Barry

Brigit's Holy Well

Brigit's Garden

Sheela-na-Gig

Carrowmore



Megalithic Mysteries *Days Six, Seven & Eight* *Fore Lodging*

Uisneach is the mythological, geographic, and sacred center of Ireland. This landscape has been the site of political, cultural, religious, and mythological events throughout Ireland's history. Our guided tour will include stories of those who reigned and ruled in this place. Quiet meditation will open the gates of connection to the power of this place.



Loughcrew, the Hill of the Hag. The number and concentration of cairns and circles make plausible the legend of mystical hag Cailleach Bhearra flying over this area and spilling stones from her apron to create these megalithic sites. The stone carvings in the main cairn are among the best in Ireland. The ancient mystery invites us to wander the landscape and slip into quiet meditation. On a clear day this site offers spectacular views of surrounding counties.

Traveling to Tara, the landscape of ancient kings, we spend time with artist Courtney Davis whose iconic and ubiquitous fine art designs have served to awaken an entire generation to the glories of Celtic art. At the Fourknocks cairn our song reverberates in the sacred chamber. Anthony Murphy joins us in this landscape to share his vast knowledge of ancient mythology and archaeoastronomy.

Sacred Sligo *Days Nine, Ten & Eleven* *Sligo Lodging*

As we make our way west to Sligo, we have a leisurely drive through the Irish countryside with a stop at the Cavan County Museum for stories of Ireland's past. Formerly a convent, this magnificent building houses some of the best available exhibitions on Ireland's history.

We arrive in the magnificent megalithic landscape of County Sligo, landscape of Ireland's indigenous spiritual ancestors. There is great power here. The Carrowkeel Cairn Temples atop the Bricklieve Mountains will call us to ceremony and the memory of ancient ritual. Meditations in the Carrowmore Stone Circles will offer encounters with the legendary beings that inhabit this landscape. Tobernault Holy Well on the shores of Lough Gill offers insights about the conflicts and complexities of Ireland's religious heritage. We will also have time to explore the delights of Sligo Town, including a visit with Michael Quirke, Carver of Myth & Legend and engaging storyteller.



The Great Queen *Day Twelve* *Shannon Lodging*

Heading back to the Shannon area we stop at the home of the Warrior Queen Medb. Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, Rathcroghan is the oldest and largest unexcavated royal complex in Europe. Kings were inaugurated here. Great tribes, chieftains, and dynastic families rose and fell here. All within the realm of the Great Goddess who is ever powerful and ever present. A fitting close to our journey through her landscapes.

Over dinner we enjoy our last circle together and prepare to depart Shannon Airport the following morning.

Photos

Fourknocks

Loughcrew

Carrowkeel

Benbulbin

Your Guide Team



Jack and Judith guide all tours. Ann and Martha alternate tours.

Judith Nilan

Judith has traveled and led tours to Ireland's sacred landscapes for twenty years. She is deeply woven with the ancestors, land, and people of Ireland. Her spiritual insights are reflected in her recent book: [A Legacy of Wisdom: The Genius, Power, and Possibility of Ireland's Indigenous Spiritual Heritage](#). A spiritual teacher and practitioner, she will lead many of the meditations and ceremonies.

Jack Roberts

Few have travelled the megalithic landscapes of Ireland more than artist and author Jack Roberts. His profound and personal knowledge of these ancient sites is reflected in his art and his many writings and books including [Divine Hag of the Christian Celts: An Illustrated Guide to the Sheela-na-Gigs of Britain and Ireland](#), [The Sun Circles of Ireland: Illuminating the Stone Circles of Ancient Ireland](#), the most comprehensive and insightful book available on Ireland's stone circles, and [The Sacred Mythological Centres of Ireland](#). Jack's passion, humor, wisdom, and philosophical perspective will enrich your experience.



Ann Sargent

Ann holds elder wisdom, spiritual grounding, and logistical mastery. A frequent participant in these journeys, she is deeply connected to the people, landscapes, and magic of Ireland.



Martha Calihan

Founder of Five Stones Healing Arts & Wellness Center, Martha will offer mindfulness and healing meditations within the sites and sacred landscapes we visit. Her deep connection to the natural world informs her life, her spiritual teachings, and her healing work.

Your Tour Team



Mary O'Halloran

A native of County Clare, Mary holds an ancestral knowing of this landscape. She carries forward family traditions of music, healing and storytelling, adding to that her knowledge of historical geography, archeology, folklore, and Coptic Egyptian influences on Ireland's early Christianity. Mary runs regular Healing Circles and tours to sacred sites and will be sharing with us her knowledge of the Burren and its many treasures.



Anthony Murphy

Author, archaeoastronomer, and musician, Anthony will share his knowledge of and passion for megalithic lore and landscapes. His books, [Newgrange: Monument to Immortality](#), [Island of the Setting Sun](#), and novella [The Cry of the Sebac](#) offer some of the most comprehensive, insightful, and provocative writings on these sacred sites.



Courtney Davis

Courtney's iconic and ubiquitous fine art designs have awakened an entire generation to the glories of Celtic art. The man is a legend. Through a profound mystical connection to the creative process, he has produced a staggering number of stunning paintings and published more than fifty books. Sitting with the Spirit that is Courtney awakens the muse in all of us.



Costs & Booking

2018 Dates

May 11 - 22

September 14 - 25

Twelve Days In Country

The cost of \$3,600 includes lodging and breakfast, ground transportation, lectures and workshops, site admissions, and guide services. Airfare, lunches and dinners are not included.

Each A Wise Woman Journey is limited to ten women. To secure your place a nonrefundable deposit of \$700 is due when booking. The balance is due two months prior to your departure date.

Itinerary may change to accommodate spontaneous opportunities or unforeseen conditions. Customized group tours are gladly arranged on request.

For more information and registration contact:

Judith Nilan
StoneFire
judith@stonefires.com
Washington State, US

Jack Roberts
Bandiadesign
bandiadesign@fastmail.fm
County Galway, Ireland