



Manchán Magan gets off the tourist trail in Tanzania: P14



AT HOME

All quiet in Galway

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the John Huston film with a trip to *Quiet Man* country. Gortnarup, outside Clonbur on the Galway-Mayo border, is owned by artist Willie Griffin and his fashion stylist wife Lizzi. The place is tastefully decorated and has an open-plan kitchen/living/dining room. It can sleep up to 13. There are four doubles and a single and a sofa bed. Rental is from Saturday to Saturday and costs from €550 to €950 a week – €790 per week during the Easter break; €850 per week from June 26th to July 7th and

is booked until mid-August. Mid-August to September costs €850 per week. Take afternoon tea at Ashford Castle and dine at Lisloughrey Lodge.

■ Gortnarup, 079-66431007, gortnarup.blogspot.com.

Chill in Connemara

Wellpark House in Oughterard is at the gateway to Connemara. The Georgian house has been restored and has an acre of mature gardens and orchard. It faces the River Owenriff, where each May holidaymakers get the opportunity to see the salmon leap upstream as they return to their spawning grounds.

There are six bedroom, plus two cots, a child's bed and a high chair. Buy a butterflied leg of lamb at master butcher McGeogh, fire up the barbecue and enjoy the peace. Lough Corrib is a five-minute drive away and gillies can be organised to take you fishing or to the islands. The house costs from €1,300 to €1,800 (August only) per week.

■ Wellpark House, 056-4412672, wellparkhouse-ireland.com

Get crafty in Kenmare

Anam Cré is contemporary-build property set in a birch wood a couple of miles outside Kenmare in Co. Kerry. There's a

stream for children to muck about in or they can explore woodlands, which are home to a pair of friendly deer. The house sleeps 12, has slate and wood floors and wood-burning stove. It is adjacent to the studio of Kenmare Pottery where you can take clay craft classes with owner Anne Garrett from €15 per person, depending on numbers. Adults also get to explore the art of the pottery wheel. Firing your efforts will cost another €20. Kenmare is full of restaurants and bars, offering everything from pub grub to gourmet dining. The house costs from €900 to €1,000 a week – the higher rate is for July/August.

■ Anam Cré, Ballygriffin, Kenmare, Co Kerry, 064-6641849, groupaccommodation.com.

House with a chef

Inchiquin House is an elegant period home in Co Clare – perfectly situated to explore the Burren's lunar landscape. There are five bedrooms and the property can accommodate up to 10 people, and even offers its own chef to cater should no-one want to spend their holiday slaving over a hot stove. Liam Walsh, formerly of Marfield House in Gorey, is the resident chef. Menus cost from €29.50 to €36.50 per person depending on the menu chosen. The house costs €2,100 per week to rent during April and May and €2,500 during June, July and August.

■ Inchiquin House, 085-2118835, inchiquinhouse.com or dreamireland.com.

Sunny southeast

Walshes Lough in Rosslare, Co Wexford, is a private house in a small beach-front estate in the sunny southeast. It has eight bedrooms; six doubles, one with five singles – ideal for kids – and another single. It can sleep 12 to 17 people. With direct access to Rosslare beach it offers hours of Irish-style summer holidays playing in the sand while wearing windcheaters. The property also has a large barbecue area with open fire, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzi, a private cinema and a pool table, should the weather let you down. The house is a four-minute walk to the renowned Kelly's Hotel where there are oodles of child-friendly activities. It also means you don't have to bother cooking if you don't feel like it. The house costs €2,000 per week.

■ Walshes Lough, Rosslare, Co Wexford, selfcatering.travel.

MY HOLIDAYS

PAT FALVEY – ADVENTURER



Ready for take-off: Pat Falvey at Patriot Hills, the logistical base at the start of the South Pole Trek in 2007

What's your earliest holiday memory?

We would have gone most years to Butlin's holiday camp. I've great memories of it, from babysitting when the adults were in nearby Dan Lowry's bar to my granny entering my siblings in bonny baby competitions. We wouldn't have been very wealthy and the place had other working class families like ourselves.

What was your worst holiday?

In the high altitude death zone I have lost 13 friends. In 1993, I had to bury Karl Henize in an icy grave never to return to his family. He worked with Nasa doing a science project on Everest and not even Nasa could bring him home. It stuck in my gut and haunts me to this day.

We accept the risks with adventures, and I am very fortunate to be still alive and without injuries. The worst memories for me have been learning experiences that probably kept me alive.

What was your best holiday?

Because I am a full-time adventurer people consider my life as a constant holiday, but I never considered it a holiday. The two adventures that stand out are the most amazing places in the world. One is on top of the world at 29,000 feet, feeling small in time and the history of the planet as an Irish and Cork person standing with the team on Everest. The other is the South Pole, to stand in the place where Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen stood together. I felt like a time traveller walking around the pole where the meridians of time are through one central point.

If budget or work were not a restriction, what would be your dream holiday?

My dream is to complete the walk from the top of Canada to the North Pole, the equivalent of 120 consecutive marathons. If I did that I could retire

gracefully from the extreme holidays I do! I've laughed with my kids that after this I'd love to go to Lanzarote. Other than my honeymoon and earlier visits to Jersey, since I took up adventures in 1986 I've never had the experience of sitting in the sun in my togs reading a book.

If you had your pick, who would you bring on holiday with you?

On adventures we have to be very cautious about who we bring and in recent years it has been a very small group of friends. My expedition partner, Dr Clare O'Leary, and I are able to second guess each other on the hostile environments and she is one of the best female adventurers in the world today. For Lanzarote I'd bring my family.

What's your favourite place in Ireland?

My favourite place in the world is Ireland. Where I live on the edge of a mountain at Gap of Dunloe is my spiritual hideaway. The main reason I love it is the amazing people, the fantastic sense of landscape and the seascape where I have my home. Here I can get away from modern and expedition life.

Your recommended holiday reading?

Any type of adventure book which relates to history of human endeavour. If one book stands out it is *An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean* by Michael Smith.

Where will you go to next?

I'm in Canada preparing for my next expedition to walk to the North Pole with Dr O'Leary. I hope this will complete the Three Poles Challenge – the North Pole, South Pole and Mount Everest.

■ Adventurer Pat Falvey runs an adventure travel and training company, patfalvey.com

■ In conversation with Genevieve Carbery

