



THE BURREN

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

2020 Burren Executive Leadership Retreat
August 24th(5pm)– August 27th(2pm)

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

We look forward to welcoming you to the Burren Executive Leadership Retreat in August. This information sheet can help you with practical preparations between now and then.

[Julia Long](#) at the Burren College of Art will be your contact regarding registration and logistics. *We request that you complete your registration by paying the balance of your fees by June 30, 2020 that we can make final preparations.* If you have any programme or community related inquiries, retreat co-founder [Mary Stacey](#) will continue to be your contact.

Location and Orientation – [Ballyvaughan](#) is a small village on the west coast of Ireland, located on the southern shore of Galway Bay and at the northwest corner of the [Burren](#). The holiday cottages, hotels and restaurants are in the harbor area of the village itself, which will also be the location of our evening activities.

Travel Plans – Specific information about travel options from either Dublin or Shannon airport is available in the appendix and for further guidance, please contact Julia.

What to Bring/What to Wear – The most important thing to bring with you is suitable clothing for the walks and outdoor activities which are part of the Leadership Retreat. The weather on the west coast of Ireland can be hard to predict; it is a regular occurrence to experience all seasons in one day. We recommend that you have a solid pair of walking boots or shoes, and whatever else you choose to bring ranging from sunscreen to waterproof trousers. With the right clothing any weather conditions can be enjoyed in this part of the world.

All materials required for the sessions will be provided and there is no need to bring anything with you for this purpose. The sessions, meals, and evening activities will be casual in nature, so please dress in whatever way you feel comfortable.

Accommodation and Meals – Your registration fee covers accommodation for 7 nights in a cottage or 3 nights in a hotel as well as meals during the course of the retreat. The accommodation options available at the time of registration are

- Cottage accommodation (suitable for extended stay from Sat Aug 22 to Sat Aug 29)
- Ballyvaughan village hotel- 3 nights (Arrive Mon Aug 24 and check out on Thurs Aug 27)
- Ballyvaughan village hotel- 4 nights (Arrive Sun Aug 23 and check out on Thurs Aug 27 with an additional payment for one night)

Check in time is at 3:00pm. The cottages are self-catering and you may wish to stock your kitchen from the nearby grocery store. A hot breakfast will be available at the College at 8:00am daily for those staying in cottages; hotel stays include breakfast at the hotel.

Participants staying in cottages often arrive on Saturday to settle in before the program starts and stay after to extend the experience and explore the region. We will coordinate a casual dinner on Sunday evening for those that wish to participate

Special Requirements – We will attempt to accommodate special dietary requirements and mobility issues.

Power and Wireless Connectivity– The College campus has a computer lab that will be available over the course of the Retreat with full wireless connectivity for laptop use. The holiday cottages also have wi-fi available, while the hotels in the village offer wireless access in their lobby areas.

Please be aware that Irish sockets are 3-pin square, so you may need a plug adapter if your plugs differ. Any electrical appliance you bring should be able to be powered at 220V. (Not 120V as in the US). Power converters (transformers) to convert US appliances to Irish voltage can be purchased at any hardware/ electrical shop and at some chemists and general stores. Please note: a plug adapter is not a power converter. Most laptops are 110V – 240V able.

Banking/ATM – Please note that an ATM is available inside EMO service station in the village of Ballyvaughan during opening hours (usually 9 am – 9 pm). Please ensure that you have any cash you may require before you arrive. ATMs are available at the Dublin and Shannon airports. Major credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted around the region, American Express is not.

Stores – [Spar](#) supermarket is on the main street of Ballyvaughan and carries groceries, toiletries, adapters, and wine. There will be a welcome basket with basic items in the cottage accommodation.

Departure – We strongly recommend you plan to stay until the end of the Retreat, which will conclude just after lunch, at approximately 2pm on Thurs. Aug. 27th. This will allow plenty of time for onward travel connections.

APPENDIX – TRAVEL PLANNING

From Shannon

The closest international airport to the Burren is Shannon Airport, located at an hour and fifteen minutes driving distance from Ballyvaughan. It is recommended that you fly there and then book a taxi or take a bus connection via Ennis or Galway.

- For a bus connection from Shannon Airport to Ennis, please go here:
<https://www.buseireann.ie/timetables/343-1557502185.pdf>
- For a bus connection from Galway or Ennis to or from Ballyvaughan, please go here:
<http://www.buseireann.ie/timetables/350-1516876337.pdf>
- For a taxi transfer from Shannon Airport, please contact one of the companies below:
 - C & T Hackney - Tom Connolly - c.t.hackney@gmail.com
 - Silverbus: <https://silverbus.ie/getquote/>
 - Suntransfers: <https://www.suntransfers.com>
 - City Link: <https://www.citylink.ie/timetables>
 - Go Bus: <https://www.gobus.ie>
 - Go Eireann: <http://www.buseireann.ie>

From Dublin

If you prefer to fly to Dublin Airport, the best option from there is a bus transfer via Galway. It takes between 2 ½ and 3 ½ hours to travel from Dublin Airport to Galway. Generally, the busses depart on an hourly base, depending on the company. Bookings can be made online pre-departure. Here are a few links:

City Link: <https://www.citylink.ie/timetables>

Go Bus: <https://www.gobus.ie>

Bus Eireann: <http://www.buseireann.ie>

For a bus connection from Galway to Ballyvaughan, please go here:

<http://www.buseireann.ie/timetables/350-1516876337.pdf>

Ballyvaughan

The bus will bring you to the centre of the village of Ballyvaughan and it takes a few minutes to walk to your accommodation.

Getting around from the village to Burren College of Art

Burren College of Art will provide minibus transfer from Ballyvaughan to the college during the Retreat for participants in cottages. Carpooling is also encouraged.

Bicycles can be hired in the village, at the Bike Hire shop across from EMO Service Station

IMPORTANT:

Cyclists ride on the left-hand side of the roads in Ireland – _the same side as motor vehicles. Pedestrians, however, should walk facing on-coming traffic, i.e. on the righthand side, except when approaching a blind corner. When walking or cycling, please wear reflective vests provided.