

# re:discovered Tours – St Brendan

Tralee & Fenit Harbour Commissioners, Harbour Office, Fenit, Tralee Co. Kerry

**Bookings & Info:** Office 066 713 6231

**Email:** [stbrendan@fenitharbour.com](mailto:stbrendan@fenitharbour.com)



## Location: Heritage Park, Fenit

*Product Code: SB001*

St Brendan the great Navigator was born on Fenit Island in 484AD. Brendan was undoubtedly the greatest sailor and explorer of them all and is famous for his seven year voyage in search of The Promised Land. It is believed St Brendan may have reached America, and Christopher Columbus was quoted as saying 'I go to seek the Promised Land of Saint Brendan,' on the eve of his departure to the West Indies hundreds of years later. Brendan's travels were first documented at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis was one of the first ever readings in the middle ages and can still be found translated into many languages in libraries across Europe.

Embedded in the stunning location of Tralee Bay, surrounded by mountain landscapes and looking out to the Atlantic Ocean leading to America, you will find this wonderful 5mtr bronze statue of St Brendan the Navigator. Braced in the stance of the Fianna, knee bent towards the battle, rear foot against a support – so there is no retreat, the monument depicts the bravery and courage Brendan showed, dedicating his life to reach people in faraway lands. The heritage site below the monument, takes us back in time with life size examples of a Valentia slate beehive hut, a 5000 year old burial chamber and a tri-circle motif from Newgrange, representing the unendingness of eternity, to name just a few.

The setting of the monument on Samphire Rock behind Fenit Marina, really is an experience to behold. The harbour and marina with the fishing boats and leisure yachts, makes it a perfect place to relax and let the world go by. To the west is Little Samphire Island Lighthouse, another breathtaking attraction which can also be visited, weather permitting.

## Tour Summary/Highlights

- Introduction at The St Brendan Visitor Centre, Fenit.
- Short Walk along the Marina up to the St Brendan Statue.
- Visit the St Brendan Heritage Park, (wheelchair accessible).
- Steps up to the St Brendan Monument with 360° views.
- A talk will be given on St Brendan and aspects of the bronze statue.
- Children can take part in the Treasure Hunt based around St Brendan.
- Sit in the Beehive Hut to get a feel of how the monks felt during times of solace.
- Walk back to the Visitor Centre to enjoy light refreshments and look at the available merchandise.

## Optional Extras's

- Audio Visual Presentation
- Boat Trip visit to the Lighthouse (Weather Permitting)

**RATES:**  
**ADULTS: €3.00**  
**CHILDREN:€1.50**  
**GROUP BOOKINGS:**  
**PRICES UPON REQUEST**

*Visit our Facebook page at St Brendan Visitor Centre or follow us on Twitter at St Brendan1 or via our blog on the Fenit Harbour website.  
[www.fenitharbour.com](http://www.fenitharbour.com)*

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## Location: Tobar na Molt (Wethers Well) and Fenit Island

*Product Code: SB002*

St Brendan the great Navigator was born on Fenit Island in 484AD. Brendan was undoubtedly the greatest sailor and explorer of them all and is famous for his seven year voyage in search of The Promised Land. It is believed St Brendan may have reached America, and Christopher Columbus was quoted as saying 'I go to seek the Promised Land of Saint Brendan,' on the eve of his departure to the West Indies hundreds of years later. Brendan's travels were first documented at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis was one of the first ever readings in the middle ages and can still be found translated into many languages in libraries across Europe.

Tobar na Molt or Wethers Well is hidden in a magical location just outside of Ardfert, Co Kerry. This is where St Brendan was baptized by Bishop Erc. The tranquil garden consists of a small chapel and the holy well, a spring of pure water that has been a place of devotion since pagan times. There is also the grave of St Ita who was a great friend of Brendans, and a stone monument showing the head of three figures thought to be St Brendan, St Ita and Bishop Erc. There is also the holy tree with cloths and rosary beads (clootie's) hanging from the branches, placed there as a ritual to drive away illness.

Tobar na Molt is in a location that is easy to miss without a guide, which gives it the special quality of being un-spoilt by commercial activities.

*On the return journey, a stop will be made at Fenit Island, the birthplace of St Brendan. Parts of the island are inaccessible during high tide but there are still breathtaking views to be enjoyed and a sense of what Brendan would have seen as a young man learning how to sail and make boats.*

It is difficult to put into words the feeling you get when you walk along the grass footpath, between the fields and hedgerows, then open a small gate to find yourself in this historic and beautiful site. Many people have found themselves taking quiet moments to reflect and immerse themselves in this special place that really is a memorable experience.

### Tour Summary/Highlights

- Introduction at The St Brendan Visitor Centre, Fenit.
- 20 minute coach trip to Tobar na Molt
- Walk through country grass lane, (Suitable footwear required).
- A talk will be given on the history and meaning of Wethers Well.
- Relax and enjoy the tranquility, make a wish or hang a clootie on the holy tree
- On the return journey, stop at Fenit Island.
- 20 minute coach trip back to Fenit Marina to enjoy some light refreshments and look at the available merchandise.

### Optional Extras's

- Audio Visual Presentation
- Stop in Ardfert Village for Meal and look at the local craft shops

### Rates:

**ADULTS: €15.00**  
**CHILDREN: €12.00**  
**GROUP BOOKINGS:**  
**(PRICE UPON REQUEST)**

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## Premier Package of The St Brendan Experience

Product Code: SB003

St Brendan the great Navigator was born on Fenit Island in 484AD. Brendan was undoubtedly the greatest sailor and explorer of them all and is famous for his seven year voyage in search of The Promised Land.

The tour starts at Fenit Marina, embedded in the stunning location of Tralee Bay, surrounded by mountain landscapes and looking out to the Atlantic Ocean leading to America, you will find this wonderful 5mtr bronze statue of St Brendan the Navigator. Braced in the stance of the Fianna, knee bent towards the battle, rear foot against a support – so there is no retreat, the monument depicts the bravery and courage Brendan showed, dedicating his life to reach people in faraway lands.



There will be a brief stop at Fenit Island, where Brendan was born. Here, you can take in the stunning scenery and imagine Brendan looking out across the Atlantic, wondering where the Canada geese flew each year, whilst he was learning the teachings of the Gospel and the craft of boat making.



We will then take you to Tobar na Molt (Wethers Well), a hidden magical location, just outside of Ardfert, this is where St Brendan was baptized by Bishop Erc. This tranquil garden consists of a small chapel and the holy well, a spring of pure water. There is also the grave of St Ita and a monument showing three figure heads, thought to be St Brendan, St Ita and Bishop Erc. It is difficult to put into words the feeling you get when you walk along the grass footpath, between the fields and

hedgerows, then open a small gate to find yourself in this historic and beautiful site. Many people have found themselves taking quiet moments to reflect and immerse themselves in this special place that really is a memorable experience.



From here the tour visits Ardfert Cathedral, the monastery founded by St Brendan in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. Throughout the centuries, during troubled times, the cathedral has been destroyed and re-built in different areas. It is fascinating to see the different architecture and history which includes an impressive Romanesque

doorway, an ogham stone and magnificent 13<sup>th</sup> century windows. There will be an opportunity to have a short walk around the quaint village of Ardfert and enjoy a light meal and refreshments in traditional settings..

On the return trip, we will stop at Cathair Airde, where Brendan lived for a period with his foster family, we will also pass Kilfenora, which in medieval times was one of the most important parishes in the Ardfert Diocese.

## Tour Summary/Highlights

- Introduction at The St Brendan Visitor Centre, Fenit.
- Visit the St Brendan Heritage Park , (wheelchair accessible).
- Steps up to the St Brendan Monument with 360° views.
- A talk will be given on St Brendan and aspects of the bronze statue.
- Sit in the Beehive Hut to get a feel of how the monks felt during times of solace.
- Coach trip to Fenit Island
- Visit Tobar na Molt
- Walk through country grass lane, (Suitable footwear required).
- A talk will be given on the history and meaning of Wethers Well.
- Relax and enjoy the tranquility, make a wish or hang a clootie on the holy tree
- Ardfert Cathedral, a guided tour around the historic monastery.
- Stop for a light meal and refreshments in Ardfert Village.
- Visit Cathair Airde and Kilfenora.
- **Optional Extras's**
- Audio Visual Presentation at the St Brendan Visitor Centre.
- Boat trip to the Lighthouse on Samphire Island (Weather permitting)

### Rates:

**ADULTS: €30.00**

**CHILDREN: €20.00**

**GROUP BOOKINGS:**

**(PRICE UPON REQUEST)**

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## School Tours and Presentations

Product Code: SB004

St Brendan the great Navigator was born on Fenit Island in 484AD. Brendan was undoubtedly the greatest sailor and explorer of them all and is famous for his seven year voyage in search of The Promised Land. It is believed St Brendan may have reached America, and Christopher Columbus was quoted as saying 'I go to seek the Promised Land of Saint Brendan,' on the eve of his departure to the West Indies hundreds of years later. Brendan's travels were first documented at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis was one of the first ever readings in the middle ages and can still be found translated into many languages in libraries across Europe.

Brendan played an instrumental part in Irish history and culture and was the founder of many monasteries throughout Ireland and Europe. It is important to teach the next generation of Brendan's life so that they are aware of the Irish heritage and the fascinating stories of his famous voyage. The presentations and talks will vary in context depending on the age group of the pupils, the younger pupils will hear of the stories of St Brendan in a small boat, landing on the back of huge whale, for example. The older pupils will learn of the hardships that occurred during this time in Ireland and Brendan's courage and determination to reach people in faraway places to teach the gospels.

Other aspects of the tours cover the history and heritage surrounding Blennerville Windmill for example. There is a small museum, an auditorium showing the history of the famine ships and Blennerville port and a chance to go inside the windmill and see the workings on the different levels (not suitable for small children). We also visit Ardfert Cathedral, founded by St Brendan in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. With its many layers of history and architecture, the cathedral and its surroundings tell a story of the troubled times Ireland has faced throughout the centuries.

We offer various packages of the guided tours, and are flexible in customizing the tours to suit individual needs.

Please contact us if you would like any further information or wish to make a booking.



## Tour Options

### 1. St Brendan Monument and Heritage Park, Fenit Marina.

A Guided Tour of the 5mtr bronze statue of St Brendan.

**2. Fenit Island**, a brief stop to show the area where Brendan was born.

**3. Tobar na Molt (Wethers Well)**, a beautiful location where St Brendan was baptized. There is also the grave of St Ita, and a small chapel, plus a stone monument with three figureheads carved on the sides.

**4. Ardfert Cathedral**, founded by St Brendan in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

**5. Blennerville Windmill**, a visit to the largest working windmill in Great Britain & Ireland, with history of the famine ships. (Meal optional).

**6. Cathair Airde**, where Brendan lived with his foster family.

### Optional Extras's

Audio Visual Presentation  
Boat Trip visit to the Lighthouse (Weather Permitting)  
Treasure Hunt at St Brendan Heritage Site.