

Éireann

Solo Journey to the Emerald Isle

SEPTEMBER 2022

Video Journal

SOLO JOURNEY TO

Eireann

SEPTEMBER 2022



<https://youtu.be/LoZw7YbHYzc>

Field Notes from the Emerald Isle

I'm sitting in my favorite blue dress, the one I recently thrifted for \$20 and wear twice every week, on a stone block overlooking the Corrib, watching it rush over the slippery, algae-stained riverbank. Dingy boats rock back and forth in the wind under a blanket of hazy grey clouds. The air is slightly briny, and my coffee warms my fingers. It's the morning of my fifth day in Ireland, and Galway had already become a second home. A few years have passed since my last solo trip, and I've forgotten how luxurious solitude can feel. It affords a way to be fully present in a way that traveling with friends or family can't. Solo travel hands me the potent pleasures of fresh attention and an expanded imagination. Digital disconnection grants deeper intimacy with the breathtaking creation before me.



En route to Connemara National Park







The Wild Atlantic Way









Diamond Hill (“Hill” is a euphemism for mountain when you’re carrying a heavy tripod and Sigma zoom lens.)





















Kylemore Abbey



Patrick (Paddy) & Jack

On Solo Travel

While independent, I never felt alone. The Irish people were rich in love, generous in their hospitality, warm in their welcome. Fellow visitors, too, exuded a refreshing spirit of openness.

I befriended older Valencian women who greeted me in Spanish after noticing me carry my brother's FCB bag; they were attending a week-long English class in Galway and decided to kick off the week at Connemara. At Tigh Chóilí, I met Dario from Croatia ("It's like Mario, but with a D"), who extended an invitation to a silent disco that night, and Yottam from Israel by way of San Jose, who was spending a few weeks during his gap year after high school to volunteer on a farm. My French seatmate, Sabrina, made me laugh when she expressed her confusion about the pronunciation of "beach" and another b-word.



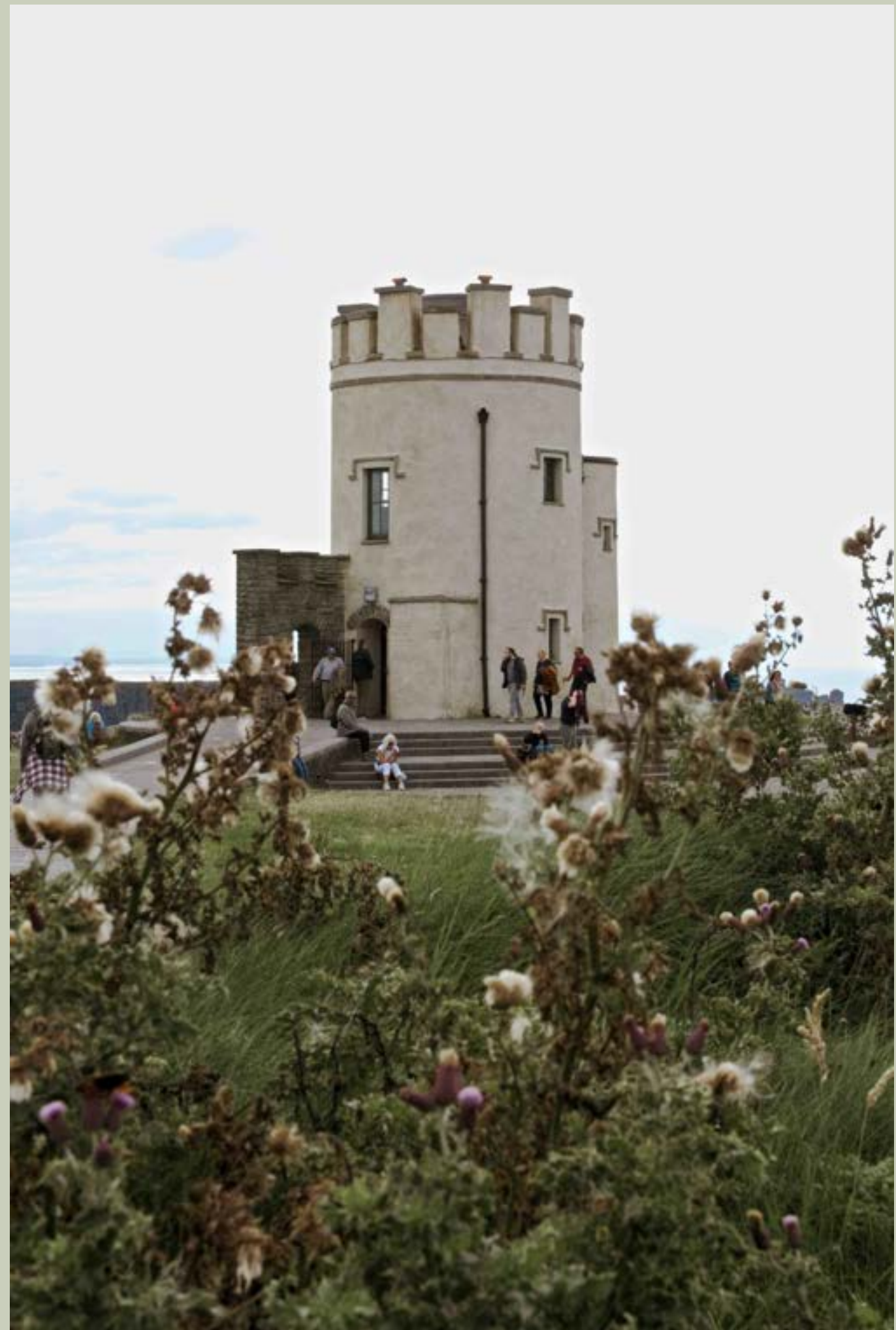
The Cliffs of Moher



"It's as close as you'll get to walkin' on the moon." - Garry



O'Brien's Tower















Knoll



Black Head



Poll na Brón

Meet Garry

"What made you come to Ireland for your holiday?" Garry asked. I was drawn to Ireland for its rugged beauty and our day seeing the Cliffs of Moher and The Burren didn't disappoint. When Garry asked, "What was your favorite part of your day?", the first thought that honestly came to mind was "YOU."

"My job today is to take care of you," Garry promised, and true to his words, he delivered, giving us 110%. When our day wrapped up, Garry and I shared what I call a moment of infinity, a wrinkle in time during which I'm acutely aware of my heart's fullness and the precious nature of a fleeting moment, leaving me with the resolve to be as present as humanly possible. Garry told me about his life as he asked about mine. I wish I could bottle up his passion and positivity, his Irish-isms, and his reminders throughout the day to "keep smiling." Before we parted, he gave me a big birthday hug, something I didn't realize I was missing but needed.

If I could love my work half as much as Garry loves his, I'd count myself so lucky. *Go raibh míle maith agat*, sweet friend.





Inis Mór

















Dún Aonghasa







Vince & Paddy















Hag's Head







My Guide to Traveling Alone

“Travel gives us new settings for our mind’s activity to take place, outside of ourselves... I pay a lot of attention to the way that a new setting might influence my thinking and feeling, and I seek out places that I hope will reshape my mind by either opening my opinions, softening my preoccupations, or narrowing my focus... The greatest gift of solo travel is sharpened observation.”

Mari Andrew





Salthill Prom













Galway City











No. 2 *The* CRANE BAR *Uimhir* 2









Galway Cathedral



























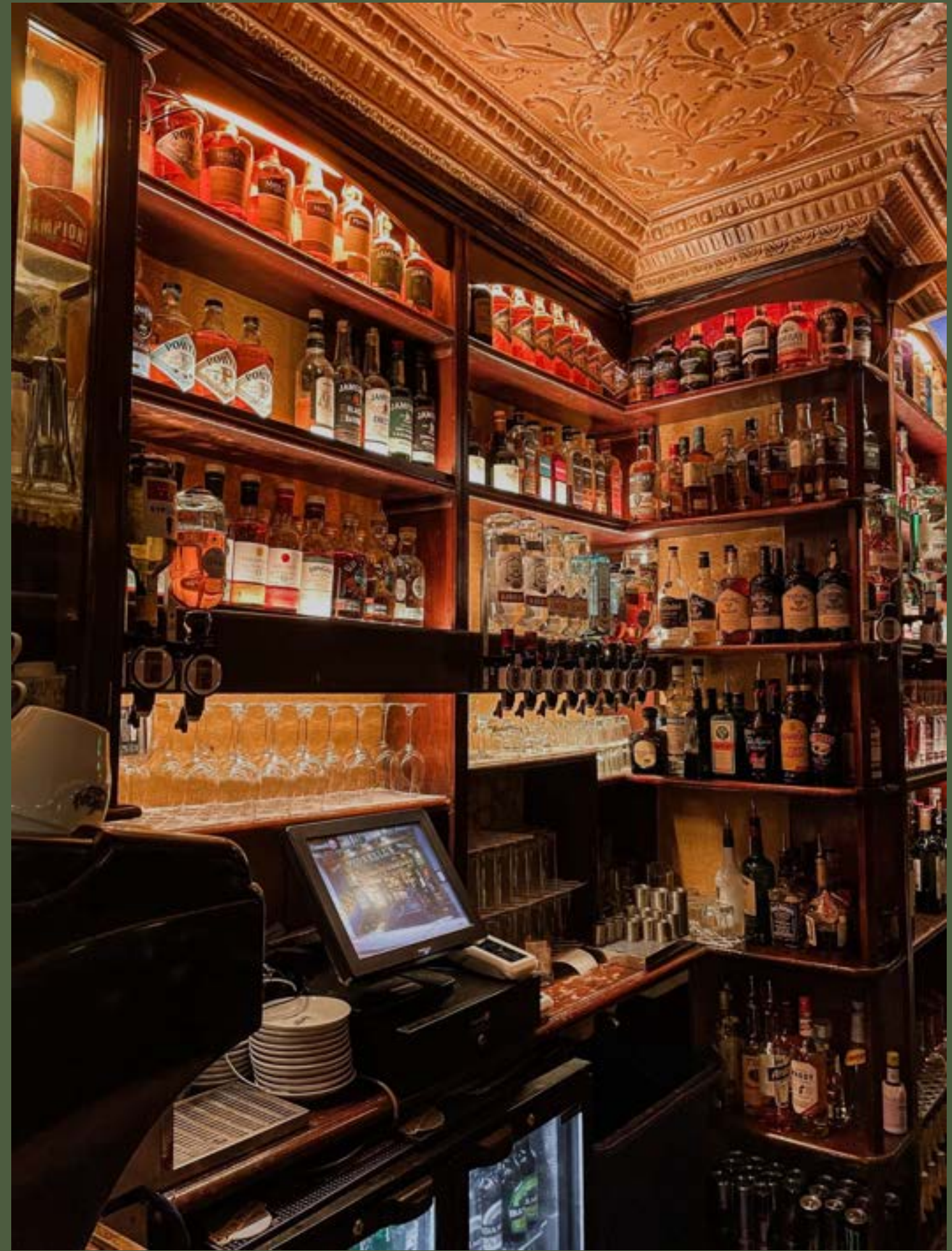


















Dublin



Phoenix Park











Trinity College



The Book of Kells & The Library of Trinity College









Temple Square



Queen of Hearts





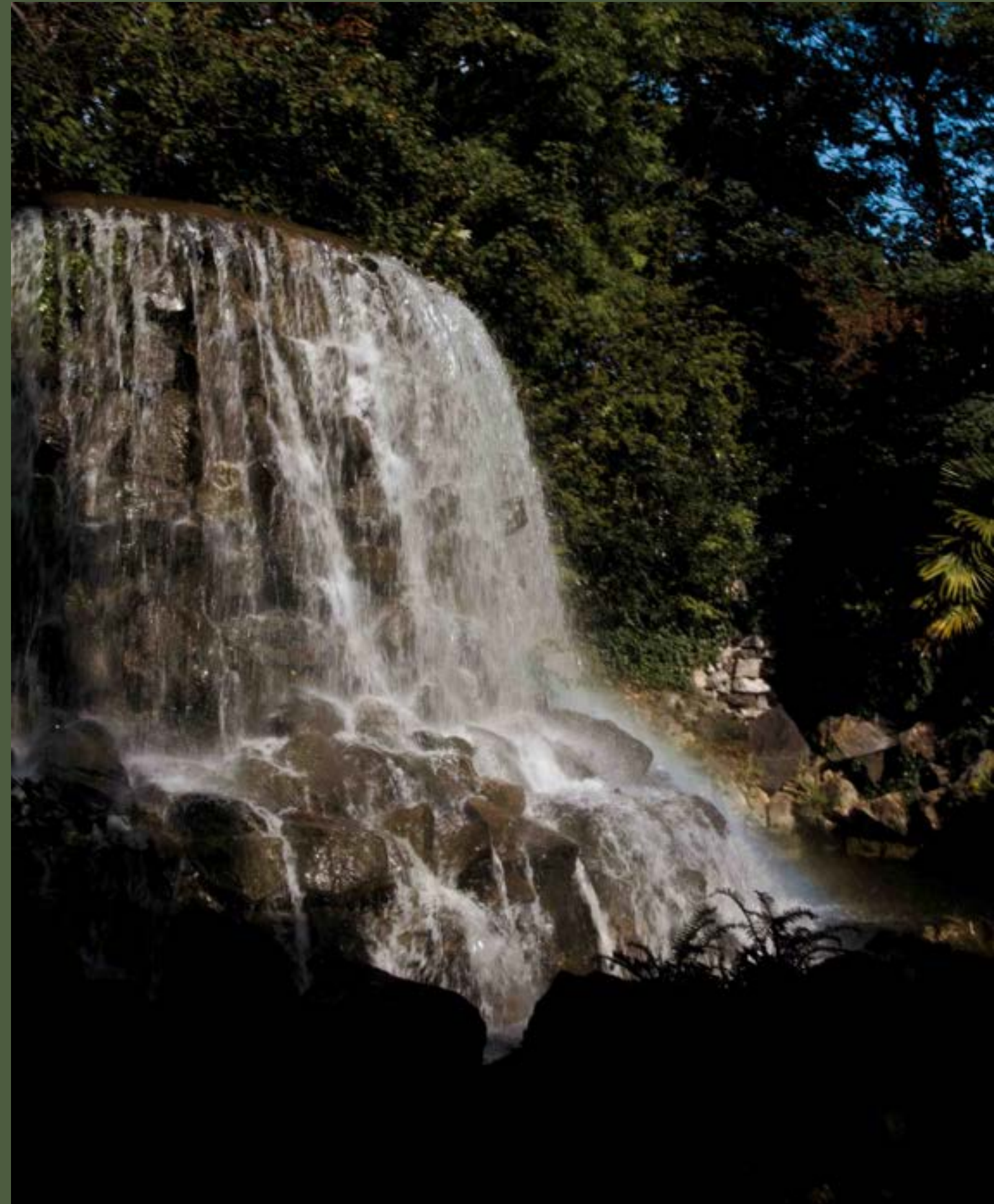


National Botanic Garden









Iveagh Garden



Shane







Explore
Modern
Irish
History

GPO
museum
with a history

Breathnaigh
ar
Nua-Stair
na
hÉireann

GPO
museum
with a history



Go raibh míle maith agat, Éireann.

Thanks a million, Ireland.