

Grand Tour of Ireland

June 18 – July 1, 2019



Welcome to the Emerald Isle!

Delve beyond the sheep-dotted green landscapes to the cities and villages that span this beautiful magical land, all the way from Dublin to Belfast with APMC and Go Ahead Tours. Mingle with Dubliners in traditional pubs, pick up a souvenir in Waterford, drive along the Ring of Kerry, and walk across Giant's Causeway. This small-group tour is full, yet well-paced, showcasing Ireland's many charms, both old and new. Explore with us...



DAYS 1 & 2 – USA TO DUBLIN: Welcome to the Emerald Isle! After an overnight flight to Dublin, settle in, and then meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. **Accommodations: Maldron Hotel or similar. (Meals: D)**



DAY 3 – SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF DUBLIN: Take a tour of Ireland's charming capital city, stopping in **Phoenix Park**, site of the presidential residence, stepping inside the soaring **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, Ireland's largest church, passing **St. Stephens Green** to admire the Georgian architecture of **Merrion Square**, and to see the **Molly Malone** statue, ending in the iconic **Temple Bar** district. Lunch and the afternoon are at your leisure to explore Dublin on your own. Perhaps you will want to visit **Trinity College** (home of *The Book of Kells*) and/or the **National Gallery**. **GO AHEAD TOUR OPTION: Powerscourt Estate &**

Gardens: Tour the Italianate gardens & Palladian-style country house. (5 hours @ \$39 with advance booking). **Accommodations: Maldron Hotel or similar. (Meals: B)**

DAY 4 – GLENDALOUGH/KILKENNY/WATERFORD: Leaving Dublin, travel a short distance southwest to County Kildare to **Wicklow Mountains National Park** and Glendalough Visitor Centre to learn about the historic site; Explore an ancient monastery, passing by the **Round Tower**, stone churches and decorated crosses. Continue to **Kilkenny**, Ireland's best-preserved medieval town, tour the 12th century **Kilkenny Castle** (right), overlooking the River Nore and pass the Gothic **St. Canice's Cathedral**, built in the 13th century. **Accommodations: Granville Hotel or similar. (Meals: B/D)**



DAY 5 – WATERFORD CRYSTAL FACTORY/ROCK OF CASHEL: Visit the **Waterford Crystal Factory** to learn about its world-famous crystal; journey to the **Rock of Cashel**, an outcrop of limestone dominating Tipperary Plain; view the ruins of ancient seat of the kings of Munster; see Celtic carvings at **Cormac's Chapel**; and explore **St. Patrick's Rock**, a perfectly preserved round tower. **Accommodations: Granville Hotel or similar. (Meals: B)**

DAY 6 – COBH/COUNTY KERRY: Get a feel for the many sides of Ireland—from small villages to vibrant cities and iconic castles. Stop in the fishing village of **Cobh**, which once served as a launch site for ships bound for North America. Visit the **Cobh Heritage Centre** to hear tales of Irish emigration. Climb to the top of **Blarney Castle** to kiss the famed **Blarney Stone**, which is said to grant the "gift of gab". Tonight, travel outside **Killarney** to enjoy a hearty 3-course dinner. Afterwards, watch talented musicians, singers, and dancers put on a show filled with traditional Irish tunes and choreography. **Accommodations: Sneem Hotel or similar. (Meals: B/D)**



DAY 7 – RING OF KERRY: Travel the **Ring of Kerry**, a 112-mile coastal route covering some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery, exploring the pristine **Lakes of Killarney**, the picturesque villages that line the Ring of Kerry, and stop for photos at **Muckross Lake** and **Lough Leane** in **Killarney National Park**. **Accommodations: Sneem Hotel or similar. (Meals: B/D)**

DAY 8 – COUNTY CLARE/GALWAY: Set out for **Galway**, stopping to explore **County Clare** along the way. We visit **Bunratty Castle**, a 15th century tower house located in **Bunratty Village** and tour **Bunratty Folk Park**, which recreates Irish life at the turn of the century. After arriving in Galway, enjoy a feast fit for a king & queen inside **Dunguaire Castle**, a 17th century tower house overlooking Galway Bay. Sip from a goblet of mead and learn the history of the castle before proceeding up the spiral staircase to the banquet hall. Enjoy a 4-course dinner and an evening of live entertainment, including songs and stories. **Accommodations: Harbour Hotel or similar. (Meals: B/D)**



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“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” – *Saint Augustine*

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Escape to the Emerald Isle!

DAY 9 – BURREN/CLIFFS OF MOHER: Journey along the coast to the famous **Cliffs of Moher** with views that will amaze you. Continue on to the **Burren**, an austere landscape known for its slate-grey rock fields dotted by rare wildflowers. This excursion is weather dependent and views may be impacted by fog. **Accommodations:** Harbour Hotel or similar. (Meals: B)

DAY 10 – CONNEMARA/SLIGO: Enjoy the postcard-perfect scenery of **Connemara**, where you'll visit **Kylemore Abbey** and its gardens (right). Spend the night in the town of **Sligo**. **Accommodations:** The Glass House or similar. (Meals: B)



DAY 11 – DERRY: On the way to Northern Ireland, journey through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of **William Butler Yeats**. Stop at **Drumcliffe church** to pay our respects at Yeats' grave and continue on to **Derry**, Northern Ireland's 2nd largest city, for a guided tour before heading to **Belfast**. **Accommodations:** Ten Square Hotel or similar. (Meals: B)



DAY 12 – BELFAST: Start the day with a guided tour of Northern Ireland's capital. Glimpse the copper-domed **City Hall**, pass the shipbuilding docks where the **Titanic** was constructed to learn about the ship's ill-fated journey at the **Titanic Belfast Museum**, and view the recently restored **Grand Opera House**. Afterwards enjoy a free afternoon in Belfast. **GO AHEAD TOUR OPTION:** Castles of Northern Ireland & Afternoon Tea (5 hours @ \$95 booked in advance). **Accommodations:** Ten Square Hotel or similar. (Meals: B)

DAY 13 & 14 – GIANT'S CAUSEWAY/HOME: Visit to the rugged **Giant's Causeway**, a series of naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal columns, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that mythical giant, Finn McCool, built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. [Note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion.] We say goodbye at a farewell dinner this evening and return home the next day. **Accommodations:** Ten Square Hotel or similar. (Meals: B/D)

COSTS: ACMC Member: Double = \$3,825/person Single = \$4,385/person (Non-members add 15%)

Estimated Economy Air Cost: \$1,245. Economy Plus & Business class announced after airlines release rates in July, 2018.

TRIP INSURANCE: Ask for a quote and options at registration.

Register by June 25, 2018 with \$800 deposit. \$100 discount if registered before June 30. Final payment due March 25, 2019.

COSTS INCLUDE: Airport transfers, 12 nights in handpicked hotels, 12 Breakfasts, 6 dinners, guided sightseeing tours as listed, service charges, admission fees, taxes, & portage.

NOT INCLUDED: Tour Director, local guides & driver gratuities, alcoholic beverages, & incidentals.

NOTE FOR ALL ARTOURS: You should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy our tours. The Arts Council cannot provide individual assistance during the tours and therefore reserves the right to decline to accept anyone on a tour who has a physical condition that could create a hazard to him/herself or could impact the enjoyment of other travelers on the tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 35% of the total cost will be withheld for cancellation after registration deadline on **ALL ARTours**. **NO** refunds are made after advertised full payment deadline unless substitute traveler is found—at which time transfer fees, if applicable, will be withheld. Trip cancellation insurance is available on request.

For additional information, contact Katherine MacRae • 910.692.2787 • katherine@mooreart.org