



**World Travel Center**



# The Best of Ireland

**August 18 - Sep. 1, 2012**

**Escorted by Sue Shuman**

## ITINERARY



**Day 1, SAT, AUG 18** We'll carpool to Kansas City today for our mid-afternoon flight to Dublin.

**Day 2, SUN, AUG 19** After our morning arrival, we'll pick up our minibus and head into the Ballsbridge area of the city to drop our van and start exploring Dublin. We'll need change for the city bus fare. Our first stop will be a visit to Trinity College to see the Book of Kells. Then it's on to the National Museum to enjoy its treasures of Ireland from the Stone Age to modern times. An afternoon Hop-on Hop-off city tour will cap off our first day in **Dublin**. Dinner tonight is included. (D)

**Day 3, MON, AUG 20** Full Irish breakfast is included each day. Today is a free day to explore Dublin as you wish. Maybe you'd like to pick up the Hop-on Hop-off bus to tour city to visit optional attractions not visited on Sunday, such as Kilmainham Gaol and Guinness Brewery. (admissions not included) Or maybe you'd like to shop Grafton Street, cross the River Liffey on the famous Ha'Penny Bridge, visit St. Patrick's Cathedral or just stroll along O'Connell Street to soak up the relaxing atmosphere of this friendly city. Tonight we'll drive to Johnny Fox's, one of Ireland's oldest and most famous traditional Irish pubs for an evening of good food, good fun, and great entertainment. (B,D)

**Day 4, TUE, AUG 21** It's just a short drive from Dublin to one of Ireland's most famous gardens, the aristocratic Powerscourt. Then it's on to Glendalough where we'll spend time visiting the monastic settlement founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century as well as enjoying Glendalough's Upper Lake. Time permitting, we'll include a self-guided tour of Avoca Handweavers. Overnight in the scenic

**Day 4, TUE, AUG 21 (cont'd)** Glendalough area of **County Wicklow**. Dinner included at Wicklow Heather. (B,D)

**Day 5, WED, AUG 22** After breakfast we'll head to Kilkenny for a visit to Kilkenny Castle. We'll have a little time for shopping and lunch on our own at the Kilkenny Design Center before continuing on to Waterford for a tour of the Crystal Factory. Then it's on to the seaside town of **Tramore** for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**Day 6, THUR, AUG 23** Today we'll drive to Cobh to visit the heritage museum in the former Cobh Railway Station called "Cobh: The Queenstown Story." It documents the history of Irish emigration and the story of the ill-fated superliners ~ the Lusitania and the Belfast-built Titanic. Next we continue on to Blarney where you may optionally wish to climb the Blarney Castle steps for a chance to kiss the famed Blarney Stone, said to bestow eloquence on all who dare (admission not included in package). There's plenty of time, too, for optional shopping for tweeds, knitwear, linen, crystal and china at the nearby Blarney Woolen Mills. This afternoon we travel over the scenic Cork and Kerry Mountains to **Killarney** where we'll check into our B&B accommodations, our home for the next 3 nights. Dinner tonight is included. (B,D)

**DAY 7, FRI, AUG 24** Today we enjoy a full day Ring of Kerry motorcoach tour, complete with knowledgeable guide, with stops at Kerry Bog Village, Kells to see the Sheep Dog Trials, Waterville (for lunch on your own), Coomakista, Castlecove, Sneem, Ladies View and many more places of interest. Dinner included at The Laurels. (B,D)

**Day 8, SAT, AUG 25** Departing Killarney, we drive along the Kerry coast to the Dingle Peninsula, which offers magnificent coastal scenery. At Dingle we'll take a boat ride to see Fungie. This bottlenose dolphin was first spotted by Dingle's lighthouse keeper in 1984, escorting fishing boats out to sea and then back again, day after day. Hopefully Fungie will swim right up to our boat and stay long enough so we can photograph him. (He's really been a "ham" the last three times we were there). Before returning to Ross Castle Lodge, we'll pay a visit to the lovely Muckross House and Gardens. We'll also enjoy a jaunting car ride to the beautiful Torc Waterfall. Dinner tonight is on your own (B)

**Day 9, SUN, AUG 26** We'll travel through Adare this morning with its thatched cottages en route to the stunning Cliffs of Moher. Our drive today will also take us to the heart of the Burren with photo stops at Poul nabrone Dolmen, the Gleninsheen Wedge Tomb and the stone fort. Then we'll continue on to **Galway** where we'll check into Marless House, our welcoming B&B and home for the next two nights. Dinner tonight is included. (B,D)

**Day 10, MON, AUG 27** After breakfast we'll head northwest through the Connemara region to visit the beautiful Kylemore Abbey and garden. We'll return to Galway in time to explore this fascinating city. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner at Oscar's. Overnight Galway. (B,D)

**Day 11, TUE, AUG 28** Today we'll journey north to Drumcliff, where we make a short stop at the Church of Ireland cemetery to see where the famous Irish poet W. B. Yeats is buried before continuing on to Belleek in

**Day 11, TUE, AUG 28 (cont'd)** Northern Ireland for a factory tour of the world famous Belleek Fine Parian China factory. Then it's back into the Republic of Ireland to **Donegal** Town. Dinner tonight is included.(B,D)

**Day 12, WED, AUG 29** Our journey today takes us into Northern Ireland to Giant's Causeway, an extraordinary natural rock formation of tightly packed basalt columns sitting at the foot of steep cliffs and stretching out into the sea. The tops of the columns form flat stepping stones the size of dinner plates, but the strangest thing about them is that they are almost perfectly hexagonal. We'll then travel south to **Belfast** where we'll overnight. Dinner included. (B,D)

**Day 13, THUR, AUG 30** Today we'll spend the day exploring Belfast with a hop-on, hop-off guided city sightseeing tour. Farewell dinner at McHugh's is included (B,D)

**Day 14, FRI, AUG 31** This morning we'll drive to Downpatrick, renowned as the burial place for St. Patrick, St. Columba and St. Bridget. Here we'll visit St. Patrick Centre to learn more about St. Patrick and we'll also visit Down Cathedral to see his reputed burial place, next to St. Columba and St. Bridget. Then it's on to Newcastle for free time for last-minute souvenir shopping and lunch on your own (recommended restaurant: Vanilla on Main Street). Then we'll leisurely make our way to Howth near the Dublin airport where we'll

**Day 14, FRI, AUG 31 (cont'd)** check into our hotel. Dinner tonight is on your own. (B)

**Day 15, SAT, SEP 1** After breakfast at the hotel, we'll check out and return our rental van at the airport. Our flight departs Dublin at 12:50 PM, and we'll be back in Kansas City at 6:34 PM. All too soon our trip is over, but the good times and treasures we shared in Ireland will surely become our golden memories of tomorrow. (B)



### 15-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

*Round trip coach class air between Kansas City and Dublin, Ireland*

*All land travel in Ireland by 9-passenger minibus*

*Sightseeing as outlined in itinerary, including all entrance fees or special events as detailed*

*13 nights' B&B or hotel accommodations w/private bath, including taxes*

*26 meals as detailed in itinerary (2 in-flight meals, 13 full Irish breakfasts and 11 dinners)*

**\$3,995<sup>00</sup>**

*per person, based on double occupancy*

*Air from other departure cities available, however prices will vary*

### THIS IS THE FINE PRINT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

#### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT

Reservations and a \$1,300.00 non-refundable deposit, payable either by cash or check made payable to World Travel Center, are due at time of booking. Balance is due by July 18, 2012.

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Cash or check only, as rates quoted reflect our cash discount prices. (Please ask for rate if credit card is to be used as payment.)

#### CANCELLATIONS

Once payment is received, the tour cost is non-refundable.

#### PRICE CHANGE PROVISION

All prices are subject to change due to any increase or decrease in our costs, such as, but not limited to: air fare, land package rates, fuel surcharges, and currency fluctuations between the U.S. dollar and the Euro (1.30 at time of tour pricing). We reserve the right to alter or rearrange tour due to unforeseen circumstances.

#### ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

Gratuities to any local guides or baggage handlers are not included. Personal expenses such as meals (other than those noted in the itinerary), laundry, alcohol, bottled water, excess baggage charges, or telephone charges are also not included.

**CLOTHING & WHAT TO KNOW/TRAVEL CHECK-LIST.** Clothing suggestions and a "What To Know" letter covering weather, list of accommodations with telephone numbers, currency exchange, electricity, tipping guidelines, etc. and a Traveler's Check-List will be sent to you two weeks prior to departure.

#### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

You will need a passport valid for 6 months after your return to the U.S.

#### BAGGAGE

Because the luggage space in our minibus is limited, plus the fact that we're staying in B&Bs and we'll have to carry our own luggage up and down stairs, it is recommended you try to limit your luggage to one 24" bag and one small unstructured tote bag.

#### TRIP CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION INSURANCE

Trip Cancellation/Interruption protection is highly recommended and can be purchased through Travel Guard. Please call World Travel Center for more information. The premium is based on both (a) the cost of the trip and (b) the age of the traveler.

#### GUARANTEED DEPARTURE

The trip is a guaranteed departure with 8 tour members, and is **available on a first come, first served basis.**