Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for University Of Wisconsin - Manitowoc

Discovering The Emerald Isle - 61827-0-12
May 24 - June 2, 2015

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY  1  DEPARTURE FROM O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHICAGO, IL
DAY  2  ARRIVE DUBLIN - GLENDALOUGH - CASHEL - KILLARNEY AREA (2 NIGHTS)
DAY  3  RING OF KERRY
DAY  4  KILLARNEY AREA - DINGLE PENINSULA - COUNTY CLARE (3 NIGHTS)
DAY  5  DAY TRIP TO CLONMACNOISE, ADARE & BUNRATTY
DAY  6  CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE BURREN
DAY  7  COUNTY CLARE - NEWGRANGE - TARA - MONASTERBOICE - DUBLIN (3 NIGHTS)
DAY  8  DUBLIN
DAY  9  DUBLIN (SAINTS & SCHOLARS)
DAY 10  DEPARTURE FROM DUBLIN

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ITINERARY

Ireland - the name conjures a land shrouded in myth and legend, steeped in tradition, and surrounded by beautiful scenery. But as connected as the island is to its past, it has contributed so much to the modern world through literature, art, and music. This rich nation is characterized by an indomitable pride and spirit that is immediately both obvious and irresistible. A visit to Ireland is a visit to the past, and a new view of the present. Ireland is the one place on earth that heaven has kissed with melody, mirth, and meadow and mist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Tour/Visit</th>
<th>Cultural Experience</th>
<th>Concert Performance</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Activity</td>
<td>LEAP Enrichment</td>
<td>Sporting Fixture</td>
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**DAY 1  Sunday, 24 May 2015**

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Chicago O’Hare to Dublin, Ireland.

**DAY 2  Monday, 25 May 2015**

Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.

We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next six days.

Today we will travel from Dublin to Killarney. En route, we will stop in Glendalough and Cashel.

Visit Glendalough, a former monastery in an idyllically secluded setting. Its name is derived from Irish meaning “The Glen of the Two Lakes.” We will stroll from the upper lake to the lower lake and walk through the remains of the monastery complex, long since converted to a burial place. Although much of the monastic city is in ruins, the standing remains include a nearly perfect round tower, hundreds of timeworn Celtic crosses and a variety of churches. Our visit will include the new Visitor Center, which provides a helpful orientation that comprises exhibits on the archaeology, history, folklore, and wildlife of the area.

Cashel lies in the heart of Tipperary. The town's rich history is reflected in its prehistoric raths, medieval castles and monasteries, fortified town houses, and Georgian quarter.

See the Rock of Cashel, an extraordinary ruined abbey at the top of a hill near the town center of Cashel. This outcrop of limestone, stretching 197 feet into the sky, possesses sixteen centuries of history. It was the castled seat of the kings of Munster as far back as 360 AD and remained a royal fortress until 1101. Today there are ruins of a two-towered chapel, a cruciform cathedral, a round tower, and a cluster of other medieval monuments. Inside the cathedral, ancient carvings survive in excellent condition.

Our base for the next two nights will be Killarney (area), where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.

Renowned for its beauty and famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of Ireland’s best-loved spots. The idyllic town, located in County Kerry, is filled with friendly faces and surrounded by an incredible number of sites and activities.

We will dine this evening in a local restaurant.

**DAY 3  Tuesday, 26 May 2015**

Discover the famed Ring of Kerry as we take the beautiful drive around the Iveragh Peninsula. We will enjoy a splendid variety of outstanding coastal panoramas and magnificent mountain views, and have the opportunity to stop and explore many small towns and villages on the peninsula. We will visit a lovely small village with brightly painted cottages. (Visits are subject to weather conditions on the day)
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<th>DAY 3</th>
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<td>Explore Muckross House, overlooking the Lakes of Killarney. This imposing Victorian mansion was built in the Elizabethan style and its elegant rooms are decorated with period furnishings. Our visit will include the Museum of Kerry Life, with displays on the history of southwestern Ireland; a craft center with numerous workshops; and time to wander through the beautifully landscaped Gardens.</td>
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<td>This evening dinner will be at the group’s own expense.</td>
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<th>DAY 4</th>
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<td>Today we will travel from Killarney Area to County Clare. On the way we will explore the Dingle Peninsula.</td>
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<td>Tour the Dingle Peninsula, offering some of Ireland’s most beautiful scenery. During our scenic driving tour we will stop to view Dingle Harbor; where, if we are lucky, we may see Fungie the Dolphin. From here we will make many stops, including one to An Dun Beag, one of the best-preserved Iron Age forts in Ireland; the Fahan Beehive Huts; and the Blasket Center, which explains the way of life of the inhabitants of the Blasket Islands. We will also stop in Ballyferriter, a small village known for its pastel-colored cottages, and at Risac, an excavated monastic settlement dating from the 7th century. In addition, we will visit the famous Gallarus Oratory, a tiny drystone church and relic of early Irish Christianity, before heading to Kilmalkedar, once a pagan center of worship and home to a ruined Irish Romanesque church. Our tour of the peninsula concludes in Dingle, where (time permitting) we will have time to shop.</td>
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<td>The rich green fields and rolling hills of County Clare have come to epitomize the Irish countryside. From the barren, rocky Atlantic coast to the charming county towns and the grave limestone landscape of the Burren, visitors quickly discover that Clare holds a variety of beauty.</td>
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<td>For the next three evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Clare hotel, where daily breakfast will be included.</td>
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<th>DAY 5</th>
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<td>Take a visit to Clonmacnoise Monastery. Clonmacnoise was a great center of learning, and many manuscripts, including the Annals of Tighernach and the Book of the Dun Cow were written here. The site is entered through the visitor center, where a number of cross-slabs are displayed. The centerpiece of the new Interpretative Center is the 9th-century Cross of the Scriptures.</td>
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<td>Adare has claimed the title of Ireland’s prettiest village, due to its neat stonework, thatched roofs, and lovely ruins, all within a picturesque woodland setting. Located in County Limerick, the town traces its history to 1200 AD, with the present form dating to the early 19th century. Walking among the medieval streets lined with small shops, visitors get the sense of being frozen in time.</td>
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<td>Discover Bunratty Castle, a formidable castle built in the 15th century. It has been preserved just as it would have looked in the 1500s. A tour of the castle will include the Great Hall, Main Guard and South Solar. We will then visit the adjoining Folk Park, an authentic re-creation of life in Ireland at the turn of the 20th century.</td>
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<td>Enjoy a Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle.</td>
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<td>Spend time at the Cliffs of Moher, a series of dramatic undulating cliffs plunging 700 feet down to the Atlantic Ocean, offering unforgettable views of Ireland’s west coast. On a clear day we may be able to see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay as misty shapes off in the distance. Those who choose may climb O’Brien’s Tower, a viewing point built for the benefit of Victorian tourists.</td>
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DAY 6  Friday, 29 May 2015

Enjoy one of Ireland's and Europe's most interesting and scenic areas, The Burren. Carved by nature from carboniferous limestone, the view manages to be both desolate and beautiful. Sheets of rock jut out and seem to undulate in a kind of moonscape as far as the eye can see. We will stop to view the unique rock formations, as well as the Poulnabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb dating back to 2500 BC. Somehow delicate wildflowers and curling ferns thrive in this strange landscape that was created 300 million years ago.

This evening dinner will be at the group's own expense.

DAY 7  Saturday, 30 May 2015

We continue on our journey from County Clare to Dublin. En route, stop at Newgrange, Tara, and Monasterboice.

Visit Newgrange, Ireland's best-known prehistoric monument and one of the archaeological wonders of Western Europe. This amazing feat of engineering is 36ft high, 260ft in diameter and consists of 200,000 tons of stone, including a 6-ton capstone. After time to explore, we make a brief stop to see the Hill of Slane, where the ruins of a Franciscan monastery built in 1512 by Christopher Fleming are capped by the commanding bell tower of Saint Patrick's Church.

Explore the Hill of Tara, best remembered as the royal seat of the high kings before Christianity came to Ireland. We will see the remains of Tara’s former glory in its grassy mounds, ancient pillar stones, and depressions where the Iron Age ring forts stood. This magnificent site, rising 300 feet above the surrounding countryside, offers impressive views that have changed little over the centuries. We will also spend time in the Visitor's Center, which features a stirring audiovisual presentation (Visitor centre only open 15 May - 15 September).

Visit Monasterboice, founded in the 5th century and one of the most famous religious sites in Ireland. During our visit we will view the roofless round tower, as well as the complex’s greatest treasures, Muredach’s High Cross and West Cross.

Dublin is a complex small city, whose 19th-century architecture conceals a modern place filled with trendy shops, pubs, restaurants and boutiques. Long perceived to be stuck in the past, Dublin has experienced a rebirth that has brought new life to the historic, modern, charming, and entertaining city. Spend time wandering the Victorian streets, visiting the incredible churches and museums, exploring the vibrancy of the Temple Bar area, and discovering why Dublin is one of the most popular destinations for Europeans and the world.

In Dublin, the cost of public transport is included for all group sightseeing. Escorted by our Tour Director, we will be able to experience the city in the same manner as the local people.

For the next three evenings we will enjoy the convenience of our centrally-located Dublin hotel, where daily breakfast will be included.

This evening dinner will be at the group’s own expense.

DAY 8  Sunday, 31 May 2015

Enjoy a Walking Tour of O’Connell Street. As we walk down the central mall, we will observe its unique mix of architectural styles. During our walk, we will make a brief detour down Earl Street to view the Statue of James Joyce, commemorating one of Ireland’s most beloved novelists.

Tour the National Museum. Established in 1890, the museum is a reflection of Ireland's heritage from 2000 B.C. to the present. It houses many of the country’s greatest historical finds, including the Treasury exhibit that features the Ardagh Chalice, Tara Brooch and Cross of Cong, the Wood Quay excavations of the Old Dublin Settlements, and an extensive exhibition of Irish Bronze Age gold ornaments dating from 2200 to 700 B.C.

Enjoy a moving visit to Kilmainham Gaol Historical Museum, a key site for anyone interested in Ireland’s struggle for independence from British rule. Political prisoners were incarcerated, tortured and killed within these walls from 1796 until 1924. The leaders of the 1916 Easter Uprising were executed here, along with many others. Future Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Eamon de Valera was its final prisoner.
**DAY 8  Sunday, 31 May 2015**

- Set in the heart of Ireland’s thriving capital city, The Old Jameson Distillery captures the imagination and the spirit of Ireland! Take the tour through the fascinating story of Jameson, following the path through malting, milling, mashing, fermenting, distilling and maturing. The journey is completed with a visit to the Discovery Bar where you can enjoy a signature Jameson Drink.
- This evening dinner will be at the group’s own expense.

**DAY 9  Monday, 01 June 2015**

- Visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland. It is said that St. Patrick baptized converts on this site. Consequently, a church has stood here since 450 AD, making it the oldest Christian site in Dublin. The cathedral’s design is primarily Early English in style, and features a 300-foot-long interior and a square medieval tower that houses the largest ringing peal bells of Ireland. St. Patrick’s is closely associated with Jonathan Swift, who was dean from 1713 to 1745, and whose tomb lies in the south aisle.
- Discover Trinity College, the oldest university in Ireland. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. The beautiful campus features cobbled squares, gardens, a picturesque quadrangle and buildings that date from the 17th to 20th centuries. Trinity College is also home to the Book of Kells, an 8th-century version of the four Gospels decorated with elaborate scripting and illumination. We will view this famous treasure and other early Christian manuscripts in the Colonnades, an exhibition area on the ground floor of the Old Library.
- Discover Dublin Castle, built between 1208 and 1220, containing some of the oldest surviving architecture in the city. It was the center of British power in Ireland for more than seven centuries, until the new Irish government took power in 1922. Highlights include the 13th-century Record Tower; the State Apartments, once the residence of English viceroys; and the Chapel Royal, a 19th-century Gothic building with particularly fine plaster decoration and carved oak gallery fronts and fittings. The newest developments are the Undercroft, an excavated site on the grounds of an early Viking fortress, and the Treasury, believed to be the oldest surviving office building in Ireland.
- Explore the Temple Bar area, Dublin's cultural quarter, where we will find street theater, artists, a film center, and dozens of quaint restaurants and pubs that fill the area with local atmosphere.
- This evening dinner will be at the group’s own expense.

**DAY 10  Tuesday, 02 June 2015**

- Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.
How to Enroll

Program cost: $3,850 (based on double occupancy)
   Single supplement fee: $640
   A $300 initial deposit is due by 09/30/2014

Please contact your Program Leader for further information.

Program Leader: Suzanne Lawrence    Contact Details: suzanne.lawrence@uwc.edu

Tour Prices Guaranteed at Time of Enrollment!

Our Price Guarantee: Once you have accepted this proposal, the dates have been confirmed and the WorldStrides International Discovery Promotional Packs have been made available for your group’s tour, the prices shown for the various group size levels will not change, regardless of any subsequent movements in airline fuel and taxes or currency fluctuations.

What is Included:
- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in three and four star hotels in triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- A filling breakfast every day to get the day started well throughout your touring program
- Dinner on nights 2 and 5
- A full-time WorldStrides International Discovery programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring, except in Dublin, where public transport is used (and the cost included) for group sightseeing
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to $7,500) and $50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Travel to and from Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport (bus departs and returns to UW-Manitowoc).

This Does Not Include:
- Lunches, 6 dinners or beverages with meals
- Visas (if required)
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of $149 (unless your base program price is in excess of $5,000, in which case the cost of the insurance will be $199)