

# Mystical Ireland

April 27 – May 8, 2007

12-Day Custom Tour

**April 27** Depart LAX 7:47AM on Continental Airlines and arrive next morning in Belfast

**April 28** **Giants Causeway, Bushmills Distillery & Dunluce Castle**

This morning we depart Belfast Airport and travel through County Antrim. We will travel through the nine green Glens of Antrim and along the magnificent coast road, through Larne, Carnlough, Cushendall and Cushendun. Our first stop is in the small town of **Bushmills** where we visit the world's oldest whiskey distillery. There will be time for lunch before our drive continues to the **Giant's Causeway**, often referred to as the "8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World". Our journey will continue for a photo stop at the magnificent ruin of **Dunluce Castle** before heading to the charming town of Letterkenny. **1 Night (B,D)**



**April 29** **Donegal, Galway, & The Galway Crystal Factory**

This morning, we are leaving County Donegal and traveling southward to Galway, the city of Tribes. Our route is along Donegal Bay, through Bundoran and Sligo, passing Drumcliffe Churchyard where William Butler Yeats, one of Ireland's finest poets, lies buried. On then through the market towns of County Mayo and the village of Knock, Ireland's place of pilgrimage, arriving in Galway in the afternoon. Before checking into our hotel, we will stop at the medieval **Church of St. Nicholas**, where Christopher Columbus was said to have worshiped and Claddagh, where the ancient Irish ring was developed. We will also visit the **Galway Crystal Factory**, with its world-renown Irish crystal. This evening we are on our own to enjoy Galway's many pubs and great Irish music. **2 Nights in Galway (B)**



**April 30** **Aran Islands & Inis Mor**

After breakfast we set off for the **Aran Islands** by ferry. Located at the western end of Galway Bay, the three islands of Aran raise their spiny backs to the mighty Atlantic. The sheer cliffs rise as much as 300 feet from the pounding sea. Then on to **Inis Mor** where the ancient druid stone circle of Dun Aonghus is perched on the summit of a hill that rises from the ocean. As an option, rent a bike and tour scenic Inis Mor on your own. Then we return back to our hotel in Galway. **2<sup>nd</sup> Night in Galway (B)**

**May 1** **Cliffs of Moher and Killarney**

After a hearty Irish breakfast we depart Galway for the lovely town of **Killarney**. Our route to Killarney is via the old market town of Ennis and westward to the mighty **Cliffs of Moher**. Rising to almost 700 feet above the ocean and stretching for 5 miles, the Cliffs offer sweeping views of the Atlantic, the Aran Islands, and Galway Bay. Next, we pass through the seaside resort of Lahinch, renowned for its golf courses and then south to Killimer. We'll cross the Shannon River by ferry into Tarbert, County Kerry. Continuing on through Listowel and Tralee, we will arrive in Killarney and check into our hotel. **3 Nights in Killarney (B,D)**



**May 2** **Ring of Kerry & Iveragh Peninsula**

After breakfast, we depart on one of Ireland's most beautiful drives, the **Ring of Kerry**, considered by many to be the mystical heart of Ireland. Here myths and legends on healing date back for thousands of years. From Killarney we drive along the broad **Iveragh Peninsula**, through picturesque towns and by wind-swept cliffs, still lakes, lost valleys and rocky mountains. Then back to Killarney to enjoy this lively town with its many charming restaurants, pubs and shops. **2<sup>nd</sup> Night in Killarney (B)**



### May 3 Dingle Peninsula

Today we drive out along the **Dingle Peninsula**. As we wind along portions of the shoreline and through hilly country, we will enjoy awesome views of the mountains and coast. Vistas of the Blasket Islands and Dingle Bay delight the eyes. Then on to **Gallarus Oratory** one of the most perfect relics of early Irish Christianity dating back to the 6th Century. For those of you who are more adventurous, an optional bicycle tour is available. **3<sup>rd</sup> Night in Killarney (B)**

### May 4 Blarney and Cashel

This morning after breakfast we will travel north to the village of **Blarney** where you'll have the opportunity to kiss the famous stone and get the gift of the gab! We will climb the spiral staircases, see the druidic circle of stones, explore the witch's stove, and enter Blarney Castle's dungeon. There will be time for shopping at the **Blarney Woolen Mills**. We continue on to Dublin via Cashel. Here we will have a photo stop for the **Rock of Cashel**, high seat to the Kings of Munster. We continue on through Kildare to the fair city of Dublin. **3 nights in Dublin (B)**



### May 5 Dublin City

This morning after breakfast we embark on a tour of Dublin City. Along our way we shall visit **Dublin Castle** which is situated in the very heart of the historic city. We will also visit **Trinity College**, home to the legendary **Celtic Book of Kells**. We will also visit **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, founded in 1190, the site where St. Patrick was baptized in the fifth century. Tonight we travel to the Abbey Tavern in the small fishing village of Howth, located just north of the city on Dublin Bay. It has an old-world décor of warming turf fires, stone walls, flagstone floors and gaslights. After a delectable dinner of locally caught seafood or traditional Irish fare, we enjoy a rollicking evening of Irish ballads presented by the famed Abbey Tavern Singers. **2<sup>nd</sup> night in Dublin (B,D)**



### May 6 County Wicklow

This morning after breakfast we will drive into the area know as the Gardens of Ireland. We wind through the soaring mountains deep into the wild valley to **Glendalough**, a monastic settlement, founded in the 6th Century. Legend has it that the Holy Grail was once housed here. Then a visit to **St. Kevin's Monastery**, the largest in Europe for over a thousand years. Here lies a haunting forest of Celtic crosses, in many shapes and sizes. We will then journey south back to Dublin through the **Vale of Avoca**. Afternoon is at leisure for shopping, afternoon tea, or pub-hopping. **3rd Night in Dublin (B)**



### May 7 Monasterboice and Belfast



After a hearty Irish breakfast we travel north to Drogheda to see Oliver Plunkett's grave, and then on to see the **High Crosses of Monasterboice**, which date from the 5th century. We then continue through the Boyne Valley, where we will view Lough Crew. Know as "Women's Mountain" it is considered to be a place of power where spiritual pilgrimages take place. We travel north to Belfast, where we shall have a tour of the city before we check-in to our hotel. Tonight we will celebrate the ending of our journey with a farewell dinner.

**Overnight in Belfast (B,D)**

**May 8** After breakfast, we travel home from Belfast International Airport. (B)

- **An optional 6-Night Scotland Excursion is also available should travelers wish to extend their vacation.**
- **Travel Insurance is highly recommended.**

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April 27 – May 8, 2007

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*Trip Leader: Karolyn Clemens*  
805-529-2338  
3676 Corte Cancion, Thousand Oaks 91360

**All Hotels & Inns are 3½ - 4½ Stars**

## Terms and Conditions

**\$2922** per person  
20 participants

\$629 single room supplement

If you wish to pay by credit card please add 3%.

Please note that until ticketing final price is subject to changes in air taxes and fuel surcharges.

## Additional Cancellation Penalties:

Non-Refundable portion of deposit: \$100

From date of deposit – 91 days prior to departure (1/26/07): Full refund (minus \$100)

90 – 0 days prior to departure: No refund

**Travel Insurance is highly recommended.**

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