



THE EMERALD ISLE

A TOUR OF IRELAND, NORTH AND SOUTH MAY 23RD - JUNE 1ST 2019

From the Rose of Tralee to Dublin's fair city, Ireland is an almost mythic land of lyrical folk song, romantic poetry, turbulent history and deep green fields. It is as beautiful as it is proud and its religious backdrop is as divided as it is hopeful.

Join Discover Europe for an in depth exploration of the Emerald Isle. From the pre-Celtic hill forts punctuating the island to her dramatic seascapes and fabulous formal gardens, Ireland is a land of gracious discoveries. Our itinerary offers an introduction to Ireland, both north and south, for travellers who want to see beyond the tourist façade and explore the epic history of this small island.

We begin in Dublin, one of Europe's recent success stories, which has emerged from the recent recession more vibrant than ever. The city is introduced with panoramic sightseeing and free time to explore its superb museums, or wander through Temple Bar and the revitalized riverfront. An excursion to Powerscourt House and Glendalough, one of the most beautiful and important of the ancient Irish monasteries, is the perfect conclusion to a stay in the capital.

As we cross the border into Northern Ireland, we'll stand in awe at the Giant's Causeway on the north coast. The recent "troubles" in Ulster have eclipsed the realities of her warm and welcoming people, dramatic Gaelic history and spectacular countryside. We turn south to Co. Clare as we discover the extraordinary flora of The Burren, a unique landscape of geological wonder, and visit the dramatic cliffs of Moher. We continue northwest through the legendary beauty of Connemara. We'll pause at the grave of W. B. Yeats, in the shadow of Benbulbin Mountain, and explore "Yeats Country" from our hotel in Sligo.

This spring, join us on an adventure to *The Emerald Isle*.



GIANT'S CAUSEWAY



GLENDALOUGH

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$ 3980
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 990

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 4 dinners
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide throughout

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*

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THURSDAY, MAY 23RD - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH - Morning arrival at Dublin airport, where you will be met by our guide for a short drive to our hotel in the center of Dublin. There will be time to unpack and relax before an orientation to the city. There will be a welcome dinner at our hotel this evening. **(D) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH - Morning sightseeing tour with a local guide introduces us to the city. We'll visit Christ Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral and drive through Phoenix Park, ending at Trinity College to view the magnificent Book of Kells. The afternoon is free to see the botanical gardens or do some shopping along the fashionable Grafton Street. A free evening in Dublin to sample a local tavern or two. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SUNDAY, MAY 26TH - The day begins with a drive south to Powerscourt Gardens, then through the wooded slopes of the Wicklow Mountains to the monastic site of Glendalough, founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century AD. A free evening in Dublin, where perhaps we'll take in a play at the Abbey Theatre. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

MONDAY, MAY 27TH - We head north today to Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. En route we'll turn west at Drogheda and journey along the Boyne Valley, past the site of the battle of 1690, to Newgrange Necropolis. The three passage tombs of Dowth, Knowth and Newgrange together form what is probably the most significant and impressive Neolithic site in Europe. From here we continue north to our hotel in Belfast with time to relax before dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**



NEWGRANGE

TUESDAY, MAY 28TH - We begin this morning with a visit to the Titanic Museum and then continue on to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, one of the finest collections of vernacular architecture and historic transport in the world. We'll have time for lunch here before visiting nearby Mount Stewart House, now owned by the National Trust, to explore its magnificent gardens. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH - This morning we'll drive north to the Antrim Coast for a visit to the Giant's Causeway with its bizarre basalt columns that recede into the ocean which gave rise to the legend of the giant, Finn MacCool, who is said to have laid out the steps to reach his lady love in Scotland. We'll cross from the Six Counties of the north into the Republic at Belleek and drive along the north side of Lower Lough Erne across Boa Island. Here we'll stop and visit the Caldragh Cemetery with its wonderful pre-Christian Janus figures. We arrive at our hotel just outside Sligo with time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SLIGO**

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH - We spend the morning exploring Yeats country. We'll first visit the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, in the shadow of Knocknarea and see Queen Maeve's Grave dominating the skyline. From here we'll head into town and have time for lunch. Then we'll visit the County Art Gallery to see several works by Jack Yeats and the Yeats Memorial Building with its exhibition about this remarkable family. Just north of the city, we'll stop in Drumcliff to pay our respects at W. B. Yeats' grave and then drive around Lough Gill (Innisfree) to our hotel where dinner awaits us. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SLIGO**



CLIFFS OF MOHER

FRIDAY, MAY 31ST - This morning we depart for a day exploring North Clare. Driving down past Galway, we'll stop first in "The Burren." This is an area of strange limestone scenery that was described in frustration by one of Cromwell's generals as having "neither wood to hang a man, water to drown him nor earth to bury him in," but has a wealth of megalithic monuments. From here we'll drive to the coast to visit the Cliffs of Moher. On our way to Ennis, we'll stop and visit the Dysert O'Dea Archaeology Center and view the church and High Cross on the adjacent site. A farewell dinner at the hotel rounds out our tour. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ENNIS**

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST - This morning there will be time for a leisurely breakfast before the transfer to nearby Shannon Airport for the return flights to the USA. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, D - dinner