



## THE GARDENS OF IRELAND

A THOUSAND SHADES OF GREEN  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2018

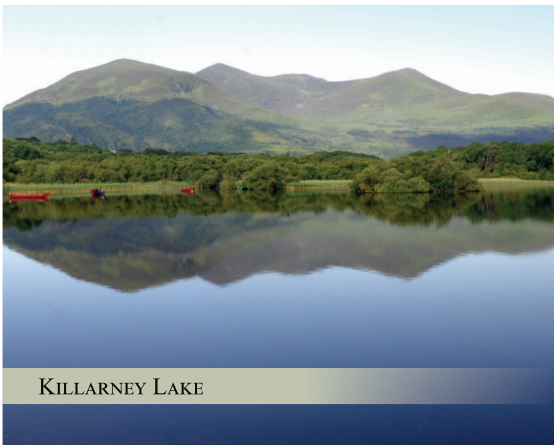
A thousand shades of green make up Ireland's rich landscape tapestry. This spring, journey to Ireland's most enchanting gardens both well-known gems and off-the-beaten path treasures.

We begin our horticultural adventures on Ireland's west coast with three nights in Killarney. Your hotel has a beautiful setting beside a lake overlooking the mountains of MacGillycuddy's Reeks. From here, we'll drive around the magical Ring of Kerry, with its steep cliffs dropping dramatically to the pounding surf of the Atlantic and visit magnificent Muckross House and Gardens. Another excursion takes you to the sub-tropical vision of Innacullin Garden.

Heading east, visit Lismore Castle and the woodland garden of Annes Grove on our route to Waterford. Travel north over the Wicklow Mountains to Mount Usher Gardens, the John F. Kennedy Arboretum, and Kilmokea Garden, before arriving in Dublin.

This spring, join Discover Europe on an unforgettable journey through the enchanted Emerald Isle and Ireland's glorious gardens.

Have more time? Consider an optional extension to the great gardens and breathtaking landscapes found in Northern Ireland. Full details on reverse.



KILLARNEY LAKE



MOUNT USHER

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	<b>\$3890</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	<b>\$ 960</b>

*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, all hotel taxes and service charges included

**COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary

**MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 5 dinners

**GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout

**BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person

**ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Optional Northern Ireland Extension: The cost of the Northern Ireland Extension is \$1390 per person, double occupancy (\$380 single supplement) including all hotels, meals and inclusions as listed.

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

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**THURSDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**FRIDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>** - Your morning arrival at Shannon airport will be met for the drive south to Killarney. On arrival at the hotel we'll check in and have time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight. There will be an orientation meeting followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>** - We begin our adventure with a tour of Dunloe Castle Gardens; the international collection includes Chilean firs, Australian gums, South African lilies, Japanese maples and North American dogwoods. We'll continue on to the Ring of Kerry, 112 miles of some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world, stopping for lunch in a little village along the way. Our final visit of the day is to Muckross House and Gardens just outside Killarney. The house was once visited by Queen Victoria and in the gardens you'll be able to get a good look at the native Killarney strawberry tree (arbutus). The evening is free in Killarney. **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**

**SUNDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we head to Bantry Bay and the short crossing to Innacullin Garden on Garinish Island, the inspiration of a Scotsman who decided in 1910 to turn this gorse-covered rocky outcrop into an Italianate Arts & Crafts garden. We'll cross the Beara peninsula and visit Derreen Garden, a woodland garden famous for its tree ferns. There are magnificent views to the Caha Mountains. Dinner at the hotel in Killarney this evening. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**

**MONDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>** - Leaving Killarney, your first stop today will be Annes Grove, a tranquil woodland garden set on the River Awbeg. Next we visit Lismore Castle Gardens, believed to be the oldest gardens in Ireland. We'll then make our way to the Waterford Crystal Factory; a guided tour explains each step involved in creating these hand-blown masterpieces. There will be time to shop in the town before arriving at our hotel, where dinner awaits. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: WATERFORD**

**TUESDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we'll visit the John F. Kennedy Arboretum with its extensive collection of young trees and shrubs. This afternoon we'll visit Kilmokea, a formal walled garden with "rooms" that lead from one design feature to the next. We'll make a late afternoon return to our hotel to allow plenty of time to enjoy a free evening in Waterford. **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: WATERFORD**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we cross into County Wicklow for a guided tour of Mount Usher gardens, an informal 19th-century garden which began as a potato patch and now is home to over 4,000 species of plants, shrubs and trees. We continue to Killruddery House and Gardens, where we'll have time for lunch and a tour of the French-style garden with the Head Gardener. We continue to our central Dublin hotel this evening,



where we have time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**THURSDAY, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>** - The city of Dublin is introduced in a panoramic sightseeing tour with a local guide this morning. We'll visit Trinity College and see the Book of Kells, as well as visit the delightful garden of renowned plantswoman and writer, Helen Dillon. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to sample one of the city's lively pubs or restaurants. **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>** - When it comes right down to it, all of Ireland is a garden. Still, some of the loveliest settings in Ireland revolve around its gardens, havens of peace and tranquility. The gardens at Powerscourt House, located at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains, were created in the 1740s by Richard Wingfield, the Viscount of Powerscourt. With the highest waterfall in Ireland, Powerscourt offers numerous attractions including formal gardens and landscaped walks with more than 200 varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers. After time for lunch, we'll continue on to Glendalough, a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century. We return to Dublin mid-afternoon.. We'll gather again this evening for a festive farewell Irish dinner complete with traditional music and entertainment. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>** - Morning transfer to Dublin Airport for the return flight to the U.S. Alternatively, why not stay on for a few days to visit some gardens in the six counties of the North? **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: HOME**

#### OPTIONAL NORTHERN IRELAND EXTENSION

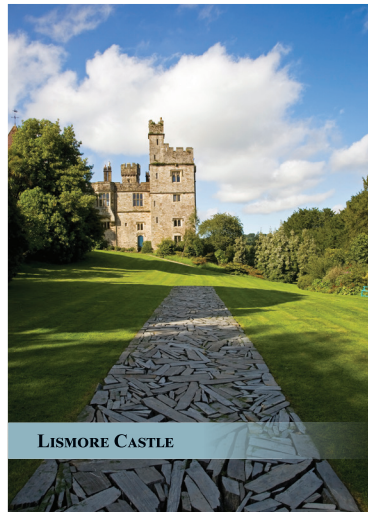
**SATURDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>** - After accompanying your fellow travelers at the airport, you continue north up the Irish Sea coast. After checking into our hotel on the outskirts of Belfast, we'll visit Mount Stewart house, now owned by the National Trust, and known for its magnificent gardens with exotic plants and trees. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>** - Heading north from Belfast today, we drive to the Antrim Coast. We'll visit 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 take time to pay a quick visit to the nearby Bushmill's Distillery and return to our hotel in Belfast following a brief afternoon visit to Antrim Castle Gardens. **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**

**MONDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we bid farewell to Belfast and turn back to the south. Our first visit of the day is to Rowallane Gardens. Created in the mid 1860s by the Reverend John Moore, a renowned amateur plantsman, the garden reflects the beautiful natural landscape of the surrounding area. We continue south through the Mountains of Mourne to Annesley Garden, home of the Castlewelan National Arboretum. We'll have time to find our way out of the huge garden maze before crossing back into the Republic and driving to the lovely seaside town of Malahide, close by Dublin Airport. A farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)**  
**OVERNIGHT: MALAHIDE**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfer to Dublin Airport for the return flight to the U.S. **(B)**  
**OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner*



LISMORE CASTLE