



## AN IRISH INTERLUDE

### *St. Patrick's Day in the Emerald Isle*

**MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> 2023**

Set against a backdrop of mythology, deep green fields, literary heritage, and a proud but turbulent history, Ireland is as lovely and lyrical as it is lively. Here at its very heart, in the wonderful old city of Dublin, you'll experience the full breadth of Irish hospitality, during the ultimate Irish celebration - St. Patrick's Day.

Leaving the city, we'll explore the breathtaking Irish countryside of County Kerry, the southwestern tip of the country. On our way to Killarney, we'll visit the monastic settlement at Glendalough, and the splendid gardens at Powerscourt House, considered to be among the finest in Ireland.

From Killarney, we'll take a day to explore the Dingle Peninsula, a spectacular little microcosm of Irish scenery and history. To round out our Irish adventure, we'll visit the magnificent Rock of Cashel on our way to the charming seaside town of Malahide. It's the perfect conclusion to our stay in the emerald isle - that, and a traditional Ceilidh celebration!

This March, instead of waiting for the grass to turn green, try wearing it!



GLENDALOUGH



ROCK OF CASHEL

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	<b>\$3390</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	<b>\$ 690</b>

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

<b>HOTELS:</b>	6 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
<b>BAGGAGE:</b>	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
<b>COACHING:</b>	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
<b>MEALS:</b>	Breakfast daily and 4 dinners
<b>GUIDES:</b>	Discover Europe tour guide throughout, Local guide for city tour of Dublin
<b>ENTRANCES:</b>	Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary

*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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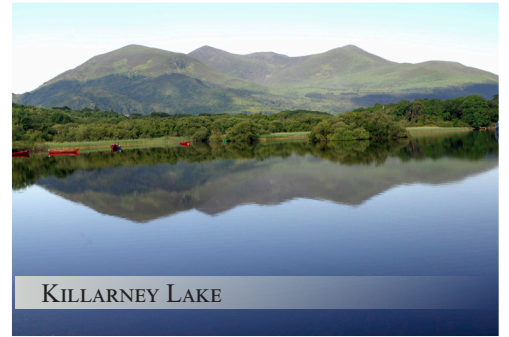
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from your chosen gateway city aboard your overnight flight to Dublin. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>** - Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel. Here, we'll gather for an afternoon of panoramic sightseeing with a local guide that will orient us to the city. Among our stops, we'll explore St. Patrick's Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland and the burial place of Jonathan Swift (dean from 1713-45). The massive west tower dates from 1370 and houses one of the largest peal of bells in Ireland. Then it's on to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest college, to view the celebrated Book of Kells, an illuminated New Testament text dating back to 800 AD.

Tonight, we'll enjoy a relaxing welcome dinner at our hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>** - Who doesn't love a parade? This morning, the consummate St. Patrick's Day celebration unfolds before our eyes. Then, the afternoon is free to explore Dublin on your own. You might check out Temple Bar, the city's bustling, 28-acre cultural quarter brimming with arts and entertainment, along with top restaurants, cafés, and shops. Or visit Grafton Street, Dublin's best shopping area, which runs from St. Stephen's Green to Trinity College. Situated on the highest ground of the city, Dublin Castle is the historical heart of Dublin. The original fortification was a Gaelic ring fort, but in the 10th century, it became a Viking fortress; parts of the present building were erected in the 13th century by King John of England. This evening you're free to sample one of Dublin's many wonderful restaurants.

**(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**



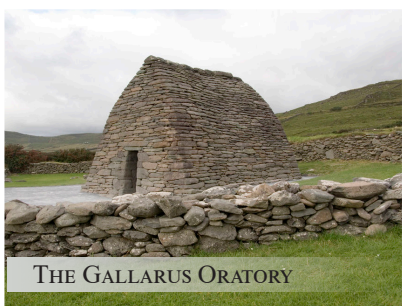
KILLARNEY LAKE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</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. We'll continue on to Glendalough, a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century, where we'll have time for lunch and then explore the historic site and its spectacular setting. A beautiful drive then brings us to the city of Waterford. We'll have dinner at our hotel in Waterford this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WATERFORD**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>** - After breakfast this morning we'll have a private tour of the Waterford Crystal Factory. We then head west to visit Blarney Castle. There will be time for those who wish to do so, to climb the castle tower and kiss the Blarney Stone! We'll then stop for lunch at the nearby Blarney Woollen Mills – and perhaps do a little shopping while we're there? We'll arrive at our hotel in Killarney with plenty of time to freshen up and relax before dinner.

**(B, D) OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**

**MONDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>** - A full day excursion today around the scenic Dingle Peninsula that will blend magnificent views of coastal scenery with fascinating antiquities ranging from Iron Age stone forts to inscribed stones, early Christian oratories and beehive huts. We'll head straight out to Slea Head for the breathtaking views over to the Blaskets and continue around, to visit the Oratory of Gallarus. We'll stop for lunch in the town of Dingle. Leaving Dingle, we'll cross over to the north coast of the peninsula and visit the largest working windmill in Europe at Blennerville. This evening is free in Killarney to sample local food and entertainment and we know a couple of great pubs! **(B) OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**



THE GALLARUS ORATORY

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>** - Leaving Killarney, we head northeast, arriving at Cashel in the late morning. The Rock of Cashel is like the Acropolis of Athens, dominating the surrounding countryside and supporting important religious structures: the cathedral, a round tower, and Cormac's Chapel, the supreme masterpiece of Irish Romanesque art. After lunch we continue our journey to the beautiful little fishing village of Malahide, just north of Dublin and very close to the airport. After checking in to our hotel, we'll spend the evening at a Ceilidh – an evening of traditional Irish folk music, dancing and food. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALAHIDE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>** - Morning transfers to Dublin for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

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