



The ISLAND of SAINTS & SCHOLARS

SEPTEMBER 21ST - 30TH, 2023

From the immortal poetry of William Butler Yeats to the ground-breaking fiction of James Joyce to the achingly beautiful plays of John Synge, the island of Ireland has produced an assortment of literature that is nothing short of breathtaking. Set against the backdrop of deep green fields and a proud but turbulent history, this land is as lovely as it is lyrical.

This Fall, join Discover Europe and experience the stunning beauty of the Emerald Isle. From the literary haunts scattered across the land to dramatic seascapes and picturesque farms, our itinerary offers an experience for travelers who want to see beyond the tourist façade and explore the deeper artistic and cultural facets of this small, complex island. Beginning in Dublin, steeped in literary wealth, and then crossing the island to the hinterlands of Donegal, we'll walk in the footsteps of Yeats and Joyce, experiencing the full range of Ireland from coast to coast.

Dublin's lively city energy captivated generations of writers, from Jonathan Swift to Iris Murdoch, and is home to the Abbey Theatre, founded by William Butler Yeats. On the west coast of the island, we enter Yeats country, and the magical area surrounding Sligo, where the full legacy of the Yeats family is revealed against a romantic backdrop that includes Queen Maeve's Grave and the Lake Isle of Innisfree. Then on to Joyce's Country and the astonishing landscape around Galway and the Connemara coast.

With a wonderful balance of guided and free time in this ancient country, you'll revel in the mystical beauty and literary references as we explore THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS.



CONNEMARA



POWERSCOURT HOUSE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$ 4190**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 990**

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- AIRFARE:** Round trip airfare to the Aran Islands
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, 5 dinners
GUIDES: DISCOVER EUROPE tour guide throughout
EXPENSES: Portage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*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, SEPTEMBER 21ST - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - Morning arrival at Dublin airport. You'll be met by Discover Europe's representative for the transfer to your hotel where you'll have time to unpack and relax. A welcome dinner at the hotel welcomes you to Ireland. **(D) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - A list of past Dublin inhabitants reads like a who's who of literature - Jonathan Swift, Thomas Moore, James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, G. B. Shaw, Bram Stoker, W.B. Yeats, John Synge, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett, and Dame Iris Murdoch. We begin our literary tour with panoramic sightseeing that encompasses St. Patrick's

Cathedral, the burial place of Jonathan Swift; Christ Church; and Trinity College Library, which houses the celebrated Book of Kells. The afternoon is free to pursue individual interests, which might include a stroll on the James Joyce trail; Oscar Wilde's family home that stands on the corner of Merrion Square; Bram Stoker who lived on Harcourt Street just off St. Stephen's Green or Shaw's birthplace at 33 Synge St. In the evening you're free to take in a play at the Abbey Theatre or sample a local tavern. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - A day's excursion south to Powerscourt House, with its outstanding gardens and Palladian mansion that is in the process of being restored. Then on to Glendalough, one of the most beautiful of the ancient Irish monasteries. On the way we'll stop to see the James Joyce Tower, erected to withstand Napoleon's invasion; 100 years later, Joyce stayed there as a guest of poet Oliver St. John Gogarty, the model for a character in *Ulysses* (unfortunately the Tower is no longer open to the public). We'll have a free evening in Dublin to explore its literary character. In the evening, raise a pint to toast the legacy! **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - We head north toward Sligo on Donegal Bay, famously known as Yeats Country. En route, we'll journey to 5,000-year-old Newgrange, one of the most spectacular archeological sites in Europe. Traveling through the Boyne Valley we'll also see the Hill of Tara, location of the seat of the Celtic High Kings and literary inspiration to a host of writers. In Sligo, we'll arrive at our hotel with time to unpack and relax before meeting for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SLIGO**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - A full day in Yeats Country includes Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery in the shadow of Knocknarea, capped by the vast cairn reputed to be Queen Maeve's Grave, not to mention the spectacular lake of Lough Gill, with the island of Innisfree where "peace comes dropping slow." After a stop in Drumcliff to pay our respects at Yeats' grave in the shadow of Benbulbin, we'll explore Creevykeel Court cairn, one of the finest in Ireland. We'll also visit the County Art Gallery to see paintings by Jack Yeats and the Yeats Memorial Building. Evening dinner at the hotel will round out a stimulating day. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SLIGO**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - From Sligo to Galway, a cathedral town that counts Nora Barnacle, wife of James Joyce, among its natives; it is also the final resting place of Lady Gregory and home to "the smallest museum in Europe." We'll have a brief walking tour from the Old Town center at Eyre Square along William Street, at the heart of the historic district, with its medieval buildings. With free time to explore for the rest of the day, we'll gather for dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GALWAY**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - This morning we drive along the Connemara Coast to Galway Airport, where we board the short flight to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands (in the event that bad weather prevents flying today, we will substitute an alternate excursion). On arrival we'll enjoy a tour on an island mini-bus, or simply pick up a bicycle at the town pier and explore the island independently. Visit mystical Dun Aengus, a 2000-year-old fort with an imposing position overlooking the Atlantic. We will also visit the Aran Island Heritage Centre. The Islands are still largely Gaelic speaking, and maintain many of the traditional Irish Island customs, which reflect the harshness of island life. Observe local ladies hand-knitting traditional Aran sweaters. We return to the mainland late afternoon and return to Galway for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: GALWAY**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - Our excursion into the Burren introduces you to one of the most remarkable geological formations in Ireland—a wild, limestone plateau filled with rare flora. This area is also the location of Thoor Ballylee, Yeats' tower house, and Lady Gregory's estate, Coole Park. On to Ennis, where we gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ENNIS**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH - Morning transport to Shannon airport for flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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