

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Please review the enclosed USI Travel Insurance Services brochure and letter. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, to cover certain injuries and illnesses that would not otherwise be covered by the policy, 2) Protection for Certain Terrorist Acts if you cancel your trip due to a terrorist incident occurring in any city on your trip itinerary within 30 days before or after our scheduled departure date, 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it must be through USI Travel Insurance Services.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815/753-1512.

To make your reservation visit myniu.com and click on travel.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

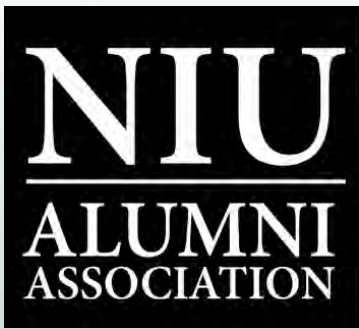
Alumni Association

Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL 60115

815-753-1512



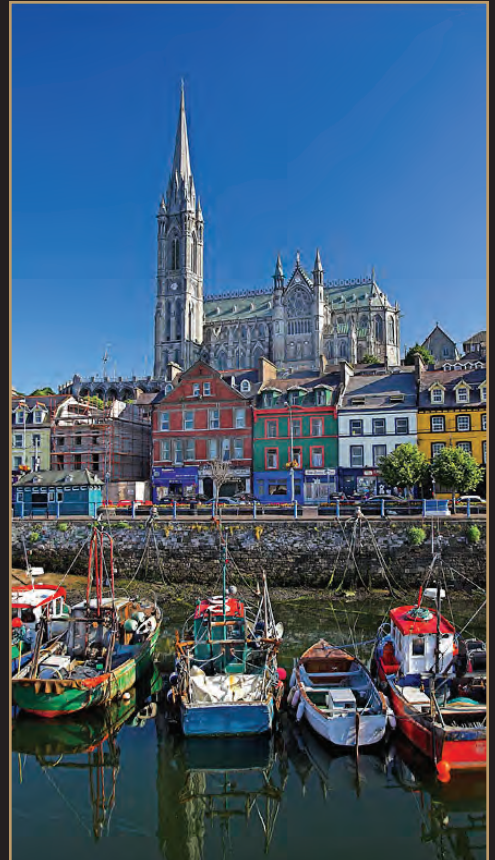
The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
& The Office of Alumni Relations

Present

Discover Ireland and the Solheim Cup

September 16 – 26, 2011

\$3,389 per person, double occupancy from Chicago



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the
Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.*

Day By Day Itinerary

Fri., Sept. 16 – CHICAGO/EN ROUTE (I)

This afternoon we will depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport by scheduled service of Aer Lingus on the overnight transatlantic flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Sat., Sept. 17 – DUBLIN/KILLARNEY (I,D)

Shortly after the sun rises on the Irish coast we will arrive in Dublin where we'll meet our Irish Driver/Guide who will travel with us throughout our vacation. Leaving Dublin, we'll travel to Killarney. Set in the scenic southwest, it is here where we'll find some of the most picturesque views in all of Ireland.

Sun., Sept. 18 – KILLARNEY (Gap of Dunloe) (B)

This morning we travel to Kate Kearney's Cottage, home to a local beauty who ran an illegal drinking house for passing travelers in the 19th century. Today the cottage marks our starting point for a jaunting car ride through the famed Gap of Dunloe. The Gap is a four-mile gulch where glaciers have carved a dramatic mountain pass offering fabulous views of the boulder-strewn gorge, the Purple Mountain and the three small lakes. Just as our carriage ride comes to an end, we'll take to the waters of Lough Leane as we sail to Ross Castle where we'll rejoin our motor coach for a short ride back into Killarney. Free time will then allow us to walk the lively streets of this "tourist town," known all over the world, from where poets, painters and writers have never fully succeeded in conveying the varied beauty of this wonderland of mountains and lakes.

Mon., Sept. 19 – KILLARNEY (Dingle Peninsula) (B)

Today we will explore the Dingle Peninsula, the westernmost part of Ireland that juts out into the Atlantic and contains some of the most ancient and traditional aspects of Irish culture. Following a visit to the thriving fishing port of Dingle, we'll make our way around the Sleat Head promontory where we'll see the prehistoric beehive huts that were used as shelter for monks in the early Christian period, and for a spectacular view of the Blasket Islands. From here we'll travel in the shadow of the towering Brandon Mountains as we make our way through the more remote areas of the peninsula before reaching Kilmalkedar, home to a ruined Irish Romanesque church with stone carvings. Our last visit of the day will take us to the nearby Gallarus Oratory. Shaped like an upturned boat and overlooking the Smerwick Harbor, the tiny drystone church is a relic of early Irish Christianity.

Tues., Sept. 20 – KILLARNEY/CASHEL (Blarney Castle & Cobh) (B,D)

This morning we depart Killarney and travel to County Cork to visit Blarney Castle where you'll have an opportunity to climb the steps of the fortress and kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Just a stone's throw away we'll also visit the Blarney Woolen Mills, the largest emporium of Irish crafts in the country where we can browse the finely woven Irish woolen products or relax at one of its welcoming pubs. Then we're headed to the port town of Cobh, the last stop for the Titanic before its doomed Atlantic

crossing in 1912, where we'll visit the Heritage Centre tracing the history of emigration from Ireland to the United States. Afterward, we'll travel north to the picturesque rolling countryside of County Tipperary where we'll spend the next two evenings in the town Cashel.

Wed., Sept. 21 – CASHEL (Kilkenny & Rock of Cashel) (B,D)

This morning we will travel to Kilkenny, undoubtedly Ireland's loveliest inland city. Our introduction to Kilkenny will take us past the Dominican Black Abbey and St. Canice's hilltop cathedral before reaching Parliament Street, home to the Rothe House, a unique Irish merchant's townhouse. We'll then travel along High Street dominated by the 18th century Tholsel, with its distinctive clock tower and arcade, before reaching The Arcade where we'll stop to visit the magnificently restored Kilkenny Castle. Afterward, free time will be set aside to explore the adjacent Castle Yard, the former stables and coach houses that are today home to the craft studios and workshops of the Kilkenny Design Centre. On the return to Cashel, we'll travel through fertile farmland and rolling uplands before visiting the Rock of Cashel, one of the most spectacular archeological sites in Ireland. A symbol of royal and priestly power for more than a millennium, the Rock enabled Cashel's inhabitants to scour the surrounding plains for potential invaders.

Thurs., Sept. 22 – CASHEL/DUBLIN (National Stud) (B,D)

This morning we depart Cashel and travel north to County Kildare and the town of Tully to visit the Irish National Stud. Established in 1946, the "National Stud" combines an active role in the development and promotion of Irish bloodstock. A tour of the grounds will allow us to see the next champions as they are being exercised, as well as explore the special foaling unit, and the farms forge and saddlery, before stopping at the Horse Museum. Sharing the same estate as the National Stud, we'll also have an opportunity to explore the Japanese Gardens which are now of international renown and acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in all of Europe. Afterward, we'll be on our way to the capital city of Dublin surrounded by Dublin Bay to the east and the Wicklow Mountains to the south.

Fri., Sept. 23 – DUBLIN (B)

Today we travel to Dublin for an introductory tour of this famous city on the Liffey River. Points of interest on our tour include the Bank of Ireland, built in 1729 and formerly the Irish Parliament, the National Museum, Dublin Castle, and Four Courts, built in the 18th century and now housing the High Courts of Justice. We'll also visit Trinity College's Old Library to see the Book of Kells, the most richly decorated of Ireland's medieval illuminated manuscripts, and visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Afterward, we'll end our tour with a visit to the Guinness Hop Store where we'll experience the Guinness Story

and the brewing process before finishing with a sampling of their wonderful stout in the Visitors Bar. Following our tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure in Dublin. Be sure to stroll pedestrian Grafton Street where you'll find energetic street musicians and theater artists, plenty of shopping and Bewley's Café Theatre, a city landmark.

Sat., Sept. 24 – DUBLIN (B)

Today you are free to explore Dublin on your own. Southeast Dublin is the heart of the modern city and home to the prestigious Trinity College, historic Grafton Street and St. Stephen's Green, where you can escape the hustle and bustle of the city. Southwest Dublin is the site of the old city around Dublin Castle and the rejuvenated Temple Bar neighborhood where the cobblestone streets have been brought back to life with interesting stores, galleries and cafes. North of the Liffey River, you'll find imposing O'Connell Street, the city's main thoroughfare, and the colorful Moore Street Market as well as the Abbey and Gate Theatres, renowned for their productions. Whatever you choose to do, Dublin has something for everyone.

Sun., Sept. 25 – DUBLIN (B,D)
(Glendalough & Powerscourt Estate)

Today we travel south of Dublin along the coast to County Wicklow to visit the early Christian settlement of Glendalough. Glendalough, "the glen of the two lakes," is a truly spellbinding place; an ancient monastic settlement and two clear water lakes beneath the sheer cliffs of a deep valley which was carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age. The monastic settlement has been a centre for pilgrims and visitors since its foundation by St. Kevin in the 6th century. On our return to Dublin, we'll stop at the pretty village of Enniskerry to visit Powerscourt Estate and Gardens. This magnificent estate boasts 47 acres of gardens, and our tour includes entry into the grounds for one of the mapped walks and time for a visit to the Powerscourt shops. Tonight we will end our vacation in style as we travel to Rathfarnham for an evening of dinner and entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy Pub, a night of Irish music, song and dancing that you won't soon forget.

Mon., Sept. 26 – DUBLIN/CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we travel to Dublin Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our Ireland vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Optional Solheim Cup

Fri., Sept. 23 thru Sun., Sept. 25 – KILLEEN CASTLE (Solheim Cup)

The next three days we will travel to Killeen Castle to attend the 2011 Solheim Cup. The Solheim Cup is the most prestigious international team event in women's professional golf. It is a biennial, trans-Atlantic team match-play competition featuring the best U.S.-born players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the best European members from the Ladies European Tour.

The format of the three-day, match-play competition will begin with two days of competition featuring morning and afternoon sessions each day, with a total of eight foursomes and eight four-ball matches over the two days. The foursomes format features two-member teams, with players hitting alternate shots using the same ball. At the end of the hole, one score is recorded for the team. In contrast, a four-ball match has each player playing her own ball throughout the entire match. At the end of each hole, the best score of the two teammates is recorded; only one score from each team is recorded for each hole. The final day will consist of 12 individual singles matches. For the singles competition, one U.S. and one European player compete against one another. Each plays her own ball throughout the round and records her own score.

Pricing will be available at a later date.

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Aer Lingus, including meals and light beverages served in-flight according to airline schedules.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Irish Driver/Guide.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel in twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower.
- Breakfast daily and five evening dinners as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes, fees and fuel surcharges of \$300 per person (subject to change).**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; optional tours and excursions; gratuities to the Irish Driver/Guide and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.