

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Ireland Escapade

September 8 – 17, 2022

\$3,725 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Thurs., Sept. 8 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of United Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Fri., Sept. 9 – DUBLIN / GALWAY (I,HD)

Shortly after the sun rises on the Irish coast we arrive in Dublin where we'll meet our Driver Guide who will accompany us throughout our vacation. Leaving Dublin, we'll travel across the Midlands, often considered the cradle of Irish civilization and the Celts' spiritual home. Along the way, we'll stop to visit the medieval monastery of Clonmacnoise that once served as a crossroads of routes linking all of Ireland. Afterward, we're headed to County Galway. The city of Galway lies on the banks of the River Corrib, and following an extensive restoration in the early 70's, the narrow and winding streets of this once-walled city have been brought back to life.

Sat., Sept. 10 – GALWAY (Connemara) (B)

Today we explore the rugged yet serene Connemara region. This rocky land of broad-backed mountains and pearl-like lakes is the largest Irish-speaking section of the country and the traditional ways of life are as much a part of this region's attraction as is the scenery. We'll begin our day by traveling along the shores of Galway Bay before stopping in the town of Spiddal for a view of the Aran Islands. Then we're headed to picturesque Kylemore Abbey, a castellated neo-Gothic mansion occupied by an Irish Benedictine community of nuns, where we'll have an opportunity to walk the abbey grounds. On our return to Galway, we'll stop in the town of Moycullen to visit the Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory, a family business specializing in designs based on the shamrock, the Claddagh ring, and harp, to learn of their time-honored tradition.

Sun., Sept. 11 – GALWAY / KILLARNEY (B,HD)

This morning we depart Galway and travel through the Burren, a vast limestone plateau in northwest County Clare, as we make our way to the Cliffs of Moher. Even when shrouded in mist or buffeted by gales, the Cliffs of Moher are a breathtaking sight as they rise to a height of 650 feet from out of the Atlantic. Here, we'll enjoy a visit to the eco-friendly Visitor Centre and Cliffs Exhibition that brings the story of the cliffs to life. Following our visit, we'll travel inland to County Limerick where we'll enjoy an afternoon refreshment at Durty Nelly's in the shadow of Bunratty Castle. Then we'll follow the fabled River Shannon south through the picturesque village of Adare on our way to County Kerry and the town of Killarney. Set in the scenic southwest, it is here where we'll find some of the most picturesque views in all of Ireland.

Mon., Sept. 12 – KILLARNEY (Blarney Castle & Cobh Heritage Center) (B)

A leisurely day on tour will take us to neighboring County

Cork for a visit to fabled Blarney Castle. We'll have an opportunity to climb the steps of the fortress to see the world-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 Cobh Heritage Centre tracing the history of emigration from Ireland to the United States. Following our visit, we'll return to Killarney for an evening at leisure.

Tues., Sept. 13 – KILLARNEY

(Ring of Kerry & Jaunting Car Ride) (B)

The Ring of Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula is often considered one of the finest coastal tours in all of Europe as it is full of both captivating mountain and coastal scenery. Dramatic seascapes, slate-roofed fishing villages and plenty of black-faced sheep appear around every bend as we return to the Atlantic coast. We'll also take in the magnificent four-mile silver strand beach of Rossbeigh before stopping for an afternoon break in Waterville, located on both the Atlantic shore and along one of the loveliest lakes in Ireland. This afternoon we'll travel inland with stops at scenic Molls Gap and Ladies View, the best place to enjoy a panorama of the Killarney Lakes. On our return to Killarney we'll leave our motorcoach behind and enjoy a Jaunting Car ride filled with history, legend, and folklore.

Wed., Sept. 14 – KILLARNEY / DALKEY (B,L,HD)

This morning we depart Killarney and travel to County Tipperary to visit the Rock of Cashel. 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. After lunch, we'll be on our way to Kilkenny, undoubtedly Ireland's loveliest inland city. An 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. Then we'll travel along High Street dominated by the 18th century Tholsel, before reaching The Arcade where we'll stop to visit magnificently restored Kilkenny Castle. Free time will also be set aside to explore adjacent Castle Yard, the former stables and coach houses that are today home to the craft studios and workshops of the Kilkenny Design Centre. Our day will come to an end as we travel to County Dublin, where we'll stay at the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, billed as Dublin's finest castle hotel.

Thurs., Sept. 15 – DALKEY

(Irish National Stud with A Day at the Races) (B)

Today we set our sights on County Kildare and begin with a visit to the Irish National Stud. As we'll soon learn, Ireland has a strong horse racing culture, and County Kildare is world famous for staging the most exciting horse racing events in Ireland. 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 farm's forge and saddlery, before stopping at the Horse Museum. This afternoon, we'll visit Naas Racecourse, known as the Nursery of Champions, to experience the colorful and exciting spectacle of thoroughbred racing.

Fri., Sept. 16 – DALKEY (Dublin) (B,RD)

Our day begins with a short journey into the capital of Dublin for an introductory tour of this famous city on the River Liffey. Highlights on tour will 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 view the Book of Kells, the most richly decorated of Ireland's medieval illuminated manuscripts, as well as St. Patrick's



Cathedral. We'll end our tour with a visit to the Guinness Storehouse to experience the Guinness Story and the brewing process before finishing with a sampling of their wonderful stout in the Visitors Bar. Following our tour, time at leisure will allow us to stroll pedestrian Grafton Street where we'll find plenty of shopping and Bewley's Café Theatre, a city landmark.

Sat., Sept. 17 – DALKEY / CHICAGO (B,I)

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

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

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Driver Guide.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown 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 and fuel surcharge of \$520 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to Driver Guide, and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and 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 may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. 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.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. 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.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact Pat Anderson at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

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

Alumni Association Travel Program LLC
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center
231 N. Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, IL 60115