

Jones County Junior College Alumni and Friends Ireland Tour June 2009

Day 1, Tuesday 6/2

Flight

Coach from Ellisville to New Orleans to board your flight to Dublin, Ireland!

Day 2, Wednesday 6/3

Dublin

Welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by your Tour Leader. Transfer to Dublin city center. A local guide will show you the highlights of Dublin. You will see Trinity College including the Book of Kells, The Bank of Ireland, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park and other landmarks. Start your tour at the impressive Four Courts, which houses the Supreme Court. Continue on to Christ Church Cathedral, dating from 1038. Drive to Trinity College, Dublin's ancient university founded by England's Queen Elizabeth I. After a stroll through the College Library, stop at the Royal Irish Academy and view the collection of priceless manuscripts. Check into your hotel and enjoy some free time. Enjoy welcome dinner at a local restaurant in the city centre. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 3, Thursday 6/4

Dublin

After breakfast, enjoy a visit of Kilmainham Goal. One of the largest unoccupied jails in Europe, covering some of the most heroic and tragic events in Ireland's emergence as a modern nation from 1780s to the 1920s. Attractions include a major exhibition detailing the political and penal history of the prison and its restoration. The tour of the prison includes an audio-visual show. Enjoy lunch on your own. In the afternoon, visit the famous Guinness brewery. The storehouse was originally built in 1904 to house the Guinness fermentation process. The building was constructed in the style of the Chicago school of architecture, with massive steel beams providing the support for the structure of the building. Enjoy a group dinner and overnight Dublin.

Day 4, Friday 6/5

Dublin

Morning visit of St Patrick's Cathedral. The site of St. Patrick's Cathedral is said to be the earliest Christian site in Ireland, where St. Patrick baptized converts. A wooden St. Patrick's Church stood on the site from the 5th century to about 1191, when the church was raised to the status of cathedral. The present building, the largest church in Ireland, was built between 1191 and 1270. The remainder of the day is free to spend on your own to explore Dublin. Group dinner and overnight in Dublin.

Day 5, Saturday 6/6

Dublin, Waterford

After breakfast, depart by coach to Waterford, the oldest city of Ireland, founded by the Viking's in 914. Upon arrival in Waterford, enjoy a guided visit of the Waterford Crystal factory. The remainder of the day is free to spend in Waterford. Group dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Waterford.

Day 6, Sunday 6/7**Waterford, Killarney**

Morning departure to Killarney with a stop at Blarney Castle. Blarney Castle was built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy. Be sure not to miss the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of our Tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be lost for words. Continue on to Killarney for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight Killarney.

Day 7, Monday 6/8**Kerry, Killarney**

Highlight today is the breathtaking drive around the "Ring of Kerry". Scenery includes plunging cliffs and lush lake land, granite mountains, and sandy beaches on County Kerry's largest peninsula. Wild and mountainous, County Kerry has long attracted tourists in search of magnificent scenery. Known as "the Kingdom" on account of its independence and disregard for Dublin rule, Kerry's dramatic landscapes and wealth of prehistoric and early Christian sites make it an important destination. The town of Killarney and its romantic lakes are also popular. The three lakes are contained within Killarney National Park. The ever changing light and color over the lakes is breathtaking and the area has long attracted artists and writers. The long established scenic route around the county's Iveragh Peninsula is known as the Ring of Kerry. Take a day to experience its enchanting mountain and coastal scenery, interspersed with charming fishing villages. Group dinner and overnight at your hotel in Killarney.

Day 8, Tuesday 6/9**Killarney, Adare, Limerick**

After breakfast depart for Limerick. Upon arrival, have some free time to look around, have lunch on your own, and check in the hotel. Later afternoon visit Bunratty Castle. The Castle is the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings, tapestries, and works of art which capture the mood of those times. Enjoy the Medieval Banquet at Bunratty castle. Overnight at Limerick.

Day 9, Wednesday 6/10**Departure**

Depart Shannon Airport for New Orleans. Coach to Ellisville.

Ireland Tour Inclusions:

- Coach transportation from Ellisville to New Orleans and back
- Round trip air transportation, Based on mid-week travel
- 7 Night accommodation in 3 star hotels based on double bedded rooms with private facilities
- Daily Continental Breakfast (7)
- Daily 3-course dinners (incl. water on the tables), including farewell dinner Medieval banquet
- European Tour Leader throughout
Tour Leader gratuity
- Private deluxe coach for all transfers according to the itinerary
Driver accommodations and gratuity
- Professional local guide for the following city tours: Dublin and Ring of Kerry
Step-on guide gratuity

- Admissions included: Book of Kells, St Patrick's Cathedral, Kilmainham Goal, Guinness Storehouse, Waterford Crystal Factory, Blarney Castle, Bunratty Castle

Price per person based on 30 paying participants

\$3428 with Double Occupancy

Price is based on the Euro/Dollar exchange rate \$1.47029 as of 8/28/08. Please know that if this rate goes up, the price of the tour increases. Also, know that airlines may impose a surcharge to cover climbing fuel rates.

Supplements:

Single supplement add \$338.00

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