

World of Travel

Presents

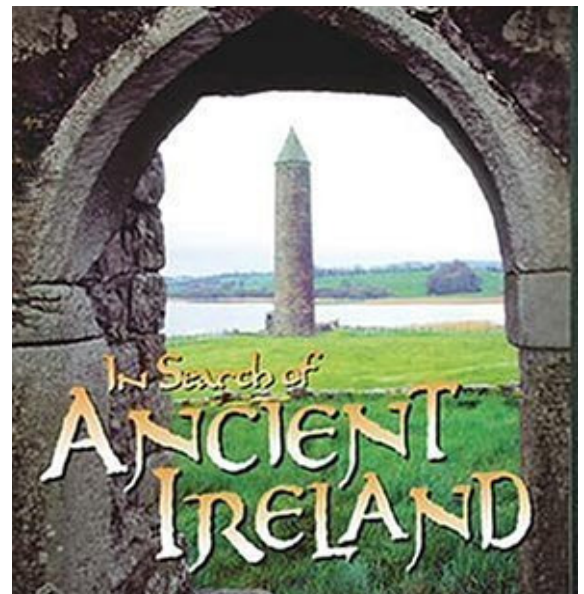
Holy Places of Ireland

**Spring / Fall
2010 / 2011
8 Days / 7 Nights
\$2,699.00***

Per person based on double occupancy

Included Features:

- Round trip airfare from selected cities (subject to airline fuel surcharges)
- Hotel accommodations
 - *Three nights in Dublin
 - *One night in Belfast
 - *Two nights in Galway
- Full breakfast daily
- Five dinners including dinner and entertainment at the Abbey Tavern in Dublin
- Guided tour of Dublin
- Guided walking tour of Derry
- All admissions as stated in itinerary
- Hotel portage, service charges and government taxes
- Flight bag, ticket wallet, and baggage tag
- Fully escorted upon arrival
- One complimentary trip for every twenty paid passengers



Itinerary:

Day One ~ United States to Dublin

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Day Two ~ Dublin arrival (B,D)

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Then your CIE Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Take an orientation drive around Dublin city center. Dublin is one of the liveliest capitals in Europe but there are plenty of historical places also. See the main thoroughfares of O'Connell Street and Nassau Street, the shopping streets and some lovely public parks. Then drive to your hotel and check in. After you settle into your room you may like to rest or explore some of the city on your own before dinner. (Dublin)

Day Three ~ Glendalough and Dublin Tour (B)

This morning drive across the Wicklow Mountains to see the 6th century monastic ruins of Glendalough, where the peacefulness of the valley conjures up the spirit of the monks. The Visitor Centre explains how St. Kevin founded this settlement at a time when Christianity was burgeoning throughout Ireland. Today the monks have long gone, leaving the ruins of numerous churches and a round tower. Return to Dublin and set off with a local guide who will show you around the prominent historic buildings and monuments of Dublin. Stop in Trinity College to view the 8th century Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript of the gospels. After your visit, enjoy the balance of the day and evening at leisure for independent activities and dining. (Dublin)

Day Four ~ St. Oliver Plunkett & Down Cathedral (B,D)

Leaving Dublin head north to Drogheda to visit St. Peter's Church and view the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett. He became the last martyr to die in England in 1681 and was canonized in 1975. Continue your drive to Downpatrick and visit Down Cathedral where St. Patrick is reputedly buried. Also visit the Saint Patrick Centre, which tells about his life and work and the founding of many monasteries which had a profound influence on Ireland's development in the early Christian era. Drive into Belfast, which is situated on the deep inlet of Belfast Lough surrounded by hills and check into your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (Belfast)



Day Five ~ Lough Derg & Knock Shrine (B,D)



Travel south through Donegal and stop at Lough Derg, a special place of pilgrimage for over 1,000 years. Take a boat to reach the island and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this holy place. Back on the mainland, drive south to Knock Shrine, where the Virgin Mary appeared to 15 people on August 21, 1879. Celebrate Mass at the site with your fellow travelers before continuing on to the bustling city of Galway. Check into your hotel and enjoy some time to settle in before joining your group for dinner. (Galway)

Day Six ~ Kylemore Abbey & Croagh Patrick (B,D)

Drive through the lovely scenery of Connemara to Kylemore Abbey, a 19th century neo-Gothic mansion overlooking Kylemore Lake. Originally a private residence, it is now a prestigious girls' school. Visit the chapel and the reception rooms in the mansion. Continue your drive to view the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick, where St. Patrick reputedly prayed during Lent. Return to Galway for some free time before dinner. (Galway)

Day Seven ~ Clonmacnoise & Dublin (B)



Travel from Galway to the center of Ireland to visit Clonmacnoise. This monastic settlement was founded in 545 AD by St. Ciaran and is delightfully set on the banks of the River Shannon. Learn about the history of the site through an audiovisual presentation and take a walk around to see the ancient monuments and the entire area. Then journey across the rolling pastures of Ireland's heartland to the greater metropolitan area of

Dublin. Check into your hotel and enjoy some free time to relax or do some sightseeing on your own.

This evening head to the Abbey Tavern for dinner and a traditional ballad session. The drive to Howth, a suburb on the north side of the city will give you great views of Dublin Bay. Built on the site of an old abbey, this pub has been in business for over 200 years. (Dublin)

Day Eight ~ Return to the United States

All too soon, your vacation in Ireland has come to the end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores. Then clear U.S. Immigration before boarding your aircraft and fly west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.

