

# Dave Yeates Ireland Tours presents the...

## Agnes Scott Alumnae Tour of Ireland

June 4-15, 2016

### ITINERARY:

**Day 1, June 4 (Sat): US-DUBLIN.** Depart US Gateway for overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland. Dinner served shortly after take-off.

**Day 2, June 5 (Sun): ARRIVE DUBLIN.** \*Arrive Dublin Airport where we're met by our friendly Irish Driver/guide in the arrivals hall (approximately 9:00AM) Any one arriving on earlier flights may exchange money or visit the airport shops a He'll escort the group to the awaiting motor coach and depart for our first stop at the **Man O'War Pub** for our first official **full Irish Breakfast**. After breakfast we head into the capital city of Dublin for a brief panoramic tour from the coach. Check in to the hotel with remainder of the day to rest, relax, or independently explore local places of your personal interest. Re-group for a **welcome dinner** at the hotel. Overnight in Dublin.

*\*If you are pre-nighting at the Davenport Hotel/Mont Clare you will be picked up at approx. 8:00-8:15AM, and then will go to the airport to pick up the rest of the group. Please be ready and waiting in the hotel lobby.*

**Day 3, June 6 (Mon): DUBLIN.** Today after breakfast we'll head out for local touring of Dublin City. Today we're met by a local guide **Michael O'Brien** who will acquaint us with the city and show us several points of historical interest related to the 1916 Easter Rising. Today we'll visit many sights. Due to Kilmainham Jail declining group bookings until 2017, we will try to get the group on a public tour (group will be split up). If this is not possible, the group will visit the **GPO Witness History Experience**. Today we'll also visit the  **Glasnevin Cemetery** for a 1916 Tour followed by a visit to the **Arbor Hill Military Cemetery**. Michael will be sure to share his vast knowledge enroute. Early dinner on our own before re-grouping for a theatre performance at the Gaiety Theatre to see *God Bless the Child First Confessions are the Hardest*. Overnight in Dublin.

**Day 4, June 7 (Tues): DUBLIN – CASHEL - KILLARNEY.** This morning after breakfast, we bid farewell to Dublin's fair city, and board our coach which will transport us southwards to lovely Killarney Town. Our drive takes us through County Kildare, Laois and Tipperary, stopping to visit the mighty **Rock of Cashel**, ancient seat of the High Kings of Munster, en route. Continuing, we travel over the rolling hills and rich green pasture lands of Ireland's Golden Vale, the richest farmland in the country and evidenced by the prosperity of such towns as Cahir, Tipperary and Mitchelstown. We shall shortly arrive in Killarney Town. Check-in to our hotel and shortly after we'll be met by horse and carriage for a lovely **jaunting cart ride** through the Killarney National Park. We return to the hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

**Day 5, June 8 (Weds): KILLARNEY – DINGLE PENINSULA – KILLARNEY.** This morning, after an early full Irish breakfast we head to **Muckross House** for a visit. Next we depart Killarney for a full day tour of the rugged Dingle Peninsula. Film goers will be reminded of scenes from the movie, "Ryan's Daughter", which was shot in this area, as we drive past little harbors and wide stretches of sandy beach, leading southward to Sleat Head. This is the most westerly point in Europe, "the next parish to America" and off this coast many an Armada Galleon was lost. Enroute today we stop at **Dingle Crystal** for a demonstration of crystal cutting. We continue our lovely touring today as vistas of the Blasket Islands and Dingle Bay delight the eye and visit the **Gallarus Oratory**, a little beehive stone structure, more than 1,000 years old, conjures up visions of monks in early Christian times in this "land of saints and scholars". We'll also visit the **Blasket Center** a fascinating heritage centre/museum honoring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. Returning to Killarney in the late afternoon. Dinner on your own and overnight in Killarney.

**Day 6, June 9 (Thurs): KILLARNEY – GALWAY.** Leaving Killarney you travel through Tralee - the chief town of County Kerry and gateway to the Dingle Peninsula, continuing on through Listowel to Tarbert where we board the **ferry** and cross the Shannon River to Killimer in County Clare. On then to the awesome **Cliffs of Moher**, one of the most outstanding features of County Clare. Rising sheer above the sea to nearly 700 feet and extending along the coast for nearly five miles - these cliffs form one of the grandest stretches of Cliffs in these islands. You continue through the Burren, an area on barren limestone hills which bursts into bloom each spring with rare flowers. After driving through the charming villages of Ballyvaughan and Kinvara, and along the shores of Galway Bay, you arrive in Gort, for a visit to **Coole Park** a nature reserve which was the home of Lady Augusta Gregory dramatist, and co-founder with Edward Martyn and W.B. Yeats of the Abbey Theatre. Enjoy an audiovisual presentation followed by a guided tour of the autograph tree and other areas as well as some time to look at the exhibition on Lady's Gregory's granddaughters. Today we will also visit **Thoor Ballylee**, a fortified, 15th century Hiberno-Norman tower house. We'll head into Galway City and check into our hotel to freshen up a bit. We re-group for a **4 course dinner** followed by entertainment at **Trad on the Prom**. Overnight in Galway.

**Day 7, June 10 (Fri): GALWAY – KYLEMORE - BALLINASLOE (CO. GALWAY).** Today we have a cold buffet breakfast before departing on a tour of the rugged yet serenely beautiful Connemara area. This rocky land of broad-back mountains and pearl-like lakes is the largest Irish speaking section of the country and the old traditions and way of life are as much a part of Connemara's attractions as is the scenery. A visit to Ireland, and especially to the West of Ireland and Connemara is not complete without experiencing the beauty and tranquility that is **Kylemore Abbey & Garden** - the Monastic home of the Benedictine Order of Nuns in Ireland. From Kylemore, we head a bit further north and stop at **Larches Bar for lunch** and possible dance lesson and music/entertainment. We return stopping to shop and explore **Connemara Marble** and check into our Co. Galway hotel, in Ballinasloe. **Dinner** here this evening and overnight.

**Day 8, June 11 (Sat): BALLINASLOE (CO. GALWAY) – WESTPORT - SLIGO.** This morning after a full Irish breakfast we head out to explore magnificent County Mayo. We'll stop in the town of Westport, designated as one of Failte Ireland's Heritage Towns, is growing in popularity as a tourist center. Soak up the continental atmosphere of Westport while you stroll along the tree-lined river, colorful flower displays, courtyards and shops steeped in character. Westport has a gracious town center in the Georgian architectural style, as one of the few planned towns in the country (by James Wyatt in 1780). We'll visit the **Westport House**, which was a place for his workers and subjects to live. From Westport we continue northeast to Foxford to visit and shop at the **Foxford Woollen Mills**. Traveling onto Lough Gill and the Isle of Innisfree to Enniscrone to see O'Dowd's Castle we continue a further north into Sligo Town where we check into our hotel with the remainder of the evening on our own. Dinner on our own and overnight in Sligo.

**Day 9, June 12 (Sun): SLIGO –DRUMCLIFFE – DONEGAL - INISHOWEN.** After breakfast we depart from our hotel and head out for a view of Sligo Bay from Rosses Point and visit the grave of that wonderful Irish poet, William Butler Yeats who lies buried in **Drumcliffe Churchyard**, "in the shadow of Ben Bulbin". Before leaving the Sligo area we also visit the **Lissadell House**, a Greek revival style detached nine-bay, two-story over basement mansion, and the last one in this style to be built in Ireland. Next we head further north skirting Donegal Bay to Donegal town to visit the **Donegal Castle**. A short drive from here and we arrive at our hotel for check in. Some free time before we regroup for dinner. Overnight in Inishowen.

**Day 10, June 13 (Mon): INISHOWEN – DERRY – INISHOWEN.** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we depart and head just bit further north to Derry where we meet Ronan McNamara. Ronan will show you Derry and tell the many historical and political stories of this once divided area. This tour is truly educational but still very entertaining and enjoyable. Next we visit the **Museum of Free Derry** before heading to the Antrim Coast. A trip to Northern Ireland would not be complete without visiting the **Giant’s Causeway**, often referred to as the "eighth wonder of the world". Stop in at the Visitors Center and enjoy a short audio-visual presentation before taking the transfer shuttle down to the spectacular rock formations. From here we head to **Dunluce Castle** a now-ruined medieval castle in Northern Ireland. It is located on the edge of basalt outcropping in County Antrim, and is accessible via a bridge connecting it to the mainland. We return back to Inishowen with the remainder of the day at your leisure. Dinner on own and overnight in Inishowen.

**Day 11, June 14 (Tues): INISHOWEN – ENFIELD.** Today after breakfast we depart for a long driver to Enfield, Co. Meath. We’ll stop enroute for some great sites and a visit to the **National Famine Museum** as well as a visit and tour of **Strokestown Park (House & Museum)**. We check into the hotel with a bit of free time before re-grouping for our final farewell **dinner and entertainment** together. Overnight in Enfield.

**Day 12, June 15 (Weds): ENFIELD – US.** We depart the hotel early today (bagged breakfast) and farewell to the emerald isle and head to the Dublin Airport for return flight home. Return home the same day.

### YOUR HOTELS

<b>DUBLIN:</b>	<b>Davenport Hotel</b>	<b>June 5, 6</b>	<b>2 Nts</b>	<b>1-D/B &amp; B, 1-B &amp; B</b>
	8-10 Merrion Street Lower, Dublin 2, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 1 607 3500 – In Ireland: 01 607 3500			
<b>KILLARNEY:</b>	<b>Randles Court Hotel</b>	<b>June 7, 8</b>	<b>2 Ns</b>	<b>1-D/B &amp; B, 1-B &amp; B</b>
	Muckcross Rd, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 64 663 5333 – In Ireland: 064 663 5333			
<b>GALWAY:</b>	<b>Imperial Hotel</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>1 Nt</b>	<b>B &amp; B</b>
	Eyre Square, Galway, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 91 563 033 – In Ireland: 091 563 033			
<b>BALLINASLOE (Co. Galway):</b>	<b>Shearwater Hotel</b>	<b>June 10</b>	<b>1 Nt</b>	<b>D/B &amp; B</b>
	Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 90 963 0400 – In Ireland: 090 963 0400			
<b>SLIGO:</b>	<b>Sligo Southern Hotel</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>1 Nt</b>	<b>B &amp; B</b>
	Strandhill Rd, Sligo, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 71 916 2101 – In Ireland: 071 916 2101			
<b>INISHOWEN:</b>	<b>An Grianan Hotel</b>	<b>June 12, 13</b>	<b>2 Nts</b>	<b>1-D/B &amp; B, 1-B &amp; B</b>
	Speenoge, Co. Donegal, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 74 936 8900 – In Ireland: 074 936 8900			
<b>ENFIELD:</b>	<b>Johnstown House Hotel</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>1 Nt</b>	<b>D/B &amp; B</b>
	Enfield, Co. Meath, Ireland FROM US: 011 353 46 954 0000 – In Ireland: 046 954 0000			

## TOUR INCLUDES

- ◇ Ten (10) Nights First Class and Superior First Class Hotel Accommodations, rooms with private facilities
- ◇ Full breakfast daily, including day of arrival at the Man O' War Pub
- ◇ Four (4) hotels dinners, plus dinner & entertainment in Galway at Trad on the Prom, plus music and entertainment last night at your hotel.
- ◇ Lunch with music and entertainment at Larches Pub
- ◇ Visits/Admissions: Kilmainham Jail (*public tour if avail.*) **OR** GPO Witness History Experience, Glasnevin Cemetery, Rock of Cashel, Muckross House, Blasket Centre, Dingle Crystal, Muckross House, Cliffs of Moher, Coole Park, Kylemore Abbey, Westport House, Foxford Woollen Mills, Lissadell House, Donegal Castle, Museum of Free Derry, Giant's Causeway with shuttle, Dunluce Castle and National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park.
- ◇ Guided tour of Dublin and of Derry
- ◇ Jaunting cart ride through Killarney National Park
- ◇ Theatre performance ticket for Gaiety Theatre (*God Bless the Child First Confessions are the Hardest*)
- ◇ Shannon Ferry Crossing
- ◇ Deluxe touring motor coach for transfers and sightseeing with the services of a professional driver/guide (Dave Yeates)
- ◇ Portorage of one (1) suitcase per person
- ◇ Tips and taxes in Ireland.
- ◇ Portfolio of travel documents

## HOTEL NOTICE CHECK-IN:

In most areas, the check-in time is approximately 2:00 p.m. onwards. Most hotels will hold your luggage for you upon arrival, until your room is available. It takes time to prepare your room after other guests have left. The checkout time is usually between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. If you arrive on an early morning flight into Ireland, every effort will be made to obtain an early check-in at your hotel; however this is not always possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

**DRIVER WILL POST DAILY SCHEDULE ON HOTEL BULLETIN BOARD IN LOBBY. IN ORDER TO ENSURE FAIRNESS, DAILY ROTATION OF SEATS ON MOTORCOACH TOURS IS REQUIRED.**

**PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED BAGGAGE TAGS, AS THIS IS HOW OUR DRIVER RECOGNIZES YOU BELONG ON HIS COACH. THEY ARE ALSO USED IN SORTING LUGGAGE AT AIRPORT AND HOTELS. THANK YOU.**

**CELTIC TOURS - Albany, NY Office Tel. (Calling from Ireland) 001-518-862-0042**

**Celtic Tours 24 Hour (EMERGENCIES ONLY) Phone: 001-518-229-0089**

*When calling from the United States to Ireland, the international codes are as follows:*

*For the Republic of Ireland dial 011 353, and drop the zero on the area code.*

Services provided by:

