

Revised Itinerary, Ireland 2013

Day 0 - Tuesday, 11 June- Flight out

Afternoon flight from Richmond to Dublin , arriving early in the morning of Wednesday, 12 June.

Day 1 - Wednesday, 12 June: **Dublin**

Aircoach bus from the airport to Kinlay House, Dublin 2-12 Lord Edward Street, Temple Bar in the heart of downtown Dublin. After storing our luggage for a later check-in, we'll have the rest of the day for an introductory walking tour of Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, Trinity College campus and the **Books of Kells** Museum as well as some free time to get acquainted with at our "neighborhood." Group dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2 - Thursday, 13 June: **Dublin**

Morning literary walking tour and visit O'Connell Street and the **General Post Office** (a major site of the 1916 Easter Rising). Afternoon, visit the Irish Writer's Museum and stop at the Garden of Remembrance along the way. Evening Gaelic music and dance or literary pub crawl through historic Dublin.

Day 3 - Friday, 14 June: **Dublin**

Visit to George Bernard Shaw birthplace, St. Stephen's Green, National Gallery, St. Patrick's. Break for lunch on your own and then meet at St. Stephen's Green and walk back across the Ha-Penny, Dublin's only pedestrian bridge, to investigate the Temple Bar District, including Kilmainham Gaol. We'll return to the hostel in late afternoon to get ready for an evening theater performance or other festivity.

Day 4 - Saturday, 15 June: **Dublin**

We'll continue our explorations of Dublin, visiting the **Irish National Museum of Archeology** and then on to Grafton Street for lunch, shopping, and local street performers. Optional back stage tour of the Abbey Theater at noon and an afternoon matinee or evening performance at Abbey Theater.

Day 5 – Sunday, 16 June: **Dublin**

Bloomsday Festival: We'll devote the day to all things related to James Joyce including an optional trip via public transportation to Joyce's Tower at Sandymount.

Day 6—Monday, 17 June: **Galway Residency**

We will take a leisurely morning bus across Ireland to **Galway** with visits possible to the monastic site at Clonmacnoise, the Kilbeggan Distillery, Athlone Town, even the Horse Museum at Dartfield. We will check into our rooms at Forster Court Hotel off Eyre Square in downtown Galway and then enjoy a walking tour of Galway, a scenic and bustling college town filled with history. Early evening open for grocery shopping, laundry, or just fun.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 18 June: **Galway Residency**

Lectures and discussions over the readings on campus. Irish literature and publishing History Lecture by Irish Writers Center, Fred Johnson. In the evening take in local music scene at area pub as Galway is known for traditional Irish music.

Day 8 – Wednesday 19 June: **Galway Residency**

We'll leave in the morning for a day-trip to the mountains of Connemara, traveling alongside peat bogs where we'll stop and study the Irish tradition of turf-cutting at Dan O'Hara's farm, where the peat was cut and dried to be used for winter fuel for heating and cooking. We'll travel through the glens of the Twelve Pins Mountains to beautiful **Kylemore Abbey**. Lunch at Clifden, a picturesque town where Marconi transmitted the first wireless signal. The scenery, reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands, continues as we return to Galway.

Day 9 – Thursday 20 June: Galway Residency

We'll take a morning ferry across the mouth of Galway Bay to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, home of Liam O'Flaherty and the subject of many writers, especially John Millington Synge. After arriving in the island village of Kilronan, we'll take a tour of the island's scenic and historic sites, highlighted by a visit to **Dun Angus**, a Celtic fort more than 2,000 years old perched atop a high rock-strewn cliff overlooking the Irish mainland in the distance. Afternoon return by ferry to Galway. Bring Irish woolens!!

Day 10 – Friday 21 June: Galway Residency

Today's sites include **Coole Park but maybe not Thoor Ballylee** (which is closed after serious water damage in 2011), with its associations with W. B. Yeats and Lady Gregory, then on to stunning **Cliffs of Moher** and its observation center, and the strangely lunar landscape of The Burren.

Day 11 – Saturday 22 June: Sligo

Today we travel by motor coach from Galway to Sligo, stopping to explore the Village of Cong, the Museum of Country life, and the maybe Foxford Woollen Mills, before we check in at the Sligo City Hotel in the vibrant riverside area of O'Connell Street. The afternoon will include a visit to the Yeats Memorial Museum, County Library (Yeats manuscripts), Sligo County Museum, Yeats Memorial Building.

Day 12 – Sunday 23 June: Sligo

We'll spend the day seeing the sites in Yeats Country: Queen Medb's Cairn, Knocknaree, Drumcliff & Benbulbin, Yeat's Grave, Loch Gill, Lake Isle of Innisfree. Today you will need sturdy walking shoes!! Evening open to explore on your own.

Day 13 – Monday 24 June: Sligo

By motor coach, we'll travel to the Belfast along the Causeway Coastal route with stops at Bushmills and along the Giants Causeway. In Belfast, we will meet and dine with students from the Belfast Metropolitan College. Evening film at Metropolitan College. Overnight at the Day's Hotel in central Belfast.

Day 14 – Tuesday 25 June: Belfast

Introductory lecture at Metropolitan College and walking or taxi tour of Belfast: Falls Road Republican Murals, the Peace line, the Ulster museum, Sinn Fein Headquarters, and perhaps St. George's Market. Afternoon to shop, pack, relax. Farewell group dinner.

Day 15 – Wednesday 26 June: Belfast

After breakfast, travel by motor coach to Dublin Airport and head home to Virginia.