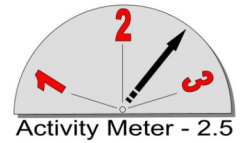




Scenic Ireland

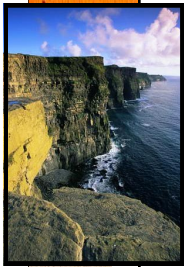
15 Days: June 14-28, 2012



This travel package planned & escorted by Jane Sorenson.

Steeped in myths and legends, Ireland possesses a rugged mystical beauty that lures sportsmen and historians alike – it's so much more than leprechauns and lucky charms. Come discover for yourself!

June 14 get ready to travel but leave the arrangements to us! Transportation is provided from our scheduled departure cities for our overnight in Omaha.

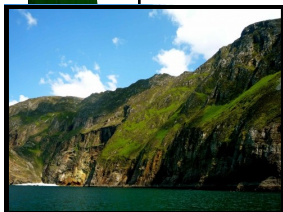


June 15 after **breakfast** we'll depart for our late morning flight from Omaha Airport to **Shannon, Ireland**. (Flight arrangements are available from many US cities. We'll be happy to have your friends join us from other parts of the country. Call for more details.) Your experienced tour expert is there to assist you from start to finish, ready to make sure all your travel details are in order. (B, in-flight meals)

June 16 we'll arrive in Ireland and check into our hotel in **Limerick**. The rest of the day is free to relax and settle in. This evening, get to know your tour director and traveling companions during a **welcome dinner** at your hotel. (D)

June 17 start off **today and every morning** with a **hearty Irish breakfast**. Get your cameras ready as we motor to the **Cliffs of Moher**, rising 668 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, and savor the breathtaking panoramic view of the Clare coast, the Atlantic and Galway Bay. We'll travel via the plateau of The Burren, a location hit hard by the Potato Famine, which spread throughout Ireland in the late 1840s. Galway is known for its seafaring tradition. The city was chartered in 1396 and is known as the "City of Tribes" after the 14 families who settled the area. In Galway, watch for "hookers" – let us explain, they're traditional wooden sailing boats with a unique appearance. Next, we're in for a special treat at **Rathbaun Farm** - watch the farmer shear a sheep and maneuver his flock with the help of a skilled sheep dog. Good job! As we journey through the amazing scenery of bogs, mountains and rugged coastline, we'll call on the Joyce family's **Marble Workshop** before spending the night at Clifden. Clifden is a small fishing town in the far west, framed by the grandeur of the Twelve Bens mountain range, and full of exquisite craft shops and lively pubs. (B, D)

June 18 our day begins with a fascinating start – a visit to **Kylemore Abbey** (the massive castle acquired by Benedictine nuns) where we'll view the restored house, church and gardens. We pause at Westport before continuing on to **Knock**, where two women saw the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist. The village annually attracts 1.5 million pilgrims from all over the world to visit the Church of St. John. On the way to the resort of Bundoran, stop at Drumcliff on Sligo Bay to visit the grave of native son and famous poet **William Butler Yeats**. (B, D)



June 19 is a day dedicated to wild and beautiful **Donegal**. You will follow the scenic Atlantic coast around Donegal Bay with its small fishing ports and hidden beaches. We'll visit the ancient town of the same name, founded by the Danish Vikings and home of the O'Donnell Clan. Later, call on **Belleek Pottery**, renowned for its exquisite pearl-colored, Parian china. (B, D)

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June 20 a rich string of Northern Ireland attractions awaits you today. In **Derry**, walk the city's enormous walls in the company of a **local guide**. The walls are said to be the best-preserved city walls in Europe and measure 26 feet high and 30 feet wide. After lunch, pass the ruins of Dunluce Castle before visiting the awe-inspiring **Giant's**



Causeway, source of many legends (involving a giant, of course!) which attempt to explain the more than 37,000 symmetrical columns that extend into the sea. The Causeway is Ireland's only World Heritage Site and National Nature Reserve. Arrive in **Belfast**, Northern Ireland's seat of government, and during an **orientation tour**, learn more about this fascinating city where the Titanic was built. (B, D)

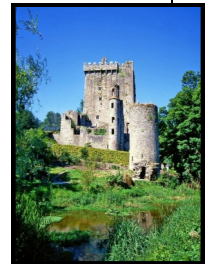


June 21 this morning, drive in the lee of the Mountains of Mourne back into the Irish Republic. At **Bru na Boinne** (Palace of the Boyne), one of the world's most important archaeological landscapes, visit **Knowth**, where your guide explains the fascinating passage-grave dating from the Bronze Age. Arriving in **Dublin** tonight, you may top off the day with an optional Irish specialty dinner and cabaret show. (B)



June 22 Dublin will come alive during our **orientation tour** – you'll marvel at intriguing architecture, statue-lined O'Connell Street (Dublin's busiest street), elegant Georgian squares and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Then, a highlight of our tour is a visit to **Trinity College**, founded in 1592 in a former monastery. The famous book of Kells, the Latin version of the four gospels, elegantly "illuminated" with elaborate decoration, was moved here in the 17th century. The Old Library on the campus dates to 1732. The afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Tonight, you'll have the option to experience a unique Dublin highlight - a visit to the famous Guinness Storehouse for dinner. (B)

June 23 witness the vistas of the Wicklow Mountains unfolding as you head for a special visit to **Ballyknocken House**, a typical Irish family-run, farm guesthouse. Your host will present an entertaining **baking demonstration** and then serve coffee and scones fresh from the oven. Yum! Travel on to the pretty county town of Kilkenny, and then to Waterford for a guided tour of the newly-opened **House of Waterford Crystal**. Before dinner, if you're adventurous, you might wander to a nearby village for drinks at the local pub – sample the local culture and color! (B, D)



June 24 the first of the day's highlights is an entertaining walk through **Waterford**, Ireland's oldest city, in the company of a **local guide**. Then, journey to **Blarney**. If you've wished for the gift of eloquent speech, you may want to kiss the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle. Blarney is a pretty village with pubs and craft shops, including the renowned Blarney Woolen Mills – let the shopping begin (or continue!). We overnight in **Cork**, Ireland's second-largest city. Before dinner, you visit **Cobh's Queenstown Story**, which tells of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who left Ireland for North America. Cobh is also on the transatlantic liner route between Liverpool and North America and was the last port of call for the Titanic. (B)



June 25 you board a private boat for the short crossing to **Garinish Island**, whose warm waters attract colonies of seals. Follow the winding paths between the fragrant flowering trees and shrubs of this lush tropical island garden. Then, head over the mountains into County Kerry. At Kenmare, join part of the **Ring of Kerry** (a famous 100-mile scenic drive) and stop at "Ladies View" for spectacular photos of the Lakes of Killarney before arriving in the popular resort of **Killarney**. Tonight, as an option, you might choose an entertaining evening in Tralee with dinner and a performance by Ireland's National Folk Theatre. (B)

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June 26 enjoy panoramic views on Dingle Peninsula on the way to the **Blasket Islands Centre**. On this string of remote offshore islands, learn about the locals' way of life and their unique literary achievements. The islands were evacuated by the last inhabitants in 1953. Visit Dingle, an engaging tourist center with craft shops, cafes and slightly hippy overtones. We then return to Killarney. (B, D)



June 27 this morning in Killarney we're treated to a fun outing - a ride in a **horse-drawn jaunting car** through the National Park to ancient Ross Castle. In the afternoon we drive to Limerick by way of quaint Adare, renowned for its pretty, thatched cottages. Tonight's a very special night out when we attend a **medieval banquet** at 13th-century **Bunratty Castle**. Receive a goblet or two of mead and listen to the history of the castle, before enjoying a medieval madrigal by the Castle Singers. (B, D)

June 28 all great things must come to an end, and after breakfast this morning, our scenic Ireland vacation draws to a close. We'll transfer to the airport and bid farewell to Ireland's castles and coastline. Upon arrival in Omaha, a Hawkeye Stages motorcoach return us to our departure cities. (B)

This 15-day Scenic Ireland package includes: Transportation between our scheduled departure cities and Omaha Airport, round-trip air transportation (based on Omaha, call for information & rates from other US air gateways), transfers between airport and hotel, ground transportation while abroad, lodging for 13 nights, luggage handling, sightseeing tickets/admissions to bolded attractions, 13 breakfasts and 8 dinners (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity).

\$4,999 per person, double occupancy
\$5,446 single room accommodations

Deposit: \$500 per person, due with reservation. If deposits are not received within 3 business days, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

Balance due: April 5

Delayed reservation fee: after April 5, a reservation for this trip requires an additional \$50 per person.

Peace of Mind Protection: Not available for this travel package, but affordable cancellation protection and travel insurance are available. Detailed information will be sent with your confirmation or call for advance information. Without protection, the following penalties will apply, regardless of the reason for cancellation:

Cancellation prior to March 8, a \$50 per person penalty applies.

Cancellation from March 8–April 24, a \$250 per person penalty applies.

Cancellation from April 25–May 10, a 20% land penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation from May 11-31, a 30% land penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation from June 1-12, a 50% land penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellations on or after June 13, a 100% penalty applies.



Scheduled departure cities: Ames, Cedar Rapids, Clear Lake, Coralville, Decorah, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Newton and Waterloo.

A valid passport is required for this travel package.

Air/rail/cruise tickets are subject to supplemental price increases which may be imposed after purchase due to additional costs imposed by a supplier or government (such as increased fees, fuel surcharges, taxes and/or foreign exchange fluctuations). To offset these fees, you may be charged post-purchase price increases by NorthLand Travel.

When circumstances arise beyond our control, NorthLand Travel reserves the right to make itinerary changes.



Moderate itinerary + - some standing or stairs, a few blocks of walking plus options for additional activities

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