
Gardens of Ireland

Southern Counties

With Ciscoe Morris

September 9th to September 22nd 2017

This tour includes

- 12 nights in first class hotels throughout Ireland
- Motor Coach Transportation
- Local guide
- Meals including
 - All breakfasts
 - Nine Dinners
 - One Lunch
- Admissions to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- All taxes and fees

Airfare is not included in the cost of this tour. Estimated flight costs from Seattle are approximately \$1000. A suggested flight schedule will be provided when airlines post schedules and fares, approximately 11 months out.

This tour is limited to just 20 participants. Some of the gardens and historic sites we're visiting simply don't accommodate larger groups. Tour cost is \$4590 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement is \$900. Deposit of \$1000 to confirm reservation. Balance is due July 1st, 2017.

Visa and Mastercard are accepted. If you choose to pay by check for the tour, you may deduct \$150 per person from your final payment.

We're staying 12 nights in Ireland

2 nights	Dublin
3 nights	Belfast
2 nights	Donegal
3 nights	Galway
2 nights	Birr

Thursday, September 9th Depart for Dublin

Depart Seattle for Shannon. Flights from Seattle or Vancouver depart all day, arriving the following day in Shannon.

Friday, September 10th Dublin Arrival

Arrive Shannon in the early part of the day on Friday, September 10th. We're staying in the town of Ennis, which is 25 miles north of the airport.

Transportation will be arranged for early morning and afternoon arrivals.

Free time to explore the town of Ennis. Enjoy a hosted beverage at a local pub before our dinner together this evening. Overnight Ennis (D)

Saturday, September 11th

We start the day with a visit to the Knappogue Castle and Walled Garden. We'll break for lunch and enjoy the afternoon at the Bunratty Castle and Folk Park to experience a recreation of the history of the island. Overnight Ennis (B,D)

Sunday, September 12th

Today is devoted to a tour of The Burren, a unique geologic area with a wide variety of plant life specific to this region. We'll visit the interpretive center and employ the services of a guide familiar with the history, flora, and fauna of the Burren. We've scheduled a visit to Caher Bridge Garden, a small, private garden overlooking the Atlantic.

After lunch we will drive on to the Atlantic Coast to visit the dramatic overlook and visitor center for the Cliffs of Moher. On a clear day you can see the Aran Islands to the west of the sheer cliffs rising over 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Overnight Ennis (B,D)

Monday, September 13th

We depart County Clare for Killarney this morning. En-route, we'll stop for a tour of Boyce's Garden, a prize-winning garden over 20 years in the making.

We'll stop for a pub lunch nearby before driving on to Killarney. Before arriving at the hotel in Killarney, we'll enjoy a tour of the house and garden at Muckross House. Overnight Killarney (B,D)

Tuesday, September 14th

We're forsaking the more traveled Dingle Peninsula and Ring of Kerry for the less busy, but equally beautiful, Ring of Beara. We'll visit Derreen Gardens in the morning, with a stop to see a Mass Rock, a place of worship for Irish Catholics during the Penal Times.

We'll stop for lunch in Castletown-Bere, the home of Ireland's largest fishing fleet for lunch. We'll return to Killarney mid-afternoon. After dinner this evening we'll take in an Irish Folk show at Celtic Steps. Overnight Killarney (B,D)

Wednesday, September 15th

Visit Innacullin, a garden of Harold Peto's design on Garinish Island in Bantry Bay. It's a short boat trip from Glengarriff across the bay, then we're free to wander the island. We'll break for lunch after returning from the island, then we'll travel along the coast to Bantry House to see their garden before the final drive to Kinsale. Overnight Kinsale (B,D)

Thursday, September 16th

We're off to enjoy a walking tour of Cork with a visit to the historic Cork City Gaol. We'll break for lunch in town. At Ballymaloe, we'll have lunch at the hotel, prior to touring the kitchen gardens and borders at the school. On the way back to Kinsale, we'll stop in Midleton, historic home of Jameson Whiskey for a tour of their historic distillery. Overnight Kinsale (B,L)

Friday, September 17th

We have a morning visit planned at Lakemount Gardens, one of Ireland's "Flagship Gardens", located just outside Cork. Provided there's time, we'll make a short stop at Blarney Castle and Woolen Mill if anyone is itching to kiss the stone.

We're on to Cashel to tour the historic Rock of Cashel. We then travel to Kilkenny, our base for the next two nights. We'll dine as a group near the hotel and will work to find a traditional music experience later this evening. Overnight Kilkenny (B,D)

Saturday, September 18th

We start the day with a visit the Altamont Gardens. Following lunch in a nearby village, we'll enjoy a tour of the Irish National Stud. Overnight Kilkenny (B)

Sunday, September 19th

On our way to Dublin this afternoon for our final three nights of the tour. On the way, we'll visit the ancient monastic site of Glendalough with a short stop for lunch. Just before we arrive in Dublin, we'll tour the garden of Mount Usher. We'll arrive in Dublin in the late afternoon. Dinner near the hotel this evening. Overnight Dublin (B,D)

Monday, September 20th

We'll be visiting two of the more interesting of the Dublin Garden Group sites today with a morning tour of June Blake's Garden, followed by a visit to Hunting Brook, the private garden of Jimi Blake. Return to Dublin in the early afternoon. We'll return to Dublin with a bit of free time to enjoy the annual Fringe Festival or do some last minute shopping.

The performances aren't listed yet, but I plan to obtain tickets to an evening performance at Dublin's historic Abbey Theater for the group. Details will be announced early 2017. Overnight Dublin (B)

Tuesday, September 21st

We have a 10:00 AM tour arranged to see the ancient Stone Age passage tomb at Newgrange. This site is one of the most visited in Ireland with an opportunity to enter the underground passage.

We'll stop in the nearby town of Drogheda for a quick lunch before returning to our last stop of the tour, the world famous Guinness Brewery. We'll take a tour, then sample the goods at one of the highest points in the city, the Gravity Bar. You'll have free time in Dublin this afternoon to shop or visit one of the many

museums near the hotel. Our farewell dinner is scheduled for this evening.
Overnight Dublin (B,D)

Wednesday, September 22nd

We'll be leaving Birr in the early hours to catch morning flights from Dublin the USA. (B)

Hotels

Ennis	Old Ground Hotel	http://www.flynnhotels.com/
Killarney	Lake Hotel	http://www.lakehotelkillarney.ie/
Kinsale	Actons Hotel	http://www.actonshotelkinsale.com/en/
Kilkenny	Hotel Kilkenny	http://www.hotelkilkenny.ie/
Dublin	Buswell's Hotel	http://www.buswells.ie/

Links to gardens as historic and cultural sites on the tour...

Burren Educational Center	http://www.burrenoec.com/
Cliffs of Moher	http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/
Knappogue Castle and Walled Garden	http://www.shannonheritage.com/DaytimeAttractions/KnappogueCastleWalledGarden/KnappogueWalledGarden/
Caher Bridge Garden	http://www.irelands-hidden-gems.com/caher-bridge-garden.html
Bunratty Castle and Folk Park	http://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/bunratty-castle-gardens/76425
Boyce's Garden	http://www.boycesgardens.com/
Lakemount Garden	http://www.lakemountgarden.com/
Ballymaloe Cookery School	http://www.cookingisfun.ie/gardens/our-gardens
Ilnacullin Garden	http://www.garnishisland.com/
Altamont Garden	http://carlowtourism.com/altamont-gardens/
June Blake's Garden	http://www.juneblake.ie/
Hunting Brook	http://www.huntingbrook.com/
Derreen Gardens	www.derreengarden.com
Irish National Stud	http://irishnationalstud.ie/
Glendalough	http://www.glendalough.ie/
Jameson Whiskey Experience	www.jamesonwhiskey.com
Celtic Steps	http://www.celticsteps.ie/

Newgrange	http://www.newgrange.com/
Guinness Brewery	www.guinness-storehouse.com
Muckross House	http://www.muckross-house.ie/
Bantry House	http://www.bantryhouse.com/bantryhouse/
Mount Usher	http://www.mountushergardens.ie/
Abbey Theatre	http://www.abbeytheatre.ie/
Gaelic Language resource	http://learngaelic.net/
Rock of Cashel	http://cashel.ie/
Blarney Castle	http://www.blarneycastle.ie/

Itinerary is subject to change. Tour price is guaranteed in US Dollars. This tour is limited to 20 guests.