

## **IRELAND – the land – the people – the sea!**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Ireland is a country known for its stunning landscapes, vibrant colourful villages, ancient Celtic relics, lush green valleys and abandoned castles.

As an ocean 'outpost' at the western edge of Europe, Ireland has a natural character quite different to the Continental landmass.

Join HNA Travels as we explore the lush landscapes and thrilling scenery - from coast to coast.



### **Highlights of the tour:**



- ✓ Belvedere House & Gardens
- ✓ Kylemore Abbey and Gardens
- ✓ The Burren in County Clare
- ✓ The Cliffs of Moher
- ✓ Dingle Peninsula
- ✓ Blarney Castle & Gardens
- ✓ Powerscourt Gardens
- ✓ Bunratty Castle
- ✓ Dunbrody Emigrant Ship
- ✓ Jameson Distillery
- ✓ Waterford Crystal

### **Tours of:**

- Galway City
- Cork City
- Waterford City
- Dublin

### **Itinerary:**

**Day 1 – Tuesday June 2** - We depart from Canada for our overseas flight to Dublin.

**Day 2 – Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – Dublin to Galway.** **Ceád Mile Fáilte** to Ireland (A 100,000 welcomes). On arrival into Dublin Airport, we collect our luggage and meet our local driver/guide.

We then travel towards County Westmeath for Tea/Coffee and scones followed by a visit to **Belvedere House & Gardens**. *Lord Belvedere's Hunting Lodge at Lough Ennell stands on 160 acres of maintained estate, punctuated with numerous follies, the largest being The Jealous Wall built to obscure his brother's larger house. The restored Belvedere House is an 18th Century hunting/fishing lodge, designed by the renowned German architect Richard Castle for Robert Rochfort, later the First Earl of Belvedere and is noted for its exquisite rococo ceilings and bow end design. A fascinating walled garden, designed by Ninian Nevin in 1857, contains one of Ireland's finest collections of rare and special plants. The Victorian Walled Garden exercises all the senses with a fragrant herb garden, old rose beds, tumbling herbaceous borders, alpines, climbers and vegetable potager.*

Our day continues to Galway - **Galway City** at the mouth of Galway Bay is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture and a fascinating mixture of locally owned specialty shops, often featuring locally made crafts such as hand knits, pottery, glass, jewellery and woodwork. *See Eyre Square, the centre piece to Galway City, which was officially presented to the city in 1710 by Mayor Edward Eyre, from whom it took its name. In 1965, the square was officially renamed "Kennedy Memorial Park" in honour of US President John F. Kennedy, who visited here shortly before his assassination in 1963. The Spanish Arch was originally a 16th century bastion, which was added to Galway's town walls to protect merchant ships from looting. At this time, it was known as Ceann an Bhalla (Head of the Wall). Its current name "Spanish Arch" refers to former merchant trade with Spain, whose galleons often docked here.*

We are staying in Galway city for two nights at **the Jurys Inn**. A "Welcome" dinner is included. (L,D)

### **Day 3 – Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Connemara.**

After a full Irish Breakfast this morning you will have a tour of Connemara, one of the most beautiful and mysterious regions in Ireland. *Its endless mountains, lakes and wild landscape will stay with you forever. Travelling through the Connemara rugged landscape, the stacks of turf, the Connemara ponies and the crannogs begin to unfold. Many of the inhabitants of Connemara are Gaelic/Irish speaking. The Irish language (Gaelic) is the everyday spoken language in large areas of Connemara known as the 'Gaeltacht'. The people are warm, friendly and extend a hospitality which is the essence of Ireland.*

This includes a visit to the 1000 acre estate of **Kylemore Abbey and Gardens**, home to Ireland's only Benedictine community of nuns since 1920. *Experience the Victorian atmosphere of the restored rooms in Kylemore Abbey and stroll along the lakeshore walk to see the miniature Gothic Church. Explore the magical 6 acre Victorian walled garden where only Victorian varieties of flowers and vegetables are grown and take a look around the Head Gardener's House. Vegetables and herbs from the garden are used in the café where they offer traditional home cooked food made to the recipes of the Benedictine nuns.* Enjoy a scenic journey back to the **Jurys Inn**. Your evening meal is at your leisure. (B)

### **Day 4 – Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020–The Burren – Cliffs of Moher - Bunratty**

This morning after breakfast the tour will bring you southwards through County Clare. View the area known as



**the Burren.** *The Burren in County Clare is a region that encompasses 360km<sup>2</sup> of gently inclined plateau with a further 200km<sup>2</sup> of lowland to the east of the plateau. The limestone also has a landscape in miniature etched into exposed slabs of rock. The bare surfaces are fretted with hollows and channels where acidic rainwater has selectively dissolved the rock. An extreme example of these micro landforms occurs on the coast. Often described as a natural landscape, the Burren has been profoundly influenced by human activities. Early removal of the natural woodland induced soil erosion, enlarging the exposure of the underlying limestone. More than 700 different flowering plants and ferns have been recorded in the Burren. Thus, although the Burren represents only 1% of the land-mass of Ireland, 75% of the Irish native species are contained in the area. The Burren may look rugged, but it is also a fragile place and is always under threat from increased human activity.*

**We then visit the Cliffs of Moher** *Ireland's most visited natural attraction with a magical vista that captures the hearts of up to 1 million visitors each year. The Cliffs rise up to 214 (700 feet) at the highest point and range for 8km over the Atlantic Ocean on the Western seaboard of Co. Clare. Visit the eco-friendly visitor centre which operates using environmental best practices & features a state of the art Cliffs exhibition*

In the afternoon, we visit **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**. *Bunratty Castle is one of Europe's finest. Pride of more than 100 castles built by the McNamara chieftains in 15th century Clare, it is faithfully restored and refurnished. Built in 1425, it is the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland and contains furnishings, tapestries and works of art from the period. In the shadow of the castle is Bunratty Folk Park set on 26 acres, illustrating 19th century Irish life from grand manor houses to peasant dwelling and from farm activities to cobble-stone village streets*

**We check into the Clayton Hotel, Limerick, for one night and enjoy an included Dinner. (B,D)**

### **Day 5– Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Dingle Peninsula.**

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the hotel before touring **the Dingle Peninsula**. *Considered by many to have some of Europe's most spectacular scenery, the Dingle peninsula also supports both a rare and unique assortment of flora and fauna and is scattered with **ancient beehive huts** and historic buildings such as **Gallarus Oratory** and Kilmalkeadar Church.*

*A great deal of traditional Irish heritage is maintained in this Irish-speaking (Gaelic) region (a Gaeltacht), including traditional music art and crafts. There are splendid views around Sleat Head, especially of **the Blasket Islands** and the scattered rocks which are all part of an exploded volcanic area. In the storms of September 1588, four ships of the Spanish Armada were driven through the Basket Sound. Two reached shelter by way of great seamanship but a third sped through the sound with its sails in tatters and crashed onto the two other ships. Nonetheless, the other two eventually returned to Spain. The peninsula tour also takes in the countryside, where David Lean filmed Ryan's Daughter and the landscape backdrops for the Irish scenes of the Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman film Far and Away.*

We make our home for the next two evenings at the **Trident Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork**. An included Dinner will be enjoyed at the end of this scenic day. (B,D)

**Day 6 – Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Killarney, Blarney & Cork.** Depart the hotel after breakfast and travel to Blarney Village to visit **Blarney Castle & Gardens** - *Situated 8km from Cork City, this historic castle is most famous for its stone, which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word "Blarney" was introduced into the English language by Queen Elizabeth I and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. The stone is set in the wall below the battlements, and to kiss it, one has to lean backwards (grasping an iron railing) from the parapet walk. In the grounds of the castle the Rock Close, and its surroundings, is a curious place of ancient trees and far more ancient stones, by legend a garden of druidic origin and a centre of worship in pre-Christian days. The place has an aura of magic and mystique with Wishing Steps, Witch's Kitchen, Druid's Cave and many other delights telling a story of centuries past. Blarney Castle Estate offers visitors the chance to stroll in one of the country's most spectacular gardens. Blarney Castle & House are set in acres of parkland filled with rare and unusual trees and plants.*

*In the afternoon, the group will have a panoramic tour of **Cork City**. See the City Hall, St Finbarr's Cathedral, The Grand Parade and St. Patrick's Street with Shandon Steeple overlooking the city to the North. The principal streets are lined with fashion houses and department stores stocking quality Irish goods.*

**We then travel back to the Trident Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork** – the Gourmet Capital of Ireland – home to a great choice of restaurants, just steps from the hotel. (B)

### **Day 7 – Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Cork & Middleton.**

After breakfast today our journey continues with a visit to the **Jameson Experience** located in Middleton, Co. Cork in the old Cork Distilleries Company distillery. *A tour of the Jameson Experience is a journey through the story and making of Irish whiskey. All tours commence with an audio-visual presentation, retracing the history of whiskey in Ireland. Guests are then guided through the old distillery, where they can admire the old kilns, mills, maltings, water wheel, still house, distiller's cottage, cooperage and warehouses. The sense of heritage is everywhere at the Jameson Experience. Some of the original buildings date back to 1795, built as a mill before being converted for use as a distillery. The water wheel, which once operated all the machinery at the distillery, still turns and operates the cogs and wheels in the Mill Building, where visitors can also admire one of the original steam engines installed in the latter half of the 19th century. Tours end with a comparative whiskey tasting, which compares and explains the differences between Irish, Scotch and Bourbon whiskies.*

We continue towards **Waterford City** the oldest city in Ireland. *A walled city of Viking origins, it retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Vikings founded the most recognizable monument in Waterford, Reginald's Tower in the 9th century. The Vikings erected a tower on this spot in 1003, but it was the Normans who built the current structure with impregnable walls 10 feet thick. Today, the circular, restored tower is home to Waterford's civic museum and makes for lovely photographs.*

*In the afternoon visit **the House of Waterford Crystal** - The brand new home for Waterford Crystal occupies a 1.5 acre site on the Mall in the heart of Waterford – a prime location set back just a hundred yards or so from the River Suir and the city's main quay, and bordering the city's Viking Triangle area. The new manufacturing facility includes highly skilled local craftsmen and will produce 40,000 crystal pieces per year using traditional methods. The House of Waterford range that will be produced will include trophies for prestigious sporting events, bowls and vases from our museum, heritage and designer collections, and also the special order stemware collection.*

We end our day with a lovely dinner and overnight at the **Fitzwilton Hotel, Waterford City (B,D)**

## **Day 8 – Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — Wexford, Wicklow & Dublin.**

Depart Waterford after breakfast and travel to County Wexford. Visit the **Dunbrody emigrant ship** in New Ross - *Located alongside the New Ross docks, the Dunbrody Famine Ship is a full scale replica of the original ship built in 1845 which transported emigrants to North America. Visitors to the ship are admitted by means of an 1840's ticket and meet actors in costume and character, who tell of the conditions endured on board and in Ireland during the famine period. A computer database provides details of over two million individual passenger records, supported by audiovisual and interactive displays.*

Continue the tour northwards through County Wicklow to visit the stunning **Powerscourt Gardens**. *Set against the backdrop of the Sugarloaf Mountain, Powerscourt is stunning in every season. From the ornate Italian Gardens to the formal walks of the Rose and Kitchen Gardens, there are many hidden treasures to explore. With over 200 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers, this 47 acres of Gardens has something for everyone. The Gardens were laid out over a period of 150 years and were designed to create a garden that was part of the wider landscape, creating one of the most majestic vistas in Ireland. Fine statuary and ironworks collected from across Europe adorn these magnificent Gardens. The Palladian Mansion is now home to the best Irish design and features craft and interior shops. The Terrace cafe offers the finest in Irish artisan, home cooked cuisine. An audiovisual presentation brings to life the rich history of the Estate.*

The group's final destination today is Dublin City. **Dublin City**, *the capital of the Republic of Ireland, which sits on a splendid bay at the mouth of the River Liffey with the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains rising from its southern suburbs. It is internationally noted for its writers, Georgian architecture, witty natives and the production of Guinness!*

Our tour ends in Dublin, staying **three nights** at the ideally located **Buswells Hotel** Dublin City. You will find an abundance of restaurants/pubs just steps from this downtown hotel. (B)

## **Day 9 – Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Dublin**

After breakfast at the hotel meet our Driver/guide for a panoramic tour of Dublin. View the city's scenic highlights during a panoramic drive through Dublin City, including the River Liffey, the Customs House, O'Connell Street, the GPO (General Post office), the Four Courts, Saint Patrick's Cathedral Christchurch Cathedral, St. Stephen's Green and Leinster House. The remainder of the day is free to explore. (B)

## **Day 10 – Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Free day in Dublin**

**Shirlie, your HNA Tour Director will assist you in planning this wonderful, free day in Dublin.**

### **OPTIONAL tours suggestions for your free day in Dublin:**

- ✓ **Guinness Storehouse** *-the birthplace of the black frothy brew and get a taste straight from the barrel. The Guinness Storehouse is located in the heart of the St James's Gate Brewery in Dublin, which has been home to the 'black stuff' since 1759. The seven story building, a former Guinness fermentation plant, has been remodeled into the shape of a giant pint of Guinness. This is a self-guided tour, where you will learn everything you ever wanted to know about this world famous beer, from how Guinness is made, to the ancient craft of Guinness barrel making in the cooperage and on to the creation of the world famous brand. The highlight for many visitors is the Gravity Bar, where they collect their end of tour pint of Guinness and can relax and enjoy the 360 degree views across Dublin City.*
- ✓ **Phoenix Park** *over 700 hectares (1752 acres) in area and is the largest enclosed public Park in any capital city in Europe. It was originally formed as a royal hunting Park in the 1660's and opened to the public in 1747. A large herd of fallow deer still remain to this day.*
- ✓ **National Botanic Gardens** *located in Glasnevin, North County Dublin. The National Botanic Gardens are noted for their fine plant collections holding more than 15,000 plant species and cultivars from a variety of habitats from around the world. The gardens are famous for their exquisitely restored and planted glasshouses, notably the Turner Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House, both recipients of the Europa Nostra award for excellence in conservation architecture. Visitors can enjoy such features as the herbaceous borders, rose garden, the alpine yard, the pond area, rock garden and arboretum. Conservation plays an important role in the life of the botanic garden and Glasnevin is home to more than 300 endangered plant species from around the world including six species that are already extinct in the wild*

Tonight the group will have an opportunity for an optional (\$) dinner and entertainment, at the **Merry Plough Boys** providing an evening of traditional Irish music and food. A shuttle will be provided to and from the hotel. Shirly will collect during the tour. Our last night will be spent at **Buswells Hotel**, Dublin City (B).



**Day 11 – Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020– Depart Dublin Airport.**

After breakfast your driver will transfer you to Dublin Airport for your departure flight.

**Slán Abhaile (Safe Home)**

**Your Tour includes:**

- Nine nights – hotels listed in itinerary
- Entrance to attractions listed in itinerary
- City tours listed in itinerary
- Meals: nine breakfasts and four dinners;

**Tour Cost: \$ 3,799. Per person/ double occupancy; \$ 4,799. Single occupancy**

**\$ 700. Non-refundable deposit due upon booking – Balance due March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

*Please note that deposit must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup> OR the air cost will increase by \$ 100.*

**Please scroll down to the next page for information on the individual hotels.**

**READY TO BOOK?** Simply call us and you are on your way

- ✓ Call us at: Toronto: 416-746-7199; Ottawa: 613-843-9900; TOLL-FREE 1-877-672-3030
- ✓ OR e-mail: [hnatravel@gmail.com](mailto:hnatravel@gmail.com)
- ✓ Pay by Cheque/Visa/Master Card.

*We will gladly take all your personal information; fully explain the details of the excursion and travel requirements.*

**Please note: All travelers must have a valid/current Canadian Passport - if not Canadian, please contact the office for instructions.**

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**HNA Travels**  
*Heatherington & Associates*

**TOUR AND EVENT PLANNERS**

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## HOTELS:

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| 1) Jurys Inn – Quay Street, Galway – two nights                  | <a href="http://www.jurysinns.com">www.jurysinns.com</a>           |
| 2) Clayton Hotel Limerick - Steamboat Quay, Limerick – one night | <a href="http://www.claytonhotels.com">www.claytonhotels.com</a>   |
| 3) Trident Hotel – Worlds End, Kinsale – two nights              | <a href="http://www.tridenthotel.com">www.tridenthotel.com</a>     |
| 4) Fitzwilton Hotel – Bridge Street, Waterford City – one night  | <a href="http://www.fitzwiltonhotel.ie">www.fitzwiltonhotel.ie</a> |
| 5) Buswells Hotel – 23 Molesworth Street, Dublin – three nights  | <a href="http://www.buswells.ie">www.buswells.ie</a>               |
| 6)   |  |