

Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Frances Parnell



The Best of Wales & Ireland - 13093-1-5

May 19 - May 29, 2015

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM WILMINGTON
- DAY 2 ARRIVE MANCHESTER - CHESTER - RUTHIN AREA (1 NIGHT)
- DAY 3 RUTHIN AREA - BETWSY-Y-COED - CONWY - CAERNARFON AREA (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 4 DAY TRIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK & ANGELSEY
- DAY 5 CAERNARFON AREA - HOLYHEAD FERRY TO DUBLIN - BIRR AREA (1 NIGHT) (KINNITTY CASTLE STAY)
- DAY 6 BIRR AREA - DUNGAIRE CASTLE - GALWAY AREA (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 7 DAY TRIP TO CONNEMARA
- DAY 8 GALWAY AREA - FERRY TO ARAN ISLANDS (1 NIGHT)
- DAY 9 ARAN ISLANDS - FERRY TO GALWAY - CLIFFS OF MOHER - KILLARNEY AREA (2 NIGHTS)
- DAY 10 DAY TRIP TO THE DINGLE PENINSULA
- DAY 11 DEPARTURE FROM SHANNON

ITINERARY

England is a fascinating country with a long and rich history that continues to intrigue visitors to this day. Over the centuries, its people have made a significant impact throughout the world in trade, colonization, religion, literature, art, and industry. Ireland is a land shrouded in myth and legend, steeped in tradition, and surrounded by beautiful scenery. A visit to Ireland is a visit to the past, and a new view of the present.

 Educational Tour/Visit	 Cultural Experience	 Concert Performance	Transportation
 Recreational Activity	 LEAP Enrichment	 Sporting Fixture	



DAY 1 Tuesday, 19 May 2015

-  Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Wilmington.

DAY 2 Wednesday, 20 May 2015

-  Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.
-  Today we will travel from the Manchester airport to the Ruthin Area. En route, We will visit Chester.
-  We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next four days.
-  Chester is a beautiful English city nestled on the River Dee and has a history dating back to ancient times when it was founded as a Roman "castrum" or fort in 79 A.D. In fact, Chester is arguably one of the richest cities in Britain for archaeological and architectural treasures preserved from the time of the Roman occupation to the present. Experience the medieval time period through the variety of fascinating medieval walls and buildings throughout this enchanting city.
-  Walk along the Chester city walls which were originally built as a defensive structure to protect Chester. Their construction began with the Romans who built them from dirt and wood and later the Normans built them out of sandstone during the medieval era for a stronger defense.
-  Ruthin is a charming town in northern Wales which was founded in the thirteenth century and grew around the castle that was constructed from 1277-1284 by Edward I. This picturesque market town has beautiful Tudor and Georgian architecture, a medieval castle, and gorgeous surrounding countryside.
-  The Ruthin Area will be our base for the next one night. Breakfast will be included at the hotel.
-  This evening we will enjoy a medieval style banquet to match our medieval surroundings.



DAY 3 Thursday, 21 May 2015

-  Today we will travel from the Ruthin Area to the Caernarfon Area. En route, we will visit Betws-y-Coed and Conwy.
-  Visit Betws-y-Coed which is considered the "Gateway to Snowdonia." The village was built up around a monastery that was founded in the area in the sixth century. Betws-y-Coed's location was ideal because of its close proximity to the River Conwy, River Llugwy, and River Lledr and by the nineteenth century it became a major coaching center.
-  Conwy is set apart from other medieval town by its amazingly well preserved town walls. Fortified with 21 towers and three gateways, the walls form an almost unbroken shield around the old town.
-  Visit Conwy Castle built in the late 13th century by Edward I. It is an imposing structure that was built on a rock outcrop overlooking the entrance of the River Conwy





DAY 3 Thursday, 21 May 2015

-  Caernarfon was founded in the thirteenth century when Edward I ordered a castle be built in the area after his recent victory over the Welsh. The location for the castle and surrounding town were ideal because of the abundant natural resources around the region that overlooks the Menai Straits.
-  The Caernarfon Area will be our base for the next two nights. Breakfast will be included at the hotel.
-  We will enjoy our evening meal together in a lovely local pub or restaurant.

DAY 4 Friday, 22 May 2015

-  Ride the Snowdon Railway. At 3,560ft, Snowdon dominates the landscape of Snowdonia National Park. From the top, we will have a stunning view of the surrounding area and what is said to be the burial place of the giant ogre Rhita, vanquished by King Arthur.
-  We will visit the magnificent Caernarfon Castle built by Edward I in 1283 and where Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales.
-  Visit the island of Anglesey which is dotted with charming towns and villages, stunning landscapes and beautiful coastlines. The island has a rich cultural heritage and is the largest Welsh island in Great Britain. Anglesey was also the location of HRH Prince William's secret cottage home before moving to Kensington Palace in London with his new wife.
-  We will enjoy our evening meal together in a lovely local pub or restaurant.

DAY 5 Saturday, 23 May 2015

-  Today we will travel from the Caernarfon Area in Wales to the Birr Area in Ireland. We travel from Holyhead, Wales to Dublin, Ireland by ferry.
-  We will travel by ferry from Wales to Ireland.
-  We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring Ireland for the next six days.
-  Birr is a lovely town that has a wonderfully preserved Georgian heritage which is evident from its wide, elegant streets and graceful architecture. Upon arrival we will visit Birr Castle which has beautiful gardens that were landscaped around the lake in the eighteenth century by Sir William Parsons. Over the centuries, the castle has been considered a center of scientific discovery and innovation, which visitors can learn about at the Science Center and the Great Telescope.
-  This evening we will experience the Emerald Isle like kings and Queens as we enjoy a truly authentic castle stay in Kinnitty Castle in the Birr Area where breakfast and dinner will be provided.
<http://www.kinnittycastlehotel.com>

DAY 6 Sunday, 24 May 2015

-  Today we will travel from the Birr Area to the Galway Area. En route, we will visit the incredible Dungaire Castle.
-  During the course of our time in Ireland, we will gain from the rich knowledge and insight of three half-day local guides.
-  Tour the restored 16th century Dungaluarie Castle. The O'Hynes clan built this house tower in 1520 on the picturesque shores of Galway Bay, 300 yards outside the village of Kinvara.
-  This historic city is strongly associated with Irish language, music, and dance, and is one of the most Irish cities in the country. The lively and bustling university town was very prominent in the Middle Ages, and was the site of a nine-month siege during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. With history, culture, and beautiful surroundings, Galway is a favorite of visitors to the west coast.
-  Take a Walking Tour of Galway' s city center. We will view many of Galway's most important areas and landmarks, including Eyre Square, Shop Street, the Latin Quarter, Lynch's Castle, the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, the Quays, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, and the Spanish Arch.



DAY 6 Sunday, 24 May 2015

-  Visit Galway Cathedral, one of the largest and most impressive buildings in the city. The architecture of the Cathedral draws on many influences. The dome and pillars reflect a Renaissance style. Other features, including the rose windows and mosaics, echo the broad tradition of Christian art. The Cathedral dome, at a height of 145ft, is a prominent landmark on the city skyline.
-  Our base for the next two nights will be in the Galway Area, where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
-  We will enjoy our evening meal together in a lovely and lively local pub or restaurant.
-  This evening we will enjoy some traditional and authentic Irish folk music.



DAY 7 Monday, 25 May 2015

-  Connemara, located in County Galway, is a mystical area where Gaelic is still the everyday language and the purest of Ireland's cultural traditions still live on.
-  Visit Kylemore Abbey, one of the most beautiful sights in Ireland, sheltered by the slopes of the Twelve Bens. We will view the abbey, explore its gardens and visit the Craft Shop.
-  This evening, dinner will be provided in a local pub or restaurant.



DAY 8 Tuesday, 26 May 2015

-  During the course of our time in Ireland, we will gain from the rich knowledge and insight of three half-day local guides.
-  Today we will travel from the Galway Area to the Aran Islands by ferry.
-  Take a ferry across Galway Bay to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. With its wild and rugged place of cliffs, caves and ancient monuments, the traditional way of life is strong here.
-  Visit Na Seacht dTeampaill or the Seven Churches which is a famous historical site that dates back to the eighth century. Wander through the remains of the churches, including the one dedicated to Saint Breacan who is buried nearby with an ancient cross standing on the rocks above his grave.
-  Visit the village of Kilonan which is one of the most picturesque spots in Ireland. Originally a fishing port, it now serves as the main port for ferries and the site of festivals.



As an additional option, those who wish to do so, will have the time and opportunity to go fishing in a local fishing hole by their own cost and arrangement. (subject to final confirmation)

-  Inishmore is the largest of the three Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland. These islands began Ireland's long monastic tradition when Christianity was brought here in the 5th century. The traditional way of life is strong here, and as you explore the distinctive pastures and Iron Age ruins, you will often hear traditional Irish spoken.
-  Explore Dun Aonghasa is an Iron or Bronze Age promontory fort with four concentric stone walls.
-  Our base for the next one night will be on the Aran Islands, where breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel.

DAY 9 Wednesday, 27 May 2015

-  Today we will travel from the Aran Islands to the Killarney Area. En route, we will visit the legendary Cliffs of Moher.

DAY 9 Wednesday, 27 May 2015



Spend time at the Cliffs of Moher, a series of dramatic undulating cliffs plunging 700 feet down to the Atlantic Ocean, offering unforgettable views of Ireland's west coast. On a clear day we may be able to see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay as misty shapes off in the distance. Those who choose may climb O'Brien's Tower, a viewing point built for the benefit of Victorian tourists.

Also, those who wish to do so, will have the opportunity to play golf by their own cost and arrangement.



Visit Rathbaun Farm which carries on the farming traditions of over two hundred years from its thatched cottage to the pasture. From organic conversion to the main livestock of sheep, Rathbaun farm is a charming place where visitors get a glimpse of the daily workings that have continued on this land for generations. (Subject to availability).



Renowned for its beauty and famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of Ireland's best-loved spots. The idyllic town, located in County Kerry, is filled with friendly faces and surrounded by an incredible number of sites and activities.



Our base for the next two nights will be in the Killarney Area, where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.



We will enjoy our evening meal together in a pub or local restaurant.



This evening we will have a local Folk Evening full of traditional Irish ballads, dance and folk music.



DAY 10 Thursday, 28 May 2015



During the course of our time in Ireland, we will gain from the rich knowledge and insight of three half-day local guides.



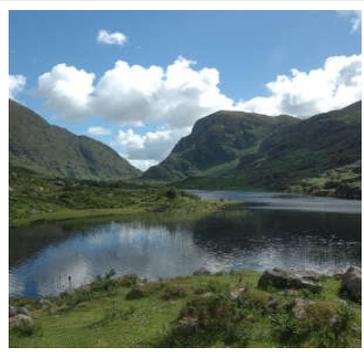
Tour the Dingle Peninsula, offering some of Ireland's most beautiful scenery. During our scenic driving tour we will stop to view Dingle Harbor, where, if we are lucky, we may see Fungie the Dolphin. From here we will make many stops, including one to An Dun Beag, one of the best-preserved Iron Age forts in Ireland; the Fahan Beehive Huts; and the Blasket Center, which explains the way of life of the inhabitants of the Blasket Islands. We will also stop in Ballyferriter, a small village known for its pastel-colored cottages, and at Risac, an excavated monastic settlement dating from the 7th century. In addition, we will visit the famous Gallarus Oratory, a tiny drystone church and relic of early Irish Christianity, before heading to Kilmalkedar, once a pagan center of worship and home to a ruined Irish Romanesque church. Our tour of the peninsula concludes in Dingle, where (time permitting) we will have time to shop.



Visit Kerry Bog Village which gives visitors an insight into how people lived and worked in Ireland in the eighteenth century. The village has thatched cottages, a blacksmiths forge, period furniture, Kerry Bog ponies, and Irish Wolf Hounds.



We will enjoy our evening meal together in a pub or local restaurant.



DAY 11 Friday, 29 May 2015



Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the Shannon airport on our final day.



TOTAL PER PERSON TOUR COST BASED ON NUMBER OF FULL-PAYING PARTICIPANTS

Frances Parnell	Full Paying Participants	Price In USD
This proposal is valid until Thursday, 22 January 2015 and this tour cannot be operated in its present format with fewer than 15 participants.	25	4,557
	20	4,795
	15	4,995
Tour Prices Guaranteed at Time of Enrollment!		
<p>Our Price Guarantee: Once you have accepted this proposal, the dates have been confirmed and the WorldStrides International Discovery Promotional Packs has been made available for your group's tour, the prices shown for the various group size levels will not change, regardless of any subsequent movements in airline fuel and taxes or currency fluctuations.</p>		

What is Included:

- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in three and four star hotels in twin rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- A filling breakfast everyday to get the day started well throughout your touring program
- A hearty three course dinner daily reflecting local cuisine on every evening (usually in a local Pub or restaurant in the capital cities)
- A full-time WorldStrides International Discovery programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- The expertise and perspective of 3 local guides during your tour
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- Once overseas, all transportation by private coach
- The ferry from Holyhead to Dublin
- The roundtrip ferry from Galway to the Aran Islands
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to \$7,500) and \$50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation

This Does Not Include:

- Lunches or beverages with meals (not including water)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver (or cruise staff if applicable)
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$149