

SPECIALLY PREPARED PROGRAM FOR THE PROBUS CLUB OF MISSISSAUGA SOUTH

IRELAND

TOUR VISIT HIGHLIGHTS:

SEPTEMBER 16 – 28, 2017

- Trinity College
- Powerscourt House & Gardens
- Guinness Storehouse
- Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- English Market
- Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills
- Blasket Island Centre
- Cliffs of Moher
- Dan O'Hara Homestead
- Kylemore Abbey
- Belleek Pottery
- Ulster American Folk Park
- Giant's Causeway VC
- Crumlin Road Gaol
- Ulster Museum
- Derry/Londonderry



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | Sep. 16, 2017 (meals in flight)

In Flight

Limousine pickup will be arranged from your home (within GTA area) to Pearson International Airport, for our direct flight to Dublin with Air Canada Rouge.

Flight schedule:

AC1908 Toronto – Dublin (11: 10 pm/10:40 am +1)



Blarney Castle

DAY 2 | Sep. 17, 2017 (D)

Dublin and Trinity College tour

Arrival at Dublin airport this morning, meet with your driver and guide to enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. On the north side you will find landmarks such as the GPO (General Post Office), O'Connell Street, and Phoenix Park. While on the south side you can admire the beautiful Georgian part of the city with its beautiful colourful doors and Merrion Square at the forefront. You can find Oscar Wilde's House and Grafton Street just around the corner. We will also visit Trinity College - Book of Kells. Built in the 18th century, the Old Library building today contains over two hundred thousand books and manuscripts of the Trinity's oldest volumes, and one of Ireland's most illustrious books, the 9th century "Book of Kells". Pass through an exhibition based on the Book of Kells and other books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the Book of Kells, visit the Long Room built in 1745. Welcome dinner in hotel including a glass of wine per person.

Accommodation:

4* hotel Brooks Hotel in Dublin or similar (2 nights)



Trinity College

DAY 3 | Sep. 18, 2017 (B/D)

Wicklow County excursion and Guinness Storehouse tour

This morning you will set off for the day to explore County Wicklow 'The Garden of Ireland'. We will visit Powerscourt House & Gardens, one of the most beautiful estates in Ireland. By year 1300, a castle had been built and was in the possession of the le Paor family. In 1603 Powerscourt castle and lands were granted to a new English arrival in the area, A Richard Wingfield, and his descendants remained there for over 350 years. The house burnt down in 1974 but fortunately the plans of the house were saved and reconstruction started in 1974. Today the house has been restored to its former glory. Return to Dublin this afternoon for a visit at the famous Guinness Storehouse, Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Once the tour has finished, we are invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy a pint of Guinness.

Dinner & Entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy Irish Music Pub

The Merry Ploughboys live in concert is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and also as a must see. The show is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish music, song and Irish dancing.



Powerscourt House and Gardens

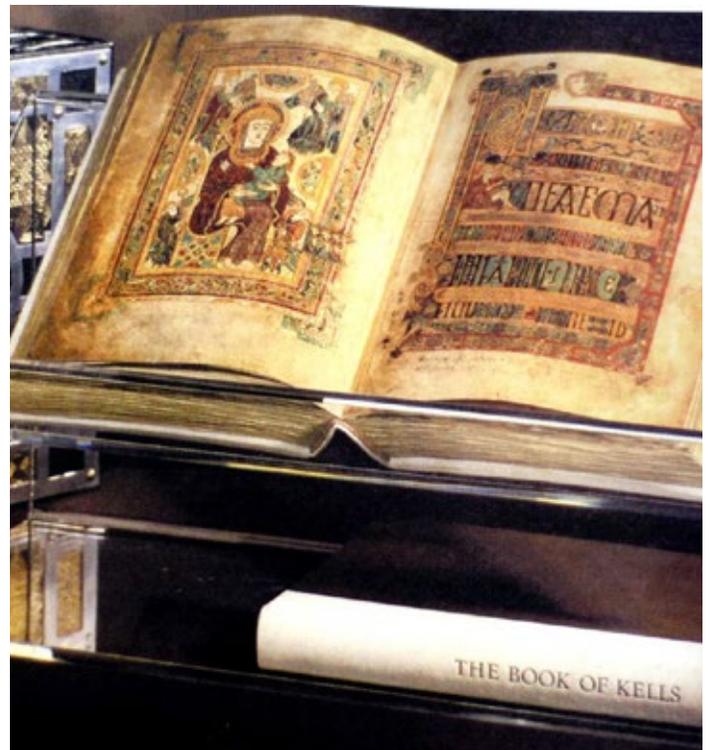
DAY 4 | Sep. 19, 2017 (B/Lunch allowance/D)

Waterford, Cobh, and Cork

This morning depart for County Cork via Waterford, Ireland's oldest city. Upon arrival in Waterford, enjoy an orientation tour of the city. Waterford is 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. Highlights include the French church and Christchurch Cathedral on the tour. We will also visit Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre. A unique highlight is the factory tour that includes the traditional production areas: wooden mould making, crystal blowing and furnace, crystal cutting and quality inspection and finishing. For those that may not wish to visit Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre, you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some free time. This afternoon, continue on to Cork via the quaint waterside town of Cobh to visit Cobh Heritage Centre. It is located in the old Victorian Railway station in Cobh formally known as Queenstown. The Queenstown Story tells that it was the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic. New exhibitions opened in 2011 include the Building of the Titanic, the White Star Line Collection and Female Convict Transportation. After that, we will enjoy a Panoramic Orientation Cork City Tour. Dinner in hotel.

Accommodation:

4* Oriel House Hotel or similar (2 nights)



Book of Kells

DAY 5 | Sep. 20, 2017 (B/Lunch allowance)

Cork City

Today you will get to explore Cork City, the second largest city in Ireland, including English Market, Blarney Castle, and Blarney Woollen Mills. The origins of the English Market trace back to the times of King James I in 1610, some four hundred years previously and has been officially trading since 1788. A mix of traditional Cork fare and exciting new foods from afar, combined with long standing family-run stalls contribute to the unique appeal and atmosphere of this market. Culinary delights include quality meats and fish, herbs, spices, fruit, vegetables, baked delicacies and speciality cheeses. Some of the more unique traditional fare includes drisheen (blood sausage), tripe, spiced beef, buttered eggs and battlebord, (dried salted ling, a member of the cod family). The historic Blarney Castle is perhaps most famous for the Blarney Stone. According to legend, the stone has the power to give anyone who kisses it the 'gift of the gab' (or the ability to be a smooth talker), so for those who dare, a climb to the battlements to reach the famous stone could be well worth it. No trip to Ireland is complete without a visit to the legendary Blarney Woollen Mills., Blarney Woollen Mills offers an essential Irish shopping experience. Originally established in 1823, Blarney Woollen Mills now houses a large selection of Irish products. With a wide selection of sweaters and woollens, crystal and china, gifts and souvenirs for all, this famous store has something for everyone.

This evening enjoy dinner on your own in one of the many restaurants or pubs in the area. Suggestions will be provided.



Jaunting Cart Ride, Killarney

DAY 6 | Sep. 21, 2017 (B/D)

Highlights of Kerry and Lake Cruise of Killarney

Today we will travel the Ring of Kerry road into Killarney through Molls' Gap, a magnificent view of Death Valley. Close by is the Ladies View viewing point that gives a perspective of countryside with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here. Relax aboard a jaunting cart as your Jarvey [driver] takes you through the Killarney National Park to Ross Castle. At Ross Castle we change mode of transport to boats. The boats will then continue the journey through the national park via Lough Leane and Muckross Lake to the pier at Muckross House. On arrival our local guide will be waiting to escort us on a private tour of Muckross House. Our coach will be waiting at Muckross to take us back to Killarney, a 10 minute journey. Dinner in our hotel.

Accommodation:

4* Killarney Court Hotel Kerry or similar (2 nights)



Ring of Kerry

DAY 7 | Sep. 22, 2017 (B/D)

Dingle Peninsula excursion

This morning depart for the scenic Dingle Peninsula, a paradise for photographers. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. The road around the Peninsula passes through a chain of Mountains, called Slieve Mish. From Inch, is a long beach made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's daughter". We will visit Blasket Island Centre, the heritage centre/museum honouring the community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. Dinner: Enjoy our evening meal at John Benny Moriartys Pub (or similar) for great Irish Music.



Dingle Peninsula

DAY 8 | Sep. 23, 2017 (B/D)

From Kerry to County Mayo

Depart County Kerry travelling to County Mayo via the Shannon Car Ferry. This 20 minute journey travels across the Shannon Estuary which is almost 100km in length and 13km wide at its widest point. We visit Cliffs of Moher, the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O'Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O'Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. After that, we will drive through The Burren. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites which have attracted visitors for centuries. Dinner in our hotel.

Accommodation:

4* Hotel Ballina in Ballina or similar (2 nights)



Cliffs of Moher

DAY 9 | Sep. 24, 2017 (B/L)

Connemara Day Tour including Kylemore Abbey

Depart your hotel and head for the Connemara region, one of the most panoramic areas in Western Europe with Photo Opportunity at Killary Harbour. Today you will explore the Connemara Region, is a real paradise for Nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions. We will also visit Dan O'Hara Homestead. Overlooked by the majestic Twelve Ben mountains, this agri-tourism enterprise incorporates a heritage centre and Farmhouse B&B. The centre is based around the restored pre-famine cottage of Dan O' Hara who was forced to emigrate in the 1840's when he was evicted from his home. Guided tours are both entertaining and educational, and offer demonstrations of traditional farming activities such as turf cutting, sheep herding, soda bread making on the open fire and other activities and games. Enjoy a 2 course lunch & tea / coffee at Dan O'Hara Homestead. After lunch, we will visit Kylemore Abbey, the most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. This evening enjoy dinner on your own in one of the many restaurants or pubs in the area. Suggestions will be provided.



Connemara Landscape

DAY 10 | Sep. 25, 2017 (B/D)

Belleek and Omagh

Depart County Mayo travelling to County Derry. We will visit Belleek Potter, which is prized by many travelers, and was awarded a 4 star visitor attraction grading in 2013 and 'Best Visitor Experience Of The Year 2014' at the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards. After that, we will visit Ulster American Folk Park, an open-air museum just outside Omagh. The museum tells the story of three centuries of Irish emigration, and is part of National Museums Northern Ireland. The park was developed around the Mellon House, the birthplace of Irish-American banker and lawyer Thomas Mellon, founding father of the Mellon banking dynasty. Dinner at hotel.

Accommodation:

4* City Hotel Derry or similar (1 night)



Belleek Pottery

Giants Causeway

Take a tour of Derry City, which showcases the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland with a photo opportunity at Dunluce Castle. The roofless ruins were the former home of the clans McQuillan and MacDonnell. After that, we will visit Giants Causeway Visitor Centre. It explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveler magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant's Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'. Dinner at hotel.

Accommodation:

4* Dukes at Queens Hotel in Belfast region or similar
(2 nights)



Dunluce Castle

Exploring Belfast City

Your Panoramic Belfast city tour will take in the leaning Albert Memorial Clock tower (Ireland's answer to the Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House, which is one of Belfast's great landmarks. Pass by the City Hall, the Opera house, The Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University and the Botanic Gardens. You will visit the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill and Falls road will be of interest as it will give us an understanding of life in Belfast during this period. "The Troubles" describes the violence involving republican and loyalist paramilitary organizations, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), the British Army and others in Northern Ireland from the late 1960s until the late 1990. After that, we will visit Crumlin Road Gaol, one of the most advanced prisons of its day and was built within a five sided wall on ten acres. It was the first prison in Ireland to be built according to the "separate system", intended to separate prisoners from each other with no communication between them. We will also visit the Ulster Museum, home to a rich collection of art, history, natural sciences, and the Modern History gallery where visitors have an opportunity to explore the making of Ulster through the period 1500 to 1968.

Dinner & Entertainment at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich

Spend your last night in Ireland at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich. Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich is an arts and cultural centre with a strong focus on Irish language and culture in Belfast. Here you will enjoy a farewell dinner with the added bonus of some live traditional music, dancing & ceili... a fitting way to end your trip in Ireland!



Titanic Belfast

DAY 13 | Sep. 28, 2017
(B/Meals in flight)

Flight home / Slan Abhaile

Depart your hotel in Belfast this morning returning to Dublin for your flight back to Toronto onboard Air Canada Rouge direct flight.

Flight schedule:

AC1929

Dublin – Toronto (10:45 am/1:05 pm)

END OF TOUR



Dublin City View



TOUR COST: CAD\$4,595 per person based on twin share
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: CAD\$900 per person (limited availability)

INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip Air Canada Rouge direct flight from Toronto to Dublin to Toronto (non-stop)
- Home pickup and drop off (within GTA area)
- Transfers and tours on private basis and English speaking guide through the tour
- 11 nights stay at 4*hotels with daily breakfast
- 1 lunch at local restaurant, 2 lunches with allowance provided, 6 dinners at hotel, and 3 dinners at local restaurant
- Porterage at hotels (1 piece per person)
- All gratuities

EXCLUSIONS:

- Air taxes and surcharges, currently CAD\$540 per person
- Meals (8 lunches and 2 dinners) not mentioned in itinerary
- Optional travel insurance

NOTE: If you wish to purchase optional travel insurance with us, it MUST be purchased prior to final payment. Please email us or give us a call for a quotation.

AIR CREDIT

If you wish to arrange your own roundtrip air from Toronto to Dublin to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$300 per person will be deducted from the tour cost.

DOCUMENTATION

Names provided at time of booking MUST match exactly as per your passport. You must have a passport valid for 6 months after your return date from Dublin.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT

- Deposit of \$500 per person at the time of booking
- Second deposit of \$500 per person due on Mar 20, 2017
- Final payment is due on Jun 12, 2017

CANCELLATION

- From time of booking to March 20, 2017 - \$300 per person
- From March 21 to Jun 11, 2017 - \$500 per person
- From Jun 12 to date of departure – 100% of tour cost

To book your tour, please complete the booking form and send to Nancy Liu at Tour Design.
Email nliu@glpworldwide.com or call 1-888-923-9183.

Program designed in conjunction with Neal Black, Events Director for Probus Club of Mississauga South.
Email: neal@jooeey.com or call 905-279-9175.



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