

# EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE

## IRISH TREASURES

March 26 – April 4, 2012

Join us for an early springtime journey to one of the world's most beloved destinations - a nine-day trip to the **EMERALD ISLE**. We have selected some of **IRELAND'S** most exquisite landscape for our itinerary such as enchanting **CONNEMARA** and the breathtaking **CLIFFS OF MOHER**, rising high above the Atlantic Ocean. We will begin in **GALWAY** and explore its fascinating medieval past and burgeoning present, and spend five nights in **DUBLIN**, time enough to settle in and enjoy its fabled history, extraordinary museums, iconic theatre, restaurants, shopping and more!

**MONDAY, MARCH 26** – Depart Philadelphia or your home city for **DUBLIN**. Dinner and breakfast will be served aboard the flight.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 27** – Upon our morning arrival in **DUBLIN** we will travel westward to **GALWAY**, which began in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as an outpost for Anglo-Norman families or “tribes” and is now a lively university town and thriving port. An afternoon tour will include **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH**, a large medieval structure dedicated to the patron saint of sailors, and **LYNCH'S CASTLE**, a splendidly decorated 16<sup>th</sup> century mansion. Check in at the **HOTEL MEYRICK**, conveniently located near Eyre Square. Dinner is included this evening.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28** – **GALWAY** is the gateway to the wild and rugged **CONNEMARA** region where today we will visit the lively market town of **OUGHTERARD** with its spectacular view of lakes and mountains, and the pretty hillside town of **CLIFDON**, a busy port and holiday resort founded in 1812. **KYLEMORE ABBEY**, an immense Victorian neo-Gothic Castle taken over by French Benedictine nuns at the end of World War I, also is on our itinerary. Return to Galway for an optional evening of seafood and Irish music.

**NOTE: OPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EACH FREE EVENING FOR DINING AND PERFORMING ARTS**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 29** – Enjoy some free time in **GALWAY** this morning to shop for traditional handmade crafts or visit legendary **KENNY'S BOOK SHOP AND ART GALLERY** with seven floors filled with books, prints, maps, paintings and more. Then travel south to **THE BURREN**, an austere limestone plateau in County Clare and travel to the spectacular **CLIFFS OF MOHER**, rising 700 FEET above the sea. Later we will arrive in **LIMERICK** and stay overnight at the **SAVOY HOTEL**. Dinner is included this evening.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30** – A special highlight today is a visit to the **HUNT MUSEUM**, originally an 18<sup>th</sup> century Customs House with their outstanding collection of art and antiquities. We will enjoy lunch (on your own) in their restaurant **DUCARTS** overlooking the River Shannon. **ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL**, a 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque/Anglican building and **KING JOHN'S CASTLE**, once the most important Norman stronghold in the West of Ireland are also on our itinerary. We will arrive in **DUBLIN** in the late afternoon and check in at **BUSWELLS**, a charming boutique-style hotel located near St. Stephen's Green and Grafton Street.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31** – Our morning tour will include landmarks on both sides of the River Liffey. We will visit **DUBLIN CASTLE**, with its lavish **STATE APARTMENTS**, and **TRINITY COLLEGE** with its **OLD LIBRARY** and **TREASURY**. This is the location of the **BOOK OF KELLS**, one of the world's most famous illuminated manuscripts. Our tour ends with an introduction to the three part **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND** housing the country's archaeological, historic and decorative treasures. You will have free time in the afternoon to further explore the museum's vast collections on your own.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 1** – Tour the highlights of the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND** with paintings and sculpture, prints, drawings, and the collection of revered artist Jack B. Yeats, brother of William Butler Yeats. An optional lunch is planned at **CHAPTER ONE**, in the basement of the fabled **DUBLIN WRITERS MUSEUM** which contains artifacts and portraits of Ireland's countless literary giants including Jonathan Swift, James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. We will continue to explore **O'CONNELL STREET**, with stops at the **HUGH LANE GALLERY OF MODERN ART** and **ST. MARY'S CHURCH**, designed by William Robinson in 1697.

**MONDAY, APRIL 2** – Today is free for you to explore **DUBLIN** on your own. On an optional morning tour, we will examine the city's rich architectural heritage from its 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian squares to exciting postmodern buildings, bridges and transformed spaces. An option this evening is a performance of **ALICE IN FUNDERLAND**, a modern-day musical fairy tale at the renowned **ABBEY THEATRE**.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3** – On our final morning in **DUBLIN** we return to the historic **ABBEY THEATRE** for a backstage tour. The theatre was founded in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by a circle of writers including William Butler Yeats. In the afternoon we will travel to **KILHAMAINHAM GAOL & HOSPITAL**, now home to the **IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART** and the splendid **CASTLETOWN HOUSE**, a lavish Palladian-style mansion which was once the largest house in Ireland. A special farewell dinner is planned for this evening,

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4** – Arrangements will be made for transportation to the airport for your return flights to Philadelphia or your home city.

**TOUR COST:** The cost for land arrangements is **\$2675**. The single supplement is **\$495**. We will make every effort to arrange for a compatible roommate if you so desire.

**INCLUDED IN THE LAND PACKAGE:** Accommodations for eight nights in Ireland as mentioned in the itinerary including full Irish breakfast, tax and service; three dinners; sightseeing tours and included museum visits as listed in the itinerary; and a pre-trip reading packet. Airport transfers are not included on April 4. The trip will be escorted by a representative from **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**.

**ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE** – Currently we are holding space on non-stop flights from Philadelphia on USAirways at a guaranteed fare of **\$642** plus applicable taxes and security charges. Additional flight schedules from Philadelphia and other cities are available upon request.

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 26 PARTICIPANTS.** Please complete the coupon below and mail it with a deposit of **\$450.00** to **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**, PO Box 2189, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Final payment for land arrangements is due no later than Tuesday, January 17, 2012. We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express at an additional cost of \$125. Full refund for land arrangements may be made until January 17, less an administrative fee of \$450.00. Thereafter, all costs are non-refundable unless a replacement is found. Airfares are subject to airline cancellation restrictions. Trip cancellation insurance is available from **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**.

For more information: Call **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE** at 215/732 8487 OR 800/831 3351

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE \_\_\_\_\_ ROOMMATE \_\_\_\_\_

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