Friends of Bruton
12 Day Tour of Ireland
May 1-12, 2018
ITINERARY

DAY 1: Tues., May 1 - Washington, DC/En Route
Depart from Washington, DC for your overnight trans-Atlantic flight to Dublin.

DAY 2: Wed., May 2 - Dublin
AM: Welcome to Ireland! Upon your arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to Dublin City. Panoramic Tour of Dublin
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the General Post Office on the main thoroughfare, O’Connell Street, the Custom House along the quays, as well as Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde’s House can still be found (today it is owned by an American College), its colorful streets, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare Street, you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of “Dracula.” This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous Book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university faces the Medieval District where Dublin Castle and two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.
Visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells
Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland’s most illustrious books, the 9th century “Book of Kells.” Before viewing the famous book visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the Book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the Book of Kells you will visit the Long Room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over 200,000 books and manuscripts of Trinity’s oldest volumes. Brian Boru’s harp said to be the “oldest harp in Ireland” and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the Long Room.
Visit the Guinness Storehouse
The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe’s largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1804, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. You will discover what goes into making a pint of Guinness, the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft, and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold today in over 150 countries. After the tour you are invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness.
Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Dinner and Irish story telling at the Brazen Head. Legend has it that the outlaw Robin Hood drank in this establishment. There has been a pub situated on this exact site since 1198. It is the oldest pub in the city, and a real tourist attraction. The brick outside hints at the age of the pub, and the low ceilings and the kegs turned into bar tables make for a wonderful old style atmosphere that hasn’t changed in years!

DAY 3: Thurs., May 3 - Dublin/Downpatrick/Belfast
AM: Visit St. Patrick Center
After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Dublin and travel to Belfast. En route you will visit St. Patrick Center. St. Patrick is known worldwide as the patron saint of Ireland and he is celebrated on March 17th every year. Discover the story of St. Patrick and his place in Ireland’s history at the St. Patrick Center, located beside Down Cathedral and St. Patrick’s Grave in the Medieval heart of Downpatrick. The Center features an interpretative exhibition that tells the fascinating story of Ireland’s Patron Saint. Your visit begins with the impressive “In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick” IMAX presentation about the life of St. Patrick and has aerial video footage of some of the landmark sites in Ireland associated with the Saint. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick’s legacy developed in the fascinating story of Ireland’s Patron Saint. Your visit begins with the impressive “In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick” IMAX presentation about the life of St. Patrick and has aerial video footage of some of the landmark sites in Ireland associated with the Saint. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick’s legacy developed in the fascinating story of Ireland’s Patron Saint. Your visit begins with the impressive “In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick” IMAX presentation about the life of St. Patrick and has aerial video footage of some of the landmark sites in Ireland associated with the Saint. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick’s legacy developed in the fascinating story of Ireland’s Patron Saint. Your visit begins with the impressive “In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick” IMAX presentation about the life of St. Patrick and has aerial video footage of some of the landmark sites in Ireland associated with the Saint. A series of interactive displays allow visitors to explore how Patrick’s legacy developed in the fascinating story of Ireland’s Patron Saint.
Visit Down Cathedral
Your next stop is Down Cathedral, which stands close to what is believed to be the mortal remains of St. Patrick. The Cathedral is impressive inside and has a wonderful organ and interesting seating arrangement. It is generally accepted that the main walls of the Cathedral date from the years after 1220. It suffered destruction on numerous occasions including during the wars with Edward the Bruce in 1316 and finally, on the suppression of the monasteries in 1541, the Cathedral was laid waste. Notwithstanding its ruinous state that lasted until 1790, King James I granted a Charter to the Cathedral in 1609, providing for a Dean and Chapter. Rather than lose the connection with St. Patrick, the name began to be used for the growing town, which assumed the name Downpatrick. Rebuilding of the Cathedral began in 1790, it was consecrated in 1818 and the tower was completed in 1829. Continue to Belfast.
Dinner: Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant (location to be determined).

DAY 4: Fri., May 4 - Belfast
AM: Panoramic Tour of Belfast
This morning you will enjoy a Panoramic Belfast City Tour. You will see 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. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Opera House, the Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University, and the Botanic Gardens. If time permits you will visit the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912 and Shankill and Falls Road, which will give you an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles.
Visit the Titanic Belfast
Your next stop is the Titanic Belfast, which is located in the heart of Belfast. The Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world’s most famous ship in an iconic, six-floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship’s construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building’s giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four “ship’s hull” shaped wings, which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.
Visit St. Anne’s Cathedral
St. Anne’s Cathedral, also known as Belfast Cathedral, was erected at the turn of the 20th century upon the site of the original of St. Anne’s Parish Church. The cathedral was built and finally consecrated in 1903. Captivating mosaics, created the Giant’s Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner! The Visitor Center explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history.

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The rest of the day is at leisure to explore this fascinating city on your own.
Dinner: Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant (location to be determined).

DAY 5: Sat., May 5 - Belfast/Derry
AM: Visit Giant’s Causeway
Encounter Northern Ireland’s favorite giant Finn McCool at the Giant’s Causeway Visitor Center on the North Antrim coast. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giant’s Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner! The Visitor Center explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history.

Day 6: Sun., May 6 - Northern Ireland
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Visit Dunluce Castle
Your next stop is Dunluce Castle, which is situated on the Antrim Coast. The roofless ruins are breath-taking with the white chalk cliffs of Portrush close by. It was the former home of the clans McQuillan and MacDonnell.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

DAY 7: Mon., May 7 - Westport/Galway B,L,D
This morning you will depart Westport and travel to Galway. En route you will journey through the Connemara Region. Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south, a land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbor, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas. Connemara is a real paradise for nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions. In 1951, John Ford’s great movie “The Quiet Man” starring John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was made, and filming was centered in the village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border.

Visit Kylemore Abbey
Kylemore Abbey is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-Gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey’s most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They established a private school for young girls, which was the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School. The school eventually closed in 2010. Continue to Galway.

PM: Walking Tour of Galway
Upon your arrival in Galway you will enjoy a walking tour. Your tour starts on Eyre Square and finishes at the Claddagh. During the tour you will see Lynch Castle, home to the mayors of Galway, Saint Nicholas Church founded in the 13th century, and the famous Spanish Arch. You can walk along the Corrib River to the Claddagh village or to the majestic Cathedral.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at Padraicins Restaurant, which is situated on Furbo beach overlooking Galway Bay.

DAY 8: Tues., May 8 - Galway/Limerick B,L,D
Today you will travel to Limerick. En route you will journey through the Burren Region. The Burren landscape covers over 150 square kilometers and is one of Ireland’s 6 National Parks. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites. Centuries of weathering has produced a terrain of fissured limestone pavements, disappearing lakes, terraced mountains, and underground cave systems. You will find Arctic, Alpine, and Mediterranean plants growing together.

Visit the Cliffs of Moher
Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland’s most spectacular sights. The Cliffs boast one of 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.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

DAY 9: Wed., May 9 - Limerick/Killarney B,L,D
After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Limerick and travel to Killarney. En route stop in the pretty village of Adare, which is regarded as one of Ireland’s most picturesque villages. Adare is a small village with thatched cottages dotted throughout the town. These were created by the 3rd Earl of Dunraven in the 1820’s for his estate workers. Today they are mostly used as craft shops or restaurants.

Visit Blarney Castle
Your next stop is Blarney Castle, which attracts visitors from all over the world. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy’s, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland’s oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney Stone, the Stone of Elocution, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to visitors.

Enjoy free time for shopping at the Blarney Woollen Mills. 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 the family, this famous store has something for everyone.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

DAY 10: Thurs., May 10 - Killarney B,L,D
Today you will enjoy touring the Ring of Kerry, which is the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery, mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as you travel along the coastal road. Leav- ing Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you will pass the birthplace of the National hero, Daniel O’Connell. Continue through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Proceed
to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly colored houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls’ Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. At Molls’ you are presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View that provides a different perspective of this magnificent 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.

Visit Muckross House and Gardens

Muckross House and Gardens represent the focal point and nucleus of Killarney National Park. This is Ireland’s oldest National Park and it includes the world famous Lakes of Killarney, as well as the mountains and woodlands that surround them. Step back into the past on Muckross Traditional Farms and visit a very different Ireland, the Ireland of the 1930s and 1940s. Visit three separate working farms (small, medium and large), each complete with animals, poultry and machinery. The farm dwellings are furnished in traditional style, complete with old-fashioned, period rooms, and many of the original family belongings. There is also a Laborer’s Cottage, a Carpenter’s Workshop and a Blacksmith’s Forge.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner and entertainment at Kate Kearney’s Cottage. Nestled at the entrance to the world famous Gap of Dunloe, Kate Kearney’s Cottage is a 150-year-old family-run establishment. Kate Kearney’s Cottage hosts a traditional Irish night that consists of dinner, traditional music, and costumed dancers.

DAY 11: Fri, May 11 - Killarney/Dublin
This morning you will depart Killarney and travel to Dublin. En route you will visit the Rock of Cashel.

Visit the Rock of Cashel
Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. It was once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the 10th century. Granted to the church in the 12th century, by the O’Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a 12th century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artifacts found on site. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant (location to be determined).

DAY 12: Sat, May 12 - Dublin/Washington, DC
AM: After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight. You return with wonderful memories and feeling spiritually renewed.

This itinerary includes some elements of standing and walking when not on the coach, including two walking tours and guided tours of attractions. Generally, most attractions are fully wheelchair accessible but will be limited for some of the natural and more remote visits.
Send this form with a check payable to: TZELL TRAVEL
Mail to: FAR HORIZONS, 30 Two Bridges Road, Suite 250, Fairfield, NJ 07004.
Telephone: 973-287-1719 or 877-482-8747, Fax: 973-287-1773, E-mail: info@fhorizons.com

Enclosed is my/our deposit of $1000.00 p/person for the above Tour of Ireland.

Homeland Security rules require that you provide us with your exact name as it appears on your PASSPORT and your date of birth.

Name: (1) _________________________________________________________________
Surname                                      First Name                              Middle Name
Date of Birth: (1) _______________________________

Name: (2) _________________________________________________________________
Surname                                      First Name                              Middle Name
Date of Birth: (2) ________________________________

Street: _________________________ City: __________________________State:___________
Zip: ___________________________Tel: __________________________Fax: __________________________
E-mail:____________________________________

Do you have any food allergies/dietary restrictions? _________________________________________

Do you have any health limitations/restrictions? _______________________________________

____ I would like to occupy a single room at an additional $1599.

____ I plan to share a twin-bedded room with: ________________________________________

____ I would like Far Horizons to select a roommate (if available) to share a twin-bedded room with me. If not available, I understand that I will be charged the single supplement.

Your reservation will be considered official only after your full payment has been received. Should you cancel after your reservation has been received, the cancellation penalties in the "Tour Conditions" apply. I/We have read and agree to the terms and conditions which apply to this tour, especially noting the cancellation and responsibility clauses.

Signature: _____________________________ Date: _________________________________