

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: FOCUSING ON  
BOOKS, LIBRARIES AND CULTURE

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> 2020

Dear Vassar Travelers,

I invite you to join me on a tour of two remarkable cities: Dublin and Belfast, and their surrounding areas. Though physically close (they lie only a hundred miles apart) their political and cultural differences are well-known and very real, in no small part because of their histories. Dublin is the populous capital of the Republic of Ireland, long influenced by Catholicism. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland, and so part of the United Kingdom; here Protestants have long occupied the majority. At the same time the cities share undeniable commonalities. Our visit investigates both of these features, with stops at a variety of places inside and outside the urban areas. A special focus of the tour will be the long and noteworthy connections Dublin and Belfast have had to the world of literature, books, and libraries.

We start in Dublin; among our visits are St. Patrick's Cathedral, where Jonathan Swift was Dean, and the adjacent Marsh's Library, noted for its eighteenth century holdings. At Trinity College Library we will examine the 1,200-year-old Book of Kells and the beautiful Long Room Library. Next we go to what some call one of the best museums in Europe: the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin Castle, which holds a stunning array of ancient bookish treasures from the Far East, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. There will be an opportunity to see a play at the Abbey Theatre, founded in 1904 by William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory. A highlight of our stay in Dublin will be the chance to attend events on June 16th, also known as Bloomsday, the annual city-wide celebration of James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*.

Moving north to Belfast, we will explore its literary and bibliographic traditions and visit some of its landmark sites. Our first day includes the famous *Titanic* Museum (the ship launched from Belfast), as well as a chance to visit the Linen Hall Library - the oldest such institution in Belfast - to learn about its impressive holdings on Irish and Local Studies, Robert Burns, and Early Belfast and Provincial Printed Books. The landscape of Northern Ireland has inspired many creative works, from C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* to HBO's *Game of Thrones*. On our second day we will head outside the city to Bellaghy to visit the Seamus Heaney HomePlace, where we will be drawn into Heaney's life through artifacts, photos, and audio recordings of the Nobel Prize winner reading his own works. We will then travel on to the amazing Giant's Causeway, a natural wonder and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Please join me if you can for what promises to be a stimulating and reflective journey!

Ron Patkus

Head of Special Collections and Adjunct Associate Professor of History on the Frederick Weyerhaeuser Chair



POWERSCOURT HOUSE

**THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:**

LAND ONLY:	<b>\$4370</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	<b>\$990</b>

*Airfares are available from many other cities. Please call for details.*

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:**

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 3 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout. Local guides in Dublin and Belfast.
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
- LECTURES:** Lectures by Vassar faculty host
- TICKETS:** A performance at the Abbey Theatre and tickets to a Bloomsday event (to be determined)

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.*



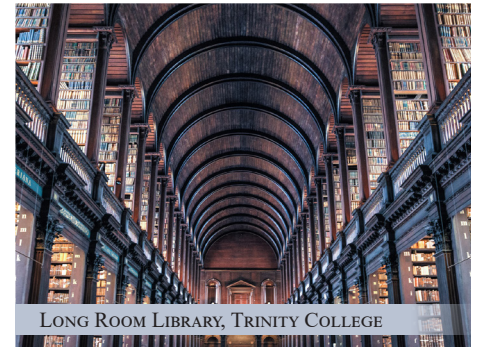
**FRIDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>** - Your morning arrival at Dublin Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. If our rooms are not available for immediate check-in, there will be time to find lunch and begin exploring the neighborhood. This afternoon we will have a chance to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight. This will be followed by a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland and the burial place of Jonathan Swift (dean from 1713-45), and Marsh's Library, next door to the cathedral. This evening we will gather for a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

**(D) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>** - When it comes right down to it, all of Ireland is a garden. Still, some of the loveliest settings in Ireland revolve around its gardens; havens of peace and tranquility. The gardens at Powerscourt House, located at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains, were created in the 1740s by Richard Wingfield, the Viscount Powerscourt. With the highest waterfall in Ireland, Powerscourt offers numerous attractions including formal gardens and landscaped walks with more than 200 varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers. We'll continue on to Glendalough, a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century, where we'll have lunch (included). The rest of the afternoon and evening are free - perhaps sample a traditional Irish pub (or two) for dinner. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**MONDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>** - Today we will explore Dublin with a panoramic sightseeing tour. Our first stop will be to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest college, for a special presentation organized just for our group. After our presentation, we will view the celebrated Book of Kells, an illuminated text of the Gospels, dating back to 800 AD. We will make a stop for lunch before continuing to the Chester Beatty Library and Museum. Once the private library of Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875 – 1968), the museum now houses an extraordinary collection of manuscripts, rare books, and other treasures from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. There will be free time to have an early supper before we attend a performance at the Abbey Theatre (subject to their schedule). **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**



LONG ROOM LIBRARY, TRINITY COLLEGE

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>** - Today is Bloomsday - the annual celebration of James Joyce's masterpiece *Ulysses*. The whole novel is set on June 16th, a day in the life of Leopold Bloom. There will be many events scheduled in the city, both today and the preceding days, but at the time of writing the schedule has not yet been published. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>** - We head north across the border today to Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. En route we'll stop first to see the Hill of Tara, location of the palaces of the Celtic High Kings and literary inspiration to a host of writers. Traveling through the Boyne Valley, we'll also stop at 5,000-year-old Newgrange, one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in Europe. We'll continue north, across the border, into the "six counties," to Belfast. On arrival in Belfast, we will check into our hotel and have time to freshen up before gathering for a short tour of the city center. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>** - Our first visit this morning is to the *Titanic* museum. Belfast is the home to Harland & Wolff, the builders of this legendary vessel. After time for lunch, we'll head a short distance out of the city to visit nearby Mount Stewart House, now owned by the National Trust, to explore its magnificent gardens. On our return to the city, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free. Prof. Patkus will take those interested to the Linen Hall library, Belfast's oldest library, founded in 1788. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we'll drive north to the Antrim Coast. We first stop at the Seamus Heaney HomePlace Museum in the village of Bellaghy, celebrating the life and literature of the poet and Nobel Laureate who was one of Ireland's greatest writers. After lunch here (included), we will head to the Giant's Causeway, with its bizarre basalt columns that recede into the ocean, which gave rise to the legend of the giant, Finn MacCool, who is said to have laid out the steps to reach his lady love in Scotland. We return to Belfast for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BELFAST**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>** - Today we say goodbye to Belfast, and head back south across the border. Upon arrival in the lovely seaside town of Malahide, you will have time to explore the town and find lunch before we gather for a tour of Malahide castle and gardens. This evening our farewell dinner will be in the nearby fishing village of Howth, accompanied by traditional Irish music. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALAHIDE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>** - You may have time this morning for a little last minute shopping before your transfer back to Dublin Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*

**YOUR HOST, PROF. RONALD PATKUS**

Ronald Patkus is a native of Connecticut. He received a BA from Boston College (1986), an MA and Certificate in Archival Management from the University of Connecticut (1987), an MS in Library Science from Simmons College (1993), and a PhD in History from Boston College (1997). Mr. Patkus serves as Associate Director of the Libraries for Special Collections and is a member of the History Department. He holds the Frederick Weyerhaeuser Endowed Chair in Biblical Literature and Bibliography. His teaching and research interests focus on the history of books and printing.



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Please type or print.
2. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
4. Complete both sides of this form.
5. Detach the bottom section and return to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person, if this has not already been paid. Keep the top section for your records.

**DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS**

**NAME(S).** Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your "Known As" or preferred name.

**PASSPORT DETAILS.** Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

**ADDRESS.** If you have a temporary address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

**DIETARY REQUIREMENTS.** Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.

**HEALTH INFORMATION.** It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult with your physician if have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

**TRIP DETAILS**

Please fill in the name of the trip you wish to register for, the departure date and your departure airport or city.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

This information is essential.

**INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

1. If transatlantic flights are not already included as part of your tour package, Discover Europe will be very happy to book these for you. The fee for this service is \$40 per ticket.
2. If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. Transportation to and from the hotel for arrival and departure arrangements that are separate from the group can be made at an additional cost. It is essential that we receive your complete flight information at least 60 days prior to your trip departure.

**ROOMING REQUIREMENTS**

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms, If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.

*Note: A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.*

**PASSENGER DETAILS FOR DUBLIN & BELFAST (0612/VDB)**

PASSPORT NAME:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

KNOWN AS: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

PASSPORT 1#: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP.DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSPORT 2#: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP.DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell/home  
circle one

SECONDARY TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell/home  
circle one

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

VASSAR CLASS YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRIP DETAILS**

DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ RETURN DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY TRIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.  
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
4. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., Vassar College their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
5. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
6. Conduct During the Tour: You are responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form (if it has not already been paid).
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

## TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However, we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months

prior to trip departure.

2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 15-20 participants. Should we end up with less than 15 people, Discover Europe will work with Vassar to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.
4. Late registrations (received within 60 days of departure) may also incur extra fees and charges as discounted rates for hotels and airfares may no longer be available so close to departure. Participants will be made aware of any such charges before their registration is accepted.

## REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty per person.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
  - 90-61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
  - 60 days or less prior to departure: no refund
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe, Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Trip cancellation insurance is *not* included in your Discover Europe tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be made available to you upon registration by Vassar College.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing by Discover Europe, Ltd.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferable.

## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.



## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights:  Yes  No

Flight details (if self-arranged), to be provided **at least 90 days** prior to departure: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

(Please check one)

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like a  double  twin-bedded room

## PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list.  Yes  No

## SIGNATURES

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_