



Tour Proposal: ***Ireland & England***
A Private Family Adventure

Prepared For: **Eleanor Kubeck**

Revised: **24th November, 2013**



Wednesday, June 25th

Overnight: Plane

Evening departure from Boston, Logan Airport aboard Aer Lingus' direct service to Shannon in the west of Ireland

Thursday, June 26th

Overnight: Killarney

On arrival at Shannon Airport you will be met by your driver/guide for the journey to Killarney, the center for touring the southwest of Ireland. After time to settle in and relax, you'll visit the lakeside Victorian mansion of Muckross House. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(D)**



Friday, June 27th

Overnight: Killarney

A full day excursion today around the scenic Dingle Peninsula that will blend magnificent views of coastal scenery with fascinating antiquities ranging from Iron Age stone forts to inscribed stones, early Christian oratories and beehive huts. We'll head straight out to Slea Head for the breathtaking views over to the Blaskets and continue around, to visit the Oratory of Gallarus. We'll stop for lunch in the town of Dingle. We visit the largest working windmill in Europe at Blennerville and return to our hotel via Tralee. This evening is free to sample local food and perhaps some local entertainment in Killarney. **(B)**

Saturday, June 28th

Overnight: Waterford

We head east today to the second city of Cork. Just outside Cork is Blarney Castle, where you can climb the ruined tower and kiss the Blarney Stone. We then drive northeast to Kilkenny, stopping on the way at the Rock of Cashel, an imposing ruined cathedral atop a rocky hill. Just outside Kilkenny, we'll stop in Bennetsbridge to visit the workshops of the renowned Irish potter Nicholas Mosse. We'll arrive at our castle hotel in Waterford this evening for dinner. **(B, D)**



Sunday, June 29th

Overnight: Dublin

Continuing on our journey to Dublin today we'll stop first at Glendalough, a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin. We'll have time here for lunch before we continue to Powerscourt House. The gardens at Powerscourt, located at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains, were created in the 1740s by Richard Wingfield, the Viscount of 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 arrive at our hotel in Dublin with time to freshen up before going out for dinner. **(B, D)**



Monday, June 30th

Overnight: Dublin

Panoramic sightseeing this morning with a local city guide introduces this dynamic city that has undergone such growth and regeneration over the last twenty years. We'll visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland and the burial place of Jonathan Swift. Then on past Christ Church, a drive through Phoenix Park, and a visit to Trinity College for an opportunity to view the celebrated Book of Kells in the Old Library. The afternoon is free to pursue individual interests, which might include the well-trodden James Joyce trail, the rock 'n stroll walking tour, or the Guinness factory. Alternatively, you may feel like shopping along fashionable Grafton Street or paying a visit to the nearby National Museum, which has an incomparable collection of Irish antiquities. A free evening in Dublin, where you may want to take in a play at the Abbey Theatre or sample a local tavern or two. **(B)**



Tuesday, July 1st

Overnight: Lake District

This morning we drive to Dublin Airport and board the short flight to Manchester in the north of England. On arrival here, we'll pick up our English vehicle and drive up the motorway to the Lake District. There will be time to pay a quick visit to Wordsworth's Dove Cottage, where he lived as a young man and wrote some of his finest poetry, before dinner at our hotel in Ambleside. **(B, D)**



Wednesday, July 2nd

Overnight: Lake District

A day to explore the Lakes. We'll begin with a visit to Wordsworth's other home here at Rydal Mount and then continue through Grizedale Forest to Conistone Water. We'll find a quiet country pub for lunch and this afternoon, depending on the weather, we could take a short hike up the Old Man of Conistone or a steamer cruise on Lake Windermere to enjoy the glorious panoramic views of the fells from the water. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we could visit the Arts & Crafts Mansion, Blackwell in Bowness-on-Windermere. We'll return to our hotel in Ambleside for a free evening – perhaps dinner at the Drunken Duck Inn? **(B)**



Thursday, July 3rd

Overnight: Cotswolds

Leaving the Lakes, we head south to the Cotswold Hills. Our route will take us past Blackpool, Liverpool, and Manchester and through the Potteries region to the Cotswolds. It will be a full day drive, but with time to make a couple of lengthy stops along the way. Dinner will be waiting at our Cotswold hotel. **(B, D)**





Friday, July 4th

Overnight: Cotswolds

We might begin our day in the Cotswolds with a short walk along the Cotswold Way from Chipping Campden to Broadway. From here we could visit Snowhill manor, the wonderful Cotswold Manor house of Charles Paget Wade, who used the house for his “collection.” This afternoon we could visit the Cotswold Falconry Centre and take a stroll through nearby Hidcote manor garden. The evening is free to sample a local pub in the village. **(B)**

Saturday, July 5th

Overnight: Exeter

This morning we head southwest down into England’s West Country, wending our way toward Glastonbury, where we tour the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, said to be the burial place of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, and see the Glastonbury Thorn, rumored to be 2,000 years old, and sprung from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea when he brought the Holy Grail here after the crucifixion. Next we visit Wells, a magnificent cathedral city sheltered beneath the beauty of Mendip Hills. After time to visit the Bishop’s Palace and have tea, we’ll continue our journey, arriving in Exeter in time for dinner. **(B, D)**

Sunday, July 6th

Overnight: Exeter

Our day trip leaves this morning to explore the North Devon coast, with stops in Minehead, Porlock, and Lynmouth. The picturesque harbor in the seaside resort of Minehead lies beneath the old village, where steep lanes lead up to a 14th-century church. The quaint villages of Porlock and Lynmouth fall within the confines of Exmoor, some of the finest countryside in Britain. We’ll end our day back in Exeter, where the evening is free. **(B)**

Monday, July 7th

Overnight: Exeter

We’ll begin the day by driving deep down into the Cornish Peninsula to visit the Lost Gardens of Heligan—termed “the garden restoration of the century” by The Times. At the end of the 19th century, the thousand acres of this mysterious estate were at their zenith; only a few years later, bramble and ivy were drawing a veil over this “Sleeping Beauty.” Today, the award-winning restoration is internationally praised. From here we journey back in time to Tintagel Castle, legendary birthplace of King Arthur. Set on a wild and windswept headland, the ruins of this 13th-century castle were preceded by an Iron Age castle and settlement. Returning to Exeter we explore the West Country moors—Bodmin Moor, steeped in Arthurian legend, with a prehistoric and medieval past that remains untouched by the passing centuries; and Dartmoor, one of the last true wildernesses in England. The evening is free in Exeter. **(B)**

Tuesday, July 8th

Overnight: Windsor

From Exeter we return to the area around Heathrow Airport in preparation for our departure the next morning. Our route will take us along the south coast past Lyme Regis and Dorchester (both famous for their literary connections) to the New Forest. We’ll make a stop here for lunch, before continuing on the last leg of travels up to Royal Windsor. There may be time to visit the castle after checking into our riverside hotel. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

Wednesday, July 9th

Overnight: Home

Morning transfer to Heathrow Airport for the returning Aer Lingus flights to Boston, via Dublin. **(B)**

The cost of this itinerary, based on 3 participants is **\$9480** per person, double occupancy. (Single supplement: \$1380). This includes the following:

Airfare:	Roundtrip air on Aer Lingus from Boston to Shannon, returning from London. One way flight from Dublin to Manchester. All customs fees and airport taxes included
Hotels:	13 nights’ accommodation in first-class hotels (see below). All hotel taxes and service charges included
Transport:	All transportation by private rental car – 6 days in Ireland and 9 days in England.
Tour guide:	Fully-qualified Discover Europe driver/guide throughout.
Meals:	Full breakfast daily, 7 dinners
Guides:	Local guides in Dublin for a half-day tour.
Expenses:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
Entrances:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
Insurance:	Complete travel insurance inc. cancellation coverage

This quotation is based upon using the following hotels, although Discover Europe reserves the right to substitute properties of an equivalent or superior standard should these prove unavailable at the time of booking.

- Killarney** The Lake Hotel (www.lakehotelkillarney.com)
- Waterford** Waterford Castle (www.waterfordcastle.com)
- Dublin** Brooks Hotel (www.doylecollection.com/dublin)
- Lake District** The Waterhead Hotel, Ambleside (www.waterhead-hotel.co.uk)
- Cotswolds** The Three Ways Hotel (www.threewayshousehotel.com)
- Exeter** The Abode Hotel (www.abodeexeter.co.uk)
- Windsor** Oakley Court (www.theoakleycourthotel.co.uk)

