

Wednesday, Sept. 22. DUBLIN

A morning sightseeing tour with a local guide introduces us to the city. We'll visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, burial place of Jonathan Swift, and the splendid new quarters of the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, now housed in Dublin Castle. Then we visit Trinity College for a specially arranged tour and a look at the *Book of Kells* in the Old Library. The afternoon is free to pursue individual interests, which might include a visit to the superbly maintained Dublin Zoo in Phoenix Park, the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevil, or the well-trodden James Joyce trail. You may also wish to accompany Professor North to the National Gallery of Art with its new Millennium Wing and to the nearby National Museum, which has an incomparable collection of Irish antiquities. Gather for dinner tonight and a poetry reading by Brendan Kenelly, Irish poet and former member of the English department at Swarthmore. **Overnight: Brooks Hotel (B, D)**



The Rock of Cashel

Thursday, Sept. 23. DUBLIN

Following a slide-illustrated lecture this morning, enjoy a free day in Dublin or participate in an expedition south of Dublin. Drive through the Wicklow Mountains to Glendalough where St. Kevin founded a monastery in a peaceful setting between two lakes in the sixth century. Remains include St. Kevin's Kitchen, actually an oratory like the one we will see at Gallarus in Kerry, which later became a cathedral and round tower. The nearby church of St. Saviour, built in the eleventh century when St. Laurence O'toole was abbot, contains notable examples of Romanesque carvings. This evening is at leisure. **Overnight: Brooks Hotel (B)**

Friday, Sept. 24. DUBLIN - KILLARNEY

Leaving Dublin, we head southwest, making our first stop at the Irish National Stud in Kildare, Ireland's premier horse breeding facility, and arriving at Cashel in the late morning. The Rock of Cashel is like the Acropolis of Athens, dominating the surrounding countryside and supporting important religious structures: the cathedral, a round tower, and Cormac's Chapel, the supreme masterpiece of Irish Romanesque art. After lunch we continue our journey westwards to Lough Gur. We visit the Lough Gur Stone Age Centre and view the greatest stone circle in Ireland and other pre-Christian monuments that dot the banks of the lake. We conclude our day's travels at the Dunloe Castle Hotel just outside Killarney. **Overnight: Dunloe Castle (B, L, D)**



The Oratory of Gallarus

Saturday, Sept. 25. KILLARNEY

Our full day excursion around the Dingle Peninsula begins at Inch and includes visits to the beehive huts at Fahan and Dunbeg Fort en route to Sleah Head with magnificent views of the Blaskets Islands. We visit the Blasket Centre in Dunquin and continue around the increasingly wild farther reaches of the peninsula, stopping for lunch in Ballyferriter. Amid the towering wild fuchsia hedges that line the narrow roads, we will find the early Christian Gallarus Oratory and the monastic site at Kilmalkedar with its Romanesque church, "alphabet stone," ogham stone, and sun dial, and the superbly carved Reask pillar stone. In the town of Dingle we visit the Presentation Convent to see the Harry Clarke stained glass windows and at Ballintaggart we see a collection of nine ogham stones in a circular burial ground. Crossing to the north coast of the peninsula via spectacular Connor Pass we skirt Tralee Bay to visit the largest working windmill in Europe at Blennerville. Then return to Beaufort for a look at another collection of ogham stones. This evening we'll have a festive farewell dinner complete with traditional Irish folk music and dancing at a local pub. **Overnight: Dunloe Castle (B, L, D)**

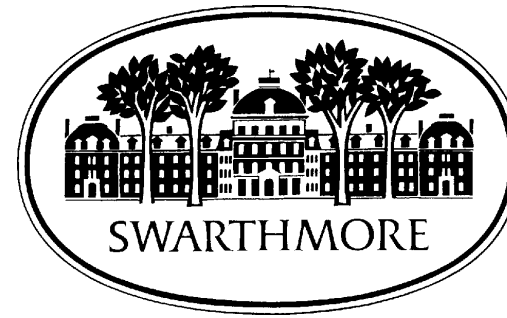


"Beehive" huts on the Dingle Peninsula

Sunday, Sept. 26. KILLARNEY - PHILADELPHIA

Following breakfast, transfer to Shannon Airport for return flights to the USA. **(B)**

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



The Hidden Ireland
A Search for Treasures of History and Art
From the Stone Age to the Third Millennium

with
Professor Helen North

September 12 - 26, 2004

Ireland is a mythic land of lyrical folk song, turbulent history and splendid scenery, and a country that offers many hidden treasures. Traveling along coastal and inland routes, this unique program takes in the perimeter of the Emerald Isle, focusing on its unspoiled natural beauty, historic sites and lively culture. Throughout the program, Swarthmore Professor Helen North will lecture on and discuss historical and cultural Ireland.



Carrowmore Passage Grave

From its spectacular seascapes, moorlands, monastic ruins, enchanting lakes, towering fortresses and vast patchwork of fields in every shade of green, Ireland is a land of discoveries. Begin near the town of Ennis, from where we tour County Clare including Quin "Abbey," an early fifteenth-century Franciscan friary; the spectacular Cliffs of Moher; and "The Burren", rocky plains of karst limestone.

Then head west into Galway and Clifden, famous for its Connemara tweeds. Rimmed by Clew Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, County Mayo offers many attractions including the charming town of Westport from where we are based. After we observe excellent examples of Harry Clarke stained glass windows and Achill Island, continue north to the Mullet Peninsula taking in the sublime cliff scenery along the north coast and Ceide Fields, the largest Neolithic farm settlement in Europe.

Drive inland through County Donegal into Yeats country, pausing in Sligo and Drumcliff to see the grave of W.B. Yeats. Traverse the Blue Stack Mountains and descend to coastal Ardara, a center for the Donegal homespun and knitting industry. Travel along the spectacular coast of Donegal Bay where the mountains plunge to the sea creating a beautifully indented coastline. Stop in villages rich in prehistoric and early Christian remains, and visit Malin Head, situated on the remote Inishowen Peninsula.



The Valley of The Two Lakes - Glendalough

Traveling toward Belfast, we stop at Dunnamore to visit its extensive complex of stone circles and in Downpatrick, the burial site of the three greatest Irish saints. Drive along the Boyne Valley to Dublin where we tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, and Trinity College to see the famous *Book of Kells*. Enjoy a free day in Dublin and then continue to Killarney, pausing at the dominating Rock of Cashel and Lough Gur Stone Age Centre to observe Ireland's greatest stone circle. A full day excursion around the Dingle Peninsula takes in Sleah Head, vistas of the Blaskets Islands, the early Christian Gallarus Oratory, and the town of Dingle. Cross to the north coast skirting Tralee Bay and visit the largest working windmill in Europe. The program comes to a close with a festive evening of traditional Irish folk music and dancing at a local pub.

This autumn why not join Professor Helen North and other Swarthmore alumni on this fascinating exploration of *The Hidden Ireland*.



Sunday, Sept. 12. PHILADELPHIA

Depart Philadelphia aboard US Airways non-stop service to Shannon Airport. **Overnight: Plane**

Monday, Sept. 13. ENNIS

Early this morning arrive at Shannon Airport. A short drive brings us to our hotel just outside the town of Ennis. Our rooms will be ready for us on arrival and we will have a leisurely breakfast with time to unpack and relax before afternoon sightseeing. This afternoon's tour will include stops at Quin "Abbey," actually an early fifteenth-century Franciscan Friary built on the remains of a Norman Castle. We then visit the Craggaunowen Project, where we will see a replica of a Bronze Age crannog – a village built on stilts in a bog – and the coracle that Tim Severin sailed from Ireland to Newfoundland in 1976, imitating the fabled sixth-century voyage of St. Brendan. The great Iron Age fort of Mooghaun will complete our introduction to Ireland, as we return to our hotel for a welcome dinner. **Overnight: The Clare Inn (B, D)**

Tuesday, Sept. 14. ENNIS

Following breakfast and a slide-illustrated lecture presented by Professor North, depart for a full day exploration of North Clare. We'll stop first at the Dysert O'Dea Archeology Center and view the church and High Cross on the adjacent site. Then continue through Corrofin to Kilfenora, with its 12th-century cathedral and high crosses. Visit the Cliffs of Moher and continue to the spa town of Lisdoonvarna for lunch. From here we explore "The Burren", including several megalithic sites. This is an area of strange limestone scenery that was described in frustration by one of Cromwell's generals as having "neither wood to hang a man, water to drown him nor earth to bury him in." Our final visit of the day will be to Corcomroe Abbey (St. Mary of the Fertile Rock), founded in 1194 and notable for carvings that reflect flowers of the Burren. We return to our hotel for dinner. **Overnight: The Clare Inn (B, D)**



The Limestone Pavement of the Burren

Wednesday, Sept. 15. ENNIS - WESTPORT

Driving north from Ennis this morning our first stop is at Thoor Ballylee, the restored tower house that was home to W.B. Yeats. We continue on to north of Loughrea to visit the phallic Turoe Stone, a masterpiece of Iron Age LaTène sculpture. Then head west into County Galway, toward the quartzite peaks of the Twelve Bens and Clifden, famous for Connemara tweeds. After a luncheon stop in Letterfrack, originally a Quaker settlement, we visit Kylemore Abbey, the extraordinary neo-Gothic structure built as a mansion in the nineteenth century, now a Benedictine convent. From here the road takes us around Killary Harbour and through the Delphi Pass down to Clew Bay at Louisburgh. We follow the coast past Croagh Patrick to our hotel in Westport where dinner awaits us. **Overnight: The Westport Woods Hotel (B, L, D)**



Céide Fields Visitor Centre

Thursday, Sept. 16. WESTPORT

Enjoy a panorama of County Mayo today, including the opportunity to examine some excellent examples of Harry Clarke stained glass windows. We'll start by driving as far west as possible, all the way to Keem Strand on Achill Island. We then go back to the mainland and north to Belmullet on the Mullet Peninsula. We drive along the north coast of Mayo with its sublime cliff scenery and visit Beldberg and Céide Fields, the largest Neolithic farm settlement in Europe. After lunch on your own at Céide and a tour of the museum, we make a detour to Kilcummin Strand, site of the French landing in 1798. Visiting the Breastagh Ogham Stone and the Rathfran Wedge Grave en route, we return to Westport via Ballycastle, Lough Conn and Glen Nephin. Dinner is included at our hotel in Westport. **Overnight: The Westport Woods Hotel (B, D)**

Friday, Sept. 17. WESTPORT - BALLYBOFEY

Spend the day in Yeats' country. Driving inland through Castlebar and Tobercurry to Sligo, we first visit the Carrowmore Passage Grave Cemetery in the shadow of Knocknarea, crowned by the unexcavated tomb of Queen Maeve. We then enter the town of Sligo to see several works by Jack Yeats, brother of the poet, in the County Art Gallery. After free time for lunch we'll take a detour around Lough (lake) Gill to see the "Lake Isle of Innisfree." We will stop in Drumcliff to see the grave of W.B. Yeats and the high cross nearby, then follow the coast around the base of Benbulbin to visit the Creevykeel Court cairn, one of the finest in Ireland. At Beleek we cross briefly into the Six Counties and drive along the north side of Lower Lough Erne across Boa Island, where we visit the Caldragh cemetery with its wonderful pre-Christian Janus figures. We continue north into County Donegal arriving at our hotel in Ballybofey in time for dinner. **Overnight: Jackson's Hotel (B, D)**



The Connemara Coast

Saturday, Sept. 18. BALLYBOFEY

Our excursion today is into Southern Donegal. Leaving Ballybofey we head west through the Blue Stack Mountains and descend to the coast at Clooney. We pass the remains of a huge oval fort, known as The Bawn, and stop at Kilclooney More, where there are two famous portal dolmens. We continue to Ardara, a center for the Donegal homespun and knitting industry, and take the back roads across the southwest peninsula of Donegal to Glencolumkille (the valley of the church of Columba). Visit the Folk Museum which features a collection of cottages from different periods, including the characteristic Donegal thatch. After lunch, we continue through the village of Malin More to Malin Beg. The very tip of the headland and the westernmost point of Donegal, this region is rich in prehistoric and early Christian remains. We return along the coast of Donegal Bay, through Killybegs, and back to our hotel for dinner. **Overnight: Jackson's Hotel (B, L, D)**

Sunday, Sept. 19. BALLYBOFEY

Today we explore the Inishowen Peninsula, the site of the Flight of the Earls and the end of Gaelic Ireland in 1607 and the capture of Wolfe Tone after the rebellion of 1798. Our first stop will be the fine stone circle at Beltany near Raphoe. Continuing northeast we reach the Grianan of Aileach, a dramatic Iron Age fortress overlooking the mountains of Donegal. We'll stop for lunch in Buncrana, on Lough Swilly, and then drive around the peninsula all the way to Malin Head, the northernmost tip of Ireland. Here we look out for the ancient cross pillars at Carndonagh, then down the shore of Lough Foyle for a glimpse of the massive Ardmore Standing Stone, a treasure of Bronze Age art. We return to our hotel in Ballybofey in time to relax before dinner. **Overnight: Jackson's Hotel (B, D)**

Monday, Sept. 20. BALLYBOFEY - DUNDALK

This morning we cross into the Six Counties again and make our way east towards Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. En route we'll visit Dunnamore and its extensive complex of seven stone circles, nine alignments and twelve cairns at Beaghmore. We continue through the center of Belfast to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum in Holywood, one of the finest collections of vernacular architecture and historic transport in the world. We'll have time for lunch here before visiting nearby Mount Stewart Gardens in Newtownards. From here we'll drive to Downpatrick, reputed to be the burial place of the three greatest Irish saints: Patrick, Bridget, and Columkille. We continue through the Mountains of Mourne and back across the border into the Republic. We have dinner at our hotel in Dundalk. **Overnight: Ballymascanlon House (B, D)**



Newgrange

Tuesday, Sept. 21. DUNDALK - DUBLIN

Travel south today to Dublin, the capital of the Republic. En route we'll journey along the Boyne Valley, stopping at Monasterboice to see the high crosses, then proceed to Newgrange. Here the three great passage tombs of Dowth, Knowth and Newgrange, together with their smaller satellites, constitute the most impressive Neolithic cemetery in Europe. Their decoration with incised spirals, circles, lozenges, sun disks, and other geometric forms is as striking as their intricate architecture and their commanding position on a ridge above the River Boyne. From here we continue south to our hotel in Dublin with time to relax before we gather again for dinner. **Overnight: Brooks Hotel (B, D)**