

The Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute

presents

A Celtic Art Venture

The Art & History of Scotland & Ireland

September 22nd - October 5th, 2001

Celtic history, art, and landscapes have beckoned travelers for centuries to delight in their beauty, antiquity and mystery. From the vast sweeps of the Scottish Highlands to the deep green valleys of Ireland, the lands of the Celts have an irresistible pull. This is your invitation to experience the magic of the Celtic lands as they're wrapped in the golden light of autumn. Join the Clark Art Institute on this Celtic Art Venture exploring the art and history of Scotland and Ireland.

We begin in Edinburgh, the political and cultural capital of Scotland. This granite city, set atop seven volcanic hills, is brimming with architectural treasures. But its finest treasure is surely Edinburgh Castle, a towering fortification on a rocky outcrop, which dominates the city skyline. Guided visits to both the castle and the National Gallery of Scotland bring alive the political and artistic legacy of this ancient and noble city.

Crossing the country at its narrowest point, we stop at Stirling Castle, its royal history dating back to the 15th century. We continue to Glasgow, where we visit three remarkable art collections and from which we enjoy a day's rail journey across the heather-washed moors into the Highlands and back.

After crossing by ferry to Northern Ireland, we take a panoramic drive north along the Antrim coast to the Giant's Causeway, one of the world's natural wonders, before turning towards Belfast. As a part of the city visit, we enjoy the elegant gardens at Mount Stewart just outside Belfast.

The Republic of Ireland now beckons us. En route to its capital city of Dublin, our base for three days, we'll experience the haunting mystery of Newgrange. We tour the National Museum and the National Gallery of Ireland and visit Trinity College Library to see its most famous national treasure, the Book of Kells. We also allow free time to explore this lively city and include an evening at the famous Abbey Theatre.

Our final stop is Limerick. Visits along the way include magnificent Russborough House and the awe-inspiring Rock of Cashel. The mythical beauty of southwestern Ireland is encapsulated in the Ring of Kerry, a circular coastal road around the famous peninsula. A medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle and an evening in an Irish pub bring the trip to a memorable (and undoubtedly raucous) conclusion.

Your traveling party will be hosted by Mr. Jock Brooks of the Clark Art Institute and couriered by one of *Discover Europe's* own enthusiastic specialists in British and Irish travel. In addition to managing travel details, your courier will introduce the culture and history of the areas that we will be exploring.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure: **\$3470**
Land only (no airfare included): **\$2840**

The single supplement is **\$550**

Trip fees include the following:

- ◆ Round-trip airfare on Aer Lingus, Boston-Dublin-Edinburgh, returning Shannon Boston, including all airport taxes and customs fees.
- ◆ 12 nights accommodation in first-class hotels, all rooms with private facilities.
- ◆ 12 full Scottish/Irish breakfasts.
- ◆ 6 table d'hote dinners, 3 courses + coffee, with a glass of wine (or substitute).
- ◆ 1 Scottish Ceilidh and 1 medieval banquet.
- ◆ Theatre ticket, best seats available, at Dublin's Abbey Theatre.
- ◆ Fully qualified courier for 13 days.
- ◆ Local guides in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast & Dublin.
- ◆ All ground transportation by private, luxury motorcoach as specified in the itinerary.
- ◆ Return rail ticket, Glasgow to Fort William.
- ◆ Passenger ferry ticket from Scotland to N. Ireland.
- ◆ Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary.
- ◆ Fully comprehensive travel/cancellation insurance.
- ◆ All hotel taxes & service charges (including portage of one large suitcase per person).
- ◆ A donation of \$300 to the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, or \$150 to the Clark Art Institute and \$150 to The Bennington Museum.

This itinerary is based on the following hotels:

Edinburgh	The Roxburghe. Recently refurbished Georgian hotel on elegant Charlotte Square.
Glasgow	The Thistle. 4 star luxury in the heart of the city.
Belfast	The Culloden. An elegant baronial mansion with indoor pool.
Dublin	Brooks Hotel. Newly renovated, 4 star city center hotel.
Limerick	Jury's Hotel. Located on 4 acres of grounds beside the River Shannon.



Day 01, Sat 22nd Sept

Departure from Boston this evening aboard an Aer Lingus overnight flight to Dublin.

Overnight: Plane

Day 02, Sun 23rd Sept

Transfer at Dublin for Edinburgh. Your courier will greet you on arrival for the transfer to the hotel. Time to rest from the flights before panoramic sightseeing this afternoon introduces the capital city of Scotland, the "Athens of the North," including a visit to Edinburgh Castle. A welcome reception and dinner party is scheduled at the hotel this evening. **D.**

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 03, Mon 24th Sept

We begin the day with a tour of the National Gallery of Scotland and its excellent collection of Old Masters. The afternoon is free for individual explorations. This evening we sample the traditional song, dance, and cuisine of Scotland at a "ceilidh" at Dalhousie Castle. **B, D.**

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 04, Tues 25th Sept

This morning we leave Edinburgh for Stirling. A tour of the dramatic castle is followed by free time for lunch. We continue on to Glasgow and have an afternoon at the Hunterian Art Gallery, famous for its collection of paintings by Whistler, before checking in to our hotel in the heart of this revitalized city. Dinner is at the hotel this evening. **B, D.**

Overnight: Glasgow

Day 05, Wed 26th Sept

Our day begins with a short panoramic tour of this remarkable industrial city, which in 1990 enjoyed international acclaim as the "European City of Culture." We round the morning off with a visit to the world-renowned Burrell Collection. After lunch we proceed to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum for an afternoon tour. The evening is free to sample one of Glasgow's many pubs or restaurants. **B.**

Overnight: Glasgow

Day 06, Thur 27th Sept

We have a choice of activities today. You could elect a day trip by train past Loch Lomond, up, into, and across the scenic Highlands of Scotland, with free time for lunch and exploration in Fort William before you return, or choose to spend the day at leisure in Glasgow. The evening is free. **B.**

Overnight: Glasgow

Day 07, Fri 28th Sept

We journey south to experience the land and poetry of Robbie Burns on our way to catch the ferry for Larne in Northern Ireland. Upon disembarking we turn north and drive up the spectacular Antrim coast to the dramatic Giant's Causeway, before arriving at our Belfast hotel for dinner. **B, D.**

Overnight: Belfast

Day 08, Sat 29th Sept

Panoramic sightseeing introduces the city and concludes at Mount Stewart with its 18th-century estate and famous gardens, comprised of formal beds, woodlands and lakes. The afternoon is free in Belfast, before we return to our hotel for dinner. **B, D.**

Overnight: Belfast

Day 09, Sun 30th Sept

We turn south to cross the border at Newry into the Republic of Ireland. On our way to Dublin we visit the site of the Battle of the Boyne, where James II's hopes of regaining the English throne were shattered. We continue to Monasterboice to view the relics of a community founded by St. Buithe before we visit the remarkable tumulus at Newgrange. A guide will take us into the very heart of the monument. Dinner is at our hotel. **B, D.**

Overnight: Dublin

Day 10, Mon 1st Oct

Panoramic sightseeing introduces the city and includes visits to St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College Library, where we marvel at the Book of Kells. In the afternoon we visit the National Museum with its rich collection of prehistoric gold, and this evening we see a production at the historic Abbey Theatre (subject to confirmation). **B.**

Overnight: Dublin

Day 11, Tues 2nd Oct

This morning we tour the National Gallery with its impressive collection of Irish and international art. The afternoon and evening are free for your own exploration. **B.**

Overnight: Dublin

Day 12, Wed 3rd Oct

We depart Dublin for the southwest. Our first stop is Russborough House, one of the finest Irish examples of Palladian architecture. Continuing across country, we visit the astonishing Rock of Cashel, which rises almost 100 feet above the plain, crowned with the ruins of a 13th-century cathedral. A late-afternoon arrival at our hotel in Limerick followed by a medieval banquet at nearby Bunratty Castle. **B, D.**

Overnight: Limerick

Day 13, Thur 4th Oct

Today we enjoy a panoramic drive round the scenic Ring of Kerry, stopping at leisure. The day concludes at Muckross House, an Elizabethan style Victorian mansion with period furnishings and a fine collection of Kerry folklore. A late return to our hotel. After our farewell dinner, there will be an excursion into town to join the local musicians at the pub, concluding this ArtVenture in memorable style! **B, D.**

Overnight: Limerick

Day 14, Fri 5th Oct

After a free morning, we take the Aer Lingus direct flight from nearby Shannon to Boston. **B.**

Overnight: Home

Key: **B** - Breakfast, **D** - Dinner

This program is operated by:
Discover Europe, Ltd., P.O. Box 435, Dublin, NH 03444
Tel: Toll Free (866) 563-7077, Fax: (603) 563-7137

