

Save
\$200.00
Book before
30 September
2006 📅

Irish Voices

Exploring the Emerald Isle

A special feature of this tour is our stay in several heritage hotels

Australians Studying Abroad



Markree Castle Hotel by Kenneth W. Park

Tour *Itinerary* 24 May - 10 June 2007

Tour Price (Land Content Only):	📅 \$6690.00 (Early-Bird Special!) or \$6890.00	Tour Code 2706
Personal Endurance Level ☆ ☆	Extensive walking on outdoor site visits on uneven & hilly terrain	
Type of Touring:	Moderate coach travel	
Number of Days:	18 days in Ireland	

18 DAYS: Dublin (4 nights) • Collooney (3 nights) • Cashel Bay (2 nights) • Ennistymon (1 night) • Killarney (3 nights) • Cork (1 night) • Waterford (2 nights) • Dublin (1 night).

HIGHLIGHTS: Powerscourt Garden • Book of Kells • Brú na Bóinne & Newgrange • Hill of Tara • Monasterboice • Yeats Society, Sligo • Drumcliffe • Lissadell House • Glencar Falls • Glencolumbkille Folk Village • Ulster Cultural Centre • Cong • Connemara National Park • Aran Isles • Nora Barnacle's House • Coole Park • Thoor Ballylee • The Burren • Angela's Ashes Walking Tour of Limerick • Dingle Peninsula • Ring of Kerry • Muckross House • Queenstown Story, Cobh • Blarney Castle • Cork City • Glendalough • Russborough House.

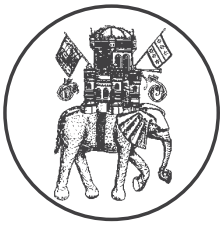
Special Accommodation: 17th century Markree Castle (Collooney); 19th century Zetland House overlooking Cashel Bay & Cahernane House, formerly the residence of the Earls of Pembroke (Killarney).

Australians Studying Abroad Pty Ltd
Office Address:
 Office 6, Level 1
 1087-1095 High St Armadale
 Victoria 3143 Australia

Tel: (03) 9822 6899
 Fax: (03) 9822 6989
 Freecall: 1800 645755
(outside Metro Melbourne Area Only)
 Email: info@asatours.com.au
 Website: www.asatours.com.au

Postal Address:
 PO Box 8285
 Armadale
 Victoria 3143 Australia
 Licence No. 31248
 ACN 006589 242





Irish Voices: Exploring the Emerald Isle

This Irish tour owes much to the inspired input of Dr Peter Milner & Mrs Christine Milner who helped in the design of this program. ASA wishes to gratefully acknowledge their work.

About the Tour

Discover the celebrated 'emerald isle' on this tour that explores the cultural landscape of Ireland. Experience the magic of Ireland on a tour that features selected accommodation in historic settings and buildings. Admire contrasting landscapes - from the wild and majestic western coastline to the panoramas of rolling hills, from intimate narrow country lanes and tranquil verdant river valleys to charming towns and cities. The tour will reveal the story of Ireland through visits to a range of ancient sites, monuments, farms, museums, castles, monasteries and country houses. You will warm to the charm and the renowned eloquence of the Irish and their gift of language and, of course, sample the legendary and effervescent urban life. Embrace Ireland's celebrated literary and creative tradition that resonates worldwide. Indeed, the oral and literary traditions have helped to forge the Irish identity. The theme of this tour is literary flavours, and as we encounter this engaging country and its people, we will consider the contributions of the Irish literary giants. James Joyce, W. B. Yeats, Oscar Wilde, and George Bernard Shaw are only a few of the notable literary figures that we will commune with on our journey. This tour is designed to bring to life the history of Ireland over the ages...the prehistoric era, the Celtic legacy, the role of Christianity and the challenges posed by Viking raiders, the time of Anglo-Norman rule, the Protestant ascendancy and the Georgian years, the time of famine and mass emigration and transportation, and more recently the fight for independence and finally the Ireland of today. When you read the itinerary you will see that this tour is brimming, like a well poured glass of Guinness, with content that will show the many faces of the Irish and their land. Dublin is the start of our tour, blessed with fine architecture and streetscapes, and one of Europe's liveliest cities. A few of the tour highlights include Powerscourt, The National Gallery of Ireland and Trinity College, home to the *Book of Kells*. Discover the world of Irish mythology at the prehistoric cult sites of Brú na Bóinne and Tara. 'Taste' history at the Guinness Brewery. See Dublin Castle, the historic seat of political power in Ireland. Explore Sligo, the landscape immortalised by the great poet and playwright, Yeats. Experience Cong (setting for *The Quiet Man*), Connemara National Park and Cashel Bay. A boat trip to the Aran Isles offers spectacular coastal scenery and fascinating prehistoric fortifications. Marvel at the Burren, famous for its natural attractions and historic sites. Step back in time in Limerick, on an Angela's Ashes walking tour. Fall in love with the south west coast and the Ring of Kerry. Enjoy Cork and the nearby picturesque seaside town Cobh (last port of call of the *Titanic*) and kiss the Blarney Stone. Admire the legendary Rock of Cashel, with its dramatic Romanesque ruins and Jerpoint Abbey. Delight in seeing Waterford famous for its crystal. Finish with a visit to the monastic site of Glendalough before returning to Dublin.

Tour Lecturer & Leader

This program will be led by **Kenneth W. Park**: Curator of Collections, Wesley College Melbourne and freelance art curator, presenter, fundraiser, tour leader and writer. As a lecturer/tour leader, Kenneth makes well over 130 presentations annually for universities, museums, conferences and cultural organizations. An inveterate traveller making at least eight overseas trips a year, he lives by the motto - 'life is a grand tour - make the most of it'. Tertiary studies in fine arts, museum studies history and international relations. Interests - travel, food, wine, arts, architecture, history...the good life. Kenneth has Irish ancestry and has travelled and toured extensively through the country. He has led ASA tours since 2004, including *The New Berlin* (2004), *Literary Flavours of Ireland* (2005), *Flavours of Northern Italy* (2005), *A Paris Affair* (2004-2005), *Art & Architecture in the USA: Chicago, Boston & New York* (2006), *Bohemian Rhapsody: Prague, the Spring Festival & Vienna* (2006) and *The Grand Tour: Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels & Paris* (2006).

Personal Endurance Level: ★ ★

The number of stars is an approximate guide to the degree of difficulty of tours relative to each other. It is neither absolute nor literal. **One star is given to the least physically taxing tours, five to the most.** We have taken into account the following criteria: extremes of temperature; amount of walking and terrain covered (including steps); length of daily activities; amount of time standing still listening to talks (eg gallery visits); risk of gastric problems and other ailments. **This tour includes moderate walking during site visits, sometimes on uneven and hilly terrain.**

Practical Information

Average monthly minimum and maximum temperatures in Ireland in May-June: 10 - 20°C

Clothing: Be prepared for all kinds of weather. Temperatures will be mostly in the middle range, often cool at night, but occasionally quite hot during the day. The average maximum and minimum temperatures given above is a rough guide only. Irish weather can change rapidly - a sunny morning can be interrupted by sudden showers, and a cool, rainy morning can be followed by a warm, sunny afternoon. Heavy rain is rare in summer. Layers of clothing are the most suitable.

Essential items: good strong walking shoes, a shower-proof jacket, and an umbrella (or jacket hood) for all outdoor site visits. Hats should be the kind that will not blow off in a sudden gust of wind, particularly on ferry-crossings. Comfortable shoes should be worn even for city excursions.

Dress codes: Outdoor monastic sites, like Monasterboice and Glendalough, are regarded by many people as sacred ground, similar to churches; it is therefore preferable, out of respect, not to wear shorts or bare sun-tops, even in hot weather.

Luggage: Porterage is provided only at certain places. As individual tour members will be responsible for their own luggage, do not bring any more than you can manage conveniently on your own.

Further information: Tour members will receive prior to departure practical notes which include information on visa requirements, healthcare, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, customs regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances & local cuisine etc..

Accommodation

The hotels for this tour have been carefully selected for their historical interest and spectacular locations. We have included hotels that capture aspects of the tour that are of particular importance. During the course of the tour you will stay in a seventeenth-century castle, a nineteenth-century guesthouse, the former residence of the Pembroke Earldom and an award-winning riverside hotel. Nestled within medieval cities, overlooking national parks, offering panoramic bay views or surrounded by parks and woodlands, your hotels are located within some of the most spectacular landscapes of Ireland, each within easy access of the sites we visit. We have selected hotels that contain some of the finest Irish restaurants offering you an array of local cuisine, fresh seafood and fine wines. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure. A summary list is given below:

Stephen's Green Hotel, Dublin (5 nights): a blend of a Georgian facade topped by a 4 storey glass atrium that overlooks St Stephen's Green in the heart of Dublin; www.ocallaghanhotels.com

Markree Castle, Collooney (3 nights): surrounded by gardens and woodlands nestled in the heart of county Sligo amongst the breathtaking lakes and rivers, the rugged shorelines and unspoilt countryside of northwest Ireland. The 350 year-old castle is considered one of the finest of its period and is the only castle hotel in Ireland still owned by direct descendents of the original family. Fully restored, it features a beautifully carved stairway, stained glass windows depicting the family tree, and a magnificent gilded restaurant offering the region's finest cuisine as well as a wine list drawn from the castle's own cellar; www.markreecastle.ie

Zetland Country House Hotel, Cashel Bay (3 nights): located on the edge of Cashel Bay in Connemara, a region noted for its untamed landscape of mountains, lakes and sandy beaches. The fully restored nineteenth-century lodge with antique furnishings has panoramic views of the bay and surrounding gardens; www.zetland.com

Falls Hotel, Ennistymon (1 night): Located on 50 acres of woodland on the banks of the River Inagh, the Falls Hotel features modern and very comfortable rooms. The heart of the hotel is a Georgian country house (1764), once called Ennistymon House, that is actually built on the ruins of an O'Brien Castle; www.fallshotel.net

Cahernane House Hotel, Killarney (3 nights): situated on its own parklands overlooking Killarney's National Park and a short stroll from the town centre. Formerly the residence of the Earls of Pembroke, the seventeenth-century house is approached through a tunnel of greenery that frames a long private avenue into the grounds. The award-winning hotel restaurant features superb local cuisine and fine wines; www.cahernane.com

The Imperial Hotel, Cork (1 night): The original commercial building (1813) was extended in the 1840s and became a hotel in 1845. Centrally located and very comfortable, The Imperial Hotel guest list boasts many notables, including Sir Walter Scott, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Franz Liszt and Michael Collins; www.flynnhotels.com

Granville Hotel, Waterford (2 nights): One of Ireland's oldest hotels, the very comfortable Granville Hotel is located in central Waterford on the banks of the River Suir; www.granville-hotel.ie

Note: hotels are subject to change, in which case ASA will arrange accommodation of similar standard and historical interest.

Meals & Entrance Fees

The tour includes breakfast daily and 9 evening meals, indicated in the itinerary where: **B**=breakfast and **D**=evening meal. **All entrance fees** on the official program are included in the tour price. This includes a performance at the famous Gate Theatre in Dublin.

The Itinerary

The detailed itinerary provides an outline of the proposed daily program. The daily activities described in this itinerary may be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate changes in museum opening hours, flight schedules etc.

Day 1: Thursday 24 May, Arrive Dublin - Powerscourt – Dublin

• Powerscourt Gardens

• Powerscourt Waterfall

Tour participants taking the group airfare will arrive into Dublin in the morning and transfer by private coach to your hotel. Participants not taking the ASA group airfare should join the tour at the hotel, or ask ASA to organise a private transfer.

Once we have settled into our hotel, a two hundred year-old Georgian townhouse, we will gather in the early afternoon for a short tour orientation prior to our departure on a leisurely and informal outing into the countryside. Here we shall visit the world-famous gardens at Powerscourt. We shall admire the estate buildings as well as the gardens, which will provide a perfect way to unwind after a long flight. Powerscourt was laid out and landscaped in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries, and today the gardens are widely regarded by many as the finest in all of Ireland. The stunning Italianate design will impress, as will the dramatic situation at the foot of the Sugarloaf mountain. Our excursion will allow us to admire the stunning landscape, including a beautiful waterfall.

In the late afternoon we return to Dublin and the rest of the day is at leisure. Time permitting, Kenneth may lead an optional and informal introductory walk. **(Overnight Dublin)**

Day 2: Friday 25 May, Dublin - Hill of Tara - Monasterboice – Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange) - Dublin

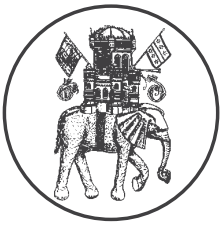
• Hill of Tara

• Monasterboice

• Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre & Newgrange

In the morning we travel into the countryside and encounter prehistoric Ireland. Our first stop today is the Hill of Tara, a site of tremendous mythical significance and the spiritual and political centre of Celtic Ireland. Although the arrival of Christianity reduced its importance, the Hill of Tara's symbolic place in Irish history remained significant; the nationalist patriot Daniel O'Connell addressed a rally with a crowd of reputedly one million people here in 1843. You 'feel' the Hill of Tara as you take in wonderful views over the Boyne Valley, as well as look at the archaeological record from the Stone and Iron Ages, which includes the 'stone of destiny', an ancient fertility symbol and inauguration stone of the High Kings.

We move on to Monasterboice, founded in the fifth-century by St Buile, a disciple of St Patrick. This monastery, one of the most famous in all of Ireland, features impressive ruins, including a roofless round tower and two churches. However, it is the remarkably well preserved ninth- and tenth-century crosses that really impress. The ninth-century high cross of



Irish Voices: Exploring the Emerald Isle

Muiredach (5.5 metre tall) is the finest and depicts amazingly ‘fresh’ biblical scenes. This and other crosses fuse art and religious symbolism as they ‘tell’ their stories. Monasterboice flourished until the middle of the 1100s. The foundation of Mellifont Abbey nearby literally sapped all local patronage.

Before returning to Dublin we shall visit the prehistoric site Brú na Bóinne and the impressive great chambered cairn of Newgrange. According to Celtic mythology, the legendary Kings of Tara are buried here. Newgrange is one of Europe’s most important Neolithic sites and is recognised as having one of the world’s oldest solar observatories. Each year, the rising sun on the winter solstice sees the rays entering the tomb. **(Overnight Dublin) B**

Day 3: Saturday 26 May, Dublin

- **Dublin Castle**
- **Guinness Brewery**
- **Evening performance at the Gate Theatre** (*subject to confirmation*)

We start the day with a tour of one of the most potent symbols of political authority, Dublin Castle. The British ruled from here; the castle being the home to the British Viceroys. Dublin Castle began as an Anglo Norman fortress in the thirteenth-century. The Record Tower (1258) is the oldest part of the castle. Most of the structure dates from the 1700s, including the stunning State Apartments. After lunch we visit the historic Guinness Brewery and experience the story of one of Ireland’s most famous products. In December 1759, the thirty-four year old Arthur Guinness signed an extraordinary 9000 year lease to take over the St James Gate brewery. Guinness decided to produce porter (stout) instead of beer; so successful was his porter that he was able to begin exporting it in 1789! The rest is history.

In the evening, we will get a taste of the Dublin theatre scene by attending a performance at the historic Gate Theatre or the Abbey Theatre (subject to confirmation). **(Overnight Dublin) B**

Day 4: Sunday 27 May, Dublin

- **Trinity College & Trinity College Library** (*Book of Kells & Book of Durrow*)
- **National Museum of Ireland**
- **Literary Pub Tour** (optional)

Our day starts with a walk through the wonderful streets of Dublin to Trinity College, which has magnificent architecture and grounds. It is one of Ireland’s most celebrated seats of higher learning, and associated with some of the country’s most famous literary figures, such as Oscar Wilde, Oliver Goldsmith, Samuel Beckett and Edmund Burke to mention but a few. The highlight of our visit will be the Trinity College Library, that has at its heart the spectacular and incredibly atmospheric Long Room with its vaulted ceiling, towering bookshelves filled with leather bound books and manuscripts, marble busts of great scholars, and elegantly carved library furniture. The Treasury contains the stunning *Book of Durrow* and the famous and richly decorated manuscript, the *Book of Kells*. Executed by monks in AD800, the *Book of Kells* is widely considered not only the finest example of Irish art and writing, but one of the greatest treasures of Western Civilisation.

After a break we continue our walk to the National Museum of Ireland for a private tour, followed by free time to explore the collections. We will admire beautiful works of art, especially fine examples of intricate

metalwork that will bring Irish history alive. Some of the highlights include the Tara Brooch, the Shrine of St Patrick’s Bell and the Iron Age Broughton Hoard (featuring a miniature gold boat).

Following lunch, the remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure. In the evening, you may wish to join the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl. This tour through the streets makes history live and provides some wonderful insights into the lives of Ireland’s literary giants. Educational and entertaining, this tour also provides a great opportunity to experience Ireland’s celebrated pub culture. Indeed, sampling the liquid delights along the way may even add to the tour experience, or at least stimulate and perhaps sharpen our comprehension skills! **(Overnight Dublin) B**

Day 5: Monday 28 May, Dublin – Collooney (Sligo)

- **National Gallery of Ireland**

Today we bid farewell to Dublin and travel to the West of Ireland. However, before departing we stop at the National Gallery of Ireland. In 1868, the museum was purpose-built (and has recently been redeveloped) and houses an impressive collection. It has benefited from bequests of art and money. The playwright, George Bernard Shaw, left one-third of his estate to the Gallery. All the great European schools are represented, but it is Irish landscape art that provides us with a marvellous introduction to our forthcoming tour through the Irish countryside. In the afternoon, we travel to County Sligo. After a long country drive we will arrive at our hotel for three nights, Markree Castle Hotel, which is an attraction in itself. This restored castle has been in the hands of the Cooper family since 1640 and offers stately rooms and picturesque grounds. **(Overnight Collooney) BD**

Day 6: Tuesday 29 May, Collooney - Sligo - Drumcliff - Lough Gill - Collooney

- **Yeats Country (& Yeats Society, County Sligo): Yeats Memorial Building, the Lake Isle of Innisfree, Dooney Rock / Halwood**
- **Drumcliff Churchyard**
- **Lissadell House**
- **Glencar Falls (“The Stolen Child”)**
- **Lough Gill**

County Sligo is renowned for its beautiful scenery. It is an inspiring part of Ireland and has stimulated many writers, perhaps none more celebrated than playwright and poet, William Butler Yeats. Sligo was immortalised in many of his writings. Yeats was born in Sligo and is buried there. Although he spent much time away from Sligo, Yeats loved his home. “In a sense...Sligo has always been my home.” Our tour starts with a visit to the Yeats Society for a presentation which introduces Yeats and the land he loved. We shall then tour Yeats country. We visit the Lake Isle of Innisfree and Dooney Rock. We also visit Drumcliff churchyard, Yeats’ final resting place, beneath Ben Bulbin’s Head (a famous topographical landmark).

After lunch, we visit Lissadell House, home to the Gore Booth family. Yeats was a close friend and regular house-guest. We shall also visit Glencar Falls, immortalised in the poem ‘The Stolen Child’ – “there is a waterfall...that all childhood counted dear.” Finally, we will view Lough Gill. This impressive lake is the setting for the poem ‘The Lake Isle of Innisfree’ – “there midnight’s all a glimmer and noon a purple glow.” **(Overnight Collooney) BD**

ASA

Day 7: Wednesday 30 May, Collooney - Glencolumbkille - Donegal - Collooney

- Folk Village Museum, Glencolumbkille
- Ulster Cultural Centre
- Donegal Town

Today we travel north into County Donegal, to experience the visual delights of varying landscapes, ranging from gentle rolling hills to magnificent mountain scenery and picturesque rocky bays. We will visit the fascinating Folk Village and Museum at Glencolumbkille that brings to life traditional Donegal farming life. We also visit the historic site of a sixth-century monastic community founded by St Colmcille (Columba), Donegal's most famous son. Here, at the Ulster Cultural Centre, there will be a talk by a local expert. We shall visit some of the fascinating standing stones of the St Colmcille pilgrimage. On the return journey we visit the small village of Donegal. There will be time for informal exploration. **(Overnight Collooney) BD**

Day 8: Thursday 31 May, Collooney - Cong - Cashel Bay

- Cong Village
- Connemara National Park

Today we travel from County Sligo into County Mayo. Our destination is the attractive village of Cong, on the shores of Lough Carrig. There is an impressive ruined Medieval abbey, founded in the twelfth-century. Cong is famous as the location for the Oscar winning 1952 film, 'The Quiet Man', bringing to life a story by Irishman Maurice Walsh. John Ford directed the film. Following lunch, we continue on to Connemara National Park in County Galway, noted for its contrasting landscapes and varieties of flora and fauna. If we are lucky, we may catch a glimpse of the wild Connemara ponies, supposedly descended from Arab horses that escaped from the ships of the ill-fated Spanish Armada that were wrecked on the Galway coast. Our new hotel is Zetland Country House a nineteenth-century former hunting lodge featuring public rooms filled with antiques, and gardens with splendid views. **(Overnight Cashel Bay) BD**

Day 9: Friday 1 June, Cashel Bay - Rossaveal - Kilronan - Cashel Bay

- Aran Isles (Inishmore)
- Aran Heritage Centre, Kilronan
- Dún Aonghasa

This morning we take the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Isles. In this remote, windswept rocky place, the Aran islanders have developed a distinct way of life. There are many attractions: spectacular coastal scenery, impressive dry stone walls, and prehistoric forts. We will visit the Aran Heritage Centre at Kilronan to learn about island life and gain an insight into the richness of island folk history. The islands are the home of the Aran sweater that is still produced today. The Aran Islands were immortalised in the 1934 film, 'The Man of Aran'. Our visit includes a coach trip to the prehistoric fort of Dún Aonghasa, dramatically perched on a cliff-top, high above the pounding waves. **(Overnight Cashel Bay) BD**

Day 10: Saturday 2 June, Cashel Bay - Oughterard - Galway - Ennistymon

- Oughterard
- Nora Barnacle House, Galway
- Coole Park
- Norman Tower, Thoor Ballylee

Today we explore several sites in Galway. Our first stop will be the village of Oughterard, on the shores of Lough Corrib. It is best known for its James Joyce connection: Oughterard features in his short story 'The Dead'. In Galway we visit the former home of Joyce's life-partner, Nora Barnacle, where she lived as a young woman, before moving to Dublin where she met Joyce. We spend lunchtime in Galway City (there will be time to explore the town) before driving to Coole Park, home to Lady Augusta Gregory, playwright, and co-founder, along with W. B. Yeats and other poets and playwrights, of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. Yeats and Lady Gregory were great friends and colleagues. Coole Park is now a nature reserve and features walking trails, a lake, gardens and the world-famous Autograph Tree that bears the carved names of some of Ireland's celebrated writers. Not too far from Coole Park is Thoor Ballylee, a romantic fortified tower that Yeats used as a summer retreat. It features many items of Yeats memorabilia. Yeats wrote many poems at Thoor Ballylee and we can be inspired, like Yeats, as we take the view of the countryside from the top of the tower. We overnight at the Falls Hotel, built around a Georgian country house. **(Overnight Ennistymon) BD**

Day 11: Sunday 3 June, Tour of the Burren: Ennistymon - Kilfenora - Limerick - Killarney

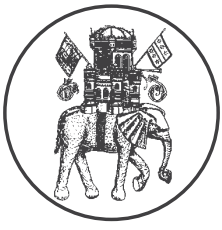
- Tour of the Burren: Includes Cascades of Ennistymon, Potato Famine monument, St Bridid's Holy Well (Liscannor), Cliffs of Moher, Ballyran (wildflowers), Black Head (views of Atlantic, Aran Islands, Galway Bay, etc), Ballvaughan Coastal Village, Poulabrone Dolmen, Leamaneh Castle (exterior only)
- Angela's Ashes walking tour and pubs, Limerick

Today is a big day of sightseeing as we travel through County Clare and explore the Burren. The geology, botanical diversity and fauna has long fascinated scientists. The Burren's great landscape diversity includes fields, lakes and interesting large, flat plains of weathered limestone. Our trip will incorporate many fascinating sights, ranging from Neolithic tombs to Medieval structures. After our tour of the Burren, we continue on to Limerick for a guided walking tour of the locations brought to life in Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, 'Angela's Ashes'. After the tour we travel to Killarney and to our hotel, Cahermane House Hotel, the seventeenth-century home of the Earls of Pembroke. **(Overnight Killarney) BD**

Day 12: Monday 4 June, Killarney - Dingle Peninsula - Ballyheige - Killarney

- Blasket Centre, Dingle Peninsula
- Gallarus Oratory
- Banna Strand

Today we explore the western part of Ireland and the Dingle Peninsula. We will look out across Blasket Sound to the Blasket Islands from Sleah Head promontory. In the 1950s, many Irish islands were depopulated, but the richness of island life lives on in the folklore and the many books inspired by this fascinating part of Ireland. Our tour includes a visit to the



Irish Voices: Exploring the Emerald Isle

Blasket Centre, where we will learn more about island life. A highlight of our tour will be the changing countryside, featuring many wonderful vistas. We will stop at the Gallarus Oratory, a Medieval chapel dating from the eighth-century built entirely of dry-stone corbelling, an ancient building method. The Gallarus Oratory is shaped like an inverted boat; it still retains its weather proofing after more than one thousand years. **(Overnight Killarney) BD**

Day 13: Tuesday 5 June, Killarney - Ring of Kerry - Killarney National Park - Killarney

- **Tour of Ring of Kerry**
- **Killarney National Park**
- **Muckross House and Farms**

We continue our journey of discovery with a trip around the Ring of Kerry on the Iveagh Peninsula – notable for its spectacular scenery – hills, lakes, mountains and seascapes. We will travel through Killarney National Park and arrive at the Muckross House and Farms, located on Muckross Lake. The nineteenth-century manor is situated in superb gardens. The working farm illustrates many aspects of rural life in Ireland. **(Overnight Killarney) BD**

Day 14: Wednesday 6 June, Killarney – Blarney – Cobh – Cork

- **Blarney Castle**
- **Cobh and the Queenstown Story**
- **Cork City Gaol**

Today we have an early morning departure for a long drive to what is possibly Ireland's most famous attraction, Blarney Castle. You will have the opportunity to explore this romantic ruin and, of course, to kiss the Blarney stone. From there we travel to Cobh, situated outside Cork, a beautiful Victorian town overlooked by the spectacular gothic St Colman's Cathedral. Cobh has one of the world's largest and finest natural harbours and was once an important naval base, as well as a trans-Atlantic port of call. We will visit The Queenstown Story, a wonderful exhibition that tells the story of Cobh. It was the major port of disembarkation for the Irish going to the United States of America. Between 1791 and 1853 over forty thousand convicts were transported from Cobh to Australia. Cobh was also last port of call of the Titanic and Lusitania. We will then move to the Cork City Gaol to see its fascinating displays, which not only bring to life the harshness of Irish prison life, but also provide remarkable insights into Irish society, particularly under British rule. **(Overnight Cork) B**

Day 15: Thursday 7 June, Cork - Cashel – Kilkenny - Waterford

- **Rock of Cashel**
- **Jerpoint Abbey**

Today our tour takes us to the spectacular Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary. This stunning hilltop Medieval stronghold features fortifications as well as chapels and a cathedral. In 1101, the Rock of Cashel, the ancestral seat of the Kings of Munster, was presented to the church. It flourished as a religious community. However in 1647, a Cromwellian army besieged the Rock of Cashel. The siege ended in the bloody massacre of three thousand people. The abbey was finally abandoned in the eighteenth-century. Cormac's Chapel is considered one of the finest Irish examples of Romanesque architecture. There will be time to walk in the town of Cashel. In the afternoon we will visit Jerpoint Abbey, founded by the Cistercians in 1140 as a fortified abbey. Its stone carvings bring to life the abbey's colourful history; the fifteenth-century sculptures of

knights, ladies, bishops and mythical dragons will delight and fascinate you. The tombs of religious figures will impress, as will the general architectural landscape. We continue on to our historic Granville Hotel on the banks of the Suir River in the heart of Waterford. **(Overnight Waterford) B**

Day 16: Friday 8 June, Waterford

- **Waterford Crystal Factory Tour**
- **Waterford Town Walk**

Today we explore Waterford, starting with a tour of the famous Waterford Crystal Factory. The crystal-making process will be explained on the tour and products will be on sale! Waterford Crystal can trace its foundation back to 1783, although the factory was closed in 1851 and reopened on a new site in 1947. Later, we will walk the streets of Waterford, which was founded in AD853 by the Vikings. It is a lovely city to explore on foot and we will visit some of its major sites on an afternoon walking tour. The remainder of the day will be at leisure. **(Overnight Waterford) B**

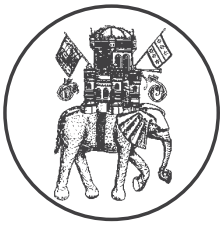
Day 17: Saturday 9 June, Waterford - Glendalough - Russborough - Dublin

- **Glendalough Monastery**
- **Russborough**

Today we return to Dublin by way of one of the most significant cultural sites in Ireland - Glendalough. This monastery in County Wicklow was founded by St Kevin in the sixth-century, and although the monastery was sacked on more than one occasion by the Vikings, it did flourish for more than six hundred years, until English forces razed it in 1398. Our visit will take in the beautiful monastery buildings where there is much to see, including St Kevin's Kitchen, a chapel with a distinctive chimney. Our final stop is Russborough House (1740), a superb Palladian house built for Joseph Leeson, Earl of Milton to a design of Richard Castle. Set in magnificent grounds, the house is in wonderful condition and features sumptuous interiors with splendid stucco details. The furniture and fittings are of the highest quality and complement the Beit Art Collection, famous for its Flemish, Dutch and Spanish Old Master paintings. We will tour the house and have time for coffee before we leave for Dublin. **(Overnight Dublin) B**

Day 18: Sunday 10 June, Depart Dublin

Our tour ends in Dublin. Participants taking the group flight will be transferred to the airport in order to check-in for their flight to London. **B**



Terms & Conditions

TOUR PRICE

\$6690.00 ■ Land Content Only
Early-Bird Special: book before 30 Sep 2006

\$6890.00 Land Content Only

\$1220.00 Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- 1 Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- & 4-star hotels
- 2 Breakfast daily & 9 evening meals indicated in the itinerary where: **B**=breakfast and **D**=evening meal
- 3 Transportation by A/C motorcoach
- 4 Porterage at hotels
- 5 Lecture and site-visit program
- 6 Tour handbook
- 7 Entrance fees
- 8 Tips for the coach driver & local guides.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- 1 Airfare: Australia-Dublin, Dublin-Australia
- 2 Beverages with meals
- 3 Lunches & evening meals not indicated in the tour itinerary
- 4 Personal spending money
- 5 Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on group flights
- 6 Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- 7 Travel Insurance.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Please complete the **ASA RESERVATION FORM** and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your deposit of \$500.00 per person in cash or cheque (payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*). It is important that you read the Booking Conditions at this stage, and that you **sign the reservation form**. If you are booking within 75 days of the tour full payment is required.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by some form of international travel insurance. Note, travel insurance may not cover costs incurred due to a pre-existing illness or other conditions. Your insurance can be arranged through ASA. All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program:

- a copy of your travel insurance certificate
- the emergency telephone no. of your insurance company.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Paying the Balance

Balance of your tour price (full price minus \$500) must be paid to Australians Studying Abroad 75 days before you depart. You will receive an invoice from Australians Studying Abroad at this time. Upon receipt of payment we send you a receipt.

Note on the Airfare

When travelling on the group air package, you are not obliged to return home immediately your tour ends. You must, however, nominate a return date on your reservation form.

Single Supplement

Payment of the single supplement will ensure single room accommodation throughout the tour. The number of single rooms available is extremely limited. People wishing to take the single supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Confirmation of Your Booking

When we have received your reservation form together with the deposit or full payment for the tour, and assuming there is a place available on the tour, we will send you confirmation of your booking and relevant travel details. It is from this moment that a firm contract exists between you and Australians Studying Abroad Pty Ltd (hereafter called ASA) on the basis of this itinerary, together with ASA's general brochure, and any brochure or itinerary amendments communicated to you, these booking conditions and the travel details sent to you. If a place is not available we will return your payment. ASA does however reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

What is included in the Tour Price

A list of what is included (and what is not included) in the price is given in the terms & conditions section of this itinerary (see above).

Changes in Tour Price

The price of ASA's tours may change with currency fluctuations, airfare increases, or if the group size is under fifteen. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price.

Cancellation Fees

Refund of deposit, less \$385.00 service fee (\$350.00 + \$35.00 GST), will be given when cancellation is made over 75 days in advance of the commencement of the tour (Day 1 of the itinerary). Cancellation received after that period will be subject to the following cancellation charges:

Days Prior	Cancellation Fee
75-46 days prior	25%
45-31 days prior	50%
30-15 days prior	75%
14-0 days prior	100%

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

Payment by Credit Card

Payment by credit card will incur the following card service fees:
Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard: 1.85%
Diners Club: 2.7%

Terms & Conditions

ASA's tours require, on occasion, a substantial amount of physical exertion. The ASA RESERVATION FORM requests disclosure of all relevant medical conditions, physical or mental disabilities or any other related information which may affect the ability to fully participate in the activities forming a tour. The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour, to identify those circumstances where unjustifiable hardship may result to ASA, and to address how ASA may be able to make 'reasonable accommodation' to cater for those tour participants, where only a minor modification may be needed.

To assist participants with what should be disclosed, ASA has graded its tours in terms of personal endurance. ASA also provides a detailed itinerary for each tour which describes the activities on a day-by-day basis. As indicated above, the itinerary should be considered as a guide to the educational program rather than as an exact and definitive list of activities.

The information provided in your reservation form will be treated in the strictest confidence. If ASA has any concerns based on the information provided by you, we shall contact you to discuss those concerns, and may request further information or clarification of the information previously provided.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Furthermore, ASA also reserves the right to reject a participant from further participation on its tours, or cancel the participation on a tour of any client whose behaviour is in the opinion of a representative of the company causing excessive distress, damage or annoyance to anyone or anyone's property. Our responsibility for that client will cease immediately and no compensation will be paid for any loss.

Australians Studying Abroad Pty Ltd (hereafter called ASA) gives notice that all tickets and coupons are issued through ASA, and all arrangements for transport or hotel accommodation are made by ASA as Agent upon the condition that ASA shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity caused by defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith, or of any hotel proprietor or servant. The insurance of baggage and the care of personal articles is entirely the responsibility of the tour participant. The tour operator shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to personal property. ASA accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to the delays or changes in motor, air or other services, sickness, weather, strikes, war quarantine or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. The transport companies or firms, shall be exempt from all liability in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage sickness or injury however and by whomsoever caused and of whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a carrier or conveyance used or operated by the transport companies or firms. The passage contract in use by the transport companies or firms concerned shall constitute the sole contract between those firms and the passenger. All tickets, coupons and orders are issued subject to these terms and conditions. In the event of it being considered desirable to withdraw all of the arrangements, the net deposits paid will be returned to the members, and upon the tendering of the same, all liability of the organiser in respect thereof shall cease. ASA also reserves the right to modify the itineraries in any way thought desirable. The tour costs are based on fares and tariffs which will apply from date of booking but subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations. Any other IATA or non-IATA carrier may be used apart from the carriers featured in this folder. This brochure is issued on the sole responsibility of the tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of and does not commit the airline mentioned therein or any airlines whose services are used in the course of the tour.