Tour Ireland with the GC Choir


Register by January 25, 2015. For more information, contact tour planner Deb Flanders at Goodspeed & Bach (phone 802-652-0245, email: travel@goodspeedandbach.com), or Heather Fairbanks in the GC Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations (phone: 618-664-6500, email: heather.fairbanks@greenville.edu)
Itinerary A: Northern Ireland

May 25-31, 2015

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015: Depart for Ireland
Board an afternoon transatlantic flight(s) from the United States to Ireland. Enjoy dinner and breakfast on-board.

TUESDAY, MAY 26: Dublin – Armagh
Following your morning arrival at Aerfort Bhaile Atha Cliath (Dublin Airport), pass through customs, change currency, meet your driver/guide, load luggage and board a private motorcoach.

Explore Meath Heritage Trail on your drive to Armagh, followed by a visit to Kells, one of the finest examples of monastic life, settled in the 6th century by St. Columba. Continue to the Hill of Slane, where it is believed St. Patrick lit an Easter fire in 433 AD to challenge the pagan King of Tara. Carry on to Mellifont Abbey, a 12th-century Cistercian monastery, the Cistercians’ first and most important abbey in Ireland, and a site of conflict between the Irish and the Anglo-Normans. Enjoy a short break with tea and scones, then continue to Armagh in Northern Ireland and check in to your hotel.

Meals included: Tea and scones, welcome dinner at your hotel
Overnight stay: Armagh

THURSDAY, MAY 28: Armagh – Giant’s Causeway
Check out after breakfast and travel to the Giants Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site containing 40,000 columns of basalt. The ancients believed that the giant Finn McCool, Ulster warrior and commander of the King of Ireland’s armies, built this spectacular rock formation as a path across the sea to his ladylove on the island of Staffa in Scotland. Be sure to take one of the impressive walks along the rocks.

Lunch on your own and continue your drive to Derry (originally Doire and later named Londonderry), one of the few cities in the United Kingdom with ramparts preserved in its entirety. Enjoy a walking tour of Derry before dinner in the city. Afterward, attend an evening choir performance at St. Columb’s Cathedral, which dominates the Derry skyline.

Meals included: Breakfast and dinner.
Overnight: Armagh.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: Armagh – Belfast – Armagh
After breakfast, board the motorcoach and travel to Belfast. Upon arrival we’ll explore this great city with a local guide. Behold the grand Victorian buildings of the Falls Road and Shankill, view the Grand Opera House, Linen Hall Library, Stormont Buildings and City Hall. Next, we’ll visit the Titanic Exhibit, a monumental six-story building that pays homage both to the White Star ocean liner and its demise with its jagged and geometrical architecture. The façade represents both the hull of a ship and the jagged edges of an iceberg. This evening a concert is planned in Lisburn. Return to Armagh afterward.

Meals included: Breakfast and dinner.
Overnight: Armagh.
The cathedral has stood on its prominent site inside the famous Walls of Londonderry since 1633. It is dedicated to the name of Saint Columba (Columb) who established a Christian settlement here in 546 AD. After the concert, cross the border into the Republic of Ireland for Ballybofey and check into your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.
Overnight: Ballybofey.

FRIDAY, MAY 29: Derry – Galway
After a leisurely breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for Galway. Lunch on your own en route. After freshening up in the hotel in Galway, take a walking tour of the “City of the Tribes.” The name refers to 14 important Anglo-Norman merchant families who dominated the life and trade of the city during the Middle Ages. Discover the Spanish Arch, the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, Nora Barnacle’s house, and more. Dine on your own this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast.
Overnight: Galway.

SATURDAY, MAY 30: Connemara
After breakfast, enjoy an excursion through the Connemara, Ireland’s largest Gaeltacht region. Here, the Irish tongue (Gaeilge) is the everyday spoken language of a people who live and work in Galway’s cultural heartland. People easily switch from Irish to English and vice-versa and pepper their English with Gaeilge phrases.
Visit Kylemore Abbey & Gardens in a wonderful lake and mountain setting at the heart of the Connemara Mountains. Listen to the choir sing informally at the Gothic Church at Kylemore Abbey. Lunch on your own in Kylemore Abbey and return to Galway in the afternoon. Enjoy dinner before an evening choir concert at St. Nicholas’ Collegiate Church.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.
Overnight: Galway.

SUNDAY, MAY 31: Return to the United States
After breakfast in the hotel, check out and depart for Shannon Airport, or opt to extend your stay in Ireland. Farewell! Go gcúire Dia an t-adh ort!

Meals included: Breakfast

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Accommodations
• 2 nights Armagh: City Hotel or similar
• 1 night Ballybofey: Kees Hotel or similar
• 2 nights Galway: Galway Bay Hotel or similar

Transportation and Select Meals
• Porterage of one suitcase per person
• Full Breakfast daily (5) and tea & scones on arrival day
• Dinners (4)
• All transportation and sightseeing via deluxe touring motorcoach with the services of a professional driver/guide throughout

Guided Tours and Admission
• Guided city tours: Belfast, Walking Tour of Derry and Galway
• Visits/Admissions to: Meath Heritage Trail sites, Mellifont Abbey, St. Patrick’s Trail sites, St. Patrick’s Centre in Downpatrick, Titanic Exhibit, Giant’s Causeway with shuttle buses, Kylemore Abbey
MONDAY, JUNE 1: Killarney – Dingle Peninsula
After breakfast, board the motorcoach for an excursion to the Dingle Peninsula, a dramatic, rugged coastline that has been inhabited for 6,000 years. Highlights of the day include a coastal drive around Slea Head and the beehive huts at Fahan that date back to pre-Christian history. Lunch on your own and spend the afternoon exploring lovely Dingle Town.

Enjoy a choir performance this evening in Killarney. Dine on your own at one of the local pubs or restaurants.

Meals included: Breakfast.
Overnight: Killarney.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2: Blarney – Kilkenny
Visit the Blarney Woolen Mills with their excellent variety of traditional Irish-made goods. After lunch on your own, continue to Kilkenny, known for its winding streets and medieval merchants’ houses. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening, followed by a choir concert.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.
Overnight: Kilkenny.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3: Kilkenny – Dublin
Breakfast is served at your hotel. Enjoy a morning tour of Kilkenny Castle, first built in 1192 and enlarged over the centuries. Restored to 1830’s splendor, it houses wonderful paintings and furniture. Then visit nearby Kilkenny Design Workshops, housed in the former stables of the castle.

Continue northward via the Wicklow Mountains. Visit Glendalough, the Glen of Two Lakes, one of the most important sites of monastic ruins in Ireland. It is also known as the City of the Seven Churches. Fourteen centuries have

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015: Depart for Ireland
Board an afternoon transatlantic flight(s) from the United States to Ireland. Enjoy dinner and breakfast on-board.

SUNDAY, MAY 31: Shannon – Killarney
Following your morning arrival at Aerfort na Sionainne (Shannon Airport), pass through customs, change currency, meet your driver/guide, load luggage and board a private motorcoach.

Travel south through the village of Adare, known for its thatched roofs and gentle ruins. Continue via the market towns of Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Castleisland to the beauty and charm of Killarney town.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.
Overnight stay: Killarney.
passed since the death of its founder, St. Kevin, when the valley was part of Ireland’s Golden Age.

Continue on to Dublin for an orientation tour of the city and its major sights. Enjoy the evening and dinner on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast. 
Overnight: Dublin.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4: Dublin
After breakfast, visit Trinity College, home to the Book of Kells, considered the most striking manuscript ever produced in the Anglo-Saxon world and one of the greatest masterpieces of early Christian art. Visit Christ Church Cathedral, founded in 1191, and then St. Patrick’s Cathedral to attend the choir’s lunchtime recital. Jonathan Swift, St. Patrick’s most famous dean, presided from 1713 to 1745 and scorned the appalling social conditions in Ireland. In 1742, Swift oversaw the combined choirs of Saint Patrick’s and Christ Church Cathedrals deliver the first performance of Handel’s Messiah.

The remainder of the day will be at leisure for independent sightseeing and activities. Tonight enjoy a festive farewell dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, farewell dinner at restaurant. 
Overnight: Dublin.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5: Return to the United States
Breakfast is served at your hotel. Bid farewell to Ireland and transfer to Dublin Airport for your return flight to St. Louis or opt to extend your stay in Dublin.

Farewell! Go gúire Dia an t-adh ort!

Meals included: Breakfast

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Accommodations
- 2 nights Killarney: Killarney Towers Hotel or similar
- 1 night Kilkenny: River Court Hotel or similar
- 2 nights Dublin: Camden Court Hotel or similar

Transportation and Select Meals
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- Full Breakfast daily (5) and tea & scones on arrival day
- 2 hotel dinners and a farewell dinner in a Dublin restaurant (Total: 3 dinners)
- All transportation and sightseeing via deluxe touring motorcoach with the services of a professional driver/guide throughout

Guided Tours and Admission
- Guided city tours: Walking Tour of Derry and Galway, and panoramic tour of Dublin City
- Visits/Admissions to: Dingle Peninsula touring, Blarney Castle & Woolen Mills, Kilkenny Castle, Glendalough, Trinity College and Book of Kells, St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
- Alumni group attends college choir concerts in the locations as mentioned in the itinerary.

The Halfpenny Bridge is a pedestrian bridge built in 1816 over the River Liffey in Dublin.
Tour Cost (in Double Occupancy)
$1,999 per person, per itinerary
*Single rooms are available upon request and space is limited. Extra costs apply.*

Tour Deposit Schedule
- January 25, 2015 – Initial registration payment due - $350
- March 25, 2015 – Balance due

Land Booking Conditions and Refunds
Cancellations:
- 90 days prior to departure: Entire amount is refundable
- 66-89 days prior to departure: $350 is non-refundable
- 65 days prior to departure: NO REFUND

Tips, Taxes, and Travel Documents
- Tips and taxes on items included. (NOTE: Tip to driver/guide is not included.)
- Travel bag and portfolio of travel documents

Optional Items - Not Included
- Airfare to Ireland
- Trip Insurance (strongly recommended and available through Goodspeed & Bach)
- Passport services
- Gratuity for driver/guide
- Group airfare rates to be announced upon availability
- Extension before or after the program
- Beverages with meals (except breakfast)
- Any items not in the itinerary
- Any items of a personal nature

Air Travel Arrangements (NOT included in the tour price)
Air travel arrangements are available from Goodspeed & Bach. A customized air itinerary can also be arranged for those individuals traveling from other cities or planning different travel dates. Travelers have the option to make their own flight arrangements.

Accommodations
During the tour, accommodations will be arranged in comfortable hotels in double occupancy rooms with private shower or bath. Single rooms can be arranged for a supplementary fee of $319, and are based upon availability at the time of your request (space is limited). The hotels are selected to provide a balance between central location, excellent service, character, amenities, and price. Each hotel has a unique character which will result in variations in room size, breakfast menu, and some amenities. Circumstances may arise between now and departure where the hotel may be changed. We will do our best to arrange a replacement hotel of the same quality.

Changes in the Itinerary
Greenville College and Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. reserve the right to alter the order of events or to make changes deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties, or other circumstances beyond the control of Greenville College, Goodspeed & Bach, Inc., and the local suppliers could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

Reservation Procedure
<<add a hyperlink>> to register online, or print and return the registration form on the next page along with a per-person deposit of $350. You may register by phone (802-652-0245) or email tour planner Deb Flanders at travel@goodspeedandbach.com. Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Space is limited.

Payment Policy & Schedule
Tour payments may be made by check, payable to Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. After your initial deposit of $350, the balance of payment is due by March 25, 2015. Deposits and payments are refundable if written notice of cancellation is received 90 days or more in advance of departure. Cancellations made 66-89 days before departure are refundable less the $350 deposit. We regret that refunds cannot be made for cancellations less than 65 days prior to the departure date. Travel insurance is highly recommended, and can be purchased at an additional charge through Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. Cancellation charges also apply to additional accommodations reserved prior to, and after, the tour. Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. cannot assume responsibility for any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets. Full terms and conditions are also available at www.goodspeedandbach.com.
Tour Ireland with the GC Choir **TOUR REGISTRATION**

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the following individuals

**PASSPORT NAME(S):** (As it appears on your valid passport. Please double check your expiration date)

___________________________________________________________________________ Date of birth: _____ / _____ / ________

___________________________________________________________________________ Date of birth: _____ / _____ / ________

Address

City, State Zip

Phone __________________________ Email ________________________________

**Tour Choice (please select 1 or both – the tours are $1,999 per person, per itinerary)**


**Travel preferences (please check all that apply)**

☐ I would like to extend my stay in Ireland, extra costs apply.  ☐ I would like travel insurance, please send me information.

**Dietary requests (Gluten Free, Vegetarian, etc.)**

___________________________________________________________________________

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I (we) have read the itinerary and terms and conditions as found above and also available on www.goodspeedandbach.com and agree to abide by all the stipulations contained therein. Travel protection is highly recommended and available from Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.

SIGNED ___________________________ DATE _____ / _____ / ________

Please make tour checks payable to:  
**Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.** and mail registration to:  
34 Church Street #5  Burlington, VT 05401 
Email: travel@goodspeedandbach.com

TEL: 802-652-0245