



**JOIN YOUR OLLI FRIENDS FOR AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY.....**

# **IRELAND**

**Dublin...Waterford...Blarney Castle...The Ring of Kerry...the Cliffs of Moher...Aran Islands...Belfast, Northern Ireland...and more!**

**September 12-24, 2017**





## IRELAND

It's truly the "Emerald Isle." Dublin...Galway...Waterford...Belfast. The cities are familiar to all of us, but what about Glendalough...Cobh...Blarney...Aran Islands? They reflect the smaller villages and sites that are also important to an understanding and appreciation of this special island. Join this unique private tour arranged specifically for our OLLI organization. Delve beyond the sheep-dotted landscapes, mingle with Dubliners in traditional pubs, pick up a souvenir in Waterford, drive along the Ring of Kerry, experience the austere life on the Aran Islands, appreciate the history and conflicts surrounding Belfast and Northern Ireland's past. We will circle the island to learn and experience the heart of the Irish culture.

**September 12:** We start our journey from Omaha's Eppley Airfield and an overnight flight to Dublin.

**September 13:** Today's focus is a **sightseeing tour of Dublin**. Our excursion will include St. Stephen's Green and the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square, a walk down Grafton Street to see the Molly Malone statue, a visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells, the soaring St. Patrick's cathedral, and even a pint at a local pub in the Temple Bar District. We complete our tour to **Powerscourt Estate**, considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the world, said to rival those of Versailles. We overnight in Dublin. (B)

**September 14:** Departing Dublin, we travel a short distance to **County Kildare** and enter **Wicklow Mountains National Park**, travelling to the Glendalough Visitor Centre. This is Ireland's largest national park, and the ancient monastic settlement of **St. Kevin** is located at Glendalough. We will continue on to **Kilkenny**, Ireland's best preserved medieval town, where we will tour the imposing 12th century **Kilkenny Castle** which overlooks the River Nore, and also visit the 13th century Gothic **St. Canice's Cathedral**. Overnight in Waterford. (B,D)



**September 15:** Today we visit several of Waterford's legendary sites. High on the list is the **Waterford Crystal Factory** where we learn about this world-



famous crystal, and have the opportunity to purchase some. We will journey to the **Rock of Cashel**, an outcrop of limestone that dominates the Tipperary Plain. Then, view the ruins of the ancient seat of the **kings of Munster**, see Celtic carvings at **Cormac's Chapel** and explore **St. Patrick's Rock**. Overnight in Waterford. (B)





**September 16:** This morning we depart Waterford and head toward **County Kerry**. As our motorcoach travels south and west we will experience the many sides of Ireland, from small villages to iconic castles. We will stop in the fishing village of **Cobh**, which once served as a launch site for ships bound for North America. Visit the **Cobh Heritage Centre** to hear tales of Irish emigration. And, climb to the top of **Blarney Castle** to kiss the famed Blarney Stone, said to give the “gift of gab.”



Tonight’s included dinner features talented musicians, singers and dancers presenting traditional tunes and dances. Overnight in County Kerry. (B,D)



**September 17:** Today we will experience some of Ireland’s most spectacular scenery as we travel the 112 mile coastal route known as the **Ring of Kerry**. We will pass the pristine **Lakes of Killarney** and explore some of the picturesque villages that are on our route. Overnight is again in County Kerry. (B,D)

**September 18:** Our travels today take us north to **Galway**. On our route there will be a guided tour of the 13th century **Bunratty Castle**, and a stroll along the spectacular coastline of the **Cliffs of Moher**. This evening we will enjoy a feast fit for a king and queen inside **Dunguaire Castle** which overlooks Galway Bay. We will sip mead while discovering the castle’s 17th century colorful history. You can indulge in a lavish four-course dinner accompanied by live storytelling and song. Overnight in Galway. (B,D)



**September 19:** This morning we will board a ferry and travel across Galway Bay for a guided tour of **Inis Mor**, one of the three remote **Aran Islands**. You will meet Islanders who speak Gaelic and rely on fishing and farming for a living. You can view local crafts, including hand knit “fisherman” sweaters. We will also view the ruins of **Dun Aonghasa**, a prehistoric fort, and enjoy an included lunch at a restaurant on the island. Note: there will be a fair amount of walking today on uneven surfaces. This excursion is weather dependent. Overnight in Galway. (B,L)

**September 20:** Today we head north to **Sligo** by way of Connemara National Park. The major visit today is **Kylemore Abbey** and its gardens. Dinner is on your own tonight in the town of Sligo. Overnight in Sligo. (B)

**September 21:** We head to **Northern Ireland** this morning, journeying through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of William Butler Yeats. We will stop at **Drumcliffe** churchyard to pay our respects at Yeats’ grave. We will travel on to **Derry**, Northern Ireland’s second largest city, for a tour before heading on to Belfast. Overnight in Belfast. (B)



**September 22:** Start the day with a tour of **Northern Ireland’s capital**, checking out the copper-domed City Hall, the shipbuilding docks where the Titanic was constructed and visit the **Titanic Belfast Museum**. We will view the recently restored Grand Opera House, then travel to **Giant’s Causeway**, a series of naturally formed basalt columns and hear the legend that earned the terrain its distinctive name. Our included farewell dinner will provide the opportunity to share some of our Ireland experiences. Overnight in Belfast. (B,D)

**September 23:** Following breakfast we will travel to **Dublin** for our flight home, arriving in Omaha later today. (B)

# IRELAND

September 12-24, 2017

This tour of Ireland and Northern Ireland has been developed specifically for OLLI by Valden Tours Inc. in cooperation with Go Ahead Tours, a subsidiary of Education First International.

Pricing for the tour is per person and is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy accommodations are also available. The price includes motorcoach transportation between Lincoln and Omaha airport, international roundtrip airfare between Omaha and Dublin, motorcoach transportation within Ireland, all hotels, meals as identified in this brochure (B,L,D), as well as all admissions to identified locations and events, and gratuity for the Ireland Tour Director and motorcoach driver. A Valden Tours representative will accompany the tour. The tour within Ireland and Northern Ireland will be led by an experienced Tour Director and special step-on guides will lead certain tour activities. Items not included are generally expenses of a personal nature, those meals not identified in the brochure, and step-on guide gratuities.

A current passport is required, and the passport must be in force for at least six months following this trip.

**\$4,785 per person Double Occupancy**

**\$5,270 Single Occupancy**

***This tour price is guaranteed through March 31, 2017***

**Registration Deadline: April 30, 2017**

A \$500 deposit is required at the time reservations are submitted to Valden Tours. A final payment will be invoiced March 31 and will be due April 30, 2017. Tour cancellations must be received by April 30, 2017. Reservations will be accepted following the April 30 deadline only on a space available basis and at a possible price increase. Ireland is a popular destination and participants are encouraged to submit reservations early to assure space.

Tour interruption and cancellation insurance is encouraged. Information will be forwarded with acknowledgement of the reservation.

Tour participants should be aware that in many European locations uneven cobblestone streets and walks might be encountered and some stairs may not have handrails. Individuals requiring any special accommodation should share this information with Valden Tours when submitting the reservation form.

**For more information or additional questions about this tour, contact Lee Rockwell, Valden Tours, Inc., 2101 South 66th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, telephone at 402-486-0900 or email [lrockwell@windstream.net](mailto:lrockwell@windstream.net)**





# IRELAND OLLI TOUR September 12-24, 2017

## RESERVATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As it appears on your passport

Passport issue date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport expire date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As it appears on your passport

Passport issue date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport expire date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations desired: (Prices are guaranteed only through March 31)

\_\_\_\_\_ Double occupancy @ \$4,785 per person for double bed

\_\_\_\_\_ Double occupancy @ \$4,785 per person for two twin beds

Sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Single occupancy @ \$5,270

Please identify any health concerns or limitations that should be shared with the tour organizers: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify an emergency contact, their relationship to you, and the means to contact them if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an OLLI member? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no. If no, your charges will be increased \$25 for each non-member

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me information concerning trip interruption and cancellation insurance

**Please return this reservation and \$500 deposit per person to:**

**Valden Tours, Inc.**

**2101 South 66th Street**

**Lincoln, NE 68506**

