



BACK TO OUR IRISH ROOTS

January 30 - February 6, 2024

\$2,650 Per Person (based on 20 paying passengers)

(\$650 single room supplement)

Myers Tours operated by **JEM Tours**

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JEM Tours

IRELAND, BRITAIN & BEYOND

Back To Our Irish Roots

January 30 - February 6, 2024

Jan 30 UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Enjoy a flight across the Atlantic to Dublin.

Jan 31 DUBLIN ARRIVAL, MONASTERBOICE & ST. BRIGID'S SHRINE

After landing at Dublin Airport, meet your driver/guide who will welcome you to Ireland. Stop at a local restaurant for a traditional Irish breakfast. Drive north to visit Monasterboice and see some of the best examples of Celtic High Crosses. Continue to the village of Foughart to visit the Shrine of St. Brigid. This is a place that has drawn pilgrims for centuries and devoted to one of our national patrons. Brigid was born at Fochard Muirtheimne, in 450 AD. She died in Kildare on February 1st and is buried at Downpatrick. It is a tradition to make St. Brigid's Crosses on her feast day and it is believed that these crosses protect the house from fire and evil. Drive to your hotel in Newcastle overlooking the Irish Sea. Relax for the afternoon before meeting your group in the main dining room for dinner.

Hotel and Dinner: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle

Feb 1 DOWNPATRICK, SAUL CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CENTER

Today is the Feast Day of St. Brigid. After a leisurely morning, drive to the village of Downpatrick to see the burial site of St. Patrick, St. Brigid, and St. Columba. It is appropriate to visit the saint's resting place on her feast day. Continue to Saul Church, the Christian monastery founded by St. Patrick in the 5th Century and site of his death. Stop to visit the Saint Patrick Center and learn about the three Patron Saints of Ireland. Return to Newcastle and enjoy dinner with your group at the Percy French Restaurant.

Hotel and Dinner: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle

Feb 2 MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE, PROLEEK DOLMAN & DROGHEDA WALKING TOUR

This morning travel along the Irish Sea and the Mountains of Mourne. Take a ferry ride across Carlingford Lough for some beautiful scenery. Drive to Dundalk to visit the Proleek Dolman. This passage tomb is older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian Pyramids. A nearby formation is rumored to be the grave of the giant Finn McCool. Stop in Annagassan which was once the capital of Ireland. Enjoy lunch at the Glyde Inn overlooking the Irish Sea. Continue to Drogheda for a walking tour of the city that was once massacred by Oliver Cromwell's forces. Visit St. Peter's Church to see the Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett who was martyred in 1681. Drive to Dublin City and enjoy the evening at leisure. After your large lunch you may choose to stop for a snack and a pint at a local pub or in the hotel's lively bar.

Hotel: The Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Feb 3 1916 REBELLION TOUR, BOOK OF KELLS & GPO

Take a tour of Ireland's capital city. Start with a visit to Trinity College to view the famous Book of Kells. Enjoy a look at these ornate copies of the Gospels along with other ancient manuscripts. Walk a short distance to meet your guide for a 1916 Rebellion Walking Tour. **(arranged by your club)** End the tour in front of the GPO, the site of the 1916 Rising. Enjoy a tour of the GPO and the exhibits associated with that pivotal day in Irish history. Spend some free time on your own before returning to the hotel to freshen up. This evening you will enjoy tradition Irish food, song, and dance at the Merry Ploughboy Irish Night.

Hotel: The Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Feb 4 GLASNEVIN CEMETERY & KILMAINHAM JAIL

Continue your tour of Dublin today with a visit to Glasnevin Cemetery, Ireland's national necropolis. This is the resting place of many of Ireland's notable figures. See the tombs of Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera and many more. Hear the stories of these men and other famous and infamous figures. Continue to visit Kilmainham Jail, the notorious prison that once held many Irish citizens including children. It is best known as the prison and execution sight of the 1916 leaders. The remainder of the day and evening are free to sightsee independently. Enjoy dinner on your own.

Hotel: The Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Feb 5 TOUR OF KILDARE & GLENDALOUGH

This morning is a "Bank Holiday" in Ireland, devoted to the Feast of St. Brigid. Drive to the town of Kildare, the sight of her death on February 1, 525 at the age of seventy-four. Visit the St. Brigid Center, "Solas Bhríde" dedicated to our female patron. Continue your tour of Kildare with stops at St. Brigid's Well, St. Brigid's Cathedral & Round Tower, the parish church dedicated to her memory, and the Curragh, known as St. Brigid's Pastures. Drive into the Wicklow Mountains to Glendalough. The site of St. Kevin's monastery, these ancient ruins sit in a picturesque valley. Return to Dublin and enjoy a farewell dinner with your group in your hotel restaurant. Perhaps you will head out on the town this evening to take in Dublin's famous nightlife.

Hotel and Dinner: The Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Feb 6 RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Your vacation in Ireland has come to an end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding your flight.

AIR FLIGHTS

January 30, 2024	EI #100	EWR 17:35/DUB 05:10
February 6, 2024	EI # 101	DUB 13:05/EWR 16:05