



**Traveling Aggies**

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students of  
Texas A&M University presents

# ENCHANTING IRELAND

A Tour of the Emerald Isle

July 23-August 4, 2017

**13 days for \$5,092 total price from Houston**

(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$297 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University



### Howdy, Ags!

Join the Traveling Aggies on a special 13-day journey to enchanting Ireland. From the lively capital of Dublin to medieval Kilkenny, experience Ireland's many charms on this intimate small group adventure.

Begin in Dublin with a tour of Ireland's beautiful capital, as well as time to explore on your own. Next, head west to Galway and primitive Inismor, the largest of the fabled Aran Islands. Travel south along the breathtaking coastline of County Clare, cross by ferry into gorgeous County Kerry, and explore Killarney. Travel along the picturesque Ring of Kerry, and visit 15<sup>th</sup>-century Blarney Castle, home of the celebrated Blarney Stone. Finally, tour the cultural capital of Kilkenny before returning to Dublin for a festive farewell dinner. An optional 4-day/3-night post-tour extension in Northern Ireland is also available for those who wish to extend their stay on the charming Antrim Coast.

With space for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig 'em,

*Jennifer Bohac*

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director of Travel Programs

### TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: ENCHANTING IRELAND

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) on **Enchanting Ireland** departing **July 23, 2017**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited Inc.**, and mail check (along with completed reservation form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514. You may also fax your reservation form to 979-845-9263.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

**Post-Tour "Northern Ireland" Extension:** Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Enchanting Ireland, July 23-August 4, 2017**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**  Check  American Express  Discover  MasterCard  VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

# ENCHANTING IRELAND

## A Tour of the Emerald Isle

**13 days for \$5,092 total price from Houston**

(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$297 airline taxes and fees)

*It's a beautiful, magical land, where the gentle green landscape dazzles and the people delight; where warmth and hospitality are national traits and poets are national heroes. From Dublin to Galway, Killarney to Kilkenny, this full yet well-paced tour showcases Ireland's many charms – both old and new – to our small band of travelers.*



### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Dublin, Ireland

**Day 2: Arrive Dublin** We arrive in the intimate, and beautiful, Irish capital today and check in at our hotel located right on St. Stephen's Green. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **D**

**Day 3: Dublin** This morning's city tour includes a visit to Trinity College, home of the stunning 8<sup>th</sup>-century *Book of Kells* illuminated manuscript; and to St. Patrick's, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland. This afternoon we embark on an informal walking tour (led by our tour director), passing some of the haunts and hiding places of Ireland's beloved literary sons. Dinner tonight is on our own in this enchanting city. **B**

**Day 4: Dublin/Galway** We leave Dublin this morning for Galway in the West, the region some consider to be the "most Irish part of Ireland." En route we stop for tea and coffee at Tyrrellpass Castle then continue on to 6<sup>th</sup>-century Clonmacnoise, Ireland's most important early monastic site. After lunch on our own we resume our journey, reaching Galway City this afternoon. We dine at our hotel located in the village of Bearna just outside the city. **B,D**

**Day 5: Galway/Connemara** A day of scenic highlights is in store as we travel through western County Galway in the legendary region known as Connemara, a rugged, silent landscape of mountains, glacial lakes, endless roads, and uninhabited bog lands. Our first stop is at beautiful Kylemore Abbey, built as a private home in 1861 and one of Ireland's most photographed castles. We continue on through this singular landscape, stopping for lunch en route. Tonight we enjoy dinner with traditional Irish entertainment at Padraicins overlooking Galway Bay. **B,D**

**Day 6: Galway/Aran Islands** Today we embark on an excursion to Inismor, the largest of the fabled Aran Islands, whose unique culture and

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Dublin touring, including Trinity College and St. Patrick's Cathedral ... Magnificent natural scenery of counties Galway and Kerry: Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, Connemara ... Irish sheepdog demonstration ... Beautiful Kylemore Abbey ... Dramatic Aran Islands ... Ring of Kerry scenic drive ... Historic Muckross House ... Visit to Blarney Castle ... Rock of Cashel ... Kilkenny Castle ... Outstanding small group accommodations that enhance the Irish experience

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Dublin		
2-3	Dublin	The Shelbourne Dublin	Deluxe
4-6	Galway	The Twelve Hotel	Sup. First Class
7-9	Killarney	Killarney Royal	Sup. First Class
10-11	Kilkenny	Pembroke Hotel	Sup. First Class
12	Dublin	Finnstown Castle Hotel	Deluxe
13	Depart Dublin for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover Photo: We visit 15<sup>th</sup>-century Ross Castle in Killarney National Park on Day 8.





Aran Island scene

history has been an inspiration to artists, writers, and filmmakers. Sitting across Galway Bay in the midst of the Atlantic, the islands feature primitive stone forests, early Christian churches, and medieval castles – as well as shops, galleries, and restaurants. An islander guides our tour here, imparting local lore along the way. We stop at Dun Aenghus Fortress, the three prehistoric stone walls crowning the tallest cliffs of Inismor; have lunch in a local pub; and enjoy some free time before returning to the mainland and our hotel late this afternoon. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant in the village of Bearna. **B,L,D**

#### Day 7: Galway/County Clare/Killarney

Another day of breathtaking scenery as we leave Galway for Killarney, traveling south along the fabled coastline of County Clare. We pass through The Burren, the 116-square mile “rocky place” of craggy gray *karst* (limestone) formations that stretch endlessly in all directions. Then we visit the Cliffs of Moher, the majestic flat-topped “mountains” that rise vertically from the sea for five miles from north to south. After lunch on our own here, we cross by ferry into County Kerry, reaching Killarney in beautiful Killarney National Park late this afternoon. This evening we enjoy dinners in local family-run B&Bs. **B,D**

**Day 8: Killarney** Our exploration of this attractive town, founded as a resort in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, begins with a jaunting-cart ride from the center of town to 15<sup>th</sup>-century Ross Castle, the last stronghold to fall to Oliver Cromwell’s forces in 1652. Then we travel by boat to Muckross House, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Elizabethan-style manor with the Kerry Folklife Centre showcasing the art

and craft of bookbinding, pottery, and weaving. We tour the elegantly furnished rooms, as well as the informal garden. Lunch is on our own here before we return to Killarney mid-afternoon. **B**

**Day 9: Killarney/Ring of Kerry** Today we experience one of Ireland’s most popular attractions, the stunning mountain and coastal scenery of the Ring of Kerry, a 110-mile route connecting Dingle, Iveragh, and Beara peninsulas. This is the Ireland

### Post-Tour Extension

August 4-7, 2017

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

4 days/3 nights for \$1,195 total price

Single Supplement: \$245

*Savor the dramatic beauty of the Antrim Coast, one of the most scenic in all of Ireland and the British Isles, and encounter the lively capital city of Belfast.*

#### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip private motorcoach or van transportation Dublin/Belfast
- 3 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Belfast at Fitzwilliam Hotel (Deluxe); 1 night in Dublin at Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport (Superior First Class)
- 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing including Belfast, Antrim Coast (Giant’s Causeway UNESCO site, Bushmill’s Distillery, Carrick-a-rede Bridge), new Titanic Museum in Belfast
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited representative
- Gratuities for dining room servers, and airport and hotel porters

YOUR FEET WILL TAKE YOU  
WHERE YOUR HEART IS.

-IRISH PROVERB

of postcards and pictures, with tiny villages dotting the breathtaking landscape; we stop in one of them for an Irish sheep dog demonstration and in another for lunch. We return to Killarney late this afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own. **B,L**

**Day 10: Blarney/Cashel/Kilkenny** On our way to Kilkenny this morning we stop in the small town of Blarney to visit the ruins of the 15<sup>th</sup>-century castle, with its celebrated Blarney Stone believed to bestow the “gift of gab” on those who kiss it. We also visit the Blarney Woolen Mills, housing an excellent selection of Irish crafts as well as knits and woolens of all kinds. After lunch on our own in Blarney, we continue on to the Rock of Cashel, the celebrated – and beloved – archaeological complex (c. 432 CE) of medieval ruins atop a limestone outcropping that presides over the surrounding plain. Late this afternoon we return to Kilkenny and our hotel, where we dine tonight. **B,D**

**Day 11: Kilkenny** Today is devoted to Kilkenny, a well-preserved medieval city known as Ireland’s cultural capital – and the country’s smallest city. We tour 12<sup>th</sup>-century Kilkenny Castle, considered one of the country’s most beautiful, then embark on an informal walking tour of Kilkenny itself, noting the many buildings of “black” or Kilkenny marble, quarried locally. After lunch together at a local pub, the remainder of the day is at leisure. **B,L**

**Day 12: Kilkenny/Dublin** We leave Kilkenny this morning to visit the National Stud Farm, the center of Ireland’s horse racing industry. Mid-afternoon we reach our hotel outside Dublin; tonight we celebrate our adventure over a farewell dinner. **B,D**

**Day 13: Depart for U.S.** We leave this morning for the Dublin airport and our return flights to the United States. **B**

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
- 21 meals: 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



*Titanic Museum, optional extension*

### Tour Departs: July 23, 2017

*Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.*

Boston, New York	\$4,592
Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$4,892
Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis	\$4,992
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,092
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$297, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$995.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,595 per person from Newark, Washington, DC (upgrade subject to availability and pricing subject to change).

**For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514**



## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### Not Included in Tour Price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

### Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

**Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

**No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.**

### Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary, if unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

### Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in their tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of your tour or changes in this tour.**

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JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE  
TRAVELING AGGIES TOUR  
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*Guaranteed Small Group:  
Limited to 24 Guests*

