



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Alumni Association



The Essence of Ireland

Dramatic Coastlines, Elegant Estates & Ethereal Monastic Sites

April 11 – 18, 2024



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Alumni Association

My fellow Hoyas,

For the first time in its 70-year history, [John Carroll Weekend](#) is headed to Dublin, Ireland. Georgetown's founder John Carroll, namesake of our annual event, held Irish ancestry, and we've maintained a deep connection with Ireland throughout our history. In April 2024, when the Irish countryside is at its most beautiful, join alumni and friends to delve into Ireland's profound heritage on an exclusive six-night prelude to the John Carroll Weekend. With the enriching guidance of experts, explore Ireland's timeless villages and spectacular history amid lush valleys and misty glens.

Enjoy luxury accommodations at acclaimed historic estates, including Dromoland Castle, the ancestral home to a storied royal family since the 16th century. You will have private guided access to millennia-old religious sites that speak to the island's enduring spiritual traditions, including a seventh-century monastic site that established Ireland as a religious center. Take special inside looks at ornate cathedrals such as Kilkenny's 13th-century St. Canice's Cathedral.

Go behind the scenes of gardens and medieval castles, including the grand 12th-century Kilkenny Castle. Gather for dinner and a performance at 15th-century Bunratty Castle, considered one of Ireland's most beautifully preserved castles. At the legendary Rock of Cashel, take an expert-led inside look at impressive medieval buildings. Nearby, delight in an exclusive experience at a former 18th-century brewery housed in a medieval monastery, where you'll take part in the traditional process of brewing Irish ale.

Along Ireland's famed rugged coastline, embark on awe-inspiring scenic drives and savor exclusive meals in gorgeous settings. Stroll along Ireland's UNESCO-listed Cliffs of Moher, precipitous, 320-million-year-old cliffs where nesting seabirds make their home, part of the dramatic seaside rock face lining Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

Along the way, immerse yourself in optional exclusive activities like falconry, horseback riding, archery, clay shooting, whiskey tastings, and golfing or spa treatments. Space on this journey is sure to fill quickly. Please contact the Georgetown Travel Society at GeorgetownTravelSociety@Georgetown.edu or call (866) 525-8664 for more details and to reserve your place today.

Hoya Saxa,

Julie Farr C'88, Parent '19, '21, '24

Executive Director

Georgetown University Alumni Association



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

LIVE like a royal at some Ireland's most extraordinary historic estates, including a two-night stay at Dromoland Castle, a 450-acre estate that has been welcoming guests since the 16th century

GO behind the scenes of a seventh-century monastic site that helped Ireland become known as a place of spiritual enlightenment

MARVEL at the towering, UNESCO-listed Cliffs of Moher, enjoying stunning views of the Atlantic and the Aran Islands while catching glimpses of over 20 different bird species, including puffin, guillemot, and razorbill

ACCOMPANY experts to once-mighty medieval castles and fortresses, including the majestic 12th-century Kilkenny Castle

ADMIRE the beauty of Powerscourt House & Gardens, an 18th-century estate where you'll explore Italian and Japanese gardens, a walled garden, and Irish design treasures with expert guides

UNCOVER centuries of history at the Rock of Cashel, with local guides sharing stories behind the site's medieval buildings, Celtic artifacts, and unique Romanesque frescoes

SIP *uisce beatha* (Gaelic for "whiskey," meaning "water of life") on an exclusive visit to the Powerscourt Distillery, where you will gain insights from master distillers and enjoy a private tasting

REVEL in dinner at a 15th-century tower house known as one of Ireland's best-preserved castles, complete with a lively private musical performance

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Bunratty Castle, Bunratty

THURSDAY, APRIL 11: DEPARTURE

Depart for Shannon, Ireland, on an overnight flight.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12: SHANNON, IRELAND / NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS / BUNRATTY

Arrive this morning and transfer to Dromoland Castle in Newmarket-on-Fergus. If time permits, engage in some of the estate's traditionally Irish recreational activities, including archery, clay shooting, or falconry. Alternatively, enjoy a stroll through the castle's luxuriant Walled Gardens. Then gather for a festive dinner at nearby Bunratty Castle, a 15th-century tower house considered one of Ireland's most beautiful and well-preserved castles. Before dinner, explore the Folk Park, an open-air museum featuring a meticulously reconstructed replica of a 19th-century Irish village with traditional thatched-roof cottages. You will be transported to the Middle Ages at the castle's Medieval Banquet and welcomed to the Castle's 15th-century Great Hall with a glass of mead before enjoying a stirring performance by the famed Bunratty Castle Singers. D

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS / LISCANNOR / LAHINCH

Arise early and travel to the stunning western coastline of Ireland to view and stroll the spectacular seaside Cliffs of Moher. Formed over 320 million years ago, these vertical, sheer cliffs offer stunning views of the Aran Islands. This UNESCO Global Geopark is also host to major colonies of nesting seabirds. Enjoy lunch together in the area, then drive to the nearby beach town of Lahinch, one of Western Europe's "surf centers." Stroll through local shops before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. Enjoy a group dinner at the hotel tonight. B,L,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 14: NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS / CASHEL / KILKENNY / THOMASTOWN

Check out of the hotel and transfer to the historic Rock of Cashel. On this dramatic outcrop of limestone lies Ireland's most impressive cluster of medieval buildings, some dating back to the 12th century. Numerous ancient relics are housed here in the Hall of the Vicars, including several Celtic artifacts like the original Cross of St. Patrick, a 15th-century Tower House, and Cormac's Chapel, which contains Ireland's only surviving Romanesque frescoes. After lunch, continue to the medieval town of Kilkenny and arrive at the Smithwick's Experience, where more than 300 years of history combine with innovative brewing processes. Through this hands-on guided tour, learn how the Smithwick family brewed this celebrated Irish ale and take part in the brewing process. Continue to our hotel for the next two nights. Dinner is at leisure. B,L



St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

MONDAY, APRIL 15: THOMASTOWN / KILKENNY

Enjoy a special morning walking tour of Kilkenny, which began as a sixth-century ecclesiastical foundation and was granted city status in 1609. Stroll through one of Ireland's prettiest towns, with its medieval buildings and its delightfully tangled narrow streets filled with charming shops. Stop to view the remarkably well-preserved 13th-century St. Canice's Cathedral, the second largest in Ireland after St. Patrick's and an important site for Christian worship for over 1,400 years. Visit the grand 12th-century Kilkenny Castle, built to control a fording part of the River Nore and the junction of several routeways. Inside, you will find a fascinating art gallery.

Enjoy some free time to visit the 18th-century buildings opposite the castle, reimagined now as the Kilkenny Design Centre, featuring local artists' designs and crafts. Have lunch at leisure in the town. Return to the hotel for an afternoon of optional activities: golf on a championship course, enjoy a horseback ride through the 500-acre estate, receive a comprehensive archery lesson, or indulge in a spa treatment. Dinner tonight is at the hotel. B,D



a superb round tower, several medieval churches, and intricately carved crosses. After lunch in the area, transfer to Kilruddery House. Tour this lovely private home (*pending confirmation*) and farm, the family residence of Lord & Lady Ardee and three generations of the Brabazon family. Stroll through this magnificent 800-acre estate which features formal 17th-century landscaped gardens, flowering woodlands, and a walled garden. Continue to our hotel for the next two nights and enjoy dinner at leisure. B,L

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: ENNISKERRY

After breakfast, drive to nearby Powerscourt House & Gardens, one of the most magnificent estates in Ireland. Stone terraces provide vantage points to view the gardens and formal fountains. Housed within the estate are Italian and Japanese gardens, and a Walled Garden. It is also home to the best of Irish design in gifts, clothes, and furniture. Following the visit, arrive at Powerscourt Distillery, where a 300-year-old converted mill house now accommodates the modern distillery. View the huge copper pot stills and watch a master distiller craft whiskey. End the tour in their tasting room to sample their award-winning Fercullen Whiskey. Return to the hotel for a lovely afternoon tea and some leisure time for activities. Dinner tonight is at a traditional Irish pub with traditional Irish music and dance. B,T,D

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: ENNISKERRY / DUBLIN

After breakfast, drive to Dublin to meet up with fellow John Carroll Weekend participants at the College Green Hotel Dublin. B

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Georgetown University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

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Kilkenny Design Centre, Kilkenny

TUESDAY, APRIL 16: THOMASTOWN / KILKENNY / GLENDALOUGH / BRAY / ENNISKERRY

Depart and travel through the heart of County Wicklow and soak in its tranquil landscapes, lush valleys, and misty glens. Stop at a nearby parish church, St. Kevin's, for an informal Mass (*pending confirmation*). Afterwards, drive to the ethereal monastic site of Glendalough. In the early seventh century, St. Kevin, one of Ireland's most revered saints founded a monastery in a stunning glaciated valley. This site became one of Europe's most famous religious centers. The remnants of this monastic complex include

ACCOMMODATIONS

DROMOLAND CASTLE HOTEL, NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

Dromoland Castle, a royal residence since the 16th century, features 97 guest rooms with traditional Irish décor and cozy, Irish linen-topped beds in the main castle. Dining options range from the elegant, chandelier-lit Earl of Thomond restaurant to lighter fare by the fireplace in The Gallery and the famous multi-tiered Afternoon Tea. Live music awaits in the octagonal Cocktail Bar, while The Fig Tree Restaurant offers international cuisine. Guests can partake in castle-appropriate activities such as falconry walks, clay shooting, fishing, and horseback riding, as well as indulging in spa treatments with an outdoor hot tub.



HUNTERS YARD AT MOUNT JULIET, THOMASTOWN

Hunter's Yard, nestled within a sprawling 500-acre estate, offers stunning vistas in every direction. This charming retreat is conveniently located just a short walk from the 18th-century Mount Juliet Manor House. The Manor House, adorned with stucco ceilings and sparkling chandeliers, exudes authenticity and beauty. Guestrooms at Hunter's Yard are generously sized and elegantly furnished, featuring Nespresso machines, mineral water, robes, slippers, and excellent bathrooms with rainfall showers, separate tubs, and delightful Handmade Soap Company toiletries.

POWERSCOURT HOTEL, ENNISKERRY

Superbly located on the enchanting Powerscourt Estate grounds, this hotel affords breathtaking vistas of a lush wooded valley and the Sugar Loaf Mountain. The famed Powerscourt House and Gardens are just a five-minute stroll away. Inside spacious rooms, bathrooms are elegantly appointed with white marble, black trim, a separate shower, and top-quality ESPA toiletries. Sika restaurant, overlooking the picturesque gardens, offers a modern Irish and stylish dining experience, complemented by an excellent wine selection and a focus on local ingredients. The cozy Martini Bar and the traditional McGill's bar, featuring sports coverage and a selection of local craft beers, round out the dining and beverage offerings.



PROGRAM RATE

\$7,499 per person, double rate

\$9,499 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport/hotel/Dublin group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



The Smithwick's Experience, Kilkenny



Folk Park, Bunratty



Monastic site, Glendalough

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THE ESSENCE OF IRELAND
APRIL 11-18, 2024
RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place using a credit card, please call the Georgetown Travel Society at (866) 525-8664 or scan this form and email it to GeorgetownTravelSociety@Georgetown.edu. To reserve by check, complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Georgetown Travel Society, P.O. Box 930, Riverside, CT 06878. For more details call (866) 525-8664, email GeorgetownTravelSociety@Georgetown.edu or visit <http://alumni.georgetown.edu/event/ireland-2024/>.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

Debit card Credit card Wire transfer

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date