



Ireland: A Celtic Pilgrimage

Hosted By
Rev. Liz Roberts and Rev. Laura Stern

August 3 - 14, 2020

\$4275* from Raleigh, NC
(Estimated Price until Air is Confirmed)



Please join us for a Celtic Pilgrimage across Ireland. We will explore Celtic spirituality through prayer, readings, discussions, and worship. We will read daily from *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community* and hold worship services at significant sites throughout the trip. All participants are invited to read *How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe* by Thomas Cahill in preparation.

Day 1 & 2 - Depart USA on an overnight flight to Ireland. Arrive at Shannon Airport and be met by your airport assistance guide. Board your modern motor-coach and travel to the coast of Clare. Drive through the beautiful **Burren**. Visit **Cliffs of Moher**, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Enjoy a **light snack (smoked salmon and brown bread) at Doolin Music House** while being entertained through music and stories around the fireplace. *Please note that check-in may not be available until 3:00pm.* Enjoy a welcome dinner and a restful evening.

Day 3 - Scattery Island

Today, enjoy a trip to **Scattery Island**. Hailed as one of Ireland's most favorite pilgrimage sites, Scattery is an island of tranquility. After time at the Visitor's Center, enjoy a guided tour and free time to take a walk to one of the historical sites, or simply sit and enjoy the feelings of peace. Enjoy a **Medieval Castle Banquet!**

Day 4 - Connemara

Explore the beautiful region of **Connemara**, a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. Visit **Kylemore Abbey**, an impressive neo-gothic house with its own miniature cathedral built in 1868 and today home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns.

Day 5 - Mayo

Explore wonderful Mayo today including a visit to **Westport House** on the shores of Clew Bay and built on the foundations of one of the castles of 16th century Grace O'Malley, the famous Pirate and "Queen of Connaught". Continue to **Achill Island** and the famous Atlantic Drive, a journey of scenic splendor before returning to Mayo for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Mayo to Derry

Begin the day with a visit to **Boa Island**, home to a number of ancient Celtic remnants, including one of the oldest carved stones in Ireland - the Janus Stone is over 2000 years old. In the afternoon visit the **Museum of Free Derry** and hear about the Northern Irish conflict. Dinner and overnight in Derry.

Day 7 - North Antrim Coast

Travel to the North Antrim Coast and visit the Giant's Causeway,

a stunning UNESCO World Heritage site of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. Continue to Belfast and visit **Crumlin Road Gaol** and experience the history inside the former prison which dates back to 1845. This evening, enjoy a **Gaeltacht Experience at Culturlann McAdam O Fiach**, including a delicious Irish meal and a night of Gaelic songs and dancing by Irish dancers.

Day 8: Belfast

During a Panoramic tour of Belfast, visit **Belfast City Hall**, designed by Alfred Brumwell Thomas in the Baroque Revival style, and **Titanic Belfast**, which recreates the story of the world's most famous ship beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Dinner and 2nd overnight in Belfast.

Day 9: Belfast to Dublin

En-route to Dublin, enjoy a **visit at St Patrick's Centre** and gain a better understanding of the life and mission of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Visit **Down Cathedral** overlooking Downpatrick and the burial place of St. Patrick. This afternoon visit **Monasterboice** home to an impressive collection of ruins and high crosses and once a thriving center of religion and learning until 1142. Continue to Dublin for dinner and overnight.

Day 10: Wicklow

Visit **Avoca Handweavers** and **Glendalough Visitor Centre & Monastic Site**. This early Christian monastic site was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. This afternoon visit **Powerscourt Gardens**, situated at the foot of the Wicklow mountains and one of the most beautiful estates in Ireland. Return to Dublin for dinner and overnight.

Day 11: Dublin

Enjoy a **FREE DAY** in Dublin or OPT for a Panoramic Tour of Dublin with a visit to **Trinity College & the Book of Kells** and **St Patrick's Cathedral**. (Optional, \$135) This evening, enjoy **dinner and entertainment at a local Tavern**.

Day 12: Farewell

Transfer to Dublin Airport today for your flight home.

You will see all of the above sites during your Irish Pilgrimage. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, such as airline, hotel schedules and local conditions.

Your Irish Pilgrimage Includes:

- ▶ Roundtrip air from RDU
- ▶ Superior tourist class hotels
- ▶ Full Irish cooked breakfasts
- ▶ Driver/Guide throughout
- ▶ Deluxe Motorcoaches
- ▶ Taxes and Gratuities
- ▶ Evening Dinners
- ▶ Entrance Fees

The Highest Quality at the Best Value

Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

621 Macon Place ☎ Raleigh, NC 27609 ☎ 919-783-8714
✉ E-Mail: Alphatours@gmail.com www.Alphatours.com

Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

621 Macon Place Raleigh, NC 27609 919 783-8714 E-mail: Alphatours@gmail.com Web: Alphatours.com

Passenger 1 _____

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title _____ Name on Badge _____

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____

Passenger 2 _____

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title _____ Name on Badge _____

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Roommate _____

Assign single room** _____ Assign a roommate** _____

Travel Host: _____

Departure Date: _____

Departure City: _____

Please Register Me For: IR/080320

_____ Basic Program \$4275* from Raleigh, NC
(Travel from a city near you for an additional cost.)

_____ 3/4 Day Dublin City Option \$135
(minimum 15 people needed to operate)

Emergency Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send a photocopy of the picture page of your passport to the ACTS Office with your registration form. Note: All correspondence (including airline tickets) will be sent by Email. Please print clearly.

E-Mail: _____

For Office Use:

Dep & Check #: _____ Date Recvd: _____

AGREEMENT: Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

PAYMENT: A \$350 per person deposit is required for registration. Registrations postmarked by October 1, 2019 SAVE \$100 from final balance. Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration. ACTS reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 5% against the Euro based on foreign exchange rates in effect on May 2019.

AIRLINES: Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after purchased.

*** NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** Love Offering for the Driver/Guide (40-50 Euros suggested), any Airline baggage charges (50 lb. limit), lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports and personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add imposed fuel surcharges.

****ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$150 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$175, Double ~ \$125). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms.

CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. Non-refundable airline tickets and cancellations which force your roommate into a single room will be assessed as additional cancellation fees. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$75. 129 - 75 days ~ \$350. 74 - 35 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 34 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

FIT FOR TRAVEL: Most foreign countries do not conform to the USA Disabilities Act standard. Passengers registering for the trip accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk on the tour. Many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, who may find the tour limiting in their experiences. ACTS assumes no responsibility for a passenger's inability to fully participate in the tour.

DEVIATIONS: Deviations must be submitted in writing and are subject to a \$150.00/person assessment fee. Transfers for deviating passengers are not included.

NOTICE: Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour.

Contact Leaders with questions or for more information:

Rev. Liz Roberts:

919.832.3316 or eroberts@nccumc.org

Rev. Laura Stern:

919.846.2212 or lstern@nccumc.org