

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

*Pre-Departure Itinerary*  
**A Week in Ireland**  
*Over St. Patrick's Day*  
**Monday, March 12 – Monday, March 19, 2012**

Those who've experienced the revelry of a St. Patrick's Day in Boston know that it's as Irish as you can come without setting foot on the Auld Sod. Now, however, the Travel Club offers you the chance to do just that! Your six-night March excursion starts in Galway, where you'll leisurely tour Eyre Square and the 16th-century Spanish Arch along the Corrib River, before heading off to marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher—rising 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean—en route to Cork. In this charming city, stroll over the criss-crossing canals and shop for local delicacies at Princes Street Market before heading off to 15th-century Blarney Castle to gain the gift of gab from a kiss of the Blarney Stone. From there, you'll get to soak in the verdant beauty of the Irish countryside en route to Dublin. You'll have two full days in the capital city, where you'll visit Trinity College, view the illuminated Book of Kells, marvel at St. Patrick's Cathedral, then join in the revelry at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Don't forget to raise a pint of Guinness to old St. Pat as you toast all Ireland has to offer!

## **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Shannon and Dublin to Boston
- Three-star accommodations: two nights Galway, one night Cork, three nights Dublin
- Eight meals: six buffet breakfasts, two dinners
- Round-trip, airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

## **Rates**

**\$1,849** per person double occupancy  
**\$2,059** single reservations  
Add \$93 for air taxes and fees. Per person deposit is \$500

## **Features**

Guided half-day tour of Galway, free time in Galway, drive through the Burren, visit the Cliffs of Moher, visit Blarney Castle, guided tour of Dublin including St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College to view the Book of Kells, free time in Dublin; **OPTIONALS:** Dublin—Traditional Irish Evening with dinner, Powerscourt & Glendalough full-day tour

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 - Overnight flight to Ireland**

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Shannon aboard an internationally recognized airline.

### **Day 2 - Galway**

Welcome to the Emerald Isle! A representative greets you at Shannon Airport after you clear customs and escorts you to your hotel in Galway. The rest of the day is free for you to begin exploring Galway. At tonight's included Welcome Dinner, meet your fellow travelers. **Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner**

### Day 3 - Galway

This morning, your Tour Director introduces you to Galway, Ireland's third-largest city. For 400 years Galway was an independent city-state—as recently as the 19th century, local citizens were still in the habit of setting their clocks 40 minutes behind Dublin time. Enjoy this afternoon at leisure in Galway. You might choose to visit the broad expanse of Eyre Square or visit the 16th-century Spanish Arch on the banks of the Corrib. Lovers of pub culture will delight in Galway's traditional public houses, from The Quays, Murphy's Bar, Monroe's Tavern and so much more. Pubs aren't just bars in the American sense of the word—they're communal meeting-houses where a civic spirit is nurtured over crisps, ale and good craic (Gaelic for fun). ***Included meals: breakfast***

### Day 4 - County Cork

Depart Galway and travel through the limestone plateau known as the Burren. Stop to see the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. These are among the most dramatic views in Ireland, and film fans may recognize them as the "Cliffs of Insanity" from the classic movie *The Princess Bride*. Later, transfer to Cork, a city synonymous with the Irish spirit of rebellion. To this day, Corkonians refer to their city as the "real" capital of Ireland and to one another simply as "Rebels." Enjoy a free evening to explore Cork, a city best seen on foot. This charming seaport spans both sides of the River Lee, and you'll cross back and forth over the city's web of canals as you walk about. You may want to stop in at the Princes Street Market (also known as the English Market) to peruse local specialties such as drisheen, an Irish black pudding. ***Included meals: breakfast***

### Day 5 - Dublin

This morning, visit Blarney Castle. This 15th-century fortress is known above all else for the legendary Blarney Stone, said to grant magical powers of eloquence to those who kiss it—which you can attempt by climbing the steep staircase to the top of the parapet and leaning out of the battlements. Later, continue on to Dublin. Enjoy the "forty shades of green" that Johnny Cash famously memorialized as your motorcoach zips through the scenic Irish countryside. Your route will take you through the heart of Ireland, an area once ruled by the Kings of Munster and where a fiercely independent streak can still be found today. Tonight, opt to join a Traditional Irish Evening of song, dance and food. ***Included meals: breakfast Included entrances: Blarney Castle***



**\$119 USD Traditional Irish Evening**

**Enjoy this special evening of Irish food, music and live entertainment. Dinner will be served first, giving you a taste of traditional Irish dishes. You'll then be treated to a live show of Irish music and dance. Join in the fun as you enjoy a merry and memorable night.**

**Please note: The specific venue and day of the week for this optional may change due to availability.**

### Day 6 - Dublin

A local guide leads a sightseeing tour of the city. Drive to Phoenix Park, the largest enclosed public park in Europe. Its grounds include the Arás an Uachtaráin (Presidential Residence). Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded by Ireland's patron saint in A.D. 450, and then visit Trinity College, where you can view the illuminated Book of Kells in the university's library. This afternoon is yours to explore the Irish capital at your leisure. You may wish to stop in at one of the many pubs in the Temple Bar neighborhood for a pint of Guinness or a glass of fine Irish whiskey. Or, you might meander from cafe to cafe as you take in the haunts of some of Dublin's most famous writers. There's never a dull moment

in Dublin, no matter how you plan to spend your time. ***Included meals: breakfast Included entrances: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College***

### **Day 7 - Dublin**

Discover Dublin at your own pace today. You might choose to quaff the perfect pint at the Guinness Storehouse. The storehouse is a relatively new attraction that encapsulates Dublin's rare ability to cherish its past while looking forward to its future. The Storehouse rises seven stories above the city, and at the top, you'll find Gravity Bar, where you can enjoy a complementary pint of Arthur Guinness's world-famous dry stout while taking in panoramic views of Dublin. Alternatively, join an optional excursion into the countryside of Wicklow to visit Powerscourt House, where you can walk through Ireland's most beautiful formal gardens, and Glendalough, a romantic glen where St. Kevin founded Ireland's most important monastery in the 6th century. Powerscourt was originally created as a military stronghold in the 13th century but underwent considerable transformation 500 years later. During the 18th century, the seventh Viscount Powerscourt toured France's Versailles, Austria's Schonbrunn and other famous estates throughout Europe; upon turning 21, the Viscount ordered Powerscourt to be remade in the image of his favorite castles. The new estate's gardens took two decades to flourish, but today, they're among Ireland's most beautiful. Glendalough, by contrast, reflects the monastic ascetism of its founder St. Kevin. Here you'll find a collection of ancient dry-stone buildings, including an enormous round tower, one of only a handful remaining in Ireland. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for an included Farewell Dinner. ***Included meals: breakfast, dinner***



### **\$79 USD Powerscourt & Glendalough**

Your first stop is at the picturesque village of Enniskerry, where you'll visit Powerscourt Demesne, an elegant country mansion with the finest formal gardens in the country. Then continue on to Glendalough, which became famous throughout Europe as a center of Christian learning before it was sacked by Vikings crusaders in the tenth century.

### **Day 8 - Dublin**

A representative accompanies you to the airport for your return flight home. ***Included meals: breakfast***

***Proof of Citizenship*** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid Passport for travel with at least 6 months' validity. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*