



Fort Wayne Children's Choir Companions

Companion Tour of Ireland

June 21 – 30, 2019

Proposed Itinerary – 10 Day Tour

Day One – Friday, June 21, 2019

Depart U.S.A.

Departure Depart from Chicago today for your companion tour of Ireland.

Day Two – Saturday, June 22, 2019

Arrive Dublin – Waterford

Arrival Arrive in Dublin, Ireland, clear customs and claim your luggage. Meet your Gateway Tour Manager, who will be with you for your entire tour to handle travel and performance arrangements.

**Stud Farm
& Gardens**

Visit the Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens. This state-run bloodstock farm, which houses many of Ireland's leading stallions, was founded in 1900 by an eccentric Anglo-Irish colonel called William Walker. After touring the stud farm, take a walk through the Japanese Gardens, which were laid out in 1906 to represent the "Life of Man."

Kilkenny Castle

Visit Kilkenny Castle, a 13th century castle remodeled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands. This was once the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830s splendor, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery.

Waterford

Travel south and arrive in Waterford, a charming seaport and one of Ireland's oldest cities. Although no longer produced here, Waterford Crystal is still deeply embedded in the culture. The beautiful crystal creations have given Waterford its reputation for artistry around the world, and made it a major destination for those wanting to learn more about this luxurious industry.

**Meals
Overnight**

Dinner
Waterford

Day Three – Sunday, June 23, 2019

Waterford

- ♪ Church Service** Attend a church service where the choir will perform in Waterford or the surrounding area.
- Dunbrody Ship** Tour a replica of the Dunbrody, a sailing ship which carried Irish emigrants to America during the Great Famine. You will explore the ship as actors play the roles of emigrants and crew. This authentic recreation provides a look into this important period of Irish history.
- ♪ Promoted Concert** Attend a performance by the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir.
- Meals** Full Irish breakfast; dinner
Overnight Waterford

Day Four – Monday, June 24, 2019

Waterford – Killarney

- Transfer** Depart Waterford for Killarney today. Stops will be made along the way.
- Blarney Castle** Stop outside of Cork to visit Blarney Castle. Climb to the ramparts of the ancient fortress to kiss the famous Blarney Stone, promising the gift of eloquence. Time will be allowed to shop for souvenirs at Blarney Woolen Mills.
- Killarney** Killarney is a popular resort town located just off the beautiful southwest coast of Ireland, with three famously beautiful lakes reflecting the nearby mountains. Killarney has been the inspiration of poets and painters for many centuries, and now it is also a thriving commercial and tourist center.
- Old Middleton Distillery** Travel to Middleton and for a visit of the Jameson Experience at the Old Middleton Distillery. Tour the magnificent courtyard areas rich with the atmosphere of harvest time, and follow the path to the Distiller’s cottage. See the giant waterwheel which once powered the machinery, and the Brew House, home to the largest pot in the world. The experience is made complete with a whiskey tasting in the Jameson Bar.
- Meals** Full Irish breakfast; dinner
Overnight Killarney

Day Five – Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Killarney

Ring of Kerry Travel around the Ring of Kerry, one of Ireland’s most scenic drives. This memorable ride takes you through the MacGillycuddy’s Reeks and provides constantly changing views of mountains and shoreline. Drive through the remote towns of Cahirciveen and Derrynane to Sneem, a village of colorful houses grouped around two squares.

🎵 **Promoted Concert** Attend a performance by the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir.

Meals Full Irish breakfast; dinner

Overnight Killarney

Day Six – Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Killarney – Ennistymon

Transfer Depart Killarney for Ennistymon. The journey will take 3 hours without stops.

Shannon River Ferry This enjoyable, 20-minute journey across Ireland's finest river takes you from county Clare to county Kerry.

Ennistymon Arrive in Ennistymon, a village centered on the 1588-vintage O’Brien Castle. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the scenic beauty of the town and its surroundings, whether it is a walk to the top of Church Hill to view the stunning local scenery or a stroll by the Cascades. One will be amazed at such natural beauty to be found within the confines of a town.

Cliffs of Moher Visit the Cliffs of Moher on Ireland’s rugged western coast. Six miles of rough-hewn cliffs plunge into the Atlantic from heights of up to 668 feet. The ocean has hammered these walls into one of Ireland’s most majestic natural features.

Irish Ceili Join the Children’s Choir for an energetic evening of entertainment with Irish dancers and live, traditional Irish music. The word “ceili” originally referred to a gathering of neighbors for an enjoyable time dancing, singing, and storytelling.

Meals Full Irish breakfast; dinner

Overnight Ennistymon

Day Seven – Thursday, June 27, 2019

Ennistymon

- Aran Islands** Located in the heart of Galway Bay, the Aran Islands offer visitors a glimpse into a way of life that has long since disappeared from most of the country. The Islands' raw beauty and charm leaves visitors longing to return again and again. Aran Island Ferries operate a fleet of luxury, purpose-built ferries that will take you to Inis Mor.
- Inis Mor** Visit the famous Dun Aonghasa (Dun Aengus) fort. Perched on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic ocean, Dun Aonghasa is one of the largest prehistoric stone forts in Ireland.
- ♪ Promoted Concert** Attend a performance by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir.
- Meals** Full Irish breakfast; dinner
- Overnight** Ennistymon

Day Eight – Friday, June 28, 2019

Ennistymon – Dublin

- Transfer** Travel from Ennistymon to Dublin today. Stops will be made along the way.
- Clonmacnoise** Clonmacnoise is the site of a medieval monastery founded by St. Ciaran in 545-548 AD. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, eight churches dating from the 10th through the 13th centuries, two round towers, three high crosses and a collection of early Christian grave slabs.
- Dublin** Arrive in the capital city of the Republic of Ireland. The city was founded by Vikings on the banks of the River Liffey more than 1,000 years ago. Today, the thriving metropolis is full of history and culture. During your free time, you may wish to wander around Temple Bar, an area that still maintains its winding medieval streets. You can also visit one of the many large city parks in the area or take a walk down Grafton Street, Ireland's largest pedestrian mall.
- Meals** Full Irish breakfast; dinner
- Overnight** Dublin

Day Nine – Saturday, June 29, 2019

Dublin

Dublin City Tour A guided tour of Dublin includes the Georgian squares with their colorful “Doors of Dublin” as well as many of the city’s other well known landmarks. Visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, one of the most famous books in the history of the world. Completed around 800 AD, the vellum (calfskin) manuscript contains transcriptions of the four biblical Gospels, lavishly illustrated and ornamented.

Christ Church Cathedral Finish your tour at one of the oldest cathedrals in Ireland still in use today, Christ Church. Home to the tomb of Strongbow, a famous Norman conqueror, Christ Church is also very well known for its beautifully restored interior as well as its crypt.

🎵 Church Recital Attend a performance by the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir at Christ Church Cathedral.

Farewell Dinner This evening you will celebrate your last night in Ireland with traditional Irish entertainment and dinner with the Merry Ploughboys.

Meals Full Irish breakfast; dinner
Overnight Dublin

Day Ten – Sunday, June 30, 2019

Depart Dublin – Arrive U.S.A.

Departure Transfer to the airport for your return journey. You will arrive in the United States later today.

Meals Full Irish breakfast

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. Performance venues may be subject to availability and/or acceptance.