



proudly presents

Ireland

& International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) 12 days • Jun 7–18, 2012



Visiting

St. Patrick's Cathedral • Monasterboice • Mellifont Abbey • Giants Causeway
St Columb's Cathedral • Sligo Abbey • Tobernalt Mass Rock & Holy Well
Croagh Patrick • Kylemore Abbey • Clonmacnoise





IRELAND

& International Eucharistic Congress (IEC)

June 7 – 18, 2012 (12 days)

Day 1 Thursday, June 7, 2012

In flight

Departure from Pearson International Airport Toronto (other gateways available on request) for your overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Day 2 Friday, June 8, 2012

Welcome to Ireland

Today meet with your driver and guide and enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City, discovering the north side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

Visit Trinity College

Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest University in Ireland. The Campanile, erected in

1852, was built on what is believed to be the centre of the monastery. Built to further the education of the ruling Anglo-Irish families, restrictions were imposed to prevent Catholic from attending courses. These restrictions were not fully lifted until the 1970's. Trinity however admitted women in 1902, earlier than most British universities. Most of the main buildings off the main square were built during the Georgian period, some of which replaced older buildings. Within its walls, you will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices. Trinity College has had many famous students such as Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett who later became a lecturer in French at the university. The Inter-denominational Church is very much worth a visit, should it be open during your visit.

Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral

St Patrick's is the National Cathedral of Ireland and is built on the site where St Patrick preached. There was a small church on the site which was still in existence when the when the Anglo-Normans arrived. This church was replaced with a stone church in 1191 and it was further remodelled in 1225 to the same design as Salisbury Cathedral. Ireland's first university was founded at St. Patrick's in 1320 and intermittently operated for 200 years. St Patrick's



is Gothic in style and it's splendid interior, is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift. Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St Patrick adjoin the Altar. The



massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at Hotel in Dublin

Day 3 Saturday, June 9, 2012

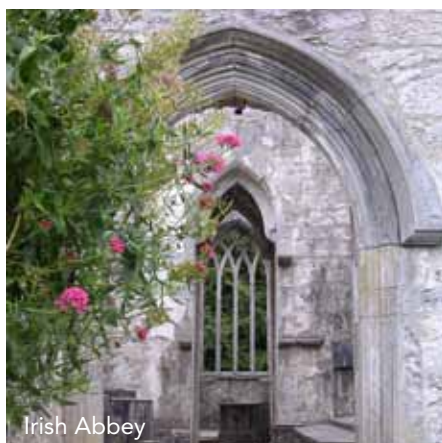
Dublin to Belfast

Today depart Dublin and travel northwards to Belfast via the Boyne Valley

The Boyne valley is without a doubt the most historical region of the whole island, therefore it is not surprising to find here the most important Irish monuments such as Newgrange, Knowth or Loughcrew Cairns. These are megalithic tombs, dating from 2500 B.C, located along the valley of the river Boyne. The river is also known for the famous Battle of the Boyne in 1690 between the Catholic King James of England and the Protestant King William. The victory of William over James had immediate repercussions on Ireland, some of which still influence Irish History today.

Visit Mellifont Abbey

St. Malachy founded this Cistercian abbey in the 12th century and its name derives from the Latin word mellifons (honey fountain). In its prime Mellifont was the Cistercians most important centre in Ireland and while the remains are worth seeing, they don't really match the importance of the site. The Abbey was built in 1142 by St Malachy, Bishop of Down, who brought in a new group of monks from Clairvaux in France, to combat the corruption of the Irish monastic orders. This one time Cistercian motherhouse had 21 lesser monasteries and over 400 monks. After the dissolution of the monasteries a fortified Tudor manor house was built on the site using material scavenged from the demolition of many of the monastic buildings. The site was abandoned in 1727.



Stop at Monasterboice

Monasterboice, one of the most famous religious sites in the country, was built in the 5th century a few miles north of Drogheda in a lovely-secluded setting. It is said that the monastic site was founded by St Buithe a follower of St, Patrick. With 2 churches, a round tower and 2 High Crosses it is one of the most visited religious sites in Ireland. The treasure of this site is the high Cross-of Muiredach. Muiredach was the Abbott in Monasterboice until 922 and the prayer at the base of the cross is translated as " a prayer for Muiredach for whom the cross was made". Considered the finest High Cross in the country, it is the pinnacle of achievement with many sculpted biblical scenes, which are still legible today.

Continue to Belfast

On arrival in Belfast enjoy a city tour of Belfast with your guide. A guided city tour is an excellent way to discover Belfast City. The tour will take in the leaning Albert Memorial Clock tower (Ireland's answer to the Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House, which is one of Belfast's great landmarks. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Opera house, The Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University and the Botanic Gardens. Some tours will take in a visit to the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill and Falls road will be of interest as it will give the visitor an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles.

Check in to your hotel.

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Belfast.

Day 4 Sunday, June 10, 2012

Antrim Coast

Travel along the coast of Northern Ireland.

Visit the Giants Causeway

The Causeway was formed more than 60 million years ago when red-hot lava erupted onto the surface of the earth. It was quickly cooled



by the sea, which crystallised it and formed it into the 40,000 basalt polygonal columns, which today form the Giants Causeway. A must on any visit to the North of Ireland, the Causeway is an UNESCO World Heritage site, and is often referred to as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. There is a bus service from the heritage centre to the Causeway (a charge applies).

Continue to Derry for a walking tour of this walled city.
– Please note that for option 2 you will meet with a local city guide.

Derry was the last walled city to be built in Ireland. 400 workers built these magnificent walls between 1613 and 1618. With measurements of 8m high and 9m wide, the walls were built to last and have never been breached. The four original protective Iron gates have been rebuilt and three new gates added. Today these gates remain open, making it possible to walk around the walls. Walking the walls enables you to enjoy the overview of the Bogside on one side and the Waterside on the other. A walk on the walls is a walk back in time as they have always played an important role in the history of this famous city.

Visit St Columb's Cathedral

Built between 1628 and 1633 in "Planters gothic" style, St Columb's was the first Cathedral to be founded, in Ireland, after the reformation. An imposing gothic structure, the interior was extensively restored on the 19th century. A small museum in the chapter house contains relics for the siege in 1689 including the 17th century locks and keys of the city. The stained glass windows depict heroic scenes from the great siege of 1688/89 and there is an audio-visual display inside on the siege and history of the cathedral. The flat tombstones in the churchyard are traditional. The tradition started during the siege of Derry when existing headstones were laid flat to minimise damage from cannon.

Overnight dinner bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Derry or Letterkenny



County Sligo

Day 5 Monday, June 11, 2012

Lough Derg & Sligo

Travel to Lough Derg, enjoy a visit and Tea & Scones at the St Patrick's Purgatory.

This small lake-island, renowned in Irish Christian tradition since the time of St. Patrick, has been receiving pilgrims continuously for well over 1000 years. St Patrick himself is believed to have stayed and fasted here. Today Lough Derg is still a major place of pilgrimage. It lies about four miles north of the village of Pettigo in County Donegal. In earlier times the area around the lake was a place of protection for anyone in trouble, with the nearby monastery offering hospitality to all. It still reaches out to those in need, whatever their creed, background, social circumstances or religious practice. All are made welcome.

Continue southwards via County Sligo

County Sligo's beautiful scenery was an inspiration for Yeats, who is buried at Drumcliff Churchyard, under loaf-shaped Benbulbin Mountain. The lakes of Sligo, with their still waters and wooded islands, are truly spectacular, and form a striking contrast to the county's rugged uplands. The imposing Neolithic cairn on the summit of Knocknarea, known locally as Queen Maeve's grave, is a striking landmark. At Carrowmore, you'll find the largest megalithic cemetery in Ireland. Sligo's scenic coast has some excellent surfing beaches, including Strandhill, Rosses Point and Enniscrone, also popular for their golf courses. Lissadell House, once home to Countess Markievicz, is a good family attraction, with a lovely beach nearby.

Visit Sligo Abbey

Sligo Abbey, more accurately called the Dominican Friary of Sligo, was founded in 1253 by Maurice FitzGerald, Baron of Offaly. The Abbey has had a turbulent history, having been destroyed by fire in 1414 and again



in 1595. Despite this, friars continued to inhabit the abbey until the 18th century when the community moved. Lord Palmerston restored part of the ruins in the mid-19th century but eventually the Abbey was handed over to the state in the early 1900s and is now open to the public.

Visit Tobernalt Mass Rock & Holy Well

Like most holy wells it is difficult to say when pilgrimages began, as many could pre-date Christianity. Tobernalt is dedicated to St Patrick who is said to have visited the site and knelt at the large rectangular block of stones adjacent to the well and put his hand on the rock as he knelt. Pilgrims still touch the rock, where the saint placed his hand, and indentations of finger marks have been worn into it over the years. This rock is associated with being a penal mass rock, where illegal masses were said during the late 18th century penal laws.

Overnight dinner bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Sligo region.

Day 6 Tuesday, June 12, 2012 **Knock & Ballintubber**

Today travel to Knock

Some time for prayer and reflection at Knock Shrine.

This little town is an important pilgrimage centre and has been famous for over a century as the site of visions, apparitions, and miraculous cures. The story of Knock began on the 21st August 1879 when Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. Fifteen people, young and old witnessed the apparition. From this miraculous occurrence Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognised Marian Shrine. The personal pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II in 1979, commemorating the centenary of the apparition, inspired an even greater devotion to the Shrine and endorsed the indelible seal of Vatican approval.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta visited the Shrine in June of 1993. One and a half million pilgrims visit the Shrine annually.

Continue for a visit to Ballintubber Abbey

Built in 1216, for the Canon Regulars of St Augustine, Ballintubber Abbey is the only church in Ireland that was founded by an Irish King and which is still in use today. It was built next to the site of an earlier church founded by St Patrick in the 5th century. It is also known as "the Abbey that refused to die" as through its many vicissitudes, including burning by Cromwell's army in 1653, the Abbey has remained a place of worship despite years of continuous attacks and religious repression. Ballintubber retains an air of ancient beauty and spirituality and has been restored with simple elegance. Ballintubber is one of the most impressive church buildings in Ireland today and is well worth a visit. There is a video display and an interpretative centre at the Abbey and the grounds are landscaped to portray spiritual themes.

Travel on to your hotel in County Mayo

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in County Mayo.

Day 7 Wednesday, June 13, 2012 **Croagh Patrick & Connemara**

Travel southwards in direction of Galway

Stop at Croagh Patrick

Croagh Patrick, 'Ireland's Holy Mountain', is an isolated quartzite cone-shaped peak, rising to 762 metres on the southern shore of Clew Bay, 8km west of Westport. Known locally as 'the Reek', it is one of the most striking features on the Irish landscape. The national apostle, St. Patrick, is said to have spent forty days and nights on the summit of Croagh Patrick, fasting and praying for the people of Ireland around the middle of the fifth century. Since early Christian times, a national pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick has taken place on the last Sunday in July each year. Thousands of devout pilgrims, many barefoot, climb the mountain in the footsteps of St Patrick, where they undertake the traditional stations and attend Mass in the oratory erected at the summit in 1905.

Continue to Galway via the Connemara region



Connemara is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. It is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south, a bumpy land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. In the northern half, harsher and more secret, you will see the Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas. You will find peace and tranquillity, which have now disappeared from our overpopulated regions. Connemara is a real paradise for Nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions.

Visit Kylemore Abbey

A gothic style castle, built in the 19th century by a rich Liverpool merchant, it belongs today to the Benedictine Nuns. Impressive, hidden between mountains and lake and surrounded by rhododendrons, the abbey is situated in a romantic place of great beauty. The entrance hall and three other rooms are open to the public. The remaining rooms are inaccessible to the public to protect the privacy of this relatively exclusive order and the students of the boarding school. Gothic church: this was the Nuns major restoration project. It was built in the late 19th century by the owner of the castle, Mr. Henry. It can be described as a 'cathedral in miniature' and is very faithful to the so-called Decorated Style church. The Gothic church is a real gem, well worth a visit.

Continue to Galway.

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Galway region.

Day 8 Thursday, June 14, 2012 To Dublin

Depart Galway and travel back to Ireland's Capital.

En route visit Clonmacnoise

St. Ciaran founded this great monastery in 548-9. Dermot, a local prince, helped Ciaran build his first church on the site and later

when Dermot was elected High King he richly endowed the monastery. Although St. Ciaran did not live long after the foundation, the monastery grew rapidly. It was plundered six times between 834 and 1012, and burned 26 times between 841 and 1204. Clonmacnoise was a great centre of learning, and many manuscripts, including the Annals of Tighermach (11th century) and the Book of the Dun Cow (12th century), were written here. The Normans attacked Clonmacnoise in 1179, and burned 105 houses, and for the next four hundred years the monastery was often plundered. In 1552 the English garrison from Athlone took all the monastic valuables away. The monastic site never recovered from this attack. The on-site guides provide excellent tours to the many interesting artefacts to be found here, including the High Crosses, the 12th century round tower, and the many Churches and Temples, which adorn this hallowed site.

Continue to Dublin for some time at leisure.

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Dublin

Day 9 – 11 Fri - Sun, June 15 -17, 2012 Eucharistic Congress inclusive

Join the events of the Eucharistic Congress – please note the coach is included for these days and is at the groups discretion until 17h30.

Overnight, dinner and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Dublin



Day 12 Monday, June 18, 2012 Flight home

After a final Irish breakfast transfer to Dublin Airport for departure flight home.



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Hotel	Location	No. of nights	Category
Jury's Inn	Dublin	1 night	3 star
Jury's Inn	Belfast	1 night	3 star
Station House	Letterkenny, Co Donegal	1 night	3 star
Sligo Southern	Sligo	1 night	3 star
Breaffy House	Co Mayo	1 night	3 star
Jurys Inn	Galway	1 night	3 star
Mount Herbert	Dublin	4 nights	3 star

Deposit: \$500 deposit is required at the time of booking or before November 15, 2011. Late registrations have higher cost for IEC registration. If you wish to have insurance, you must take it out at the time of booking.

Full payment is due March 7, 2012

Cancellation penalties:

\$50 non-refundable administration cost

Between November 15 and March 7

\$500 non-refundable

Between March 7 and departure date

100% non-refundable

Insurance: To avoid cancellation penalties we recommend you take out optional Travel Guard. If you are covering \$3,500 prior to departure and unlimited after departure with Deluxe Package Insurance has medical, cancellation, air flight accident and baggage coverage.

Ages 0 – 59 years, \$131.76

Ages 60 – 69 years, \$196.56

Ages 70 – 79 years, \$318.60

Beyond 79 years, you have to fill in a questionnaire for quotation.

Identification: You must have a valid passport to travel on this tour and passport should be valid for 6 months after your departure from Ireland.

Book Early. This unique program sells out quickly!

Price: Per Person, Canadian Dollars, 2 to Room

\$2,999 Two to Room

\$3,475 Single

* Note that add-on fares are available from other gateways cities. From Atlantic Canada +\$160.

We provide one free seat on twin basis, (land and air) for every 15 paid pilgrims. This free seat is still subject to additional cost for airport taxes. Also if you wish to have a single room you must pay additional cost of \$476.

If you have a group over 19 pilgrims, we can offer lower rates. For 20-24 passengers \$2,700, for 25-29 passengers \$2,550, for 30-34 passengers \$2,480, for 35-39 passengers \$2,430.

All rates are subject to additional cost for airport taxes and security fees. This number is not accurate until 3 months before departure but for budgeting purposes, current taxes are \$415.

If you have points and want to do your own air, you can deduct \$770 from the above cost



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