

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL PARADE

Dublin, Ireland

March 17th, 2011

Standard Parade Tour #2 (5 nights / 7 days)

Monday, March 14th, 2011

Depart from USA via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Dublin, Ireland

Tuesday, March 15th, 2011 Dublin

Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a panoramic tour of Dublin's highlights including General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park (the largest public park in Europe), Merrion Square where you can see Oscar Wilde's house, Grafton St. etc. Enjoy a tour of Trinity College, which is Ireland's oldest university (founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592). The highlight of the tour will be a view of the Book of Kells, written around the year 800 AD and one of the oldest and most beautifully illuminated manuscripts in the world. Also visit the National Museum of Ireland

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn't before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The 'boom years' came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and over one thousand years of history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers.

Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 Dublin

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning travel to Avoca to visit the Hand Weavers. See the three different kinds of weaving, including the traditional fly shuttle handloom, still in use today. Continue to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the "valley of the two lakes" harbor one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites — established in the 6th century. Here we visit the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross and Kitchen, and Gatehouse

Possible performance in Bray as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

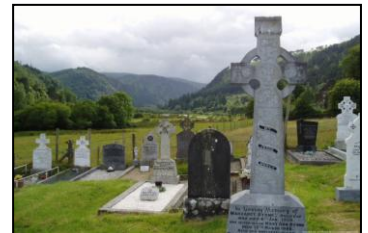
Thursday, March 17th, 2011 Dublin

Breakfast at the hotel

March in the world-famous St. Patrick's Day Festival Parade

For two hours you will participate in an awesome display of creative talent as the national St. Patrick's Festival Parade snakes its way through the city center. International and Irish marching bands join performers, dancers and street theatre companies to present a wonderfully entertaining parade. The parade is a piece of moving theatre, complete with its own Creative Director. Colorful costumes, flamboyant performances and outstanding musical talent

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the atmosphere of St. Patrick's Day



Music Celebrations International

Concert Tours With Integrity

Friday, March 18th, 2011 Dublin / Laois / Cork

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Cork via Laois. Visit the neo-classical Emo Court, designed for the Earls of Portarlington. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland.

Possible performance at Emo Court as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Continue to Cork for a panoramic city tour including City Hall, St. Finbarr's Cathedral, Patrick Street and St. Anne's Cathedral. Also visit the English Market. The English market is a covered market for fish, fruit, meat and vegetable. In recent years the range of food available has broadened considerably to include an organic stall, a traditional French deli stall, an olive stall, a cheese and pasta stall which also serves coffee and a bread stall

Evening dinner and overnight

Cork City dates back to the 7th century and features many fine Georgian buildings of which the Grand Parade and South Mall are the finest. The Potato Famine reduced the city to a sorry place, where many emigrants bade farewell to their homeland. Cork also played a key role in Ireland's struggle for independence. Today, it is a thriving and fast growing city.



Saturday, March 19th, 2011 Cork

Breakfast at the hotel

Possible morning performance during the Cork St. Patrick's Festival

Afternoon depart for Kinsale, a lovely picturesque little town. Kinsale is a town of many small-winding streets and with beautiful strolls along the coasts and beaches within easy reach. Here visit Charles Fort. Charles Fort is a classic example of a star-shaped fort and has five bastions. The fort has an important strategic location as the entrance to Kinsale Harbour. It is the largest fortress of its kind in Ireland and one of the best preserved star forts in Europe. It remained in use until 1921, when much of the fort was destroyed as the British army withdrew from Ireland.

Return to Cork for Farewell Dinner and overnight

Sunday, March 20th, 2011 Depart for home

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Transfer to Dublin's or Shannon's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day

