

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL PARADE

Dublin, Ireland

March 17th, 2011

Standard Parade Tour #3 (6 nights / 8 days)

Friday, March 11th, 2011

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

Saturday, March 12th, 2011 Dublin / Limerick

Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Limerick via Bunratty Castle and Folk Park in County Clare. The castle was begun by the Vikings, who built a fortified settlement on a former island surrounded by a moat. Then came the Normans, who built the first stone structure in the 1270's. The present castle is the fourth or fifth to occupy the location beside the River Ratty and was built in the early 1400's

Continue to Limerick for Welcome Dinner and overnight

Limerick lies on the River Shannon in the southwest of the country. The town is made up of the older district of English Town to the north, at the junction of the Shannon and the Abbey rivers, and two districts to the south of the Abbey River, Irish Town and Newtown Pery. Here are situated better class houses and the business and banking quarter, with the principal thoroughfare O'Connell Street. In this street and in Mallow Street which branches off it there are some attractive Georgian houses.

Sunday, March 13th, 2011 Limerick / Killarney

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we will visit the Burren region, which is an extraordinary and unique place. 'Boireann' is Irish for 'rocky country' and when you see the miles of polished limestone stretching in every direction, you'll understand why it is named so! We will make a stop at the Cliffs of Moher, which is one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. On a clear day, the views are tremendous.

Transfer to Killarney for overnight

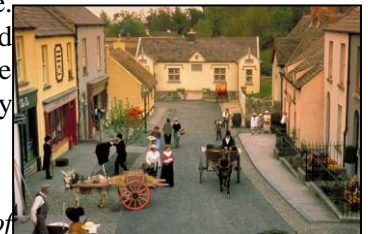
Renowned for its beauty, famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of the world's best-loved tourist spots. Killarney (Cill Airne - The Church of Sloes) became a magnificent town around 1750 when the local magnate, Lord Kenmare, developed the tourist business and four major roads were built to the outside world. Killarney's present population is around 9,000 and the main economic base is tourism.

Monday, March 14th, 2011 Killarney

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day excursion along the Ring of Kerry, a 179 km road circuit around the Iveragh Peninsula. It has captivating mountain and coastal scenery, dotted with slate-roofed fishing villages. The Ring is one of Ireland's premier tourist attractions. Also visit Kells Sheep Farm. Meet with Brendan, a Kerry farmer and shepherd, whose 200 sheep graze on the Kerry Mountains. See Brendan's different breeds of sheep, his border collies and a sheep herding demonstration

Possible performances as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland



Music Celebrations International

Concert Tours With Integrity

Tuesday, March 15th, 2011 Killarney / Dublin

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Kilkenny, often referred to as “the Marble City”. It is the most interesting and best preserved of the medieval Irish cities. It owes its immense charm to the various impressive historical monuments. A medieval city of 24,000 people, it is characterized by many beautifully restored buildings and winding slipways. Continue to Cahir to visit the Castle. Superbly set on a rocky island in the River Suir, this impressive fifteenth-century castle - the largest of its period in Ireland - was considered impregnable until the advent of heavy cannon

Finally reach Dublin for 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

Enjoy 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

Afternoon at leisure for shopping, museum visits or other planned activities

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

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Friday, March 18th, 2011 Depart for home

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