Tuesday, July 2nd - Depart USA for Ireland on UA flight 126 departing Dulles at 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3rd - Welcome to Ireland  Arrive at Dublin airport at 10:00 a.m. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage your guide will meet you and you will depart for Galway.

Enroute to Galway stop at Coole Park. Coole Park, together with the adjoining Garryland, is a nature reserve of breeding deer. The seven woods celebrated by W.B. Yeats are part of the 6 kilometres of nature trails taking in woods, river, turlough, bare limestone and Coole Lake. The visitor centre contains an audio/visual presentation, "Lady Gregory of Coole", a literary history of Coole Park, and also a multi-media exhibition, "Coole Park through the eyes of 'Me and Nu', Granddaughters of Lady Gregory".

Next visit Yeats Tower. Closely associated with the poet WB Yeats is the Hiberno-Norman fourteenth century stone tower. View Yeats’s pear trees, one ‘broken by a storm’ and walk the narrow bridge. Climb the famous winding stair, stride the battlements and view the country. Experience the immersive exhibitions exploring the poet’s art, connections, his life and loves.

Today a welcome lunch is included in your journey - location to be determined.

Continue on to the House Hotel in Galway where you will be spending the next two nights. Dinner this evening on your own so you can retire for the evening at your convenience. You may choose to visit Logues Shoes today or tomorrow. The shoe store is a 10 minute walk from your hotel. (L)

Thursday, July 4th - Galway
This morning visit Kylemore Abbey & Gardens. Kylemore Abbey is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey’s most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They established a private school for young girls, which was the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School. The school eventually closed in 2010.

View the Quiet Man Bridge

Continue to Connemara Marble. The mining of Connemara Marble is one of Ireland’s oldest indigenous industries. At Connemara Marble Visitor Centre, the marble is quarried, cut, shaped, and polished. The centre offers visitors an opportunity to purchase Connemara jewellery, gift items and to view the skilled master craftsmen at work cutting and polishing marble.

Dinner is on your own this evening at one of the many Galway restaurants. (B)

Friday, July 5th - Galway to Donegal
This morning visit Cnoc Suain. Enjoy a fascinating insight into living indigenous Irish culture. Celebrate Connemara’s traditional music, song, storytelling, céilí dancing and food. Marvel at the wonders of the Atlantic Blanket Bogland and the secrets of Bog Bodies & Sphagnum moss, the little wonder plant! Experience Connemara thatched cottage traditions and local food tasting. Hear the lyrical Gaelic language of Connemara in poetry, songs and learn an Irish folk (céilí) dance! Cnoc Suain has won a number of international awards,
including a ‘Global Vision Award’ from Travel + Leisure and a ‘World Ethical Travel Award’ from The Guardian, for its commitment to sustainable tourism and its exceptional cultural offering.

En-route, visit Carrowmore. Carrowmore Cemetery has over 60 stone circle and passage tombs making it one of the largest Stone Age cemeteries in Europe. It is also among Ireland’s oldest cemetery of megalithic tombs, with monuments ranging from an amazing 5,500 to 6,500 years old. Archaeologists have recorded over 60 tombs of which 30 are visible. A restored cottage houses an exhibition relating to the site. A guide from Carrowmore will walk you thru the “cemetery” showing you the different passage tombs.

Check in to Jacksons Hotel in Balybofey, Donegal. Dinner at your hotel is included this evening. (B,D)

Saturday, July 6th - Donegal

This morning visit Slieve League, Europe’s highest sea cliffs, although less famous than the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Slieve League’s Cliffs reach almost three times higher, but you won’t really notice. The site is largely untouched by tourism and walks through a largely unspoilt landscape give visitors a spectacular view of the coast and the cliff face of the sea and the Sligo Mountains.

Visit Killybegs International Carpet Making & Fishing Centre. The Killybegs International Carpet Making & Fishing Centre offers a unique experience in the fishing and carpet-making history for visitors who venture to the shores of this picturesque town situated on the Donegal coastline. During the tour, it is possible to see the actual carpet factory which once designed, dyed and thread wool by hand-knotters, and produced world-class Donegal carpets that can still be seen in such places as Dublin Castle, The Oval Room at the White House, the Vatican, Buckingham Palace, stately homes, and foreign embassies throughout the globe; also, visitors can see the largest hand-knotted loom in the world, view live demonstrations of how hand-knotting is done, and also have the opportunity to test their own skills at the loom. Finally, it is possible to view the largest fishing fleet in Ireland in its natural harbour, the home-place of the Atlantic Dawn, which was one of the largest fishing vessels in country; step into the boots of a fisherman via the “bridge simulator”, replica of a boat wheelhouse, and experience the virtual reality of the ocean.

Return back to Donegal Town and visit Donegal Castle. Built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th century, beside the River Eske, Donegal Castle has extensive 17th century additions by Sir Basil Brooke. The castle is furnished throughout and includes Persian rugs and French tapestries. Information panels chronicle the history of the Castle owners from the O'Donnell chieftains to the Brooke family.

Enjoy a walking tour of Donegal Town. Donegal town is a thriving market town at the head of Donegal Bay, and was established as a Viking stronghold.

Dinner is on your own this evening. (B) Enjoy a ceili in Meeneary or similar Please note that this is subject to availability

Sunday, July 7th - Donegal to Derry

Following optional Mass the group will travel through Glenveagh National Park, Castle & Gardens a spectacular 16,500 hectares (40,000 acres) of scenic mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a herd of red deer, Glenveagh is one of Ireland's protected natural parks managed by the State. A Scottish style castle within the estate is surrounded by one of the finest gardens in Ireland, which contrast with the rugged surroundings. The Visitor Centre houses exhibitions and an audio-visual show on the area. The Visitor Centre has a cafe / restaurant. A return shuttle minibus service is available to bring clients from the visitor centre to the area of the castle and the gardens.

Enjoy a guided tour of Glenveagh Castle. Built in the years 1870 - 1873, the castle consists of a four storey rectangular keep. The last private owner was Mr Henry McIlhenny of Philadelphia who bought the estate in 1937. Henry McIlhenny was an Irish American whose Grandfather John McIlhenny grew up in Milford a few miles north of Glenveagh. After buying the estate Mr McIlhenny devoted much time to restoring the castle and developing its gardens. In 1983 he bestowed the castle to the nation along with its gardens and much of the contents.
Visit Grianán an Aileach. The Stone Fort of Grianán of Aileach sits on a hilltop in Inishowen County Donegal. 250 metres above sea level, the stone fort was probably first built on an earthen rath. The origins of the Grianán of Aileach fort are dated back to 1700 BC. It is linked to the Tuatha de Danann who invaded Ireland before the Celts and built stone forts on top of strategic hills. The round fort is built largely without mortar. The dry stonewalls contain two passages within them as well as terraces along their interior which would have allowed access to their summit.

Check into the Maldron Hotel, Derry. Dinner at your hotel is included this evening. (B,D)

Monday, July 8th - Derry
Following breakfast enjoy a walking tour of the Walled City
Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland and has a moving history that you can experience walking along the still-intact city walls. You will also visit the Bogside district, where you can visit the painted walls of the house, the so-called Mural Walls, which often have political motifs. See Guildhall, Derry's town hall, which fell victim to a bomb attack in the 1970s and has now been rebuilt.

Visit Guildhall, is a beautiful building and is well worth taking time to see. It is located in the heart of the city, just outside the city walls and close to the Peace Bridge. Fashioned in neo-gothic style, the Guildhall is one of the most striking buildings in the North West and was originally built in 1887 by the Honourable the Irish Society. The red sandstone building is of neo-gothic architecture, with Tudor overtones. The Guildhall contains stunning examples of stained glass windows and visitors will be intrigued by its unique history and appeal. The staircase, main hall organ and corridors give a fascinating insight into this distinctive building.

Enjoy exploring Derry today. Perhaps consider a walk across the Peace Bridge. Relax, shop, stroll, etc. Dinner will be under your own arrangements. (B)

Tuesday, July 9th – Derry to Belfast
En-route to Belfast, there will be a photo stop at Dunluce Castle. Dunluce Castle is situated on the Antrim Coast, 5 kilometres east of Portrush and 3.5 kilometres west of Bushmills. The roofless ruins are breath-taking especially at dusk, or in the sunshine with the white chalk cliffs of Portrush close by. It was the former home of the clans McQuillan and MacDonnell.

Visit Giants Causeway and encounter Northern Ireland's favourite giant Finn McCool at the new Giants Causeway Visitor centre on the North Antrim coast which opened in the summer of 2012. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner! The Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. There are various interactive exhibits and short video presentations within five designated interpretive exhibition areas and the self-guided visit will culminate with a spectacular two minutes audio-visual projection of a volcanic eruption flowing over the walls and onto the floor. Other services and facilities include a large craft and souvenir shop, Tourist Information and restaurant. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveller magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant's Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die. Giant's Causeway shuttle bus is included for your convenience. You can use both way’s or on return only.

Continue to the Carrick-a-Rede Bridge. Carrick-a-Rede, on the Antrim Coast, is a spectacular rope bridge, which spans a chasm, 30 metres deep and 20 metres wide. Originally a seasonal working bridge for fishermen, it connects a small island to the mainland. Its construction once consisted of a single rope handrail and widely spaced slats, which the fishermen would cross to bring ashore salmon caught off the island. The single handrail was subsequently replaced by today’s two-handed railed bridge. Visitors bold enough to cross to the rocky island are rewarded with fantastic views. Underneath the bridge are large caves, which often served as a safe haven for fishing trawlers escaping from winter storms.

Check into the Ramada Encore Hotel, Belfast. Dinner at your hotel is included this evening. (B,D)
Wednesday July 10th – Belfast City
This morning visit Titanic Belfast. Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four ‘ship’s hull’ shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

Enjoy a Black Cab City Tour. A member of Black Cab City Tour will board your coach for this political History Tour of West Belfast's Murals telling the story of the Troubles. The award winning tour has been broadcasted worldwide. Take in sights at Falls Road, Shankill Road, Peace line Wall, Crumlin Road Gaol, Murals.

Return to your hotel. Dinner is under your own arrangements this evening. (B)

Thursday, July 11th – Belfast to Dublin
This morning has an early start from Belfast for Dublin. En – route, visit Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum. Originally a museum focusing on the local history of Lisburn and the Lagan Valley, the museum expanded in 1994 with the opening of the Irish Linen Centre. The Irish Linen Centre showcases one of Ireland's best known industries. Visitors can take an audio visual tour and see the weaving centre and hand looms. This centre also showcases events and exhibitions which recreate and honour Lisburn's rich, local history. The Centre also organises tours of Lisburn Castle Gardens. The museum collects and displays the cultural heritage of the Irish linen industry and the history of the Lagan Valley region. The Flax to Fabric exhibition tells the story of the Irish linen industry with skilled demonstrations of hand spinning and handloom weaving, as well as displaying wonderful examples of historic linen costume and furnishings. In addition to displaying items from the collections, the Museum also has a range of temporary travelling exhibitions.

Continue to Newgrange a prehistoric passage tomb and dates to c.3200BC. Located within the Brú Na Bóinne Visitor Centre, which means the ‘palace’ or the ‘mansion’ of the Boyne, the centre is the starting point the fascinating megalithic passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full-scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth and interpretative displays and viewing areas.

Transfer to Dublin and check into Jury's Inn Christchurch hotel where you will be staying for the remainder of your time in Ireland. Dinner at your hotel is included this evening. (B,D)

Friday, July 12th – Dublin’s Fair City
This morning enjoy an orientation tour of Dublin which includes a visit to Trinity College where you will see the Book of Kells and the library’s Longroom. 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, visitors 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.

Enjoy a visit to the Guinness Storehouse. The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe’s largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar
to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, “Five” at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy’s where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomical experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce.

This evening enjoy live set dancing at O’sheas Pub or similar

Dinner is under your own arrangements this evening. (B)

Saturday, July 13th: Final Day in Ireland
This morning you will visit the Kilmainham Gaol. Kilmainham Gaol is a former prison in Kilmainham, Dublin, Ireland. It is now a museum run by the Office of Public Works, an agency of the Government of Ireland. Today the building symbolises the tradition of militant and constitutional nationalism from the rebellion of 1798 to the Irish Civil War of 1922-23. Leaders of the rebellions of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were detained and in some cases executed here. Many members of the Irish Republican movement during the Anglo-Irish War (1919-21) were also detained in Kilmainham Gaol, guarded by British troops.

Note if Kilmainham Goal is not available for the group you will visit the Richmond Barracks in it’s place.

Visit Glasnevin Cemetery
Glasnevin Museum is the world's first cemetery museum. Visitors can explore the history and the lives of more than 1 million people that are buried in Glasnevin Cemetery and how they shaped Ireland.

This evening say farewell to Ireland by attending Folklore and Storytelling dinner at Brazen Head. The Brazen Head dates back to 1198 and considers it’s self to be the oldest pub in Ireland. It’s a short walk from your hotel. (B,D)

Day 8: Sunday, July 14th – Farewell Say goodbye to Ireland and board UA flight 127 at 12:55 p.m. and arrive IAD at 3:45 p.m. (B)

What’s Included:
11 nights at 3/4 star hotels, all rooms with private bath or shower
Breakfast daily (B)
Welcome lunch (L)
5 dinners including an evening of Storytelling (D)
VISITS:
- Coole Park
- Connamara Marble
- Slieve League
- Glenveagh Castle & Gardens
- Guinness Storehouse
- Yeats Tower
- Cnoc Suain
- Killybegs Carpet Factory
- Carrick-a-Rede
- Kilmainham Goal
- Kylemore Abbey & Gardens
- Carrowmore Cemetery
- Donegal Castle
- Guildhall
- Titanic Belfast
- Trinity College
- Glasnevin Cemetery

Shuttle Bus at Giant’s Causeway  Belfast Black Cab Tour
Walking tour of Donegal Town and Derry Walls
Driver and Guide
Porterage of 1 bag per person

What’s not included:
Lunch daily and dinner when not included in itinerary
Personal expenses
Optional Travel Insurance $276 or $319 single supplement
Gratuity for Driver & Guide, guide for Derry Walls Walk and Black Cab guide in Belfast
Hotel Details/Emergency Contact Information

*Please note – all hotels have hairdryers ensuite & WiFi.

July 3 & 4       The House Hotel       Tel: 011 353 91 538 900
                 Galway

July 5 & 6       Jacksons Hotel       Tel: 011 353 71 913 1021
                 Ballybofey, Donegal
                 Indoor pool and gym

July 7 & 8       Maldron Hotel       Tel: 011 44 28 7137 1000
                 Derry

July 9, 10       Ramada Encore       Tel: 011 44 28 9026 1800
                 Belfast

July 11, 12 & 13 Jury’s Christchurch Tel: 011 353 1 454 0000
                 Dublin

Abbey Tours -    Office Phone 011 353 1 6486 195 (9:00 am – 5:30 pm)
                 Emergency # 011 353 86 256 7237 (after hours)

The phone numbers above are the numbers to dial if calling from the USA. If an emergency call Abbey Tours first.