

Exclusive University of Dubuque Alumni tour and travel program – Sunday, May 19 to Monday, May 27, 2019

# Gaelic Dream: Ireland and Scotland

9 days with UD Professors Charles Barland and Alan Garfield

**\$3950 total price**

(Based upon double occupancy, single available.)

“My heart’s in the Highlands,” said Robert Burns – as will you, as we travel to Ireland and Scotland, city to country, mainland to coast, on this sweet journey exploring



Celtic roots, language, literature and art. From Temple Bar to the Bloody Forelands, from cosmopolitan Dublin to the Wallace Monument in Stirling, from traditional Irish music to traditional Scottish cuisine, we will encounter stunning natural beauty and legendary Irish hospitality. Dublin and Glasgow city life serve up its colorful past - and cosmopolitan present – but it’s out in the countryside that we’ll really meet the locals on this 9 day tour. Begin in Dublin with a tour highlighting the arts and literature of the country’s capital. Enjoy a private tour of the famous manuscript *The Book of Kells*. Learn how they make that iconic drink at the Guinness Storehouse; then sample some (along with Irish dancing) atop the brewery. En route to Co. Donegal, we’ll stop at the famous Monasterboice Celtic Cross and Round Tower. In Donegal, you’ll experience the friendliness of those ‘homes of Donegal’ including a welcome at President Jeff Bullock’s house on Cruit Island. These are ‘blue flag’ beaches, the cleanest beaches in the European Union. Then it’s off by ferry to Arranmore Island to visit the last lighthouse before NYC. In Scotland, we’ll wander in the old town of Stirling before our tour of Stirling Castle. Visit John Knox’s Presbyterian Church of the Holy Rude, with an organ recital by Professor Barland. We’ll visit castles in Dollar and Doune (movie site of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*) before going on a private whiskey tour. After visiting Oban’s coast, our tour concludes in Glasgow.

## Alumni Group Tour Highlights

- Well-paced journey through Ireland and Scotland
- Travel with Aer Lingus – Official Irish Airline
- Dublin’s unique architecture
- Private guided tour of National Photography Museum, Trinity College, & the Book of Kells
- Beautiful Donegal coast scenery
- Evocative ruins of Dollar Castle and tour of historic Stirling Castle plus organ concert at the Church of the Holy Rude
- Whiskey Tasting Tour and Oban coast eateries
- Mix of touring and time for independent exploration

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart Chicago. Arrive Dublin	Aer Lingus	Aer Lingus
2-3	Bloom’s Hotel, Dublin		3 Star
4-5	Teach Jack’s Hotel, Co. Donegal		Not rated
6-7	Stirling Highland Hotel, Stirling		4 Star
8	ABode Hotel, Glasgow		4 Star
9	Depart Glasgow. Arrive Chicago	Aer Lingus	Aer Lingus

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

B - breakfast L - lunch D - dinner

### Day 1: Sunday, May 19. Depart Chicago for Dublin

We leave Chicago via the Irish national airline, Aer Lingus. (By the way, if you look closely on the side of the plane under the pilot’s window, you’ll see that every Aer Lingus plane is dedicated to an Irish saint.) Depart Sunday at 8:20pm. Dinner on plane.

*D, B* Dublin’s Ha’penny Bridge is a favorite way to cross the River Liffey for tourists and locals alike.



### Day 2: Monday, May 20. Arrive Dublin

Arrive in Dublin on Monday at 9:50am. After Passport Control, we’ll collect our baggage and transfer to our Dublin home, Bloom’s Hotel, in Temple Bar. Professor Garfield will lead us on a short walking tour of literary Ireland before stopping at the National Photography Museum to see what Dublin looked like “in the rare old days”. Tea, coffee & sandwiches at Bloom’s Hotel at 2pm. This is your jetlag afternoon. Rest or go for a leisurely stroll. Afternoon free. 7pm dinner followed by Irish music. Evening in Dublin. *L, D*



Anytime is people-watching time in Temple Bar.

### Day 3: Tuesday, May 21. Dublin City

A full Irish breakfast is an experience. We’ll visit the oldest university in Ireland, Trinity College, and see its most famous manuscript – the 4 gospels known as the *Book of Kells*. In medieval Latin and dating from c.800, Professor Garfield will interpret them for us. Leaders of Ireland and multi-national companies have



Trinity College, Dublin. 1592

studied here at Trinity. Just up the street is the shopping area known as Grafton Street. We'll learn just what is Irish about Irish art at the National Gallery and then stop for lunch at the NG's cafeteria. A bit of free time before the Guinness Storehouse tour. Dinner at the Old Storehouse (it's a restaurant, not a warehouse, don't worry). Dinner open. Evening in Dublin. *B*

**Day 4: Wednesday, May 22. Dublin to County Donegal** After breakfast, we board the coach for our trip up north, actually through another country (Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom) and then back into the Republic. The coach man is a good friend, Michael, and you might also see his family while we're in Donegal.

On the way up north, we'll stop to see the oldest extant Celtic Cross and Round Tower, still in an active cemetery: Monasterboice (from about 900). Lunch stop in the county seat, Monaghan town. Then through Northern Ireland to Letterkenny. In Glassagh, your home will be Teach Jack's Hotel. "Teach" in Irish is pronounced *cha*, as in the dance, *cha-cha*, and it means *house* in Irish, so it was originally built by Jack. (You'll meet his daughter.) After a quick run down to the Bloody Forelands, we'll have dinner here. Music at Leo's in Meenaleck tonight. Evening in Teach Jack's, Co. Donegal. *B,D*



Celtic Cross at Monasterboice. Two farmers cutting turf. Turf is still used to heat homes.



**Day 5: Thursday, May 23. Gweedore and Arranmore Island** After another fine breakfast, we'll be off to visit some of those blue flag beaches, Bunbeg Harbor (a very quaint fishing village and port), Maire Ned's (THE local shop for things Irish), and then on the ferry to Arranmore Island. A fleet of taxis will be waiting for us on the other side to transport us to the far end of the island. Amazing views of the raw and rough Atlantic. We often see dolphins follow the ferry out to sea. Back in Burtonport, the



coach will take us to visit President and Mrs. Bullock at their house on Cruit Island. Talk about a Spartan and Irish welcome! A spirited Ceili follows dinner (that's an Irish version of 'square dancing'). Evening in Teach Jack's, Co. Donegal. *B,D*



Stirling Castle.

Stirling Highland Hotel.

**Day 6: Friday, May 24. Derry to Glasgow transfer to Stirling** After breakfast, we'll transfer to Carrickfinn (Donegal Airport) for our 11:45am flight to Glasgow. Upon landing, we'll transfer to Stirling's Old Towne and the Highland Hotel. After a brief fresh-up, we'll walk 5 minutes to Stirling Castle and our tour followed by lunch. Professor Garfield will lead an optional walking tour around Stirling and finishing at the Church of the Holy Rude where Professor Barland will be giving an Organ Recital. Dinner at the Highland Hotel. Later visit the oldest pub in Stirling, often with bagpipers. Evening at the Highland Hotel, Stirling. *B,D*



**Day 7: Saturday, May 25. The Trossachs** After breakfast, we're off to visit Scottish highlights including the William Wallace Monument, Dollar Castle and Doune Castle. (I know the owner of Doune Castle so for you Monty Python fans, they'll have coconuts. If you have to ask "coconuts"?, just forget it.) Down the road from Doune Castle is the unique Deanston distillery. Deanston is housed in a former cotton mill in the central Highlands that dates back to the late eighteenth century. The buildings were converted to a distillery in 1966. It was acquired by Invergordon in 1972 but ceased production in 1982 and was mothballed until 1990.

Deanston is now operated by Distell. Lunch will be at Deanston's. On the way back to Stirling, we'll stop to savor a local specialty – butter tablet. If you like fudge, meet its Scottish cousin. Dinner is open. Evening at the Highland Hotel, Stirling. *B*



**Day 8: Sunday, May 26. Oban and Glasgow** After breakfast, we'll visit the west coast of Scotland for lunch. The scenery is amazing between Oban and Glasgow. We'll check into the trendy ABode Hotel and be off for our tour of Sir John Simpson's Kelvingrove Art Gallery. Afternoon open. Final group dinner. Evening in ABode Hotel, Glasgow. *B,D*

**Day 9: Monday, May 27. Depart for Chicago** After breakfast, we'll transfer to the Glasgow International airport for our flight to Dublin, connecting to Chicago. *B,L*

**Not Covered:**

Airfare from your hometown to Chicago; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time.

**Registration and Payment: DUE February 8, 2019: Contact Katie Kraus at 563-589-3161.**

A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment due on or before February 8, 2019.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** If you must cancel this tour, the effective date of cancellation will be based upon the email receipt date of your notification. Refunds for cancellations (minus the \$400 non-refundable deposit):

2-9-19 to 2-28-19 >>> 80%      3-1-19 to 3-19-19 >>> 50%      3-20-19 to 5-19-19 >>> 0%

4-1-19 to 5-19-19 >>> 0%

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from Chicago
- 7 nights' accommodations in 3 and 4 star properties
- 15 meals: 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip in both countries
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

**For reservations, call UD's Director of Alumni Engagement, Katie Kraus, at 563-589-3161 or email [kkraus@dbq.edu](mailto:kkraus@dbq.edu)**

**Single travelers** please add \$1,300. All 2019 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

**Business Class upgrade** on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,595 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

