

Dickinson College

celtic spirituality in ireland

JUNE 8-16, 2017

Hosted by Rev. Donna Hughes
and Becky Hammell

*“We hope that you will join us for this beautiful
journey to visit some of Ireland’s most sacred sites.”*



Thursday, June 8

Departure

Depart for Dublin today on your own.

Friday, June 9

Dublin

Arrive in Dublin prior to 9:00 am. The group will gather following baggage claim and customs to meet the motor coach departing at 10:00 am. Travel to the city center for morning refreshment before touring the historical Georgian Area of Dublin and the inner city. A visit to the Trinity College Library to see the Book of Kells is a highlight of the tour. The Book of Kells (aka Book of Columba) was created around 800 AD and is an illuminated text of the Gospels. It is considered to be a masterwork of Western calligraphy and represents the pinnacle of Insular illumination. The Book of Kells is widely regarded as Ireland's finest national treasure. Enjoy a guided tour of Christchurch Cathedral, the oldest medieval cathedral in Dublin. Christchurch is located in what was once the heart of medieval Dublin. In recent years, the Cathedral has been used in the TV drama series "Reign" and in the drama "The Tudors." Many costumes used by the actors portraying Catherine of Aragon and King Henry can be viewed within the crypt of the Cathedral. Continue on to the Johnstown House Hotel in County Meath for dinner and overnight.



Saturday, June 10

Royal County Meath

Visit Lough Crew situated in a landscape of inspiring beauty and intriguing history. The cairns at Loughcrew form the largest complex of passage graves in Ireland, much older than the better known Newgrange. These megalithic structures were built around 4000 BC as burial chambers. Cairns L and T are roofed and contain superb symbolic carvings in good condition.



Continue to the town of Kells, the site of Kells Abbey from which the Book of Kells takes its name. The monastery at Kells was founded by monks from Iona. The Abbey of Kells round tower and five large Celtic crosses can still be seen.

Travel through Doughpatric (Downpatrick), the burial place of St. Patrick, to the Hill of Slane, which is steeped in myth and history. The hill towers over the landscape at 521 feet with breathtaking views of the countryside. It is said that St. Patrick lit the first paschal fire on Slane hill in defiance of the pagan kings of Tara. St. Patrick appointed Erc as the first Bishop at the site. A monastery survived on the hill even after many raids by the Vikings and remains a mecca for pilgrims today. Return to the Johnstown House Hotel for overnight.



Sunday, June 11

Hill of Uisneach and Clonmancoise

Drive to the Hill of Uisneach which means Aill na Mireann, or the Catstone where the five provinces of Ireland meet. Uisneach was said to be the home of the sovereignty goddess, Ériu, after whom Ireland is named. According to legend, Ériu rests under the Catstone.



This place is also linked to the sun god Lugh. It was Lugh who gave rise to the harvest celebration Lunasa and was drowned in a lake on the Hill and rests beneath an adjoining tumulus (ancient burial mound). One theory says that the god Lugh, with his "long arm trailing behind him," and his face too bright to look at, was actually a comet.

On Bealtine (May time), a fire was lit on Uisneach to celebrate the coming of summer. The lighting of the Uisneach fire was the signal for igniting fires on many hills across the whole island creating a unique fire eye, with the Uisneach fire being the pupil.

The "Good God Dagda" is said to have lived at Uisneach and stabled his solar horses there. Two souterrains (underground passages) have been located at Uisneach, inside a wheel-shaped enclosure. One of these caves is in the shape of a mare pursued by a galloping stallion. Horse dieties have always been associated with the hill. Archaeological work has uncovered evidence of enclosures, souterrains, houses, and two roadways which are believed to link the royal sites of Uisneach, Tara and Rathcroghan.

St. Patrick visited Uisneach and his place of worship is known as St. Patrick's Bed. St Brigid was named after the great pan Celtic goddess Brigit—the Bright One—who was worshipped at Uisneach in pre-Christian times.

In addition, there was a real fifth province or kingdom in ancient Ireland known as Mide. The fifth province could also refer to the world of imagination and the magical otherworld. The Catstone was regarded as a gateway to this otherworld. In the Oxford Dictionary of Celtic Mythology, Uisneach is described as "a hill that has played a significant role in the Irish imagination." Legend says that Brian Boru, who became King of Ireland and the founder of the O'Brien dynasty, came to Uisneach around 999 to lay claim to the sovereignty over Mide.

End the day by traveling to Clonmacnoise to visit the tranquil ruins of the monastic site of St. Ciaran, situated on the bend of the River Shannon which affords a wonderful view east and west of the river. Learn about monasticism in Ireland and the role it played during the fifth through eighth century Christian Ireland. Return to Johnstown House Hotel for dinner and overnight.



Monday, June 12

Solas Brihde Spirituality Centre

Enjoy a day-long retreat with nuns at Solas Brihde Spirituality Centre which welcomes people of all faiths and of no faith. The vision of the Centre is to unfold the legacy of St. Brigid and its relevance for today. Explore Kildare Town before continuing to Glendalough for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, June 13**Glendalough**

Spend the day in Glendalough (Valley of two lakes) touring the site with time for spiritual meditation. This site is renowned for an early medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin who died there about 618 AD. Of note in the city is the Round Tower, the Cathedral nearby to St. Kevin's Cross, the Priests' House, St. Kevin's Church, and several other churches. Dinner and overnight in Glendalough.

**Wednesday, June 14 Return to Dublin**

Travel through Wicklow, to Mount Usher Gardens, one of Ireland's greatest gardens and a world-class example of a Robinsonian garden with a relaxed informality and natural layout. Enjoy time exploring the gardens. Dinner and overnight is at the Aishling Hotel in Dublin.

Thursday, June 15 Dublin

Enjoy a free day in Dublin. Visit one of the many museums or walk the Phoenix Park, a beautiful 1750 acre park with many quiet areas for reflection. Gather back at the hotel for transport to attend an Irish Evening of music, song and dance. Return to the hotel for overnight.

Friday, June 16 Flight Home

Fly back to the USA according to your own flight schedule.

For more information, contact:

Rev. Donna Hughes

Email: hughes@dickinson.edu

Phone: 717-245-1267

Register on-line at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/2vqcd>



**Travel Arrangements by:
Raptim Humanitarian Travel
116 Lake Street
Ephrata, PA 17522
Tel: (800) 874-9330
Fax: 716-754-2881
E-mail: tours.us@raptim.org**

Tour Price: \$2,745 per person, land only, based on sharing a double room

Single Supplement: \$645

Optional Group Travel Protection Plan:

- **\$239 per person (non-refundable; covers up to \$3,000 in cancellation fees).**
- **\$316 per person (non-refundable; covers up to \$4,000 in cancellation fees).**

Payment due with deposit for immediate cancellation coverage.

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is due at time of registration. Final payment is due April 10, 2017.

This tour price reflects special group rates. Registrations with deposits received after March 3, 2017, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

Included:

- Accommodations as listed in itinerary, or similar
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to sites listed in itinerary outline
- Services of English-speaking licensed guide
- Driver and transportation in air-conditioned motor coach
- Hotel service charges and local taxes
- Tips to drivers, guides and hotel staff
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)

Not Included:

- Transportation from home to/from Dublin, Ireland
- Passport fees
- Lunches and lunch tips
- Beverages with meals
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance (nonrefundable)

For Assistance with Air Travel . . .

Each tour member is responsible for their own airline arrangements. We suggest purchasing airline tickets three to six months prior to departure.

If you would like assistance with airline reservations, please contact Trinda Lim, Raptim Humanitarian Travel, at trinda.lim@raptim.org or call 800-272-7846, extension 12305.

Tour Features and Conditions

Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully. Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily.

Transfers and Baggage: Group transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included in the tour price, including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. Due to limited luggage storage space on motor coaches, it is important that each person bring only ONE piece of checked baggage. In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motor coach or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations and tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for lunches and personal services are not included.

Not Included: Lunches and lunch tips, beverages with dinners, passport fee, travel protection plan, checked baggage fees, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to departure city and return is not included.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured with a deposit of \$500 per person at time of registration prior to March 3, 2017. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due April 10, 2017.

Raptim Cancellation Conditions: The cancellation conditions outlined below apply to all passenger initiated cancellations. Should circumstances require that the passenger cancel, written notice of cancellation must be received by Raptim Travel a minimum of 100 days prior to departure to secure any refund of deposit funds.

- From date of deposit to and including February 28, 2017: \$100 per person service fee applies. (**Exception: When tour is cancelled by the tour host, a \$35 per person service fee will apply.*)
- From March 1, 2017 to and including April 20, 2017: Full deposit (\$500 per person) plus any unrecoverable fees apply
- After April 20, 2017: No refund

Cancellation policies apply when cancellation occurs for any reason. There is no refund for any unused services or portion of the tour package.

Protect Your Investment: Group travel protection coverage is available to cover medical expenses (first-pay coverage), medical evacuation & repatriation, trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage and personal effects loss, and baggage delay. A pre-existing condition exclusion waiver is available if coverage is purchased up to and including time of final payment. Further information can be found on the Travel Protection Plan tab of the tour registration website or by contacting your Raptim consultant.

Passport, Visa & Health Requirements: A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining or renewing a U.S. passport can be found at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until December 17, 2017. A visa for Ireland is not required for U.S. citizens. Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible to fulfill entry requirements for countries to be visited by contacting the appropriate consulates. No inoculations are required, but please check with your physician for his recommendation.

Rates & Fares Information: Rates are based on a minimum of 15 persons traveling together. Fewer tour participants will result in a price increase. The quoted tour price is based on the current rate of exchange. Fluctuation in the foreign exchange rate can result in price increase.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred. If you choose to make your own travel arrangements (not through Raptim Travel), we are not responsible for any charges or cancellation fees you may incur at any time.

Tour Operator Itinerary Changes: The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

Traveler Safety: In the ever-changing world situation, Raptim Travel recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit their website at <http://www.state.gov/travel/>

Disabilities: Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire prior to registration whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility

Raptim Humanitarian Travel, and their employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff act only as independent third parties to connect customers with the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. Raptim Humanitarian Travel, its employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, anticipated to be used or which is used, either wholly or in part, in any travels. Raptim Humanitarian Travel, its employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff are not and will not be responsible and the passenger fully releases Raptim Humanitarian Travel, its employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff for and from any act, error or omission, or any resulting expense or any injury to person or property (including death), other loss, accident, or any delays which may be occasioned, by reason of defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers including but not limited to any steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, or through any sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes, and all such losses, injury and expenses must be and will be borne solely by the passenger.

Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserves the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air or other schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.