

# 2012 TRAVEL ADVENTURES

## ENCHANTING IRELAND

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, AND CULTURE OF THE EMERALD ISLE

*Discover western Ireland's ancient treasures and contemporary culture—from Bronze Age tombs and medieval castles to the locals' favorite pubs!*

**August 26–September 7, 2012**

Shrouded in mist and sculpted by the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean, the western seaboard of Ireland is a lush and enchanted land of craggy cliffs, green hills, and ancient legend. In this leisurely tour of counties Clare, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal, we will explore more than 6,000 years of Irish history, as reflected in ancient megalithic monuments, Bronze Age tombs, and medieval castles and monasteries. It is a history that is woven into the fabric of contemporary culture, with echoes of pagan rituals and Gaelic conquest still heard today in Irish poetry and music—haunting windows into the soul of Ireland.

Join cultural geographer Dr. Samuel Couch for this unique exploration of Ireland's historical, cultural, and natural treasures. Based out of charming bed and breakfast accommodations in coastal villages, we will tour fascinating archaeological and historical sites, dine in local pubs, and immerse ourselves in the quiet life-rhythm of rural Ireland today.

*Also includes two days of touring in eastern Ireland.*

#### SCHOLAR

**Dr. Samuel (Sam) Couch**, director of the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in Idaho, is a cultural geographer, educator, and experienced tour guide specializing in Irish archaeology, history, language, and culture. He directed Summer Study Abroad and Irish Studies programs at Georgia Southern University and Young Harris College, and since 1984 has shared his passion for all things Celtic by leading numerous small-group tours to the Emerald Isle.



Photos courtesy Dr. Samuel Couch



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## EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

- The remarkable architectural achievements of the people of ancient Ireland
- The dramatic landscape of Ireland's western seaboard, which has inspired so many famous Irish legends and myths
- The influence of Irish history on contemporary culture, music, and literature

## TOUR DETAILS

**Tuition:** Tuition is per person and based on shared accommodations. Tuition includes accommodations, meals listed, entry fees and permits, most gratuities, and transportation from arrival in Shannon on August 26, 2012, until departure from Dublin on September 7, 2012. Transportation to Shannon and from Dublin is your responsibility. Airport departure taxes not included.

Program prices are based on current tariffs and currency exchange rates and are subject to change. Crow Canyon reserves the right to levy a surcharge, if necessary, prior to the final payment date.

**International Air:** International air flights are not included. For assistance making arrangements, we recommend Travel Management, Inc., in Post Falls, Idaho. E-mail [crow@tmtravel.net](mailto:crow@tmtravel.net), or call 1-800-975-7775 and ask for the Crow Canyon representative. Or, you are welcome to make your own arrangements. Plan to arrive in Shannon no later than 3 p.m. on August 26, 2012. Schedule departure from Dublin for any time on September 7, 2012.

**Accommodations:** All nights are spent in rural bed and breakfast lodgings selected for their location and charm. Shared accommodations are based on double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an additional fee of \$440.

**What to Expect:** The pace of this program is relaxed, with tour participants spending a minimum of two nights, and usually three nights, in the same lodging. We will travel by comfortable coach. The trip does not include strenuous activities, but exploration of some sites requires moderate walks and standing for an hour or more at a time, and some sites are located near exposed coastal cliffs, where the conditions can be windy.

**Dates:** Sunday, August 26–Friday, September 7, 2012

**Tuition:** Member\* \$8,495 • Nonmember \$8,695

**Deposit:** \$1,000 • Balance due: May 26, 2012

**This tour is limited to eight participants to provide an intimate, high-quality travel experience.**

*\*Minimum \$100 membership required. For information on membership, visit [www.crowcanyon.org/membership](http://www.crowcanyon.org/membership).*

## DETAILED ITINERARY

**B:** Breakfast  
**L:** Lunch  
**D:** Dinner

### Sunday, August 26: Arrival in Shannon

Plan to arrive in Shannon no later than 3 p.m. for transfer from the airport to the hotel, followed by dinner and introductions. Overnight at Old Ground Hotel in Ennis, County Clare. **(D)**

### Monday, August 27: The Burren • Kilfenora • Poul nabrone Dolmen • Kilmacduagh

Stretching along the Atlantic coast in counties Clare and Galway, the Burren is a captivating natural and archaeological landscape renowned for its vast expanses of exposed limestone and wealth of Neolithic and early Christian sites. On the southern fringe of the Burren, we tour the twelfth-century cathedral of Kilfenora and the spectacular Cliffs of Moher. As we make our way through the heart of the Burren, we visit the Poul nabrone Dolmen, which is an example of a portal tomb. A large slab supported by upright stones, the dolmen marks the graves of 16 individuals who died between 3800 and 3200 B.C. We also visit the seventh-century monastery of Kilmacduagh, whose most conspicuous feature is the excellently preserved Round Tower, which, like its more famous counterpart at Pisa, leans to one side. Overnight at Wellfield Guesthouse in Oughterard, County Galway (three nights). **(B, L, D)**

### Tuesday, August 28: Aughanure Castle • Connemara • Kylemore Abbey • Clifden

This morning we explore Aughanure Castle, a sixteenth-century fortress that was once home to the Fighting O'Flahertys and, later, to Grace O'Malley (Gráinne Ní Mháille), "the Pirate Queen." Then it's on to the rugged, untamed land of Connemara. There, at the base of Druchruach Mountain, we visit Kylemore Abbey, a castle-like mansion originally built in 1867 for a wealthy politician but now run by Benedictine nuns, who have restored the nineteenth-century demesne. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the charming fishing village of Clifden, home to the Connemara Pony Museum and the Alcock and Brown memorial. Overnight at Wellfield Guesthouse in Oughterard. **(B, L, D)**

### **Wednesday, August 29: Inis Mór • Dún Aeonghus • Seven Churches Ruin**

A short ferry ride takes us to Inis Mór, the largest of the Aran Islands in Galway Bay. It is a fascinating landscape, crisscrossed by a labyrinth of low stone walls that mark the boundaries of old agricultural fields. At sea's edge, vast limestone terraces end in sheer, 300-foot cliffs, where animal and plant life abounds. We visit the Iron Age fortress of Dún Aeonghus, which perches precariously on a cliff edge overlooking the Atlantic, and explore Na Seacht d'Teampaill (Seven Churches), a cluster of early Christian structures dating from the eighth or ninth century. Overnight at Wellfield Guesthouse in Oughterard. **(B, L, D)**

### **Thursday, August 30: Cong • Cong Abbey**

As our journey continues to counties Mayo and Sligo, we have a unique opportunity to explore a more traditional, introspective Ireland. Cong, in County Mayo, is a picturesque riverside village close to Lough Corrib, the second-largest lake in Ireland. Much of the movie *The Quiet Man* was filmed in Cong in the 1950s, and the village has changed little since then. While there, we explore Cong Abbey, a twelfth-century Augustinian monastery with weathered walls, sculpted doorways, and lovely medieval arches. Overnight at Ardtarmon House in Ballinfull, County Sligo (three nights). **(B, L, D)**

### **Friday, August 31: Yeats Country • Parke's Castle • Famine Graveyard**

The beautiful county of Sligo has been immortalized by the poet William Butler Yeats, and today we explore just a few of the places that served as his inspiration: Glencar Falls, the Lissadell House and Gardens, Hazelwood Forest, and Lake Isle of Innisfree. After a brief stop at the Drumcliffe churchyard, where the poet is buried, we continue on to County Leitrim. There, on the shores of Lough Gill, we enjoy the tranquil grounds of Parke's Castle, a restored castle dating from the

early seventeenth century. Next, we visit a famine graveyard, a painful reminder of the three million Irish who died or were forced to emigrate from 1845 to 1850 as a result of the Great Famine—an event that devastated Ireland and transformed the social and political geography of North America. Overnight at Ardtarmon House in Ballinfull. **(B, L, D)**

### **Saturday, September 1: Knocknarea • Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery**

Many of Ireland's notable prehistoric sites are found in County Sligo. This morning we travel to Knocknarea Mountain, near the town of Sligo. At the summit of this large hill is a massive rock cairn believed by many to be the burial place of legendary Queen Maeve of Connacht. Nearby, we explore the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, the largest Stone Age cemetery in Ireland and the second biggest in Europe. The surrounding hills are dotted with 5,000-year-old stone circles, passage tombs, and dolmens. We also meet Michael Quirke, a local raconteur and woodcarver, who shares stories of legendary heroes who still haunt Knocknarea and other nearby rock formations. Overnight at Ardtarmon House in Ballinfull. **(B, L, D)**

### **Sunday, September 2: Creevykeel Court Tomb • Donegal • Gleanncholmcille**

This morning we drive north to visit the 5,000-year-old Creevykeel Court Tomb. Excavated in the 1930s, the massive cairn encompasses multiple burial chambers. Then it's on to the remote, soul-stirring landscapes of County Donegal. Known for its unspoiled splendor, the county contains some of the highest peaks and longest stretches of coastline in Ireland. In the sleepy coastal town of Donegal, we visit the local castle, where we learn about the Flight of the Earls and Ireland's tumultuous history from the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries. We also visit the ruins of Donegal Abbey, where, in the early 1600s, the *Annals of the Four Masters* was compiled by Franciscan monks attempting to document Irish history and culture. Overnight at Millstone Guesthouse, Gleanncholmcille, County Donegal (three nights). **(B, L, D)**

### **Monday, September 3: St. Columcille • Sliabh Laeg • Oideas Gael**

We follow a pilgrim's trail to the sacred valley of St. Columcille, pausing at beautifully decorated stone monuments that serve as penitential stations and at a holy well built into a prehistoric tomb. A boat ride from the seaside town of Teelin takes us to view the magnificent cliffs of Sliabh Laeg, which rise 2,000 feet above the sea. Disembarking, we walk partway up the slope, discussing the area's intriguing history and exploring a number of ancient ruins along the way. Later, at Oideas Gael, the Irish language college in Gleanncholmcille, we learn about Irish history, art, and culture. Overnight at Millstone Guesthouse, Gleanncholmcille. **(B, L, D)**

### **Tuesday, September 4: Ulster Folk Village • Dun Alt • Dolmen Centre • Glen Gesh Pass**

Today we get acquainted with the Gleanncholmcille Valley, where the Irish have lived continuously for 7,000 years. A stroll through the thatched-roof cottages of the Ulster Folk Village provides us with a glimpse into Irish life in bygone years. We



also have an opportunity to meet local artisans, including weavers and potters. Next, we explore the Iron Age promontory fort of Dun Alt, thought to have been built by the Celts about 300 B.C., before visiting the megalithic portal tombs of Kilclooney Mhor at the Dolmen Centre. On our way back to Gleanncholmcille, we'll drive over Glen Gesh Pass (Glen of the Swans), one of the most beautiful spots in Europe. Overnight at Millstone Guesthouse, Gleanncholmcille. (B, L, D)

### **Wednesday, September 5: Trim Castle • Battle of the Boyne Site • Monasterboice High Crosses • Old Mellifont Abbey**

Today we leave the western seaboard behind as we drive to counties Meath ("the Middle Kingdom") and Louth in eastern Ireland. En route, we explore the grounds of Trim Castle, the twelfth-century castle used in the filming of the movie *Braveheart*, as well as several ancient sites in the Boyne Valley, including the Monasterboice High Crosses, Old Mellifont Abbey, and the Battle of the Boyne site. By evening, we arrive at elegant Smarmore Castle, built in 1320 and our home for the next two nights. Overnight at Smarmore Castle, County Louth. (B, L, D)

### **Thursday, September 6: Brú na Bóinne**

Along the River Boinne in County Meath, we visit Brú na Bóinne (the Boyne Palace), a World Heritage site and one of the most extraordinary prehistoric sites in all of Europe. A thousand years older than Stonehenge, Brú na Bóinne is a powerful testament to the architectural achievements of prehistoric humans. This Stone Age necropolis consists of many different sites and passage tombs, including Newgrange, Knowth, and Dowth, all of which are famous for their significant collections of megalithic art. Overnight at Smarmore Castle. (B, L, D)

### **Friday, September 7: Departures from Dublin**

Transfer to Dublin Airport for departing flights. Departures may be scheduled for any time. (B)

***Itinerary subject to change.***

## **TOUR RESERVATIONS**

**Phone:** Call **800.422.8975, ext. 160 or 146**, Mon–Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

**Online:** Use the secure reservation form at [www.crowcanyon.org/travel](http://www.crowcanyon.org/travel).

**Please Note:** Online requests are subject to availability. Your credit card will not be charged until your registration is fully processed and confirmed by Crow Canyon.

**Late Reservations:** To secure reservations on a trip for which the final payment deadline has passed, full payment by credit card is required at the time of your reservation. Last-minute reservations are subject to space availability and may require the payment of late fees.

**Cancellation:** All cancellation requests must be made in writing to Crow Canyon Registrar, 23390 Road K, Cortez, CO 81321-9408, or e-mailed to [travel@crowcanyon.org](mailto:travel@crowcanyon.org). Cancellations become effective on the date received. The following penalty schedule applies: On or before May 26, 2012: \$500 handling fee; after May 26, 2012: forfeiture of all payments.

**Group Size:** Our programs are designed for small groups. A minimum number of participants is required for each trip. If this minimum is not reached by the final payment date, you may be offered several options: pay a slightly higher program price, select another program, or receive a full refund. If Crow Canyon cancels a trip extension for which you are booked, and you elect to cancel your main trip, you are still subject to the cancellation penalties as described in this policy. Please contact us to check program status prior to making your travel arrangements.



The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's programs and admission practices are open to applicants of any race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, or sexual orientation. Crow Canyon is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance knowledge of the human experience through archaeological research, education programs, and collaboration with American Indians. Crow Canyon is nationally recognized for the quality of its archaeological research and education programs.

Crow Canyon reserves the right to withdraw, without penalty, any announced program (in which case, a full refund of the purchase price will be made) or to make necessary changes to a program or program schedule. Crow Canyon is not responsible, in the event of cancellation or alteration of a program, for any airline or other commercial transportation cancellation penalty incurred by purchasing a nonrefundable or restricted ticket. Please contact us about program status prior to making your travel arrangements. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance; information about travel insurance will be sent to you as a service. Terms and conditions will be sent as part of your registration package; this information is also available online at [www.crowcanyon.org/travel](http://www.crowcanyon.org/travel).

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