

Bancroft Gardens Presents: Tour of Irish Gardens May 14—23, 2010

Land Price: \$2650 per person, (Sharing twin room)
Single Room Supplement: \$525

Estimated Airfare from SFO: \$950 per person, plus \$145 taxes per person.
(Air taxes and fuel charge subject to change until ticketed)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Transport by luxury motorcoach with a driver/guide (one man) for 9 days.
- Hotel accommodation based on twin bedded rooms with private bath as listed opposite for 8 nights.
- Full breakfasts (8).
- Table d'hôte dinners (6).
- Lunch in Ballymaloe.
- Tea with Desmond Guinness at Leixlip Castle Gardens.
- Dinner and evening entertainment at The Merry Ploughboy Pub.
- Horse-drawn jaunting car ride in Killarney.
- Boat trip to Garinish Island.
- Guided Tour of Dublin.
- Visits and admission fees to:
 - Cliffs of Moher
 - Muckross Gardens
 - Bantry House & Gardens
 - Creagh Gardens
 - Annes Grove Gardens
 - Lakemount Garden
 - Fota Arboretum Gardens
 - Killurney Garden
 - Kilkenny Castle
 - Heywood Gardens
 - Butterstream Gardens
 - Dublin Castle
 - Dillon Garden
- Hotel portorage, service charges and government taxes.

For more information contact: Mimi Knox

Cruise Adventures Unlimited
1610 Locust Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
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mimi@caustravel.com

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Fri, May 14—UNITED STATES TO SHANNON

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight into Shannon.

Sat, May 15—SHANNON ARRIVAL & ADARE

Depart Shannon and drive to the coast of Clare to view the Cliffs of Moher. This impressive wall of rock rises to almost 700 feet above the foaming Atlantic breakers. Continue south to Adare, which is famous for its main street of thatched houses. Check into your nearby hotel and spend some time relaxing or exploring as you like. Tonight join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel.
DINNER&OVERNIGHT: FITZGERALDS WOODLANDS, ADARE

Sun, May 16—KILLARNEY & MUCKCROSS GARDENS

After breakfast, depart Adare and journey into the mountainous country of Kerry. Arrive in the town of Killarney, settled beside three lakes in the shadow of Ireland's highest mountains. An old-fashioned horse drawn jaunting car will bring you through the Killarney National Park, which is closed to motorized vehicles. Drive along the shores of Lough Leane to Muckcross House. See the gardens which reach toward the scenic lakes of Killarney. Many tender and exotic trees and shrubs flourish in the mild climate and sheltered location of the gardens. As you stroll you will see a fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, an outstanding rock garden on a natural rock outcrop and beautiful tree fringed lawns. Drive to your hotel where you will have some time before dinner.
DINNER & OVERNIGHT: ARBUTUS HOTEL, KILLARNEY

Mon, May 17—SOUTHERN COAST GARDENS

This morning travel around Bantry Bay to the town of Bantry. Visit Bantry House, built in 1740 for the Earls of Bantry, which sits in a wonderful position encircled by mountains. The house contains furniture and objets d'art from all over Europe. The extensive and well-tended gardens are delightful to wander through and you may enjoy great views of Bantry Bay and the house from the gardens. Drive further along the coast stopping near Skibbereen to visit Creagh Gardens. These romantic gardens feature woodlands sloping down to the coastline. The large walled garden dating from Regency period has been restored as an organic kitchen garden and there are many other gardens to explore. Travel to Glengarriff located at the head of Bantry Bay. This is one of the mildest regions in Ireland due to the Gulf Stream and the sheltered bay so that you can see many subtropical trees and bushes, especially palm trees. Take a boat to Garinish Island, an island garden in the bay where plants and trees from all around the world thrive. Return to the mainland and onto Killarney where your evening is free for independent activities and dining.
OVERNIGHT: ARBUTUS HOTEL, KILLARNEY

Tue, May 18—ANNES GROVE & LAKEMOUNT GARDENS

This morning depart Killarney and travel east towards Mallow and stop to visit Annes Grove Gardens. Created by the late Richard Grove Annesley in the first half of the twentieth century. The gardens are a supreme expression of gardening in the Robinsonian manner - the interplanting of native and exotic species into a natural setting. They house a unique collection of rhododendrons which were originally raised by Mr. Annesley from seed collected by the late Frank Kingdon-Ward in Tibet and Nepal. After your visit, travel to Ballymaloe and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Next visit Lakemount Garden, nestled high above Cork, with distant views of the River Lee. This hill top garden was created over two generations and is cleverly planned so that it appears much larger than two acres. See the Millennium pond garden which links the terrace by the house to rest of the garden, and the gravel garden. It is considered a garden for all seasons due to its careful selection of plants and shrubs. Then drive a short distance to your hotel where you will have some time to relax or take a stroll before dinner at the hotel.
DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARYBOROUGH HOTEL & SPA, CORK

Wed, May 19—FOTA ARBORETUM & KILLURNEY GARDEN

Just outside Cork city to visit the Fota Arboretum and Gardens. "Fota" is derived from the Irish "Fód te" meaning warm soil - perfect for the growing and cultivation of rare trees and exotic plants. The collection was started in the middle of the 19th century by the Smith - Barry family who realized the value of the sheltered location and warm soil. See the extensive collection of trees and shrubs and features such as an Ornamental Pond, Victorian Orangery, Fernery and Walled Pleasure Gardens. Then travel northeast into County Tipperary to Killurney Garden. Set at the foot of Slievenamon, this mature garden includes rare trees and shrubs, extensive herbaceous borders, heather bed, rolling lawns and the ruins of a 16th century church. A mountain stream fills a large pond and flows between banks, featuring water loving plants and a collection of exotic ferns. After your visit, return to your hotel with time to freshen up or take a stroll before dinner.
DINNER & OVERNIGHT: MARYBOROUGH HOTEL & SPA, CORK

Thu, May 20—KILKENNY CASTLE & HEYWOOD GARDENS

Leaving Cork drive north through the towns of Cahir and past the gentle slopes of the Knockmealdown Mountains. Stop in Kilkenny to take a guided tour around Kilkenny Castle, home of the Butlers, Earls and Dukes of Ormonde. The castle was first built in 1192 and added to over the centuries. Restored to 1830's splendor, it houses wonderful paintings and furniture. Then travel north into County Laois to visit Heywood Gardens. The centerpiece of the property is the formal garden designed by the famous architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. The garden combines the base of an 18th century landscape of long vistas and ancient trees with a unique display of hidden pergolas and a sunken circular garden. The whole is surrounded by a walk with views of seven counties. Travel west to Tipperary with a stop along the way where you can enjoy a pub lunch on your own. Continue your drive stopping in Nenagh for dinner and overnight stay. You may like to take a stroll around to see the colorfully decorated shop fronts and fine 18th century townhouses.
DINNER & OVERNIGHT: ABBEY COURT HOTEL, NENAGH

Fri, May 21—BUTTERSTREAM & LEIXLIP CASTLE GARDENS

Depart Nenagh and travel through County Offaly to County Meath. Visit Butterstream Gardens, a series of garden rooms that run beside the stream that gives the property its name. They open up suddenly into a great meadow garden where two classical temples face. Board your coach and travel east toward Dublin. Stop to visit Leixlip Castle, where the Honorable Desmond Guinness has created a very pretty garden within the ancient walled enclosures of his medieval home. Mr. Guinness, whose ancestor founded the famous brewery, set up the Irish Georgian Society and is a well known writer. See the garden and enjoy tea with Mr. Guinness himself. Drive to your Dublin hotel where the afternoon is at leisure for independent activities. Tonight join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant. This evening drive to the town of Rathfarnham to The Merry Ploughboy Pub for dinner followed by a lively show of traditional Irish songs, dancing and music.
OVERNIGHT: SCHOOL HOUSE HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sat, May 22—DUBLIN HIGHLIGHTS & DILLON GARDENS

This morning set off with a local guide who will show you around the prominent historic buildings and monuments of Dublin. Stop to tour Dublin Castle to see the State Apartments where many state functions are held in the richly decorated chambers. Drive a short distance to Ranelagh to visit Helen Dillon's Garden, world renowned for its wonderful color planting and the amazing diversity of the plants. Return to your hotel with some free time before dinner.
DINNER & OVERNIGHT: SCHOOL HOUSE HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sun, May 23—RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

For reservations complete the coupon below & send it with your deposit check for \$359 per person by Nov. 13, 2009. (Includes Insurance)

Make Checks Payable to: Cruise Adventures Unlimited, 1610 Locust St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Tour Conductor: Mimi Knox, E-mail: mimi@cauttravel.com

Name(s) of passenger(s) Must Match Passport(s): _____

Number of Passengers: _____

Type of Room: Twin Single If TWIN room, provide name of roommate: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ I am enclosing a deposit check for \$ _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact : _____