

Festival Tour #5 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1 Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

Day 2 Wednesday, June 24 Dublin (D)

Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a panoramic tour of Dublin's highlights including St. Stephen's Green, Merrion Square, Liffey Footbridges, Grafton Street, Temple Bar, O'Connell Street, and Phoenix Park. Also visit Dublin Castle. Dublin Castle once functioned as a military fortress, a prison, treasury, courts of law and the seat of English Administration in Ireland for 700 years. Dublin Castle is now used for important state receptions and presidential inaugurations

Late afternoon hotel check-in
Evening dinner and overnight

Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn't before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The "boom years" came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and long history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers

Day 3 Thursday, June 25 Dublin (B,L)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Festival Welcome Lunch and entertainment at Taylors Three Rock
Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral built in honor of Ireland's patron saint. St. Patrick's is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland

Attend Evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral

Dinner, on own

Evening rehearsal

Overnight at the hotel

Day 4 Friday, June 26 Dublin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning rehearsal

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for shopping or to take part in an optional activity offered to each choir (choirs choose one)

Option 1: Excursion to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the "valley of the two lakes" harbor one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites, established in the 6th century. Here



we see the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross, and Gatehouse

Option 2: Travel north to the picturesque maritime village of Malahide for some time in the village or on the beach. Here, we will visit Malahide Castle, one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles. Return to Dublin via Howth. Howth is a fishing and yachting port, and popular suburban resort on the north side of Howth Head. Howth Head gives fine views of Dublin Bay, the Wicklow Mountains, and Boyne Valley

Option 3: Visit the Guinness Storehouse. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. Following the tour, enjoy a pint of Guinness. Continue the tour with a visit to the Teeling Whiskey Distillery, Dublin's newest whiskey distillery. Walk through the history of Dublin distilling before taking the tour of the operational distillery. Enjoy the Craft Whiskey Comparison at the ultimate taste test

Option 4: Visit the GAA Museum established to commemorate, recognize and celebrate the GAA's enormous contribution to Irish sporting, cultural and social life. Exhibits share insight into the origins of hurling, Gaelic football and the role played by the GAA in the Irish cultural revival and nationalist movement. Also take a tour of Croke Park Stadium that recreates the experience of the magic of a match day at one of the most historic and modern sporting arenas in the world. Enjoy a skyline tour at Croke Park Stadium. Ascend to a walkway 145 feet above the ground to take in views of the Irish Capital from five different viewing platforms

Dinner at the hotel

Evening rehearsal

Overnight at the hotel

Day 5 Saturday, June 27 Dublin (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour and entrance to Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university. Trinity College contains the Book of Kells, which dates from 800 AD, making it one of the oldest books in the world

Lunch, on own

Afternoon dress rehearsal with orchestra

Dinner, on own

Dublin Choral Festival Finale Concert in Christ Church Cathedral

Overnight at the hotel

Day 6 Sunday, June 28 Dublin / Cardiff (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer via ferry across the Irish Sea. Continue to Cardiff via motorcoach

Lunch, on own

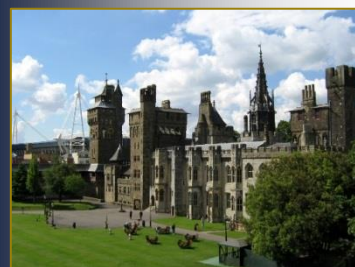
Evening dinner and overnight

Cardiff, the capital city of Wales since 1955, is one of Europe's fastest growing cities. It has developed from being a pleasant capital with a fine maritime history into a vibrant state-of-the art city with an exciting future. It is also an ancient city, and the legacy left by the Romans, Normans, and the Industrial Revolution is clearly visible

Day 7 Monday, June 29 Cardiff / Stonehenge / London (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning tour of Cardiff Castle, which stands in the very center of the city. The castle contains some of the most important historic interiors in Britain and occupies the site where a Roman fort once stood



Also visit the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's. Here, travel back in time and experience how life in Wales would have been at various stages over time
 Lunch, on own
 Transfer to London via Stonehenge, Europe's most famous prehistoric monument constructed over 5,000 years ago!
 Evening dinner and overnight

Established 1,250 years ago by King Aethelbald, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness

Day 8 Tuesday, June 30 London (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Morning at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities
 Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Afternoon tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. See Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. Also see Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the 900-year-old Tower of London
 Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9 Wednesday, July 1 London / Windsor (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Excursion to Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, which was built 900 years ago by William the Conqueror to guard the western approach to London. Today, it is England's largest castle and also the largest inhabited stronghold in the world. Highlights of the visit will be St. George's Chapel and, subject to royal commitments, the State Apartments
 Lunch, on own
 Return to London for an afternoon at leisure
 Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10 Thursday, July 2 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Transfer to one of London's airports for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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