

Ireland through the Ages

Gustavus Adolphus College Alumni Study Tour

October 2 - 13, 2017



Photo of Dingle Town on the Dingle Peninsula

Hosted by Dr. Kevin Byrne
Professor Emeritus of History

Program Highlights and Inclusions

Experience education and enrichment traveling with a community under the leadership and teaching of Dr. Kevin Byrne.



Explore Irish and Celtic culture and learn about the social, economic and political history of the breathtaking 'Emerald Isle.'



Travel on international flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Dublin, returning from Shannon on Delta Air Lines including current fuel surcharge and taxes.



Stay ten nights in superior and moderate Four-Star hotels in shared occupancy. Supplement for single accommodations available.



Savor local cuisine with 17 meals included: full Irish breakfast daily and seven dinners.



Explore Ireland with a professional, licensed Irish tour manager/guide throughout itinerary and use of audio headset system.



Enjoy the comfort of traveling in a private, deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring throughout the itinerary, along with handling of one piece of baggage in/out at hotels.

Relax knowing entrance fees are included for inside visits and activities described in itinerary along with the gratuities for tour manager, motorcoach driver and hotel/restaurant staff.



Be insured with included group travel insurance through Cultural Insurance Services International including medical evacuation coverage.

Your Program Host

Kevin Byrne taught at Gustavus Adolphus College for 40 years and is currently Professor Emeritus of History. With deep ancestral roots in Ireland and having visited the island on several occasions, Kevin subsequently offered numerous courses on Irish History during his teaching career. Three of his January Term classes traveled to Ireland to explore its past and present. Having instituted a linkage between Gustavus and University College Cork, moreover, he led in-country orientations for Gustavus students multiple times. Kevin is excited to share his fervor for Ireland's landscape and people, and he invites you to witness first-hand the forces that shaped this ancient, mystical culture which has evolved into a complex 21st century society.

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Customized Program Itinerary

Monday, October 2 MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL DEPARTURE. Leave for Dublin on Delta Air Lines flight departing mid-afternoon with connection in Atlanta.

Tuesday, October 3 DUBLIN ARRIVAL. Morning arrival in Dublin. Welcome from awaiting Irish tour manager and a private motorcoach. Drive to North County Dublin for tea or coffee and homemade scones followed by a relaxing visit to [Malahide Castle & Gardens](#), one of the oldest castles in Ireland. Enjoy a brief introduction to Ireland's capital and a break for lunch on own en route to [Ashling Hotel](#), for check-in and time to get settled for a three-night stay. Group dinner at hotel. (D)

Wednesday, October 4 DUBLIN. After breakfast, Dr. Byrne lectures on "Dublin: At the Heart of Ireland's History." After lecture, enjoy a motorcoach tour of this historic city including Georgian Dublin, passing by Parliament buildings, St. Stephens Green, Dawson Street, and the Mansion House. Walk the grounds of Trinity College featuring a visit to the Old Library to view the [Book of Kells](#). Break for lunch on own. End the tour exploring the exhibits at the [National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology](#). Free time on own until group dinner at a local pub or restaurant. (B,D)

Thursday, October 5 DUBLIN/BRU NA BOINNE VISIT. Departure early this morning to County Meath, about a one-hour drive. Arrive at Bru Na Boinne Visitor Centre for the interpretations of the Neolithic monuments of [Newgrange](#), [Knowth](#) and [Dowth](#), all older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid. Visit [Newgrange Neolithic Tomb](#). Upon return to Dublin in the early afternoon, the motorcoach makes stops in the Trinity College area and at the hotel. The remainder of the day is free time with lunch and dinner on own. (B)

Friday, October 6 DUBLIN/GLENDALOUGH/KILKENNY. Today is a memorable day traveling south into the stunning Wicklow Mountains to explore early Christian Ireland at Glendalough, a 6th century monastic settlement situated in the heart of the mountains. Discover how St. Kevin established this hermitage, which remained a monastery for 1100 years. Free time for lunch on own. Continue to Kilkenny arriving at [Kilkenny River Court Hotel](#), to check-in for a two-night stay. Dr. Byrne lectures on "Resistance, Rebellions, Revolutions" before dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Saturday, October 7 KILKENNY. This morning explore the 12th-century [Kilkenny Castle](#), a strategically important site that symbolized Anglo-Norman supremacy over the native Irish population. The castle, which possesses a rich and complex architecture, became a stronghold for the powerful Butler family and played a significant role during Cromwell's tumultuous subjugation of Ireland. Some free time for lunch on own followed by a guided visit of [Smithwick's Experience](#), a ninth generation family-owned brewery in the heart of Kilkenny in operation since 1710. Group dinner at local pub or restaurant. (B,D)

Sunday, October 8 KILKENNY/DINGLE. Leave Kilkenny for Cashel (meaning castle or fortress) to visit one of Ireland's great historical sites, the [Rock of Cashel](#), a spectacular geographical and archeological site from the 12th century. For a thousand years Cashel was the symbol of power and the base of kings and churchmen who ruled over the region. Continue through the picturesque countryside of County Kerry to Dingle Peninsula with a

stop for lunch on own en route. Arrive at [Dingle Skellig Hotel](#), for check-in to begin a two-night stay. Group dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Monday, October 9 DINGLE. This morning discover the natural beauty of the [Dingle Peninsula](#), famous for its rolling hills, sandy beaches, magnificent waterfalls and unique rock formations. Stop at Slea Head Lookout for photos. Visit the 6th century beehive huts and the [Gallarus Oratory](#), believed to be an early Christian church built between the 6th and 9th centuries. Time for a late afternoon lunch on own with the evening free to explore Dingle Town and enjoy a local pub or restaurant on own for dinner, many with live music. (B)

Tuesday, October 10 DINGLE/GALWAY. Leave Dingle traveling north along the coast to Tarbert. Travel by ferry to Killimer across the Shannon estuary. Rising up to 700 feet with a western seaboard expanse of five miles is the impressive [Cliffs of Moher](#). In the visitor centre, view the Atlantic Experience presentation explaining the history of the cliffs. Lunch on own during a stop en route. Journey through [the Burren](#), an area of split and weathered limestone and home to dozens of megalithic tombs, cairns and holy wells. In the process, consider reasons why the west of Ireland was a source of significant emigration to other lands. Arrive into Galway for check-in at [Galway Bay Hotel](#) to get settled in for two-night stay. This evening Dr. Byrne lectures on "Crisis and Emigration: the Irish Diaspora." Group dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Wednesday, October 11 VISIT TO ARAN ISLANDS. Full day excursion to the [Aran Islands](#) where the Irish (Gaelic) language is still spoken by native islanders along with English. Discover the landscape, traditions and culture of these harsh but stunningly beautiful Atlantic isles. Take the ferry (subject to weather conditions) from Rossaveal to Kilronan on Inishmore. Travel in small groups on local mini-buses around the island to the ancient fort, [Dun Aengus](#). Explore the visitor centre and then walk to the top of the hill to take in the panoramic views overlooking the Atlantic and the Burren in the distance. Return to Kilronan for lunch on own and time to visit the [Heritage Centre](#) including a viewing of the 1934 film "Man of Aran," a romantic depiction of life on these rugged islands. Return to Galway area for evening at leisure with dinner on own. (B)

Thursday, October 12 GALWAY CITY. After breakfast, Dr. Byrne lectures on "Making All Things Irish." Morning walking tour of [Galway's historic town centre](#) including Eyre Square, the Spanish Arch, and the Claddagh, birthplace of the celebrated Claddagh ring. These sites will help us appreciate Galway's crucial historic role in Irish social, economic and political history. Afternoon is free for lunch on own, leisure time and individual exploration. Late afternoon departure for the one hour drive to Ennis and check-in to the [Temple Gate Hotel](#) before farewell dinner this evening. (B,D)

Friday, October 13 SHANNON DEPARTURE. After breakfast, leave Ennis this morning on the short drive to Shannon airport for a Delta Air Lines flight to New York/JFK, connecting flight to Minneapolis-St. Paul arriving early evening. (B)

*Included meals: B=Breakfast, D=Dinner
Itinerary subject to adjustments when finalized.
[Use website links in blue for more information.](#)*

Passport, Health, Insurance and Travel Information

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at the [U.S. Department of State website](#). There are no vaccination or visa requirements for U.S. citizens to enter Ireland. Consult with your physician and utilize the information on Travelers' Health on the [Centers for Disease Control website](#) for advised precautions.

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and any visa requirements for the countries visited and must travel with a permanent resident card or other documentation to re-enter the U.S. Without proper documents, entry could be denied at participant's expense.

For international travel information including country specific background, travel alerts and travel warnings, refer to the U.S. State Department: www.state.gov/travel/.

Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance included in cost covers evacuation and major medical as described in Statement of Conditions. Cancellation insurance and coverage for pre-existing medical conditions is not included and highly recommended for health situations that may prevent you from traveling or interrupt your travels.

Travel Guard is recommended as a reliable provider of travel cancellation insurance. Access insurance options using this link to [Travel Guard](#) and completing a worksheet with your personal details. For questions about coverage, call Travel Guard at 800-826-4919 and use agency referral number 14847980 for Seminars International. When purchasing insurance, thoroughly read the coverage to ensure it meets your needs. Purchasing travel insurance within 15 days of enrollment may waive pre-existing medical conditions.

Travelers are required to walk significant distances including uneven surfaces, steps and inclines during parts of the itinerary. Consult with Seminars International or your tour leadership if you have concerns or questions about the amount and level of walking required to fully participate.

For travel and destination information, click these links: [Tourism Ireland](#) and [Heritage Ireland](#)

Further Information

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Registration

To secure registration, you must complete the enrollment form **and** pay the required deposit. You need passport details (unless applying for a passport) and emergency contact information to properly fill out the enrollment form.

Step 1: \$600 deposit due immediately to secure registration. Make check payable and mail to Seminars International, 55 E. Monroe, Suite 2870, Chicago, IL 60603. Please add **Tour# 4831** to the memo portion of your check

Payment is available by credit card at <http://www.semint.com/payments.html> or by calling 800.541.7506.

A 3% service fee is added to all credit card transactions.

Step 2: If this is an electronic brochure, click below to fill out one enrollment form per person. The **T# is 4831**. A printed copy of the enrollment form is also available by contacting Jeaneen Lincoln at 800-541-7506 or jeaneen@semint.com. Deposit payment must be received within 10 days of completing enrollment form to maintain your registration. **A letter of confirmation is emailed after receipt of both the deposit and the enrollment form.** If program is full upon submitting enrollment form, you will be notified.

Passport Name: Complete this form with your **full name exactly as it appears on your passport**. Include your middle name or initial plus any suffix (Jr., Sr., or III) exactly as printed on your passport. If you do not have a passport at this time, enter your name exactly as it will appear on the passport. There may be a fee for any name changes.

**If this is an electronic brochure,
click here for link to enrollment form.**

Note: If you need an electronic brochure, email travel@semint.com and reference **T# 4831**.

Program Cost

\$4,450 from Minneapolis/St. Paul

Supplement for single accommodations - \$625
Limited availability of single accommodations.

Land program only cost - \$3,475
(This is cost without airfare and limited number are available).

This comprehensive cost includes airline ticket taxes/fuel surcharge of \$415, gratuities and CISI group insurance (approx. \$75 value).

These costs are often not packaged into other travel programs and instead listed as additional costs in the fine print.

Program cost based on a group size of 33 and will increase if group size is smaller.

Statement of Conditions

Program cost and minimum number group size: \$4,450.00, based on a group size of 33 participants. **\$4,645.00** based on a group size of 28-32. Program cost, including land only cost, will increase if group size is smaller. *Cost based on exchange rates and tariffs in effect as of November 28, 2016 subject to change in the event that there is a fluctuation of more than 4%.*

Air transportation included in cost: From Minneapolis/St. Paul to Dublin, returning from Shannon on currently confirmed airfare by Delta Air Lines, subject to restrictions and cancellation penalties by the airline; current taxes and surcharges of \$415.00 are included and subject to change until ticketed.

Surface travel and transfers: By private, deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring plus handling of one piece of baggage in/out of hotels.

Accommodations and meals: Shared occupancy at hotels listed in itinerary or similar as hotels subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Single accommodations supplement is \$625.00 and limited. Full Irish breakfast daily, and seven dinners for a total of 17 meals as indicated in the itinerary. Upon request, Seminars International and sponsor/host(s) will try to pair participants traveling as a single with a roommate. There is no guarantee of a roommate and if one is not available, the single supplement is assessed at time of invoice. Some hotels provide a smaller room size for single occupancy.

Program arrangements: English-speaking professional tour manager upon arrival in Dublin and throughout Ireland; use of audio headsets; inside visits described in itinerary include entrance fees or donations as needed; gratuities for tour manager/guides, motorcoach drivers, and hotel/restaurant wait staff. Note: Participants with special needs may incur surcharges for additional services. Handicap accessibility varies significantly from country to country.

Deposit and payment schedule: \$600 per participant due to secure enrollment no later than **June 2, 2017 as long as space is available.** A waiting list is maintained when registrations exceed 35. **Full payment due July 18, 2017.** Upon receipt of enrollment and deposit, a confirmation of registration is sent by Seminars International via email. Any payments by credit card incur an additional 3% to cover merchant fees. Invoices are sent in advance of final payment.

Group insurance: The following Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance coverage is included for each participant. **This insurance does not include individual trip cancellation and pre-existing medical condition coverage, additional insurance is highly recommended.**

Schedule of Benefits Policy # GLM N0496486A

Coverage and Services Maximum Limits:

- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Per Insured Person \$10,000.
- Medical expenses (per Covered Accident or Sickness).
- Deductible zero.
- Basic Medical \$100,000 at 100%.
- Home Country Coverage Limit \$10,000.
- Emergency Medical Reunion \$3,000.
- Team Assist Plan (TAP): 24/7 medical, travel, technical assistance.
- Emergency Medical Evacuation 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Repatriation/Return of Mortal Remains 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Security Evacuation (Comprehensive) \$100,000.
- Trip delay of \$100 per day to a maximum of \$500/5 days if delayed more than 12 hours.

Click here to access further information on travel insurance.

Trip delay: In the unforeseen circumstance your program experiences travel delays and unexpected expenses are incurred, Seminars International will invoice participants for any additional costs associated with the delay minus the \$100 per day CISI trip delay coverage, if qualified. Obtaining additional travel insurance as recommended on page three may offset these expenses.

Cancellation and refund policy: Should cancellation occur prior

to March 29, 2017, the initial deposit will be refunded less a \$100 fee per person. In addition to airline penalties, the following specified costs are non-refundable: **March 30 - June 30, 2017 = half of deposit; July 1 - July 14, 2017 = full deposit; July 15 - August 30, 2017 = 50% of program price; after August 30, 2017 = recoverable costs only (possible forfeiture of entire program cost); cancellations received after August 30, 2017 will receive no refund. Cancellations must be submitted in writing; the date such notification is received by Seminars International, Inc. is the cancellation date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

Leadership: The person(s) identified as the leader/host is subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Seminars International. In the unlikelyhood of a change in leadership, a qualified replacement will be selected by the sponsoring organization or previous leader. Seminars International will operate the program as planned and is not responsible for the change in leadership. The cancellation and refund policy remain as stated.

Exclusions: Items not listed above, including but not limited to meals other than those indicated; beverages except at breakfast; baggage handling at airports; optional entertainment and excursions; any baggage charges; all personal items, such as telephone calls, laundry expenses, individual room service; cancellation insurance; non-tour related gratuities; passport fees; increases in air ticket taxes or fuel surcharge; increases in VAT or city/hotel taxes.

Management and responsibility: Seminars International (SI) acts only as an agent and neither SI nor any employee or appointee nor any other person, party or organization or agency collaborating with it is or shall be responsible or liable for any injury or loss, accident or damage, delay or deviation or curtailment, howsoever caused or arising or the consequences thereof, which may occur during any part of the travel or program or during such free time as the members may elect to spend independently on the program. The airlines or commercial carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any acts, omissions, or events during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contracts in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this program and/or passenger.

Deviations policy: Some participants may wish to extend their stay, originate or deplane from different cities or purchase the land program only. Early flight departure on group airfare is not permitted. Every effort will be made to assist program participants within the rules of the group air contract for a \$100 per person service charge, plus any additional charges levied by the airline or other supplier. Once the deviation has been booked, any changes may incur additional costs. Please note you are purchasing a group program and any deviation from the program arrangements requires staff time not calculated in the program cost. No refund may be granted to participants who wish to omit portions of the itinerary. **All deviation requests must be submitted in writing by June 23, 2017.**

Seminars International

Seminars International, with over four decades of experience crafting faith-based, educational, performing arts and special interest programs on seven continents, is proud of a proven record in providing attention to detail, safety, security, creativity and value. Our services allow leaders to focus on the purpose and goals of their program while we take care of the travel logistics, providing peace of mind from beginning to end.

Custom Design - We design customized international programs sensitive to the needs and interests of a group while focusing on value and affordability.

Pre-Departure - Our services include customized travel e-packets and tour literature focusing on being prepared and responsible travelers.

While Abroad - Along with our Chicago-based team, our network of on-the-ground international partners and CISI Team Assist are prepared 24/7 to provide support and assistance, particularly with an emergency situation.

Program Evaluation - Upon return we invite you to complete an evaluation to share feedback on how we may enhance your experience in the future.