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Fall Break in Ireland

October 4-13, 2024



A travel/study program for 8th grade and high school honors students and interested adults



WKU The Center for Gifted Studies
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Fall Break in Ireland

This program is an opportunity for eighth grade and high school honors students and interested adults to spend eight days learning about the history, culture, and people of Ireland. Sponsored by The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University, the program provides a carefully structured experience. Twenty-five qualified applicants will be accompanied by the program director.

Application

All travelers must be able to participate in everyday physical activities. Student applicants also must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment in 8th-12th grade;
- Involvement in high school honors or gifted services; and
- A recommendation from a teacher, counselor, principal, or gifted and talented coordinator if traveling without an adult.

Apply at wku.edu/gifted/travel or scan the QR code at right.

A nonrefundable \$500 deposit and passport-sized photograph will need to be uploaded when you apply. Passport expiration must not be within 6 months of travel. The deposit is not refundable.

NOTE: The group is capped at 25; eligible participants will be admitted in the order in which applications are received. The deposit will be returned if the tour reaches capacity.



Cost

The program cost of \$4,900 includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Nashville, TN;
- Accommodations in double rooms (an adult may request a single room for an additional charge);
- Breakfast each day at the hotel;
- Admission to historic sites, museums, and other points of interest listed on the itinerary; and
- Travel by motor coach for excursions.

NOTE: Cost is subject to change should there be changes in airfares, monetary exchange rates, or service costs. The itinerary is subject to minor changes in daily activities.

Payment schedule

- \$500 deposit and a passport-sized photo are due with application
- \$2,200 due August 1, 2024
- \$2,200 due September 1, 2024

Itinerary

Friday, October 4

Depart Nashville for Ireland.

Saturday, October 5

Arrive in Dublin and meet our guide. Depart by motor coach for **Newgrange and Knowth** to visit the prehistoric graves built more than 5,000 years ago. Return to Dublin to visit **Kilmainham Gaol**, which housed many involved in the fight for Irish independence. Check in at our hotel in the late afternoon.

Sunday, October 6

Attend church services at historic **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, Ireland's largest church. After lunch, take a walking tour of **Trinity College**, founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I. Visit the Old Library of the

College, which houses the **Book of Kells**, the richly decorated medieval manuscript containing the four gospels in Latin. End the day strolling along **O'Connell Street** to see the monuments to Irish patriots.

Monday, October 7

Leave Dublin for **Glendalough**, the "valley of the two lakes," to tour the site of the monastic settlement founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Travel on to **Kilkenny** for lunch and time to stroll through the town before heading to **Waterford**, the oldest city in Ireland. End the day with a tour of the **House of Waterford**, the manufacturing center for the famous crystal.

Tuesday, October 8

Travel from Waterford to visit the **Rock of Cashel**. This rocky stronghold was a symbol of royal and priestly power for more than

1,000 years. Leave Cashel for **Cobh**, a small town that has one of the world's largest natural harbors. After lunch, visit the **Cobh Heritage Centre** to learn about the part Cobh played in the Irish emigration and the transport of convicts and as a port of call for transatlantic liners including the Titanic and the Lusitania. Travel from Cobh to the town of **Killarney** where we will spend the night. En route



to Killarney, stop to visit the remains of **Blarney Castle** and kiss the **Blarney Stone**.

Wednesday, October 9

Leave Killarney for an all-day excursion to some of the most beautiful countryside in Ireland. Spend the morning in **Killarney National Park** going first to see **Torc Waterfall** and then visiting **Muckross House and Traditional Farms** located on the shores of Muckross Lake. In the afternoon travel to the Dingle Peninsula and follow the famous **Slea Head Drive** to see some of Ireland's wildest natural beauty and most ancient Christian sites. Return to Killarney for the evening.

Thursday, October 10

Depart Killarney for Shannon to visit **Bunratty Castle & Folk Park**. The castle has been restored to its original 16th century state. The Folk Park is a recreation of rural and village life in the 1800s. In the afternoon travel to the coast to see the breathtaking

Cliffs of Moher that rise to 690 feet and extend 5 miles down the coast. Leaving the black shale and limestone of the cliffs, travel east through a vast limestone plateau called the **Burren**. Few trees grow here, but the area is noted for an array of plants that grow in crevices of the limestone. Spend the night in Galway.

Friday, October 11

Travel west from Galway into **Connemara**, a wild region encompassing bogs, mountains, and rugged coastline. At the town of **Clifden**, take the **Sky Road** that has splendid views of the mountains and Clifden Bay. Travel to **Letterfrack** for a visit to **Connemara National Park**, famous for its mountains, boglands, lakes, and wildlife. In the afternoon, visit **Kylemore Abbey** and its Victorian walled gardens. Head to **Cong**, a picturesque village on Lough Corrib. Return to Galway to spend the night.

Saturday, October 12

Leave Galway for Dublin. En route, visit **Clonmacnoise**, a medieval monastery on the Shannon River. The monastery thrived from the 7th century until it fell to the English in 1552. Leave for Dublin, arriving in the early afternoon. Spend the rest of the day shopping, sightseeing and packing.

Sunday, October 13

Depart Dublin and return to Nashville.

