

ITINERARY
BIRDING PLUS
IRELAND IN FALL: BIRDS, TRADITIONAL MUSIC & PUBS
November 1-11, 2018



*After a hard day of birding around the gorgeous Irish countryside, we'll be ready to head for a pub, and a night filled with music!
Photograph by guide Karen McEneaney.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Our goal on this tour is to show you Ireland as the Irish know it—to meet its people, take in the culture, visit unique pubs, listen to outstanding traditional Irish music—while at the same time sampling Ireland's wintering and resident birds as we travel the eastern half of the Emerald Isle. The tour begins and ends in Dublin, and there is no better introduction to Ireland. Irish pubs are the cultural center of the Irish community—where you will hear stories, jokes, history, poetry, music, and malarkey—so a tour of Ireland that doesn't include the pubs is not a tour of Ireland at all. We'll visit a variety of pubs throughout the tour.

By early November many of the fall tourists have departed and the many thousands of boreal migrants that winter in Ireland have begun to return, including Whooper Swans and Greylag Geese from Iceland, Greater White-fronted from Greenland, and countless Brant from Arctic islands and coasts. And while Ireland is no birding hotspot, the sheer number of birds you see is impressive, particularly shorebirds (Redshanks, Lapwings, Black-tailed Godwits, Curlews, Oystercatchers, European Golden Plovers), gulls (Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed, and Common), ducks (Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal, Greater Scaup, Tufted Duck), and corvids (Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Eurasian Magpie).

Upon arrival in Dublin, we'll head north toward the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, Armagh City, Northern Ireland. Our first cultural stop, if weather permits, will be Newgrange (a Neolithic ancient passage tomb and "World Heritage Site" older than the pyramids of Egypt). While north of Dublin, we'll also visit Keady (a major focal point of Irish music), and bird the grounds of a beautiful Irish castle, Belfast (with a dark history, it is now a progressive city), and the picturesque eastern Ireland coastline, including Dundalk Bay and Clogher Head, noted for coastal birds. The tides are fickle along the coast, so we will take our chances as we bird this exciting coast.

On the second half of the journey, we'll travel south of Dublin along the Wicklow coast and the edge of the Wicklow Mountains to the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve in the Wexford Slob, one of the best wintering areas in southern Ireland for Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose and other wildfowl. We'll also visit some special birding areas and Irish pubs near the historic towns of Wexford, Waterford, Dungarvan, and Cobh. Last but not least, we'll make some brief stops along "the rocky road to Dublin" and end up in that famed city, home of countless pubs and music venues. There will be personal time allotted to visit either Trinity College (where one can view the Irish masterpiece called the *Book of Kells* and the astonishing book collection in the "Long Room" that houses some of Ireland's most ancient manuscripts), the Ireland national museums (e.g. National Museum of Ireland-Natural History), or time for shopping (lunch is on your own this day).

One of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, Dublin is a sea of friendly people. We'll take in the sights and sounds of the city while doing a bit of pub-hopping. We end the trip with a great pub "sessun" (pronounced session), one of many throughout the tour, and a farewell dinner in Dublin. We'll put our heads together to make sure we all go home with the same lies we have been telling during the trip. As the Irish say "there is a lot of truth to the lies you have been telling."

We hope you'll be able to join guides Terry and Karen McEaney in November 2016 to partake of that wonderful Gaelic spirit defined by the word "craic" (pronounced crack), meaning fun, Irish style!



*An evening at Tossie's Cottage is one of the musical highlights of a tour filled with them.
Photograph by guide Terry McEaney.*

About the Pace & Purpose: This "*Birding Plus*" tour connects birding with traditional music and other facets of Irish cultural life. Daily routines—birding reserves, refuges, and coastal bays and estuaries, visiting an array of historical sites, touring Dublin and Belfast—will be relaxed and flexible, as we provide opportunities to see birds well (especially from hides), indulge your own particular cultural interests, and take advantage of your guides' expertise. Our evenings

engaging in pub culture will be carefully arranged and often magical. *As most traditional music sessions don't begin until around 9:00-9:30 p.m. and often end around midnight, we will try to schedule time to rest before we go out for the night.*

Although we'll seek out many of the birds of the Emerald Isle, we'll be visiting during the late autumn when some species have migrated south, and so listing most of Ireland's birds is not the goal of the tour. Expect to see impressive numbers of resident and wintering non-passerines (especially waterfowl and shorebirds), as well as numerous resident and a few wintering passerines; we should wind up with a bird list approaching 100 species. The walking is easy and rarely more than a mile or two each day. Our travel distances vary, but though a day's journey may not look far on the map, it may still take a fair amount of time in the coach because of the many historic towns and winding roads we'll encounter.

We'll have hearty breakfasts and hefty lunches, depending on our music schedule, but we'll be enjoying lighter fare or "pub food" at dinner—often catered to our liking. "Birding Plus" tours like this one not only expand the birder's horizons, but for those who have non-birding spouses along, they create common experiences couples can share, and they may well enlarge those spouses' understanding of the birding life—God forbid, convert them!

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with your guides for the tour.

About the Birding Areas, the Music, Pubs, and Culture



This tour is designed to combine birds, music, pubs, and culture. Our birding will take us to some of the best wintering sites in Ireland—Belfast Lough, Dundalk Bay, Wexford Slobbs, and Cobh. Your guides will emphasize the connections among birds, birding, and culture. Rest assured this is not your typical canned Irish American tour; this is one of the most authentic Irish tours in existence. We seek out superb traditional Irish music and have sessions and or unique pub experiences arranged. Our coach driver is a knowledgeable source of information regarding Irish history and culture, and his witty delivery will keep us thoroughly amused as we travel the Emerald Isle.

The pubs are the key to experiencing traditional Irish culture. We have arranged local musical talent and will make visits to special pubs, hotels, bars, and farmhouses. This is the perfect trip to experience the Irish and their culture. We'll do it all—birds, sightseeing, instrumental music, Irish songs and ballads, pubs, poetry, storytelling, museums, history, people, and laughter.

*Come with me to a green land of laughter and legend
Where there's rest for the body and peace for the soul.*

Itinerary for Ireland in Fall: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs

Days 1-2, Thu-Fri, 1-2 Nov. Flights from the US to Dublin; to Monaghan. Most flights depart the US in the evening, arriving in Ireland the following morning. There are direct flights to Dublin from Chicago, Boston, New Jersey, and New York. Your guides will meet you in the "welcoming area" just outside of Customs in the Dublin Airport. We recommend coming in a day early to avoid jet lag issues. We plan to depart by bus for Monaghan no later than 10:00 a.m. If you wish to arrive in Dublin early (which most of us will do) to rest up after the long flight, we will be happy to confirm a room for you at our airport area hotel. (For those staying at the Dublin Airport Holiday Inn Express, you may either meet us in the hotel lobby no later than 9:30 a.m. on 2 November for transport to the airport, or meet us at the airport by 10:00 a.m., as planned, in the welcoming area described above. The hotel offers a free shuttle to the airport. *If you are returning a rental car to the airport to meet the group, be sure to allow plenty of time for the snarling Dublin traffic!*) We highly suggest staying at the Holiday Inn Express (Dublin airport) the night before the tour begins for several reasons: it ensures everyone has arrived and are rested; Santry Park-across the street is an excellent gem of a birding area-and we will bird this area the morning prior to departing on the small bus; and it offers inexpensive public transportation to Dublin.

Once we leave the Holiday Inn Express/Dublin airport we will do some casual birding en route as we head for the Neolithic archeological site of Newgrange. We'll casually bird the Irish countryside from the Irish Republic into Northern Ireland. Birds for the day will include: European, many corvids (Rook, Eurasian Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Eurasian Magpie), Black-headed Gulls, and perhaps a few raptors. En route we'll stop for a delicious lunch and look for new birds to add to the birdlist. We also have a planned in stop in the small friendly town of Keady, County Armagh, N. Ireland (with a special treat of seldom visited by tourists and yet one of the hidden centers of Irish music). This is a famous Irish music area of Ireland—and home of Sarah Makem noted for saving hundreds of traditional Irish music ballads. Keady, Ireland is also the hometown of Irish music legend Tommy Makem, son of Sarah Makem, also known as the “godfather of Irish music” who traveled the world with the Clancy Brothers singing Irish songs. A pub stop here in Keady is in order. After our Keady stop we will end up in Monaghan (or Monaghan City) and have a large dinner, we will experience a traditional music session in a nearby local Monaghan pub. Night in Monaghan.

*There's one fair County in Ireland, with memories so glorious and grand
Where nature has lavished its bounty, it's the orchard of Erin's green land.*



Emain Macha otherwise known as Navan Fort. This is one of the most spiritual sites to the Irish in all of Ireland; the spirits come alive here. Emain Macha is located on a drumlin, a sand hill formed by moving a glacier, and made into a round fort made out of logs. This is a pagan sacrificial site and was burned to the ground by ancient peoples on many occasions. Today, most of these drumlin sites have cathedrals built on them. Photograph by guide Terry McEneaney.

Day 3, Sat, 3 Nov. Exploring County Monaghan and County Armagh. After breakfast we'll do both birding and sightseeing centered around Glaslough (County Monaghan) and Armagh City (County Armagh). The spiritual capital of Ireland for 1500 years and the seat of both Protestant and Catholic archbishops, Armagh is the most venerated of Irish cities. St. Patrick called it “my sweet hill” and built his stone church on the hill where the castle-looking Anglican cathedral now stands. On the opposite hill, the twin-spired Catholic cathedral (built in 1840) is flanked by two large marble archbishops who look mildly across town. We will cruise only by these sites to expedite time.

Later in the day we will visit the principal archaeological site in Northern Ireland and one of the most spiritual places in all of Ireland, known as Navan Fort and also called Emain Macha. This was the site of primitive homes and a huge Druid-like sacrificial wooden temple during both the Iron and Bronze Ages. Then we'll explore and bird one of the prettiest active Irish castles in Ireland (Castle Leslie, Glaslough, Monaghan County). Expected birds for today include a number of resident passerines that would enliven a casual walk around any town or countryside: Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Goldcrest, Blue, Coal, and Great tits for starters.

As daylight turns into darkness, we'll have the rare treat of experiencing a very unique Irish “sessun,” a music performance for friends and relatives in a country farmhouse known only to the locals as Tossey's Cottage (located in the small pastoral town of Derrynoose). In our eyes this is one of the highlights of experiencing traditional Irish music in Ireland, and the sessun house known as Tossey's is considered by many to be the “one of the last bastions of traditional Irish music in modern day Ireland”. The Makem family, related to your guides, has graciously invited us to a night of laughter, song, storytelling/poetry, music, banter, and craic (fun). Hopefully it will leave memories of grand craic etched in your mind forever, like it has for so many people. Night in Monaghan.

*Come by the hills to the land where legends remain,
Where stories of old fill the head and may yet come again.*

Day 4, Sun, 4 Nov. Belfast City. After breakfast this morning, we'll head for Belfast (Northern Ireland). Species we'll seek to see include: Common Goldeneye, Whooper Swan, Eurasian Teal, Gray Heron, White Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, European Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Greenfinch, and the harder to find species such as Bullfinch, Eurasian Jay, Redwing, and Fieldfare.

Belfast (from the Irish Béal Feirste, meaning "sandy ford at river mouth") is the capital of Northern Ireland. With a population of almost 300,000, it is the largest urban area in Northern Ireland and the province of Ulster and the second largest city on the island of Ireland. Situated on Ireland's eastern coast, it is flanked to the northwest by a series of hills, including Cavehill, which is thought to be the inspiration for Jonathan Swift's novel, *Gulliver's Travels*.

Belfast is located at the western end of Belfast Lough and at the mouth of the River Lagan, making it an ideal location for the shipbuilding industry that once made it famous. When the Titanic was built in Belfast in 1912, Harland and Wolff had the largest shipyard in the world. The city saw the worst of The Troubles in Ireland, with nearly half of the total deaths in the conflict occurring there. However, since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, there has been significant urban regeneration. Queen's University of Belfast is the main university in the city, and the University of Ulster also maintains a campus here.

The birding highlight of the afternoon will be the Belfast Harbour RSPB Reserve, which features Greylag Goose, Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Snipe, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed godwits, European Herring Gull, Brant, Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew, and Reed Bunting among others. If we're lucky, we might have a Water Rail emerge from the reeds to promenade before us. We have to quench our thirst at perhaps "the prettiest Irish pub in the world," a rare Victorian pub. We'll arrive back at our hotel in the late afternoon in time to relax before dinner. This will be our only night of rest on the tour, but for those with an attitude of no rest for the weary, a traditional Irish music session in a pub is planned. Night in Monaghan.

*She is handsome, she is pretty, she's the belle of Belfast City.
She is courting one, two, three, please will you tell me who is she?*

Day 5, Mon, 5 Nov. To Wexford. After breakfast this morning we'll head for Wexford. This is one of our biggest travel days. We'll spend much of the day simply traveling, passing through some amazing coastal and mountain landscapes. Our route includes the beautiful east coast of Ireland, including areas such as Dundalk Harbor and Bay and Clogher Head, watching for shorebirds, gulls, loons, and sea ducks, and then continues along the Wicklow Coast to Arklow and to the town of Wexford, the capital of County Wexford. Some of the birds we'll be watching for (among other species) include Common Ringed Plover, Red Knot, European Stonechat, Dunnock, Eurasian Linnet, Great Black-backed and Lesser Black-backed gulls, Reed Bunting, and Yellowhammer.

Wexford is set in the heart of Ireland's sunny southeast. This old and historic town beside the sea owes its origins and early development to Celtic and Viking influences and Norman settlements. County Wexford is in the southeastern corner of the country, with a long coastline on both the Irish and Celtic seas. On the north it is bounded by the hills of County Wicklow and on the west by the River Barrow and the Blackstairs Mountains. Its fertile central plain is watered by the River Slaney. Wexford's history goes back to pre-Christian times, but above all, the county is rich in memories of the 1798 Rising, when insurgent pikemen fought heroically against overwhelming odds. Wexford's name derives from Waesfjoed, a Norse word meaning estuary of mud flats. We'll get into Wexford around dark. After dinner this evening, we'll stroll the town with a traditional Irish music session planned for 0930pm. Night in Wexford.

*Where the past has been lost and the future has still to be won,
And the cares of tomorrow must wait till this day is done.*



*The beloved European Robin is found throughout Ireland.
Photograph by guide John Rowlett.*

Day 6, Tue, 6 Nov. Wexford and Rosslare. After breakfast we'll visit one of the best sites for wintering birds in Ireland, the Wexford Slobs, where we will spend several hours birding the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. Wexford Slobs are considered one of the highlights of a fall birding tour of Ireland. The unusual word "slobs" is slang for sloppy mudflats formed in an estuary by fine silted materials. Today some of the slobs proper are well preserved and below sea level due to a man-made sea wall, making it an attractive place for wintering birdlife. The North Slob is the birthplace of the Guinness Book of Records; in 1951, a representative from Guinness, while hunting the slobs, wagered that the European Golden Plover was Europe's fastest gamebird and won the wager, thus forming an official book or record.

We'll also make stops at Wexford Harbor, Lady's Island Lake and if time permits, Rosslare Harbor. Birds we hope to see today include: Common Raven, Greater White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Common Kingfisher, Eurasian Treecreeper, Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Widgeon, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Tree Sparrow, and Gray Wagtail. We'll stroll the town of Wexford and visit another unique Irish pub for a music session planned at 0930pm. Night in Wexford.

*Come to the hills, to a land where fancy is free,
Where the peaks meet the sky, and the loughs meets the sea.
Where the rivers run clear, and the bracken is gold in the sun,
And the cares of tomorrow must wait, til this day is done.*

Day 7, Wed, 7 Nov. Waterford. This morning we will look for birds at two totally different areas: the North Slob and Ravenwood. Later we will return to Wexford Harbor and then head south along the east coast to County Waterford with stops at Dunmore East, Woodstown Beach, and Passage East if time permits. Our emphasis from this point on will center on birds not yet encountered; perhaps we will get lucky and find Purple Sandpiper, Grey Wagtail, Rock Pipit, Northern Fulmar and Gannet. We'll arrive in Waterford city in the late afternoon.

Waterford is the primary city of the Southeast region and the fifth largest in the country. Founded in 914 AD by the Vikings, it is Ireland's oldest city and one that retains its Viking-derived name, Vedrarfjord, meaning "Ram fjord" or Windy fjord. Reginald's Tower, Waterford's most recognizable landmark, is the oldest urban civic building in Ireland, and the oldest monument to retain its Viking name. The tower is believed to be the first building in Ireland to use mortar. Waterford is synonymous with Waterford crystal, a legacy of one of the city's oldest industries, which has now sadly been moved to Eastern Europe. We'll take a break after dinner, and go to a very small pub for a night of grand craic. Night in Waterford.

*Farewell my lovely Dinah, a thousand times adieu,
We are sailing away from the holy ground and the girls we all love true.*



*Jackdaws, like these two perched at the Rock of Cashel, will be familiar presences at many sites we will visit.
Photograph by participant Mary Lou Barritt.*

Day 8, Thu, 8 Nov. Cobh. Following breakfast we'll head for County Cork. We'll spend the day birding and exploring Dungarvan Bay and Cobh (pronounced cove). Target birds today include Little Grebe, Shelduck, Common Gull, and perhaps Red-throated Loon and Shag. Cobh is interesting in many ways—there's good birding; it's the site of the great ship liners and the last stop of the Titanic before its fateful voyage in 1912; and the Lusitania was torpedoed nearby in 1915.

Once known as Queenstown under English rule, it reverted to its old Irish name in 1922—the Cobh of Cork. Is there anywhere in Ireland so full of poignant memories than this embarkation point for America? From here, hundreds of thousands of mostly hungry and penniless Irish men and women left to build a new life, especially during the Great Hunger years of 1844-48. Many thrived and prospered, but many died on the journey in the terrible traveling conditions of the time.

Cobh is perhaps the prettiest large coastal town in Ireland, because it was built on the side of a hill. Tonight we will rest after dinner, then go to a very special Irish music session lined up at a quaint pub located just outside of town. Night in Waterford.

One, two, three four, five, Hunt the Hare and turn her down the rocky road and all the way to Dublin, Whack follol de rah!

Day 9, Fri, 9 Nov. Dublin. After breakfast we'll head for the rock fortress known as the Rock of Cashel, one of Ireland's most spectacular archaeological sites. Then we'll head back to Dublin with the aim of arriving early enough to take in an afternoon music session. We have a special pub and dinner lined up tonight, one you will never forget. After dinner, your guides will be available for pub hopping should the need arise. For those staying out late, a taxi is recommended and will be arranged by Field Guides, and if it is an Irish driver it can be an experience that will not be forgotten. Night in Dublin.

*Alive Alive O, Alive Alive O, Crying cockles and mussels Alive Alive O
In Dublin's fair City where the girls are so pretty, it was there that I first met Miss Molly Malone.*



*Guides Terry and Karen McEneaney enjoying a glass on a recent Field Guides tour.
Photograph by participant Geraldine Shannon.*

mid afternoon, we'll search out a session and/or do some local pub hopping for those interested. We have a delicious farewell dinner planned for this evening in a local pub! Night in Dublin.

So fill to me a parting glass. Good night and joy be with you all.

Day 11, Sun, 11 Nov. Departure for home. Most flights back to the US depart in the morning, arriving by mid-afternoon; we will arrange transfers to the airport in groups as long as your flight departs between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If your flight is significantly earlier or later, we can arrange a taxi for you (about \$20.00). Slan abhaile! Have a safe trip home!

Day 10, Sat, 10 Nov. Dublin. Today we will begin the day with a cultural tour of Dublin City. Dub-lin is a Viking term and essentially means "black pool." From the Irish, Baile Átha Cliath, meaning Town of the Hurdled Ford, Dublin is both the largest city and the capital of the Republic of Ireland. It is located near the midpoint of Ireland's east coast, at the mouth of the River Liffey and at the center of the Dublin region. Founded as a Viking settlement, it has been Ireland's primary city for most of the island's history since medieval times. Today, it is an economic, administrative, and cultural center and has one of the fastest growing populations of any European capital.

Part of this afternoon, including lunch, you will be on your own to explore the city. You may want to look in on the Trinity College Library and perhaps the Natural History Museum, do some shopping, or visit a pub. In

About Your Guides

Terry McEneaney is a dual citizen of both the US and Ireland. He recently retired as ornithologist for Yellowstone National Park, where he was known for his vast knowledge and experience of the park and of the Greater Yellowstone area. Prior to coming to Yellowstone, he was biologist at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most prestigious, remote, and beautiful refuges in the NWR system. He has authored three books (*Birds of Yellowstone*, *The Uncommon Loon*, and *Birding Montana*) and is a former member of both the Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC) and the Wyoming BRC. He has also written numerous scientific and popular articles, appeared in magazine articles in *National Geographic*, *Birding*, *North American Birds*, and *Smithsonian*, and has been field consultant and cinematographer guide for Nature, the BBC, the National Geographic Society, and Audubon. In addition, he teaches annual bird workshops to Yellowstone tour guides and Yellowstone National Park rangers. Terry has developed a number of western itineraries for Field Guides over the years, and his guiding skills have been featured in the book *Fifty Places to Go Birding Before You Die*. He has close ties to the Emerald Isle, a country he loves to visit and to bird; he has added spring and fall *Birding Plus* tours to our schedule featuring a mix of birding and Irish music and culture.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Terry's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Karen McEneaney, a former art teacher, has recently retired from Yellowstone National Park where she was a ranger specializing in guiding film crews from around the globe. If you have ever seen a Yellowstone documentary or news clip on Yellowstone, chances are Karen was involved as the park's film monitor for those projects. Karen has illustrated two books, *Birds of Yellowstone* and *Birding Montana*. In addition, she is a great organizer of logistics and lunches, and has, according to past tour participants, a glowing personality. She's one of the hidden treasures you could discover on any of her husband's tours.

*"Thank you for adding Karen to this tour. She is a gem and works perfectly with Terry...I also must comment on how much I enjoyed the music "sessuns." They were wonderful. They are the experience of a lifetime."
B.D., Ireland in Fall*

Financial Information

FEE: \$4350 from Dublin

DEPOSIT: \$450 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 4, 2018

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$550; singles may be limited in some areas and will be assigned on a 'first-come' basis.

LIMIT: 14

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

DOCUMENTS: We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. No visa is required for stays of 90 days or less. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Irish consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. The Irish consulate requires a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is \$4350 for one person in double occupancy from Dublin. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 10, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 11 (excluding lunch on Day 10 in Dublin), all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for musicians, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected. (see below)

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Dublin, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, **any alcoholic beverages**, phone calls, laundry, lunch on Day 10, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$550. There are limited singles and they will be assigned on a 'first-come' basis. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TIPPING: Tips for baggage handling, meals, entertainers, drivers, musicians, and hotel staff are already covered by your tour fee. Consider tipping only if a local performs an appreciated service especially for you. A musician rarely turns down a drink, whether water or otherwise; however, purchasing CDs of their music is a win-win way to "tip" the local musicians.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$450** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by July 4, 2018. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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