

Pilgrimage to Ireland

Hosted by Rev. Sally Johnson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, Richfield United Methodist Church
Rev. Cooper Wiggen, Minnehaha United Methodist Church
September 26 - October 5, 2012



Highlights & Inclusions

Fellowship and friendship of traveling with a community under the leadership of Rev. Sally Johnson, Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay and Rev. Cooper Wiggen.



Custom-designed itinerary visiting the Cliffs of Moher, Galway Bay, Aran Islands, Connemara, Loughrea, Athlone, Clonmacnoise, Glendalough, Dublin and more.



Experience the intense, rugged beauty of this island carved from the sea.



Discover the spirit of Celtic Christianity at ancient monastic communities where Christianity flourished during the Dark Ages.



Celebrate Irish culture through the rich traditions of music, poetry, visual arts and cuisine.



International air transportation from Twin Cities on Delta Air Lines including current fuel charge.



Moderate First Class and Superior Tourist Class hotels, based on sharing a room.



Services of a professional Irish tour guide.



Private, deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach for transfers and touring including luggage handling of one piece in/out of hotels.



16 included meals: breakfast daily, one lunch and seven dinners plus tea/coffee and scones on arrival.



Entrance fees and donations for included visits as described in itinerary.

*Landscape is not just there.
It was here long, long before we were dreamed.
It was here without us. It watched us arrive.*

John O'Donohue, Stone as Tabernacle of Memory

We are our soul scape. Our souls long for a stretch into the land that frees and grounds us. Like Jacob who made a stone his pillow, we search for the movement of the Holy in the landscapes to which we were born and those that have pulled at our hearts. We write of our wilderness and sing of mountains. We pray with the movement of the waters and dance on the ground beneath our feet.

The ancient Celts allowed the beauty and bareness of the Irish landscape to shape the poetry, art and music that expressed their faith. In this expression the groundwork of what we know as Celtic spirituality was born and continues to inspire us today.

Join us on a pilgrimage to "thin places" in Ireland. We will create community, welcoming the voice and utterance of soul. We will walk and hike the green valleys and rocky shores of this island as we are inspired by these ancient places. As a part of our pilgrimage, there will be guided writing, singing together and worship as we deepen our own soul scapes.

About the Tour Host

Sally Howell Johnson is a UM Pastor serving at Hennepin Avenue UMC in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her Welsh roots have drawn her to the wisdom of Celtic spirituality and her love of Creation keeps her seeing the face of God in landscapes far and near. **Elizabeth Macaulay** is a UM Pastor serving at Richfield UMC in south Minneapolis. She has co-led five European tours and relishes the way travel to thin places in good company stirs the soul. **Cooper Wiggen** is a UM Pastor serving at Minnehaha UMC in southeast Minneapolis. He has deep Irish roots and is drawn to Celtic Theology and being outdoors in the wild of nature.

Customized Itinerary

Day 1 Wed, September 26 **Depart Twin Cities**
Depart Twin Cities on Delta Air Lines via New York/JFK for Shannon Airport in Ireland. (meals in-flight)

Day 2 Thu, September 27 **Shannon - Galway**
Upon morning arrival at Shannon Airport, meet your Irish tour guide and driver. Travel to the coastline for a visit to the Cliffs of Moher. See the Atlantic Edge exhibition in a domed cave and enjoy morning refreshments of tea/coffee and scones. Journey through the Burren on the way to the area of Galway. Dinner and overnight at hotel along the coast, west of Galway. (meals in-flight,S,D)

Day 3 Fri, September 28 **Aran Islands Visit**
Full day visit to the Aran Islands to discover the landscape, traditions and culture of these harsh yet beautiful Atlantic isles which were a center of monastic learning from the 5th and 6th century. This morning's drive is about a half-hour from hotel to the pier at Rossaveal for ferry to Kilronan on Inishmor. In smaller groups, mini buses drive to the base of the ancient fort, Dun Aengus, stopping for a brief visit at the visitor's centre. Walk up the hill for views of the Atlantic and the Burren. Continue to see what remains of St. Enda's monastery near Killeany where St. Colmille of Iona and St. Kieran of Clonmacnoise trained. Time on own for walking, journaling and reflection. Late afternoon return to pier for ferry back to Rossaveal and transfer to hotel along the coast on Galway Bay for dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

Day 4 Sat, September 29 **Connemara**
Search this rugged and varied landscape for images of the Divine that inspired poet and author John O'Donohue. This morning travel north of Galway into the wild countryside of the Connemara, an area of bog, heath and granite mountains. Stop at Kylemore Abbey with its Gothic, castellated towers and beautiful gardens. Stroll the picturesque village of Clifden, where tightly packed houses are shadowed to the east by the towering Twelve Bens. Return to Galway area hotel for dinner and overnight. After dinner, option for an experience of local music at a nearby pub (may require taxi at additional cost). (B,D)

Day 5 Sun, September 30 **Galway to Athlone**
Leisurely Sunday morning at hotel for devotions and reflections through writing and music-making as responses to the experience of holy places thus far. Travel east from the beaches, bogs, lakes and wild mountains of the Connemara to the flat, fertile land around the Shannon River, rich in ancient history. Stop in the small market town of Loughrea for lunch on own and to see St. Brendan's Cathedral, a shining example of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late nineteenth century which is also referred to as the Celtic Revival. Visit the Turoo Stone, one of the few remaining examples of the Celtic art style La Tene. Continue to the city of Athlone, straddling the Shannon River. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Athlone. (B,D)

Day 6 Mon, October 1 **Clonmacnoise Visit**
Spend the day visiting the ancient monastic site of Clonmacnoise, where monks from all over Europe came to study between the 7th and 12th centuries. Discover how this monastic community led by St. Kieran was one of the reasons Ireland became known as the "island of saints and scholars" while the rest of Europe languished in the Dark Ages. Time for group worship at Clonmacnoise and individual walking among the ruins of what was once the size of a small town. Return to Athlone for dinner on own and overnight at hotel. (B,L-Boxed)

Day 7 Tue, October 2 **Athlone to Glendalough**
Leave Athlone this morning for about a two hour drive to Dublin. Visit Trinity College to marvel at one of the world's oldest and most beautifully illustrated books, the Book of Kells dating from around 800AD. Some free time for lunch on own in Dublin's historic area, Temple Bar. Continue south into the Wicklow Mountains for dinner and overnight at hotel at Glendalough. (B,D)

Day 8 Wed, October 3 **Glendalough**
A memorable day at Glendalough, a 6th century monastic settlement nestled in a valley among the Wicklow Mountains. Discover how St. Kevin, an early Christian bishop, established this hermitage in the 5th century and it remained a monastery for 1100 years despite raids from Vikings and the English. Time to enjoy one of the numerous walking trails of Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Gather this evening for dinner and overnight at hotel at Glendalough. (B,D)

Day 9 Thu, October 4 **Visit Kildare**
This morning, travel through the lush countryside of County Kildare to the Cathedral of St. Brigid, founded in the late 5th century. Dominating the triangular main square of Kildare, it was a monastic center shared by nuns and monks. It was a center of art, learning and culture where the Book of Kildare was produced in the 7th century rivaling the Book of Kells. Time to stroll the charming streets of Kildare town for lunch on own. Return to Glendalough for some free time to revisit the monastic settlement before dinner and overnight at hotel at Glendalough. (B,D)

Day 10 Fri, October 5 **Return Home**
Early morning transfer to the Dublin airport for flights home via New York. Arrive home the same day. (BC,meals in-flight)

**Meals included: B=buffet breakfast,
BC=breakfast continental style, L=lunch,
D=dinner, S=snack**

**Itinerary subject to adjustment
as needed for operation.**

Passport, Visa, Health & Travel Information

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at www.travel.state.gov. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport, visa and entry requirements. Without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense.

No vaccinations required for U.S. citizens to travel to Ireland.

This travel program requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and inclines at times for significant distances and periods of one to two hours with periodic rests. If you have concerns about your abilities, consult CrossingBorders or the tour hosts.

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

As an island in the path of the Gulf Stream, Ireland experiences little temperature variation. Rain keeps the country verdant and sunshine arrives as unpredictably as a shower creating the ever-present possibility of a spectacular rainbow. Locals are prepared for "soft days" when a warm, misty rain falls much of the day. Average temperature high/low ranges in late September and early October: **Dublin** 58-46°F **Galway** 56-44°F



For Information

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Tour Cost

\$3499 from Twin Cities

Additional costs

Airline/airport taxes - \$73

Gratuities - \$90

Single room supplement - \$390

Strictly limited availability of single rooms.

Costs are current at printing, subject to change and based on a group size of 33.

Registration

An initial deposit of \$500 per person is due immediately to secure reservation. Make check payable to CrossingBorders Escrow Account and mail to 7805 Telegraph Road, Suite 210, Bloomington, MN 55438-3408.

Full legal name as on passport Male Female

Nickname Birth Date (month/day/year)

Spouse's/Partner's full legal name as on passport M F

Nickname Birth Date (month/day/year)

Mailing address (No P.O. Box numbers)

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone (day)

Telephone (night)

Email

Roommate

I would like assistance in finding a roommate.

Note: an attempt to find a roommate will be made, however, cannot be guaranteed. Single supplement applies if no roommate.

Please request single accommodations for me. I understand single accommodations are limited.

I have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date



CrossingBorders creates international tours for church-affiliated and educational groups. We encourage and support international travel for education, cultural exchange and spiritual enrichment. With our experience and resources we creatively bring people and places together, enriching lives through travel. Ultimately, we strive to earn the patronage and professional respect of our tour hosts and travelers.

Our Services

Design a travel experience sensitive to the needs and interests of a group.

Offer tours of value through our international network of preferred suppliers.

Manage each group program prior to tour, attending to the smallest of details.

Customize tour literature which focuses on being prepared and responsible travelers.

Encourage feedback from travelers to be responsive to changing interests and needs.



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Photos courtesy of Irish Tourist Board

Terms & Conditions

PLEASE NOTE The tour and per person tour cost are based on current airfare from Twin Cities, shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of December 2011, a minimum group size of 33, and subject to availability and change. For a group size of 27-32, a supplemental cost of \$130 per person applies. Airline/airport taxes and fuel surcharges subject to change. A limited number of land only spaces are available; contact CrossingBorders for availability.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST Airline/airport taxes, gratuities, luggage handling at airports, single room, meals, transfers and sightseeing not specifically mentioned, beverages, passport fees, insurance, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. Land only registration requires a \$100 fee and must be requested in writing at time of registration; does not include arrival and departure transfers if different than group.

PAYMENT Deposit of \$500 due immediately to secure registration. Registration less than 60 days prior to departure subject to a fee. Within 30 days of departure, no registrations accepted. Final payment including additional costs invoiced and due July 6, 2012. To offer this group cost, both the deposit and final payment by check only; credit cards not accepted.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS Airfare is based on tour members departing Twin Cities on the same day; a limited number of departures from other cities are available on this group airfare. A limited number of air ticket extensions are available on this group airfare. Requests for special arrangements to extend stay must be in writing and a minimum \$100 per tour member service fee applies in addition to airline service fees and charges. Contact CrossingBorders for rules, fees and availability for special arrangements.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE Optional insurance for baggage, health and trip cancellation is available and recommended; an application is provided at time of registration. Purchasing travel insurance within 21 days of registration may waive pre-existing medical conditions. Contact CrossingBorders for further information.

REFUND POLICY Cancellations received in writing by May 25, 2012, a \$100 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits. May 26 - August 24, 2012, cancellation fees increase to loss of deposit plus any unrecoverable air and land service payments. After August 24, no refund. Airline tickets are issued in advance and are nonrefundable. No refund for any unused portion of the tour due to the special contracts for tour features, commitments to other tour members, and the services rendered on behalf of all tour members by CrossingBorders. Optional insurance is highly recommended.

RESPONSIBILITY & WAIVER I hereby waive all claims in connection with the forgoing. CrossingBorders, Inc. acts only as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. Neither CrossingBorders nor its employees or agents, nor any other person, party, or entity associated with it shall be responsible or liable for any injuries, damages, accidents, expenses, delays, schedule or itinerary changes, damage to person or property, or any other loss or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours, or other services that relate to the travel program or are referred to herein, or that occur during free time the members may have on the tour. CrossingBorders reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary whenever changes are warranted or deemed appropriate and withdraw participation of any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the group.