# The Nine to the North

Tour Ulster & The Six Counties of Northern Ireland



with Ian Gould
May 9 - 18, 2022
\$3,190 per person

double occupancy from Chicago

















This is an exclusive travel program presented by *InterTrav Corporation* 

# **Day by Day Itinerary**

# Monday, May 9 - CHICAGO / EN ROUTE

Today we depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on our non-stop flight to Dublin, Ireland. (I)

# Tuesday, May 10 – DUBLIN / BELFAST

After landing at Dublin Airport and clearing customs, our Driver/Guide, Patick Foley, welcomes us to Ireland. Our day begins with a traditional Irish breakfast at Man O' War Pub, an establishment dating back to 1595, before we leave the city behind for the journey north. We'll stop at St. Peter's Church in Drogheda, to visit Oliver Plunkett. The preserved head of the saint is in a glass case in St. Peter's Church in the town center. Then we'll continue into Northern Ireland, through the Mourne Mountains and into County Down to Downpatrick, where we'll visit Down Cathedral and see the historical burial place of St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. Our final journey will bring us into Belfast, in County Antrim, and to our hotel for the next three nights, **Europa Hotel Belfast.** (B,D)

#### Wednesday, May 11 – BELFAST

After breakfast we'll set off on our guided city tour; we'll see the raw side of Belfast city and its colorful, often tragic, history, as we make our way up the Falls Road and down the Shankhill, the main Catholic and Protestant areas that were home to the bloody battle grounds. We'll also visit Crumlin Road Gaol - discover over 150 years of history in Northern Irelands only remaining Victorian era prison. Then we'll head to Titanic Belfast, a fascinating and moving interactive experience. Explore the shipyard, walk the decks, travel to the depths of the ocean and uncover the true legend of Titanic in the city where it all began. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at the high end restaurant, **Home**, owned by Stevie Haller, an old friend of Ian's - he'll be sure that Stevie stops by to say hello! **(B,D)** 

#### Thursday, May 12 – BELFAST

Today we will head out of the city and along the coast of Belfast Lough to check out Carrickfergus Castle. Built around 1177 in the Norman era, the imposing structure is an amazing example of fortified coastal defense. The rest of the day you will have some free time to explore Belfast. Want to wander the city? Check out The Ulster Museum or Botanical Gardens, City Hall, or maybe a wee pub crawl to sample what Ian's home town has to offer. The pubs are amazing and steeped in history, and Ian is working on a map for a pub crawl to take in some of the city's iconic pubs. Later in the evening we will convene at a local pub and music venue for some live music with Ian and some of his musical friends... and surely some of his not so musical friends and family will show up too. (B)

### Friday, May 13 – BELFAST / DERRY

This morning we make our way along the North Antrim Coast to enjoy the view of the spectacular Glens of Antrim and Dunluce Castle, featured in the series "Game of Thrones." We'll explore the Giant's Causeway, a mass of 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns formed over 60 million years ago. Afterward we'll travel to the small village of Bushmills, settled on the banks of the Bush River where we will find the Old Bushmills Irish Whiskey Distillery,

the oldest working distillery in Ireland. For over 400 years Old Bushmills has kept to the philosophy that hand crafting small batches is the way to produce beautifully smooth tasting Irish whiskey, and we'll enjoy a tour of the distillery along with a sample. Afterward, we'll head to Coleraine where we'll board a train to take us to into County Derry, and Ireland's only walled city, Derry, also known as Londonderry. We'll enjoy dinner tonight at our perfectly located hotel, home for the next three nights, City Hotel Derry. (B,D)

# Saturday, May 14 – DERRY

This morning our guide, Ruairi O'hEara, will take us on a walking tour of the iconic Derry Walls where we'll learn about the 1,500 years of history and culture enclosed within Ireland's only completely walled city; from the sixth-century monastic settlement to the vibrant European city of the twenty-first century. We'll also visit the Museum of Free Derry. Opened in 2007, the museum tells the story of the dramatic events which took place between 1968-72 in the Bogside neighborhood. As violence escalated, the area was proclaimed "Free Derry" and is widely regarded as ground zero in the fight for Catholic civil rights in Northern Ireland. We'll end our tour with a visit to St. Brendan's Irish Cream for a visit and tasting. Tonight we'll enjoy music from Ian at Peadar O'Donnell's Irish music pub.

# Sunday, May 15 – DERRY

Today we head to County Tyrone to visit the Ulster American Folk Museum, one of Ian's favorite places to visit as a child, where we'll embark on a journey back in time from the Old World of Ulster to the New World on the American frontier. Next we'll travel to nearby Enniskillen for a tour of the Florence Court mansion, one of the most important Georgian houses in Ireland. However Florence Court is something of a mystery as no building records survive. What is known is that Florence Court is the creation of three successive generations of the Cole family, powerful Fermanagh landowners with roots in the plantations of the 17th century, and holds a fascinating collection of Irish furniture, and some of the best Rococo plasterwork in Ireland. We'll visit Belleek Pottery for an up-close and hands-on look at the production of this beautiful Parian china, before a brief shopping stop in Donegal Town. On our return to Derry, we'll stop at Grianan of Aileach, a hilltop stone fort dating from 1700 BC, where we'll enjoy breathtaking views of three counties and the rugged Donegal coastline. **(B)** 

# Monday, May 16 - DERRY / BALLYCONNELL

After breakfast we'll travel into County Cavan to the Slieve Russell Hotel and Golf Resort. For those fond of the game, we'll leave you to it, and the non-golfers will go on a daytrip north into County Armagh to Navan Fort. This historic structure is identified as Emain Macha, the seat of the ancient kings of Ulster, and named after the Princess Macha. It is one of the most important pre-Christian sites in Ireland. We'll stop to view the majestic Armagh cathedrals in town, one Catholic, the other Protestant (Church of Ireland), and both dedicated to

Ireland's Patron Saint. Then we'll travel to Old Carrick Mill Distillery for a visit and gin sample, before returning to our stunning hotel for dinner and drinks. (B,D)

# Tuesday, May 17 – BALLYCONNELL / DUBLIN

This morning we'll travel into the Republic of Ireland to the capital city of Dublin, where we'll have a narrated bus tour. We'll pass the G.P.O, the Bank of Ireland, Dublin Castle, the Four Courts, O'Connell Street, Kilmainham Gaol, most famous for the executions of the leaders of the Easter 1916 uprising, and many other sites associated with the birth of Ireland. We'll end our tour with a visit to Jameson Distillery for a tour and tasting. Tonight we'll head to Taylor's Three Rock for an evening of sparkling Irish song, music, laughter and dance at Dublin's World Famous Irish Night & Cabaret. (B,D)

# Wednesday, May 18 – DUBLIN / CHICAGO

All too soon our *Nine to the North Vacation* comes to an end as we travel to Dublin Airport for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on vacation memories and new friends made along the way. **(B,I)** 

\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \*

Meal Codes
I = In-flight B = Breakfast D = Dinner

#### **The Vacation Price Includes:**

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled airline service
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Irish Driver/Guide
- First class hotel accommodations
- Irish breakfast each morning at the hotels, and other meals indicated in the itinerary
- Sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary including applicable entrance fees
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person at the hotels
- Taxes for included ground services, departure taxes, Customs service charges, and airline security fees
- All performances by Ian Gould!

The Vacation Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; expenses due to COVID testing requirements; laundry and cleaning; telephone calls; optional tours and excursions; tips to the Driver/Guide and local guides, tips to hotel and breakfast room staff; luggage handling at airports; personal travel protection; meals other than those stated above, and drinks with meals.

	Re	servation Application		
Please return to:	InterTrav Corporation 203 State Avenue St. Charles, IL 60174		-	630/377-5840 414/333-4534 @gmail.com
Please reserve place \$				heck in the amount of
☐ I/we would like to p	ourchase the optional Ti	ravel Protection at \$2°	73 per person	
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#### **TOUR CONDITIONS**

**TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** Reservations may be made by check or major credit card. Credit cards can be accepted for payment(s); however, the vacation price reflects a 4% cash discount. Please call InterTrav at 630-377-5840 to arrange payment by credit card; 4% of the payment amount will be assessed on credit card payments. You will be invoiced for the balance of payment due on or before **Friday**, **February 4**, **2022**. Reservation requests received after **Friday**, **February 4**, **2022**, are subject to tour availability.

**TOUR PRICING:** The tour price is based on a minimum participation of 20 persons and includes planning, handling and operational charges and is quoted on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and airfares in effect as of September 1, 2021.

**CANCELLATION:** If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, there is a cancellation charge equal to the per person deposit up to 75 days prior to departure. For cancellation between 74 and 45 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 44 days of departure, the cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost. **IMPORTANT:** Cancellations will not be accepted by telephone and must be sent in writing to: InterTrav Corporation, 203 State Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174, or emailed to travel@intertravcorp.com.

**TRAVEL PROTECTION:** You have been given the option of purchasing Travel Protection at the time you sign-up for the tour. Plans help protect you and your travel investment and help provide coverage for unexpected circumstances. The plan cost is non-refundable after the 14 day free look period and rates are based on trip cost. Group plans require a minimum participation of 10 travelers. **For a complete description of coverage** and to see all the covered reasons for cancellation, please call 630-377-5840 or e-mail travel@intertravcorp.com.

**PASSPORTS AND VISAS:** Your tour requires a passport valid for the duration of your travel. If you do not already have your passport, or it will expire before your return date, we suggest you apply for it immediately. No visas are required for your tour. However, if you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, you must advise us in writing with your Reservation Application, as other travel documents may be required.

## RESPONSIBILITY

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The above tour conditions are provided in addition to the full terms and conditions of travel which can be found here grouptripsandtravel.com/booking-agreement-terms-conditions/. By booking this trip you are agreeing to be bound by the full terms and conditions of travel in addition to the tour conditions above. It is therefore vital that you read the full terms and conditions before making any booking. Making a booking is indicative of your agreement to be bound by all of the terms and conditions.