Experience the unrivaled beauty of Ireland, an amazing green patchwork quilt, while learning about its natural, cultural, and political history.

Circumnavigate the Emerald Isle from Belfast to Dublin, witnessing the natural wonders of the North Coast, down the rugged west seacoast through Galway, to the Southwest’s Ring of Kerry, and on to Cork, where countless immigrants boarded ships bound for America.

In addition to an incredible Irish guide, Richard Murphy, the Pulitzer Prize winning photographer and former photo editor of the Anchorage Daily News will be along to help you use your camera to its fullest capability.

For More information, visit us at www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

Important note: Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:
Oct. 3 - 19, 2020

Tour Cost:
$4,500.00
Single supplement
$850.00

Inclusions
- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground transportation
- Entry fees
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Ireland are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.
**Day 1, Oct. 3: Belfast**
Morning: Arrive at Belfast Airport and transfer by coach to your hotel.
Afternoon: Welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

**Day 2, Oct. 4: Belfast**
Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Illustrated talk on the evocative murals of Belfast and the political transformation of Northern Ireland.
Take Belfast’s Black Taxi Cabs to see the colorful and evocative murals of East and West Belfast. It has been said that a city can be defined by its taxi drivers and nowhere is this more true than in Belfast.
Afternoon: Lunch at a city center restaurant.
Dinner at the hotel.

**Day 3, Oct. 5: Belfast**
Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Talk on ‘Brexit: The Impact on Northern Ireland’s politics and economy.’
Afternoon: Lunch at Molly’s Yard.
Visit a local community peace-building organization.
Depart by coach for pre-theatre dinner, followed by a performance at the Lyric Theatre.*
*Theatre visit depends on the availability of appropriate performances at the time.

**Day 4, Oct. 6: Belfast – Bushmills - Derry**
Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart Belfast for Derry, the only remaining walled city in Ireland.
Visit Bushmills Whiskey Distillery, the world’s oldest licensed distillery, with a license to distill from 1608.
Afternoon: Lunch at Bushmills Inn.
Visit the Giant’s Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and natural amphitheater made up of hexagonal-shaped basalt rocks. Guided visit of the site with a National Trust expert, followed by free time to explore this breathtaking natural phenomenon.
Transfer continues to Derry.
Check in to the hotel on arrival, followed by dinner at the hotel.

**Day 5, Oct. 7: Derry**
Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Expertly guided tour of Derry’s walls, one of the best examples of a walled city in Europe.
Visit the Tower Museum Derry.
Afternoon: Lunch at the Walled City Brewery.
Visit St Columb’s Cathedral.
Dinner at the hotel followed by an evening of traditional music.
Day 6, Oct. 8: Derry - Omagh - Westport

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel
Depart for Westport.
En route make a visit to the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. This museum tells the poignant story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18th and 19th Centuries.
Afternoon: Lunch at the Sperrin Restaurant, Omagh.
Continue to Westport. Dinner at the hotel in the evening.
One of the few planned towns in Ireland, Westport was designed in the 18th Century by James Wyatt, and today is one of the prettiest towns in Ireland. Located in the south-east corner of Clew Bay, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean, the town has many picturesque features, most notably its tree-lined, flower-decorated boulevard known as The Mall, with several stone bridges over the Carrowbeg River.
The famous Croagh Patrick, one of Europe’s best-known places of pilgrimage, presents a striking backdrop to the town.

Day 7, Oct. 9: Westport

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart for a full-day field trip to the region of Connemara in County Galway. A broad peninsula between Killary Harbour and Kilkieran Bay in the west of Galway, Connemara has long been regarded as the real emerald of Ireland.
Enjoy a self-guided visit of Kylemore Abbey.
Afternoon: Lunch in the cafe at Kylemore Abbey
Excursion around Connemara continues. Visit the award-winning Cnoc Suain Heritage Centre for an insight into rural folklore, tradition and way of life in the West of Ireland.
Return to Westport, dinner at the hotel.

Day 8, Oct. 10: Westport - Inis Mor - Galway

Depart Westport for transfer to Galway. Full-day field trip to the island of Inis Mor today, beginning with a coach journey to Ros a Mhil, where you will depart the mainland by ferry.
Arrive to Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands, and take this day to explore this unique place. A remnant of authentic Gaelic civilization where Christian ruins stand side-by-side with remarkable pagan relics and the Irish language and traditions live on in daily life.
Walk the short distance to the pretty village of Kilronan. From here, explore the island independently on foot, by bicycle, mini-van or traditional horse-drawn jaunty car.
Afternoon: Lunch is your choice to explore the local island fare - a lunch allowance is provided.
Gather at the pier for the return ferry to Ros a Mhil and continue by coach to Galway city.
Dinner at the hotel on arrival.

Day 9, Oct. 11: Galway

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Lecture in the hotel by local expert on the Celts and the west of Ireland.
Depart hotel on foot for an expertly-guided walking orientation of Galway city in the company of a local historian.
**Day 10, Oct. 12: Galway - Killarney**

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart Galway and transfer to Killarney, Co. Kerry.
En route, visit the Burren, where you will meet with a local expert.
Continue to the heart of the Burren where you will visit one of the most important megalithic monuments in Ireland, the Poulnabrone Dolmen.
Afternoon: Lunch in Vaughan’s Pub, Kilfenora.
Depart Kilfenora and continue to the Cliffs of Moher. Rising like a cathedral into the sky some 700 feet over the Atlantic Ocean, the views from the cliffs stretch as far as Galway Bay and the Aran Islands. The cliffs are also home to one of the major colonies of cliff-nesting seabirds in Ireland.
Transfer continues to Killarney. Dinner at the hotel on arrival.

**Day 11, Oct. 13: Killarney**

Depart for a field trip around the Iveragh Peninsula, more commonly known as the Ring of Kerry.
Afternoon: Lunch at the Blind Piper, Caherdaniel.
Continue on the Ring of Kerry
On the return to Killarney, enjoy a guided visit of Muckross House, a magnificent Victorian mansion. Muckross House is spectacularly situated close to the eastern shore of Muckross Lake and is set beneath the impressive backdrop of Torc and Mangerton Mountains.
Dinner at the hotel.

**Day 12, Oct. 14: Killarney - Cork**

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart Killarney for transfer to Cork.
En route, visit Blarney Castle where you can kiss the Blarney Stone and receive the ‘gift of the gab.’
Afternoon: Lunch at Blarney Woollen Mills.
Continue to Cork city, Ireland’s second-largest city. Cork was founded in the 7th Century by St. Fin Barre, and today is a bustling, lively city with a wealth of cultural life and festival atmosphere.
Check into the hotel on arrival. Dinner is at the hotel.

**Day 13, Oct. 15: Cork**

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Free morning to explore Cork independently. A lunch allowance is provided.
Afternoon: Depart Cork for the nearby harbour town of Cobh. Visit the Queenstown Story exhibition in Cobh Heritage Centre. Retrace the steps of 2.5 million adults and children who emigrated from Ireland on coffin ships, early steamers and finally on the great liners.
Meet a local expert for a guided visit of the historic seaside town of Cobh. A special evening dinner is held at local families’ homes in Cobh.
Day 14, Oct. 16: Cork - Kilkenny - Dublin

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart Cork for transfer to Dublin via Kilkenny.
Visit Kilkenny Castle, a 12th Century castle remodelled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands. Kilkenny Castle was the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormond. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room and bedrooms decorated in 1830s splendour, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery.
Afternoon: Lunch at Kilkenny Design Centre.
Transfer continues to Dublin. Arrive to the hotel, check in and dinner at the hotel.

Day 15, Oct. 17: Dublin

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Meet local expert for Lecture: ‘Brexit: The Impact on the Republic of Ireland’s politics and economy’
Guided field trip of Dublin city, including a visit to St Patrick’s Cathedral.
Guided walking tour of historic Trinity College. Trinity College builds on its four hundred-year-old tradition of scholarship to confirm its position as one of the great universities of the world.
Afterwards visit the Book of Kells, an illustrated 9th century manuscript.
Afternoon: Free afternoon to explore Dublin independently. A lunch and dinner allowance will be provided.

Day 16, Oct. 18: Dublin

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart by coach for Bru na Boinne.
Guided visit of Bru na Boinne, a group of Neolithic-age burial chambers. The survival of these chambers through more than 5,500 years reflects the sophistication of their design and ingenuity of the Stone Age man who constructed them.
Visit one of the burial chambers of Newgrange or Knowth.
Afternoon: Lunch at Brambles Cafe in the Visitor Centre of Bru na Boinne.
Return to Dublin by coach and explore Dublin independently for the remainder of the afternoon.

Day 17, Oct. 19: Dublin

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart hotel for Dublin Airport by coach and return to the US.