

COMPANIONS OF THE QUAICH IRELAND & SCOTLAND JOURNEY

17 JUNE – 02 JULY 2013

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: MON. 17 JUNE: DEPARTURE FOR IRELAND

Today we meet at Toronto airport for our overnight flight to Shannon, Ireland. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided on our flight. (D)

DAY 2: TUE. 18 JUNE SHANNON, LIMERICK to KILLARNEY

Upon arrival at Shannon, we shall clear luggage and customs formalities. Waiting for us will be our perennial guide and driver tandem of Morag Brodie and Drew Brown. This morning we shall tour the city of Limerick before heading south to the beautiful city of Killarney. En-route we shall pass through Adare, "Ireland's Prettiest Village!" Upon arrival at Killarney, we shall check-in to **The Randles Court** hotel. A truly wonderful location to begin our journey! Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. (B,D)

DAY 3: WED. 19 JUNE KILLARNEY & RING OF KERRY

Today we tour the beautiful 'Ring of Kerry', with its spectacular views and many photo opportunities.



A day full of breathtaking scenery and sights! Dinner will be back at our hotel tonight. (B,D)

DAY 4: THU. 20 JUNE BLARNEY, CORK, JAMESON DISTILLERY

Today we leave Killarney and head across the land, towards our eventual destination, Waterford. Our route today takes us to **Blarney Castle, Cork and Midleton distillery (home to Jameson whiskey.)** Once in Waterford we shall have dinner at the charming **Fitzwilton** hotel. **(B,D)**



BLARNEY STONE



JAMESON DISTILLERY

DAY 5: FRI. 21 JUNE WATERFORD, KILKENNY and DUBLIN

Our day begins with a visit to the Waterford crystal shop before heading north to Dublin. Our route takes us to the impressive **Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny** (ancestral home for Anne Patrick) and the **Kildare**. Upon arrival in Dublin, we shall check-in to **The Hilton** hotel for the next three nights. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

DAY 6: SAT. 22 JUNE: DUBLIN

Our day begins with a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin. Situated on the River Liffey we shall hear about the history and turbulent past of this beautiful city. Included in our journey today is a guided tour of the world famous Guinness factory.



The evening is at leisure to enjoy Dublin City. **(B)**

DAY 7: SUN. 23 JUNE: WICKLOW AND AREA

After our Irish breakfast we will have a full day visit to the Wicklow Mountains, Glendalough - Round Tower, St. Kevin's Bed and Church, This is the most atmospheric monastic site in Ireland, established by St. Kevin in the 6th Century. Travel on to Avoca Village, home of the Handweavers - where the series 'Ballykissangel' is filmed and pass through Laragh - the smallest village in Ireland. Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

DAY 8: MON. 24 JUNE: DUBLIN TO BELFAST, COOLEY DISTILLERY

After three memorable days and nights in Dublin we pack up and head northwards to N.Ireland and the capital city of Belfast. One of the "must sees" of the journey is the Neolithic (New Stone Age) Burial Chambers at **Newgrange**. Older than Stonehenge and the great Pyramid of Giza, Newgrange was not only an ancient tomb but a place of astrological, religious and spiritual importance.



NEWGRANGE



COOLEY DISTILLERY

From Newgrange we travel to **Cooley distillery**. **Cooley Distillery, Ireland's only independent whiskey distiller, has been named Distillery of the Year at the 16th Annual Malt Advocate Whisky Awards. Here we shall learn and sample the whiskey brands of Kilbeggan Tyrconnell Connemara & Greenore.**

Our day ends with our arrival at The **Belfast Templepatrick** hotel and country club. Located on the outskirts of the city our hotel provides a unique atmosphere and is a perfect location for our journey. **(B,D)**

DAY 9: TUE.25 JUNE. BELFAST TO ANTRIM COAST, BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY

From Belfast we shall travel northwards to the Glens of Antrim and Giant's Causeway,



N. Ireland's only World Heritage Site and experience the strange, yet wonderful basalt formations. This landscape began forming over 61 million years ago but local legend tells that it was laid by the giant 'Finn McCool' to cross over the sea to Scotland. Test your courage at the Carrick-a-Rede Rope bridge, which hangs 80 feet above the sea and is used by fishermen to access the tiny island, Glens of Antrim.

In the afternoon we shall travel to the village of **Bushmills** for a tour of the famous whiskey distillery and a chance to sample the finished product! Dinner will be back at our hotel in Belfast. **(B,D)**



BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY

DAY 10: WED. 26 JUNE. FERRY TO SCOTLAND, BLADNOCH & ANNANDALE DISTILLERIES

After an early Irish breakfast we shall take the short drive from our hotel, to the port of Larne. From here we take the catamaran ferry to Stranraer, Scotland. Upon arrival in Scotland we are only a short drive to our, first of two, new distilleries to the Companion's journeys), **Bladnoch**. Scotland's most southern distillery, Bladnoch has been producing the "Spirit of the Lowlands" since 1817. From here we travel to the newly revamped **Annandale** distillery. Since Johnnie Walker closed the operations at Annandale, almost 90 years ago, Annandale has been in a slumber. Recently acquired, the distillery will be, once again, fully functional and ready for our visit in 2013.



BLADNOCH DISTILLERY



ANNANDALE DISTILLERY

Just a short drive from Annandale, is our destination for the day, **Gretna Green**. World renowned for its weddings of young, eloping English lovers, Gretna has a magical atmosphere. Our hotel, **The Smiths**, is located across the street from the famous blacksmith's shop and the many other outlets selling all things Scottish. **(B,D)**

DAY 11: THU. 27 JUNE. BORDER COUNTRY, GLENKINCHE DISTILLERY

From Gretna Green, we travel through the scenic Scottish Border country. Today we shall visit the impressive ruins of **Melrose Abbey**. It is reputed that the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce is buried here, amongst many Scottish kings. Our day ends with our distillery visit. Situated in the east lowlands of Scotland, **Glenkinchie** boasts one of the best distillery visitor centers in Scotland. From here we head to Edinburgh and check-in at The Parliament House hotel. Dinner is at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**



DAY 12: FRI. 28 JUNE. EDINBURGH

Today Morag will guide us through the many sights of Edinburgh, including that of **Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Mile, St. Giles Cathedral and the Royal Yacht Britannia**. We have left this evening for you to choose your own dining location (from a multitude of options.) **(B)**

DAY 13: SAT. 29 JUNE. EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW

Today we shall give you a free morning to amble through the shops and main streets of Edinburgh. For those who wish to, we will take you to the Scotch Malt Whisky centre. After lunch we depart across the M8 motorway to Glasgow, our last resting place of the journey. En-route we will visit the historical site of **Linlithgow Palace**. Birthplace of **Mary Queen of Scots** and a royal residence to many Scottish kings, Linlithgow Palace takes us back in time through turbulent Scottish history.

Upon reaching Glasgow, we shall check-in to **The Thistle** hotel. With its perfect central location, the Thistle hotel is a great place to base our time in the city of Glasgow. We have left the evening open for you to choose your own location for dinner. **(B)**

DAY 14: SUN. 30 JUNE GLENGOYNE & AUCHENTOSHEN DISTILLERIES

Today we visit another new distillery to our journeys, that of **Glengoyne**. Situated near the banks of Loch Lomond we shall taste a single malt which does not use the peat smoked barley process but prefers to an air drying technique.

One of our long standing traditions is our visit to **Auchentoshan distillery**. With the triple distill process, unique to this distillery, we have the opportunity to sample the single malts.



GLENGOYNE DISTILLERY



AUCHENTOSHEN DISTILLERY

From Auchentoshen, we shall drive back to the city centre of Glasgow where we shall have dinner at our hotel. **(B,D)**

DAY 15: MON. 01 JULY

Today we shall enjoy a guided tour of Glasgow city including such places as **Glasgow Cathedral** and the **Burrell Art** collection. This evening we shall enjoy our final dinner at the hotel. A perfect time to reflect on a truly wonderful and memorable journey! **(B,D)**

DAY 16: TUE. 02 JULY: DEPART FOR HOME

Alas, all good things must come to an end. After our last Scottish breakfast we check-out and head for Glasgow airport and our return flight to Toronto. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. **(B,L)** *'HASTE YE BACK'*

CONNOISSEUR LEISURE GROUP

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Email: info@ConnoisseurLeisure.com

**COMPANIONS OF
THE QUAICH
IRELAND & SCOTLAND
JOURNEY
JUNE 17 – JULY 02, 2013
INFORMATION**

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Toronto (airfares from other cities available upon request)

Hotels:

4* Hotels throughout the journey

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner daily with tea and coffee,(except when mentioned.)

Transportation: Air-conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

Sightseeing: As mentioned in the itinerary.

Tour Guide: Government-licensed Tour director will assist throughout the journey.

Porterage: One large suitcase per person is allowed. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches

Airport taxes & Fuel costs: Currently \$399

Gratuities: Cad\$154

Deposit and final payment: A non-refundable deposit of \$400 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment. Cancellation within 60 days before departure incurs 100% cancellation charge.

Travel Insurance: Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against the cancellation penalties. Conditions apply so please ask for more details.

Fuel surcharges- At time of print all airline fuel surcharges are included in the 'air transportation taxes.' These may vary before time of departure and will be re-assessed at 90 days before departure.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety. Connoisseur Leisure reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

16 DAY JOURNEY

JOURNEY PRICE: \$3795CAD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 689CAD

Balance payment by credit card incurs a 3% fee.

CONNOISSEUR LEISURE

Phone: 1 877 465-3442 Fax: 1 866 826-2135

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which should not expire before 02 Jan. 2014. N. American passport holders do not currently require a visa for Ireland or the U.K.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken, but only, upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

**COMPANIONS OF THE QUAICH
IRELAND & SCOTLAND JOURNEY
JUNE 17 – JULY 02, 2013
REGISTRATION FORM**

FIRST & LAST NAME.....
(as appears on passport)

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... POSTAL CODE.....

PHONE: (HOME)..... PHONE: (WORK).....

EMAIL: (HOME) EMAIL: (WORK).....

DATE OF BIRTH:..... NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT:.....

TRAVELLING COMPANION INFORMATION

FIRST & LAST NAME.....
(as appears on passport)

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... POSTAL CODE.....

PHONE: (HOME)..... PHONE: (WORK).....

EMAIL: (HOME) EMAIL: (WORK).....

DATE OF BIRTH:..... NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT:.....

Please enclose your deposit of CAD\$400, per person, to Connoisseur Leisure. If paying by credit card please complete the following. A \$115 surcharge is applicable to the total tour cost when paying for your balance by credit card.

CREDIT CARD: VI..MC..AX.. CARD #:.....EXP:.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: Connoisseur Leisure Group has partnered with third party suppliers to compose this tour program. None of the third parties, such as airlines, hotels, coach companies and guides are employees of our company. If, for any reason beyond our control, we cannot supply a portion of the itinerary due to the actions of a third party, we will replace that component with comparable or superior services. Comprehensive Travel Insurance is strongly recommended and is made available to all passengers. Deposits and insurance are non-refundable, unless a replacement can be found.

I have read and understand the booking conditions of this tour. SIGNATURE:.....DATE:.....

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