



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

# Gardens of Ireland

*June 24 – July 4, 2019*



The Bay Garden, County Wexford, Ireland

**American Airlines** 

Official Airline of the Chicago Botanic Garden





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## ITINERARY

June 24 – July 4, 2019

This itinerary is subject to change.

Included meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (T) Tea, (D) Dinner

### Day One – Monday, June 24, 2019

Our journey begins with a flight from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Shannon, Ireland.



O'Brien's Tower at Cliffs of Moher

### Day Two – Tuesday, June 25

We arrive early in Shannon and drive a short distance to see one of the most iconic of Irish scenes: the **Cliffs of Moher**. These cliffs, which rise over 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, create a lasting memory of nature in her wildest and purest form. Nearby, we make a brief stop to visit the southern most part of **The Burren**, a rocky, windswept lunar-like landscape of barren grey limestone. When you look closer at the rock, however, you find a fascinating mix of tiny plants growing in the crevices that normally are found on the Riviera or in the Alps. En route to Killarney, we stop for afternoon tea in one of the quaint villages of County Limerick before arriving at our hotel, the [Killarney Park](#). This evening we have the opportunity to meet our fellow travelers at a

get-acquainted dinner in our hotel. **Lodging:** Killarney (L)(T)(D)

### Day Three – Wednesday, June 26

Our day begins with a visit to **Ilnacullin**, on a beautiful island full of gardens. As we cross Bantry Bay on the Harbor Queen Ferry, we see seals in the waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. This part of Ireland has an almost sub-tropic climate, as evident by the variety of plants that flourish here. In the afternoon, we drive a portion of the **Ring of Kerry** before returning to Killarney for a ride in jaunting cars into **Kerry National Park**. **Lodging:** Killarney (B)



Italian Garden at Ilnacullin Gardens

## Day Four – Thursday, June 27

As we depart Killarney, we stop at **Annes Grove Garden**, a true representative of the Robinsonian style of landscape design, with its broad lawns, walled garden, and herbaceous borders. There is a wildness to Annes Grove that recalls a bygone age. Described in publications as early as 1776 as an important Irish garden, it was in the Annesley family until 2015 when it was given to the Irish Office of Public Works. Traveling south through County Cork, we arrive at the world famous **Ballymaloe Cookery School** to visit its organic gardens. Beyond the main cookery school buildings lie several captivating gardens - some carefully designed and highly ornate, while others are allowed to grow wild. Later we arrive at our hotel in Kilkenny, the [Pembroke Hotel](#). Lodging: Kilkenny (B)(D)



Fairbrook House Garden

## Day Five – Friday, June 28

Driving south, we go to Waterford, to visit **Fairbrook House Garden**, a private garden that is wonderfully quirky and unique. The owner, Clary Mastenbroek, originally from the Netherlands, takes us around this garden of beautiful ruins enhanced with colorful plantings. Before returning to Kilkenny, we make our way to the remarkable **House of Waterford Crystal Factory** to observe their skilled artisans at work. Lodging: Kilkenny (B)

## Day Six – Saturday, June 29

There are two outstanding gardens on our itinerary today. Frances and Iain MacDonald's private garden, the **Bay Garden**, features an array of intimate gardens, each with its own charm and ambience. Frances takes us through the garden before having tea and scones. Then we depart for **Powerscourt**, the Irish answer to Versailles. Large and expansive, this impressive palace offers its own array of great gardens, but on a much larger scale. There will be time for lunch and a visit to their excellent garden shop before driving to Dublin and the [Marker Hotel](#), our home for the next 3 nights.



The Bay Garden

## Day Seven – Sunday, June 30

This morning we are introduced to Dublin. Driving through these busy streets, you understand why 25% of the Irish call Dublin home. After a driving tour of the city, we go to **Helen Dillon's new garden**. Helen, Ireland's foremost garden writer, sold her home and famous garden two years ago and bought a place with a less expansive garden. She now welcomes us to see how it is progressing. Then we are off to the **National Botanic Gardens**



National Botanic Gardens of Ireland

of Ireland, located in the leafy suburb of Glasnevin. Boasting nearly forty-eight acres of gardens, we walk with members of the horticultural staff in this, the premier garden of Ireland. In the afternoon, we continue our drive through Dublin to get a real taste of Ireland at the **Jameson Distillery**. Here we enjoy a tour and tasting of their world famous whiskey.

Lodging: Dublin (B)



June Blake's Garden

## Day Eight – Monday, July 1

In the world of gardening, it is not rare to find a brother and sister working side by side. But it is quite rare to find two outstanding gardens--close in proximity--each owned by a sibling. **June Blake's Garden** is a colorful statement of personal spaces, neatly combined into a complete whole. On the other hand, June's brother Jimi has a garden that is more wild than

neat, but just as delightful. His garden, called **Hunting Brook Gardens**, has 20 acres of borders, woodlands, and prairies. We visit both of them in the morning, have tea, and return to Dublin for free time in the afternoon. There are plenty of things to see in the city on your own, but at the top of your list should be the **Book of Kells** in Trinity College. Lodging: Dublin (B)(T)

## Day Nine - Tuesday, July 2

On the border that separates Ireland from Northern Ireland, gone are the days of tanks and armed guards checking every vehicle. Without noticing, we make the crossing and head

straightaway to **Seaforde Garden**, a family home for almost 400 years. Seaforde has wonderful plantings, a maze, and a tropical butterfly house. Following lunch, we arrive in Belfast for a driving tour and a very special visit to where **RMS Titanic** was constructed. Lodging: [The Merchant Hotel](#), Belfast (B)(L)



Mount Stewart National Trust Garden

### Day Ten – Wednesday, July 3

This morning we see two National Trust properties. The first, **Mount Stewart**, reflects a rich tapestry of design and planting artistry bearing the hallmark of its creator, Edith, Lady Londonderry. Her passion for bold planting schemes coupled with a mild climate means that rare and tender plants from across the

globe thrive in this celebrated garden. The second Trust property of the day is **Rowallane**, featuring formal and informal plantings as well as a stunning walled garden, making it a perennial favorite. After we return to Belfast, the rest of the afternoon is free for leisure or shopping before our farewell dinner this evening. Lodging: Belfast (B)(D)

### Day Eleven – Thursday, July 4

Today brings to a close our journey through the gardens of Ireland. We return to Dublin this morning for our non-stop flight back to Chicago (B)



Powerscourt Palace and Gardens



# CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

## Gardens of Ireland Tour TERMS AND CONDITIONS

June 24 - July 4, 2019

### Deposit and Final Payment information:

\$6680.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, **including Airfare**)

\$1500.00 Single room supplemental fee

- While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee. The maximum number of participants is 38.
- If participants wish to arrange their own air transportation or fly on 'air miles,' the cost of the trip will be reduced by the cost of the group airfare (\$1,200). Please be sure that flights coordinate with the group flight times. MCDUFFTOURS is happy to help arrange air transportation if participants wish to fly on a different carrier or would like to book connecting flights.

*Included in the cost is a tax-deductible donation of \$250.00 per person to the Garden.*

### Payment deadlines:

\$1500.00 **March 18, 2019** Deposit due

\$5180.00 **May 7, 2019** Final payment due (airfare included)

\$1500.00 **May 7, 2019** Single supplemental fee due

### Method of Payment: *by check only*, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC

### TOUR CONDITIONS:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. **The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on Oct. 15, 2018, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates.** Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided.

Please note that this garden tour requires a considerable amount of walking and participants must be able to handle their own luggage.

### Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes airfare (unless opting for land-only package), lodging, entrance fees, ground transportation, all breakfasts, bottled water, all included boat rides, and several dinners and lunches. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

### Not included in the Cost

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from home to the airport, along with any connecting flights to and from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, IL, are not included.

### I understand and accept these terms and conditions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

It is strongly recommended that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your tour investment against covered unforeseeable circumstances.

I wish \_\_\_\_\_ do not wish \_\_\_\_\_ to purchase travel insurance. Client's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** The total deposit is refundable until March 18, 2019. If you must cancel between March 18 and May 7, \$200 of the \$1500 deposit will be retained. After May 7, the \$1500 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded. If the tour is cancelled by the Chicago Botanic Gardens or by MCDUFFTOURS LLC, all payments will be refunded.

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy is a soprano and was on faculty in the Department of Music, while Robert is a Landscape Architect and was in the Department of Horticulture. After establishing the first group Horticulture Study Abroad program 20 years ago, they now take garden lovers around the world.



# CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

## Gardens of Ireland Tour RESERVATION FORM

June 24 - July 4, 2019

**Please print** – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

First name for NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Passport# \_\_\_\_\_ Place of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_ Date of expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special food requirements or allergies \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by March 18, 2019 to:**

MCDUFFTOURS LLC  
4810 Susannah Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Office Use	Received	AMT: _____
		CHK#: _____
		DATE: _____

Reservation information: Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcdufftours@yahoo.com