

Ireland in Depth:

Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Galway

May 22 - June 5, 2019



Registration Begins
Monday, July 30, 2018

- * Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
 - * Phone registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- (On-line registration is NOT available for multiple day trips)*



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Travel Southern Ireland

As you travel through Ireland, delve deeply into a land rich in history, legend, stirring music, and verdant landscapes. Begin your journey in Dublin, Ireland's cosmopolitan capital, before continuing on to the historic city of Kilkenny. From there, you're off to Cork and its nearby seaport of Cobh, from which thousands of Irish emigrated during the Potato Famine. You'll also visit Killarney and the 110-mile Ring of Kerry, boasting some of Ireland's most astonishing scenery, before exploring the eerie landscape of the Burren and the captivating Cliffs of Moher. Finally, end your Ireland guided tour in lovely Galway, where there's a tune playing around every corner. This Ireland tour is an in-depth discovery of the Emerald Isle—its lore, its lands, and above all, the gregarious charm of its people.

Trip Highlights:

Cliffs of Moher
Ring of Kerry
Waterford Crystal Factory Tour
Connemara & Kylemore Abbey
National Folk Theatre
Guinness Storehouse Tour



Trip Providers



This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Grand Circle Travel, a global enterprise which is comprised of a family of companies which offers a variety of travel options. It is committed to changing people's lives by offering high-impact experiences to their travelers. It was established in 1985. Grand Circle Travel was the travel provider for some of our past trips including: Ireland, Australia & New Zealand, and two European river cruises.

About Our Lodging

The lodging will be at the hotels listed below, or similar. You can expect meals that will be based on the local cuisine.

- Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane (Dublin, 3-nights)
- Pembroke Hotel (Kilkenny, 2-nights)
- Kingsley Hotel (Cork, 2-nights)
- Killarney Towers (Killarney, 3-nights)
- The Galmont Hotel (Galway, 3-nights)

This 15-Day Trip Includes:

- Thirteen nights lodging
- (22) Meals included: (13) breakfasts, (3) lunches & (6) dinners (including 1 home-hosted lunch)
- (18) Included features: (13) guided tours and (5) Exclusive Discovery Series events: Hurling demonstration • Home-hosted lunch • Irish history & culture discussion • School visit • Sheep farm experience • Avoca Handweavers visit
- Grand Circle Program Director from the region.
- Ground transportation from SVSU to Detroit airport and from the airport back to SVSU on the return trip
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU*

** We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure where you will meet fellow OLLI travelers and receive your travel documents. We will cover trip logistics and questions you may have about your upcoming trip.*





Ireland in Depth: Trip Itinerary

■ Day 1: Wednesday, May 22

We will depart SVSU as a group by motorcoach to Detroit airport for our flight to Ireland. Travel details will be given at a later date.

■ Day 2: Thursday, May 23 (Dublin)

We'll arrive in Dublin today and begin our Ireland tour. A Grand Circle representative will meet us at the airport and escort us to the hotel, where you'll meet your program director. After you get settled in, join the group for a short vicinity walk to explore the area around the hotel, and get suggestions on how to maximize your free time to explore on your own. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight and briefing with the program director at the hotel. (D)

■ Day 3: Friday, May 24

(Dublin • Optional: Traditional Irish Night)

After breakfast today, you'll begin your discoveries of Dublin, Ireland's political and cultural center. We'll begin our discoveries with a guided panoramic tour of the city's sights, which will include a stop at Trinity College to view the ancient Book of Kells. After your tour, you'll have the rest of the day to spend in Dublin as you please, and enjoy lunch and dinner on your own. (*Your Program Director will be happy to give you suggestions on how to make the most of your time in the city.*) **Or** join us for an optional Traditional Irish Night, for a hearty three-course meal accompanied by lively tunes from local musicians. (B)

■ Day 4: Saturday, May 25

(Dublin • Guinness Storehouse)

This morning, learn about the history of Ireland's famous brew during a tour of the Guinness Storehouse, a seven-story museum located in a former brewing factory inside the St. James's Gate Brewery. You'll also have a chance to observe the technique behind pouring a perfect glass of "the black stuff" during a pint-pulling demonstration, and enjoy a glass on the house at the Storehouse's Gravity Bar at the top level, which features 360-degree panoramic views of Dublin. After your tour, the rest of the day is yours to spend discovering Dublin at your own pace, with lunch and dinner on your own. (B)

■ Day 5: Sunday, May 26

(Dublin • Avoca Handweavers Glendalough • Kilkenny)

This morning, on our way to Kilkenny, we'll stop along the way at the river town of Avoca. This clothing manufacturer is Ireland's oldest line of business, active since the early 1700s. Here, you'll meet with some of the handweavers when you visit Avoca's mill, which happens to be the oldest of its class in all of Ireland. After lunch, continue to Glendalough, where you'll tour the famous monastery, founded in the sixth century by St. Kevin. Among the monks' great achievements was manuscript writing and copying, including the creation of the spectacular *Book of Glendalough* around 1131. After your tour, continue on to Kilkenny, where you'll arrive later today and check into your hotel before an included dinner with your fellow travelers. (B/D)

■ Day 6: Monday, May 27 (Kilkenny)

This morning, partake in an exclusive Discovery Series event as you learn about hurling, an energetic and uniquely Irish sport, similar to field hockey or lacrosse, with traditional Gaelic roots. The Irish have been playing the game since the Celts invented it 2,000 years ago, and take an immense amount of pride in the game. You'll learn all about the game as a former player demonstrates his skillful moves, and you'll watch as an expert craftsman masterfully transforms a plank of ash into a hurley (the stick used to play the game) in his workshop. Then, explore Kilkenny, a medieval city straddling the banks of the River Nore, on an included walking tour with your Program Director. Your tour will take you to the sprawling gardens of Kilkenny Castle, an 800-year-old stronghold that lords over the city center. Your tour concludes with an included lunch. The rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight. (B/L)

■ Day 7: Tuesday, May 28

(Kilkenny • Waterford Crystal • Cahir Castle • Cork)

Travel from Kilkenny to the city of Cork today, stopping en route to visit Waterford and Cahir Castle. Founded in 1783 by George and William Penrose, the Waterford branch of the company is now part of a worldwide operation that includes such notable brands as Wedgwood and Royal Doulton. You'll learn about the organization's history, and witness a glassblowing demonstration before free time to explore further or shop their fine products. Then we'll depart for Cahir, where you'll have time for an independent lunch upon arrival, followed by a tour of Cahir Castle. In its time (13th-15th centuries), Cahir Castle featured a state-of-the-art defensive design, and is now one of Ireland's best-preserved castles. Arrive in Cork late this afternoon, setting off on an orientation tour around your hotel after checking in. Dinner is included tonight. (B/D)

■ Day 8: Wednesday, May 29

(Cork • Cobh • Home-Hosted Lunch)

This morning, enjoy an included tour of Cobh, a seaside town that served as a major emigration point for families leaving Ireland during the Great Potato Famine. The city was also the last port of call for two famously doomed ships: the RMS *Titanic* and the RMS *Lusitania*. This afternoon, learn about contemporary life in Ireland while savoring a traditional meal during a home-hosted lunch with a local family. The rest of the day is yours to make your own discoveries. (B/L)



■ Day 9: Thursday, May 30

(Cork • Blarney Castle • Sheep Farm Experience • Killarney)

After breakfast this morning, bid Cork farewell and begin your transfer to Killarney. On the way, we'll stop for a visit to Blarney Castle, where you'll find the famed Blarney Stone, reputed to bestow eloquence on those who manage to kiss it - a feat that can only be accomplished by hanging upside down. After lunch on your own we'll set off to a working sheep farm, where you'll chat with the owner about rural life, and get a chance to see Ireland's finest border collies in action. *Please note: This is an outdoor event and is weather-dependent. It will not be conducted in wet, muddy conditions.* Then, we'll continue on to Killarney and check in to your hotel, where dinner is included this evening. After dinner, enjoy an exclusive Discovery Series discussion with a local resident on rural Irish life and growing up on a small farm in the 1950s. (B/D)

■ Day 10: Friday, May 31

(Killarney • Optional: Dingle Experience Tour)

Your day is at leisure to pursue your own interests, **Or** join us on an optional tour as we venture out along the Dingle Peninsula. The route to Dingle Peninsula offers some of the most spectacular coastline views Ireland has to display. You'll see the famed Blasket Islands, rising like jewels from the Atlantic Ocean. One of Ireland's largest Irish-speaking areas, the peninsula has attracted many writers and artists for the inspiration the wild landscape offers. The movies *Ryan's Daughter* and *Far and Away* were made here. We will stop in the fishing town of Dingle to enjoy locally caught fish-and-chips for lunch, included with the cost of the optional tour. (B)

■ Day 11: Saturday, June 1

(Killarney • Ring of Kerry • Jaunting Car Ride • Optional: National Folk Theatre performance)

This morning you'll discover the Ring of Kerry, enjoying breathtaking views of Ireland's majestic mountains and rugged coastline. We ride most of the way, making scenic stops, and stopping in the picturesque village of Sneem for lunch. On the return to Killarney we'll take a ride on a jaunting car (a traditional Irish horse-drawn carriage) for a tour of the forested hills of Killarney National Park, and the Kenmare Estate, a former residence for an Irish noble family. The rest of the day is yours to explore Killarney independently, and dinner tonight is on your own; **Or** join us for an optional performance by the National Folk Theatre, the country's only repertory company, with an included three-course dinner. Using traditional Irish disciplines, the group offers a cultural experience dramatizing the essence of Irish culture. (B/L)

■ Day 12: Sunday, June 2

(Killarney • Cliffs of Moher & the Burren • Galway)

After breakfast we'll set off for Galway, stopping along the way to discover the majestic Cliffs of Moher, precipitous rock formations towering more than 700 feet above the ocean. Next, travel up the coastal road to the Burren, a surreal moonscape full of huge limestone crags, massive dolmens, and ancient stone forrs, known as cahers. Finally, you'll arrive in Galway later today, where, after a sightseeing tour and orientation walk, you'll check into your hotel. This evening, join your fellow travelers for an included dinner. (B/D)

■ Day 13: Monday, June 3 *(Galway • Optional: Connemara & Kylemore Abbey tour)*

Spend the day at leisure, exploring Galway on your own, **Or** join us for an optional journey through the Connemara region of Galway. Once home to more than two million Irish, it still retains its regional heritage, as you will discover while we ramble around its lakes, mountains, and bogs. We'll visit the former Gothic mansion of Mitchell Henry, now the home of Benedictine nuns and better known as Kylemore Abbey. You'll have time to wander both the mansion and the Victorian gardens. Then we'll enjoy lunch onboard *The Connemara Lady* cruise boat while viewing the spectacular scenery of Ireland's only fjord. On our return, we'll travel through the Inagh Valley to the coast, where we'll see the deserted village of Clough Na Mara and discover a sense of hardship the Irish experienced in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, only the shells of their homes remain—set amidst hundreds of miles of stone walls. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B)

■ Day 14: Tuesday, June 4 *(Galway)*

This morning, your Program Director will introduce you to Galway on a walking tour through the city. You have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore Galway on your own. This enchanting city is a medley of narrow lanes, wood and stone shop fronts, and bustling restaurants and pubs. Your tour will also take you to Galway bay, which once was regularly "home" to Spanish galleons during their western voyages. Today, Galway remains a merchant town, but it is also a burgeoning center for technology and a lively bohemian mecca. This evening, gather with your Program Director and fellow travelers at your hotel for an included farewell dinner. (B/D)

■ Day 15: Wednesday, June 5 *(Galway)*

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Additional travel details will be given at a later date. (B)

Important Participant Information

Registrations: Please fill out the enclosed registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Double occupancy reservations are on first-come-first served basis. Single accommodations will be awarded by lottery on July 30. *(Please contact the OLLI office by July 27 to be included in the drawing).* A passport is required for this trip and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour. A copy of your passport is required at time of registration. If you are looking for a roommate please let us know prior to July 30. Our office will maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity.

Trip Activity Level: Please note that on this guided tour you can expect to walk up to two miles unassisted and participate in 1.5-2.5 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs and a variety of terrains including uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should be able to get off and on motorcoaches, carriages, ferries and boats, without assistance. Our travel provider states that this trip is not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walking assists must travel with a companion who can assist them.

Weather Projection: You can expect daytime temperatures to range anywhere from 48-67 F. Weather in Ireland can be unpredictable and change quickly. Rain is common and should be expected.

Cost & Payment Options:

\$4,645 SVSU-OLLI Member* (double occupancy)

\$4,705 Non-Members* (double occupancy) (Includes 2018/2019 OLLI membership)

A deposit of \$350/\$410 will hold your spot.

#1) Pay in full July 30, 2018 /Good Buy Plan: If you pay your trip in full by check you will receive a discount.

To receive the 4% discount from Grand Circle Travel for this trip you must pay in full on July 30, 2018.

The payment **MUST be made by electronic transfer (check)**, NOT a credit card on July 30, to receive the 4% discount.

#2) Deposit Only: If travelers choose to pay deposit only, a deposit of \$350 by check or credit card is due on July 30.

The trip balance must be paid in full by February 21, 2019.

* If you have traveled with Grand Circle in the past two years you are eligible to receive a discount. If the trip was within the last year you will receive 5% off the trip cost, and a 3% discount if your last trip was within two years. This discount will be deducted by Grand Circle Travel.

Cancellation Fees: We highly recommend trip insurance for this trip! All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office by the traveler. You will be subject to a \$50 change of reservation fee payable to SVSU-OLLI, and any other charges imposed by the airlines or trip provider depending on the date the cancellation takes place. Grand Circle Travel's cancellation policies will prevail. *(Please note that insurance fees are not refundable)*

Trip Insurance: We highly recommend trip insurance. You may elect to purchase Grand Circle's Travel Protection Plan. The cost is \$499 per person. If paying balance in full on July 30, you must also pay for insurance at the same time. If paying deposit only on July 30, you will need to pay the deposit of \$350 per person, plus insurance of \$499 per person. Please visit our trip providers website for details on ways to save with a Good Buy Discount Plan & Travel Protection Plan at www.gct.com/ways-to-save/travel-protection-plan. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase.

I/We have been offered the opportunity to purchase travel insurance with Grand Circle Travel and I/We have elected to choose the following option.

Purchase travel from Grand Circle

Purchase travel insurance from another travel insurance source. Other _____

Decline the purchase of travel insurance

Leave this area blank until registration day

Occupancy: ***Single** _____ *(due to limited single accommodations, travelers should submit their request for single traveler accommodations to the OLLI office prior to July 27. Please note that single accommodations will be awarded by lottery. Names will be drawn at 8:30 a.m. on registration day.*

Double _____ Roommate's Name _____ Looking for Roommate _____

Saginaw Valley State University OLLI - Trip Reservation Form

Please provide accurate information. This will eliminate any change fees or document delays.

Past Grand Circle traveler: Y ___ N ___ Full name (for your account's name): _____

Address: _____

(Including zip code)

Phone (home): _____ - _____ - _____ Phone (cell): _____ - _____ - _____

Email address: _____

Payment Information:

Please note that Non-members will pay an additional \$60 (payable to SVSU) and will receive a 2018/19 OLLI membership

I authorize full payment of \$ _____ for _____ person(s) Total _____

OR I authorize a deposit of **\$350 member/\$410 non-member** for _____ person(s) Total _____

Optional travel protection plan included with deposit (\$499 per person): Yes ___ No ___ Total _____

Electronic Transfer (payment is automatic): Name on Checking Account: _____

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Credit Card: ___ Master Card ___ Visa ___ Discover Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ___ / ___ / ___ CVV Code _____ Card Holder name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / _____

By signing the above I have read and understand all the terms and conditions and accept them on behalf of myself and my party.

Traveler 1

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First & Middle Name: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Last: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Nickname (for name badge): _____

Passport#: _____

Passport Issue Date: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Passport Expiration Date: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Place of Birth: _____

State

Country

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Nationality: _____

Country of Issue _____

Occupation: _____ if you are retired please state Retired and from what ie: Retired teacher, retired doctor, retired carpenter...etc.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Cell Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Traveler 2

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First & Middle Name: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Last: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Nickname (for name badge): _____

Passport#: _____

Passport Issue Date: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Passport Expiration Date: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Place of Birth: _____

State

Country

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____

MM DD YEAR

Nationality: _____

Country of Issue _____

Occupation: _____ if you are retired please state Retired and from what ie: Retired teacher, retired doctor, retired carpenter...etc.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Cell Number: _____ - _____ - _____