



**VANCOUVER COLLEGE
PROPOSED ITINERARY
13 Days / 11 Nights**

July 29, 2008

Dublin (3) Kilkenny (1) Cork (1) Killarney (1) Galway (2) Belfast (3)

- April 6 Depart Vancouver International Airport on your flight to Dublin, Ireland. Enjoy in flight meals and services.
Air Canada Flight #854 departing Vancouver on April 6th at 5:35PM to London Heathrow arriving at 11:10AM on April 7
British Midlands Flight #127 departing London Heathrow on April 7 at 1:25PM to Dublin arriving at 2:50PM
- April 7 On arrival in **Dublin**, you will be met by your tour escort and transferred to your hotel for a **group dinner** and overnight. Overnight in Dublin. Breakfast and Dinners are included daily.
- April 8 This mornings sightseeing tour of **Dublin** takes you to see **St. Patrick's Cathedral** where Jonathan Swift was Dean. Swift is famed for his work "Gulliver's Travels". You will also see **Christchurch Cathedral**, the **Bank of Ireland** and many of the beautiful Georgian homes with their unusual coloured doors. You will also visit **Trinity College** to see the 8th century **Book of Kells**. The afternoon is free for the group to explore Dublin. Stroll along O'Connell Street's wide boulevards lined with monuments to Ireland's great leaders. You may want to visit the James Joyce Centre focusing on his life and works. Or you may want to visit the National Museum of History which contains the Treasury where you can see the Ardagh Chalice and Tara Brooch. This evening enjoy a group dinner. Overnight in Dublin.
- April 9 Today's sightseeing takes you to **The North Richmond Street House and Schools** which were founded by Edmund Rice in 1828 and the foundation stone was laid by Daniel O'Connell. The Brothers' headquarters were housed here for many years. The present residence incorporates the original house built by Edmund rice, who lived here from 1831 to 1838. You may see the founder's bedroom and the chapel where he prayed and of special interest is the Allen library.
- This afternoon you will visit the **Dublin Writer's Museum**. Swift, Sheridan, Shaw, Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett are among those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items. This evening enjoy a group dinner. Overnight in Dublin.
- April 10 Drive along the coast road south of Dublin into the county of Wicklow - the Garden of Ireland. Just outside the city the mountains are desolate and uninhabited with strange rolling mists. In a valley in the Wicklow Mountains, visit **Glendalough**, one of the best-known monasteries of early Ireland. It was founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century and flourished until the 14th century with over 1000 students in the university. Visit the interpretive centre and enjoy a walk around the lake. We continue on to **Kilkenny** where you will see the **Castle** standing high over the river, as well as the magnificent **St. Canice's Cathedral**, built in the 13th century. This evening enjoy a group dinner. Overnight in Kilkenny.
- April 11 Today visit the town where Edmund Rice was born, **Callan**. In the main street stands a handsome memorial in Kilkenny limestone to Edmund Ignatius Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers. Then you will travel on to **Waterford** where he started his first boy's school. Today you will have a walking tour of Waterford. The **Cathedral of The Most Holy Trinity** in Barronstrand Street has the distinction of being the earliest post-

Reformation Roman Catholic cathedral in Britain or Ireland. Visit **Mount Sion** where some original buildings of the school are still intact. A multi-image audio visual presentation tells the life story of Brother Rice. The casket containing the remains of Blessed Edmund Rice may be seen in the Chapel dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

After the tour drive along the south coast through Dungarvan and Youghal to the tiny fishing village of **Cobh**. Cobh has stunning views of one of the finest natural harbours in the world. Visit the **Queenstown Story** to learn how, from 1848-1950 over 2.5 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland. Explore conditions on board the early emigrant vessels and learn about the 'Irish Wake' - the special farewell for emigrating sons and daughters, many of whom never returned to Ireland. Continue on to **Cork** where you enjoy a walking tour of Ireland's third largest city. In Irish 'Corcaigh' means 'marshy place' and the city grew from a 7th century monastery founded by Saint Finbarr on the marshland of the River Lee. Cork is a city of spires, bow windows, Georgian houses and bustling markets with hidden alleys, pedestrian walkways and modern shops. This evening enjoy a group dinner. Overnight in Cork.

- April 12 This morning you will visit the fanciful **St. Finbarr's Cathedral** with its gingerbread house façade built on the site where the saint established his monastic school in 650 A.D., the remains of the 6th century **Elizabeth Fort** which enclose the police station and **Shandon Church** with its red and white three tiered tower. At Shandon Church you can climb the tower and ring the church bells. You will also take a drive to visit **Blarney Castle** where you have the opportunity to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Then take a scenic drive through west Cork to Ballylickey / Bantry and on to beautiful **Killarney** for dinner and overnight.
- April 13 This morning you drive north to visit **Crag Caves**, a massive pre-glacial underworld of beautiful stalagmites and stalactites. You then continue on to **Limerick** where you will visit **St. Mary's Cathedral** and the medieval **King John's Castle**. This afternoon you continue driving north via the **Cliffs of Moher** towering over 200 metres above the Atlantic ocean, and **The Burren**, a huge plateau of limestone and shale that covers over 260 square kilometres. Arrive in **Galway** where you transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight.
- April 14 This morning you have a guided walking tour of **Galway** visiting Eyre Square and see the many distinctive town houses of the merchant class with their finely carved doorways and windows, such as the Browne doorway and Lynch's Castle. Make sure to ask your guide about the history of the Claddagh, the Irish symbol of love, friendship and respect. This afternoon we visit Croagh Patrick, a major pilgrimage sight. Group dinner and overnight in Galway
- April 15 This morning you drive into Northern Ireland to Belfast. This afternoon you will visit another **Brother's school** in **Belfast**. Overnight in Belfast and enjoy a group dinner this evening.
- April 16 Today you will have a guided tour of the capital city. You will visit some of the many historical sights associated with C. S. Lewis, famed for his chronicles of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: **St. Marks Cathedral**, his family church and see Lewis's life sized statue. No matter where you go in Belfast you can see Edwardian and Victorian buildings with elaborate sculptures over the windows and doors. The City Hall, which dominates the main shopping area, was built in the grand Classical Renaissance style with an Italian Marble interior. You will also visit **St Anne's Cathedral**, enlivened inside by mosaics and a floor made of stone from all parts of Ireland. Although the Cathedral was begun in 1899, it was not completed until 1981. During part of your tour you will drive by the historic **Belfast Port and Harbour**, once the UK's largest shipyard and the building site of such famous liners as the Titanic. You will visit the newly refurbished

boat that was used to ferry the first and second class passengers from the pier to the Titanic. Overnight in Belfast and enjoy a group dinner this evening.

April 17 Today you enjoy a visit to the **Giant's Causeway**. You will drive along the beautiful Antrim Coast road to visit the Causeway, considered by some to be the 8th Wonder of the World. You will also have the opportunity to visit the site of **Dunluce Castle**. This evening enjoy your last **group dinner** and overnight in Belfast.

April 18 - Transfer to the airport for your flight home to Canada filled with wonderful memories of your trip. Welcome Home!

British Midlands Flight #81 departing Belfast at 7:00AM, arriving at London Heathrow at 8:30AM

Air Canada Flight #855 departing London Heathrow at 10:05AM to Vancouver, arriving at 12:05PM

Price per person: \$3850.00*

Based on 30 paying students and 3 Non paying chaperones

Inclusions:

- Airfare from Vancouver to Dublin & Belfast back to Vancouver via scheduled airlines including taxes and surcharges
- Transfers and transportation as stated on the itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and Dinner daily
- 11 nights Tourist Class Accommodation based on triples/quads for the students and 1 twin and 1 single for the chaperones
- Guided sightseeing tours as outlined on the day-to-day itinerary
- Entrance fees as outlined on the day to day itinerary
- Mr. Bell's book: "Inspirations from Ireland: Hounds and Leprechauns, Faeries and Banshees" - daily readings to inspire the reader from the culture and people of Ireland, based on Scriptures and Irish authors
- Substitute Teacher fees
- Taxes and service charges
- Services of Affinity Group Tours

Not Included:

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Passport and/or Visa Fees(if necessary)
- Beverages with meals
- Lunches
- Optional tours and excursions
- Gratuities for tour guides, coach drivers and in restaurants.
- Deluxe Insurance: Out of Province Medical, Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Flight & Travel Accident and Baggage Insurance (approx. \$108.00 addition per person)
- Charges by the airlines for excess luggage
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required

NOTE: This is a 'quotation' only at this time; with no reservations or arrangements booked or confirmed. Also....your "Final Cost" is totally dependent on your "Final Number of participants & number of rooms required to accommodate." We can only proceed with reservations for your Group upon receipt of your initial Deposit.

Deposit and Payment requirements:

- \$300.00 Per Person initial deposit required, to proceed with arrangements along with signed booking form and a photo copy of the passport plus the Deluxe insurance for those wishing to purchase it
- Remainder of the tour cost will be split into 3 payments
- Final Name and Rooming lists are required 12 weeks prior to departure (January 12, 2009)
- Our Final Invoice will then be issued, based on your Final Numbers & rooms required Balance of Payment is then due in our office 10-weeks prior to travel (January 26, 2009)
- All payments made are subject to cancellation penalties as per the booking form