

Castles & Gardens of Ireland

June 2-12, 2010

(departure from USA on June 1st)

Departure USA Tuesday 1 June 2010

Flight from USA (under own arrangement)

Day 1 Wednesday 2 June 2010

D

ARRIVAL DUBLIN, TRAVEL TO ENNIS

On arrival at Dublin Airport we will be met by our local coach and guide. We will then travel to western Ireland, breaking our journey en route with a visit to Birr Castle Demesne in Co Offaly. From here we make our way to Ennis, where accommodations for the next three nights will be the Old Ground Hotel (www.flynnhotels.com/Old_Ground_Hotel/). This hotel is located in the heart of this historic town and was formerly an 18th century manor house. It has been recently refurbished to a very high standard. Dinner will be served in the evening.

Day 2 Thursday 3 June 2010

B, D

ENNIS

After breakfast we drive the short distance to the **Cliffs of Moher**, perhaps Ireland's most dramatically impressive natural attraction. We then drive into **The Burren** and the beautiful valley of the River Caher, where from dense hazel and blackthorn scrub Carl Wright has created a wonderfully varied plantsman's limestone garden, **Caher Bridge Garden**, in the true "cottage" style. We have the treat of exploring **The Burren** with Carl. We return to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening.

Day 3 Friday 4 June 2010

B

ENNIS

Following breakfast, we visit a private garden at **Vandeleur** where many tender and unusual plants thrive in this area's unique western latitude microclimate. In the afternoon, we visit **Knappogue Castle**. This garden is in contrast to Vandeleur and very distinctly Victorian. We return to hotel in time for dinner.

Day 4 Saturday 5 June 2010

B, D

ENNIS TO KILLARNEY

We check out of the hotel this morning after breakfast and continue travelling southwards to **Knockpatrick**, featured in the April 2008 "The Irish Garden" magazine overlooking the Shannon estuary. We then continue towards Foynes, where **Boyce's Garden** overlooks the Shannon. This garden is a continuing winner of the Limerick/Clare Garden of the Year Award. It is designed for year-round colour and is notable especially for a profusion of southern hemisphere plants. From there we head further southwards to the banks of the River Shannon where we visit **Glin Castle Gardens**. The dashing romantic castle looks northwards to the Shannon on one side and to its own well-wooded demesne on the other. Following our visit here we travel north into Killarney to our accommodation for the next two nights at **Dunloe Castle** (<http://www.dunloecastlehotel.com/>), a luxurious modern hotel in tranquil surroundings, set against the back drop of the magnificent Gap of Dunloe. Thanks to the very mild climate, there are some unusual species here, including the South American *Lomatia ferruginea*. Others are of particular Irish interest, such as the lovely hornbeam *Carpinus benryana*, introduced by the great Irish plant hunter Augustine Henry. In addition to the trees, there are many beautiful, and often rare, plants to be admired. Dinner is served in the evening.

Lodging Dunloe Castle, <http://www.dunloecastlehotel.com/>

Day 5 Sunday 6 June 2010

B, D

KILLARNEY

After breakfast, today we tour the **Ring of Kerry**, a journey through some of the country's most outstanding scenery around the Iveragh peninsula. At Caherdaniel we visit **Derrynane House**, the

ancestral home of one of Ireland's greatest statesman, Daniel O'Connell. The house has been preserved as a museum of the life and times of the man known as 'The Liberator', who played an major part in securing Ireland's independence from Britain. The sub-tropical plantations and garden walks around the house are delightful. We will stop for lunch (not included) at the **Sheen Falls Hotel**, which has a lovely wild garden of its own. Dinner is served back at our hotel.

Day 6 Monday 7 June 2010

B, D

KILLARNEY TO CORK

This morning, after breakfast, we check out of the hotel and travel down to Bantry Bay, where we take the ferry across to Garinish Island to visit **Inacullen**, surely one of the high points of our visit to Ireland. Inacullen, commissioned from Harold Peto, was made for Annan Bryce in 1910. The elegant Italianate folly overlooking a sunken garden is familiar from countless photographs with the Cahah Mountains behind. The beauty of Inacullen comes from its wonderful intermingling of the formal and the wild. We will also visit **Kilravock** at Durrus, the private garden of Malcolm and Phemie Rose. Dunmanus Bay and has been featured on television and in several national and international publications. The garden has a viewing platform, indoor fernery with water features, Mediterranean garden, woodland area with collections of Hostas and Acers and many southern hemisphere plants. Later we will continue to our accommodation at the 4-star **Imperial Hotel, Cork** (http://www.flynnhotels.com/Imperial_Hotel/). This well known hotel has played host to several well-known guests including Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens and the composer, Liszt. Dinner will be served at the hotel in the evening.

Day 7 Tuesday 8 June 2010

B, D

CORK

Following breakfast we leave the hotel to visit the lovely old fashioned private garden of **Demesne** at Castlemartyr. We then drive to the Woodleigh Park suburb of Cork where we will visit **Ballymaloe Cookery School Gardens**. Our final visit of the day is to **Cedar Lodge**, an award-winning garden of two acres, specializing in rare and unusual plants with mixed borders of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. We return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 8 Wednesday 9 June 2010

B, D

CORK TO DUBLIN

This morning after breakfast we check out of the hotel and head south, stopping en route at the **Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens** in Kildare. Now of international renown and acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe, they are a living monument to the meeting of Eastern and Western cultures in a Western setting. We will then visit the garden of **Carmel Duignan**, a gardening writer and former television producer who has created a beautiful garden. A self-confessed plantaholic, she has amassed an extraordinary collection of plants. Following our visit, we check in at our hotel, the deluxe Gresham Hotel, (<http://www.gresham-hotels.com/>). Dinner is served in the hotel in the evening.

Day 9 Thursday 10 June 2010

B

DUBLIN

This morning we begin with a visit to **Hunting Brook**, home of the former head gardener of Airfield Gardens in Dundrum. Hidden in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains near Blessington, the garden is a plantsman's paradise with contemporary borders, creating a fusion of prairie and tropical plantings in a natural setting. Hunting Brook is now home to Ireland's largest collection of ornamental grasses with over 200 different species and cultivars. We continue to **Powerscourt**, which is more of a vista than a garden. It is a magnificent example of an aristocratic garden with herbaceous borders and ornamental lakes, but it is the view that makes Powerscourt so special - the Wicklow Mountains with the garden in the foreground is stunning, and once seen is never forgotten. Our final visit today is to **Corke Lodge**. The house was built in the 1820s to designs by William Farrell as an Italianate seaside villa and a Mediterranean grove was planted with a Cork tree as its centrepiece. You are on your own for dinner this evening.

Day 10 Friday 11 June 2010

B, D

DUBLIN

This morning after breakfast we will travel to the **Dillon Garden**, a well-known favourite of ours. Helen Dillon is a world-renowned plantswoman, writer, lecturer and broadcaster who, together with her husband Val, has created a garden that is considered to be one of the gems of the horticultural world. Next, we have a real treat when we visit **Mount Usher**, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850. The garden was inspired by Irish gardening maverick William Robinson who eschewed formal Victorian bedding schemes in favour of a more naturalistic style. We return to the hotel in time for dinner in the evening.

Day 11 Saturday 12 June 2010

DEPART DUBLIN

This morning after breakfast we check out of the hotel – please ensure any extras are paid for and take your luggage to the coach.

Registration Form

Castles and Gardens of Ireland
Departure June 2, 2010

Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport _____ Name as on passport _____

Passport # _____ Passport # _____

Passport Exp. Date _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements (airfare from USA to UK and back is not included in trip price)

_____ I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements***

_____ I would like Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to make my airline arrangements

***WE WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

If paying by credit card (we can accept only VISA or Mastercard)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be charged _____ Three digit security code from back of the card _____

LAND ONLY TOUR PRICE (airfare not included)

Double Occupancy Price \$4,295 _____ Single Occupancy Price \$5,195 _____ **

** (roommate cannot be guaranteed, if none available, you will be responsible for single occupancy price)

****Tour price will be discounted by 10% for registrations on or before February 28, 2010.**

TRIP CONDITIONS

This trip has been organized by Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C. which reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. You will receive confirmation of registration within 30 days of receipt of registration. Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure and all invoices will be sent in advance of this date. Once final payment is made, all airfare, hotel payments, etc. are paid in full, and we cannot refund any money after this date. Trip price includes all lodging as specified on the itinerary, private transportation with driver, tips for maids and porters, entrances fees per itinerary, and breakfast daily. Many dinners are included as indicated on the itinerary. Tour price **DOES NOT INCLUDE round trip airfare to and from Dublin International Airport**. Also, please tip the driver and in country guide upon completion of this trip.

We highly encourage trip insurance, which includes cancellation and trip delay coverage, as well as baggage and medical coverage. Most trip insurance policies waive pre-existing conditions if you sign up for insurance within 15 days of sending in this initial trip deposit. We recommend Access America for trip insurance, which is available online or through your nearest AAA office.

Mail this form and your deposit to:
Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 39 Rocheport, MO 65279
Email: info@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
573-881-6316