

NOVEMBER 12-19, 2011

\$1779.00 PER PERSON

(plus \$295.00 US departure tax*)

Bleggard's

STOUT IRISH ROCK

On Their

Tour of Ireland

Day 1 November 12 Saturday	USA-Ireland. Depart USA for overnight flight to Ireland. Dinner and in-flight entertainment is served shortly after take-off.
Day 2 November 13 Sunday	Dublin. Morning arrival at Dublin Airport where you are greeted by your Driver/Guide. Leaving the airport we travel to a nearby venue where everyone will have an opportunity for their first Full Irish Breakfast (on own expense). We travel into Dublin Town where we enjoy a panoramic tour of this 1000-year old city. We then see statue filled O'Connell Street, The General Post Office scene of the 1916 Easter Uprising, as well as Georgian Square. Our group will then enjoy a visit to the Guinness Brewery . Group will be dropped off on Nassau Street for some free browsing time. We will then check into our hotel. Overnight Dublin at Camden Court Hotel. Dinner is on your own.
Day 3 November 14 Monday	Dublin. Today is a free day in Dublin. We suggest a Hop On/Hop Off Dublin Bus Pass. You'll be sure to see St. Patrick's Cathedral where Jonathan Swift gave his sermons; or the G.P.O. on O'Connell Street, the scene of the 1916 Easter Uprising where bullet-holes remain to this day. Visit the famous Phoenix Park where Pope John Paul II said Mass in 1979 to over a million people; and finally Trinity College to view the 8th century manuscripts, the Book of Kells, still preserved as they were when the monks produced them all those centuries ago. Drop by the Guinness Storehouse for a peek at the makings of this world famous brew. And be sure to visit Dublin's oldest Pub this afternoon, the Brazen Head. Or enjoy a Literary Pub Crawl this evening after dinner. Dinner is on your own. Overnight Camden Court Hotel.
Day 4 November 15 Tuesday	Dublin-Kilkenny-Cork. After a leisurely breakfast we depart Dublin and travel south first passing Naas, home to the Irish National Stud Farm. Next it is on to Medieval Kilkenny, an ancient Medieval Town once home to many microbreweries including the still standing Smithwick's Brewery . It is located in the yard of a now ruined Abbey, carrying on a brewing tradition that apparently began with the monks of the afore mentioned abbey in the 14th century. We pass by Kilkenny Castle. The Butler Family bought the Castle in 1391 and lived there until 1935. They were Earls, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde and lived in the castle for over five hundred years. They were a remarkable family, resilient, politically astute and faithful to the crown and to Ireland as dictated by the politics of the times. These loyalties determined their fortunes and career, and so too the fortunes of their seat some time to browse through Kilkenny. We then enjoy a panoramic tour of Cork City, home to several magnificent churches including St. Ann's and St. Finbar's cathedral. Cork City is the second largest city in Ireland and takes its name from the Irish word Corcaigh meaning "marshy place". The ancestral home of America's automobile pioneer, Henry Ford is located here. Overnight River Lee Hotel. Dinner at our hotel this evening.
Day 5 November 16 Wednesday	Cork-Blarney-Midleton-Cork. After a plentiful Full Irish Breakfast our journey travels a short distance to Blarney. With its 14th century kissing stone and fully stocked Woolen Mills there is plenty here for everyone. We then continue to The Midleton Distillery for a visit. This distillery was founded in 1825 which manufactures Irish whisky or what many Irish refer to as "Uisce Beatha" meaning "Water of Life. Time this afternoon to browse vibrant Cork City. Overnight River Lee Hotel. Dinner is on your own.
Day 6 November 17 Thursday	Cork-Cashel-Tipperary-Galway. After breakfast we depart Cork and travel north. Cashel is home to the iconic Rock of Cashel . Cashel's rich history is reflected in its built heritage, from prehistoric raths to mediaeval monasteries and fortified town houses, a Georgian Cathedral and a 21st century Library (which holds regular exhibitions, workshops and concerts). The Georgian quarter also boasts the Bolton Library where you can find the smallest book in Ireland It's huge, it's complex, it's iconic, there is nothing like it anywhere else in the world and it's right here in Cashel at the heart of Tipperary. The Rock of Cashel (Carraig Phádraig), more formally St. Patrick's Rock, it is also known as Cashel of the Kings. Reputedly the site of the conversion of Aenghus the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century AD. It is on to Limerick, Ireland's third largest city and home to author Frank McCourt who wrote Angela's Ashes. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs, Celtic crosses and a ruined Cistercian Abbey dating from the 12th century, Corcomroe. You can find villages abandoned since famine times and green roads on which you can walk for miles without ever seeing a car. Our next stop is south of Galway near Gort, Thor Ballylee. Thoor Ballylee was Yeats's monument and symbol; in both aspects it had multiple significance. It satisfied his desire for a rooted place in a known countryside, not far from Coole and his life-long friend Lady Gregory. To live in a Tower complemented, perhaps, his alignment with a tradition of cultivated aristocracy which he had envied and a leisured peace which he had enjoyed We continue north into youthful bustling Galway. In the 1400's, there began in Galway the rule of the "Tribes", as the leading fourteen families were called. Their names were <i>Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Browne, Darcy, Deane, Font, French, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris, and Skerritt</i> . Time today to browse "Shop Street" as well as the lively pubs that dot the city. Overnight Imperial Hotel. Dinner on your own.
Day 7 November 18 Friday	Connemara. After enjoying breakfast, we depart and begin our journey to the Connemara region, one of the most scenic and unspoiled areas in the country. Today we take in the magnificent views of the Connemara region, Ireland's treasure of wild, natural beauty where, in some places, Gaelic remains the only spoken language. We travel to Clifden. Situated on the west coast of Ireland against the backdrop of the 12 Ben Mountains and beautiful rugged coastline, the town is known locally as the Capital of Connemara. Clifden is a lively location full of shops, pubs, restaurants and cafés...Today's journey ends with a visit to Cong for "The Quiet Man Tour", where John Wayne filmed his famous movie that made Maureen O'Hara famous. Overnight Imperial Hotel. Farewell dinner at our hotel this evening.
Day 8 November 19 Saturday	Shannon-USA. After breakfast we are transferred to Shannon Airport. In the off chance that you missed shopping opportunities, Shannon has a large Duty-Free Shop that you can visit once you are checked in for your flight. In the traditional Irish way we wish you "Safe Home".

Your Tour Includes:

- Round Trip Airfare from HOUSTON to Ireland
- Deluxe motorcoach vehicle throughout your tour, including all transfers and sightseeing
- Services of professional Irish Driver and Guide.
- Six (6 Nights) First Class Accommodations as follows or similar:
Location Hotel
Dublin Camden Court Hotel-2 Nights *** www.camdencourthotel.com
Cork River Lee Hotel-2 Nights **** www.doylecollection.com
Galway The Imperial Hotel-2 Nights *** www.imperialhotelgalway.ie
- Full Irish Breakfast daily
- Two Dinners: 1 in Galway, 1 in Cork
- Admission to Rock of Cashel, Middleton Distillery, Guinness Storehouse
- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary
- PERFORMANCES BY BLAGGARDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Portage of one suitcases per person
- Hotel tips and taxes throughout (Except tips to your personal Driver/Guide)
- Deluxe portfolio of travel documents professionally executed

Cancellation Penalties: (LAND) If written cancellation is received by Hammond Tour more than 120 days prior to departure, a processing fee of \$250.00 per person will apply. From 119 days to 60 days prior to departure, a cancellation penalty of \$600.00 per person will apply. 60 Days or less prior to departure- a 100% cancellation penalty fee applies.

Reservation Application

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on your NOVEMBER 12-19, 2011 (BLAGG11)
I enclose a deposit of \$ _____ (\$250.00 per person) Deposit Due: **ASAP to hold seats**
2nd Deposit of \$350.00 due by June 1, 2011
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: September 28, 2011

Name (as on passport) _____
Address: _____
Tel: (home): _____ (work): _____ email: _____
Other passengers traveling with me _____

Room Type: Twin (2 Beds)/Double (1 Bed): _____ Single: _____

YOU MUST PAY SINGLE RATE IF NOT TRAVELING WITH A COMPANION. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU NEED A ROOMMATE
Cancellation Insurance Per Person: Double (\$185.00) Single (\$230.00): Yes: ___ No: ___ (must be paid with deposit)
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$499.00 (LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE) _____ YES

We Accept Visa, Mastercard & American Express. There is a 3% Charge for this service. No service charges on initial \$250.00 deposit *Government Departure Tax is Always Subject to Change

TOUR IS BASED ON MINIMUM 30 PARTICIPANTS
AIRFARE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL PACKAGE IS PAID IN FULL
(Make Check Payable to Hammond Tours)

Send check and application to:
HAMMOND TOURS
34 WEDGEWOOD LANE
VOORHEESVILLE, NY 12186
TEL: 518-765-2056

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