DeMatha Alumni Association
2018 TRIP TO IRELAND
June 23 to July 4, 2018

Doolin * Galway * Kildare * Dublin

Play Golf at Three Great Courses
Lahinch * Galway Bay * Portmarnock Links

Enjoy the Pubs of Doolin, Galway, Dublin

Spend the Day at the Races – Irish Derby in Kildare
Visit the Cliffs of Moher, the Aran Islands, Connemara

$1,999* per person, double occupancy includes:

- ♣ 11 days with expert Irish tour guide/driver
- ♣ 10 nights first class accommodations
- ♣ Full Irish breakfast daily
- ♣ Welcome dinner in Doolin
- ♣ Dinner and entertainment at Dunguaire Castle
- ♣ Dinner and entertainment at The Brazen Head
- ♣ Farewell dinner and entertainment in Dublin
- ♣ Porterage of one suitcase per person
- ♣ Admissions as highlighted in itinerary

***Not Included:**

- ♣ ***Roundtrip airfare and air taxes*** (fares will be announced in August 2017)
- ♣ Golf (green fees, caddies, club rental, etc.)
- ♣ Optional horseback riding
- ♣ Gratuity for driver (5 Euro per person per day)
- ♣ Optional Travel Protection/Insurance ($140 for land only; air t.b.a.)
- ♣ Meals, except as stated
- ♣ Single room supplement of $499 (space is limited)

TRIP INFORMATION GATHERING TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017
(LOCATION AND TIME T.B.A)

Space is limited. **A first deposit of $500 per person holds your spot until August 24 (after air fares are announced). The first deposit should be made payable to DeMatha Alumni Association. After August 24, the first deposit becomes non-refundable and will be remitted to the travel agent, Isle Inn Tours.**

A second deposit of $500 per person will be due on or before December 1, 2017, made payable to Isle Inn Tours. Final payment will be due no later than March 12, 2018 to Isle Inn Tours.

Separate, non-refundable deposits for green fees are to be announced.

This tour is subject to the terms and conditions listed on www.isleinntours.com

DeMatha Alumni Association
2018 TRIP TO IRELAND

REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT FULL NAME(FIRST, MIDDLE & LAST) EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT
Please submit a copy of the picture page from your passport with payment.

Accommodations Desired: Double (1 bed for 2 people):_____ Twin Bed (2 beds for 2 people):_____ Single Traveler:_____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

_____

PHONE: ( )_____

email:_____

Special request/dietary requirement:_____

_____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

_____

PHONE: ( )_____

email:_____

Special request/dietary requirement:_____

_____

Please indicate which days you wish to play golf:

I will not be playing golf :_____

I will be playing golf at:

Old Course at Lahinch Golf Club _____

Galway Bay Golf Resort _____

Portmarnock Golf Club _____

I will be bringing my own clubs: Yes_____ No_____

I will not be playing golf :_____

I will be playing golf at:

Old Course at Lahinch Golf Club _____

Galway Bay Golf Resort _____

Portmarnock Golf Club _____

I will be bringing my own clubs: Yes_____ No_____

Please indicate whether you are interested in the optional horseback riding:

Yes:_____ No:_____

Yes:_____ No:_____

Prior to August 24, 2017, send the first deposit of $500 to Tom Ponton at DeMatha.

Send your subsequent deposits (and your first deposit after August 24) or call with credit card information:

Isle Inn Tours
Attn: Andrea
105 Oronoco St. Ste 111
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 237-9376 Ext 1005 or direct (703) 997-6725
email: andrea@isleinntours.com

Itinerary

Day 1 - Saturday, June 23 - Depart on your overnight flight to Shannon, Ireland. (Note: Flights will not be known until 11 months prior to your return date.)

Day 2 - Sunday, June 24 - ***Cead mile failte!*** Meet your guide-driver at Shannon Airport. Depart for Ennis to attend 10:30 a.m. **Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul**, also known as Ennis Cathedral.

After Mass in Ennis, visit the **Cliffs of Moher** and enjoy stunning views over the Atlantic Ocean and the Aran Islands. After the visit to the Cliffs of Moher, take a short ride to Doolin. Doolin, a small fishing village on the west coast of Ireland, is referred to as the capital of traditional Irish music. Use the afternoon to rest from the flight, or visit a pub or two. Enjoy a **welcome dinner** with the group at the hotel tonight.

Optional: **Doolin Pitch & Putt** – Prior to dinner, practice your short game on this links course. Even our "non-golfers" will enjoy 18 holes of par-3 golf with a view of the Aran Islands and Cliffs of Moher.

Overnight: Hotel Doolin or Aran View Hotel, Doolin, County Clare (D, B) *We have reservations at the best hotels in Doolin. Both hotels are a short walk to the shops, restaurants and pubs in the village, where there is always a lively atmosphere.*

Day 3 – Monday, June 25 – Non-Golfers enjoy a leisurely breakfast and the shops in the village.

Optional: **Old Course at Lahinch Golf Club. Tee times starting at 7:00 a.m. -** *Lahinch Golf Club is frequently referred to as "the St. Andrew's of Ireland" because of its interaction with the local village. The links are situated on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.*

Sail to the Aran Island (Inis Oirr) and the Cliffs of Moher. Depart Doolin pier at 1:00 p.m. for Inis Oirr (30-minute crossing). Spend the afternoon exploring the island, dining in one of the pubs or cafes, or just relaxing on the spectacular beach. At 4:45 p.m. depart Inis Oirr for Cliffs of Moher cruise on way back to Doolin. Arrive back in Doolin at 6:15 p.m.

After the cruise, spend the evening at one of the many pubs offering traditional Irish music.

Overnight: Hotel Doolin/Aran View Hotel (B)

Day 4 - Tuesday, June 26 – The Wild Atlantic Way from Doolin to Galway. After breakfast, leave Doolin and take the Wild Atlantic Way along the Clare coast. Take in wonderful views of The Burren's karst landscape as you travel through Fanore and on to Black Head. At Black Head, you can enjoy wonderful views across Galway Bay to the Connemara coastline. Leave Black Head and pass through Ballyvaughan, a small harbour village nestled under the high ridge of Gleninagh Mountain, and continue to Galway City.

Tour of Galway – Upon arrival in Galway, embark on a tour to see the principal sights of the city. A drive around the city will take you to the large modern cathedral set on an island on the River Corrib. See the Spanish Arch in the Claddagh area, formerly a fishing village, the City Museum, National University of Ireland, Galway and the Cathedral of Our Lady, which is built on the site of the former county jail.

Check into the hotel. Enjoy an evening of independent activities and dining.

Overnight: The Victoria Hotel (B). *The Victoria Hotel, a three-star hotel, is right off Eyre Square in the heart of Galway City centre. It is in easy walking distance to shopping, restaurants and bars, museums, theatre, historical buildings, street entertainment and much* more.

Day 5 – Wednesday, June 27 - Enjoy the day to explore Galway on your own. Enjoy the people and places of Galway at your own pace. Visit St. Nicholas and Galway Cathedral. Take in the Galway City Museum, which houses exhibitions that explore aspects of the history of Galway City. Shop for a ring in the Claddagh village. Browse at Kenny's Bookshop & Art Gallery.

Optional: Galway Bay Golf Resort, Tee times Starting at 9:00 a.m. Galway Bay Golf Resort is located on Galway Bay, is described as "parkland by the sea." With variable wind speed and directions, this Championship course plays differently each day, posing a considerable challenge to even the lowest handicap golfers, yet it is a true and fair test of golf.

This afternoon, you will drive south around Galway Bay to **Dunguaire Castle**, a beautifully restored 15th century castle. The enchanting evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a meal guaranteed to please the palate. After dinner, let the castle's superb artists inspire you with extracts chosen from the works of great literary writers such as Synge, Yeats, Shaw and O'Casey. The excerpts are selected to lighten the heart and are performed by artists perfectly molding themselves into their parts.

After dinner and the show, return to Galway and enjoy a pint or two in nearby pub.

Overnight: The Victoria Hotel (B, D)

Day 6 – Thursday, June 28 – **Tour of Connemara**. Depart west from Galway through the Claddagh and Salthill. You will then head west along the southern shores of Connemara, looking out across Galway Bay. As you pass through the picturesque villages of Barna, Spiddal and Inverin, you will see thatched cottages, dry stone walls, mountains, woodlands, rivers and streams, lakes, Connemara ponies, amazing beaches and unspoilt bogs and deserted islands.

Optional: The Point Pony Trekking & Horse Riding Centre, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway. This morning, enjoy the unique opportunity to discover some of the most breathtaking scenery in Connemara on horseback. Experienced staff will guide you and your horse safely along the dazzling sandy beaches and through wide open countryside.

While the others are horseback riding, enjoy lunch in the colorful town of Clifden. Clifden, often referred to as "the Capital of Connemara," is located on the Owenglen River where it flows into Clifden Bay. It is nestled amidst breathtaking mountain scenery and beautiful rugged coastline and is one of Ireland's most loved towns.

After lunch, take a drive along Sky Road, an 11-kilometer circular route of stunning scenery with views of set between the Atlantic Ocean, 12 Ben Mountains and preserved bog lands. On the way back to Galway City, stop at Moycullen.

Enjoy the evening of independent activities and dining.

Overnight: The Victoria Hotel (B)

Day 7 – Friday, June 29 - This morning leave Galway for Kildare. Head east out of Galway City and drive by the low-lying fields surrounding the town of Athenry. The fields were made famous in the song, The Fields of Athenry, a popular love song and scathing commentary on the way the Irish Potato Famine was handled by the British Government. After a short stop for photographs, continue east to Clonmacnoise.

Clonmacnoise is the monastery founded in 546 by Ciarán, a young man from Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon. Until the 9th century it had close associations with the kings of Connacht. The strategic location of the monastery on the River Shannon helped it become a major centre of religion, learning, craftsmanship, and trade. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th -13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graveslabs.

After visiting Clonmacnoise, take a short drive to Athlone. Have lunch at one of the eateries along the River Shannon. Browse the galleries and bookshops. Have a pint at Sean's Bar (the oldest in Ireland, at least according to a dubiously obtained Guinness Book of Records certificate inside).

Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. After lunch, take a short drive to the town of Tullamore. Visit **the Tullamore Dew Visitor Centre** and take the Special Reserve Tour. Using modern audio visual technology and traditional storytelling, your tour guide will bring the stories of Irish whiskey, the distilling process and Tullamore D.E.W. to life. At the end of the tour, whiskey enthusiasts will enjoy an in-depth whiskey tasting.

After your visit to the Tullamore Dew Visitor Centre, take a stroll around Tullamore, which is a typical busy Midlands Irish town. Stop in The Brewery Tap, Tullamore's favourite pub, which is a great place to continue your discovery and enjoyment of the full range of Tullamore D.E.W. whiskeys.

Overnight: Osprey Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare (B, D). *The Osprey Hotel is a four-star, contemporary hotel located in the town of Naas. The Osprey complex includes a spa and a fitness & leisure center.* Enjoy dinner with the group tonight.

Day 8 - Saturday, June 30 – **Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival at The Curragh Raceway**. Today is the highlight of the 2018 racing season at The Curragh - a social occasion like no other. Enjoy an exciting classic race day featuring the Irish Derby. The Derby is the ultimate destination to be enthralled and get swept up in the magic of an unmissable summer celebration with friends. It is unrivalled in its prestige and tradition. Gates open at 12 noon; the 1st race is at 3pm.

Racegoers can enjoy the best dishes from some of County Kildare's leading restaurants and food producers. The evening will finish with a celebration of Irish music in the Derby Music Village.

Overnight: Osprey Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare (B)

Day 9 – Sunday, July 1 - Leave Kildare for Glendalough and Dublin. After breakfast, leave Naas and Co. Kildare for Co. Wicklow. Arrive in time for Mass at 11:30 a.m. **at St. Kevin's Parish Church in Glendalough**.

Guided Tour of Glendalough. Glendalough is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and consists of a number of monastic remains, the most impressive being the Round Tower which stands 30m high.

Wicklow Mountains Scenic Drive. Head north towards Dublin. Enjoy spectacular views of the Wicklow Mountains. Continue to Sally Gap, a notable crossroads situated between Kippure Mountain and the Djouce Mountain.

Arrive in Dublin and enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own.

Dinner at The Brazen Head (D) . Tonight, enjoy an evening of Irish music, storytelling and an insightful look into Irish folklore at The Brazen Head, Ireland's oldest pub (a claim more credible than Sean's Pub in Athlone). Dating back to 1198, there is a palpable sense of history within these timeworn walls. The pub has retained the charm and characteristics of its past and in particular it's patrons, who have included such literaries as James Joyce, Brendan Behan and Jonathan Swift, as well as such revolutionaries as Robert Emmet, Wolfe Tone, Daniel O'Connell and Michael Collins.

Overnight: Camden Court Hotel, Dublin (B) *Camden Court Hotel, a modern four-star hotel located in Dublin city centre close to the main Dublin tourist attractions. The hotel is just a short and pleasant walk from St Stephens Green, Grafton Street, the focus of Dublin's premier shopping district, and historic Trinity College.*

Day 10 – Monday, July 2 - This morning, take the **1916 Rebellion Walking Tour**. In 1916, a small band of armed insurrectionists declared Ireland a Republic. This event is known as the Easter Rising, a violent battle that resulted in many deaths and the destruction of many parts of Dublin. This tour will take you to the relevant sites of the Rebellion, to give you an understanding of this historic occasion which precipitated the formation of the Republic.

Afternoon on your own to Explore Dublin. Take in the National Museum of Ireland, or Kilmainham Gaol or the Guinness Storehouse. Our tour guide will be glad to make recommendations for you.

Dublin Traditional Irish Music Pub Crawl. Experience the vibrancy of Dublin's traditional drink and Irish music scene on this evening pub crawl through Temple Bar – the city's cultural quarter! Accompany two friendly musicians on a fun and educational tour through the hip yet historic district, where you'll visit classic pubs and bars, witness local drinking culture, and encounter Irish storytelling and music at its best.

] Overnight: Camden Court Hotel, Dublin (B)

Day 11 – Tuesday, July 3 - Newgrange Day Tour - Travel through Ireland's ancient east along the Boyne Valley, visiting all of these ancient heritage sites, including the Passage Tomb at Newgrange; a guided tour at Monasterboice (High crosses); a guided walking tour at Hill of Slane (associated with Saint Patrick); and a guided tour at Hill of Tara (ancient Celtic ritual site).

Optional : ***Portmarnock Golf Club*** Tee times beginning at 9:00 a.m. - Portmarnock Links is one of Ireland's most prestigious and challenging courses. The course, designed by Bernhard Langer, is laid out on classic links landscape which once formed part of the old Jameson Estate.

Farewell Dinner. For our final evening, enjoy a farewell gathering.

Overnight: Camden Court Hotel, Dublin (B, D)

Day 12 – Wednesday, July 4 - Return flight home from Dublin. After breakfast, head to Dublin Airport, allowing plenty of time for the drive and for flight check in. Flights will not be known until 11 months prior to your return date.

Weather and circumstances beyond our control may suggest or require changes to the itinerary.
This tour is subject to the terms and conditions listed on ***www.isleinntours.com*****.**