

August 2009 Myths and Miracles Part 2...



Itinerary for

Ireland 2009



Experience the perfect mix of the magical, the mystical, the familiar and the uncommon. Re-awaken, as you explore during the day and are delighted with evenings of entertainment shared with old and new friends.

As we travel you will experience Ireland, a land rich in beauty, Celtic spirituality, legend and myth. Renowned for its holy places, it is here where Druids once taught and the Celtic culture thrived. You will be enchanted by the folklore and fairytales as you discover this beautiful land and its ancient sacred sites which hold so much wisdom.



Join Dr. Meg Jane Wardlaw

For a life changing adventure!

For more info or to register please contact Dame Jane Wardlaw, (IOGT) at email janeawardlaw@yahoo.ca



**Phone: 1 888 255 3639 toll free in N. America
or 403 283 1404**

Experience the perfect mix of the magical, the mystical, the familiar and the uncommon. Re-awaken, as you explore during the day and are delighted with evenings of entertainment shared with old and new friends.

As we travel you will experience Ireland, a land rich in beauty, Celtic spirituality, legend and myth. Renowned for its holy places, it is here where Druids once taught and the Celtic culture thrived. You will be enchanted by the folklore and fairytales as you discover this beautiful **land and its ancient sacred sites which hold so much wisdom.**

August 20th - Thursday - Day 1:

After passing through immigration in Dublin, at 9:00 AM **we** begin **our** adventure. First, travel a short distance to the center of Dublin, where **we** discover the charm of the city as **we** embark on a brief walking tour. **We will visit** the many historical sites including Christ Church Cathedral, National Museum of Ireland, and Trinity College, home of the "Book of Kells." **We** may



also explore the many shops in Dublin, take time for afternoon tea, or frequent one of the many pubs. Then enjoy country hospitality when **we** arrive at our hotel. There, **we** are served a delightful meal in a quiet, peaceful atmosphere, retiring early to relax and refresh yourself after your long journey.



August 21st - Friday - Day 2:

Today **we** experience The Boyne Valley. **We** will visit three ancient temples. These sites are older than the pyramids of Egypt and their uniqueness will astound you. Each temple was carefully built to be aligned to the sun. Some believe these are remnants of the Atlantian civilization.

At Newgrange **we** view the enormous stones etched with ancient art that surround the temple. As **we** enter the temple, **we** experience its energy as the ancients did before **us**. On winter solstice the sun rises in perfect alignment, casting a beam of light down the center of the temple.

Next, **we** travel on to Knowth which consists of one large temple surrounded by more than eighteen satellite structures believed to be tombs. Ancient kings once ruled from this site.

Later, **we** visit Dowth the third of the great temples. This one honors the goddess, since Dowth's alignment with the setting sun at Winter Solstice places it at the end of the sun cycle taking it into the womb of Ireland believed to be female.

Visiting these three sites show two different concepts of restoration and one that has yet to be restored.

Tonight **we** take pleasure in a typical Irish meal and join in the friendly atmosphere.

August 22nd - Saturday - Day 3:

Today, **we** visit the magnificent Cairns of Loughcrew, also known as Slive Na Callaigh or the Hill of the Witch. The central and biggest Cairn is known as Cairn T. The largest kerbstones are near the entrance to the tomb. A large stone in the northern part of the kerb is known by three names, 'Chair of the Witch', 'the Chair of Queen Tailtiu' and 'Queen Maeve'.

In the afternoon, **we** visit Tara, one of the most venerated places in early Ireland. Tara is one of the largest Celtic monuments in Europe. In ancient Celtic spirituality and mythology, Tara was revered as a dwelling place of the gods.

We will have time to visit a Tara gift shop, featuring all things Celtic. There you can partake in afternoon tea. That evening, you return to Dublin where **we** enjoy a beautiful dinner and a traditional Irish Cabaret with new and old friends.



August 23rd - Sunday - Day 4:



The 'little people' are sure to touch **our hearts** in Glendalough. Here, **we** will be enchanted by feelings of **joy, love** and peace as **we** walk the well-traveled and the less traveled paths through this **ancient monastery**. This **exceptional place** 'Glen of the Two Lakes' is the only surviving example of an entrance to an early Irish monastery and university. As **we** stroll through this ancient **Celtic spiritual** power site, **we** will be encouraged to take in the calmness **and natural beauty**. Here **we** can take part in a local custom. Tie your wish on the tree at the holy well and become part of the landscape.

As **we** walk through this picturesque valley, **we** will encounter Trinity Church, Saint Mary's Church, Reffert Church, **the Green Road, lakes, streams and Saint Kevin's Cell**.

In the late afternoon, you bid farewell to Glendalough and travel a short distance to **our** hotel. There, **we** relax and get ready for a fun-filled evening.

August 24th - Monday - Day 5:

We say goodbye to Dublin and head south to Limerick where adventure awaits us as we discover the beautiful settlement of Lough Gur with its megalithic tomb and stone circles. Legend has it that Lough Gur was formed by the Goddess Aine who appears here in different forms as a mermaid, a young woman, and a hag. As a mermaid, she rises from her traditional home beneath the sacred waters of the lake. As a maiden, she empowers the land's human custodians and as a hag she defends her realm.

This afternoon **we** travel to Killarney where **we** dine in our hotel.

August 25th - Tuesday - Day 6:

At Muckross House **we view the house and the gardens and have lunch**. You may choose to rent a jaunting car and journey back in time as you explore the mystical grounds, **waterfall** and magical forest. Some have reported seeing a leprechaun or two.

Later that day, **we** wander through an ancient abbey and view the Yew tree growing in the center courtyard. **We** continue to explore **Killarney** and its lakes.

After we return to our hotel, we have time to put our feet up in preparation for dining and entertainment.

August 26th - Wednesday - Day 7:

As **our** journey continues **we** visit the Dingal peninsula and the mystical Gallarus Oratory with its inscribed stone. It is one of the finest examples of an early Christian church. The small oratory was built of large cut stones neatly fitted together to resemble an upturned boat. Later, **we** experience Kilmalkedar Church and Cross, Ogham Stone, Alphabet Stone, Sundial and Saint Brendan's House. The early history of the site is associated with Saint Maolcethair who died in 636 AD. It is also the starting point of 'the Way of the Saints', which

takes you to the top of Mount Brandon along the old pilgrims' path. We visit ancient Beehive Huts and experience how ancient communities lived.

Enjoy your evening with a wonderful dinner, music and a traditional Irish coffee to wrap up your day.

August 27th - Thursday - Day 8:

Today is not for the faint of heart! We travel by boat to the breathtaking sanctuary of Skellig Michael located 8 miles off the southwest coast of Ireland . You may choose to climb the 620 steps to the top to view the monastic remains and beehive huts used as living quarters and community buildings. Saint Michael's Church and a small area known as The Monk's Garden are situated on a series of panoramic terraces. If you choose to make the trek you are rewarded with breathtaking views. In the afternoon we return to Portmagee for an Irish lunch at the Moorings. (weather permitting)



We travel to Kenmare to explore its stone circle and holy well. Here, you can take part in a ritual, getting in touch with the past. Experience these stones as our ancestors may have done thousands of years before us.

Later, we travel on to the exquisite seaside town of Glengarriff where we take in the local color, spend the night and do some fine dining.

August 28th - Friday - Day 9:

We experience the exquisite seaside town of Glengarriff where we take in the local color, **Garnish Island**, a subtropical paradise, a remarkable place on a 37 acre island reachable only by boat from the village of Glengarriff. The gardens were created in 1911 and are the joint work of John Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer. The signature area of the garden is undoubtedly the Italian Casita, overlooking a formal pool in an area lushly planted with fuchsias, camellias, myrtles and scented rhododendrons.



Today, we journey to the enchanting valley of Gougane Barra, Saint Finbarr's first settlement on the shores of a beautiful lake. We visit the oratory; walk the grounds of the old monastery feeling its energies and sacredness.

Overnight in Glengarriff.

August 29th - Saturday - Day 10:

Today, we travel to the Drombeg stone circle known as the 'Druid's Altar'. For 3 days, starting at Winter Solstice, the sun disappears behind the hill on the horizon and then reappears in the lower valley. At the point of reappearance, the stone circle is dramatically illuminated.

Remember, don't sit on a Druid altar unless you can handle the vibrations!

Next, we travel to Blarney where you settle into your hotel or shop at the Blarney Woollen Mills. You may visit Blarney Castle and optionally kiss the Blarney Stone.

August 30th - Sunday - Day 11:

Today, you experience the beauty of Blarney and its ancient Druid heritage. In Rock Close ask the giant Dolmen does it still rock? Maneuver the Wishing Steps and have your dream come true? Experience the sacredness at the altar of the Druids or stand in their ancient circle? Will we see the Witch as she pokes the ashes of her kitchen fire? And are there fairies at the bottom of the garden? We can of course just simply marvel at the unrivalled beauty that Mother Nature so generously sets before us?

At noon we say goodbye to Blarney and travel to Kildare. There, we visit the flame of Saint Brigid. Her flame burned for over a thousand years prior to the English reformation. The flame was rekindled in 1993 by the Brigidine sisters. Saint Brigid is believed to have been a Druidic priestess who converted to Christianity.



People who visit the holy well often tell stories of miraculous healings and divine inspiration.

As our journey comes to a close, we travel to Dublin for an Irish farewell dinner.

August 31st - Monday - Day 12:

We say our farewells and depart for home grateful for all that we encountered and experienced.

Included in Trip:

11 nights accommodation

All entrance fees to sites

All ground transportation

2 meals per day, breakfast and dinner

All lectures and teachings

Not Included:

Airfare

Meals other than specified above

Item of a personal nature such as gifts, shopping, beverages, phone calls, internet access fee, excess baggage fees, medical costs, the costs of hospitalization or transport to hospital, insurance, and additional expenses arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, political disputes, sickness, failure of transportation or other causes beyond our control.

- **Trip Cost: \$3695.00 US**
- **Join us for both Scotland and Ireland and receive 10% discount on total price, plus free transport from Scotland to Ireland. (Must register by May 30 to qualify for free transport) This is a savings of \$848.00 plus free transport from Scotland to Ireland.**
- **Can't come to both tours? Bring a room-mate and you each save \$300.00 on the Ireland tour.**
- **Easy Payment Plan! Deposit of 33% by May 30 will hold your space! June 15 another 33% and July 15 the balance is due.**

Cancellations and Refunds:

Cancellations prior to April 1 will receive a 60% refund.

Cancellations after April 1 before June 1 will receive a 40% discount

Cancellations after June 1 or no shows will forfeit all monies paid.

We strongly recommend Travel Cancellation Insurance if there is a chance you may have to cancel for any reason.

For more info or to register please contact Jane Wardlaw at janewardlaw1@yahoo.com

Phone: 1 888 255 3639 toll free in North America or 403 283 1404