

BRT *Bob Rogers Travel*

Byron High School Choir

Amy Harn

June 1 – 9, 2024



Ireland Tour

Trip Highlights

- Blarney Castle
- The Cliffs of Moher
- 3 Performances
- Phoenix Park
- Rock of Cashel
- Irish Dance Lessons
- Guided Tour of Dublin city
- Dingle Peninsula
- Galway
- And much more



BYRON HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

AMY HARN, DIRECTOR

DESTINATION: IRELAND

DATES: JUNE 1 – 9, 2024

SUGGESTED ITINEARY

AS OF

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

DEPARTURE

(In-flight meals)

AM Coaches arrive at Byron High School (***Students should have comfortable clothes in their carry-on, since they won't have access to inside of luggage in Ireland before the GAA Experience***)

PM Coaches depart for O'Hare Airport

PM Arrive at **Chicago's O'Hare Airport**

Upon arrival Meet the **BRT Representative** ~ who will assist you and the group with check in; **you will be allowed one piece of checked baggage not to weigh more than 50 lbs.**

Must have VALID Passport. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your travel dates.

PM Group departs on flight for Dublin, Ireland

Enjoy the in-flight entertainment and your dinner en-route to Ireland

SUNDAY, JUNE 2**DUBLIN / GALWAY***(Meals included: breakfast & dinner)***WELCOME TO IRELAND!!!**

- AM Flight arrives in Dublin – you will meet your **Professional Tour Director** outside the doors of baggage claim he will be holding a sign reading Bob Rogers Travel & Byron High School.
- AM Proceed to the coach parking area and load the motor coach
- AM Depart Dublin Airport for Galway
- AM Group Arrives at **Gaelic Athletic Association** grounds
Students will interact with the players and have a chance to **learn some skills** with the **hurley** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley_\(stick\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley_(stick))
This will be an **interactive** fun event with approx 15 players / instructors so that everyone gets an opportunity to try. (Lunch included)
- Students will also get the chance to learn how to **Irish dance** from a **professional Irish dancer***
- PM Load coaches, and depart for your hotel
- PM Dinner and overnight at **Maldron Hotel Oranmore Galway**
<https://www.maldronhotelgalway.com/>

MONDAY, JUNE 3

GALWAY

(Breakfast and lunch included)

- AM Breakfast at hotel

- AM Load Motor coach and depart for your full day tour of the loop of Connemara Tour the loop of Connemara via Oughterard & Maam Cross before travelling up the spectacular **Inagh valley** with the 12 Bens of Connemara on your left and the Maumturks on your right as you travel to Leenane. From **brehtaking scenery** of the hill and bogs before you reach **Leenane village**, the scenery change as you return toward Galway to some beautiful coastal scenery. Returning to Galway via the town of **Clifden**.

- PM Visit - **Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden**
*The story of Kylemore – both Castle and Abbey – is a truly remarkable one. The twists of fate which its occupants experienced, from moments of romance and happiness, to sadness and courage have all combined to create a fascinating history **spanning over 150 years**. Kylemore is home to a community of nuns of the Benedictine Order who came here in 1920 after their abbey in Ypres, Belgium was destroyed in World War I. Settling at Kylemore, the Benedictine Community opened a world renowned boarding school for girls and began restoring the Abbey, Gothic Church and Victorian Walled Garden to their former glory.*
<https://www.kylemoreabbey.com/>

- PM **Byron HS Choir will perform a lunchtime concert in the Gothic Church at Kylemore Abbey**

- PM **Group lunch** (included in price) at the Kylemore Café

- PM Journey back to Galway City

- PM City orientation tour of Galway with your driver-guide to include a visit to **Galway Cathedral**

- PM Free time in Galway City for shopping and dinner in small groups (student cost)

- PM Overnight at Maldron Hotel Oranmore Galway



TUESDAY, JUNE 4

LIMERICK/CLARE

(Breakfast and dinner included)

AM Breakfast at hotel

AM Load motor coach, and depart for the Cliffs of Moher

AM Visit the **Cliffs of Moher**

*One of Ireland's favourite visitor experiences, the Cliffs of Moher **tower over the rugged west Clare coast**. Walk the **safe, paved pathways** and view the incredible Cliffs that sit on **Europe's most westerly tip** and enjoy the spectacular vistas over the Atlantic Ocean and the **Aran Islands**. Their natural beauty has inspired artists, musicians, and poets for generations, as well as absorbing scientists and geologists, drawn by the unique landscape in which they sit.*

www.cliffsofmoher.ie/

PM Lunch (student cost)

PM Depart for Bunratty Castle and Folk Park

PM Arrive at **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**

*The first castle was built by a Norman, Thomas de Clare in the **13th century**. However, the story of the site goes back to **prehistoric times** and it was the Vikings who first established a settlement here in 950AD. In 1954 Lord Gort bought the castle and with the help of Bord Failte restored it to its present condition. He also installed the finest collection of medieval furniture in the country. The **crafts and skills** of the **self-sufficient Shannon community** have been revived on the same grounds, the Folk Park.*

<https://www.bunrattycastle.ie/>

PM **Group dinner and banquet** at Bunratty Castle

PM Load motor coach, and continue to hotel

PM Check in and overnight at **Clayton Hotel Limerick**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

LIMERICK / KERRY

(Breakfast and dinner included)

AM Breakfast at hotel

AM Load coaches and depart for the Ring of Kerry

AM Full day tour of the **Ring of Kerry**
*Travel to Ladies View in the morning and admire it's **brehtaking view** of it's stunning beautiful lakes and mountains.*

*Continue to Kenmare, where you visit the **2000BC Stone Circle** called Staigue Fort. Staigue fort is one of the largest and finest ring forts you are likely to see in Ireland*

*We then move on and visit **Derrynane House**. Sheltered within the woodland stands Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, lawyer, politician and statesman, and one of the great figures in modern Irish history.*

*We then head towards the **Skellig Ring** Scenic Drive which is, without doubt, the **best section of the world famous Ring of Kerry Scenic Drive** and Wild Atlantic Way along the Skellig Coast in the south west of Ireland. (a stop for lunch, at the students' cost will be made along the route)*

PM Lunch in the area (student cost)

PM Load coaches and depart for **Kissane Sheep Farm** for an Irish Sheepdog demonstration
*Kissane Sheep Farm is a traditional, **working sheep** farm with approximately **1,000 mountain sheep** and **hundreds of lambs**. The farm is run by John Kissane and his son, Sean, as it has been run by the family for the last **150 years**. Includes a **Sheepdog demonstration**
www.kissanesh sheepfarm.com/*

PM Load coaches and depart for

Dinner and overnight at **Randles Hotel Killarney**

<https://www.randleshotel.com/>

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

KILLARNEY

(Breakfast and dinner included)

AM Breakfast at hotel

AM Load coaches, and tour to **Dingle Peninsula**

AM Arrive at **Slea Head**

*Tour Slea Head and walk the **Atlantic beaches of the Peninsula**. I would suggest a stroll on Coomenoole beach. This small but beautiful beach was used as one of the film locations for the filming of "Ryan's Daughter". It is the closest beach to Slea Head and has **dramatic views***

AM Visit - **The Great Blasket Centre and Island**

*With **stunning views of the wild Atlantic coast** and islands at the halfway point of the Slea Head Drive, the Blasket Centre is a fascinating heritage and cultural centre/ museum, honoring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. The Blasket Centre tells the story of **island life, subsistence fishing and farming**, traditional life including modes of work and transport, home life, housing and entertainment.*

PM Lunch in the area (student cost)

Visit - **Gallarus Oratory** (Bee hive huts) Dingle

*The Gallarus Oratory (or 'house or shelter for foreigners) is a **chapel on the Dingle Peninsula**, County Kerry, Ireland. **Over 1000 years old** this inspiring building constructed entirely from dry stone masonry is an archaeological highlight of Slea Head.*

<http://www.gallarusoratory.ie/>

PM Load coaches and depart for performance venue Evening Concert (confirmed)

PM Byron HS Choir performs in a concert at St. Mary's Church in Killarney

PM Load coaches and depart for hotel

Dinner and overnight at Randles Hotel Killarney

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 **KERRY / CORK/TIPPERARY/DUBLIN**

(Breakfast and dinner included)

- AM Breakfast at hotel
- AM Check out of hotel, load motor coach, and depart toward Dublin
- AM Enjoy a visit to **Blarney Castle**
The Castle was built in 1446 as a **defensive fortress**. The castle which stands today is in fact the keep of a much larger fortress. All visitors **should kiss the famous Blarney Stone**, high up on the Castle battlements. Tradition holds that those who kiss the Blarney Stone will be endowed with the gift of eloquence - **“the gift of the gab”** as the locals call it.
<https://www.blarneycastle.ie/>
- Enjoy some free time for souvenir shopping and lunch (student cost) in the Blarney Castle area.
- PM Load coach and continue on toward Dublin
- PM Along the way, we’ll stop for a quick photo opp at the **Rock of Cashel**
This was the seat of kings and mediaeval bishops for 900 years and flourished until the **early 17th century**. Brian Ború was crowned King of Munster here in 977 and he became **High King of Ireland** in 1002.
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/rock-of-cashel/>
- PM Arrive at the **Merry Ploughboy** for a **group dinner** and **traditional Irish Music and Dance show**
- PM Load coach and depart for Hotel
- PM Arrive and check in at the **Clayton Hotel Leopardstown**



SATURDAY, JUNE 8

DUBLIN

(Breakfast and dinner included)

- AM Enjoy a traditional Irish breakfast at the hotel

- AM Load coach, and depart for Dublin's **City Centre**
*Meet with a Local Step-On Guide for a **panoramic sightseeing tour** of Dublin, including O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, Leinster House*

- AM Enjoy a self-guided tour of **Christ Church Cathedral**, Dublin
The cathedral was begun in 1038 by King Sitric Silkenbeard, the Danish Viking King of Dublin, and is officially claimed as the seat of both the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic archbishops of Dublin. Contained in the cathedral is the reputed tomb of Strongbow, a medieval Norman-Welsh peer and warlord who came to Ireland at the request of King Diarmuid MacMorrough, and whose arrival marked the beginning of English involvement in Ireland.
www.christchurchcathedral.ie

- PM Free time for lunch (student cost) and shopping for last minute souvenirs!

- PM Load coach, and depart for the evening's performance venue

- PM **Byron HS Choir performs in an exchange concert with a local youth choir (venue and youth group TBD)**

- PM Load coach and return to hotel

- PM **Dinner** and overnight hotel

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

DEPARTURE DAY

(Breakfast and in-flight meals included)

- AM Enjoy your final Irish Breakfast
- AM Check out of hotel
- AM Depart for Dublin Airport for check in and US Immigration and Customs Clearance

PM	Group departs Dublin on flight, bound for Chicago
PM	Arrive at O'Hare Airport Chicago

- PM Board motor coaches and depart for Byron HS
- PM Arrive at Byron HS

WELCOME HOME!!!