



HARVARD  
Alumni Association

## FROM NEWGRANGE TO GLENDALOUGH: ANCIENT AND LITERARY IRELAND

APRIL 21–29, 2017

Discover the cities and countryside of Ireland through the lens of Irish literature. Explore the places—Derry, Wicklow, Galway, Dublin, Newgrange—where Heaney set some of his most memorable lyrics. Recite Heaney’s “St. Kevin and the Blackbird” while visiting the 8th-century monastic settlement where some of the original buildings are still standing. Tour Coole Park and visit Lady Gregory’s former home, the fulcrum of the Irish Literary Revival. Along the way, touch on the locales and works of Yeats and Joyce. Throughout your journey, witness the beauty of the landscapes, enjoy traditional meals, music, and dance, and experience the warm welcome of the Irish people.



**STUDY LEADER:** The author of ten novels, the most recent being *Time Is The Fire*, **Alfred (Alfie) Alcorn '64** is what might be called an old Ireland hand having lived there as a child and as an adult and having visited many times. Though not an academic, he is versed in the works of Seamus Heaney (who was a close friend) and knowledgeable about Yeats and Joyce. He served for several years as director of travel at the Harvard Museum of Natural History. In that capacity he traveled widely as both a guide and group escort. On this trip he will be accompanied by his wife Sally Remick Alcorn who, back in the 70s, began the first consumer column in *The Irish Times*.

**GROUP SIZE:** From 12 to 24 guests

**PRICING:** \$5,995 per person double occupancy; \$595 single supplement

# SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21

### DEPART U.S. FOR IRELAND

Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Dublin. Most flights arrive early in the morning. If you would like to be guaranteed an early check-in at the Brooks Hotel in Dublin you must book an extra night. We can assist you with those arrangements.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 22

### DUBLIN

Upon arrival in Dublin early Saturday morning, meet your driver and local host.

Visit Kilmainham Gaol (Jail) early in the morning. Transfer to the Brooks Hotel for check-in (early check in option is available if required).

Enjoy a traditional Irish breakfast and the remainder of the morning at leisure to recover after your long flight.

This afternoon, explore historical Dublin City on a leisurely historical walking tour. A historian will provide an introduction to Dublin's landmarks, from medieval walls and Viking remains around Wood Quay to the architectural splendors of Georgian Dublin and highlights of Irish history.

In the evening regroup for a welcome reception.

Overnight: *Brooks Hotel*(B)

## SUNDAY, APRIL 23

### DUBLIN

Depart the hotel early this morning, stopping in a local eatery in Sandycove for a hearty and delicious breakfast.

Take an eastside stroll to the James Joyce Tower in Sandycove. The tower, best known

for its appearance in *Ulysses*, today houses a museum with letters, photographs, and rare editions of Joyce's work. Here you will meet the chairman of the "Friends of Joyce Tower Society" who will captivate you with tales of Joyce and the Tower.

Proceed to the Glendalough Monastic Settlement. For thousands of years people have been drawn to 'the valley of the two lakes' for its spectacular scenery, rich history, archaeology, and abundant wildlife.

Indulge in a traditional Sunday lunch in Hunters Hotel, a personal favorite of the Heaneys'.

Meet with Sheila Clarke, a local historian and writer who was a personal friend of the Heaney Family. She was instrumental in bringing about the Ashford Community and Heritage Centre, which Séamus and Marie supported.

Return to Dublin and enjoy dinner and the evening independently. For those who feel like a bit of music, take a stroll from the hotel to a traditional Irish music session in a nearby pub.

Overnight: *Brooks Hotel*(B, L)

## MONDAY, APRIL 24

### NEWGRANGE / BELFAST / COOKSTOWN

After breakfast, depart for Northern Ireland.

En route, enjoy a site visit to Newgrange in the Boyne Valley in Ireland's Ancient East. Stop at the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, the site of an infamous historic battle between two rival monarchs, King James II and his son-in-law William III, who clashed violently with fearful consequences.

Enjoy a casual lunch at the Battle of the Boyne Valley Visitor Centre before continuing to the Titanic Museum in Belfast.

Check into your hotel in the early evening and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown* (B, L, D)

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 25**

### **MAGHERAFELT / COOKSTOWN**

Travel to Bellaghy and step into Seamus Heaney HomePlace in the company of Brian McCormick, Heaney's nephew. Immerse yourself into the world of the boy who drew his inspiration from this landscape and these people. The Seamus Heaney HomePlace echoes his life, his literature, and his legacy.

See and hear for yourself on the video wall how he is remembered by his family and friends – and how his work and his friendship was valued by global and cultural leaders.

Step into a re-creation of Seamus Heaney's attic study. Open a window to the words, rhythm, and rhyme which have made Seamus Heaney a literary phenomenon.

After lunch in the HomePlace, travel the by-roads and high roads of South Derry in the company of scholars of Heaney's work and some knowledgeable locals with close connections to the Heaney family. This will be a journey through Seamus Heaney's life and literature, stopping at many iconic places such as Mossbawn Farm (Heaney's childhood home), Hill Head Road ( "*Mid-Term Break*"), Magherafelt ( "*Two Lorries*"), the Forge, Louden's Buthers, Moyola Football Club, Church island, and St. Mary's Churchyard in Bellaghy.

Finish off a special day with an early evening celebration at the HomePlace followed by a casual dinner in a local pub.

Overnight: *Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown* (B, L, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**

### **GALWAY**

Depart Cookstown after breakfast and head toward County Sligo.

Sligo is regarded as Yeats country and is home to the Yeats Memorial Building, which contains an extensive library of items of special interest to Yeatsian scholars. The building is also headquarters of the Yeats International Summer School and the Sligo Art Gallery.

We will pay our respects at his grave in the churchyard at Drumcliffe.

Next we will visit the Perceval Family in Temple House, a classical Georgian manor set in a private estate of over 1,000 acres, overlooking a lakeside castle of the Knights Templar. Tour the house with the owners, Roderick and Helena Perceval, followed by lunch.

Proceed to Galway City and check into the Glenlo Abbey Hotel.

For those who wish, transfer into the city center for an independent dinner, a stroll around the "City of Tribes," and perhaps check out traditional music session in a local pub.

Overnight: *Glenlo Abbey Hotel*(B, L)

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

### **GALWAY**

In the morning, visit Kylemore Abbey, the "Jewel of the West," for a tour of the abbey and its gardens. The University of Notre Dame, which has an onsite presence at Kylemore, will host a discussion with a local academic about Irish language writers and the importance of Gaelic in the context of Irish literature and social evolution

Have lunch on your own in Kylemore and enjoy some free time to explore.

In the afternoon, visit Killary Sheep Farm, a traditional working mountain farm. Watch traditional sheep shearing demonstrations, skilled sheepdog demonstrations, and traditional peat cutting with hand-held tools.

In the evening, the Founder of Brigit's Garden will host a dinner of local produce for the group. After dinner, join Alfie for an evening of poetry and prose by candlelight at the Round House in the Celtic Gardens.

Overnight: *Glenlo Abbey Hotel*(B, D)

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

### **GALWAY**

Following a morning at leisure, venture to the famous landmark Moran's on the Weir for fresh seafood oysters. Heaney's *Oysters* was inspired by a memorable meal at Moran's and a handwritten copy is hanging on their wall.

After lunch, visit Coole Park to see Lady Gregory's former home and the fulcrum of the Irish literary revival.

Return to your hotel, where the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

This evening, enjoy farewell drinks and private dining in the Pullman Restaurant on the Grounds of the Glenlo Abbey Hotel. The restaurant comprises two beautifully-restored original Pullman carriages.

Overnight: *Glenlo Abbey Hotel* (B, L, D)

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

### **DEPART FOR U.S.**

Saturday Depart from Shannon Airport