

# Ireland

*Northern Points: From Dublin to Galway*

**May 7 - 17, 2009**

OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

**SU** SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY.



*"I really enjoyed each and every part of Ireland. Each stop had its unique parts which will be very memorable to me in years to come along with my photos. I really enjoyed meeting every person on this trip. I've taken away some new friends!"* Helen Dubay, Participant  
OLLI - Ireland, 2007

***Our Trip Host:***

Tom Moran has offered Irish history and literature classes for OLLI for four years. He led our successful May 2007 OLLI trip to Ireland, and now joins us as we explore other regions of this beautiful country.



Formerly employed in Midland by the Dow Chemical Company, Tom recently moved to Cleveland and is now serving as the Senior Vice President and Secretary for the Eaton Corporation. Tom is passionate about Ireland, and visits regularly to see family and learn more about this wonderful country.

***Ireland trip information session: Monday, November 24 @ 5:00 p.m. Call 964-4475 to register***



### About Our Lodging:

We will be staying in four star hotels which are generally located in central areas which give you the freedom to explore attractions; socialize in bars, restaurants and cafes; and choose from a wide range of boutiques and stores. The hotels are listed in the itinerary and all have websites which we encourage you to visit.

### About Our Travel Partner:

Our trip is being coordinated by CIE Tours. This was our travel partner for our 2007 trip to Ireland and everyone was very impressed. CIE, which specializes in Ireland travel, celebrates 76 years of providing great vacations. They provide well-informed guides that will look after you every step of the way.

### Pre-Trip Dinner and Class

On Saturday, March 14 (just a couple days before St. Patrick's Day) we will gather at SVSU for a traditional Irish dinner and a chance to meet your fellow travelers. Tom Moran will lead a two-session class at SVSU prior to our trip. The first session will be prior to the dinner on March 14 from 3 - 5 p.m. and the second session will be on Saturday, April 4 from 1 - 5 p.m. It will cover Irish history, customs and culture. You will also learn more about trip logistics and the sites we will be visiting.

### Trip Sponsor

This educational international travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. OLLI was established in 2001 as an educational resource for mid-Michigan residents who are 50 years of age or better. The Institute offers classes, social opportunities, and educational excursions. For more information about membership call (989)-964-4475.



### *This 11-day trip includes:*

- Round trip ground transportation from SVSU to the Detroit airport
- Round trip air transportation from Detroit to Dublin/Shannon airports with airport transfers to hotel
- Nine nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- Full breakfast every morning , six dinners including dinner at Moran's Oyster Cottage in Kilcolgan.
- Transport by luxury motorcoach with a driver/guide for ten days
- A guided walking tour of Derry, as well as guided tours of Dublin and Belfast. A ferry to the largest Aran Island and bus tour. Visits and admission fees to: Glendalough, Trinity College (Book of Kells), Monasterboice, Shankill and Falls Road, Giant's Causeway, Slieve League Cliffs, Triona Designs, Belleek China Factory, Dun Aengus, Kylemore Abbey, Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory
- Pre-trip dinner on March 14 (Saturday before St. Patrick's Day)
- Pre-trip class with Tom Moran on Irish history, culture and customs, Saturday, April 4 from 1 p.m.- 5 p.m., and prior to dinner (3p.m.-5 p.m.) on Saturday March 14.
- Hotel portorage, service charges and government taxes.
- Ireland tour book and maps
- Plenty of free time to explore and enjoy the enchanted Ireland countryside.



## SVSU - OLLI May 2009 Ireland Trip Itinerary

### ■ Day 1: Thursday, May 7

Depart SVSU in the morning via motorcoach for an overnight flight from Detroit to Dublin.

### ■ Day 2: Friday, May 8

After landing in Dublin we will take an orientation drive around Dublin city center. Dublin is one of the liveliest capitals in Europe, but there are plenty of historical places also. You'll have a little time to relax before a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin (B,D)*

### ■ Day 3: Saturday, May 9

This morning we will drive across the Wicklow Mountains to see the 6<sup>th</sup> century monastic ruins of Glendalough, where the peacefulness of the valley conjures up the spirit of the monks. We return to Dublin and stop in Trinity College to view the 8<sup>th</sup> century Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript of the gospels. You'll have free time to explore the city and select a restaurant on your own for dinner. *Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin (B)*

### ■ Day 4: Sunday, May 10

Travel north along the coast of Drogheda and visit Monasterboice, which dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> century and is famous for its collection of Celtic high crosses. Continue north, driving through the towns of Dundalk and Newry and past the scenic Mourne Mountains. Upon arrival in Belfast, we will enjoy a sightseeing tour around the city. Highlights will include the Albert Memorial, the ornate Victorian buildings of the Opera House, the Crown Liquor Saloon, and the imposing City Hall in Donegal Square. We will drive to Shankill and Falls Road the main Protestant and Catholic areas, the bloody battle grounds of the "Troubles". Dinner will be provided at the hotel. *Europa Hotel, Belfast (B/D)*

### ■ Day 5: Monday, May 11

Depart Belfast and drive north to experience one of Ireland's popular scenic coastal routes. You'll see the "Nine Glens of Antrim" which offer wonderful views of mountains, valleys and coastline. Stop to view the Giant's Causeway, an impressive area of hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava. Continue along the coast road to Derry where you will have the balance of the day for leisure before joining the group for dinner. *City Hotel, Derry (B/D)*

### ■ Day 6: Tuesday, May 12

This morning we enjoy a walking tour of central Derry. See the 17<sup>th</sup> century city walls, St. Columb's Cathedral, the Tower Museum, and the Guildhall where the history of Derry is depicted in stained-glass windows. After the tour, board the coach and travel to the town of Donegal. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel. *Mill Park Hotel, Donegal (B/D)*

### ■ Day 7: Wednesday, May 13

Drive to the fishing port of Killybegs and on to Teelin to view Slieve League sea cliffs, where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. We will continue through the majestic Glengesh Pass to Ardara to visit Triona Design, where we will see demonstrations of spinning, weaving and knitting, and enjoy tea and scones. Return to Donegal where the balance of the day and evening is free. *Mill Park Hotel, Donegal (B)*

### ■ Day 8: Thursday, May 14

Leaving Donegal we will follow the Atlantic shoreline of Donegal Bay to Belleek where you'll visit the Belleek Pottery Factory. Then travel through the scenic County Sligo and into County Mayo to the estate-planned town of Westport where you will have free time to explore. Board the coach and travel south through County Galway to the bustling town of Galway where we will be staying for three evenings. Dine with the group this evening. *Forster Court Hotel, Galway (B/D)*

### ■ Day 9: Friday, May 15

Today visit the largest of the Aran Islands, Aran Mor, via ferry. The islands are located in Galway Bay, 30 miles west of Galway city. Irish is still the vernacular in this isolated setting and the islanders retain many traditional ways of farming and fishing. We'll travel around the island by minibus with a local driver who will explain many of the island traditions to you. At the western end, visit Dun Aengus, a vast fortification perched on the side of a cliff that falls 300 feet to the Atlantic Ocean. Return to Galway for a free evening. *Forster Court Hotel, Galway (B/D)*

### ■ Day 10: Saturday, May 16

Today tour Connemara and admire the sweeping views of boglands and misty mountains. Stop in the quaint village of Spiddal, and visit Kylemore Abbey, a 19<sup>th</sup> century neo-Gothic mansion overlooking Kylemore Lake. We continue our drive to the town of Moycullen to visit the Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory, a family business specializing in designs based on the shamrock, Claddagh ring and harp. Return to Galway and in the evening, drive a short distance to Kilcolgan and enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers at Moran's Oyster Cottage, a family business dating back more than 250 years. *Forster Court Hotel, Galway (B/D)*

### ■ Day 11: Sunday, May 17

After an early breakfast, transfer to the Shannon airport for our flight home. We will arrive back at SVSU in the evening. *(B/L)*



## *SVSU-OLLI Ireland Trip: May 7-17, 2009*

# Registration

### General Information

■ **Activity Level Description:**

You should feel comfortable walking up to one-half mile.

■ **Average Daily Highs and Lows:**

May is one of the driest and sunniest months in Ireland, but a wee bit chilly - bring your woolens. Expect highs in the low 60s and low in the 40s.

■ **Information and Reservations:**

Call the SVSU-OLLI office at (989) 964-4475. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Trip Cost:**

\$3,149 for OLLI members; \$3,199 for non-members. (Please note that the price does include all current air taxes and fuel surcharges. If these fees increase prior to ticketing, you will be responsible for the added cost.) The single supplement is \$495.

■ **Deposit:**

\$300 will hold your spot, a second payment of \$1,000 is due January 7, and the balance is due by March 1, 2009.

■ **Trip Insurance:**

It is highly recommended that you purchase trip insurance. CIE Tours International offers a travel protection plan called "Trip Mate" for a premium of \$149 per person. You will be sent insurance information upon receipt of your initial deposit, or you may purchase your own.

### 4 - Ways to Register:

- Call 989-964-4475
- Register online [www.svsu.edu/olli](http://www.svsu.edu/olli)
- Fax the registration form to 989-964-2656
- Mail form with payment to  
OLLI of SVSU  
7400 Bay Road  
University Center, MI 48710

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as it appears on passport)*

Roommate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as it appears on passport)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: You must have a current passport which is valid for six months past your travel date. If you don't have one, please contact us with the above passport information as soon as you have it.*

### Trip Costs:

Members \$3,149     Non members \$ 3,199

- Price includes current air taxes and fuel surcharges. If these fees increase prior to ticketing, you will be responsible for the added cost.
- Single supplement \$495.
- \$300 will hold your spot.
- A second payment of \$1,000 is due by January 7, 2009.
- The final balance is due by March 1, 2009.

### Payment Method

Check (payable to SVSU) Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_