

University of Illinois Marching Illini
Friends and Family

BRT Bob Rogers Travel

Professor Barry Houser, Director



Ireland Tour

Trip Highlights

- Visit Dublin, Galway, Belfast
- Centrally located Dublin Hotel
- Full Irish Breakfast
- Dinner each night
- Tour of Kilkenny Castle
- Tour of Guinness Store House
- Tour the Cliffs of Moher
- Guided tour of each city
- VIP Seating at the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Performances at Titanic Museum & Kilkenny Castle



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Making Moments That Matter

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MARCHING BAND FRIENDS AND FAMILY
PROFESSOR BARRY HOUSER, DIRECTOR
DESTINATION: IRELAND
DATES: MARCH 12-18, 2022

ITINERARY
AS OF
JANUARY 26, 2021

SATURDAY MAR 12 DEPARTURE TO IRELAND *(In Flight Meals)*

PM Group arrives at O'Hare International Airport
You will be greeted by a **Bob Rogers Representative** who will assist with check-in of you and your luggage (currently airlines allow one checked bag up to 50 lbs free of charge, additional bag charges may apply for additional bags).

All passengers must have a valid passport that expires minimally 6 months after the return date (September 18, 2022)

PM Group departs for Dublin (Flight information TBA)

Your flight includes a hot dinner and a light breakfast also please enjoy the in-flight entertainment.



3440 Lacrosse Lane
Naperville, IL 60564

toll free 800-373-1423
fax 630-824-4349
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SUNDAY MAR 13

DUBLIN

(In Flight Meals & Dinner)

Welcome to the Emerald Isle

- AM Your flight will touch down at **Dublin International Airport**
You must clear Irish Immigration and Customs procedures – please insure that all instruments / flags etc. are collected and cleared through customs
- AM Meet your Tour Director outside of the customs hall in the Main Arrival Hall – He will be holding a sign for U of I and Bob Rogers Travel.
- AM Walk as a group to the coach parking area for Terminal 2 – load the equipment truck with the instruments and marching uniforms. You will load your personal baggage on your assigned Bus.
- Afterwards Group departs on a **City Tour of Dublin**
*We depart with local guides to enjoy all the main sites in **Dublin**. We will see the **General Post Office**, walk down **O’Connell Street**, visit **Temple Bar** and still have plenty of time to explore **Trinity College** and see the **Book of Kells** as well as the **Viking Quarter** centered around **Christ Church**.*
- Afternoon Following the tour, we arrive at our hotel for the next five nights:
Samuel Hotel Dublin. <https://www.thesamuelhotel.com/>
- Upon arrival Check- in & freshen up
- Evening Enjoy a **Welcome Dinner**



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MONDAY MAR 14

TOUR TO BELFAST

(Breakfast & Dinner)

Morning Enjoy your first taste of a **full Irish Breakfast** this morning (eggs, rashers (bacon), sausage, black pudding, white pudding, beans and brown bread) and wash it all down with a cup of Irish Tea. ~ of course you can have a breakfast of cereal, yogurt, toast and coffee if you wish.

Afterwards Board motor coach; depart for **Belfast** (approximately 2 driving hours)

Upon arrival Enjoy a city guided coach tour past **Shankill and Falls Road, Belfast City Hall, Belfast Castle**, and then we'll learn about the city's great **industrial era and the remarkable Titanic**, which was launched from Belfast's shipyard in 1911. The troubles took their toll on the economic life of Belfast but the past many years of peace have returned much prosperity while the genuine friendliness of the city never left!

Afterwards Enjoy time for lunch on own before we visit the **Titanic Museum** Titanic Belfast extends over **nine galleries with innovative interactive features** to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way. Explore the **shipyard**, travel to **the depths of the ocean** and uncover the true legend of Titanic, in the city where it all began.

TBD	Marching Illini MARCHES standing performance at the Museum
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Evening Return to Dublin; freshen up for the evening

TBD Dinner at a local restaurant or in the hotel this evening



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TUESDAY 15 MAR

GALWAY & THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

(Breakfast & Dinner)

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

Board motor coach; depart for **Galway** (approximately 2 driving hours)

Visit **Clonmacnoise** ~ Ireland has often been described as a land of saints and scholars and the early Christian site at Clonmacnoise is perhaps the finest example of this heritage on the island. Founded by St Ciarán in the sixth century, the site on the banks of the broad River Shannon in County Offaly grew to what can only be described as an **ancient monastic city**. This enchanting site includes the **ruins of a cathedral**, an amazing **seven churches dating from the 10th to the 13th century**, two **round towers**, three **high crosses** and the **largest collection** of Early Christian grave slabs in Western Europe.

Load the coaches and continue to Galway (The Arts Capitol of Ireland)

Afternoon

Free time in Galway ~ grab a bite of lunch (student cost)

We depart Galway and travel through the **Burren**, a rugged lunar-like limestone landscape, heading to the wild Atlantic coast to visit the dramatic **Cliffs of Moher** ~ **Cliffs of Moher** ~ is Ireland's most visited natural attraction with a magical vista that captures the hearts of up to 1 million visitors each year. **The Cliffs rise up to 214 (700 feet)** at the highest point and range for **8km over the Atlantic Ocean** on the Western seaboard of Co. Clare.

Load the coaches and depart back to Dublin

Evening

Dinner at the hotel

Afterwards

Evening is free to explore Dublin on your own



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WEDNESDAY 16 MAR

Kilkenny

(Breakfast & Dinner)

Morning Enjoy breakfast in the hotel

Afterwards Board motor coaches; depart for **Kilkenny Castle**
*The Castle stands dramatically on a strategic height that commands a crossing on the **River Nore** and dominates the 'High Town' of Kilkenny City. Over the eight centuries of its existence, many additions and alterations have been made to the fabric of the building, making Kilkenny Castle today a complex structure of various architectural styles.*

Afterwards	Marching Illini has a Standing Performance at Kilkenny Castle
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Afternoon Free time for lunch and time to explore Kilkenny

Afterwards Board the motor coaches and depart back to Dublin

Evening Dinner and overnight in the hotel



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THURSDAY 17 MAR

ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

(Breakfast & Dinner)

Morning Enjoy your breakfast in the hotel

 Depart for the Grand Stand near Christ Church Cathedral (*location may change*) – you will be able to relax and sit after your morning breakfast. Enjoy the parade and of course be ready to cheer for the “Marching Illini”

12:00 PM The Parade steps off -the parade in Dublin is possibly the most colorful and vibrant St. Patrick's Day parade in the world, attracting thousands of revelers each year. – it should take approximately 20-25 minutes for the first unit in the parade to arrive at your viewing stand

Afterward You will meet a local guide – who will have a sign on a stick reading ILLINOIS – he will lead you over to the Guinness Brewery on foot – approximately 1.3 km of a stroll – about 15 minutes

 Visit the **Guinness Store House**

TBD Marching Illini has a Standing Performance outside the Gates of St. James Brewery, home of Guinness. (*Pending availability*)

*Afterwards you will enter the Guinness Storehouse for the **full tour** and do not forget to get to the end “The Gravity Bar” where you will receive a pint of the freshest Guinness you will ever have ~ enjoy the view of Dublin city and the surrounding areas from your perch upon high.*

Evening **Return to the hotel for dinner followed by an Irish Ceili with the band in the Ballroom of the hotel**



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FRIDAY 18 MAR

DEPARTURE

(Breakfast & in Flight Meals)

Morning

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel – last chance for a full Irish Breakfast

Check out of the hotel

Load the coaches for the transfer to the airport

Arrive at Dublin Airport for the check in process – unload the coaches and the equipment truck.

After checking in proceed through security – please watch the monitors for word that US Pre-clearance is available for your flight

Then proceed to US Customs & Immigration at Dublin Airport – you will pre-clear all formalities at Dublin Airport before your departure to Chicago

Afternoon

Depart for Chicago on **Aer Lingus Flight TBA**

PM

Arrive at Chicago's O'Hare Airport – proceed to luggage claim and pick up your suitcase

Welcome Home!



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