

University of Illinois Marching Illini

Professor Barry Houser, Director

**BRT** Bob Rogers Travel



## 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
- March in St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Perform at Titanic Museum & Kilkenny Castle
- Entrance to Titanic Museum



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

**ITINERARY**  
**AS OF**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2020**

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

- AM Peoria Coaches (5-55 seat) arrive at the University of Illinois Music School 1114 W. Nevada St. Urbana, IL 61801 to begin loading
- AM Coaches depart for Chicago O'Hare Terminal # 5 – **Aer Lingus**
- PM The band is 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)
- PM Group departs for Dublin on your - **Aer Lingus Flight EI TBA**  
  
 Your flight includes a hot dinner and a light breakfast also please enjoy the in-flight entertainment.



3440 Lacrosse Lane  
 Naperville, IL 60564

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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:  
**Moran’s Red Cow Hotel.** <http://www.redcowmoranhotel.com/>
- Upon arrival Check- in & freshen up
- Evening Enjoy a **Welcome Dinner**
- Note Well** This hotel is located very close to the Luas Red Line – with the last train leaving the city center at midnight.  
<https://www.luas.ie/interactive-map.html>  
<https://www.luas.ie/operating-hours-red-line.html>



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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 ten 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**  
*(Based on availability)*

Evening                              Return to Dublin; freshen up for the evening

TBD                                      Dinner 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
8:15 AM	Board motor coach; depart for <b>Galway</b> ( <i>approximately 2 driving hours</i> )
10:00 AM	Visit <b>Clonmacnoise</b> ~ <i>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.</i>
11:00 AM	Load the coaches and continue to Galway (The Arts Capitol of Ireland)
12:30 -2:00 PM	Free time in Galway ~ grab a bite of lunch (student cost)
2:00 PM	We depart Galway and travel through the <b>Burren</b> , a rugged lunar-like limestone landscape, heading to the wild Atlantic coast to visit the dramatic <b>Cliffs of Moher</b> ~ <b>Cliffs of Moher</b> ~ <i>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.</i>
4:30 PM	Load the coaches and depart back to Dublin
7:00 PM	Dinner at the hotel ~
Afterwards	Evening is free to explore Dublin on your own in small groups



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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.*

<b>Afterwards</b>	<b>Marching Illini has a Standing Performance at Kilkenny Castle</b>
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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

**Note Well**                    **Band Directors and the lead Tour driver and Tour Manager must be in the Mansion House for the Logistics meeting and the Lord Mayor's Reception.**



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**THURSDAY 17 MAR**

**ST. PATRICK'S PARADE**

*(Breakfast & Dinner)*

Morning Enjoy your breakfast in the hotel –

**Today you will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin.**

There can be no doubt Dublin is ground zero for St. Patrick's Day even though the actual Festival is a continuation of an American tradition, not an Irish one per se. While the country has always celebrated St. Patrick's Day it was a religious holiday akin to our Easter. But numerous Irish immigrated to America when hard times befell the country in between WWI and WWII. They brought their tradition and their land with them, and St. Patrick's Day soon became big events in Boston, San Francisco and other cities with large Irish populations. These celebrations became so popular that they were actually carried back to Ireland, where the island took the idea and ran with it big time. **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.**

**TBD** **Marching Illini MARCHES in the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade (Confirmed) place in line of march to be advised**

Afternoon Following the parade, group enjoys time to get a bit to eat on own

Afterwards Depart for 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 in the Ballroom of the hotel**



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**FRIDAY 18 MAR**

**DEPARTURE**

*(Breakfast & in Flight Meals)*

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| AM | Enjoy breakfast in the hotel – last chance for a full Irish Breakfast  |
| AM | Check out of the hotel   |
| AM | Load the coaches for the transfer to the airport   |
| PM | Arrive at Dublin Airport for the check in process – unload the coaches and the equipment truck.  |
| PM | After checking in proceed through security – please watch the monitors for word that US Pre-clearance is available for your flight                 |
| PM | Then proceed to US Customs & Immigration at Dublin Airport – you will pre-clear all formalities at Dublin Airport before your departure to Chicago |
| PM | Depart for Chicago on <b>Aer Lingus Flight TBA</b>   |
| PM | Arrive at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport – proceed to luggage claim and pick up your suitcase  |
| PM | Load the coaches outside the Terminal Door # 5 for the ride back to Champaign  |
| PM | Approximate arrival time back at the University of Illinois  |

**Welcome Home!**