



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
*of* SMITH COLLEGE

*presents*

**The Politics & Poetry of Ireland**  
**September 19 - 30, 2010**



*The Politics & Poetry of Ireland*



Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

This autumn, we invite you to join Michael Thurston, professor of English and Alice Hearst, associate professor of government on one of our most exciting new trips, ***The Politics and Poetry of Ireland***.

Not only is Ireland breathtakingly beautiful; it also has a rich political, linguistic, and literary heritage that continues to shape the lives of its people (and of the multitudes who have emigrated to the U.S. and other countries). This trip takes us first to Dublin and then across the border, by way of Newgrange, to Belfast where we will spend two nights learning about the years of turmoil leading up to the present day era of peace. We then travel along the Antrim Coast to Sligo on Donegal Bay where Yeats lived and wrote. Next we travel to Galway along the Connemara coast (James Joyce country) to end our trip in Ennis.

We hope you will join us on this custom-designed itinerary created exclusively for Smith. For further information or to reserve your space call Liz Bigwood at Smith Travel (800) 225-2029.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Carrie Cadwell Brown, EdM'82  
Executive Director  
Alumnae Association of Smith College

**Registration Form -  
*The Politics & Poetry of Ireland***

**Flight Information:**

Would you like Discover Europe to book your flights: Yes / No

Flight details (if self-arranged) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rooming Requirements:**

Please indicate either A. or B. below.

A. I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like a double \_\_ twin \_\_ bedded room

(Note: a double room has one large bed, a twin room has two separate beds).

B. I would like a single room (supplement applies)

**Signatures:**

I have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



*The Cliffs of Moher*

**Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.** Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city for the overnight flight to Dublin.

**Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.** Morning arrival at Dublin airport. You will be met for the transfer to our hotel, where you'll have time to unpack and relax. There will be an arrival briefing this afternoon followed by a brief walking tour to introduce the neighborhood. A reception and welcome dinner at the hotel rounds out a full day. **(D) Overnight: Dublin**

**Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.** A list of past Dublin inhabitants reads like a who's who of literature — Jonathan Swift, Thomas Moore, James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, G.B. Shaw, Bram Stoker, W.B. Yeats, John Synge, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett, and Dame Iris Murdoch. We begin our literary tour with panoramic sightseeing that encompasses St. Patrick's Cathedral, the burial place of Jonathan Swift; Christ Church; and Trinity College Library, which houses the celebrated Book of Kells. The afternoon is free to pursue individual interests, which might include a stroll on the James Joyce trail. Oscar Wilde's family home stands on the corner of Merrion Square; Bram Stoker lived on Harcourt Street just off St. Stephen's Green; Shaw's birthplace is at 33 Synge St. This evening we'll take in a play at the Abbey Theatre (Yeats was a founder). **(B) Overnight: Dublin**

**Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.** A day's excursion south to Powerscourt House, with its outstanding gardens and Palladian mansion in the process of being restored. Then on to Glendalough, one of the most beautiful of the ancient Irish monasteries. On the way we'll visit James Joyce Tower, erected to withstand Napoleon's invasion; 100 years later, Joyce stayed there as a guest of poet Oliver St. John Gogarty, the model for a character in *Ulysses*. We'll have a free evening in Dublin to explore its literary character. In the evening, raise a pint to toast the legacy! **(B) Overnight: Dublin**

**Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.** We head north across the border today to the capital of the Republic of Northern Ireland. En route we'll journey to 5,000-year-old Newgrange, one of the most spectacular archeological sites in Europe. Traveling through the Boyne Valley we'll also see the Hill of Tara, location of the palaces of the Celtic High Kings and literary inspiration to a host of writers. We'll continue north, across the border into the "six counties," to Belfast, where we'll check in to our hotel, with time to freshen up and relax before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Belfast**

**Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.** Our first visit this morning is to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, one of the finest collections of vernacular architecture and historic transport in the world. We'll have time for lunch here before visiting nearby Mount Stewart House, now owned by the National Trust, to explore its magnificent gardens. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free. **(B) Overnight: Belfast**

**Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.** Depart Belfast this morning by private coach and travel through pastoral green landscapes of the Antrim Coast and across the north of the island to Sligo on Donegal Bay, famously known as Yeats Country. A short drive north brings us to the Giant's Causeway with its bizarre basalt columns that recede into the ocean which gave rise to the legend of the giant, Finn MacCool, who is said to have laid out the steps to reach his lady love in Scotland. We'll cross into the Republic again at Belleek, in County Fermanagh, and drive along the north side of Lower Lough Erne across Boa Island. Here we'll stop and visit the Caldagh cemetery with its wonderful pre-Christian Janus figures. Just outside Sligo, set on extensive grounds is the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Markree Castle, converted into a comfortable hotel. After time to unpack and explore the castle and extensive grounds, gather for a lovely dinner in the beautiful dining room. **(B, D) Overnight: Sligo**



*Newgrange Passage Tomb*

**Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.** A full day in Yeats Country includes Carrowmore



*The Burren*

Megalithic Cemetery and the vast cairn reputed to be Queen Maeve's Grave in the shadow of Knocknarea, not to mention the spectacular lake of Lough Gill, with the island of Innisfree where "peace comes dropping slow." After a stop in Drumcliff to pay our respects at Yeats' grave in the shadow of Benbulbin, we'll explore Creevykeel Court cairn, one of the finest in Ireland. We'll also visit the County Art Gallery to see paintings by Jack Yeats and the Yeats Memorial Building. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

**Overnight: Sligo**



*The Connemara Coast*

**Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.** From Sligo to Galway, a cathedral town that counts Nora Barnacle, wife of James Joyce, among its natives; it is also the final resting place of Lady Gregory and home to "the smallest museum in Europe." We'll have a brief walking tour from the Old Town center at Eyre Square along William Street, at the heart of the historic district, with its medieval buildings. With free time to explore for the rest of the day, we'll gather for dinner at our hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Galway**

**Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.** A full day around the Connemara coast takes you through Joyce Country and some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland. Sampling a range of what the area has to offer, we'll visit Clifden, the main town of Connemara, which attracts artists and fishermen; Kylemore Abbey renowned for its Victoria walled gardens and Gothic chapel; and Ireland's holiest mountain, Croagh Patrick. A stop in Cong takes us to Moytura House, built by Oscar Wilde's father (and the location for John Ford's classic *The Quiet Man*). Below the village is Ashford Castle, originally built for Sir Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer. You have a free evening to dine out in Galway. **(B)** **Overnight: Galway**

**Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.** Our excursion into the Burren introduces you to one of the most remarkable geological formations in Ireland—a wild, limestone plateau filled with rare flora. This area is also the location of Thoor Ballylee, Yeats' tower house, and Lady Gregory's estate, Coole Park. On to Ennis, for dinner and a reception at the hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Ennis**

**Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.** Morning transfers to the airport for flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*



The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3750**  
Single supplement: **\$690**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 10 nights accommodation in first class hotels.  
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 6 dinners.
- Staff:** Services of Smith lecturers and Discover Europe tour director throughout the tour.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Tickets:** An evening performance at the Abbey Theatre.

**Tour Hotels:**

**Dublin:** Brooks Hotel  
([www.brookshotel.ie](http://www.brookshotel.ie))

**Belfast:** The Hastings Culloden Hotel  
([www.hastingshotels.co.uk](http://www.hastingshotels.co.uk))

**Sligo:** Markree Castle, Collooney  
([www.markreecastle.ie](http://www.markreecastle.ie))

**Galway:** The Meyrick Hotel  
([www.hotelmeyrick.ie](http://www.hotelmeyrick.ie))

**Ennis:** The Old Ground Hotel  
([www.flynnhotels.com](http://www.flynnhotels.com))





### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
2. Detach the bottom section and mail it to the Alumnae Association of Smith College with your registration payment of \$800 per person. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 60 days prior to trip departure.
3. Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., and the Alumnae Association of Smith College, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.

### TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS:

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change - in fact we have not had to invoke this clause in the contract in 8 years of operation. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the year prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. Your tour has been based on a group size of 15 participants. Should we end up with less than 15 people, Discover Europe will work with the group organizer to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.

### REFUND POLICY:

1. Participants who withdraw more than 60 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty.

2. Participants who withdraw less than 60 days prior to tour departure will be assessed the following cancellation penalties:

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 59-31 days prior       | \$1000 per person |
| 30-15 days prior       | \$2000 per person |
| 14-2 days prior        | \$3000 per person |
| less than 2 days prior | No refund         |

3. Comprehensive travel insurance is **not** included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Smith College Alumnae Association will be providing you with a brochure describing the services of a recommended insurance company, which fully details the coverages, provisions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance offered.

4. All cancellation requests must be received in writing (by mail or e-mail).

5. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.

### INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS:

1. All inclusions on *The Politics & Poetry of Ireland* are listed on this itinerary.

2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, drinks (other than water) with meals and items of a personal nature.

Return this form to:  
Smith Travel

Alumnae House, 33 Elm St.  
Northampton, MA 01063  
or fax to: (413) 585-2015



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This program is operated by:  
Discover Europe, Ltd.,

12 Oxbow Rd., Dublin, NH 03444

Tel: (603) 563-7077, Toll Free: (866) 563-7077  
discoveurope@earthlink.net



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of SMITH COLLEGE

## Registration Form - *The Politics & Poetry of Ireland*

#### Passenger Details:

Name(s): 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Birth: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Passport #: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport #: 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning to extend your trip? If so to where and for how long: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Continued overleaf

## Your Smith College Faculty Leaders:



*Alice Hearst*

**Alice Hearst** is an associate professor in the Government Department at Smith College, and teaches courses on public law. She attended the University of Washington law school, and practiced law for six years prior to returning to Cornell University, from which she obtained a PhD in Government. Her research focuses on state regulation of the family. She is currently working on a manuscript exploring issues of cultural identity for children subject to transracial/transnational adoption

and foster care, tentatively entitled “Children and the Politics of Belonging”. She is on the editorial board of the *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*. In 2002, she spent six months on a research fellowship at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, under the auspices of the Feminism & Legal Theory Project at Emory University Law School.



*Michael Thurston*

**Michael Thurston** is a Professor in the Department of English at Smith. He teaches courses on American poetry, modern British and Irish poetry. Prior to arriving at Smith in 2000, he taught for five years at Yale University. He has published essays and book chapters on the poetry of Eavan Boland, Seamus Heaney, and Paul Muldoon, and often teaches the poetry of Yeats, Louis MacNeice, and Nuala NiDhomhnaill as well. He has taught courses, at Yale and at Smith, on modern and

contemporary Irish literature. His reviews of contemporary poetry have appeared in *Indiana Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Yale Review*, and elsewhere. In April Professor Thurston won the Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished teaching awarded annually at Smith College. He has lead a previous Smith trip to Ireland and looks forward to this opportunity to travel with alumnae once again.



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Smith Travel  
Alumnae Association of Smith College  
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Northampton, MA 01063

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