

### Waukee Northwest High School Marching Band

Christopher Strohmaier & Chad Friesleben, Directors March 14 – 22, 2025

# IRELAND

### Trip Highlights

- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Irish Dancing Lessons
- City Tour of Belfast
- Cliffs of Moher
- Trinity College
- Christ Church Cathedral

- Causey's Farm
- Phoenix Park
- Kilkenny Castle
- ...and much more!





#### SUGGESTED ITINERARY AS OF OCTOBER 20, 2023

#### Mike Wallace – Travel Consultant Erin Harrah – Tour Coordinator

FRIDAY, MARCH 14	CHICAGO - DUBLIN	(in-flight meals)
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- AM Coaches arrive at Waukee Northwest High School (Time TBD)
- PM Coaches depart for O'Hare Airport
- PM Arrive at Chicago's O'Hare Airport
- Upon arrival Meet the **BRT Representative** ~ who will assist you and the group with check in; you will be allowed one piece of checked baggage not to weigh more than 50 lbs.

## \*Must have VALID Passport. Passport must be valid for at least 6 month after your travel dates.\*

PM Group departs on transatlantic flight bound for Dublin

Enjoy the in-flight entertainment and your dinner en-route to Ireland



SATURDAY, MARCH 15

DUBLIN

(Lunch & Dinner)

since

1981

# WELCOME TO IRELAND!

- AM After clearing Irish customs and Immigration you will meet your Professional **Tour Director** outside the customs area in the Arrival Hall. Walk as a group to the Coach parking area.
- AM Load equipment truck and motor coaches, and depart for GAA Grounds
- AM Group Arrives at Gaelic Athletic Association grounds
  Students will interact with the players and have a chance to learn some skills with the hurley <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley\_(stick">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley\_(stick)</a>
  This will be an interactive fun event with approx 15 players / instructors so that everyone gets an opportunity to try. (Breakfast and Lunch included)
- PM Field is available for rehearsal, run through, instrument check, etc...
- PM Load coaches, and depart for your hotel
- PM Arrive at your local hotel for check in: Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross https://www.maldronhotelnewlandscross.com/
- PM **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel





SUNDAY, MARCH 16	KILKENNY	(Breakfast and Dinner)
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AM 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

Load Coaches and depart for Kilkenny

We drive to the medieval city of **Kilkenny** today.

We will walk through **St. Canice's Cathedral** and admire the high crosses found in the cemetery, and the round tower adjacent to it. With a chance to appreciate the strength and charm of the Anglican influence, we visit the imposing fortress, **Kilkenny Castle** and its **lovely gardens**. It was once the seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde and is now ours to explore.

Enjoy some free time in this beautiful city for lunch (student cost) and souvenir shopping

Waukee Northwest High School Marching Band will have a performance at Kilkenny Castle (subject to acceptance)

- PM Load motor coaches, return to hotel, freshen up for dinner
- **Note:** The Director, Tour Director & the Lead Driver will all depart for the reception hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, where they will receive all the logistical data & paperwork for the parade the following day.
  - PM **Dinner** and overnight at your hotel





AM Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

Time TBD Equipment truck arrives, load coaches, and depart for parade assembly

# TBD Waukee Northwest High School Marching Band in the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade (Position in lineup to be advised )

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.

- Afternoon Following the parade, group will enjoy a **boxed lunch** (included)
- After lunch Group will enjoy some free time to take in the wonderful atmosphere of **Dublin City on St. Patrick's Day**!
  - PM Load motor coaches, return to hotel, freshen up for dinner
  - PM **Dinner** and overnight at hotel





- AM Enjoy Breakfast in the hotel
- PM Load and depart for Galway City

Arrive in Galway City - the Arts Capital of Ireland

**Arty**, bohemian Galway (Gaillimh) is one of Ireland's most engaging cities. **Brightly painted storefronts** heave with **live music**, while restaurants and cafes offer **front-row seats for observing buskers and street theatre**. Remnants of the **medieval town walls** lie between shops selling **handcrafted Claddagh rings**, books and **musical instruments**, bridges arch over the salmon-stuffed River Corrib, and a long promenade leads to the seaside suburb of Salthill, on Galway Bay, the source of the area's **famous oysters**. While it's **steeped in history**, the city buzzes with a **contemporary vibe**, thanks in part to students, who make up a quarter of the population. Its energy and creativity have seen it designated the **European Capital of Culture in 2020**.

Lunch (Student Cost)

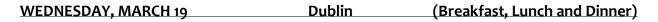
Load coaches and depart for the Cliffs of Moher

AM Arrive at the **Cliffs of Moher** 

Cliffs of Moher, which rise nearly **700 feet from the Atlantic Ocean**. The cliffs take their name from a ruined promontory fort "Mothar", which was demolished during the Napoleanic wars in the early 1800s to make room for a signal tower at Hag's Head. On a clear day, the **Aran Islands, Galway Bay**, as well as the **Dingle Peninsula** are all in view.

- PM Load coaches and return to hotel
- PM **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel





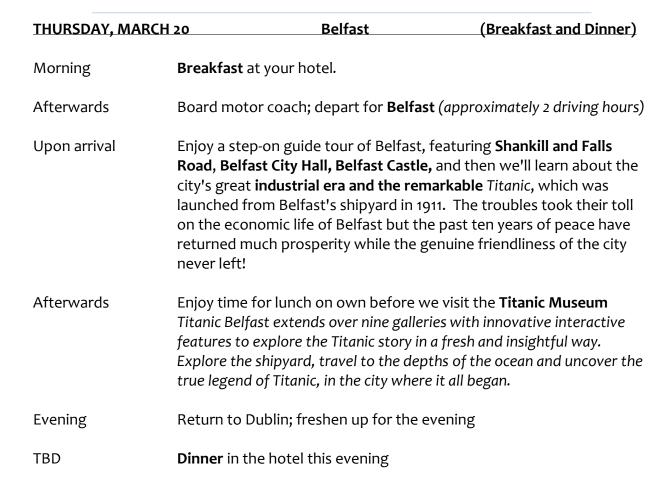
- AM Breakfast at your hotel
- AM Load coaches, and depart for Dublin City Centre
- AM Depart on a **panoramic tour of Dublin** with a local step-on guide

Our city guides will take us on a panoramic **tour of Dublin City**, discovering the north side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the **GPO** (General Post Office) on the city's main thoroughfare, **O'Connell Street**, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the **Phoenix Park**, the largest public park in Europe, and **Christchurch Cathedral**.

Lunch in the area (student cost)

- Afterward Visit **EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum** As you uncover the story of **Irish emigrants** and how they **shaped the world**, you'll realize that emigration is not about what people leave behind, but what they bring with them. The museum was founded on the belief **that emigration is one of the most interesting ways to fully understand a country**. <u>www.epicchq.com</u>
  - PM Visit **The Jeanie Johnston: An Irish Famine Story** One million Irish people fled Ireland during the famine. 2,500 took a gruelling voyage on the Jeanie Johnston. Take a journey back in time, get an insight into life on board a Famine ship and hear the stories of the people who made the arduous voyage. <u>https://jeaniejohnston.ie/</u>
  - PM Load coaches and depart for your hotel
  - PM **Dinner** and overnight at your hotel









- AM Breakfast at hotel
- AM Load Coach and depart for Causey Farm
- AM Visit Causey Farm

This is genuinely a superb fun way for groups to **immerse themselves in Irish culture.** Activities include:

Make Irish Soda Bread, Hurling Lesson, Trip to the Bog on the Tractor and Trailer, Traditional Turf Cutting, Bodhrán Workshop (Traditional Drum), Céilí Dancing Lesson, Farm Visit and Milk a Cow, Sheepdog Demonstration

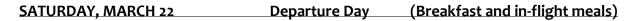
**Light lunch** includes homemade vegetable soup served with brown bread made earlier in the day, followed by freshly baked scones served with jam & cream, tea/coffee <u>www.causey.ie/</u>

- PM Return to hotel to freshen up for this evening's Farewell Dinner
- PM **Dinner and Show Taylors Three Rock** (location may vary based on group size)

One of **Ireland's most loved entertainment venues**, Taylors Three Rock, is a **crowd pleaser**. The rural setting of this **farmhouse pub** is known for having the **largest thatched roof in Ireland**, rising well over 50 feet! Sit back, have fun and let its **award-winning Irish dancers**, **splendid musicians** and **delicious Irish traditional food** entertain you. http://www.taylorsthreerock.ie/

PM Overnight at your hotel





- AM Enjoy your final Irish Breakfast
- Check out of hotel AM
- Depart for Dublin Airport for check in and US Immigration and Customs AM Clearance
- РМ Depart Dublin on your transatlantic flight for Chicago
- ΡМ Arrive at O'Hare Airport Chicago
- РМ Board motor coaches and depart for Waukee Northwest HS
- Arrive at Waukee Northwest HS РМ

### WELCOME HOME!!!