



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!



**WAUKEE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND
CHRISTOPHER STROHMAIER & CHAD FRIESLEBEN, DIRECTORS**

**DESTINATION: IRELAND
DATES: MARCH 14-22, 2025**

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 **CHICAGO - DUBLIN** **(in-flight meals)**

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)**

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** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley_\(stick\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurley_(stick))
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)**

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

MONDAY, MARCH 17 **PARADE DAY!!!** **(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)**

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 18**GALWAY****(Breakfast and Dinner)**

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 Napoleonic 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 **Dublin** **(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**

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**.*

www.epicchq.com

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. <https://jeaniejohnston.ie/>

PM Load coaches and depart for your hotel

PM **Dinner** and overnight at your hotel

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 **Belfast** **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Morning	Breakfast at your hotel.
Afterwards	Board motor coach; depart for Belfast (<i>approximately 2 driving hours</i>)
Upon arrival	Enjoy a step-on guide tour of Belfast, featuring 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 <i>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.</i>
Evening	Return to Dublin; freshen up for the evening
TBD	Dinner in the hotel this evening

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 **Meath** **(Breakfast, lunch, and dinner)**

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 www.causey.ie/

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 **Departure Day** **(Breakfast and in-flight meals)**

- AM Enjoy your final Irish Breakfast

- AM Check out of hotel

- AM Depart for Dublin Airport for check in and US Immigration and Customs Clearance

- PM Depart Dublin on your transatlantic flight for Chicago

- PM Arrive at O'Hare Airport Chicago

- PM Board motor coaches and depart for Waukee Northwest HS

- PM Arrive at Waukee Northwest HS

WELCOME HOME!!!