

Barrington Community School & Barrington Garden Club

present

Blossoms of Ireland

June 5 - 15, 2003

A thousand hues of green make up Ireland's rich tapestry. This spring, journey with Barrington Garden Club's past and current presidents, Niamh Maddock and Sandi Tinyk to Ireland's most enchanting gardens, well-known gems and off-the-beaten-path treasures.



Powerscourt Gardens

We begin in Dublin, where we'll tour the National Botanic Garden and two private urban gardens, a marvelous contrast to the majestic 18th-century Powerscourt Gardens and the 17th-century formality of Killruddery Gardens. We travel south through Wicklow to the Mount Usher, Ram House Garden, the John F. Kennedy Arboretum, and Kilmokea Garden, as well as a tour of Waterford Crystal. We spend three days in Co. Kerry and its magical Ring of Kerry, with its steep cliffs dropping dramatically to the pounding surf of the Atlantic. We'll visit Lismore Castle, the woodland garden of Annesgrove, magnificent Muckross House and Gardens, and the sub-tropical vision of Innacullin Garden on barren Garinish Island. Our horticultural extravaganza closes with a day at Glin Castle Pleasure Grounds and Walled Garden and the interlinked gardens at Ballynacorney, rich with laburnum and lavender. And to top it off in traditional style, a medieval banquet in the Great Hall of Bunratty Castle!

This spring, join Barrington Community School and the Barrington Garden Club on an unforgettable journey through the Emerald Isle and Ireland's glorious gardens.

The cost of this program, double occupancy is **\$2690** per person (single supplement \$480). This includes the following:

- i) Roundtrip airfare on Aer Lingus, Boston-Dublin and Shannon-Boston.
- ii) 9 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, all rooms with private facilities.
- iii) 9 full Irish breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 courses (set menu).
- iv) 4 table d'hote dinners, 3 courses + coffee.
- v) 1 medieval banquet and 1 pub supper.
- vi) Local guides at all major locations.
- vii) All ground transportation by private motorcoach as detailed in the itinerary.
- viii) Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary.
- ix) Fully comprehensive travel insurance, inc. cancellation.
- x) Portage of one suitcase per person.
- xi) All customs fees, airport & hotel taxes & service charges.
- xii) Round trip transfers Barrington-Logan airport.



Lismore Castle

**For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432**



Day 01, Friday. Depart Barrington for Boston's Logan Airport, where we board our overnight Aer Lingus flight for Dublin. **Overnight: Plane**

Day 02, Saturday. You will be met by your courier on arrival, and it's an easy journey to our city-center hotel. There is time to rest from the flight before we visit the National Botanic Garden. This evening, a dinner party at the hotel welcomes the group to the Emerald Isle! **(D)**. **Overnight: Dublin**

Day 03, Sunday. The city of Dublin is introduced in a panoramic sightseeing tour with a local guide. We'll visit Trinity Old Library and see the Book of Kells, as well as the delightful Dillon Garden, followed by Shirley Beatty's enchanting garden. The evening is free in Dublin to sample one of the city's lively pubs or restaurants. **(B)** **Overnight: Dublin**

Day 04, Monday. Today we visit the 18th-century Powerscourt House and Gardens, an inspirational blend of formal, wild, walled and ornamental. The house has an excellent exhibit on the history of the estate. We continue to Killruddery House and Gardens, where we'll enjoy lunch and a tour of the French-style garden with the Head Gardener. We finish with a brief visit to the National Gardens Exhibition Centre and return to Dublin for a pub supper and free evening. **(B, L, pub supper)** **Overnight: Dublin**

Day 05, Tuesday. An early start to visit the Mount Usher gardens in Co. Wicklow, an informal 19th-century garden which began as a potato patch and now is home to over 4,000 species of plants, shrubs and trees. This afternoon we cross into County Wexford and visit the romantic scented garden of Ram House. This award-winning tiny gem has been featured on television and contains delightful terraces, pergolas, gazebos and over 70 varieties of clematis! We continue to our country house hotel this evening, where we will have time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Nr. Waterford**

Day 06, Wednesday. This morning we'll visit the John F Kennedy Arboretum with its extensive collection of young trees and shrubs. An afternoon visit to Kilmokea, a formal walled garden with "rooms" that lead from one design feature to the next. We'll make a late afternoon return to our hotel to allow plenty of time to enjoy a free evening in nearby Waterford. **(B)** **Overnight: Nr. Waterford**



Day 07, Thursday. We'll ferry across the narrow estuary this morning and make our way to the Waterford Crystal Factory; a guided tour explains each step involved in creating these hand-blown masterpieces. There will be time to shop before we visit Lismore Castle Gardens, believed to be the oldest gardens in Ireland. A late afternoon tour of Annesgrove, a tranquil woodland garden set on the river. Arrival at our hotel in Killarney for dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Killarney**

Day 08, Friday. Today, a panorama of Ireland's most famous scenery on the Ring of Kerry. But we'll begin with a visit to Muckross House and Gardens and a view of the spectacular 60 foot Torc Waterfall. The house was built in the Tudor style in the 19th century and in the gardens you'll be able to get a good look at the native Killarney strawberry tree (arbutus). We'll meander leisurely around the Ring, stopping for photographs and the chance to stretch our legs. Time permitting, we'll close the day at Dunloe Castle Gardens; the international collection includes Chilean firs, Australian gums, South African lilies, Japanese maples and North American dogwoods! This evening is free in Killarney. **(B)** **Overnight: Killarney**

Day 09, Saturday. We head to Bantry Bay and the short crossing to Innacullin Garden on Garinish Island, the inspiration of a Scotsman who decided in 1910 to turn this gorse-covered rocky outcrop into a sub-tropical dream. We'll cross the Beara peninsula and visit Derreen Garden, a woodland garden famous for its tree ferns. There are magnificent views to the Caha mountains. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Killarney**

Day 10, Sunday. Today we visit Glin Castle Pleasure Grounds and Walled Garden. The castle is still the ancestral home of the Knights of Glin. The gardens are beautifully planned and include a variety of espaliered fruit trees and cascading sweetpeas. We continue to Ballynacourty, a garden designed as a series of interlinked small gardens. This evening, a medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle concludes this horticultural extravaganza with great merriment. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Limerick**

Day 11, Monday. Transfer to Shannon Airport for returning flight back to Boston. **Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals: **B** = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

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