

Travel Together

with Fellow Quilters to...

Ireland

Dublin ~ Omagh ~ Londonderry ~ Enniskillen ~ Galway ~ Aran Islands ~ Bunratty

May 31 to June 10, 2010

Optional Extension to Killarney

June 10 to 13, 2010

Join us!...on this exciting adventure to the Emerald Isle!

Your tour includes:

ALL hotels
ALL group tours & activities
ALL group travel by land and sea
Full Irish breakfast each morning
Four dinners, as noted in the itinerary
Luggage handling at hotels
Quilt class at Mission Hall: includes: fabric & all supplies
Professionally guided city tours of Dublin and Derry
Omagh American Ulster Folk Park and quilt exhibit
Giant's Causeway
Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge
Bushmill's Distillery Tour
Sheelin Antique Irish Lace Museum
The Aran Island of Inis Mór
Bunratty Castle and Folk Park
Escorted by a professional tour leader
*Plenty of free time to explore and shop
in each of the cities we visit!*



Sheelin Antique Irish Lace Museum & Shop



*Sample of a Tweed Quilt
Mission Hills Quilts*

Tour Itinerary:

Mon, May 31

You will need to arrange your flight to depart North America today, in order to arrive in **DUBLIN, IRELAND** on June 01.

Tue, Jun 01

Due to the varied flight arrival times from North America into Dublin Airport, you will be provided with information on getting from the airport to the hotel. The **FOUR-STAR RADISSON SAS ROYAL HOTEL** is located in the heart of the city center, and will be our home for the first two nights on the tour. Be sure to arrive at the hotel in time for our 3:00pm **DUBLIN CITY TOUR**. Dublin is the Capital of Ireland and a compact and manageable city nestled between Dublin Bay and the surrounding hills. The city is as sophisticated as a metropolis, but still remains as intimate as a village. Medieval, Georgian and modern architecture provide a back-drop to a friendly, bustling port. Our panoramic tour will acquaint you with the highlights of the city, including Trinity College (home of the Book of Kells), Dublin Castle, and the Guinness Brewery, just to name a few! Our Welcome Dinner will be at 7:00pm, giving you the opportunity to meet everyone on the tour. Contact Traveling Together if you would like to arrive in Dublin a day early and stay at the SAS Royal Hotel. If you would like assistance in arranging your air travel, please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com

Wed, Jun 02

Today will be yours to explore the places you learned about on yesterday's tour. Our hotel is within walking distance of Dublin Castle, St. Stephen's Green, and the famous O'Connell and Grafton Streets. You will want to include a walk on the Ha'penny Bridge, Dublin's oldest pedestrian bridge crossing the River Liffy.

Thu, Jun 03

We depart Dublin this morning for a visit to the **ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK**, an open-air museum in Omagh, Northern Ireland. Dedicated to the story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18th & 19th centuries, costumed demonstrators go about their everyday tasks in the traditional manner in fully furnished Old and New World buildings. The Ship and Dockside Gallery features a full-size reconstruction of an early 19th century sailing ship of the type which carried thousands of emigrants across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World. The dockside buildings, still retaining their original features, have been moved in brick by brick and rebuilt. We have arranged for one of the museum curators to show us their wonderful collection of crazy quilts, log cabin quilts, samplers, woven coverlets, and six patchwork quilts that belonged to the McKernan family, from County Tyrone. Our next stop is Derry/Londonderry. At the time of the plantation of Ulster, the City of London sent master-builders and money to rebuild this ruined medieval town, hence the name Londonderry. Known as the Gateway to Northern Ireland it is the last city in Northern Ireland to be encircled by walls and the only city where the original walls are still intact. Perched on the banks of the River Foyle, the **FOUR-STAR CITY HOTEL DERRY** is within 5 minutes walking distance of the historic Derry Walls and our home for the next three nights. A group dinner will be at the hotel.

Fri, Jun 04

Our day begins with a guided **WALKING TOUR OF DERRY** that will provide you with an intriguing account of this historic city and the famous Walls of Derry. From the Diamond—the center of Old Derry—radiate four main thoroughfares that pierce the massive walls through gates bearing colorful names like Butcher Gate, Bishop's Gate, and Ferryquay gate. Nearby, just behind the Guildhall, Shipquay Gate led thousands of Irish to the New World. You will also have the chance to visit the 1600s Gothic Cathedral of St Columb. Just beyond the City Walls, the sectarian divide is still a reality in Derry. The Cresco Trust is using enterprise and peace building to bridge this divide. “Everything that we do is about people and jobs, using the traditional craft of quilting to draw people together across the sectarian divide within our community” says Margaret Lee, Chief Executive of the Cresco Trust. Cresco Trust owns and operates Mission Hall Quilts, Ltd., a retail outlet which supplies quilting fabrics, patterns, notions and much more, as well as being a training facility in the craft of quilting. To view **A Quilt for All Seasons**, visit <http://www.travelingtogether.net/Traveling/PDF/QuiltsbrochMH.pdf>

LET THE QUILTING BEGIN! Margaret Lee is personally arranging our visit to **MISSION HALL QUILTS** and Pauline Opeener is designing a special quilt, just for our group! The **QUILT WORKSHOP** will be conducted by one of the Mission Hall tutors and the *exclusive pattern* will be inspired by, and using, Donegal tweeds. Your tour price includes all supplies for the top and binding of a generous lap-sized quilt.

Sat, Jun 05

This morning we drive to the North Antrim Coast and stop at the famous **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**, Northern Ireland's first World Heritage Site. For millions of years these unique rock formations have stood as a natural rampart against the unbridled ferocity of Atlantic storms. But it has to be seen to be believed. This stretch of rock is a geological phenomenon, renowned for its columns of layered basalt. It mystified the ancients who believed it to be the work of giant Finn McCool. This natural wonder will be a highlight of today's scenic drive. A trip to Ireland would not be complete without a **TOUR OF OLD BUSHMILL'S DISTILLERY**, the oldest licensed distillery in the world. They have been producing Irish whiskey since 1608 and there will surely be a chance for some taste-testing, along with time for lunch in the Distillery Kitchen Restaurant and a visit to their souvenir shop. Then it's on to **CARRICK-A-REDE ROPE BRIDGE**. After making your way down the steep flight of stairs, you may simply enjoy the view or dare to cross the sturdy rope bridge while the waves crash onto the rocks hundreds of feet below. The scenery is magnificent and it's an experience you won't soon forget.

Sun, Jun 06

We head south today for the **SHEELIN ANTIQUE IRISH LACE MUSEUM AND SHOP**, set in the picturesque village of Bellanaleck, Enniskillen. Although they are closed on Sundays, owner Rosemary Cathcart has graciously agreed to open just for us! The shop is a treasure trove of Antique Irish Lace items and other vintage finds. Rosemary creates her own line of accessories using antique lace pieces. The museum houses one of the largest collections of its kind with approximately 700 exhibits, illustrating the five main types of Lace which were made in Ireland: Irish Crochet Lace, Youghal Needlelace, Inishmacsaint Needlelace, Carrickmacross and Limerick Lace. On display are Wedding Dresses, Wedding Veils, Shawls, Parasols, Collars, Baby Bonnets, Christening Gowns, Flounces, Jackets and many more items. All the lace dates from between 1850 to 1900. It's just a short drive to the **FOUR-STAR KILLYHEVLIN HOTEL**, a member of Irish Country Hotels. Located on the shores of scenic Lough (lake) Erne, it's the ideal place to spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon and evening. Whether you decide to lounge on the large patio and enjoy the peaceful lake setting, take a walk around the private grounds and gardens, or enjoy their fabulous new Health Club complete with gymnasium, pool and Elemis Spa, you are sure to enjoy this tranquil setting before our group dinner in the beautiful Silks Restaurant, an AA Award Winning Fine Dining Restaurant. Then it's time to retire to your individually designed and decorated room for a good night's sleep!

Mon, Jun 07

Driving further south, we depart Northern Ireland to return to the Republic of Ireland and the city of **GALWAY**, the capital of the West of Ireland. The streets and buildings of this ancient town have many interesting features, and its position on the edge

of the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area) makes it the gateway to the magnificent Aran Islands. The city itself is a continuing centre of growth with its University, Institute of Technology, Theatres, Cathedral and Castle. Recently, the city centre of Galway has been closed to traffic in order to allow for the enjoyment of the city's narrow shopping streets. Early this afternoon we arrive at the **FOUR-STAR HARBOUR HOTEL**, located in the centre of Galway and adjacent to the City's waterfront area. The hotel is within an easy walk from Eyre Square (site of the historic John F. Kennedy Memorial Park and scene of his celebrated visit to the city, as one of Ireland's most famous sons) and Quay Street, where you will find shops, pubs, restaurants and theatres. The hotel's Haven Health & Beauty Suite offers treatment rooms, along with a state of the art gymnasium, Jacuzzi and steam room, if you would like to relax and unwind after a morning of traveling.

Tue, Jun 08

Today we begin our journey with a ferry ride to the shores of Inis Mór, the largest of the **ARAN ISLANDS** and home to fewer than a thousand inhabitants. On the very edge of Western Europe, these Gaelic outcroppings—and their namesake sweaters—have always beckoned to needlecrafters. You'll have the day free to shop and sightsee in the beautiful village port. You may even choose to take a pony and trap ride around the island and we'll be sure to make a visit to the Aran Sweater Market and Museum to learn the history of these beautiful sweaters. Information about the The history of Aran sweaters may be found at: http://www.clanarans.com/asm/catalog/sweater_history.php At the end of the day we'll return to Galway for our Farewell Dinner.

Wed, Jun 09

BUNRATTY CASTLE is the most complete and authentically restored and furnished castle in Ireland. Bunratty's strategic position on the river Shannon made it the center of many battles and it has been destroyed and re-built on four occasions. In addition to visiting the castle we will explore the adjacent **BUNRATTY FOLK PARK**, a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland of over a century ago. Rural farmhouses, village shops and streets are recreated and furnished as they would have appeared at that time. Just across the road is Bunratty Village, a cluster of shops in a 19th century village setting, ranging from specialty shops for Waterford and Tipperary Crystal, to multiple outlets such as Blarney Woolen Mills and Meadows & Byrne. For those of you not joining us for the optional extension to Killarney, you will have the remainder of the day to enjoy Bunratty, before checking in to the **BUNRATTY MANOR**, a small and intimate family run hotel located just a few minutes walk from Bunratty Village, Castle, and Folk Park.

Thu, Jun 10

After having received so much inspiration for new quilting projects, it's time to return home. Saying goodbye to the friends you have made on the tour will be difficult, so be sure to stay in contact with them for making plans to Travel Together on the next quilting adventure! You will be departing from **SHANNON AIRPORT** and we'll provide you with information for getting from the hotel to the airport...unless you will be joining us for the extension to Killarney.

Main Tour Cost:

\$2355 per person, double occupancy

\$ 486 single supplement

Airfare and airport transfers are not included in the cost of the tour

Please note: In order to fully enjoy this trip you will need to be able to walk up to 5 city blocks at a moderate pace and climb several flights of stairs, in addition to uphill climbs on many of the city streets.

(Continue to next page for information about the optional extension to Killarney)

KILLARNEY EXTENSION

Optional Extension to Killarney includes:

All hotels
Full Irish breakfast each morning
One dinner at the Court Restaurant
Professionally guided tour on the Ring of Kerry
Blarney Castle and Blarney Woollen Mills
Show and Tell with the Ciar and Maine Quilters
Escorted by a professional tour leader

Extension Itinerary:

Wed, Jun 09

After visiting Bunratty, our coach will continue south to **KILLARNEY**, an area of Ireland that is renowned for its beautiful scenery. The charming **FOUR-STAR RANGLES COURT HOTEL** will be our home for three nights. It is ideally located just a five minutes' walk from the noise and the bustle of Killarney Town Centre. Having just received a €4.5 million face lift marking the 100th birthday of the original building, the hotel has the look and feel of a country manor house.

Thu, Jun 10

Today we will experience County Kerry's most outstanding scenery as we drive the **RING OF KERRY**. In addition to spectacular ocean views, we will be making stops along the way to visit a bog farm, sheep dog demonstration, and spots worthy of photo breaks, such as the Ladies View above the Upper Lake of Killarney National Park.

Fri, Jun 11

Nikki Foley is a member of the **CIAR & MAINE QUILTERS**, a guild that has members from the Tralee-Killarney region. This morning we will be meeting in the Drawing Room of our hotel with these ladies for tea and **SHOW AND TELL**. You'll want to be sure to have along at least one sample of your quilting (or photos) to share with the group. Nikki also owns The Sewing Shed, a patchwork shop on the west coast of Ireland near the town of Castlemaine. Although we won't be visiting the shop, Nikki has graciously offered to bring along and sell, some Irish patterns and any Irish and English fabrics that she has available at that time. This afternoon there will be time to explore the town of Killarney. You may want to take a jaunting car ride (horse and buggy) through the Killarney National Park and along the lakeside, being entertained by a story-telling jarvey who will reinforce the tales you've heard of the Irish and their blarney! Whether you would like to search for that perfect piece of Celtic jewelry or just shop for souvenirs to take home, you will enjoy browsing the many shops.

A group dinner will be at our hotel this evening in the Court Restaurant.

Sat, Jun 12

Ireland is famous for its **BLARNEY**, and today we will visit the castle of the same name. Where else could you climb up several stories of stone steps, bend backwards over a ledge and kiss a stone with the promise that it will confer upon you, the gift of eloquence? After visiting the castle we will have plenty of time to visit the on-site flagship store of Blarney Woollen Mills. This 30,000 square foot retail store is housed in one of Ireland's oldest and most authentic Irish woollen mills, offering everything from small souvenirs to Belleek China and Waterford Crystal. Our final stop today is the **PARK INN AT SHANNON AIRPORT**, located just steps away from the Arrivals and Departure Terminal of Shannon International Airport. The hotel has a reading room with a fire place and a terrace offering views over Shannon Estuary, where you can relax until it's time to retire to your room for the night.

Sun, Jun 13

No matter what time you make arrangements to depart from Shannon Airport, it's just a short walk over to the terminal to check-in for your flight home.

Killarney Extension cost:

\$ 782 per person, double occupancy

\$ 263 single supplement

Airfare is not included in the cost of the extension