



***THE IRELAND OF YEATS
FROM DUBLIN TO INNISFREE**

TUESDAY 9 TO MONDAY 15 JUNE 2015

NICHOLAS FRIEND

The mystical Ireland that WB Yeats so powerfully evoked in the musicality and lyricism of his poetry has endured both above and below the fine green landscape- in the hearts and souls of the people, and in the arts. Nicholas Friend eloquently leads a touring celebration of the 150th anniversary of this pillar of the Irish and British expressive literary tradition, one whose words free the currents of the ancient Irish spirit flowing just beneath the surface of the mundane. The very essence of Irish history: the romance of the Celtic Twilight, the political drama of Dublin and the rising of 1916, Irish involvement in the First World War, the confusions of the 1920s and 1930s, and the rhythms and cadence of an ancient tongue- are captured in his magisterial poems. We honour him as we follow the trail of his life.

COST £2345 members, £2395 non-members, £350 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes flights London-Dublin-London, six nights accommodation, of which two at Coopershill, all breakfasts, two lunches with wine, two dinners with wine and two private dinners with wine at Coopershill, one private tour of Coopershill led by owner Simon O'Hara with drinks reception, one music and poetry evening, all lectures, all entrance fees, all private minibus travel during the tour, all gratuities, VAT.

**Coopershill, an 18th century luxury Country House on a 500 acre private estate in County Sligo, is reserved for our exclusive use, with an eight room limit. Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.*

TUESDAY 9 JUNE

- 08:45 Meet at London Gatwick Airport
- 10:40 Flight departs London Gatwick Airport
- 12:00 Arrive Dublin, private minibus to Central Hotel Dublin, drop luggage
- 13:15 Lunch at the Winding Stair
- 14:45 Private visit to the Abbey Theatre, backstage and art collection, with Theatre Archivist Mairead Delaney
- 16:30 Return to Central Hotel for rest
- 18:30 *An Evening of Food, Folklore and Fairies* (dinner and storytelling) at the Brazen Head, Dublin's oldest pub

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

- 09:30 Private guided tour of the Life and Work of William Butler Yeats exhibition at the National Library of Ireland
- 10:45 Coffee
- 11:30 Visit Trinity College Library to see the Book of Kells and other manuscripts
- 13:00 Lunch at The Farm Restaurant
- 14:45 Private visit to Dublin Writers Museum with Museum Curator Robert Nicholson
- 16:00 Return to hotel for rest
- 19:00 Leave for Clonskeagh Castle
- 19:30 Private group dinner with music and entertainments, organised by Frank Armstrong in his family home, Clonskeagh Castle
- 21:30 Return to Central Hotel

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

- 09:00 Check out, private minibus to Clonmacnoise Monastery
- 11:00 Guided tour of Clonmacnoise Monastery
- 12:00 Minibus to Ballinasloe
- 12:30 Lunch at Kariba's Restaurant, Ballinasloe
- 13:45 Minibus to Coole Park
- 14:45 Coole Park Visitor Centre for introductory video screening and guided walk
- 16:15 Minibus to Thoor Ballylee
- 16:30 Arrive Thoor Ballylee, Yeats Tower for walkabout and readings
- 17:30 Minibus to Currarevagh House
- 18:45 Arrive Currarevagh House, check-in
- 20:00 Group dinner at Currarevagh House

FRIDAY 12 JUNE

- 0900 Minibus to Rossaveal for ferry for Inis Meain
- 09:45 Coffee at Au Port Restaurant
- 10:30 Ferry to Inis Meain
- 11:10 Arrive Inis Meain, private minibus around the island including visits to Dun Chonchuir and Cill Cheanainn
- 12:30 Lunch at An Dun Restaurant
- 14:00 Visit Synge Cottage
- 15:00 Church of St Mary Immaculate (Harry Clarke windows)
- 15:30 Minibus to ferry
- 16:30 Ferry back to Rossaveal
- 17:30 Arrives Rossaveal, minibus to Currarevagh House
- 18:30 Arrive Currarevagh House
- 20:00 Group dinner at Currarevagh House

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

- 09:00 Minibus to Castlebar
- 10:30 Guided tour of Castlebar Museum of Country Life
- 12:30 Lunch at the Castlebar Museum of Country Life Café
- 14:00 Leave Castlebar for Coopershill at Riverstown
- 15:10 Arrive Coopershill House, check-in, rest
- 18:00 Drink with Simon O'Hara, owner of Coopershill House, short introduction to the house and family history
- 20:00 Group dinner at Coopershill

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

- 09:00 Leave Coopershill for Lissadell
- 10:00 Coffee, private view of Lissadell House and Yeats' exhibition
- 11:30 Minibus to Drumcliff, Yeats' cemetery
- 12:00 Minibus to Strandhill
- 12:30 Lunch at The Venue Restaurant
- 14:15 Minibus to Parkes Castle
- 15:00 Arrive Parkes castle for boat to Innisfree
- 15:30 Cruise onboard The Rose of Innisfree
- 16:30 Return to Parkes Castle, minibus to Coopershill
- 17:30 Arrive Coopershill, rest
- 20:00 Private Dinner and Yeats evening at Broc House, home of Damien Brennan (President of the Yeats Society, Sligo) and his chef wife, Paula

MONDAY 14 JUNE

- 0900 Check out, minibus to Sligo
- 0930 Visit Yeats Memorial Building with Damien Brennan,
- 10:30 Private visit Sligo County Museum
- 11:30 Minibus to Carrick-on-Shannon
- 12:15 Lunch at Victoria Hall Restaurant
- 13:15 Leave for Dublin airport
- 15:15 Arrive Dublin airport, check in
- 17:00 Flight to London Gatwick
- 18:20 Land Gatwick Airport