

Celtic Discovery 2004

UH 07/19-4 – Revised 7.7.04

Monday, July 19

Depart for London, England

Day 1

Greet your fellow Ambassadors in the departure city before boarding your international flight to London, England.

Tuesday, July 20

London, England

Day 2

Welcome to England! Introductions to your People to People delegation manager and coach driver mark the commencement of your journey. They lead the way to the coach, where the adventure is just beginning. Your Celtic Discovery begins at Hampton Court Palace, the beautiful and historic home of King Henry VIII. Gracing a gentle bend in the River Thames, the palace is a mixture of Tudor and English Baroque architecture, much of it designed by renowned architect Christopher Wren in the 1690's. Walk through Anne Boleyn's Gateway and look carefully at the astrological clock installed by King Henry VIII. Do you recognize the signs of the zodiac? Explore the castle's magnificent gardens and try to find your way through the living maze!

Wednesday, July 21

Cardiff, Wales

Day 3

Visit the mysterious prehistoric site of Stonehenge, the oldest part of which dates back to 3000 BC. Marvel at how (and why!) people with the most basic tools could have excavated the huge slabs of stone, transported them over many miles and then constructed this incredible monument. Start your morning with a stop in the beautiful city of Bath! Bath is home to Britain's only natural hot spring, with waters flowing at a constant temperature of 115 degrees. The Celtic King Bladud discovered the Royal Baths in 860 BC. He realized the spring's curative powers by imitating his pigs and rolling around in the hot mud! By the 18th century, Bath was the most famous spa town in England. At the Royal Baths, you can still see Roman architecture remaining from the 1st century settlement. In the city, look closely at the plaques on the houses. You may notice that several bear the names of famous people who lived there.

Thursday, July 22

Overnight Ferry

Day 4

This morning, explore Cardiff Castle, a remarkable structure whose history also spans nearly 2000 years. Originally a Roman fort, Norman invaders built a castle keep (the main tower and stronghold of a castle) within the Roman ruins in the 12th century. Climb to the top of the keep for a breathtaking view of the city of Cardiff. In the 1860's, the third Marquess of Bute, who was reputed to be the richest man in the world, owned the castle. He transformed the main house, creating an ornate mansion rich in medieval images and details. Look for the Arab room, the Octagon Tower, and the Bute Tower. Discover how people have lived over the past 2000 years, at the Museum of Welsh Life, near Cardiff. Here you will experience "Wales in a day" as you wander through time from an authentically reconstructed Celtic village of 2000 years ago to a 1980's miner's cottage. You will continue to Swansea for the overnight ferry to Ireland.

Friday, July 23

Kerry, Ireland

Day 5

Today you will visit Cobh Heritage Centre to listen to the harrowing tales of the famine boats, the last stop of the Titanic and many other interesting fact of history, heritage and roots on Cork and the surrounds. This afternoon you will stop at Blarney Castle, one of Ireland's most famous buildings. Located in County Cork, little remains of Blarney Castle except the castle keep, built

in 1446. Climb the 127 steps of the keep to take part in the long-standing tradition of kissing the Blarney stone. The Irish are renowned for the magical eloquence this smooching ritual bestows. After you have kissed the stone, walk across the street to visit Blarney's famous Woollen Mill, where you will find Irish arts, crafts and linens.

Saturday, July 24

Kerry, Ireland

Day 6

Travel to County Kerry and enjoy the beauty of the famous 'Ring'. Continue onto the market town of Kenmare before heading onto the famous landmarks of Moll's Gap and 'Ladies View'. Travel to Killarney for a jaunty car ride through the gardens of Muckross Abbey, the friary founded in 1448 by Donal McCarthy for the Observantine Franciscans. Many exotic trees and shrubs flourish in the mild climate and sheltered location of Muckross Gardens. Enjoy a short stroll through part of the Gap of Dunloe and view Killarney from 'Aghadoe Heights'.

Sunday, July 25

Revised-Lisdoonvarna, Ireland

Day 7

Today you will visit County Clare and the region known as the Burren. It's described as a lunar type landscape, a vast limestone plateau, which provides a unique botanical environment in which Mediterranean and Alpine plants rare to Ireland grow side by side. You will explore the limestone caves of Ailwee and also view the majestic Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 ft above the Atlantic Ocean with views of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands beyond.

Monday, July 26

Revised-Lisdoonvarna, Ireland

Day 8

Today you will go to Galway City where you will visit the famous crystal factory before continuing your journey to the remote county of Connemara, famous for it's remote scenery, donkeys, and it's many thatched cottages. It is possible you will hear Gaelic spoken and keep an eye out for the many old traditional crafts still carried out in this area.

Tuesday, July 27

Revised-Home Stay, Ireland

Day 9

This morning, visit Bunratty Castle, one of Ireland's major historical sites. Built in the 15th century and restored to its original condition in the 1950's, Bunratty was home to many Earls and important residents of County Clare. Explore the Robing Room, the Main Guard room, and the Murder Hole. Adjacent to the castle is Folk Park, a recreated of rural village typical of Ireland at the turn of the century. The village boasts shops and a range of domestic architecture, including a laborer's cottage and an elegant Georgian residence. Early this evening, arrive at the home stay center where your host family will welcome you to your new "home"!

Wednesday, July 28

Revised-Home Stay, Ireland

Day 10

Today, explore Ireland's capital city of Dublin. The city, steeped in culture, tradition and history, is renowned for its magnificent Georgian buildings while at the same time earning a cosmopolitan review. Visit such famous landmarks as St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park, Trinity College and statue-lined O'Connell Street. Take a unique ride over land and water in World War II amphibious military vehicles called "Ducks". Your Viking guide describes the exciting historical sites in Dublin and how the Vikings first settled in the city 1000 years ago. Finish with a splash in the historic Grand Canal Basin.

Thursday, July 29

Bangor, Wales

Day 11

In the morning, you will explore Ireland's capital city of Dublin. The city, steeped in culture, tradition and history, is renowned for its magnificent Georgian buildings while at the same time earning a cosmopolitan review. View such famous landmarks as St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park, Trinity College and statue-lined O'Connell Street. In the afternoon head for Dun

Laoghaire to catch the ferry to North Wales. Along the way, visit the village that boasts the world's longest station name: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwylllantysiliogogoch! Even if you cannot pronounce it, consider having your passport stamped or sending a postcard home to your family for a terrific souvenir! Continue onto Bangor for your overnight. In the evening, you will learn a few words during a *Cymraeg* (Welsh) lesson.

Friday, July 30

Bangor, Wales

Day 12

You will pay a visit to the famous village of Portmerian, a private village created by architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. Built from 1925 to 1975, it sits on his own private peninsula on the beautiful coast of Snowdonia in Wales. His lifelong passion was with architecture, landscape design, the protection of the environment. In Portmerian he strove to give his ideas physical expression. Later, visit the Craflwyn Environmental Education Center. Here you will take part in two major environmental projects designed to restore this Victorian estate to its original beauty.

Saturday, July 31

Bangor, Wales

Day 13

Today is all about challenge, excitement, and energy! Get ready for a day full of adventure and personal growth through interactive and challenging workshops led by the "Full On" team. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills, set personal goals, and step outside your comfort zone. Conquer FEAR by abseiling 70 feet off a tower wall at Penrhyn Castle! This evening, take time to reflect upon today's activities and your achievements.

Sunday, August 1

Birmingham, England

Day 14

Today, stop to explore the city of Chester, first settled by Romans in 79 AD. The medieval walls and ornate timber buildings, known as the Chester Rows, represent medieval high-rise stores. Next stop is Stratford-upon-Avon, perhaps one of the most recognized towns in England. It is the birthplace of one of the world's most celebrated playwrights, William Shakespeare. A visit to the house where he lived reveals what his life was like. Be sure to keep up with your journal. With Shakespeare's influence, it should be easy to pen a page or two about your adventures.

Monday, August 2

Home Stay, England

Day 15

Today, step back in time and explore the most magnificent, medieval castle in Warwick. William the Conqueror fortified its site, which overlooks the river Avon, in 1068. Imagine yourself in the Middle Ages as you explore the dark and gloomy dungeon, gruesome torture chamber and splendid armory. On the other hand, the Royal Weekend exhibit, offers a glimpse of how refined members of Victorian High Society spent their leisure time. Early this evening, arrive at the home stay center where your host family will welcome you to your new home!

Tuesday, August 3

Home Stay, England

Day 16

Enjoy the hospitality of your host family today.

Wednesday, August 4

Home Stay, England

Day 17

Enjoy the hospitality of your host family today.

Thursday, August 5

London, England

Day 18

Head to Buckingham Palace to view the precisely choreographed Changing of the Guard. Dressed in brilliant red jackets and bearskins (the tall furry hats), the Guards march down the Mall from St. James's Palace to ceremoniously hand the palace keys from the guards to the new. Did you know that you could tell if the Queen is at the Palace by how many guards are outside? If she is at the Palace, the Guard will have 3 officers and 40 men. However, if she is

away, the Guard will have 3 officers and only 31 men. Visit the lively Covent Garden. This evening is your chance to experience London's well-known theater scene by attending a performance of one of London's most popular shows.

Friday, August 6

London, England

Day 19

This morning, dress to impress for your meeting with a current or former Member of Parliament. This unique opportunity explores the British Constitution and discusses the respective roles of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch, a true honor for Student Ambassadors. Later, visit the must-see Tower of London! Since its completion in 1097, the tower has been a palace, an armory, a mint, a zoo, a prison, and now houses the Crown Jewels. As a prison, it contained such famous prisoners as Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh. Inside, meet the Yeoman Warders, also known as "Beefeaters," who guard the tower and are caretakers of the mysterious ravens. Legend has it that if the ravens ever leave the Tower then the Kingdom will fall! Afterwards, cruise the River Thames taking in many of the city's famous sights. Then take a ride on the London Eye, the largest Ferris wheel in the world, built for the millennium celebration. This astonishing 443 ft high ride provides a fantastic panoramic view of the city.

Saturday, August 7

Depart for the U.S.A.

Day 20

Pack up your suitcase for the last time and board the coach for the airport. Remember to complete your program evaluations and exchange friendship cards with your fellow Ambassadors!

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary may change at any time without prior notice. Overnight accommodation lists will be sent separately prior to travel.