



Exploring the Emerald Isle: from Dublin to Belfast

with Poet Kim Stafford

DATES: September 4-13, 2026

Travel through Ireland and Northern Ireland on a 10-day journey of literature, history, and landscapes. Explore Dublin's cultural icons, the western coast, and Yeats' legacy, then continue through Donegal to Derry, the Giant's Causeway, and Belfast's dual narratives. Enjoy local cuisine and connections that bring Ireland's stories to life.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Dublin's literary heritage at Trinity College, the Yeats Exhibition, the James Joyce Centre, and MoLI.
- Experience the Cliffs of Moher by walking the cliff paths and cruising beneath.
- Trace W.B. Yeats' legacy in Sligo.
- Explore Donegal's landscapes and castles
- Learn Northern Ireland's dual narratives through the Derry murals, Museum of Free Derry, and Belfast Peace Walls tour.
- Visit the Giant's Causeway and enjoy a guided tasting at historic Bushmills Distillery.

In Partnership with



PRICING:

\$7,495* per person (shared room)

\$9,275 (single room)

**Early Bird Pricing: \$6,995 (until Nov. 15)*

INCLUDED:

- 9 nights' accommodation at 4-5* hotels listed (*or similar)
- 9 breakfasts (B); 5 lunches (L); 6 dinners (D)
- Water and soft drinks at all included meals (no alcohol) + water on the bus
- Expert Local MEJDI Guides
- Individual Arrival Airport Transfers
- 1 Group Departure Airport Transfer (Belfast - Dublin)
- Private bus transportation (water on bus)
- Entrance fees, site visits, & speaker honorariums
- Pre-trip travel guidance and on-ground support

Registration @ mejditours.com/open-tour/lewis-and-clark-emerald-isle



Exploring the Emerald Isle: from Dublin to Belfast TOUR ITINERARY, CONTINUED

September 4: Arrival in Dublin

Welcome to Dublin! Enjoy an optional walking tour with St. Patrick's Cathedral, then gather for a welcome dinner at Fade Street Social.

Hotel: The Morrison Hotel, Dublin (D)

September 5: Dublin's Literary Legends

Immerse yourself in Dublin's literary heritage with a guided walking tour of Merrion Square and Trinity College, including the Yeats Exhibition at the National Library. Enjoy lunch at Davy Byrnes Pub of Ulysses fame, then visit the James Joyce Centre, pass the Dublin Writers' Museum, and conclude at the Museum of Literature Ireland. After dinner on your own, attend an evening performance at the Smoke Alley Theater.

Hotel: The Morrison Hotel, Dublin (B, L)



September 6:

Visit Dublin's historic General Post Office and explore Irish emigration stories at the EPIC Museum before heading west toward Gregans Castle in County Clare. Enjoy lunch on your own, then stop for a scenic hike in the Slieve Bloom Mountains en route. Arrive by late afternoon to settle in and enjoy a group dinner.

Hotel: Gregans Castle, County Clare (B, D)

September 7: The Cliffs

Head to the Cliffs of Moher for a cliff-top walk with sweeping Atlantic views at one of Ireland's most iconic natural wonders. Continue to Doolin Pier for a boat cruise beneath the cliffs, with opportunities to spot seabirds and admire the dramatic rock formations from the sea. Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch in Lisdoonvarna at the Burren Smokehouse, known for its artisan smoked salmon, then explore The Burren's unique limestone landscape, wildflowers, and ancient sites with time for poetry and quiet reflection before dinner as a group.

Hotel: Gregan's Castle, County Clare (B, L, D)



September 8: Roads North

Drive to Galway for a walking tour of the lively Latin Quarter and historic Eyre Square, then descend to the Hall of the Red Earl for a fascinating look at the city's medieval past. Continue north to Sligo for lunch along the river before exploring W.B. Yeats' legacy at the Yeats Memorial Building, Drumcliff Churchyard, and the Lake Isle of Innisfree viewpoint. Travel on through scenic Sligo into Donegal, arriving at the lakeside Lough Eske Castle.

Hotel: Lough Eske Castle [B, D]

September 9: County Donegal

Begin with a tranquil walk through Ardnamona Woods, a landscape that inspired local poets, before driving the scenic Bluestack Way and stopping at the storied Biddy's O'Barnes pub. Continue into Donegal town to explore its historic castle and browse the charming craft village filled with artisan studios and locally made goods. Enjoy lunch in town, with options overlooking the ocean, then spend the afternoon along the peaceful shores of Lough Derg before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Hotel: Lough Eske Castle [B, D]



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September 10: From Bogside to Causeway

Cross into Northern Ireland and arrive in Derry/Londonderry to explore its complex recent history. Walk the 17th-century city walls for sweeping views, visit the Museum of Free Derry for personal accounts of the civil rights struggle, and see the powerful Bogside murals up close. Continue to Bushmills for a guided whiskey tasting and lunch near the historic distillery before heading to the Giant's Causeway to experience its dramatic basalt columns along the coast. Reach Belfast by evening, with free time for dinner and the option to enjoy a performance at one of the city's iconic theaters or music halls.

Hotel: Europa Hotel, Belfast (B, L)



September 11: Belfast Perspectives

Explore Belfast's industrial heritage, striking Victorian architecture, and the events that shaped Northern Ireland's capital. Then take a dual-narrative Peace Walls tour, guided by both loyalist and nationalist perspectives to understand the origins of the Troubles and ongoing efforts toward reconciliation. In the afternoon, visit Skainos Square, a community hub rooted in peacebuilding, and walk through CS Lewis Square, where Narnia-inspired sculptures honor one of Belfast's most beloved writers. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Hotel: Europa Hotel, Belfast (B, L)

September 12: Heritage & Conclusion

Spend the day exploring Northern Ireland's cultural and intellectual heritage, beginning at Queen's University, a hub for learning and reconciliation studies. Continue to the Ulster Museum to explore art, science, and the region's complex history. Then travel to the Seamus Heaney Centre and HomePlace, where the Nobel laureate's poetry, artifacts, and the surrounding countryside bring his stories to life over a locally sourced lunch. Return to Belfast for an afternoon at leisure before gathering for a reflective wrap-up and a festive farewell dinner at MrDeane's.

Optional: Travelers may visit Titanic Belfast during the free afternoon; advance reservations can be arranged for an additional cost.

Hotel: Europa Hotel, Belfast (B, L, D)



September 13: Departure Day

One group transfer will be provided in the morning to Dublin Airport based on the most common flight times. We are happy to assist with private transfer arrangements and can provide guidance for those who prefer to use the public shuttle bus.