

## Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 11 Nights in Ireland

### **Tue Aug 15<sup>th</sup>                    Heading for the Emerald Isle**

Today we start our journey by flying across the United States and taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Ireland.

### **Wed Aug 16<sup>th</sup>                    Welcome to Ireland**

This morning we will land in Dublin Airport and once you have proceeded through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination, Dublin City, Ireland's small capital with a huge reputation.

We will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of the city to see historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street and Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells. We will also see the vast Georgian Squares, such as Merrion Square where Oscar Wilde's house can still be found (today owned by the American College). Then, whenever we are checked in to our hotel, you are free to spend the rest of the evening as you please. Enjoy one of city's many restaurants for dinner and you simply can't visit Dublin without popping your head inside some of its brilliant pubs. **Overnight: Trinity City Hotel, Dublin**

### **Thu Aug 17<sup>th</sup>                    Lining Out in Dublin's Fair City**

Today, we will set out for what is dubbed 'the biggest event of 2017 in Ireland' – the final pool stages of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. The games today will take place at University College Dublin, which was founded in 1854, caters for over 30,000 students from more than 120 countries on its 130 hectare campus in the heart of South Dublin.

You will have free time before and after the games today to relax and explore so decide how you would like to spend your free time. With attractions like Guinness Storehouse, Old Jameson Distillery and the National Museum of Ireland and beautiful settings such as Trinity College, the National Botanic Gardens and St Stephen's Green, there is something for everyone. Later, visit Temple Bar, the cultural heart of Dublin City which sits on the south bank of the River Liffey is bursting with pubs, restaurants, galleries and great craic each and every night. **Overnight: Dublin Hotel**

### **Fri Aug 18<sup>th</sup>                    Introducing Killarney**

Once breakfast is finished up this morning, we will bid farewell to Dublin and embark upon our next destination, Killarney in Co. Kerry, known as 'The Kingdom' and one of the most famous and beautiful of Ireland's 32 counties.

On route, we will visit famous Blarney Castle to gain the ‘Gift of the Gab’ with a visit to **Blarney Castle**. According to Irish folklore, anyone who kisses the stone receives the ability to speak with eloquence, or “The Gift of the Gab. Explore the beautiful grounds and once you have walked up an appetite for shopping, head inside the “Blarney Woolen Mills” - 30,000 square feet of retail space within one of Ireland’s oldest and most authentic woolen mills.

Afterwards, you will reach Killarney for check-in and to enjoy your first night here. Have dinner at the hotel before investigating which Killarney establishments in which to stop for a pint and live entertainment at night. So whether you are looking for a sing-along Killarney style, or a good trad session, or just a quiet pint, you are sure to find it! **Dinner & Overnight: Killarney Hotel**

**Sat Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Exclusively Kerry**

Once you have had your breakfast, we will set out to explore Kerry, famed to contain some of Ireland’s most iconic scenery. Today we will visit the Ring of Kerry, a majestic circular loop that pairs overwhelming natural beauty with immersive heritage attractions, the Ring of Kerry is a jewel in the Kingdom of Kerry’s crown. Along this route you will pass through vast glacial valleys (Moll’s Gap) and see the Skellig Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site known throughout the world of archaeology as the site of a well-preserved monastic outpost of the Early Christian period and in the world of Holywood as featured scenes in ‘Star Wars: The Force Awakens’.

Later, we will return to our Killarney Hotel to enjoy the remainder of the evening as you wish. **Overnight: Killarney Hotel**

**Sun Aug 20<sup>th</sup> The Mighty Cliffs**

Once breakfast is over, we will bid Killarney farewell in search of new adventures in eccentric Galway. Free spirited, artistic and bohemian, Galway has an ambience all of its own. From narrow streets alive with activity and Irish culture to amazing landscapes and seascapes – Galway, known as ‘The City of Tribes’ after the 14 family tribes that founded it, has something for everyone to enjoy.

Before we reach Galway, we will visit the the mighty Cliffs of Moher which stand over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular views are in abundance at this iconic attraction, on a clear day you can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South.

Later, we will make our way to our Galway Hotel for check-in and to enjoy the rest of the evening as you wish. Galway is a vibrant place, full of life and character. Enjoy

pedestrianized shopping streets and renowned bites in its famed cafes and bars.

**Overnight: Galway Hotel**

**Mon Aug 21<sup>st</sup>                    Wondering on the Wild Atlantic Way**

Fill up on your Irish Breakfast this morning and get set to bid Galway farewell in search of new adventures in Co. Donegal, known as the Wild Child of Ireland, thanks in part to its rugged interior and characterful pubs. On route, we will travel along the Wild Atlantic Way, one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world, to stop in the beautifully located Drumcliffe to visit the resting places of famous Irish poet, W.B. Yeats and to take in the views at quaint seaside town of Mullaghmore. Sit back and enjoy this route which unfolds the wonders of nature, the power of the ocean and its imprint on the west coast of Ireland, and the stunning countryside in all its diversity.

After a busy afternoon, you will reach Donegal for check-in and to share dinner on your first night in this lively county. With traditional Irish bars boasting exciting live music, to chic and modern pubs with tasty food and beer - Donegal has it all! **Dinner & Overnight: Donegal Hotel**

**Tue Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>                    Next Stop....The North**

After a hearty breakfast this morning, we will bid Donegal farewell in search of new adventures in the rejuvenated and unmissable, Northern Ireland and its capital city, Belfast, the transformed city famous in equal parts for the birthplace of the Titanic and the notorious history of Northern Ireland.

We will cross the border into Northern Ireland (part of the UK) where the only changes to expect are the road signs and the currency (from Euro to Sterling). On route, we will stop in the heather-clad hills of Co. Tyrone at The Ulster American Folk Park, a colorful indoor and outdoor museum exploring the story of Irish emigration to the New World. You will be immersed into in the story of Irish emigration at the museum that brings it to life.

Later, we will reach Belfast where you are free to experience its famous quality driven hospitality scene – enjoy! **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

**Wed Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>                    Uniquely Northern Ireland**

Once breakfast is finished up this morning, get set for a day of sightseeing in Belfast, taking in all areas including the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road, the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road and the Titanic Quarter. We will then visit Titanic Belfast to experience the story of the Titanic in an innovative, interactive and insightful way. Titanic Belfast, which was awarded the world's number one attraction in 2016, takes you through nine galleries, telling the story of RMS Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the

early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

After that introduction to Belfast, spend time getting to know the city in your own way with local attractions including Crumlin Road Gaol, St. George's Market and Queens University all nearby. **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Thu Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Visiting The Giant's Playground**

Whenever breakfast is finished up this morning, we will set out for the world famous Giant's Causeway, renowned for its polygonal columns of layered basalt, which is the only World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland. Resulting from a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago, this is the focal point for a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has attracted visitors for centuries. It harbors a wealth of local and natural history. Other noteworthy items include: a Spanish Armada shipwreck site ('La Girona') & many traces of the legendary giant – Finn MacCool.

Afterwards, enjoy the remainder of your day in Belfast as you wish. **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Fri Aug 25<sup>th</sup> A Day Well Spent in Belfast**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as you decide how to spend your free day in Belfast. Relax and recover or explore attractions like the historic Belfast Castle or tour Game of Thrones Film Locations. Check out Victoria Square for some last minute shopping or a lesson in history at the Ulster Museum.

Enjoy Belfast which offers everything from fine dining, brasseries and bistros to gastro pubs, cafes and some of the best fish and chips around. From quick drinks to cocktail lounges – you are sure to find something to your taste, enjoy! **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Sat Aug 26<sup>th</sup> The Final Try in Belfast**

Enjoy your breakfast this morning as the day of the finals of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 has arrived! We will make our way to Kingspan Stadium for the second and final time, a state-of-the-art stadium which was fully developed in 2014 to a capacity of 18,000. The stadium, which is the home of Ulster Rugby, is open for all sports to utilize. Its outstanding facilities and renowned atmosphere make it one of the best rugby stadiums in the UK and Ireland. Finals day will feature three matches, including the final, third-place play-off and one ranking game.

With Belfast at your leisure before and after the games, enjoy your final day in the city. Afterwards, we will return to our Belfast hotel to share a farewell dinner and enjoy your last evening in Ireland. Reflect on the memories, friendships and magic created during your stay

and toast to a successful trip in the Emerald Isle with your loved ones. **Dinner  
& Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

**Sun Aug 27th            Homeward Bound...**

Pack your bags as we head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. 'The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes' will be expecting you again soon.