

# Union College Garnet Chargers

## Men's Hockey – Friendship Four 2025

6 Night Package - Dublin & Belfast - Nov 24<sup>th</sup> – Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Heading for the Emerald Isle

Today you start your journey by departing the United States and taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic Ocean to arrive in Dublin Airport, Ireland.

### Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>: Welcome to Ireland

This morning, you will arrive at Dublin Airport. Once you proceed through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination—Dublin, the small capital of Ireland with a big reputation. **We will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin**, taking in local landmarks and historic buildings such as the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street and Trinity College, home to the famous Book of Kells, among many others.



Next, you'll delve into the heart of one of Ireland's most iconic brands—Guinness. Since 1759, the legendary St. James's Gate Brewery has been its home. We'll visit the **Guinness Storehouse** to explore the story behind this world-renowned drink. The seven floors of the Storehouse bring to life the heritage of Guinness, from its humble beginnings to its rise as a global brand enjoyed across the globe. And what better place to savor a pint of Guinness than at the Gravity Bar, perched high above Dublin with stunning views of the city.

After this introduction to Dublin, you'll check into your hotel and enjoy some free time. Spend your first evening soaking in the atmosphere of a city known for having a pub-to-person ratio that's the envy of many other capitals!

**Overnight: Dublin City Center Hotel (B)**

### **Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>: A Day Trip to Wicklow**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning and prepare to trade city lights for scenic countryside, as today's tour takes you to County Wicklow—known as “The Garden of Ireland.” You will visit one of Ireland's most famous attractions: the **Glendalough Monastic Site**. Founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century, is nestled in a glaciated valley with two serene lakes. Despite enduring Viking attacks over the centuries, Glendalough flourished as one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical centers and schools of learning until the Normans destroyed the monastery in 1214 A.D. Here, we'll explore the story of Glendalough and tour the grounds of the “Monastic City,” which features a number of monastic remains dating from the 10th to 12th centuries.



After a morning well spent in County Wicklow, you'll return to Dublin by the afternoon. You'll be dropped off at your hotel to enjoy the rest of your day at leisure in the city.

**Overnight: Dublin City Center Hotel (B)**

### **Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>: Next Stop...Belfast**



Following breakfast this morning, we will depart Dublin to seek new adventures in Belfast, the famous transformed capital of Northern Ireland and host city of the Friendship Four Festival of Hockey. Traveling north from Dublin, you'll arrive in Belfast, a city known equally for being the birthplace of the **Titanic**, its complex and storied history, and its emergence as one of the most exciting destinations in Ireland, the UK, and beyond.

Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a **panoramic sightseeing tour** of Belfast, exploring its historic and culturally rich neighborhoods. Highlights include the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road, the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road, and more. After the tour, you'll check in at your hotel and have free time to enjoy the rest of your day in Belfast—a city now celebrated for its outstanding variety and quality of food and drink establishments.

**Overnight: Belfast City Center Hotel (B)**



#### Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving in Belfast



Enjoy a traditional Irish breakfast this morning as we prepare to celebrate the holiday in a truly unique way—**Thanksgiving, Northern Ireland style!** This morning, we will depart the city to visit Northern Ireland's iconic attraction and its only UNESCO World Heritage site, the **Giants Causeway** in Co. Antrim. From Belfast, we will journey via the Causeway Coastal Route, often hailed as one of the world's greatest coastal drives, to reach this geological marvel. The Giant's Causeway is renowned both historically and scientifically for its striking polygonal columns of layered basalt, formed by a volcanic eruption some 60 million years ago. It's the centerpiece of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has long captivated visitors with its natural wonder and legendary tales of giants. You'll enjoy a guided tour of this unique site, rich in geological significance and local folklore.

After a memorable day exploring Northern Ireland's natural beauty, we'll return to the hotel to prepare for a special **Thanksgiving Dinner**—a festive evening to reflect, relax, and celebrate in Irish style.

#### Overnight: Belfast City Center Hotel (D,B)

#### Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>: GAME DAY

Start your day in Belfast with a hearty breakfast and some free time to explore the city's rich history, vibrant shops, and cultural highlights.

Later, head to The SSE Arena for the exciting opening of the 2025 Friendship Four tournament!

This year's lineup features **the Union College Garnet Chargers, Sacred Heart Pioneers, RIT Tigers, and Miami University RedHawks.**



Be sure to wear your garnet and white as Union College takes the ice against Sacred Heart, ready to battle for a spot in Saturday's Friendship Four Championship game!

**Game Time: 2:00 PM**

**Matchup: Union College vs. Sacred Heart**

**Overnight: Belfast City Center Hotel (B)**

### **Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>: Consolation and Championship GAME DAY**



Today, the 2025 Friendship Four wraps up with the **consolation game at 3:00 PM**, followed by the **championship game at 7:00 PM**, where the two winners from Friday's semi-finals will compete for the coveted Belpot Trophy.

Once the champions "Ring the Bell," return to the hotel carrying treasured memories—regardless of the outcome on the ice. Enjoy your final evening in Ireland as you wish, toasting to a successful and unforgettable

journey on the Emerald Isle.

**Consolation Game : 3pm**

**Championship Game: 7pm**

**Overnight: Belfast City Center Hotel (B)**

### **Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>: Homeward Bound**

With bags packed, enjoy a final breakfast before heading to the airport for your flight home. Your airport transfer will be arranged based on your flight schedule and advised closer to your travel date.

As you depart, carry with you the photos, memories, and experiences from Dublin and Belfast—bringing a piece of the Emerald Isle back home. Ireland, *The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*, will be waiting to greet you again soon.