Tour of Ireland
Including UCONN Men’s Ice Hockey & Friendship Four Tournament
Nov Mon 19th – Sun 25th 2018 ~ Dublin & Belfast
Depart USA on Sunday Nov 18th to arrive Dublin Monday Nov 19th

Sun Nov 18th  Heading for the Emerald Isle
Start your journey by taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic to arrive in Dublin, Ireland.

Mon Nov 19th  Welcome to Ireland
This morning you will land at Dublin Airport and once you proceed through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination, Co. Dublin, the small capital of Ireland with a huge reputation. **We will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin** to see local landmarks and historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O’Connell Street and Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells, and much more.

We then journey deep into the heart of Ireland’s most famous brand, Guinness, which has been called the legendary St. James's Gate Brewery ‘home’ since 1759. **We will visit Guinness Storehouse** to hear the story of this iconic drink, touring the seven floors which bring to life the heritage of Guinness from its early days to growth as a global brand, known and enjoyed all around the world. What better place to savor a pint of Guinness than sitting high above Dublin in the Guinness Storehouse Gravity Bar!

After our introduction to Dublin, we will check into the hotel. **Overnight: Academy Plaza Hotel Dublin**

Tue Nov 20th  A Day Trip to Wicklow
Enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning and prepare to swap the city lights for scenic countryside. We are heading to County Wicklow, known as ‘The Garden of Ireland’ to visit
one of Ireland’s most famous attractions, Glendalough Monastic Site, a fascinating early Christian settlement positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century. Despite attacks by Vikings over the years, Glendalough thrived as one of Ireland’s great ecclesiastical foundations and schools of learning until the Normans destroyed the monastery in 1214 A.D. We will hear the fascinating story and tour the grounds of the ‘Monastic City’ which consists of a number of remains dating from the 10th to 12th centuries. With a morning well spent in County Wicklow, we will return to the city of Dublin to enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

**Overnight: Academy Plaza Hotel Dublin (B)**

**Wed Nov 21**

**Next Stop…Belfast**

Following breakfast this morning, we will depart Dublin to seek new adventures in Belfast, the famous transformed capital city of Northern Ireland and host city of the Friendship Four Festival of Hockey. We will journey approximately 2 hours north of Dublin to arrive in Belfast, known in equal parts for the birthplace of the Titanic, the notorious history of Northern Ireland and as one of today’s most exciting cities to visit throughout Ireland, the UK and the world.

Upon arrival we will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of the city to take in all of its historic and fascinating areas including the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road, the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road and much more. The sightseeing tour will conclude at the Titanic Quarter, a large-scale waterfront regeneration comprising historic maritime landmarks, film studios, education facilities, apartments, a riverside entertainment district, and the world's number one tourist attraction, Titanic Belfast where we will tour nine galleries to experience the story of the Titanic in an innovative, interactive and insightful way. Symbolic inside and out, Titanic Belfast tells 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.

We will then proceed to check-in at the hotel where you have free time to enjoy the
remainder of your day in Belfast, a city now renowned for its outstanding range and quality of food and drink establishments.

**Overnight: Marriott Hotel Belfast (B)**

**Thu Nov 22nd**  
**Thanksgiving in Belfast**

Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy your Irish breakfast as we prepare to spend a holiday like no other - Thanksgiving celebrated 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. We will journey via the Causeway Coastal Route, which is dubbed one of the best coastal drives in the world, to reach the famous Giant's Causeway renowned historically and scientifically for its polygonal columns of layered basalt. Resulting from a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago, this is the focal point for a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which has attracted visitors for centuries as well as legendary giants. Enjoy the unique site and geological wonder which is home to a wealth of natural history and local legend.

We then return to the hotel to prepare for a Thanksgiving Dinner Gala in Belfast. Enjoy dinner with your family and friends on this special celebration. Return to the hotel where you can relax and enjoy free time.

**Overnight: Marriott Hotel Belfast (B, D)**

**Fri Nov 23rd**  
**Opening Face Off in Belfast**

Start your leisurely day in Belfast with a hearty breakfast and enjoy exploring all this city has to offer before departing to the SSE Arena for the opening of Friendship Four 2018 Festival of Hockey which features the UCONN Huskies, the BU Terriers, the Yale Bulldogs and the Union Dutchmen. Wear your team colors with pride as your team takes to the ice today to compete for a position in tomorrow’s final to win those all-important league points as well as the prestigious Belpot Trophy.

Return to the hotel.

**Overnight: Marriott Hotel Belfast (B)**
Sat Nov 24th   Friendship Four 2018 Finals
Today the Friendship Four 2018 Finals take place with the runners up of yesterday games facing off and the finalists contesting to be crowned tournament champions. Enjoy this highly anticipated event by starting your morning with an Irish breakfast and having free time in Belfast, voted by Lonely Planet as one of the top cities to visit in 2018, before departing to the SSE Arena for the tournament finals.

Once the champs have been crowned, return to the hotel and come away from the arena with treasured memories whatever the outcome on the ice. Enjoy your free time on your last evening in Ireland as you wish, toasting to a successful trip on the Emerald Isle to always be remembered.

Overnight: Marriott Hotel Belfast (B)

Sun Nov 25th   Homeward Bound
With bags packed, fuel up on breakfast and take your airport transfer (which will be advised based on your flight schedule) to board your flight back home. Carry on your photos and memories of Dublin and Belfast – bringing a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. ‘The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes’ will be expecting you again soon.

Please Note:
The itinerary schedule is subject to change based on the game times at the Friendship Four Festival of Hockey 2018.