

## Merrimack College Warriors

### Men's Hockey – Friendship Four Ireland 2024

#### 6 Night Package - Dublin & Belfast - Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

##### Sun Nov 24<sup>th</sup>: Heading for the Emerald Isle

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

##### Mon Nov 25<sup>th</sup>: Welcome to Ireland

This morning we will land in 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 brands, Guinness, which has called the legendary St. James's Gate Brewery 'home' since 1759. **We will visit the Guinness Storehouse** to hear the story of this iconic drink, touring the seven floors here which bring to life the heritage of Guinness from its early days to its growth into a global brand that is 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 that introduction to Dublin, we will check into the hotel and to enjoy free time. Enjoy your first night in Dublin, the capital with a pub to person ratio which is the envy of many other cities!

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

**Tue Nov 26<sup>th</sup>: A Day Trip to Wicklow**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning and prepare to swap the city lights for scenic countryside as today on tour, we're heading to Co. 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 that was 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. Here, we will hear the fascinating story and tour the grounds of the 'Monastic City' which consists of a number of monastic remains dating from the 10th to 12th centuries.



With a morning well spent in Co. Wicklow, we will return to the city of Dublin by this afternoon. You will be dropped off at the hotel to enjoy the rest of your day in Dublin at your leisure.

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

**Wed Nov 27<sup>th</sup>: 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 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 in Belfast, **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. 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: Belfast City Center Hotel (B,D)**

**Thu Nov 28<sup>th</sup>: 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. From Belfast, we will journey via the Causeway Coastal Route, which is dubbed one of the best coastal drives in the world, to reach the world-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 a tour of 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 your **Thanksgiving Dinner**.

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

**Fri Nov 29<sup>th</sup>: GAME DAY**

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 2024 Friendship Four which features the Harvard Crimson, the Boston University Terriers, the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and your Merrimack College Warriors! Wear your blue and gold with pride as your Warriors take the ice to compete for a place in tomorrow's Friendship Four Championship game.



**\*Game passes included in the package are good for entrance to all tournament games\***

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



**Sat Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: Consolation and Championship GAME DAY**



Today the 2024 Friendship Four wraps up with the consolation game in the afternoon, followed by the championship game where the two winners from Friday's semi-finals will compete for the Belpot trophy. Once the champs "Ring the Bell" 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 be always remembered.

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

**Sun Dec 1<sup>th</sup>: Homeward Bound**

With bags packed, fuel up on breakfast as we head for the airport to board your flight back home. Take your airport transfer (which will be advised based on your flight schedule closer to the time of travel) and 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.