



SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Ireland

Castles, Literary Traditions, and Country House Collections

July 14 to 24, 2023

Ireland is known for its intriguing history, its hauntingly beautiful landscapes, its literary traditions, and for the wit and spirit of its people. SBMA will be taken behind the scenes into private gardens, libraries, and homes that range from medieval castles to Georgian townhouses. The rich and varied history of Ireland will be brought to life by art historian and tour organizer Harriet Landseer. SBMA's Curator of Photography and New Media, Charles Wylie, will accompany the tour on behalf of the Museum and will add insight along the way. The program, already five years in the making at press time, is custom designed for and exclusive to SBMA Members. It is based at the following elegant hotels:

- ❖ **The Merrion in Dublin** for five nights ~ an impeccably elegant hotel made up of four magnificent Georgian townhouses and a contemporary wing, arranged around 18th-century gardens, just off Merrion Square in the heart of the city.

- ❖ **Ballyfin Desmesne in County Laois** for one night ~ rated the number one hotel in the world in the *Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards 2016*. With only 20 rooms, it feels like staying as a guest in a luxurious Georgian home, and every room is tastefully decorated with antiques and Irish art. Surrounding the main building are over 600 acres of secluded private gardens “begging to be strolled.” (*Condé Nast Traveler*)
- ❖ **Glin Castle in County Limerick** for three nights ~ the historic home of the Knights of Glin on the banks of the River Shannon. Glin Castle is surrounded by enchanting gardens, pleasure grounds, a walled kitchen garden, ancient oaks, and woodland. Delicious Irish Country house cooking is prepared for guests. With only 15 beautifully and uniquely furnished rooms, SBMA has blocked the entire castle just for our group.

Enjoy the pleasure of Irish hospitality in July when the weather is at its best, allowing one to catch a glimpse of traditional Ireland in the country towns “where one feels the mellowed presence of the past.” (Jan Morris, *New York Times*). Please join SBMA on this tour that combines the tranquility of country life and the ‘city chic’ of cosmopolitan Dublin.

Cover photo: Birr Castle



Harriet Landseer has designed specialized art and architecture itineraries for art and garden groups for 30 years. A History of Art graduate of Yale College, she specializes in the art and heritage of Europe.

She initially moved to Prague after graduating from Yale to work for Olga Havel, the wife of the Czech President. She then moved to London for several years, leading tours all over the world for Specialtours (the company founded by Susie Orso, one of SBMA’s favorite tour leaders.)

She now lives with her family part-time in her native Ireland, where she helped to develop Historic Houses of Ireland, and part-time in Prague, where she has worked with the National Heritage Institute.

Beyond her depth of knowledge about all aspects of art, architecture, and decorative arts, she is a lovely person and SBMA Members who traveled to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest with her couldn’t “say enough about how fabulous she is!”

July 14, Friday ~ DEPARTURE DATE FROM THE U.S.

Depart the U.S. on July 14. A suggested flight schedule from Los Angeles to Dublin will be sent once the group has been formed.

July 15, Saturday ~ ARRIVALS to DUBLIN

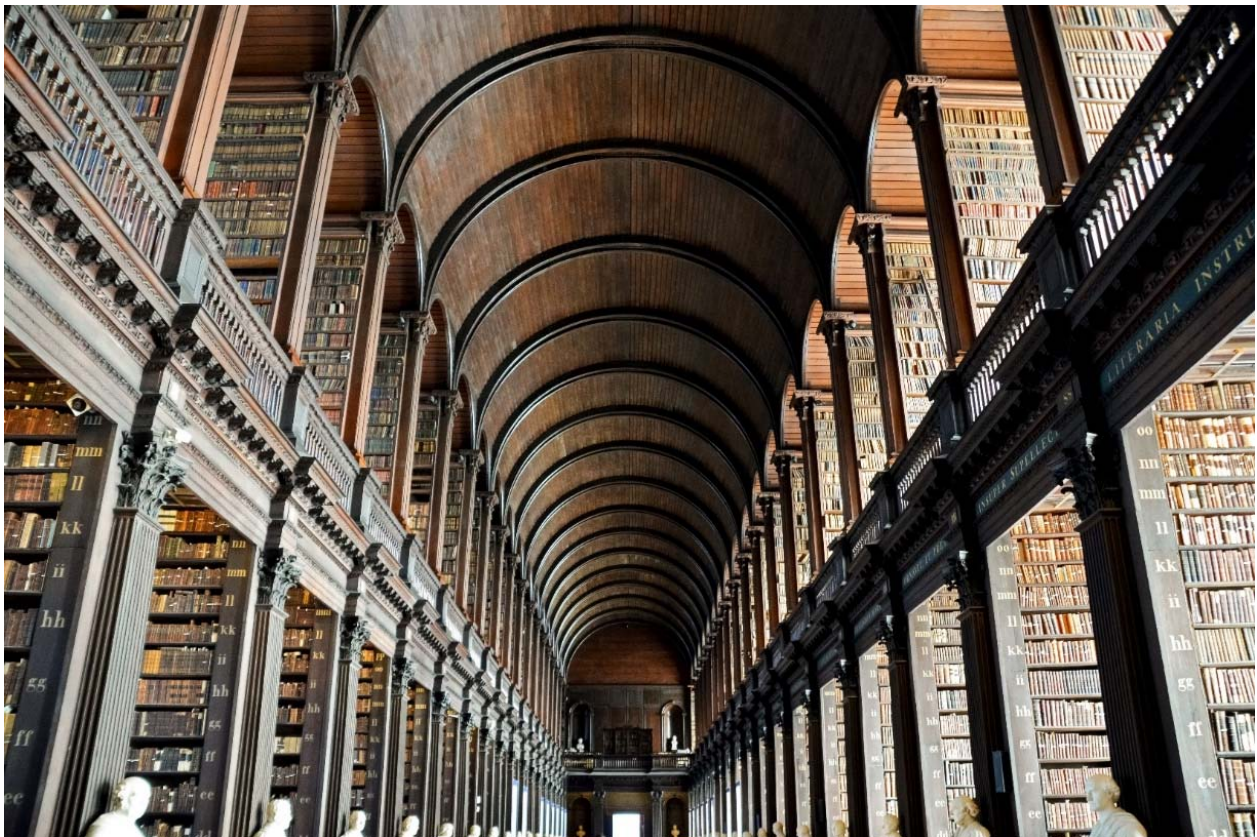
Arrive in Dublin and transfer by private coach to stay at the historic and luxurious Merrion Hotel, which has an outstanding art collection, for 5 nights. The transfer is included for those on the suggested flights. For those arriving at other times, a private transfer and/or extra nights can be arranged at an additional cost, based on availability at the time of request. Begin with a special visit to the **National Gallery Irish Collection, followed by reception hosted by the Friends of the Gallery.** The collections contain a **great Caravaggio painting.** This spectacular painting has an intriguing and entertaining story of its being found in a boys' school in Dublin and of how it came to be at the Gallery. A **Welcome Dinner** will be at the hotel.
(R,D) *The Merrion*

July 16, Sunday ~ DUBLIN

After breakfast in the hotel, depart for a visit of **St. Patrick's Cathedral and Marsh's Library, the oldest library in Dublin.** After lunch, visit **Chester Beatty Library, with its splendid collections of books (or scrolls) from all corners of the world.** End the day with a visit to **Dublin Castle.** The evening is at leisure.
(B,L) *The Merrion*

July 17, Monday ~ DUBLIN

Begin the day with a visit of **Trinity College and the 8th century illuminated manuscript, The Book of Kells, in the Old Library.** By special arrangement, enjoy coffee and a visit at the **Provost's House with Dr. Edward McParland,** a former professor of History of Architecture and author of several important books on Irish architecture. Continue to **Francis Bacon studio and the Hugh Lane Gallery.** Enjoy a light lunch at a



Library at Trinity College

private home on Henrietta Street, where some of the grandest of Dublin's early 18th-century townhouses are under restoration. After lunch, visit **"No. 20" Dominick Street, an important 18th-century house** with stunning stuccowork by Robert West, restored with the help of the Irish Georgian Society. Return to the hotel. After a pre-theatre dinner at Mr. Fox, **see a performance at the Gate Theatre.** (B,L,D) *The Merrion*

July 18, Tuesday ~ DUBLIN to MEATH & LOUTH and RETURN

Depart for **Beaulieu House** on the outskirts of Drogheda, then enjoy a **visit and lunch privately at Collon House.** Continue to visit the **house and garden at Barmeth Castle nearby, by kind arrangement with Lord and Lady Bellew.** Return to Dublin for an evening at leisure. (B,L) *The Merrion*

July 19, Wednesday ~ DUBLIN to WICKLOW and RETURN

Today we will enjoy visits in **Wicklow, including Russborough House and a private home visit.** There will be time for lunch at leisure in Wicklow. Upon return to Dublin, we will gather in a **private house on Merrion Square for drinks**, followed by dinner at a restaurant. (B,R,D) *The Merrion*



Ballyfin

July 20, Thursday ~ DUBLIN to BIRR to BALLYFIN

Check out of the hotel and depart Dublin for **Birr Castle to enjoy a special visit with Lord Rosse of the castle, grounds, and the "Great Telescope"**. Completed in 1845, the telescope's record size was not surpassed until 1917. It was used for several decades in the 19th century to map outer space and it allowed scientists to see farther into the cosmos than ever before. See the private interior spaces before lunch in the dining room with Lord Rosse. Continue to Ballyfin for a night at this wonderful property, a lavish Regency mansion, set at the foot of Slieve Bloom Mountains. Drinks and dinner will be served in the magnificent formal rooms. (B,L,D) *Ballyfin*

July 21, Friday ~ BALLYFIN to LIMERICK to GLIN

The morning is at leisure to enjoy the Ballyfin property. Depart mid-day after check-out for County Limerick. After lunch, visit the **Hunt Museum in Limerick for a private tour**. Continue to **Glin Castle**, where a family member will welcome us to this historic familial property and lead a **tour of the house and garden**, followed by drinks and a special dinner on the property, which will be exclusive to us for three nights. (B,L,D) *Glin Castle*

July 22, Saturday ~ GLIN to KERRY and RETURN

Pending final confirmation, visit a very special **private collection of 18th-century Irish Art** in Kerry. Also on the property is a separate **library custom built to house an important collection of 18th-century Irish books**. After time at leisure in Kenmare, return to Glin Castle. Later, a special evening begins with **drinks at the home of George and Michelina Stacpoole, followed by dinner at Kilgobbin House, home of Lady Dunraven**. (B,R,D) *Glin Castle*

July 23, Sunday ~ GLIN to NORTH CORK and RETURN

Depart for the recently reopened **Doneraile Court** in North Cork, and enjoy **lunch privately** nearby. After **one final special visit**, return to Glin Castle, where the **Farewell Dinner** will be held. (B,L,D) *Glin Castle*

July 24, Monday ~ GLIN to SHANNON AIRPORT and DEPART

After breakfast, a transfer to Shannon Airport is Included for those on the suggested flights. (B)



Tour Costs:

- **Per person cost, double occupancy:** \$9,460
- **Single room supplement:** \$1,910
- **Plus Museum Donation:** \$1,000 per person

Included:

- ☞ Hotel accommodations for 9 nights
- ☞ Breakfast daily, six lunches, seven dinners with wine, and three receptions
- ☞ All entrance fees for included activities, excursions, sightseeing, and tours
- ☞ Special events and private visits
- ☞ All land transportation by private coach for included activities including airport transfers in Ireland for those on the suggested flights
- ☞ The services and company of tour organizer and scholar Harriet Landseer, plus expert guides and private home hosts at various sites
- ☞ Most gratuities including to porters, site guides, drivers, and waiters for included activities and meals

INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

Phone: (805) 884-6435

Fax: (805) 966-6840

Email: travel@sbma.net

Web: www.sbma.net/travel

Not included: Flights to Dublin and from Shannon; checked baggage fees; airport transfers in home city; airport transfers in Ireland and porter tips for those not on the suggested flights; passport and all other airline and travel fees; customary tips to tour organizer; housekeeping tips; optional travel insurance (highly recommended); expenses incurred as a result of delays or deviations; items of a personal nature such as room service, not-included meals and beverages, telephone or internet charges; and items not specifically mentioned as included.

Air Arrangements: To allow maximum flexibility for travelers, flights to Dublin and from Shannon are not included in the cost of the tour. A suggested flight schedule will be sent to confirmed passengers once the group has been formed. Please do not book your flights until the minimum group size has been reached and you have received the suggested flights from SBMA. Airport transfers between the airports in Ireland and the hotels will be included for those on these suggested flights. Flights are subject to change. In the case of flight changes the participant is responsible for any costs for hotels, transfers, and meals required as a result. Trip Cancellation/ Interruption Insurance is strongly encouraged.

Requirements: For your own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the group, we must stress the following requirements. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Days will be busy with a moderate amount of walking and standing during tours. Sightseeing excursions may last for a few hours with distances of up to a few miles and participants must be able to keep pace with a larger group, get on and off of buses, and navigate uneven terrain, stairs, and slippery surfaces with ease and without assistance. Good health and stamina plus a sense of adventure and a positive, flexible attitude about delays and inconveniences are also essential. Participants must enjoy being part of a group tour and be willing to comply with tour rules and/or requests made by staff. The right is reserved to decline or retain any person as member of the tour, when such action is determined by SBMA to be in the best interests of the health, safety, enjoyment, or general welfare of the tour group or the individual participant. We reserve the right to ask you for health information.

Museum Membership Requirement: Travel is a benefit of Museum Membership. Non-members will be required to join at the general "Friend" level (\$80 or \$60 for seniors) or higher and will receive full membership benefits for a year. Members at the \$500 "Enthusiast" level and above receive advance notice about SBMA-custom tours. Membership is separate from the \$1,000 donation, which is the portion of your tour cost that is tax deductible.

Covid-19 Requirements: For the protection of SBMA travelers, at the time of printing tour participants must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and provide SBMA with proof of vaccination prior to departure. A negative self-test right before the tour begins is currently required by SBMA. Other Covid-19 requirements may apply and further details will be sent prior to departure. New policies may be implemented during the tour such as daily testing if deemed necessary by tour staff. We ask that all travelers kindly comply with requests from tour staff in the interests of everyone's comfort and safety. Tour leaders reserve the right to enforce rules established for the tour and by any authority such as tour operator, SBMA, government, vendors, etc. Current guidelines require participants to be removed from the tour if they test positive for Covid-19 before or during the tour. We highly recommend travel insurance. You should confirm with the insurance company what will (and will not) be covered in the event you contract Covid-19 and are unable to continue on the tour. You will also want to know what documentation the insurance company will require to support a claim should you need to file one. Tour staff will assist as needed with adjusting hotel reservations and transfers, arranging or offering guidance for doctor visits, testing, and interpreting the local regulations. Current Covid-19 FAQs are available upon request.

General Caution: This is a group tour taking place in the era of a pandemic and we urge everyone to be cautious before departure and to take precautions while traveling and on tour, in order to keep the group as safe as possible. Travel always has inherent risks and Covid-19 has presented new and constantly evolving risks. When choosing to travel during this time you are accepting these risks. There are things we as individuals can do to mitigate risk such as masking and distancing if possible and when appropriate. It is important to be aware of your personal health status and let tour staff know if you develop a sore throat, runny nose, cough or other symptoms. We greatly appreciate your help with keeping yourself and those around you as safe as possible.

Payment Schedule and Cancellation Policy: Your reservation deposit (\$2,000 per person) is refundable before January 1, 2023, minus a \$350 cancellation fee. Final payment is due by check April 1, 2023 and becomes non-refundable on April 14, 2023. The tour donation may be paid with either the interim or final payment and is not refundable and not insurable. **By placing a deposit on the tour, you are acknowledging acceptance of terms and cancellation penalty, and that you have read the section on Requirements.**

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your tour deposit. While optional, travel insurance is highly recommended. If you do not purchase insurance and have to cancel, there will be no flexibility with the cancellation terms for any reason. While the need is always unexpected, the benefits can be significant. Travel insurance can be time-sensitive depending on the benefits desired.

Misc. notes: Arrangements, private visits, meetings with individuals, and tour cost are all subject to change. Although SBMA and its suppliers will make every effort to adhere to the printed itinerary, on occasion it may be necessary to adjust arrangements because of circumstances beyond our control. Should an itinerary adjustment be necessary, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and additional costs necessitated by such changes may have to be covered by the tour member. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, participants are required to spend any additional days or nights in the destination, they will be responsible for any additional expenses incurred, including hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the program, or are for any reason prevented from joining parts of the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the program. There are no refunds if a portion of the tour is missed due to flight delays or cancellations. Depending on the situation, trip insurance may reimburse for missed portions of the tour. If a staff member is unable to participate, SBMA will make every effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications and no refunds will be made. The tour is based on a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 23. Interim and final payments are to be made by check. *SBMA's California Seller of Travel License #: 209026*

RESERVATION FORM ~ IRELAND

RESERVE BY PHONE: (805) 884-6435

or **MAIL FORM TO:** SBMA Travel, 1130 State Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

or **FAX FORM TO:** (805) 966-6840

or **EMAIL FORM TO:** travel@sbma.net

To hold your space on the tour, a **\$2,000 per person deposit is required**, paid by check or credit card, refundable until January 1, 2023, minus a \$350 cancellation fee. Final payment is due by check April 1, 2023. Tour donation may be paid with either the interim or final payment by separate check.

A check for the deposit, made payable to SBMA, is enclosed.

Please charge the deposit to my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Card number _____ Expires: _____

Name as on card _____ Security Code _____

I/we are not current members; please charge for general "Friend" membership: \$80 **OR** \$60 (senior) **OR** \$500, which gives you advanced notice about SBMA's most special travel programs and many other benefits. Visit www.sbma.net/support/membership for full Membership details.

I will be sharing a room with _____ **OR** Single Supplement

One Bed **OR** Two Beds (based on availability)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

IMPORTANT: By placing a deposit on the tour, you are acknowledging acceptance of terms and strict cancellation penalty, and certifying that you have read the Terms and Conditions. A confirmation letter and travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form and deposit. While optional, travel insurance is highly recommended and can be time-sensitive depending on the benefits desired.