

Vision Travel & CIE Tours are proud to present our

2016 Hiking / Walking & Rambling Irish Tour

22 September - 02 October 2016



Strangford Lough with the Mourne Mountains in the background

**Tour Highlights:**

**Mourne Mountains Hike**

**Titanic Centre – Belfast**

**Giants Causeway Walk**

**North Down Coastal Path**

**Dublin Half Marathon\***

As well as Castle Ward, Cabra Castle, Carrick-A-Rede, Dublin City Tour, Drogheda, 9 breakfasts and 2 Evening Meals. Fully Escorted by Garth & Helena Millar of Vision Travel and Daryl & Ellen Steeves  
([www.feelinggoodnb.ca](http://www.feelinggoodnb.ca))

Join us on our group departure to Ireland with an emphasis on Walking / Hiking and Rambling and a little bit of running thrown in for good measure. Of course no trip to Ireland would be complete without an opportunity to engage with the local community and this tour is designed so that you will enjoy the main attractions that we all know and love including Dublin City centre, but also to showcase some of the spectacular scenery, heritage, cuisine and culture that you can only find with CIE Tours and Vision Travel. Our tour leader Garth Millar is a native of Northern Ireland and Garth has designed this tour to highlight the main attractions but also to take us to a few lesser known but equally spectacular attractions that are known all over the world thanks to Game of Thrones and include Castle Ward, Giants Causeway, Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge and the world famous Titanic Center in Belfast.

We will have our own dedicated luxury bus for this tour as well as a CIE tours driver/guide which means we have a degree of flexibility with our itinerary unique to our group. The walking and hiking will be varied each day and will be weather dependent. Please be prepared for every weather condition as conditions can vary each day in Ireland. Hiking boots, warm clothes and a change of clothes each day is recommended.

If you have any questions or wish to reserve your spot on this tour please contact Garth or Helena at Vision Travel on 506 214 1085 or 1 877 210 1085 or E-mail – [Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca](mailto:Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca)

**Price per Person = \$3199.00 based on 2 people sharing a room**

**Single price = \$3749.00**

**Prices includes flights**

**Deposit Required at Time of Booking = \$250.00 pp**

**Interim payment of \$250.00 due on or before 01 June 2016**

**Final Payment due on or before 01 July 2016**

**Price based on 25 paying passengers**

**Feeling Good NB Bonus – Daryl has kindly agreed to include the following sessions to help everyone prepare for the trip and gain the maximum enjoyment from our walks / hikes available for everyone confirmed on the tour.**

- 1) A 20 week on-line training program to help prepare for multiple days of hiking.**
- 2) A 20 week on-line training program for those who choose to participate in the half marathon\***
- 3) Two webinars to share information, tips, tricks and equipment to make hiking more comfortable**
- 4) A practice hike in Fundy National Park to meet travel mates and check hiking gear and techniques**

## **Daily Itinerary**

### **Thursday 22 September - Canada to Dublin**

Depart Saint John 8.40pm & Arrive Toronto 10.08pm

Depart Toronto 11.10pm & arrive Dublin 10.40am on Friday 23 Sept

Depart Saint John with Air Canada and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic.

### **Friday 23 September - Dublin Arrival and Free Time**

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our CIE Tours driver/guide will welcome us to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Take an orientation drive around Dublin City center. Dublin is one of the liveliest capitals in Europe but there are plenty of historical places also. See the main thoroughfares of O'Connell Street and Nassau Street, the shopping streets and some lovely public parks. Then drive to your hotel and check-in. After you settle into your room you may like to rest or explore some of the city before dining at your leisure.

**Overnight** – Ashling Hotel – Dublin

### **Saturday 24 September – Day at Leisure in Dublin**

\*We are working with the organizers of the Phoenix Park Half Marathon in Dublin and while we have had a provisional race date for Saturday 24 Sept we are unable to confirm the race date until this is confirmed by the Marathon Office in Dublin. In the event that this is not race day we will arrange our own run / walk around Phoenix Park. Tonight, you are free to sample the local cuisine.

**Overnight** – Ashling Hotel – Dublin

### **Sunday 25 September - Drogheda Tour and Cabra Castle**

Leaving Dublin, travel north to Drogheda, a town that Oliver Cromwell besieged in 1649 and killed 2000 people, making his name the most hated in Irish History. Join a local guide for a walking tour to see the head of St. Oliver Plunkett, the first Irishman to be canonized in 700 years, and 14<sup>th</sup> century St Laurence Gate in the medieval walls. From Drogheda travel Northwest to Kingscourt and check in to our hotel, Cabra Castle. Once you settle into your room, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure for individual pursuits and dining.



**Cabra Castle**

**Overnight** – Cabra Castle Hotel – Kingscourt

## Monday 26 September - Castle Ward & Belfast

Today we travel north into County Down, Northern Ireland and travel to Castle Ward, an 18<sup>th</sup> century eccentric country house set amongst 820 acres of walled demesne with trails, exotic gardens, stunning vistas and picturesque farmyard. Upon arrival enjoy an 8 mile (14k) walk around the extensive property.



**Castle Ward** – transformed in the above photo into Winterfell where the House of Stark rules over his people. Did you know Game of Thrones® was filmed at Castle Ward? The hit HBO series has become a worldwide phenomenon and has just been commissioned for a fifth and sixth series. Castle Ward's historic farmyard is the location of Winterfell, the backdrop for the series pilot and much of season one. It's also where you will find the Whispering Wood and key scenes including Robb Stark's Camp, the Baelor battle and when Brienne confronts the Stark men. See the gothic and classical collide at Castle Ward, an eccentric 18th-century mansion resting on a rolling hillside and looking out over the tranquil waters of Strangford Lough in County Down. Walk along the Lough trail or through the sheltered woodlands and spot butterflies, rabbits, ducks and swans. Step into a fantasy world of castles and dragons as you explore the Georgian farmyard and the Lough shore, film locations for the smash hit television series Game of Thrones. Stroll through the sunken garden and see vivid reds, yellows, greens and pinks from flowers and subtropical plants in this four tier Victorian garden.



Follow some of the trails featured in Games of Thrones on our Castle Ward walk with spectacular views

Then travel via Strangford ferry to Belfast, which is situated on the deep inlet of Belfast Lough. Check into your hotel and take some time to settle into your room. In the evening, you are free to sample one of the many restaurants or pubs scattered throughout Belfast as we base ourselves here for the next 5 nights.

**Overnight** – Europa Hotel – Belfast

The World Famous [Europa Hotel](#) in Belfast is located in the heart of Belfast City Centre.

The elegant décor, contemporary bistro, bustling bar and relaxing piano bar lounge make the four star Europa Hotel the hotel of choice for business and leisure guests visiting Belfast. Due to its prime location, the Europa Hotel is a short distance from many of Belfast’s top visitor attractions including the Ulster Museum, Grand Opera House, City Hall, Titanic Belfast, the Waterfront Hall and the Odyssey Arena. The Europa Hotel has an international reputation for hosting prestigious events and looking after many of the celebrities and VIPs who visit Belfast. At the Europa every guest is a VIP and will experience the finest in Irish Hospitality and highest level of customer service.

## **Tuesday 27 September - Mourne Mountain Walk**

This morning drive to Newcastle, where the group will set off on a hike through a section of the Mourne Mountains. After the walk is completed we will transfer to the Slieve Donard Hotel for dinner in the Percy French Restaurant (included in tour costing). After dinner, head back to Belfast.

**Overnight** – Europa Hotel – Belfast



Enjoy a well earned dinner in the Percy French Restaurant in the Slieve Donard

***Garth & Helena Millar***

***Vision Travel***



***Tel – 506 214 1085 E-mail – [Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca](mailto:Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca)***

## Wednesday 28 September – Belfast Castle walk & Titanic Center



**Titanic Centre – Belfast**

After breakfast embark on a guided sightseeing tour of the city, including the University area. In the city center see the Albert Memorial and the ornate Victorian buildings of the Opera House and the Crown Liquor Saloon. In Donegal Square view the imposing City Hall, completed in 1906. The richly decorated interior contains stained glass portraying Belfast's principal industries. Stop to take a guided walk around the Belfast Castle property. Then travel to the Titanic Quarter and visit Titanic Belfast. Embark on a journey through the life of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. Through state of the art technology, the exhibitions nine interactive galleries take you back to the sights, sounds and stories of Titanic as well as the City and people which made her. The exhibition also explores the discovery of the wreck and has live links to current marine expeditions. After your visit enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.



**Belfast Castle**

**Overnight – Europa Hotel – Belfast**

## Thursday 29 September - North Down Coastal Path

Drive a short distance to Holywood. Spend the day walking along the North Down Coastal Path, covering a distance of roughly 15k. If you get tired mid walk, the coach will be located at the Crawfordsburn Country Park Café. The trail is described as being suitable for all abilities and during the walk we will pass by Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, Grey Point Fort, Crawfordsburn Country Park before finishing up at Bangor Marina. In the late afternoon or early evening return to Belfast for independent activity and dining.



Photos of the North Down Coastal Path

**Overnight** – Europa Hotel – Belfast

## Friday 30 September - Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge and Giants Causeway

Depart Belfast and drive north to experience one of Ireland's popular scenic routes along the coast road. Here, you'll see the "Nine Glens of Antrim" which offer wonderful views of mountains, valleys and coastline. Stop en-route to visit Carrick-A-Rede Rope bridge which spans a chasm of some 80 feet. Its construction once consisted of a single rope handrail and widely spaced slats, which the fishermen would traverse across with salmon they caught off the island. This swinging rope bridge is not for the faint hearted, but the coastal views are wonderful, even without crossing the bridge. Then we will walk, a trek of roughly 17km with spectacular views of sea and countryside on our way to visit the Giants Causeway, an impressive area of hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava. Return to Belfast, to sightsee, shop and dine on your own.



View of Giants Causeway

## **Saturday 01 October - Belfast to Drogheda**

Leave Belfast and travel south through Newry and Dundalk. Continue your drive south to Drogheda. Check into your hotel and enjoy a free afternoon.

This evening we have our farewell group dinner at the WM Cairnes Gastropub (Included in tour cost), a former brewery in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. While the brewery may have closed in 1960 the spirit of the past lives on at the gastropub, with its many fine ales and stouts being served on premise.

**Overnight** – D Hotel – Drogheda

## **Sunday 02 October - Return to Canada**

**Depart Dublin 12.25pm & Arrive Toronto 2.45pm**

**Depart Toronto 4.55pm & Arrive Saint John 8.05pm**

All too soon, your vacation to Ireland has come to an end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your aircraft and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to Canada.

## **Travel Notes**

Please note that walks and hikes are weather dependent and we may make changes to the itinerary or scheduled walks based on the safety of the group and the severity of the walk.

Tour Includes

- . Exclusive transport by luxury motorcoach with a driver/guide
- . Meet and greet service with one group transfer upon arrival and departure at the airport.
- . Hotel accommodation based on twin bedded rooms with private bath for 9 nights.
- . Full breakfasts (9)
- . Dinner: (2) Table d'hôte dinner in Drogheda & Percy French Restaurant
- . Guided walking tour of Drogheda.
- . Strangford ferry to Belfast.
- . Guided tour of Belfast.
- . Visits and admission fees to: Titanic Belfast, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Giant's Causeway.
- . Hotel portorage, service charges and government taxes
- . Flight bags, ticket wallets, baggage tags and identifying strap



## Travel Insurance

Vision Travel offer a policy to protect our clients in the event of Cancellation or Illness. Policies can be purchased directly from Helena or Garth at Vision Travel – please e-mail – [Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca](mailto:Helena.millar@visiontravel.ca) or call 1 877 210 1085 for more info.

## Terms & Conditions of Booking

**Flight prices are based on a departure from Saint John but we can offer other local departure airports provided that we all meet up in Toronto for our transatlantic flight. There may be a fee for deviations to the set flight schedule.**

Responsibility: As outlined in the responsibility clause of CIE Tours International’s General Conditions found on the back cover of the current brochure (copy on request) or at [www.cietours.com](http://www.cietours.com).

Tour price is based on 25 paying passengers

**Deposit Required at Time of Booking = \$250.00 pp**

**Interim payment of \$250.00 due on or before 01 June 2016**

**Final Payment due on or before 01 July 2016**

All payments are non-refundable

\*We are working with the organizers of the Phoenix Park Half Marathon in Dublin and while we have had a provisional race date for Saturday 24 Sept we are unable to confirm the race date until this is confirmed by the Marathon Office in Dublin. In the event that this is not race day we will arrange our own run / walk around Phoenix Park.

**Local Government Taxes:** All 2016 land prices include local government value added taxes (VAT) applicable at Dec 1, 2014. Any additional costs resulting from a tax increase are payable before travel, even if the booking is under deposit or paid in full.

**Exchange Rate:** CIE Tours International has based all land prices on an estimated rate of exchange for 2016.

### **HOTELS (or similar)**

Ashling Hotel, Dublin ..... 2 nights

Cabra Castle Hotel, Kingscourt ..... 1 night

Europa Hotel, Belfast ..... 5 nights

D Hotel, Drogheda ..... 1 night

## Terms & Conditions

**TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Clients who require particular assistance must advise CIE Tours at time of booking and must travel with a qualified travel companion. CIE Tours drivers and guides cannot provide individualized help for walking, getting on/off motor coaches or other personal needs. As coaches are not equipped with wheelchair ramps, all tour members must be able to mount 3 or 4 steps into coach. Motorized scooters are unsuitable for touring. CIE Tours is not responsible for denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers, nor any additional expenses incurred. Due to space restrictions,

passengers wishing to take wheel chairs, oxygen tanks, walkers or other assistive devices must send a request in writing for approval. CIE Tours reserves the right to remove any individual from a tour who has not provided the advance notification.

**COACH TRANSPORTATION:** Coach tours are usually operated by 48 seat motor coaches. When passenger numbers are low, a smaller coach may be used.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Land arrangements are provided as described in each tour program. CIE Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels for accommodations in similar categories. Accommodation in B&Bs (farmhouses, town and country homes) is clean, comfortable and includes private bathrooms.

**VISITS, ENTERTAINMENT, ITINERARIES AND OTHER FEATURES:** CIE Tours reserves the right to substitute visits, entertainment and other features when establishments are closed or cannot be visited for reasons beyond our control, or for the general convenience of the group.

**CIE TOURS CANCELLATIONS:** If it becomes necessary to cancel a coach tour prior to departure, CIE Tours will offer the next available date at no additional land cost or will make a full refund of all monies paid to CIE Tours. CIE Tours cannot accept responsibility for any additional costs or fees relating to such a tour booking or for any cancellation penalties due to non-refundable airfares, unless ticket is purchased from CIE Tours.

**GUARANTEED COACH TOURS:** Due to events beyond our control, it may be necessary for CIE Tours to cancel a guaranteed coach tour. Under these circumstances we will offer either the next available date at no additional land cost or 100% refund of all payments made to CIE Tours. In addition, we will reimburse or absorb documented airline penalties/fare changes not exceeding \$250 per person, even if the air is purchased independently.

**LUGGAGE:** Handling of one piece of luggage per person is included in the cost of all coach tours. Size should not exceed 30 x 20 x 10 inches and weight should be under 50 lbs. Luggage is carried at owner's risk throughout the tour unless insured. Trunk space in self-drive cars is limited so pack lightly, preferably using soft-sided suitcases. Airlines impose their own restrictions, with which clients must comply. Please check with your carrier regarding luggage restrictions and costs.

**TIPS:** Tips for personal services and to tour directors and drivers are not included in tour cost and left to your discretion.

**CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS:** Children under 8 are not permitted to travel on coach tours. Those aged 8 to 18 are charged 90% of the full adult rate and must travel with an adult. Young people traveling unaccompanied must be at least 21 years old.

**SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on any motor coach.

**NOT INCLUDED:** All items of a personal nature (room service, beverages, telephone charges, laundry, special food requests, etc.) and meals not specified on the tour itinerary are not included and must be paid by the client.

**DOCUMENTS:** Documents will be shipped by U.P.S. ground service approximately 21 days prior to departure provided full payment has been received. If documents are required earlier, we need sufficient notice to arrange for early delivery by regular service. Late bookings will incur an express service delivery charge.

**UNUSED TOUR ARRANGEMENTS:** CIE Tours cannot make refunds or exchanges for unused accommodations, services or features of any tour unless agreed upon in writing prior to departure.

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES:** Any optional charges that are accepted must be paid at start of hire in Ireland.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** CIE Tours International Inc., its employees, directors, officers and shareholders (collectively, "CIE Tours") does not own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the name CIE or CIE Tours guides, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. As a result, CIE Tours is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity. In addition, CIE Tours is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity it does not own or control, nor for any act or inaction of any other third parties not under its control. You may see the name CIE Tours, CIE Tours International or CIE affixed to motor vehicles, on signs around the hotel or elsewhere. This use of those names is for reasons of identification and does not denote ownership, supervision, or control by CIE Tours in any way. Without limitation CIE Tours is not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond its control, including, without limitation any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation of any third party such as an airline, train, hotel, bus, taxi, van, local ground handler or guide, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is, to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip. CIE Tours is not liable for any loss, injury, death or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule, overbooking of accommodation, default, insolvency or bankruptcy of any third party, attacks by animals, sickness, the lack of appropriate medical care, evacuation to same, if necessary, weather, strikes, acts of God or government, acts of terrorism, or the threat thereof, force majeure, war, quarantine, epidemics, or the threat thereof, criminal activity, or any other cause beyond its control. CIE Tours reserves the right at its sole discretion to alter the itinerary as it may deem necessary or advisable.

CIE Tours reserves the right at its sole discretion to decline to accept or retain any passenger on any of its tours if it deems accepting or retaining any such person as being detrimental to the tour. In the event any passenger is removed from a trip, CIE Tour's only obligation is to refund to that person that portion of the payment allocable to unused services. Each provision of this clause is severable and if any provision is held to be illegal, void or unenforceable in whole or in part, the legality, validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected or impaired.

Changes in these Terms and Conditions can be made only in writing signed by an officer of CIE Tours.

It is the travellers' responsibility to obtain the correct travel documentation (passport, visa, identifications) for the destination(s) to be visited. CIE Tours is not responsible for penalties incurred for tickets, international or domestic, not issued by CIE Tours due to schedule and/or flight changes.

Prior to full payment there is a potential for a price increase(s) due to fuel surcharges imposed by airlines or other suppliers, as well as the potential for increases in government-levied taxes and fees. Once full payment is made, there will be no price increases. Passengers may accelerate full payment to avoid any price increases.

Once issued, airlines tickets are no longer subject to potential increases but are subject to cancellation fees and penalties and may be fully non-refundable.

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**BINDING ARBITRATION:** Any disputes concerning this contract, the brochure or other literature about your trip or the trip itself shall be resolved solely and exclusively by binding arbitration according to the then current commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Any such arbitration will take place in Morris County New Jersey. In any such arbitration, the substantive (but not procedural) law of New Jersey will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

**NEWSLETTER SIGNUP:** All lead passengers who book with CIE Tours will receive an email requesting they verify their opt-in to receive email marketing promotions. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time from marketing or promotional emails.

**VALIDITY:** Coach tour rates on this website are quoted on a per person, sharing twin room basis. Unless otherwise indicated, all prices are shown in U.S. dollars. CIE Tours reserves the right to alter prices at any time prior to departure and without prior notice if circumstances so warrant. Any devaluation or revaluation of currencies may affect published prices. - See more at:

[http://www.cietours.com/canada/general\\_conditions.aspx#sthash.khvFiFvY.dpuf](http://www.cietours.com/canada/general_conditions.aspx#sthash.khvFiFvY.dpuf)

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