



MUSEUM TRAVEL
— ALLIANCE —

BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Dublin to Belfast

Ireland & Northern Ireland's Splendid Estates & Private Collections
with Alice W. Iglehart, Lecturer

June 9 – 17, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL through **Ireland** and **Northern Ireland** with longtime Met educator and historic homes scholar **Alice W. Iglehart**

EXPLORE 19th-century greenhouses and rare plant collections during a director-led tour of Dublin's **National Botanic Gardens**, followed by a curator-led look at Irish painting and international masterpieces at the **National Gallery of Ireland**

EXPERIENCE royal garden design and political history at **Hillsborough Castle** during a private visit to the Northern Ireland residence of His Majesty the King

VISIT the 18th-century **Russborough House**, one of Ireland's finest Palladian mansions, for a private tour of its Grand Tour-era collections and paintings by Gainsborough and Sargent

MEET a curator for a special look at the 18th-century estate of **Powerscourt**, exploring its Palladian architecture and sculpted landscape featuring one of Ireland's highest waterfalls

JOIN the Director of Conservation at **Trinity College's Old Library** in Dublin before public hours for a private viewing of *The Book of Kells*

WALK through Dublin's Charlemont House, home to the **Hugh Lane Gallery**, for a curator-led viewing of works by Manet, Monet, and Sean Scully in Ireland's oldest modern art gallery

ENJOY a curator-guided inside look at Northern Ireland's artistic legacy at Belfast's **Ulster Museum**

TAKE a scenic drive along Northern Ireland's **Antrim Coast**, stopping at **Glenarm Castle**, the 17th-century ancestral home of the McDonnell clan, the Earls of Antrim, for private access with staff

ACCOMPANY the owners at Belfast's **Ballywalter Park** for a private lunch and a tour of their ancestral Italianate *palazzo* and restored Victorian greenhouses



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From **June 9 to 17, 2026**, join the Museum Travel Alliance and the Royal Oak Foundation on the Emerald Isle. Enjoy exclusive access to private castles overlooking the raging sea, neoclassical gardens, and historic family collections. From **Dublin to Belfast**, explore art that shaped Irish identity, walk ancestral lands, and trace Ireland's complex story through its great houses and gardens.

We spoke with **Alice W. Iglehart**—longtime Met educator, historic homes scholar, and specialist in the visual language of status—about why this journey, inspired in part by her own family's Belfast lineage, invites your participation. **To reserve your place**, contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad at 212-324-1893 or email trips@museumtravelalliance.com.

What drew you to help shape this particular journey through Ireland?

My maternal ancestors were from Belfast, and I've long been drawn to that landscape of green fields, wild coastlines, medieval monastic sites, and prehistoric natural wonders like the **Giant's Causeway**, a seaside path of 40,000 black basalt columns. To journey along the Antrim Coast is to feel sheer awe—with its ancient metamorphic rock, volcanic basalt flows, glacial valleys, and sea cliffs—and I can't wait to share this experience with guests.

For a historic homes scholar like me, the Emerald Isle is a paradise of architectural preservation. We'll delight in extraordinary access to exquisite ancestral estates and art collected over centuries, including a curator-led tour of Northern Ireland's official royal residence, **Hillsborough Castle**, and an afternoon guided by the staff at the seaside **Glenarm Castle**, the 17th-century seat of the Earls of Antrim, one of the British Isles' oldest families.

We will be welcomed by the owners of **Ballywalter Park**, owned by the Dunleaths for 170 years. On an exclusive visit to the 18th-century **Russborough House**, we'll linger inside one of Ireland's finest Palladian homes and view its private collection featuring masterworks by Thomas Gainsborough, John Singer Sargent, and others.

Ireland's museums are just as rich with extraordinary art. What can guests expect?

In bright, effervescent Dublin, a curator-led tour of the **National Gallery of Ireland** will bring us close to works by Vermeer and Caravaggio and the best of Irish portraiture and modernism—from Lavery to le Brocq. At the **Hugh Lane Gallery**, we'll enjoy inside looks at Impressionist paintings and a rare look at Francis Bacon's studio, shipped from London and reassembled. Later, we'll go behind the scenes at Belfast's lesser-known **Ulster Museum**, with its grand collection by Northern Irish artists who I'm sure will become new favorites.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Alice W. Iglehart has more than 40 years of experience at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a master of gallery-based teaching. She co-created the award-winning *Murder at The Met: An American Murder Mystery* and has taught and trained staff at

numerous historic house museums. She is also on the faculty at the School of Visual Arts in the Art History and Critical Studies department. She has a B.A. triple-major in Art History, History, and Studio Art with a minor in Theater and an M.S. in Museum Education.

Activity Level:
Intermediate

Pace Level:
Moderate



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Dublin to Belfast

Ireland & Northern Ireland's Splendid Estates & Private Collections

June 9 – 17, 2026



TUESDAY, JUNE 9: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to Dublin.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10: DUBLIN, IRELAND

Upon arrival at Dublin Airport, join a group transfer to the hotel. Later, mingle with fellow guests at a welcome reception this evening.

R

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: DUBLIN MORNING

- **Director-led tour of the National Botanic Gardens.** Stroll through restored 19th-century glasshouses at this botanical space, home to more than 15,000 plant species—including over 300 registered as endangered and six extinct in the wild.
- View the award-winning Turner Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House, both recognized by Europa Nostra for excellence in conservation architecture.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Lunch is at leisure.
- VIP tour of the **National Gallery of Ireland.** In this vast collection spanning from Italian Baroque and Dutch Golden Age painting to Irish modernism, see masterworks by Caravaggio, Vermeer, Rembrandt, Titian, Degas, Monet, Picasso, and others.
- Discover works by Irish artists including Louis le Brocquy, Mainie Jellett, and Sean Scully.
- Gather for a festive welcome dinner.

B,D

FRIDAY, JUNE 12: DUBLIN / BLESSINGTON GLENDALOUGH / ENNISKERRY MORNING

- **Private visit to Russborough House.** Travel to Blessington in County Wicklow and experience one of Ireland's great Palladian estates. View original plasterwork by the Lafranchini brothers, art by Gainsborough, Sargent, and Van Ostade, and walk the parklands overlooking the Blessington Lakes.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Gather for lunch.
- **Continue to Glendalough**, a glaciated valley where St. Kevin founded a monastic community in the seventh century A.D. Visit the remains of this once-renowned religious center, including the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul.
- **Curator-led tour of Powerscourt House & Gardens.** Explore this stately home and its grounds featuring one of Ireland's highest waterfalls and landscaped gardens that blend Italian, French, and Japanese influences.
- Return to Dublin and gather for dinner.

B,L,D



National Gallery, Dublin

Glendalough



**SATURDAY, JUNE 13: DUBLIN
MORNING**

- **Before-hours tour of the Trinity College Old Library with the Director of Conservation.** In these halls housing 200,000 of Ireland's oldest books and historical documents, enter the mesmerizing Long Room and marvel at *The Book of Kells*.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Gather for lunch.
- **Private tour of the Hugh Lane Gallery.** Go behind the scenes in Ireland's oldest modern art gallery. Experience its collection of Impressionist paintings by Manet, Monet, Degas, Pissarro, and Morisot.
- A highlight inside the gallery is Francis Bacon's legendary studio, moved from London in 1998 and reassembled.
- Dinner this evening is at leisure. B,L



Hillsborough Castle



**SUNDAY, JUNE 14: DUBLIN / HILLSBOROUGH,
NORTHERN IRELAND (U.K.) / BELFAST
MORNING**

- Depart Dublin for Belfast, crossing the border into the United Kingdom and its constituent country of Northern Ireland.
- **Guided tour and light lunch at Hillsborough Castle Gardens,** His Majesty the King's official Northern Ireland royal residence outside Belfast. Inside this grand Georgian estate, view artworks from the Royal Collection.

AFTERNOON

- **Curator-led tour of the Ulster Museum.** Arrive in Belfast to experience Northern Ireland's largest museum.
- Discover Northern Ireland's rich artistic traditions through the museum's works by artists such as John Lavery, Paul Henry, and Colin Middleton.

EVENING

- **Belfast-themed group dinner.** Indulge in a three-course feast accompanied by live traditional Irish music. B,L,D

**MONDAY, JUNE 15: BELFAST / ANTRIM COAST /
GLENARM / GIANT'S CAUSEWAY
MORNING**

- **Scenic Antrim Coast drive.** Board a motor coach for this journey between Belfast and Derry, looking out on picturesque seashores, majestic mountains, quaint hamlets, and charming coastal harbors.
- Enjoy multiple photo stops and free time in a peaceful Northern Irish village.

AFTERNOON

- **Join the staff at Glenarm Castle for a private tour.**

Arrive at this seaside ancestral home of the McDonnell clan, the Earls of Antrim, for more than 400 years. Tour the castle's exquisite interiors in the company of the family butler or house staff. Roam its 18th-century Walled Garden and enjoy panoramic views.

- **Guided visit through the UNESCO-recognized Giant's Causeway**, one of Europe's greatest natural wonders, owned by the National Trust.

- Formed by distinct geology and cloaked in rich folklore, this pathway featured 40,000 large, black basalt columns jutting proudly out of the sea.

- Return to Belfast for dinner at leisure.

B,L

TUESDAY, JUNE 16: BELFAST MORNING

- **Private tour of Mount Stewart.** Owned by the National Trust of Northern Ireland's most captivating estates, this 19th-century mansion was built for the Marquess of Londonderry. Gain insight into aristocratic life as you meander through Mount Stewart's opulent interiors and world-class gardens.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Join the owners of Ballywalter Park for a private lunch**, followed by an afternoon tour of their spectacular 19th-century Italianate palazzo-style mansion.

- On this exclusive outing, see the conservatory and its prolific cast-iron dome, view a fine collection of original furniture and paintings, and walk through the Victorian gardens. This evening, come together for a festive farewell dinner.

B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17: BELFAST / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning for the flight home.

B

Glenarm Castle, photo © Northern Ireland Tourist Board



Giant's Causeway

PROGRAM RATE

\$10,999 per person, double rate

\$12,999 single rate

RATES INCLUDE

- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance and The Royal Oak Foundation. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>.

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ACCOMMODATIONS



Drawing Room, Merrion Hotel, Dublin, photo © Merrion Hotel

MERRION HOTEL, DUBLIN

Occupying four restored Georgian townhouses, this five-star haven pairs 18th-century architecture with discreet modern comfort. Guest rooms feature period details and Irish fabrics; the on-site collection of Irish art is one of the largest in private hands. Located steps from St. Stephen's Green and the National Gallery, the hotel includes two restaurants, one with a Michelin star, and a serene central garden.

CULLODEN ESTATE & SPA, BELFAST

Once the official residence of the Bishops of Down, this property stands on twelve wooded acres overlooking Belfast Lough. Its original 19th-century sandstone structure now houses spacious guest rooms, a full-service spa, and Vespers restaurant, known for its seasonal menus. Though just a short drive from Belfast's city center, the property feels secluded, with walking paths, gardens, and views of the lough offering quiet contrast to the city's pace.

Culloden Estate, Belfast



National Botanic Garden, Dublin

THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION DUBLIN TO BELFAST JUNE 9 – 17, 2026 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to Museum Travel Alliance. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Enclosed is my check (Museum Travel Alliance)
☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION
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Front cover: Powerscourt House and Garden, Enniskerry. Highlights page: Trinity College Old Library, Dublin.
Back cover: Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (top) and Antrim Coast (bottom).
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