Ireland: Landscapes, Histories & Stories

September 1-12, 2022
(12 days | 20 guests)
with Carleton Professor Susan Jaret McKinstry

“Susan Jaret McKinstry was great...she was an asset on the trip!”
– Beverly, Maryland

Travel with Carleton Alumni, Family, and Friends
Susan Jaret McKinstry, Helen F. Lewis
Professor of English, has taught literature, narrative theory, visual studies, and creative writing (prose, poetry, memoir, and journalism) at Carleton since 1982. Susan’s research examines 19th-century British artists whose art transformed social life, and her own poetry highlights the intersections of place and story. Happily connecting her research with exploration, she directed Carleton’s off-campus studies programs in London and in Ireland as well as the ACM program in London and Florence, taught Visual Studies as a Fulbright Scholar in Moscow, and participated in a writer’s retreat in Galway, Ireland. She led Carleton Alumni Adventures trips to Ireland, the UK, and Norway, and she looks forward to this adventure, where we will experience Ireland’s spectacular landscapes, history, and geology, and create our own stories and images about what we discover.

Co-leading this adventure is Dr. Stephen Mandal, an Ireland native and an expert on the Irish landscape, its archaeology, history, and geology. He is intimately familiar with the sites on this custom-designed itinerary, and is a director of the Discovery Program (the national center for archaeology and innovation in Ireland). Steve has undertaken research at many sites around Ireland; has co-authored two books, most recently Carrick, County Wexford: Ireland’s First Anglo-Norman Stronghold (2019); and has contributed to a dozen more. He has a wealth of experience in leading tours, including a 2018 Carleton Ireland tour with Susan Jaret McKinstry for which he received excellent reviews; and in communicating geology, archaeology, and history at all levels. On this program he will assist you in viewing the Irish landscape from the perspective of the people who lived there in the past.

“Steve's geology/archaeology presentations were unexpected and excellent.”
Carol, Ohio
(Alumni Adventure - Ireland 2018)
Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

Explore Ireland’s landscapes, histories, and stories in the company of Carleton Professor of English Susan Jaret McKinstry and our local Irish co-leader, a geoarchaeologist who will teach you to read the rugged, beautiful landscape for evidence of the people who lived there in the past. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated tour manager/local guide.

Traveling round-trip from Shannon, this journey takes us through the history and landscapes of Ireland’s “Wild Atlantic Way,” from south to north along the western coast of Ireland. Explore the breathtaking Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry, visiting numerous off-the-beaten-track monuments from all periods of Irish history. Heading northwards into the incredible karst limestone region of the Burren, County Clare, we will enjoy stunning cliff-top views out to the Atlantic and visit intriguing sites set in a unique geological and ecological landscape. From here we head to County Sligo and Yeats Country, where we will explore the lives and monuments of the first farmers in Ireland and walk in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims, who in turn respected the traditions of even more ancient peoples. You will rest your pleasantly weary traveler’s head at comfortable, well-located hotels and appreciate a thorough, well-paced program.

Experience Ireland through the lenses of literature, history, geology, and nature, delving into the diverse, ancient landscapes of the Emerald Isle with an eye (and ear) toward its long roster of literary greats who lived and wrote there. Prof. Jaret McKinstry will share the words of William Butler Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Mary O’Malley, Eavan Boland, and others who were inspired by the land, and some writing and photography will be incorporated along the way so you can create your own story: come with pen and paper, camera (or phone camera), and a sense of adventure.

This Carleton-exclusive tour is limited to 20 guests, so I encourage you to reserve your space soon.

Sincerely,

Amy Bevilacqua ’89
President, Carleton Alumni Council

“Traveling with Carls makes all travel more enjoyable.”
- David, California
Thursday, September 1, 2022: Depart home

Friday, September 2: Arrive in Shannon, County Clare, Ireland | Limerick | Welcome reception

*Less than 3 miles and little ascent – urban sidewalks*

Arrive at Shannon Airport (SNN), where you will be transferred as a group (time TBD) to our hotel in downtown Limerick. This journey takes approximately 35 minutes. Our tour begins in earnest with a welcome lunch together as a group and in the early afternoon we will walk to Limerick Castle. One of the best-preserved Norman castles in Europe, Limerick Castle was built on the orders of King John at the start of the 13th century, although the site dates back to A.D. 922 when the Vikings lived on the island. Returning to the hotel, there will be time to settle in and relax before joining an evening reception where you will mingle with your fellow travelling companions and enjoy an overview orientation of the tour, followed by an early supper. *Overnight at the 5-star Savoy Hotel in Limerick. (L,R,D)*

Saturday, September 3: Lough Gur | Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry

*2 miles and little ascent – some short steep rough pathways (optional)*

After breakfast, we drive the short distance to Lough Gur, a lake that has seen over 6,000 years of human activity and habitation, from the Stone Age through to the post-medieval period. Highlights of our gentle walk here include the Early Christian ‘crannog’ (a man-made island that served as a defended dwelling); and the Great Grange Stone Circle, Ireland’s largest stone circle, comprising 113 standing stones. This area is steeped in Irish mythology and is a beautiful location to explore the juxtaposition between Irish folklore, mythology, landscape, archaeology, and history. After lunch in the quaint heritage town of Adare, we will continue our drive to Dingle, Co. Kerry, in the heart of the Dingle Peninsula. Dingle town is a thriving fishing town with plentiful pubs, narrow streets, and a busy harbor. Dingle is also a hub of traditional Irish music, so after dinner you may wish to enjoy live music in a local pub. *Overnight at the 4-star Dingle Skelligs Hotel for three nights. (B,L,D)*

Sunday, September 4: The Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry

*Several short walks of less than ½ mile each – some grass trackways*

In the morning we tour the breathtaking Dingle Peninsula along the iconic Slea Head Drive, exploring hidden archaeological sites and unlocking the secrets of pre-famine Ireland hidden in this spectacular landscape. Visits will include the Iron Age Hillfort of Dunbeg, an Early Christian ringfort, and a visit to the Blasket Centre, with stunning views across to the islands that we will be visiting tomorrow. We will enjoy a light lunch, after which we will visit the enigmatic Early Christian Gallarus Oratory and Kilmakader Church. This evening, back at our hotel, we will enjoy a quiet dinner and an informal lecture on Ireland’s landscape. *Overnight at the 4-star Dingle Skelligs Hotel. (B,L,D)*

Monday, September 5: The Blasket Islands, County Kerry | Dingle

*1/2 mile and ascent of about 100 feet – rough pathways and grass trackways on Blasket Island (optional)*

This morning we take the short drive to Ventry Harbor to board a ferry for the Blasket Islands (subject to weather conditions). On this relaxing trip to the most westerly parish in Ireland (next stop: USA), you are likely to see dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, and a host of seabirds. We will spend about two hours on the island, enjoying the spectacular and remote landscapes which
give powerful insight into pre-famine life in Ireland and the literature that arose from it. After a picnic lunch on the island, we will return to Dingle for a scrumptious Murphy's Irish ice cream. Afterwards, you can spend the rest of the afternoon and evening at your leisure exploring this quintessentially Irish fishing village, with plenty of delicious options for dinner under your own arrangements. (B,L)

**Tuesday, September 6: Coole Park | Thoor Ballylee (Yeats' Tower) | Ballyvaughan, The Burren, County Clare**

*A number of short walks, each less than ½ mile – pathways, some grass trackways, bare rocks*

Today we leave Dingle and head northwards through Co. Limerick and into the Burren landscape of Co. Clare. In the afternoon we will visit Coole Park, a nature reserve of approximately 1,000 acres, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch. Coole is synonymous with Lady Gregory (through marriage to Sir William Gregory). Lady Gregory was a writer, dramatist, and folklorist in her own right and was a close friend of William Butler Yeats. They, with others, co-founded the Abbey Theatre with the intention of writing, producing, and performing plays about Irish life for Irish people. From here, we will visit Thoor Ballylee, the fortified, 15th-century Hiberno-Norman tower house built by the septs de Burgo, or Burke. It is also known as Yeats' Tower because it was once owned and inhabited by the poet. In the evening we will enjoy dinner in our hotel in the charming fishing village of Ballyvaughan. *Overnight at the 3-star Hylands Burren Hotel* for three nights. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, September 7: The Cliffs of Moher | The Flaggy Shore | Ballyvaughan | PM at leisure**

*Short walks of up to 1 mile each – some grass trackways and some uneven ground (optional)*

Today we continue our exploration of the Burren, a National Park with a dramatic landscape renowned for its unusual geology and unique mixture of Arctic and Mediterranean flora. This limestone wonderland boasts archaeology from the Neolithic, early Christian, and early medieval periods. We will visit the iconic Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Five miles long and 750 feet at their highest point, the Cliffs of Moher offer one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay, as are the valleys and hills of Connemara. After lunch we will visit the Flaggy Shore, a truly beautiful coastal lake setting made famous by Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney's poem “Postscript.” In the late afternoon we will return to our hotel in Ballyvaughan, where you can enjoy the evening at your leisure. (B,L)

What to Expect

This tour has been tailor-made to combine active walking and observation with expert-led visits to cultural and natural sites. The average daily walking distance is less than two miles (plus some optional walks, for those who are interested), with varying amounts of ascent (generally under 200 feet). Although we will mostly walk on rough/grassy pathways and quiet roads, there will be uneven terrain and some steps and/or steep rocky ascents along the way and surfaces may be wet. While we will do our best to facilitate all guests seeing all sites, please bear in mind that some sites (for example, Dún Aonghasa on Inishmore) can only be visited if you walk to them. Sturdy hiking shoes with good grip and ankle support are required.

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you.

All accommodations are in three- to five-star hotels chosen for their charm and proximity to the sites we visit. Please note that some hotels do not have elevators or walk-in showers. September weather conditions vary from cool to warm and back again within a week—or even within a day. While we can hope for a maximum daytime temperature of 65-75°F, it is important to be prepared for cooler temperatures. Average temperatures at night will usually drop to around 50°F. You need to be prepared with clothing to cope with rain, which could be blustery and heavy, and with anything from cool, windy weather to warmth. Complete pre-departure details, including up-to-date COVID-related protocols, will be send to participants.
Thursday, September 8: The Aran Islands (Inishmore) | Dún Aonghasa

2 miles and ascent of about 100 feet – rough pathways, challenging bare rock in places at Dún Aonghasa (optional)

This morning we travel west to the fishing port of Doolin, where (weather-permitting) we will take a 35-minute ferry ride to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. With a population of about 800, the island is famous for its strong Irish culture, loyalty to the Irish language, and a wealth of Iron Age and ancient Christian sites. Perhaps its most notable monument is Dún Aonghasa (Dún Aengus), a semi-circular stone fort, built ca. 1100 B.C. at the edge of a 300-foot-high cliff, offering spectacular views out over the Atlantic. The route to the fort is a partly steep and uneven rough limestone pathway. Ankle support boots are advised, and this excursion is unsuitable for those with less than optimal stability and requires a good level of fitness. Our Island taxi will take us on a tour of the island before travelling by ferry back to Doolin via the Cliffs of Moher to view the spectacular cliffs from the sea. We will then return to our hotel and gather for a short walk to a local restaurant for dinner. (B,D)

Friday, September 9: Sligo: Cruise of Lough Gill, Parke’s Castle

Short walks of up to ½ mile each – some grass trackways

This morning we leave the Burren and head to Yeats Country in Co. Sligo. After lunch in Sligo, we will enjoy a private cruise of Lough Gill, home to Yeats’ “Lake Isle of Innisfree.” Our cruise will end at the beautiful Parke’s Castle, from where we will return by coach to our hotel for dinner. Overnight at the 4-star Clayton Hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)

Saturday, September 10: Yeats Country

Short walks of up to 1 mile each – some grass trackways and wooden steps at Glencar Waterfall loop walk

This morning we head into the Sligo landscape Yeats loved so well. We visit the little churchyard where Yeats’ grandfather served as a rector, and where WB Yeats is laid to rest, beneath the mountain he loved, Ben Bulben. We will enjoy a visit to Lissadell House and Gardens, home to Countess Markievicz, Yeats’ great friend, the first woman member of the British Parliament and later, under the Irish Free State, the first female government minister in Europe. Our visit includes lunch and a lovely walk to Glencar Waterfall, setting for Yeats’ haunting poem “The Stolen Child.” Enjoy the evening at your leisure in the busy small town of Sligo, where there are ample restaurants and a vibrant traditional Irish music scene. (B,L)

Sunday, September 11: At leisure in Galway | Ennis, County Clare | Farewell dinner

Short independent walks – on pathways

Today we leave Sligo and drive south to Galway City, a beautiful heritage town bustling with life. Enjoy the late morning and early afternoon exploring on your own, before we head to the town of Ennis in Co. Clare for a farewell reception and dinner. Overnight at the 4-star Temple Gate Hotel. (B,R,D)

Monday, September 12: Transfer to Shannon Airport | Fly home

There will be one group airport transfer to Shannon Airport (SNN) (time TBD) for your homeward flights. (B)

Flights & Transfers

Airfare to/from Shannon Airport (SNN) is not included in the tour cost. A group transfer (time TBD) will be provided on program arrival and departure dates. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.
Tour Prices Per Person (10 nights)

Double Occupancy (18-20 participants) ............................ $7,445
Double Occupancy (15-17 participants) ............................ $7,895
Double Occupancy (12-14 participants) ............................ $8,245

Single Supplement ...................................................... $1,225

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

With fewer than 12 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

PRICES INCLUDE:
- Carleton faculty leader Susan Jaret McKinstry and co-leader/geoarchaeologist Stephen Mandal
- Services of a dedicated, local guide/tour manager throughout, plus guest speakers
- Group airport transfers (times TBD) upon arrival on September 2nd and for departure on September 12th
- Accommodations in four- and five-star hotels, and one ideally located three-star hotel, as indicated in the itinerary
- Most meals included: ten breakfasts, eight lunches, and seven dinners; including a welcome lunch and reception and a farewell dinner with reception; beer/wine are served with dinners
- All sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, weather permitting
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation by spacious, air-conditioned motorcoach, including bottled water, parking fees, highway rolls, and local taxes
- Ferry tickets to/from the Blasket Islands & Inishmore (weather permitting)
- Baggage handling (one bag per person)
- Gratuities to hotel staff, restaurant staff for included meals, porters, tour manager/guide, and drivers
- Complete pre-departure information, including a suggested reading/media guide and packing suggestions

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; meals and beverages except as noted; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

Payments: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to “EOS-Passenger Account-CAA Ireland9/22.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit, you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing to Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received between 179 and 120 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of $250 per person. Cancellations received between 119 and 90 days prior to departure will forfeit their full deposit of $1,000 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Note: Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leaders are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason. Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at carleton.edu/alumni/adventures.
Ireland:
Landscapes, Histories & Stories

September 1-12, 2022 (12 days | 20 guests) with Carleton Professor Susan Jaret McKinstry

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© Steve Ford Elliott

Cliffs of Moher
WB Yeats statue, Sligo
Great Blasket donkey

Cliffs of Moher
© Tourism Ireland
Reservations & Payment:
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

Deposit Type (Please Check One):
- Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account - CAA Ireland 9/22
- Visa
- Master Card
- American Express
- Already paid by phone

CC#  
Exp. Date  
3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and “submit” by email, mail, or fax to:

Carleton Alumni Adventures - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: carleton@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout. If submitting this form electronically, please check the following box:
- I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature (participant #1)  
Time and Date

Signature (participant #2)  
Time and Date
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In addition, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for their own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES: Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsors/Operator shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsors/Operator are not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsors/Operator make the flight arrangements or cancel the trip. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. All participants will be required to follow safety/ sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws, and any participant who refuses to follow protocols may be asked to leave the program with no refunds provided. REFUNDS: Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. TRIP INSURANCE: Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. PRICES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of publication and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations, or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION: Any dispute or claim which refers to or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant’s option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsors/Operator will agree to dispute resolution in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, 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. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL: Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices and https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html. ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Participants agree to fully accept all known and unknown risks, including the potential risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses or other illnesses, viruses, diseases, or conditions. Participants understand and agree to hold Sponsors/Operator, their officers, vendors and suppliers harmless and not liable for any real or perceived symptoms of any disease, virus, illness, or condition, nor for exacerbating any existing symptoms of any illness, virus, disease or condition, quarantine requirements, disability, and other short-term and long-term health effects, including death. MISCELLANEOUS: Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant’s purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. 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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Dispute Resolution Agreement. The participant affirms that he/she has not received or relied upon any oral representation of Sponsors/Operator as a basis for executing this Release.