

# Travel Classics Pre-conference Tour Draft Itinerary

## May 24

**1pm** - Pre Tour departs Belfast

Drive north following the Causeway Coastal Route. Follow the coastal route through the stunning villages of Glenarm, Carnlough and Cushendall. Follow the route around Torr Head for fantastic views to Scotland and panoramic cliff views. Stop off for coffee in one of the villages.



Visit the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, Ballintoy and dare to cross this Indiana Jones style bridge! <http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/Carrick-a-Rede-Rope-Bridge-Ballintoy-Ballycastle-P2829>



**4pm** - Arrive at Bushmills Distillery, the oldest licensed distillery in the world and home to what many regard as Ireland's finest whiskey. Bushmills Distillery tour and whiskey tasting.



Check in to Bushmills Inn for overnight <http://www.bushmillsinn.com/>

Evening – Dine at the highly acclaimed Ramore restaurant in nearby Portrush.  
<http://www.ramorerestaurant.com/>

## May 25



**Morning** - Visit the **Giant's Causeway**, recognised as one of the natural wonders of the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It consists of thousands of hexagonally-shaped basalt columns, some up to 160 meters high, formed 60 million years ago from volcanic lava. The sense of geological violence is palpable in the place, and standing among the towering tubes of stone makes the ancient myth of the giant's pathway to Scotland seem highly probable. Ensure to watch the AV presentation.

Continue along the Causeway Coastal Route to the Walled City of Derry.

Arrive in The Walled City of Derry - the only completely walled city in Ireland. The city is called Londonderry and Derry. Its historic core is shaped by winding streets, and the tour of the ancient walls of the old town will offer amazing views out over the city.

Check into the Beech Hill Country House Hotel for overnight  
<http://www.beech-hill.com/>

**Afternoon** - Guided Walking Tour of the 17th Century Derry City Walls & St Columb's Cathedral - Built between 1614 and 1619, these original Walls are almost perfectly preserved today, making Derry one of the finest examples of a Walled City in Europe.



Visit the newly opened Museum of Free Derry and Murals in the Bogside, including the famous "Free Derry Corner". Discover the people's story of the struggle for Civil Rights, the Battle of the Bogside and Bloody Sunday.

**Evening** – Sample some of the fine music, food and traditional dancing of one of Ireland's finest cities.

Enjoy a **Foyle River Cruise** and find out more about the US Navy stationed here during WWII.

## May 26

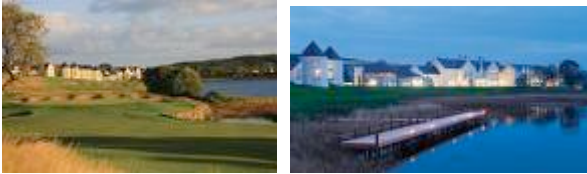
**Morning** - Depart Derry and head for Co. Fermanagh.

Visit **Gray's Printing Press** a National Trust Property. Behind its elegant façade is the fascinating story of ink, galleys, presses and emigration, as this is where John Dunlap, printer of the American Declaration of Independence, and James Wilson, grandfather of President Woodrow Wilson, learned their trade.

Depart Strabane and travel to Omagh.

**Lunch** (Mellon Country Inn)

**Afternoon** - Visit the **Ulster American Folk Park**, which tells the story of emigration during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Old and New World layout of the Park illustrates the various aspects of emigrant life on both sides of the Atlantic.



Arrive at the stunning Lough Erne Golf Resort, Enniskillen.

<http://www.loughernegolfresort.com/>

Tour of resort with hotel General Manager.

Evening - Dine at the fabulous Catalina restaurant

<http://www.loughernegolfresort.com/ENG/catalina.html>

Head Chef Noel McMeel to join group after dinner.

## May 27

Morning – Group will transfer to Newcastle Co Down and check in Slieve Donard Hotel  
[www.hastingshotels.com](http://www.hastingshotels.com)

### Optional Day

The outdoor enthusiasts in the group will visit the stunning Mountains of Mourne in County Down.

Guide will meet group and take them on a short, leisurely walk in the Mountains of Mourne followed by a pampering seaweed bath.

Further info on the seaweed baths can be obtained from [info@soakseaweedbaths.co.uk](mailto:info@soakseaweedbaths.co.uk)



For those who enjoy Golf there will be an opportunity to play one of the greatest courses in the world at Royal County Down.  
[www.royalcountydown.org](http://www.royalcountydown.org)

Situated in Newcastle, where in the immortal words of Percy French, "The Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea", Royal County Down is not only the finest test of golf but has accompanying spellbinding scenery.

For those who seek a more relaxed alternative there will be a historical tour of the local area.

Evening – group will dine at the fabulous Mourne Seafood Restaurant  
<http://www.mourneseafood.com/index.php>

## May 28

Transfer the short distance to Belfast for the conference.

Check in Fitzwilliam Hotel