Travel Classics Pre Conference Fam

Saturday 13th May

Arrive Dublin early morning and transfer by coach to Northern Ireland (1.5 to 2 hour drive)

Participate in Game of Thrones Experience at Castle Ward, Co Down
https://www.discovernorthernireland.com/gameofthrones/

Overnight at Slieve Donard Hotel or similar http://www.hastingshotels.com/slieve-donard-resort-and-spa/

Sunday 14th May

Depart Northern Ireland and head for Ireland's Ancient East

Ireland's Ancient East
Peel back the layers of history and discover a story that unfolds in the vast green landscapes that seduced a millennia of settlers from Ancient Man to Early-Christians and Medieval Lords to Colonial Settlers. On your journey immerse yourself in history as you are greeted by prehistoric wonders, monastic marvels, magnificent castles and grand estates at every turn. This is 5,000 years of history. This is Ireland's Ancient East.

Visit Blarney Castle
The historic Blarney Castle near Cork City is perhaps most famous for the Blarney Stone. According to legend, the stone has the power to give anyone who kisses it the 'gift of the gab' (or the ability to be a smooth talker), so for those who dare, a climb to the battlements to reach the famous stone could be well worth it.
http://www.blarneycastle.ie/

Explore the highlights Cork City with a guided tour, including the English Market, Cork City Gaol, and the Crawford Gallery
http://www.englishmarket.ie/

Blarney Castle

Visit Blackrock Castle Observatory
Reach for the stars at the 16th century Blackrock Castle, a former watch tower now combined with an award winning observatory for budding astronomers and scientists. Located on the outskirts of Cork City harbour, Blackrock Castle overlooks the River Lee and is home to Cosmos At The Castle, an award winning interactive astronomy exhibition which highlights recent scientific discoveries and their implications for life in outer space.
http://www.bco.ie/

Overnight & Dinner in Cork City

Monday 15th May

Visit Spike Island
In the last 1300 years Spike Island has been host to a 6th century Monastery and a 24 acre Fortress that became the largest convict depot in the world in Victorian times! The island's rich history has included monks and monasteries, rioters and redcoats, captains and convicts and sinners and saints. Take the scenic ferry ride from Cobh and get captured in the history and mystery of this magical island.
http://www.spikeislandcork.ie/

Lunch and visit Titanic Bar and Grill
As last port of call for the Titanic and an historic departure point for hundreds of thousands of emigrants over the centuries, Cobh's history is laden with heartache.

Cobh

Lismore Castle

Visit Lismore Castle & Gardens
This privately owned castle boasts extensive beautifully maintained gardens, spread across 7 acres within the castle's outer defensive walls
http://www.lismorecastlegardens.com/

Visit Collegiate Church of St Mary, in the medieval town of Youghal
http://youghal.ie/

Overnight and dinner Cliff House Ardmore

Cliff House Hotel, Ardmore

Tuesday 16th May

Explore the newly developed Deise Greenway, a walking and cycling route that follows a disused railway line. This route will take in part of the Copper Coast Geopark, a UNESCO designated Global Geopark
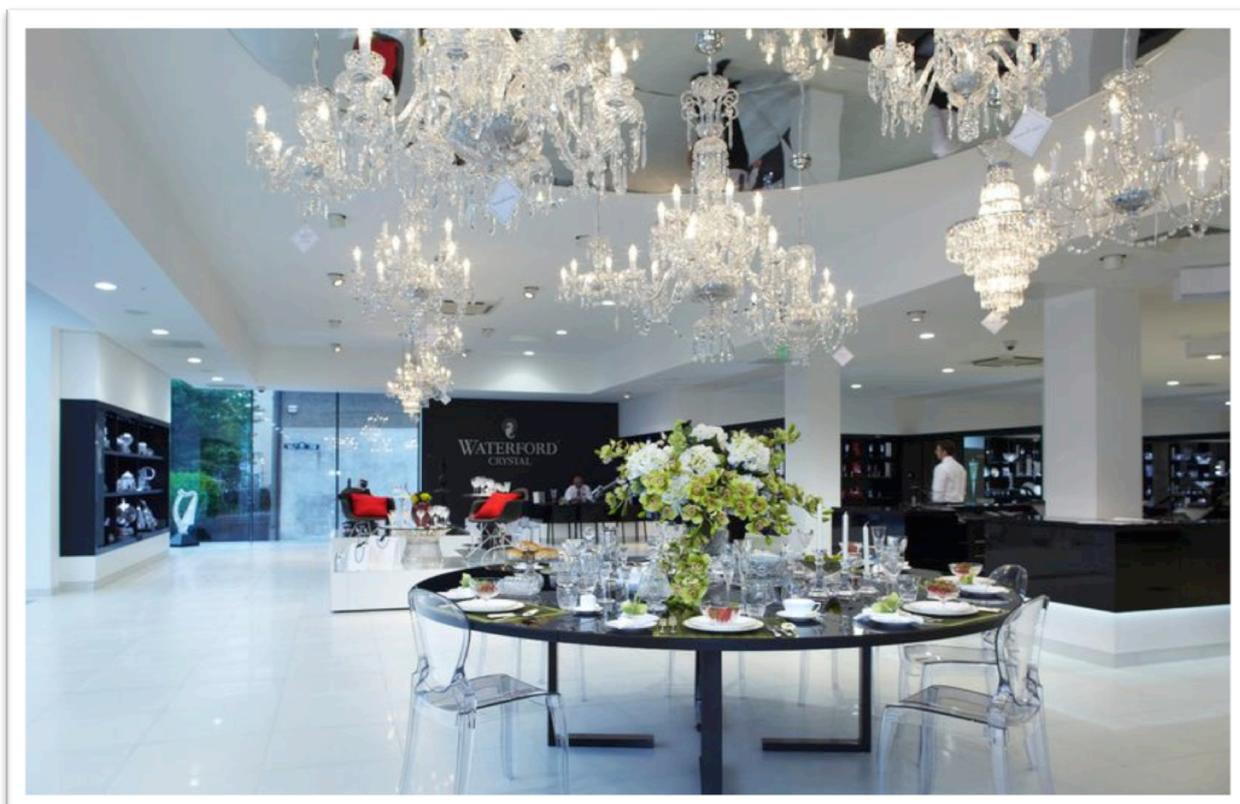http://www.coppercoastgeopark.com/
http://www.deisegreenway.com/

Copper Coast Geopark, Waterford

Walking tour of Waterford, Ireland's oldest city with local tour guide Jack Burtchaell
http://www.jackswalkingtours.com/

Visit Waterford Crystal
Guided factory tour of the high-end crystal makers and a chance to browse in the retail
centre. http://www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com/

Waterford Crystal

Figure 1 Waterford's Bishop Palace

Waterford contains Ireland's only Medieval Museum, a stunning modern building that incorporates a 13th century Choristers' Hall and a 15th century wine vault.
Within a few metres of the medieval museum is the Bishop's Palace Museum built in 1743 it is here that the story of Waterford from 1700 to the 1970s is told by reenactors against a backdrop of rare 18th century Irish furniture, glass silver and paintings. These two museums form part of the Waterford Treasures – a collection of museums within Waterford's Viking Triangle
http://www.waterfordtreasures.com/

Overnight and Dinner Dunbrody House

Wednesday November 16

Morning cookery lesson in Dunbrody Cookery School before departure

Visit to Hook Head Lighthouse. One of the oldest lighthouses in the world this stunning lighthouse dates back to the 13th century!
http://hookheritage.ie/

Hook Lighthouse

Visit Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience. Centred on an authentic reproduction of an 1840's emigrant vessel, the ship provides a world-class interpretation of the famine emigrant experience
http://www.dunbrody.com/

Visit Irish National Heritage Park. An outdoor museum depicting 9000 years of re-created Irish History situated within natural forestry & wet woodlands. Take an unforgettable journey through Ireland's past and experience stories, sights and sounds that shaped our country
http://www.inhp.com/

Overnight in Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford. There will also be an opportunity for a limited number of people to get a real flavour of life in Medieval Ireland by staying overnight in a replica of a 1,500 year old Ringfort in the Irish National Heritage Park

Thursday May 18

Depart for Kilkenny and visit Jerpoint Abbey and Jerpoint Park.
Jerpoint Abbey is an outstanding example of the remains of a 12th century Cistercian Abbey.
Nearby Jerpoint Park offers the unique opportunity of seeing the footprints of a deserted 12th
century medieval town, including the tomb effigy of St Nicholas of Myra. As Jerpoint Park is
also a working farm, you will also see a sheep dog demonstration here.
http://jerpointpark.com/
http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/jerpointabbey/

Check in to Lyrath Hotel and register for Travel Writers Classics Conference

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