PROPOSED VISITS IRELAND: July 5-16, 2017

Join us for a look at castles, gardens and natural wonders in Ireland. We will begin with four nights in Northern Ireland and then 6 nights in the Republic of Ireland. We will visit public and private gardens, a few museums to get immersed in Irish culture and history, and even have a pub night to enjoy some great Irish music.

July 5: Flight from United States to Dublin Airport

July 6: Meet coach and tour manager at Dublin Airport to begin our tour.

Collon House. - Collon House is situated in the centre of the pretty village of Collon. Dating back to the 1740s, it was once the home of John Foster, the last speaker of the Irish House of Commons. Visitors to the garden, will find a secret gem designed in the style of the mid 18th century, with sunken box parterres, lovely herbaceous borders and a courtyard filled with hostas. A Greek style summer house completes the picture in this truly charming retreat.

Overnight: Omagh

July 7: Giants Causeway. The Giant's Causeway is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. It is also known as Clochán an Aifir or Clochán na bhFomhórach in Irish and tha Giant's Causey in Ulster-Scots. It is located in County Antrim on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland, about three miles (4.8 km) northeast of the town of Bushmills. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, and a national nature reserve in 1987 by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.

Bushmills Distillery. All of the whiskey bottled under the Bushmills whiskey brand is produced at the Bushmills Distillery and uses water drawn from Saint Columb's Rill, which is a tributary of the River Bush. The distillery is a popular tourist attraction. The distillery is a place where family and friends have worked for generations that for over 400 years has kept to the philosophy that hand crafting small batches is the way to produce beautifully smooth tasting Irish whiskey.

Benvarden Garden. A serene two acre walled garden. While the walls are thought to be 300 years old, the garden within them has been beautifully reinterpreted over the last 40 years by Hugh and Valerie Montgomery.

Overnight: Omagh

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July 8: Ulster-American Folk Park. The Ulster American Folk Park is an open-air museum just outside Omagh, in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. The museum tells the story of three centuries of Irish emigration. With over 30 exhibit buildings to explore, visitors embark on a journey that takes them from the thatched cottages of Ulster, on board a full scale emigrant sailing ship, to the log cabins of the American Frontier. With costumed guides to chat and traditional crafts to see, their historical story focuses on those who left Ulster for America in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The museum is part of National Museums Northern Ireland.

Baronscourt. Possibility of a private visit to the home of The Duke of Abercorn, the queen’s representative in Northern Ireland. It is never open to the public, but I know someone who may be able to get us access. If not we, visit Fox Lodge. A two acre garden with mixed plantings suitable for the soil conditions. Woodland plants, peat beds, a scree area, a large heather garden, linked pools with a bog garden are all in informal settings.

Overnight: Omagh

July 9: Belfast Titanic Exhibition. When James Cameron, director of Titanic, visited the museum, he was blown away by it. “It’s really quite phenomenal,” he said. “It’s a magnificent, dramatic building; it’s the biggest Titanic exhibition in the world.”
Free shopping time in Belfast.

Visit to the Belfast Botanic Garden or a private garden in the city.

Overnight: Omagh

July 10: Florence Court. The house is framed by Benauglin and Cuilcagh mountains in an 18th-century landscaped park, laid out c. 1778–80 by William King. The 18th century walled garden (extended in the 1870s) includes a rose garden, the Rose cottage (the former head gardener’s residence, now let by the National Trust as a holiday home), orchards and a working vegetable garden. A working water-powered sawmill stands in the pleasure garden and nearby are a carpenter's workshop and Victorian hydraulic ram used for pumping water uphill to the house. The grounds also contain an ice house, the eel house bridge and a natural spring well. The pleasure garden contains displays of both temperate and semi-tropical plants, most notably Rhododendrons in abundance. The most notable tree on the estate is the Florencecourt Yew, the survivor of the two original specimens of Irish Yew (Taxus baccata fastigiata) discovered in 1764. Tour information is subject to change depending on garden availability and accommodation availability.
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on nearby Cuilcagh mountain. As the Irish Yew can be propagated only from cuttings, this tree and its sister (which died in the 1860s) are the progenitors of all Irish Yews found across the world.

Guided boat trip on **Lough Key**. Experience the history and tranquility that Lough Key has to offer by spending an hour relaxing, meeting new people and simply just enjoying the lake and sights with Lough Key Boat Tours. The Walsh family are Lough Key locals who can share interesting and quirky stories about Lough Key as well as taking you on a professionally guided tour of the greatest Lakes in Ireland.

**Overnight: Galway**

**July 11:** **Connemara** is situated at the very edge of Europe, on the west coast of Ireland, is one of the most beautiful, unspoiled places it's possible to find. From the rugged Twelve Bens mountain range in the north through lake-rich Roundstone Bog to the golden beaches reaching out into the Atlantic Ocean, you'll know you're in Connemara by the light that constantly changes the mood and tone of the landscape. Connemara has long been regarded as the real emerald of Ireland.

**Kylemore** was changed from a barren, rugged landscape to lush woodland with a wonderful 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden. It is also a working Benedictine abbey and pottery.

**Overnight: Galway**

**July 12:** **The Burren**. The Burren, in North County Clare and parts of South County Galway covering an area of 160 square km, is unique - it is like no other place in Ireland. There are no bogs and very few pastures. Instead there are huge pavements of limestone called 'clints' with vertical fissures in the called 'grikes'.

**The Cliffs of Moher**. The Cliffs are 8kms long 214m high. The tower at the cliffs was built by Cornelius O'Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland. From here one can easily view the cliffs, the Aran Islands, and Galway Bay as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk Mountains to the north.

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**Caher Bridge Garden.** It is an inspiring area to garden with nature and that is exactly what environmentalist Carl Wright has done. Sheltered areas have been carved out from the hazel and blackthorn scrub around his stone cottage in the Caher River valley to frame an interconnecting series of gardens.

**Overnight: Galway**

**July 13:** **Tulllynally Castle and Garden.** Tulllynally castle is a great gothic revival castle, with a maze of fairytale towers and turrets piercing the skyline. The Pakenhams have lived there for over 350 years and it is very much a family home. Various generations have added their stamp to the gardens, they now boast Tibetan and Himalayan styled gardens complete with temples and pagodas for you to sit and meditate in.

**Bellefield House Gardens.** The original 2 acre walled garden has been restored. The centerpiece is a whimsical folly, hand-painted inside with desert scenes. A large glasshouse has been built with salvaged cast-iron windows and as well as grape and peach, it houses a collection of fuchsia and species lilies, plum, cherry, quince and persimmon have been added.

**Overnight: Near Dublin**

**July 14:** **Guided tour of Dublin** with a local guide, followed by free time in the city. **Dublin Botanic Garden.** Located in Glasnevin, County Dublin, the National Botanic Gardens are noted for their fine plant collections holding more than 15,000 plant species and cultivars from a variety of habitats from around the world. The gardens are famous for their exquisitely restored and planted glasshouses, notably the Turner Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House.

**Overnight: Near Dublin**

**July 15:** Guided tours of **three private gardens** in the Dublin area. The Dublin Garden Group (DGG) consists of Ireland’s most distinguished private gardens in the greater Dublin area – some of them world famous and others secret gems, whose discovery has been the highlight of many a Garden Tour. The owners of these private gardens, most of which are not open to the public, would like to welcome groups to share their enthusiasm for and knowledge of their plants and designs, at the time to see them at their best.

**Overnight: Near Dublin**

Tour information is subject to change depending on garden availability and accommodation availability.
July 16: Transfer to Dublin airport.

Hotels:
Silver Birch, Omagh, Northern Ireland
Park House Hotel, Galway
Millingar Park Hotel, Mullingar

Hotels subject to change.

Pricing Details
$3,775.00 (airfare not included), $650 single supplement

Early booking - $3,475.00 by Dec. 31, 2016

$500.00 deposit will hold your spot! Final payments due in 2017.

Included:
- Hotels
- All breakfasts and 8 dinners (2 dinners on your own)
- Coach Transportation and group transfer to and from Dublin airport
- All garden visits and tours listed on the itinerary
- Services of our tour manager, Michael Smith

Suggested airport: Dublin

Questions? Contact: Chris Adams, Come With Me Tours, LLC
chris.adams@comewithmetours.com or call 404-695-8210
Website: www.comewithmetours.com

Tour information is subject to change depending on garden availability and accommodation availability.