
Travel with The Met

September 27–October 6, 2023

Ireland's Historic Homes & Glorious Gardens

With Alice W. Schwarz, Lecturer & Educator



THE
MET

Ireland's Historic Homes & Glorious Gardens

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

With its Georgian mansions, splendid interiors, sweeping terraces, hidden hollows, and lush gardens set against dramatic backdrops, Ireland profoundly inspires me as a historic homes scholar. Join me this autumn for exclusive behind-the-scenes access to Ireland's most beautiful ancestral estates and gardens, from coast to coast, in the company of their owners. We will enjoy inside looks at their lovingly preserved paintings, sculptures, and period furnishings collected over generations.

Our program features accommodations in historic castles and estates, including Dromoland, Ireland's "most magical address," with ties to Brian Boru, one of the last High Kings of Ireland, as well as Lyrath Estate, 170 acres of Irish countryside complete with picturesque lakes, historic gardens, and emerald woodlands.

We'll begin in Dublin with a private tour of the National Botanic Gardens, where we'll admire exquisitely restored glasshouses and Victorian plant houses. Later, we'll visit Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university, to see the Old Library and marvel at *The Book of Kells* on an exclusive tour led by the Director of Conservation. We'll also delight in a curator-led tour of the National Gallery of Ireland and view magnificent works by Caravaggio and Vermeer, as well as many esteemed Irish artists.

On the way to the charming medieval town of Kilkenny, we'll stop at Russborough House—one of Ireland's finest great houses—for a private tour, followed by lunch on the banks of the Blessington Lakes. Later, in Kilkenny, we'll view Kilkenny Castle and St. Canice Cathedral before meeting a renowned portrait artist-in-residence. After a private tour of Ballintubbert Gardens, Ireland's only certified organic ornamental garden, we'll receive a private reception from Lord and Lady Rosse at Birr Castle, the family's home for 400 years. We'll conclude in Galway to discover Kylemore Abbey, an imposing castle with an exceptional Victorian walled garden.

In addition, we'll share in meals at Michelin-starred restaurants, a private tour and tasting at a preeminent whiskey distillery, and a visit to the dramatic Cliffs of Moher. Don't miss this immersion into the art-filled, rarefied world of Ireland's landed gentry.

Alice W. Schwarz
Lecturer & Educator
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Traveling with You

Alice W. Schwarz

Alice W. Schwarz has more than four decades of experience at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a master at the art 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 Bank Street College of Education in the Museum Education Graduate Program and 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. In 2023, she lectured on The Met's Caribbean cruise aboard *Sea Cloud* and the Belgium and Holland cruise aboard *Magnifique IV*.

Trip Highlights

- Live like royalty at some of Ireland's most lavish and historic hotels, including a two-night stay at **Dromoland Castle**, a 450-acre estate that has been welcoming guests since the 16th century
- At Dublin's extensive **National Gallery of Ireland**, encounter masterpieces such as Caravaggio's dramatic *The Taking of Christ* and Vermeer's *Lady Writing a Letter with Her Maid*
- Take a guided tour of **Trinity College**, Ireland's oldest university, and its Old Library, where you will see the *Book of Kells* with the Director of Conservation
- Savor a whiskey and food pairing at the **Powerscourt Distillery**, part of **Powerscourt House & Gardens**, an 18th-century stately home with spectacular gardens
- Meet Lady and Lord Rosse, whose family has inhabited **Birr Castle** for 400 years, for a private tour of their house and gardens
- Go behind the scenes of **Kylemore Abbey**, home to a Benedictine order of nuns for the past century, located on a 1,000-acre estate with a six-acre Victorian walled garden
- Discover the entrancing 18th-century landscape at **Heywood Gardens**, set on a tranquil hillside featuring lakes, woodland, and a panoramic view of seven counties, and marvel at the UNESCO-listed **Cliffs of Moher**



Kylemore Abbey, Galway



Photos clockwise from top right: Map of the region; Heywood Gardens, Kilkenny; Georgian door, Dublin; Dromoland Castle (interior); Birr Castle, photo © Tourism Ireland, courtesy of Chris Hill; St. Patrick's Cathedral (interior), Dublin. Front cover: Powerscourt House & Gardens, Dublin, photo © Tourism Ireland, courtesy of Chris Hill. Back cover: The Long Room, Trinity College, Dublin, photo © Tourism Ireland (top); and Cliffs of Moher (bottom).

Ireland's Historic Homes & Glorious Gardens

September 27–October 6, 2023



Book of Kells, Trinity College

Departure

Wednesday, September 27

Depart for Dublin on an overnight flight.

Dublin, Ireland

Thursday, September 28

Arrive this morning and transfer to the hotel. After an included lunch (*depending on your arrival time into Dublin*), walk through the famously restored historic greenhouses at the National Botanical Gardens during a private tour that includes 300 endangered plant species. Gather later for a welcome reception at the hotel. (L), R

Dublin

Friday, September 29

This morning, visit Trinity College, Ireland's oldest university, founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592 and modeled after the universities at Oxford and Cambridge. On a guided tour led by the Director of Conservation, see the Old Library, home to more than 200,000 of Ireland's oldest books and historical documents, and marvel at *The Book of Kells*, Ireland's greatest cultural treasure, a medieval manuscript handcrafted by Irish monks around 800 A.D. After lunch at leisure, continue to St. Patrick's Cathedral, begun in 1191 to honor Ireland's patron saint, who baptized Christian converts using an ancient well on this site. Return to the hotel for a traditional afternoon tea. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own in one of Dublin's acclaimed restaurants. B, T

Dublin

Saturday, September 30

Take a short walk from the hotel to the National Gallery of Ireland, where a curator will show us its masterpieces, including Caravaggio's dramatic *The Taking of Christ* and Vermeer's *Lady Writing a Letter with her Maid*, as well as works by Irish artists. Among its 16,000 pieces are works from Rembrandt, Monet, Picasso, Titian, and Degas, as well as a wide selection from Italian Baroque, Dutch masters, and Irish artists. Then step inside the 47-acre Powerscourt House & Gardens, an 18th-century stately home with spectacularly landscaped gardens, a Palladian villa, and waterfalls. The visit to the grounds, which were influenced by the Italian Renaissance and the great estates of France and Germany, includes the home and garden. At the Powerscourt Distillery, savor a dram of Irish whiskey and a food pairing experience. Gather for dinner tonight at a restaurant near the hotel. B, D

Dublin / Kilkenny

Sunday, October 1

Depart Dublin and travel south to the charming medieval town of Kilkenny. En route, stop at Russborough House, which sits in the heart of the panoramic West Wicklow landscape, for a private tour. The plasterwork, furnishings, and landscaped gardens—including the delightful Lady's Island—make Russborough House one of the finest great houses in Ireland. Lunch will be at the Tulfarrin Hotel, an 18th-century manor house set in 200 acres on the banks of Blessington Lakes. In the afternoon, visit Heywood Gardens, a tranquil and romantic hillside escape with a vista that takes in seven counties. Overnight at the Lyrath Estate, which features 170 acres of Irish countryside complete with picturesque lakes and historic gardens. Dinner is at the hotel this evening. B, L, D



St. Canice's Cathedral, Dublin

Kilkenny

Monday, October 2

Enjoy a special morning walking tour of Kilkenny, strolling its delightfully tangled narrow streets filled with charming shops. Stop to view the remarkably well-preserved 13th-century St. Canice's Cathedral, the second largest in Ireland after St. Patrick's and an important site for Christian worship for over 1,400 years. Visit the grand 12th-century Kilkenny Castle, built to control a fording part of the River Nore and the junction of several routeways, which now includes an art gallery. This afternoon, visit the Butler Gallery, where the director will provide a private tour of the gallery, originally an almshouse built in 1818, and the magical gardens. You will be introduced to the renowned portrait artist-in-residence as they are working on a portrait. Dinner is included at a famed restaurant that features works by local artists. B, D

Kilkenny / Galway

Tuesday, October 3

Depart Lyrath Estate this morning and head to Galway. Stop at Ballintubbert Gardens, Ireland's only certified organic ornamental garden, for a private tour. Later this afternoon, arrive at Birr Castle for a private tour of the house and gardens from Lord and Lady Rosse, whose family has resided here for 400 years. The gardens are home to an abundance of rare plants collected by the Earls of Rosse worldwide over the last 150 years. Arrive at the hotel in Galway where the rest of the evening is at leisure. B, L

Galway

Wednesday, October 4

Transfer to the stunning Kylemore Abbey, an imposing 19th-century lakeside castle surrounded by Connemara's untamed wilderness and featuring a Victorian walled garden. After lunch at the lovely Ballynahinch Castle, set in 700 acres of woodlands in the heart of Connemara and shadowed by the beautiful 12 Bens Mountains, retreat to Dromoland Castle for an afternoon at leisure on the 450-acre estate. Enjoy the beautiful castle, grounds, and amenities, which include archery, falconry, golf, and clay shooting. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. B, L, D



Ballynahinch Castle

Galway

Thursday, October 5

You have the morning to relax and enjoy Dromoland Castle and its offerings. This afternoon, enjoy the stunning countryside and see enchanting villages nestled along the coast as you travel along a portion of the Wild Atlantic Way, which, at 1,600 miles, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world. Revel in the spectacular visuals at the Cliffs of Moher, a UNESCO World Heritage Site formed 320 million years ago. These cliffs sit astride the striking landscape of the Burren on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Later, return to the hotel for a festive farewell reception and dinner. B, L, R, D

Galway / Return

Friday, October 6

Following breakfast, transfer to Shannon Airport for the flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

© 2023 Arrangements Abroad Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Program Rate

\$11,399 per person, double rate
\$12,699 single rate

Rate Includes

- Eight nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Merrion Hotel, Dublin

Experience five-star luxury at this beautifully restored Georgian hotel near Dublin's top attractions, offering exquisite dining options, a spa, and elegant amenities.

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny

At this five-star estate, historic charm meets contemporary elegance amid sprawling grounds of picturesque lakes, gardens, and woodlands.

G Hotel, Galway

Indulge in world-class luxury and captivating design, immersed in a vibrant city brimming with delightful surprises.

Dromoland Castle, County Clare

Ireland's most magical address has been welcoming guests since the 16th century. As the ancestral home of the O'Briens of Dromoland, this castle's lineage dates back 1,000 years to Brian Boru, one of the last High Kings of Ireland.



Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny

Ireland: September 27–October 6, 2023

Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)


Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org





**Ireland's Historic Homes
& Glorious Gardens
September 27–
October 6, 2023**

**The Metropolitan
Museum of Art**

1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT #601

B_230927LNDUB_MET CST 2059789-40



**Travel with The Metropolitan
Museum of Art**

metmuseum.org/travel