



# Literary & Theatrical Programme



# ITINERARY

Anglo Educational Services offers over 40 years’ experience in organising long and short-term accommodation, unpaid internship placements and customised educational tours, focusing on London, the UK and Europe, as well as assisting with academic programmes.

AES provides a comprehensive and flexible service ranging from guest lectures to specialist site visits and cultural activities. A unique feature of AES programmes is its ability to incorporate educational experiences into the itinerary, enabling participants to combine both study and culture in the stay.

## Day 1

James Joyce Country

Today you will arrive at Dublin or Shannon Airport, meet with your private coach and driver/guide then depart for Galway. Upon arrival in Galway, you will enjoy an orientation tour of Galway City. Galway was the place where the Irish Literary Revival movement was born at the turn of the 20th Century, inspired by the vision of W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory.

Following some free time you will visit the house where Nora Barnacle, James Joyce’s wife, was raised. They met in Dublin and James Joyce visited the house in Galway twice. The tour includes information on the couple, on James Joyce himself and on his work connected to Galway. Here you will discover the woman behind the genius that was her husband.

Eyre square has a statue to Pdraig O’Conaire, a noted Irish writer, and a curious rusted metal sculpture representing the famous Galway hooker - a boat which is unique to Galway.

## Day 2

Yeats Country

Leaving Galway, you will continue on our journey northwards towards Sligo, known as Yeats Country and the home of the Irish literary revival period. The beautiful landscapes and folk lore of Sligo inspired poet William Butler Yeats. In the town of Sligo, visit the Yeats Society’s photo and art galleries and cafe.

You will then drive around Lough Gill by “Dooney Rock” and “Sleuth Wood”, and then stop for a visit to Parke’s Castle - a restored plantation castle of the early 17th century. There, you will enjoy some poetry readings overlooking the Lake Isle of Innisfree, and “shall have some peace there”, before continuing to Glencar Waterfall “where the wandering water gushes,” and Hazelwood, “to the waters and the wild”.

Leaving Lough Gill, the coach will head north to visit Drumcliffe, the site of an ancient monastic settlement founded by St. Colmcille in the 6th Century. Enjoy a tour of the beautiful church, built in 1809 and recently restored, where John Yeats was Rector in the early years of the 19th Century. His great-grandson, the poet and Nobel Laureate, William Butler Yeats, is buried in the adjoining churchyard, and the headstone on his grave bears the epitaph he himself wrote just a year before his death: “Cast a cold eye on life, on death - horseman, pass by.”

## Day 3

Connemara

The 3rd day of your stay will involve a day’s touring through Connemara, and visit to Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Gardens. The area is as famed for its musical roots, as it is for both its literary connections and film locations. Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains.

Kylemore Abbey is located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. A Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey’s most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church.

## Day 4

Aran Islands

Amongst other writers, J M Synge (“Playboy of the Western World”) took much of his inspiration from the Aran Islands. Inishmore is a wild and rugged place of cliffs, caves and ancient monuments, immortalised by Synge in his famous ‘Riders to the Sea’.

The three Aran Islands, Inisheer, Inishmaan and Inishmore, standing out in the Galway bay, form a mass of limestone, similar to the Burren’s geology. This area is dominated by Dun Aengus, one of the most impressive Neolithic forts in Europe. A trip to the islands offers a journey through time, as well as an encounter with the old Ireland, the mythical Ireland. Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, it is made up of 14 tiny villages. A ferryboat is taken from Connemara. The tour begins with a 2 ½ hour mini-bus excursion, followed by a walk to Dun Aengus.

This is one of the finest prehistoric monuments in Western Europe. Dún Aengus is a huge prehistoric Fort built on the edge of a 300ft cliff on Inismór. You will then return to Rossaveal and the mainland in the late afternoon, which allows free time for exploring the island before departure.

## Day 5

This morning the first stop is at the Cliffs of Moher. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland’s most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara.

Later in the day you will visit Thoor Ballylee, which is a 16th century tower house built by the famous de Burgo family. The 16th Century Norman tower is where W.B Yeats, one of Ireland’s greatest poets, lived between 1921-29. It was also where he first met Lady Gregory, his patron. Most of the woodwork and china has survived, and the house has been restored down to the original colour on the walls. The exhibition focuses on the literary importance of the house. A complete set of broadsheets, illustrated by J.B Yeats (brother of the poet,) and a collection of first editions by W.B Yeats, were found here.

After departing Thoor Ballylee, you will visit Coole Park. This is the former location of the house of Lady Augusta Gregory, who was visited by W.B. Yeats, and was the subject of some of his poetry. Lady Gregory was a dramatist and co-founder of the Abbey Theatre, together with Edward Martyn and W. B. Yeats. All that remains of the house itself are some crumbling walls and a stable yard, but the grounds and lake are now a particularly beautiful nature reserve. The lake served as his inspiration for his W.B Yeats poem: “The Wild Swans at Coole”. Here too you will find the Autograph Tree, a copper beach carved with the initials of Yeats and other writers of the Irish Revival.

## Day 6

Angela’s Ashes and Listowel

This morning you will depart for an Angela’s Ashes Walking Tour of Limerick. Follow the guide through the sites mentioned in Frank MacCourt’s award winning book, including Sutton’s Coal, Windmill Street, St. Joseph’s church and more, and relive this extraordinary life.

Continue to your next stop, which is Listowel, described as the Literary Capital of Ireland. This little town has produced an abundance of world famous writers, giving it a uniqueness not to be found elsewhere in Ireland. To celebrate this tradition, a new centre has opened to honour about 100 writers, which have emerged from the County over the centuries with special attention to the five esteemed writers of North Kerry: John.B.Keane, Bryan MacMahon, Brendan Kennelly, Maurice Walsh and George Fitzmaurice. The Seanchaí is a visitor attraction in the Heritage Town of Listowel, which presents the works of the great Kerry writers in a unique audio-visual experience.

Following your visits in Listowel, you will stop at John B. Keane’s Pub for an Irish coffee. Born in Church St. Listowel in 1928, John B. was one of Ireland’s best loved playwrights, journalists and raconteurs. The public house in William Street that bears his name is now managed by his son, Billy.

## Day 7

Galway City

Enjoy your last morning in Galway at leisure.

This afternoon enjoy a visit to the Druid Theatre. Druid was founded in Galway in 1975 by graduates of the National University of Ireland, Galway: Garry Hynes, Mick Lally (1945 – 2010) and Marie Mullen. The theatre is the birthplace of all their work, and continues to serve as a facility for the promotion and development of the arts in Galway.

## Day 8

Galway to Dublin

This morning depart for Dublin.

Meet with your English-speaking guide and enjoy a city tour with a literary flavour, with particular emphasis on the Georgian architecture, saluting Oscar Wilde’s modernistic sculpture facing his first home in Merrion Square. Visit the birthplace of George Bernard Shaw in the more humble neighbourhood of Synge Street, moving onto the Dublin Writers Museum in Parnell Square, which traces Ireland’s rich heritage of writers and literary figures. The collection features the lives and works of Dublin’s literary celebrities over the past 300 years. Swift and Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett are among those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items.

This afternoon, you will drive around some of Dublin’s elegant Georgian squares before passing by St. Patrick’s Cathedral, associated with Dean Jonathan Swift, author of “Gulliver’s Travels” and visiting the 16th century Trinity College founded by Elizabeth I, now home to the famous illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells. Many famous writers have studied here, such as Jonathan Swift, Bram Stoker (“Dracula”), J.M.Synge, Samuel Beckett (“Waiting for Godot”), and many more.

Leaving Trinity College, you conclude your tour with a visit to the Guinness Storehouse. You will also have the opportunity to spend some time in the Advertising Gallery, where you will find a display of all Guinness advertising material past and present. The tour ends on the roof high above Dublin, in the Gravity Bar, with a pint of Guinness and the best view in the city.



ANGLO

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Anglo Educational Services  
Monticello House 45 Russell Square London WC1B 4JP  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7580 9922  
Fax: +44 (0) 207 580 9944  
info@angloeducational.com  
www.angloeducational.com