Join friends old and new on a delightful trip through one of the most beautiful and friendly countries in the world!

MidWestOne Bank

Enchanting Ireland
September 7 - 16, 2021
Tuesday, September 7 (In-flight Dinner)
Board our overnight flight bound for Dublin, Ireland.

Wednesday, September 8 (In-flight Breakfast)
Arrive in Dublin this morning where we will be met by our Irish driver/guide and taken on a tour of Dublin, Ireland’s capital city, situated on the River Liffey. We will see The Georgian Squares with their 18th century houses, and statue-filled O’Connell Street. Then take a self-guided tour of the Guinness Brewery and sample Ireland’s famous stout. Mid-afternoon we will check into the 4-star Davenport Hotel for two nights. Our hotel is perfectly located in the heart of the city. Take time to rest or get out and explore the area’s shops, museums, public squares and pubs.

Thursday, September 9 (Breakfast, Dinner)
Today we travel to Glendalough in County Wicklow, where we will visit a monastic site that was founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. Enter the gateway arches that lead into the Cashel where you will find the often-photographed Round Tower, remains of several churches and cathedrals, and ancient gravestones and Celtic crosses. Our next stop is Powerscourt to see the expansive formal gardens of this 18th century estate - recently voted No. 3 in the World’s Top Ten Gardens by National Geographic! Upon our return to Dublin you will have the remainder of the afternoon free to relax or explore on your own. Dinner is included in the lovely dining room of our hotel. Then walk into nearly any pub in the city to enjoy live, local music.

Friday, September 10 (Breakfast, Dinner)
We depart Dublin this morning and travel to Kilkenny. In this charming town you will have time to enjoy lunch, shop at the Kilkenny Design Centre and walk the beautiful and extensive park grounds of Kilkenny Castle. Then we’re on our way to Waterford where we will meet an entertaining Irish guide who will take us on a walking tour of this historic, waterside city. Afterwards, we will travel to the countryside and check into the luxurious, 4-star Faithlegg Hotel for one night. Dinner will be in the beautiful dining room of our hotel.

Saturday, September 11 (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Our day starts with a visit to The House of Waterford Crystal Visitor’s Center and there will be plenty of time to browse and shop in the Crystal Showroom. Next, we travel along the scenic southern coastline through Dungarvan, Youghal, and Cork on our way to Blarney, stopping for a pub lunch along the way. In Blarney you will have an opportunity to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the famous Blarney Stone, said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who dare. You will also have time to visit the Blarney Woollen Mills, which carries a wide range of sweaters, tweeds, china, and crystal. On our arrival in Killarney, we’ll check into Killarney Plaza Hotel, for three nights. Here you can really unpack and enjoy Ireland’s most charming and delightful small town! Our posh hotel is located in the heart of Killarney with hundreds of shops and pubs all easily accessible from our hotel. Enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening.

Sunday, September 12 (Breakfast, Dinner)
Today we embark on one of Ireland’s most famous tours – the Ring of Kerry. We will stop at Kerry Bog Village to see authentic thatched cottages and learn how people lived in Ireland many years ago. We will then continue through the wild and rugged landscape of the Iveragh Peninsula, with its breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline. Enjoy a sheepdog demonstration where we will witness how amazingly intelligent these dogs are as they obey every nuance of their master’s commands. You will soon understand why these dogs are so vital to sheep farmers. We’ll pass through the towns of Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahirciveen, Waterville and Sneem before returning to Killarney. Meet your traveling companions again this evening to go to Kate Kearney’s Cottage where you will be served a traditional Irish dinner in a cozy, informal atmosphere. Then delight in traditional Irish entertainment with music and Irish dancers.

Monday, September 13 (Breakfast, Lunch)
This morning we will enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the Dingle Peninsula, once cited as the most beautiful places on
earth by National Geographic. Our tour takes us to the most westerly point of Ireland where you can view the striking patchwork fields of a hundred shades of green separated by low, ancient stone fences and dotted with sheep. From the high cliffs you will marvel at the crashing sea against the pitch black boulders. We will stop at the Brian de Staic Studio in Dingle, which specializes in Celtic jewelry that is handcrafted and engraved with ancient Celtic symbols and the letters of the ogham alphabet, an ancient Irish form of writing. As we continue around Slea Head, you will see breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline as well as beehive huts (early monastic settlements) dating back over a thousand years. We will visit the Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian stone church. Our tour will take us to the most westerly point of Ireland where we’ll view the Blasket Islands and see some of the locations for such films as Ryan’s Daughter, Far and Away starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman and the more recently filmed Star Wars The Last Jedi. On returning to Dingle we will attend the Dingle Cookery School where we will don aprons and learn how to make a rich and tasty chowder using fresh local seafood. We will also bake brown soda bread and create something sweet to follow, then sit down and enjoy the fruits of our labor for lunch! Back in Killarney, enjoy dinner as individually desired this evening. Your Irish guide will have several good suggestions from fine dining to great “pub grub.” You’ll find traditional Irish music playing in a variety of nearby pubs.

Tuesday, September 14 (Breakfast, Dinner)
Our day begins with a guided tour of the Muckross House with its interesting history, and then we’ll have time to stroll through the beautiful gardens there. Afterward, we depart Killarney and make our way to Clare where we will check into the five-star Dromoland Castle Hotel for the evening. With an extraordinary history stretching back to the 5th Century, Dromoland Castle was originally the ancestral home of one of the few families of Gaelic Royalty; direct descendants of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland. Enjoy an elegant gourmet dinner in the hotel this evening.

Wednesday, September 15 (Breakfast, Dinner)
Today you will experience another wonderful day in the Irish countryside! We’ll travel to Lahinch - famous for its challenging golf course (You won’t believe it when you see it!) and then we’ll continue along the coastline to the majestic Cliffs of Moher, which rise 600 feet over the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the amazing views and the exhibits in the Visitor’s Center before we ride through the Burren with its unusual landscape. Upon arrival in Blanchardstown, just outside of Dublin, we’ll check into the Crowne Plaza Hotel with time to refresh before meeting in the hotel restaurant for a farewell dinner.

Thursday, September 16 (Breakfast)
The time has come to bid a fond farewell to the Emerald Isle. We’ll be taking home with us warm memories of a beautiful land, friendly people, and of course, the wonderful music of the Irish!
Enchanting Ireland
September 7 - 16, 2021

**Reservations:** Please complete a reservation form and mail it with your $100 deposit plus travel protection premium, if desired, to:

MidWestOne Bank, Attn: Connie Francis
895 Main St., PO Box 938
Dubuque, IA  52004-0938

Phone: 563-589-8084
Email: cfrancis@midwestone.com

Please make checks payable to **Connections Club**.

**Deposits:** $100 per person  
**Balance Due:** May 28, 2021

**Tour Cost per person:**
- $4,349 Double
- $5,219 Single

**Included:**
- Round Trip Local Airport Transfers
- Round Trip Airfare
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation in Ireland
- Eight Nights Hotel Accommodations
- Baggage Handling
- Eight Breakfasts, Two Lunches and Six Dinners
- All Activities and Admissions as Listed
- All Tour Related Taxes and Gratuities
- Services of a MidwestOne Bank Connections Club Representative
- Services of Knowledgeable and Friendly Irish Driver/Guide in Ireland

**Not Included:**
- Optional Group Deluxe Travel Protection premium of $331 per person in double and $424 per person in single.
- Optional Cancel For Any Reason (CAFR) Travel Protection premium of $497 per person in double or $636 per person in single. CAFR Benefits will be paid for up to 75% of the prepaid forfeited, nonrefundable trip cost for cancellations up until 48 hours prior to scheduled departure. Premiums must be paid within 14 days of the date of the initial deposit.

**Travel Documents:**
Each travel must carry a passport valid for at least six months beyond the return date of the trip.

**Cancellation Policy**
All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by May 28, 2021. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers including, but not exclusive to, the airline used to purchase non-refundable air tickets, as well as a $150 cancellation fee. It is highly suggested that all travelers help protect their vacation investment by purchasing an optional travel protection plan. Your group representative can provide information on a plan offered by Travel Insured Intl. Should the passenger purchase travel protection and need to cancel after May 28, 2021, a travel protection claim must be filed with Travel Insured Intl. Please note that we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan at the time of initial trip deposit and that the premium is refundable for cancellations received before May 28, 2021.

*This document contains highlights of the plan. The plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. C&F and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The plan also contains non-insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.*