Splendid Irish Gardens
With Peter and Diane Wyse Jackson
May 30–June 8, 2020
Join a very personal journey with the President of Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, to his home of Ireland, and explore the magnificent gardens and landscapes that inspired his life’s work. In Dublin, visit the historic glasshouses of the National Botanic Gardens where Dr. Wyse Jackson once served as director, and stroll through Powerscourt Gardens, an 18th-century estate National Geographic voted one of the world’s best. In the gorgeous Irish countryside, admire rare plants in private gardens at stately ancestral homes, and wander through one of the finest Japanese gardens in Europe. Then, dine with Dr. and Mrs. Wyse Jackson at their private residence in Dunlavin. Embark on a scenic road trip along the Wild Atlantic Way, marveling at spectacular green cliffs that plunge into the turbulent seas below, and enjoy the rare pleasure of meandering through beautiful woodlands in a traditional, horse-drawn Irish jaunting car.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**JOIN** Peter and Diane Wyse Jackson at their private home for a delicious lunch in a charming Irish village near Dublin

**ARRIVE** at the historic National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin for a guided tour of its exquisitely restored Victorian glasshouses and collection of more than 15,000 plant species

**STAY** at Ireland’s grandest and most glamorous hotels, including Ballyfin, named “The Best Hotel in the World” by Condé Nast Traveler readers; the lavish 13th-century Ashford Castle, once home to the Guinness family; and the riverside Adare Manor, a recently renovated castle

**MEET** the owners of medieval Glin Castle, a 400-acre, 800-year-old ancestral property overlooking the Shannon River, and join them on a tour of their glorious gardens filled with rose arches, hydrangeas, and various exotic plants (pending confirmation)

**ADMIRE** the great variety of garden designs on estates dating back centuries—from exuberant wildflower fields in the National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh to restrained rows of ancient yew trees in the gardens at Glasnevin

**BOARD** a traditional Irish jaunting car, a two-wheeled, horse-drawn carriage, and meander through Killarney National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of ancient oak woods, river crossings, and mountain views
SATURDAY, MAY 30: DEPARTURE
Depart by air to Dublin.

SUNDAY, MAY 31: DUBLIN, IRELAND
Arrive this morning and transfer to the hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure to take advantage of the many attractions within walking distance of the Merrion— from the National Gallery to Trinity College where the famous Book of Kells is found. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel with Peter and Diane Wyse Jackson.

MONDAY, JUNE 1: DUBLIN
Take a short drive to the National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh, situated on an 18th-century estate. Dr. Wyse Jackson led the restoration of these gardens up to 2005, with their magnificent collection of plants from many temperate parts of the world including rhododendrons and wildflower meadows. Next, venture to the 18th-century Powerscourt Gardens, recently voted third on “The World’s Top Ten Gardens” by National Geographic. Enjoy an early afternoon tea here and afterwards, stroll around this 47-acre property which includes formal gardens, ornamental lakes, and secret hollows. Continue on to the Elizabethan Revival-style Kilruddery House, ancestral home of the Brabazon family (the Earls of Meath) since 1618. The House’s 17th-century gardens survive in their original formal layout designed by Bonet, a French gardener who was greatly influenced by André Le Nôtre. After the tour, head back to Dublin for an evening at leisure.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2: DUBLIN
A morning drive takes us to the 18th-century National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin, with its exquisitely restored Victorian glass houses. Dr. Wyse Jackson, who was its previous director, will show us the great greenhouses and the unique plants in the collection. Established in 1795, the gardens occupy the former demesne of botanist Thomas Tickell. Stroll Addison’s Walk, a footpath lined with yew trees, which Tickell dedicated to his friend Joseph Addison, a poet, statesman, and writer. Drive to Castletown House, Ireland’s largest Palladian-style country house, and step inside to view the magnificent Portland stone staircase; the opulent Long Gallery, lined with family portraits; and the charming Print Room from 1765, the only one of its kind to have survived in Ireland. Enjoy lunch at the café and then stroll through the glorious parklands, landscaped in the 18th-century “natural” style championed by Capability Brown. In the afternoon, drive to the Irish National Stud Farms & Gardens and marvel at their iconic, early 20th-century Japanese gardens, which were laid out by Japanese master horticulturist Tassa Eida and his son, Minoru. Return to Dublin for dinner at leisure.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3: DUBLIN / BALLYFIN
Leave Dublin for the countryside. Stop at Russborough House & Parklands whose landscaped gardens—including playful, moat-lined Lady’s Island and the 18th-century Walled Garden—are some of the finest in Ireland. Enter this lavishly furnished great house which holds fine furniture, beautiful plasterwork, a mahogany staircase, and much of the Beit collection of paintings. Then delight in a special treat: lunch with Peter and Diane Wyse Jackson at their private home, Bank House, in Dunlavin. Afterwards, drive to the stunning Ballyfin for check-in. In the afternoon, enjoy an optional tour of its gardens. Dinner is at the hotel.
THURSDAY, JUNE 4: BALLYFIN / CONG (ASHFORD CASTLE)
Enjoy a leisurely morning and lunch at the delightful Ballyfin. Then depart for a tour of the Clonmacnoise Monastery. This early Christian site, founded in the 6th century, includes ruins of a cathedral, several ancient churches, two round towers, three high crosses, and the largest collection of early Christian gravestones in Western Europe. Continue on to the spectacular Ashford Castle, our home for the next two nights. Dine together tonight at Ashford Castle’s George V Restaurant. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JUNE 5: CONG (ASHFORD CASTLE)
Journey into the heart of Connemara to the majestic setting of Kylemore Abbey. Stroll through its woodlands and along the lakeshore walks to discover Ireland’s largest walled garden. Enjoy lunch at Ballynahinch Castle and explore their 180 hectares of beautiful woodlands and gardens. Then take a road trip on Connemara’s Sky Road, a 12-mile-long, jaw-dropping scenic loop that is part of the Wild Atlantic Way. On this journey, gaze upon the turbulent sea on one side and the Twelve Bens Mountain Range on the other. Dinner is at Ashford Castle. B,L,D

SATURDAY, JUNE 6: CONG / ADARE
Head towards County Clare and stop first at the medieval fortress, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park. Then visit Glin Castle, home for the last 800 years to the FitzGerald family, hereditary Knights of Glin. Located on the banks of the Shannon River, the 400-acre wooded estate features formal lawns, meadows, and ancient oak trees. The charming walled kitchen garden boasts scented rose arches. Meet the owners, enjoy lunch, and then join them for a tour of their glorious gardens (pending confirmation). Afterwards, visit Knockpatrick Gardens, overlooking the scenic Shannon Estuary. This award-winning three-acre garden is a colorful collection of rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas. Drive to Adare, known as “Ireland’s Prettiest Village,” and check into Adare Manor. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

SUNDAY, JUNE 7: ADARE
This morning, drive to the enchanting Churchill Gardens Demesne, set on a hill overlooking the little fishing port of Fenit and embraced on two sides by the bays of Tralee and Barrow. On a private visit, admire its collection of art highlighting the Irish landscape and Irish history. Stop for lunch at one of Killarney’s famous pubs before taking a traditional jaunting car ride into the Killarney National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Starting from Killarney town, the jaunting cars ride through a scenic landscape—riding past the Earl of Kenmare’s Demesne and crossing the Flesk River, continuing along a bridle path with stunning views of the MacGillicuddy’s Reeks Mountain Range. Pass through dense woodlands of pine and hardwoods to end your journey at Muckross Estate. Stay to explore the Abbey and the 19th-century Victorian mansion overlooking the stunning Lough Leane. Stroll through the gardens and admire their famous rhododendrons, a sunken garden and a stream garden, before exploring more of the extensive park. Return to Adare in the late afternoon and enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner at our hotel. B,L,D

MONDAY, JUNE 8: RETURN
Transfer to Shannon Airport for flights home.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Missouri Botanical Garden and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.


**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**MERRION HOTEL, DUBLIN**
A beautifully restored Georgian building in Dublin’s city center, the Merrion offers five-star luxury and impeccable service just a leisurely stroll away from the Irish capital’s most significant attractions.

**BALLYFIN DEMESNE, BALLYFIN**
Enjoy a bygone epoch of aristocratic glamour in this property voted “The Best Hotel in the World” by Condé Nast Traveler readers. More than just a luxury hideaway, Ballyfin is nestled in a beautiful 600-acre walled demesne of woodlands, rolling hills, gleaming cascades, and a shimmering lake.

**ASHFORD CASTLE, CONG**
Step back to the 13th century at the oldest castle hotel in Ireland, the magnificent five-star Ashford Castle. Set on 350 majestic acres on the shores of Lough Corrib, the castle offers 82 elegant guest rooms and Irish hospitality on a grand scale.

**ADARE MANOR, ADARE**
A neo-Gothic architectural masterpiece and former family seat of the Earls of Dunraven, Adare Manor is an 840-acre, five-star luxury resort, with guestrooms lavishly furnished with original art, Georgian-style appointments, and marble bathrooms. Revel in a wealth of activities on the grounds, including golf, falconry, archery, clay shooting, fishing, and a spa.

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**PROGRAM RATE**

$9,999 per person, double rate  
$13,499 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 and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in itineraries; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

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

Address

City                                           State                                           Zip

Telephone (home)                 (business)                                          

Fax                             E-mail

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Hotel Room Preference  ☐ One King  ☐ Two Beds (limited availability)  ☐ Single (limited availability)

**FORM OF PAYMENT**

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

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code               Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days before departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

Front cover photo: Muckross House and Gardens.  
All photos courtesy of Tourism Ireland