



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FLAVORS OF IRELAND

HOPS, GRAINS & SLÁINTE

2024 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: AUGUST 3, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: AUGUST 4, 2024

RETURN DATE: AUGUST 11, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,856

START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State young alumni?

The Michigan State Alumni Office young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to MSU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 46 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing. If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com. To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/msu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regina Cross".

Regina Cross

*Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program
MSU Alumni Office*

Visit our website www.aesu.com/msu for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory. The MSU Alumni Office offers travel insurance.

Please visit this website for information or to purchase insurance:

<https://my.travelinsure.com/spartans>

FLAVORS OF IRELAND



9 DAYS | 7 NIGHTS

CITIES VISITED:
DUBLIN | GALWAY | CORK

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better with private bath/shower, 2-share rooms
- Airport transfers included with purchased international AESU group airfare
 - Private motor coach

Meals

- 13 meals: 7 breakfasts, 3 specialty lunches, 3 specialty dinners

Activities and Admissions

- Franciscan Well Microbrewery tasting
 - English Market in Cork
- Dublin city sights including College Green, Dublin Castle, Guinness Brewery, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Temple Bar and more
- Guided tour of Ballymaloe organic gardens
 - Birr Castle
 - Blarney Castle
- Foodie tour of Galway
 - Cliffs of Moher
 - Burren Region
- Tour and tastings at:
 - o Tullamore D.E.W
 - o Kilbeggan Distillery
 - o Jameson Distillery

Plus

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

Tour Highlights

- Welcome dinner & orientation
 - Dublin city sights
 - Town of Galway
 - Galway foodie tour
 - Historic castles
 - Cliffs of Moher
 - Burren Region
- Franciscan Well Microbrewery beer tasting
 - Brick oven pizza dinner
 - Cork's English Market
- Jameson Distillery experience in Midleton
- Ballymaloe farm-to-table organic gardens including lunch
 - Birr Castle
 - Kilkenny Castle
 - Rock of Cashel
 - Blarney Kissing Stone
- Kilbeggan & Tullamore D.E.W. distillery tours and tastings
 - Irish farewell dinner



FLAVORS OF IRELAND ITINERARY

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Ireland, as rich with history as it is with beauty, offers travelers the chance to explore all facets that go into a ‘farm-to-table’ eating lifestyle. Meet individuals and families who have spent a lifetime creating, distilling, brewing and perfecting these beverages and culinary experiences. Prepare to open your mind and your taste buds while travelling from Dublin to Galway and along the picturesque southern shore of Ireland. This journey is filled with behind-the-scenes glimpses, sights you’ll never forget, and plenty of knowledge. Come with us on the trip of a lifetime. Sláinte!

DAY 1 TRAVEL TO IRELAND

Board your overnight flight to Dublin today.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! Proceed to your hotel in downtown Dublin with free time to rest or explore your surroundings. This evening, meet your travel companions for a welcome dinner and orientation with your tour director.

Meals: In-Flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Airport transfer with purchased AESU airfare, Welcome orientation, Welcome dinner

DAY 3 DUBLIN

On our city tour today, we will take in top attractions and landmarks including College Green, Dublin Castle, the Guinness Brewery, St Patrick’s Cathedral and Temple Bar. We then explore the Georgian streets around Parnell Square and Merrion Square and gain insight into Dublin’s rich history. Later we visit the Guinness Storehouse making sure to stop by Brewer’s Dining Hall for a taste of Guinness straight from the source. During free time this afternoon explore Teeling, the only operational distillery in the city, for a tasting or tour the historic Dublin Jameson Distillery where the famed spirit was originally produced and bottled before moving to its new home in Midleton.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Guided tour of Dublin, led by a local historian, See College Green, Dublin Castle, Guinness Brewery, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Temple Bar and more, Guinness Storehouse visit

DAY 4 DUBLIN | GALWAY

Expect a day chock-full of whiskey-filled knowledge. A ‘behind-the-scenes’ tour at Tullamore D.E.W.’s state-of-the-art distillery is an exceptional experience for whiskey enthusiasts and novices alike. Learn about the process from distillation to maturation and discover the art of blending before savoring some of their award-winning whiskeys. Continue to Birr Castle with its grand gardens and intriguing science center. Enjoy a tranquil stroll among the exotic flowers of the castle’s award-winning gardens and browse the exhibits in the Historic Science Center before enjoying lunch in the castle’s café. We then make our way to Kilbeggan, established 1757 and



one of the oldest distilleries in Ireland. We are invited to tour the old warehouses, meet with onsite distillers and taste four unique whiskeys. Our final destination today is Galway, on the west coast of Ireland. From castles to cathedrals, from stone forts to beaches and picturesque filming locations, Galway is a place of stunning natural beauty. Enjoy an evening at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Tullamore D.E.W. distillery tour and tasting, Birr Castle Gardens, Lunch at Birr Castle, Kilbeggan distillery tour and tasting

DAY 5 GALWAY

During leisure time this morning, you may wish to visit the Latin Quarter, at the heart of which is colorful, bohemian Shop Street. Walk down from Lynch's Castle passing a lively mix of and unique small shops. At lunch time, join us on a fun foodie tour. Stroll past Lynch's Castle, the Druid Theatre Company, and the broad expanse of Eyre Square, then view the city's medieval walls, the Spanish Arch and the Oscar Wilde statue while learning about Galway's history and heritage. Discover Galway's award-winning bars and restaurants on this gastronomic exploration. Taste delicious treats from family-run businesses and artisanal producers, hear their stories and bond over a glass of craft beer.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Foodie tour of Galway, Foodie lunch

DAY 6 GALWAY | BURREN REGION | CLIFFS OF MOHER | CORK

As we continue our journey south, explore Ireland's beautiful Burren region, a wildly diverse ecosystem that is filled with the riches of Irish history; eons of stories, told and untold. Walk on top of the mighty Cliffs of Moher, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and enjoy panoramic views over the coastal scenery while watching the skies for sightings of native birdlife. We continue to Cork and stop at the Franciscan Well Microbrewery for a tasting of their local brews and to enjoy dinner at the Well's brick oven pizza pub situated right on the river Lee. Tonight, consider going on a pub crawl of Cork's best-loved, old-fashioned pubs together with new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Burren region hike, Cliffs of Moher, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tasting at Franciscan Well Microbrewery, Brick oven pizza dinner

DAY 7 CORK | BALLYMALOE | JAMESON

This morning we head to Blarney Castle. Explore the grounds, then leave a kiss on the Blarney Stone and receive the gift of eloquence and persuasiveness. Our next stop is beautiful Ballymaloe, a famous cooking school in southern Ireland run by celebrity chef Darina Allen. The farm is accompanied by a full restaurant, shop, and café. We'll tour the organic gardens of this amazing establishment that practiced 'farm-to-table' service before it was cool. Afterwards, we'll enjoy lunch at the farm's restaurant. We continue to Midleton to go on a journey from past to present at the Jameson Distillery. Come face to face with the world's largest pot still, hear stories of Jameson's rich heritage, and learn about the hard-working people and field-to-glass processes responsible for the whiskey that bears John Jameson's name. The tour finishes with a guided tasting of three famous whiskeys. We return to Cork with free time to explore the city and make dinner plans with travel companions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Blarney Castle, Ballymaloe cooking school & organic gardens, Jameson Distillery in Midleton



DAY 8

CORK | ENGLISH MARKET | ROCK OF CASHEL | KILKENNY CASTLE | DUBLIN

This morning we visit the English Market which is one of the oldest and most well-known markets in Ireland. A blend of local organic foods mixed with fares from all over, this market has been around since the 18th century. In the early afternoon, we are on our way north to Dublin. The Rock of Cashel, set on a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale, is our first stop en route. It is iconic in its historic significance, possesses the most impressive cluster of medieval buildings in Ireland and is one of the most visited sites. Next, we visit Kilkenny Castle, one of the largest and most important castles in Ireland's history dating from as far back as the first decade of the thirteenth century. Explore some of the castle's fifty acres of rolling parkland with mature trees and an abundance of wildlife. Visit the formal terraced rose garden, woodlands, and a man-made lake, or enjoy a cup of tea at the tearoom before we continue our journey to Dublin. At tonight's Farewell Ireland dinner, we share the good times we had on our journey and toast a final 'Slainte' to new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: English Market in Cork, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Castle, Irish farewell dinner

DAY 9

TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast the group says goodbye to Ireland, filled with not only delicious Irish food and spirits, but also with a better knowledge of what goes into making some of the great beverages of this country and a feeling of having seen how incredible this isle truly is.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey Treasure Seeker!

Traveling through Ireland is an absolutely incredible experience that will leave you breathless and filled with excitement. From the vibrant city of Dublin to the lush countryside, Ireland has a wealth of treasures to discover. Indulge in the amazing Irish whiskey at the Kilbeggan and Tullamore Dew distilleries where you learn all about the traditional techniques and rich history behind this world-renowned drink. Immerse yourself in the culture and friendly atmosphere of Galway, then witness the breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean at the majestic Cliffs of Moher. Savor organic, farm-to-table cuisine crafted with the freshest local ingredients at Ballymaloe, a renowned cooking school run by celebrity chef Darina Allen. Don't forget to visit the famous English Market in Cork, where you can treat your taste buds to even more sensational local cuisine. Throughout your journey, you'll be delighted by the warm hospitality and welcoming nature of the Irish people, creating an unforgettable experience that you'll treasure for years to come.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational



Eco Friendly

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$745 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

“ IT WAS THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME. I LOVED THE TOUR DIRECTOR AND ALL OF MY FELLOW TRAVELERS. ”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.

UNIVERSITY DISCLAIMER

Michigan State University Alumni Office Disclaimer Spartan Pathways Travel Program:

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office or MSUAO) and the Spartan Pathways Travel Program is not the Tour Operator. The MSUAO is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The MSUAO acts only as a sponsor with respect to the travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in providing services to participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the MSUAO shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, epidemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention, or other causes beyond its control. The MSUAO shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the Tour Operator may substitute hotels of similar quality. The Tour Operator may postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The MSUAO or the Tour Operator may decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. By embarking upon travel, the participant voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Participant is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry force majeure, bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility participant may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Participant is advised to consider obtaining appropriate insurance coverage against these risks. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above. The MSUAO partners with other universities and alumni from other universities will be on many departures. While some of the Spartan Pathway's tours are exclusive to just MSU alumni, on many of the tours we partner with other universities/organizations that have travel programs. Space allotments for these tours are given to each university and after a guaranteed time allotted for reservations, available space is opened to all universities/organizations. Therefore, some departures may have universities with greater numbers of alumni on the tour than MSU.