



In the last few years The London Art History Society has joined forces with Real Holidays in order to offer study tours to continental Europe. We propose to continue to develop this relationship, and for the 2018 summer tour we intend taking The London Art History Society to Dublin from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th July 2018. Dublin is a destination that is not offered by the main commercial cultural tour operators, so this is a unique opportunity.

The tour includes a 3* hotel located in the historic centre of the city on a bed and breakfast basis with dinner at selected restaurants on three evenings, with an option to travel by BA leaving London Heathrow to arrive at the Dublin airport at noon. Numbers will be limited in accordance with our normal practice and an option for independent travel arrangements will be possible.

The tour will include a series of walks to explore the city together with curatorial visits to several museums and galleries in the city.

Full details including the draft itinerary, booking form and Real Holidays' terms & conditions are enclosed. The Society's own T&C are given at the end of this paper. Should you have any other questions, please contact Michael Pearson, by email tours@londonarthistorysociety.org.uk or telephone 01799 521290.

Our guide

Our guide for the city walks will be Arran Henderson, recommended by contacts at UCD and the NGI. Arran designs and leads the summer walking tours for the Irish Georgian Society, one of the oldest and most prestigious of the various NGOs dedicated to protecting the built

heritage in Ireland. The intention is to explore different parts of the city each afternoon and spend the mornings in the galleries, possibly also taking advantage of any evening openings. There are some particularly fine and interesting collections in the city; the Irish Museum of Modern Art has just reopened with good reviews, and Francis Bacon's Studio has been set up in Dublin City Gallery. There is plenty to explore and examine in our short four night visit.

Preliminary Itinerary

Each afternoon we shall have a walking tour which will cover different aspects and areas of the city. The first session will be after lunch on the first day. Detail and specific itineraries will be available nearer the time, but they will include breaks for coffee and interior visits where appropriate. We shall have a tour of the present-day **city centre south of the river**, starting either in Trinity College or perhaps around the National Gallery which is conveniently close to the hotel. It's a beautiful place and contains at least half a dozen buildings worth visiting and discussing. A second tour would cover the **North Georgian Core** and a third tour to the **historic Liberties district**, including the two cathedrals, Christ Church and St Patrick's. We'd view and discuss both exteriors and probably one interior, and possibly include also the stunning historic Marsh's Library. There is a huge amount of material on this tour, including medieval fragments of the old city gates and walls, medieval churches and vanished abbeys, some super Victorian buildings, and some really remarkable industrial architecture. These walks will occupy the full afternoon and will include a break for coffee.

Each morning we shall visit museums and galleries; **National Museum Collins Barracks** where we may look at their collection on Eileen Gray; the **Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane** which houses the relocated Francis Bacon Studio; the **Chester Beatty Library** which amongst other fine pieces has a remarkable Islamic Collection; and the **National Gallery of Ireland** and the **Irish Museum of Modern Art**, two major institutions which we shall visit with the intention of focussing on specific items in the collections.

Final arrangements for each day have yet to be confirmed but each of the museum/gallery visits should include more than adequate time for a coffee break and free-flow independent exploration of the standing collections. You may wish to use some of this free time for retail therapy! The fourth afternoon tour could be to the **Monastic Sites of Glendalough** in the Wicklow Mountains, a short journey to the south of Dublin but

this needs to be discussed with Arran. We have currently arranged to have the use of the coach on one afternoon for the city if not to its hinterland.

Practical Details and Booking Arrangements

Once in the city we will stay at Buswells Hotel, a 3* hotel which is ideally located for our needs in the historic centre. Full details can be found on its website <http://www.buswells.ie>. The hotel address is 23-27 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, D02 CT80, Ireland Tel. +353 1 6146500. We propose to reserve a number of seats on the BA flights from London Heathrow: BA834 departing at 10:35 and arriving at 12:05 in Dublin, and for the return flight BA829 which departs from Dublin at 16:30 to London Heathrow arriving at 18:00 at the end of our tour which will leave an adequate amount of time for a reasonable amount of exploration on the morning of our final day. There is however a choice of travel options in that you may make your own travel arrangements and meet the main party at the airport or the hotel. Transport between the airport and hotel will be provided at the beginning and end of the tour. We have the use of the coach on one afternoon for the city. We propose using a 25 seater coach which will be quite practical and comfortable for our purposes but is unlikely to have a toilet. No other transport is included.

The total cost including air travel will be **£1050** per person (**£915** if making your own travel arrangements), which includes flights, airport taxes, coach travel locally, hotel accommodation, City Tax, breakfasts, admission charges, lunch or dinner on three occasions, along with wine, water and coffee, tips for drivers and restaurant staff, and the services of the lecturer. It is calculated on the basis of shared twin rooms, and does not include lunches or dinner on one evening. There are a few single rooms available, however the net additional prices quoted by the hotels give rise to a supplement of **£320**.

Travel locally in the city will either be on foot or by tram/bus/Metro/taxi. We hope participants will share taxi costs and have not budgeted for providing local transport, nor taxis.

To make the tour work successfully, a maximum of 15 participants is required to suit the limits set by public galleries for group visits.

NB To avoid fixing the cost at too discouraging a level no allowance has been made for a deterioration in the value of sterling against the euro. We therefore reserve the right to make a surcharge of not more than **£100**, to cover up to 10% of extra costs caused by a fall in the exchange rate. Any costs above that will be borne by The London Art History Society. The exchange rate used for these costings was £1 = 1.075 euros.

The above costs also include the services of a travel agent – **Real Holidays** – who provide professional booking services and ATOL/ABTA cover. All travel and accommodation (flights, coach and hotels) have been arranged by Real Holidays, who

will accordingly handle the financial side of the trip.

If you wish Real Holidays to make different travel arrangements for you, please state this at the time of booking on the booking form as an independent traveller. Real Holidays will then contact you and book tickets for you to suit your circumstances. This would be separate from the Society's arrangements.

Bookings and any initial enquiries will be dealt with by Michael Pearson, The London Art History Society Study Tour Organiser, who may be contacted by email tours@londonarthistorysociety.org.uk or telephone 01799 521290. Bookings can only be accepted if accompanied by a **deposit of £200 per person**, made payable to Real Holidays. All applicants and friends who travel with them must be current members of The London Art History Society at the time of the trip.

Booking forms are included with this posting, so if you do intend joining us, please complete the form and send it, along with a cheque made payable to Real Holidays, to Michael Pearson at the address below.

The London Art History Society, c/o Tudor Cottage, Stoke Prior, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0LG

Your attention is drawn to the booking conditions issued by Real Holidays and available for inspection on its website www.realholidays.co.uk/about-us/about-real-holidays/travel-agency-booking-conditions. It is essential that you take out travel insurance cover, and you should also obtain the European Health Insurance Card (which replaced the form E111) from a Post Office. **Note** that the EHC is only valid for 5 years; please ensure that your card will be valid during the period of our tour.

Please note that for this tour we shall **not** have a Tour Manager. We rely on participants to be self-reliant and independent.

The itinerary and locations are subject to unpredictable circumstances. We are visiting churches where funerals and weddings are held and choir practice and enthusiastic organists can disrupt our day. We shall try to work around these little problems but ask for your understanding should they occur. We would like to emphasise the fact that these cultural tours are organised for the benefit of members by an enthusiastic volunteer; they are not commercial operations. Participants who feel that they may need help should make arrangements for a companion to accompany them who is prepared to give them assistance. All tours involve a significant amount of standing around in museums or walking, often over uneven cobbled streets. Participants on all tours should be able to walk at a reasonable pace and/or stand for at least thirty minutes without aid or requiring a rest. If you or any member of your party has any medical condition you are expected to know the limit of your abilities and be sensible. Where appropriate, you should consider using taxis or other independent transport.