



**DeKalb High School Marching Band**  
**Performance Tour of Ireland**  
**Including Participation in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**March 12 – 19, 2017**

The following itinerary provides an overview of your tour events and timings.  
**\*\*It is important to understand that times and activities are subject to change before or during the tour.**

**Working Itinerary**

February 20, 2017

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**Depart Chicago**

**Departure** Depart from Chicago today for your performance tour of Ireland. We recommend that your group arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to departure. Signed passports are required of all passengers. A meal will be served on your flight.

**Flight Group 1 – 111 seats**

Date	Day	From	To	Airline	Flight	Depart	Arrive
3/12	SUN	Chicago (ORD)	Dublin (DUB)	Aer Lingus	124	9:30 pm	9:45 am (3/13)

*Flight numbers and schedules are subject to change.*



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**Monday, March 13, 2017**

**Arrive Dublin – Cashel – Cork**

- 9:45 am** Arrive in Dublin, Ireland, claim your luggage and clear customs. Meet your Gateway Tour Manager, Natalie, and your driver-guides George and Colm, who will be with you for your entire tour to handle travel and performance arrangements.
- 10:45 am** Depart Dublin for Cashel. The drive from Dublin to Cashel is approximately two hours.
- Rock of Cashel** Combining spiritual grace, mysterious beauty, and scenic elegance, the Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most spectacular archeological sites. "Cashel" comes from the Irish "caiseal" meaning "fortress." The Rock of Cashel rises as a giant, circular mound 200 feet above the surrounding plains and meadows. A cluster of ruins is nestled on its crown, including a cathedral, chapel and tower. Please note, due to restoration, only exterior views of the cathedral and chapel will be possible.
- Lunch** Lunch is on your own.
- Depart** Depart Cashel for Cork. The drive from Cashel to Cork is approximately 90 minutes.
- Cork** As the third largest city in Ireland, Cork has always been an important seaport. You'll find yourself constantly crossing bridges as the River Lee flows through the city in two main channels. As Cork's hilly streets go up and down, so do the characteristic voices of its citizens who are regarded as the most talkative of all the Irish.
- Hotel** Check into your hotel. Your Gateway Tour Manager will assist with check-in.
- Maldron Hotel**  
John Redmond St  
Shandon, Cork, Ireland  
Phone: +353-21-452-9200  
Website: [www.maldronhotelcork.com](http://www.maldronhotelcork.com)
- 7:00 pm** Dinner is included at your hotel.



**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

**Cork – Blarney – Cobh – Cork**

<b>Breakfast</b>	Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
<b>9:00 am</b>	Depart Cork for Blarney. The drive to Blarney is approximately 15 minutes.
<b>9:15 am</b>	Arrive in Blarney.
<b>Blarney Castle</b>	Climb to the ramparts of Blarney Castle to kiss the famous Blarney Stone, promising the gift of eloquence. Time will be allowed to explore the castle grounds and shop for souvenirs at Blarney Woolen Mills.
<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch is on your own in Blarney.
<b>12:15 pm</b>	Depart Blarney for Cobh. The drive to Cobh is approximately 45 minutes.
<b>1:00 pm</b>	Arrive in Cobh. Formerly known as Queenstown, Cobh was the final port of call for the Titanic. Enjoy time at your leisure to explore this charming harbor village on Ireland's southern coast.
<b>Cobh Heritage Center</b>	Entrance is included at the Cobh Heritage Center, a museum honoring the Irish who emigrated between 1848 and 1950. Of the 6 million people who left Ireland during this period, over 2.5 million departed from Cobh, making this the single most important port of emigration.
<b>4:00 pm</b>	Depart Cobh for Cork. The drive to Cork is approximately 45 minutes.
<b>Free Time</b>	Enjoy time at your leisure this afternoon in Cork. You may choose to visit the English Market, a roofed food market that has experienced trade since 1788, one of the oldest municipal markets of its kind in the world. Be sure to stroll through Oliver Plunkett Street and St. Patrick's Street.
<b>7:15 pm</b>	Depart your hotel for the short transfer to dinner this evening.
<b>7:30 pm</b>	Dinner is included with the companion tour at the Imperial Hotel.
<b>Irish Ceili</b>	Gather at the Imperial Hotel for an energetic evening of entertainment with Irish dancers and live, traditional Irish music. The word "ceili" originally referred to a gathering of neighbors for an enjoyable time dancing, singing, and storytelling.



**Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

**Cork – Kilkenny – Dublin**

- Breakfast** Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
- 9:00 am** Depart Cork for Kilkenny. The drive to Kilkenny is approximately two hours.
- 11:00 am** Arrive in Kilkenny, home to a magnificent 13<sup>th</sup> century castle high on the banks of the River Nore.
- Kilkenny Castle** Visit Kilkenny Castle, a 13<sup>th</sup> century castle remodeled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands. This was once the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830s splendor, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery. Staggered entrances times are required here given the size of the group.
- Lunch** Lunch is on your own.
- ♪ 2:00 pm** Perform for the public at Kilkenny Castle (weather permitting).
- 4:30 pm** Depart Kilkenny for Dublin. The drive to Dublin is approximately 90 minutes.
- Dublin** Arrive in the capital city of the Republic of Ireland. The city was founded by Vikings on the banks of the River Liffey more than 1,000 years ago. Today, the thriving metropolis is full of history and culture.
- 6:00 pm** Check into your hotel. Your Gateway Tour Manager will assist with check-in.
- Maldron Hotel**  
Nass Road, Brideswell Commons  
Dublin 22, Ireland  
Phone: +353-1-464-0140  
Website: [www.maldronhotelnewlandscross.com](http://www.maldronhotelnewlandscross.com)
- 7:00 pm** Dinner is included at your hotel.



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**Thursday, March 16, 2017****Dublin – Belfast – Dublin**

<b>Breakfast</b>	Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
<b>8:30 am</b>	Depart Dublin for Belfast. The drive to Belfast is approximately two hours.
<b>Titanic Belfast</b>	Belfast is the birthplace of the Titanic. Visit “Titanic Belfast,” an exhibition with over nine galleries highlighting the story of the Titanic. You will learn about its conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, the construction and launch, its maiden voyage and sinking. The exhibition takes you beyond the sinking to the discovery of the wreck. The Ocean Exploration Centre gives visitors a look into 21 <sup>st</sup> century technologies that now help to make ships safer.
<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch is on your own.
<b>♪ 2:00 pm</b>	Perform for the public at Titanic Belfast (weather permitting).
<b>3:00 pm</b>	Take a tour of Belfast including an explanation of the recent history and The Troubles, a period of ethno-political conflict and violence which took place in Northern Ireland from the late 1960s until the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. See the city hall as well as the Protestant Shankill Road and Catholic Falls Road.
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Depart Belfast for Dublin. The drive to Dublin is approximately two hours.
<b>7:00 pm</b>	Dinner is included at your hotel.

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**Friday, March 17, 2017 – Happy St. Patrick’s Day!****Dublin**

<b>Breakfast</b>	Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
<b>♪ St. Patrick’s Day Parade</b>	Today is one that you will long remember, St. Patrick’s Day in Dublin. The DeKalb High School Marching Band will perform in the Dublin St. Patrick’s Day Parade, with over 500,000 people lining the parade route. Today everyone is Irish and the color green is everywhere!
<b>Lunch</b>	A boxed lunch is included after the parade.
<b>Free Time</b>	Enjoy time at your leisure.
<b>Dinner</b>	Dinner is included at your hotel.



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**Saturday, March 18, 2017****Dublin – Dublin**

- Breakfast** Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
- 9:00 am** A guided tour of Dublin includes the Georgian squares with their colorful “Doors of Dublin” and a visit to St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, one of the most famous books in the history of the world. Completed around 800 AD, the vellum (calfskin) manuscript contains transcriptions of the four biblical Gospels, lavishly illustrated and ornamented.
- Lunch** Lunch is on your own.
- Free Time** Enjoy time at your leisure. During your free time, you may wish to wander around Temple Bar, an area that still maintains its winding medieval streets. You can also visit one of the many large city parks in the area or talk a walk down Grafton Street, Ireland’s largest pedestrian mall.
- 5:00 pm** Dinner is included at your hotel.
- 🎵 8:00 pm** Participate in a joint concert with the Finglas Concert Band in Dublin.

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**Sunday, March 19, 2017****Depart Dublin – Arrive Chicago**

- Breakfast** Full Irish breakfast is included at your hotel.
- 8:00 am** Transfer to the airport for your return journey.
- 8:30 am** Arrive at Dublin Airport.
- 11:30 am** Depart Dublin. A meal will be served on your flight.

**Flight Group 1 – 111 seats**

Date	Day	From	To	Airline	Flight	Depart	Arrive
3/19	SUN	Dublin (DUB)	Chicago (ORD)	Aer Lingus	123	11:30 am	3:10 pm

*Flight numbers and schedules are subject to change.*