

# Celtic Routes...Celtic Roots

September 30 – October 8, 2018

*A Pilgrimage to Ireland and the Isle of Iona, Scotland*



Iona Abbey

First Presbyterian Church of New Bern, NC  
Group Leader: Rev. Lloyd Griffith

## Some Highlights

- City of Dublin Tour
- Christ Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Trinity College – The Book of Kells
- Glendalough monastic settlement
- High Crosses of Monasterboice
- Five days on Isle of Iona....*A Thin Place*

## Land Only Price

Group Size	Earlybird Rate <i>Part 1 deposit</i> by Sept 10, 2017	Regular Rate <i>deposit after</i> Sept 10, 2017	<i>Rates are per person sharing twin/double room</i>
14	4295	4495	<i>Single supplement - \$480, subject to availability (to be paid at same time as deposit)</i>
18	3995	4195	
24	3795	3995	<i>Price subject to change due to currency exchange fluctuations and changes in rate of government taxes.</i>

## Price will include:

- All coach travel
- Airport and city center transfers on Day 1
- Ferries and tolls
- Professional guides
- Entrance fees: historic sites
- Tipping for waitstaff etc
- Entertainment as shown
- Portage at hotels
- Services of tour manager
- UK sales tax (VAT at 20%)
- 8 hotel nights
- 8 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 7 dinners

## Not included:

Flights - Airport transfer Day 9 - Beverages - Optional pre tour hotel-night - Driver tip - Personal items

**Arrival in Dublin and Tour Departure:** This is a *land only* tour and begins on what is shown as “Day 1”. Travel arrangements prior to that (and after the tour) are at your own discretion. You may choose to fly in the previous day, allowing for a good night’s sleep before the pilgrimage begins and avoiding any risk of missing the tour departure due to flight delays. We can arrange accommodation for anyone who wants to arrive ahead of the tour (or stay on afterwards) and may be able to obtain preferential rates for you. Should you want to take advantage of this, it must be paid for with the March 2018 instalment. This payment is not part of your tour price and is non-refundable. The nominated hotel will be the city pick up point on Day 1.



*St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin*

**Accommodations:** Iona: St Columba Hotel – a very comfortable place, known for its excellent food and beautiful surroundings. In Ireland and Glasgow – good three or four star hotels

**Confirmation:** The group will be confirmed if we receive bookings and *Earlybird part 1 deposits* for at least 14 full rate participants no later than September 10, 2017.

**Payment Schedule:**

Earlybird

- Earlybird Part 1 deposit of \$195 by Sept 10, 2017
  - Earlybird Part 2 deposit of \$800 by Nov 18, 2017 (when single supplements must also be paid in full)
- Please note: Earlybird booking provides a discount of \$200. It also allows the deposit to be made in two payments. The total Earlybird deposit is \$995.*

Regular

- Deposit of \$1195 paid at date of booking (when single supplements must also be paid in full)

Then balances to be paid by everyone

- One half of balance by March 4, 2018
- Remaining balance by June 3, 2018

Anyone registering for the tour after March 4, 2018 – payment in full required at time of booking - subject to additional charge and availability

Checks should be made to:

*The First Presbyterian Church*, 400 New St, PO Box 1069, New Bern, NC 28560 Attn: Iona Pilgrimage.  
Phone: 252.637.3270 Fax: 252.637.4494

**Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you obtain adequate insurance coverage.

**Cancellation:**

<i>Time prior to departure:</i>	<i>Cancellation Fees:</i>
Up to 91 days.....	deposit
75 - 90 days.....	50% of tour cost
61 – 74 days.....	60% of tour cost
15 - 60 days.....	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days.....	100% of tour cost

**Scotus Tours Ltd:**

Rev. Jim Wallace  
Tel – from USA - 011 44 757 6071743  
Email – office@scotustours.com  
Web – scotustours.com

Scotus Tours Ltd., 21 Durley Dene Crescent,  
Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, PH2 9RD, Scotland, UK



Rev. Lloyd Griffith

**Group Leader:** The Reverend Lloyd Griffith serves as the Parish Associate of First Presbyterian Church in New Bern, NC. He is a graduate of Duke University and Duke Divinity School and holds a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition, he received a Certificate in Spiritual Formation at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He is a teacher in the contemplative tradition and has facilitated numerous retreat groups, including several pilgrimages to Iona.

**Lloyd writes:** *Pilgrimage is a call to see life afresh in the face of the unavoidable changes we face. It is a long-standing practice in the Christian Tradition that invites us to clarify our inner stirrings and keep the way open to recover the integrity of our own inner depths. A pilgrimage is different from a vacation. A tourist goes on vacation to see interesting places and relax. A pilgrim, on the other*

*hand, makes an intentional journey to a site of religious significance with an openness to experiencing the sacred dimension of the place and its possible applications to his or her life.*

*This pilgrimage is an invitation to join a committed community, all at different places on the spiritual journey, as we seek together the presence of God’s Spirit in our ordinary lives. Our adventure will include opportunities to visit some wonderfully significant sites and meet interesting people. We will engage in daily prayer, regular gatherings, mutually respecting and sharing the unknown way the Spirit is working within each of us, as well as time alone or with a companion as we seek to be open to the Spirit’s leading. **No prerequisite experience required;** we will all be learning of the Spirit’s manifestations as we travel and share together.*

*Our travels will begin with a journey to Ireland as we explore its deep influence on Celtic Spirituality. Immersing ourselves in this new culture helps free us from preconceived and perhaps deeply rooted notions, opening our hearts and minds to deeper mysteries of life. Our final destination is the Isle of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. This little island has been a “thin place” that has attracted spiritual pilgrims for thousands of years. The rugged beauty and deep quiet of this island is a perfect setting for peaceful walks and hikes, inspiring daily worship in the Abbey, warm conversations, visits to local galleries, and quiet reflections on our own. Awakening to the perception of a deeper presence in our events and encounters can profoundly empower our lives.*

**Pilgrimage Arrangements** are being handled in Scotland by Rev. Jim Wallace, director of Scotus Tours Ltd. Jim is a minister of the Church of Scotland and has extensive parish experience both in Scotland and the PC(USA). He now works full time preparing and managing tours of Scotland for US church groups.



Rev Jim Wallace

**An invitation:** *I had the pleasure of touring with Rev. Lloyd Griffith and his group last year. Planning a 2018 pilgrimage, Lloyd has persuaded me to set out on a new venture for Scotus Tours – a trip to Ireland. (Well....I guess I did not take much persuasion!) I’m delighted to be working with Lloyd again, hoping to meet friends who were in the last group and new folks who will join. I hope you can take part in this Celtic journey and be enriched by it. See you in Dublin! *Jim Wallace**





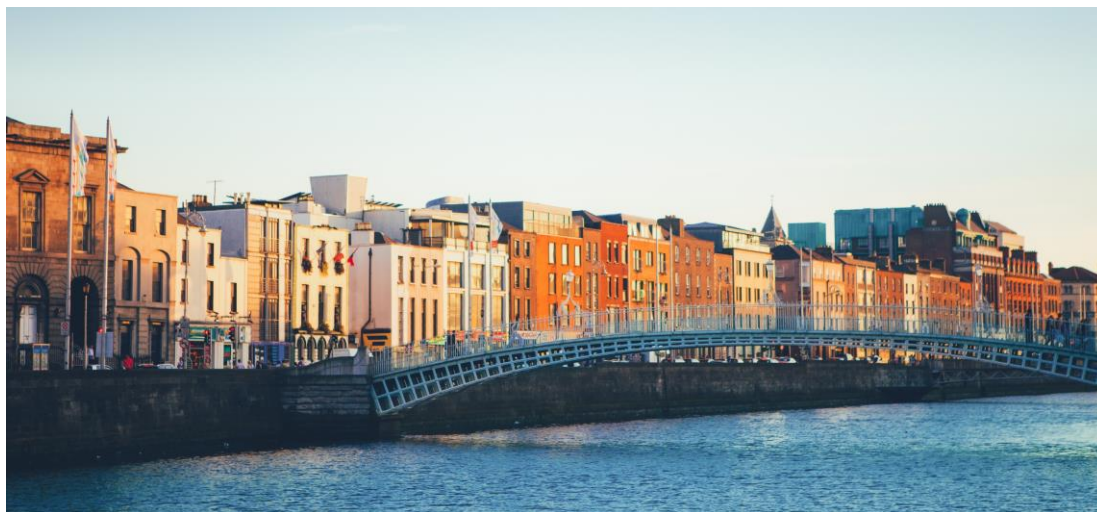
## Our Itinerary

**Pre-Tour Day: Saturday, September 29** - You may choose to leave the US today, flying overnight and arriving at Dublin airport (DUB) to begin your pilgrimage tomorrow. Alternatively you may travel earlier and spend this night in Dublin (recommended). We can reserve rooms at the tour hotel for anyone who wants to arrive in advance. *This day does not form part of the tour and is not included in the tour price. Overnight – crossing the Atlantic / in Dublin (nominated hotel or a place of your choice)*

**Day 1: Sunday, September 30 and Day 2: Monday, October 1** - Our tour begins in Dublin, setting aside time for Sunday worship. An orientation to the city is provided by a professional guide and we make visits to Christ Church and St Patrick's Cathedral. We also spend time at Trinity College where we see the Book of Kells. We take a trip to Glendalough, an early Christian monastic settlement founded by St Kevin in the sixth century.

*Sunday - Meals included  
– lunch, dinner  
Overnight – Dublin*

*Monday - Meals included  
– breakfast, dinner  
Overnight – Dublin*



*Ha'penny Bridge, Dublin*

**Day 3: Tuesday, October 2** - Our journey takes us north from Dublin. We pause near Drogheda to see the High Crosses of Monasterboice, some of the finest examples of this type of Celtic carving. We'll do more sightseeing on the way. If time permits we may get to the North Antrim coast to see the Giant's Causeway. From there we head to Larne to catch an evening ferry over to Scotland.

*Meals included – breakfast; lunch      Overnight – Glasgow*

**Day 4: Wednesday, October 3** - We journey from Glasgow to Oban via the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond. The ferry takes us to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Then we board our coach again for the ride across Mull to Fionnphort where another ferry completes our journey to Iona.

***Evening of Day 4 (October 3) through Morning of Day 8 (October 7) – On Iona*** – This part of the pilgrimage is under the direction of your group leader. Accommodation and meals as shown have been arranged for you at the lovely St Columba Hotel.

Daily program: breakfast – worship in the Abbey – gathering for prayer and planning – pilgrim time for exploring the Abbey, art galleries and island, becoming more open to our spiritual journey and receptive to God's vision for ourselves and our lives as a community – dinner – gathering for prayer and group reflection – evening worship in the Abbey

*Meals included – breakfast and dinner each day      Overnight – Iona (4 Nights)*

**Day 8: Sunday, October 7 – Back to the Mainland** - We return to the mainland via the ferries and the Isle of Mull. From Oban we drive down to Glasgow, reaching our hotel for dinner.

*Meals included – breakfast; dinner      Overnight – Glasgow*

**Day 9: Monday, October 8 – Departures** - Departures after breakfast. *Meals included – breakfast*

*The above program is a fair representation of the proposed tour but is subject to change at the discretion of Scotus Tours*