



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

IRELAND IN BLOOM: Gardens, Castles & Coastlines

with AHS Host Keith Tomlinson

May 5–15, 2027





Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to extend a warm invitation to join the AHS from May 5–15, 2027, when Ireland is in full spring bloom, for a breathtaking journey through the country's most beautiful gardens and landscapes.

Our itinerary is designed to immerse you in the Emerald Isle's stunning gardens, awe-inspiring landscapes, and rich culture. In addition to visiting iconic public estates like Powerscourt, Birr Castle, and Kylemore Abbey, we will be invited behind the gates to see phenomenal private gardens in their owners' company. Beyond the manicured greenery and majestic scenery, our journey is enriched by visits to a medieval monastery, a Victorian castle, a Neolithic tomb, and a bustling farm.

We'll begin in the storybook village of Enniskerry, home to the grand Powerscourt Estate and its world-renowned gardens, before moving to Kilkenny, Ireland's best-preserved medieval city, also celebrated for its vibrant craft and design traditions. We'll conclude our adventure on the rugged Atlantic coast in Galway, where ancient heritage and the vibrant, music-filled streets of the Latin Quarter offer a perfect blend of old-world heritage and bohemian charm.

I am delighted that Keith Tomlinson will serve as your AHS host. With a distinguished career in public garden leadership and a lifelong passion for plants and place, Keith offers a thoughtful, globally informed lens that will deepen your experience at every stop along the journey.

You will also be accompanied by knowledgeable local guides who will bring each site to life. Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow AHS members while experiencing everything from the tranquility of a peaceful walled garden to sharing a pint in a lively local pub.

We hope you'll join us for this exceptional opportunity to explore Ireland's spectacular gardens, green landscapes, and welcoming culture. Space is limited, so I encourage you to reserve your spot early. For your convenience, a reservation form is included in the brochure

Warmest Regards,

Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO

When you travel with the AHS, you make a difference.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Céad míle fáilte (Welcome!)

Arrive independently at Dublin International Airport (DUB) by 11:15am. Meet your Dublin guide and fellow AHS travelers and transfer by private motorcoach to the four-star Summerhill House Hotel, located in Enniskerry, one of Ireland's most charming villages. Spend the early afternoon on a guided tour of the Powerscourt House and Gardens, one of Ireland's great garden treasures, featuring 47 acres of carefully curated and maintained gardens dating back to 1731. Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping within the Palladian mansion at Powerscourt or explore other areas of the garden on your own. At 3:30pm, check into your rooms and enjoy time to rest. This evening, gather for a delicious welcome dinner in the Summerhill House's Terrace restaurant offering wholesome Irish food made from locally sourced ingredients including fresh herbs grown in the hotel's kitchen garden.

Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry (Dinner)

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Green Gardens of the Wicklow Mountains

Enjoy the first of many delicious Irish breakfasts served daily at the hotel. We begin our exploration of the verdant Wicklow Mountains at the spectacular National Botanic Gardens at Kilmacurragh, best known for its conifer and rhododendron collections. A member of Kilmacurragh's horticultural team will lead an engaging walk. Enjoy tea and scones in an intimate private garden hosted by the owner, an acclaimed gardener and author. Following lunch at a delightful garden café, stroll alongside the River Vartry and admire the mixed flowerbeds of the tranquil and ever-changing Mount Usher Gardens. The evening is at leisure.

Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry (Breakfast, Lunch, Tea)

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Secluded and Seaside Gardens of Dublin City

Start your morning at Airfield Estate, an exuberant farm and garden in Dublin City. The formal gardens span six acres and are composed of diverse spaces ranging from an ornamental walled garden, shade gardens and glasshouse spaces, to an extensive organic certified fruit, vegetable and edible flower garden. The gardens were first brought to prominence under the leadership of Jimi Blake whose innovative Hunting Brook Gardens we will visit on Sunday. Continue to



Gardens at Powerscourt (photo by Domenico Convertini)



Mount Usher Gardens (photo by Michael Dibb)

the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin known for its magnificent Victorian wrought-iron glasshouses that house rare plant collections from across the globe. Spend the afternoon exploring two spectacular private coastal gardens with their owners and see how they have adapted their gardens to their hillside locations. The evening is at leisure.

Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry (Breakfast, Lunch)

SUNDAY, MAY 9

From Enniskerry to Kilkenny via Russborough House

We depart Enniskerry by private coach and head towards Kilkenny, Ireland's most beloved medieval city, breaking up our drive with visits to three wondrous gardens. Our first stop is Tinode Garden, where we will meet June Blake, who will show us her contemporary three-acre garden set on the grounds of an early Victorian steward's house and farmyard. Next, we will visit June's brother Jimi's Hunting Brook Garden, consisting of five acres of contemporary exotic gardens and fifteen acres of woodland gardens and valley. After spending eleven years transforming the gardens at Airfield, Jimi moved on to create his very own dream garden. Continue to Russborough House, a beautiful Palladian-style mansion set within a 200-acre park that still contains many of its original 18th-century follies. Following lunch at the onsite café, visit this extraordinary mansion famous for its important collection of paintings, furniture, porcelain, and silver; lavish plasterwork by the Lafranchini brothers; a politically motivated art heist that rocked the Irish nation. Next, meet a volunteer from the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland and discuss the restoration and upkeep of Russborough's historic walled garden. We then continue our journey to Kilkenny, where we check in at the charming four-star Kilkenny River Court Hotel, nestled in Kilkenny's vibrant city center. The evening is at leisure.

Kilkenny River Court Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)

MONDAY, MAY 10

Mount Congreve House and Gardens

This morning, we embark on a guided walking tour through Kilkenny's lively city center, immersing ourselves in the rich history and stunning architecture of the area, including a visit to the Rothe House garden, an oasis of calm away from the hustle and bustle of Kilkenny. The garden boasts heritage varieties of many of the vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers that would have been grown in the 17th century. Following free time for lunch and shopping, venture to Mount Congreve House and Gardens for a special tour led by the Estate Director. Enjoy dinner together.

Kilkenny River Court Hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)



Russborough House Interior (photo by Lucian Serbanescu)



Kilkenny Castle (photo by Holger Uwe Schmitt)

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Arboreta and Abbeys of Kilkenny

In the company of the head gardener, visit the Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum, renowned for its restored Victorian-era gardens, extensive arboretum featuring exotic tree species, and scenic views overlooking the River Nore Valley. Pay a visit to Jerpoint Abbey, one of the best examples of a medieval Cistercian monastery renowned for its Romanesque-to-Gothic architecture, intricate stone carvings, and well-preserved cloister arcades. Then, stop for lunch in a lovely setting. We return to Kilkenny in the afternoon with the remainder of the day at leisure for individual pursuits.

Kilkenny River Court Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

From Kilkenny to Galway via Birr Castle

Today, we continue to the west coast of Ireland to the legendary city of Galway, known for its bohemian spirit and traditional music heritage. Stop at the privately owned Gash Garden, a four-acre garden oasis known for its stunning blend of vivid herbaceous borders, tranquil River Nore trail, and its “Moon House,” a unique stone cavern with a waterfall backdrop. Owner Mary Keenan, who, until recently, was the editor of Irish Garden magazine will accompany us. We continue to Birr Castle, renowned for its 120-acre award-winning botanical landscape, which features over 5,000 species of trees and plants, including the world’s tallest box hedges, planted over 300 years ago. After a relaxing lunch together, be hosted to tea and homemade cake by one of the owners of the Woodville Walled Garden, a restored 18th-century garden featuring colorful borders, established fruit trees, and a rare dovecote folly. The property once belonged to the D’Arcy family, one of the prominent Tribal merchant families of Galway. We arrive in Galway in the late afternoon, and check into the four-star Ardilaun Hotel. The evening is at leisure.

The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway (Breakfast, Lunch, Tea)

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Kylemore Abbey and the Wild Atlantic Way

Begin our unforgettable day exploring the Connemara region at Brigit’s Garden, a mystical sanctuary where four seasonal gardens bring Celtic mythology to life amidst wildflower meadows and ancient woodland. Continue our scenic drive to the majestic Ballynahinch Castle Estate. On a guided walk through its lakeside gardens, admire the dramatic backdrop of the Twelve Bens mountains. We will arrive in Clifden, the vibrant “Capital of Connemara” and have free time to soak up the town’s bohemian charm and have lunch. Drive along the Sky Road, a scenic drive that will lead us to panoramic views of Clifden Bay. The final jewel of the afternoon is the iconic Kylemore Abbey. Enjoy a guided tour of this splendid neo-Gothic castle and its magnificent Victorian Walled Garden. This six-acre oasis remains a masterpiece of heritage gardening. Return to Galway through the hauntingly beautiful Inagh Valley. The evening is at leisure.

The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway (Breakfast)



Jerpoint Abbey (photo by Greg Montani)



Victorian Walled Garden at Kylemore Abbey (photo by Antonela Kovcic)

FRIDAY, MAY 14

The Burren, a Horticulturist's Paradise

Our final day is devoted to the iconic landscape of The Burren, a horticulturist's paradise! This utterly unique limestone karst landscape with its mild winters and high humidity supports rare flora in its protective rocky "grikes" (crevices), including over 70% of Ireland's native plant species. Admire the incredible beauty of this seemingly desolate landscape on the drive to St. Tola's Goat Farm. During our farm visit, learn about sustainable farming while observing the goats grazing on acres of diverse meadowsweet and wild buttercup, visit the milking parlor, and sample a variety of cheeses to taste how the Burren's unique flora translates into world-renowned flavors. During an excursion to the iconic Poul nabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb made from massive upright stones, learn about Ireland's ancient Neolithic past, and look out for wild orchids hidden within the grikes. Our day concludes with one final meeting with the owner of a fabulous garden who will lead us through his award-winning garden featuring a large variety of native Irish water plants. Bid *slán* to Ireland over a farewell dinner in an award-winning restaurant, a fitting conclusion to our Irish adventure.

The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Departure

After one final Irish breakfast, join a group transfer to Shannon airport (SNN) and arrive by 10:30am in time to catch flights departing for the United States in the afternoon. (*Aer Lingus currently offers nonstop service to Boston at 1:45pm and New York at 2:30pm.*)

(Breakfast)



Wild Orchid in the Burren (photo by Adam Leadbetter)

AHS Host Keith Tomlinson



Keith Tomlinson, a member of the American Horticultural Society's Horticultural Advisory Committee, is a widely respected horticulturist and educator with decades of leadership in public garden management, plant conservation, and environmental interpretation. He served as the manager of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia, for over 20 years, providing leadership for the garden's development, operations, and public programming. With a background in biogeography and botany, Keith has authored numerous articles on global garden travel, plant conservation, and outdoor education. His work has been featured in publications including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he has received multiple honors, most recently the Land Ethics Award from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. A Biology Fellow at the Washington Academy of Sciences, Keith brings a global perspective to his work, having visited botanical gardens in over 45 countries.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS



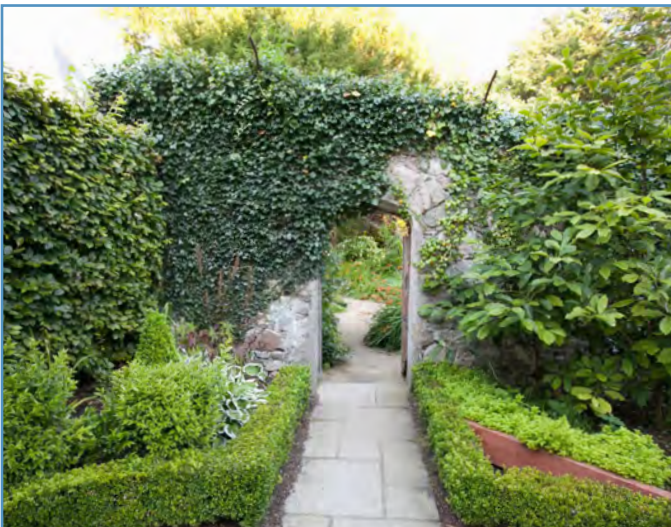
Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry

Located in the picture-perfect village of Enniskerry in the Wicklow Mountains, Summerhill House Hotel is where glamour and the countryside blend in one of Ireland's prettiest villages. Set in 5 acres of gardens, this magnificent country house hotel exudes a refined, relaxed charm. Guestrooms are traditionally decorated and provide a charming and comfortable stay. The hotel's superb location provides easy access to the finest gardens in the Wicklow Mountains and is also just 35 minutes from Dublin City and Dublin International Airport. The hotel is also home to Rainforest, an award-winning day spa.



Kilkenny River Court Hotel, Kilkenny

Situated on the banks of the River Nore in the heart of the medieval city of Kilkenny, the four-star Kilkenny River Court Hotel has an unrivalled location set in a quiet private courtyard. Kilkenny's main shopping areas, restaurants, theatres, and the 12th-century Kilkenny Castle are all just a short walk from the hotel's doorstep. The hotel's 133 spacious guestrooms, stylishly decorated and thoughtfully appointed, will ensure a restful night's sleep. Guests can dine at the award-winning Riverside Restaurant and Riverview Bar which offer beautiful settings with views of Kilkenny Castle. On warmer days the outdoor Terrace area is a popular spot due to its stunning location on the water's edge.



The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway

Formerly a country mansion, the four-star Ardilaun Hotel has been owned and operated by the Ryan family for the past 63 years and is regarded as one of the best hotels in Galway City. Nestled in Galway's sought-after Salthill residential neighborhood, the hotel features lush spacious gardens, an award-winning restaurant, and a lively bar. Guests are always very impressed with the hotel's unique seclusion while, at the same time, its easy access to the gateway of Connemara as well as to Galway City's lively center, just a mile away. Elegant guest rooms are furnished to a very high standard with soft fabrics, crisp linens, and plump pillows, and offer a harmonious blend of comfort, functionality and style ensuring a serene space for relaxation and sleep.



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Tour Information

AHS TRAVEL

This custom AHS Travel program has been created uniquely for AHS members and is offered in collaboration with International Seminar Design, Inc.

TOUR COST:

Land Package.....	\$8,095
Single Supplement	
• Double Room for Single Use at all hotels	\$995
• Single Room in Enniskerry and a Double Room for Single Use in Kilkenny and Galway.....	\$895
(There are 3 single rooms available at the Summerhill House Enniskerry, which are smaller rooms with a single twin-sized bed; available on a first come first serve basis.)	

Land Package is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 12 paying participants.

AHS TRAVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL DESCRIPTION: AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

HEALTH: At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by ISDI Travel, local staff, and host country laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,500 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on January 25, 2027, and must be paid by check or wire/ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before January 25, 2027: full refund minus the \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between January 26 and March 22, 2027: full refund minus \$4,050 per person cancellation fee (includes the registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after March 23, 2027: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or the American Horticultural Society due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS:

3 nights at Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry; 3 nights at Kilkenny River Court Hotel; 3 nights at The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway; breakfast daily, 6 lunches, 3 dinners, 2 tea breaks; 1 glass of beer or wine at included lunches, 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private coach; one group airport transfer upon arrival from Dublin Airport to Enniskerry hotel; one group airport transfer upon departure from Galway hotel to Shannon Airport; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; onsite local guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers and to servers at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; individual airport transfers for those not using the scheduled group transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided upon receipt of your registration. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.



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Registration Form

TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 ext. 1

or

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc., 5614 Connecticut Ave NW, #295, Washington, DC 20015

or by email at info@isditravel.com

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

☐ Double Occupancy

☐ I have a roommate who is registering separately. I plan to share a room with _____.

☐ We prefer separate beds.

☐ Single Occupancy

☐ I would like a double room for single use at all hotels (\$995).

☐ I would like a single room at the Summerhill House in Enniskerry and a double room for single use in Kilkenny and Galway (\$895).

☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found.

DEPOSIT (\$1,500 per person):

_____ # of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Check (make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801.

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