



Saint Patrick's Way Pilgrimage and Celtic Christianity Study Tour

July 10 - July 22, 2020

Tour Leaders: Dr. Uriah Pond & Dr. Dean Bursey

This TUCS* study tour will introduce you to Saint Patrick, the history and the myth, as we walk the 132 km Pilgrim Walk from Armagh, historically the ecclesiastical centre of Ireland, to Downpatrick, where Saint Patrick is buried. As an educational experience, this tour is intended to be both retreat and study. It will be interactive, with brief, informal lectures, the pilgrimage experience, daily reflections, and worship in the Celtic tradition. The tour is for those who wish to learn about pilgrimage by experiencing it first-hand. We will also explore

Celtic Christianity through readings and being in nature. You will see and experience new places and worship, at a pace that allows ample time for retreat and reflection.

*This study tour is a seminary course at Tyndale University College and Seminary, but open to non-students as space permits.

Uriah Pond, a retired corporate trainer, has taught at MCS and is an adjunct faculty member at TUCS. His doctoral research included pilgrimage study tours. Dean Bursey, a parish minister for 30 years, is adjunct professor of pastoral theology at MCS.

ITINERARY

Friday, July 10

Depart Toronto on overnight flight to Dublin

Saturday, July 11

Arrive Dublin, visit Trinity College where we will see the Book of Kells, before travelling north to Armagh, one of Ireland's oldest cities. (D)

Sunday, July 12

Travel to Navan, an important archaeological site with earthworks, settlement sites, and sacred places, where we begin our pilgrimage by walking 5 km back to Armagh. (B, D)

Monday, July 13

From Armagh, we walk 20 km through scenic countryside, passing Lowry Lakes and Gosford Forest to Scarva, which has award-winning floral displays and canal paths. (B, D)

Tuesday, July 14

Leaving Scarva, we walk 20 km to Newry via the Newry Canal towpath, the oldest summit-level



<https://discovernorthernireland.com/Saint-Patrick-s-Way-The-Pilgrim-s-Walk-Armagh-P49020/>

canal in Britain. (B, D)

Wednesday, July 15

From Newry, we walk 15 km to the picturesque village of Rostrevor. We will see the Cooley Mountains across Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Mountains to the northeast. (B, D)

Thursday, July 16

We begin our 2-day, 38 km walk through the Mourne Mountains to Newcastle, passing through the spectacular terrain of the Mourne foothills as we follow the Mourne Way. (B, D)

Friday, July 17

We continue our walk around Slieve Bearnagh, the fourth highest mountain in the range, and through the Tollymore Forest to Newcastle, on the Irish seacoast. This area is classified as an Area of Outstanding Beauty. (B, D)

Saturday, July 18

From Newcastle, we walk 18 km to Tyrella with fantastic views of the County Down coastline and rolling hills. (B, D)

Sunday, July 19

Leaving Tyrella and its coastal landscape, we walk the final 16 km through the rolling green farmland of Lecale to Downpatrick and the end of The Pilgrim Walk at Saint Patrick's grave. (B, D)



<https://downcathedral.org/>

Monday, July 20

After a free morning in Newcastle, where you may visit local sites on your own, we travel to Castlereagh for the night. (B, D)

Tuesday, July 21

We travel to Knock for our final pilgrimage stop at the Shrine of Our Lady, before continuing to Shannon. (B, D)

Wednesday, July 22

We fly from Shannon back to Toronto. (B)

**Tour price from Toronto is \$4,225, per person double occupancy
(Single supplement \$500)**

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip air transportation
- Breakfast (B) and dinner (D)
- 11 nights bed and full Irish breakfast at 3-star hotels
- 11 evening dinners (3 courses + tea/coffee) in hotels
- Experienced walking guide for 8 days
- Air-conditioned coach & driver for 12 days
- Local touring and sightseeing as per itinerary
- All visits and admissions listed, including Trinity College / Book of Kells, Navan Centre / Walking tour of Armagh with specialised Armagh City Walking Guide / St. Patrick's Cathedrals in Armagh

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airport taxes of approximately \$700pp
- Travel insurance
- Lunches
- Any items of a personal nature
- Tips to driver and guides

BOOKING PROCEDURE:

Please complete and sign the booking form. Send it (along with the deposit) directly to: Verstraete Travel and Cruises, anne@verstraete.com

DEPOSIT: \$1,200

The deposit is non-refundable and due at time of booking.

Your insurance premium is also due at the same time.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES**PAYABLE TO:**

Verstraete Travel and Cruises

OR E-TRANSFER:

Email: anne@verstraete.com

OR: PAYMENT BY CREDIT**CARD:**

For payment with a credit card, a one-time transaction fee of \$125 per person will be charged.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Deposit is due at time of booking, along with your selected insurance premium and credit card fee, if applicable.

Final Payment:

Due: April 14, 2020

BOOKING DEADLINE:

All reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Since we are limiting the number of participants, we recommend that you book as soon as possible.

PASSPORTS:

It is your responsibility to make sure that you have a **valid passport**. It must be valid for at least 6 months after your departure date. Canadian passport holders do not need a visa. If you are travelling with a non-Canadian passport it is your responsibility to inform our staff

so that they can advise you of entry requirements.

LUGGAGE:

Because of vehicle size, luggage is strictly limited to only one medium size bag (15 kilos) and one small daypack (carryon) per person.

CUSTOMIZATIONS:

Due to small group size, we are unable to accommodate individual customizations, such as alternate travel requests.

PRICING:

All prices are based on minimum group size, current exchange rates and supplier quotations. If significant changes take place due to circumstances beyond our control, we reserve the right to adjust the prices.

MINIMUM GROUP SIZE: 15**MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE: 20****CANCELLATION:**

If you must cancel, you are required to inform Verstraete Travel & Cruises in writing. The cancellation penalty is based on the date your cancellation is received. Cancellation penalties are:

Deposit: Non-refundable

As of April 14, 2020, the full amount is non-refundable.

We highly recommend purchasing the All-inclusive insurance. The rates are outlined on the Booking Form.

FINAL ITINERARY & TRAVEL DETAILS:

It is anticipated that all the final details will be included in the travel documents and distributed 21 days before

departure. Due to the nature of the tour program we reserve the right to make changes and substitutions when necessary.

REFUNDS:

Refund requests must be received in writing within 60 days of the date of the cause of cancellation. Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

UNUSED TOUR ARRANGEMENTS:

Portions of tour arrangements, or any other service or feature of the package which are not used are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Verstraete Travel & Cruises, hereinafter called 'Operator' and/or its agents and suppliers of the services, assume no responsibility for injury, death, damages, loss or delay incurred by any person in connection with the tour, or by reason of any event beyond the control of the Operator, or loss occasioned by neglect, default, strike, war, hostility, civil disturbance or resulting directly, or indirectly, from acts of God. The Operator reserves the right to withdraw any or all packages at any time should conditions warrant, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a participant, to alter and/or cancel the itinerary whenever the Operator deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the members of the tours. Verstraete Travel & Cruises reserves the right to make any and all changes at any time due to circumstances beyond its control.