



Absorb the vibe of Ireland's picturesque villages, its rich heritage, breathtaking natural landscapes: Giant's Causeway, Burren, Connemara and the Ring of Kerry.

*Graham Ross*  
Graham Ross AM



## SCENIC GARDENS OF IRELAND



7 - 21 JULY 2025

Ireland's mild climate has endowed an extraordinary collection of gardens. Our itinerary includes the best Irish gardens; grand public estates & exclusive & intimate private sanctuaries. Stay in Belfast, Galway, Killarney, Cork, Waterford & Dublin.





## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 MON 7 JUL HOME TO BELFAST (D)

Meet your Tour Leader Colin Barlow & fellow travellers tonight at our Welcome Dinner in your hotel.

**The Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast**

### DAY 2 TUE 8 JUL MOUNT STEWART (B)

To the stunning estate of Mount Stewart, County Down. Guided tour of the Manor & its suite of gardens. Like its maker, Edith Lady Londonderry, it is flamboyant & fun. Then visit the new King Charles Coronation Garden in Hazelbank Park designed by Diarmuid Gavin.

**The Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast**

### DAY 3 WED 9 JUL ROWALLANE GARDEN (B)

Morning visit to Rowallane, where Rev. John Moore started making his estate in 1858. His nephew sponsored the plant hunters, with many exciting new plant introductions from China. Afternoon visit to the Titanic Belfast to discover the sights, sounds & stories of the ship.

**The Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast**

### DAY 4 THU 10 JUL BELFAST TO GALWAY (B/D)

To the Giant's Causeway, a magnificent geological formation on the famous Causeway Coast. Then a short stop in Athlone, founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. on the River Shannon. Arrive in Galway & check in to our hotel. Dinner included tonight.

**The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway**

### DAY 5 FRI 11 JUL KYLEMORE ABBEY (B)

Morning city tour of Galway then we visit Kylemore Abbey. This iconic castle enjoys a fairytale garden with one of the largest walled gardens in Ireland, a model of Victorian horticulture. Discover the Connemarra this afternoon, a place of legend, folklore & profound beauty.

**The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway**

### DAY 6 SAT 12 JUL THE BURREN (B/D)

To Killarney across the historic Burren region of County Clare. Meet plantsman, Carl Wright in his Caher Bridge Garden. Follow the Burren Way to Doolin to see the Cliffs of Moher, then on to Killarney. Check in to our hotel for 2 nights with dinner included this evening.

**Aghadoe Heights Hotel and Spa, Killarney**

### DAY 7 SUN 13 JUL RING OF KERRY (B)

Explore the bewitching Ring of Kerry, a circuit of the Iveragh Peninsula. It's a place of wild excess, with the sandstone flanks of Ireland's tallest mountains, the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, pleated & folded by glaciers, that descend into lush valleys.

**Aghadoe Heights Hotel and Spa, Killarney**

### DAY 8 MON 14 JUL KILLARNEY TO CORK (B/L/D)

To Cork with a stop in Glengarriff where we take a ferry across Bantry Bay to Garinish Island & Inacullin off the coast of West Cork. Continue to Cork, check in to your hotel in the city centre. Dinner included this evening in your hotel.

**Imperial Hotel, Cork**

### DAY 9 TUE 15 JUL HILLSIDE GARDEN (B/L)

First stop is Mary Byrne's Hillside Garden, situated on a south facing slope, enclosed by woodlands overlooking Cork Harbour. Special lunch today at Ballymalloe Cookery School with a guided tour of the kitchen gardens & organic farm.

**Imperial Hotel, Cork**

### DAY 10 WED 16 JUL CORK TO WATERFORD (B/D)

To Waterford with a stop at Blarney Castle with a guided tour of the gardens. Visit the House of Waterford Crystal then check into your hotel in the city centre. Free afternoon. Dinner included this evening.

**Marina Hotel, Waterford**

### DAY 11 THU 17 JUL WATERFORD TO DUBLIN (B/D)

Meet Rachel Darlington this morning in her fabulous Douentza Garden in Wexford. Heading to Dublin this afternoon with a visit to Powerscourt, grand in the high Victorian tradition, with a fascinating history that reads like an Edwardian novel. Check in to your hotel in the city centre with dinner included.

**The Grafton Hotel, Dublin**

### DAY 12 FRI 18 JUL PATTHANA GARDEN (B)

Meet TJ Maher in his ground-breaking Patthana Garden in Kiltegan, County Wicklow. There's a lot happening here; a lower cobbled courtyard with its potting shed & sunken meditation room. Patthana gardens organically with many plants chosen for their attraction to wildlife. Guided city tour this afternoon includes the National Botanic Garden.

**The Grafton Hotel, Dublin**

### DAY 13 SAT 19 JUL HUNTING BROOK GARDEN & JUNE BLAKE GARDEN (B/L)

Siblings with different attitudes to garden making. First Jimi Blake who doesn't play by the rule book. "I like to be bold, adventurous & unexpected." Then June Blake whose garden is pure poetry, abundant & exuberant. Lunch included.

**The Grafton Hotel, Dublin**

### DAY 14 SUN 20 JUL HOWTH PENINSULA (B/D)

2 exciting gardens today at Howth. First is Ardan, a dynamic & ever evolving garden terraced to create a series of intimate spaces. Afternoon visit to Medina Garden which stands testament to nature's resilience. Return to Dublin for our Farewell Dinner.

**The Grafton Hotel, Dublin**

### DAY 15 MON 21 JUL END OF TOUR (B)

Tour finishes after breakfast this morning.

## DETAILS

- Tour escorted by Colin Barlow
- Air-conditioned motorcoach
- Deluxe accommodation - 14 nights
- Breakfast daily, 3 Lunches & 7 Dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing including Mount Stewart, Rowallane Garden, Titanic Belfast, Giant's Causeway, Kylemore Abbey, Burren Nature Sanctuary, Canore Bridge Garden, Waterford Crystal, Cliffs of Moher, Garinish Island, Ballymalloe Cookery School, Blarney Castle, Douentza Garden, Powerscourt Gardens, Pattahna Garden, Hunting Brook & June Blake Gardens, Trinity College & Book of Kells, Hillside, Ardan & Medina Gardens.

## PRICE

- Twin Share land only \$14,495 pp
- Single Supplement \$3,695
- All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers.
- Tip: fly to Dublin & transfer to Belfast for more direct flight options. We can help.
- Refer to Ross Garden Tours standard terms and conditions.

## DISCOUNTS

- Earlybird \$300 - Pay by 20/12/24
- Previous Traveller \$100
- Garden Clinic Member \$50

## TOUR LEADER

### COLIN BARLOW

Colin is a popular Ross Tour Leader. His passion for horticulture fuels his love of travelling. He is a great communicator; radio, television and magazines. And his love of all things Irish makes for an unforgettable experience.



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OR CONTACT 1300 233 200 [travel@rosstours.com](mailto:travel@rosstours.com)

