

University of Galway Retired Staff Association Travel
Turas de chuid Agallamh na Seanórach in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe



Top: Carlingford Castle, Hillsborough Castle; Hillsborough garden. Middle: Ballymacscanlon Hotel; the hotel's 18-hole golf course; Kilkeel. Bottom: the hotel's main restaurant, street in Carlingford; Slieve Gullion and Magherabawn

**Historic Carlingford, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Tullyally Castle,
Lisburn, Slieve Gullion, the Mourne Mountains, and golfing opportunities
6th to 8th October 2026**

**Cairlinn Stairiúil, Caisleán agus Gairdíní Bhaile an Hilligh, Caisleán Thulach an Eallaigh,
Lios na gCearrbhach, Sliabh gCuillinn, na Beanna Boirche, agus deiseanna gailf
6-8 Deireadh Fómhair 2026**

Join us for a 3-day, 2-night break based in County Louth, with visits to **Carlingford**, described as the prettiest village in Ireland, with its Castle and other historic sites, and two neighbouring areas of outstanding natural beauty in the **Mourne Mountains** and **Slieve Gullion**. We will travel further north to **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**, and will visit **Lisburn's Irish Linen Centre and Museum**. On our outward journey we will visit **Tullyally Castle**. On our return journey, we will have an early dinner in a Michelin-recommended restaurant in Athlone.

Members of the RSA are welcome to invite family and friends to join them for this tour.

Bígí linn ar thuras trí lá (dhá oíche) go na háiteacha thuasluaite. Beimid lonnaithe i gContae Lú, agus tabharfaimid cuairt ar **Chairlinn** (an sráidbhaile is gleoite in Éirinn, a deirtear, lena Chaisleán agus láithreacha stairiúla eile) agus ar dhá cheantar fíorálainn in aice láimhe, na **Beanna Boirche** agus **Sliabh gCuillinn**. Rachaimid níos faide ó thuaidh go **Caisleán agus Gairdíní Bhaile an Hilligh**, agus tabharfaimid cuairt ar **Ionad Línéadaigh na hÉireann agus an Músaem i Lios na gCearrbhach**. Ar an turas amach tabharfaimid cuairt ar **Chaisleán Thulach an Eallaigh**. Ar an turas abhaile, beidh dinnéar luath againn i mbialann atá molta ag Michelin i mBaile Átha Luain.

Tá fáilte roimh bhaill Agallamh na Seanórach cuireadh a thabhairt dá gclann agus dá gcairde teacht leo ar an turas seo.

We will be staying two nights in the 4-star **Ballymacscanlon Hotel and Golf Resort** a short distance from Newry and Carlingford, with dinner included on the first night. There will be opportunities for golf enthusiasts to try out the hotel's **18-hole golf course** (par 68), designed by Ruddy and Crannock and set in fine parkland with views of the Mourne Mountains. There is also a **20-metre indoor pool with spa amenities**, and **extensive gardens**, where two megalithic tombs can be viewed.

COST

€395 pp sharing a double room (**€790** per couple), or **€508** for one person occupying a small double room.

Meals are included in this price except for lunch each day and dinner on Day 2. Optional golf must be booked separately with the hotel and is not included. Use of the swimming pool, padel courts and Leisure Centre is included. Anyone who chooses to spend the morning of Day 3 availing of the hotel's amenities instead of taking the tour of Carlingford, will receive a refund of €15.

BOOKING

Numbers are limited by the size of the coach. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to members whose payment of €790 (per couple) or €508 (for a single) is received by 3rd September 2026.

You may pay in either of these ways:

1) by Credit Transfer to Agallamh na Seanórach, IBAN No. IE05 BOFI 9040 1814 5589 29. Please include your name on the payment.

OR

2) by making a cheque payable to Agallamh na Seanórach and sending it to Rosaleen Carroll, 3 Dalysfort Road, Salthill, Galway H91 R8WF.

Please ensure that one of the following has your contact details.

Rosaleen Carroll, rosaleencarroll@gmail.com

Patsy Clancy, patsyclancy@gmail.com

Jane Conroy, jane.conroy@universityofgalway.ie

Please see the full itinerary below.

Beimid ag fanacht dhá oíche sa **Ballymacscanlon Hotel and Golf Resort**, óstán ceithre réalta gar don lúir agus do Chairlinn, agus an dinnéar don céad oíche san áireamh. Beidh deis ag lucht gailf triail a bhaint as **galfchúrsa 18-poll** (par 68) an óstáin, arna dhearadh ag Ruddy agus Crannock agus lonnaithe i bhfearann páirce a bhfuil radharc ar na Beanna Boirche uaidh. Chomh maith leis sin, tá linn **20-méadar laistigh le háiseanna spá** agus **gairdíní fairsinge**, áit a bhfuil dhá thuama meigiliteach le feiceáil.

COSTAS

€395 an duine do bheirt a roinnfidh seomra dúbailte (**€790** don bheirt), nó **€508** do dhuine i seomra dúbailte beag.

Tá na béilí san áireamh sa phraghas seo, ach amháin an lón gach lá agus an dinéar ar an dara lá. Ní mór dóibh siúd ar mhaith leo an deis ghailf a thapú, rud nach bhfuil san áireamh sa phraghas seo, áirithint ar leith a dhéanamh leis an óstán. Tá úsáid na linne snámha, na gcúirteanna padel agus Ionad Fóillíochta an óstáin san áireamh. Déanfar aisíoc €15 le héinne a roghnaíonn maidin Lá 3 a chaitheamh ar leas a bhaint as áiseanna an óstáin seachas dul ar thuras Cairlinne.

ÁIRITHINT

Tá spásanna teoranta ag líon na suíochán ar an mbus. Dáilfear iad orthu siúd is tuisce a dhéanann áirithint roimh 3 Meán Fómhair le híocaíocht €790 nó €508.

Is féidir íocaíocht a dhéanamh i gceachtar de dhá shlí:

1) le haistriú creidmheasa chuig Agallamh na Seanórach, IBAN No. IE05 BOFI 9040 1814 5589 29. Bíodh d'ainm leis an íocaíocht, le do thoil.

NÓ

2) seic iníoctha le hAgallamh na Seanórach a sheoladh chuig Rosaleen Carroll, 3 Dalysfort Road, Salthill, Galway H91 R8WF.

Déan cinnte, le do thoil, go mbeidh do shonraí teagmhála ag duine díobh seo a leanas:

Rosaleen Carroll, rosaleencarroll@gmail.com

Patsy Clancy, patsyclancy@gmail.com

Jane Conroy, jane.conroy@universityofgalway.ie

Tá sonraí an turais tugtha thíos.

Itinerary

Day 1, 6th October

- 8.15: Leave by coach from the **Archway**, University of Galway. Boarding will begin at 8.00.
- 9.30: Stop for tea/coffee and a scone at **Creggan Court Hotel**, Athlone.
- 10.30: Leave Athlone to travel to Tullynally, Co. Westmeath.
- 11.45: Guided tour of **Tullynally Castle**, home to the Pakenham family for over 350 years.
- 13.30: Leave Tullynally to go to nearby Castlepollard.
- 13.45: Lunch in the Bar & Bistro in **Castle Varagh Hotel** (not included).
- 15.00: Leave Castlepollard to travel via Kells, Ardee and Dundalk to the **Ballymacscanlon Hotel and Golf Resort**.
- 16.30: We will arrive at our hotel with time to settle in, walk in the gardens, or check out the Leisure Centre and golf course.
- 19.00: Reception.
- 19.30: Dinner (three course, à la carte) in the Proleek Restaurant in our hotel (included).

Day 2, 7th October

- 9.15: Leave our hotel for Hillsborough, travelling via Magherabawn and the **Slieve Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**.
- 10.30: Arrive at **Hillsborough Castle**. It is recommended that we be there 30-40 minutes before our visit of the Castle begins. Our coach will drop us at the Castle Forecourt.
- 11.00: The visit of the Castle begins promptly. Most visitors spend about 40 or 50 minutes there. Guides are on hand to bring to life the story of lives led, and exceptional moments witnessed there over two and a half centuries. We can then walk down from the Castle to the Visitor Centre to have lunch (not included). The café there has plenty of food options. We can walk in the gardens before or after lunch.
- 14.00: Leave Hillsborough for the short journey to Lisburn.
- 14.15: Visit **Lisburn Museum and Irish Linen Centre**, with exhibitions on the history of linen in Ireland, on 250 years of Lisburn's connections with North America, on local history, and on 1798.
- 16.00: Travel back to our hotel. If the weather is suitable, we will take the scenic route via the **Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, skirting the Mourne Mountains on the seaward side and returning along the north coast of Carlingford Lough via Kilkeel, Rostrevor and Warrenpoint. We should be back at our hotel by about 18.15. If conditions are not good for viewing scenery, we will take the direct route back to the hotel, arriving at about 16.45.

Evening: Dinner (not included). We should each make our own booking. The hotel has two dining options. The Proleek Restaurant is open from 6 pm, with its last sitting at 9 pm. The Terrace Bar's dining menu is available from 12 midday until 9 pm.

Day 3, 8th October

- 9.15: Leave our hotel to visit historic Carlingford, just 20 minutes away. Anyone who would like to remain at the hotel to play golf or avail of its other amenities will be collected at 15.10 for the return journey.
- 10.00: Visit of Carlingford, including a guided tour of Carlingford Castle and time to explore the town's other historic sites and attractive streets.
- 13.00: Leave Carlingford, travelling along the south side of the lough, via Greenore, and down to Jenkinstown.
- 13.30: Lunch in **Fitzpatrick's Bar and Restaurant** (not included).
- 15.00: Leave Fitzpatrick's to return to the hotel (5 minutes away) to collect any members of our group who did not come to Carlingford.
- 15.15: Leave the Ballymacscanlon Hotel to travel to Athlone for dinner.
- 18.00: Dinner in Michelin-recommended **Thyme Restaurant** (included).
- 20.45: Return to Galway, arriving at the **Archway** by about 22.00 or 22.30.

The following bookings should be made directly with the hotel:

- time slots for golf, at the resident's rate of €22 for 9 holes, €32 for 18 holes.
- dinner on the second evening (7th October).