



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Limited to
just 15 participants

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

June 9 - 24, 2018 (16 days) with archaeologist Stephen Mandal



“The small group added so much to the experience. The tour leaders were excellent in personality and knowledge and helped us understand the history of Ireland.” – Jim, Florida

Trim Castle

© Andrew Parnell

Amidst the natural beauty of Ireland's landscapes (especially in June) are monuments and archaeological sites that attest to an extraordinary prehistoric, ancient, and medieval legacy. Join this bespoke, exclusive, 14-night program and experience the most comprehensive tour of Ireland's ancient east, including two nights in Northern Ireland, led by a charming and informative Irish study leader/archaeologist and an expert trip manager. Special guest experts will meet us at various places along the way to provide further insights. Round-trip from Dublin, we will travel to the Early Christian monastery of Glendalough, the medieval city of Kilkenny, and through the heart of the Boyne Valley to see the prehistoric passage tomb complexes at Newgrange and Knowth, the seats of the High Kings at Tara and Navan Fort, the Giant's Causeway coast, and much more. Stay at comfortable, elegant hotels, and savor fabulous food throughout. This trip is limited to a maximum of just 15 travelers.

ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

Saturday, June 9, 2018: Depart Home

Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Dublin.

Sunday, June 10: Arrive Dublin, Ireland

Upon arrival in Dublin, you will be met at the airport and brought to our hotel. After a light lunch, take a private, guided tour of the National Museum of Ireland with the museum's former Assistant Keeper, Eamonn (Ned) Kelly. Of particular note in the collections are the Brighter Hoard, Tara Brooch, Ardagh Chalice, Derrynaflan Hoard, and a number of bog bodies. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the city on your own. Gather this evening for a welcome talk by your hosts, a reception, and dinner. *Overnight at the Herbert Park Hotel for two nights.* (L,D)

"This year's tour was even better, and I look forward to going yet again. Each time is an exceptional experience!"

– Donna, California

Monday, June 11: Dublin

Take a guided walking tour of Dublin this morning. Founded as a Viking settlement, the Kingdom of Dublin became Ireland's principal city following the Norman invasion. The city expanded rapidly from the 17th century and was briefly the second largest city in the British Empire before the Acts of Union in 1800. Following the partition of Ireland in 1922, Dublin became the capital of the Irish Free State, later renamed Ireland. After lunch (under your own arrangements), join us to visit Trinity College, to see the famous 9th-century Book of Kells that is on exhibit in the 18th-century library. The evening is at leisure. (B)

Tuesday, June 12: Dublin | Glendalough | Wexford

Depart Dublin and cross the Wicklow Mountains to the iconic, 7th-century monastery at Glendalough, set in a beautiful U-shaped glacial valley at the side of a lake. Visit the wonderful interpretive center and explore the monastery's ruins. Continue on to our hotel in Wexford, a charming town that was founded by the Vikings in about A.D. 800. *Overnight at the Clayton Whites Hotel for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 13: Wexford | Tintern Abbey | The Hook Lighthouse | Wexford

This morning we drive the short distance to Tintern Abbey, a Cistercian abbey founded ca. 1200, where surviving ruins include parts of the nave, chancel, tower, chapel, and cloister. Continue southwards to the Hook, the oldest operational lighthouse in the world (at over 800 years old), in a dramatic setting. After lunch we continue our exploration of the peninsula, before returning to Wexford for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

Thursday, June 14: Wexford | Ferrycarrig | Wexford

Today we travel a short distance to the Irish National Heritage Park in Ferrycarrig, a 35-acre, open-air museum that re-creates key stages in Ireland's past. The park depicts 9,000 years of Irish history, from the prehistoric through Norman periods, and features various structures typical of each period. A key component of the park is the archaeological



Above, the ruins of the Tintern Abbey, founded ca. 1200 by William, the Earl Marshall. Below, The Hook Lighthouse, the oldest operational lighthouse in the world.



research and teaching excavations at the Ferrycarrig ringwork by the Irish Archaeology Field School. Visit the site and meet the archaeologists, led by Dr. Denis Shine, and learn first-hand about the latest discoveries. Return to Wexford for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

Friday, June 15: Wexford | Knockroe | Kilmogue | Kilkenny Castle | Kilkenny

This morning we visit Knockroe, one of the lesser-known but highly important Neolithic passage tombs, in the company of Prof. Muiris O'Sullivan, a former Chair of Archaeology at University College Dublin who excavated the site. Also visit the impressive Kilmogue portal dolmen (single-chamber megalithic tomb) before continuing on to the medieval city of Kilkenny, where we have lunch at a local hostelry. Kilkenny is small and compact enough to explore on foot, yet full of fascinating historical buildings and contemporary shops, design galleries, and restaurants. We will tour the city and visit one of Ireland's most instantly recognized buildings, Kilkenny Castle, built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century (and remodelled in Victorian times), set in extensive parklands. This evening, attend a lecture by Prof. O'Sullivan before dinner at our hotel. *Overnight at the Newpark Hotel for two nights.* (B,L,D)



Above, the Rock of Dunamase, originally settled in the 9th century. Below, the ruins of the monastery at Glendalough. Bottom, Newgrange with one of its engraved kerbstones.

“The sites, leaders and guides were enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. A country full of history and lovely landscapes. A perfect combination.” – Ruth, Ontario, Canada

Saturday, June 16: Kilkenny | Seir Kieran | Kells Priory | Kilkenny

Prof. O'Sullivan joins us again this morning for an excursion into the heart of the Irish Midlands to visit the ancient church of Seir Kieran which, in ancient times, was a burial place of the kings of the ancient kingdom of Ossory. Today, pilgrims continue to carry out stations at St. Kieran's Well and at St. Kieran's Bush and Stone on his feast-day (March 5th). Prof. O'Sullivan has undertaken considerable research at the site, which is currently the focus of a community heritage project being led by the Irish Archaeology Field School in partnership with the local community. After lunch at a local restaurant we return to Kilkenny, stopping along the way at the 12th-century Kells Priory, one of Ireland's largest medieval monuments. The most impressive features of the Augustinian priory are the tower houses and enclosing walls (of an area just over three acres) that give the priory the appearance more of a fortress than of a monastery. (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 17: Kilkenny | Rock of Dunamase | Trim

This morning travel northwards to the Rock of Dunamase, which held a significant place in Ireland's medieval past. Archaeological excavations indicate that the Rock was first settled in the 9th century when a hill fort was built, and Dunamase came to prominence after the Anglo-Norman invasion in the second half of the 12th century. After a picnic lunch on the rock (weather permitting), continue on to the town of Trim, once Ireland's medieval capital and today one of her most prominent heritage towns, boasting more upstanding medieval ruins than any other town of its size in Ireland. Take a stroll around town before dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at the Trim Castle Hotel for three nights.* (B,L,D)



Monday, June 18: Trim | Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange & Knowth) | Hill of Tara | Trim

Set out this morning for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Brú na Bóinne and explore the exhibits at the Visitor Centre. Then visit the 4th-millennium B.C. megalithic passage tombs at Newgrange and Knowth. Newgrange is the largest passage mound in Europe, and encloses an astronomically aligned, 20-yard-long inner passage leading to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. (The illumination of the passage and chamber at the winter solstice sunrise is world famous.) The Great Mound at Knowth is similar in size to Newgrange and surrounded by 18 smaller satellite mounds; both sites contain the finest megalithic art in Europe. After an independent lunch at the Visitor Centre we set out for Boyne Valley Wools, a traditional wool craft shop with a flock of Jacob sheep where one can experience the process of spinning wool. Our final visit of the day will be to the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara. Its Mound of the Hostages (a passage tomb) was constructed ca. 3000-2500 B.C., and in the early Christian period Tara was the political and religious center of Ireland. The evening is at leisure. (B)

Tuesday, June 19: Trim | Loughcrew | Trim Castle | Trim

Start the day with a visit to Loughcrew's stunning complex of more than 30 passage tombs. The backstone of the chamber in Cairn T is illuminated by a beam of light at sunrise on the spring and autumnal equinoxes. The tomb is accessed up a quite steep but beautiful walk into the hills, and it is possible to enter and view the spectacular megalithic art inside. After lunch at a local café, return to Trim for a guided tour of



the 12th-century, twenty-sided, Trim Castle, Ireland's largest and best preserved Anglo-Norman castle. At dinner we are joined by Dr. Michael Potterton (National University of Ireland, Maynooth), an author and expert on medieval Trim, who will give a short lecture. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 20: Trim | Carlingford | Proleek | Dundalk

Depart Trim this morning and travel northward to the seaside town of Carlingford for a tour of the town's most important medieval buildings. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit the magnificent, Neolithic Proleek portal dolmen, with its 44-ton capstone, before continuing on to our hotel in Dundalk. The evening is at leisure. *Overnight at the Carrickdale Hotel & Spa.* (B,L)

Thursday, June 21: Dundalk | Navan Fort, Northern Ireland | Giant's Ring | Belfast

Today we drive to Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, and visit Navan Fort, once the ancient capital and seat of the Kings of Ulster. The Fort is a large, circular, earthwork enclosure believed to be a pagan ceremonial site, and artifacts uncovered at the ring barrow show activity during the late Bronze and early Iron Ages. After lunch we continue northeast to the capital city of Belfast. After settling in at our hotel, visit the spectacular Giant's Ring, a circular enclosure that is 6.9 acres in area and surrounded by an 11-foot-high, earthwork bank. *Overnight at the Stormont Hotel Belfast for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Friday, June 22: Belfast | Giant's Causeway | Tievebulliagh | Belfast

Travel through the beautiful landscape of the northern coastline to the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site comprising 40,000 basalt polygonal columns that were formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. After an independent lunch at the visitor's center, continue on deep into the glens of County Antrim to visit the Tievebulliagh axe factory. A clear powerhouse in Neolithic Europe, this factory and its sister factory on Rathlin Island, off the coast of north Antrim, account for over half of the more than 21,000 known stone axeheads found in Ireland. The axes were made from a highly unusual rock type known as porcellanite, and have been identified throughout Britain and in mainland Europe. A major focus of your study leader's doctoral research, you could not ask for a better guide for a very special off-the-beaten-track site visit. Return to Belfast for an evening at leisure. (B)

Saturday, June 23: Belfast | Portmarnock, County Dublin, Ireland

This morning we return to the Republic of Ireland and check in to our hotel in the seaside town of Portmarnock, on the north side of Dublin. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure, until we gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner. *Overnight at Portmarnock Hotel.* (B,D)

Sunday, June 24: Dublin | Fly Home

Transfer to Dublin Airport for independent flights homeward. (B)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

LECTURER & HOST



Dr. Stephen Mandal is an expert on the Irish landscape, its archaeology, history and geology. On completion of his Ph.D. in Geoarchaeology (Trinity College, Dublin) he spent two years as a post-doctoral research fellow and lecturer in the Archaeology Department, University College Dublin. He co-founded the multi-award winning Blackfriary Community Archaeology Project, which received funding under the AIA's Site Preservation program, and has recently co-founded community heritage projects in Ferrycarrig and Seir Kieran, both of which you will visit on this tour. Stephen has served as Vice Chairperson of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Archaeology (2009-2014); as External Examiner to Sligo Institute of Technology (2012-2015); and on a European committee to review cultural heritage tourism across the European Union (2013). He is a professional member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, the

Institute of Geologists of Ireland, and the European Federation of Professional Geologists. Stephen has undertaken research on many of the sites that you will visit on this tour, including the Hill of Tara, Newgrange, and Trim. He is a standing international guest speaker for the AIA's national lecture program. Stephen has a wealth of experience in communicating geology, archaeology, and history at all levels, and on this AIA tour he will assist you in viewing the Irish landscape from the perspective of the people who lived there in the past.



Above, the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site consisting of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns. Below, Proleek Portal Dolmen with its 44-ton capstone. Below, two of the Passage Tombs at Knowth.



"Steve was great fun, extremely knowledgeable, and provided cohesive understanding of all these various sites."

– Linda, California





What to Expect

This unique itinerary has been carefully planned to include eastern Ireland's most important archaeological and historical sites. The program is paced to optimize time at each site and to limit travel between destinations. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by a companion who will be available to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. All accommodations are in 4-star hotels chosen for their charm and proximity to the sites we visit. A full Irish breakfast is included each morning. For the few lunches and dinners on your own, there are fine restaurants conveniently located nearby, and Dr. Stephen Mandal and our tour manager will be available to offer suggestions and assist with your arrangements. Average temperatures in June range from the mid-60s F during the day to mid-40s F at night, with a fair chance of precipitation. Our office will provide you with comprehensive pre-departure information, including packing suggestions, and is available to assist you in preparing for your journey.

Air Arrangements

Airfare from/to home is not included in the tour cost. Group transfers (times TBA) are provided upon arrival on June 10th and departure on June 24th. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact AIA Tours first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

The Archaeological Institute of America & the AIA Tours Program

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

To make a reservation please contact us:



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Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (12-15 participants).....	\$8,495
Double Occupancy (8-11 participants).....	\$8,995
Single Supplement	\$1,095

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability). With fewer than 8 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

PRICES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of Lecturer & Host Dr. Stephen Mandal
- Accommodations in four-star hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- Most meals included: 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 9 dinners
- Services of a professional, local tour manager/guide throughout
- All sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, weather permitting
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation by air-conditioned motorcoach, including bottled water, parking fees, highway tolls, and local taxes
- Baggage handling (one bag per person)
- Gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff and porters
- Gratuities to the tour manager/guide and drivers
- Group airport transfers upon arrival on June 10th and for departure on June 24th (times TBA)
- Complete pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide and packing suggestions

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic and other beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION FEES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of three hundred dollars (\$300) per person. Cancellations received between one hundred nineteen (119) and ninety (90) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per person. Cancellations received between eighty nine (89) and sixty (60) days prior to departure subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total tour cost per person. Cancellations received within fifty nine (59) days of departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. **Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. (An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.)**

Prices, itinerary, leader, and guest experts are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to EOS-Passenger Account-AIA EastIreland6/18. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

OTHER SELECT
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Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya

January 27 - February 9, 2018 with Jeff Karl Kowalski



This extraordinary tropical adventure provides the best-paced itinerary available to explore ancient Maya sites in the lush jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Explore the sites of Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Tikal, Copán, Yaxhá and Quiriguá; with free time to bird watch or relax and enjoy our comfortable hotels and remote jungle lodges. Limited to just 12 participants.

Pyramids & Temples of Yucatan

February 17 - 25, 2018 with Virginia Miller



This luxurious winter holiday provides a week-long adventure exploring the sun-drenched Yucatan's ancient sites such as Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Ek Balam, Dzibilchaltun, and Labna. Bird watch, shop for crafts, and relax at our comfortable resorts (two nights at Chichen Itza and three nights each at Merida and Uxmal). Limited to just 12 participants.

Absolute Egypt

March 10 - 26, 2018 with Stephen Harvey



Our meticulously-planned itinerary, featuring premium accommodations and a deluxe, 3-night Nile River cruise, includes all the preeminent sites of the pharaohs from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan. Highlights include the stunning tombs of Seti I and Nefertari, and a day trip to Abu Simbel. Limited to just 12 participants.

Iran: The Ancient Land of Persia

April 4 - 19, 2018 with Andrew Moore



In addition to the dazzling cities of Tehran, Shiraz, and Isfahan, visit (twice) ancient Persepolis, one of the most spectacular surviving archaeological sites; discover the Sasanian religious center of Takht-e Soleiman; Pasargadae, location of the first Persian capital; Yazd, one of the last strongholds of Zoroastrianism; and much more. Limited to 20 participants.

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Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

April 19 - 29, 2018 with Ian Tattersall



Discover with acclaimed paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall many unheralded examples of Ice Age art in Spain and France. Highlights include the original decorated caves of Isturitz and Oxocelhaya, Niaux, Bédouilhac, and Gargas; plus the newly-opened Chauvet cave replica. Enjoy fine food and accommodations while an expert trip manager handles all the logistics. Limited to 20 participants.

Israel: Treasures of the Holy Land

May 17 - 29, 2018 with Eric Cline



This custom-designed itinerary highlights the kaleidoscope of Israel's archaeological riches. Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites on this well-paced tour, with six nights based in Jerusalem. Highlights include Masada, Megiddo, Beit Shearim, Bethlehem, Caesarea Maritima, Qumran, the Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee, and Jerusalem's Israel Museum. Limited to just 14 participants.

Undiscovered Greece: Macedonia to Epirus

May 19 - June 1, 2018 with Kathleen Lynch



Admire up-close legendary Mt. Olympus, the monasteries atop karst pinnacles at Meteora, and tranquil Lake Ioannina; and savor three days at a luxury spa/resort in the rugged, remote Pindus Mountains. Explore the ancient sanctuary at Dodoni; Amphipolis, where a Macedonian tomb is being excavated; the royal tombs and golden treasures at Vergina, and more. Limited to just 12 participants.

Hiking Scotland's Inner & Outer Hebrides

August 1 - 11, 2018 with Rod McCullagh



Take daily hikes, visiting fascinating sites and remote villages on the Isles of Staffa, Iona, Mull, Skye, Harris, and Lewis. Highlights include the prehistoric standing stones of Callanish, Iron Age Dun Carloway, and Iona's monastery of St. Columba. Limited to just 15 participants.