



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

LIMITED SEATING
Limited to
12 participants

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

June 11 - 21, 2017 (11 days) with archaeologist Stephen Mandal



“The leaders and guides were exceptional, the sites incredible, the hotels great, and the food was absolutely the best. An exceptional experience!” – Donna, California

Trim Castle

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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, nine-night program and experience the most comprehensive tour of Ireland's Ancient East, 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.

Starting in the southeast corner of Ireland, in the former Viking strongholds, travel to the Early Christian monastery of Glendalough, then the medieval city of Kilkenny, and into the heart of the Boyne Valley to see the prehistoric passage tomb complexes at Newgrange, the seats of the High Kings at Tara and Navan Fort, and the Giant's Causeway coast. Stay at four- and five-star hotels, and savor fabulous food. This trip is limited to a maximum of 12 travelers.

ITINERARY

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

Sunday & Monday, June 11 & 12, 2017: Depart Home | Arrive Dublin, Ireland | Glendalough | Kilkenny

Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Dublin, arriving on June 12th. You will be met at Dublin airport and from here you will 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. From here you will be transferred to your hotel in Kilkenny, where you will meet your tour leaders. Take a guided tour this afternoon of the medieval town and one of Ireland's most instantly recognized buildings, Kilkenny Castle, built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century (remodelled in Victorian times) and set in extensive parklands. *Overnight at the Lyrath Hotel for three nights.* (L,R,D)

"Stephen was excellent, knowledgeable and so willing to share. It was like travelling with a friend."

– Henry, Kentucky

Tuesday, June 13: Kilkenny | Tintern Abbey | The Hook Lighthouse | Knockroe Passage Tomb | Kilkenny

This morning we drive the short distance to Tintern Abbey, a Cistercian abbey founded ca. 1200, where several important ruins survive, including parts of the nave, chancel, tower, chapel and cloister. Continue southwards to the Hook, a spectacular lighthouse (the oldest operational one in the world, at over 800 years old) in a dramatic setting. After lunch, visit one of the lesser known but highly important Neolithic passage tombs at Knockroe, in the company of Muiris O'Sullivan, a former Professor of Archaeology at University College Dublin who excavated the site. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 14: Kilkenny | St. Mullin's Monastery & Fort | Barrow Walk | Jerpoint Park | Kilkenny

Continue our exploration of the region today, beginning with the Early Christian monastery at St. Mullin's. Founded in the 7th century, this site boasts the first recorded plan of a monastery in Ireland. An abbey was built at the site in later centuries, but remnants of the fabric of the early monastery survive and are dramatically overlooked by a motte and bailey castle, the remnants of a late 12th-century Anglo-Norman fort. Take a walk along a stretch of the River Barrow, then return to Kilkenny, stopping at Jerpoint Park, in the shade of the Cistercian Abbey of Jerpoint. The park is an engaging reconstruction of medieval life. (B,L,D)



Above, the ruins of the Tintern Abbey, founded ca. 1200 by William, the Earl Marshall. Below, St. Mullin's Monastery & Fort, founded in the 7th century.



Thursday, June 15: Kilkenny | The Rock of Dunamace | Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange & Knowth) | Carlingford

Depart Kilkenny and travel northwards to the Rock of Dunamace, which held a significant place in Ireland's medieval past. Archaeological excavations indicate the Rock was first settled in the 9th century when a hill fort was built, and Dunamace came to prominence after the Anglo-Norman invasion in the second half of the 12th century. After a picnic lunch, drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Brú na Bóinne, where we enjoy the Visitor Centre's wonderful exhibits. Prof. Muiris O'Sullivan will join us again as we 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 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. Then drive northwards to our charming country house hotel in the medieval town of Carlingford. *Overnight at the Ghan House Hotel.* (B,L,D)



Above, the Rock of Dunamace, originally settled in the 9th century. Below, the ruins of the monastery at Glendalough. Bottom, the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns.

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

Friday, June 16: Carlingford | Navan Fort | Armagh | Belfast

Depart for Northern Ireland, stopping at the magnificent Proleek Dolmen, a Neolithic portal dolmen with a 40-ton capstone, and journey northwards to Navan Fort, once the ancient capital and seat of the Kings of Ulster and associated with many myths and legends. The Fort is a large, circular, earthwork enclosure believed to be a pagan ceremonial site, and it encompasses both a ring barrow and large mound. Afterwards, take a short drive to the town of Armagh and visit the impressive twin Cathedrals, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland, standing on opposing high ground. Continue northeast to the capital city of Belfast, where we should have some free time before dinner. *Overnight at the Belfast Hotel or similar for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 17: Belfast | Tievebulliagh | Giant's Causeway | Belfast

This morning we travel north, 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 are 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. After lunch we travel through the beautiful landscape of the northern coastline to the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre. At this UNESCO World Heritage site, comprising 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption, explore the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture, and social history. The evening is at leisure in Belfast. (B,L)



Sunday, June 18: Belfast | Loughcrew, Ireland | Hill of Tara | Fourknocks | Trim

Depart Belfast this morning and start our return journey southwards back to the Republic of Ireland. Our first stop is the stunning complex of over 30 passage tombs at Loughcrew. At Newgrange, the illumination of the passage and chamber at the winter solstice sunrise is world famous. Less well known is that the backstone of the chamber in Loughcrew's 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. Continue on to the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara, which has been an important site since the Neolithic Period. 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. Our final stop of the day is at Fourknocks, a true hidden gem: a large passage tomb with stunning artwork, tucked into the landscape down a small country road, accessed with a key held by a local family. Check in to our hotel in Trim and get settled before gathering for dinner. *Overnight at the Knightsbrook Hotel for two nights.* (B,L,D)



Monday, June 19: Trim | The Blackfriary Excavations | Boyne Valley Wools | Trim

Take a gentle morning walk through Trim, once Ireland's medieval capital and today one of Ireland's most prominent heritage towns, boasting more upstanding medieval ruins than any other town in Ireland. The town is dominated by the 12th-century, 20-sided Trim Castle, Ireland's largest and best preserved Anglo-Norman castle, which we will venture inside to learn more about life here in the 12th and 13th centuries. Continue walking to the multi-award winning Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project, co-founded by your study leader, which was awarded recognition and funding under the AIA's Site Preservation Program. Focused on the ruins of a Dominican Friary founded in the 13th century, the project consists of two main components: the preservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage through excavation within the framework of a comprehensive research program, and facilitating the creation of a space in which this can be interpreted and enjoyed by present and future generations. Meet the excavating archaeologists, and visit the post-excavation facilities to see what has been discovered and the processes used to record artifacts and findings. After lunch, travel into the heart of the Boyne Valley to visit Boyne Valley Wools, a traditional wool craft shop just a stone's throw from the Neolithic monuments of Brú na Bóinne. Here you will see the flock of Jacob sheep and visit the craft studio where you can experience the process of spinning sheep's wool. At dinner we will be joined by expert on medieval Trim Dr. Michael Potterton (National University of Ireland, Maynooth), who will give a short lecture on Trim's medieval history. (B,L,D)



Above and below, ongoing excavation at the Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project, supported by the AIA's Site Preservation Program. Bottom, a panoramic view of Knowth.

Tuesday, June 20: Trim | Dublin | National Museum | Trinity College | Dublin

Depart Trim for Dublin and take a private, guided visit of the National Museum of Ireland with the museum's former Assistant Keeper, Eamonn (Ned) Kelly. Of particular note in the collections are the Broighter Hoard, Tara Brooch, Ardagh Chalice, Derrynaflan Hoard, and a number of bog bodies. After an independent lunch, choose to either spend the afternoon at leisure or join us to visit Trinity College, where the famous 9th-century Book of Kells is on exhibit in the 18th-century library. Gather this evening for a celebratory farewell dinner. *Overnight at O'Callaghan Stephen's Green Hotel.* (B,D)



Wednesday, June 21: Dublin | Fly Home

Transfer to Dublin Airport for return flights home. (B)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
LECTURER & HOST



Dr. Stephen Mandal is an expert on the Irish landscape, its archaeology, history and geology. The AIA's Site Preservation program awarded funding for the medieval Blackfriary in Trim, an initiative of Stephen's Irish Archaeology Field School and Cultural Tourism Ireland. (You will visit the site on June 19th.) 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. 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.

"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-and 5-star hotels chosen for their charm and proximity to the sites we visit. A full Irish breakfast is included each morning. For the one lunch and one dinner 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 are provided upon arrival on June 12th and departure on June 21st. 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.

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.

To make a reservation please contact us:



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

800-748-6262

Toll: 603-756-2884 Fax: 603-756-2922

PO Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608

Email: aia@studytours.org Website: www.aiatours.org

Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (8-12 participants).....\$7,395

Single Supplement\$945

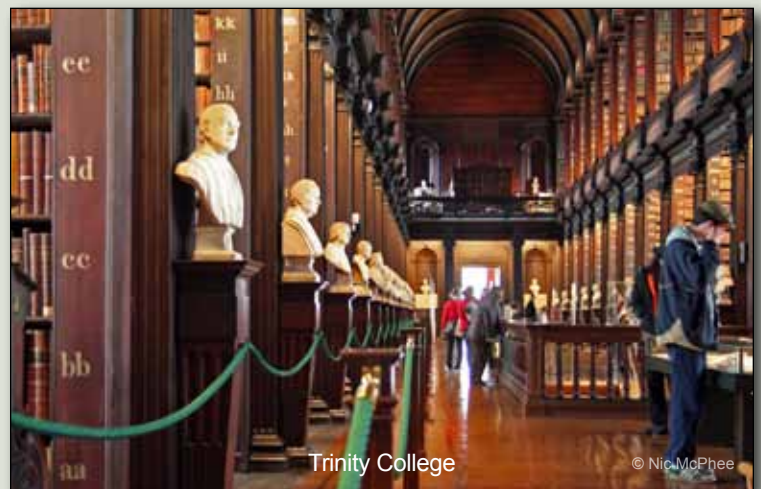
Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

PRICES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of Lecturer & Host Dr. Stephen Mandal
- Accommodations in four- and five-star hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- 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 two air-conditioned mini-buses, 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 12th and for departure on June 21st (based on 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 PENALTIES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least one hundred (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of three hundred dollars (\$300) per person. Cancellations received between ninety (90) and one hundred nineteen (119) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per person. Cancellations received between sixty (60) and eighty nine (89) days prior to departure subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total tour cost per person. Cancellations received within sixty (60) 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.)***





IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST



June 11 - 21, 2017 (11 days) with archaeologist Stephen Mandal

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org

Name 1: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (h) _____

Phone (w) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a Non-smoker Smoker

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. **Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.** All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA EastIreland6/17

Visa Master Card American Express

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

Archaeological Institute of America Tours

P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

Fax: 603-756-2922 • aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions on the reverse.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Terms & Conditions

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 nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter "Operator") assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that the AIA bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. **AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY: RELEASE:** Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.