

AMELIA DALTON^{LTD}

TRAVEL



Unhurried, Vibrant & Utterly Charming *The ROMANCE of the EMERALD ISLE*

An exploration of luxuriant gardens, magnificent mansions, & ever-changing views on board the luxurious Belmond *Grand Hibernian Train*.

"... a delicious way of travelling, capsules of pampered splendour" Peter Hughes

Dry, with abundant spring and early summer flowers reaching their peak, vibrant fuschias line the roads and world-famous gardens sing with colour. In late May, we visit the magnificent **Palladian** mansion of **Castletown**, the world-famous gardens of **Huntingbrook**, the **Powerscourt** Estate and **Mount Usher**, set amongst the velvet green hills of Wexford before the charms of an **old-fashioned journey by sumptuous train**. Unstinting hospitality, dinners of local ingredients – scallops, halibut and venison – are a delight as the rails unroll across the Emerald Isle to the wild Atlantic coastline of the **Cliffs of Moher**, the bustling literary town of **Galway** and **Westport**, elegant and Georgian.



Sat 25th MAY: Dublin

Transfer* to the **Cliff at Lyons** set in the country just outside Dublin, this is a delightful rural hotel. We dine in the conservatory under the giant fig tree on dishes inspired by their kitchen garden.



Sun 26th MAY: CASTLETOWN COX, HUNTINGBROOK GARDENS & POWERSCOURT

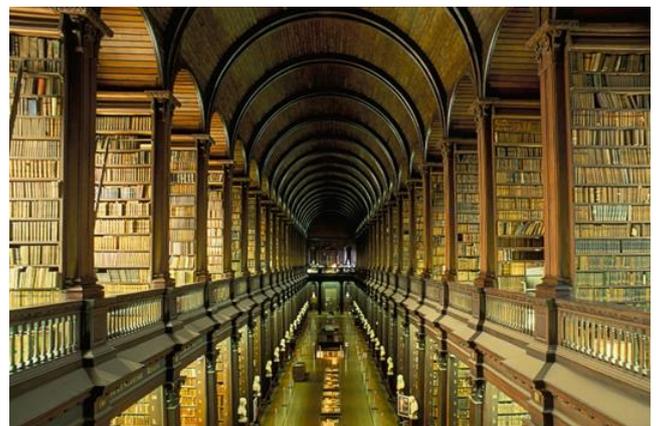
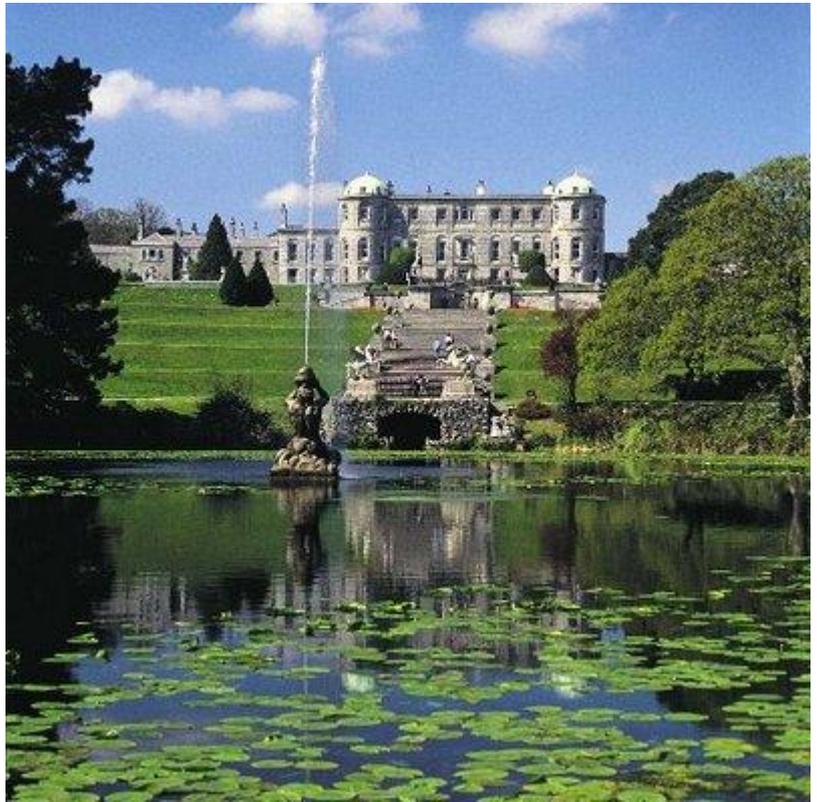
Departing after breakfast, we visit the glorious 18th century **Palladian mansion of Castletown**, designed by the Florentine architect Galilei, this is one of the grandest houses in Ireland where the central house is connected to the flanking pavilions by colonnades. Amongst the many magnificent rooms we visit, will be the **Red Drawing Room** with its beautiful lacquer cabinet, the **Long Gallery**, fascinating **Print Room** and impressive **State Bedroom**.

A light lunch in the café, precedes our meeting with **Jimi Blake** at **Huntingbrook**. A star of **Chelsea Flower Show** and **BBC Gardeners' World**, Jimi will take us round his gardens. With five acres of herbaceous borders, terraces and woodland gardens: **Huntingbrook** is well-known for Jimi's dynamic and innovative approach. Later, we drive through the beautiful **Wicklow Hills** to the grand hotel within the estate at **Powerscourt** with dinner tonight at the hotel.



Mon 27th MAY: POWERSCOURT & MOUNT USHER

The dramatic **Powerscourt Gardens** are spectacularly situated at the foot of the **Great Sugar Loaf Mountain**. Here you are free to choose amongst the many different gardens - the secluded **Dolphin Pond**, the delightful **Italian Garden** or the tranquil **Oriental Garden** vibrant with Spring azaleas- all await you, the choice is yours. Late in the morning we move on to the sheltered valley of **Mount Usher** to arrive in time for lunch in the charming café. Described by **Monty Don** as his "**favourite garden**" and "**endlessly beguiling**" we have a private tour of these superb world-famous gardens before a returning to Powerscourt. Dinner will be where you wish: choose to dine in the hotel's bar or restaurant, or perhaps at one of the many cheerful Irish pubs. the nearby villages of **Bray** or **Enniskerry**.



Tues 28th MAY: DUBLIN & The Belmond Grande Hibernian TRAIN

After breakfast we go into **Dublin** itself with a morning for you to explore where you wish. Historic **Trinity College** holds the breath-takingly illuminated **Book of Kells**, whilst the **Chester Beatty Library** houses a superb collection of artworks. Museums, cathedrals and the **Guinness warehouse** all offer you plenty of choice as well of course as the lively street life and bars, restaurants of the town itself.



In mid afternoon we embark on the beautiful **Grand Hibernian Train** to travel west in great style and comfort to Ireland's west coast. **(Please see below for train details)**. A sumptuous afternoon tea introduces us to life on board while the train weaves through lush landscapes to **Cork**. Arriving in early evening, we visit **Jameson's** famous 'still' room for a nip or two of whiskey before a leisurely dinner on board. Enlivened by dinner, entertainment in the **Observation Car** will complete this first stylish day on the train.

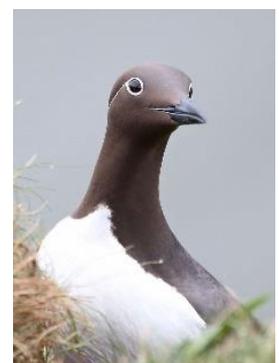
WED 29TH MAY: Charleville - Cork - Killarney

Travelling south during breakfast we arrive for a private tour at **Blarney Castle** and coffee at a special spot in the magnificent grounds. Lunching as the views and countryside slip by, the train journeys west through emerald hills towards **Killarney**. This afternoon we clip-clop along in a traditional jaunting car through the beautiful national park to scenic **Ross Castle** before a leisurely boat trip around the islands of the lake. After a delicious dinner on the train, local musicians will entertain us with some cheerful Irish tunes.



THURS 30th MAY: Killarney – Limerick Junction - Galway - Athlone

This morning you may choose to relax on board as the train travels north towards Galway, or alternatively disembark after breakfast to visit to the dramatic **Cliffs of Moher**. Towering some 650 feet above the Atlantic, the cliffs' ledges will be teeming colonies of nesting seabirds at this time of year. Lunch will be in the **Norman trading port** of **Galway** at a restaurant focusing on local specialities. After lunch, we can stroll the winding streets of this once-walled city, alive with Irish colour, or have a go at playing the bodhran (Irish drum) and learn an Irish jig. After a busy day, we dine in comfort and style en route to **Athlone**, where the train also rests overnight.





FRI 31ST MAY Athlone – Westport.

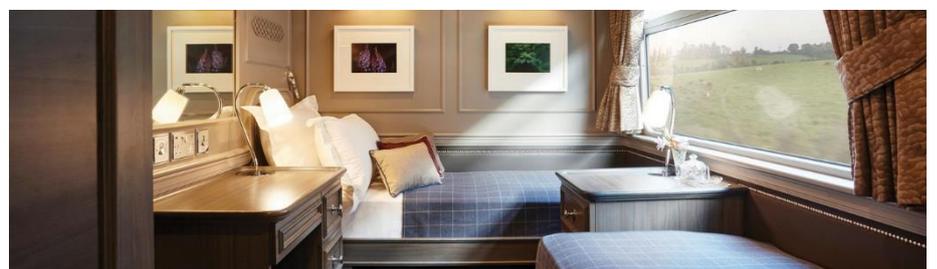
By breakfast time we reach the **Georgian town** of **Westport** to choose whether we join our fellow passengers to lunch at Ashford Castle, or take an **Amelia Dalton Exclusive** and tour **Connemara**. A scenic drive, via **Croagh Patrick, Louisburgh, Doolough Valley, and Delphi** takes us to the still-active romantic **Abbey of Kylemore**. Tucked under the slopes of the **Twelve Bens**, the **Gothic Revival Fantasy** was built by a Manchester tycoon for his wife: trees were planted, orchards and walled gardens created along the shores of **Kylemore Lough**. We have a guided tour before lunch and, if time allows a stroll around the pretty village of **Leenane** scenically located on a what is Ireland's only fjord. A 45 minute drive returns us to our travelling home, for a final evening of cocktails and delicious dinner on board the train.



SAT 1ST JUNE: Dublin

Breakfast is served as we end our journey in Dublin and transfer* to the airport.

The **BELMOND GRAND HIBERNIAN Train** is neither a 'heritage', nor a formal train. And while the scrupulous detailing of the interiors - **panelling, cornices, engraved mirrors, fluted architraves** - may echo Dublin's Georgian architecture, the discreet carpets, checked tweed fabrics and aubergine corridors are decidedly contemporary. Ten carriages all polished like limousines, are liveried in midnight blue and silver: their conversion into a sleeper train for 40 passengers took most of **Belmond's £8 million** investment.



Original windows are big, but those at the end of the airy **Observation Car** have been made even bigger – this is the social cocoon from which to relish the countryside rolling by while enjoying unstinting hospitality. Cabins can be double or twins with a desk-cum-dressing table, wardrobe, en-suite shower and loo. **There is no trouble sleeping with quality bedlinen plus the train is 'stabled' at rural platforms overnight.**

HOTELS pre train.

The Cliff at Lyons, County Kildare: is a restored tiny village of late 18th century buildings transformed into a charming hotel, nestling on the banks of the Grand Canal 30 minutes from Dublin. The 'village' includes a mill, dovecote and walled garden. Our 'Lilypond' rooms are modern in feel with en suite marble bathrooms.



Powerscourt Hotel & Spa: in the grounds of this rolling Estate and within the sweeping uplands of County Wicklow, we will have top-notch service and facilities at this beautiful, grand but not stuffy hotel. Our courtyard-view rooms are spacious with generous beds, marble bathrooms and ESPA toiletries.



Saturday 25th May – Saturday 1st June 2019
Cost EUR 5,760 per person, based on 2 sharing a room/cabin.
Being Eur 500pp less than the train alone.

Cost includes: Pre TRAIN:

- Hotels as mentioned, or similar quality, with Continental breakfast, taxes and service charges
- meals as mentioned (2 lunches, 2 dinners with ½ bottle of wine pp)
- entrance fees and visits as mentioned in the itinerary – subject to change if conditions dictate.
- transfers from and to Dublin airport connecting only with designated flights TBA.
- private transport as mentioned in the itinerary
- gratuities to restaurants, guides and drivers
- services of tour leader



ON BOARD THE GRAND HIBERNIAN TRAIN

Accommodation, breakfast, all table d'hôte meals & drinks, musical entertainment, the itinerary as described (may be subject to change), 24 hour room service and gratuities.

Cost does NOT include:

- arrival at and departure from Dublin airport & transfers other than those specified
- items of a personal nature, e.g. spa treatments / laundry.
- travel insurance.
- meals and transport unless specified in the itinerary
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication on 05/09/2018



FLIGHTS; I am happy to help with flight bookings and there are many flights to Dublin daily

For further information please contact AMELIA DALTON TRAVEL,
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