



THE 20-GHOST CLUB LIMITED

Registered Number 5224632

The Oldest Rolls-Royce Car Club in the World

Website: www.20-ghost.org

TOUR OF SOUTHERN IRELAND

15th to 26th MAY 2015

In two parts, 15th to 19th May, and 19th to 26th May, with two application forms



It has been many years since the Club visited Ireland – Tim Forrest led a small band of seven cars there about 10 years ago – and it's high time the club enjoyed the Republic's splendid empty roads and wonderful scenery again. Ireland has benefitted from the EU, building many wide motorways with European funding, leaving the smaller routes virtually car-less, so one can almost regain the pleasures of pre-war motoring in our appropriate vehicles. Due to its prosperity in the 18th century, Ireland also has many fine country houses, which tend to be rather smaller [and therefore more manageable for the visitor] than those in the UK. This event will be in the southern and western parts of the Republic, roughly the ancient Provinces of Munster, south Leinster and south Connaught; it will be a two-part tour, and members can book for both parts, or just either one or the other; it is NOT compulsory to do both!

The first part is the traditional Annual Country House long weekend with members of the Irish Georgian Society's London Chapter. This will officially start near Cork with lunch on Friday 15th May, and end with lunch also near Cork on Tuesday 19th May, to facilitate Irish Georgian Society participants and the times of UK flights to and from Cork airport. We will be based at the Park Hotel on the edge of Dungarvan, Co Waterford, a good modern hotel with extensive concealed safe car parking behind the hotel. We have been given the 2-storey rear wing of the hotel that overlooks this car park, and is quiet, with a large private sitting room. There are many splendid country houses and other buildings in the area, many of them on the banks of the River Blackwater, which has been called 'The Irish Rhine' because of them. The cost of this first part of the overall tour will include FOUR nights Bed and Breakfast at the Dungarvan hotel, where the accommodation will be in double or twin rooms with en-suite bathrooms, FOUR dinners and lunches [with wine at some meals, to be arranged], and all entrance fees to houses. Applications for this 'Irish Georgian Society' tour are to be sent to Jimmy Valentine using the attached application form.

The second part, the 20-Ghost Club 'only' Tour, will start after lunch near Cork on Tuesday 19th May. We will drive about 80 kms along quiet roads hugging the delightful south coast of West Cork, through Kinsale, Timoleague, Clonakilty and Ros Carbery, arriving at Lis Ard Hotel, just south of Skibbereen, in time to relax before dinner. Lis Ard, our base for 2 nights, is a small 1840s country house with an absolutely wonderful modern landscaped garden. Some accommodation is in the main house, some is in the Dower House; all is excellent, as is the catering. The following day [20th May] will be fairly quiet and relaxing, so all can recover from EITHER the rigours of the Irish Georgian tour OR the journey from the UK. A short-ish drive will be arranged around the locality, including Roaring Water Bay, and some special places will be visited, including lunch at the private house, on an island, of a car collector and enthusiast.



Lis Ard House



Lis Ard's lake



Bantry town and harbour



Bantry House

On Thursday 21st we drive 132 kms around the spectacular West Cork scenery of Bantry Bay, overlooked by the Earls of Bantry's great house, and the Beara Peninsular, going over the Healy Pass and Macgillacuddy's Reeks, to arrive to Ard na Sidhe Hotel, near Glenbeigh on the Ring of Kerry, where we stay for two nights, and dine on both evenings. This Edwardian house was built for Lady Gordon in 1913, and only recently opened as a hotel; all 18 rooms have been furnished and decorated to suit the Arts-and-Crafts house.

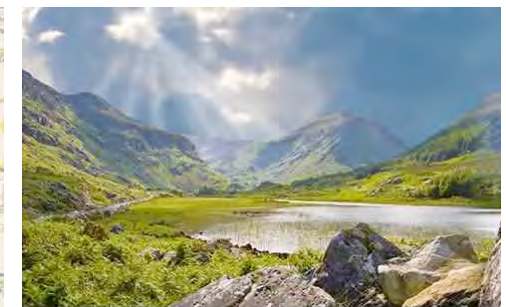


Ard na Sibhe – exterior and interiors

The following day [22nd] we will drive some of the wonderful Ring of Kerry and over the Iveragh Mountains – some of the most breathtaking scenery in Ireland – and right out to the western tip of the Ring. This drive can be a figure-of-eight for the adventurous, and a shorter circle for others. The Ring of Kerry became popular after Queen Victoria visited Killarney in 1861 with Prince Albert, just four months before his death. They stayed for three days as part of their 80day visit to Ireland, were entranced by the beauty of the area, and one of the most stunning viewing points was called 'Ladies' View', in honour of her ladies-in-waiting. Killarney is sadly rather too touristy now, but is still a pleasant little town, with shops and restaurants, and an imposing 19th century cathedral.



Ross Castle, Killarney



The Ring of Kerry

It will be a reasonably leisurely drive of 112 kms altogether on Saturday 23rd from Glenbeigh through Tralee and Listowel to Tarbert, on the southern bank of the River Shannon, the ferry over to Kiltrush, Co. Clare, and then to Doonbeg, near Kilkee on the Clare coast. We will have time to visit the Flying Boat Museum at Foynes, near Tarbert; this was the first landing place in Europe when cross-Atlantic flights started in the 1930s, and also where Irish coffee was invented in 1943, to warm up some particularly cold American passengers. It is the only flying museum in Ireland, and is fascinating.



The Foynes Flying Boat Museum, and the Tarbert – Killimer ferry across the river Shannon

We stay for two nights in the amazing modern hotel owned [and designed?!?] by Donald Trump! Sunday 24th will be spend driving past the Cliffs of Moher to the amazing scenery of The Burren ['great rock' in Irish], the centre part of Co. Clare; again there will be a long drive and a shorter drive from which to choose. This area is 250 sq kms of exposed limestone that, over millions of years exposure to the elements, became criss-crossed with fissures ['grikes'] between 1 and 2 metres deep, leaving isolates rocks between, called 'clints'; in some ways, it all looks like a vast human brain! Due to the climate and the limestone 'soil', as well as other factors, the unique environment within the grikes themselves supports arctic, Mediterranean and alpine plants side-by-side, and rare fauna and insects, all utterly unique. In 1651, [Edmund Ludlow](#) stated, "[Burren] is a country where there is not enough water to drown a man, wood enough to hang one, nor earth enough to bury him..... and yet their cattle are very fat; for the grass growing in turfs of earth, of two or three foot square, that lie between the rocks, which are of limestone, is very sweet and nourishing." There are also many attractive little villages to see; or if you prefer you could play golf all day – so bring the clubs Fortunately, we will miss the great Matchmaking Festival at nearby Lisdoonvarna, attended every year by about 40,000 single people in search of marriage, with or without 'lurve', as this is always at the end of September, and could be dangerous for some!!!!



Doonbeg Golf Hotel – and D Trump's helicopter?



Flowers in the Burren



The Burren



A cromlech in the Burren



Quin Abbey, Co Clare

On Monday 25th we drive eastwards through Ennis to the pretty little town of Killaloe, on the Shannon. From there we drive around Lough Derg to Portumna, to a private 18th century country house near Birr for lunch. From there, we go on through Durrow and Kilkenny city to the final hotel, Mount Juliet, at Thomastown, a few miles south of Kilkenny, a journey of just over 200 kms. Mount Juliet is a superb Georgian mansion built 1757 by the Earl of Carrick, who named it after his wife; in 1914 it passed in the McCalmont family, who sold it in 1987, since when it has been a luxury 5-star hotel. We stay there overnight, after dinner in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, and the tour will officially end the following day, perhaps after lunch. But anyway it is an easy drive from there to either Dublin [145 kms] or Rosslare [76 kms], and the ferry journey back to the UK.



British soldiers at Killaloe in 1921 – driving a ?



Kilkenny Cathedral



Mount Juliet House



The four hotels are all very good, and offer extremely comfortable accommodation in double rooms with en-suite bathrooms, and excellent food. Included in the tour price is SEVEN nights accommodation with dinner every evening [but excluding all wines and alcohol] and full Irish Breakfast every morning, and VAT & all service charges. Also included are light lunches on THREE of the days. All other costs are the responsibility of participants. As the cost of travel to and from Ireland is NOT included in the cost of the tour, members choose themselves which route to use - Fishguard or Pembroke to Rosslare, Holyhead or Liverpool to either Dublin or Dun Laoghaire, or [for any Scottish members] Stranraer to Belfast - and when they wish to travel. Do remember - Irish roads are quite narrow and twisty, so do not expect much more than an average speed of 30 or so mph [45 to 50 kms], and those with a choice might consider bringing their smaller / shorter cars, so as to be able to navigate these roads a little more easily. Ireland now uses kilometres, and only very old road signs show miles. Petrol is currently [November 2014] about €1.50 per litre, about ST£1.18 at the present exchange rate, but could alter if this fluctuates.

The cost of the Irish Georgian part of the tour to 20-Ghost Club members will be ST£1,100.00 per couple, or ST£600.00 for single occupancy - please complete the attached application form, and return it with your deposit cheque for the appropriate amount [ST£200.00 per driver and ST£250.00 per navigator], to Jimmy Valentine, 1 Hobyry Street, LONDON SW10 OJD, as soon as possible. The balance will be due when places have been allocated in March 2015.

The cost of the '20-GC only' part of the tour will be ST£2,250.00 per couple, or ST£1,665.00 for single occupancy-please complete the attached application form, and return it with your NON-refundable deposit cheque for ST£750.00 per couple or ST£555.00 per single, to, Jimmy Valentine, 1 Hobyry Street, LONDON SW10 OJD, as soon as possible, and by the end on November 2014 at the latest, to secure your booking. The balance will be due for payment, in two equal amounts, in January and March 2015.

Without wanting to complicate matters any further the Irish Veteran and Vintage Car Club is holding its 40th Anniversary Gordon Bennett Commemorative Rally from Friday 4th to Monday 7th June in Co. Meath, west of Dublin. Some members may like to participant in that event, which is always great fun; however, only cars built before the end of 1930 are eligible. If required, storage for cars can be arranged between 27th May and 4th June. Advice can be also given about accommodation outside the tour dates, to be booked by participants themselves. If you are interested, please indicate this on the application form and further details will be sent to you.



Roaring Water Bay, Co Cork, in the evening sunset



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To Jimmy Valentine, 1 Hobury Street, LONDON SW10 OJD:

I/we enclose a cheque made out to The 20-Ghost Club Ltd for £..... for places
[£750.00 for two people sharing, or ST£555.00 for single room occupancy] as my / our booking deposit, and
agree to pay the balance in 2 further amounts, when requested in January and March 2015.

Name/s.....

Address.....

..... Postcode Tel

email address [legibly, in CAPITALS please!]

Dietary requirements, if any

Car: Model Chassis Reg Year

Coachbuilder..... Body style Colour.....

I/we would like a single / double / twin room please circle as required

I/we am interested in the IVVCC Gordon Bennett Rally from 4th to 7th June yes / no

As a participant in the 20-Ghost Club Tour of Southern Ireland 2015 and in consideration of the right and privilege to enter and participate in this event and intending to be legally bound, I agree to release the 20-Ghost Club and all committee members and its representatives from any and all liability and injuries, damage or loss or consequential loss arising from my entry and participation in the event

Signed Date