



## Exploring Presbyterian Heritage in Northern Ireland

**September 6 - 17, 2021**

Join a small group of explorers to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime *insiders'* tour of Northern Ireland's ancient kingdom of Ulster. We'll be in the capable hands of Ulster-based experts at every turn. Our sights will be set on a blend of the most evocative, legendary, and beautiful Irish sites – many with heritage connections to America, and places and stories prominent in the history of Presbyterianism. Our travel style will be active and engaged. We'll use lovely local hotels as our bases – spending multiple nights in each, to enhance our sense of getting to know each *place* we explore.



St Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry | Photo credit: Nico Kaiser (CC BY 2.0)

## Trip highlights:

- Small group exploration – group size limited to 16
- Lovely high-standard hotels, occupying beautiful, enchanting locations (see hotel details, websites, below)
- The best of local fare, fine restaurants, atmospheric local eateries
- A rich program of lectures, presentations, and music – often accompanying our evening meals
- Trip leaders that include Dr. David Hume (Larne, UK); Sam Thomas (Athens, GA); and Chumley Cope (Spartanburg, SC)
- An itinerary remarkable for its thoroughness in coverage of Ulster’s geography and history
- Sites of outstanding natural beauty: the Fermanagh Lakes; the Causeway and Antrim Coasts; Rathlin Island; the Sperrin and Mourne Mountains



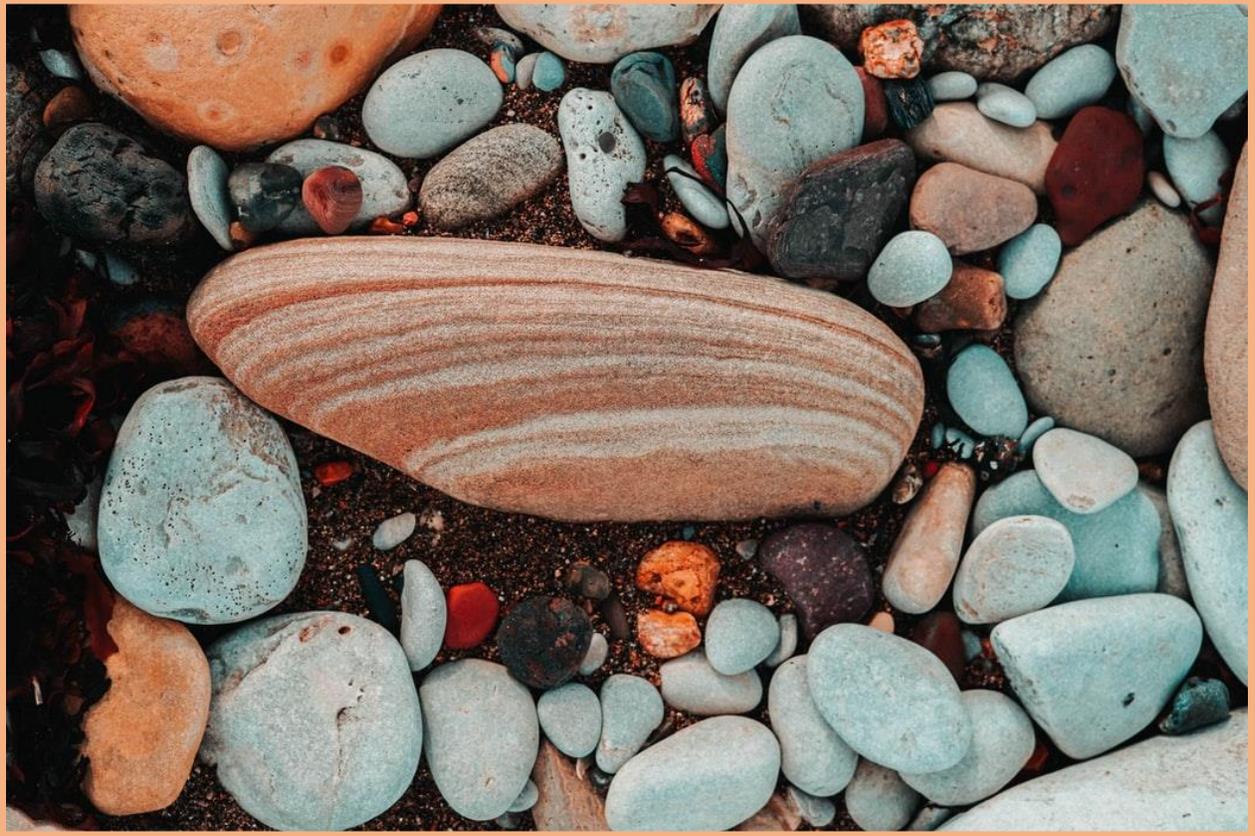
## Hotels:

**The Manor House Country Hotel**, Lough Erne (Enniskillen area),  
[www.manorhousecountryhotel.com](http://www.manorhousecountryhotel.com)

**The Roe Park Resort**, near Limavady, [www.roeparkresort.com](http://www.roeparkresort.com)

**The Curran Court Hotel**, Larne, [www.currancourthotel.co.uk](http://www.currancourthotel.co.uk)

**The Killeavy Castle Hotel**, neary Newry, [www.killeavycastle.com](http://www.killeavycastle.com)



### **Trip leaders:**

Sam Thomas, director of the T.R.R. Cobb House museum, Athens, GA.

David Hume, heritage consultant and author, Larne, UK.

Chumley Cope, founder of Explore Up Close – small group exploration travel specialists.

### **Itinerary:**

#### September 6

Gather at the Atlanta Airport for our overnight flight(s) to Northern Ireland [our entry and exit airport will be the Dublin Airport (DUB)].

#### September 7

Welcome to Northern Ireland! We'll gather our bags, change money, then meet our chartered bus and driver. We'll also meet David Hume, our distinguished guide for the next 10 days.

We'll drive into County Armagh and the pretty city of the same name. Our morning visits will open the doors of ancient Ireland to us. Close by one another, we'll explore the Navan Centre, featuring an excavated fortress complex that dates to the time of Christ, the Armagh Museum, and the pretty cathedral – resting place of Brian Boru, High King of Ireland (c. 1000 AD).

Enjoy a refreshing lunch, then we'll continue our drive west.

In the afternoon we'll arrive at our home for the next two nights – the lovely Manor House Country Hotel, nestled along the shore of Lough Erne. Dinner and overnight at the Manor House (pictured: room overlooking Lough Erne, below).



### September 8

We'll awake – refreshed and at our best! (I repeat . . . refreshed and at our best!) This morning, we have a special treat in store: a guided visit to Devenish Island – not far off the shore from the important town of Enniskillen. We'll explore the ancient sites on the island, then return to Enniskillen for lunch and a walk about. At the castle, we'll explore the Inniskillings Museum, which includes the history of the local Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

In the afternoon, how about an outing in the shadow (warm shadow) of the the Cuilcagh Mountains, to Florence Court estate house and garden? Those who wish can tour the house with a local, knowledgeable guide. Others may wish to set out on a hike through the estate grounds and forest.



This evening will feature the first of several presentations by our own David Hume. We'll learn about "The Ulster American Presidents" in conjunction with our dinner together. Overnight, the Manor House.

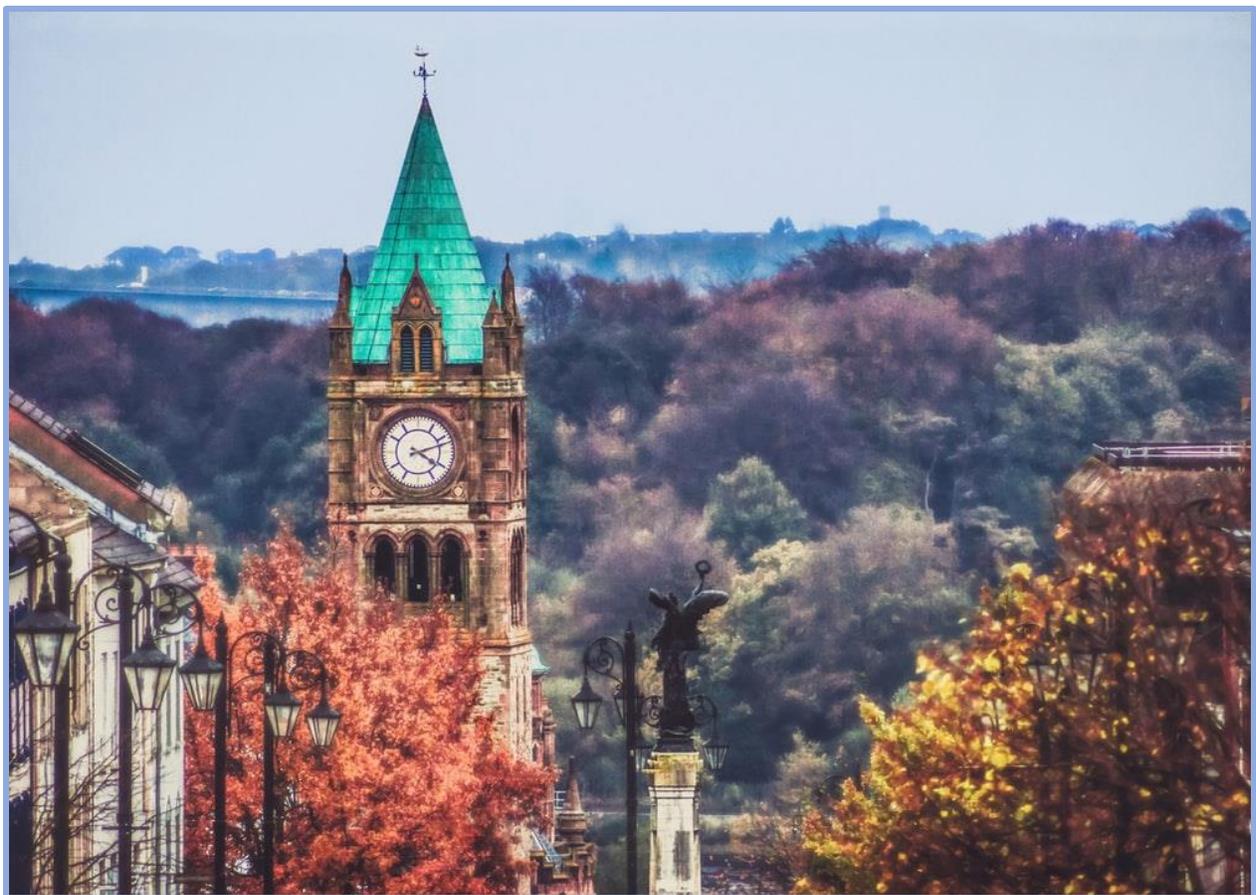
### September 9

Enjoy another delicious breakfast this morning (and you may get tired of hearing that). We'll depart our County Fermanagh digs as we make our way into County Tyrone, to the north and east. Our first stop will be the compelling Ulster-American Folk Park (photo, following page), which connects architecture and folkways from Northern Ireland to America. Genealogists will have resources (if not ample time) at their fingertips, in the research center. We'll continue our drive through the Sperrin Mountains and the "mountain town" of Plumbridge, en route to Strabane.

This afternoon, we'll visit the Plantation city of Londonderry (below, Shipquay Street), founded in the 1610's, at the start of the Plantation Era. We will see emblematic sights and sites, including the original city walls, and St. Columb's Cathedral. We will



learn about “trying times” from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the 21<sup>st</sup> century through a narrated driving tour of the city, and through featured stops – including the Siege Museum.



In the late evening, we'll approach our home for the next three nights, the Roe Park Resort, near Limavady, just east of Londonderry. Presentation tonight: "The Ulster Plantation of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century" (David Hume). Dinner and overnight.

### September 10

This morning we'll visit the County Londonderry coast just northeast of Limavady – featuring the National Trust sites of Downhill Demesne, with its Mussenden Temple (pictured). It's a splendid site – an 18<sup>th</sup> century walled estate, built by the Bishop of Londonderry, overlooking the ocean and with a cliff-top walk.



In the afternoon, we'll traverse the pretty Sperrin Mountains, en route to another National Trust site – and emblem of the Ulster Plantation era – Springhill House. We'll stop for lunch en route to Springhill, at Tommy's Kitchen in Killymoon Castle, Cookstown.

Return to the Roe Park Resort to unwind. This evening, enjoy a presentation by the local Limavady Orange Heritage Society. Dinner and overnight, The Roe Park Resort.

### September 11

After a delicious breakfast, we'll drive northeast into County Antrim, where we'll catch the ferry to Rathlin Island – sentinel off the northern Irish coast (photo, following page). It's a wildly beautiful and scenic place. We'll take time to explore.



After lunch on the island, we'll return to the mainland and visit two of Antrim's most famous sites: the basaltic rock formation known as the Giant's Causeway (see photo, near end of this document); and the Bushmills distillery. If you've by chance passed the thought – "I could sure use a drink," now is your moment.

Back at the Roe Park, we'll enjoy dinner, and a presentation by David Hume called, "Auld Lang Syne: Historic Connections Between Ulster and Scotland." Music will be provided by Scad the Beggars. Overnight, the Roe Park Resort.

### September 12

This morning, enjoy "just the right touch" at breakfast . . . then we move our base of operations to the Antrim Coast. We'll

attend a church service this morning in Larne, followed by lunch. In the afternoon we'll drive the spectacular Antrim Coast Road. We'll make stops in pretty Glenarm, for visits to the castle-estate and its walled garden, and the possibility of walking on the beach.



Our home for the next three nights will be the Curran Court Hotel in Larne.

Tonight's program will be "The Ulster Scots in America "(David Hume); storytelling by Davy Moore.



### September 13

Enjoy a delicious breakfast. Our drive this morning will take us into the interior of County Antrim, near the shores of Lough Neagh. Visit sites will include the cottage-home of the ancestors of American president, Chester Arthur, and Shane's Castle in the town of Antrim. We'll enjoy lunch nearby – McLarnon's Pub.

In the afternoon, we'll explore the lovely natural area closer to the coast, called Sallagh Braes. A local guide will lead us.

This evening: Dinner at Mattie's Meeting House, Cairncastle. We'll be joined by the Secretary of the local Presbytery. And David Hume will present: "Early Presbyterianism in Ulster." Overnight at the Curran Court Hotel.

### September 14

We'll take our breakfast in the hotel. The morning will feature time to browse and explore in downtown

Larne (shoppers, this is your cue). We'll also enjoy lunch in the area.

In the afternoon, we'll explore the Islandmagee / Carrickfergus area. Site visits will include the Andrew Jackson and US Rangers Centre, Carrick Castle and Harbour, and the Old St. Nicholas Church.

In the evening, we'll enjoy dinner at the Lighthouse Bistro in Whitehead. Our program, in nearby Ballycarry, will feature local artists: "Music and A Bit of Crack."

Overnight at the Curran Court Hotel.

### September 15

We'll depart the Curran Court this morning, and drive into Belfast. We'll explore important Belfast sites, including the Ulster Museum and the Belfast City Hall (see detail of the Famine Window, following page). After lunch, we'll visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. We'll relocate to the city of Newry for our last two nights of the trip.



This evening: Dinner in Newry; presentation by David Hume, entitled “The USA’s Wartime Connection to Ulster, 1942-1945.”

Overnight, Killeavy Castle Hotel, Newry.

### September 16

Enjoy a delicious breakfast. We’ll visit local Newry sites in the morning. After lunch, we’ll take a scenic circular drive around the beautiful Mourne Mountains. We’ll explore historic and natural sites en route; dinner will be at the Kilmorey Arms Hotel in Kilkeel. Our presentation there, by David Hume, will be “Scottish Borderers and Ulster Scots.”

We’ll return to Newry and the Killeavy Castle Hotel for the overnight.

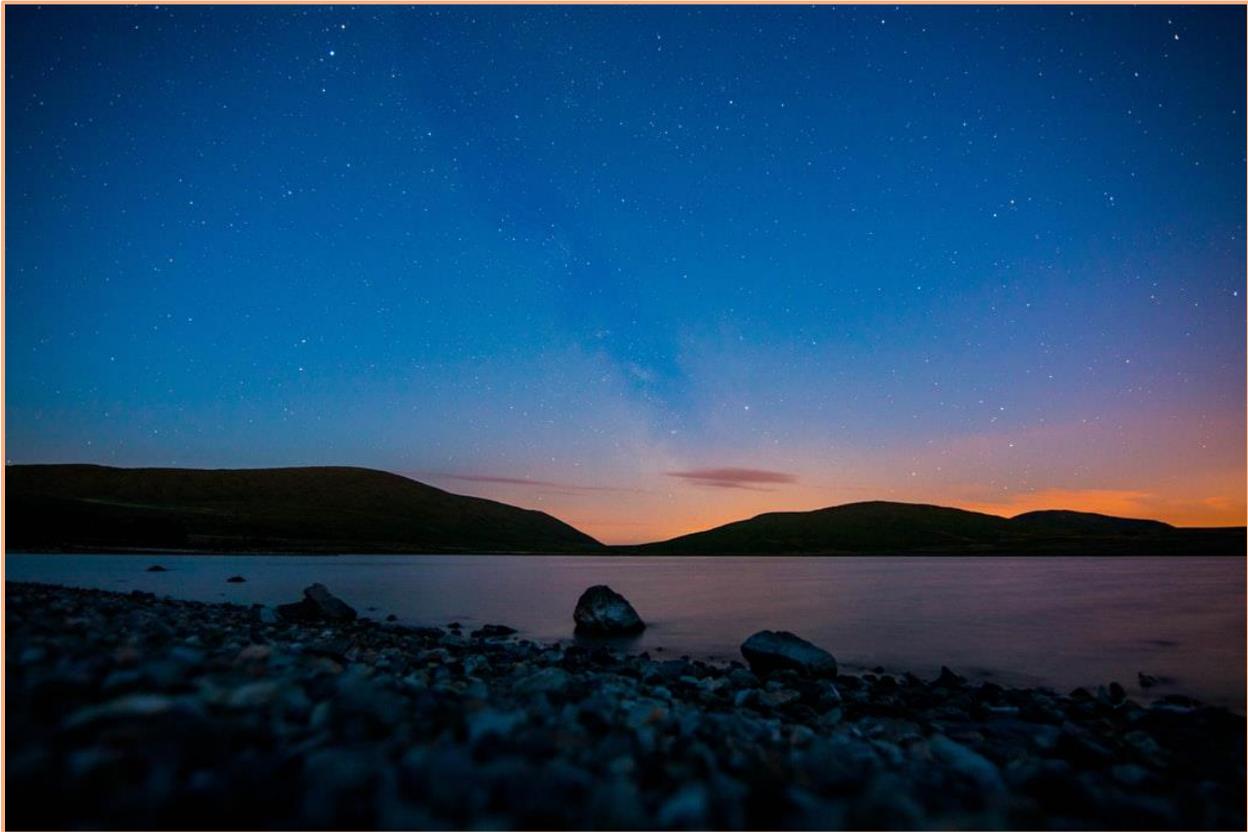
### September 17

We’ll board our bus this morning for the drive to the Dublin Airport and our flight home.

## Pricing information:

**\$5,995 / person (double occupancy; single supplement, \$850).**

Price includes international airfare (Atlanta – Dublin), comfortable bus and ferry transportation in Northern Ireland, guide and concierge services throughout the trip, 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in hotels and inns of high standards and outstanding reviews, five lunches and 10 dinners (often featuring programs / entertainment), all entrances / admissions per the itinerary. Price does not include personal discretionary expenses, alcohol, approximately 5 mid-day snacks or lunches, optional trip insurance.



starry night over the Mourne Mountains, near Newry

## Contact Explore Up Close:

email: [hello@exploreupclose.com](mailto:hello@exploreupclose.com)

tel. (864) 384-6947

web: [www.exploreupclose.com](http://www.exploreupclose.com)



riding in style: the Mercedes “midibus”

### **Sign up for the trip:**

You can register for this trip directly through Explore Up Close.

We offer two simple ways to register for this trip: online and by mail.

#### **1) Register and Pay Online**

To register for this trip online, please visit the private trip page on our website: [www.exploreupclose.com/Northern-Ireland](http://www.exploreupclose.com/Northern-Ireland). Click the booking link, choose your room type (either a shared room with a travel partner, or a room for one person), complete the electronic registration form, and pay your trip deposit with a credit card. You'll receive a confirmation email, as well as a reminder email when it's time to pay for the balance of your trip.

#### **2) Register and Pay by Mail**

Print the trip registration form found on the last page of this document, and mail in your completed registration form with your deposit check payment of \$1,000. Checks should be made out to Explore Up Close; our mailing address is:

Explore Up Close  
613 Poplar Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

We will confirm receipt of your payment by email (or by phone, if you do not provide an email address), and send a reminder when it's time to pay for the balance of your trip.

**Payment Schedule:**

*Trip monies are due on the following dates.*

**Deposit:** \$1,000, due at the time of trip registration.

**Remaining trip balance:** due June 8, 2021 (90 days before departure)



David Hume, in action

## **Refund Policies**

Monies paid are refundable prior to June 8, 2021 (90 days before departure), except for a \$100 service fee, and any non-refundable monies paid to vendors.

Final trip payment is due 90 days before departure.

We encourage travelers to purchase trip insurance, in the event you must cancel or leave the trip for any reason. See below for more details, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

## **Trip Insurance**

Trip insurance safeguards your travel investment, your belongings, and most importantly, you. Though trip insurance is optional, we strongly encourage travelers to purchase trip insurance in the event you have to cancel or leave a trip for any reason. Please note, Explore Up Close is not responsible for any personal expenses incurred due to changes in itineraries or trip cancellations. We strongly recommend confirming your trip with Explore Up Close before making any additional travel arrangements.

We recommend contacting the following travel insurance providers directly to request a quote and compare pricing and features. You can also find other providers that may fit your needs at [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com).

Travel Guard: [www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com) | 1-800-826-5248

Allianz Travel Insurance: [www.allianztravelinsurance.com](http://www.allianztravelinsurance.com) | 1-866-884-3556

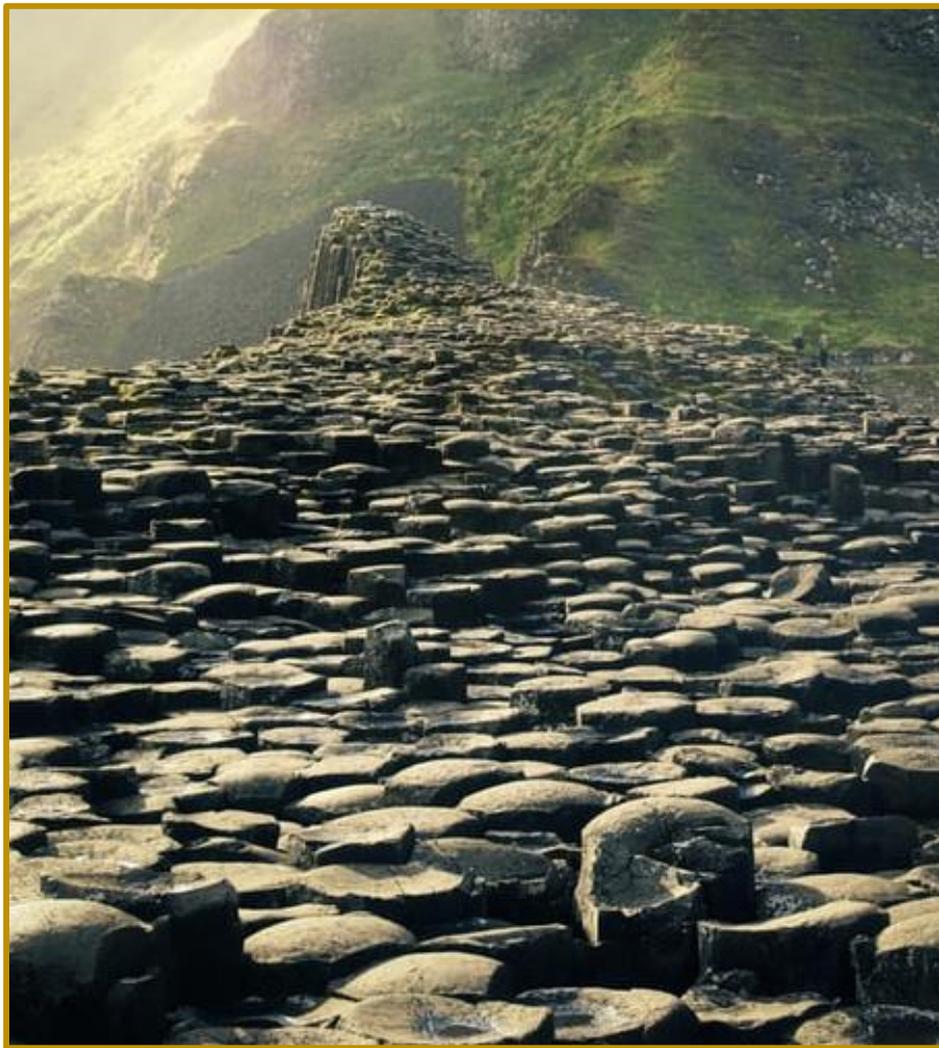
## **Liability**

By registering for a trip, participants assume the standard risks of travel, including highway and traffic dangers; navigating uneven surfaces, steps and stairs; the necessities of maneuvering into and out of vans, mini-vans, and buses; weather-related hazards; risks inherent in urban and natural settings; and risks unique to private property visits. Each participant assumes full liability for the standard risks of travel when he or she registers for a trip.

## **Passports and Visas**

When traveling internationally, a valid passport is required. Make sure that your passport will be valid for at least six months after your scheduled return date to the U.S. If necessary, it is your responsibility to renew your passport or to obtain any applicable visas.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the embassy or consulate of their destination countries to ensure they meet specific entry requirements. Visit the U.S. Department of State for further information. If a traveler is unable to obtain travel documents or is prohibited from entering the destination country, our standard cancellation policy will apply.



scene from Middle Earth? Giant's Causeway

[printable registration form, following page]

# Exploring Presbyterian Heritage in Northern Ireland

## TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail this registration form, along with your deposit payment, to:

Explore Up Close | 613 Poplar Street | Spartanburg, SC 29302

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Will a spouse / friend / guest accompany you on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name of person(s) traveling with you:

\_\_\_\_\_

How to contact this person:

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging specifics, if applicable (requests will be honored to the degree possible):

\_\_\_\_\_ room with two (2) beds \_\_\_\_\_ room with one (1) bed

### DEPOSITS / REFUNDS

Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 / person to hold your space. Final payment will be due 90 days prior to trip departure. Refunds can be given if requested more than 90 days before the trip date, minus a \$100 service fee\*. \*plus any vendor fees incurred (ex. show tickets, train tickets, etc.)

Enclosed is my check, payable to "Explore Up Close," in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

### NOTES

Explore Up Close, LLC, reserves the right to alter trip itineraries when necessary.

By registering for a trip, participants assume the standard risks of travel, including highway and traffic dangers; uneven surfaces, steps and stairs; the necessities of maneuvering into and out of vans, mini-vans, and buses; and risks unique to private property visits.

By registering for a trip, I accept and agree to the Booking Terms and Conditions on behalf of myself and anyone listed on my booking. For Booking Terms and Conditions, please visit our website:

[www.exploreupclose.com/policies](http://www.exploreupclose.com/policies).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / QUESTIONS: Please contact Explore Up Close by telephone at (864) 384-6947 or by email at [hello@exploreupclose.com](mailto:hello@exploreupclose.com).

Online registration is also available at [www.exploreupclose.com/Northern-Ireland](http://www.exploreupclose.com/Northern-Ireland).

