

Historic Houses and Gardens of Ireland - Part II from Kilkenny to Cork Killarney and Limerick

A study tour for
Historic Houses Association of Australia
Led by Dr James Broadbent AM

3 – 17 June 2023



Curraghmore House, County Waterford, Ireland



Historic Houses Association of Australia Ltd.
Lindesay, 1A Carthona Avenue, Darling Point, NSW 2027
W www.hha.net.au T 02 9252 5554 E enquiries@hha.net.au

Your Tour Leader



Dr James Broadbent, former Senior Curatorial Advisor at the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, is well known as an historian, conservationist and author. His main area of study is the history of colonial houses in New South Wales, their furnishings, gardens and the society that built and lived in them. His publications, often complementing exhibitions of the same theme and title, include *India, China, Australia, Trade and Society 1788-1850*, 2003; *The Australian Colonial House, Houses and Society in New South Wales 1788-1842*, 1997 and, co-authored, *Francis Greenway, Architect*, 1997, *The Age of Macquarie*, 1992 and *Gothic Taste in the Colony of New South Wales*, 1980. James Broadbent lives at The Cottage, Mulgoa (c.1810), an important early bungalow which he has saved from dereliction. He has advised on the conservation and restoration of many significant Australian houses and gardens.

James led our highly successful tours of *Historic Houses and Gardens of England* in 2009 and 2017, *North Wales and the West Country of England* in 2011, *The East Midlands and Northeast to Edinburgh* in 2013 and *East Anglia* in 2015, *Ireland Part 1 - Dublin and County Down to Sligo* in 2018 and Italian tours including *La Foce and the Gardens of Tuscany and Lazio* on four occasions since 2012, *Palladian Villas and the Veneto* in 2015 and *The Italian Lakes* in 2017.

Your Tour Coordinator



Dave Gray was Head Gardener for the Historic Houses Trust of NSW for nearly 25 years. Based at Vacluse House, Dave managed the gardens of Vacluse House, Elizabeth Farm, Elizabeth Bay House, Rouse Hill Estate and several smaller Trust properties, often working under the direction of James Broadbent on the restoration and interpretation of the HHT's historic gardens, including the restoration of gardens at Glenfield Farm as part of a program of works for the Endangered Houses Fund. In 2000 Dave was recipient of the National Trust UK exchange program and worked for several months based at numerous National Trust properties throughout the UK. Dave was tour coordinator on the Villa La Foce and the Gardens of Tuscany and Lazio tours in 2013 and 2016 giving him the opportunity of sharing his expertise and extensive knowledge of historic gardens.

Born in London Dave studied horticulture whilst undertaking an apprenticeship with the Greater London council and worked in several of the English capitals' parks. He then studied landscape design and construction in Surrey before coming to Australia. In addition to his work at the HHT, Dave has also worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, as Head Gardener at Everglades Gardens in the Blue Mountains and has also managed private gardens in NSW and Victoria.

Introduction

Following his popular 2018 Irish tour, north from Dublin to Belfast, James Broadbent is leading a second tour starting again in Dublin and travelling south through the counties of Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork, Kerry and Limerick visiting ancient sites, "ruins in demesnes deserted", historic gardens, landscapes, private country houses and public museums.

Our tour encompasses the Edwardian formality of Edwin Lutyens' Haywood Gardens to Harold Peto's Italianate garden, Ilnacullin on Garinish Island in Bantry Bay and the exuberance of the early Victorian interiors and elaborate garden terraces of Bantry House. Grandeur still are the seat of the Marquis of Waterford's baroque Curraghmore and the Duke of Devonshire's romantic gothic castle, Lismore. The scenic Ring of Kerry is well known, as are the lakes of Killarney (where we will take a boat tour). Lesser known are the Bronze Age circle of 113 standing stones on the edge of Lough Gur and the preposterous ruins, lost in a forest, of the grand gate lodges – of a house that was never built - of Ballysaggartmore. In contrast are Rothe House, an early 17th century Killarney merchant's house and Swiss Cottage, an elegant English regency cottage orné in the Cork landscape. The places on our itinerary range, as usual, from the charming to the impressive to the eccentric. All tell the story of Ireland, its landscape and its culture.

Dr James Broadbent AM

Itinerary

Includes 14 nights staying in 4-star accommodation with full breakfast daily plus lunch and/or dinner each day.

Day 1 to 4

Saturday 3 to Tuesday 6 June

KILKENNY

River Court Hotel (4 nights)

Afternoon departure by coach from Dublin (Meeting point and departure time TBA).
Welcome dinner at Kilkenny

From our base in Kilkenny we visit

Ducketts Grove. A mid-eighteenth century house greatly enlarged and gothicized in the early nineteenth century by the English architect Thomas Cobden. Burnt in the 1930s and now an impressive ruin. Two walled gardens have been restored with collections of historic fruit trees and roses.



Altamont Gardens. A large Victorian garden recently restored. The formal layout before the eighteenth century house gives way to an informal “Robinsonian” planting around a large lake.

Heywood Gardens. In the early 1900s Edwin Lutyens was engaged to design formal gardens around Heywood House. The gardens were probably planted by Gertrude Jekyll. Although the house is gone, the gardens survive as a rare example of Lutyens’s work in Ireland

Kilkenny Castle. (pictured) The grand, mid-nineteenth century remodelling of an important Norman castle. The ancient seat of the Butlers, Earls of Ormond.

Rothe House. A late sixteenth century merchant’s townhouse complex in the city of Kilkenny. Built by John Rothe Fitz-Piers between 1594 and 1610, it is made up of three houses, three enclosed courtyards and a large, reconstructed garden with orchard. An extraordinarily rare post-medieval house owned by the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. We hope to be accompanied by an archaeologist who worked on the site,

Day 5 to 7

Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 June

CORK

Lawlors Harbourside Hotel (3 nights)

From our base in Cork we visit

Swiss Cottage. (pictured) A substantial thatched cottage orné built c.1810 and probably designed by the English Regency architect, John Nash. A very “1980s” restoration – but delightful.

Curraghmore. Still the seat of the Earls of Waterford, Curraghmore is one of the grandest estates in Ireland. A medieval tower house was



greatly and impressively enlarged in the eighteenth century within an equally impressive landscape. Its baroque theatricality is rare in Ireland. We shall have a private tour of the interior.

Dromana Gate. Designed in 1849 and possibly inspired by the Brighton Pavilion, the Dromana Gate is a late and particularly charming “Regency” folly in the “Hindu-Gothic” style.

Cappoquin. A rare example of a Georgian house (1779) burnt out in 1923 in the Civil War and sympathetically restored and refurnished (the principal contents being removed before The Troubles). The exceptionally well-kept gardens survive from the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.



Lismore Castle. (pictured) The Irish home of the Dukes of Devonshire, largely rebuilt by the famous 6th Duke, the “Bachelor Duke”. He began transforming the old castle into a fashionable “quasi-feudal ultra-regal fortress” on succeeding his father in 1811, engaging the architect William Atkinson. In 1850 Sir Joseph Paxton carried out further improvements to the castle and gardens.

Ballysaggartmore Gate Houses. Now lost in a forest, these fantastic gothic lodges and bridge were built c.1830 as a prelude to a mansion that was never built.

Day 8 to 11
Saturday 10 to Tuesday 13 June

KILLARNEY
Hotel River Court (4 nights)

While staying in Killarney we visit

Fota. On an island in Cork Harbour, and set in an historic arboretum, Fota House is an important Regency house designed in the 1820s by the architects Richard Morrison and his son Vitruvius Morrison.

Ballymoloe House. The home of the renowned cookery school.

Ring of Kerry. The Ring of Kerry is a scenic drive around the Iveagh Peninsula, County Kerry. Its 179km circular route encompasses rugged coastal landscapes and rural seaside villages.

The Lakes of Killarney. We take a boat tour of the Lakes of Killarney, Tennyson’s “Elfland”.

Muckross House. Visited by Queen Victoria in 1861, Muckross House is a neo-Elizabethan mansion on the shores of Muckross Lake. It was designed by the Scottish architect, William Burn and built between 1839 and 1843. It is now a publicly-owned museum.

Bantry House. An early-eighteenth century house, remodelled in the mid-nineteenth century, with an exceptional mid-nineteenth century garden of terraces and parterres.

Ilacullin Gardens. On Garinish Island (pictured) in Bantry Bay, Ilacullin was designed and constructed during the First World War by the English architect and garden designer Harold Peto (the designer of Iford Manor and Buscot Park gardens).



Day 12 – 14
Wed 14 to Friday 16 June

LIMERICK
Limerick Strand Hotel (3 nights)

From our base in Limerick we visit

Churchill House. We hope to visit this exceptional house, built in 1741 as a Glebe house (and subsequently serving as a “house of retreat for recalcitrant friars”). Churchill has been meticulously maintained by its American owner and houses a fine collection of Irish art.

Boyce’s Garden. A small, quirky and delightful garden around a modern bungalow overlooking the busy River Shannon.

Glenstall Abbey. A Benedictine Abbey since 1927, Glenstall Castle is a romantic neo-Norman castle built by the Barrington family in the 1830s to designs by an English architect, William Bardwell. With its modern chapel and fine arboretum Glenstall is an engaging place.

The Hunt Museum. Housed since 1997 in Limerick’s Georgian Custom House, the Hunt Museum was established in 1970 to display the diverse collection of art and antiquities bequeathed by John and Gertrude Hunt.

The Grange Stone Circle. Sited on the edge of Lough Gur is this little-known Bronze Age stone circle of 113 standing stones.



Dromore Castle. Possibly the most extraordinary house built in Ireland in the nineteenth century, regarded as “unliveable” from its completion and abandoned in the early twentieth century. The dramatic ruins of Dromore Estate are most difficult to access but we are hopeful that a visit can be made. The Gothic revival house was built in the 1860s for the third Earl of Limerick to designs of the English architect E.W. Godwin. Externally

severely gothic, the interior was wholeheartedly “Aesthetic”.

Day 15
Saturday 17 June

Depart Hotel for Dublin Airport

Enroute to the airport we visit

Emo Court. A grand, neo-classical house designed in 1790 by James Gandon (architect of the Custom House, Dublin) for the first Earl of Portarlington.

Afternoon arrival in Dublin or Dublin Airport as preferred.

Tour Ends

Booking form below

Historic Houses and Gardens of Ireland Part II – 2023

Terms and Conditions

Tour Price (Land Only) : \$10,970 per person twin share (\$2,320.00 single room supplement)

Included:

- 15 day fully escorted tour led by Dr James Broadbent
- Private coach with our preferred driver for the whole itinerary as described
- Four Star hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Full breakfast daily
- Lunch or Dinner each day (on some days both lunch and dinner may be included to suit the itinerary)
- Entrance fees to houses and gardens.

Not Included

- Airfares
- Tips and incidentals

What happens if HHA is forced to cancel a tour? You will receive a full refund of all monies paid.

Will the itinerary change? Should any circumstances beyond our control make it necessary to amend the itinerary in any way, we will inform you of those changes as soon as possible.

Travel insurance. HHA requires all participants must obtain comprehensive travel insurance from your preferred insurance company.

Deposits

A deposit of \$2000 per person is required to confirm your booking.

Final payment is due by 12 February 2023.

Cancellation fees

- Cancellations received 60 days or more before travel, deposits will be refunded less an amount to cover administration, booking fees etc. This may be reduced or increased dependent upon expenses incurred.
- Within 60 days, 50% of the deposit will be refunded
- Within 30 days, 50% of the full tour price will be charged.
- Within 7 days, 100% of the tour price will be charged.
- Once the tour has commenced no refunds will be given, including any unused portion of the tour.

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

Please make your payment by **cheque payable to “Historic Houses Association of Australia”** or by direct deposit, with your **surname** as payment reference, to:



Account Name: **Historic Houses Association of Australia Ltd**

Bank: Westpac. Martin Place, Sydney

BSB: 032 024

Account Number: 339312



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Booking Form

HHA requires the following information to secure your booking:

Full name/s: (as it appears on your passport)

(1)

Passport Number..... Passport Expiry date

Country of Issue.....

(2)

Passport Number.....Passport Expiry date

Country of Issue.....

Preferred name: (1).....

Date of Birth:

Preferred name: (2).....

Date of Birth:

Address:

.....

State: Postcode:

Phone: (day).....(evening).....

(mobile)..... Email address:

I would like to book () place/s on this tour.

Please include a deposit of \$2000 per person to secure your booking.

Travel and accommodation preferences

☐ I/we would like ☐ single occupancy room ☐ twin-share accommodation ☐ double room

Comments and/or special meal requirements:

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A Pre-tour get-together will be arranged to give you the opportunity to meet James Broadbent and other members of the group, discuss travel arrangements and find out more about the wonderful houses, gardens and collections you will see on this tour.



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