

# Blarney stone, shamrocks and fairies await your visit to Ireland

Each St. Patrick's Day, everyone becomes just a little bit Irish and with that comes a longing to see the green, green countryside of Ireland with its fields of shamrocks and to enjoy a Guinness or two in some cozy Irish pub where everyone is singing some Irish tune. Yes, it seems all the Irish have fine singing voices — or is it the Guinness that makes it seem so?

A trip to Ireland is among the most affordable of trips where the friendly Irish seem to love Americans and are ready to share some tall tale or two about the fairies, pixies and leprechauns. You just know every Irish citizen — especially the men — have kissed that famous Blarney Stone, so glib and entertaining are they.

You'll want to come home with one of those hand-knitted cable sweaters — the Irish love their sweaters. Or, how about a sturdy Irish tweed that will last a lifetime? Though the weather in Ireland is rather temperate, this outerwear can ward off any chills.

As for the food, well, you're in for a treat if you like potatoes. There's a long history between the Irish and their potatoes. And scones and tea seem to taste better in Ireland, especially on a rainy day — and yes, it rains a lot in Ireland — that's why it's so green! Packing an umbrella is a must.



**Marilyn Foster**  
Travels with Marilyn

The Chamber is planning a trip to Ireland next Oct. 23 for \$2,999 double that includes air from Reno, airport transfers, free parking at the Chamber office, seven nights hotel, six breakfasts and two dinners.

Also included is all the touring with a knowledgeable guide to keep you interested and entertained as you go from destination to destination.

The tour begins with two nights in Dublin, city of pubs. Your first night will include a cocktail reception in the crypt of the famous Christ Church Cathedral. Interestingly, you won't see many churches in Ireland, not like you would in most of Europe. After a sightseeing overview tour on day two, you'll have time to explore this walkable city on foot.

Then it's on for two nights to Killarney and your own opportunity to kiss that Blarney Stone. That night, you can compete with the Irish and their tales! The second day, there's a ride through the famed countryside as you travel to the awe-inspiring Dingle Peninsula.

On your way to Ennis, you'll



COURTESY

Brooding Blarney Castle is on everyone's "to see" list.

enjoy homemade scones and tea at a dairy farm and then it's off to the Cliffs of Moher before retiring at the cozy restored 18th-century manor house, the Old Ground Hotel in County Clare. Imagine yourself listening to music in the Poet's Corner after dinner.

If you're a fan of Irish whiskey, you'll have the opportunity to learn how it's made as you stop in Tullamore on the way to your final night stay at the famed Cabra

Castle in Kingscourt where you'll be spending your final night before returning to our not-so-green Northern Nevada.

You'll come home with a bit of Irish in your soul. And, with all Collette Tours, you can leave a day or two early or opt to stay a few more days in Dublin at the end. The choice is yours. Ask the Chamber staff how you can make this happen, for seven days in Ireland, for some, isn't quite

enough.

The Chamber is offering quite the lineup for 2019. Visit its travel page at [www.carsoncitychamber.com](http://www.carsoncitychamber.com). Make your reservations sooner rather than later for these trips fill quickly.

*Marilyn already has two trips planned for 2019 and will be spending her 90th birthday in Vietnam. Then, she's off to the Bluegrass country!*

## Words of wisdom: Words are wisdom

I enjoy contests. I enter contests sending my hope filled entries out into the world with this thought, "Hey, somebody's gotta win, might as well be me!" That is how the lottery gets to be worth sooooo much. Apparently, I'm not the only one who's thinking I, we, they will be the winners.

I don't have the opportunity to join in the fun of the lottery as lotteries go because there's not a lottery in Nevada. Lucky Nevadans, we have the regular type of gambling available. Really, that's what the lottery is, though — a gamble, like all contests are. Some contests are more than just luck. Some contests are based on skill. Those types of contests are the ones I feel the most drawn to enter and be part of.

Oh, now don't get me wrong. Please continue to gamble if that gives you pleasure, and enter the lottery if that heartstopping, ball-watching scene takes you places of your dreams. Don't for one second think I enter contests that have any portion of "thon" in them. Marathon, triathlon, at least not any type of sport-a-thon. Would jump at the chance to go for a dance-a-thon, though, as I'm the queen of a dance-a-thon in my house every week as I vacuum.

A year or so ago, I entered a writing contest. Imagine that, a writer entering a writing contest! Anyway, this contest was offered by a foundation in Spain, the Fundación César Egado Serrano. Impressed, aren't ya! It was a Flash Fiction contest where the entrant had to write an entire story, introduction, confrontation and resolution — oh, and it had to have no more



**Trina Machacek**  
Is This You?

than 100 words including the title. Go on, give it a try. It's a hoot to do and I had a blast doing it. Still don't know how I did in the contest. It was offered worldwide and there were 43,185 little stories from 172 countries entered and the Fundación is still reading and deciding. Whew! Can you imagine reading 43,185 little stories?

The big thing about this foundation's contest is they're trying to promote words. Words we use to communicate. That's what got me to thinking today. About words. How they can hurt, heal, entice, infuriate, convey. Amazing, this little medium of the word. Here are a few times a word, a few words or a slew of words have had an effect on me. Or would that be an affect? Nope — the correct way is this: How did the effect of certain words affect me? Cha, cha, cha!

Just like any girl, I remember the first time I was told I was loved. Ah, swoon! As well as I remember telling someone those same feelings back in words. I use "I love you" a lot because I feel love for a ton of people around me and I feel it back, too. That's just the coolest thing about my life. But, yep, a love-ly "but" is pushing its way in here. There's a huge chasm between "I love you" and "I am 'in' love with you." It's that second one we spend our lives looking for. Just a few words can make

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a ton of difference, huh?

I don't remember uttering my first word, but I do vividly remember the first time I was called a bad word; it started with a "b" and rhymes with ditch. I was in the eighth grade and I still see the girl occasionally. Aargh, I don't like that she still evokes anger in me. Move on, Trina, it's just a word!! That's just it. They aren't "just words." They're so much more. I was going to say words are what separates us from animals. Just last week, I was asked if the cows, deer and antelope I recently saw all eating in the same field together communicated in some way. I thought about that and in my Trina mind — trust me, you really don't want to go in there! In my Trina mind, I decided yes, yes, they do communicate. They speak animal in the same way we speak human.

Just because we can't understand animals doesn't mean they don't communicate like we do with our words. I mean they love, fight, move, sing, OK, I'm talking outta my hat. Just letting words trip off my tongue so to speak.

Let me leave you with this — words are wisdom, enjoy them. In cow that's — moo, moo-moo, moo!

*Trina lives in Eureka, Nev. Share with her at [itybytrina@yahoo.com](mailto:itybytrina@yahoo.com). Really!*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reader opposes view that vandals' intent was not malicious

I am responding to Master Sergeant Tod B. Jennings' letter to the editor titled, "Let's use memorial vandalism as teaching opportunity for all." Sir, I am diametrically opposed to your opinion. I am a senior veteran who served in the United States Army National Guard and the United States Navy. I am a disabled vet and I hold a fierce sense of patriotism to our wonderful nation.

"There was not a bit of maliciousness by these young people who did the damage." How could you possibly know what these perpetrators were thinking? Perhaps you may be psychic or you know the little perps.

Why are these "kids" not in custody? Who will pay for this abomination? The parents? You?

Cause and effect.

I guess "boys will be boys." I am sickened.

Good day, sir.

**Kerry J. Drake**  
Carson City

### No respect, that's the problem

To destroy something as these four kids did shows some parents are too within themselves to teach their kids respect for other people's property such as the memorial or breaking windows in a car or breaking into someone's home or car. Also, while driving put away the cellphone and stop texting. I almost got sideswiped on Highway 50 by a guy in a pickup truck on his phone.

We honked our horn to let him know what was happening and he slowed down and gave us the "bird." No respect. He sped off on the white line.

Also, some people don't want trash in their car, so they throw it out the windows for someone else to pick up instead of taking it home and throwing it away. Too cheap to take it to the dump but not too cheap to buy a carton of cigarettes or a six- or 12-pack of beer or a \$20 or \$30 bottle of whiskey.

No respect.

**Ralph Newcomb**  
Carson City