

Press Contact:

Alicia Buonanno

[Gregory FCA](#)

O: 610-228-2096

Alicia@GregoryFCA.com

Company Contact:

Leora Hafri

[Friendly Planet Travel](#)

215-572-9594 ext. 223

LHafri@FriendlyPlanet.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Explore Irish Ancestry with Friendly Planet Travel's New Tour to The Gathering Ireland**

Nine days tracing family roots and heritage in The Emerald Isle for \$3,099

JENKINTOWN, Pa.—February 28, 2013—Friendly Planet Travel is offering travelers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to trace their family roots and heritage of the [Fitzgerald Clan](#), one of Ireland's oldest and most powerful families. The nine-day [Fitzgerald Clan Gathering in Ireland](#) tour starts at \$3,099 and includes all the first-class amenities of traditional Friendly Planet tours, with a special opportunity to take part in [The Gathering](#), a year-long celebration of Ireland and Irish ancestry with clan gatherings, festivals, special sporting events, music, and concerts across the country.

“Whether you have Irish roots or just a love of Irish culture, there has never been a better year to visit Ireland,” says Peggy Goldman, President of Friendly Planet Travel. “The Gathering is a year-long series of festivals and activities aimed at helping visitors trace their Irish ancestry. We couldn't be more pleased to be taking part in the celebration by offering five different tours to Ireland, including the very special Fitzgerald Clan Gathering. Designed for travelers to discover, or re-discover, their Fitzgerald Clan roots, the tour is open to anyone, especially those with an interest in tracing their Irish genealogy. You may even be surprised to uncover family ties to the historic Fitzgerald Clan.”

The package includes round-trip flights from New York ([JFK](#) or [EWR](#)) or [Boston](#) (Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. gateways available on request) via scheduled carriers, including fuel surcharges, taxes, and fees; all ground transportation and transfers; accommodations in first-class hotels; and 15 meals, including Irish breakfast daily, one lunch, five hotel dinners, and two special dinners. The tour also includes an Irish house party with dinner and entertainment in [Kildare](#); a medieval banquet in [Adare](#); afternoon tea at [Castlemartyr Castle](#); three Genealogy workshops; a Fitzgerald history and information pack; comprehensive touring, including entrance fees; and an English-speaking driver/guide.

The journey begins with a panoramic tour of Dublin's fair city, including stops in the North Side on O'Connell Street and Phoenix Park; and the South Side, home to Trinity College and Dublin Castle. Visit Leinster House, home to the national parliament of Ireland, followed by dinner and a genealogy workshop with Heritage Profile Ireland. From there, the tour continues, tracing family roots at the [National Library of Dublin](#) and at [Dublin Castle](#), once owned by the Fitzgerald Family. Also visit [Maynooth Castle and University](#), which was built by the Fitzgerald family in the 13th century. The second night ends with dinner and entertainment at the Irish House Party.

Travelers then depart Dublin for the [Fitzgerald Castle in Kildare](#), followed by a visit to the Rock of Cashel, [once inhabited by grave enemies of the Fitzgerald Clan](#). Continue to Cork for a second genealogy workshop. The next day, travel to the picturesque town of [Kinsale](#), the gourmet capital of Ireland. A stop at [Adare Castle](#), whose Tower House reflects the widespread influence of the Fitzgerald family during the 16th century, afternoon tea at Castlemartyr Castle, and a visit to the [Cobh Heritage Center](#) round out the day.

Highlights of the next day include a morning spent in the scenic town of [Kenmare](#) between the high mountains and the sea; a visit to [Molly Gullivan's Cottage and Traditional Farm](#) to experience butter and whiskey making; and a stop at the [Kerry Writer's Museum](#) in Listowel. On day seven, travelers visit [Bunratty Castle](#), one of the most authentic medieval castles in the country; Folk Park; [Lough Gur](#), a magnificent lake filled with diverse flora and fauna; and a final genealogy workshop. They'll also enjoy a performance by local entertainers at the Honey Fitz Theater, named for John Francis Fitzgerald, grandfather to President John F. Kennedy and a former Boston mayor. The journey concludes with a visit to the [Foynes Flying Boat Museum](#), a stop at Glin Castle, and a medieval banquet in Adare before the flight home from Shannon the following day.

This special one-time-only tour departs on June 27 and returns July 5, for \$3,099, if booked by Mar. 26.

Friendly Planet also offers four additional tours to Ireland, including the seven-day [Taste of Ireland](#), starting at \$1,699; the 13-day [Best of Ireland](#), starting at \$2,699; the nine-day [Discover Ireland](#), starting at \$1,999; and the 13-day [Discover Ireland and Scotland](#), starting at \$3,599.

For more information about Friendly Planet Travel's [Fitzgerald Clan Gathering in Ireland](#), please visit the company's website at www.FriendlyPlanet.com or its blog at blog.FriendlyPlanet.com.

ABOUT FRIENDLY PLANET TRAVEL

Friendly Planet Travel makes high-quality exotic travel affordable for everyone. Since 1981, Friendly Planet Travel has been arranging all-inclusive escorted discount vacation packages and cruises to the most exciting destinations in the world at the lowest possible prices.

Each year, Friendly Planet Travel offers more than 30 different group travel packages to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South America—at discounts of hundreds of dollars off similar vacations. With no hidden charges, add-ons, or surprises, Friendly Planet Travel vacations include convenient flights and airfare; carefully selected, first-class and superior hotels; knowledgeable, English-speaking guides; many meals; planned itineraries; as well as friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Friendly Planet Travel offers its extensive, economical travel services to private groups, including universities, religious institutions, alumni associations, and families. Groups who wish to travel together can count on Friendly Planet Travel's three decades of experience to operate their group travel program expertly and always at the very best possible prices. Visit the company at www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com. You can also follow Friendly Planet Travel on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

###