

CLINTON AND JENNY CAGLE *a trip*
TO IRELAND!

Everything you've heard about Ireland, how spectacularly green it is and how friendly the people are, Jenny Cagle of Elm Grove Travel says it's true — "even more so than what you'd expect."

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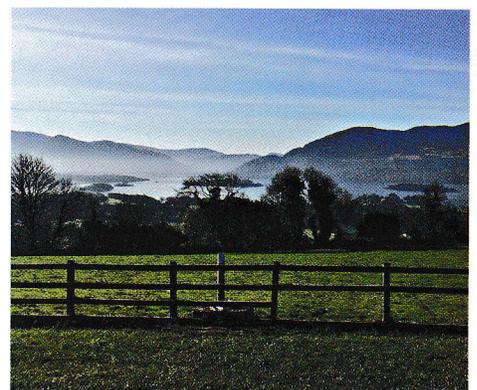
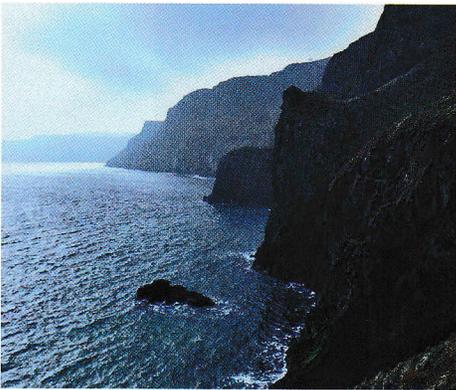
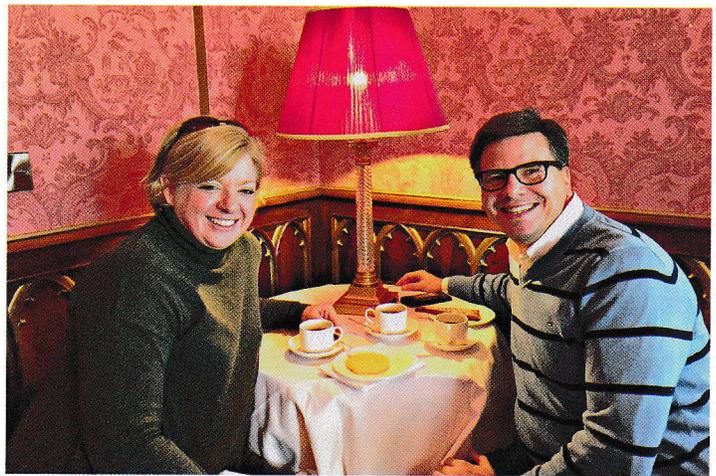
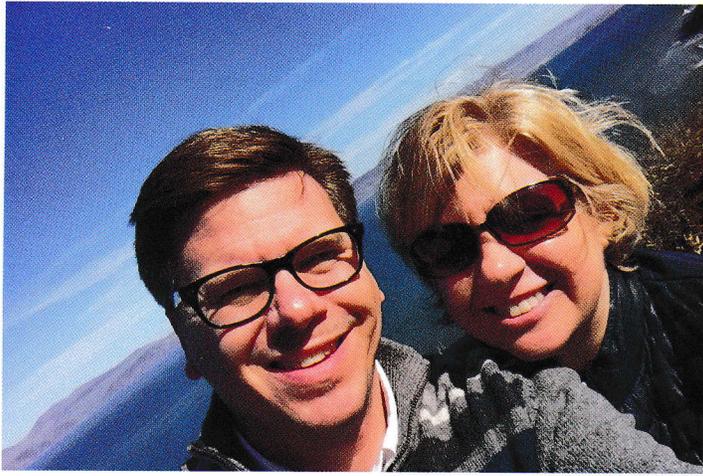
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Jenny and her husband, Clinton, traveled to Ireland last March. "It's a good time to go," she says. "It's not the peak season, so it's not super busy or super touristy. And we lucked out with great weather." It was also a little less expensive than during the peak season of May through September.

Ireland is a great country to do a bus tour with a group or explore on your own. Jenny and Clinton did both, opting to rent a car to tour Northern Ireland. Some might be intimidated by a driving wheel on the right side, as well as driving on the opposite side of the road. No worries, says Jenny.



“My husband was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was,” she says. “We picked up our car in downtown Dublin, so that was a crash course on how to do it really quick.”

MUST-SEE PLACES

Killarney:

Exploring Killarney was one of Jenny’s favorite parts of the trip. “It’s a really fun and vibrant town. Lots of Irish music going on at night. Lots of pubs to visit.”

Located in the southwest corner of Ireland, Killarney is a gateway for many scenic parts of the country. Tourists can hop on the Ring of Kerry and cruise the 100-plus-mile route that circles County Kerry.

Dublin:

Jenny recommends tours of the Guinness Storehouse at St. James Gate Brewery, the Jameson Distillery to taste whiskey, and a visit to historic Trinity College.

Northern Ireland:

Millions of years ago, volcanic eruptions produced the countless, interlocking stone columns known as the Giant’s Causeway. But legend says a giant built them as stepping stones to travel across the North Channel. Jenny says the site is quite spectacular. “It’s different from anything you see anywhere else in the world.”

Castles:

There are lots! For many people, the highlight is staying in a castle such as Adare Manor or Dromoland Castle, but you can just tour them as well. Jenny and Clinton also visited Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone, “which everyone’s got to do when they’re in Ireland.”

EATING

“We were pleasantly surprised by the cuisine,” she says. “We had fantastic chicken curry in Dublin. The Irish breakfast is unique and hearty and definitely something we enjoyed throughout the tour.” The breakfast typically consists of bangars (sausages), potatoes, eggs and a dark bread “that kind of sticks to your ribs.”

SHOPPING

Jenny says she is not a huge shopper when she travels, but she couldn’t resist Ireland’s wool sweaters. “They are truly unique.”

As for the locals? Jenny says folks were genuinely friendly. “It felt very natural to strike up a conversation with someone at a pub.” She says they felt right at home in O’Donoghue’s Pub in Killarney — not unlike a similar pub right here in Elm Grove.



If you would like to share about your favorite trip, contact: dana.hegeman@n2pub.com