

# My Ireland Family Heritage

*Walking in their footsteps...*



**M**y Ireland Family Heritage offers its clients the opportunity of a lifetime to literally stand where their ancestors once stood – a unique, hybrid genealogy-travel experience that combines personal history with tourism. The research team aims to pinpoint the area within 10 yards of their client’s ancestral home.

Sean Quinn launched the company drawing on his twin passions for genealogy research and the Emerald Isle. The business is a true family venture, founded together by Sean and his wife, Pauline. Ten years ago, their daughter Aisling Darragh got involved as well.

“We complete all research, tours, and consultations within our office,” explains Aisling, who works as company director alongside her father. “We do not outsource any elements of our products. We are a one-stop shop to conduct your genealogy research and tour experience.”

She shares her father’s adoration for their home country, as well.

“I am born and bred in Ireland. There is a magical side of Ireland with its many sacred sites to visit, including Newgrange, the Hill of Tara, the Cliffs of Moher, and more. So many sites throughout Ireland are truly majestic and breathtaking, and the people here are friendly, kind, and warm - it is a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.”

As with just about every tour company in the world, My Ireland Family Heritage went through a challenging period during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the company’s clientele hails from the United States, Canada, and Australia, but government regulations meant those tourists could not enter the country.

“This was a difficult time. However, it allowed us to re-evaluate our research product. We introduced new self-drive options, allowing clients to drive themselves to the locations when in Ireland if they could not tour with us. We also introduced consultations by phone in addition to in-person consultations.”

Thankfully, business is back with a vengeance, and My Ireland Family Heritage is 90 percent booked for 2024. Online testimonials bear witness to the company’s stellar reputation;

**“We walked in the footsteps of generations of my family members, and we are so grateful,” reads one review.**

Another notes, “I would recommend this trip to anyone wishing to see their family’s homeland in an authentic experience.”

Each tour is tailor-made based on the client’s needs and desires, from historical tours lasting a single day to multi-day tour packages. My Ireland Family Heritage allows people “to walk the land their family once farmed, to see the ruins of the old family homestead, to meet relatives that may be still on site,” says Aisling.

“We do not take on a project if we cannot identify your ancestors’ exact location. We have a 95 percent success rate of doing so. If you are not able to visit Ireland, we have options available to you to still experience where your ancestors once lived.”

Sometimes, it starts with nothing more than a birth or marriage certificate. In one instance, all the client had was a death card from the 1870s. With even a small piece of information in hand, the team gets to work.

Aisling is responsible for preliminary research, after which she hands things over to Sean and his research team - all certified genealogists with access to archives and tax records for both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

“I then co-ordinate with each client in advance of their arrival to Ireland to ensure we as a team can help create memorable memories for their trip ‘home,’” she shares. “We have had many people brought to tears because they were experiencing ‘home’ as their grandparents have told them stories about growing up. We have clients visit alone, others with friends, siblings, partners and more.

“We are focused on continuing to develop and improve our current product portfolio throughout 2024 and 2025 to continue to grow our business that we love so much.”

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