



You've been offered a unique opportunity to travel abroad and play softball competitively. You'll travel as an ambassador for the United States, compete internationally, and broaden your educational perspective of the world. In addition, you'll make friends of a lifetime.

USA Athletes International (USA AI) in conjunction with "Softball Ireland" has developed one such opportunity. This multi-stop event will take place June 22 – July 1, 2026. Softball Ireland has invited our US team to participate in Dublin and Cork. With stops in the historic cities of Athlone, Galway, and Cork, Ireland. The goal is to encourage international cooperation and the further development of softball while sharing in the Irish culture in every aspect possible.

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

**- Saint Augustine.**

Travel broadens one's understanding and perspective.

Such opportunities for athletes to engage in international competition and cultural exchange are limited, so we are grateful for the invitation and look forward to the experiences on and off the field.

Taylor Olsen from Montana State University – Billings (retired) will lead the USA team. With over 15 years of professional and instructional experience, as well as international exposure in Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Sweden, and Holland, Coach Olsen is well-suited for the role. She emphasizes that valuable experiences are essential to making lasting memories.

On behalf of Coach Olsen, here is an official invitation to be part of the USA team. Please review all enclosed materials carefully and discuss your participation with your family before responding.

For additional information about USA Athletes International, visit [www.usaai.org](http://www.usaai.org), where the FAQ page provides answers to frequently asked questions. For further inquiries, please contact program coordinator William "Dutch" Edington at 913-401-6052 or via email at [william@usaai.org](mailto:william@usaai.org).

Respectfully,

William A. Edington  
Executive Director  
USA Athletes International



## Ireland Softball Tour Itinerary

June 22 – July 1, 2026

*USAAI Softball | Cultural Exploration | Team Connections*

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### Monday, June 22 – *Departure*

- Depart from the USA (JFK) on your overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland.
- Dinner served on the flight.

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### Tuesday, June 23 – *Arrive to Dublin (3 nts)*

- Breakfast on the flight.
- Arrival in Dublin and meet your **USAAI tour manager**.
- Lunch on your own.
- Check-in at the hotel.
- **Team practice, location to be determined.**
- Welcome dinner at the hotel with the team.



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### Wednesday, June 24 – *Dublin - Competition Day*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Guided walking tour** of Dublin: including Trinity College, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Castle, Wall of Fame, Viking & Medieval Dublin, 1916 Rising history, James Joyce sites, River Liffey, Temple Bar, and more.
- Lunch at your own expense.
- **First game, team and location to be determined by Ireland Fast Pitch Association.**
- Dinner after the game



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### Thursday, June 25 – *Dublin - Competition Day*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the iconic **Guinness Storehouse** for a tour and sip.
- Time to explore Dublin's Old City and do some shopping.
- Lunch at your own expense.
- Return to the hotel and relax before the game.





- **Second game, team and location to be determined by Softball Ireland.**
- Dinner after the game.

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**Friday, June 26 – Travel to Galway via Athlone – Irish Culture Day (2 nts)**

- Early morning breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Galway but first let's make a stop in Athlone to the Athlone Castle and learn about its strategic importance, take a river cruise on a Viking ship to visit the Clonmacnoise Monastic Site. Return and have a meal and pint at Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland before continuing our journey to Galway.
- Lunch on your own.
- Arrive in Galway and Check-in at the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel or in the city.



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**Saturday, June 27 – Galway – Irish Culture Day**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Take a walking tour of Galway. See the Eyre Square, Galway's Medieval Walls, Lynch's Castle, Lynch's Window, St. Nicholas's Church, Kirwan's Lane, The Latin Quarter, Quay Street, Blake's Castle, The Spanish Arch and more.
- Lunch on your own.
- Free time to explore on your own.
- Did someone say "Rounders?" While both softball and rounders involve hitting a ball and running, rounders is simpler, less structured game with a unique set of rules. This might be more "kin" to our version of backyard wiffleball. Get ready to test your Irish skills.
- Dinner in the Latin Quarter.
- Return to hotel pack for our trip to Cork.





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- **Sunday, June 28 – Cork – Irish Culture Day (4 nts)**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Travel to Cork with scenic stops at:
- **Dunguaire Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Celtic Crosses and more.**
- Lunch on your own and explore the city.
- **Walking tour of Cork** with highlights: University College Cork, Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, English Market, Grand Parade, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork Opera House, Shandon Bells & Tower Saint Annes Church.



- Relax at hotel before dinner at the **“Hysterical Histories Cork Dinner Theatre Show.**

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- **Monday, June 29 – Cork – Irish Culture Day – Blarney Day**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit **Blarney Castle & Gardens** and **Kiss the Blarney Stone.**
- Lunch on our own.
- Return to the **English Market** and explore on your own.
- **Game to follow “tba”**
- Return to hotel and relax before dinner at the hotel or at a local restaurant.



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**Tuesday, June 30 – Cork - Competition Day**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Put on a clinic for the local players ages 12 – 16 years old
- Lunch on your own.
- **Fourth game, team and location to be determined by Ireland Fast Pitch Association.**
- Dinner after the game.

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**Wednesday, July 1 – Farewell, Ireland**

- Breakfast at the hotel. \*
- Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.
- Safe travels and unforgettable memories!





## **Why Travel?**

- It gets you out of your comfort zone and teaches you about yourself. You'll be surprised.
- It puts life in perspective.
- You'll make friends from across the globe. (networking 101)
- It looks great on a resume. Employers aren't looking for mediocre, they're looking for leaders.
- You'll discover the world's incredible cultural diversity.
- You'll experience places you never imagined existed.
- You might learn a new language.
- You'll have incredible adventures and stories to tell.
- Experience completely new cuisine.
- Travel happiness is infectious, and you'll get to tell YOUR story

## **What's Included in the Cost of the Trip**

- Round trip airfare from the gateway city (airport)
- International airport and hotel taxes
- Service fees
- International hotel accommodations
- Uniforms
- Meals and Tours as outlined in the itinerary
- International & USA sanctioning and approvals
- An experienced and knowledgeable tour manager and coaching staff

## **What's NOT Included in the Cost of the Trip**

- Connecting airline ticket to gateway city
- Fuel Surcharges instituted by the airlines.
- Passport fees.
- Visa fees (if applicable).
- Individual medical insurance (Primary).
- Customary tipping (Bus drivers) Collected 2 weeks prior to the departure.
- Laundry.
- Travel insurance (Recommended).
- Personal items such as gifts, telephone calls, snacks, drinks, etc.

Team members are responsible for raising or paying \$5,425 to cover their share of the team's expenses as set forth by the NCAA, NAIA, & NJCAA with respect to the Foreign Tours guidelines.



## **General Conditions for USA | Athletes International Programs**

### **Responsibilities:**

USA Athletes International acts only in the capacity as agent for the owners and contractors providing transportation, hotel, or other services. All tour services, tickets, and vouchers are subject to, any and all terms and conditions provided by the issuer. The acceptance of any service provided as part of the USA Athletes International program or of any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent by the program member to these conditions. All services are subject to the law of the country in which the services are provided.

### **Changes in Itinerary:**

There may be circumstances beyond the control of USA Athletes International and our suppliers that necessitate revisions (including tour dates) of the itinerary. Every effort will be made to have changes maintain the intent of the original itinerary. USA Athletes International shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever for loss, injury, or damage due to sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, and injury during program events however caused or arising. USA Athletes International reserves the right to alter any part of the tour it deems necessary or advisable. The additional cost resulting from such change shall be paid by the program participant.

### **Television and Video Rights:**

USA Athletes International has full television and video rights in and to, any and all of the programs or events affiliated with the USA Athletes International program.

### **Member's Acceptance:**

USA Athletes International reserves the right, on its own discretion, to decline or accept approval of any individual as a member of USA Athletes International.

### **An Important Note About Fundraising:**

- There are additional fundraising ideas on our website: [www.usaai.org](http://www.usaai.org)
- Each team member is responsible for checking the guidelines for raising funds as they pertain to eligibility within their respective athletic associations.
- All non-personal funds above and beyond the said trip cost become the property of USA Athletes International.