Hey soon-to-be-world-travelers!

This is an email from our Scottish tour director. Please read below about the optional excursions that he would like to offer us.

1. The “Jaunting Cars” in Killarney (€15) <http://killarneyjauntingcars.ie/>
2. Sheep dog and Shepherd (€5) <http://www.kissanesheepfarm.com/> <http://youtu.be/mCZWRhvwZjE>
3. Irish Dancing Shows (€25) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXCsjgzj498>
4. West End Musical – Usually *Wicked* (£25-75) <http://www.londonmusicaltickets.com/> (Lion King? Mamma Mia? Phantom of the Opera? Stomp? We Will Rock You?)
5. Jack the Ripper at night tour (£7-10) <http://www.jacktheripperwalk.com/>
6. Harry Potter Tour (??) <http://www.muggletours.co.uk/>
7. Paris by Night boat tour (€12?) <http://en.parisinfo.com/guided-tours/74293/Vedettes-de-Paris>

Please email me back by Monday which of these you would be interested in so I can let him know for approximate numbers. Also, be sure to budget accordingly if you want to go on these.

I will send a couple more emails out before we go.

**8 DAYS!**

Todd Parsons

Clear Falls High School

**From:** lewis irvine
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 3:31 AM
**To:** Parsons, Todd
**Subject:** Re: Your approaching tour!

Hey Todd,

Great to hear someone so enthusiastic about tour! This tour is a favourite of mine and we have a jam-packed itinerary. The pace is great too, starting in the sleepiest of our three cities and ending in the busiest. I should say as well - please email me as much as you want - I'm a keen emailer and am delighted to help as much as you need pre-tour. I'm hugely happy to hear that you teach Human Geography, I guess you'll find that a lot of my emphases during this tour are on things which could fall under the umbrella of Political Geography and I'm *thrilled* to hear that I have a group who are going to be familiar with the colonial rule of Ireland the partition of their state. I can tell from the tone of your email, we're all going to get along great.

I will send you at least one more big email before the tour begins, just going over all of the plans for the first day. For now though I wanted to get in touch about some of the optionals which I'm going to offer to your group. I think some Tour Directions mention optionals in drips and drabs but I'm always pretty keen to get them all in one place pretty early on, so there are no hidden costs and people can feel free to prioritize which ones they are keen on/can afford. So there are quite a few of them in this email but don't feel like they're all required – I just want to show you the lay of the land in terms of the possibilities for this tour, especially before your meeting on Thursday. I should also say that I will always endeavour to make alternative options for those who don't want to go on an optional, even if (due to our location/times etc) it just involves free time or a good sightseeing recommendation.

1) The first optional is a ride on the “Jaunting Cars” in Killarney on our first full day, the Ring of Kerry day. The Ring of Kerry is an all day scenic drive around a peninsula on the south of the western coast of Ireland with lots of included stops – both scenic and activity based. That day is mostly spent on the coach so the Jaunting Cars are a great way to get out, see some scenery and breath some fresh air. The Jaunting Cars are traditional horse and cart rides, through the grounds of Muckross house, driven by local Irish drivers. Their knowledge about the flora and fauna and local history is almost as good as their banter. The ride costs €15 and is payable straight to the driver. For those who don't wish to go, they can have an hour of free time in the lovely town centre of Killarney. (On that day there will hopefully be an additional optional of seeing a Sheppard called Brendan demonstrate his amazing sheepdogs. This costs €5 and is absolutely fantastic. I will recommend that everyone goes on this optional.)

2) In Dublin, (or even in Killarney, before that), I could arrange, if there was enough interest, for the group to go and see an Irish dancing and music night. There's one in Killarney called The Celtic Stepps and another two in Dublin, one called the Merry Ploughboy and I can't remember the name of the other one. These usually work out at about 25EUR per person but I definitely won't be pushing them unless there is real interest, because there are several other optionals which I think are more important/more value of money.

3) Normally the biggest costing optional is going to see a West End Musical in London (usually Wicked) and this normally costs around £25 per head. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on how you see it), we're in London over a Friday and Saturday night so I can get no reductions on ticket costs, making the tickets incredibly expensive. This, I think, might be a good thing because it potentially frees up our time a bit more. So for London I was thinking a few things. At the globe on that Friday night is a Francis Beaumont play (*The Knight of The Burning Pestle*) and standing tickets at the globe are usually a tenner each. If I remember rightly though, I'm not sure I can book these, I think they might have to be booked/collected by you. My tour director brain cogs are grinding too when you say Harry Potter because I can definitely look into getting us a Harry Potter walking tour if that sounds interesting? The thing that I would really recommend when we're in London though is A Jack The Ripper walking tour around Aldgate and Whitechapel, I have the most amazing guide who does the whole thing in costume and is terrifying and absolutely hilarious. This guide is constantly overbooked though so if you think you'd be interested, it'd be good to know asap so I could try and book him. If I remember rightly, the price of this depends on group size but is somewhere between £7-10 per person.

4) Paris. On our last night in Paris I'm going to offer the group a Paris by Night experience. This basically involves a metro ticket to the base of the Eiffel Tower after dinner, in the early evening, a boat cruise on the Seine (seeing Paris and the Eiffel tower as the sun is going down) and then free time at the base of the tower, for those keen and energetic enough to climb up/get in line. I don't offer the Eiffel Tower tickets in this because they are almost impossible to get hold of and this way, only the desperately keen have to stand in line. The whole evening package is pretty cheap for what it is, I think it comes in at about 12EUR but don't quote me on that, it might be less. From experience, it's a lovely way to finish the tour.

Sorry, I know this is a long email, I just like to be super-clear about the optionals I offer, and there's nothing worse than optional costs which pop up at the last minute! I should say as well that I have a few (costless) surprises in mind for our itinerary. I think your money advice is correct and you're right about Umbrellas too. Also, I'm chuffed to hear you're foodies. I worked as a chef for several years and am pretty keen on food myself.

Sorry for the length of this email, and do feel free to share it with the group!

I hope you're all getting excited.

All the best,

Lewis