

# PRACTICALITIES, if you think this may be for you.

**More details.** If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible. Each group is only 12 people, including Chris and myself, and we already have a list of people interested in both the 2005 pilgrimages, and one firm booking. We are delighted to answer any questions, to mail a CD of previous pilgrimages, or to put you in contact with previous pilgrims.

**Booking.** To move from "interest" to reserving a place, please send us a 20% deposit and your booking form, then follow the payment schedule shown below. When people chose to make the entire payment at the start, we are delighted, as we have already paid deposits for all the accommodation. Payments may be made in Canadian dollars, sterling, Euros or US dollars.

**On going payment.** By 30 days before the pilgrimage, all costs must be paid. 75% by 60 days and 50% by 90 days is required. The cost covers accommodation during the pilgrimage, breakfast and one other meal daily, all land transportation and ferries, guest speakers, guides, and site admission fees.

**Cancellations.** For cancellations in writing or email, the following retentions for costs will be deducted from the refund: 90 days – 20%, 60 days – 30%, 30 days – 40%, 20 days – 50%. If the cancellation is less that 20 days before the start date, there is no firm refund although we will attempt to refund, after our return, any amounts that had not been prepaid, and have affected quantity discounts.

**Insurance.** We **strongly** recommend that pilgrims arrange medical and travel cancellation insurance, etc at the time of making their travel arrangements.

**Liability.** Island Pilgrims make arrangements for transport, accommodation and other services, solely in the capacity of agents, and not principals. By making a payment you are agreeing that Island Pilgrims shall not be liable for any injury, damage, accident, loss, delay or irregularity which occurs by any reason of the condition of any building, structure, boat, vehicle, fixture, fitting or accessory thereof or through the act or default of Island Pilgrims or any person attending or participating in an event or pilgrimage or carrying out arrangement on a pilgrimage or event.

**Maps and books.** We take a good supply of maps and encourage everyone to take a turn at map reading. We also take reference books about Celtic spirituality, primarily Celtic Christianity, remarkable early Christians who lived in each area, the areas we are visiting, and about the archaeology, geography or history of the areas themselves. And we take Celtic Christianity worship books and CDs. All are for the use of all pilgrims.

**What to bring.** The only essentials are your passport and any prescription medication. Glasses and sun-glasses can be useful. We live in jeans, t-shirts, fleecies, a rain-proof jackets (maybe pants too), maybe shorts or a skirt. Comfy walking shoes and sandals are good. Hair-dryers and electric razors are a voltage hazard, and superfluous weight, as is make-up. It is an out-door experience on land and waters that can be hot, cold, windy, wet, all within 20 minutes! The early pilgrims took a copy of the psalms or a gospel, and a staff. That would do well. Anything else is either a bonus or weight you may wish you had left a home. And there is no lack of shopping opportunities if you do need something. We encourage pilgrims to bring a favourite hymn, reading, or prayer to share with the group, and maybe a special recipe for one of our meals.



*Sue exploring a souterraine at Knowth and Gwynne with a muddy friend, - no place for fashion statements!*



**A record of your pilgrimage.** Some people bring a camera. Chris and I take both still and video cameras and send every pilgrim a CD or DVD after the pilgrimage. If you bring the connector cables and software, we can download stills daily from any camera to the laptop. But please check the details with Chris well before we leave. Some people bring a note book and keep a travel or spiritual journal.



**Luggage.** Pilgrimages are not fashion shows! Elegance is not part of our aim. We have very little luggage space and sometimes carry our backpacks onto tiny ferries, so we try to keep them small and light. We find that the ideal luggage is a back-pack or mid-sized duffel on wheels and a very small day-pack. Although your bag should be small enough to take as hand-baggage on your flight, we recommend that you check it and carry only your day-pack with you. The luggage space on all flights is very limited. If you are arriving early, or staying longer, please have any additional luggage in a separate bag to leave at the airport in left-luggage during the pilgrimage. We can happily provide a packing list. Packing small and light makes the journey much less complicated. We find laundries regularly, but most people hand wash a couple of items most nights.

*Small, light luggage works best. Wheels are good too.*

**Before the pilgrimage.** Chris and I are on site a day or so before each pilgrimage. Some pilgrims also like to arrive early to recover from jet-lag or just relax. This is a lovely idea. We are happy to make the reservations, and meet people at the airport, train or bus station. The individuals cover their own costs for this time.

**After the pilgrimage.** We usually arrange to end the pilgrimage a day or two before the start of one of the residential courses at Lampeter ( <http://www.lamp.ac.uk/> ) so that anyone interested can conveniently deepen their interest and understanding of Celtic spirituality through three or four days of lectures and discussions with the leading academics in this field. But this possibility for study is usually of interest to only one or two in the group. Pilgrimage is about experience, relationships, intention and interest, not about making an objective intellectual study of the process! For those who are interested, we organize transport to Lampeter and back to a major airport after the course. Anyone who wishes to spend a few extra days in Wales is welcome to join this activity. We share the cost of the vehicle and find economical accommodation.



From past Island Pilgrims 2001 - 2004:

- ✦ *"These pilgrimages will inspire and enrich your spiritual life"*
- ✦ *"A whole new way of being and seeing"*
- ✦ *"A special event in my life, truly awesome"*
- ✦ *"An amazing journey, a wonderful pilgrimage"*
- ✦ *"I'm going with you again next year!"*

