



Post Conference Tour

EGF 2018 offers a post-conference tour immediately after the conference. The post-conference tour will depart the conference venue (Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork) at 13:30 pm on Thursday 21st of June and will end on Saturday 23rd June in Belfast (delegates will have a choice of drop off at [Belfast International Airport](#), [Belfast City Centre](#) or [George Best Belfast City Airport](#)). There will also be a drop off at [Dublin Airport](#) at approximately 20:00.

Two tours are available, and are subject to minimum numbers. If minimum numbers are not registered for one or other tour, the organisers reserve the right to withdraw that tour and offer delegates the opportunity to join the remaining tour. In the event that there is not enough interest in either post-conference tour, the organisers reserve the right to cancel the tours. Delegates must register for the post-conference tour by the 31st March to secure their place on the tour and allow for planning of accommodation, etc.

The cost of the post-conference tour will be €450 per person, and includes transport, two nights' accommodation, two breakfasts and two evening meals, lunch on Saturday, entrance fees. Beverages and lunch on Friday are at delegates own cost.

Please advise us of any dietary requirements or of any special requests by emailing EGF2018@abbey.ie. If you require a double room, please contact EGF2018@abbey.ie.

West Tour

Thursday 21st June

Depart Rochestown Park Hotel, travelling through the Golden Vale and into the West of Ireland to the [Burren](#). The Burren is a rugged karst limestone landscape extending over an area of approximately 720 km² in north Co. Clare and south Co. Galway, along the mid-western coast, part of the [Wild Atlantic Way](#). Burren is from the Gaelic word *Boireann*, which means place of stone. The Burren region is home to 16 habitats, five of which are EU priority habitats for wild flowers. The Burren Programme is a pioneering agri-environmental programme which aims to conserve and support the heritage, environment and communities of the Burren. Delegates will meet one of the Team of the Burren Programme to who will describe how the programme works and how it is integrated with the local agricultural community. They will also meet a local farmer who will describe their system of production and involvement with the Burren Programme. From the Burren, the tour will travel to [Galway City](#), one of Irelands most engaging city's and home of the Claddagh ring, where delegates will stay for the night. After dinner delegates will be free to explore Galway City which comes alive during the summer months with live traditional music, buskers and street theatre.

Friday 22nd June

After breakfast delegates will travel through patchwork countryside edged with traditional dry stone walls to visit the [Newford Farm](#) in Athenry. This farm was established to demonstrate the technologies that drive profitability in a suckler herd including animal breeding, grassland management, animal husbandry, etc. The tour will then visit the nearby [Teagasc Athenry Sheep Research Centre](#). The mission of the Sheep Research Centre is to increase the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of Irish sheep production systems. Research areas include grassland production and utilisation, breeding and genetics, nutrition, and animal health and welfare. Knowledge transfer is an important component of the programme at Teagasc Athenry. Delegates will visit a number of research projects including the [Athenry demonstration flock](#), and the [INZAC flock](#). Following lunch at Teagasc Athenry, delegates will travel east through the true centre of Ireland. The [midlands](#) are a glorious multi-coloured landscape of bogs and lakes, drumlins and eskers. The next stop on the tour is in [Co. Meath](#), known as the Royal County, once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Delegates will visit [Teagasc, Grange Research Centre](#), Dunsany, Co. Meath. Teagasc beef research is undertaken at Grange Research Centre, where researchers use the latest scientific knowledge to identify the technologies to meet the priority needs of the beef sector in Ireland. Research areas include beef systems, feeding and nutrition, breeding and genetics, reproduction, grassland management, forage production, utilisation and conservation, animal health and welfare, and meat quality. A number of research projects such as the [Maternal Herd](#) and the [Derrypatrick Herd](#) will be presented and discussed. Delegates will travel through historical Co. Meath to [Ashbourne](#) for accommodation and evening meal.

Saturday 23rd June

In the morning delegates will travel through some of [Ireland's Ancient East](#) to [The Brehon Brewhouse](#). The brewery is situated on a dairy farm in Co. Monaghan. Delegates will enjoy a tour of the Brewhouse, hear the history of the area, and learn about the ancient Brehon Laws of Ireland which lent much patronage to ancient brewing. They will also visit the dairy facility which supplies milk used in Baileys Cream Liquor. There will be an opportunity to sample some of the beers in the old family home. The tour then moves north to the [Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute](#) (AFBI) Northern Ireland, at Hillsborough. This is an instrumented livestock research farm facility conducting forefront research on farmed livestock (dairy, beef, sheep, pig and poultry) within a 300 ha walled estate. The studies seek to improve the efficiency of production, lower the environmental footprint of livestock farming and enhance livestock welfare in order to support a competitive and sustainable agri-food industry. The delegates will be able to see much of the research work and particularly how the application of the most up to date digital monitoring technologies are enhancing the capability of AFBI scientists to address the big challenges currently facing the agri-food industry locally as well as globally. Following the visit to AFBI, the tour will end at [Belfast International Airport](#) at approximately 16:30, [Belfast City Centre](#) at approximately 17:00 and at [George Best Belfast City Airport](#) at approximately 17:30. There will be a drop off at [Dublin Airport](#) at approximately 20:00.

East Tour

Thursday 21st June

Depart Rochestown Park Hotel, travelling along the south east coast line with its spectacular scenery and views of the glinting Irish sea to visit [Teagasc Johnstown Castle Research Centre](#). Johnstown Castle is Ireland's leading research centre for soils and the rural environment. The centre conducts research on soils, nutrient efficiency, recovery and losses; air and water quality; the agricultural environment and agro-ecology. The research results generated are used widely by advisors, farmers, scientists and policy makers. Delegates will visit and learn about many of the research projects currently on-going at Johnstown Castle. A visit to the [Agricultural Museum](#) and gardens in the grounds of the Research Centre will follow. The Museum has one of the most comprehensive displays of farming and rural life in Ireland, and is housed in the former estate farm buildings of Johnstown Castle. From Johnstown Castle the tour will travel the short distance to [Wexford](#) town for dinner and accommodation. Wexford was originally established by the Vikings in approximately 800 AD. Wexford is a maze of narrow medieval streets lined with a mixture of old-time pubs, modern steel-and-glass facades and everything in-between.

Friday 22nd June

Delegates will visit [Kilkenny Castle](#) and Gardens in beautiful, medieval [Kilkenny city](#). Kilkenny city is a centre of arts and crafts and delegates will have some time to visit [Kilkenny Design Centre](#), and enjoy coffee or lunch in one of the many cafes, bars and restaurants in the area. History and culture will be followed by a visit to the Teagasc [Greenfield Dairy Farm](#). The Greenfield Dairy Farm Programme was established in 2010 and aims to provide family farmers with the skills and technologies to expand milk production and profitably grow their businesses into the future. Farm productivity and financial data will be presented. Delegates will discuss farm establishment, view the farm infrastructure and discuss the breeding and grassland management policies on the farm. The tour will continue north to [University College Dublin's Lyons Research Farm](#) in Co. Kildare. The farm operates mixed enterprises, supporting teaching and research in the areas of beef, crops, dairy, equine, sheep and pigs. An overview of the research farm including its history and role in education will be presented, as will a number of research projects including the Lyon's Dairy Systems Research Herd which focuses the options for expansion on a limited milking platform and the [SmartGrass Project](#) examining multispecies swards for livestock production. Delegates will travel through historical [Co. Meath](#), known as the Royal County, once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, to [Ashbourne](#) for accommodation and evening meal.

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