



MESSAGE FROM CEO

Welcome – On behalf of the Irish Wheelchair Association, I am calling on walkers from throughout the country to join us on our annual fundraising walk.

This is a very special year for the Association as we celebrate 50 years working with and on behalf of people with a disability. We are marking the occasion by bringing our walk to Boston, the home of President John F. Kennedy, whose successful presidential campaign also ran 50 years ago this year.

This will be our 25th walk to raise vital funding for the Association and the vibrant and historical city of Boston is an impressive backdrop to celebrate our own special birthday.

From the grandeur of Newport, Rhode Island, to the beautiful and antiquated redbrick buildings of Beacon Hill, this year's walk really has something for everyone. Last, but by no means least, we celebrate in style at our Gala

Night in none other than the 'City that Never Sleeps', New York, New York! An opportunity for much deserved retail therapy awaits all walkers on our final day, along with visits to the landmarks of the city that is a movie star in its own right.

We are very proud of everything the Association has achieved in the past 50 years and the efforts of our walkers each year contributes significantly to these aims and provides much needed funds to allow us to continue to provide our essential services to people in Ireland. We welcome you to join us on our walk and be part of something special in 2010.

"Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal"

President John F Kennedy

Kathleen Mc Loughlin,
Chief Executive Officer.

Sponsorship for participation €4,750

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WE need YOUR support



Walk with Irish Wheelchair Association in Boston 2010



Trace the journey taken by so many Irish immigrants to a new life in the US
31st March – 8th April 2010

Our 2010 International Walk takes us to Boston to celebrate Irish Wheelchair Association's 50th Anniversary. It provides an opportunity to visit Boston's most historical sites alongside walking in the footsteps of one of Ireland's most famous immigrant families, the Kennedys. Boston also enjoys a famous place in history as the location for the battles of Lexington and Concorde and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston has been a leading American city since colonial days, with a rich history associated with America's struggle for independence. It has a special bond with Ireland because so many Irish fled to Boston during the Potato Famine of the 1840's. On our journey we will visit some of the places these Irish made home.

Walking highlights will include the **Rose Kennedy Walk** through Boston, **Plymouth** where the first settlers landed in the New World, Cape Cod where **Hyannis** was home to the Kennedys, along with Newport Rhode Island where some of the grandest mansions in the USA are located.

Boston is famous for everything from the Boston Red Sox and Paul Revere to Cheers Bar and clam "chowdah".

We depart the US via New York, also home to many Irish over the decades. Here we will visit **Ground Zero** where Irish names are prominent in the lists of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. We stop off finally at **St Paul's Chapel** where many of the remnants of that tragic day are housed.



Boston

As part of our walking tour we will follow the **Irish Heritage Trail** with its landmarks of Irish-American artists and heroes from the 1700's to the present day in Boston. The trail includes the Irish Famine Memorial which is located just a few blocks from where Irish refugees first crowded into tenements along Boston's waterfront.

The Rose Kennedy Walk takes us through four parks in some of Boston's oldest and most diverse neighbourhoods including Chinatown, North End, Wharf District and Dewey Square. We will get to experience the architectural features, historic landmarks and wonderful relaxing atmosphere along our walk through this unique urban setting.

Beacon Hill. No walk around Boston would be complete without spending time in this delightful district with its dignified stacks of red brick rising above the north side of Boston Common. These narrow, hilly streets are still lit with gas lamps which line this quaint 19th century townhouse district.

Charlestown is home to many different sites including The Big Dig, the largest and most expensive highway construction project in US history with an initial budget of \$2.6 billion which is expected to have more than quadrupled before completion. It is also home to the world's oldest commissioned warship, the USS Constitution and the Bunker Hill Monument, an obelisk commemorating the famous battles fought during the war of independence.

The North End, home of Paul Revere, the oldest residential address in the city. The Irish were the first immigrants to flock to this district and JFK's grandfather, who was Mayor of Boston, was born here in 1863.

The Red Coats Walk takes in the famous sights of the revolutionary war of 1775 when British and colonial forces clashed in the battles at **Lexington** and **Concorde**. At Concorde's North Bridge you can see the place where on April 19 1775 colonial militia men fired the famous "shot heard round the world". While going along the five miles "Battle Road Trail" we will travel through the restored colonial landscape and retrace the steps of the battle. We visit the Hartwell Tavern, a restored 18th century tavern on Battle Road, with its living history, where staff costumed as Park Rangers will offer us a glimpse of what life was like in revolutionary times.

Other interesting highlights...

CAPE COD



The Pilgrim Town of **Plymouth** is dedicated to commemorating the landing of 102 Pilgrims in the USA in December 1620. This was the first place the Pilgrims landed in the New World. We will visit the Plimoth Plantation where a 1627 English village has been recreated. The small farming town was originally built by English colonists in the midst of the Wampanoag homeland. The Wampanoag Indians have lived on this land for over 12,000 years. We will be immersed in the day to day lives of both the early settlers and the indigenous people of the time.

HYANNIS

Hyannis has a long history with America's first family, the Kennedys with the JFK Memorial and the Kennedy Compound located here. We will walk the beach and dunes along this environmentally protected seashore which the late Senator Ted Kennedy was instrumental in protecting. The area boasts 40 miles of pristine sandy beaches, marshes, ponds, and uplands which support many diverse species. Lighthouses, cultural landscapes and wild cranberry bogs will show us a glimpse of Cape Cod's natural beauty.



RHODE ISLAND



Newport, Rhode Island is home to spectacular coastal scenery, awe-inspiring architecture and a thriving waterfront with its glamorous yachts from around the world. We visit the **Breakers** one of the grandest of Newport's summer "cottages" built in the Italian Renaissance style and consisting of 70 rooms. Experience this wonderful mansion home of the Vanderbilts, and look into the lives of the people who lived and worked there.

Newport Cliff Walk is world famous as a public access walk with full wheelchair access that combines the natural beauty of the shoreline and includes lots of architectural history from this area.

NEW YORK

The Big Apple is the scene for the finale of our 2010 Walk. Our afternoon walking tour of Manhattan will allow you to see all the famous sights in the 'City that Never Sleeps' from Times Square, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Rockefeller Center, Empire State Building to Fifth Avenue with its exclusive shops. St Paul's is located directly across from the World Trade Center site Ground Zero. This site of New York's greatest tragedy is today a symbol of New York City's determination and enduring spirit.

The bright lights of downtown Manhattan in the 'City that Never Sleeps' will be the backdrop for our Gala Dinner before leaving the city that welcomed our forebears. Walkers will have a little well earned free time on our final day for some retail therapy, a visit to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island or an afternoon cruise on the Hudson River.

