



# IRISH GAZETTE



VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 4 • MAY-JUNE 2006

PUBLISHED BY ELLIOTT PUBLISHING, PO Box 65782, ST. PAUL, MN 55165

## Exploring Northern Ireland: Derry the walled city

By Kathy Dougherty

Located on the River Foyle at the northern edge of the island, Derry has one attraction you can't find anywhere else in Ireland, north or south. Walls — thick, dark stonewalls rising above this city on a hill, surrounding the center of town. Completed in the early 1600's as a way to keep outsiders out, these intact walls are 30 feet wide in places and reach up to 26 feet high.

Walking atop the walls (total circumference is approximately one mile) provides the visual background of this historic place. For a more detailed accounting, visit the Tower Museum, located within the walls, in the northwest corner of town. In addition to the history of Derry, the Museum includes an exhibit dedicated to the recovery of a boat from the Spanish Armada, which sank off the northern coast in 1588.

Your tour of Derry isn't complete until you visit the Bogside neighborhood. Looking down from the city walls at the Bogside, you see a neat-as-a-pin neighborhood, filled with apart-

ments, homes and people. However, your perspective changes dramatically when you're down in the Bogside, looking up at those walls. That view helps you begin to understand the intensity in the huge murals painted on one building after another along its main thoroughfare. These murals, depicting the struggle for civil rights, along with the monuments

commemorating events such as Bloody Sunday, have become an important tourist attraction. Guided tours allow visitors to learn more than just what they've read in the headlines.

One more historically important but little known site is located just north of Derry in Ballyarnett Country Park — the Amelia Earhart Centre. This exhibit pays tribute to Earhart's unplanned and unexpected landing on her solo flight across the Atlantic in 1932, marking the first time a woman had made this crossing alone. This is just a sampling of the sites and stories that Northern Ireland has to offer.

For more information and assistance with planning a visit to Northern Ireland, contact KMD Consulting Inc. at [kmd-consulting@juno.com](mailto:kmd-consulting@juno.com).



The residents of Derry paint murals on buildings depicting the struggle for civil rights along with commemorating events such as Bloody Sunday.