



Idyllic Ireland

MAIN TOUR

Idyllic Ireland
26 April - 4 May 2020

PRE-TOUR

Northern Ireland
20 - 26 April 2020

POST-TOUR

Channel Islands
4 - 8 May 2020





MAIN TOUR

Idyllic Ireland

APRIL - MAY 2020

A land of rolling emerald plains dotted with castles and ringed by rocky mountains, Ireland looks like something out of a fairytale. We will be impressed by its amazing scenery while the conference sessions amongst other topics will focus on Cystic Fibrosis and Haemachromatosis, the incidence in Ireland being the highest in the world.

For those not doing the pre tour to Northern Ireland we can organise a transfer from Belfast or Dublin to Derry on the 25th or you may prefer to organise yourself.

Day 1

Derry - Galway

Sun 26 April



This morning we will have some free time in Derry before travelling to Galway, a city of traditional culture on the edge of the wild Atlantic Way.

On our way to Galway, we will visit the stone fort of Grianan of Aileach which sits on a hilltop in Inishowen County Donegal. It was first built on an earthen rath, 250 metres above sea level and dates back to 1700 BC and is linked to the Tuatha de Danann who invaded Ireland before the Celts.

We will have some time to explore Galway on our own in the afternoon.





Tonight we will enjoy a special evening at the Pullman restaurant, a wonderful dining experience in restored carriages in an orient express train that was operating in Europe in the 12th century with one of its last journeys to Oxford in 1965. The carriages are surrounded by carved wooden panels and curved ceilings with exquisite views of the Connemara area.



ACCOMMODATION: Park House Hotel Galway **BD** www.parkhousehotel.ie



Day 2

Galway - Limerick

Mon 27 April

DELEGATES ONLY

Morning conference including a visit to University College Hospital Galway

On our way to Limerick we will visit Doolin Music House.

Christy Barry and his partner Sheila will open up their atmospheric home to us so we can experience local Irish music in their relaxed surroundings. Sheila is also an artist and her paintings create a truly art home atmosphere.

Following lunch we will enjoy the Cliffs of Moher Cruise.

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8 kilometres long the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland.

We will end the day in Limerick.

NON-DELEGATES

Morning at leisure



ACCOMMODATION: Savoy Hotel Limerick **BL** www.savoylimerick.com



Day 3

Limerick

Tues 28 April

Morning at Leisure

Later in the afternoon we will visit Bunratty Castle and Folk Park.

Bunratty Castle is one of the most complete and authentic medieval castles in Ireland. Built in 1425 by the Earl of Thomond it was authentically restored in the 1960's and furnished by Lord Gorts magnificent collection of medieval furniture and furnishings capturing the mood and style of the times. This is our chance to experience a window on Ireland's past!!

Within the grounds of Bunratty Castle is Bunratty Folk Park where 19th century life is vividly recreated. Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting. Enjoy the tastes, scents, sights and sounds of this enchanting place as you stroll around the charming village complete with school, post office, doctors house, hardware shop, printers and of course the pub!

In the evening the castle will host a medieval banquet where we can enjoy fine food, wine and entertainment.



ACCOMMODATION: Savoy Hotel Limerick **BD** www.savoylimerick.com

MAIN TOUR: Idyllic Ireland Conference



This morning we will enjoy a scenic drive along the Dingle Peninsula.

The finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry, on the Dingle Peninsula. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches and where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved.

The Dingle Peninsula will charm us with its villages painted in bright colours and will bewitch us with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.

The road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular, passing through a chain of mountains, stunning beaches and dunes made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's Daughter".



We will have the option to hike the Dingle Way as well as enjoy a picnic lunch. The Dingle way hike has the finest scenery with the ocean and magnificent peaks of the rolling hills whilst walking through natural fields and bog lands.

ACCOMMODATION: Cahernane House Hotel Kerry **BL** www.cahernane.com



Day 5

Gap of Dunloe

Thurs 30 April

Today we will explore the Gap of Dunloe.

We will begin at Kate Kearney's Cottage, where we will be greeted by our horse and carriage formerly known in Ireland as jaunting cars. The carts will travel through the Black Valley and the famous Gap before stopping at Lord Brandon's Cottage. At the edge of Lake Killarney we will catch an Irish long boat to Ross Castle whilst enjoying the impressive scenery as we cruise through the three lakes.



ACCOMMODATION: Cahernane House Hotel Kerry **B L**

This morning we will depart for Cork where we will have free time to explore.

On the way we will visit Charles Fort, a classic example of a late 17th century star-shaped fort overlooking Kinsale harbour declared a national monument in 1973.

William Robinson architect of the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham, Dublin is credited with designing the fort. As one of the largest military installations in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. The most significant of these are the Williamite War 1689-91 and the Civil War 1922-23.



Our accommodation for the night will be in Tipperary.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Minella Tipperary **B L** www.hotelminella.com



Day 7

Waterford - Dublin

Sat 2 May

DELEGATES ONLY

Morning conference including tea

In the afternoon we will visit the Waterford Crystal Centre. A unique highlight is the factory tour which gives us a close insight into the centuries-old tradition of Waterford crystal making. Feel the heat of the furnace and marvel at the skills of the craftsmen!! The factory tour includes all the production processes and will be followed by time to browse the retail store which houses the largest collection of Waterford Crystal found anywhere in the world.

NON-DELEGATES

Morning at leisure

Following this we will drive into Dublin believed to be the cosmopolitan and soul city of Ireland.



ACCOMMODATION: Dylan Hotel Dublin **B** www.dylan.ie



Day 8

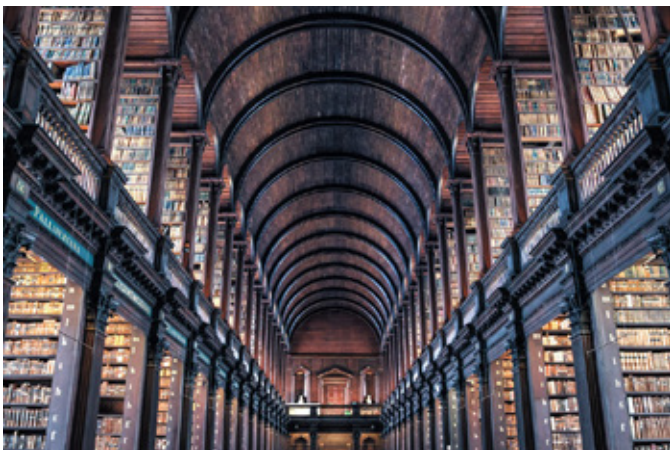
Dublin

Sun 3 May

DELEGATES ONLY

Morning conference and visit to Cystic Fibrosis Ireland

Later we will visit Trinity College, the oldest university in Ireland founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth. Within its walls we will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th century edifices.



NON-DELEGATES

Morning at leisure

Trinity College has had many famous students such as Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett who later became a lecturer in French at the university.

With a backstory that includes monks, Vikings and remote Scottish islands, the Book of Kells will make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. This glorious Early Christian illuminated manuscript is quite simply a masterpiece. Located within Trinity College's Treasury, the tour here includes a visit to the Long Room library, one of Europe's most magnificent libraries housing over 200,000 of Trinity's oldest books.

The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure before our farewell dinner.

ACCOMMODATION: Dylan Hotel Dublin **B D**

Day 9

Dublin

Mon 4 May

For those doing the post tour to the Channel Islands we will leave for our flight to Jersey in the afternoon.

For those not doing the post tour you will have free time in Dublin City.

MAIN TOUR

Idyllic Ireland

26 APRIL - 4 MAY, 2020

Trip Inclusions

- Conference sessions/hospital visits with tea as indicated (delegates only)
- 8 nights at well-appointed accommodation mentioned in the itinerary (or equivalent)
- Meals indicated in the itinerary including welcome and farewell dinner
- All group transfers with airfares purchased through Convention Abroad
- All sightseeing, activities and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Cliffs of Moher cruise
- Local guide
- Convention Abroad escort
- All taxes and handling fees
- Tipping

Trip Exclusions

- International airfares from Australia
- Accommodation Derry 25th April if not doing the pre tour to Northern Ireland
- Meals or drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional tours/activities other than those specified
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone, mini bar, room service etc.)
- Porterage
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Individual airport-hotel transfers
- Airport taxes (if applicable)
- Anything not mentioned in the trip inclusions



To receive all costing details

Please proceed to the 'Register Your Interest' page on our website to complete and submit the form.

www.conventionabroad.com.au

For any questions, please contact

Dr Naomi Jacobs 0413 62 62 74

PRE TOUR

Northern Ireland

APRIL 2020



Day 1

Belfast

Mon 20 April

Today we will arrive into Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland and birthplace of the Titanic.

We will have the rest of the day at leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **B** www.hastingshotels.com/culloden-estate-and-spa/index.html



Day 2

Belfast

Tues 21 April

DELEGATES ONLY

Morning conference including tea

In the afternoon we will enjoy Paddy Campbell's famous Black Cab Tour where we will experience a tour highlighting Belfast's historical sites in the comfort of a London-styled black taxi. The political murals of the Falls and the Shankill tell their own graphic story of what has been called "The Troubles" in Ireland's recent history. We will see the



infamous Peaceline, a wall built to keep Nationalists and Loyalists apart and in the process divided the communities. Other historical sites seen will be the Crumlin Road Jail and Court House, City Hall, Albert Memorial Clock and Crown Liquor Saloon.

Following this tour we will visit Titanic Belfast which recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic building right beside the historic site

NON-DELEGATES

Morning at leisure

of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium and you will then journey through the nine large galleries of this interactive Titanic Experience exhibition.

This exceptional museum has just been awarded the 'world's leading tourist attraction' – a highly impressive accolade. Of course Belfast shipyard was where the ill-fated liner was constructed and the museum provides exceptional insight into the engineering, voyage, personal stories and quest to find her thirty years ago.



ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **BD**

PRE-TOUR: Northern Ireland



This morning we will drive to the nearby Cushendun caves formed over 400 million years ago. They are located near the beautiful rural sea side town of Cushenden and to Games of Thrones fans was where Davos took Melisandre to give birth to the shadow.

We will then continue onto Carrick-a Rede, on the Antrim Coast. It is a spectacular rope bridge which spans a chasm, 30 metres deep and 20 metres wide. Originally a seasonal working bridge for fisherman it connects a small island to the mainland and if you are bold enough to cross to this rocky island the reward will be fantastic views. Underneath the bridge are large caves, which often served as a safe haven for fishing trawlers escaping from winter storms.

If time permits we will visit the dark hedges made famous in the Game of Thrones series.



ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **B**

Day at Leisure OR**OPTIONAL: GAME OF THRONES EXPERIENCE**

This Game of Thrones Tour involves a visit to filming locations of the Game of Thrones show, such as "Winterfell" and other key locations from the first 3 seasons. The most important visit is to Winterfell where an adventure sports company offers archery in the courtyard. Stand



on the set in the exact same spot Jon Snow & Robb Stark taught young Bran the art of archery in Game of Thrones - dress up in character costume & enjoy the thrill of firing live arrows in your own session of archery.

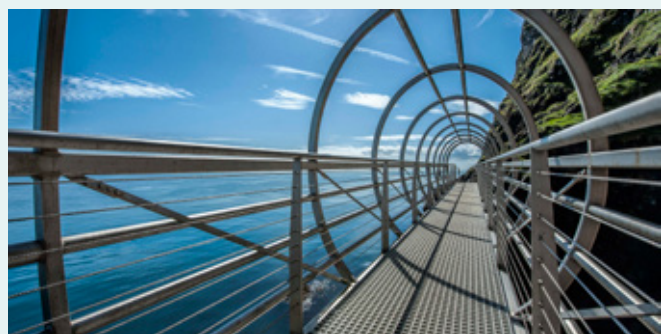
We will also visit Castle Ward which overlooks the beautiful Stangford Lough. Within this 820 acre demesne you will find the spectacular house, an exotic sunken garden and a haunting woodland. This is where King Robert Baratheon and his retinue arrive and are met by the Starks in Season 1. Castle Ward features heavily in all seasons of the show.

OPTIONAL: GOBBINS COASTAL PATH

Hanging from basalt cliffs directly over the Irish Sea, the Gobbins cliff path is an Edwardian labour of love, a stunning architectural feat having been developed over 100 years ago.

Wander along these dramatic basalt cliffs, across spectacular bridges amid the crashing waves of the North Channel, traverse hidden tunnels under the Irish Sea and through narrow pathways in an intimate adventure along this spectacular coastline.

This route was voted the number one region in the world to visit in 2018 by Lonely Planet.



ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **B**



Day 5

Rathlin Island & Giants Causeway

Fri 24 April

This morning we will depart for Derry.

En route we will visit Rathlin Island a remote L shaped island with a long and eventful history and some of the most breath-taking scenery of Ireland and Scotland.

We will have time to enjoy one of these stunning walks on which we may see some of the resident seals basking or the amazing Puffin birds which are resident here from April to July.

On the island we will meet with two of the resident nurses who keep the residents of this most remotely inhabited island healthy.



ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **B**

We will then go to explore the famous Giants Causeway. Encounter Northern Ireland's favorite giant Finn McCool at the new visitor centre. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benasdonner!! This UNESCO world heritage site consists of 40,000

basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. We will be able to do one of the cliff top walks around the area.

Conde Nast Traveller Magazine included hopping the stones of the Giants Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'.



ACCOMMODATION: Culloden Estate Hotel **B**

Our visit today will be to the Museum of Free Derry opened in 2007 in the once bloody Sunday killing zone to tell the story of what happened in the city during the period 1968-1972 popularly known as Free Derry. The story is told from the point of view of those who were most involved and affected -the Free Derry community.



Following our visit to the museum we will enjoy a mural walking tour through the Bogside area and examine the political and social repercussions of Bloody Sunday as we weave through the decades until the peace making process.



Later you can choose one of the following options.

Afternoon at leisure OR

OPTION 1: FOOD CYCLE TOUR OF DERRY

Get to know the city through your taste buds and meet the people who are passionate about their city – chefs, owners and producers. Taste mouth-watering local street food, exquisite fresh fish, sweet treats and local beers while enjoying a leisurely cycle tour. We will also have time to visit the Walled City Brewery.



OPTION 2: FOOD WALKING TOUR

Enjoy a four hour guided walking tour of Derry with the very best local food and drink. We will try freshly sourced and cooked street food, craft beers, local cheeses and yummy pastries while the guides introduce you to the passionate business foodies of Derry.



OPTION 3: DUNLUCE CASTLE

Dunluce Castle is situated on the Antrim Coast on the Sheer cliffs overlooking Donegal and Islay. Built in the 1400 by Richard Og de Burgh, the second earl of Ulster and one of the most powerful nobles in Ireland. From here the Castle

was taken in 1565 by a Scottish Mc Donnell chieftain however was later abandoned in late 1690.

ACCOMMODATION: Shipquay Hotel **B** www.shipquayhotel.com

For those not doing the main tour we will organise transport back to Belfast at an extra cost so you can connect to your flights back to Australia.

Northern Ireland

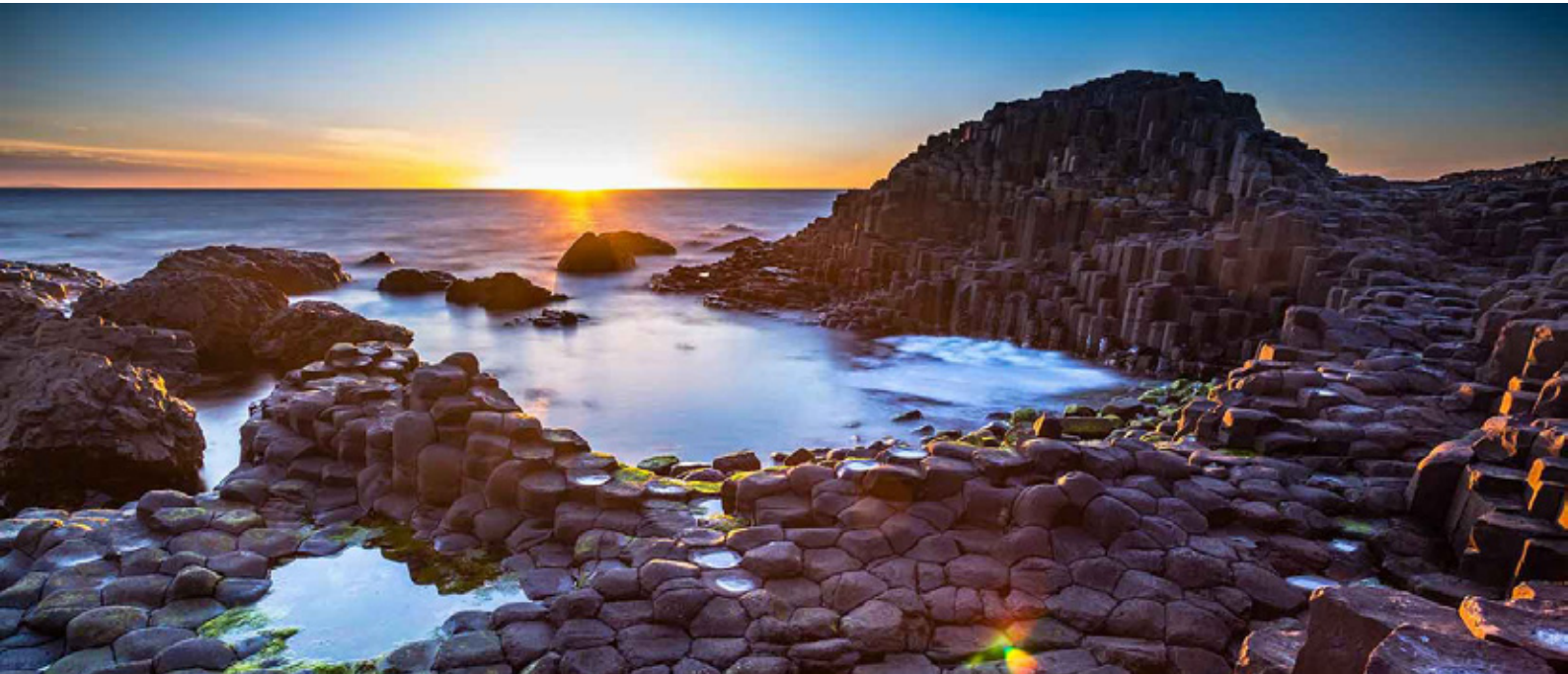
20 - 26 APRIL 2020

Trip Inclusions

- Conference sessions/hospital visits with tea as indicated (delegates only)
- 6 nights at well-appointed accommodation mentioned in the itinerary (or equivalent)
- Meals indicated in the itinerary
- All group transfers with airfares purchased through Convention Abroad
- All sightseeing, activities and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Local guide
- Convention Abroad escort
- All taxes and handling fees

Trip Exclusions

- Meals and drinks not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional tours/activities other than those specified
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone, mini bar, etc.)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Individual airport-hotel transfers
- Airport taxes (if applicable)
- Porterage
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the trip inclusions



To receive all costing details

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For any questions, please contact

Dr Naomi Jacobs 0413 62 62 74

Channel Islands

MAY 2020

Just off the coast of France, the Channel Islands beckon with exquisite coastlines, shaded lanes and old-world charm. Not quite Britain and not quite France, the islands are proudly independent, self-

governing British Crown dependencies that straddle the gap between the two. Their citizens owe their allegiance to Her Majesty, but some still speak local dialects that stem from medieval Norman French.

Day 1

Channel Islands

Mon 4th May



This afternoon we will take a flight from Dublin to Jersey and will have the rest of the time at leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: Club Hotel St Helier **B** www.theclubjersey.com

This morning we will visit the town of St Helier.



St Helier is a town of history, art, culture, immigration and reformation. Learn about how the town grew around the former Market Place and how the locals embraced the stalls filled

with fresh vegetables, flowers and traditional butchers. During this walk enjoy fantastic views of Fort Regent, Elizabeth Castle and the Victorian swimming pool.

In the afternoon, we will visit Elizabeth Castle

Built on a rocky islet in St Aubin's bay, Elizabeth Castle has defended Jersey for more than 300 years and today provides a glimpse into Jersey's past from as early as 550 A.D through to World War II and the 20th century. Climb the battlements and explore the grounds which gave refuge to King Charles II during the English Civil War. Uncover the bunkers which were re-fortified to command the seas to Jersey during the German Occupation in World War II.



ACCOMMODATION: Club Hotel St Helier **B**



This morning we will catch a ferry to Guernsey Island and on arrival will have free time to explore.

Later we will visit Hauteville House, the belvedere home of the famous writer and poet Victor Hugo, built on the heights of St Peter Port. It is here that he wrote his well known novels *Les Misérables* in 1862 and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in 1831.



We will explore his beautifully maintained gardens, his extravagant and imaginative tastes in home furnishing and his iconic writing room.



Later in the evening we will catch the ferry back to Jersey while viewing the beautiful sunsets.

ACCOMMODATION: Club Hotel St Helier **B**

Jersey War Tunnels tells the true story of wartime Jersey in a moving way and is the best place to experience what life was really like in Jersey during World War II. The exhibition is housed within an underground tunnel complex, built by the Germans using slave labour part of a partially completed underground hospital.

Our morning will be spent at this poignant museum.

Afternoon at Leisure OR Optional Tours (below)



OPTION 1: HIKE LA CORBIÈRE TO PORTELET BAY

Hike one of the most iconic walks on the island. Take in the stunning coastal views as you climb up and down the high cliffs. Absorb the fantastic sights on the islands most diverse nature reserves.

OPTION 2: SEA KAYAKING

Explore the Jersey coastline in a single kayak or tandem. Visit caves, cliffs, sea arches while keeping an eye out for marine life.

OPTION 3: DINGHY SAILING

Learn to harness the power of the wind with a dinghy sailing lesson from your RYA Instructor. A great way to try out a new sport - in a small boat as you learn new skills.



This evening enjoy an optional group cooking class or a cocktail making class before dinner.

ACCOMMODATION: Club Hotel St Helier **BD**

Today we will leave the Channel Islands and fly to London for our flight connections back to Australia.

PRE - TOUR

Channel Islands

4 - 8 MAY 2020

Trip Inclusions

- Conference sessions/hospital visits with tea as indicated (delegates only)
- 4 nights at well-appointed accommodation mentioned in the itinerary (or equivalent)
- Meals indicated in the itinerary
- All group airport to hotel transfers
- All sightseeing, activities and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Flights Dublin to Jersey & Jersey to London
- Ferry to and from Elizabeth Castle and Guernsey Island
- Local guide
- Convention Abroad escort
- All taxes and handling fees

Trip Exclusions

- Meals and drinks not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional tours/activities other than those specified
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone, mini bar, etc.)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
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Dr Naomi Jacobs 0413 62 62 74