



Irish Sun contest winners 'holiday' in New York State The Wilsons to visit Albany, Catskills, and more

Albany, NY – The Wilsons couldn't believe their good fortune. Lisa Wilson entered the family in a contest run by *The Irish Sun* newspaper, and they won!

The prize was a family holiday to New York State (February 9-15), with stops at several cities across the Hudson Valley, including the New York State Capital, Albany (February 9-11).

Wilson read a travel story in *The Sun* about New York State, and she is looking forward to exploring some of the same stops the journalist wrote about, including the New York State Museum and Empire State Plaza.

"Every time I look at the itinerary, I have a big smile on my face," says Wilson.

The trip is sponsored by *The Irish Sun* and Norwegian Airlines. Coordination is provided by I Love NY, with support from Discover Albany, Ulster County Alive, and Sullivan Catskills.

"We are thrilled to help host the Wilsons. We are excited to introduce them to our part of the state, and show them what makes Albany so special," says Michele Vennard, President and CEO of Discover Albany.

Wilson is making the trans-Atlantic journey with her husband, Robert, and daughters, Hannah, 15, and Emily, 13. The family lives in the small town of Monasterevin, in County Kildare, about 40 miles west of Dublin.

The vacation to America will give them the chance to experience upstate New York, with its breathtaking landscapes and engaging history. "It's the trip of a lifetime," says Wilson. While here, they will enjoy a number of winter activities, including ice skating and snowshoeing -- and they will enjoy some uninterrupted family time.

In Albany, the family will get the opportunity to engage in lots of family-centered activities, including ice skating at Empire State Plaza, and seeing the new American Girl® - based exhibit at Albany Institute of History & Art, the New York State Museum, and Capital Repertory Theatre. After Albany, the Wilsons will also be visiting the Catskills, where they'll go horseback riding, snowshoeing, and make s'mores.

The itineraries for each portion of the trip were assembled by local tourism agencies and they are based around the family's interests. The family will take advantage of Norwegian Airlines' new direct flights from Dublin to Stewart International Airport.

About the ACCVB

The Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. was established in 1976 to promote the civic and commercial progress of the community through increased development of conventions and tourism. ACCVB currently represents more than 300 member businesses and assists each year in hundreds of regional meetings. ACCVB also operates the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center, Henry Hudson Planetarium, and the Albany International Airport Information Center. For more information, call 518-434-1217 or 800-258-3582 or visit www.albany.org.