




## *6 Day Driftwood Ancient Ireland Tour*



*Relax on a journey of discovery in Ireland's Ancient East region. Stay in a castle hotel and explore Viking history amid spectacular scenery.*

*Visit Kilkenny and Waterford, Ireland's historic capitals. Stroll craft studios and quaint seaside villages. See a 6th century monastery in Ireland's largest National Park. Savour the foodie mecca of West Cork.*

 *Winner of Best Ireland's Ancient East Tourism Experience at the 2019 Irish Tourism Awards*



# Tour Highlights



- Savour a memorable night in Waterford Castle Hotel, located on its own island.
- Explore amazing cities like medieval **Kilkenny** and Viking **Waterford**.
- Wander quaint villages to discover handmade crafts and authentic culture.
- Soak up the stunning scenery of **Wicklow Mountains National Park**.
- Encounter incredible history at **Glendalough** and **Kilkenny Castle**.
- Take an **Irish whiskey tasting tour** at the historic **Jameson Distillery**.
- Visit Cobh; [‘one of Europe's most beautiful small towns’ \(Condé Nast Traveler 2019\)](#).
- Stop by traditional Irish pubs for local craft brews and traditional music.
- Kiss the **Blarney Stone** and explore Blarney Castle and Gardens.
- Visit the world famous House of **Waterford Crystal**.

Questions? Get in touch with Ciara: [ciara@vagabond.ie](mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie)

Call Toll Free from: USA - 833 230 0288; Canada - 833 681 6903; Australia -1800 985 642

## *Sample Itinerary*

We are proud that no two Driftwood tours are the same. Your own preferences, your guide and the famous Irish weather mean that the following itinerary should be understood as a framework only. Accommodation options are fixed. We then base each tour around the list of daily stops below.

Your guide will discuss options with you throughout your tour and plan accordingly. If there is something that you particularly want to do or see on your tour, mention it to your guide. We will do our utmost to match your choice with the preferences of your group.

Activities marked 'Tour Option' carry an additional extra cost, but are optional. Check the Tour Options table on the final page for exact costs.

Our Sales and Reservation team can advise you further on any aspect of the tour. Email Ciara directly at [ciara@vagabond.ie](mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie)

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## Day 1 - Dublin to Kilkenny

*BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY*

Meet your guide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin, at 8.10am.

Board your super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz/Volkswagen mini-coach for the trip of a lifetime.

We'll head southward, entering Wicklow. This region is known as the 'Garden of Ireland'.

Our first stop is the 6th century monastic city of Glendalough, located between two lakes in a glaciated mountain valley. Learn the story of Saint Kevin on a stroll through native oak forest.

Traversing the spectacular Wicklow Mountains National Park, you'll feel far from civilisation. Ireland's largest area of upland wilderness is less than 60 minutes from Dublin!

Enjoy lunch in one of Hollywood's traditional Irish pubs. Believe it or not, this quaint village is the source of the name for Hollywood, CA.

Travel back to the Bronze Age at Rathgall, one of Ireland's largest and most ancient ringforts.

Visit the ornamental gardens of Altamont House. Wander through Ancient oak trees, diverse flower varieties and a formal Robinsonian layout.

Arrive in the historic city of Kilkenny where your guide will recommend favourite spots for dinner and entertainment.

Your accommodation tonight is at the centrally located [Pembroke Hotel in Kilkenny](#).

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes.

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## Day 2 - Kilkenny to Waterford

### THE VIKING AND NORMAN HEARTLANDS

This morning, explore the history of medieval Kilkenny with a choice of activities:

- » Feel the ghosts of 'Strongbow' and the Earls of Ormonde at Kilkenny Castle (Tour Option - €8 per person, €6 seniors);
- » Admire hilltop St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower (Tour Option - €7 per person);
- » Take a tour of Smithwicks, brewing up a storm since 1710 (Tour Option - €16 per person, €14 seniors);
- » Stroll the streets and browse for crafts and other goodies.

See history unearthed at the historic ruins at Jerpoint Park. Keep an eye out for the purported grave of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus).

Lunch in the picturesque heritage village of Inistioge, on the banks of the River Nore.

Visit the historic port town of New Ross. Here you'll have the option to:

- » Relive the tale of Irish emigration on a replica 1840s emigrant vessel - the Dunbrody Famine Ship;
- » Or reach out and touch the story of Norman invasion at the Ros Tapestry, one of the largest embroidered tapestries in Europe (Tour Option - €8 per person, €7 seniors).

Live it up like lords and ladies at [Waterford Castle Hotel](#) tonight and tomorrow.

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## Day 3 - Waterford and Wexford

### RELAX IN THE SUNNY SOUTH EAST

Today is yours to design. Relax at your hotel with optional activities such as golf, falconry or scenic trail hikes.

Alternatively, explore the Hook Peninsula in nearby Wexford.

No visit to atmospheric Hook Head is complete without a guided tour of Hook Lighthouse. It's one of the world's oldest continually operating lighthouses, first used 847 years ago.

Enjoy a lunch of the freshest local produce in the fishing village of Fethard-on-Sea.

Walk in awe around 13th century Tintern Abbey, once one of the most powerful Cistercian Abbeys in Ireland.

Experience the Crusades on a guided tour of Ballyhack Tower House before returning to [Waterford Castle Hotel](#) for your evening's accommodation and dining.

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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## Day 4 - Waterford to Ballycotton

### TREASURES OF THE COPPER COAST

Today is all about Ireland's oldest city, Waterford; established near the strategic confluence of sea and river by Vikings in the 10th century.

Don't miss a visit to the iconic House of Waterford Crystal, home to the world's largest collection of original Waterford Crystal glassware (Tour Option - €14 per person).

Pass through Waterford city gates to enter the Viking Triangle. Find a choice of excellent museums in this renowned heritage quarter:

- » Step into a real 13th century chamber at the Medieval Museum (Tour Option - €7 per person, €6 seniors);
- » Visit the Viking Museum in Ireland's oldest civic building, 800 year old Reginald's Tower (Tour Option - €5 per person, €4 seniors);
- » Watch history come to life at the 3D King of the Vikings virtual reality experience (Tour Option - €7 per person);
- » Behold the elegance of 18th century Georgian Waterford at the Bishop's Palace Museum (Tour Option - €7 per person, €6 seniors).

We'll drift southwestward amid the charming natural scenery of the Copper Coast. If there's time, we may even detour up to the stunning Comeragh Mountains.

Gaze out across the Celtic Sea from your lodging this evening, the stunningly located [Bayview Hotel in Ballycotton](#).

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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## Day 5 - Ballycotton to Kinsale

### GETTING IN THE SPIRIT

We'll begin today with a countryside amble toward the quaint market town of Midleton.

We'll pass Kindred Spirits, a sculpture commemorating Native American aid for victims of the Irish Famine.

Spirits of a different kind are at the restored 18th century Jameson Distillery. Your visit will include a guided tour of the home of Irish whiskey, as well as an all-important tasting.

Just like the Titanic did back in 1912, we may drop into Cobh, a maritime town on an island in Cork Harbour. We'll visit the Queenstown Story Experience (Tour Option - €10 per person) or stroll up a picture-perfect street to Cobh Cathedral, one of Ireland's tallest buildings.

Irish history buffs will appreciate an optional detour to Béal na Bláth. This is the ambush site where Civil War leader, Michael Collins, was assassinated; one of the key turning points in 20th century Irish history.

Seafood fans rejoice! It's back to the coast we go, to explore the lovely town of Kinsale. Enjoy a local menu of vibrant restaurants, atmospheric pubs and abundant craft shops in the gourmet capital of Ireland.

Your accommodation is at either the [Blue Haven](#) or [Actons Hotel in Kinsale](#).

The average driving time today is 3 hours.

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## Day 6 - Kinsale to Dublin

### TIME TO SAY SLÁN

Before we say goodbye, there's still time for some of Ireland's top highlights.

After breakfast, it's time to make a difficult choice:

- » Kiss the famous Blarney Stone and explore the extensive grounds and lush, landscaped gardens of Blarney Castle (Tour Option - €18 per person).
- » Or sample the delights of the English Market in Cork city - proud locals call it the real capital of Ireland!

Your guide will select a lunch stop along the route today.

A self guided walking tour of the epic Rock of Cashel is a fitting way to end our odyssey. This is one of Ireland's most iconic sights; its story combines universal Irish themes: a stunning natural setting; a history that veers into folklore; a story rich with human elements.

You'll disembark your Drifter back at the Grand Canal Hotel in Dublin between 5-6pm. Farewell hugs all round for your new friends.

The average driving time today is 4 hours.

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*Tour Price: EURO €1,959 (per person sharing)*

*SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: €339*

### What's Included?

- ✓ A journey of discovery in a super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz tour vehicle
- ✓ The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide
- ✓ 6 full days on tour
- ✓ 5 nights' accommodation
- ✓ 5 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- ✓ Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below for extras)
- ✓ Entrance fees to Hook Head Lighthouse, Jerpoint Park, Jameson Whiskey Distillery, Dunbrody Famine Ship, Tintern Abbey and Ballyhack Castle
- ✓ All relevant taxes
- ✓ Guaranteed tour departure and price from the moment you make your deposit
- ✓ Loads of laughs and fun along the way!

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## Tour Options

Your guide will discuss options with you throughout your tour and plan accordingly.

Details	Cost pp
Blarney Castle	€18/€13 seniors
Kilkenny Castle	€8/€6 seniors
St Canice's Cathedral & Round Tower	€7
Smithwicks Brewery Tour	€16/€14 seniors
Queenstown Story Experience	€10
Waterford Medieval Museum	€7
Waterford Viking Museum	€5
3D King of the Vikings Experience	€7
Bishop's Palace Museum Waterford	€7
House of Waterford Crystal	€14
Ros Tapestry	€8/€7 seniors

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## BOOKING & CONTACT INFORMATION

Call Ciara	Select Option 2 when prompted
From the USA (Toll Free)	833 230 0288
From Canada (Toll Free)	833 691 6903
From Australia (Toll Free)	1800 985 642
From Anywhere	+353 156 34 358
Email Ciara	<a href="mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie">ciara@vagabond.ie</a>
Book Online	<a href="http://vagabondtoursofireland.com/tour/6-day-eastern-ireland-tour">vagabondtoursofireland.com/tour/6-day-eastern-ireland-tour</a>

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