



6 Day Driftwood Ancient Ireland Tour

Discover hidden Viking history, epic castle ruins, charming gardens, medieval cities and spectacular scenery on a relaxed cultural tour.



Your fully-guided experience of Ireland's Ancient East region features ample free time and hideaway destinations that you just won't find in your guidebooks.

Roll through the Wicklow Mountains National Park, uncover crafts and Norman fables in medieval Kilkenny, spend 2 nights sampling the wonders of Waterford, Ireland's Viking city, as well as one night tasting the gourmet delights of Kinsale.



**Comfy Mercedes
Tour Vehicles**

Tour Highlights



- ★ Explore amazing cities, like elegant **Kilkenny**, Ireland's medieval capital with a sprawling castle complex at its heart.
- ★ Soak up stunning scenery and wilderness as you cross the **Wicklow Mountains National Park**, Ireland's largest upland area.
- ★ Encounter incredible history and jaw-dropping scenery at sites like **Glendalough**, a mountainous 6th century monastic site.
- ★ Wander through quaint villages and towns, such as **Cobh**, 'one of Europe's most beautiful small towns' (Condé Nast Traveler 2019).
- ★ Take an **Irish whiskey tasting tour** at the historic **Jameson Distillery** near Cork.
- ★ Kiss the world famous **Blarney Stone** and explore Blarney Castle and Gardens.
- ★ Take a guided historic tour at **Jerpoint Park**, a lost 12th century Cistercian Abbey, castle and Norman settlement.
- ★ Savour two memorable nights discovering **Waterford**, Ireland's first city, founded by Vikings in the 10th century.
- ★ Stop into **traditional Irish pubs** for live traditional music, friendly locals, craft brews and delicious food.
- ★ Tour secluded coves and ancient relics along the **Copper Coast**.

Questions? Email Emma (emma@vagabond.ie) or John (johnboy@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.

Select any [green link](#) to find out more about the topic or destination.

Our friendly Sales and Reservation team can advise you further on any aspect of the tour. Email Emma (emma@vagabond.ie) or John (johnboy@vagabond.ie).

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Vagabond Tours of Ireland, Unit 52 Newtown Business & Enterprise Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Kilkenny & Wicklow Mountains National Park

DAY 1 - GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to KILKENNY

Meet your guide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin, at 8.10am. Board your Mercedes tour vehicle for the trip of a lifetime!

Our first stop is [Glendalough](#). This 6th century monastic city is located in a glaciated mountain valley between two lakes and native oak forest.

You'll feel far from civilisation in the [Wicklow Mountains National Park](#). Ireland's largest upland wilderness is less than 60 minutes from Dublin.

Next, drop into the traditional village of Hollywood. Believe it or not, this quaint village is the origin 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 at 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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Kilkenny Castle Tour, Quaint Villages & Crafts

DAY 2 - KILKENNY to WATERFORD

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

- Admire the medieval Ros Tapestry and look out for the ghost of Strongbow at [Kilkenny Castle](#) (Tour Option - €8 per person, €6 seniors)
- Admire hilltop St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower (Tour Option - €7 per person)
- See how a 16th century merchant family lived at the beautifully preserved Rothe House and Garden (Tour Option - €7.50 per person).
- Enjoy free time to soak up the charms of Kilkenny. How about a visit to the National Design & Craft Gallery? It's located just across the street from Kilkenny Castle.

Do you believe in Santa Claus? See history unearthed on a guided tour of historic Jerpoint Park, including the purported grave of Saint Nicholas.

Drop into the picturesque heritage village of Inistioge, on the banks of the River Nore.

In the historic port town of New Ross, relive the tale of Irish emigration on an atmospheric replica 1840s emigrant vessel - the Dunbrody Famine Ship.

Enjoy a central waterfront location at the [Tower Hotel Waterford](#), both tonight and tomorrow.

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Lighthouse Tour & Historic Medieval Abbey

DAY 3 - WATERFORD to HOOK PENINSULA, WEXFORD (and return)

Explore the atmospheric Hook Peninsula in Wexford.

No visit to this part of the world is complete without a guided tour of [Hook Lighthouse](#). It's one of the world's oldest continually-operating lighthouses, where the beacon was first lit around 850 years ago.

Visit Fethard-on-Sea, a quaint historic fishing village, facing the Saltee Islands.

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

Return to the [Tower Hotel](#) in Waterford for your evening's accommodation and dining.

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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Viking Waterford & Scenic Coastal Tour

DAY 4 - WATERFORD to BALLYCOTTON, CORK

Today is yours to design. Relax at your hotel or choose from a menu of cultural delights in Ireland's oldest city, Waterford.

- Visit the iconic [House of Waterford Crystal](#), home to the world's largest collection of original Waterford Crystal glassware (Tour Option - €14 per person)
- 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).

This afternoon, we'll drift past secret coves and crashing waves on Ireland's most off the beaten path touring route; the Copper Coast.

Time-permitting, we may detour up to the stunning Comeragh Mountains.

Gaze out across the Celtic Sea from your lodgings this evening at the [Bayview Hotel](#) in maritime Ballycotton.

The average driving time today is 3 hours.

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Guided Whiskey Tasting & Historic Cobh

DAY 5 - BALLYCOTTON, CORK to KINSALE, CORK

We'll begin today at the Kindred Spirits sculpture, commemorating Native American aid for victims of the Irish Famine.

Spirits of a different kind are on display at the restored 18th century Jameson Distillery. Enjoy a guided tour at the home of Irish whiskey - as well as an all-important tasting!

Just like the Titanic did back in 1912, we'll try and find time to drop into [Cobh](#). This maritime town is stunningly located on an island in Cork Harbour. Visit the Queenstown Story Experience (Tour Option - €10 per person) in Cobh or stroll up a picture-perfect street to Cobh Cathedral.

Seafood fans rejoice! It's back to the coast to explore the gorgeous town of [Kinsale](#).

Enjoy a local menu of vibrant restaurants, atmospheric pubs and abundant craft shops in the little-known gourmet capital of Ireland.

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

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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Kiss The Blarney Stone & Rock of Cashel

DAY 6 - KINSALE, CORK to GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN

Before we say goodbye, there's still time for you to taste the best that Ireland has to offer.

After breakfast, it's time to kiss the world famous Blarney Stone and explore the lush, landscaped gardens of [Blarney Castle](#) (Tour Option - €18 per person)

Take a self-guided tour of the [Rock of Cashel](#). Saint Patrick converted the King of Munster here. Brian Boru was crowned High King of Ireland here. It's an epic way to conclude your Irish odyssey.

You'll disembark your Drifter tour vehicle 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 30 minutes.

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Tour Price: EURO €1,795 (May-Sept inclusive, per person sharing)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (SS): €315

MARCH, APRIL & OCTOBER PRICE: €1615.50 | MAR, APR, OCT SS: €283.50

What's Included?

6 full days journey of discovery in a slick Mercedes Drifter tour vehicle

Entrance fee to Tintern Abbey, Dunbrody Famine Ship and the Rock of Cashel

Services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide

Guided Tour of Jerpoint Park

5 nights accommodation in 3/4 star hotels and top quality, locally-owned guesthouses

Guided Tour of Jameson Irish Whiskey Distillery

All relevant taxes

5 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts

Guaranteed departure and price from the moment you pay your deposit

Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below)

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Tour Options*

CHOOSE FROM THESE OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES. YOUR GUIDE WILL DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR TOUR AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

Kilkenny Castle €8

Guided Tour at House of
Waterford Crystal €14

Rothe House Kilkenny €7.50

King of the Vikings 3D Experience
€7

St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny €7

Waterford Medieval Museum €7

Food Tour Kinsale - €60-€70

Waterford Viking Museum €5

Blarney Castle Gardens €18

Bishop's Palace Museum €7

**ALL DETAILS OF PRICES AND SUPPLIERS CONTAINED IN THIS ITINERARY ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. OUR TOUR PRICES WILL NOT CHANGE AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES. HOWEVER, OUR SUPPLIERS OCCASIONALLY INCREASE PRICES FOR TOUR OPTIONS AT SHORT NOTICE. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO UPDATE YOU OF MAJOR PRICE CHANGES, AS THEY OCCUR.*

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE MAY BE AN ALTERATION TO THE LISTED ACCOMMODATION, BUT ANY ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE OF THE SAME STANDARD OR BETTER THAN THE REST OF THE TOUR.

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Booking & Contact Information

Call Emma or John	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 Emma or John	emma@vagabond.ie / johnboy@vagabond.ie
Book Online	vagabondtoursofireland.com

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