



6 Day Driftwood Ancient Ireland Tour

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



This fully-guided experience of Ireland's Ancient East region features ample free time, high quality hotels in quaint villages and hideaway destinations that you just won't find in guidebooks.

Tour the Wicklow Mountains National Park, uncover crafts and fables in medieval Kilkenny, spend 2 nights in Waterford, Ireland's Viking city, as well as one night tasting the maritime delights of Kinsale.



**Comfy Mercedes
Tour Vehicles**

Tour Highlights



- ★ Explore amazing cities, like **Kilkenny**, Ireland's medieval capital with an elegant, riverside castle 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 **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 in **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 John (johnboy@vagabond.ie) or Michael (michael@vagabond.ie)

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

Outline 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 John (johnboy@vagabond.ie) or Michael (michael@vagabond.ie).

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

You'll feel much further than 60 minutes from Dublin in the [Wicklow Mountains National Park](#), part of Ireland's largest upland wilderness.

Next, drop into the hillside village of Hollywood. Believe it or not, this quaint village is the reason behind the name of 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 [Pembroke Hotel](#) or the [River Court Hotel](#), both 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 Ros Tapestry and look out for the ghost of Strongbow at [Kilkenny Castle](#) (Tour Option - €12 per person)
- Admire hilltop St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower (Tour Option - €7 per person)
- See the space where a real 16th century merchant family lived at the beautifully preserved Rothe House (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 grave of medieval Saint Nicholas.

If time allows, we'll drop into the picturesque heritage village of Inistioge, nestled peacefully 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. Watch out for vibrant murals around the town too!

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

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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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 tour of southeastern Ireland is complete without a guided tour of [Hook Lighthouse](#). This is the world's oldest continually-operating lighthouse; a beacon was first lit on this spot 850 years ago.

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

Walk in awe around the ruins at 13th century Tintern Abbey (Tour Option - €5 per person), 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, stroll the streets of Waterford or choose from this menu of cultural delights in Ireland's oldest city:

- Tour the [House of Waterford Crystal](#), the world's largest collection of Waterford Crystal glassware (Tour Option - €14.85 per person).
- Watch Norsemen come to life at the King of the Vikings VR Experience (Tour Option - €10 per person).
- Gain access to four amazing attractions in Waterford with the Viking Triangle Freedom Pass (Tour Option - €15 per person). Includes admissions to the Medieval Museum, the Bishop's Palace Museum, Reginald's Tower, the Irish Silver Museum and the Museum of Time.

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 also detour up to the stunning Comeragh Mountains.

Crossing the frontier into Cork, you'll soon be gazing across the Celtic Sea from your lodgings this evening at the [Bayview Hotel](#) in 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 Kindred Spirits. This touching sculpture commemorates Native American aid for victims of the Irish Famine.

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

Time permitting, we'll drop into [Cobh](#) today. This maritime town is stunningly located on an island within Cork Harbour. Visit the Queenstown Experience (Tour Option - €12 per person) to learn about Cobh's central role in Irish emigration and the town's links to the final voyage of the Titanic.

Seafood fans rejoice! We're hugging the coast to arrive in the gorgeous little harbour town of [Kinsale](#). Enjoy a local menu of vibrant restaurants, atmospheric pubs and abundant craft shops in the unofficial gourmet capital of Ireland.

Your accommodation is at the [Blue Haven Hotel](#) 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 catch some of Ireland's most amazing sights.

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 and it's also the site where Brian Boru was crowned High King of Ireland. It's an epic place 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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2023 Tour Price From EURO €1,777.50*

**Reduced Mar, Apr & Oct Rate - per person sharing. Mar, Apr & Oct Single Supplement: €328.50*

May-September Tour Price: €1975 | May-September Single Supplement: €365

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 - €12

House of Waterford Crystal -
€14.85

Rothe House Kilkenny - €7.50

King of the Vikings VR Experience
- €10

St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny - €7

Tintern Abbey - €5

Queenstown Experience - €12

Viking Triangle Freedom Pass -
€15

Blarney Castle Gardens - €18

**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 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 (0)1 56 34 358
Email John or Michael	johnboy@vagabond.ie or michael@vagabond.ie
Book Online	vagabondtoursofireland.com

[CHECK AVAILABILITY](#)

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