



## 6 Day Driftwood Ancient Ireland Tour

An award-winning and relaxed cultural tour of Ireland's Ancient East region ideal for seniors, couples, and families.



Discover Viking history, Norman castles, and spectacular scenery while enjoying plenty of free time to explore this amazing region for yourself.

Highlights include the wilderness of the Wicklow Mountains National Park, and the medieval city of Kilkenny. Spend two nights at Waterford Castle and one night in gourmet Kinsale.

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Comfy Mercedes  
Tour Vehicles

# Tour Highlights



- ★ Savour two memorable nights at **Waterford Castle Hotel**, a historic venue 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 the **Wicklow Mountains National Park**, Ireland's largest upland area.
- ★ Encounter incredible history at sites like **Jerpoint Park, 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 delicious food.
- ★ 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.

Please note that accommodation at Waterford Castle Hotel is yet to be confirmed for the 2021 touring season.

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

## 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 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.

Visit the traditional village of Hollywood. 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 medieval Kilkenny with a choice of relaxed activities:

- Feel the spirits 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 brewery tour of Smithwicks, brewing up a storm since 1710 (Tour Option - €16 per person, €14 seniors)
- Free time to stroll Kilkenny's streets, browsing for craftwork and other souvenirs.

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

Visit New Ross. In this historic port town you'll have the option to either:

- Relive the tale of Irish emigration on a replica 1840s emigrant vessel - the Dunbrody Famine Ship
- Or see 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 atmospheric Hook Peninsula in nearby 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, first used 847 years ago.

Visit Fethard-on-Sea, a 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.

Relive the Norman era and the Crusades on a guided tour of Ballyhack Tower House

Return 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

Choose from these cultural activities 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)
- 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 to the southwest amid the charming natural scenery of the Copper Coast.

Time-permitting, we may 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 3 hours.

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## Day 5 - Ballycotton to Kinsale

### GETTING IN THE SPIRIT

We'll begin today passing 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 may 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) or stroll up a picture-perfect street to Cobh Cathedral.

Seafood fans rejoice! It's back to the coast we go, to explore the gorgeous 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 Boutique Hotel](#) or [Actons Hotel](#), both in Kinsale.

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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## Day 6 - Kinsale to Dublin

### THE PARTING GLASS

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!

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 our 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 €1,821.87 (per person sharing)*

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: €315.27

## What's Included?

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

Services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide

5 nights accommodation in 3/4 star hotels and boutique guesthouses

5 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts

1 night in a castle hotel

Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below)  
Entrance fee to Tintern Abbey, Dunbrody Famine Ship and the Rock of Cashel

Guided Tour of Jerpoint Park

Guided Tour of Jameson Irish Whiskey Distillery

All relevant taxes

Guaranteed departure and price from the moment you pay your deposit

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## Tour Options\*

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

St Canice's Cathedral €7

Bishop's Palace Museum €7

Guided Brewery Tour Smithwick's  
€15

Guided Tour at House of  
Waterford Crystal €14

Kilkenny Castle €8

King of the Vikings 3D Experience  
€7

Waterford Medieval Museum €7

Ros Tapestry €8/€7 Seniors

Waterford Viking Museum €5

Blarney Castle Gardens €18

Walking Tour of Derry - £4

*\*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.*

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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">vagabondtoursofireland.com</a>

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