



THE ELDERS IRELAND TOUR NOVEMBER 6-16, 2025

\$2975.00 PER PERSON SHARING A ROOM.

Hammond Tours Presents:

Daily Itinerary

Day 1, November 6– Wednesday: Dublin – Arklow. The Tour begins at Dublin Airport! After clearing customs, travelers arriving from the US, along with anyone coming in early are united and met by your Hammond Tours Irish Driver Guides. **You need to arrive at Dublin Airport by 10:00AM.** The drive from Dublin to Arklow offers a delightful mix of urban, rural, and coastal scenery. As you leave Dublin, the bustling city gradually gives way to the rolling hills and tranquil landscapes of County Wicklow. The journey takes you through picturesque villages like Rathnew and Ashford, where charming cottages and traditional pubs dot the landscape. The route winds through the Glen of the Downs, a lush valley framed by wooded slopes and small streams, offering a serene and scenic backdrop. As you get closer to Arklow, the road opens up to reveal stunning coastal views, with the Irish Sea stretching out in the distance and the harbor of Arklow Bay becoming visible. The combination of the rugged Wicklow Mountains, green fields, and the proximity to the coast makes the drive a peaceful and beautiful experience, showcasing the natural beauty of Ireland's Garden County. **Dinner & Overnight at Arklow Bay Hotel.**

Day 2, November 7- Thursday: Arklow. We begin our adventures by driving south with our first stop at Glendalough, which is nestled in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains, which is a serene and historic valley famous for its ancient monastic site and breathtaking natural beauty. The name "Glendalough," meaning "Valley of Two Lakes," refers to the picturesque twin lakes that lie at the foot of the valley, surrounded by lush forests and rolling hills. The site itself was founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin, and visitors can explore its well-preserved ruins, including a round tower, the remains of several churches, and a stunning stone cross. The peaceful atmosphere and scenic landscape make it a perfect destination for both history enthusiasts and nature lovers. Glendalough also offers a range of walking trails, from gentle lakeside paths to more challenging hikes that take you up into the surrounding mountains, offering panoramic views of the valley below. Whether you're exploring its rich history or simply soaking in the tranquil surroundings, Glendalough is a place of deep historical and spiritual significance, set in one of Ireland's most beautiful natural landscapes. Then back to go to Arklow. **Overnight at Arklow Bay Hotel.**

Day 3, November 8- Friday: Arklow- Waterford. The drive from Arklow to Waterford takes you through some of the most picturesque landscapes of the Garden of Ireland. Our first stop today will be a stop in Kilkenny and a visit to Kilkenny Castle, one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks, offers a captivating mix of history, architecture and natural beauty. The imposing structure is a stunning example of medieval architecture with a blend of Norman and Victorian styles. It's surrounded by impressive fortifications including four corner towers, crenellated walls and a large central courtyard. The beautifully restored gardens and parkland around the castle are a highlight. The landscaped gardens feature formal gardens, rolling lawns and tree-lined paths. The River Nore runs nearby, providing scenic views from the castle grounds. The central courtyard is a beautiful open space surrounded by the castle's impressive stone walls. It's a great place to take in the scale of the building and its historical significance. Kilkenny Castle hosts various exhibitions and displays, some dedicated to the history of the castle, the Butlers and the town of Kilkenny. Then heading south winding through rolling hills, lush farmland, and quaint villages like Aughrim and Ballinaclesh. As you approach County Waterford, the scenery shifts, with views of the River Suir and the charming village of Carrick-on-Suir. The final stretch leads you alongside the river, offering glimpses of Waterford's historic skyline as you enter the city. **Overnight at the Tower Hotel Waterford.**

Day 4, November 9-Saturday: Waterford. This morning after breakfast we will make our way to Cashel to visit the Rock of Cashel. The rock, also known as St. Patrick's Rock, is one of Ireland's most iconic historical landmarks, perched on a dramatic limestone hill overlooking the town of Cashel. This ancient fortress complex is a stunning example of medieval architecture, featuring a mix of ruins, including a Celtic cross, a round tower, a cathedral, and a high cross, all set against breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. According to legend, it was here that St. Patrick converted the King of Munster to Christianity by using a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. Today, it is a popular destination, offering a fascinating glimpse into Ireland's past, with its serene location and well-preserved ruins providing a perfect blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. This afternoon we head back to Waterford for a guided walking tour. Our tour starts in the heart of the city, you'll explore the Viking Triangle, a historic area where Waterford's rich past comes alive. Stroll past Reginald's Tower, a 12th-century structure that once guarded the city, and visit the Waterford Museum of Treasures to delve into the city's Viking and medieval history. As you wander along the cobbled streets, you'll encounter charming Georgian buildings, the impressive Christ Church Cathedral, and the renowned Waterford Crystal Factory, where you can witness the craftsmanship behind the world-famous glass. The tour also leads you to the Quayside, where the River Suir offers stunning views, and you can enjoy the vibrant cafes, shops, and pubs that line the waterfront. This walk through Waterford combines a deep sense of heritage with the city's lively, modern atmosphere. **Overnight at the Tower Hotel Waterford.**

Day 5, November 10-Sunday: Waterford-Killarney. Today we leave Waterford to travel to Killarney. On the way we will make a stop at Blarney Castle is like stepping into a piece of Ireland's rich history and legend. Located just outside **Cork**, this medieval fortress, dating back to the 15th century, is most famous for the Blarney Stone, said to grant the gift of eloquence to those who kiss it. After climbing a spiral staircase to reach the stone, visitors are rewarded with panoramic views of the surrounding Blarney Gardens, a beautiful 60-acre park filled with lush greenery, tranquil lakes, and magical woodlands. The castle itself, with its impressive stone walls and towering battlements, exudes an air of ancient mystery and grandeur. While exploring the castle, you can also discover the nearby Poison Garden, home to a collection of toxic plants, and the serene Rock Close, where ancient oak trees and moss-covered stones create an enchanting atmosphere. Whether you're drawn to the castle's history, its folklore, or its natural beauty, a visit to Blarney Castle offers a memorable experience full of charm and intrigue. After Blarney we make our way to our destination today, Killarney. **Dinner & Overnight at the Plaza Hotel Killarney.**

Day 6, November 11- Monday: Killarney. After breakfast today we will travel to Dingle. The drive from Killarney to Dingle is a scenic journey that takes you through some of Ireland's most breathtaking landscapes. As you leave Killarney, you'll pass through the lush greenery of County Kerry, with its rolling hills and picturesque farmland. The road gradually winds its way toward the stunning Dingle Peninsula, offering dramatic views of rugged coastline and the sparkling Atlantic Ocean in the distance. Once we arrive in Dingle, the town is set against the backdrop of the Dingle Peninsula, with rolling hills, rugged mountains, and the sparkling Atlantic Ocean nearby. Dingle's colorful harbor is lined with fishing boats, and its narrow streets are filled with traditional stone buildings, bustling pubs, and unique shops. The town has a friendly, welcoming vibe, with plenty of live music and lively conversations spilling out of pubs, **Overnight at the Plaza Hotel Killarney.**

Day 7, November 12- Tuesday: Killarney- Galway. Today after breakfast we leave Killarney and make our way to Galway. On our way we will make a stop at the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most iconic and awe-inspiring natural wonders, rising dramatically along the western coast of County Clare. The cliffs offer breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding rugged landscape. The cliffs are home to a variety of seabirds, including puffins, razorbills, and guillemots, making them a haven for birdwatchers. On clear days, visitors can see as far as the Aran Islands and the Maumturk Mountains in County Galway. The cliffs are part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, a UNESCO Global Geopark, and are renowned not only for their natural beauty but also for their cultural significance, having appeared in numerous films, including *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Whether you are admiring the views from the visitor center or walking along the clifftop paths, the Cliffs of Moher leave a lasting impression with their sheer scale and dramatic landscapes. **Overnight at The Imperial Hotel Galway.**

Day 8, November 13- Wednesday: Galway. This morning after breakfast we will begin our journey to Kylemore Abbey. The abbey is a stunning Benedictine monastery set against the backdrop of the rugged Connemara mountains in County Galway, Ireland. Nestled on the shores of the serene Kylemore Lake, the abbey's Gothic architecture, complete with turrets, spires, and ivy-clad walls, makes it one of Ireland's most picturesque landmarks. Originally built in the 19th century as a private castle for a wealthy English doctor and his wife, it was later converted into a monastery by Benedictine nuns in the 1920s. The abbey is surrounded by beautifully manicured gardens, including a Victorian walled garden, which adds to its charm. Inside, visitors can explore the historic rooms and learn about the abbey's fascinating history, while the grounds offer scenic walking trails with breathtaking views of the lake and mountains. Kylemore Abbey is a place of peace and tranquility, steeped in history and natural beauty, making it a must-visit destination for anyone exploring the wild beauty of Connemara. Then back to Galway and some free time to explore. **Overnight at The Imperial Hotel Galway.**

Day 9, November 14- Thursday: Galway- Dublin. Today we say good bye to Galway and make our way back to Dublin. Back in Dublin you will have free time to explore. You may want to visit some historic sites as St. Patrick's Cathedral or just head to Grafton St. for shopping Grafton Street, Dublin's most famous shopping street, it is bustling with shops, cafes, street musicians, and performers. It's the perfect place to soak in the city's lively energy and pick up Irish-made goods. Tonight, we will travel as a group to Taylor's Three Rock, which is a lively, iconic pub and entertainment venue located on the outskirts of Dublin, known for its warm atmosphere, traditional Irish hospitality, and excellent food and drink. The pub is renowned for its live traditional music, with performances that capture the spirit of Ireland's musical heritage, and for hosting the famous Irish dancing shows, including the popular Gaelic Nights, where visitors can enjoy vibrant step-dancing and music. The spacious pub also offers hearty Irish cuisine, making it a perfect spot for both a casual pint and a full meal. **Overnight at the Camden Court Hotel.**

Day 10, November 15- Friday: Dublin. Today we will explore Dublin with the Hop on Hop off Bus pass, offers a convenient and flexible way to explore the Irish capital at your own pace. This open-top double-decker bus service takes you on a comprehensive route around the city, stopping at key landmarks and attractions like Trinity College, the Guinness Storehouse, Dublin Castle, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Temple Bar. With a valid pass, you can hop on and off the bus as many times as you like, giving you the freedom to explore each sight in depth before continuing your journey. The buses are equipped with informative audio guides, available in multiple languages, providing insights into Dublin's rich history, culture, and landmarks. The pass typically offers one or two-day validity, making it an ideal choice for visitors who want to maximize their sightseeing while enjoying the flexibility of a self-paced tour through Dublin. **Overnight at the Camden Court Hotel.**

Day 11, November 16- Saturday: Dublin Airport. Today you will be transported to Dublin Airport for your flight home. Still time for duty free shopping.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- **Deluxe motorcoach vehicle throughout your tour, including all transfers and sightseeing, Services of professional Irish Driver and Guide.**
- **Ten (10 Nights) First Class Accommodations as follows or similar:**
Arklow- Arklow Bay Hotel- 2 Nights **** www.arklowbay.com (Nov 6 & 7)
Waterford- Tower Hotel Waterford- 2 Nights **** www.towerhotelwaterford.com (Nov 8 & 9)
Killarney- Killarney Plaza Hotel- 2 Nights **** www.killarneyplaza.com (Nov 10 & 11)
Galway-Imperial Hotel-2 Nights *** www.imperialhotelgalway.ie (Nov 12 & 13)
Dublin-Camden Court Hotel-2 Nights **** www.camdencourthotel.com (Nov 14 & 15)
- **Full Irish breakfast daily**
- **Two Hotel Dinners: Arklow (1), Killarney (1)**
- **Dinner and Entertainment with transfers to Taylor's Three Rock Dublin**
- **Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary.**
- **Admissions to: Glendalough, Kilkenny Castle, Rock of Cashel, Walking Tour of Waterford, Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, On Hop Off Bus Tour Dublin**
- **Porterage of one suitcases per person, Hotel tips and taxes throughout (Except tips to your personal Driver/Guide) Not Included**
- **Any Items of a personal nature**
- **Dinners and items not mentioned as included.**
- **Sightseeing not indicated as included.**

Reservation Application

Elders Tour of Ireland (EL2025) November 6-16, 2025

Go to www.hammondtraveltours.com to complete your reservation application.

The non-refundable deposit is \$250.00 per person is required to place a deposit. If you want a single room, there is an additional single supplement charge of \$999.00. Your second payment of \$350.00 per person is due 5/6/2025 and your final payment is due 7/6/2025. Reminders will be sent.

Questions? Contact HAMMOND TOURS
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[Email: operations@hammondtraveltours.com](mailto:operations@hammondtraveltours.com)

Cancellation Penalties:

(LAND) if written cancellation is received by Hammond Tour more than 95 days prior to departure: a processing fee of \$250 per person will apply. From 95 days or less prior to departure: 100% cancellation penalty fee applies. We strongly recommend Travel Cancellation and Interruption Insurance. Please contact www.travelguard.com to purchase insurance. This insurance will cover you in the event of death to the said traveler, someone in their immediate family, (mother, father, sister, brother, children etc.) Additionally, any serious illness or other ailments (with a doctor's note) saying that traveler cannot attend trip, would also be covered. Any circumstances of a personal nature other than the aforementioned are not covered. **Please note, Hammond Tours and The Elders are not responsible for any loss, damages or injuries that may happen while on the tour.**