

October 6-13, 2023



\$2195.00
LAND ONLY
PER PERSON
SHARING A ROOM
GROUP AIR TO BE OFFERED
SUMMER 2023

JOIN LARRY KIRWAN AS HE PLAYS ON A TOUR OF IRELAND

Hammond Tours Presents:

Daily Itinerary

Day 1, October 6 – Friday: USA – Ireland Overnight flight from the US to Dublin Ireland.

Day 2, October 7 – Saturday: Dublin – Belfast. After clearing customs, travelers and those already in Ireland are united and met by your professional Irish Driver Guide and Hammond Tours Group Escort. **The Tour starts at Dublin Airport at 10am.** Leaving Dublin we begin our adventures by driving north past the site of the **Battle of the Boyne** (1690), where William of Orange defeated King James and set the tone for Irish politics for the next 300 years. Even at the height of the Troubles, Belfast was renowned for its humor and hospitality. Almost 30 years after the initiation of the **Peace Process** the city is booming, zestful, and full of new purpose. We'll stop for lunch at one of my favorite places, An Cultúrlann, a bookshop, café, theatre in the heart of the Belfast Gaeltacht where you can try your Irish phrases with native speakers. We'll take the *Coiste* Tour of the Falls Road and Shankill Road guided by former combatants - always a revelatory experience – and view the political murals and the much-decorated Peace Wall. Then it's off to the Europa Hotel where we'll get to know each other over a **welcome dinner**. Later we'll cross the street and visit the Victorian style **Crown Liquor Saloon**, one of the most renowned pubs in Europe. **Dinner & Overnight Europa Hotel Belfast**

Day 3, October 8 – Sunday: Belfast

After a full Irish breakfast, we'll head north along the Coast Road and through the lovely **Glens of Antrim**. We'll travel along the spectacular coastline up to the **Giant's Causeway** and its 40,000 interlocking basalt columns that form the legendary causeway built by the Irish giant *Fionn mac Cumhail* (Finn MacCool). We'll then journey through some of the areas where **Game of Thrones** was filmed. It's easy to see why location scouts chose the North of Ireland, with its rugged coastlines, lush green fields, caves, mountains, forests, and cliffs, as the setting for George RR Martin's fantasy world. Then back to Belfast for a night on the town. During our stay we'll meet former **Lord Mayor Mairtín Ó'Muilleoir**, writers, activists and other figures from across the political divide. That's Belfast for you, a city that came through so much, and has reinvented itself as a dynamic symbol for hope and change. Our Hotel Europa neighborhood has many interesting bars and shops, and

after the obligatory stop at The Crown, I suggest you try out the nearby Duke of York and Kelly's Cellars. **Overnight at the Europa Hotel Belfast**

Tour Includes:

- Professional Irish Driver Guide(s) from arrival October 7 until departure October 12, 2023.
- Six (6) Nights' Accommodations as follows or similar:
Belfast Europa Hotel - 2 Nights ****
www.grandcentralhotelbelfast.com
Wexford Clayton-2 Nights ****
www.claytonwhiteshotel.com
Dublin Camden Court Hotel-2 Nights ****
www.camdecourthotel.com
- Full Irish Breakfast Daily (except day of arrival)
- Two Hotel Dinners: Belfast & Dublin
- Admissions as follows: Belfast Political Tour, Giants Causeway Wexford Tour, Hook Head Lighthouse Kilkenny Castle, Dublin Hop On Hop Off Bus Pass Touring By Deluxe Touring Motorcoach Services of Professional Irish Driver and Guide Taxes and Service Charges expect gratuity to driver/guide
- Larry Kirwan solo performance at discounted price
- Full Irish breakfast daily except the day of arrival
- Portage of 1 suitcase per person (plus 1 carry-on bag)
- All driver's expenses (except tip to the Driver/Guide)
- NOT INCLUDED:
- Any items of a personal nature
- Dinners and items not mentioned as included
- Sightseeing not indicated as included

Day 4, October 9 – Monday: Belfast – Wexford.

Leaving Belfast we'll head south on our longest journey that will take us to my hometown of Wexford. We'll skirt the city of Dublin this time and make for the Wicklow Mountains. On our way we'll show one of the documentaries about **Black 47**. Remember that these tours of Ireland began when fans of the band would follow us on our annual musical tours of Ireland. You'll hear B47's original music, interviews and live shows, and see how the band introduced Irish history and politics into Rock 'n' Roll. We'll stop for a break at the Avoca Mill, Café, and visitor center. The weaving mill itself was founded in 1723. Try the scones in the cafe!! And then on to Wexford and the beginning of our two-day **South-East Medieval Tour! Wexford** was founded by the **Vikings** and later became a walled medieval town; the streets breathe history. **Henry II** did penance in **Selskar Abbey** in 1172 for the murder of **St. Thomas a Beckett**. **Oliver Cromwell** slaughtered women and children in the **Bull Ring** after a traitor opened the **West Gate**. Much of this history will be dealt with on an evening tour of the old town led by **actor and historian Paul Walsh** as he winds his dramatic way through Viking lanes, medieval graveyards, Norman walls and ancient town gates. Later that evening get your first taste of Wexford pubs, renowned for their hospitality. Some that I recommend close to the hotel are **Mary's Bar, Thomas Moore Tavern, Macken's Bar and Undertakers**, and my parents' old haunt, **Simon's** on the Main Street. **Overnight at the Clayton Wexford Hotel.**

Day 5, October 10 – Tuesday: Wexford- Kilkenny- Wexford.

My advice – get up early and take a walk along Wexford's beautiful Quayside and watch the sun rise over the Slaney River as it flows into the harbor. Then we're off on the 2nd day of our medieval mini-tour to **Kilkenny**. This small city is delightful and when you have a free moment visit legendary **Kytler's Inn**. But **Kilkenny Castle** is the main attraction. Founded soon after the Norman Invasion of 1169 it has been extended, and adapted for over 800 years. Walk through its 50 acres of rolling parkland. But don't miss the bus because we'll be heading for the wild Wexford coastline and will make a stop at **Hook Head** and the oldest operational lighthouse in the world. And yes, the phrase "by hook or by crook" came from here. Then back home along the coast where I'll give a concert in the **Wexford Arts Centre**. Though recently added to and refurbished there'll be ghosts aplenty present for it's where I began my music career playing to teddyboys, mods and rockers who liked nothing better than to rumble it up during the dances. The after-party will be around the corner in **Mary's Bar** where you'll meet my family and old friends (don't believe any of their stories). **Overnight at the Clayton Wexford Hotel.**

Day 6, October 11- Wednesday. Wexford- Dublin.

After breakfast we make our way north to Dublin. Once in Dublin you will have the option of taking a **1916 Insurrection tour**. The Easter Rising of 1916 was the most dramatic event in the history of Ireland's struggle for independence from the British Empire. The executions of the leaders after the Rising awakened a generation to the cause of Irish freedom, resulting in the War of Independence, the formation of the Irish Free State and as a result the Irish Civil War. Then enjoy a night on the town! Take in a play at **The Abbey Theatre** or a rock concert at **Whelan's**. Dublin's pubs are famous the world over, some of my favorites are Neary's, Davy Byrne's, McDaid's all close by our hotel. For **Irish Traditional Music** don't miss The Cobblestone, O'Donoghue's (where The Dubliners began), The Palace Bar, The Brazen Head, The Temple Bar Pub, The Celt. Or just follow your nose. It's hard to go wrong. **Overnight at Camden Court Dublin.**

Day 7, October 12, Thursday: Dublin.

On our last full day in Dublin, I suggest that you consider visiting **Kilmainham Gaol Museum**. This is a moving experience that will take you through much of Ireland's complex and turbulent history. But do book online well before you leave for Ireland, as the jail is a very popular destination. Today is a free day and we'll provide you with day passes for the Hop-On Hop-Off Bus Tours of Dublin. Just go where you will but there are trips offered to **Kilmainham Jail, Guinness Storehouse, Book of Kells - Trinity College, National Museum of Ireland, National Gallery**, etc. But do spend some time in some of Dublin's beautiful parks, **St. Stephen's Green, Merrion Square** or **Phoenix Park**, and for a big treat why not have afternoon tea in the **Lord Mayor's Room at The Shelbourne Hotel** (reservations & jackets needed). Regardless, come back to the Camden Court in time for our **farewell dinner**, after which we shall all repair next door to **The Bleeding Horse** for our celebratory **American Wake. Dinner and Overnight at Camden Court Dublin.**

Day 8, October 13, Friday: Dublin – USA

Those of us traveling back to the USA will be transported by bus to **Dublin Airport** where we'll say goodbye to our Irish Driver Guide and Hammond Tours Group Escort. There will be time for some last-minute duty-free shopping and, perhaps, a last pint of Guinness. This is merely a sketch of what you'll see and do. I can't even begin to describe the long nights of fun and laughter that will leave you with warm memories and **friends for life**. But I do promise that this trip to Ireland will nourish your soul and quite possibly change your life!



Reservation Application

Larry Kirwan Tour of Ireland

October 6-13, 2023

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on your October 6-13, 2023, Larry Kirwan Tour of Ireland (BLK2023)

Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____ (\$250 per person)

Deposit Due: ASAP to hold seats

2nd Deposit of \$550 due by May 6, 2023

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 10, 2023

Name (as on passport): _____

DOB: _____

Companion Name: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone (home): _____

(cell): _____

E-mail: _____

Other passengers traveling with me: _____

Room Type - Twin (2 beds): _____

Double (1 Bed): _____

Single: _____

Single Supplement: \$649 (Limited number available) Yes: _____

(You must pay single rate if not traveling with a companion. Please advise if you need a roommate.)

Yes: _____

CC#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CC Signature: _____

Sec Code: _____

TOUR IS BASED ON MINIMUM 25 PARTICIPANTS
AIRFARE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL PACKAGE IS PAID IN FULL

We accept Visa, MasterCard & American Express (No Service Charges)

Send check (payable to Hammond Tours) and application to:

HAMMOND TOURS

34 Wedgewood Lane, Voorheesville, NY 12186 • Reservations: (518) 765-2056 • Toll free: (866) 486-8772
e-mail: operations@hammondtraveltours.com

For more information and photos visit www.hammondtraveltours.com

Cancellation Penalties:

(LAND) if written cancellation is received by Hammond Tour more than 95 days prior to departure: 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 Black Forty-Seven, Inc./ Larry Kirwan are not responsible for any loss, damages or injuries that may happen while on the tour.

*Please note airfare could be different for late bookings and Government Departure Tax is always subject to change