

November 4-13, 2011

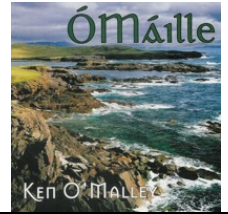
\$1999.00 PER PERSON

(plus \$295.00 US departure tax*)



Travel to Ireland with Ken O'Malley

Dublin born Ken O'Malley is "widely regarded as the finest Irish folk singer/songwriter in the United States today". Return with him to his native Ireland where he has hand picked these very special tour stops and will be personally participating as your guide to bring the history, culture and music of Ireland to life as only he can. Participants can also look forward to a live performance and other special experiences that will add up to a unique and memorable trip.



<p>Day 1 November 4 Friday</p>	<p>USA to Ireland. Depart USA for overnight flight to Ireland. Dinner is served aloft.</p>
<p>Day 2 November 5 Saturday</p>	<p>Dublin. Morning arrival at Dublin Airport where after clearing customs we are met by our Professional Irish Driver in the arrivals hall. We experience the three Dublin's: <i>Viking Dublin, Georgian Dublin and Modern Dublin</i> in this full day contemporary tour. From her humble beginnings as a Viking trading port to a walled medieval city and then-in a glorious century of expansion -to an elegant Georgian Metropolis with wide streets, gracious squares and great houses, neatly bordered by its two canals. We then check into our hotel after which the rest of the day is free. Overnight Dublin Davenport Hotel. Dinner is on your own.</p>
<p>Day 3 November 6 Sunday</p>	<p>Dublin-Athlone-Westport. After breakfast we travel out of Dublin via the Irish Midlands. We stop at Athlone. Athlone (in Irish AthLuain or the ford of Luan) is a town steeped in history. From time immemorial this important crossing point of the Shannon has been recognized as having great strategic significance. More stray archaeological finds have been found in the bed of the river in Athlone than at the site of any comparable Irish town. It was not, however, until c100 that Athlone was to develop as a nucleus of settlement. We visit Athlone Castle. This Norman Castle dating from the 13th century. The first real signs of settlement at Athlone grew up in Anglo-Norman times around the castle which was built for King John of England by his Irish justiciar Bishop John De Gray of Norwich. We continue north west to Westport. Westport enjoys the designation as one of Ireland's Heritage Towns. It is situated in the shadow of Croagh Patrick, overlooking Clew Bay. One of the few planned towns in the Country, Westport was designed in the 18th Century by James Wyatt. It has become one of Ireland's established tourism centers, with many outstanding features, most notably the beautiful tree lined boulevard known as The Mall, running parallel to the Carrowbeg River. Dinner and overnight Castlecourt Hotel Westport.</p>
<p>Day 4 November 7 Monday</p>	<p>Westport Area. Leaving the town of Westport and travelling westwards we pass the beautiful Clew Bay. Achill Island can be seen in the background. About 4 miles from Westport town lies the majestic Croagh Patrick. This mountain is a place of pilgrimage and once a year, on the last Sunday in July, thousands climb to its summit, many barefoot. We continue via Leenane and pass by Ashleigh Falls The Delphi is a special place that inspires everyone who comes here. Situated between Ireland's wild Atlantic coast and Clew Bay, Delphi is remote and postcard-perfect with its unique geographical and glacial history. With the tallest mountains in Connemara - the majestic Mweelrea Mountain range. We make our way to Roonagh Pier for the short trip to Clare Island, the medieval stronghold of the O'Malley's. Situated at the entrance to Clew Bay, Clare Island is the largest of the Mayo offshore islands. It is 3.5 miles from the mainland and is also the largest of the 365 islands in Clew Bay - it is 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. Gráinne Ní Mháille, or Grace O'Malley in English, was one of the strongest, most assertive women to ever emerge from Irish legend. Though history may have been embellished, this woman was actually real, and is regarded as both an important historical figure and legend, which is not at all unusual in Irish culture. O'Malley is best remembered for standing up to England's attempt to dominate all Irish waters. When O'Malley was born in 1530, Ireland had already suffered influence and attack from England. She took over leadership of the O'Malley fleet, though as a woman she could not be leader of the clan. She was a thorn in England's side and at one point had an audience in London with Queen Elizabeth and was granted most of her claims and a pension. A powerful woman in an age of change in the Ireland of the 16th century. Overnight Castlecourt Hotel Westport. Dinner is on your own.</p>
<p>Day 5 November 8 Tuesday</p>	<p>Westport-Ennis-Killarney. Today we depart Westport and travel south through The Burren into Ennis and Doolin. The area of Clare known as Doolin is in the parish of Killilagh or the ancient territory of Tuath Clae. Doolin sits on the shores of the wild Atlantic about 5 miles north of the Cliffs of Moher. We visit The Cliffs, which rise 700 feet and stretch out along The Atlantic Coastline for 5 miles. We continue to Lahinch long known as a premier golf destination. Lahinch sits on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean about three miles south west of Ennistymon. Its name is taken from the Irish - Leath Inis ('The Half Island'). It's located in the west by the Atlantic, on the south by the Moy River and on the north by the Inagh River. We make our way over the Tarbert Ferry from County Clare into County Kerry and Killarney. Sites of interest in the town reflect its strong religious and educational history. Killarney was a monastic settlement from the 5th or 6th Century and house settlement began here from around 1500. Explore colorful laneways, a fine cathedral and experience the ambience of busy streets in the town centre. Nestled amidst deep, lake filled valleys with astounding sights such as the famous Ladies' View (Named after Queen Victoria's Ladies' in Waiting) and the MacGillicuddy Reeks - Ireland's largest mountain range, home of Carrauntoohil the country's largest peak. Dinner and overnight Killarney International Hotel.</p>
<p>Day 6 November 9 Wednesday</p>	<p>Dingle. After breakfast we depart Killarney for the Dingle Peninsula. The journey begins with some of the most magnificent scenery in all of Ireland. The little town of Dingle is straight out of a story book. The fishing boats in the harbor and tiny brightly painted pubs portray a time that has continued to stand still. The population of 1500 people and only 52 pubs are ready to welcome you this afternoon. Worth the wait is the native seafood chowder served up at lunch time with freshly baked brown bread. We continue on to Sleah Head. Along the way, we will see bee hive style huts, originally inhabited by 12th century monks, which overlook the rugged Blasket Islands. The awe inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments as found on the Dingle Peninsula. Overnight Killarney International Hotel. Dinner is on your own.</p>
<p>Day 7 November 10 Thursday</p>	<p>Killarney-Glengarriff-Bantry-Skibbereen-Clonakilty-Kinsale. After breakfast we depart Killarney and pass via Kenmare to Glengarriff. Its sheltered position nurtures luxuriant Mediterranean Flowers such as fuchsia & arbutus. Bantry sits at the head of one of Ireland's most beautiful bays with a harbor that reaches right into the town center. Skibbereen is rightly known as the capital of West Cork. It is the "hub" from which the many "sparkling jewels" of the area can be reached. Here we visit the Skibbereen Heritage Center. This commemorates the tragic period in the 1840s that is known in Irish History as the <i>Great Hunger.</i> Skibbereen was one of the worst affected areas, and the events of the era are depicted using local characters and events. It is on to Clonakilty where castles dot the shores of the bay and The Catholic Church is fine example of gothic architecture. Dinner and overnight Actons Hotel.</p>

Day 8 November 11 Friday	Kinsale-Cobh-Kilkenny. Morning departure from Kinsale has us traveling north stopping at Cobh. A must visit is The Cobh Heritage Center where emigration from Ireland to the US took place from this vantage point in the mid 18800's. This center is a moving depiction of this time in Ireland whereby people knew once they departed they would most likely never return. It is on to Blarney with its famous "Kissing Stone" and plentiful woolen mills. We continue north to Medieval Kilkenny. The Butler Family bought the Castle in 1391 and lived there until 1935. They were Earls, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde and lived in the castle for over five hundred years. They were a remarkable family, resilient, politically astute and faithful to the crown and to Ireland as dictated by the politics of the times. These loyalties determined their fortunes and career, and so too the fortunes of their seat some time to browse through Kilkenny. A must see is the Kilkenny Castle recently refurbished with original artifacts. Dinner and overnight Five Star Lyrath Estates!
Day 9 November 12 Saturday	Kilkenny-Glendalough-Dublin. After a full Irish Breakfast We travel through Carlow to Glendalough in County Wicklow. Glendalough is home to the 6 th century monastic settlement of St. Kevin. This is one of the last fully intact round towers left in all of Europe set amongst the beautiful Wicklow Mountains. We continue on to the 1000-year old Dublin. Rest of the day is free. Overnight Davenport Hotel. Dinner is on your own.
Day 10 November 13 Sunday	Dublin-USA. After our last Irish breakfast together, we bid you farewell and Thank You. We are transferred to Dublin Airport where you have ample time for some last minute duty-free shopping before boarding your return flight home. Arrive home the same day.

Your Group Tour Includes:

- **Round Trip Airfare from LAX**
- **Professional Irish Driver Guide from Day 2, pick up Dublin Airport till end of Day9 arrive Dublin**
- **Private Transfer on Day 10 from Dublin Hotel to Dublin Airport.**
- **Accommodations for 8 nights as follows or similar:**
 - Dublin **The Davenport Hotel-1 Night **** www.ocallghanhotels.com**
 - Westport **Castlecourt Hotel-2 Nights *** www.castlecourthotel.ie**
 - Killarney **Killarney International-2 Nights **** www.killarneyinternationalhotel.com**
 - Kinsale **Actons Hotel-1 Night *** www.actonshotelkinsale.com**
 - Kilkenny **Lyrath Estates-1 Night ***** www.lyrath.com**
 - Dublin **The Davenport Hotel-1 Night **** www.ocallghanhotels.com**
- **Irish Breakfast Daily (except day of arrival)**
- **Four Hotel Dinners: 1 Castlecourt, 1 Killarney, 1 Kinsale, 1 Lyrath**
- **Admissions to: Athlone Castle, Clare Island Ferry, Skibbereen Heritage Center, Cobh Heritage Center, Kilkenny Castle, Glendalough**
- **Ferry from County Clare to County Kerry**
- **Porterage of one suitcases per person**
- **Hotel tips and taxes throughout (Except tips to your personal Driver/Guide)**
- **Portfolio of travel documents professionally executed by Hammond Tours**
- **Expert travel arrangements provided from your city of origin to commencement of tour in Ireland. (Additional cost for airfare**

Not Included: Any items of a personal nature., Lunches, Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing that is not mentioned as included in itinerary. **ALL SIGHTSEEING VENUES SUGGESTED IN ITINERARY ARE ADDITIONAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED INCLUDED**
Cancellation Penalties: (LAND) If written cancellation is received by Hammond Tour more than 120 days prior to departure, a processing fee of \$250.00 per person will apply. From 119 days to 60 days prior to departure, a cancellation penalty of \$600.00 per person will apply. 60 Days or less prior to departure- a 100% cancellation penalty fee applies.

Reservation Application

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on your November 4-13, 2011 Ireland Tour (**KM01111**)
I enclose a deposit of \$ _____ (\$250.00 per person) Deposit Due: **ASAP to hold seats**
2nd Deposit of \$350.00 due by July 1, 2011
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: September 15, 2011

Name (as on passport) _____
Address: _____
Tel: (home): _____ (work): _____ email: _____
Other passengers traveling with me _____
Room Type: Twin (2 Beds)/Double (1 Bed): _____ Single: _____

YOU MUST PAY SINGLE RATE IF NOT TRAVELING WITH A COMPANION. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU NEED A ROOMMATE

Cancellation Insurance Per Person: Double (\$200.00) Single (\$235.00): Yes: ___ No: ___ (must be paid with deposit)
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$499.00 (LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE) _____ YES

We Accept Visa, Mastercard & American Express. There is a 3% Charge for this service. No service charges on initial \$250.00 deposit *Government Departure Tax is Always Subject to Change

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

(Make Check Payable to Hammond Tours)

Send check and application to:

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Voorheesville, NY 12186
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Email: mhammond@hammondtraveltours.com