

October 24-30, 2012

\$1599.00 PER PERSON SHARING
(plus \$295.00 US departure tax)**

JOIN
Larry Kirwan
LIVE as He plays on a
Tour of Ireland

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from: JFK
- Five (5) Nights' Accommodations as follows or similar:
- Location Property
- Galway Imperial Hotel-2 Night *** www.imperialhotelgalway.ie
- Dublin Camden Court-1 Night *** www.camdencourthotel.com
- Wexford Talbot Hotel-1 Night **** www.talbotwexford.ie
- Dingle Dingle Benners Hotel-1 Night *** www.dinglebenners.com
- Full Irish Breakfast Daily
- One Dinner in Wexford
- Sightseeing as per itinerary, admission to Avondale House & Forest Park
- Touring By Deluxe Touring Motorcoach
- Services of Professional Irish Driver and Guide
- Taxes and Service Charges expect gratuity to driver/guide
- Professional Portfolio of Travel Documents
- Larry Kirwan solo performance or reading at discounted price
- An essay by Larry Kirwan on the history of the various areas we will travel to.
- Kirwan will also suggest a reading list that will include history, fiction and poetry to heighten the travel experience.

Day 1 October 24 Wednesday	USA to Ireland. For those leaving from JFK , meet at the bar in the Departure Lounge and get to know your fellow travelers. Some will already know each other from previous trips and all will be made welcome, especially those traveling alone or for the first time. Depart USA for overnight flight to Ireland. All travelers will rendezvous bleary-eyed but blazing to go at Shannon Airport.
Day 2 October 25 Thursday	Shannon-Cliffs of Moher-Galway. After clearing customs travelers are united and met by your professional Irish Driver Guide, god willing the infamous and extremely knowledgeable John Costello . Leaving the airport we journey through the lovely Shannon Region past stunning landscapes, Atlantic seascapes, and everywhere the artifacts of Ireland's ancient history. We travel north through Lahinch stopping at <i>The Cliffs of Moher</i> . These sheer wild walls rise from the Atlantic Ocean to a height of nearly 700 feet and are a sight to behold. Some years ago on our trek up to O'Brien's Tower we watched a gentle mist roll in across the ocean. Within minutes it had enveloped us and dispatched any traces of jet lag. We then pass through the solitary beauty of the Burren a craggy bed of limestone dotted with tiny plants and flowers that thrive in the mild winters. We'll see megalithic tombs, ring forts, souterrains, cairns, holy wells and stone rows. We'll also see Lisdoonvarna made famous by Christy Moore. Then on to the tribal city of Galway . (Kirwans were one of the 12 tribes but everyone feels at home in this bustling town.). Look out across Galway Bay and see the outlines of the Aran Islands , made famous by the playwright Synge who visited and distilled his experiences into <i>Playboy of the Western World</i> . Galway, one of the most youthful cities of Europe, is full of craic, despite its long turbulent history. It boasts many bookstores, pubs, cafes and nightlife. We'll check in early to the Imperial Hotel, leaving us plenty of time to explore the cobbled streets or take a nap. Later on we'll rendezvous for a pint or two and cement blossoming friendships in one of the local pubs Overnight at the Imperial Hotel. Dinner is on your own.
Day 3 October 26 Friday	Galway-Connemara or Inis Mor. We've decided to spend a second night in Galway. This will give those who wish the option of a trip to Inis Mor , the largest of the Aran Islands. This will take up the whole day but is well worth it. Irish is still spoken by the inhabitants and Dun Aengus is one of the most stunning sights in Europe – an ancient prehistoric fortress, it dangles over the wild Atlantic with the waves crashing 500 feet below. Take a jaunting car ride around the island or just walk and inhale the freshest air of your life in this unspoiled haven. For those not visiting Inis Mor we'll enjoy a tour of rugged and beautiful Connemara – “land of the sea.” And always close by the Atlantic and the Twelve Bens Mountains. See beautiful Roundstone and onto Leenane where my friend Jim Sheridan filmed The Field . If the weather is fine on up to Clifden and its Sky Road. Look for Connemara Green Marble and buy yourself a piece of jewelry containing its unique smooth stone. Memories of these beautiful landscapes will haunt and enrich you long after you've returned home. Overnight at The Imperial Hotel. Dinner is on your own.
Day 4 October 27 Saturday	Galway-Athlone-Dublin. After breakfast we depart Galway and watch the land grow progressively richer as make our way over the Irish Midlands. We stop in Athlone then cross the Broad Majestic Shannon as sung about by The Pogues . We'll arrive in Dublin in time for a full afternoon of shopping and sightseeing. Those who wish can be dropped at Kilmainham Jail where Padraig Pearse, Sean McDermott, James Connolly and Robert Emmet were executed and many others such as Charles Stewart Parnell and Eamonn DeValera were incarcerated. Make your own way by taxi to the Camden Court Hotel or stay on the bus and check in first, then visit Trinity College (The Book of Kells) , and the many pubs, museums and other areas of interest in downtown Dublin. You're just a short walk from Grafton Street where U2 and Swell Season once busked – look out for the next superstar! Dublin is a modern electric city but if you look closely you may see ghosts of WB Yeats , Brendan Behan and Michael Collins peeking out from some ancient laneway. Join me for drinks at some traditional pub with a nightcap at the nearby Bleeding Horse hostelry, once and still frequented by poets and revolutionaries. Overnight Camden Court Hotel.
Day 5	Dublin-Wexford. Arise early and explore the lovely gated parks of St. Stephen's Green and Merrion Square , or stroll down the

<p>October 28 Sunday</p>	<p>banks of the Grand Canal where Patrick Kavanagh wrote Raglan Road and I met Bridie (see Page 60, Green Suede Shoes). After breakfast we make our way along the coastline to Rathdrum in Co. Wicklow. We'll visit Avondale House, birthplace and home of Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) the Uncrowned King of Ireland. The fine house is set in a magnificent forest park of over 500 acres with tree trails and walks. Parnell was on the verge of gaining Home Rule for Ireland when his longstanding relationship with Mrs. Katherine O'Shea was revealed. On then to County Wexford, past brooding Enniscorthy, scene of the Battle of Vinegar Hill to my hometown. Wexford was originally a walled town; the streets positively breathe history. Henry II did penance in Selskar Abbey 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. Visit the Church of St. Ibar's on the Main Street where The Duke of Wellington was married before defeating Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. Wexford will be in carnival mode as its world famous Opera Festival will be in full swing. Apart from visitors from all over the world, many Wexford people return from exile during the festival season and it makes for a very festive atmosphere. Meet many of my old friends and family for a party in Mary's Pub one of the last of its kind in Ireland. Bring your cameras: you'll never get a better welcome – marriage has been proposed there on previous trips - and occasionally accepted. Dinner and overnight at The Talbot Hotel Wexford.</p>
<p>Day 6 October 29 Monday</p>	<p>Wexford-Dingle. We depart Wexford travelling through ancient Waterford City through lovely County Cork and into the Kingdom of Kerry making our way to Dingle. What can I say about the Dingle Peninsula except that it is one of my favorite places in the world? I don't know if it's the scenery, the history, the air, or the particular way that the land greets the sea, but Dingle works wonders on the soul. The town itself is straight out of a storybook with fishing boats dancing in the harbor and 52 tiny brightly painted pubs. But first let's head for windswept Slea Head. Along the way, we will see megalithic ruins, beehive style huts built by 12th century monks, the mysterious Basket Islands, and panoramic settings from the movie Ryan's Daughter. We'll also discuss the literature and history of the area – in particular Peig Sayers and some of the other local authors and poets who hail from this Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) area. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments as found on the Dingle Peninsula. Perhaps I'll do a reading at the Dingle Bookstore – part of the last reading was televised and shown on Irish TV. Whatever, we will hear much music, wash it all down with pints of Guinness, and the craic will be mighty tonight as we celebrate the traditional American Wake (Farewell Party) Overnight Dingle Benners Hotel.</p>
<p>Day 7 October 30 Tuesday</p>	<p>Shannon-USA. After a hearty Irish breakfast, we make our way from County Kerry into the Frank McCourt's city of Limerick, and then back into County Clare and Shannon Airport where we'll have ample time for some last minute duty-free shopping and a pint or two of Guinness, before boarding our return flight home. Remember this is merely a sketch of what you'll see and do. I can't even begin to describe our guide John Costello's winning personality and long discourses on Irish history – modern and ancient – along with the long nights of fun and laughter that will leave you with many warm memories and friends for life. But I do promise that this trip to Ireland will rejuvenate you - you'll never feel quite the same again. See you at Kennedy Airport!!!</p>

Cancellation Penalties: *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 \$750.00 per person will apply. 60 Days or less prior to departure- a 100% cancellation penalty fee applies. We strongly recommend Travel Cancellation & Interruption 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 doctors note) saying that traveler cannot attend trip, would also be covered. Any circumstances of a personal nature other than the aforementioned is not covered.*

Reservation Application

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on your October 24-30, 2012 Tour of Ireland (BLK102412)

I enclose Deposit Due of \$ _____ (\$250.00 per person) ASAP to hold seats

Second Deposit: \$350.00 _____ Due May 25, 2012

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: August 30, 2012

Name: (exactly as on passport) _____ D.O.B. _____

Companion Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Tel: (home): _____ (work): _____ Email: _____

Other passengers traveling with me: _____

Room Type: Twin/Double: _____ Single: _____ **YOU MUST PAY SINGLE RATE IF NOT TRAVELING WITH A COMPANION. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU NEED A ROOMMATE.**

Cancellation Insurance: Double (\$164.00) Single (\$200.00): Yes: _____ No: _____ (must be paid with deposit)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$499.00 (LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE) (For those who do not have or wish a roommate)

*** Please note airfare could be different for late bookings**

****US 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:

Hammond Tours

34 Wedgewood Lane

Voorheesville, NY 12186

TEL: 518-765-2056 or 866-486-8772

EMAIL: mhammond@hammondtraveltours.com