



Join the...

# MUSICAL BLADES

APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**\$2445.00** PER PERSON

(plus \$499.00 US departure tax\*)

...for a week of music and fun on  
their first concert tour of Ireland!

DAY 1	April 4 Saturday	<b>USA to Ireland.</b> Depart USA for overnight flight to Ireland. Dinner and in-flight entertainment are served shortly after take-off.
DAY 2	April 5 Sunday	<b>Shannon-Cliffs of Moher-Bunratty.</b> Early morning arrival at Shannon Airport where, after clearing customs, we meet our Driver Guide. We'll stop for breakfast, then start traveling northwest to the <b>Cliffs of Moher</b> (you'll recognize them as the Cliffs of Insanity) which are stupefying impressive and staggeringly beautiful. The entirely-vertical cliffs rise to a height of 666 feet, their edge falling away abruptly into the ceaselessly churning Atlantic. Then we make our way to Ireland's stony place, the Burren ( <i>Bhoireann</i> ), where we'll see one of Ireland's most photographed ancient monuments, the <b>Poulnabrone Dolmen</b> . This otherworldly Neolithic passage-tomb, built more than 5000 years ago, comprises a 12,000-pound capstone perched on two pairs of portal-stones, and stands amid a swath of rocky pavements. We will then continue to our hotel, where we can opt to take the small walk over to see the Bunratty Folk Park (optional) on our own. Dinner is on your own. <b>Optional Medieval Banquet. Overnight at the Bunratty Castle Hotel.</b>
DAY 3	April 6 Monday	<b>Bunratty-Limerick.</b> This morning we will take a panoramic tour of Limerick with a stop at the <b>Lough Gur Heritage Centre</b> . Lough Gur is a magical and mysterious, rich in folklore, and has a wealth of archaeology and history dating back to Stone Age times. The Centre provides a fascinating interpretation of the sites associated with Lough Gur. Then it is on to Adare, once touted as "Ireland's prettiest village". Adare's fame centers on its string of thatched cottages built by the Earl of Dunraven, its 19th-century English landlord, for the workers constructing Adare Manor. The streets are lined with the pretty cottages, craft shops, and fine restaurants. Then we drive into Limerick for some free time this afternoon. Dinner is on your own. <b>Overnight at the Clayton Hotel Limerick.</b>
DAY 4	April 7 Tuesday	<b>Limerick-Cashel-Blarney-Cork.</b> After a full Irish breakfast, we make our way to the <b>Rock of Cashel</b> , one of Ireland's most spectacular historic sites – a prominent green hill, banded with limestone outcrops, rising from a grassy plain and bristling with ancient fortifications. Sturdy walls circle an enclosure containing a complete round tower, a 13th-century Gothic cathedral and the finest 12th-century Romanesque chapel in Ireland, home to some of the land's oldest frescoes. Our next stop is the town of Blarney. If you need proof of the power of a good yarn, then join the queue to enter into the 15 <sup>th</sup> -century <b>Blarney Castle</b> (optional), one of Ireland's most popular attractions. They're here, of course, to kiss the Blarney Stone – which bestows the gift of gab – built into the side of one of the battlements that you reach after climbing one of the Castle's spiral staircases. Or take some time to visit and shop the famous Blarney Woolen Mills. This shop shouldn't disappoint, with a particularly wide range of cut crystal, porcelain presents and its trademark woolly things. <b>Dinner and overnight at the Imperial Hotel Cork.</b>
DAY 5	April 8 Wednesday	<b>Cobh-Kinsale.</b> We set out after breakfast at our hotel, and our first stop is at the <b>Cobh Heritage Centre</b> . Learn about Irish Emigration story, trace your ancestors, hear about the ill-fated Titanic and the Lusitania, and immerse yourself in Irish naval and military history. The howl of the storm almost knocks you off-balance, as you feel you're right on the deck of the Titanic. This beautiful, informative, and stirring Heritage Centre is situated within Cobh's beautifully restored Victorian railway station, a building with its own historic story. From there, it's on to Kinsale – birthplace of Anne Bonny, one of the most famous female pirates of all time – for lunch (on your own) and an afternoon of sightseeing. Kinsale is one of the most picturesque, popular and fashionable resorts of the south-west coast of Ireland. Famous for its beautiful yachting, sea angling, gourmet restaurants and golf. The quaint streets are lined with local shops filled with local artist painting and pottery. Some of the most award-winning restaurants in Ireland are in Kinsale. If you like, have lunch today at Fishy Fish – one of Kinsale's best restaurants. Dinner is on your own. <b>Overnight at the Imperial Hotel Cork.</b>
DAY 6	April 9 Thursday	<b>Cork-Waterford-Kilkenny.</b> We depart Cork and make our way to Waterford for a walking tour and to see the <b>Waterford Viking Triangle</b> – part of the cultural and heritage area in Waterford City. It is so called because of the 1000-year-old Viking walls which once surrounded it. The most famous building in the Triangle is Reginald's Tower – the oldest urban civic building in Ireland. The Tower has performed various functions over the years, and today contains the Viking Museum, the Medieval Museum, and the Bishop's Palace Museum, collectively known as Waterford Museum of Treasures. After lunch, our journey continues to Kilkenny. Along the way is Kilkenny Castle, rising above the River Nore and one of Ireland's most visited heritage sites. Stronghold of the powerful Butler family, it's history dates back to the 12th century. <b>Dinner and overnight at the River Court Hotel Kilkenny.</b>
DAY 7	April 10 Friday	<b>Kilkenny-Glendalough-Dublin.</b> After breakfast, we venture into the Wicklow Valley to visit <b>Glendalough</b> , the home of St Kevin, surrounded by beautiful mountains and gardens where time has stood still. We'll see the round tower and ruined churches of the 6th-century monastery and hear an explanation of the history of the settlement. It is, despite its immense popularity, a deeply tranquil and spiritual place, and you'll have little difficulty in understanding why those solitude-seeking monks came here in the first place. Then we drive across the Wicklow Mountains and through the suburbs into the center of Ireland's 1,000-year-old city of Dublin – originally settled by the fiercest of the Scandinavian pirates, the Vikings. We come, at last, to the <b>Guinness Storehouse</b> ® – arguably one of Dublin's most iconic attractions. Guinness® is synonymous with Ireland so when you're in Dublin, you can't leave without a trip to the Storehouse. Learn through the seven-story experience how the world-famous drink is made and then sample it for yourself at the end in the panoramic Gravity Bar. Dinner is on your own. <b>Overnight at the Camden Court Hotel.</b>
DAY 8	April 11 Saturday	<b>Dublin.</b> Today is a free day in Dublin. We suggest a Hop-On/Hop-Off Dublin Bus Pass. You'll be sure to see St Patrick's Cathedral where Jonathan Swift gave his sermons; or the magnificent Dublin Castle, home to Ireland's state functions; or the G.P.O. on O'Connell Street, the scene of the 1916 Easter Uprising; or the famous Phoenix Park where Pope John Paul II said Mass in 1979 to over a million people; or Trinity College to view the Book of Kells, the 8 <sup>th</sup> -century manuscripts, still preserved as they were when the monks produced them all those centuries ago. And be sure to visit Dublin's oldest Pub this afternoon, the Brazen Head. Or enjoy a Literary Pub Crawl this evening after dinner. Dinner is on your own. <b>Overnight at the Camden Court Hotel.</b>
DAY 9	April 12 Sunday	<b>Dublin-Dublin Airport-USA.</b> After breakfast, we transfer to Dublin Airport for our flight home. Arrive home the same day. In the true Irish Tradition, we wish you a "Safe Home".

**Your Tour Package Includes the Following:**

- Round-trip air from NYC to Ireland (flight-schedule announced 90-120 days prior to departure)
- Deluxe motorcoach vehicle throughout your tour, including all transfers and sightseeing
- Services of professional Irish Driver/Guide
- 7 Nights' accommodations in First Class Hotels as follows or similar:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Hotel</u>	
Bunratty	Bunratty Castle Hotel – 1 Night ****	<a href="http://www.bunrattycastlehotel.com">www.bunrattycastlehotel.com</a>
Limerick	Clayton Hotel – 1 Night *****	<a href="http://www.claytonhotellimerick.com">www.claytonhotellimerick.com</a>
Cork	Imperial Hotel – 2 Nights ****	<a href="http://www.imperialhotelcork.com">www.imperialhotelcork.com</a>
Kilkenny	River Court Hotel – 1 Night ****	<a href="http://www.rivercourthotel.com">www.rivercourthotel.com</a>
Dublin	Camden Court Hotel – 2 Nights ****	<a href="http://www.camdencourthotel.com">www.camdencourthotel.com</a>

- Full Irish Breakfast daily (except the day of arrival)
- Two Dinners: 1 at the Imperial Hotel in Cork, 1 at the River Court Hotel in Kilkenny
- Admission to: [Cliffs of Moher](#), [Lough Gur Heritage Centre](#), [Rock of Cashel](#), [Cobh Heritage Centre](#), Waterford Walking Tour, [Guinness Storehouse®](#), and two performances by the Musical Blades
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Portorage of one suitcase per person
- All hotel taxes, service charges and tips (except to Driver/Guide)

-----  
**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on your April 4-12, 2020 Tour of Ireland (**BLADES20**)

I enclose a deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250.00 per person). Initial deposit due: **ASAP to reserve seats**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit of \$550.00 due: October 4, 2019.** **FINAL PAYMENT DUE: JANUARY 4, 2020**

Name (as on passport): \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_

Companion Name (as on passport): \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Other passengers traveling with me: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type: Twin (2 Beds): \_\_\_\_\_ Double (1 Bed): \_\_\_\_\_ Single: \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling single, please indicate if you: Would like your own room: \_\_\_\_\_ Would like a roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MUST PAY SINGLE RATE IF NOT TRAVELING WITH A COMPANION.**

**THE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IS \$599.00 (LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE)**

**OPTIONAL MEDIEVAL BANQUET AT BUNRATTY CASTLE – \$90.00: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

*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 \$650.00 per person will apply. 60 Days or less prior to departure - a 100% cancellation penalty fee applies. We strongly recommend Travel Cancellation & Interruption Insurance.*

*Please contact [www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com) to purchase insurance. Please note, Hammond Tours and the Musical Blades are not responsible for any loss, damages or injuries that may happen while on the tour.*

**Please call us if making deposits/payments by credit-card. We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express.**

**There is a 3% service-charge for this service (except on initial \$250.00 deposit).**

**\*Government Departure Tax is Always Subject to Change**

**TOUR IS BASED ON MINIMUM 40 PARTICPANTS.**

**AIRFARE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL PACKAGE IS PAID IN FULL.**

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

**HAMMOND TOURS, 34 Wedgewood Lane, Voorheesville, NY 12186**

TEL: 518-765-2056 (local) or 1-866-486-8772 (toll-free) Email: [operations@hammondtraveltours.com](mailto:operations@hammondtraveltours.com)