

October 18-24, 2026



\$2765.00

**LAND ONLY
PER PERSON
SHARING A ROOM**
AIR ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST

JOIN LARRY KIRWAN ON A TOUR OF IRELAND!

Hammond Tours Presents:

Daily Itinerary

Day 1, October 17 – Saturday: USA – Ireland Overnight flight from US to Dublin Ireland. **Though we strongly suggest traveling the day before, or earlier**, and spending the night of October 17th in Dublin to allow for a fresh start on Day 2, October 18th, in Ireland.

Day 2, October 18 – Sunday: Dublin – Ballyshannon – Sligo. The Tour begins at Dublin Airport! Travelers arriving from the US, along with the great majority already in Dublin, are met by your Hammond Tours Irish Driver Guides at **8am**. Check in with **Patrick Foley** and **Bob Reed** at Terminal 2 (Arrivals) underneath the “Golden Knot” Sculpture. **The Tour leaves Dublin Airport at 9am**. We begin our adventures by driving west through the “Royal County” of **Meath**, then into scenic **Cavan** and up into **Enniskillen** in **Co. Fermanagh**. We’ll have lunch in **Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal** (birthplace of **Rory Gallagher**) and visit Rory’s statue. Ballyshannon, the oldest town in Ireland, was settled 5000 years ago. Then onto **Sligo** town, one of the great centers of **Traditional Irish Music** but also an area closely associated with Ireland’s national poet, **William Butler Yeats**. We’ll take a walk around historic Sligo guided by **Martin Enright**, a Yeats authority, before checking into our hotel where we’ll get to know each other over a **Welcome Dinner**. Later we’ll go out on the town to hear some traditional music. **Dinner & Overnight at Clayton Hotel**

Sligo, Day 3, October 19 – Monday: Sligo This day will be devoted to touring areas that inspired the poetry of WB. Yeats. And there are many in Co. Sligo. Yeats’ maternal grandfather was a successful local shipowner and businessman, and Yeats spent many summers in the area. We’ll visit **The Lake Isle of Inisfree** and “a small cabin build there...”. Yeats was inspired by two magic mountains, **Benbulbin** and **Knocknarea**. The latter contains the grave of the **Warrior Queen, Maeve**. Weather & time permitting we’ll visit **Dooney Rock** on beautiful **Lough Gill** – “*When I play on my fiddle in Dooney, Folk dance like a wave on the sea;*” We’ll visit **Yeats’ grave** in **Drumcliffe Graveyard** in the shadow of the table mountain Benbulbin. The night will be given over to traditional Irish music. Sligo has its own style of trad music, first brought to notice by such masters as **Michael Coleman**, and kept alive by bands that you hear on **Celtic Crush** like **Dervish, Moxie, Téada** and players like my friend **Seamus McGuire**. We hope to meet, and experience the music of some great Sligo players during our stay. **Overnight at Clayton Hotel**

Day 4, October 20, Tuesday: Sligo – Sliabh League – Lough Eske Castle Donegal

Leaving Sligo we'll head north into fabled **Co. Donegal**. We'll make a stop in Donegal Town and view Red Hugh O'Donnell's Castle. Check out the Black 47 song of the same name for info on Red Hugh. Then on up to the **Cliffs of Sliabh League on Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way**. Sliabh League's Cliffs are almost three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher and among the steepest in Europe; I sometimes feel like I'm on the edge of the world up there. There's an innate spirituality to this rugged terrain, not surprising since it was a place of pilgrimage long before Christianity arrived. With the wild Atlantic crashing below, you can feel like you're floating away with the everchanging clouds. So, to bring us back to reality we'll head for beautiful Lough Eske Castle where we'll receive the traditional staff welcome on the steps of the castle. Then off to explore the grounds of this hospitable hotel. **Overnight at the Lough Eske Castle Hotel.**

Day 5, Oct. 21, Wednesday – Lough Eske Castle – Glenveagh National Park – Dungloe/Glenties – Lough Eske Castle. It's often said that you can barely move a mile in Co. Donegal without "tripping over some kind of scenery." No truer words! So, after breakfast and a stroll around the lovely grounds of Lough Eske Castle, we'll head for one of Donegal's most breathtaking areas, **Glenveagh**. A national park of 40,000 acres, the castle itself had a troubled history - 200 tenants were evicted at the whim of a new owner in 1867. It later became a playground for the famous and wealthy, including **Marilyn Monroe** and **Charlie Chaplin**. Its wild land is nowadays a preserve for golden eagles, falcons, deer and other wild animals. On its trails among hills and lakes you may feel as if you're in a different world. The castle gardens are well tended - perfect for rest and reflection. Then it's back to the Western sea coast of Donegal and the **Gaeltacht** (Irish speaking area) of **Dungloe**. The coast around here is sacred to the local population many of whose ancestors were forced to emigrate to America. Listen to the ballad, **Mary From Dungloe**. Time permitting we'll stop at Leo's Tavern (once home of **Enya** and **Moya Brennan** and the family band **Clannad**). Then back to Lough Eske for our last night in the Castle. **Overnight at Lough Eske Castle Hotel.**

Day 6 – October 22, Thursday – Lough Eske Castle – Derry – Dublin

Bidding farewell to our magic castle we head east to the city of **Derry**. Derry is sacred to many of us as the **birthplace of civil rights in Ireland**. It's a walled city and a special place to both nationalist and unionist communities. Famous for resisting a siege in 1689, it's also noted for the Battle of the Bogside in 1969. Ronan McNamara will take us on a tour of Derry's historic walls and describe the many battles fought there and the hard won peace that the city enjoys. Derry is now a bustling, modern city and we'll have lunch there. For those of a "thirsty disposition," drop by **Peadar O'Donnell's**, one of the best pubs in Ireland. Then we're off to Dublin by the less traveled rural route that will take us through historic towns like Strabane & Omagh, and into Co. Monaghan, birthplace of Patrick Kavanagh, **"On Raglan Road."** We'll do a brief tour of **Dublin** so you'll get the lay of the land before we check into our hotel. 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 world famous, some of my favorites are Neary's, Davy Byrne's, McDaid's, and The Palace all close by our hotel. For **Irish Traditional Music** don't miss The Cobblestone, O'Donoghue's (where **The Dubliners** began), The Brazen Head, or just follow your nose. It's hard to go wrong. For dinner might I suggest The Winding Stair or Matt The Thresher. But do reserve ahead, the food is great but both restaurants are very popular. **Overnight at Camden Court Dublin.**

Day 7, October 17, Friday: Dublin City.

On our last full day in Dublin, consider visiting **Kilmainham Jail 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. 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. Do spend a little 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 required). At 2:30pm I'll be at the **International Bar** on Wicklow Street to take a **1916 Rebellion Walking Tour** with my friend, **Lorcan Collins**, Dublin's premier history guide. Many took the tour in 2025. It's a favor that Lorcan does for me every year, it's not part of the Hammond Tour schedule, you just show up with 20 Euros (a big discount) and follow the indomitable Mr. Collins. It's a delight and you'll get a unique historical, social, and comical insight into his city from a real Dubliner. (He varies the tour each year). Make sure you come back to the Camden Court in time for our **farewell dinner**, after which we shall repair next door to **The Bleeding Horse** for our celebratory **American Wake. Dinner and Overnight at Camden Court Dublin.**

Day 8, October 13, Saturday: Dublin – USA

Those traveling home or further afield will be transported by bus to **Dublin Airport** where we'll say goodbye to Patrick and Bob, our Driver Guides. There will be time for some last-minute duty-free shopping and, perhaps, a last pint of Guinness. This is a sketch of what you'll see and do on our long days and 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!

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- **Professional Irish Driver Guide(s) from October 18 at 8AM until departure October 24, 2026.**
- Six (6) Nights' Accommodations as follows or similar:

Location Property

Sligo- Glasshouse Hotel - 2 Nights ** www.theglasshouse.ie (October 18 & 19)**

Donegal- Lough Eske Castle- 2 Nights *** www.lougheskecastlehotel.com (October 20 & 21)**

Dublin- Camden Court Hotel-2 Nights ** www.camdencourthotel.com (October 22 & 23)**

- **Full Irish Breakfast Daily (except day of arrival)**

- **Three Hotel Dinners: 2 Lough Eske Castle & Dublin**

Admissions as follows: Walking Tour of Sligo, Yeats Grave, Sliabh League Cliffs, Glenveagh National Park, Derry Walled in City Tour, 24 hour Hop On Hop Off Dublin Bus Pass.

- 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 EDocuments**

- 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**

Reservation Application

Larry Kirwan Tour of Ireland

(LK2026)

October 18-24, 2026

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 \$829.00. Your second payment of \$350.00 per person is due 4/18/2026 and your final payment is due 7/18/2026. 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 Black Forty-Seven, Inc./ Larry Kirwan are not responsible for any loss, damages or injuries that may happen while on the tour.**