

WILD ATLANTIC WAY TOUR OF IRELAND 2027

A Private Chauffeur-Driven Tour

Enjoy a private tour of Ireland customized to your specifications. Hammond Tours will design a custom tour with your preferred property type, from the luxury of Irish castles to four- or five-star hotels.

DAY 1 SHANNON – GALWAY

Morning arrival at Shannon Airport, where after clearing customs you are met by your professional Irish Driver Guide. Leaving Shannon Airport, you travel through Ennis and Gort to Galway, where we check into our hotel for a short rest. This afternoon we tour rugged Connemara, Ireland's treasure of wild, natural beauty, where Irish (Gaelic) is still spoken daily. We take in the magnificent views as we travel via Clifden to Kylemore Abbey, the home of the Benedictine nuns, before returning to Galway. After dinner, why not enjoy a pint and great Irish music at An Púcán, a short walk from Eyre Square.

Overnight in Galway.

DAY 2 GALWAY – BURREN – CLIFFS OF MOHER – DINGLE

After a full Irish breakfast we depart Galway and continue into the rugged Burren, Ireland's "stony place" (Bhoireann). It is home to rare alpine plants, delicate wonders that grow in the thin soil and crevices, including gentians, orchids and maidenhair ferns. The survival of both alpine and Mediterranean plants in this unusual habitat continues to delight its visitors. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs, Celtic crosses and the ruins of Corcomroe, a 12th-century Cistercian abbey, and you can find villages abandoned since Famine times and green roads on which you can walk for miles without seeing a car. Within the Burren is Ailwee Cave, where we can see unique fossils and crystals in this underground splendor. We then visit the Poul nabrone Dolmen, a short distance away. This portal tomb dates to the Neolithic period, and its name is usually translated as the "hole of the sorrows." We then stop at the Cliffs of Moher. It is then over the Tarbert Ferry to County Kerry and on to Dingle. **Overnight in Dingle.**

DAY 3 DINGLE

Today's journey begins with some of the most magnificent scenery in all of Ireland. The little town of Dingle is straight out of a storybook, with fishing boats in the harbor and tiny, brightly painted pubs that portray a time that has stood still. Its population of just under 2,000 is welcomed by around 50 pubs. Worth the wait is the native seafood chowder served at lunchtime with freshly baked brown bread. We continue on to Sleat Head. Along the way we see beehive-style huts (clocháin) associated with early Christian monks, overlooking the rugged Blasket Islands. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments found on the Dingle Peninsula. **Overnight in Dingle.**

DAY 4

DINGLE – KINSALE

We depart Dingle and continue our back-roads journey to Kinsale, traveling through Kenmare and Glengarriff and past Bantry Bay to Bantry, where we stop for a visit. Bantry sits at the head of one of Ireland's most beautiful bays, and its narrow streets lined with shops have changed very little over the last hundred years. We continue on to Skibbereen, made famous by the ballad "The Old Skibbereen" and by its sad history in the Great Famine. Next we visit the fishing village of Baltimore, where we stop for lunch (on own) and take in the beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean. After our stop, we journey along the southern coast of Ireland, with its unmatched back-road scenery, to our final destination of Kinsale. Known as the Gourmet Capital of Ireland, Kinsale is a culinary delight set in a postcard fishing village. Your Driver Guide will give you dinner suggestions, although one of our favorites is the Blue Haven in the center of Kinsale. After dinner, browse the small cobblestone streets where many artisans make their home, producing photographs, paintings and sculpture. **Overnight in Kinsale.**

DAY 5

KINSALE – BLARNEY –
SHANNON AREA

We depart Kinsale and travel north through Cork City, where we enjoy a panoramic tour of Ireland's second city. Nearby we visit Blarney, home of Blarney Castle and its famous Blarney Stone, and its plentiful woolen mills. After shopping, be sure to take a quick walk through this charming town and enjoy a pint at Christy's Pub. We depart Blarney and travel north through Mallow, on the River Blackwater, a popular spa town in the 18th century. We continue via Limerick to the Shannon area, where we bid farewell to our Driver Guide. This evening you can enjoy an optional medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle. **Overnight in the Shannon area.**

DAY 6

SHANNON – USA

After breakfast, make your way by taxi to Shannon Airport. There is plenty of time for last-minute duty-free shopping before boarding your flight home. Arrive home the same day.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Professional Irish Driver Guide with chauffeured vehicle from your arrival at Shannon Airport on Day 1 until arrival in the Shannon area on Day 5

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 5 nights as follows, or similar:
- **Galway – Hardiman Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star hardimanhotel.ie
- **Dingle – Dingle Benners Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star dinglebenners.com
- **Kinsale – Actons Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star actonshotelkinsale.com
- **Bunratty – Bunratty Castle Hotel** – 1 night, 3-star bunrattycastlehotel.com

MEALS

- Full Irish breakfast daily

ALSO INCLUDED

- Hotel taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- Tip to your Driver Guide
- Any items of a personal nature
- Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Admissions not listed above. These are paid directly to each venue so that, because a private tour is meant to be flexible, you never pay for a site you later decide not to visit

This is a suggested itinerary and can be customized to your interests. Dates, hotels and pricing are provided on request.