

With Your Hosts John Borter, Trish Chiovari, and Chris Shaw

**OCTOBER 18-24, 2025**

\$2685.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPENCY

**Organized by Hammond Tours****YOUR ITINERARY****DAY 1- October 18, Saturday: Dublin Airport**

**Tour begins at Dublin Airport!** After clearing customs, travelers arriving from the US, along with anyone coming in early are united and met by your Hammond Tours Irish Driver Guides. **You need to arrive at Dublin Airport by 10:00AM.**

We begin our travels with a stop at the **Guinness Storehouse** in **Dublin**. It is a truly immersive experience that brings the story of Ireland's most iconic beer to life. Located in the heart of the St. James's Gate Brewery, the tour begins with an introduction to the history of Guinness, tracing its roots back to 1759 when Arthur Guinness first brewed the famous stout. As you wander through the seven-story building, you'll explore interactive exhibits that delve into the brewing process, the ingredients, and the craftsmanship behind the drink. Along the way, you'll learn about the brand's rich heritage, its impact on Irish culture, and its global reach. The highlight of the tour is reaching the Gravity Bar at the top of the Storehouse, where you can enjoy a complimentary pint of Guinness while taking in panoramic views of Dublin's skyline. The experience is both educational and fun, blending history, innovation, and a deep sense of Irish pride, making it a must-do for beer lovers and culture enthusiasts alike. Time this afternoon to explore Dublin before we head to our hotel for check-in for an overnight stay at **The Camden Court Hotel**.

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**DAY 2- October 19, Sunday: Dublin-Galway**

After enjoying breakfast at our hotel, we'll begin our journey to **Galway**. This vibrant city is a hub of artistic energy, rich cultural heritage, and scenic beauty along Galway Bay. Galway is famed for its bohemian atmosphere, where traditional Irish music and contemporary art coexist in harmony. Wander the colorful streets, admire the charming cobblestone walkways, and explore the lively Latin Quarter, brimming with pubs, cafes, shops, and galleries. In the afternoon, you'll have some free time to explore this dynamic city at your own pace. In Galway City, Shop Street is one of the most popular and fun streets to explore. It's filled with lively shops, cafes, street performers, and plenty of pubs, making it the heart of Galway's vibrant atmosphere. You'll find musicians playing traditional Irish tunes, artists showcasing their work, and a bustling crowd of locals and visitors alike. Another lively spot is Quay Street, located in the Latin Quarter, which is known for its colorful buildings, quirky boutiques, great restaurants, and lively pubs. It's a great place to wander, enjoy the street art, and soak up the local culture. Then dinner and an overnight stay at the **The Galmont Hotel Galway**.

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**DAY 3- October 20, Monday: Galway**

After breakfast, we set off for **Athlone** to embark on a boat ride that offers a truly unique and breathtaking view of the **Cliffs of Moher**. As we sail along the **River Shannon**, the journey gradually unveils the beauty of the Irish countryside, with lush, green landscapes stretching as far as the eye can see. As we approach the towering cliffs, the view from the water is nothing short of spectacular. The Cliffs of Moher rise majestically from the Atlantic Ocean, their jagged edges dramatically silhouetted against the sky. From this vantage point, the vastness and raw beauty of these cliffs are even more awe-inspiring, with the ocean crashing below and seabirds soaring overhead. The experience is peaceful yet powerful, as the sea mist rolls in and the true scale of this natural wonder comes into focus. It's a moment that highlights the immense beauty of Ireland's rugged coast, a memory that will stay with you long after the journey ends. In the afternoon, we're in for another treat as we meet **Bernie Leddy**, a world-renowned expert in the Doyle System of Irish Stick Fighting (Shillelagh). Featured on a recent BBC special, Bernie will share the fascinating history of *Bataireacht*, Ireland's ancient martial art, and demonstrate the techniques himself. It's a rare opportunity to learn about and witness this age-old tradition firsthand, as Bernie brings its rich history to life before your eyes. Then return for an overnight stay at **The Galmont Hotel Galway**.

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#### **DAY 4- October 21, Tuesday: Galway-Killarney**

Today we leave Galway and make our way to **Killarney**. On our way we will make a stop in **Ennis**, a charming, lively town known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and welcoming atmosphere. The town's cobblestone streets are lined with colorful buildings, bustling shops, cozy cafes, and lively pubs, giving it a friendly, small-town vibe with plenty of character. While in Ennis we will be fortunate enough to stop and have a demonstration by **Declan Casey**. Declan is recognized worldwide as one of, if not the best, shillelagh makers living today! A combination of stories, demonstration, and hands-on inspection will give you a connection to this age-old tradition and the very interesting history of the shillelagh. After lunch, we will continue on to **Killarney**, a picturesque town located in **County Kerry**. Famous for its breathtaking natural beauty, it sits in the heart of **Killarney National Park**, the oldest national park in Ireland. The town is a popular destination for visitors due to its mix of stunning landscapes, historic sites, and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Time to go out and explore the town this afternoon, then dinner and overnight at **The Killarney International Hotel**.

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#### **DAY 5- October 22, Monday: Killarney**

Today, we embark on a captivating journey to the **Dingle Peninsula**, a place where Ireland's most spectacular scenery unfolds before your eyes. The enchanting town of **Dingle**, with its colorful fishing boats bobbing in the harbor and lively, historic pubs, feels as if it's been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. With just 1,500 residents and 52 welcoming pubs, Dingle invites you to embrace its charm, character, and timeless beauty. Don't miss the chance to savor a bowl of the town's famous seafood chowder, served with freshly baked brown bread, a true culinary treasure that's well worth the wait. Our adventure continues to the awe-inspiring **Slea Head**, where the landscape takes on an even more dramatic allure. As we journey through this stunning terrain, you'll encounter ancient beehive-shaped huts—once home to 12th-century monks—perched high above the rugged **Blasket Islands**. The raw, untamed beauty of this area is unparalleled, offering a landscape unlike any other in Europe. We end the day with a relaxing return to **Killarney**, where you'll have the opportunity to experience the traditional jaunting carts. These charming horse-drawn carts offer a leisurely way to explore the breathtaking **Killarney National Park**, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the natural wonders of the landscape at a serene pace. Overnight at **The Killarney International Hotel**.

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#### **DAY 6- October 23, Tuesday: Killarney-Dublin**

Today we leave Killarney and make our way to **Dublin**. Driving from Killarney to Dublin is a scenic journey that takes you through some of Ireland's most beautiful landscapes. Starting in Killarney, you'll head north through the picturesque countryside of **County Kerry** and **County Limerick**, gradually transitioning into the peaceful rolling hills of **County Wicklow**. As you approach **Glendalough**, the landscape becomes more dramatic, with the towering **Wicklow Mountains** surrounding the serene, glacial valley that is home to the famous monastic site. **Glendalough** itself is a tranquil and historic spot, known for its well-preserved medieval ruins, including the iconic round tower, ancient churches, and Celtic crosses. The peaceful lakes and wooded surroundings make it a perfect place for a leisurely stroll, and there are plenty of walking trails if you want to take in the breathtaking scenery. After exploring the history and natural beauty of Glendalough, you continue your drive towards Dublin, enjoying the scenic views as you make your way into the vibrant city. Overnight at **The Camden Court Hotel**.

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#### **DAY 7- October 24, Wednesday: Dublin Airport**

Today you will be transported to Dublin Airport for your flight home. Still time for duty free shopping.

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### **MEET YOUR HOSTS**

**John Borter-** John Borter is a Bataireacht (Irish Stick Fighting) Instructor in the Doyle System of Irish Stick. He is the head of the Whiskey Stick Faction and has taught hundreds of students around the world including throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, Hong Kong, Japan, and more. His passion and mission is to share and spread this historic Irish martial art throughout the world and bring this ancient cultural practice into the modern day.

**Trish Chiovari-** Trish Chiovari is a Bataireacht Instructor and currently the only women instructor in the world in the Doyle system. She coheads the Whiskey Stick Faction and teaches live Irish stick study groups and seminars to students throughout the US, sharing this historic Irish martial art and practice.

**Chris Shaw-** Chris Shaw is an Irish stick practitioner alongside John and Trish. A world-renowned musician and singer, he has travelled across the globe sharing his unique blend of Irish and Adirondack music to thousands. He has visited Ireland numerous times and these experiences, combined with his passion for his Irish ancestry, gives him a unique perspective on Irish stick history and culture.

## YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- Deluxe motorcoach vehicle throughout your tour, including all transfers (1 group transfer on arrival & departure) and sightseeing
- Services of a professional Irish Driver and Guide.
- Six (6) nights First Class accommodations as follows or similar:
  - Oct 18 Dublin Camden Court Hotel-1 Nights [www.camdencourthotel.com](http://www.camdencourthotel.com)
  - Oct 19 & 20 Galway Galmont Hotel- 2 Nights [www.thegalmonthotel.com](http://www.thegalmonthotel.com)
  - Oct 21 & 22 Killarney Killarney International Hotel [www.killarneyinternational.com](http://www.killarneyinternational.com)
  - Oct 23 Dublin Camden Court Hotel-1 Nights [www.camdencourthotel.com](http://www.camdencourthotel.com)
- Full Irish breakfast daily (except the day of arrival)
- Two dinners: 1 Galway, 1 Killarney
- Admissions to Guinness Storehouse, Athlone Castle Cliffs of Moher Cruise, Killarney Jaunting Cart ride, Glendalough, Two (2) Irish Stick lectures
- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary
- Portage of one suitcase per person, hotel taxes throughout (except tips to your personal Driver/Guide)

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# Reservation Application

## Irish Stick Tour of Ireland (IS2025) October 18-24, 2025

**Go to [www.hammondtraveltours.com](http://www.hammondtraveltours.com) to complete your reservation application.**

A non-refundable deposit is \$250.00 per person is required to place a deposit. If you prefer a single room, there is an additional single supplement charge of \$999.00. Your second payment of \$350.00 per person is due 5/18/2025 and your final payment is due 7/18/2025. Reminders will be sent.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact  
**HAMMOND TOURS**  
34 Wedgewood Lane  
Voorheesville, NY 12186  
(518) 765-2056 or 1-866-486-8772  
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](http://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 Chris Shaw & The Whiskey Stick Faction are not responsible for any loss, damages or injuries that may happen while on the tour.**