



**Ireland's Sights & Sounds with Fr Tommy Conway**  
**8 Nights**  
**July 18 - 26, 2023**

**Day 1- Tuesday, July 18**

**Heading to Ireland**

This evening you board your flight for an overnight transatlantic journey to Ireland.

**Day 2 – Wednesday, July 19**

**Welcome to Ireland**

This morning we land in Dublin airport. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Irish Tour Director will meet you. We'll head to the Fairmont Carton House where you can check in and rest as your rooms will be prepared for your early arrival. You'll have the afternoon and evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: Fairmont Carton House, Maynooth**

**Day 3 – Thursday, July 20**

**Medieval City of Kilkenny**

This morning after breakfast we'll check out and head to Kilkenny and enjoy a **tour of this medieval city!** Trace the Town Walls which once provided sole protection and defense to the city. Wander the narrow paths that open up to the New Canal Square. Cross the River Nore that peaks out from beneath Green's Bridge and John's Bridge. See the art galleries, historic buildings, craft and design workshops, theatre, comedy, and public gardens of this fantastic city! After your tour you'll have the afternoon to enjoy the vibrant music scene—deeply rooted in traditional Irish Music—and fantastic cuisine, before checking in to your hotel for the next 3 evenings.

**Overnight: The Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny**



**Day 4 – Friday, July 21**

**Kilkenny Castle**

This morning after a hearty breakfast, we will visit **Kilkenny Castle**—once seat of the Butler family—for a tour of this magnificent estate. After being fully restored to its original grandeur, the ornamental gardens and ornate interior has made **Kilkenny Castle** one of the most visited tourist sites in all of Ireland. You’ll then have the rest of the afternoon and dinner at your leisure.

**Overnight: The Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny**

**Day 5 – Saturday, July 22**

**Waterford, the Viking City**

This morning after a leisurely breakfast we enjoy a *Waterford walking tour with a local guide* and get to know this Viking city, founded in 914. Here we walk through 1,100 years of history in Ireland’s oldest city as we see the two cathedrals, four national monuments and a gallery of rogues and rascals delivered in a witty, entertaining style. You’ll have the afternoon at your leisure. Perhaps visit the House of Waterford Crystal where we will see the world-famous exquisite pieces of crystal created before our own eyes.

**Overnight: The Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny**

**Day 6- Sunday, July 23**

**Galway, the City of Tribes**

This morning after a leisurely breakfast, we enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of **Galway, known as the “City of Tribes”** after the 14 family tribes that founded it. This city is a very lively cultural city with lots of music, drama and the arts, street performers (buskers), unique shops and pubs. We’ll meet for dinner at the Oak Cellar Bistro at the hotel.

**Overnight: Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate, Galway**

**Day 7- Monday, July 24**

**Enjoy Galway**

After breakfast today, we will depart for a day which will write it's own adventure. ***We will head for Fr. Tommy's hometown, Newbridge in Co. Galway where we will bask in the warmth of some authentic Irish hospitality.*** Ireland is known as the place of one hundred thousand welcomes and today you will experience that and so much more. This is Ireland at its best, its people. Receive a very special "Welcome Home" from Father Tommys' family, friends and neighbors. After an eventful day we will return to our hotel.

**Overnight: Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate, Galway**



**Day 8 – Tuesday, July 25**

**Galway at Your Leisure**

After a leisurely breakfast we set out today to ***visit Connemara***, a unique and very special part of County Galway. Once home to over 2 million Irish speaking people, it still retains its regional heritage as you will discover while we ramble around its lakes, mountains and bog lands. We visit the picturesque ***Kylemore Abbey***, the home of the Benedictine nuns which stands at the edge of a lake surrounded by woodlands. The Abbey was originally built in 1868 by Mitchell Henry, in memory of his late wife Margaret. Its architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. Kylemore Abbey's most famous feature is its miniature cathedral, known locally as the Gothic church. We return to Galway where you are free to enjoy the craic in one of the many pubs that adorn the streets! Have dinner at your leisure and enjoy your last evening in Galway!

**Overnight: Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate, Galway**

**Day 9- Wednesday, July 26**

**Kilbeggan Distillery**

This morning after fueling up on a hearty breakfast, we'll ***visit the oldest licensed distillery in Ireland, Kilbeggan Distillery, to enjoy a tour and tasting.*** The tour starts in 1757, where you discover how Irish whiskey was made. See the old mash tuns and fermenters, still in their original positions. You will get close to the iconic waterwheel, which one powered the whole distillery and kept whiskey flowing through Kilbeggan. And of course, you will get to taste Kilbeggan's finest whiskey!

We'll then continue on to the Fairmont, Maynooth, and have a ***Farewell Dinner together in the Carriage House*** for our final evening together in Ireland!

**Overnight The Fairmont Carton House, Maynooth**

**Day 10- Thursday, July 27**

**Farewell to Ireland**

We bid you farewell as you board your flights home. We look forward to welcoming you again soon!