

Charlie Zahm's Irish Ancient East Tour Itinerary

April 7 - 14, 2024

Depart USA on your overnight flight to Ireland. If you would like more time in Dublin City consider arriving a day or two before the tour starts on Sunday, April 7.

Sunday, April 7 - Arrive at Dublin Airport. Transfer to Dublin City on your own. You are free to explore the city at your leisure this afternoon. This evening join Charlie for your welcome dinner. Your hotel is within walking distance of the city centre. Gather together this evening for a welcome dinner with Charlie and meet your fellow travelers. Overnight: Iveagh Garden Hotel (Dinner, bed & breakfast) **(D)**



Monday, April 8 - Dublin to Kinnitty where en-route you will visit the **Irish National Stud.**

The Irish National Stud was built in 1946 and plays an active role in the development and marketing of Irish thoroughbred horses. It is also one of the country's leading tourist attractions and the only stud farm in Ireland that is open to the public. The Japanese Gardens, renowned throughout the world and the finest of their kind in Europe, are far more than simply a treat for the eye. They also provide comfort to the soul, achieving exactly the objective that was set out when the gardens were created between 1906 and 1910. The visitor attraction also includes a horse museum which tells the story of man and the horse united for sporting competitions and, more specifically, the story of Irish love for horse racing and the love of horse racing for Ireland.

Continue to visit **Kilbeggan Distillery.** In the heart of Ireland, lies the town of Kilbeggan, home to the world's oldest distillery, established in 1757. It is the quintessential Irish whiskey distillery - whitewashed walls, weathered slate roof, brick chimney stack, creaking timber water wheel, even regular ghost sightings. This is no mere "visitor centre" but a real working distillery run by a team of enthusiastic craftspeople, skilled in the traditional ways of making Irish whiskey.

Continue on to Kinnitty where you will check into the historic Kinnitty Castle Hotel. Dinner is included followed by a concert with Charlie. **(B, D)**

Tuesday, April 9 - This morning, visit the **Rock of Cashel.** Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artefacts found on the site.

Next visit **Cahir Castle.** Superbly set on a rocky island in the River Suir in Cahir town, County Tipperary, this impressive 15th century castle - the largest of its period in Ireland - was considered impregnable until the advent of heavy cannon. Once the stronghold of the powerful Butler family, the castle retains its keep, tower and much of its original defensive structure. The origins of the castle are traced back to the third century when a Dun (earthen fort) was built upon the rocky island.

Continue to Waterford where upon arrival you will have a **walking tour** of the city Waterford. Check into Granville Hotel, your home for the next two nights. Charlie has a special connection to this hotel. I am sure he will be delighted to regale you with stories. **(B)**

Wednesday, April 10 - This morning visit **Hook Lighthouse.** The present structure is about 800 years old and is the oldest intact operational lighthouse in the world. The former lighthouse keeper's houses now play host to the visitor facilities. Visitors can climb the 115 steps to the spectacular view from the balcony.



Next visit **Johnstown Castle.** With one of the most comprehensive displays of farming and rural life in the country, the Irish Agricultural Museum and Johnstown Castle & Gardens makes for a very interesting visit. The beautifully maintained ornamental gardens surrounding the castle extend to 40 hectares and feature three lakes, a walled garden and a resident family of peacocks. Housed in the former estate farm buildings, the *Irish Agricultural Museum* offers lots to see, learn, do and enjoy for all ages - admire the large collection of beautifully restored tractors, carts, ploughs, threshing machines, stationary engines and dairy equipment, see recreated workshops of traditional trades including blacksmith, cooper and wheelwright, learn about the Great Famine through an exhibition which vividly reveals what life was like before, during and after the famine. There is a tearoom and shop located near the entrance to the museum, with free Wi-Fi.

This evening after dinner you will have a special performance by Charlie in your historic hotel. **(B,D)**

Thursday, April 11 - Today journey from Waterford to Kilkenny stopping at **Dunbrody Famine Ship** on the way. The Dunbrody Famine ship is a reconstruction of the original Dunbrody, built in Quebec in 1845 by Thomas Hamilton Oliver, an Irish emigrant from Co. Derry. You will then follow in the footsteps of a group of Famine emigrants as you board the Dunbrody with your own personal ticket and explore the ship, fitted out exactly as it would be for a voyage. This authentic recreation with its actors, sound effects and smells, will transport you back in time.

A warm Irish welcome is guaranteed at **Jerpoint Park**, a period family home and working sheep farm. Here you can view life in this early 18th Century country house by having tea and homemade scones in the elegant rooms once graced by the Earl of Belmore. Now home to the O'Connell family, the house is beautifully arranged with antiques and family memorabilia. A guided heritage tour takes the visitor on the estate to view the footprints of a deserted 12th Century medieval town where you will be immersed in the importance of this once thriving town called Newtown Jerpoint (situated near Jerpoint Abbey). The site contains the Tomb Effigy of St Nicholas (Bishop of Myra) where the story goes that it contains a relic of the saint. Your visit includes tea & scones as well as a sheepdog demonstration.

Enjoy the balance of your day and evening exploring at leisure Kilkenny. Your hotel home for the next two night is the Kilkenny Hotel. **(B)**

Friday, April 12 - This morning, enjoy a **walking tour** of Kilkenny with Shenanigans. These local guides lead a fun, informative and engaging adventure while tracing the footsteps of The Normans, Monks, Knights, Merchants and an infamous Witch. Weaving a path through the picturesque medieval streets the story unfolds revealing incredible landmarks such as Kilkenny Castle, Rothe House, St. Canice's Cathedral & 9th Century Round Tower and tales of the Greatest Knight who ever lived and Kilkenny's infamous Witch Alice.

Next visit **Kilkenny Castle**, one of the most instantly recognised buildings in Ireland. Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. The castle has been remodeled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands which was the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830's splendour, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery.



Last visit of the day is the **Smithwick's Experience**. Housed in a restored Victorian brewing building the multi-sensory experience takes visitors on a journey through the medieval origins of brewing on the site, to the arrival of John Smithwick's in the 1700's up to the present day. During the tour, the Smithwick's brewing process will be brought to life with visitors having the opportunity to experience the smells, tastes and textures of the raw materials involved in creating the perfect pint of ale. Dinner is included the evening followed by a concert with your host, Charlie Zahm. **(B,D)**

Saturday, April 13 - Depart Kilkenny for the beautiful seaside town of Dun Laoghaire Dublin where you will spend your last evening in Ireland. En-route you will pay a visit to **Glendalough** home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the 'Monastic City'. The 'City' consists of a number of monastic remains, and the most impressive being the Round Tower which stands 30m high. The main group of monastic buildings lies downstream near the Round Tower.

Next stop at the seaside village of Dalkey and visit to **Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre**. Discover for yourself the history of this Rare, 14th Century Medieval Castle in this famous, scenic, heritage town during your Living History Tour. Celebrate your Ancient East Tour of Ireland with a delicious dinner at your hotel followed by a final tour concert with your host, Charlie Zahm. Overnight – Royal Marine Hotel (bed & breakfast) **(B,D)**

Sunday, April 14- Transfer to Dublin Airport for your own for your departure flight home. **(B)**

Price is \$2599 per person sharing with a single supplement of \$690. Trip Includes:

4 private concerts from your host Charlie Zahm

7 nights accommodations in 4* hotels w/porterage

Full Irish breakfast at hotel each day, 5 dinners Visits and admissions to the following:

Irish National Stud	Kilbeggan Distillery	Rock of Cashel
Cahir Castle	Hook Lighthouse	Johnstown Castle
Dunbrody Famine Ship	Kilkenny Castle	Smithwick's Experience
Jerpoint Park	Glendalough	Dalkey Castle

Not Included:

Optional Travel Insurance
Personal Expenses

Airfare
Gratuity for Driver & Guide

Meals as noted on itinerary
Transfer to/from airport/hotel

