

Kilkenny Castle, County & City

1 Day Coach Tour

Besides being famous for the quality of its County Hurling team and the Cat Laughs Festival, it's art galleries, medieval buildings, craft and design workshops, theatre, comedy, public gardens and museums are also some of the reasons, Kilkenny has become one of Ireland's most visited towns and a popular base to explore the surrounding countryside.

Kilkenny Castle, in the Marble City was the seat of the Butler family. Formerly the family name was FitzWalter. The name change came with a royal gift, the right to 10% of all wine imported into Ireland.

Whoever claimed that the Guinness' were the only family to grow wealthy on beverages?

The castle was sold to the local Castle Restoration Committee in the middle of the 20th century for €50. Since it was handed over to the State, it has since been fully refurbished and is open to visitors.



There are ornamental gardens on the city side of the castle, and extensive parkland and gardens to the front. Its three sided structure has become one of the most visited tourist sites in Ireland.

The Round Tower in the Cathedral is the oldest standing structure in Kilkenny City. Tourists can enjoy climbing the Round Tower capturing great views of the city (weather permitting). St Canice's Round Tower is one of only two Round Towers that people can climb in Ireland.

Another highlight is a 70 minute, animated walking tour, set against the backdrop of Kilkenny's medieval architecture, which weaves stories of the history and people of Kilkenny in past times. This is performed by a local theatrical group.

Needless to say, some of the stories from this area could make a cat laugh.

*There once were two cats of Kilkenny
 Each thought there was one cat too many
 So they fought and they hit
 And they scratched and they bit
 Till (excepting their nails
 And the tips of their tails)
 Instead of two cats there weren't any!*

A great day out!