



IRELAND ON A BUDGET

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Things to Do in Kilkenny, Including Some that are Free

- ✓ Cleere's Weekly Trad Session at Cleer's Bar & Theatre, Parliament Street. Trad sessions every Monday from 9 pm. Check website for other events. <https://cleeres.com/>
- ✓ **Guided Walking Tour of Kilkenny with Shenanigan's Walks** – discover more about the city's popular landmarks, including Kilkenny Castle, the Thosel, Rothe House, and more as you walk along Kilkenny's narrow, centuries-old streets. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Kilkenny Haunted Dark Tours** – find out about dark truths and ghostly goings-on in a city that produced one of Ireland's first witch trials. Visit Kyteler's Inn, the Shee Alms House and of course Kilkenny Castle, among other attractions. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **The Best of Kilkenny** – enjoy a two-hour walking tour of the city with a professional guide. Walk past Kilkenny Castle, St. Canice's Cathedral, the Black Abbey as you discover the city's interesting past. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Kilkenny Boat Trip** – imagine medieval Kilkenny from your ride on the River Nore, the main river that flows through the once important political center of Medieval Ireland, as well as learning about the wildlife that lives on its banks. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Medieval Tour and Irish Coffee Tasting Experience** – take an Irish coffee tasting experience in a cool dungeon bar and learn some Kilkenny history while you're at it. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Kilkenny Culinary & Brewery Tour** - enjoy mouth-watering local food together with a glass of Smithwicks, the oldest ale in Ireland, brewed in the heart of Kilkenny town. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Kilkenny Smithwick's Beer Experience** – learn about the Franciscan monks who started brewing beer here in the Middle Ages, hear the story of the Smithwick family and get a tasting of Ireland's oldest ale. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Hurling Tours Ireland** – learn all about Ireland's ancient sport of hurling and try your hand with a hurley stick and special ball, otherwise known as a **sliotar** (pronounced "schlithar"). Great activity for kids and adults alike. [Book Now](#).
- ✓ **Kilkenny Hydrobikes** – explore the River Nore on an easy-to-operate [hydrobike](#). Suitable for ages 8 and up and even dogs can come along for the ride.
- ✓ **The Butler Gallery** – see the work of contemporary Irish artists and learn about this [historic building](#) in the heart of Kilkenny. **FREE**
- ✓ **Ormonde Language Tours** – take a [walking tour of Kilkenny](#) with John Britton, a Kilkenny

native who can provide his very informative tour in English, French and German. John, who can also speak Gaeilge (the Irish language), is a member of the Approved Tourist Guides of Ireland.

✔ **The Kilkenny Famine Experience** – learn about the lives of two young boys abandoned during the famine by their parents and how they found their way to the Kilkenny Union Workhouse, which is now part of the McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre. The [self-guided audio-visual tour](#) takes visitors to a part of the workhouse where the remains of 976 famine victims were found in 2005. **FREE**

✔ **Kilkenny Castle Rose Garden & Parklands** – if you don't want to pay the fee to see the interior of Kilkenny Castle, you can explore its [rose garden and extensive 50-acre parklands](#) for free. Enjoy its woodland walks, a man-made lake and a children's playground, perfect if you have kiddos traveling with you. **FREE**

✔ **Kilkenny Guided Cycling Tour** – visit Kilkenny's main tourist attractions and hidden gems on a [cycling tour](#). About 10 kilometers/6 miles in total.

✔ **National Design & Craft Gallery** – the [gallery](#) highlights the contemporary crafts produced by both Irish and international artists. While you're there, watch crafts being made and if something catches your eye, why not purchase? There's everything from stunning handcrafted jewelry to beautiful textiles and ceramics. **FREE**

✔ **St. Mary's Graveyard**, located on the grounds of the [Medieval Mile Museum](#) on St. Mary's Lane. Take a free guided tour of the graveyard. Learn about burial and funeral practices through the centuries and hear about the four female skeletons that were discovered in 2016, when St. Mary's Church was being converted into the popular museum, where the remains can be viewed. **FREE**

✔ **St. Mary's Cathedral**, located on James's Street. Take a self-guided interactive tour of this [beautiful cathedral](#), which was opened in 1857. The tour is available in several languages by scanning the QR codes throughout the cathedral and along the tour corridor at the front of the building. It is located on the highest point in Kilkenny. **FREE**

✔ **The Black Abbey**, a [13th-century Dominican friary](#) that is free to visit. Its stained-glass windows and alabaster sculpture of the Holy Trinity are among its beautiful features.