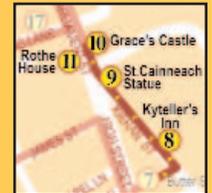
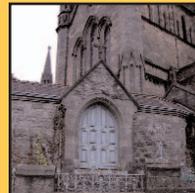
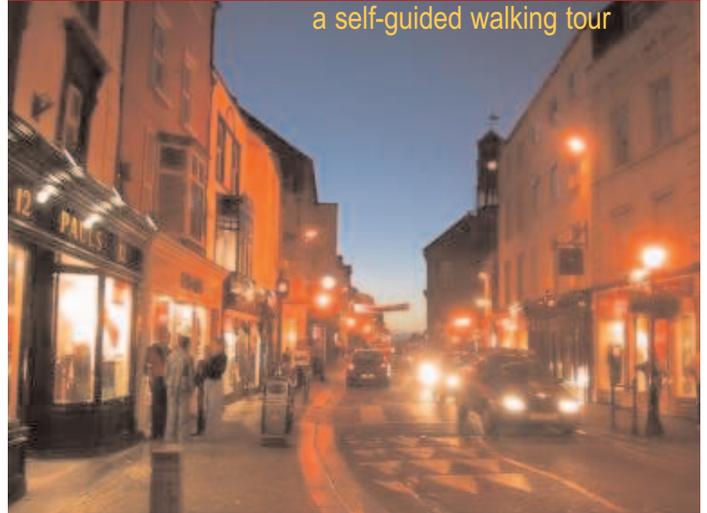


# WALKING KILKENNY

a self-guided walking tour



by Corey Taratuta

**DRAFT**  
for tour testing

## Acknowledgments

A special thanks to **Liam Hughes** and **John Anthony Keegan**

The following sources were used for reference:

**Discover Kilkenny** by John Bradley (O'Brien Press, Ltd);

**Frommer's Ireland From \$60 a Day** by Mark Meagher (Wiley Publishing, Inc)

**Kilkenny: A Touring Guide** by Brian Fox and Pat Nolan (South East Tourism and Kilkenny Tourism)

**Lonely Planet Ireland** by Tom Downs, Fionn Davenport, Des Hannigan, Etain O'Carroll and Neil Wilson (Lonely Planet)

**Illustrated Guide to Ireland** edited by Sandy Sheperd (The Reader's Digest Association Limited)

[www.irish-architecture.com](http://www.irish-architecture.com)

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# WALKING KILKENNY MAP

-  Main Tour Route
-  Detours & Secondary Routes
-  Tour Stops
-  Restaurant or Pub (see page 21)



## WELCOME TO KILKENNY



**ABOVE**  
The round tower at St. Canice's Cathedral (Stop 14) is the oldest building in Kilkenny

**RIGHT**  
James Hoban, born near Kilkenny in Callan, designed the White House in Washington D.C. based on Dublin's Leinster House



Kilkenny circa 1698

**Y**ou are about to experience Kilkenny, one of Ireland's premier medieval cities and one of the country's most enchanting inland towns. It once rivaled Dublin in importance and has played a continuous role in Ireland's history. Today it is a bustling market town that fosters a thriving arts community.

This walking tour is designed to take you to each of the major attractions and also off the tourist path to many of the more hidden finds. You will learn much of Kilkenny's history and stories and discover why it has been called the Marble City, the town of the Fighting Cats and the Artistic Heart of Ireland.

Expect the tour route to take a minimum of one hour to walk. Add in visits to Kilkenny's many attractions such as the castle, cathedrals and brewery and you could extend the tour to last an entire day or more.

Several detours have been included along the way. These diversions will take you off the main track and allow you to explore even more of Kilkenny.

The tour begins at the Kilkenny Design Centre and ends at the nearby Butler House.

### TIPS ▶ ▶ ▶

- ▶ Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- ▶ Dress for the weather. In Ireland it is often better to wear a water-proof hooded jacket than to operate an umbrella.
- ▶ The streets and sidewalks of Kilkenny can be very busy. The best times for a walking tour are in the morning and the late afternoon.

Ask for directions.

- ▶ Every effort has been made to provide easy-to-use maps and instructions, but the medieval web of streets can be disorienting.

Kilkenny is considered

- ▶ a very safe town for visitors. However, it is important to remain aware of your surroundings.

Read the tour prior to

- ▶ your walk to familiarize yourself with the sites and stories you are about to experience.



Kilkenny's crest is displayed on the Thostle (Stop 6)

# THE BUTLER LEGACY

*Kilkenny Castle today with its Baronial facade*



*Butler Castle circa 1600 with its French chateau facade*

In 1177 Theobald FitzWalter was installed as Chief Butler of Ireland and given the title of Prisage of Wine by King Henry II. Such a privilege allowed FitzWalter to claim roughly 15 percent of all wine in Ireland.

Not surprisingly, the control of alcohol made the family extremely wealthy. In 1328, the Butlers were made Earls of Ormond and in 1391 John Butler purchased the castle in Kilkenny and a significant portion of the county.

In a time when the Anglo-Normans and the Gaelic Irish were severely segregated, John Butler was very effective in managing his Irish tenants. He spoke fluent Irish and worked to eliminate the Statute of Kilkenny, which forbade Anglo-Irish marriage.

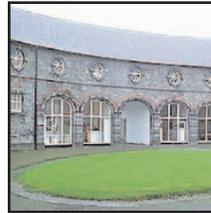
In 1811 the crown bought back the right to the Prisage of Wine for about £250 million in today's economy (\$475 million). That money was used to extensively remodel the castle from its French chateau appearance to its current Baronial facade.

The 17th century saw many of the Butlers emigrate to Europe and America, while others served in Continental armies and were ennobled for their services. Variations of the Butler name are evident in Spain, Sweden, France (Boutler or de Butler), Austria and Germany (Buttlar) and Russia (Butleroff).

Through the years, the decline in rent revenue, the Irish battle for independence and the exorbitant costs to maintain the castle made Kilkenny a less desirable location for the Butler family. In 1935 the contents of the castle were auctioned off, and in 1967 the castle was given to the people of Kilkenny.



*The Butler family crest includes six goblets representing the family's Prisage of Wine title*



## 1 The Kilkeny Design Centre

is housed in the castle's former stables. The stables, constructed in about 1780, feature a semicircular courtyard and curved stable block. In 1965 the stables were converted into the Kilkeny Design Workshops. Created to promote quality Irish craft and design, the Centre has established Kilkenny as the creative heart of Ireland.

The Design Centre is a popular shopping destination for Irish crafts. A café within the Design Centre serves tea, scones and light lunches. From the second courtyard visitors can gain access to the splendid gardens of the Butler House (see Stop 25). Directly across the street is the castle.



## 2 Kilkenny Castle

began as a wooden tower erected in 1172 by Richard de Clare, better known as Strongbow. His son-in-law, William Marshall, later built the stone castle with four large drum towers. In 1391 the Butler family bought the castle and continued to live there until 1935.

Cromwell's siege from 1650-1659 severely damaged the south wing, and one tower was lost. In 1967 the Butlers handed the castle to the city for a mere £50.

The castle interior has been refurbished to its Victorian splendor, and guided tours offer a glimpse of rooms such as the magnificent Long Gallery.



The Parade was originally a row of buildings that formed the east side of Castle Street. They were demolished by the first duke of Ormond in the early 17th century to create an area in front of the castle for military parades and assemblies.

The Parade now serves as a central location for tours, public toilets and the occasional street artist. Walk down the Parade to Rose Inn Street. Across the street you will see the grey stone front of the Shee Alms House (Tourist Information Centre). For safety, cross Rose Inn Street at the intersection.



## MEDIEVAL HIGH SOCIETY

From 1277 until 1425, Kilkenny was a popular site for the English-ruled meetings of parliament and king's council. In 1366 one of the most famous of these meetings was held. It came to be identified with the Statute of Kilkenny which had been passed at the meeting. The statute forbade any English settler to adopt an Irish name, wear Irish apparel or use the Irish language. Those of Irish blood were forbidden to live within the walls of any fortified town, and any settler marrying an Irish person was committing high treason.

As a result, Kilkenny was divided into three areas. Hightown included everything protected within the town's walls; it was located on the highest ground and included the castle and significant commercial and government buildings. Irishtown extended northwest from the city. This was where a majority of the town's citizens lived. Across the river to the east was St. John's, named after the priory that was built there. This area was the last area to be settled.

Parliament Street in Irishtown



**4 Shee Alms House**  
**Shee Alms House** was established in 1582 to house six "honest, poor, unmarried men" on the upper story and six widows of fifty years of age or older on the lower story. Contact between men and women was forbidden except during their two hours of prayer. Grounds for immediate expulsion included marriage, missing weekly Divine Service or conviction for an offense such as fornication, adultery or drunkenness. Restored in 1986, the Tudor building houses the Tourist Office. Note the crests displayed above the front and back doors. Take the interior or exterior stairs to reach the back door.



**5 St. Mary's Church**  
 lies up the narrow lane behind the Alms House. The 12th century church served as Hightown's medieval parish church, and reverence to the site was evident in an ordinance passed in 1337, which rewarded anyone who killed pigs found foraging within the churchyard. The church closed in 1957; however, the key is available at the Tourist Office for visitors with a special interest in heraldry. Continue up the laneway to High Street and turn right.



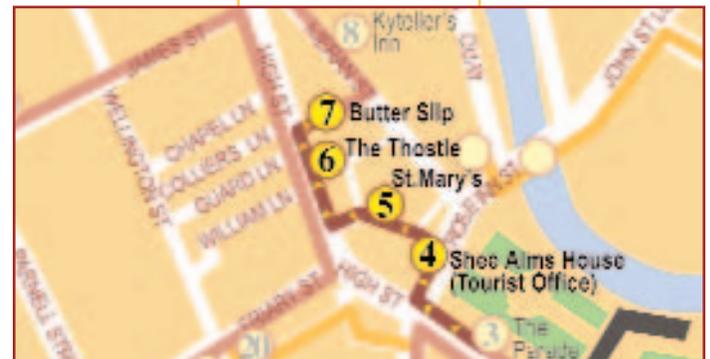
**6 The Thostel** gets its name from two old English words "toll" meaning tax and "sael" meaning hall. In addition to being a custom house, the Thostel served as a guildhall and courthouse. Built in 1761 by alderman William Colles, a family associated with Kilkenny's distinctive black marble quarries, the Thostel is constructed of Kilkenny marble and the town's coat of arms is displayed on the south wall of the building. Walk through the arched arcade where fresh dairy products were sold right into the 20th century. Continue down High Street until you reach an arch that reveals a narrow lane.



**7 The Butter Slip**, traditionally used by women to sell butter, served as a passage from High Street to a boat slip on the River Nore. Walk down the Butter Slip. Many of the buildings still have their original stone window jambs and doorways. At the end of the slip, you will reach Kieran Street. This street was previously called Low Lane to differentiate it from High Street. When you reach Kieran Street, turn left.

### THE MARBLE CITY

Marble quarried outside Kilkenny is noted for its black color and random splotches and rings of white that resemble drops of paint. A look around the city will reveal the marble's appearance on numerous buildings, door frames and window jambs. Even the streets were paved with marble until the 1930s, which earned Kilkenny the title of Marble City. A local black limestone is also common and was the primary stone used for the old city walls and many buildings. However, the softer limestone lacks the notable white markings.



# THE WITCH OF KILKENNY



*Driven mad by the six beatings she received to extract her confession, Petronilla of Meath did not recant her heresy charges and was paraded through the streets of Kilkenny and burned at the stake on November 2, 1324*

One of Kilkenny’s most notorious characters was Dame Alice Kyteler (pronounced Kit-ler). The attractive and well-connected moneylender born in 1284 had survived at least three wealthy husbands; each dying under suspicious circumstances. When her fourth husband suffered from a mysterious illness in 1324, his children from a previous marriage suspected foul play and appealed to the Bishop to try her for heresy.

Despite being dismissed by town officials, most of whom were friends or relatives of Alice, Bishop Ledrede persisted. Alice used her influence to have him imprisoned in Kilkenny Castle for a spell. Finally, Alice and five others were tried for sorcery, consorting with demons, making potions and having intercourse with the devil.

Alice was found guilty and sentenced to be burned at the stake. She escaped and fled to Scotland, but her maid Petronilla, one of her accused accomplices, was burned in her place.

The case presented the first time witchcraft and heresy were linked and the first time heretics were presented as an organized group and thus, set off the witchcraft craze in Northern Europe. Modern medicine suggests the symptoms of her dying husband, an emaciated body, devoid of body hair, match those of arsenic poisoning.

Grace's Castle



**8 Kyteler's Inn** is most commonly associated with Dame Alice Kyteler, the witch of Kilkenny. In its day, the word "inn" described a residence and it was unlikely that Dame Kyteler used it to lodge guests. It is now a popular pub and a visit to the basement restaurant reveals a vaulted stone ceiling. Some windows on the north side have been blocked in; in an era when a tax was levied on windows, many angry homeowners opted to close up windows rather than pay the tax, hence, the term "daylight robbery." Continue up Kieran Street to Parliament Street.

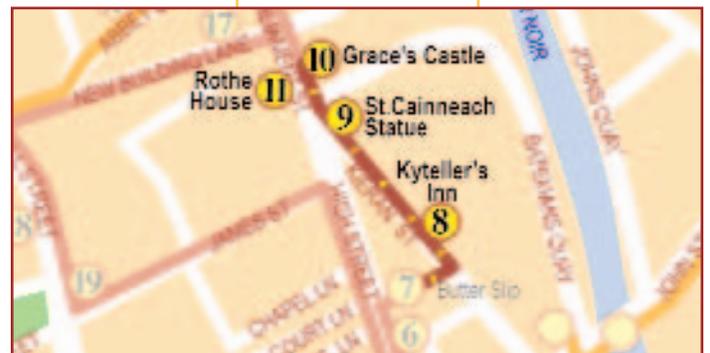


**9 Parliament Street** is the site where High Street meets Kieran Street. Notice the modern sculpture of Saint Cainneach (Canice). The artwork featured four streams of water for a short time, but the fountain was turned off after debris continuously clogged the drain. Continue up Parliament Street until you reach the gates of Grace's Castle.

**10 Grace's Castle** was built in 1210 for the Grace family. In 1566, the fortified home was given to the county for use as a jail until 1779 when it was rebuilt as a courthouse and the current facade was constructed. Now look directly across the street at the large stone building.



**11 Rothe House**, built in 1594, is a fine example of a wealthy Tudor merchant's home. In the mid-17th century the home and the Rothe family played an important role in the Confederation of Kilkenny, established to restore the rites of the Catholic Church. The family lived here until evicted by Cromwellian orders in 1653. The family regained the property in 1660 only to lose it again after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The home has been restored and houses the Kilkenny Archaeological Society and their collection of historic artifacts. The society offers tours and a gift shop with a variety of books and literature. Continue down Parliament Street.



## THE HOLY SITES

### Is it Catholic or Protestant?

The history of Christianity in Ireland is long and turbulent. Missionaries such as Saint Patrick brought Christianity to Celtic Ireland in the 5th century.

In the 12th century, Catholic Anglo-Norman nobles took control of Ireland making it subject to English rule. By this time Ireland had become known as the “Land of Saints” and numerous monasteries were already formed.

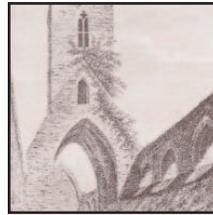
In the 16th century, England’s Henry VIII broke from the Catholic Church and demanded all his subjects convert to the Protestant Church. Thus began centuries of fighting with the Irish. England prevailed and introduced severe laws that reduced the rights of Catholics.

The enforcement of these laws varied between communities, but that changed when Oliver Cromwell arrived in 1649. Cromwell traveled the country closing, destroying and/or converting all Catholic churches by any means necessary. All monasteries were closed, and their contents seized.

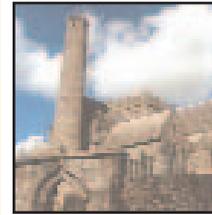
In the 1790s, Catholics regained the rights to own land, vote, marry Protestants and practice law. Although 90 percent of the population was Catholic, the Protestant gentry maintained all positions of power. As a result, Catholics did not reclaim their churches, but built new ones instead. As a result, most Protestant Churches one visits in Ireland today were once Catholic.



**12 Saint Francis Abbey Brewery** now houses the Smithwick Brewery (pronounced Smit-icks). The arch and alley named “The Ring,” which leads to both the friary and the brewery, is often called “Heaven’s Gate.” Established in 1710, the brewery is now owned by Guinness and brews Smithwick’s, Kilkenny and Budweiser beers. The monks of the Saint Francis Abbey are reported to have been expert brewers all the way back to the 13th century. A video presentation in the atmospheric basement offers free samples every afternoon in the summer months. Continue down Parliament Street to the stoplight.



**13 Saint Francis Abbey** is visible to your right when you reach the stoplight. Founded in 1232, it was desecrated by Cromwell in 1650. The abbey is located within the brewery complex, and it is recommended that those desiring a closer look should make prior arrangements with the brewery. After the intersection, you will cross a wide, inconspicuous bridge. This was the border between Hightown and Irishtown. Walk to the end of Parliament Street, cross Dean Street and take the steps to Saint Canice’s Cathedral. At the church gate you may choose to take a detour to visit the Bishop’s Palace.

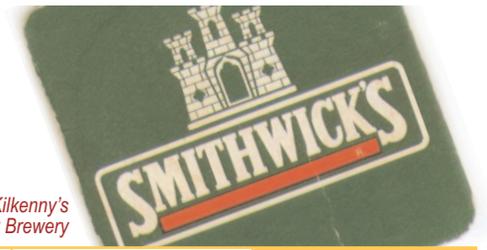
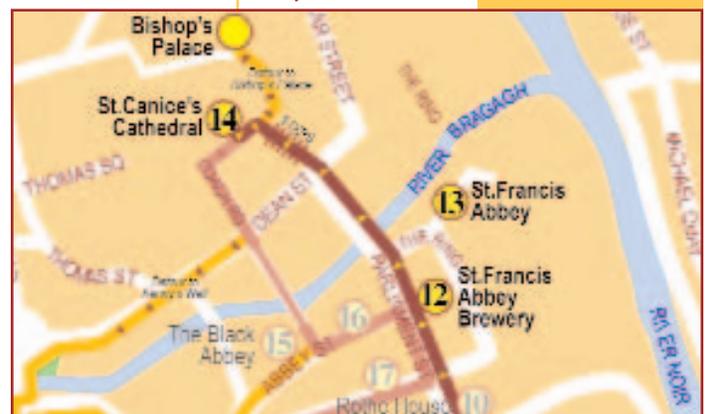


**14 Saint Canice’s Cathedral** was built in the 13th century on the site of a 6th century monastery founded by Saint Canice. William Outlawe, son of the Kilkenny Witch, financed a new lead roof for the bell tower to avoid sentencing in his heresy trial. It collapsed shortly after in 1332, and in 1650 Cromwell’s troops used it as a stable. The round tower, built in 1100, is Kilkenny’s oldest building, and visitors are allowed to climb to the top. The climb is not for the weak or claustrophobic. From here follow the road back to Dean St. You may detour to Kenny’s Well or cross Dean St. and take narrow road to Abbey St.

### DETOUR ▶ ▶ ▶



**The Bishop’s Palace** was built as the Episcopal palace during the 1350s and remodeled in its current Georgian design in 1736. The building and its gates are currently being remodeled to accommodate the national headquarters of the Heritage Council. Adds 5 minutes roundtrip



Smithwick’s is brewed at Kilkenny’s Saint Francis Abbey Brewery



## FIGHTING CATS OF KILKENNY

The source of the popular expression “fighting like Kilkenny cats” is unknown, but many theories exist on its origins. The proceedings of the meetings of Parliament and the frequent squabbles between Hightown and Irishtown have both been given credit. However, the most likely history stems from a sport common with the soldiers stationed here during a rebellion in 1798. Two cats were tied together at their tails and thrown across a line and left to fight their way free.

Commanders quickly banned the sport, but soon after, an officer on patrol heard a catfight and sought to confront the perpetrators. An offending soldier heard his approach and cut the cats free with a swing of his sword. When the officer arrived at the scene, only two bloody tails were left dangling from the line. The misguided officer believed the cats had fought until only their tails remained and hence the famous rhyme was born:

*There once were two cats in Kilkenny,  
Each thought there was one cat too many,  
So they fought and they hit,  
They scratched and they bit,  
Till excepting their nails,  
And the tops of their tails,  
Instead of two cats  
There weren't any.*



**18 James Stephens Home**, located at #38 Blackmill Street, housed one of Ireland's early crusaders for independence. Stephens, 1825-1901, was born and educated in Kilkenny and helped create a secret organization called the Irish Republican Brotherhood and its U.S. counterpart, the Fenian Brotherhood. They recruited and trained soldiers to fight for Ireland's independence. Stephens was arrested for conspiracy but escaped on a ship bound for France by dressing as a lady's maid. The U.S. Civil War interrupted the groups' flow of U.S. backed financing, but independence was eventually won in 1921.

The wax-encased relics of St. Victoria displayed in St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral



**19 Saint Mary's Catholic Cathedral**, located at the top of the hill, stands as the tallest structure in Kilkenny. From Blackmill Road you will be passing behind the cathedral. Notice the entrances to the crypts below (one crypt has a particularly interesting skull and cross bones). Built between 1843 and 1857 amidst the Great Famine, the design is based on the English Gothic cathedral of Gloucester, but due to economic constraints, it is believed the nave was shortened.

St. Mary's houses a number of notable statues, mosaics and the relics of Saints Clement, Cosmos and Damien. However, the most unusual is the wax-encased relics of Saint Veronica on display under a side altar. The Sacred Heart Altar, statue and altar rails are credited to the Marble Works of James Pearse, father of Padraig Pearse, a leader of the 1916 Rebellion.

Enter the church from James St. To continue, follow James St. to High St. and turn right. Turn right again at Friary St.



**20 Capuchin Friary** was built in 1847. An offshoot of the Franciscan Friars Minor, Capuchin is short for the Italian word *scappuccini* or hermits. The Capuchins arrived in Ireland in 1615 and emphasize a modest lifestyle and focus much of their efforts on being confessors and confidants for people in their time of need. For this reason, there is a bell inside the front door of the church. Ring it, and a friar will dutifully take your confession.



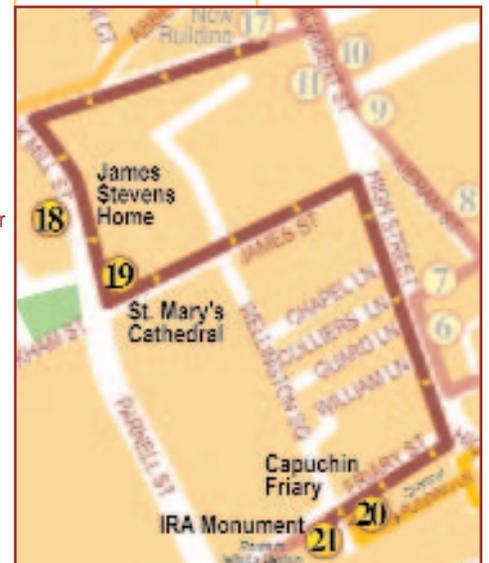
**21 IRA Plaque** placed on the corner of the building next to the friary commemorates two IRA soldiers who were killed 1921 <waiting on additional information> Follow Friary Street until it joins Parnell and New Streets. Turn left on New Street. If you are looking to end your tour early, this would be a good point to stop and return to the Kilkenny Design Center or High Street.

Photo of St. Victoria's Relics

## SAINTS VICTORIA & ANATOLIA

Arranged for marriage to noble Roman pagans, sisters Victoria and Anatolia refused to marry and devoted their lives to God. Their angry suitors had them tortured in hopes of breaking their faith. Refusing to worship idols, the sisters were executed. Their guard, so moved by their example, converted before he too was executed. Legend states Victoria's executioner was immediately struck with leprosy and died six days later, eaten by worms. The story is suspected to be pious myth.

St. Victoria's wax-encased bones and a chalice of her blood were a gift from the Pope in 1845 in honor of the consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral where the relics are now housed.



## THE FLYING GREY MARE



The Kilkenny Hunt Club was well known for boisterous evenings. Simon Morris, who was manager of the Hotel in the 1860s, recalls a particular night:

“A celebrated grey mare was the subject of discussion. A bet of £50 made by Mr. Courtenay, the owner of the mare dared that he would ride up the two flights of stairs, into the club room and jump over the screen.

Mr. Courtenay went to the stables and demanded the animal. He started on his perilous escapade, then up one flight of stairs, turned the landing and faced the second flight.

Not faltering, a slip of the iron hoofs on the brass protectors of the stairs caused every eye to strain, every heart to beat wildly.

The door was reached and the whole assembly at the banquet, with gaping eyes, beheld their equine guest. All the voices in the room were raised to stop the foolhardy venture. The leap was placed so he could jump it from the door, towards the front windows. Only now the imminent danger became apparent. Would the animal first clear the screen, then rush through the window and on to the street sixty feet below?

Servants shrieked; the mare’s own groom offered his last entreaty to stop his master. All to no purpose. The course was clear - AWAY! And the house reverberated from the shock. The mare well jumped it, but the stake was not won. She touched the screen in passing.

Again the screen was arranged. This time the position changed so to avoid the possibility of the animal bounding on to the street. The signal was given, and, with a noble jump, the grey mare cleared the screen, greeted with the shouts of an alarmed and amazed audience.”

*Adapted from Hotels of Ireland by Frank Corr*

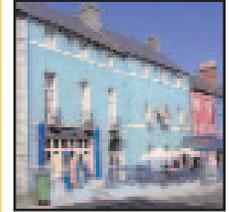
Plaque honoring Bishop Brownrigg displayed in St. Patrick's Church



**22 Talbot's Bastion**  
Talbot's Bastion is the last remaining turret that once guarded the walled city. Few remnants of the original fortifications remain. One other turret and four wall-towers protected the city's west wall. In contrast, there were no such battlements on the city's east side because the River Nore provided adequate protection. Look at the church diagonally across the street from Talbot's Bastion.



**23 St. Patrick's Church**  
was built in 1899 under the guidance of Bishop Brownrigg. Thirteen years earlier he had invited the Sisters of St. John of God to establish a convent on the site. The sisters remain at St. Patrick's, as does Bishop Brownrigg. His remains are buried in front of the altar. If you visit the church, be sure to note the unique choir loft and the gold plate honoring Bishop Brownrigg. From here you may choose a detour to the grounds of St. Kieran's College or turn up Ormond Road.

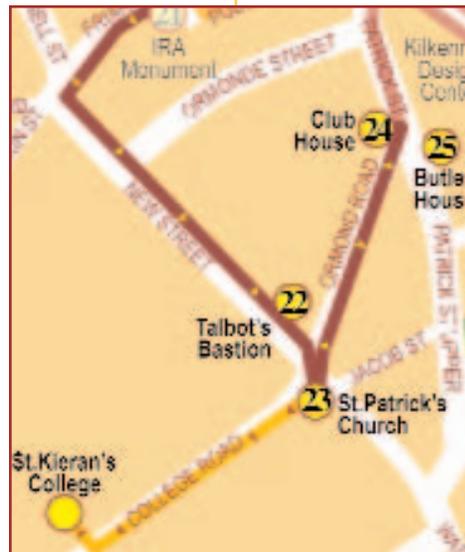


**24 Club House Hotel**  
served as the “club house” for the Kilkenny Hunt Club, founded in 1797. The club became the horse switching station on the Cork to Dublin stagecoach. As club membership dwindled, the guest rooms and dining room were opened to the public. Legend has it that on a bet Mr. Courtenay of County Cork rode his mare through the second story window to the street below without injury. However, the true story is believed to be told on the opposite page.

### DETOUR



**St. Kieran's College**, built in 1836, served as a seminary until 1994. It now houses the National University of Ireland Maynooth Kilkenny campus. Adds 15 minutes



**25 Butler House** was built about 1780 for the widowed countess of Ormond. Without a proper heir, the castle and family wealth passed to her nephew, the 16th Earl of Ormond. The widow was assured life-long housing and a stipend; this share in her husband's estate was known as her dower. The streetside is simple, but the courtyard garden shows more character. Access to the courtyard can be gained from the Kilkenny Design Centre (Stop 2). Butler House is now a B&B.

## WALKING SAINT JOHN'S

The suburb of St. John's, known as "the continent" because it lies across the water from the rest of Kilkenny, provides a different perspective of the town. Although the area is primarily residential, walking St. John's provides its own bit of history.

This tour begins in one of Kilkenny's historic pubs, crosses the River Nore and gradually climbs to scenic Wind Gap. This tour takes about an hour (longer if you add Lacken Walk).



**A Tynan's Bridge House Bar**, located on a street once an exercise run for horses, has been around since the 18th century and in the same family since 1919. The front bar displays shelves, scales and memorabilia from the days when it doubled as a grocery and pharmacy. The U-shaped bar, tile floor, gas globe lamps and brass fixtures give a Victorian ambience that makes this an ideal spot to enjoy locally-brewed Smithwick's or Kilkenny ales.



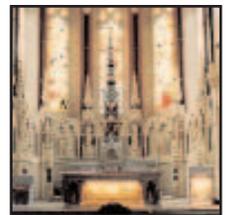
**B John's Bridge** connects St. John's with the rest of Kilkenny and offers a picture-perfect view of the castle and the River Nore. Originally built after 1200, John's Bridge was destroyed and rebuilt after the great floods of 1487 and 1763 (as was the Green Street Bridge to the north). The present bridge was the longest single span ferro-concrete (reinforced concrete) bridge in the British Isles at the time of its completion in 1910.



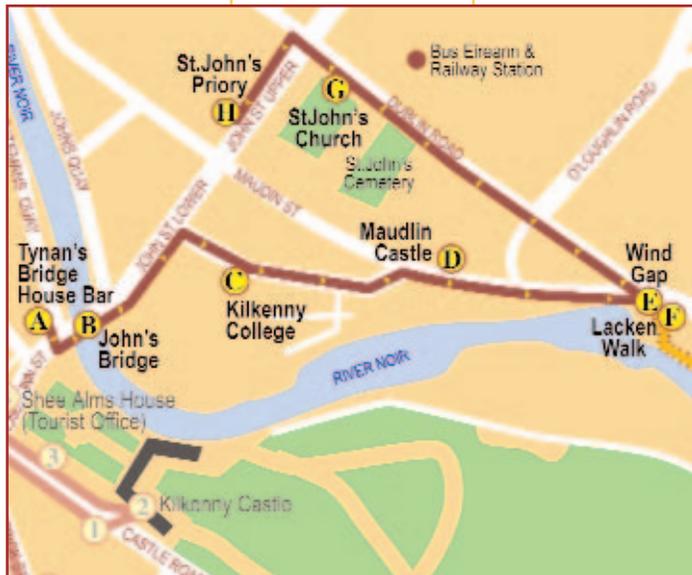
**C Kilkenny College** began as grammar school established before 1539 beside St. Canice's. It moved to this location in 1684 and served as a university for six months in 1690. The current building, built in 1782, was transformed into the County Hall in 1985. Its pupils included Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745, author of *Gulliver's Travels*; historian Richard Stanihurst, 1547-1618; philosopher George Berkeley, 1685-1753 and Admiral David (later Earl) Beatty, 1871-1936.



**E Wind Gap** provides a view of the city very few tourists see. With views of the castle and St. Canice's Cathedral, this panorama was common in 19th and 20th century paintings. Across the street from Wind Gap is the home of John Banim, 1798-1842. Considered "Ireland's Walter Scott" Banim's series "Tales by the O'Hara Family" provides a historic look at Kilkenny's poverty and hierarchy in the 18th and 19th centuries. Banim is buried in nearby St. John's cemetery.



**F St. John the Evangelist Church**, built in 1908, was constructed with money willed by Martin O'Loughlin who emigrated and prospered in the gold mines of Australia. Built near the churchyard of an earlier St. John's Church (the old cemetery is nearby), the building was extensively remodeled in 1984 and features Victorian tiles, beautiful windows, interesting organ pipes and visitors are encouraged to look for angels among the ornamentation.



**D Maudlin Castle**, a name derived from Magdalene, guarded the entrance to the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene. The hospital dates back to at least the early 14th century, and the castle is all that remains. By 15th century, the hospital was funded by urban rents and the best room was reserved for the sovereign of Hightown.



**F Lacken Walk**, located at end of the Wind Point viewing spot, takes you down a narrow, stepped path to Lacken's Well and onward to a riverside path. It can be quite isolated, so use caution, especially on uneven terrain. The rustic nature trail becomes less manicured as you go; backtracking is necessary to return to Wind Gap.



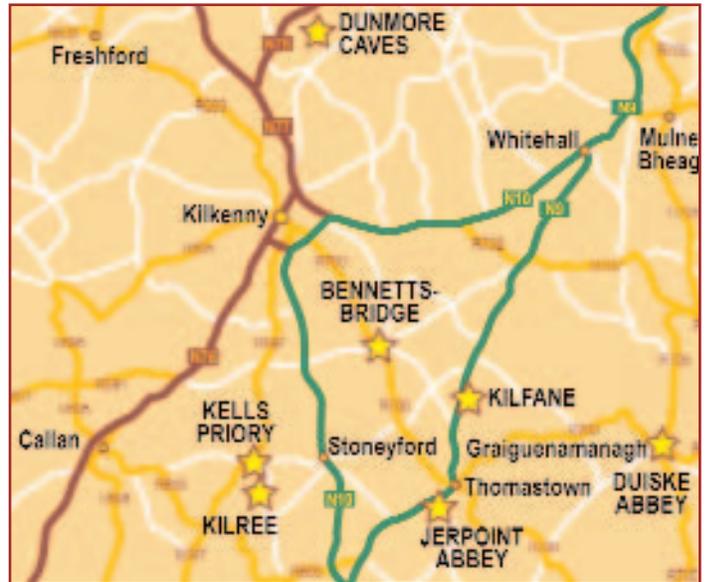
**G St. John's Abbey** was built by Augustinian Monks in the 13th century and served as the parish church of the suburb of St. John's. Because of its continuous run of windows on the east wall, it became known as "the lantern of Ireland."

## EATING, DRINKING & SHOPPING



This area will describe some suggested stops for restaurants

## SITES AROUND KILKENNY



**Jerpoint Abbey**, built in the 12th century by the Benedictines, features unique stone carvings on the pillars of the cloister that provide a unique look at 14th and 15 century life.

**Kells Priory** is a spectacular complex of ruins. Founded in the 12th century, this Augustinian priory offers an almost endless assortment of 13th to 15th century buildings, walls and towers to explore. The best way to enter the priory is from the old mill located near the Kings River.

**Kilree Abbey** offers a quiet ruined church with a well-preserved round tower.

**Kilmee Glen and Waterfall** offers a picturesque walk through the gardens and a view of an artificial waterfall and rustic cottage.

**Bennettsbridge**, home of Nicholas Moss Pottery, has become a popular destination for Irish crafts.

**Duiske Abbey** was restored in the 1970s to create a medieval church that accommodates a modern liturgy. Local craftsmen paid special attention to medieval construction methods, going so far as using wedges and dowels instead of nails. The site includes a visitor center, giftshop and two high crosses.

**Dunmore Cave**, famous for a massacre that took place inside. Guided tours of this Dúchas (Irish Heritage) site take visitors into the gaping mouth of the cave and share historic and geological story of the cave.

### Distance to:

<b>Belfast</b>	177mi (284km)
<b>Cahir</b>	42mi (67km)
<b>Cashel</b>	47mi (75km)
<b>Clonmel</b>	32mi (52km)
<b>Cork</b>	92mi (148km)
<b>Dublin</b>	73mi (117km)
<b>Galway</b>	107mi (172km)
<b>Killarney</b>	123mi (198km)
<b>Limerick</b>	70mi (113km)
<b>Rosslare</b>	61mi (98km)
<b>Shannon</b>	75mi (119km)
<b>Waterford</b>	30mi (48km)
<b>Wexford</b>	50mi (80km)