

The name Kilkenny means the church of Cannice (Kil – meaning church and Chainnigh – meaning Cannice). It was originally a monastic site established in the 6th century, at which time St. Cannice's Cathedral was built. The church was a major monastic site during the 8th century. After the Norman invasion, a castle was completed in 1213 along with walls to protect the people of the area. The town now has a population of less than 10,000 and is a popular tourist destination. The town is book ended by Kilkenny Castle on one end and St. Cannice's Cathedral and round tower on the other. The main drag in the town is High Street. High Street has many shops and pubs where you can shop to your heart's content or just sit and enjoy a pint. You'll definitely want to explore High Street along with St. Kieran's St. and the streets connecting the two. Kilkenny and Smithwicks beer are both brewed here in Ireland's oldest operating brewery.

### **KILKENNY CASTLE**

Kilkenny Castle, built in the early 13th century, was the home of the Anglo-Norman Bulter family until the 1900s. You can visit the castle for €6 per person and will see the castle as it was decorated in the 19th century. The castle grounds are extensive and are an enjoyable walk if the weather is good. There is a scenic walk along the River Nore behind the castle which is nice.



Kilkenny Castle

### **KILKENNY DESIGN CENTRE & ROTHE HOUSE**

The Design Centre is across the street from the castle and houses lots of great local crafts for sale. There is a cafeteria upstairs which offers hearty food and great desserts if you're looking for a quick bite. There is also a little café on the lower level offering some light bites as well. If you walk through the center, which housed the castle stables, you will find Rothe House and Gardens. The gardens are quite nice to walk through. The house can be toured for €5 and gives a glimpse of life in Kilkenny during Elizabethan times.

### **ST. CANICE'S CATHERDRAL and ROUND TOWER**

The current cathedral was built in the 13th century and is the second longest cathedral in Ireland. It is built of limestone in the English Gothic style. Next to the cathedral is the 100-foot 9th-century round tower. Built as a watchtower and refuge, it is one of two round towers that visitors can actually climb in Ireland (albeit climbing a ladder) and affords a great view of Kilkenny and its surrounding lands. The cost of the cathedral and tower together are €6, or €3 for the cathedral only.

• The population of Kilkenny town is about 8,700 (2011)