



# Ireland: The Wild Atlantic Way

10 days | 13 days with County Kerry & Dublin extension

The western coast of Ireland is home to some of the Emerald Isle's most astounding scenery. After exploring historic Belfast, set out to discover the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way, from Donegal to the Cliffs of Moher. Between the breathtaking views of stunning seascapes and green landscapes, you'll step off the beaten path to get a feel for Ireland's quieter side in its small towns and villages on this small group Adventure Tour.



## Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 tasting
- 9 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Belfast
- Glenveagh National Park
- Slieve League cliffs
- Glencar Waterfall
- Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery
- Achill Island
- Kylemore Abbey
- Cliffs of Moher

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across uneven terrain, including dirt paths and unpaved trails, with some hills and steep stairs.

## Group size

12-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Belfast today.

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## County Antrim → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Belfast

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to the Emerald Isle! Settle in, then gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Belfast

*Included meals: breakfast*

Learn about Belfast's role in the conflict known as "the Troubles" during today's walking tour.

- Glimpse the copper-domed City Hall, where you'll meet your local guide
- Learn about the city's history and your guide's experience growing up during the Troubles
- Listen to expert commentary from your guide as you stop at sites in downtown Belfast connected to the Catholic-Protestant conflict

Enjoy a free afternoon in County Antrim or add an excursion.

+ Giant's Causeway Cliff Walk

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## County Donegal → 2 nights

### Day 4: Donegal via Derry & Glenveagh National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Depart Northern Ireland and cross into the Republic of Ireland, where you'll travel through the dramatic scenery along a portion of the Wild Atlantic Way.

- Stop in Derry, where you'll learn about the city's history on a tour with a local guide
- See the well-preserved 17th-century city walls and learn about the history of the conflicts that took place between the Protestant and Catholic populations
- Visit Glenveagh National Park and set off on an easy, scenic walk along Lough Beagh with your Tour Director
- Enter Glenveagh Castle and admire the park's waterfalls, lakes, and mountains

- Continue through the beautiful Irish countryside to County Donegal

This evening, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

### Day 5: Slieve League

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head west to see the highest cliffs in Europe today.

- Pay a visit to the Slieve League Cultural Centre
- Continue on to the Slieve League cliffs for incredible panoramic views from nearly 2,000 feet above sea level
- Opt to join your guide on a walk along the cliffs
- Meet up with a teacher at a local college in the village of Glencolumbkille for an Irish language lesson
- Enter a local weaving shop in Donegal to see a demonstration and learn about the famous Donegal tweed

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## County Mayo → 2 nights

### Day 6: County Mayo via Glencar & Sligo

*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting, dinner*

Journey south along the Wild Atlantic Way and through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of William Butler Yeats.

- Visit Glencar Waterfall, which is mentioned in W. B. Yeats' poem titled The Stolen Child
- Enjoy free time for lunch in the town of Sligo
- Stop to try a cup of Irish coffee
- Join an archaeologist local guide at the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, which is home to tombs that are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Europe
- Arrive in the village of Westport in County Mayo

Sit down to an included dinner with your group this evening.

### Day 7: Achill Island

*Included meals: breakfast*

Make your way to Achill Island for a guided tour of the idyllic destination along the Wild Atlantic Way.

- Pass by many blanket bogs en route to the charming village of Dooagh
- Walk through the landscapes surrounding Keem Bay and visit Keem Beach
- Cross the Michael Davitt Bridge on your way back to Westport

Enjoy a free afternoon in County Mayo or add an excursion.

+ Glen Keen Farm & Dinner

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## County Clare → 2 nights

### Day 8: County Clare via Connemara National Park & Galway

*Included meals: breakfast*

Venture down the coast to County Clare, making several scenic stops en route.

- Visit the charming village of Leenane
- Spot Ireland's only fjord in Killary Harbor, then soak in views of the Maumturk mountain range en route to Connemara National Park
- Enter Kylemore Abbey and take time to explore its Victorian walled garden
- Drive through the picture-perfect landscapes of Connemara, stopping at the Inagh Valley and Maam Cross
- Arrive in Galway, where you'll follow your Tour Director on a guided walking tour
- Stroll past Lynch's Castle, the Druid Theatre Company, and the broad expanse of Eyre Square
- View the city's medieval walls and Spanish Arch
- Continue on to your hotel in County Clare

### Day 9: The Cliffs of Moher

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Join a local guide for a scenic walk along the Cliffs of Moher.

- Set off on a trail along the mesmerizing coastline of the Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean
- Soak in the views from Hag's Head, the southernmost point of the cliffs
- Enjoy free time at the visitor's center

Enjoy free time this afternoon to explore County Clare on your own.

This evening, celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 10: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Shannon airport for your flight home or continue on to County Kerry.

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## + County Kerry & Dublin extension

When you picture Ireland, you're probably thinking of County Kerry, home to some of the country's most iconic spots. Continue your trip south along the Wild Atlantic Way to County Kerry and enjoy guided tours of Killarney National Park, then delve into history in neighboring county Limerick.

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## County Kerry → 2 nights

### Day 10: County Kerry via Killarney

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Travel to Killarney to enjoy free time to shop and eat lunch. Then, enjoy a tasting of local ice cream before settling in to your hotel in County Kerry.

### Day 11: Free day in County Kerry

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend another free day exploring County Kerry on your own or add an excursion.

+ Dingle Peninsula Walk & Whiskey Tasting

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## Dublin → 1 night

### Day 12: Killarney National Park & transfer to Dublin

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Head to Killarney National Park, Ireland's first national park, which has grown to 25,000 acres of diverse ecological landscapes.

- Take a guided walking tour through Killarney National Park's most magnificent landscapes around Muckross Lake
- Walk along Muckross Peninsula, which separates Muckross Lake from Lough Leane
- Try to spot the red squirrels, red deer, lush ferns, and green moss throughout Reenadinna Wood

- Stop at the 200-year-old Dinis Cottage and stroll along a short path that leads to the Meeting of the Waters, where Killarney's Upper Lake flows down to join the lower loughs
- Visit the stately Tudor-style Muckross House, donated to the Irish state in 1932

Continue on to Dublin and enjoy a farewell dinner as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

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## Flight Home

### Day 13: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/IWA](http://goaheadtours.ca/IWA) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Giant's Causeway Cliff Walk

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (6 hours, departure time varies)

Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of 40,000 naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal columns, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that mythical giant Finn McCool built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. Explore the Giant's Causeway Visitor's Center to learn more about its history. You'll also have the option to join your Tour Director for a cliff walk to soak in spectacular views of the causeway and coastline. On a clear day, you can see Scotland and a stretch of the beautiful northern Irish coastline. Please note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion. The cliff walk is optional and travelers can opt to enjoy the visitors center at their own pace.

## Day 7: Glen Keen Farm & Dinner

\$205CAD (5.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Glen Keen Farm is one of the largest sheep farms in Ireland and while here, you'll learn about sheep farming while soaking in the natural beauty that defines the area. First, watch an interactive sheep herding demonstration followed by a guided walk to a nearby ring fort. These fortified settlements can be found all throughout Ireland and most were built during the Bronze Age. Then, head back to the farm for a traditional dinner of Glen Keen Farm Lamb Stew, dessert, coffee, and tea. Please note: Vegetarian options are available for the included dinner. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 11: Dingle Peninsula Walk & Whiskey Tasting

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Spend the day getting to know the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula. Take a scenic drive to the Blasket Centre, where you'll embark on a coastal walk along the Lúb na Cille loop trail. This two-hour hike is filled with incredible views of the Irish coastline and farmlands. After, head to the charming, colorful town of Dingle. You'll have free time to visit the shops and restaurants before heading to Dingle Distillery. Join a local guide for a tour of the distillery, which produces whiskey, gin, and vodka. Sit down to enjoy a tasting of their signature whisky, which the distillers have been producing in small, craft batches since 2015.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](http://goaheadtours.ca/terms)