



# Irish Heritage Tour: Northern Ireland & the Wild Atlantic Way

11 days | 15 days with County Kerry & County Limerick extension

Travel along the western coast of the Emerald Isle, tracing your genealogy as you go. After exploring historic Belfast, set out to see the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way, from Donegal to Slieve League to the Cliffs of Moher. On this fascinating journey, created in collaboration with Ancestry®, you'll experience what life was like for your Irish ancestors.



#### Your tour package includes

AncestryDNA® kit Pre-trip family history review with AncestryProGenealogists® 9 nights in handpicked hotels 9 breakfasts 4 dinners with beer or wine 10 guided sightseeing tours Expert Tour Director & local guides Genealogist from AncestryProGenealogists® Private deluxe motor coach

#### Included highlights

Special AncestryProGenealogists® sessions Titanic Belfast museum Public Record Office of Northern Ireland Monreagh Heritage Centre Slieve League cliffs Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery Drumcliffe Church 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.

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#### $\textbf{Overnight Flight} \rightarrow 1 \text{ night}$

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Belfast today.

#### $\textbf{County Antrim} \rightarrow 3 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 2: Arrival in Belfast

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to the Emerald Isle! Transfer to your hotel and meet your genealogist from AncestryProGenealogists®. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

#### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Belfast

Included meals: breakfast

Start your day with a guided tour of Northern Ireland's capital.

• Glimpse the copper-domed City Hall

• View the Grand Opera House and Parliament Buildings

• Pass the shipbuilding docks where the Titanic was constructed and learn about the ship's ill-fated journey at the Titanic Belfast museum This afternoon, head to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland for a tour and presentation by your Ancestry Genealogist.

#### Day 4: Free day in County Antrim

Included meals: breakfast Enjoy a full free day in County Antrim or add an excursion.

+ Giant's Causeway

#### $\textbf{County Donegal} \rightarrow 2 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 5: Donegal via Derry, Monreagh Heritage Centre

Included meals: breakfast, dinner Make your way to County Donegal today, stopping for several guided visits en route.

• Take a guided tour of Derry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, and learn about the historic conflicts between the Protestant and Catholic population

• View Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian buildings and Derry's ancient city walls before meeting with a local genealogist • Cross into the Republic of Ireland to enter the Monreagh Heritage Centre, dedicated to Ulster Scots and Scots-Irish culture and emigration history

• Continue through the beautiful Irish countryside to Donegal Later, sit down for an included dinner.

#### Day 6: Slieve League

Included meals: breakfast

Head west to witness the highest cliffs in Europe, and make a few other stops along the way.

• 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
- Enjoy time to explore the town of Ardara on your own

• Enter a nearby weaving shop to see a demonstration and discover how Donegal tweed is made

#### County Mayo $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

# Day 7: County Mayo via Drumcliffe, Sligo & the National Museum of Country Life

Included meals: breakfast, dinner Journey south along the Wild Atlantic Way and through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Pass through County Leitrim and County Sligo en route to County Mayo.

• Make a photo stop at Classiebawn Castle, an estate built during the 19th century on Mullaghmore Head

• Stop at Drumcliffe churchyard, Yeats' burial place, and learn about its history from a local chaplain

Enjoy free time for lunch in the town of Sligo
Explore the National Museum of Country Life, which showcases what rural life was like in Ireland during the 19th and early 20th centuries

• Arrive in the town of Wesport in County Mayo This evening, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

#### Day 8: Achill Island

Included meals: breakfast Travel to Achill Island, site of a 19th-century Protestant mission and an 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

• Cross the Michael Davitt Bridge on your way back to Westport

+ Glen Keen Farm & Dinner

#### $\textbf{County Clare} \rightarrow 2 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 9: County Clare via Connemara National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Venture down the coast to County Clare, making several scenic stops in County Galway 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

#### Day 10: The Cliffs of Moher

Included meals: breakfast, dinner Walk along the mesmerizing coastline of the majestic Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

Later, your genealogist from

AncestryProGenealogists® shares a summary of all you've learned about Irish heritage. Then, say goodbye to your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Ireland.

## + County Kerry & County Limerick extension

When you picture Ireland, you're probably thinking of County Kerry, home to some of the coun-try's most iconic spots. Continue your trip to enjoy guided tours of Killarney National Park, then delve into history in neighboring county Limerick.

#### $\textbf{County Kerry} \rightarrow 3 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 11: Killarney National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Travel from County Clare to County Kerry, then spend the afternoon exploring Killarney National Park. Take a walk through the park, stopping for a photo at Ross Castle. Then, enter Muckross House and stroll through its manicured gardens.

#### Day 12: Free day in County Kerry

Included meals: breakfast Enjoy a free day in County Kerry or add an excursion. + The Ring of Kerry

#### Day 13: Free day in County Kerry

Included meals: breakfast Spend another day getting to know the region on your own or add an excursion.

+ Dingle Peninsula

#### $\textbf{County Limerick} \rightarrow 1 \text{ night}$

#### Day 14: Transfer to County Limerick

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Travel from County Kerry to County Limerick for a series of guided visits today.

• Take a tour of the 13th-century King John's Castle, located on King's Island in Limerick's city center

• Head to the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum, where you'll learn about the history of aviation and passenger travel in the region

• Get a taste of Irish coffee, a traditional local treat

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

#### **Flight Home**

Day 15: 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/QIW | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 4: Giant's Causeway

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (6 hours, departure time varies) Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of 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. Please note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion.

#### Day 8: 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 12: The Ring of Kerry

\$65CAD/\$75CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning) Set out to see some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery on the Ring of Kerry, a 112-mile coastal route. You'll begin your drive on the north side of the Iveragh Peninsula, looking out to Dingle Bay. Pass rugged landscapes dotted with sheep and take in sweeping coastal views. Keep an eye out for the rocky Skellig Islands and picturesque rural villages as you continue on, stopping for plenty of photos along the way. Then, finish your journey in Killarney National Park, where you'll view two of the beautiful Lakes of Killarney, Muckross Lake, and Lough Leane.

#### Day 13: Dingle Peninsula

\$65CAD/\$75CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning) Spend the day getting to know the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula. Start at Gallarus Oratory, a mysterious stone structure thought to have been an early Christian church. Drive south along Slea Head Ring to circle the peninsula's rocky coastline. Stop at Coumeenole Beach, Slea Head (arguably the westernmost tip of Europe), and Dunbeg Fort to take in spectacular views. Enjoy free time in the town of Dingle to grab lunch.

\*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 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