



11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Your Dream Small-Group Tour Of Ireland

Relax into your seat for a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery around Northern Ireland and the Wild Atlantic Way.

Visit the Cliffs of Moher, tour Northern Ireland and discover remote Donegal. Stay in an authentic Irish castle hotel. Enjoy 2 days in Connemara and 2 fun nights in Dingle.

This 11 Day Discover Ireland Tour is a complete culture trip of Ireland - the perfect way to get the most out of your Irish vacation!



Summary

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Tour Style

DRIFTWOOD - LESS ACTIVE

Tour Vehicle

COMFY MERCEDES TOUR BUS

15 Seats

Pickup/Drop Off Location

GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN

Departure Day

TUESDAY

Return Day & Time

5.00-6.00PM FRIDAY

- Visit top Ireland destinations like the stunning **Cliffs of Moher** and the **Blarney Stone**.
- **Castle hotel stay** featuring a 17th century tower and a resident ghost.
- Tour magnificent coastal routes in **Northern Ireland** and the **Wild Atlantic Way**.
- Walk in the footsteps of Finn McCool on the legendary **Giant's Causeway**.
- Spend 2 days soaking up some of Ireland's most stunning natural scenery in **Connemara**.
- Downtime in **Dingle** with 2 nights to catch fantastic **live Irish music** and quaint pubs.
- Be amazed by a guided historic walking tour of Ireland's only walled city: **Derry/Londonderry**.
- Meet **friendly Irish locals** during **authentic local experiences** - like a **guided farm tour** and sheepdog demo.
- **TOUR DIRECTION:** This is the clockwise itinerary, departing Tuesdays. View itineraries for **counter-clockwise Tuesday departures** or **counter-clockwise Monday departures**.



View Tour in Opposite Direction

Any Questions?



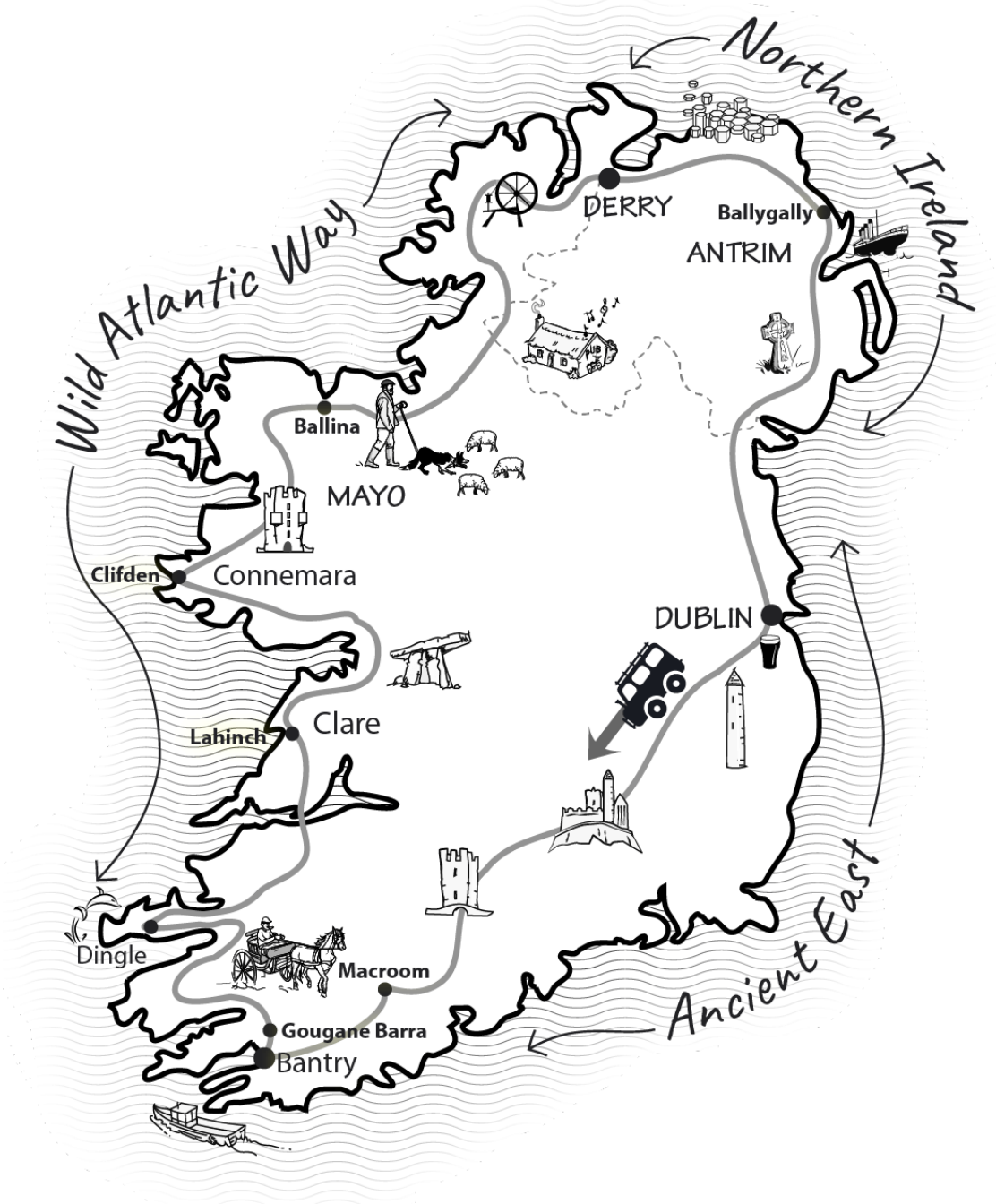
Email John: johnboy@vagabond.ie | Email Danielle: danielle@vagabond.ie

Call Toll Free: USA - 833 230 0288 | Canada - 833 681 6903 | Australia - 1800 985 642



My Tour Notes

ADD YOUR MEMORIES & THOUGHTS



View Tour in Opposite Direction

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

Day 1



📍 **GRAND CANAL, DUBLIN to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK**

Overnight Stay

THE GOUGANE BARRA HOTEL OR THE CASTLE HOTEL MACROOM

Day of Week

TUESDAY

Average Driving

5 HOURS

KISS THE BLARNEY STONE IN CORK

Meet your guide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, **Dublin**, at least 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time of 8.10am. Board your Mercedes tour vehicle for the trip of a lifetime!

Take a self-guided tour of the **Rock of Cashel** (Fee Included). Saint Patrick converted the King of Munster here. Brian Boru was crowned High King of Ireland here. It's an epic way to begin our Irish odyssey.

Then it's time to kiss the **Blarney Stone** (Fee Included). Afterwards, explore the extensive grounds and lush, landscaped gardens of **Blarney Castle**.

We'll trace the valley of the **River Lee**, crossing stone bridges and passing through picturesque countryside.

Day 2



📍 **GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to GLENGARRIFF or BALLYLICKY, CORK**

Overnight Stay

THE SEAVIEW HOUSE HOTEL OR THE MARITIME HOTEL

Day of Week

WEDNESDAY

Average Driving

2 HOURS

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR IN CORK

Your morning will be spent exploring the many delights of **Bantry Bay**.

Visit **Carriganass Castle** where you'll hear the story of Donal Cam O'Sullivan who was the last Gaelic chieftain standing in the early 1600s.

Visit stately **Bantry House**, a grand Irish home built in the 18th century (Fee Included).

Expect rugged roads and superb scenery as we explore the remote **Beara Peninsula**.

Of the four peninsulas in Ireland's southwest, the Beara receives the least amount of visitors and has the feeling of true wilderness.

Look out for seals on a scenic boat trip to **Garnish Island**. Once landed, explore the wonders of the Italian-style formal gardens (Optional Extra).

Any Questions?



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Day 3



📍 **GLENGARRIFF or BALLYLICKY, CORK to DINGLE, KERRY**

Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL OR CEANN SIBEAL HOTEL

Day of Week

THURSDAY

Average Driving

3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE

Start the day with a spin over either the **Caha** or **Healy Pass**, both dramatically scenic mountain roads on the **Beara Peninsula**.

One of our favourite pastimes is dancing around **ancient stone circles**. Astrology? Sacrifice? No one truly knows what the circles were for. Let your imagination run

Take a **horse-drawn carriage ride** around **Killarney National Park** (Optional Extra).

Your visit to **Killarney** may also include:

- Sightings of rare red deer herds in native oak forest
- A short walk to scenic **Torc Waterfall**
- An ancient yew tree at the heart of ruined **Muckross Abbey**

Dingle awaits... Revel in a wealth of dinner and entertainment options in this bustling little town. There's a pub for every 40 residents!

Day 4



📍 **DINGLE, KERRY**

Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL OR CEANN SIBEAL HOTEL

Day of Week

FRIDAY

Average Driving

1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

SCENIC DRIVE & BOAT TRIP

Today is yours to design. Soak up the charms of **Dingle**, with quality downtime or a choice between the following relaxed activities.

Optional Extras (Choose A, B or C):

- **A.** Take a **boat trip** around spectacular **Dingle Bay**.
- **B.** Savour a guided **craft tour** of the **Dingle Crystal** studio.
- **C.** Golfers will enjoy Dingle's excellent links course. This is an all day activity.

Experience **Slea Head**, one of the most beautiful drives in Ireland. Rugged beauty and knife edge cliffs are guaranteed. Look out for the **Blasket Islands** and the holy **Mount Brandon** among the patchwork fields and picture-perfect cottages.

Whatever you do in **Dingle**, don't miss an **Irish traditional music** session or a stroll around the town's plentiful art galleries and craft studios.

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Day 5



DINGLE, KERRY to LAHINCH, CLARE

Overnight Stay
THE LAHINCH COAST HOTEL

Day of Week
SATURDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

SHEEPDOG DEMO & FARM TOUR

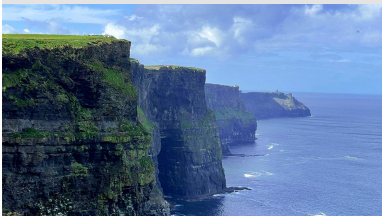
After another hearty Irish breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to **Dingle**.

Visit a working Irish sheep farm with charming old-style cottages for a live **sheepdog demo** and **guided farm tour** (Fee Included).

Look out for low-flying dolphins as we take a ferry across the mouth of the **Shannon** - the longest river in Ireland - to arrive in **Clare** (Fee Included).

Cruise along the west **Clare coastline** with ocean vistas of the Aran Islands, lying just offshore.

Day 6



LAHINCH, CLARE to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay
THE CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

Day of Week
SUNDAY

Average Driving
4 HOURS

CLIFFS OF MOHER & CONNEMARA

Hold onto your hat! It's the **Cliffs of Moher** (Fee Included). You'll be dazzled by these majestic 700ft high sea cliffs.

Next is the bewitching beauty of **The Burren**. This region boasts a limestone lunar landscape and unique flora.

Spot red-sailed traditional boats and picturesque **Dunguaire Castle** in the village of Kinvara, on **Galway Bay**.

We'll have a quick stop in **Galway** next. The City of the Tribes is bohemian and buzzy.

Take a guided tour of 16th century **Aughnanure Castle**, ancestral home to the ferocious O'Flaherty clan (Fee Included).

Revel in the savage beauty of **Connemara**, famed for its traditional Irish culture, misty mountains, wild moorlands and dark lakes.

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Day 7



CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay

THE CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

Day of Week

MONDAY

Average Driving

2 HOURS

KYLEMORE ABBEY IN CONNEMARA

What's the classic postcard image of Ireland? We think you'll find it amid the savage beauty of **Connemara**.

Cloud shadows race across mirror lakes. Heather and wildflowers colour the stark mountains. Today is your chance to experience this amazing region.

Start with a self-guided tour of the beautiful **Kylemore Abbey** (Fee Included). Wander the wonderful walled garden — bananas were grown here in the 1800s — or admire the enchanting neo-Gothic church.

Enjoy the wild landscapes, charming villages, craft shops, pubs and cottages of **Connemara**.

Day 8



CLIFDEN, GALWAY to BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCRONE, SLIGO

Overnight Stay

THE MOUNT FALCON ESTATE & SPA OR THE OCEAN SANDS HOTEL

Day of Week

TUESDAY

Average Driving

3 HOURS

CONNEMARA & MAYO

Take a deep breath... Next is the **Doolough Valley**, one of Ireland's most scenic driving routes.

Lose a sin with every step on the holy mountain of **Croagh Patrick**. Nearby lies the ruined 16th century Murrisk Abbey and the National Famine Memorial.

Pit stop in **Westport**, a charismatic small town near Clew Bay.

Discover Ireland's rural heritage at the **Museum of Country Life**. This modern exhibition space also features attractive landscaped gardens.

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

Day 9



BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCRONE, SLIGO to DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Overnight Stay
THE SHIPQUAY HOTEL

Day of Week
WEDNESDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

DONEGAL, SLIGO & DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Arise and go now, your ninth day exploring Ireland awaits...

Be sure to recite a few verses from WB Yeats, as you admire the spectacular county the Nobel Prize-winner called home; **Sligo**.

Stop by **Donegal town**, the home of Donegal tweed and various tempting craft shops.

Panoramic 360° vistas await you at the beautifully preserved **Celtic stone ringfort** at **Grianán of Aileach**.

Cross the border into **Northern Ireland** (remember, UK £ sterling required). We'll pass through historic city gates to enter **Derry/Londonderry**.

Complete the day with a guided historical walking tour along the walls of Ireland's only fortified city, **Derry/Londonderry** (Fee Included).

Day 10



DERRY/LONDONDERRY to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

Overnight Stay
BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL

Day of Week
THURSDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY & CASTLE STAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Cameras at the ready! You're about to experience one of the most spectacular coastal drives; Northern Ireland's **Causeway Coastal Route**.

40,000 hexagonal basalt columns make up the **Giant's Causeway** (Fee Included). Choose to walk in the footsteps of mythical giant Finn McCool on a steep 1.6km (1 mile) descent/ascent. Or simply follow the accessible path to a viewing point. Shuttle bus available (Optional Extra).

Anyone for a wee dram? Visit **Bushmills**, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world, for a tasting (Optional Extra), followed by a stop at clifftop **Dunluce Castle** (Fee Included).

Game of Thrones fan alert! Look out for Theon Greyjoy stepping ashore at tiny Ballintoy harbour.

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Day 11



 **BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM to GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN**

Day of Week
FRIDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

GUIDED HISTORY TOUR OF BELFAST

Before we say goodbye — slán in Irish — there's still time to take in some of Northern Ireland's highlights.

First, we'll roll into **Belfast**, the vibrant capital city of Northern Ireland.

Optional Extras (Choose A, B or C):

- **A.** A highly recommended **Black Cab Tour**, explaining the history of the Troubles era.
- **B.** Or a self-guided visit to the **Titanic Centre**.
- **C.** Alternatively, explore Belfast at your own pace.

Cross the border back into the **Republic of Ireland** and the euro currency zone (€).

Are you king or queen of the castle? Take a guided tour of **Hillsborough Castle & Gardens** to find out (Fee Included). On some dates, the British Royal Family will be in residence and your tour will visit an alternative attraction.

Disembark your Drifter tour vehicle back at the Grand Canal Hotel in **Dublin**

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TOUR PRICING

Oct Departures:

€3,033.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep Departures:

€3,370.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €605.00

Mar, Apr and Oct 2025 Departures:

€3,033.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures:

€3,370.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €605.00

Call Us...

FROM USA:

TOLL FREE: 833 230 0288

FROM CANADA:

TOLL FREE: 833 691 6903

FROM AUSTRALIA:

TOLL FREE: 1800 985 642

WORLD WIDE:

+353 (0)1 56 34 358

Email...

johnboy@vagabond.ie

danielle@vagabond.ie

Please note, this tour has stops in both the Republic of Ireland (EU) and Northern Ireland (UK). You will require both Euro (€) and Sterling (£) cash.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A journey of discovery in a slick Mercedes mini-coach
- The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide
- 11 full days on tour
- 10 nights' accommodation
- 10 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- A 1 night castle stay
- A sheepdog demo & Irish sheep farm experience
- Guided tour of 18th century Bantry House, Hillsborough Castle & Gardens and Aughnanure Castle
- A guided walking tour of Derry/Londonderry
- Entrance into Kylemore Abbey, Dunluce Castle, the Giant's Causeway, Blarney Castle & Gardens and the Rock of Cashel
- Shannon ferry tickets

TOUR OPTIONS

Activities marked **OPTIONAL EXTRA** on the day-by-day descriptions carry an additional cost, but are optional.

Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00	Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** - €20.00
Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00	Golf in Dingle - Variable
Bushmills Whiskey Tasting - £10.00	Giant's Causeway Shuttle Bus** - £1/€1.20
Black Cab Tour** - £20.00	Titanic Experience - £24.95

* All details of prices and suppliers contained in this itinerary are correct at the time of publication. Our tour prices will not change as the season progresses. However, our suppliers occasionally increase prices at short notice. We will do our utmost to update you of major price changes as they occur.

** Cash is required for this activity. No card payment available.

Need More Info?



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