



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

MONDAY

Return Day & Time

5.00-6.00PM THURSDAY

- 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 counter-clockwise itinerary, departing Mondays. View itineraries for **counter-clockwise Tuesday departures** or **clockwise Tuesday departures**.



WHERE YOU SEE 'OPTIONAL EXTRA', ACTIVITIES AND FEES ARE OPTIONAL. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE FINAL PAGE FOR COSTS OF EACH OPTIONAL

Any Questions?



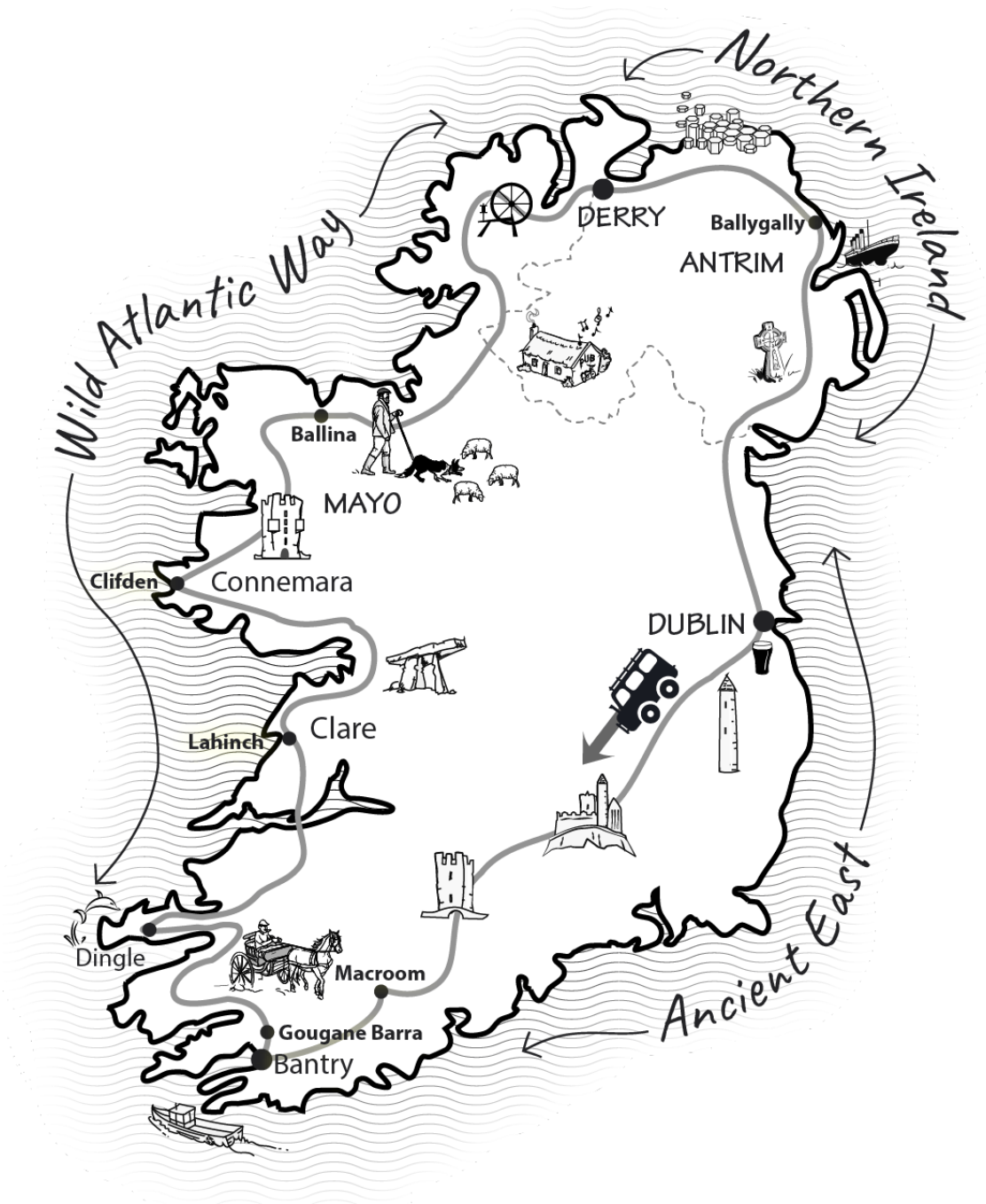
Email John: johnboy@vagabond.ie | Email Danielle: danielle@vagabond.ie

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My Tour Notes

ADD YOUR MEMORIES & THOUGHTS



View Tour in Opposite Direction

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

Day 1



GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

Overnight Stay
BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL

Day of Week
MONDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

BELFAST TOUR & CASTLE HOTEL STAY

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

Cross the border into **Northern Ireland** (remember, UK £ sterling required).

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.

We'll roll into **Belfast**, the vibrant capital of Northern Ireland.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS (Choose A, B or C):

- **A.** Take 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.

Day 2



BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM to DERRY/LONDONDERRY

Overnight Stay
THE ROE PARK RESORT

Day of Week
TUESDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY COAST

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

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

40,000 hexagonal basalt columns make up the **Giant's Causeway** (Fee Included), a **World Heritage Site**.

Choose to walk in the footsteps of mythical giant Finn McCool on a steep 1.6km (1 mile) descent/ascent. Or simply follow an accessible path to the Giant's Causeway 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).

We'll stop at clifftop **Dunluce Castle** (Fee Included) before passing through historic gates to enter the city of **Derry/Londonderry**.

Any Questions?



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Day 3



DERRY/LONDONDERRY to BALLINA, MAYO

Overnight Stay

**THE MOUNT FALCON ESTATE & SPA
OR THE OCEAN SANDS HOTEL**

Day of Week

WEDNESDAY

Average Driving

4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

DERRY/LONDONDERRY, SLIGO & DONEGAL

Start the day with a guided historical walking tour of the historic Bogside district just outside the walls of **Derry/Londonderry** (Fee Included).

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

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

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

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

Day 4



BALLINA, MAYO to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay

THE CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

Day of Week

THURSDAY

Average Driving

3 HOURS

MAYO & CONNEMARA

Discover Ireland's rich rural heritage at the Museum of Country Life's modern exhibition space and Victorian landscaped gardens.

Pit stop in **Westport**, a charismatic small town on the shores of Clew Bay.

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.

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

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Day 5



CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay
THE CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

Day of Week
FRIDAY

Average Driving
2 HOURS

TOUR CONNEMARA & SHEEP FARM

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

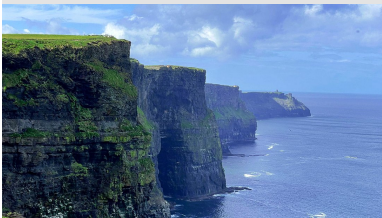
Cloud shadows race across mirror lakes. Heather and wildflowers colour the stark mountains. Today is your chance to experience this amazing region.

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

Above the dramatic shores of **Killary Harbour**, visit a working Irish sheep farm for a **sheepdog demo** (Fee included).

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

Day 6



CLIFDEN, GALWAY to SPANISH POINT, CLARE

Overnight Stay
THE LAHINCH COAST HOTEL

Day of Week
SATURDAY

Average Driving
4 HOURS

CASTLE TOUR & THE BURREN

Take a guided tour of 16th century **Aughnanure Castle**, ancestral home to the ferocious O'Flaherty clan (Fee Included). On some departures, this activity may occur on Day 3.

We're aiming for **Galway** next. The City of the Tribes is bohemian and buzzy.

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

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

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous **Cliffs of Moher** (Fee Included). You'll be dazzled by these majestic 700 ft (215m) high sea cliffs.

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Day 7



SPANISH POINT, CLARE to DINGLE, KERRY

Overnight Stay
DINGLE BAY HOTEL

Day of Week
SUNDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

EXPLORE CLARE & KERRY

Drive along the **Clare** coastline with uninterrupted ocean vistas.

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 'The Kingdom' of Kerry (Fee Included).

Refresh yourself with an ice cold pint at the **South Pole Inn**. Relive the extraordinary deeds of its one time landlord, Antarctic explorer, Tom Crean.

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 8



DINGLE, KERRY to SLEA HEAD, KERRY (and return)

Overnight Stay
DINGLE BAY HOTEL

Day of Week
MONDAY

Average Driving
1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

FREE TIME IN DINGLE

Today is yours to design. This morning, 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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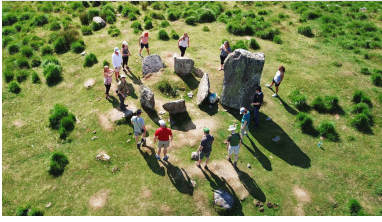
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Day 9



DINGLE, KERRY to GLENGARRIFF, CORK

Overnight Stay
ECCLES HOTEL GLENGARRIFF

Day of Week
TUESDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE

Start the day with a scenic drive along the coast of the **Dingle Peninsula**, with a photo stop and a stroll along the beach at Inch Strand.

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**

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 wild!

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

Day 10



GLENGARRIFF, CORK to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

Overnight Stay
THE GOUGANE BARRA HOTEL OR THE CASTLE HOTEL MACROOM

Day of Week
WEDNESDAY

Average Driving
1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

GARDENS & ISLAND BOAT TRIP IN CORK

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).

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

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

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Day 11



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

Day of Week
THURSDAY

Average Driving
5 HOURS

BLARNEY STONE & ROCK OF CASHEL

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

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

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

En route back to Dublin, enjoy 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 conclude our Irish odyssey.

You'll disembark your Drifter tour vehicle back at the Grand Canal Hotel in **Dublin** between 5-6pm. Farewell elbow bumps all round for your new travel buddies!

*Any
Questions?*



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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:

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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 Bantry House, Hillsborough Castle and Aughnanure Castle
- Guided walking tour of the Bogside in 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.

Black Cab Tour** - £20.00

Titanic Experience - £24.95

Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00

Giant's Causeway Shuttle Bus** -
£1/€1.20

Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00

Golf in Dingle - Variable

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** -
€20.00

* 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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