



11 Day Driftwood Ring Of Ireland Tour

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Venture Beyond The Ordinary...

From the bustling streets of Belfast to the tranquil beauty of Donegal and Kerry, this fully guided 11 Day small group tour will leave you with magic memories of Ireland.

Delve into the ancient history of castles in Cork, wander along the enchanting Wild Atlantic Way touring route and discover the charm of Northern Ireland's Causeway Coast.

This is travel as you've never experienced before; a journey of discovery that explores a tapestry of diverse Irish experiences and spectacular landscapes.



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 **Kenmare** 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**.



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

Any Questions?



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

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My Tour Notes

ADD YOUR MEMORIES & THOUGHTS



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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

MONDAY

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 your scheduled departure time of 8.20am. 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 BANTRY or BALLYLICKY, CORK**

Overnight Stay

THE SEAVIEW HOUSE HOTEL OR THE MARITIME HOTEL

Day of Week

TUESDAY

Average Driving

2 HOURS

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR IN CORK

Your morning will be spent exploring the many delights of **West Cork**.

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.

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

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).

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Day 3



BANTRY or BALLYLICKEY, CORK to KENMARE, KERRY

Overnight Stay
KENMARE BAY HOTEL OR BROOK LANE HOTEL KENMARE

Day of Week
WEDNESDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

STONE CIRCLES & STUNNING SCENIC VIEWS

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.

Gaze down over the scenic **Healy Pass** – Ireland's twistiest mountain road.

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

Learn about Irish crafts and culture during a fun stop at a traditional farmhouse in **Kerry**.

Catch authentic traditional Irish music and outstanding local food in lively **Kenmare**.

Day 4



KENMARE, KERRY

Overnight Stay
KENMARE BAY HOTEL OR BROOK LANE HOTEL KENMARE

Day of Week
THURSDAY

Average Driving
2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

EXPLORE THE RING OF KERRY

Prepare yourself for a captivating journey of rugged, coastal landscapes along the **Ring of Kerry**.

Learn about **Daniel O'Connell**, 19th century statesman, at his home, Derrynane House. Alternatively, stroll to one of the most pristine beaches in Ireland, located close by.

Want to go shopping? You have some free time to explore the shops and art galleries in **Kenmare**.

Enjoy a wide range of craft beers and ales on the **Tom Crean Brewery Tour** (Optional Extra).

Immerse yourself in nature on a **boat trip** around breathtaking **Kenmare Bay** (Optional Extra).

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Day 5



KENMARE, KERRY to LAHINCH, CLARE

Overnight Stay
THE LAHINCH COAST HOTEL

Day of Week
FRIDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE

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
- 19th century **Muckross House** & Gardens
- A short walk to scenic **Torc Waterfall**.
- An ancient yew tree at the heart of ruined Muckross Abbey

Look out for low-flying dolphins as we take a ferry across the mouth of the Shannon - the longest river in Ireland.

Day 6



LAHINCH, CLARE to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay
THE CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL OR RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL

Day of Week
SATURDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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.

We'll stop by the buzzy and bohemian **Galway city** for lunch.

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
OR RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL**

Day of Week

SUNDAY

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.

The setting could not be more scenic for a **sheep farm tour** and sheepdog demo at Tom Nee's farm above Killary Harbour (Fee Included).

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

Day 8



📍 CLIFDEN, GALWAY to BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCROME, SLIGO

Overnight Stay

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

Day of Week

MONDAY

Average Driving

3 HOURS

SCENIC DRIVE IN MAGNIFICENT 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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Day 9



BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCRONE, SLIGO to LIMAVADY, DERRY

Overnight Stay
THE ROE PARK RESORT

Day of Week
TUESDAY

Average Driving
4 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**.

Craft-lovers can indulge in some wonderful Donegal tweed shops in **Donegal town**. History buffs have the option to take a self-guided tour of **Donegal Castle**, a restored 15th century Norman tower house built by Red Hugh O'Donnell (Optional Extra).

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



LIMAVADY, DERRY to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

Overnight Stay
BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL

Day of Week
WEDNESDAY

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY & CASTLE STAY

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,
DUBLIN**

Day of Week
THURSDAY

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.

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.

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

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

*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

Oct 2025 Departures:

€3,186.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures:

€3,370.00 Per Person Sharing

Single Room Supplement: €605.00

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 and Hillsborough Castle
- 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

Call Us...

FROM USA:
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FROM CANADA:
TOLL FREE: 833 691 6903

FROM AUSTRALIA:
TOLL FREE: 1800 985 642

WORLD WIDE:
+353 (0)1 56 34 358

Email...

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danielle@vagabond.ie

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
Kenmare Bay Boat Trip - €30.00	Tom Crean Brewery Tour Kenmare - €20.00
Entrance to Donegal Castle - €5.00	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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