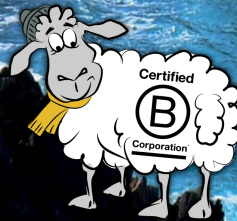




# 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



WE WANT YOU TO LOVE IRELAND  
AS MUCH AS WE DO



NEED TO  
PRINT THIS?

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FRIENDLY VERSION](#)



# Why Book with Vagabond?

- ★ **IRELAND'S ORIGINAL, SINCE 2002:** 22 years of experience are distilled into every itinerary.
- ★ **TOTALLY LOCAL:** Family-owned with local Irish tour guides and staff plus independent hotels.
- ★ **WORLD'S BEST:** We proudly won a **TRAVEL + LEISURE WORLD'S BEST AWARD** in 2023, ranking 12th globally.
- ★ **1000S OF HAPPY GUESTS:** Read any one of our 1,800+ 5-Star reviews across **TRIPADVISOR** and **TRUSTPILOT**.
- ★ **AWESOME TOUR GUIDES:** Meet our highly-trained, passionate and well-supported **VagaGuide team**.
- ★ **FLEXIBLE & FAIR BOOKING:** Avail of a free 7 day seat hold, flat-rate deposit and convenient notice period.
- ★ **BEST-IN-CLASS VEHICLES:** No expense is spared on maintaining our 100% Mercedes tour vehicle fleet.
- ★ **PEOPLE & PLANET FIRST:** We respect the planet and support our community... That's why we're a **B CORP!**

*The Secret is in Our Team!*

Our amazing team go above and beyond to deliver outstanding travel experiences for every guest.





# 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

## Tour Type

**DRIFTWOOD - RELAXED PACE**

## Tour Direction

**COUNTER-CLOCKWISE**

## Tour Vehicle

**COMFY MERCEDES TOUR BUS**

## Pickup / Dropoff Location

**GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN**

[View Location](#)

## Departure Day & Time

**8.10AM TUESDAY**

## Return Day & Time

**5:00-6:00PM FRIDAY**



*Gentle Pace, Castles,  
Culture & History*

[Compare Tour Styles](#)



## 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!

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

THIS IS THE COUNTER-CLOCKWISE ITINERARY (TUESDAY DEPARTURES). FOR CLOCKWISE TUESDAY DEPARTURES, **SELECT THIS LINK**. FOR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE MONDAY DEPARTURES, **SELECT THIS LINK**.

# Tour Map

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



Head north to Belfast and along the **Causeway Coast** in Northern Ireland. Explore **Donegal** and Mayo in the northwest before staying for 2 nights in Connemara. Leaving **Galway**, discover **Clare** and Kerry. Finally, fall in love with **Cork** in the southwest.



**This tour travels in a counter clockwise direction around Ireland**

[View Tour in Opposite Direction](#)

# Highlights

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



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 Tuesdays. View itineraries for **clockwise Tuesday departures** or **counter-clockwise Monday departures**.

# Day 1: Tuesday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Overnight Stay

#### BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL



Ballygally Castle Hotel features a 400 year old tower house which is home to a friendly ghost. Spooky!

### Average Driving

**3 HOURS 30 MINUTES**

### Belfast Tour & Castle Hotel Stay



GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

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.



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 2: Wednesday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### The Giant's Causeway Coast

#### Overnight Stay

BISHOPS GATE HOTEL



Bishop's Gate Hotel is perfectly positioned within the historic city walls at the heart of Derry/Londonderry's Cathedral Quarter.

#### Average Driving

3 HOURS



BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM to DERRY/LONDONDERRY

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).

Take a quick photo at clifftop **Dunluce Castle** before a guided historical walking tour along the walls of Ireland's only fortified city, **Derry/Londonderry** (Fee Included).



Any  
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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 3: Thursday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

**DRIFTWOOD**  
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY



### Sheepdog Demo In Sligo



DERRY/LONDONDERRY to BALLINA, MAYO or BOYLE, ROSCOMMON

### Overnight Stay

#### MOUNT FALCON ESTATE HOTEL



Mount Falcon Estate & Spa is always a guest favourite on our tours visiting Mayo and the northwest.

Or...

#### KILRONAN CASTLE ESTATE & SPA



Kilronan Castle Estate & Spa offers a fairytale-like experience. Built in the 18th century, it's nestled in the West of Ireland

### Average Driving

**4 HOURS**

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**.

Watch shepherd and dog working in tandem during a **sheepdog demo** (Fee Included).



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**BOOK TOUR**



# Day 4: Friday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Mayo & Connemara



BALLINA, MAYO or BOYLE, ROSCOMMON to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

### Overnight Stay

CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL



Amid the majestic beauty of Connemara, the Clifden Station House is one of Galway's finest independent hotels.

### Average Driving

3 HOURS

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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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 5: Saturday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Tour Connemara & Kylemore Abbey

#### Overnight Stay

CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL



Amid the majestic beauty of Connemara, the Clifden Station House is one of Galway's finest independent hotels.

#### Average Driving

2 HOURS



CLIFDEN, GALWAY

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**.



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 6: Sunday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Castle Tour & The Burren



CLIFDEN, GALWAY to SPANISH POINT, CLARE

### Overnight Stay

LAHINCH COAST HOTEL



The Lahinch Coast Hotel is a contemporary space located only a stone's throw away from a beautiful Atlantic beach.

### Average Driving

4 HOURS

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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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 7: Monday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Exploring Clare & Kerry



SPANISH POINT, CLARE to DINGLE, KERRY

### Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL



Expect a fabulous mix of tradition and contemporary facilities at Dingle Benners Hotel - the best of both worlds!

### Average Driving

3 HOURS

Drive along the **Clare** coastline this morning, with uninterrupted ocean vistas.

Look out for low-flying dolphins as we board a ferry to cross the mouth of the **Shannon** — the longest river in Ireland — to arrive in 'The Kingdom' of Kerry (Fee Included).

Look left for views of the **Slieve Mish mountains**. Look right for a vista of scenic **Tralee Bay**.

The famous **Dingle Peninsula** awaits...

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.

Revel in a wealth of dinner and entertainment options in **Dingle**. This bustling little town boasts a pub for every 40 residents!



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 8: Tuesday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Free Time In Dingle



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

### Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL



Expect a fabulous mix of tradition and contemporary facilities at Dingle Benners Hotel - the best of both worlds!

### Average Driving

30 MINUTES

Today is yours to design. This morning, soak up the charms of **Dingle**, with quality downtime or choose between the following relaxed activities.

#### Optional Extras (Choose A, B, C or D):

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

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.

The craic is mighty!



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 9: Wednesday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



DRIFTWOOD  
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

### Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride



DINGLE, KERRY to KENMARE, CORK

### Overnight Stay

LANSDOWNE ARMS HOTEL

### Average Driving

2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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!



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 10: Thursday

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Gardens & Island Boat Trip In Cork



KENMARE, CORK to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

#### Overnight Stay

**GOUGANE BARRA HOTEL**



Located in a serene valley in Cork, Gougane Barra Hotel is a long-standing favourite with our guests.

Or...

**MACROOM CASTLE HOTEL**



Expect a warm Irish welcome at this locally-owned 4 star hotel in the village of Macroom in Cork.

#### Average Driving

**2 HOURS**

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.

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

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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**BOOK TOUR**

# Day 11: Friday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

**DRIFTWOOD**  
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Average Driving  
**5 HOURS**

## Blarney Stone & Cahir Castle



GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to GRAND CANAL, DUBLIN

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**.

We'll stop at monumental **Cahir Castle** (Fee Included) for a guided tour. Gaze in awe at the imposing walls, keep and tower of one of Ireland's largest medieval fortresses. It's a fitting way to end our Irish castle 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!



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**BOOK TOUR**



# Options

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



No two Vagabond or Driftwood tours are the same. Group preferences may alter the order or composition of this itinerary, which is a suggested outline rather than a rigid schedule. Orange/Red weather advisories (e.g. coastal wind warnings, high rainfall, thunderstorms, fog or ice/snow) issued by the Irish Meteorological Office may lead to activity cancellations at short notice. We will always attempt to find suitable alternative activities where safe to do so.

There's no need to book optional extras in advance of your tour (with the exception of the **Skellig Islands Landing** on the 12 Day Tour). Your VagaGuide will discuss options with you on tour and book accordingly. If there is something that you want to do or see, let us know. We will do our utmost to match your choice with the preferences of your group.

### DAILY ITINERARY OPTIONS PRICING

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

Black Cab Tour\*\* - £20.00

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

Golf in Dingle - Variable

Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00

Titanic Experience - £24.95

Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00

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.

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.



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**BOOK TOUR**

# Pricing

## 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### 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 Derry/Londonderry
- Entrance into Kylemore Abbey, the Giant's Causeway, Blarney Castle & Gardens and Cahir Castle
- Shannon ferry tickets

### PLEASE NOTE

Please be aware that there may be unscheduled alterations to the listed accommodation. Rest assured that any alternate hotels will match or be superior to the standard of our listed accommodation.

NB: The following personal weight limits apply: Horseback-Riding: 225lbs / 16 stone / 102kg Kayaking: Per person Double Kayak: 110kg / 17.5 stone / 245lbs; Total Double Kayak: 190kg / 30 stone / 420lbs; Per person Single Kayak: 92kg / 14.5 stone / 200lbs.

### TOUR PRICING

Mar 2025 Departures:  
**€3,009.00 Per Person Sharing**  
Single Room Supplement: €590.00

Apr and Oct 2025 Departures:  
**€3,186.00 Per Person Sharing**  
Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures:  
**€3,540.00 Per Person Sharing**  
Single Room Supplement: €640.00



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