

# 7 DAY DRIFTWOOD IRISH CASTLES & KINGDOMS TOUR

## Sample Itinerary

We are proud that no two Driftwood tours are the same. Your own preferences, your guide and the famous Irish weather mean that the following itinerary should be understood as a framework only. Accommodation options are fixed. We then base each tour around the list of daily stops below.

Your guide will discuss options with you throughout your tour and plan accordingly. If there is something that you particularly want to do or see on your tour, mention it to your guide. We will do our best to match your choice with the preferences of your Vagabond group.

Our Sales and Reservation team can advise you further on any aspect of the tour. Email Ciara directly at [ciara@vagabond.ie](mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### VISIT IRELAND'S GREAT CASTLES HOUSES AND GARDENS

- Live like lords and ladies for one unforgettable night at Ballyseede Castle Hotel
- Kiss the famous Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Tour 18th Century Bantry House and Gardens
- See elegant 19th Century Muckross House Gardens
- Be dwarfed by one of Ireland's largest medieval castles at Cahir

### REVEL AT SOME OF EUROPE'S VERY BEST SCENERY:

- Elevate your mood along the wild and rugged Atlantic Ocean coastline
- Feel the magic on the world famous Ring of Kerry
- See Ireland's highest mountain range, The Macgillycuddy Reeks
- Behold the lunar limestone landscape of The Burren
- Watch waves crash along the spectacular Loop Head drive

### RELISH SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST WORTHWHILE TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

- Stand in awe at the towering Cliffs of Moher
- Take a horse drawn carriage around magnificent Killarney National Park

- Enjoy a full day exploring in Ireland's gourmet capital, Kinsale

#### ONE OF A KIND EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES TO CHERISH

- Cruise around the Skelligs, the dramatic island filming location for Star Wars
- Visit a working sheep farm for a sheep herding and shearing demonstration
- Meet Irish master craftspeople face-to-face in their workshops and studios

#### WONDER AT SOME OF IRELAND'S HISTORICAL TREASURES:

- Boat trip to the monastic ruins and Napoleonic-era battlements of Scattery Island
- Peer into portal tombs older than the pyramids
- Stand in awe at Neolithic stone circles and Celtic ring forts

#### ...AND AT NIGHT:

- Live traditional music in some of Ireland's best pubs
- Delicious fresh and locally sourced food from Ireland's clean waters and green farms
- Overnight in comfort at quality local guesthouses and boutique hotels, located in small, friendly communities

**Questions?** Get in touch with Ciara: [ciara@vagabond.ie](mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie)

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

**Vagabond Tours of Ireland**, Unit 52 Newtown Business & Enterprise Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

## DAY 1 – DUBLIN TO CLARE

*Sit back and relax...*

It's a prompt start in the reception of Grand Canal Hotel Dublin at 8.20am.

Greet your guide, meet your fellow Driftwooders and board your super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz/Volkswagen mini-coach for the adventure of a lifetime.

Then we aim for 'the city of the tribes' - Galway; it's atmospheric, it's historic and it's full of tasty food options for lunch.

Look out for traditional black-hulled Hooker sailing boats as we circumnavigate Galway Bay.

We'll have a perfect photo opportunity at coastal Dunguaire Castle, just outside the pretty village of Kinvara.

Next is the bewitching beauty of the Burren region, with its limestone lunar landscape, and uniquely rich flora.

Marvel at the Poulabrone Dolmen, one of Ireland's great archaeological treasures. It's older than the pyramids!

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous Cliffs of Moher. Stand in awe atop these magnificent 700ft high sea cliffs.

Revel in delicious food, cosy rooms and stunning coastal views at the [Armada Hotel in Spanish Point](#).

The average driving time today is 4 hours 30 minutes.

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## DAY 2 – CLARE TO KERRY

### *A castle fit for a kingdom*

Gain a new perspective on Ireland's wild atlantic coastline, with a guided boat trip to historic Scattery Island (Tour Option - €15 per person). Exiting Kilrush harbour lock, we'll cruise across the Shannon estuary to take a tour of the island's deserted village, historic church ruins and stone round tower.

Another great option is to detour down scenic Loop Head. This narrow headland is besieged on both sides by the ocean. Watch as waves wash over dramatic geological formations at the Bridges of Ross. We should find time to stop into a traditional Irish pub as your Drifter passes through picturesque seaside villages along the way

Watch out for dolphins as we take a ferry across the mighty mouth of the Shannon - the longest river in Ireland or Britain.

We move onward, to Tralee. The largest town in Kerry is home of the Rose of Tralee festival and a beautiful rose garden.

Feel like royalty tonight in the old world elegance of [Ballyseede Castle Hotel](#). Hear enchanting tales of times past at the bar, tuck into fantastic locally sourced food or unwind in the beautiful gardens.

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## DAY 3 – RING OF KERRY

*Islands, forts and shades of green*

After a delectable breakfast at Ballyseede Castle Hotel, board the Drifter to join the world famous Ring of Kerry scenic route. Prepare to have your socks knocked off!

After a photo stop along scenic Dingle Bay, we'll visit an early medieval stone fort near Cahirciveen and then see the ancestral McCarthy clan stronghold, built in the 15th century.

**Skellig Cruise:** A 2 hour 30 minute cruise around Skellig Michael and its smaller neighbour, Little Skellig (Tour Option - €40 per person). Enjoy commentary on the islands' history, their amazing birdlife and fascinating geology. Departures are seasonal (mid-April to mid-October).

The ocean crossing is seasonal, lasts approximately 60 minutes each way and can be rough. Sea legs are definitely required. Your departure is weather dependent and occasionally subject to late cancellation.

We'll aim for lunch in the quaint fishing village of Portmagee.

Satisfy your inner culture vulture and your palette on stunning Valentia Island. Taste ice cream only yards from where its grass-fed cows are milked. Then visit the Skellig Experience to learn all about Ireland's unique island treasures (Tour Option - €5 per person).

This afternoon, visit Derrynane, historic home to one of Ireland's greatest figures, 'The Liberator' Daniel O'Connell (Tour Option - €5 per person). A ramble over nearby dunes reveals the golden sands of Derrynane beach.

We hit lively Kenmare in the early evening. Catch an authentic performance of traditional Irish music and outstanding local food in the town's many pubs and restaurants.

Your accommodation is at the [centrally-located Coachmans Townhouse in Kenmare](#).

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## DAY 4 – KERRY TO WEST CORK

### *Jaunts and jolly japes*

Wander the winding streets of colourful Kenmare this morning, with free time to drift between cafés, art galleries and craft shops.

Pass over one of Ireland's most scenic roads at Moll's Gap; then be amazed by the bond between shepherd and dog, with a visit to a working sheep farm for a herding and shearing demo.

Gaze down over the beautiful lakes of Killarney at Ladies View, made famous when Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting stopped here in 1861.

A short hop on your bus and there's a scenic walk and photo stop at the multi-tiered Torc Waterfall.

Next we'll pay a visit to the stunning Killarney National Park. Take a horse drawn 'jaunting car' around this magnificent parkland (Tour Option - €15 per person).

You can also admire the charming 19th century Muckross House Gardens and explore nearby Muckross Abbey.

Accommodation and dinner tonight is at the family-owned [Gougane Barra Hotel](#), or [Seaview House Hotel in Bantry](#).

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## DAY 5 – WEST CORK

*Time travel across Ireland's wild wonderland*

Visit stately Bantry House, one of the few grand Irish homes still in private hands; owned by the same family since the 18th century.

Trace your roots and hear the story of the Irish famine at Skibbereen Heritage Centre (Tour Option - €6 per person).

Cast your imagination back through the mists of time at Drombeg stone circle; discover how Celtic gourmands cooked their dinner!

Peel back layers of history at riverside Timoleague Abbey; developed by the Franciscans on the site of an even older 6th century monastic settlement.

Seafood fans rejoice! It's back to the coast we go, to explore the picture perfect town of Kinsale. Enjoy a local menu of vibrant restaurants, atmospheric pubs and abundant craft shops in the gourmet capital of Ireland.

Your accommodation is at either the [Blue Haven](#) or [Actons Hotel in Kinsale](#).

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## DAY 6 – KINSALE

*Unwind in Ireland's gourmet capital*

Today is yours to design. Relax and soak up Kinsale's charms, with the option for some quality down time. Or bite into some deliciously cultural activities.

Taste authentic, locally-brewed craft beer on a tour of Black's Brewery (Tour Option - €12 per person).

Savour a tasting of real Irish whiskey in an authentic Irish pub - the 18th century Folk House Venue (Tour Option - €16 per person).

Relive bloody battles of the past with a self-guided tour of the dramatic star-shaped Charles Fort, located at the edge of the ocean near Kinsale (Tour Option - €5 per person).

Pay a visit to the Ringfinnan Garden of Remembrance in honour of the NYFD firefighters who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks.

Whatever shenanigans you get up to in Kinsale, don't miss one of the many Irish traditional music sessions or a stroll around the town's winding streets and plentiful art galleries and craft shops.

Your accommodation is once again at either the [Blue Haven](#) or [Actons Hotel in Kinsale](#).

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## DAY 7 – KINSALE TO DUBLIN

*Time to say slán...*

Before we say goodbye, there's still time for some of Ireland's top highlights.

Then it's time to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Afterwards, explore the extensive grounds and lush, landscaped gardens of Blarney Castle.

Your guide will select a lunch stop along the route today.

A self-guided tour of monumental Cahir castle is a fitting way to end our odyssey. Gaze up in awe at the imposing walls, keep and tower of one of Ireland's largest medieval fortresses.

You'll disembark your Drifter back at the Grand Canal Hotel in Dublin between 5-6pm. Farewell hugs all round for your new friends.

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## TOUR PRICE: EURO €1,929 (PER PERSON SHARING)

Single supplement: EURO €339

What's Included?
✓ A journey of discovery in a super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz tour vehicle
✓ The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide
✓ 7 full days on tour
✓ 6 nights' accommodation
✓ 6 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
✓ Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below for extras)
✓ Entrance fees to Blarney Castle; Bantry House; Cahir Castle; a working sheep farm experience.
✓ Shannon ferry tickets
✓ All relevant taxes
✓ Guaranteed tour departure and price from the moment you make your deposit
✓ Loads of laughs and fun along the way!

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## TOUR OPTIONS

Your guide will discuss options with you throughout your tour and plan accordingly.

Details	Cost pp
Scattery Island Cruise and Tour	€15
Skellig Islands Cruise	€40
Skellig Experience Visitor Centre	€5
Derrynane House	€5
Horse drawn carriage ride in Killarney National Park	€15
Charles Fort, Kinsale	€5
Black's Brewery Tour and Beer Tasting	€12
The Folk House Venue Whiskey Tasting	€16

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## BOOKING & CONTACT INFORMATION

Call Ciara	Select Option 2 when prompted
From the USA (Toll Free)	833 230 0288
From Canada (Toll Free)	833 691 6903
From Australia (Toll Free)	1800 985 642
From Anywhere	+353 156 34 358
Email & Web	
Email Ciara	<a href="mailto:ciara@vagabond.ie">ciara@vagabond.ie</a>
Book Online	<a href="http://vagabondtoursofireland.com">vagabondtoursofireland.com</a>

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