



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 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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



- 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 **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, Danielle, Hollie, Léa & Jade: enquiries@vagabond.ie

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My Tour Notes

ADD YOUR MEMORIES & THOUGHTS



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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

MONDAY

Average Driving

5 HOURS

CAHIR CASTLE & BLARNEY STONE

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!

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 begin our Irish castle 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

GARDENS & ISLAND BOAT TRIP

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
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 **Caha** mountains from the majestic pass.

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
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.

This afternoon is yours to design. Enjoy free time to explore the shops and art galleries in **Kenmare** or choose between the following relaxed activities.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS (Choose A, B or C):

- **A.** Immerse yourself in nature on a **boat trip** around breathtaking **Kenmare Bay** (Optional Extra).
- **B.** Enjoy a wide range of craft beers and ales on the **Tom Crean Brewery Tour** (Optional Extra)**.
- **C.** Golfers will enjoy Kenmare's local parkland **golf course**. This is an all day activity (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

Start the day with spectacular vistas from Lady's View, a viewpoint fit for royalty.

Next, 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

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

Day of Week
SUNDAY

Average Driving
2 HOURS

TOUR CONNEMARA & KYLEMORE ABBEY

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.

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

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

Day 8



📍 **CLIFDEN, GALWAY to BALLINA, MAYO or BOYLE, ROSCOMMON**

Overnight Stay

**THE MOUNT FALCON ESTATE & SPA
OR KILRONAN CASTLE ESTATE & SPA**

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 visit to the The Peacemakers Museum and learn all about the history of the North of Ireland (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).

This afternoon, visit **Bushmills**, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world, for a tasting (Optional Extra). Alternatively, embark on a self-guided tour of clifftop **Dunluce Castle** (Optional Extra).

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**

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TOUR PRICING

Oct Departures:
€3,186.00 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €590.00

Jul to Sep Departures:
€3,540.00 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €640.00

Call Us...

FROM USA:
TOLL FREE: 833 230 0288

FROM CANADA:
TOLL FREE: 833 691 6903

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

Email...

enquiries@vagabond.ie

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
- 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 Cahir Castle
- 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 - €20.00	Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** - €20.00
Kenmare Bay Boat Trip - €30.00	Tom Crean Brewery Tour Kenmare - €20.00
Golf in Kenmare - Variable	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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