



11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Relax into your seat for a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery around Northern Ireland and the Wild Atlantic Way.



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!

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.



**Comfy Mercedes
Tour Vehicles**

Tour Highlights



- ★ Visit top Ireland destinations like the stunning **Cliffs of Moher** and the **Blarney Stone**.
- ★ **Overnight at a castle hotel** featuring a 17th century tower and a resident ghost.
- ★ Tour magnificent coastal routes of **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 days to catch fantastic live Irish music and quaint pubs.
- ★ Be amazed on a **guided historic walking tour** of Ireland's only walled city: **Derry/Londonderry**.
- ★ Connect with your Irish clan at castle ruins, ringforts and ancient dolmens.
- ★ **Meet friendly Irish locals** during **authentic local experiences** - like a guided tour of Ireland's oldest whiskey distillery.

Questions? Get in touch with Ciara: ciara@vagabond.ie

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

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 utmost to match your choice with the preferences of your group.

Activities marked 'Tour Option' carry an additional extra cost, but are optional. Check the Tour Options table on the final page for exact costs.

Please note, this tour has stops in both the Republic of Ireland (EU eurozone) and Northern Ireland (UK). You will require both Euro (€) and Sterling (£) cash.

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



PLEASE NOTE: This tour also runs in a clockwise direction

**CLICK/TOUCH TO LOAD
CLOCKWISE ITINERARY**

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

Day 1 - Dublin to Antrim

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Meet your guide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin, at 8.10am. Board your Mercedes tour vehicle for the trip of a lifetime!

Revel at the medieval tower, monastic ruins and Celtic high crosses of Monasterboice.

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

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

Choose from these Belfast activity options:

- A highly recommended Black Cab Tour, explaining the history of the Troubles era (Tour Option - £15 per person)
- A self-guided visit to the Titanic Centre, the world's largest Titanic visitor experience (Tour Option - £18.50 per person)
- Free time to explore Belfast's shopping and cultural attractions.

Your accommodation tonight is the [17th century castle tower and hotel at Ballygally](#), situated directly on the beautiful Antrim coast.

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes.

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Day 2 - Antrim to Derry

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS

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

Brave Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, suspended over the ocean and reached via a steep descent. Enjoy views to Rathlin Island and, on a clear day, Scotland (Tour Option - £9 per person).

Experience the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Walk in the footsteps of mythical giant Finn McCool as you step onto 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns.

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

We hope you're thirsty! Visit Bushmills, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world (Tour Option - £7 per person), followed by a quick photo stop at the iconic clifftop stronghold of Dunluce Castle.

Your accommodation and dining tonight is at the Georgian-era [Beech Hill Country House Hotel](#).

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Day 3 - Derry to Mayo

ARISE AND GO NOW

We'll pass through historic city gates to enter Derry/Londonderry.

Take a guided historical walking tour along the walls of Derry/Londonderry, Ireland's only fortified city (Tour Option - £4 per person).

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 into Donegal town, with the option for a guided tour of 15th century Donegal Castle.

Honour Irish poet and Nobel Laureate, W.B. Yeats, at his final resting place in Sligo.

Accommodation tonight is at the stunning [Mount Falcon Estate](#). Enjoy delicious food, a romantic woodland setting and a wealth of history.

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Day 4 - Mayo to Connemara

WESTWARD HO!

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

Pit stop in Westport, with its vibrantly painted streets and grand setting on 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 routes.

The setting could not be more scenic for a sheepdog demo at Tom Nee's sheep farm above Killary Harbour. Dependent on later tour stops.

Accommodation tonight and tomorrow is at the [centrally-located Station House Hotel in Clifden](#). This wonderful Connemara town offers options for great dining and lively traditional Irish music.

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Day 5 - Connemara

WITNESS SAVAGE BEAUTY

What's the classic postcard image of Ireland? We think you'll find it amid the savage beauty of Connemara. Today is your chance to experience this amazing region.

Start with a self-guided tour of Kylemore Abbey – one of Ireland's most romantic historic buildings. Wander the wonderful walled garden and admire the enchanting neo-Gothic church.

The Inagh Valley is a true wilderness. Cloud shadows race across mirror lakes. Heather and wildflowers colour the stark mountains. You're headed there now.

Time permitting, we'll stop to learn about peat bogs and their role in Irish myths, history, literature and daily life.

You'll complete your lap of Connemara by dropping into the picturesque harbour village of Roundstone, situated on the shores of the Atlantic.

Accommodation tonight is once again at the [centrally-located Station House Hotel in Clifden](#).

The average driving time today is 2 hours.

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Day 6 - Connemara to Clare

ANCIENT ENCHANTMENT

Take a guided tour of 16th century Aughnanure Castle, ancestral home to the ferocious O'Flaherty clan.

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

Spot black-hulled, red-sailed Hooker boats and picturesque Dunguaire Castle in the village of Kinvara, on Galway Bay.

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

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

Your accommodation tonight is the [Wild Atlantic Lodge in beautiful Ballyvaughan](#).

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes.

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Day 7 - Clare to Dingle

CLIFFS AND KINGDOMS

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous Cliffs of Moher. These majestic 700ft high sea cliffs have the power to dazzle. We still love it, every time.

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.

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

Visit a working Irish sheep farm for a live sheepdog demo and a guided tour of a renovated old-style cottage. Dependent on earlier tour stops.

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!

Enjoy traditional Irish warmth and comfort at the centrally located [Dingle Benners Hotel](#) tonight and tomorrow.

The average driving time today is 4 hours.

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Day 8 - Dingle

RELAX IN DINGLE

This morning is yours to design. Relax and soak up Dingle's charms, with the option for some quality down time.

Enjoy one or more of the following activities:

- Taste authentic locally-distilled whiskey and gin on a tour of Dingle Distillery (Tour Option - €15 per person)
- Meet Fungie the Dolphin, Dingle's most famous resident, on a boat trip (Tour Option - €15-20 per person)
- Golfers will enjoy Dingle's excellent links course. This is an all day activity (Tour Option - Ask your VagaGuide for cost)

Experience one of the most beautiful drives in Ireland. Rugged beauty and knife edge cliffs are guaranteed on Sleah Head, Europe's westernmost point.

Look out for the Blasket Islands and the holy Mount Brandon as well as picture perfect patchwork fields and 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.

Your accommodation is once again at [Dingle Benners Hotel](#).

The average driving time today is 1 hour 30 minutes.

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Day 9 - Dingle to Kenmare

JAUNTS AND JAPES

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

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

Your experience in Killarney National Park may include:

- Sightings of rare red deer herds in native oak forest
- 19th century Muckross House and Gardens
- A short walk to scenic Torc Waterfall
- Idyllic lakeside and mountain views

We'll hit Kenmare in the early evening. The [Lansdowne Arms](#) is your accommodation for the night.

Catch authentic traditional Irish music and outstanding local food in the town's many pubs and restaurants.

The average driving time today is 2 hours 30 minutes.

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Day 10 - Kenmare to West Cork

A PLACE APART...

Expect rugged roads, superb scenery and livestock-induced traffic jams on the remote Beara peninsula.

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!

Cross the Cahal Mountains with a scenic drive across the Healy Pass, Ireland's bendiest road.

Board a boat to Garnish Island. Explore the wonders of Italian-style formal gardens (Tour Option - €16 per person). On your boat trip, look out for cheeky seals around the harbour area of Glengarriff.

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

There's one more drive today, a coastal ride that snakes along Bantry Bay before cutting inland.

Accommodation tonight is at the scenic [Gougane Barra Hotel](#) or the [West Cork Hotel in Skibbereen](#).

The average driving time today is 3 hours.

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Day 11 - West Cork to Dublin

THE PARTING GLASS

Before we wave goodbye, there's still time to take in some of Ireland's highlights.

We'll trace the valley of the River Lee, passing stone bridges and postcard-pretty countryside.

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

Take a self-guided tour of the Rock of Cashel. 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 hugs all round for your new friends.

The average driving time today is 4 hours and 30 minutes.

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Tour Price: EURO €2,755 (May-Sept inclusive, per person sharing)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (SS): €475

MARCH, APRIL & OCTOBER PRICE: €2479.50 | MAR, APR, OCT SS: €427.50

What's Included?

11 full days journey of discovery in a slick Mercedes Drifter tour vehicle

Entrance fee to Bantry House

Services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide

Entrance fee to Blarney Castle & Gardens

10 nights accommodation in 3/4 star hotels and boutique guesthouses

Entrance fee to Rock of Cashel

Guided tour of Donegal Castle/Aughnanure Castle

10 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts

Working Sheep Farm experience and Sheepdog Demo

1 night in a castle hotel

Shannon Ferry tickets

Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below)

All relevant taxes

Entrance fee to Giant's Causeway

Guaranteed departure and price from the moment you pay your deposit

Entrance fee to Cliffs of Moher

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Tour Options*

CHOOSE FROM THESE OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES. YOUR GUIDE WILL DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR TOUR AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

Black Cab Tour of Belfast - £15

Walking Tour of Derry - £4

Titanic Experience Belfast - £18.50

Horse-drawn Carriage Ride - €15

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge - £9

Boat Trip in Dingle - €15-20

Bushmills Distillery Tour - £9

Golf in Dingle - variable cost

Dunluce Castle - £5.50

**ALL DETAILS OF PRICES AND SUPPLIERS CONTAINED IN THIS ITINERARY ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. OUR TOUR PRICES WILL NOT CHANGE AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES. HOWEVER, OUR SUPPLIERS OCCASIONALLY INCREASE PRICES FOR TOUR OPTIONS AT SHORT NOTICE. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO UPDATE YOU OF MAJOR PRICE CHANGES, AS THEY OCCUR.*

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE MAY BE AN ALTERATION TO THE LISTED ACCOMMODATION, BUT ANY ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE OF THE SAME STANDARD OR BETTER THAN THE REST OF THE TOUR.

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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 Ciara	ciara@vagabond.ie
Book Online	vagabondtoursofireland.com

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