



12 Day Vagabond Giant Irish Adventure Tour

Take the tour-of-a-lifetime around Ireland exploring history, culture and active adventure in stunning natural scenery.



This 12-day round trip is a comprehensive Ireland and Northern Ireland tour, including: The Cliffs of Moher, Connemara, and the Antrim Coast in Northern Ireland.

Journey over mountain passes, horse-ride along deserted beaches and explore the Wild Atlantic Way. Take a deep breath - this is the ultimate Irish adventure tour!

**Chunky 4x4
Tour Vehicles**



Tour Highlights



- ★ Land on **Skellig Michael**, a 6th century monastic island and World Heritage site.
- ★ Challenge yourself with daily hikes to spectacular destinations and optional activities like **horse-riding, biking** and **sea kayaking**.
- ★ Tour **Northern Ireland** from Belfast, along the epic Causeway Coastal Route to the historic city of Derry/Londonderry.
- ★ **Explore Irish history** at epic castles, ghostly ruins and prehistoric archaeological wonders.
- ★ Discover **off the beaten track destinations**, like Grianán of Aileach, an ancient stone ring fort in Donegal.
- ★ See wild and natural wonders of four **National Parks** at **Connemara, Glenveagh, Killarney** and the **Burren**.
- ★ Understand why Ireland is world-renowned for **warm hospitality**, lively nightlife and traditional pubs.

Questions? Get in touch with Gillian: gillian@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 Vagabond tours are the same. Your own preferences - 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 Reservations team can advise you further on any aspect of the tour. Email Gillian directly at gillian@vagabond.ie

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



Day 1 - Dublin to Antrim

YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Meet your VagaGuide and fellow Vagabonds at reception of the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin at 8.20am. Board your VagaTron 4x4 tour vehicle and hit the road!

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

Climb Slieve Gullion mountain (573 m / 1,880 ft) to one of Ireland's highest passage tombs. Enjoy great views and mysterious folk myths.

Zoom to 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 and dining for the evening is at the [Londonderry Arms](#). This quaint former coaching inn once played host to none other than Winston Churchill himself.

The average driving time today is 4 hours.

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Day 2 - Antrim to Derry

CAUSEWAY ROAD TRIPPIN'

Cameras at the ready! You'll wake up on 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).

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

Next up is the challenging and scenic Dunseverick coastal hike. This steep, often muddy trail, culminates in your arrival at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Giant's Causeway. Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes.

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 Donegal

NORTHWARD, EVER NORTHWARD!

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

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

Cross the border back 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.

The pristine wilderness of Glenveagh National Park is next. Keep an eye out for wild deer and eagles as you explore enchanted woodlands, lakes and glaciated valleys.

This evening's accommodation is at the family-owned [Nesbitt Arms in Ardara](#).

Your stay in Ardara is a great opportunity to sample live Irish music. Talented musicians regularly perform in venues around this small town.

Also highly recommended is a visit to Eddie Doherty's weaving studio. Friendly and informative, Eddie is one of Ireland's few remaining handweavers.

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Day 4 - Donegal to Sligo

SEA CLIFFS, STEEP HIKES AND ATLANTIC SUNSETS

Look out for rugged mountain sheep and epic views as we journey up and over the scenic Granny Pass

At the towering sea cliffs of Slieve League, your guide will offer these options:

- Get up close and personal with some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, on a 1 hour 30 minute hike over steep and rugged terrain.
- Take a guided boat trip under these dramatic 600m/2000ft cliffs (Tour Option - €20 per person). You'll be on a small 12 person capacity boat. Sea legs are required.

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

A flexible afternoon offers these options:

- Go horse-riding along a beach (Tour Option - €28 per person).
- Hike Knocknarea to Queen Maeve's cairn. Duration: 2 hours.

Your accommodation tonight is the [Waterfront House in seaside Enniscrone](#).

Relish a magical seaweed hot tub session in Enniscrone (Tour Option - €25 per person).

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Day 5 - Sligo to Connemara

MAGICAL, MYSTICAL MAYO

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.

Revel in the savage beauty of Connemara, famed for its traditional Irish culture, misty mountains, wild moorlands and dark lakes.

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.

Hike Diamond Hill (442 m / 1,450 ft) for epic views of Connemara National Park. Boardwalk on lower slopes leads to steep, loose and uneven terrain towards summit. Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes.

Feel like royalty with an atmospheric dining experience and overnight stay at [Abbeyglen Castle Hotel](#), deep in Connemara.

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Day 6 - Connemara to Clare

THE HEART OF THE WEST

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.

Hike through the bewitching beauty of the Burren region, with its limestone lunar landscape, ancient dolmens and uniquely rich flora.

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.

Accommodation tonight is at [family-owned Spanish Point House](#). It's a short ramble across the road for dinner at the Armada's Pearl Restaurant.

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Day 7 - Clare to Dingle

THROUGH THE GATES OF THE KINGDOM

Award-winning sausages. Locally-smoked salmon. We think Spanish Point House serves Ireland's finest breakfast.

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.

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.

Surf's up! Take a surf lesson (Tour Option - €40 per person). Or simply absorb the serenity at one of Ireland's most gorgeous beaches.

Another option is to climb the steep, glaciated valley of Annascaul. Prepare for a hike of 1 hour 30 minutes duration, including rough terrain and stunning views.

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!

Your accommodation tonight and tomorrow will be at either the [Dingle Skellig Hotel](#) or [Dingle Bay Hotel](#).

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes.

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Day 8 - Dingle

MAX ADVENTURE, MINIMUM DRIVING

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

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

Your guide can organise one of the following optional activities:

- Horse ride on a beach or up a mountain (Tour Option - €45 per person)
- Flip out with local celebrity dolphin, Fungie, on a boat trip (Tour Option - €15-20 per person)
- Guided sea kayaking on Dingle Bay (Tour Option - €50 per person)
- Guided rowing experience in a traditional Naomhóg boat (Tour Option - €25 per person)
- Golfers will enjoy Dingle's excellent links course. This is an all day activity (Tour Option - Ask your VagaGuide for cost)

Your accommodation is once again at either the [Dingle Skellig Hotel](#) or [Dingle Bay Hotel](#).

The average driving time today is 1 hour 30 minutes.

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Day 9 - Dingle to Portmagee

TRACKS, TRAILS AND A NATIONAL PARK

It's a swift morning start for a guided cycling tour of Killarney National Park (Tour Option - €30 per person). Expect a mix of paved road and forest trails. Duration 3 hours approx. Cycling ability is required.

Biking not your thing? You're free to roam this magnificent parkland. Highlights of Killarney National Park for both bikers and hikers may include:

- Sightings of rare red deer herds in native oak forest
- 19th century Muckross House and Gardens
- A short hike to scenic Torc Waterfall
- A centuries-old yew tree at the centre of a ruined abbey
- Idyllic lakeside and mountain views

Your well-earned rest and dining tonight is in the comfort of [The Moorings Guesthouse in Portmagee](#).

If it's a clear night, look up! Kerry's night sky is a certified International Dark Sky Reserve and offers crystal clear views of the Milky Way.

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Day 10 - Portmagee to Kenmare

ISLAND ADVENTURES

Today is your chance to experience Ireland's island treasures; the Skelligs.

Option 1: Hike to the 1400 year old monastic site on Skellig Michael - the larger of the islands (Tour Option - €100 per person). 5 hours duration.

Departs early from Portmagee harbour, 2 mins walk from your accommodation. Leap from boat to shore, then negotiate 600 rough-cut, stone steps on the climb to the summit. High levels of fitness required. Please ensure you inform us of your intention to land in advance, to avoid disappointment.

Option 2: Take a guided boat trip around both Skellig Islands to experience seabirds and amazing history (Tour Option - €40 per person). This cruise lasts 2 hour 30 minutes.

Both boat trips are ocean crossings. Departures are seasonal (mid-May to mid-September). The boats are small and the cabin conditions are rough and wet; sea legs are required. Both landing and cruise departures are weather dependent and, as such, are occasionally subject to late cancellation.

Option 3: Landlubbers can still experience the Skelligs. Hike to the historic signal tower on Bray Head for amazing views of the islands (1 hour 30 minutes). The trail combines well-worn farm track and open hillside.

We'll hit lively Kenmare this evening. Your accommodation is at the [Coachmans Townhouse](#) in the centre of town.

The average driving time today is 2 hours.

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Day 11 - Kenmare to West Cork

STRICTLY BACKROADS!

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

Of the four peninsulas in Ireland's southwestern corner, the Beara receives the least amount of visitors and has the feeling of true wilderness. The Beara is truly off the beaten track.

One of our favourite pastimes is dancing around ancient stone circles. Luckily, the Beara has a plethora to choose from. Astrology? Sacrifice? No one truly knows what the circles were for. Let your imagination run wild!

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

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 30 minutes.

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Day 12 - 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 VagaTron 4x4 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 €2,895 (May-Sept inclusive, per person sharing)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (SS): €495

MARCH, APRIL & OCTOBER PRICE: €2605.50 | MAR, APR, OCT SS: €445.50

What's Included?

12 full days off the beaten track adventure in a VagaTron 4x4 tour vehicle

Services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide

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

11 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts

1 night in a castle hotel

Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below)

Entrance fee to Giant's Causeway

Entrance fee to Cliffs of Moher

Entrance fee to Blarney Castle & Gardens

Entrance fee to Rock of Cashel

Guided Tour of Donegal Castle/Aughnanure Castle

Working Sheep Farm experience and Sheepdog Demo

Shannon Ferry tickets

All relevant taxes

Guaranteed departure and price from the moment you pay your deposit

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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	Guided Horse Riding in Dingle - €45
Titanic Experience Belfast - £18.50	Boat Trip in Dingle - €15-20
Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge - £9	Guided Sea Kayaking in Dingle - €50
Bushmills Distillery Tour - £9	Guided Rowing in Dingle - €25
Dunluce Castle - £5.50	Golf in Dingle - variable cost
Walking Tour of Derry - £4	Guided Bike Tour in Killarney National Park - €30
Boat Trip to Slieve League - €20	Skellig Islands Landing - €100
Horse-Riding Sligo - €28	Skellig Islands Cruise - €40
Seaweed Bath Sligo - €25	
Surf Lesson in Castlegregory - €40	

**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 Gillian	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 Gillian	gillian@vagabond.ie
Book Online	vagabondtoursofireland.com

Questions? Get in touch with Gillian: gillian@vagabond.ie

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