

## 5 Day Vagabond Adventure East Tour

Go wild on an fun-filled adventure vacation amid the stunning beauty of Ireland's Ancient East.

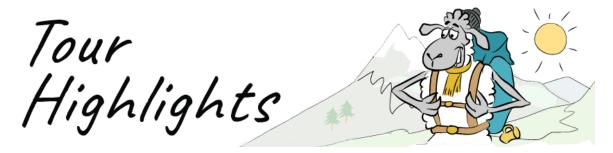


Bike, hike and canoe around a pristine corner of the Emerald Isle. Travelling by 4x4 tour vehicle, you'll climb granite mountains and explore exciting cities.

Touch the crumbling walls of ancient monuments and majestic castles. Taste craft beer, hear traditional music and feel the warmth of an Irish welcome. It's all waiting for you in Ireland's Ancient East!







- ★ Explore spectacular off the beaten destinations like the historic **Hook**Peninsula and the picturesque Barrow River Valley.
- ★ Dive into a wealth of adventure options such as a guided coastal bike tour, guided sea kayaking and a coldwater surf session.
- ★ Discover hiking trails in the Wicklow, Slieve Bloom and Comeragh mountain ranges
- ★ Travel back in time to medieval Norman castles, monastic ruins and an ancient Stone Age fort.
- ★ Amazing local experiences what about a guided tour of the world's oldest operational lighthouse?
- ★ Sample Ireland's famous nightlife and musical culture in exciting cities like **Kilkenny** and **Waterford**.
- ★ Taste local delicacies with fresh seafood, a guided brewery tour and Ireland's first organic restaurant all on the menu.
- ★ Comfortable, characterful accommodation in 3 or 4 star hotels and boutique guesthouses.



### 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.

Our Sales and Reservation team can advise you further on any aspect of the tour. Email Gillian directly at <a href="mailto:gillian@vagabond.ie">gillian@vagabond.ie</a>



## Day 1 - Dublin to Cork

#### YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Meet your guide and fellow Vagabonds at reception of the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin at 8.10am. Board your 4x4 VagaTron tour vehicle and hit the road!

Kick off your cultural adventure with a hike through the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Ireland's largest state-owned nature reserve, and one of the oldest mountain ranges in Europe.

We'll stop for a self-guided tour of monumental Cahir castle. Gaze in awe at the imposing walls, keep and tower of one of Ireland's largest medieval fortresses.

Your lodging this evening is the <u>Bayview Hotel in Ballycotton</u> or the <u>Garryvoe Hotel near Shanagarry</u>, both stunningly-located on the Cork coastline.

The average driving time today is 4 hours.



## Day 2 - Cork to Wexford

ON YOUR BIKE!

Start your day on the Waterford Greenway. Travel through time and nature on a guided bike tour of this converted rail trail along Ireland's southern coastline (Tour Option - €25 per person).

If you prefer wetsuits to pedals, take a coldwater surfing lesson on a spectacular Waterford beach (Tour Option - €30 per person). Gnarly dude!

Explore the stunning Comeragh Mountains. Hike to the base of Mahon Falls, a scenic 80m (262ft) high waterfall.

Visit Waterford this afternoon. Ireland's oldest city was established by Vikings in the 10th century and offers a myriad of cultural delights.

Lay your head down in the shadow of a 15th century castle tonight at <u>Killiane Castle Country House</u>.

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes.



## Day 3 - Wexford to Kilkenny

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK

We'll start the day discovering sea caves and sea arches during a truly magical kayaking experience around Hook Head (Tour Option- €50).

An alternative adventure awaits at the iconic Hook Lighthouse. Take a guided tour of the world's oldest operational lighthouse, perched at the tip of 'The Hook'.

Breathe deep as you explore trails through 200-year-old beech forest around Tintern Abbey. Delve deep into the Norman history of this ruined monastery, time permitting (Tour Option - €5).

Relive the tale of Irish emigration to the New World on a replica 19th century emigrant vessel - the Dunbrody Famine Ship.

Drop anchor this evening in historic Kilkenny. The elegant Marble City was Ireland's medieval capital and offers plentiful dining and entertainment options today.

Your accommodation tonight is at <u>The Rivercourt Hotel, Kilkenny</u>, located on the banks of the River Nore.

The average driving time today is 3 hours.



# Day 4 - Kilkenny to Wicklow

#### FREEWHEEL ALONG THE BARROW

This morning is yours to design. Keen hikers can opt to explore the Barrow's wildlife, lush green meadows and picturesque countryside on foot.

Alternatively, take a guided canoeing trip along the the river Barrow, one of Ireland's most scenic waterways (Tour Option - €35 per person).

Fallen for Kilkenny? A third option is to soak up the charms of medieval Kilkenny with your choice of relaxed activities:

- Feel the spirits of Strongbow and the Earls of Ormonde on a guided tour of Kilkenny Castle (Tour Option - €8 per person)
- Taste Kilkenny's famous red ale on a guided brewery tour of Smithwicks (Tour Option - €16 per person)
- Or enjoy free time in the city, browsing cafés and craft studios on the charming streets

Travel back to the Bronze Age at Rathgall, one of Ireland's largest and most ancient ringforts.

Accommodation tonight is at the <u>BrookLodge Hotel, nestled in the hills of Wicklow</u>. This location gives you the tasty option to dine at the The Strawberry Tree, Ireland's first certified organic restaurant.

The average driving time today is 1 hour 30 minutes.



## Day 5 - Wicklow to Dublin

#### THE PARTING GLASS

Follow a path treaded by rebels and soldiers along the Military Road, a historic and scenic route passing through the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Next stop: Glendalough, a perfectly-preserved 6th century monastic city. Take your pick of lakeside and forest hiking trails in this spectacular glaciated mountain valley.

Glimpse raptors soaring above your VagaTron tour vehicle as it descends through scenic countryside to the coast.

You'll disembark your VagaTron 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 2 hours and 30 minutes.



### Tour Price: EURO €1,255 (May-Sept inclusive, per person sharing)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (SS): €210

MARCH, APRIL & OCTOBER PRICE: €1129.50 | MAR, APR, OCT SS: €189

#### What's Included?

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

Services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide

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

4 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts

Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below)

Entrance fees to Cahir Castle, Hook Head Lighthouse and Dunbrody Famine Ship.

Passage East Ferry tickets

All relevant taxes

Guaranteed departure and price from the moment you pay your deposit



# Tour Options\*

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

Bike Hire Waterford Greenway €25 Tintern Abbey €5

Guided Tour of Kilkenny Castle €8

Surf Lesson in Tramore €30

**Guided Brewery Tour of** 

Sea Kayaking Hook Head €50

Smithwicks €16

Canoeing River Barrow €35

\*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.



# Booking & Contact Information

Call Gillian	Select Option 2 when prompted
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