

#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**

#### Southwestern Ireland In A Week

Take a fully-guided 7 day tour of wild valleys and quaint villages

The spectacular west and southwest of Ireland awaits you on this gently-paced **Driftwood Journey of Discovery**.

Discover the rugged natural beauty of Clare, Kerry and Cork, the lovely Cliffs of Moher, as well as hideaway places you won't find in guidebooks.

Connect with people, history and culture. Stay in a Connemara castle hotel, visit craft studios and enjoy ample free time.

### Summary

Tour Style Driftwood - 1 FSS ACTIVE

Tour Vehicle
COMFY MERCEDES TOUR BUS

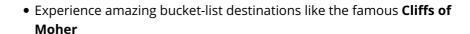
Pickup/Drop Off Location

Departure Day monday

Return Day & Time 5.00-6.00PM SUNDAY



#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**



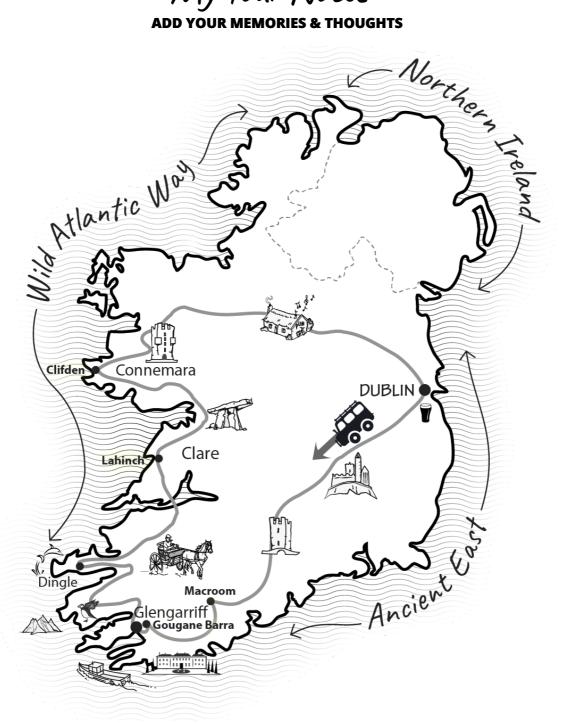
- Visit **Blarney Castle** and kiss the **Blarney Stone** to gain the gift o' the gab
- Overnight in an atmospheric castle hotel in the heart of **Connemara**
- Tour spectacular **Killarney National Park** in a horse-drawn 'jaunting' carriage
- Meet craftspeople and discover **handmade Irish crafts** in open studios
- Meet lambs and sheepdogs on a guided Irish farm tour including a sheepdog experience
- Visit stately homes, gardens and castles, like **Bantry House** owned by the same family since the 1700s
- Spot seals and other wildlife as you board a boat for the scenic crossing to Garnish Island Gardens
- Taste the best of Ireland's **delicious food**, craft beer and smooth whiskey in lively restaurants and authentic pubs
- **TOUR DIRECTION:** This is the clockwise tour itinerary. It also runs in a **counter-clockwise direction** around Ireland.

WHERE YOU SEE 'OPTIONAL EXTRA', ACTIVITIES AND FEES ARE OPTIONAL.



Email John: johnboy@vagabond.ie | Email Danielle: danielle@vagabond.ie | Call Toll Free: USA - 833 230 0288 | Canada - 833 681 6903 | Australia - 1800 985 642

# My Tour Notes



**View Tour in Opposite Direction** 

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#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**

Day 1



GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

Overnight Stay
THE GOUGANE BARRA HOTEL OR
THE CASTLE HOTEL MACROOM

Day of Week monday

Average Driving
4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

**BLARNEY STONE & ROCK OF CASHEL** 

Meet your guide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, **Dublin**, at least 15 minutes before your scheduled departure time of 8.10am. Board your Mercedes tour vehicle for the trip of a lifetime!

Take a self-guided tour of the **Rock of Cashel** (Fee Included). Saint Patrick converted the King of Munster here. Brian Boru was crowned High King of Ireland here. It's an epic way to begin our Irish 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



O GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to GLENGARRIFF, CORK

Overnight Stay
ECCLES HOTEL GLENGARRIFF

Day of Week

Average Driving 3 Hours **BANTRY HOUSE & BOAT TRIP** 

Your morning will be spent exploring the many delights of **Bantry Bay**.

Visit stately **Bantry House**, a grand Irish home built in the 18th century (Fee Included). Please note, Bantry House opens from April to October.

Alternatively, learn about the epic last stand of a Gaelic chieftain at 16th centiury **Carriganass Castle**.

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. It has the feeling of true wilderness.

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). Garnish Island opens from April to October. Departures in March can instead choose a guided harbour tour by boat (Optional Extra).

Any Questions?

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#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**



### GLENGARRIFF, CORK to DINGLE, KERRY

Overnight Stay
DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL

Day of Week

Average Driving 3 Hours

#### **HORSE CARRIAGE RIDE IN KILLARNEY**

Start the day with a spin over either the **Caha** or **Healy Pass**, both dramatically scenic mountain roads on the **Beara Peninsula**.

Take a **horse-drawn carriage ride** around **Killarney National Park** (Optional Extra).

Your visit to Killarney National Park may also 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

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!



#### DINGLE, KERRY to SLEA HEAD, KERRY (and return)

Overnight Stay
DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL

Day of Week

Average Driving
1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

#### **FREE TIME IN DINGLE**

Today is yours to design. This morning, soak up the charms of **Dingle**, with quality downtime or a choice between the following relaxed activities.

#### **OPTIONAL EXTRAS (Choose A, B or C):**

- A. Take a boat trip around spectacular Dingle Bay.
- **B.** Savour a guided **craft tour** of the Dingle Crystal studio.
- **C.** Golfers will enjoy Dingle's excellent links course. This is an all day activity.

Experience **Slea Head**, one of the most beautiful drives in Ireland. Rugged beauty and knife edge cliffs are guaranteed. Look out for the **Blasket Islands** and the holy **Mount Brandon** among the patchwork fields and picture-perfect 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.





#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**

Day 5



O DINGLE, KERRY to LAHINCH, CLARE

Overnight Stay
THE LAHINCH COAST HOTEL

Day of Week

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

#### **CLIFFS OF MOHER & FARM TOUR**

After another hearty Irish breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to **Dingle**.

Visit a working Irish sheep farm with charming old-style cottages for a live **sheepdog demo** and **guided farm tour** (Fee Included).

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 **Clare** (Fee Included).

Cruise along the west Clare coastline with ocean vistas of the **Aran Islands**, lying offshore.

Day 6



LAHINCH, CLARE to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Overnight Stay
THE ABBEYGLEN CASTLE HOTEL

Day of Week

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

#### **CONNEMARA CASTLE TOUR**

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous **Cliffs of Moher** (Fee Included). These majestic 700ft high sea cliffs hold the power to dazzle.

Next is the bewitching beauty of **The Burren**. This region boasts a limestone lunar landscape and uniquely rich flora.

Spot red-sailed traditional boats and picturesque **Dunguaire Castle** in the village of Kinvara, on Galway Bay.

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

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

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





#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**

Day 7



CLIFDEN, GALWAY to GRAND CANAL HOTEL,

Day of Week

Average Driving
4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

#### **TOUR CONNEMARA & KYLEMORE ABBEY**

Before we say goodbye —  $sl\acute{a}n$  in Irish — there's still time to take in some of Northern Ireland's highlights.

What's the classic postcard image of Ireland? We think you'll find it amid the savage beauty of **Connemara**.

There's a quick photo stop at **Kylemore Abbey** – one of Ireland's most scenic historic buildings.

Explore the historic ruins of 15th century **Ross Errilly Friary** or the picturesque village of Cong, filming location for John Wayne's The Quiet Man.

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





#### **OUTLINE ITINERARY**

#### **TOUR PRICING**

Apr and Oct Departures: €1,975.50 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €395.00

May to Sep Departures: €2,195.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €410.00

Mar, Apr and Oct 2025 Departures: €1,975.50 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €395.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures: €2,195.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €410.00

Call Us...

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#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A journey of discovery in a super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz mini-coach
- The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide
- 7 full days on tour
- 6 nights' accommodation
- 6 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- Most daily activities and essential attractions
- Live like lords and ladies with a one night stay in a castle
- Entrance into the magnificent Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Entrance into the epic Rock of Cashel
- A working sheep farm experience
- Entrance into Bantry House situated on the Wild Atlantic Way
- Entrance into Aughnanure Castle
- Shannon ferry tickets

#### **TOUR OPTIONS**

Activities marked **OPTIONAL EXTRA** on the day-by-day descriptions carry an additional cost, but are optional.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride\*\* -

Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00 €20.00

Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00 Golf in Dingle - Variable

<sup>\*\*</sup> Cash is required for this activity. No card payment available.





<sup>\*</sup> 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 occassionally increase prices at short noice. We will do our utmost to update you of major price changes as they occur.