



# Why Book with Vagabond?

- **IRELAND'S ORIGINAL, SINCE 2002**: 22 years of experience are distilled into every itinerary.
- **TOTALLY LOCAL**: Family-owned with local Irish tour guides and staff plus independent hotels.
- **WORLD'S BEST**: We proudly won a **TRAVEL + LEISURE**WORLD'S BEST AWARD in 2023, ranking 12th

  globally.
- 1000S OF HAPPY GUESTS: Read any one of our 1,800+ 5-Star reviews across TRIPADVISOR and TRUSTPILOT.
- **AWESOME TOUR GUIDES**: Meet our highly-trained, passionate and well-supported <u>VagaGuide team</u>.
- **FLEXIBLE & FAIR BOOKING**: Avail of a free 7 day seat hold, flat-rate deposit and convenient notice period.
- **BEST-IN-CLASS VEHICLES**: No expense is spared on maintaining our 100% Mercedes tour vehicle fleet.
- **PEOPLE & PLANET FIRST**: We respect the planet and support our community... That's why we're a **B CORP!**









Tour Type DRIFTWOOD - RELAXED PACE Tour Direction **CLOCKWISE** Tour Vehicle **COMFY MERCEDES TOUR BUS** Pickup / Dropoff Location **GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN** Departure Day & Time 8.10AM TUESDAY Return Day & Time 5:00-6:00PM FRIDAY Gentle Pace, Castles, Culture & History **Compare Tour Styles** 

### Your Dream Small-Group Tour Of Ireland

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

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.

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!

WHERE YOU SEE 'OPTIONAL EXTRA', ACTIVITIES AND FEES ARE OPTIONAL. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE FINAL PAGE FOR COSTS OF EACH OPTIONAL EXTRA.

THIS IS THE CLOCKWISE ITINERARY (TUESDAY DEPARTURES). FOR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE TUESDAY DEPARTURES, **SELECT THIS LINK**. FOR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE MONDAY DEPARTURES, **SELECT THIS LINK** 

# Tour Map 19 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

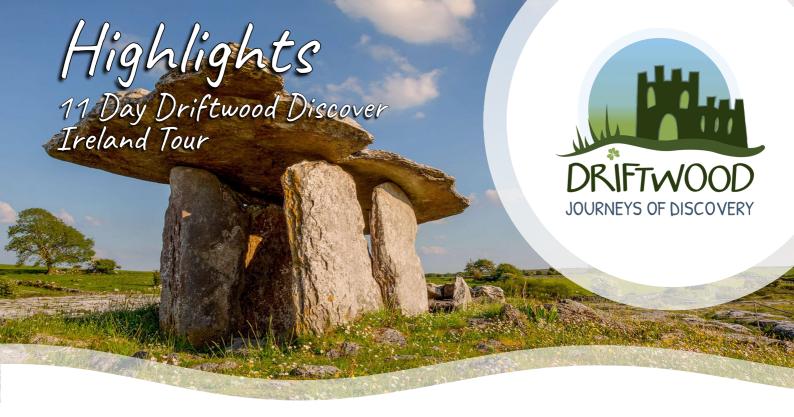
DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

From <u>Dublin</u>, head southwest to <u>Cork</u>. Explore Kerry and <u>Clare</u>, then stay for 2 nights in <u>Connemara</u>. Leaving <u>Galway</u>, discover Mayo and <u>Donegal</u> in the northwest. Complete your Irish odyssey along the <u>Causeway Coast</u> and in <u>Belfast</u> in Northern Ireland.



This tour travels in a clockwise direction around Ireland with Tuesday departures.

View Tour in Opposite Direction





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 **Dingle** 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 **guided farm tour** and sheepdog demo.



**TOUR DIRECTION:** This is the clockwise itinerary, departing Tuesdays. View itineraries for <u>counter-clockwise Tuesday</u> departures or <u>counter-clockwise Monday departures</u>.





Located in a serene valley in Cork, Gougane Barra Hotel is a long-standing favourite with our guests.

#### MACROOM CASTLE HOTEL



Expect a warm Irish welcome at this locally-owned 4 star hotel in the village of Macroom in Cork.

Average Driving **3 HOURS 30 MINUTES** 

### Kiss The Blarney Stone In Cork



GRAND CANAL, DUBLIN to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

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!

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.







Seaview House is a characterful country house located in the quiet village of Ballylickey at the heart of West Cork.

#### THE MARITIME HOTEL



This comfortable hotel is located between the shores of Bantry Bay and the town of Bantry in West Cork.

### Average Driving



GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to GLENGARRIFF or BALLYLICKEY,

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).

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.

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).





#### **DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL**



Expect a fabulous mix of tradition and contemporary facilities at Dingle Benners Hotel - the best of both worlds!

0r...

#### **CEANN SIBEAL HOTEL**



Stay at Europe's most westerly hotel in the heart of the Gaeltacht on stunning Slea Head

Average Driving



GLENGARRIFF or BALLYLICKEY, CORK to DINGLE, KERRY

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** 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

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!







Expect a fabulous mix of tradition and contemporary facilities at Dingle Benners Hotel - the best of both worlds!

#### **CEANN SIBEAL HOTEL**



Stay at Europe's most westerly hotel in the heart of the Gaeltacht on stunning Slea Head

Average Driving 1 HOURS 30 MINUTES



DINGLE, KERRY

Today is yours to design. 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.







The Lahinch Coast Hotel is a contemporary space located only a stone's throw away from a beautiful Atlantic beach.

Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES



DINGLE, KERRY to LAHINCH, CLARE

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). On some departures, this activity may happen on Day 8.

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 uninterrupted ocean vistas and the **Aran Islands** lying only 8km (5 miles) offshore.







Amid the majestic beauty of Connemara, the Clifden Station House is one of Galway's finest independent hotels.

Average Driving **3 HOURS 30 MINUTES** 

#### Connemara Castle Tour



LAHINCH, CLARE to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

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.

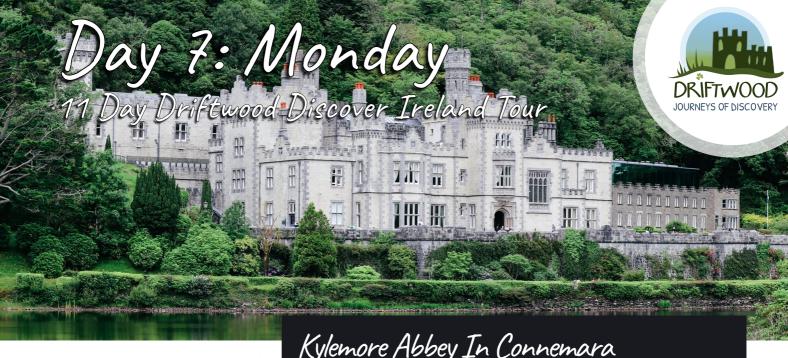
Spot red-sailed traditional boats and picturesque **Dunguaire Castle** in the village of Kinvara, on **Galway Bay**.

We'll have a quick stop in **Galway** next. The City of the Tribes is bohemian and buzzy.

Take a guided tour of 16th century <u>Aughnanure Castle</u>, 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.







Amid the majestic beauty of Connemara, the Clifden Station House is one of Galway's finest independent hotels.

Average Driving 2 HOURS

### Kylemore Abbey In Connemara



CLIFDEN, GALWAY

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.

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

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



## Day 8: Tuesday 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour



### Overnight Stay



Mount Falcon Estate & Spa is always a guest favourite on our tours visiting Mayo and the northwest.

Average Driving
3 HOURS

### Sheepdog Farm Tour & Scenic Drive



CLIFDEN, GALWAY to BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCRONE, SLIGO

Take a **guided farm tour** and watch a **sheepdog demo** at Tom Nee's farm (Fee Included). The setting above Killary Harbour could not be more scenic. Please note, this activity occurs on Day 5 for some departures.

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.







Overlooking the famous
Guildhall, the Shipquay Hotel
lies at the heart of
Derry/Londonderry in Northern
Ireland.

### Average Driving 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES



BALLINA, MAYO or ENNISCRONE, SLIGO to 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.

Stop into Donegal town, with the option for a guided tour of 15th century **Donegal Castle** (Fee Included). Please note, castle tour may occur earlier on some departures.

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 guided historical walking tour along the walls of Ireland's only fortified city, **Derry/Londonderry** (Fee Included).





Ballygally Castle Hotel features a 400 year old tower house which is home to a friendly ghost. Spooky!

Average Driving



DERRY/LONDONDERRY to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

Cameras at the ready! You're about to experience one of the most spectacular coastal drives; Northern Ireland's <u>Causeway Coastal Route</u>.

Anyone for a wee dram? Visit **Bushmills**, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world, for a tasting (Optional Extra), followed by a stop at clifftop <u>Dunluce Castle</u> (Fee Included).

40,000 hexagonal basalt columns make up the <u>Giant's Causeway</u> (Fee Included).

Choose to walk in the footsteps of mythical giant Finn McCool on a steep 1km (1.6 mile) descent/ascent. Or simply follow the accessible path to a viewing point. Shuttle bus available (Optional Extra).

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



## Day 11: Friday 11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour





Average Driving
3 HOURS 30 MINUTES





BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM to GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN

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 <u>Belfast</u>, 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.

Cross the border back into the **Republic of Ireland** and the euro currency zone (€).

Crane your neck to view the finest — and tallest — **Celtic high crosses** in Ireland, at Monasterboice.

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.





No two Vagabond or Driftwood tours are the same. Group preferences may alter the order or composition of this itinerary, which is a suggested outline rather than a rigid schedule. Inclement weather may lead to cancellations at short notice, particularly for water-based activities such as boat trips, sea kayaking and surfing. We always attempt to find suitable alternative activities.

There's no need to book optional extras in advance of your tour (with the exception of the <u>Skellig Islands</u> <u>Landing</u> on the 12 Day Tour). Your VagaGuide will discuss options with you on tour and book accordingly. If there is something that you want to do or see, let us know. We will do our utmost to match your choice with the preferences of your group.

#### **DAILY ITINERARY OPTIONS PRICING**

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

Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00

Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00

Bushmills Whiskey Tasting - £10.00

Black Cab Tour\*\* - £20.00

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride\*\* - €20.00

Golf in Dingle - Variable

Giant's Causeway Shuttle Bus - £1/€1.20

Titanic Experience - £24.95

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



<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.

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



#### 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 sheepddog demo & Irish sheep farm experience
- Guided tour of 18th century Bantry House and Aughnanure Castle/Donegal Castle
- A guided walking tour of Derry/Londonderry
- Entrance into Kylemore Abbey, Dunluce Castle, the Giant's Causeway, Blarney Castle & Gardens and the Rock of Cashel
- Shannon ferry tickets

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

Please be aware that there may be unscheduled alterations to the listed accommodation. Rest assured that any alternate hotels will match or be superior to the standard of our listed accommodation.

NB: The following personal weight limits apply: Horseback-Riding: 225lbs / 16 stone / 102kg Kayaking: Per person Double Kayak: 110kg / 17.5 stone / 245lbs; Total Double Kayak: 190kg / 30 stone / 420lbs; Per person Single Kayak: 92kg / 14.5 stone / 200lbs.

#### **TOUR PRICING**

Mar, Apr and Oct Departures: €3,033.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep Departures: €3,370.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €605.00

Mar, Apr and Oct 2025 Departures: €3,033.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €590.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures: €3,370.00 Per Person Sharing Single Room Supplement: €605.00



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Need More Info...

View Tour in
Alternate Direction



