

# 6 DAY DRIFTWOOD NORTHERN ISLAND

## 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 best to match your choice with the preferences of your Vagabond group.

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 Megan directly at [megan@vagabond.ie](mailto:megan@vagabond.ie)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### REVEL AT SOME OF EUROPE'S VERY BEST SCENERY:

- Absorb the wild and rugged Atlantic Ocean coastline
- Head truly off the beaten track in Donegal, one of Ireland's most remote and beautiful regions
- Immerse yourself in the pristine beauty of Glenveagh National Park
- Tour the epic Causeway Coastal Route
- Lose yourself amid lush, green inland scenery

### RELISH SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST WORTHWHILE TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

- Step onto the stunning Antrim coast at the legendary Giant's Causeway
- Test your fear of heights at the Carrick a Rede rope bridge
- Discover the world's largest Titanic attraction

### WONDER AT SOME OF IRELAND'S HISTORICAL TREASURES:

- Shout from the battlements of mythical castles

- Peer into portal tombs older than the pyramids
- Stand in awe at ancient Celtic ring forts
- Dig into the contested history of buzzing Belfast on a Black Cab Tour
- Walk the ramparts of Derry, Ireland's only complete walled city
- Admire the world's finest medieval Celtic crosses at Monasterboice

#### SOME FUN LITTLE SIDE TRIPS

- Take a boat trip to see the dramatic sea cliffs at Slieve Liag
- Tour Bushmills, the oldest working whiskey distillery in the world
- Meet master weavers, craft brewers and artisans of crystal carving

#### ...AND AT NIGHT:

- Live traditional music in some of Ireland's best pubs
- Delicious fresh and locally sourced food from Ireland's clean waters and green farms
- Overnight in comfort at quality local guesthouses and boutique hotels, located in small, friendly communities

**Questions?** Get in touch with Megan: [megan@vagabond.ie](mailto:megan@vagabond.ie)

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

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

## DAY 1 – DUBLIN TO MAYO

*Your adventure awaits*

It's a prompt start in the reception of Grand Canal Hotel Dublin at 8.10am.

Greet your guide, meet your fellow Driftwooders and board your super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz/Volkswagen mini-coach for the adventure of a lifetime.

We'll head out of the city, thousands of years back in time...

At Corlea, you'll find an Iron Age trackway, or *togher*, constructed around 150 BC. This is the largest prehistoric roadway in Europe, hinting at a sophisticated society in pre-Christian Ireland.

Your guide will select a lunch stop along the route.

We'll cross the mighty River Shannon to reach the National Irish Famine Museum in Roscommon. Hear the harrowing tale of Ireland's worst disaster and how it has shaped the island of today.

Afterward, explore the museum venue at Strokestown Park House. This Georgian-era mansion will transport you to another age as you admire its Palladian architecture and wander the elegant walled gardens.

Accommodation tonight is at the luxurious Mount Falcon Estate. Enjoy delicious food, a romantic woodland setting and a wealth of history.

The average driving time today is 4 hours 30 minutes

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## DAY 2 – MAYO TO DONEGAL

*Arise and go now...*

Ease yourself into the day with a heavenly breakfast spread at Mount Falcon.

Honour Irish poet and Nobel Laureate, WB Yeats, at his final resting place.

We'll stop at Donegal town, with the option for a guided tour of 15th century Donegal castle.

Heading deeper into Donegal, we'll arrive at the towering sea cliffs of Sliabh Liag. Landlubbers are welcome to relax and soak up the stunning view from afar.

If you're in possession of sea legs, take a guided boat trip to gaze up at these dramatic 600m / 2000ft cliffs from below (Tour Option - €20 per person). You'll be on a small boat with 12 person capacity. We can't guarantee it but birdlife and sea mammals make regular guest appearances.

Look out for rugged mountain sheep and the golden sand of Maghera Beach as we journey up and over the scenic Granny Pass.

Did you spot Maghera? Now it's time to go truly off the beaten path, with a stroll along this wild and lovely strand. You should have the entire stretch of coastline to yourself!

Arriving in the small country town of Ardara, we recommend a visit to Eddie Doherty. Friendly and informative, Eddie is one of the few remaining handweavers left in Ireland. See a true master craftsman at work in his open studio.

This evening's accommodation is at the family-owned Nesbitt Arms in Ardara. Don't miss a traditional Irish music performance. Musicians perform in the hotel bar regularly, as well as in other venues around the town.

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes

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## DAY 3 – DONEGAL TO DERRY

*Northward, ever northward!*

It's all aboard for the short hop to the pristine wilderness of Glenveagh National Park.

Keep an eye out for wild deer and eagles as we pass along lakes and through the glacial, granite-lined, 'Valley of the Birch'. No matter the time of year, dramatic displays of colour await you in the romantic 19th century Glenveagh Castle Gardens.

Your guide will select a lunch stop along the route.

Look behind you! 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 historic city gates to enter Derry.

Walk the ramparts of Ireland's last remaining walled city on the excellent historic guided tour of Derry (Tour Option - £4 per person).

Your accommodation and dining tonight is at the Georgian-era Beech Hill Country House Hotel.

The average driving time today is 3 hours

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## DAY 4 – DERRY TO ANTRIM

*Take a deep breath, everyone*

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

Next, it's time to experience the natural phenomenon that is The Giant's Causeway. Walk in the footsteps of mythical Irish figure Finn McCool, by stepping onto 40,000 wave-washed hexagonal basalt columns.

Game of Thrones fan alert! Look out for Theon Greyjoy stepping ashore at tiny Ballintoy harbour. There's an added chance to visit a former GoT set in an abandoned lime quarry.

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, even Scotland (Tour Option - £7 per person).

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

You don't have to go far to the beach from your accommodation tonight. The 17th century castle tower and hotel at Ballygally is situated directly on the beautiful Antrim coast.

The average driving time today is 3 hours

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## DAY 5 – ANTRIM TO NEWCASTLE

*Sea cliffs, steep hikes and a welcome spa*

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

Enjoy lunch in the Titanic Quarter of Belfast.

You are then free to choose from the following options:

- » The highly recommended Black Cab Tour of Belfast, explaining the origins of the Troubles era (Tour Option - £10 per person);
- » Self-guided visit to the Titanic Centre, the world's largest Titanic visitor experience (Tour Option - £18.50 per person);
- » Or free time to explore Belfast's shopping and cultural attractions.

Stop off at Saint Patrick's Centre, an interactive exhibition showcasing the life and legend of Ireland's patron saint. Witness the saint's grave at nearby Down Cathedral.

Accommodation tonight is at the luxurious Slieve Donard Resort and Spa in Newcastle. Crown your Irish adventure with delicious dining, a dramatic coastal location and mountainous scenery.

The average driving time today is 2 hours

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## DAY 6 – NEWCASTLE TO DUBLIN

*Time to say slán...*

Before we say goodbye, there's still time for some of Ireland's top highlights.

Take a morning stroll on the beautiful dune landscape of Murlough National Nature Reserve. Keep an eye out for seals, butterflies and the blazing colour of wildflowers.

Step back in time to imagine kings, earls and lords battling over Dundrum Castle. Built in 1177, this strategically-located stronghold commands fine views over the coastline and nearby Mourne Mountains.

Then it's time to amble back towards Dublin, taking the scenic route - of course! - through the rolling granite peaks of the Mourne Mountains.

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

Your last stop is guaranteed to be historic. Revel at the medieval tower and monastic ruin of Monasterboice, with its beautiful Celtic high crosses - the most impressive examples in Ireland of this unique form of sculpture. What better way to wrap up your Irish odyssey!

You'll disembark your Drifter 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 30 minutes

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## TOUR PRICE: EURO €1,549 (PER PERSON SHARING)

Single supplement: EURO €220

### What's Included?

- ✓ A journey of discovery in a super-comfy, slick Mercedes Benz/Volkswagen mini-coach
- ✓ The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide
- ✓ 6 full days on tour
- ✓ 5 nights' accommodation
- ✓ 5 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- ✓ Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below for extras)
- ✓ Entrance to Giant's Causeway; Doe Castle/Donegal Castle; Walking Tour of Derry
- ✓ Shannon ferry tickets
- ✓ All relevant taxes
- ✓ Guaranteed tour departure and price from the moment you make your deposit
- ✓ Loads of laughs and fun along the way!

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Details	Cost pp
Black Cab Tour of Belfast	£10
Titanic Centre	£18.50
Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge	£7
Bushmills Distillery Tour	£7
Dunluce Castle	£5.50

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## BOOKING & CONTACT INFORMATION

Call Megan	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 & Web	
Email Megan	<a href="mailto:megan@vagabond.ie">megan@vagabond.ie</a>
Book Online	<a href="http://vagabondtoursofireland.com">vagabondtoursofireland.com</a>

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