

12 DAY GREAT IRISH ADVENTURE

SAMPLE ITINERARY ANTI-CLOCKWISE

Scroll to page 18 for Clockwise Itinerary

IMPORTANT: Please note that this itinerary is a framework for the tour. The overnights are pretty much set in stone and then we base each tour on the items in the list below. Your guide will discuss the options with you throughout the tour and plan from there. This gives us flexibility to adapt each tour to suit you and fit in with the weather conditions. This of course means that some things may not be included in your tour, but if there is something that you particularly want to do or see on your tour, mention it to your guide and he or she will see if it can be included.

HIGHLIGHTS:

REVEL AT SOME OF EUROPE'S VERY BEST SCENERY:

- Ireland's highest mountain range "The Macgillycuddy Reeks"
- The green fields and stone walls of Dingle
- Connemara mountains, lakes, beaches and rivers
- Ireland's wild and rugged Atlantic coastline
- Walk in the Mourne Mountains (Slieve Gullion)
- The Burren Limestone Plateau
- The Cahaa Mountains of the Beara Peninsula
- The green inland scenery of areas such as the Golden Vale in Tipperary
- The Glens of Antrim
- The Wild Moorlands and Mountains of County Mayo

ENJOY SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST POPULAR AND WORTHWHILE TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

- Blarney Castle and gardens
- Killarney National Park
- The Cliffs of Moher
- The Giant's Causeway

EXPLORE THREE OF IRELAND'S MOST DIVERSE SOUTH WESTERN PENINSULAS:

- The majestic Iveragh peninsula (better known as the Ring of Kerry)
- The rugged Beara Peninsula (also known as the 'undiscovered peninsula')
- The rolling hills of the Dingle Peninsula

ENJOY SOME FANTASTIC ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- Walking and hiking through some of Ireland's best scenery
- Horse-riding on the Dingle Peninsula

Vagabond Tours of Ireland - Unit 52 Newtown Business & Enterprise Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. WEB: www.vagabondtoursofireland.com

- Sea-kayaking in Dingle Bay
- Try your hand at surfing an Atlantic Wave
- Cycle in Killarney National Park
- Learn the ancient arts of Gaelic football or hurling

WONDER AT SOME OF IRELAND'S HISTORICAL TREASURES:

- Explore the cliff-top ruins of Dunluce Castle
- Climb Knocknaree Mountain to Queen Maeve's tomb
- Visit The Rock of Cashel
- Optional trip to the Skellig islands, one of Ireland's UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Optional cruise around the Skellig Islands
- Ancient Neolithic stone circles, Celtic ring forts, Castles, Monastic sites and Burial tombs
- Take a Black cab tour of the fascinating Belfast city or visit the Titanic Experience
- A walking tour of Londonderry/Derry city
- The lunar limestone landscape of the Burren, County Clare

SOME FUN LITTLE SIDE TRIPS:

- Relax in a hot, rejuvenating Seaweed bath
- Visit a working sheep farm for a sheep herding and shearing demonstration
- Take a boat trip to spot Dingle's most friendly occupant - Fungi the Dolphin

AND AT NIGHT:

- Live music and excellent food in some of Ireland's best pubs and restaurants
- Overnight in quality, locally owned guesthouse and small hotel accommodation in small, friendly local communities
- Live like a Lord or Lady in a quality Irish Castle for a night

DAY 1

Dublin to Antrim

We're off and we're going north! We will be crossing the border into Northern Ireland and making for the historic and fascinating city of Belfast.

Meet at reception of the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin 4 at 08.20 am.

Cross over the border and walk to the summit of Slieve Gullion Mountain for great views over South Armagh.

Average Walk Duration: up to 1 hour 30 minutes

Terrain: Path uphill to summit.

Drive into Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland for lunch and then choose from the following options:

1. Optional Black Cab tour of the city. This tour is very highly recommended as it gives visitors an incredibly close hand experience of the city and its turbulent past. (Cost: GB£10 per person)
2. Take an optional trip to the newly opened £100 million Titanic Experience visitor centre (GB£18.00 pp £14.50 seniors)

Follow the coast road out of Belfast and around the base of the Glens of Antrim - you might well see Scotland on a clear day

(Average driving time: 4 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the Londonderry Arms Hotel in County Antrim.

DAY 2

Antrim to Derry

Today we continue North around the coastline for a really active day on a section of coastline that the locals will tell you is the most beautiful in Ireland.

1. Test your head for heights at the Carrick a Rede rope bridge (weather permitting – Entrance fee: GB £7)
2. Possible lunch or coffee stop at the tiny Ballintoy harbour – one of the ‘Game of Thrones’ filming locations
3. Self-guided walk along a section of the famous Antrim Coastline to arrive at the Giant's Causeway

Average Walk Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes – 3 hours
Terrain: Undulating path walk along cliff top
4. Experience the natural phenomenon of the Giants Causeway
5. Optional visit to Bushmills Whiskey distillery. The oldest whiskey distillery in the World (entrance fee: GB£7pp)
6. Explore the historic village of Bushmills
7. Visit the ancient McDonald Stronghold of Dunluce Castle (Entrance fee: GB£3) or simply take photos from outside

(Average driving time 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Beech Hill House Hotel, Derry.

DAY 3

Derry to Donegal

Before leaving Northern Ireland, we head into Derry city for the highly-acclaimed walking tour. It's then time to cross back into the Republic and County Donegal, one of the least touristy and wildest parts of Ireland. Voted the coolest place in the world by National Geographic in 2017.

1. Optional walking tour of the city including the Bogside area synonymous with the tragic events of Bloody Sunday (highly recommended - GB£4 per person)
2. Cross the border from Northern Ireland to Donegal in the Republic of Ireland
3. Stop at the ancient stone fort of Grianán of Aileach and enjoy views of the sea and the Inishowen Peninsula
4. Visit and walk through the Glenveagh National Park

Average Walk Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Terrain: Mostly flat gravel path

(Average driving time 3 hours 15 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in The Nesbitt Arms Hotel in the cultural village of Ardara

DAY 4

Donegal to Sligo

Europe's highest sea cliffs, a traditional weaver and horse-riding on the beach – some of the great options today before arriving at your beachside hotel in Enniscrone.

1. A visit to a traditional weaver to see how handmade Donegal tweed is still made.
2. Possible time to walk and explore the caves on the amazingly remote Mahares Beach
3. Drive through the scenic Granny pass to west Donegal
4. Visit the stunning Slieve League – the highest sea cliffs in Europe

Options at the cliffs include:

- Walk to the 2000 ft Slieve League sea cliffs with your guide.
Average Duration: 1 hour – can be made longer
Terrain: Well surfaced path to start and becomes more rocky and rough as you leave viewing area
 - Or take a boat trip around the base of the cliffs (€20 per person, summer only)
5. Head into Donegal town to visit Donegal Castle or explore the town and enjoy lunch
 6. Go horse-riding along a stunning beach in Sligo (€28 for an hour) or go for walk on the beach. Your guide may decide to take you horse riding on a Dingle beach later in the tour
 7. Visit the grave of WB Yeats in Drumcliffe Cemetery
 8. Walk to Queen Maeve's tomb atop Knocknaree with amazing views of the Sligo coastline (depending on time)
Average Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
Terrain: Loose rough stone path steep near summit
 9. Option to take a fantastically relaxing hot seaweed bath, with mysterious healing properties in Enniscrone (Price €25pp).

(Average driving time: 4 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the scenic Waterfront House Guest house inn the seaside village of Enniscrone in Sligo

*check cost of horse riding

DAY 5

Sligo to Connemara

Today we visit one of Ireland's national museums, one of the world's holiest mountains and Ireland's only fjord. Today's options:

1. Visit the excellent Museum of Country Life in Castlebar (free entry)
2. Croagh Patrick - St Patrick's Reek - from where the snakes were banished. Take a stroll up this epic pilgrimage mountain and lose a sin with every step
Average Duration: Depends on time and weather, average 1 hour
Terrain: Rough mountain walk on well defined trail. Difficult footing. Steep and uphill at times
3. Picnic on the slopes and look down upon the panorama of Clew Bay
4. Head south into the Connemara region, famous for its wild and rugged landscape and stunning scenery
5. Leenane- Quick pints in 'The Field Pub', named after the movie which was filmed here, at the head of Killary Harbour
6. Killary Harbour - drive along the shore of Ireland's only fjord
7. Option to visit a sheep farm today, if you don't visit today your guide will take you later in the tour
8. Kylemore Abbey - Photo stop at one of Ireland's most beautiful buildings

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Abbeyglenn Castle Hotel, Connemara, Co. Galway

DAY 6

Connemara to Clare

A very flexible day on tour starting with a drive around Galway Bay. Later we venture into Galway City and south through County Clare.

1. Visit the restored Aughnanure Castle, ancestral home of the 'Ferocious' O'Flaherty clan for the excellent guided tour
2. Visit the vibrant Galway city for lunch and soak up the atmosphere
3. Quick stop at Kinvara village with Dunguaire Castle – ancient seat of the High Kings of Munster and Hookers
4. Drive down and through the Burren Region, and its Limestone Lunar landscape
5. Visit Poul nabrone Dolmen, an ancient Megalithic tomb and one of Ireland's greatest treasures
6. A tour highlight, it's off to the Cliffs of Moher – 700 ft sea cliffs (entrance fee included in tour price)

Average Walk Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
Terrain: Well defined, eroded, cliff edge path

(Average driving time: 3 hours 45 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Spanish Point House, Clare

DAY 7

Clare to Kerry

Lots to see and do today as we travel through the greenest, least mountainous section of Ireland's west coast, through south County Clare, across the mighty River Shannon and through north County Kerry, before the mountains of the Dingle Peninsula loom into sight.

1. Take a walk along the Cliffs of Kilkee or Lahinch Beach or even catch a wave with a surf lesson
2. Take the ferry across the River Shannon into County Kerry (ferry ticket included).
3. Stop in the pleasant market town of Listowel and possible free tour of Listowel castle (subject to availability)
4. Drive through Tralee town, home of the Rose of Tralee festival
5. Option of watersport in Castlegregory
6. Enjoy a walk in the glacial valley of Lough Annascaul

Average Walk Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Terrain: Road and eroded boggy mountain path

7. Cool down after your walk in the South Pole Inn

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in The Dingle Bay Hotel in the heart of Dingle Town – a town of 2500 people and 54 pubs

DAY 8

Dingle Day

A great day spent enjoying Dingle town and the Peninsula. You can do as much or little as you like on day eight as we spend two nights here in the town. At some stage while we are in Dingle we normally take the group out on a tour of the Peninsula to the most westerly point in Ireland that you can drive to and a selection of the stops we see along the way are below. Plus, we can also organise other options for you if you would like something more active, or relaxing.

The Dingle Peninsula Tour out to Sleah Head:

Head out along the Sleah Head Drive past Ventry beach. Stop at ancient Beehive Huts – once the dwellings of 5th Century Monks. Enjoy a scenic stop at Europe's most westerly point with views over the Basket Islands. Walk down to Coumeenoolle Beach (Film set of Ryan's Daughter). Photo stop at Smerwick Head – views back up the Dingle Peninsula and of Mount Brandon. Visit Louis Mulcahy Pottery or a local crystal cutter and see some of Ireland's most skilled craftspeople at work.

Dingle Activity Options:

1. Go horse riding on Ventry Strand (Price: €35pp)
2. Rent Bikes and explore the area (Price: TBC €pp)
1. Dingle Brewing Company – visit one of Ireland's leading craft breweries (Price: €7 including a pint of beer), or, Dingle Distillery (€15pp). Both options do, of course, include mandatory tasting! (15/20 minute walk)
3. Boat trip to see Fungie the Dolphin (Price: €16pp)
4. Kayaking in Dingle Bay – maybe even with Fungie the Dolphin (price €45pp)
5. Take out a traditional Naomh Og boat and row with some of Dingle's finest (Price: €25pp)
6. Golf – Play a round on The Dingle Golf Links (fees would apply and there may be a transfer fee one way by taxi if the guide and vehicle are busy with other group members)
7. Visit Louis Mulcahy Pottery or a local crystal cutter and see some of Ireland's most skilful craftsmen at work.

Chill out in Dingle:

1. Go for a walk along the Dingle Way from the centre of Dingle town up into the hills
2. Wander the picturesque town of Dingle, with its brightly coloured street, numerous shops, excellent galleries, numerous local craftspeople, restaurants and of course pubs

(Average driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in The Dingle Bay Hotel in the heart of Dingle Town – a town of 2500 people and 54 pubs

Vagabond Tours of Ireland – Unit 52 Newtown Business & Enterprise Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. WEB: www.vagabondtoursofireland.com

DAY 9

Dingle to Portmagee

It's time to say goodbye to Dingle and head for the Ring of Kerry. Today we weave our way around Dingle Bay, exchanging the gently rolling mountains of the Dingle Peninsula for the majesty of McGillicuddy's Reeks - the highest mountains in Ireland. We join the Ring half way through the day, when all the coaches have gone, so we will have it to ourselves.

1. Drive along Inch Strand for fun and games
2. Take a guided cycling tour of Killarney National Park (optional extra: €30)
Duration: 3 hours
Terrain Road and forest path
3. Head for Iveragh Peninsula via Killorglin (Goat Fair) and Castlemaine (Wild Colonial Boy)
4. Join Ring of Kerry scenic route on the Iveragh Peninsula
5. Off-road to our secret picnic spot looking back across to the Dingle Peninsula
6. Clamber around a castle ruin or visit a stone fort

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in The Moorings Guesthouse in Portmagee

DAY 10

Portmagee to Kenmare

It's our second day on the Ring of Kerry, as we follow the route around the southern half of the Iveragh Peninsula to Kenmare. Not forgetting the option of a boat trip to the incredible Skellig Islands, which are truly breath-taking - though not for the faint hearted! There are beaches, walks and stunning views across to the Beara Peninsula.

Option 1: Skellig Island Trip:

Depart Portmagee at 9:00, after an hour at sea arrive at the Islands and climb the 600 steps to the ancient monastery. Arrive back at Portmagee at 14:15.

Please note that the boat trip to the Skellig Islands is very weather dependent and also seasonal (open between mid-May and September) The trip to the Islands costs €100.

OR

A two & half hour cruise out to and around Skellig Michael with views up to the ancient monastery. A commentary of the islands, their amazing birdlife and fascinating history is given during the cruise. (€35pp, €40 in July & August)

Option 2: Non-island Options:

1. Walk to Bray Head on Valentia Island
Average Walk Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
Terrain: Farm track and open boggy hillside
2. Visit the Skellig Experience Centre for a taste of life out on the Skellig Islands (entrance fee: €4)
3. Visit the Skellig Chocolate Factory for a free tasting!

After leaving Portmagee:

(Please note that if we visit the Skellig Islands today than it affects the activities and itinerary for the rest of the day). The trip takes until about 2.15pm in the afternoon and we then have to drive around the southern half of the Ring of Kerry, so it does mean that activities like walking on the Old Kenmare Road or visiting the sheep farm may not be possible.

1. Visit one of the many Celtic ring forts found on the Iveragh Peninsula, including: Staigue Fort or Loher Fort
2. Detour down to Derrynane Beach for a game of Gaelic Football or Hurling.
3. Tide permitting you can walk across to the ruined church and graveyard on 'Abbey Island'
4. See the running of a real Irish sheep farm if not already done
5. Leave the Ring of Kerry scenic route on the Iveragh Peninsula

(Average driving time: 3 hours)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Coachman's Townhouse Hotel, Kenmare

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DAY 11

Kenmare to Gougane Barra

An action-packed day as we journey out onto the 'undiscovered' Beara Peninsula. It is an amazing coastline, wild, rugged and extremely scenic. While we are here we have the option of some great walks, castles and lunch in one of Ireland's most famous pubs. There is also the option of some free time in the morning in Kenmare.

1. Shopping in picturesque Kenmare
2. Head out onto Beara Peninsula, the undiscovered Peninsula
3. Great views of the Caha Mountains and Sheepshead Peninsula
4. Visit the ancient Uragh Stone Circle
5. Take the Healy Mountain pass, Ireland's bendiest road with great scenery north and south
6. Quick pint at MacCarthy's Bar in Castletownbere
7. Special Vagabond shortcut over the mountains and through the old copper mines
8. Arrive in the stunningly located village of Allihies and pick up lunch
9. Walk the Bullig bay loop and see the ancient ruins of Dunboy Castle

Average Walk Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Terrain: Mixed trail following sea shore, forestry pathways, open boggy terrain, some public road

10. Bantry Bay Seal Spotting in Glengarriff

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

Overnight in Gougane Barra Hotel or the Castle Hotel, Macroom

DAY 12

Gougane Barra to Dublin

Sadly, it's the last day of the adventure and time to head home to Dublin, but first we have some major attractions to see! You can kiss the world-famous Blarney Stone and visit the iconic Rock of Cashel.

1. Depart hotel after breakfast before heading east and northeast through Counties Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Kildare and Dublin
2. Follow the River Lee down towards Cork
3. Kiss the World Famous Blarney Stone or get away from the crowds and explore the extensive grounds and gardens (Included in tour price)
4. Visit the magnificent Rock of Cashel – one of Ireland's greatest historical sites (included in tour price)
5. Drive through the Curragh – once used as the Braveheart film set

(Average driving time: 4 hours 30 minutes)

Arrive back in Dublin between 5 and 6pm. Drop off at the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin 4.

Tour Price: €2,769

Single Supplement: €465

Whats included:

Off the beaten track adventure in a Vagabond 4X4 tour vehicle
Services of highly trained professional Vagabond tour guide
12 full days on tour
11 nights' accommodation
11 Full Irish breakfasts
Most daily activities and visits
Entrance fees to Blarney Castle, the Rock of Cashel, A Working Sheep Farm and the Giant's Causeway, Aughnanure Castle or Donegal Castle
Shannon Ferry Tickets
All relevant taxes
Guaranteed departure and tour price from the moment you make your deposit
Loads of laughs

Optional Extras: Prices are correct at time of publication of Itinerary

Black Cab tour of Belfast City	GB £10
Titanic Experience visitor centre	GB £18.00 - £14.50 seniors
Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge – Summer only	GB £7
Bushmills Whiskey distillery	GB £7
Dunluce Castle	GB £3
Walking tour of Derry	GB £4
Dingle Distillery	€15pp or €13 group rate
Boat trip to see Fungi the Dolphin	Adult € 16 Child (under 12) € 8
Dingle Brewing Company	€7
Sliabh Liag Cliffs by boat	€20

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Horse Riding in Sligo	€28
Hot Seaweed Bath	€25
Surfing	€30
Surfing in Inch Strand	€35
Horse riding on Ventry Beach	€35
Kayaking in Dingle Bay	€45
Guided cycling tour of Killarney National Park	€30
Skellig Island Boat Trip	€100
Skellig Island Cruise	€35 (€40 in July and August)
Skellig Experience Centre	€4
Naomh Óg rowing	€25

Booking Information:

OVER THE PHONE:

From Ireland	+35315634358
From the USA (Toll Free)	833 230 0288
From Canada (Toll Free)	833 681 6903
From Australia (Toll Free)	1800 985 642

BY EMAIL:

CONTACT GILLIAN	GILLIAN@VAGABOND.IE
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ONLINE:

BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE	WWW.VAGABONDTOURSOFIRELAND.COM
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12 DAY GREAT IRISH ADVENTURE

SAMPLE ITINERARY CLOCKWISE

IMPORTANT: Please note that this itinerary is a framework for the tour. The overnights are pretty much set in stone and then we base each tour on the items in the list below. Your guide will discuss the options with you throughout the tour and plan from there. This gives us flexibility to adapt each tour to suit you and fit in with the weather conditions. This of course means that some things may not be included in your tour, but if there is something that you particularly want to do or see on your tour, mention it to your guide and he or she will see if it can be included. Please also note that this tour runs in both directions. Both are the same but if you have other travel plans or you plan to meet up with anyone along the way, please do check with Vagabond at the time of booking.

HIGHLIGHTS:

REVEL AT SOME OF EUROPE'S VERY BEST SCENERY:

- Ireland's highest mountain range "The Macgillycuddy Reeks"
- The Green fields and stone walls of Dingle
- Connemara mountains, lakes, beaches and rivers
- Ireland's wild and rugged Atlantic coastline
- Walk in the Mourne Mountains (Slieve Gullion)
- The Burren Limestone Plateau
- The Cahal Mountains of the Beara Peninsula
- The green inland scenery of areas such as the Golden Vale in Tipperary
- The Glens of Antrim
- The Wild Moorlands and Mountains of County Mayo

ENJOY SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST POPULAR AND WORTHWHILE TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

- Blarney Castle and gardens
- Killarney National Park
- The Cliffs of Moher
- The Giant's Causeway

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- The majestic Iveragh peninsula (better known as the Ring of Kerry)
- The rugged Beara Peninsula (also known as the 'undiscovered peninsula')
- The rolling hills of the Dingle Peninsula

ENJOY SOME FANTASTIC ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- Walking and hiking through some of Ireland's best scenery
- Horse-riding on the Dingle Peninsula

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- Sea-kayaking in Dingle Bay
- Try your hand at surfing an Atlantic Wave
- Learn the ancient arts of Gaelic football or hurling

WONDER AT SOME OF IRELAND'S HISTORICAL TREASURES:

- Clamber over the cliff-top ruins of Dunluce Castle
- Climb Knocknaree Mountain to Queen Maeve's tomb
- Visit The Rock of Cashel
- Optional cruise around the Skellig Islands.
- Ancient Neolithic Stone circles, Celtic ring forts, Castles, Monastic sites and burial tombs
- Take a Black cab tour of the fascinating Belfast city or visit the new Titanic Experience
- A walking tour of Londonderry/Derry city
- The lunar limestone landscape of the Burren, County Clare

SOME FUN LITTLE SIDE TRIPS:

- Relax in a hot, rejuvenating Seaweed bath
- Visit a working sheep farm for a sheep herding and shearing demonstration
- Take a boat trip to spot Dingle's most friendly occupant - Fungi the Dolphin

AND AT NIGHT:

- Live music and excellent food in some of Ireland's best pubs and restaurants.
- Overnight in quality, locally owned guesthouse and small hotel accommodation in small, friendly local communities.

DAY 1

Dublin to Gougane Barra

We're off and we're going southwest! Today we will drive across Ireland passing through the Curragh racecourse stopping to kiss the world famous Blarney Stone and The Rock of Cashel.

Meet at reception of the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin 4 at 08.20am.

1. Pass through the Curragh Racecourse – Braveheart film set
2. Visit the magnificent Rock of Cashel
3. Pass through Cork, Ireland's second city
4. Kiss the World Famous Blarney Stone
5. Follow the Lee Valley to the source of the River Lee
6. Walk in the forest park or along the Beara Way in Gougane Barra

Walk Duration: up to 90 minutes

Terrain: Path uphill from valley floor. Return same way. Views of lake, valley and hotel

(Average driving time 3 hours 45 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the stunning Gougane Barra Hotel or the Castle Hotel, Macroom

DAY 2

Gougane Barra To Kenmare

An action packed day as we journey down to the Atlantic coastline before heading out onto the undiscovered' Beara Peninsula, an amazing coastline, wild, rugged and extremely scenic. While we are there we have the option of some great walks, castles and lunch in one of Ireland's most famous pubs, before heading for Kenmare for some dinner and excellent music.

1. Meet the Atlantic Coastline at Bantry Bay
2. Seal Spotting in Glengarriff, enjoy a 15 minute walk along the shoreline
3. Head out onto Beara Peninsula, the undiscovered Peninsula
4. Hike the Bullig Bay Coastal walk past the castles at Dunboy

Walk Duration: 90 minutes

Terrain: Path and paved road. Some uphill. Great coastal scenery

5. Great views of the Caha Mountains and Sheep's Head Peninsula
6. Lunch at MacCarthy's Bar in Castletownbere
7. Vagabond style shortcut via old copper mines and over Mountain pass
8. Explore Beara's stunning coastline, with views across to Iveragh Peninsula
9. Visit the ancient Uragh Stone circle.

(Average driving time 2 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the Coachman's Townhouse Hotel,

DAY 3

Kenmare to Portmagee

After a relaxing start in Kenmare, one of the most picturesque towns in Ireland, we are off to join the world famous 'Ring of Kerry'! Today's highlights include walking on a beautiful Irish beach, visiting a working sheep farm and exploring a Celtic ring fort. Following this we will spend the night right out on the Ring of Kerry in one of our favourite locations, the remote fishing village of Portmagee.

1. Depart Kenmare after a free morning in the town
2. Walk the 'Old Kenmare Road' through the ancient oak forest of the Killarney National Park.
Walk Duration: Up to 60 minutes
Terrain: Path, uneven in places. Uphill to start, return same way.
3. Join Ring of Kerry scenic route on the Iveragh Peninsula
4. Visit the family run Kissane sheep farm and witness first hand sheep shearing & sheep dog handling. It's also a great opportunity to learn about farming life in Ireland (included in price)
5. Guided Cycling Tour of the Killarney National Park (€30)
Duration: Up to 120 minutes
Terrain: Path and paved road, mainly even but a level of fitness is advised

Non cycling options:

- Walk with your guide above Torc Waterfall
 - Explore the magnificent ruins of Muckross Abbey
 - Visit Muckross House (entrance fee €7) and gardens and grounds (free) .
 - Free time in Killarney town
6. Visit one of the many celtic ring forts found on the Iveragh Peninsula, including: Staigue Fort or Loher Fort
 7. Detour down to Derrynane Beach for a game of Gaelic Football or Hurling. Tide permitting you can walk across to the ruined church and graveyard on 'Abbey Island'

(Average driving time 2 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the picturesque fishing village of Portmagee

DAY 4

Portmagee to Dingle

It's the Dingle Bay day, as we follow the northern half of the Ring of Kerry around the Iveragh Peninsula and then join up with the Dingle Peninsula. Not forgetting the option of a cruise around the incredible Skellig Islands, which are truly breathtaking though not for the faint hearted!

For more details on these amazing islands, you can look here: <http://www.skelligsrock.com/> Skellig Cruise – Please note that the cruise around the Skellig Islands is very weather dependent and also seasonal (open between mid-May and September) so we have outlined below a daily itinerary for days when we can or can't cruise around the islands.

Cruise Option:

The cruise costs €35 (€40 in July and August) and takes about 3 hours.

You depart Portmagee at 10.30am and cruise out to and around Little Skellig and Skellig Michael with views up to the ancient monastery. A commentary of the islands, their amazing birdlife and fascinating history is given during the cruise before returning at approx. 1pm.

Non Cruise Option:

- Visit the Skellig Chocolate Factory for a free tasting!
- Walk to Bray Head on Valentia Island
Duration: 60 minutes
Terrain:
- Visit the Skellig Experience Centre for a taste of life out on the Skellig Islands (entrance fee €4)
- Option to take a fantastically relaxing hot seaweed bath, with mysterious healing properties in Enniscrone (Price €25pp).

For Both Options:

1. Off-road adventure to the top of a mountain overlooking Dingle Bay
2. Pass through Killorglin (home of the Goat Fair) and Castlemaine (home of the Wild Colonial Boy)
3. Drive along Inch Strand – one of Ireland's most impressive beaches
4. Walk to waterfalls above Lough Annascaul
Duration: 60 - 90 minutes
Terrain: Path, broken in places. Boots advised.
5. Lunch or a drink in Tom Crean's 'South Pole Inn'

(Average driving time: 2 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION: Overnight in the scenic seaside village of Enniscrone in Sligo Dingle Town – a town of 2500 people and 54 pubs

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DAY 5

Dingle Day

A great day spent enjoying Dingle town and the Peninsula. You can do as much or little as you like on day eight as we spend two nights here in the town. At some stage while we are in Dingle we normally take the group out on a tour of the Peninsula to the most westerly point in Ireland that you can drive to and a selection of the stops we see along the way are below. Plus, we can also organise other options for you if you would like something more active, or relaxing.

The Dingle Peninsula Tour out to Sleah Head:

Head out along the Sleah Head Drive past Ventry beach Stop at ancient Beehive Huts – once the dwellings of 5th Century Monks. Enjoy a scenic stop at Europe's most westerly point with views over the Blasket Islands. Walk down to Coumeenoole Beach (Film set of Ryan's Daughter). Photo stop at Smerwick Head – views back up the Dingle Peninsula and of Mount Brandon. Visit Louis Mulcahy Pottery or a local crystal cutter and see some of Ireland's most skilled craftsmen at work.

Dingle Activity Options:

1. Go horse riding on Ventry Strand (Price: €35pp)
2. Rent Bikes and explore the area (Price: €15pp)
3. Boat trip to see Fungie the Dolphin (Price: €16pp)
1. Dingle Brewing Company – visit one of Ireland's leading craft breweries (Price: €7 including a pint of beer), or, Dingle Distillery (€15pp). Both options do, of course, include mandatory tasting! (15/20 minute walk)
4. Surf an Atlantic Wave on Inch Strand or in Castlegregory (Price: €35pp)
5. Kayaking in Dingle Bay – maybe even with Fungie the Dolphin (price €45pp for 3 hours' session)
6. Golf – Play a round on The Dingle Golf Links (fees would apply and there may be a transfer fee one way by taxi if the guide and vehicle are busy with other group members)

Chill out in Dingle:

1. Go for a walk along the Dingle Way from the centre of Dingle town up into the hills
2. Wander the picturesque town of Dingle, with its brightly coloured street, numerous shops, excellent galleries, numerous local craftspeople, restaurants and of course pubs
3. Dingle Distillery – visit one of Ireland's leading craft distilleries (Price: €15 including a 'good' sampling)

(Average driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Dingle Town – a town of 2500 people and 54 pubs

Vagabond Tours of Ireland – Unit 52 Newtown Business & Enterprise Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. WEB: www.vagabondtoursofireland.com

DAY 6

Dingle to Clare

On day six we leave Dingle and the mountains of the southwest behind and start travelling north. We pass through the agricultural region of north County Kerry before crossing the River Shannon into County Clare. Clare is an area known for its music, magic and folklore, not to mention the almost unique Burren Landscape and the Cliffs of Moher.

1. Drive to the top of the Conor Pass, Ireland's highest road or walk above Lough Annascaul
2. Watersport options in Castlegregory – Surfing, windsurfing, kayak rental or a fantastic walk along the beach (Surfing Lesson: €30 for two hours including tuition and equipment)
3. Possible lunch stop in Tralee, home of the Rose of Tralee beauty pageant, or in the pretty town of Listowel, including a free tour of Listowel Castle
4. Take the Ferry across the River Shannon into County Clare
5. Visit the stunning Cliffs of Moher – Breathtaking 700 ft sea cliffs

Duration:

Terrain:

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Spanish Point House

DAY 7

Clare to Clifden

A very flexible day on tour started with a drive around Galway Bay. Later we venture into Galway City and south through County Clare to arrive in Clifden.

1. Drive through the Burren Region, and its Limestone Lunar landscape
2. Visit Poul nabrone Dolmen, an ancient Megalithic tomb and one of Ireland's greatest treasures.
3. Quick stop at Kinvara village with Dunguaire Castle – ancient seat of the High Kings of Munster and Hookers – Local sailing boat of the area.
4. Visit Poul nabrone Dolmen, an ancient Megalithic tomb and one of Ireland's greatest treasures.
5. Visit the vibrant Galway city for lunch and soak up the atmosphere.

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight The Abbeyglenn Castle Hotel, Connemara

DAY 8

Clifden to Enniscrone

Today we visit one of Ireland's national museums, one of the world's holiest mountains and Ireland's only fjord.

1. Depart Clifden after your Irish breakfast
2. First stop at Kylemore Abbey – one of Ireland's most beautiful buildings
3. Killary Harbour – drive along the shore of Ireland's only fjord.
4. Leenane – Quick pints in 'The Field Pub', named after the movie which was filmed here, at the head of Killary Harbour.
5. Heading north into the Connemara region, famous for its wild and rugged landscape and stunning scenery.
6. Picnic on the slopes and look down upon the panorama of Clew Bay
7. Croagh Patrick – St Patrick's Reek – from where the snakes were banished. Take a stroll up this epic pilgrimage mountain. Lose a sin with every step
Duration:
Terrain
8. Visit the excellent Museum of Country Life in Castlebar (free entry)
9. Option to take a fantastically relaxing hot seaweed bath, with mysterious healing properties in Enniscrone (Price €25pp).

(Average driving time: 2 hours 45 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the scenic Waterfront house, guest house, Enniscrone in Sligo

DAY 9

Enniscrone to Ardara

Some highlights from today include visiting Ireland's Highest sea cliffs, a traditional weaver and horse-riding on the beach. A fantastic day packed with activity and ending in the beautiful town of Ardara.

1. Surfing option in Enniscrone (€30 for 2 hours) or walk along the beach
2. Walk to Queen Maeve's tomb atop Knocknaree with amazing views of the Sligo coastline (depending on time)
Duration:
Terrain:
3. Visit the grave of WB Yeats in Drumcliffe
4. Go horse-riding along a stunning beach in Sligo (€25 for an hour) or go for a walk on the beach
5. Head into Donegal town to visit Donegal Castle or explore the town
6. Drive through west Donegal to Slieve league - the highest sea cliffs in Europe. Options are:
Walk to the 2000 ft Slieve League sea cliffs with your guide.
Duration:
Terrain:
7. Or take a boat trip around the base of the cliffs (€20 per person, summer only)
8. Go for a walk and explore the caves on the amazingly remote Mahares Beach Head North over the scenic Granny pass

(Average driving time: 3 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in the award winning Nesbitt Arms Hotel in the cultural village of Ardara

DAY 10

Ardara to Derry

1. Visit a traditional weaver to see how handmade Donegal tweed is still made
2. Walk through the Glenveagh National Park area
Duration: 90 minutes
Terrain: Path uphill at start then downhill and flat.
3. Stop at the ancient stone fort of Grianan of Aileach
4. Cross the border into Northern Ireland Head into Derry city
5. Optional walking tour of the city including the Bogside area synonymous with the Bloody Sunday massacre (highly recommended - GB£4 per person)
6. Or Free time in Derry City

(Average driving time: 2 hours 30 minutes)

ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight in Beech Hill House Hotel, Derry

DAY 11

Derry to Antrim

Today we continue North around the coastline for a really active day on a section of coastline that the locals will tell you is the most beautiful in Ireland. Highlights include visiting the Giant's Causeway and crossing the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge.

1. Visit the ancient McDonald Stronghold of Dunluce Castle (Entrance fee: GB£3.00) or simply take photos from outside
2. Optional visit to Bushmills Whiskey distillery - the oldest whiskey distillery in the world (entrance fee: GB£7pp)
3. Explore the village of Bushmills
4. Experience the natural phenomenon of the Giant's causeway
5. Walk a section of the Famous Antrim Coastline
Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
Terrain: Path along cliff top
6. Lunch or coffee stop in Ballintoy - one of the 'Game of Thrones' filming locations
7. Test your head for heights at the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge (Price £5.90 pp, weather dependent)

(Average driving time: 2 hours 45 minutes)

Overnight in the Londonderry Arms Hotel in County Antrim

DAY 12

Antrim to Dublin

Sadly, it's time to go home. After seeing more of Ireland than most Irish people will ever do, there are still a few 'must-dos' on the way home.

1. Follow the coast road down to Belfast and around the base of the Glens of Antrim – you might well see Scotland on a clear day.
2. Drive into Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland for lunch
 - Optional Black Cab tour of the city. This tour is very highly recommended as it gives visitors an incredibly close hand experience of the city and its turbulent past. (Cost: GB£10 per person)
 - Take an optional trip to the newly opened £100 million Titanic Experience visitor centre – GB£18 per person
3. Cross over the border and walk to the summit of Slieve Gullion Mountain for great views over South Armagh. Explore the highest burial cairn in Ireland
 - Duration: 90 minutes
 - Terrain: Path uphill to summit. Return same way. Views for miles to sea.

(Average driving time: 4 hours 30 minutes)

Arrive back in Dublin at about 6pm. Drop off at the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin 4.

Tour Price: €2,769

Single Supplement: €465

What's included:

Off the beaten track adventure in a Vagabond 4X4 tour vehicle
Services of highly trained professional Vagabond tour guide
12 full days on tour
11 nights' accommodation
11 Full Irish breakfasts
Most daily activities and visits
Entrance fees to Blarney Castle, the Rock of Cashel, A Working Sheep Farm and the Giant's Causeway
Shannon ferry tickets
All relevant taxes
Guaranteed departure and tour price from the moment you make your deposit
Loads of laughs

Optional Extras: Prices are correct at time of publication of Itinerary

Black Cab tour of Belfast City	GB £10
Titanic Experience visitor centre	GB £18.00 - £14.50 seniors
Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge – Summer only	GB £7
Bushmills Whiskey Distillery	GB £7
Dunluce Castle	GB £3
Walking tour of Derry	GB £4
Dingle Distillery	€15pp or €13 group rate
Boat trip to see Fungi the Dolphin	Adult € 16 Child (under 12) € 8
Jaunting Car ride through the National Park	€15
Dingle Brewing Company	€7
Sliabh Liag Cliffs by boat	€20
Horse Riding in Sligo	€25
Hot Seaweed Bath	€25
Surfing in Enniscrone	€30
Surfing in Inch Strand	€35
Horse riding on Ventry Beach	€35
Kayaking in Dingle Bay	€45
Guided cycling tour of Killarney National Park	€30
Skellig Island Boat Trip	€100

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

www.vagabondtoursofireland.com

Skellig Island Cruise	€35 (€40 in July & August)
Skellig Experience Centre	€4
Irish sheep farm	€7

Booking Information:

OVER THE PHONE:

From Ireland	+353 156 34 358
From the USA (Toll Free)	833 230 0288
From the Canada (Toll Free)	833 681 6903
From Australia (Toll Free)	1800 985 642

BY EMAIL:

CONTACT GILLIAN	GILLIAN@VAGABOND.IE
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ONLINE:

BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE	WWW.VAGABONDTOURSOFIRELAND.COM
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