



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 Caha 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
- 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 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



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



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 Poulnabrone 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 Poulnabrone 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 Abbeyglen 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

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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: €2,769pps for 2018.

For 2019 prices, click [here](#).

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
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	€75 + €80 in July & August
Skellig Island Cruise	€35
Skellig Experience Centre	€4
Irish sheep farm	€7