DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY
11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour
Certified B Corporation
WE WANT YOU TO LOVE IRELAND AS MUCH AS WE DO
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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 VagaGuide team.
- **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!

The Secret is in Our Team!

Our amazing team go above and beyond to deliver outstanding travel experiences for every guest.

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Tour Type
DRIFTWOOD - RELAXED PACE

Tour Direction
COUNTER-CLOCKWISE

Tour Vehicle
COMFY MERCEDES TOUR BUS

Pickup / Dropoff Location
GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN
View Location

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

Tour Map

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Head north to Belfast and along the **Causeway Coast** in Northern Ireland. Explore **Donegal** and Mayo in the northwest before staying for 2 nights in Connemara. Leaving **Galway**, discover **Clare** and Kerry. Finally, fall in love with **Cork** in the southwest.

This tour travels in a counter clockwise direction around Ireland

View Tour in Opposite Direction

Highlights

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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- 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 counter-clockwise itinerary, departing Tuesdays. View itineraries for **clockwise Tuesday departures** or **counter-clockwise Monday departures**.

Day 1: Tuesday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Belfast Tour & Castle Hotel Stay

GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM

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!

Cross the border into **Northern Ireland** (remember, UK £ sterling required).

Are you king or queen of the castle? Take a guided tour of **Hillsborough Castle & Gardens** to find out (Fee Included). On some dates, the British Royal Family will be in residence and your tour will visit an alternative attraction.

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

OPTIONAL EXTRAS (Choose A, B or C):

- **A.** Take 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.

Overnight Stay

BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL

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

Average Driving

3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Email John: johnboy@vagabond.ie | Email Danielle: danielle@vagabond.ie
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BOOK TOUR

Day 2: Wednesday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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The Giant's Causeway Coast

BALLYGALLY, ANTRIM to DERRY/LONDONDERRY

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

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

40,000 hexagonal basalt columns make up the **Giant's Causeway** (Fee Included), a **World Heritage Site**.

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

Anyone for a wee dram? Visit **Bushmills**, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world, for a tasting (Optional Extra).

We'll stop at clifftop **Dunluce Castle** (Fee Included) before passing through historic gates to enter the city of **Derry/Londonderry**.

Overnight Stay

BISHOPS GATE HOTEL

Bishop's Gate Hotel is perfectly positioned within the historic city walls at the heart of Derry/Londonderry's Cathedral Quarter.

Average Driving

3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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BOOK TOUR

Day 3: Thursday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Derry/Londonderry, Sligo & Donegal

DERRY/LONDONDERRY to BALLINA, MAYO

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

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

Panoramic 360° vistas await you at the beautifully preserved **Celtic stone ringfort** at **Grianán of Aileach**.

Stop by **Donegal town**, the home of Donegal tweed and various tempting craft shops.

Be sure to recite a few verses from WB Yeats, as you admire the spectacular county the Nobel Prize-winner called home; **Sligo**.

Overnight Stay

MOUNT FALCON ESTATE HOTEL

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

Or...

OCEAN SANDS HOTEL

Expect a warm Irish welcome at the beachside Ocean Sands Hotel in Sligo.

Average Driving

4 HOURS

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 4: Friday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Mayo & Connemara

BALLINA, MAYO to CLIFDEN, GALWAY

Discover Ireland's rich rural heritage at the **Museum of Country Life'**s modern exhibition space and Victorian landscaped gardens.

Pit stop in **Westport**, a charismatic small town on the shores of **Clew Bay**.

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.

Take a deep breath... Next is the **Doolough Valley**, one of Ireland's most scenic driving routes.

Overnight Stay

CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

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

Average Driving

3 HOURS

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BOOK TOUR

Day 5: Saturday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Tour Connemara & Kylemore Abbey

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.

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

Overnight Stay

CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

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

Average Driving

2 HOURS

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 6: Sunday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Castle Tour & The Burren

CLIFDEN, GALWAY to SPANISH POINT, CLARE

Take a guided tour of 16th century **Aughnanure Castle**, ancestral home to the ferocious O'Flaherty clan (Fee Included). On some departures, this activity may occur on Day 3.

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

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

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

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous **Cliffs of Moher** (Fee Included). You'll be dazzled by these majestic 700 ft (215m) high sea cliffs.

Overnight Stay

LAHINCH COAST HOTEL

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

Average Driving

4 HOURS

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BOOK TOUR

Day 7: Monday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Sheep Farm Tour

SPANISH POINT, CLARE to DINGLE, KERRY

Drive along the **Clare** coastline with uninterrupted ocean vistas.

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 'The Kingdom' of Kerry (Fee Included).

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

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!

Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL

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

Average Driving

3 HOURS

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BOOK TOUR

Day 8: Tuesday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Free Time In Dingle

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

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.

Overnight Stay

DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL

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

Average Driving

1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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BOOK TOUR

Day 9: Wednesday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride

DINGLE, KERRY to GLENGARRIFF, CORK

Start the day with a scenic drive along the coast of the **Dingle Peninsula**, with a photo stop and a stroll along the beach at Inch Strand.

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
- A short walk to scenic **Torc Waterfall**
- An ancient yew tree at the heart of ruined Muckross Abbey

One of our favourite pastimes is dancing around **ancient stone circles**. Astrology? Sacrifice? No one truly knows what the circles were for. Let your imagination run wild!

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

Overnight Stay

ECCLES HOTEL

The Eccles Hotel is located on Bantry Bay and boasts over 250 years of history.

Average Driving

3 HOURS

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BOOK TOUR

Day 10: Thursday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

Gardens & Island Boat Trip In Cork

GLENGARRIFF, CORK to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

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).

Visit stately **Bantry House**, a grand Irish home built in the 18th century (Fee Included).

Visit **Carriganass Castle** where you'll learn the story of Donal Cam O'Sullivan who was the last Gaelic chieftain standing in the early 1600s.

Overnight Stay

GOUGANE BARRA HOTEL

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

Or...

MACROOM CASTLE HOTEL

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

Average Driving

1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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BOOK TOUR

Day 11: Friday

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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Blarney Stone & Rock Of Cashel

GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to GRAND CANAL, DUBLIN

Average Driving

5 HOURS

Before we say goodbye — *slán* in Irish — there's still time to take in some of Ireland's highlights.

We'll trace the valley of the **River Lee**, crossing stone bridges and passing through picturesque countryside.

Then it's time to kiss the **Blarney Stone** (Fee Included). Afterwards, explore the extensive grounds and lush, landscaped gardens of **Blarney Castle**.

En route back to Dublin, enjoy 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 conclude our Irish odyssey.

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 travel buddies!

Any Questions?

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Options

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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 **Skellig Islands Landing** 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.

Black Cab Tour** - £20.00
Garnish Island Boat Trip - €19.00
Boat Trip in Dingle Bay - €10.00
Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** - €20.00
Titanic Experience - £24.95
Giant's Causeway Shuttle Bus** - £1/€1.20
Golf in Dingle - Variable

* 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.

** Cash is required for this activity. No card payment available.

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.

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Pricing

11 Day Driftwood Discover Ireland Tour

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 sheepdog demo & Irish sheep farm experience
- Guided tour of Bantry House, Hillsborough Castle and Aughnanure Castle
- 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 to Apr 2025 Departures:
€2,983.50 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €590.00

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

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

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

Call Us...

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