

# 7 DAY DRIFTWOOD TREASURE IRELAND TOUR

## Sample Itinerary - Counter Clockwise

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.

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)

This tour may also [run clockwise](#). Our Sales & Reservation team can advise you further.

## HIGHLIGHTS

REVEL AT SOME OF EUROPE'S VERY BEST SCENERY:

- Elevate your mood along the wild and rugged Atlantic Ocean coastline
- See Ireland's highest mountain range, The Macgillycuddy Reeks
- Be mystified by the savage beauty of Connemara
- Behold the lunar limestone landscape of The Burren
- Feel the magic on the world famous Ring of Kerry

RELISH SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST WORTHWHILE TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

- Stand in awe at the towering Cliffs of Moher
- Kiss the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Discover magnificent Killarney National Park
- Wonder at the iconic Rock of Cashel

VISIT IRELAND'S GREAT HOUSES AND GARDENS

- Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Bantry House and Gardens

- Muckross House Gardens
- Kylemore Abbey and Gardens
- Garnish Island Gardens

#### SOME FUN LITTLE SIDE TRIPS

- Visit a working sheep farm for a sheep herding and shearing demonstration
- Take a boat trip to see Dingle's most friendly resident - Fungie the Dolphin
- Relive Tom Crean's tale of extraordinary endurance at The South Pole Inn
- Meet master weavers, craft brewers and artisans of crystal carving

#### EXPLORE THREE DIVERSE SOUTH WESTERN PENINSULAS:

- Majestic Iveragh - better known as the Ring of Kerry
- Rugged Beara - the 'undiscovered peninsula'
- Knife edge cliffs and patchwork fields of the Dingle Peninsula

#### 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 Neolithic stone circles and Celtic ring forts
- Admire the world's finest medieval Celtic crosses at Monasterboice

#### ...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
- Live like lords and ladies with a stay in a castle-style country home

**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 CONNEMARA

*Buckle up!*

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.

Head west, through counties Meath, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon, Longford and Mayo, crossing the River Shannon into Connacht.

Explore the beautiful ruins and grounds of the 12th Century Augustinian Cong Abbey or Ross Errilly Friary.

Picnic by the shore of the River Corrib or pub lunch in the village of Cong, film set of the John Wayne Classic movie The Quiet Man.

Enter the savage beauty of Connemara, a region famous for its misty mountains, wild moorlands and dark lakes.

On the mountainous shores of Killary fjord you'll experience a hands-on visit to Tom's sheep farm including a sheepdog demonstration.

There's a quick photo stop at Kylemore Abbey – one of Ireland's most scenic historic buildings.

You'll feel like royalty with a sumptuous dinner and atmospheric overnight stay at Abbeyglenn Castle Hotel, deep in Connemara.

The average driving time today is 4 hours 30 minutes

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## DAY 2 – CONNEMARA TO CLARE

*Witness the savage beauty*

Your first option today is to take a guided tour of the storied 16th century Aughnanure castle tower, ancestral home to the ferocious O’Flaherty clan.

Then we aim for ‘the city of the tribes’ - Galway; it’s atmospheric, it’s buzzy and it’s full of tasty food options.

Look out for traditional black-hulled Hooker sailing boats as we traverse Galway Bay.

We’ll have a perfect photo opportunity at coastal Dunguaire Castle, just outside the pretty village of Kinvara.

Next is the bewitching beauty of the Burren region, with its limestone lunar landscape, and uniquely rich flora.

Marvel at the Poul nabrone Dolmen, one of Ireland’s great archaeological treasures. It’s older than the pyramids!

Fan of sunsets? We’ve arranged a spectacular natural light show in the sky above your accommodation tonight; the Wild Atlantic Lodge in beautiful Ballyvaughan.

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes

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## DAY 3 – CLARE TO DINGLE

*Castles, cliffs and kingdoms*

Hold onto your hat! It's the world famous Cliffs of Moher. Stand in awe atop these magnificent 700ft high sea cliffs.

Watch out for dolphins as we take a ferry across the mighty mouth of the Shannon - the longest river in Ireland or Britain.

Your guide will select a lunch stop along the route.

We move onward, to Tralee. The largest town in Kerry is home of the Rose of Tralee festival and a beautiful rose garden.

Refresh yourself with an ice cold pint at the South Pole Inn. Hear the extraordinary tale of endurance suffered by its one time Antarctic explorer landlord, Tom Crean.

Dingle awaits... Revel in a wealth of dinner and entertainment options, with plenty of free time to explore this bustling little town. There's a pub for every 40 residents!

Enjoy traditional Irish warmth and comfort at the centrally located Dingle Benners Hotel tonight and tomorrow.

The average driving time today is 3 hours 30 minutes

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## DAY 4 – DINGLE DAY

*And... Relax...*

This morning is yours to design. Relax and soak up Dingle's charms, with the option for some quality down time.

Or enjoy one or more of the following activities:

- » Taste authentic locally-distilled whiskey and gin on a tour of Dingle Distillery (Tour Option - €15 per person);
- » Meet Fungie the Dolphin, resident in Dingle Bay since 1983, on a boat trip (Tour Option - €15-20 per person);
- » Keen golfers can take advantage of Dingle's excellent links course. This is an all day activity (Tour Option - Ask your guide about cost).

Get ready! You're about to experience some of the most beautiful sights in Ireland. Rugged beauty and knife edge drops are guaranteed on the route around Sleat Head, Europe's westernmost point.

Look out for the Blasket islands, a visit to the Dingle Crystal workshop, the holy Mount Brandon as well as picture perfect patchwork fields and 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 shops.

The average driving time today is 1 hour 30 minutes

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## DAY 5 – DINGLE TO GLENGARRIFF

### *Jaunts and jolly japes*

Enjoy a scenic drive along the southern coast of the Dingle Peninsula, with a photo stop and perhaps a stroll along the beach at Inch Strand.

You'll pay a visit to the stunning Killarney National Park. Take a horse drawn 'jaunting car' around this magnificent parkland (Tour Option - €15 per person).

You can also admire the charming 19th century Muckross House Gardens and visit the nearby 15th century Muckross Abbey.

A short hop on your bus and there's a scenic walk and photo stop at the multi-tiered Torc Waterfall.

After lunch, your Drifter will join the world famous Ring of Kerry scenic route. Prepare to have your socks knocked off! You'll get the chance for at least one mountain top photo stop and even some craft shopping, if time allows.

We'll cross into Cork over the mountainous Cahahane pass and hit vibrant Glengarriff in the early evening.

Your accommodation is at the centrally located Glengarriff Park Hotel tonight.

The average driving time today is 3 hours

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## DAY 6 – GLENGARRIFF TO GOUGANE BARRA/MACROOM

### *A place apart*

This morning we head out onto the Beara. This peninsula is truly off the beaten track. Expect rugged roads, superb scenery and livestock-induced traffic jams a-plenty.

One of our favourite pastimes here in Ireland is dancing around ancient stone circles. Luckily, the Beara peninsula has a plethora to choose from. No one truly knows what the circles were used for. So let your imagination run wild!

We'll gaze out over the cloud-wrapped Cahal mountains with a rugged drive up the Healy Mountain pass, Ireland's bendiest road.

We'll board a boat to Garnish Island and the wonders of its Italian formal gardens (Tour Option - €16 per person). Look out for cheeky seals in and around the harbour area of Glengarriff.

Visit stately Bantry House, one of the few grand Irish homes still in private hands; owned by the same family since the 18th century.

There's one more drive today, a coastal ride that snakes along Bantry Bay before cutting inland.

Random snapshots of beauty appear and disappear - a black stallion behind a stone wall; a mute swan on a misty lake; an elderly farmer outside his brightly painted cottage. We hope you'll understand West Cork's mantra, 'a place apart'.

Accommodation and dinner tonight is at the family-owned Gougane Barra Hotel, or the Castle Hotel in Macroom.

The average driving time today is 3 hours.

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## DAY 7 – GOUGANE BARRA/MACROOM TO DUBLIN

*Time to say slán...*

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

We'll trace the River Lee, passing through scenic countryside filled with charming cottages and typical Irish agriculture.

Then it's time to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Afterwards, explore the extensive grounds and lush, landscaped gardens of Blarney Castle.

We'll grab lunch either close to Blarney or near our next stop, the monastery at the Rock of Cashel.

A self guided walking tour of the epic Rock of Cashel is a fitting way to end our odyssey. This is one of Ireland's most iconic sights; its story combines elements you'll have noticed everywhere on your tour: a deep and complex history; a stunning natural setting; marvelous architecture; and a heartfelt human aspect.

You'll disembark your Drifter back at the Grand Canal Hotel in Dublin between 5-6pm. Bittersweet hugs all round for your new friends.

The average driving time today is 4 hours and 30 minutes.

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TOUR PRICE: EURO €1,789 (PER PERSON SHARING)

Single supplement: EURO €315

### 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
- ✓ 7 full days on tour
- ✓ 6 nights' accommodation
- ✓ 6 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- ✓ Most daily activities and visits (see Tour Options below for extras)
- ✓ Entrance fees to Blarney Castle; Bantry House; the Rock of Cashel; a working sheep farm experience; Aughnanure Castle.
- ✓ 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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## TOUR OPTIONS

Your guide will discuss options with you throughout your tour and plan accordingly.

Details	Cost pp
Dingle Distillery	€15
Boat trip in Dingle	€15-20
Boat trip to Garnish Island	€16
Horse drawn carriage ride in Killarney National Park	€15

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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
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Book Online	<a href="http://vagabondtoursofireland.com">vagabondtoursofireland.com</a>

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