DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

Certified B Corporation

WE WANT YOU TO LOVE IRELAND
AS MUCH AS WE DO

NEED TO PRINT THIS?
CLICK FOR PRINT FRIENDLY VERSION

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.

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms

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
8.20AM SUNDAY

Return Day & Time
5:00-6:00PM SATURDAY

Gentle Pace, Castles, Culture & History

Compare Tour Styles

Our Highly-Rated Ireland Castle Tour

Experience ancient castles, quaint towns, beautiful islands and historic kingdoms on a 7 day tour of western and southern Ireland.

Get ready to fall in love! You'll tour the Ring of Kerry, stay in an Irish castle hotel, cruise around the Skellig Islands and gaze in wonder at the 700ft Cliffs of Moher.

Fully guided by a local Irish culture expert, this 7 day castle tour of Ireland is perfect for kings, queens, jesters or anyone seeking true authenticity in their Ireland vacation.

WHERE YOU SEE 'OPTIONAL EXTRA', ACTIVITIES AND FEES ARE OPTIONAL. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE FINAL PAGE FOR COSTS OF EACH OPTIONAL EXTRA.

Tour Map

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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Head west from **Dublin** to **Galway** and The **Burren**. Head south from **Clare** to Kerry. Take a trip around the **Skellig Islands** and explore the **Ring of Kerry**. Visit **Killarney National Park** before crossing into **Cork**. Stay in **Kinsale** before returning to Dublin.

This tour travels around Ireland in an counter clockwise direction.

Highlights

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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- Get royal treatment as you overnight in an **historic Irish castle hotel**.
- Feel the magic while exploring 'The Kingdom' of **Kerry** and the world famous **Ring of Kerry** touring route
- Cross the moat into **Cahir Castle**, one of Ireland's most awesome medieval fortresses
- Take an **ocean boat trip** around the **Skellig Islands**, one of only three **World Heritage Sites** in Ireland
- Gaze out on an ethereal ocean vista at the **Cliffs of Moher**, a highlight of the **Wild Atlantic Way**
- Visit a working Irish sheep farm for a **guided farm tour** and **sheepdog demo**
- Take a horse-drawn 'jaunting' carriage around beautiful **Killarney National Park**
- Kiss the **Blarney Stone** and wander through the magical **Blarney Castle & Gardens**
- Embark on a **boat tip to Scattery Island** for a guided tour of historic ruins dating back 1600 years.
- Enjoy 2 nights in Ireland's **gourmet paradise**; the quaint maritime town of **Kinsale**

Day 1: Sunday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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Cliffs Of Moher, Galway & The Burren

GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN to SPANISH POINT, CLARE

Meet your VagaGuide and fellow Driftwooders at the Grand Canal Hotel, **Dublin**, at least 15 minutes before your scheduled departure time of 8.20am. Board your Mercedes tour vehicle to begin your journey of discovery!

We're aiming for **Galway** first. 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.

Marvel at the **Poulnabrone Dolmen**, one of Ireland's great archaeological treasures. It's older than the pyramids!

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

THE ARMADA HOTEL

Located right on the Atlantic Ocean in Clare, the Armada is one of our favourite hotel stops.

Average Driving

4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Any Questions?

Email John: johnboy@vagabond.ie | Email Danielle: danielle@vagabond.ie
Call Toll Free: USA - 833 230 0288 | Canada - 833 681 6903 | Australia - 1800 985 642

BOOK TOUR

Day 2: Monday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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Castle Hotel Stay & Boat Trip

SPANISH POINT, CLARE to TRALEE, KERRY

Take a boat trip and guided tour of **Scattery Island** (Optional Extra). Explore a ghostly deserted village, historic church ruins and a stone round tower.

Alternatively, tour **Loop Head**. Tapering to a sharp headland in the Atlantic, this scenic drive features dramatic sea arches and picturesque seaside villages.

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).

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

Overnight Stay

BALLYSEEDE CASTLE HOTEL

The stunning Ballyseede Castle in Kerry is one of the finest 4-star castle hotels in Ireland.

Average Driving

2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 3: Tuesday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Skellig Island Boat Trip

TRALEE, KERRY to KENMARE, KERRY

Today is your chance to experience Ireland's island treasures; the **Skelligs**.

Take a **guided boat trip** around both **Skellig Islands** to experience seabirds and amazing history (Optional Extra). This cruise lasts 2 hour 30 minutes.

This is an ocean crossing. Departures are seasonal (mid-May to mid-September). The 12 person capacity boats are small. The cabin conditions are rough and wet; sea legs are required. Your departure is weather dependent and, as such, occasionally subject to late cancellation.

Landlubbers can still experience the Skelligs. Visit the **Skellig Experience** to learn all about Ireland's unique island treasures (Optional Extra).

Further along the **Ring of Kerry**, visit Derrynane, historic home to Daniel O'Connell (Optional Extra). Ramble to the golden sands of **Derrynane beach**.

Catch authentic traditional Irish music and outstanding local food tonight in lively **Kenmare**.

Overnight Stay

COACHMAN'S TOWNHOUSE

Feel right at home when you stay at this family-run townhouse in Kenmare near the Ring of Kerry.

Average Driving

3 HOURS

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BOOK TOUR

Day 4: Wednesday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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Horse Carriage Ride In National Park

KENMARE, KERRY to GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK

Wander the winding streets of colourful **Kenmare** this morning, with free time to drift between colourful cafés, art galleries and craft shops.

Admire the beautiful **Lakes of Killarney**. Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting grabbed a selfie at Ladies View in 1861.

Take a horse-drawn carriage ride around **Killarney National Park** (Optional Extra).

Your visit to **Killarney National Park** may also include:

- Sightings of rare red deer herds in native oak forest
- 19th century Muckross House and Gardens
- A short walk to scenic Torc Waterfall
- Idyllic lakeside and mountain views

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

3 HOURS

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 5: Thursday

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Historic House Tour & Stone Circle

GOUGANE BARRA or MACROOM, CORK to KINSALE, CORK

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

Learn about West Cork Famine history as well as local wildllife and nature at the **Skibbereen Heritage Centre** (Optional Extra).

Another option is to visit medieval **Timoleague 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!

Seafood fans rejoice! It's back to the coast we go, to explore the picture perfect town of Kinsale.

Choose from a menu of vibrant restaurants, atmospheric pubs and seaside trails in the unofficial **gourmet capital of Ireland**.

Overnight Stay

ACTONS HOTEL KINSALE

Kick off your boots! The living is easy at Actons, located on the water in Kinsale.

Average Driving

1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 6: Friday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

DRIFTWOOD
JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Free Time In Kinsale

KINSALE, CORK

Today is your chance to recharge. Relax with quality downtime. Explore Kinsale's winding streets, shopping and cultural activities.

If heritage buildings and events of the past are your thing, join a **walking history tour** of Kinsale (Optional Extra).

Another option is to take a boat cruise around beautiful **Kinsale Harbour** (Optional Extra).

Soak up local flavour on a **fully guided walking food tour** of **Kinsale** (Optional Extra). Visit four different local restaurants in Kinsale with exclusive tastings. Moderately active. Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes.

Whatever shenanigans you get up to in **Kinsale**, don't miss a traditional music session, performed live in local pubs.

Overnight Stay

ACTONS HOTEL KINSALE

Kick off your boots! The living is easy at Actons, located on the water in Kinsale.

Average Driving

Any Questions?

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BOOK TOUR

Day 7: Saturday

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

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Blarney Stone & Cahir Castle

KINSALE, CORK to GRAND CANAL HOTEL, DUBLIN

Average Driving

4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

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

It's time to — hygienically — kiss the famous **Blarney Stone** to gain the gift o' the gab (Fee Included). Afterwards, explore the lush, landscaped gardens of Blarney Castle (Fee Included).

En route to Dublin, we'll stop for a self-guided tour of monumental **Cahir Castle** (Fee Included). Gaze in awe at the imposing walls, keep and tower of one of Ireland's largest medieval fortresses. It's a fitting way to end our Irish castle 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 friends.

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BOOK TOUR

Options

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms 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. Orange/Red weather advisories (eg Coastal wind warnings, high rainfall, thunderstorms, fog or ice/snow)) issued by the Irish Meteorological Office may lead to cancellations at short notice. We will always attempt to find suitable alternative activities where safe to do so.

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.

Scattery Island Tour - €22.00
Skellig Experience - €5.00
Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** - €20.00
Kinsale Walking History Tour** - €5.00
Skellig Islands Cruise - €50.00
Derrynane House - €5.00
Walking Food Tour of Kinsale - €5
Kinsale Harbour Cruise - €14.00

* 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.

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BOOK TOUR

Pricing

7 Day Driftwood Castles & Kingdoms Tour

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A journey of discovery in a super-comfy, slick Mercedes mini-coach
- The services of a highly-trained and professional VagaGuide tour guide
- 7 full days on tour
- 6 nights' accommodation including one night at Ballyseede Castle Hotel
- 6 delicious and filling hot Irish breakfasts
- Most daily activities and essential attractions
- Entrance into Blarney Castle & Gardens, Bantry House and Cahir Castle
- A guided farm tour and sheepdog demo
- 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

Apr and Oct Departures:
€1,975.50 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €395.00

May to Sep Departures:
€2,195.00 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €410.00

Mar, Apr and Oct 2025 Departures:
€1,975.50 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €395.00

May to Sep 2025 Departures:
€2,195.00 Per Person Sharing
Single Room Supplement: €410.00

Call Us...

FROM USA:
TOLL FREE: 833 230 0288

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TOLL FREE: 833 691 6903

FROM AUSTRALIA:
TOLL FREE: 1800 985 642

WORLD WIDE:
+353 (0)1 56 34 358

Email...

johnboy@vagabond.ie

danielle@vagabond.ie

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Vagabond Tours of Ireland
Unit 52 Newtown Business and Enterprise Park,
Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland
+ 323 (0)1 56 34 358

CONTACT US