

# Treasures of Ireland's West Coast

THE BEST HIKES OF GALWAY, MAYO, AND CONNEMARA



Wilderness Travel





## Treasures of Ireland's West Coast

### TRIP DATES

#### 2024

Apr 27-May 5, 2024

May 25-Jun 2, 2024

Jun 15-23, 2024

Jul 27-Aug 4, 2024

Sep 14-22, 2024

#### 2025

May 18-26, 2025

Jun 14-22, 2025

Jul 19-27, 2025

Aug 30-Sep 7, 2025

Sep 28-Oct 6, 2025

The storied west coast of Ireland is blessed with islands, peninsulas, and the most stunning sea cliffs in Europe. With our legendary Irish Trip Leaders, you'll be immersed in this stronghold of Irish culture as you hike atop the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, through the moonscapes of the Burren, with its Bronze Age burial sites, along pilgrim trails on Ireland's holy mountain, and in wild Connemara and the fascinating Aran Islands. Meet farmers, musicians, and artists, savor sea-to-table cuisine, hear the lilting sound of the fiddle in local pubs, and enjoy a warm welcome at our historic lodges and island guesthouses.

*"Wonderfully planned and executed itinerary. I thoroughly enjoyed each and every minute of this fantastic trip—I didn't want it to end!"*

*— Carrie H., Santa Fe, NM*

# Itinerary

This is our planned itinerary; however, please remember to bring a flexible attitude along with you. It's one of the special features of our trips in Ireland that the Trip Leader can adjust the itinerary accommodate the weather, or take advantage of special opportunities that may arise.

## DAY 1

### GALWAY / CLIFFS OF MOHER / THE BURREN

We'll meet in the lively center of Galway City and head out around Galway Bay to the little village of Ballyvaughan to have lunch at one of our Trip Leaders' favorite tea-rooms. Our first hike is along the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, and we'll be on our own "secret" route, which keeps us well away from the crowds. This moderate hike is a great warm-up—the coastal trail is mostly level with a bit of downhill. The cliffs are massive layers of sheared sedimentary rocks jutting 700 feet straight up out of the ocean, and the hike offers sweeping views over much of the region that we'll be exploring in the days to come. Our overnights tonight and tomorrow are at charming guesthouses run by a wonderful family whose warmth speaks directly to the heart. Our Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant will feature a truly special meal of foods grown in the spectacular coastal region known as the Burren by artisan producers. Overnight at Hazelwood Lodge and/or Hylands Burren Hotel...LD  
Hiking Details: 5 miles, 2.5 hours, 500 feet descent  
Driving Time: 1 hour

Note: If you arrive early in Galway, we can recommend a centrally located hotel for you.

## DAY 2

### THE BURREN

With a picnic lunch en route, we hike the Burren, with its incredible karst landscape. It's a place of stunning natural and cultural history, stitched together over layered limestone hills and hidden glens. Ten thousand years of human history is evident in the antiquities scattered across the Burren, including Bronze Age burial sites, standing stones, Neolithic burial and ritual sites, Celtic Iron Age forts, and sacred sites from the early Christian era—they are everywhere! More than 2,500 historic sites have been found here, including the Poul nabrone Dolmen, a single-chamber portal tomb that dates to Neolithic times. With sea spray in the air and bright wildflowers dotting the coastal grass, we'll enjoy a magical day in this surreal place. After dinner, we'll head out to a special "insider" spot to savor a magical sunset over the Burren. Overnight at Hazelwood Lodge and/or Hylands Burren Hotel...BLD  
Hiking Details: (Option 1) 5-7 miles, 3-5 hours, 500 feet ascent/descent  
(Option 2) 8-10 miles, 4-6 hours, 1,000 feet ascent/descent



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	9 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Galway, Ireland
<b>Depart:</b>	Galway, Ireland
<b>Lodging:</b>	8 nights inns and hotels
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	<b>1 2 ③ 4 5 6</b> A mix of moderate walks and hikes, 3-6 hours a day, van support

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Inspiring Trip Leaders who bring a deep understanding of Ireland's history and culture
- Hikes on Ireland's holy mountain and along the cliff ramparts of charming Clare Island
- Sea-to-table cuisine, with specialties from oysters to fresh wild salmon
- Insider experiences including music nights in pubs and meeting local farmers
- Lodgings of character, including a lakeside manor house in Connemara and a charming guesthouse on Clare Island

# Itinerary (cont'd)

## DAY 3

### COUNTY MAYO / CLEW BAY / CROAGH PATRICK

After a morning walk in the Burren, we head to County Mayo, a rugged land rich in history and folklore. Wild bogs, mountain lakes, island-filled bays, and fertile plains give Mayo its name: Maigh Eo, “the plain of the yews.” We arrive in time for lunch at a local pub at the edge of spectacular Clew Bay, below the striking quartz peak of Croagh Patrick, Ireland’s holiest mountain. The mountain was Christianized by St. Patrick in the 5th century but became a site of pilgrimage thousands of years earlier.



A traverse of what locally referred to as “The Reek” will be one of our two hiking options this afternoon. The first option follows in the footsteps of countless pilgrims who have ascended this sacred peak. If the weather is on our side, we may experience the mountain’s incredible views, which stretch from the inlets and bays of the coast to remote islands once thought to represent the last rocks before the “edge of the world.” Walking in the footsteps of pilgrims who have taken this path for thousands of years is an unforgettable

experience. For an option on more level ground, we offer a delightful hike along the Tochar Phádraig pilgrim trail. Near both hikes is the colorful market town of Westport on the shores of spectacular Clew Bay. Founded in 1780, Westport lies in the shadow of the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick and is full of character, with its cheerful shops, pubs, Georgian architecture, and beautiful tree-lined boulevard along the Carrowbeg River. You’ll enjoy exploring this town, with dinner on your own so you can choose from among the many restaurants (the Trip Leaders will be happy to make recommendations). Traditional music is part of the charm of Westport, and later this evening, we’ll gather for a lively evening with musician and singer friends at a local pub. Overnight at Wyatt Hotel...BLD

Hiking Details: (Option 1) 5-6 miles, 3-4 hours, 2,500 feet ascent/descent  
(Option 2) 4-5 miles hiking, 3 hours, 500 feet ascent/descent

“This trip by far exceeded my expectations. The guides were such an inspiration and really gave me a sense of their history and culture. I came away with a new understanding of Ireland and I am forever grateful to our guides for making this all come together for us. A trip of a lifetime!”

— Sandy M., Prescott, AZ

## DAY 4

### CNOC MHÓR, / CLARE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

A scenic drive along the shores of Clew Bay takes us to a remote quay and a short hop (20 minutes) by ferry brings us across the bay to dreamy Clare Island, where another world awaits. Clare Island’s striking silhouette against the horizon is created by Cnoc Mhór (1,600’), whose sheer cliffs are home to nesting seabirds. The island has a rich cultural heritage and was once the domain of a powerful Gaelic maritime family, the O’Malles (Ó Maille), led by the famous warriorchieftain, Grace, or Gráinne Mhaol (1530-1603). Known as the “Pirate Queen,” she reigned supreme along this wild coast and is renowned for many exploits, including sailing to London to face down Queen Elizabeth I (and prevailing). But the primary reason for our presence on Clare Island is





some of the finest island hiking imaginable, set between the sea and the sky along one of Ireland's finest cliff ramparts (and best-kept secrets!).

We have the option to hike to the summit of Cnoc Mhór before a descent over great folds of land that run to an edge of massive sea cliffs. The ground is soft underfoot here, resonating like a drum under our footsteps, and below us the turquoise waters of the sea swirl about the sea rocks, breaking into ripples of lace-like foam. As we cross the open pastures, we may be joined by a local sheep-farmer and his border collies for a chance to learn about shepherding life on the island (and see these amazing dogs in action). Our extraordinary hike ends at the gorgeous enclave of Clare Island Lighthouse, set on cliffs above the sea. Return to Westport in the late afternoon. Overnight at Wyatt Hotel... BLD

Hiking Details: (Option 1) 8 miles, 2,000 feet ascent/descent

(Option 2) 6-8 miles, 1,000 feet ascent/descent

Driving Time: 40 minutes

## DAY 5

### SILVER STRAND / JOYCE COUNTY / CONNEMARA

This morning's hike will be across some of Ireland's wildest Atlantic strands. A ride from County Mayo brings us through rugged mountains and alongside Ireland's only fjord to a great little lunch spot in Joyce Country, a hilly region traversed by green valleys and lonely roads that takes its name from a Welsh family who settled here in the 13th century. The Joyce clan was large and many families with that name still live here (the most famous Joyce is, of course, the author James Joyce, whose ancestors hailed from this region). Our spectacular hike this afternoon takes us over a saddle in the "MámToirc" (Maumturk) Mountains into the wild region of Connemara.

Entering the glaciated Inagh Valley, with its heather-covered mountains, we hike right to Lough Inagh Lodge, set between the Maumturk mountains and the magnificent ridge of the Beanna Beola—the Twelve Bens. This welcoming country house is set on the shores of Lough Inagh, one of Connemara's spectacular lakes, and was built in the late 19th century as a fishing lodge, which is reflected in its cozy and informal atmosphere. We can take a moment to walk to the lake's shore to see the surrounding peaks in the ever-changing light. Before dinner, sherry by the peat fire in the lodge's sitting room is a great way to relax after our day of hiking. Overnight at Lough Inagh Lodge...BLD

Hiking Details: (Option1) 3-4 hours, 8 miles, 1,000 feet ascent

(Option 2) 4-5 miles hiking, 3 hours, 500 feet ascent/descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

## DAY 6

### KILLARY HARBOUR / THE DIAMOND / TWELVE BENS

We discover the mountains of Connemara on a hike that brings us along Killary Harbour and then to the Diamond, one of the Twelve Bens, a compact range of rocky peaks that, though just over 2,500 feet in elevation, provides



"I have never seen more passion, love for his land and its peoples, and a brilliance for daily planning in such a way that every person's needs and desires are met, than I saw in Con. He made it a joy to get up every morning and hit the trails. He pulls you into the history and love of Ireland with his stories and talks. I've not seen anyone anywhere do it better."

— Davidene H., Oklahoma City, OK







“Con was the most inspiring, organized, and thoroughly capable guides we have ever experienced. To see Ireland with him is to experience the heart and soul of the country. Each day was a wondrous adventure—the hiking sites were all breathtaking and provided just the right challenge. We loved hearing Con’s wonderful stories and history lessons, especially since this was our first trip to Ireland. We are his fans forever!”

— *Kathy F., Moraga, CA*

great hiking, fantastic views, and a sense of adventure. Our hike is coastal hill walking at its finest, with an easy climb providing spectacular views over land and sea. If the weather cooperates, we’ll have a 360-degree view across the places we’ve explored this week, from the Burren to the Cliffs of Moher, Clare Island, Croagh Patrick, and the Aran Islands to Connemara. Return to Lough Inagh Lodge for overnight...BLD

Hiking Details: 4-6 hours, with options ranging from 8-12 miles and up to 1,500 feet of ascent (Killary and Diamond)

Driving Time: 45 minutes

## DAY 7

### INIS MÓR, ARAN ISLANDS / DÚN AONGHUSA

A 10-minute flight or 50-minute private boat charter brings us across the waters of Galway Bay to the limestone archipelago of the Aran Islands, whose unique landscape is an extension of the Burren. Landing on Inis Mór, the largest of the islands, our walk today provides a spectacular introduction to the Arans. We are in the heart of the Gaeltacht here, where Irish is the language of all education and services, and heard as often as English in conversation. Our hike takes us through a labyrinth of stone-walled fields unlike any on earth. You’ll learn how the islanders created the soil for their pastures and crops by mixing the island’s seaweed with sand brought across from Galway Bay. The





mixture was then laid onto the flat limestone karst—it's an incredible story of humans' interaction with a barren landscape; the ingenuity and determination of the islanders to make a home on these windswept islands is extraordinary. Our route leads us to majestic sea cliffs that drop 300 feet straight down to the wild Atlantic below, where Aran Islanders still fish, though rarely now from traditional curraghs (large local boats). We'll follow this edge of land and sea to reach Dún Aonghusa, a magnificent Stone Age fort that has been called the acropolis of the Celtic world. Ramparts of slate and concentric circular walls wrap around the central stone platform at this enigmatic site whose full purposes are still shrouded in mystery. At the end of our day of discovery, we ferry to the mainland and overnight at Lough Inagh Lodge...BLD

Hiking Details: A full day on quiet island roads and trails, with an ascent and descent of 500 feet

Boat/Ferry Time: 50 minutes each way (some departures may use Aer Arann flights; this will depend on local conditions and will be determined during the departure)

## DAY 8

### OMEY ISLAND / ROUNDSTONE BOG / CLIFDEN

On our last full day, we'll venture out to Omeý Island off the western edge of Connemara, a lovely setting only accessible over the white sand "road" at low tide. This evocative little world unto itself holds many of Ireland's stories, from the shell middens that date back a thousand years to the holy well and medieval church that was once buried in sand and was resurrected by locals just a few decades ago. On a magnificent hike over ancient dunes, we'll see haunting relics from Omeý's monastic settlement that have been revealed by recent winter storms. This afternoon we'll cross lake dotted Roundstone Bog, an ecological treasure and the site of two notable moments in the history of communication: Marconi's first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission and the landing site for the first trans-Atlantic flight in 1919 by Britons Alcock and Brown. We'll also have time to explore the capital of Connemara, the colorful market town of Clifden, before our festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight at Lough Inagh Lodge...BLD

Hiking Details: 3-4 hours, with options ranging from 6-8 miles and up to 1,000 feet of ascent

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

## DAY 9

### DEPART

Transfer to the bus or train station in Galway or to the airport in Shannon for your travels homeward...B



*"With enormous confidence, kindness, and quiet strength, Ann Curran weaves a magical experience of her beloved home."*

*—Jane S., Santa Fe, NM*



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$6595 (11-14 members)

\$6895 (4-10 members)

Single supplement: \$815

*2025 Trip Costs: Please call for details*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- All accommodations in fine hotels and country guesthouses
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All ground transportation
- Entrances to museums and sites
- All land transportation and ferries, airport transfers for passengers arriving at designated times
- Round trip flights to the Aran Islands when applicable

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, optional activities, airport transfers for independent arrivals and departures, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)



# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Galway, Ireland

**Suggested Airport:** Dublin (DUB) or Shannon (SNN)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Anytime prior to Day 1

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of The Hardiman in Galway at 12:00 pm on Day 1 for a quick briefing before lunch.

The meeting point for the trip is Galway, Ireland, easily accessed by train or bus from Dublin. The train takes about 2.5 hours and there are several scheduled daily departures. The bus from Shannon takes approximately 1.75 hours. Bus Eireann ([www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)) services both Dublin and Shannon.

We highly recommend a night in Galway before the trip starts. Renowned for its literary scene, lively pub life, and culture, Galway is a fantastic place to rest up from jet lag and begin your exploration of Ireland. The Hardiman is located right in the heart of Galway; it forms the southern flank of Eyre Square, right next to the mainline rail and bus stations.

Please consult Rail Europe at 1-800-438-7245 or [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com) for the most current information on fares and train schedules.

## DEPARTURE

Galway, Ireland

**Suggested Airport:** Dublin (DUB) or Shannon (SNN)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 9, 11:30 am or later for SNN and 1:00 pm or later for DUB

One complimentary transfer will be provided on Day 9 of the trip, leaving at 6:00 am from Lough Inagh Lodge. This transfer will first stop at the Galway Bus Station and

then at Shannon Airport. You can be in Galway in time to catch the 7:15 am bus and to Shannon Airport in time for an 11:30 am flight or later. If you wish to fly out of Dublin, please do not book a flight any time before 1:00 pm, as you will need enough time to transfer by bus or train from Galway to Dublin Airport. Here are some helpful links for your independent travel in Ireland: Train: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie). Bus: [www.citylink.ie](http://www.citylink.ie) or [www.gobus.ie](http://www.gobus.ie)

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Ireland. There are many online consolidator websites for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

## RECOMMENDED HOTELS IN DUBLIN

The 5-star **Shelbourne Hotel** in the city center is perhaps one of Dublin's most famous: [www.shelbournehoteldublin.com](http://www.shelbournehoteldublin.com); the 5-star **Merrion Hotel** is also top class: [www.merrionhotel.com](http://www.merrionhotel.com); the **Pembroke Town House** is a 4-star guesthouse in the heart of Georgian Dublin and a lovely 15-minute stroll down a tree-lined avenue to the heart of Dublin: [www.pembroketownhouse.ie](http://www.pembroketownhouse.ie)

# Accommodations

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## HOTELS IN BALLYVAUGHAN

*Ballyvaughan, Ireland*

*Days 1 to 2 (2 nights)*

In Ballyvaughan, we stay at one of the following properties:



### HAZELWOOD LODGE

With the warmest of Irish welcomes from our hosts, Victor and Geraldine, the Hazelwood Lodge is the perfect spot to call home after a day of hiking. Set just outside the harbor village of Ballyvaughan in the heart of the legendary Burren country, Hazelwood Lodge has just 8 rooms and a wonderful boutique feel. Each room is uniquely decorated with lovely local touches. Set your hiking boots in the “drying room” and enjoy a drink by the crackling fire in the cozy lounge. The lodge has a lovely outdoor garden courtyard, serves a great breakfast, and offers Wi-Fi throughout the building.



### HYLANDS BURREN HOTEL

This lovely hotel is located in the center of Ballyvaughan, a picturesque village surrounded by the mystical Burren district of County Clare. The hotel has 32 guest rooms, each individually decorated, with comfy beds and nice bathrooms. There is a restaurant serving traditional Irish dishes and a bar often frequented by traditional Irish musicians and storytellers—if you’re lucky, you may enjoy some live entertainment while you’re there.





### THE WYATT HOTEL

*Westport, Ireland*

*Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)*

Conveniently situated around the iconic monument of the Octagon in the heart of lively Westport Town, the Wyatt Hotel is a great place to regroup after an invigorating day's hike. Rest easy in the Cobblers Bar or explore the town right out of the hotel's doorstep. Guest rooms feature chic interiors, and there's superb dining here, under the direction of Chef Eoin McDonell.



### LOUGH INAGH LODGE

*Recess, Connemara, Ireland*

*Days 5 to 8 (4 nights)*

This historic estate lies on the shores of Lough Inagh, one of Connemara's most spectacular lakes, surrounded by the majestic Mam Turks and Twelve Bens mountain ranges. There are 13 well-appointed guest rooms and plenty of spots for relaxing, including a sitting room with a traditional peat fire. A beloved fishing lodge, its restaurant honors that tradition with menus based on Connemara seafood as well as Connemara lamb and other local ingredients.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Treasures of Ireland's West Coast* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/western-ireland-galway-hiking-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/western-ireland-galway-hiking-tour/)



## ANN CURRAN

Ann Curran was born and raised in Dingle, County Kerry, and grew up surrounded by traditional Gaelic culture. Born into a family with farming, business, and community connections in this colorful market town, Ann enjoyed successful careers in real estate, banking, and guesthouse management. In 1997, she settled on her favorite career to date, one that allows her to share her place with others. It is a gift she is particularly blessed with, and time shared with Ann and her infectious enthusiasm for hiking and wandering in Ireland is an experience that is sure to warm the heart. Ann is widely traveled throughout the world, but Dingle remains her home, where she's actively engaged in community life, particularly with voluntary environmental and social organizations.



## CON MORIARTY

Con Moriarty grew up in one of the world's very special places, amidst the wild peaks of the McGillicuddy Reeks and Killarney Valley of Ireland's County Kerry. From an early age, Con has been awake to the spirit of this magical place, its shape and nature combining with its Gaelic culture and spiritual history to weave a rich tapestry of influence. Throughout his life, the intriguing story of Ireland and its people has been a passion for Con, and sharing this with travelers is a privilege he is grateful for. Traveling with Con and his friends in Ireland is truly a learning adventure, walking and experiencing the "hidden Ireland." A keen observer of world affairs and an active mountaineer all his life, Con has traveled and climbed throughout the world, extensively in the mountain environments of Scotland, the European Alps, the US, Nepal, Kenya, Irian Jaya, Australia, Patagonia, and New Zealand.



## NAOISE O MUIRCHARTAIGH

Naoise O Muircheartaigh (the Gaelic spelling of Moriarty) was born on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula and into the distinct Gaelic culture of his ancestors. He has been steeped in the culture of Ireland since birth and comes from generations of mountain guides, including his father, Con Moriarty, longtime leader of our Ireland trips. Naoise (pronounced "nee-sha") has been hiking Ireland's mountains and coasts since he could walk, and his pursuits as a rock and ice climber have led him around the world, from New Zealand to North Africa and the US. Currently based in Chamonix, France, he has a deep love of nature and for sharing world's wild landscapes and ancient cultures.



# Trip Details

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 3 (Moderate) according to our trip grading system, depending on the hiking options you choose. You will need to be comfortable hiking 10 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 8 hours a day. You will need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group; however, there are alternative hiking options available most days. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

### Average Hiking Day

- 7 miles
- 5 hours
- 1,000 feet gain/loss

### Challenge Days

- Day 2: 8-10 miles, 4-6 hours, 1,000 feet gain/loss (longer option)
- Day 4: 8 miles, 2,000 feet gain/loss
- Day 6: 8-12 miles, 4-6 hours, 1,500 feet gain/loss

## WEATHER

This trip takes place when Ireland has some of its best weather. Being the Emerald Isle, however, you must be prepared for rain showers at any time. Ireland's weather is dictated by the pressure systems coming in from the Atlantic and is notoriously variable. Gore-Tex outerwear, warm layers, and proper boots are necessary. Overall, Ireland's climate is milder than Britain's, thanks to the Gulf Stream, and a morning of rain can easily be followed by a brilliant blue sky and abundant sunshine.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at [europe@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:europe@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ballyvaughan	46/39	47/39	49/39	53/42	58/47	62/52	64/54	63/54	61/52	56/48	50/43	47/40
Westport	46/39	46/39	49/40	52/42	57/47	61/51	63/54	62/54	60/52	55/48	49/43	46/40
Rainfall - Inches												
Ballyvaughan	5.9	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.4	5.0	4.6	5.7	6.3	6.5
Westport	5.0	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.6	4.1	4.3	3.7	4.8	4.9	5.2

# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



# Travel Notes

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## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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