

WILD ATLANTIC WAY AT LEISURE

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL DAY IN DUBLIN

Upon your arrival in **Dublin**, you will be greeted by a private driver who will take you directly to your accommodation. Immerse yourself in the eclectic mixture of heritage sites, museums and historic pubs. Take a stroll along the cobbled streets of the **Temple Bar** district, grab a pint at the **Guinness Storehouse** for a taste of the world-famous beer or visit the historic Trinity College to see the ancient **Book of Kells**. You could enjoy an afternoon tea sightseeing tour of the city on a vintage bus or stroll along the characterful **O'Connell Street** filled with interesting shops and landmark buildings.

Spend the night in Dublin.

HIGHLIGHTS: Book of Kells and Old Library - Dublin - Guinness Storehouse - Temple Bar District - Trinity College Dublin

DAY

2

DAY 2: THROUGH THE MIDLANDS TO DONEGAL

Today, start your road trip passing through the beautiful midlands of Ireland. Your first stop is **Trim Castle** where you can learn about Irish history at the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. Cross into Northern Ireland to explore the stunning **Crom Estate** sitting along the shores of Lough Erne. It is one of the most beautiful Irish nature conservation areas. Continue to the charming town of Donegal, your first port of call on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Spend the night in the Donegal area.

Driving distance: 244 km / 152 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Crom Estate & Lough Erne - Donegal - Trim Castle

DAY

3

DAY 3: EXPLORE COUNTY DONEGAL

Start the day at **Glenveagh National Park** where you can admire towering mountains, lakes, valleys and woodlands. Drive past the imposing Mount Errigal and over the winding Glengesh Pass to **Glencolumbkille**, one of Ireland's best living-history museums. Then experience breathtaking views at the imposing cliffs of **Slieve League**, which, at 600m, are some of the highest marine cliffs in Europe. Alternatively, you can enjoy a leisurely day in the beautiful town of Donegal.

Spend another night in the Donegal area.

Driving distance: 223 km / 138 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Glencolumbkille village - Glenveagh National Park - Slieve League cliffs

DAY

4

DAY 4: RUGGED COASTLINES & STONE AGE SITES

Head south to County Sligo, driving past the stunning **Ben Bulbin**, perhaps one of Ireland's most recognisable mountains. Visit the small fishing village of Mullaghmore with its lovely sandy beach. Here, you'll find **Mullaghmore Head**, one of the signature discovery points along the Wild Atlantic Way. We also recommend a

visit to the atmospheric **Carrowmore**, Ireland's largest Stone Age cemetery where you can roam around megalithic tombs and stone circles. Continue your drive to **Downpatrick Head** to enjoy a walk along the majestic sea cliffs and take in the vast views of the rugged coastline.

Spend the night in the Westport area.

Driving distance: 241 km / 150 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Benbulbin - Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery - Downpatrick Head - Mullaghmore Head

DAY

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DAY 5: ACHILL ISLAND

Explore the charming town of **Westport**, dotted with delightful shops, cafés and pubs. Tour the Georgian mansion **Westport House** and stroll around the beautiful gardens. You can also choose to visit the remote and beautiful **Achill Island**. Connected to the mainland by a bridge, you can follow the Wild Atlantic Way around the island. Admire the views from the top of Minaun Heights and stop at the beautiful bays of Keel and Keem with their white sandy beaches and clear waters. We also recommend stopping by Slievemore, an abandoned village with the ruins of traditional stone cottages.

Spend another night in the Westport area.

Driving distance: 149 km / 93 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Achill Island - Westport

DAY

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DAY 6: CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK

Visit the striking region of Connemara with its landscapes characterised by rugged mountains, white sand beaches, picturesque lakes and heathlands. Stop by **Killary harbour**, Ireland's only true fjord with a length of 16km (9.9miles). Further along, visit **Kylemore Abbey** with spectacular Gothic architecture and where you can take a stroll in the Victorian Walled Garden.

Stop by the **Connemara National Park** Visitor Centre to follow scenic walking trails. Drive the circular Sky Road near **Clifden** for broad views of the Atlantic and arrive in **Galway**, a lively and colourful city.

Spend the night in the Galway area.

Driving distance: 182 km / 113 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Clifden - Connemara National Park - Galway - Killary Harbour - Kylemore Abbey

DAY

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DAY 7: GALWAY & ARAN ISLANDS

Enjoy the Galway area at your leisure. We highly recommend taking a ferry to the **Aran Islands**. These three windswept islands are one of the few places where the Gaelic language, culture and music still truly thrive. On the island of Inis Mór, opt for a traditional horse & carriage tour, the most popular way to get around. Don't miss the prehistoric fort **Dun Aengus** overlooking the Atlantic. The ideal way to end the day is to visit one of Galway's restaurants, join in with the locals and experience traditional live music.

Spend another night in the Galway area.

Driving distance: 76 km / 47 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Aran Islands - Dun Aengus

DAY

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DAY 8: CLIFFS OF MOHER & LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES

Start the day by visiting **Dunguaire Castle**. Sitting on a rocky outcrop overlooking Galway Bay, it is one of the most photographed castles in Ireland. Further ahead, explore the unique, lunar-like landscape of **The Burren**. Here you can visit the iconic portal tomb **Poulnabrone Dolmen**, one of Ireland's oldest megalithic monuments.

Next stop is the breathtaking **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's top tourist attraction, showcasing some of the country's most iconic coastal scenery. On a sunny day the views are expansive, but even a stormy day can be exhilarating with the powerful Atlantic below.

Spend the night in the Doolin/Lisdoonvarna area.

Driving distance: 115 km / 69 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Cliffs of Moher - Doolin - Kinvara & Dunguaire Castle - Poulnabrone Dolmen - The Burren

DAY 9: MEDIEVAL CASTLES & KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

Start the morning visiting the 15th-century **Bunratty Castle**. Here you'll also find the Bunratty Folk Park, where you can experience what Irish rural life used to be like a century ago. We then recommend stopping at **Adare**, one of Ireland's prettiest villages with its thatched cottages housing craft shops and restaurants. In the afternoon, explore **Killarney National Park** set beneath Ireland's highest mountains. Visit the 19th-century mansion of **Muckross House** set within atmospheric woodlands or take an optional boat trip on the peaceful Lough Leane, departing from the medieval **Ross Castle**.

Spend the night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

Driving distance: 206 km / 128 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Adare - Bunratty Castle - Killarney - Killarney National Park - Muckross House & Abbey - Ross Castle

DAY 10: RING OF KERRY

Take in the magic of the **Ring of Kerry**, a classic "must do" scenic drive of the Irish countryside. Stop at **Kells Bay House**, to see its primeval forest of planted giant ferns. Other highlights include the ancient stone forts of **Caherdaniel** and **Staigue**, and Derrynane Bay with its beautiful white sand. Complete the circle with a visit to the picturesque **Torc Waterfall**. Today, you could also take an optional boat tour from the coast to see the Skellig Islands from up close. These otherworldly islands were recently featured in the *Star Wars* movies.

Spend another night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

Driving distance: 198 km / 123 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Caherdaniel & Staigue Forts - Kells Bay House and Gardens - Ring of Kerry - Skellig islands - Torc Waterfall

DAY 11: DINGLE PENINSULA

Explore the rugged **Dingle Peninsula**, characterised by mountains and stunning coastal scenery. Visit the charming town of **Dingle**, a lively and colourful fishing port. You'll then join **Slea Head Drive**, one of the most spectacular routes in Ireland. Along the way, make stops at Coumeenoole beach, the picturesque Dunquin harbour and the **Blasket Centre**, which tells the story of the Blasket Islanders. Further along, admire the unique **Gallarus Oratory**, an early Christian stone church steeped in mystery. Later, drive over the Conor pass, Ireland's highest road, offering expansive views across the peninsula.

Spend another night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

Driving distance: 187 km / 116 miles

Driving distance: 187 km / 110 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Blasket Centre - Dingle - Dingle Peninsula - Gallarus Oratory - Minard Castle - Sleah Head Drive

DAY

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DAY 12: GARNISH ISLAND & IRELAND'S SOUTH COAST

Travel over the scenic, winding Cahah Pass to the colourful village of **Glengarriff**. We then recommend taking a short boat trip, with the opportunity to spot a seal colony on the way, to **Garnish Island**, featuring a world-renowned garden. Continue your journey across the Mizen Head Peninsula all the way to windswept **Mizen Head**, where you can admire the sea views of Ireland's most southerly point.

Alternatively, travel via **Kinsale**, a popular resort town with its picturesque yachting harbour and historic forts, all the way to **Cork**, a buzzing city with a vibrant cultural scene.

Spend the night in the Cork area.

Driving distance via Mizen Head: 260 km / 162 miles

Driving distance via Kinsale: 209 km / 130 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Bantry House - Cork - Garnish Island - Glengarriff - Kinsale - Mizen Head

DAY

13

DAY 13: ANCIENT CASTLES & THE BLARNEY STONE

Today's journey will take you back to Dublin. We recommend stopping at a few worthwhile sights along the way. Don't miss **Blarney Castle**, a legendary medieval stronghold that houses the Blarney Stone, surrounded by many myths and tales. Later, explore the spectacular **Rock of Cashel**, a historic site containing a fantastic collection of medieval buildings that span over 1000 years of history. Back in Dublin, enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure, perhaps with a fine Irish dinner to top off your amazing journey.

Spend the night in Dublin.

Driving distance: 272 km / 169 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Blarney Castle - Cork - Dublin - Rock of Cashel

DAY

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DAY 14: DEPARTURE

To get to Dublin Airport, you can take a taxi, or we can arrange a convenient private transfer directly from your hotel. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can use the morning to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of the many attractions or simply relax and take in the atmosphere of the city one last time.

Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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