

Cycling Europe

IRELAND: CAUSEWAY BAY CYCLE TOUR

Self-Guided 8 Days/7 Nights 2020

Experience a cycling holiday along Northern Ireland's legendary Causeway Coast. Marvel at the ever-changing coastal views. Immerse yourself in history and folklore at every location. Feel at home in the welcoming towns and villages. Stroll or swim at one of the many sandy beaches. Take a break in Bushmills and sample the whiskey from the world's oldest distillery. If you are a Game of Thrones fan, this cycling holiday will take you to many of its iconic filming locations.



Highlights include:

- Causeway Coast cycling holiday route
- Historic walled Derry City
- The legendary Giant's Causeway
- Stunning Dunluce Castle
- The beauty of the Glens of Antrim
- Rathlin Island
- Bushmills Distillery
- Numerous **Game of Thrones** filming locations

Day 1: Arrive Derry/Londonderry

Arrive in historic Derry/Londonderry, the only city in Ireland with its full medieval walls still intact. This vibrant city is rich in culture and history. Walking the walls takes around one hour. It is a great way to explore both old and recent history, as well as offering great views of the city. Derry has many lively bars and restaurants, making it the perfect location for the first night of your Irish cycling adventure.

Day 2: Derry/Londonderry to Moville. 38 km

Your cycling tour starts by following the pleasant path along the River Foyle, taking you north and out of the city centre. Soon you will be cycling along quiet country roads, leading you across the border into County Donegal, in the Republic of Ireland. Bike through pleasant green pastures with Lough

Foyle on one side and the Inishowen hills on the other. Continue north to the pleasant seaside town of Moville, where you stay for the night.



Day 3: Moville to Portstewart. 43 km

A short cycle in the morning will take you to the ferry terminal in the pretty fishing village of Greencastle. The short ferry crossing brings you to Magilligan Point in Northern Ireland. After biking along the coast you reach Downhill Beach and Demense with the iconic Mussenden Tower.

Game of Thrones fans will easily recognise this place where the Red Priestess proclaimed "*the night is dark*

and full of terrors". Cycle on to the university town of Coleraine at the mouth of the river Bann. A little further along the coast is the pretty seaside town of Portstewart, overlooking yet another magnificent strand.

Day 4: Portstewart to Ballycastle. 43 km

Today your cycling tour brings you to some of the most iconic locations in all of Northern Ireland. You'll pass Dunluce Castle, impossibly perched on a cliff top. Cycle to Bushmills where you can sample a whiskey from the world's oldest distillery. Then it's on to the legendary Giant's Causeway. Further along the coast, an extra cycle will take you to the vertigo-inducing Carrick-a-Reed Rope Bridge. Your destination for the night is the lovely seaside town of Ballycastle, where the views from the harbour will make you want to sit and relax forever.



Day 5: Ballycastle. 0/10/44 km

Choose between resting, visiting Rathlin Island or a loop cycle to the Dark Hedges. Rathlin Island is a magical place. (Ferry tickets not included.) Life moves at a different pace here. Its two lighthouses are well worth a visit. The west lighthouse perched on the cliff edge is also a seabird observation point. If you are a **Game of Thrones** fan you will need no introduction to **The Dark Hedges**. This is one of the most photographed sites in Northern Ireland. A 35 km cycle through the lovely rolling Ulster countryside will bring you to this iconic location.

Day 6: Ballycastle to Cushendall. 30 km

Amazing sea views greet you at every turn as you cycle along the north east corner of Ireland. The rolling road takes you past beautiful Fair Head (a backdrop to many GOT episodes) and Torr Head, and into the pretty town of Cushendun (location of the caves in GOT). You are now in the heart of the Glens of Antrim. Follow the coast south to your destination in Cushendall. This lovely coastal village is located where Glen Ballyeamon reaches the sea.

Day 7: The Glens of Antrim. 25/47km

A day to explore the beautiful Glens. A leisurely 25 km cycle will allow you to explore Glen Ballycomonn and Glenariff, "Queen of the Glens". A longer cycle will take you through the quieter but no less beautiful Glendun and Glenann. Whichever option you choose you can enjoy a great downhill cycle back to the sea, and a final night in Cushendall.



Day 8: Depart.

Following breakfast, easy bus connections will bring you to Belfast, or back to Derry. We highly recommend you extend your stay with some nights in Belfast to visit the Titanic and Ulster (where the Game Of Thrones tapestry is) Museums; take a guided walk in West Belfast to view the murals of the 'Troubles', and take a Game Of Thrones in-depth tour to see film locations not on your bike tour or recap on some you may have passed.

BELFAST package 3 nights/4 days includes:

- 3 nights' accommodation 4* hotel
- Entrance to Titanic Museum
- **CHOICE OF/**
 - West Belfast Walking Tour** – visit Catholic Falls Road and Protestant Shankill Road. Your guide will explain the Troubles and the peace process with stops at famous murals, memorial gardens and peaceline between the two communities (2.5 hrs – operates every Monday at 2 pm, private tours on demand)
 - A History of Terror** (#1 on TripAdvisor) – the tour explains how the Troubles began, tells the stories of the people involved, their place in the attacks and incidents had on the city and its people. It also shows how far the city has come since the ceasefires and Peace Process. (2 - 2.5 hrs – operates every day from Sunday to Friday at 10.30 am and on Saturdays at 2 pm, private tours on demand)
 - **Game Of Thrones tour** – choice of northern route up to the Causeway Coast featuring Castle Black, Will's execution, the steps at Bravos where Arya escapes, Melisandre's cave at Cushendun, The Dark Hedges, Larrybane, Coast of Dorne at Twelve Mile Beach. The Southern route includes Winterfell at Castle Ward which includes nine film locations, Robb Stark's Camp Riverrun at Inch Abbey and the Tollymore Forest where it all began!

Costs to be advised – please request

GRADE: Moderate to energetic – there are plenty of hills on mainly paved quiet roads. Daily distances average 45km

SCHEDULE 2020

Start every Monday 18 May – 14 September (on request Monday 13 July)

COST 2020 (per person in Euros)

Share twin	€950
Single room supplement	€195
High season surcharge (3 June – 26 Aug)	€70

COST INCLUDES:

- 7 nights Bed and Breakfast accommodation in carefully selected hotels, guest houses and B&B's
- Quality, hybrid bicycle (E-bike available for a supplement) (equipped with puncture repair kit, map holder, waterproof front and rear bags 7 L capacity, lock)
- Welcome meeting and bike set-up on first morning
- Daily luggage transfers
- Emergency support
- Comprehensive guide booklet
- All maps and guide notes
- GPS unit with all routes pre-programmed (one per group)

BIKE HIRE:

Hybrid 24 speed	€105
Electric bike	€175

Helmets are provided

WEATHER

The weather in Ireland is changeable. It is not uncommon to get sunny dry weather at any time of the year, although rain is also common. However, you will never encounter either extreme heat or cold, making it very suitable for cycling holidays. The late spring and summer daytime temperature varies from around 15 to 25 Celsius (60 to 75 Fahrenheit). In summer most rain showers do not last very long so light rain gear that you can fold up and use when needed will leave you ready for all eventualities. On rare occasions (if the weather is extremely unfavourable) we will arrange to have you and your bike transported to your next accommodation.

GETTING THERE

This cycling holiday begins in Derry/Londonderry – Northern Ireland's second city. It is easily reached by direct bus from Belfast International and Belfast City Airport. There are also direct bus services from Dublin Airport.

City of Derry Airport

This is a small airport located around 14 km from the city centre. There are direct flights to London, Glasgow and Liverpool

Departure from Cushendall

Regular bus service to Ballymena, then train and bus connections to Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and elsewhere.

BOOK THROUGH

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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