

Cycling Europe

GALWAY BAY, CONNEMARA & MAYO UNSPOILT IRELAND 2020

7 NIGHTS/8 DAYS, 265kms - GUIDED OR SELF GUIDED



Your cycling adventure starts and finishes in the cobbled streets of one of Ireland's loveliest, liveliest cities - Galway. Over 8 days you explore a beautiful, unspoilt area that many refer to as the true emerald of

Ireland. The ancient region of Connemara is perfect cycling country, where the roads go round hills rather than over them! Scenery changes from dramatic mountain ranges and fjords to sweeping open bogland to quaint towns and rocky coastline. A visit to the prehistoric fort of Dun Aengus and overnight stay on the wild Aran Island of Inis Mor is a highlight.

The lilt of the language, the warmth of the hospitality, emerald hues in an emerald isle ... come along for the ride.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 (Saturday on set date/group tour/ any day if self-guided)

GALWAY CITY: GUIDED TOUR: Meet with the guide at 6.30pm in the centre of Galway City. After dinner you will be transferred to the village of Clonbur.



Clonbur lies on the peninsular between Lough Corrib and Lough Mask, on the Galway/Mayo border. Once settled into our accommodation in Clonbur there is a chance to enjoy a drink and some traditional Irish music.

SELF GUIDED TOUR: Make your way to your accommodation in Galway anytime after 2.00pm. You can then explore this bustling medieval city.



DAY 2

GUIDED TOUR: CLONBUR TO WESTPORT 38 miles / 60 kms

From Clonbur head north along quiet back roads through rolling green fields dotted with grazing sheep, before descending down to Lough Mask and a wonderful cycle along the lake. Stop for lunch at a thatched pub overlooking the Lake. In the afternoon is the biggest climb of the week over the Partry Mountains and along a quiet back road with stunning views before coming to Westport.

SELF GUIDED TOUR: MORNING TRANSFER TO CLONBUR THEN CYCLE TO WESTPORT

DAY 3: WESTPORT TO LEENANE 33 miles / 52 kms

Cycle between Croagh Patrick and beautiful Clew Bay with its many small islands, to the village of Louisburgh and a stop for lunch. In the afternoon head south through one of the highlights of the week, the stunning Delphi Valley with its beautiful lakes and the highest mountain in Connemara, Ben Bury. Tonight stay in the small village of Leenane on Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord.



DAY 4: LEENANE TO CLIFDEN 35 miles / 58kms

Today you will ride into the heart of Connemara and the Twelve Bens mountain range. Visit



John D'Arcy.

Kylemore Abbey, a wedding gift from a wealthy Liverpool businessman to his wife in 1868. Then cycle along quiet back roads past small fields and grazing cattle to the seaside village of Cleggan where you stop for lunch. In the afternoon, follow the scenic coast road to Clifden where you can see cars travelling across the beach to Omey Island, only accessible when the tide is out! Clifden is the capital of Connemara this is where you spend the next two nights in a pretty and bustling town of art galleries, cafes, pubs and restaurants established 200 years ago at the whim of

DAY 5: REST DAY IN CLIFDEN

Day free - you can take part in a variety of activities including walking, a game of golf or horse riding. You can also spend the day just relaxing on one of the two beautiful white sandy beaches just outside the village. In the evening there are a number of bars which have traditional music sessions. The town itself is a nice place to spend time visiting the museum, art galleries and book shops and cafes. In the evening there are a number of bars which have traditional music sessions.



DAY 6: CLIFDEN TO ARAN ISLANDS 35 miles / 58 kms

Cycle out of Clifden along beautiful waterside roads crossing extensive wild bogs with freshly cut peat waiting to be harvested against a backdrop of the Twelve



Benns Mountains. This afternoon's ride takes you through Gaelic speaking areas to Rossaveel and the ferry to Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands, where you will stay the night.

DAY 7: ARAN ISLANDS TO GALWAY 22 miles / 35kms

Today is spent touring the unique landscape of the Island with its wealth of ancient stone forts and monastic sights. Late afternoon, return to the mainland and take a bus to Galway city for dinner and a night on the town.

Day 8: Tour arrangements end after breakfast.

TERRAIN

Mostly sealed quiet back roads. On the first day there is a climb otherwise there are very few hills on this route, so you do not need to be super fit. There are also choices to make the route easier or harder. A limited number of Electric Bikes are available – please request when booking.

ACCOMMODATION

On a twin share/double basis in a mix of family run hotels and guest houses which, we hope, fuse the best standard with the warmest welcome. We ensure private facilities almost all of the time however in some of the more remote spots one might occasionally have to share a bathroom. Due to the isolated nature of several of the places we stay in, we cannot guarantee the availability of single room accommodation. For those on their own on a guided tour, we will twin share them with another single person on the tour.

GUARANTEED SET DEPARTURE DATE TOURS

Set departure dates where clients join from all around the world.

On these set dates, we arrange luggage transfers and accommodation and you cycle independently with detailed maps and route descriptions. Once numbers



exceed 8 participants, guests will be accompanied by a guide, who does not cycle with the group but instead drives a backup vehicle and drives the route throughout the day. She/He will sweep during the day to check on cyclists. In the afternoon they will be gone for about two hours to leave the luggage at your accommodation, so may not

be on hand to give you a lift, but there is no rush and you have all day to complete the ride. As soon as the guide has delivered the luggage to your accommodation they will sweep back to do a final check on cyclists. The aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that a support van is nearby just in case you might need it. Most importantly, our guide is there to help in whatever way possible so that all you have to do is leave your worries behind and enjoy the many wonderful experiences that this cycling holiday has to offer.

2020 DATES

Guaranteed set departure date tours – Guide/group leader with support van for more than 8 participants:

16 May; 13 June

4 July; 1 & 15 August

29 August 2019

Self-guided Tours do not have support vehicle or guide - they have a 24 hour service hotline

Start any day from 18 April to 03 October

2020 PRICES

SELF-GUIDED TOUR & SET DEPARTURE DATES

- **€981** per person sharing May, June & September
- **€1013** per person sharing July & August
- **€255** single room supplement (on request)
- **€395** solo tour supplement (for solo travellers on self-guided tour)

(Additional cost of self-guided covers the required individual transfers)

EXPENSES ON TOUR

* Meals - Lunch and 5 dinners are not included. Budget between €15 - €20 for lunch and €20 - €30 for an evening meal.

* There is an optional cruise of Killary Harbour which costs approx. €13 per person

* The entrance to Kylemore Abbey is approx. €7 per person

TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights accommodation with full Irish breakfast
- One dinner (Leenane)
- 24 speed Giant Escape touring bike with mudguards, rear rack and pannier bag, repair kit
- Route maps and detailed cycling notes
- Luggage transfers each day
- 24 hour back up emergency phone numbers on self-guided tours
- Guide in a back up van on guided tours only (over 8 participants)
- Return ferry ticket to the Aran Islands
- Coach transfer from Galway to Clonbur
- Coach transfer from Rossaveel to Galway

EXTRA NIGHTS

Please contact us for the cost of additional nights before or after the tour:

Dublin share twin from Euro 125 per room
 single from Euro 100 (subject to availability)

Outside Dublin Twin room from Euro 95 per room
 Single from Euros 75 (subject to availability)

HELMETS & ELECTRIC BIKES

- Helmets are included on the **guided tour** only - please request when booking.
- On the self-guided tour you will need to supply your own helmet.
- A limited number of rental electric bikes are available - from €100 additional for the week.

24 speed hybrid touring bikes



Getting to Galway:

From Dublin: There are direct trains from Dublin Hueston to Galway (2hrs22), approx. NZ\$102, it is cheaper to buy tickets at station, as it not possible to reserve seats in advance. Timetables on www.railplus.co.nz

Closest international Airport: Shannon

Buses from Shannon Airport & Dublin Airport to Galway <http://www.buseireann.ie/>

Book through:

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