

Self-guided Cycling Tour

Ireland



Connemara, Galway and Mayo

Day 1
Arrival Galway City

Day 2
To Westport 38 km

Day 3
To Leenane 52 km

Day 4
To Clifden 58 km

Day 5
Rest Day Clifden

Day 6
To Aran Islands 35 km

Day 7
To Galway City 35 km

Day 8
End of Services

A lacy net of inlets and islands along the coast, rugged mountains in the interior and swishy bogs in between make up this region. Ireland's largest Gaeltacht stretches along the Connemara coast.

Starting in Galway city, you will find literary and theatrical culture in both of Ireland's languages. Cycle west in between the pilgrimage mountain of Croagh Patrick before heading south via the stunning Delphi Valley to the town of Leenane. Pedal through the open bog land of Connemara to the capital of Connemara, the city of Clifden.

Ferry out to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, where 437 kinds of wildflowers rise from the stony terrain. See the stark limestone landscapes plunging straight into the sea, ancient ruins, and islanders that still maintain their traditional lifestyles.

Tour Details

Daily departures:
April 20 to end of September

Cost: \$1725 per person

Single Room Supplement: Limited

Bike Rental: \$175

Length: 8 days/ 7 nights

Difficulty: Moderate

Starts / Ends: Galway City



Fast Facts

- Seven nights in charming accommodations with full Irish breakfast
- One Evening Meal in Leenane
- Route maps and details, luggage transfers each day
- Ferry ticket to the Aran islands included
- Coach transfer from Galway to Clonbur and from Rosaveel to Galway
- Experience the local culture, and enjoy a craic (a traditional get-together, where the locals sing and dance)
- Stunning mountain and lake views

Day 1 Arrive Galway City

Individual arrival in Galway. Make your way to your accommodation anytime after 2.00pm. You can then take the time explore this bustling medieval city.

Day 2 Galway to Westport 62 kms

After a transfer to Clonbur you head north along the quiet back roads through rolling green fields full of grazing sheep, before descending down to Lough Mask and a wonderful cycle along the shores of the lake. After lunch you have our biggest climb of the week over the Partry Mountains and then cycle along a quiet back road with stunning views of the surrounding landscape all the way to colourful village of Westport.

Day 3 Westport to Leenane 50 kms

Today cycle between Croagh Patrick and the coast into the village of Louisburgh for lunch. Then, we head south through the beautiful Delphi Valley overlooked by Ben Bury, the highest mountain in Connemara to the tranquil village of Leenane. Leenane looks out over Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord.

Day 4 Leenane to Clifden 60 kms

You cycle into the heart of Connemara overlooked by the Twelve Bens mountain range and visit Kylemore Abbey, a wedding gift from a wealthy Liverpool businessman to his wife in 1868. Cycle along quiet backroads past small fields with grazing cattle to the seaside village of Cleggan where you can stop for lunch. In the afternoon follow the scenic coast road to Clifden where you can watch cars travel across the beach to Omev Island only accessible when the tide is out! Clifden, the capital of Connemara, where you spend the next two nights is a pretty and bustling town of art galleries, cafes, pubs and restaurants established 200years ago at the whim of John D'Arcy.

Day 5 Rest Day in Clifden

Enjoy Clifden today, a small town with plenty of alternate activities to partake in. Enjoy the musical pubs and many other things to do and see, or just sit back and relax on one of the sandy beaches for the day.

Day 6 Clifden to Aran Islands 58 kms

Today cycle alongside beautiful waterways and another picturesque bog road with its freshly cut peat waiting to be harvested, both offering wonderful views of the surrounding countryside against a backdrop of the Twelve Bens Mountains. The afternoon cycle takes you through Gaelic speaking areas to the ferry in Rossaveel which will bring you to Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands where you will spend the night.

Day 7 Aran Islands to Galway City 35 kms

The day can then be spent touring the unique landscape of the island with its wealth of ancient stone forts and monastic sights. In the late afternoon return to the mainland and take a bus back to Galway city for a night on the town before going your separate way in the morning.

Day 8 End of tour Tour ends after breakfast.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be around 15 to mid-20 degrees C (60's to 70's F), with moderate rainfall. It often rains in Ireland, making the countryside lush and green. It is usually misty and not torrential downpours, but rain gear is still necessary, both a jacket and a pair of pants.

How many hours of cycling a day?

Be prepared to ride between 4 to 6 hours daily.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, so you will be able to ride to your next village and hotel. There are some hills and some level terrain, but we stay close to the coast line and bogland.

What is the food like?

We have included a full Irish breakfast each day. For lunch, you can stop in a pub and local restaurant for a full meal or mid-day snack. For dinners, your guide-book will suggest a location.

What are the hotels like?

They are chosen for their charm and location. Properties are charming B&Bs and small hotels, well located in the towns. All the rooms have private facilities.

Getting There

- Fly to Dublin or Shannon
- From there, transfer to train or bus station to get to Galway City. Travel time is about 2.5 hours from Dublin and 3-4 hours from Shannon airport.
- www.buseireann.ie
- www.irishrail.ie



Good To Know

If you feel more comfortable with a support van and other people to cycle with, we have some group departures for this trip:

May 18
Jun 1, 22
Jul 6
Aug 3, 17 and 31



How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in the completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is required 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.