

WILD IRELAND

EXPLORING THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



CONNAMARA

SEPTEMBER 19TH - 29TH 2024

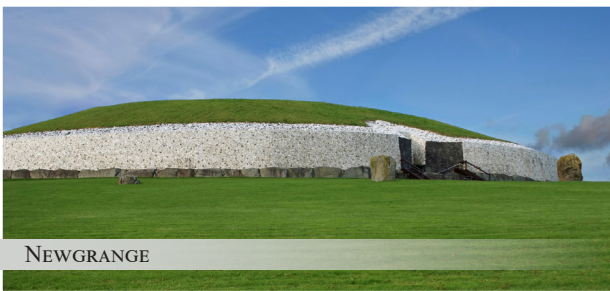
From the enchanting Rose of Tralee to the vibrant streets of Dublin, Ireland unfolds as a nearly mythical realm steeped in lyrical folk songs, romantic poetry, turbulent history, and expansive green fields. Wild Ireland beckons, focusing on the breathtaking beauty of the rugged West Coast, where the Atlantic Ocean crashes against the European continent.

Embark on a captivating journey with Discover Europe, delving into the Wild Atlantic Way, spanning from County Donegal in the north to County Clare in the south. Uncover pre-Celtic hill forts, dramatic seascapes, and magnificent formal gardens, as we unveil the gracious discoveries that define Ireland. Our itinerary is crafted for travelers seeking an authentic exploration beyond the tourist veneer, immersing themselves in the epic history of this compact island.

Our adventure commences in Dublin, a European success story that has emerged more vibrant than ever after recent challenges. Panoramic sightseeing introduces the city, with ample free time to explore museums, stroll through Temple Bar, or embrace the revitalized riverfront.

Heading north, we pause in the Boyne Valley to marvel at the 4,000-year-old tombs of the Newgrange Necropolis. Continuing northwest, our journey leads to a castle hotel just outside Donegal, and we wind our way south through the legendary beauty of Connemara. En route, we pay homage at the grave of W. B. Yeats, nestled in the shadow of Benbulbin Mountain, exploring the poetic landscapes of "Yeats Country." From Galway, a day-trip transports us to the Aran Islands before we turn south to Co. Clare, unveiling the extraordinary flora of The Burren, a geological wonder, and marveling at the dramatic cliffs of Moher.

This fall, join us on an extraordinary adventure to discover the untamed beauty of Wild Ireland.



NEWGRANGE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$ 4790
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 1290

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	9 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 1 afternoon tea, 5 dinners
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
GUIDES:	Discover Europe guide throughout

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - Arrival at Dublin Airport, where you will be met for the transfer to our central Dublin hotel. This afternoon, your tour guide will offer a short orientation tour of the neighborhood before we visit Trinity College to view the magnificent book of Kells. We gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST - We begin our morning with a sightseeing tour of Dublin. We'll visit Christ Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral and drive through Phoenix Park, ending at the newly built EPIC museum. This museum chronicles the story of Irish emigration and is very interactive and engaging. You will have time to view the museum at your own pace with an audio guide. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to do some shopping and search out a suitable pub or restaurant for dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - This morning, after breakfast, we head north towards county Donegal. Our first stop of the day will be the Newgrange Necropolis. The three passage tombs of Dowth, Knowth and Newgrange together form what is probably the most significant and impressive Neolithic site in Europe. We'll visit the Newgrange tomb and have lunch here before we continue our journey to Donegal. Upon arrival at our hotel, we will have time to relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DONEGAL**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - Today we have a full day exploring the rugged coastline of county Donegal. Our first stop of the day will be the Slieve League Cliffs, which are the tallest cliffs in Europe at 1,998 feet. Here you will have a chance, if you're feeling brave, to hike up to the top for an outstanding view over the Atlantic. After a stop for lunch in the heritage center and cafe, we will head north to Glencolumbkille Folk Village to see how they lived in years past. Our last stop of the day is at Donegal castle. After our visit to the Castle, we'll return to the hotel, where you are free for the evening. You may choose to dine at the hotel again or venture into Donegal Town. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DONEGAL**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - Leaving Donegal this morning, we turn south, crossing into Yeats Country in County Mayo. We'll stop for a photo opportunity at Mullaghmore Head and Creevykeel Court Cairn, and pay our respects at the grave of W. B. Yeats in the church at Drumcliff, before continuing on to Sligo, where we'll have time for lunch. From Sligo, we'll head towards our hotel in the town of Westport in county Mayo where you will have time to check in and relax before dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WESTPORT**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - Today we will explore Connemara. After breakfast, our first stop will be at Glen Keen Farm, a working sheep farm in county Mayo. Here we'll learn about farming in Ireland and enjoy a sheep dog demonstration, followed by tea and scones. From here, we travel through the stunning Connemara landscape on our way to visit the Benedictine monastery of Kylemore Abbey. It has a rich history, stunning views, and an impressive Victorian Walled Garden. We'll have a guided tour of the Abbey, and then you will have free time for lunch and to visit the church, walled garden, and the gift shop that is filled with handmade treats made by the nuns that still live in the abbey. After our visit, we will head back to Westport where your afternoon and evening are free. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: WESTPORT**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we will visit the historic Westport House for a guided tour. With history dating back to the 16th century, you will immerse yourself in the time when the Pirate Queen Grace O'Malley ruled the land and seas around the estate. After our guided tour, you will have time to explore the grounds of Westport House and take a walk on the many walking paths around the estate, before we gather again to make our way to our next hotel just outside of Galway. You will have time to check in and relax at the hotel before we head into Galway for a city tour and dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GALWAY**



KYLEMORE ABBEY



CLIFFS OF MOHER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - Today we take an excursion by ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, set in Galway Bay. On arrival we'll enjoy a tour on an island mini-bus, or simply pick up a bicycle at the town pier and explore the island independently (no private cars are allowed on the island). We visit mystical Dun Aengus, a 2000 year-old fort with an imposing position overlooking the Atlantic, and The Aran Island Heritage Centre. The Islands are still largely Gaelic speaking, and maintain many of the traditional Irish Island customs, which reflect the harshness of island life. We return to the mainland late afternoon and return to Galway for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: GALWAY**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - This morning, following the Wild Atlantic Way, we bid farewell to Galway and head south to County Clare to visit the dramatic Cliffs of Moher. We then turn inland into the Burren, one of the most remarkable geological formations in Ireland—a wild, limestone plateau filled with rare flora. We end the day at our hotel in Ennis where we will enjoy a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ENNIS**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - This morning, after breakfast, there will be transfers to nearby Shannon Airport for return flights to the USA. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, T - tea, D - dinner