
EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

The journey of a lifetime awaits along this Northern coastal road on the Wild Atlantic Way. Where the wild fringes of Mayo give way to Galway's feel-good shores, you'll find the Bay Coast. Connecting heart-stopping Galway Bay with Erris' pristine shores is a coastal stretch strewn with rural villages, beaches, coves and islands, and more artists, musicians and storytellers enjoying this fresh air playground than you can shake a stick at. From remote islands and jagged strands to miles of open road, the Surf Coast of Mayo and Sligo is easily one of the Wild Atlantic Way's most picturesque stretches. From Donegal Town to the adventure hub of Erris, its diverse offerings please both the solitude seeker and the thrill lover alike against a backdrop of rich history and mystifying legends. With soaring cliffs, untouched crags and an untamed spirit, Donegal's Northern Headlands are a marvel. The Wild Atlantic Way's most remote region, its terrain is peppered - between Donegal and Malin Head Town - with megalithic sites, glaciated valleys, buzzing Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) communities, and that northern sense of enduring wild wonder.

Arrive and Depart from Dublin Airport

Day 1 - Touring Clonmacnoise & Galway City of Tribes (Dublin to Galway)

Touring Clonmacnoise and Galway City of Tribes (Shop Street, Quay Street and the Spanish Arch).

Day 2 - Touring Aran Islands (Galway to Clifden)

Touring Aran Islands, Screebe, Roundstone, Derrigimlagh Bog & Clifden

Day 3 - Touring Kylemore Abbey, Killary Fjord, Louisburgh & Croagh Patrick (Clifden to Westport)

Touring Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park, Killary Fjord, Leenane, Louisburgh & Croagh Patrick.

Day 4 - Touring Achill Island & Ballycroy National Park (Westport to Mount Falcon)

Touring Achill Island, Ballycroy National Park & Foxford Woolen Mills

Day 5 - Touring Sligo W.B Yeats Country & Donegal (Mount Falcon to Donegal)

Touring Céide Fields, W.B Yeats Grave, Benbulbin, Strandhill & Bundoran

Day 6 - Touring Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park (Donegal to Letterkenny)

Touring Slieve League Cliffs, Kilclooney Dolmen, Donegal Headlands & Glenveagh National Park

Day 7 - Touring Malin Head (Letterkenny to Derry)

Touring Donegal County Museum, Grianán of Aileach, Fort Dunree, Inishowen Peninsula & Malin Head

Day 8 - Touring Walls of Derry & Titanic Experience (Derry to Louth)

Touring Walls of Derry & Titanic Experience

Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation can be mixed and matched between 4 and 5 Star if need be.

4 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Night @ Meyrick Hotel, Galway. Superbly located, overlooking Eyre Square, Hotel Meyrick is elegance itself and combines Victorian grace with the best in Irish hospitality. The Grand Dame of Galway hotels, when staying at the Hotel Meyrick, you are within strolling distance of the best shops in Galway, theatres, bars with traditional Irish music and the many Galway restaurants of the Latin Quarter.

1 x Nights @ Abbeyglen Castle, Clifden, Co. Mayo. The Abbeyglen Castle Hotel is located on the aptly named Sky Road overlooking the quaint alpine like village of Clifden, Connemara. The Abbeyglen Castle Hotel is nestled in the romantic setting of the Twelve Bens with beautiful views overlooking Clifden Bay. The warm and friendly staff are always at hand to make your stay special, guaranteeing you an unforgettable experience.

1 x Night @ Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo. The Westport Plaza Hotel Mayo is a fusion of contemporary chic and classic elegance where you can relax and unwind in ultimate luxury. The perfect 4 star venue for a luxury break. Indulge at the Restaurant Merlot, a delightful mix of European and classical Irish flavours, choose from the exciting table d'hote menu or the sophisticated a la carte menu.

1 x Night @ Mount Falcon Resort, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Famous for luxurious accommodation and award winning food, Mount Falcon Estate offers rest and relaxation in many forms: indulge in the fabulous Spa & leisure centre, learn to fish on the Estate lake, take flight with the Falcons, walk with the Hawks and learn about the nature of the wise Owls, take aim with archery or hit a flying target on the Clay Shooting range.

1 x Nights @ Harveys Point Hotel, Donegal. Harvey's Point is the perfect gateway to adventure and activity breaks in Ireland. Whether you want to linger in our luxury suites, take a meandering walk along the many guided routes beside the hotel, experience a beauty treatment or just simply chill out and are pampered with fine dining and classical music in the mystical surroundings of the Blue stack mountains on the shores of Lough Eske.

1 x Night @ McGettigan's / Station House / Radisson Blu Hotels, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Enjoy your stay at one of these luxurious boutique style hotels that are truly unique for quality, location, service and elegance. All centrally located in Letterkenny makes its many traditional pubs and international cuisine restaurants easily accessible.

1 x Night @ Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry, Co Derry. Beech Hill epitomises Georgian elegance and gracious country living. It is the hotel where your comfort and pleasure always come first and where you are assured of warm and genuine hospitality. In richly wooded countryside just 2-miles from the bustling city of Derry-Londonderry, some of the world's biggest celebrities have stayed at Beech Hill, a hotel known internationally for its tranquillity, style and luxurious trappings.

1 x Night @ Bellingham Castle Hotel, Co. Louth. Bellingham Castle is an elegant and spacious 17th Century Irish castle offering exclusive use located in Ireland's North East and is less than 1 hour from Dublin and Belfast. Located in the heart of the medieval village of Castlebellingham in Co Louth and approached via a private, tree-flanked driveway, Bellingham Castle is the centrepiece of a 17 acre estate set on the banks of the River Glyde.

5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Night @ The Park House Hotel, Galway. The Park House Hotel is recognised for excellence in both food and accommodation, and is acknowledged locally and from an unrivalled online reputation as one of Galway's top hotels. Centrally located close to Eyre Square enjoy all that Galway has on offer.

1 x Nights @ Ballynahinch Castle, Clifden, Co. Mayo. Ballynahinch Castle Hotel is one of Ireland's finest luxury castle hotels. Voted number 1 in Ireland by the readers of Condé Nast magazine. Set in a private 700 acre estate of woodland, rivers and walks in the heart of Connemara Co. Galway. Relax in your beautifully appointed bedroom or suite with wonderful views, wake up to the sound of the river meandering past your window before enjoying breakfast in the elegant restaurant, which was voted the best in Ireland in April 2017 by Georgina Campbell.

1 x Night @ Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo. The Westport Plaza Hotel Mayo is a fusion of contemporary chic and classic elegance where you can relax and unwind in ultimate luxury. The perfect 4 star venue for a luxury break. Indulge at the Restaurant Merlot, a delightful mix of European and classical Irish flavours, choose from the exciting table d'hote menu or the sophisticated a la carte menu.

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1 x Night @ Lough Eske Castle, Donegal. Lough Eske Castle, a five-star castle hotel located on a secluded lakeside estate just outside Donegal Town, has a rich history dating back to the 1400s. Associated with the O'Donnell Clan, the founding fathers of Donegal, the property is based in the northwest region of Ireland. The historic storybook setting of the castle delivers superior hospitality and comfort to guests of every kind.

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TRANSPORT

9 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour & Transfers in Deluxe Mercedes Vehicle with leather trim, wifi and air con. Fuel, Tolls, Ferry crossings and driver/guide expenses all included. Your knowledgeable chauffeur will guide you to the best restaurants and local bars as well as informing you on all the historical facts and fables.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Touring Clonmacnoise & Galway City of Tribes (Dublin to Galway)

Arrive at Dublin Airport on morning flight arrival to be greeted by your chauffeured tour guide at arrivals in the Airport. After a quick freshening up embark on a tour of Clonmacnoise and Galway City of Tribes.

Travel to one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland, **Clonmacnoise** located along the River Shannon near the village of Shannonbridge, Co Offaly. It became a world-renowned centre for learning in the 9th century and was visited by Pope John Paul II. A walk amongst the peaceful stone ruins of this famous place will conjure images of the saints and scholars of Ireland's renowned Golden Age of learning. Founded by St Ciaran in the mid-6th century, it became a great centre of religion and learning, visited by scholars from all over the world. Many historical manuscripts, including the 11th century Annals of Tighernach and the 12th century Book of the Dun Cow, were written here. The beautifully preserved structures of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, Temple Doolin, Temple Hurpan and Temple Melaghlin will impress and leave those who visit Clonmacnoise with an authentic sense of the history of Ireland. Travel onwards to Dublin City.



Travel to Galway City of Tribes for a Tour of the City. Strolling **Shop Street and Quay Street** is part of the Galway experience. Entertaining talented buskers and mimics, shops of all types, restaurants, cafes, pubs and people watching galore. Art and entertainment surround you as you explore these streets. The **Spanish Arch** was built in 1584, and is located on the banks of the river Corrib, and on the site more commonly known as Ceann na Bhalla (The Head of the Wall). It was originally an extension of the famous city walls, designed to protect the quays. In the past, it was known as The Blind Arch. Situated behind the famous **Spanish Arch**, Galway City Museum houses exhibitions which explore aspects of the history and heritage of Galway City.

Ongoing exhibitions included Routes to the Past (Prehistoric Galway); Galway Within the Walls (Medieval Galway); Pádraic Ó Conaire: the Man and the Statue, The Galway Hooker and SeaScience. Among the Museum highlights are the Galway Civic Sword and Great Mace. The Civic Sword dates from the Charter of King James I in 1610, which granted authority for the carrying of such a weapon before the Mayor. The Great Mace, a massive piece of ornamental silverwork crafted in Dublin in 1710, was presented to the town by Edward Eyre, Mayor of Galway, in 1712.

Accommodation: Meyrick Hotel / Park House Hotel, Galway

Day 2 - Touring Aran Islands (Galway to Clifden)

Touring the Bay Coast of the Aran Islands, Screebe, Roundstone, Derrigimlagh Bog & Clifden.

Depart Galway and embark on your Wild Atlantic Way tour of the Bay Coast travelling to the port of Ros a'Mhíllín for boat cruise to the **Aran Islands**. In Galway Bay lie three rocky limestone outcrops that make up the Aran Islands. They are a bastion of traditional language, culture and music, unique in their geology and archaeology and unrivalled in their potent sense of history. Each of the three islands, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr have their own distinct atmosphere and character, but the dramatic landscapes and endless sea form



a backdrop to a labyrinth of meandering stone walls and tiny, tightly packed fields. In between, a network of narrow winding roads and grassy lanes sweep from pristine beaches and craggy shores to the dizzying cliffs that mark the edge of Europe. The islands have lured legions of writers, artists and visitors over the centuries, their enigmatic ancient monuments, early Christian remains, holy wells and historic lighthouses adding to their sense of timelessness and mystery.

After you disembark from your Aran Island tour be whisked away along the winding coastal road with its panoramic views of the Wild Atlantic Ways Bay Coast. This is a salty fresh-air playground, with its dazzling beaches and Blueway trails, and here people come to kayak, kiteboard, paraglide, swim and dive. Connemara means “inlets of the sea” in Irish, and here water and land merge in a lacy shoreline of loughs, coves, islands and sea-swept blanket bogs. Travel through the picturesque seaside towns of **Screebe, Roundstone** and onward toward Connemara’s coarse and captivating **Derrigimlagh Bog** – a mosaic of tiny lakes and peat, where the first transatlantic flight landed. Finish this leg of your tour in Clifden.



Accommodation: Abbeyglén Castle / Ballynahinch Castle, Clifton

Day 3 - Touring Kylemore Abbey, Killary Fjord & Croagh Patrick (Clifden to Westport)

Touring Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park, Killary Fjord, Leenane, Louisburgh & Croagh Patrick.

Depart Clifton and travel to **Kylemore Abbey** and Victorian Walled Garden in the majestic Connemara which



will rank as an unforgettable memory. The dramatic landscape and iconic image of a gothic castle reflected in a Connemara lake has made Kylemore Abbey world-famous and it is now the largest tourist attraction in the west of Ireland. The Benedictine nuns invite visitors to experience the Victorian atmosphere of the Abbey's restored rooms, miniature gothic church, head gardener's house and garden boy's house. Learn of the tales of tragedy and romance, the engineering initiatives, model farms, royal visits and the Abbey's former role as a girls boarding school.

Connemara National Park covers some 2,957 hectares of scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Some of the Park's mountains, namely Benbaun, Bencullagh, Benbrack and Muckanaght, are part of the famous Twelve Bens or Beanna Beola range. A number of walking trails beginning at the Visitor Centre offer walkers a variety of scenic routes and nature trails through the park. Stunning vistas from the 400-metre high Diamond Hill include the distant islands of Inishbofin, Inishturk and Inishshark, and the turreted Kylemore Abbey. The park is also home to Connemara ponies, red deer and an enormous variety of birdlife, including skylarks, stonechats and peregrine falcons. The Visitor Centre features include exhibitions, the 'Man and the landscape' multi-lingual audio visual show and tea room (seasonal). Entrance to the Visitor Centre is free of charge. A summer programme of guided walks and special events for younger visitors are also available at the Visitor Centre.



Travel onwards to the glacial fjord of **Killary** which acts as a natural border between the two bastions of traditional Ireland County Galway and Mayo. It is 16 kilometres long and in the centre over 45 metres deep. It is one of three glacial fjords that exist in Ireland, the others being Lough Swilly and Carlingford Lough. On its northern shore lies the mountain of Mweelrea, Connacht's highest mountain, rising to 814 metres. To the



south rise the Maumturk Mountains and the Twelve Bens. The area contains some of Ireland's most awe-inspiring and dramatic scenery. The picturesque village of **Leenane** (Leenaun on Irish signposts) sits at the mouth of Killary harbour, almost dwarfed by the Connemara Mountains surrounding it. Leenane became famous in 1989 when it starred in the film adaptation of John B Keane's play *The Field*. Gaynor's pub was the spot where much of the action took place.

Travel to **Croagh Patrick** Visitor Centre which is sited in Murrisk, on the Pilgrim's Path, at the base of the 762 metre high Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain. The distinctive cone shaped Croagh Patrick towers majestically above the surrounding countryside and provides magnificent views of Clew Bay, Connemara, Clare Island, Achill Island and south Mayo. A video and photo gallery of Croagh Patrick and its ever changing landscapes can be seen at the visitor centre, which is opposite the National Famine Monument. The Pilgrim's Path is a 7km route winding through this rich archaeological area. It is said that Saint Patrick fasted for 40 days on the mountain's summit in 441 AD. climbing the mountain is a custom which has been faithfully handed down from generation to generation.



Accommodation: Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport

Day 4 - Touring Achill Island & Ballycroy National Park (Westport to Mount Falcon)

Touring Achill Island, Ballycroy National Park & Foxford Woolen Mills

Travel to **Achill Island** which is home to five picture postcard Blue Flag beaches, some of Europe's highest cliffs and large tracts of blanket bog sweeping over the island's two peaks and down to the shore. Achill Island, or as it is known by its Gaelic name Oilean Acaill, has a long history of human settlement with megalithic tombs and promontory forts dating back 5,000 years.



There is also a 15th century fortified tower house, Kildamhnait Castle, the 19th century Acaill Mission and the poignant deserted villages at Slievemore and Ailt. This windswept Island, the largest of Ireland's offshore Islands, has attracted people to its shores for generations and now you can drive across to it. Once on the Island there is spectacular Atlantic Drive which takes one along a 40km drive that includes the best of the Islands scenery.

Ballycroy National Park, is Ireland's sixth National Park and is located on the Western seaboard in northwest Mayo. It comprises of 11,000 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and mountainous terrain, covering a vast



uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness. It is dominated by the Nephin Beg mountain range and the Owenduff bog. This is one of the last intact active blanket bog systems in Ireland and Western Europe. The Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre, located in Ballycroy village between Mulranny and Bangor, houses an interpretative exhibition of the landscape, habitats and species found in the National Park, as well as information on the surrounding area. There is a short nature trail with a viewing point which offers great scenic views of Achill Island to the west, and the Nephin Beg mountain range to the east.

Foxford Woollen Mills Visitor Centre, in County Mayo, is where master craftsman meets modern Irish design. Originally founded by an Irish Sister of Charity in 1892, the fledgling business overcame many challenges down through the years in order to survive. The area around Foxford was considered to be one of the poorest in the west of Ireland in the late nineteenth century. Mother Agnes Morrogh-Bernard felt the best way to combat these poor economic conditions was to establish viable local industries. Foxford was built on the banks of River Moy and this inspired the idea for building a woollen mill. The River Moy provided the power, the sheep farmed locally provided the wool and the locals provided the labour. Today, it is a thriving mill with master craftspeople creating beautiful pieces for sale worldwide. The Visitor Centre tells the story of Mother Agnes Morrogh-Bernard (1842-1932), who founded the Mills and made Foxford synonymous throughout the world with high-quality tweeds, rugs and blankets. Visitors are taken through parts of the working mill as it is run today, where they can watch the tradition, design and craftsmanship entailed in creating each distinctive Foxford product.



Accommodation: Mount Falcon Estate, Mayo

Day 5 - Touring Sligo W.B Yeats Country & Donegal (Mount Falcon to Donegal)

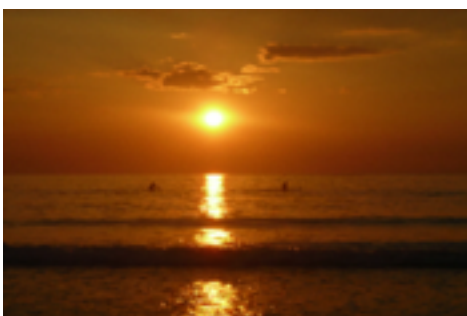
Touring the Surf Coast of Céide Fields, W.B Yeats Grave, Benbulbin, Strandhill & Bundoran

The amazing geology, archaeology, botany and wildlife of this North Mayo region is interpreted at the **Céide Fields** Visitor Centre, with the aid of an audio-visual presentation and exhibitions. The Centre, at Ballycastle, is an unusual part limestone, part peat-clad, pyramid-shaped building, with a glazed lantern apex, and was opened in 1993 by the Office of Public Works. It was joint winner of the inaugural Irish Building of the Year Award, organised by The Sunday Times with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI). Céide Fields contain a 1,500 hectare archaeological site of stone walls, field systems, enclosures and tombs, dating from about 5,000 years ago, which have been preserved beneath the bog. It is the most extensive stone age site in the world. The wild flora of the bog is of international importance and is bounded by some of the most spectacular rock formations and cliffs in Ireland.



Travel to Drumcliffe, County Sligo is set against the striking backdrop of the Benbulbin Mountains and is best known as the final resting place of **W.B. Yeats**. Found in the churchyard, his grave is marked with a simple headstone with the inscription, "cast a cold eye on life, on death, horseman, pass by." This was Yeats' self-penned epitaph together with the instructions that the grave consist of "no marble, no conventional phrase". The graveyard also contains a high cross and nearby is the site of a 6th Century Columbian

monastery. **Benbulbin** is known as County Sligo's 'Table Mountain' and is part of the Dartry Mountains. Benbulbin was formed as a result of the different responses to erosion of the limestone and shale of which the mountain is formed. A hard and resistant limestone forms the upper cliffs and precipices. Benbulbin was formed during the Ice age, when large parts of the Earth were under glaciers. It was originally merely a large ridge, however the moving glaciers cut into the earth, leaving a distinct formation, now called Benbulbin.



Travel into the depths of the Wild Atlantic Ways Surf Coast. **Strandhill Beach** is an area of great natural beauty located 5 miles west of Sligo town with panoramic views of Knocknarea and Benbulbin. Option of hiking Knocknarea Hill along the Queen Maeve Hiking Trail to the summit where lies a mound of stones believed to be a neolithic passage tomb to the final resting place of Queen Maeve. As well as being an extremely popular surfing spot, Strandhill has a number of amazing walks taken from Strandhill

Beach to Culleenamore Strand and also to Killaspubrone. Partake in a surfing lesson or walk one of the scenic routes. For a pure luxury unique experience, pay a visit to Voya Seaweed Baths in Strandhill. Patrons have the luxury of private rooms, each with its own Victorian cast iron bath and steam unit. Imagine relaxing back into a bath full of hot seawater and steamed seaweed. The heat releases all the seaweed's rich, silky, essential oils so the body feels smooth, buoyant and luxurious. Travel onwards to the award winning Blue Flag **Bundoran Beach**, which is located just 250 metres north of Bundoran Town. It is a very popular surfing spot and attracts visitors from near and far.



Accommodation: Harveys Point Hotel / Lough Eske Castle, Donegal

Day 6 - Touring Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park (Donegal to Letterkenny)

Touring Northern Headlands of Slieve League Cliffs, Kilclooney Dolmen, Donegal Northern Headlands & Glenveagh National Park.



Travel to the **Slieve League Cliffs** west of Donegal. Standing at the viewing point on Slieve League, in County Donegal, an amazing sea vista and landscape opens up before you. From here you can see across Donegal Bay to counties Letrim, Sligo and Mayo, out to the Atlantic Ocean and north west to the islands of Rathlin O'Byrne and Glencolmcille and beside you of course, is the magnificent cliffs of Slieve League, rising almost 600 metres out of the Atlantic. The Slieve League Cultural Centre hosts a coffee shop, a craft gallery and a tourist information centre. The area has a vast range of archaeological monuments from Neolithic tombs (c.4000BC), to early Christian monastic sites and Napoleonic watch towers.

Travel onwards to **Kilclooney Dolmen**, a portal-tome or dolmen, prominent on the skyline north-north-west of Ardara. It well displays the classic features from which this type of monument derives its name. The matched portal stones and gracefully up tilted capstone (nearly 6m long and one of the largest in Ireland) that stretch over the chamber entrance convey a sense of architectural awareness on the part of the builders. Its profile has inspired numerous analogies: perhaps a bird, a fish, depending on the observers imagination.



Donegal's Northern Headlands lie untouched and virtually unexplored, this ruggedly beautiful and remote region lies at the far north of the Wild Atlantic Way. Nature is spectacular and bracing here, from the sheer granite walls of some of Europe's highest sea cliffs, to the Northern Lights dancing in clear winter skies, to the millions of seabirds gathering in great estuaries, en route across the globe. There's a strong sense of community in this sparsely populated region; Ireland's wildest shores are home to its largest Gaeltacht – where Irish is still the mother tongue and traditional culture thrives. This is where St Columba set sail for the island of Iona. Out here on Ireland's northernmost headlands, 11 lighthouses shine out across the sea, and journeys – physical and spiritual – begin. The sea air revives, minds and horizons expand, stories are told, adventures are shared, and spirits lift.



Travel onwards to **Glenveagh National Park** which is set in some 16,500 hectares of County Donegal mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a large herd of red deer, Glenveagh Castle is a 19th Century, castellated mansion built between 1867 and 1873. Surrounded by the famous Glenveagh Gardens, its construction in a remote mountain setting was inspired by the Victorian idyll of a romantic highland retreat. John Townsend Trench, a cousin of its builder and first owner, John George Adair, designed it.

Accommodation: McGettigan's / Station House / Radisson Blu Hotels, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Day 7 - Touring Inishowen Peninsula (Letterkenny to Derry)

Touring Donegal County Museum, Grianán of Aileach, Fort Dunree Inishowen Peninsula & Malin Head



Donegal County Museum is based in a fine old stone building, which was once part of the Letterkenny workhouse. The museum houses a fascinating range of artefacts covering all aspects of life in Donegal. The first floor exhibition charts the history of Donegal from the Stone Age to the twentieth century.

Travel to the Stone Fort of **Grianán of Aileach** which sits on a hilltop in Inishowen. 250m above sea level, the stone fort was probably first built on an earthen rath. The view from Aileach is breathtaking. The glistening waters of Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly are clear, as is the form of the entire peninsula. A windy and exposed place, Grianán has been a silent



witness to the history of Ireland. The origins of the Grianán of Aileach fort are dated back to 1700 BC. It is linked to the Tuatha de Danann who invaded Ireland before the Celts and built stone forts on top of strategic hills. They worshipped Dagda (the Good God) and he too is associated with the origins of Aileach. It was he who ordered the building of a stone fort to act as a burial monument to his dead son. The round fort is built largely without mortar. The interior has three terraces and wooden structures were built against the terraces to provide accommodation. The outline of Bronze Age or Iron Age ramparts can be seen below the fort.



Travel onwards to **Fort Dunree** which is a military museum with special emphasis on coastal artillery and the military history of the north west, in Buncrana. Fort Dunree was first opened to the public in 1986 and has attracted tourists from all over the world ever since, using the latest DVD and interactive technology. The unique history of Fort Dunree is fully explained and recreated in vibrant and colourful displays. In its spectacular natural location Fort Dunree is rich in wildlife some of it unique for the area. This is detailed in a beautiful wildlife exhibition, the Wildlife Discovery Room, in the Old Fort Hospital.

Travel up the rugged yet inviting Inishowen Peninsula to Donegal's **Malin Head**, which is steeped in history and offers activities such as walking, fishing, swimming and bird watching. Here, north of Trawbreaga Bay, you can view Five Finger Strand, home to some of Europe's largest sand dunes. At low tide, you can even spot the wreckage of the 'Twilight', which sank in 1889 while sailing to Derry. For more history, follow the coast road. You'll pass the old radio station, built in 1910, and The Tower, a derelict signal station located on Banba's Crown, the most northerly point in Ireland. It's the perfect place to relax with a picnic, as the stunning panorama includes Inistrahull and Tory islands, as well as the Scottish hills on a clear day. Plus, you can work off any extra indulgences with a walk along the cliffs to Hell's Hole, a chasm where the tide rushes in with impressive force. If treasure hunting is more your speed, head east to Ballyhillion beach, which dates back to the ice age and is known for its many semi-precious stones.



Accommodation: Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Derry.

Day 8 - Touring Walls of Derry & Titanic Experience (Derry to Louth)

Touring Walls of Derry & Titanic Experience.



A walk around the **Walls of Derry** reveals a splendid city crammed full of history, heritage, interest and a vibrant cultural scene. This is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of Walled Cities in Europe. The Walls were built during the period 1613-1618 by the honourable, the Irish Society as defences for early seventeenth century settlers from England and Scotland. The Walls, which are approximately 1.5km in circumference, form a walkway around the inner city and provide a unique promenade to view the layout of the original town which still preserves its Renaissance

Style street plan to this day. The four original gates to the Walled City are Bishop's Gate, Ferryquay Gate, Butcher Gate and Shipquay Gate. Three further gates were added - magazine Gate, Castle Gate and New Gate. The city claims Europe's largest collection of cannon whose origins are known precisely. Many of them thundered in anger over the two seventeenth century sieges. In 2005 the surviving 24 cannon were restored back to their former glory. The cannon are displayed throughout the City Walls with the impressive Roaring Meg located on the double bastion.

Titanic Belfast is a 'must see' on any trip to Belfast and has become the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland and one of the top attractions in Ireland. Housed in an iconic, six-floor building, Titanic Belfast is located in the heart of Belfast, right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. The Titanic experience takes you through nine galleries, telling the story of RMS Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. The galleries are innovative and interactive with many features including diving to the depth of the ocean to explore where RMS Titanic now rests. The Titanic story is told at Titanic Belfast in a fresh and insightful way. Visitors can now also experience three new galleries, which capture the excitement of launch day, as well as The Maiden Voyage gallery, which transports visitors from four embarkation ports, Belfast, Southampton, Cherbourg and Queenstown (now known as Cobh) to Titanic's deck promenade. Guests can not only see and hear the ocean and feel the ships engines rumbling on board at the Palm Court Café but can also meet Fredrick Dent Ray, a dining room steward and survivor, utilising technology used in Disneyland's Haunted Mansion and Universal Studios Florida's Hogwarts Express attraction. The Maiden Voyage gallery also includes an original first class luncheon menu dated April 14, 1912, as well as the last letter ever to be written on board the Titanic.



Accommodation: Bellingham Castle Hotel, Co. Louth

Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport

Depart Dublin Airport

Terms & Conditions

Costs may fluctuate upon the time of year and availability cannot be guaranteed on all accommodations.

25% Deposit required to secure the booking of Accommodation and Transport. Non refundable upon payment.

Full payment of tour required 1 month in advance of the tour date. Non refundable upon payment. Please note Accommodation includes Bed & Breakfast only.

All lunch and evening meals are not included, but the finalised itinerary will have suggested local restaurants.

Activity costs are not included unless requested.

It is advised to take out travel insurance to cover every eventuality.

Tips are not included but encouraged.
