

CONNEMARA GUIDED CYCLING

Guided Cycling 2007



For discerning travelers we offer the option of enjoying cycling in fantastic settings, and explore the many attractions in the area with full support of guide and van. We cycle through mountain passes, by mountain lakes and by the shores of Lough Corrib and Lough Mask (Ireland's largest and loveliest lakes), through moors and bogs, by waterfalls and alongside rivers and the rugged Atlantic shore, over the cliffs around Killary Harbour – Ireland's only Fjord, acclaimed for its remote cycling and majestic beauty. At the end of each day, you relax and enjoy the company of your surroundings with your fellow cyclists.

Duration: 7 days (6 nights)

Tour Dates 2007:

April: Sunday

May: Sunday 20th – Saturday 26th

June: Sunday 17th – Saturday 23rd (**FULL**)

Sunday 24th – Saturday 30th

July: Sunday 8th – Saturday 14th, Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th

August: Sunday 19th – Saturday 25th

September: Sunday 2nd – Saturday 8th

Level: Moderate cycling with average distance of 60km a day

Bicycle: Quality 24 speed trek or touring bikes (with toe strap)

CANNONDALE HYBRID €150 extra per bike

TANDEM BIKES €200.00 extra per tandem

Equipment: Helmets, front handlebar bag; pedal toe straps, water bottles.

Accommodation:

CLASSIC OPTION: Hotels, Country Manors, and Spa Resort

CHARMING INNS OPTION: Charming Inns and Guesthouses

Meals: All Irish breakfasts, courtesy fruit & snacks, 5 evening dinners

Transfers: All luggage transfers, support vehicle, pick up in Galway City.

Guide: Experience tour Guide

Miscellaneous: Detailed route notes and maps, daily briefing on tour routes.

Meeting Point: Galway City (at a pre-arranged venue)

Departure Point: You depart from Westport. There is both bus and train services on a daily basis from Westport.



PRICE 2007:

CLASSIC OPTION – €1825.00pps

(Hotels, Country Manors, Spa Resort)

CHARMING INNS OPTION – €1355.00pps

(Charming Inns and Guesthouses)

Prices are in EURO, and based on per person sharing. Per person sharing means two people in one room.

The United States dollar rate is subject to Euro rate of exchange and will vary according to daily rate.

Single Room supplement is applied when people require a room for themselves as part of a booking of two or more. Please ask.

This tour is subject to minimum numbers booking at least 30 days in advance.



DAILY ITINERARY



DAY 1 - Welcome & Arrival

Pick-up from Galway City and transfer to Connemara' introductory dinner and overnight stay at **Ross Lake House Hotel (CLASSIC OPTION & GUESTHOUSE OPTION)**, a wonderful 19th century Georgian Country House set in the magnificent wilderness of Connemara.

DAY 2

Rosscahill to Cashel. (49km -56km) Commencing at the gateway to Connemara, we pedal along tranquil roads towards Rossaveal. Scenery is wild and unspoiled. At Screebe we turn away from the beckoning Twelve Ben Mountains towards the rugged coastline, past mountain lakes to Derryrush. Here the mountain road narrows and a twisting medium gradient climb for a mile and rounds the shoulder of Cnoc Mordain. Overnight stay at **Zetland House (CLASSIC OPTION)**, a manor house hotel in the village of Cashel at the foot of Cashel Hill / **IVY Rock House (GUESTHOUSE OPTION)** on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Roundstone.

DAY 3

Cashel to Clifden. (36km - 64km - alternatives)

Early morning start to Roundstone village, the most picturesque fishing harbour in Connemara. Visit the Roundstone Musical Instrument centre - home of the Bodhran. Stunning beaches at Dog's Bay and Gurteen Bay near Roundstone with rugged coastline and sandy beaches. Picnic lunch en route to Clifden. Choice of routes via the lakes, rivers and forestry surrounding Ballinahinch Castle. Our lodging in Clifden is the historic **Quay House (CLASSIC OPTION & GUESTHOUSE OPTION)**, with its wide vista of the inlet of Ardbear Bay. We will be here for the next two nights.

DAY 4

Clifden to Cleggan & Ferry to InishBofin. (10km to 24km cycle to ferry - optional)

Day trip from Clifden via the coastal village of Cleggan to Inishbofin Island, one of the most beautiful and unspoiled West coast islands. St. Colman settled here in the year 665 because of its tranquility. Traditional farming methods still practiced today resulting in the preservation of many endangered species of animals and birds, including the now rare Corncrake. Hopefully you will be lucky enough to hear one of them. Return to Clifden for overnight stay.

DAY 5

Clifden to Leenane (32km - 50km - alternatives)

The unforgettable Sky Road. This ten mile loop provides unsurpassed cliff views along the coast and coastal islands. Cycle to the Connemara National Park at Letterfrack. Visit the Centre and take a walk in the Park. On to Kylemore Abbey nestled between the cliffs of Doughruagh and Poulacappal Lough, followed by a terrific choice of great biking routes. Bike around Killary Fiord surrounded by Maamturk and Mweelrea mountains. Through the village of Leenane, the setting for the Oscar winning film "The Field" with Richard Harris. Stay at Portfinn Lodge (**GUESTHOUSE OPTION**) in Leenane where you share some local culinary delights with the hosts / Stay the night at the Mountain Lodge and Spa at Delphi (**CLASSIC OPTION**) a wilderness retreat, which is a delight of luxury and pampering.

DAY 6

Delphi to Westport. (45km)

We cycle onward through the Mountain pass between the Mweelrea and Sheeffry mountains via Doo Lough, spectacular in its dark beauty, this route is referred to as the *Famine Trail*, dating back to tragic local events during the Famine years of the 1840's. We reach the village of Louisburgh in time for lunch. This village with beautiful local beaches translates to the delightful name of 'Meadow of the Buttercups'. Continuing from there west along Clew Bay passing Croagh Patrick a pilgrims mountain and on to the lovely town of Westport, a charming 'planned town' with unique blend of old and new. Evening of traditional Irish music where the less fainthearted can join in and sing or dance should you so desire! Final night farewell dinner. Accommodation in Atlantic Coast Hotel (**CLASSIC OPTION**) OR Adare Guesthouse (**GUESTHOUSE OPTION**).

DAY 7 - Farewell and departure.

Departure from Westport. Public bus and train links available in Westport.

We recommend customers to fly in & out of Dublin, as there are more connections to Galway City, and Dublin is more accessible at the end of the tour, by train, from Westport.

We are tour partners with Cycle West for this guided tour. Please be aware that the programme given for this tour is strictly intended as a guide only and may not be fully adhered. Accommodations remain the same, but we do reserve the right to change accommodations (subject to availability) - if changed, the customer will be notified in advance, and the substituted accommodation will be of similar quality and standard as the original. Climatic conditions, safety regulations and travel options may subject the programme to changes and/or modifications without due notice, at any time. In such case, Killary Tours reserves the right to make any necessary decisions.

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