

THE BURREN JOURNEY

Guided Cycling 2007



Nothing could adequately describe the resplendent rock garden that is the Burren, with its abundance of exotic flora, bird and wildlife. The surrounding edge of the Burren is a different landscape - Galway Bay with its enigmatic rockscapes and rough-hewn cliffs plunging into the ocean, frequently giving way to uncrowded beaches, sand dunes and quiet coves. The Cliffs of Moher stand guard; towering 700 ft. above sea level while inland, ice age mountains melt into green valleys, woodlands and underground lakes.

Dotted with megalithic stone tombs, some representing the region's earliest monuments (from about 3,800 BC) including Poul nabrone Dolmen. There is an abundance of Christian monuments and medieval settlements - castles, ring (fairy) forts, wishing wells and ancient churches spanning the centuries of time.

Experience the Irish welcome: "Cead Mile Failte" (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!) and small village life as we travel the winding roads of the West.

Duration: 7 days (6 nights)

Tour Dates 2007:

Sunday June 24 – Saturday June 30

Sunday July 8 – Saturday July 14

Sunday July 29 – Saturday August 4

Sunday Aug 19 – Saturday August 25

Sunday Sept 16 – Saturday Sept 22

Level:

Moderate cycling. Ideal for young adventurers & family groups. Comfortable, cycle at your own pace of an average of 30 miles per day: Children's mileage varies. Children's bikes, available

Bicycle: Quality 24 speed trek or touring bikes (with toe strap)
CANNONDALE HYBRID €150 extra per bike

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

Accommodation: 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: Galway City. There is both bus and train services on a daily basis from Westport.



PRICE 2007:

CHARMING INNS OPTION – Please ask for rate

Based on two sharing accommodation
(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 – Sunday: Welcome & Arrival

Galway City to Kinvara.

Meeting point in Galway City. From Galway City, we transfer you to the colourful seaport village of Kinvara. Spend the afternoon exploring Dunguaire Castle and strolling by the village harbour. Learn about the 'Galway Hooker', a local fishing boat used by local fishermen for more than a century. Bike fit out and briefing before Dinner. Overnight at the Merriman Inn Hotel in Kinvara..

DAY 2: Monday

Kinvara to Corofin (Approx. 30 miles)

We begin today's biking with a warm up ride through winding country roads and farmland to Kilmacduagh Monastic site, where present day church buildings and round tower date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. See one of Ireland's last remaining ancient Round Towers. We cycle onward through the heart of the remarkable Burren hills to our lunchtime stop at "Croidhe na Boirne" (The Heart of the Burren). This is a unique area steeped in ancient history and dotted with ancient archaeological sites, which we take time to explore. Our afternoon journey brings us to tonight's stopover in the village of Corofin located on the edge of Lough Inchiquin. Overnight at Corofin Country House.

DAY 3: Tuesday

Corofin to Doolin (Approx. 28 miles)

Leaving Corofin via Clifden Hill and Lough Inchiquin we visit the ruins of Lemeneagh Castle, built in 1480 and pedal onward to the village of Kilfenora. We visit the Burren Display Centre - a local museum and interpretative centre, for an introduction to the wildlife, ancient history, archaeology and flowers of the Burren. Next we see Kilfenora Cathedral and the Doorty Cross, an ancient Christian High Cross. Continuing on to the matchmaking town of Lisdoonvarna, famous for its spa wells. After lunch we continue en route to the towering 700 ft. high Cliffs of Moher. From here, it is a downhill ride past Doonagore castle to the pretty fishing village of Doolin, home to one of the finest craft shops in the West of Ireland. Overnight at Doonmaceliom Guesthouse in the heart of Doolin. Enjoy an evening of seafood and traditional Irish music.

DAY 4: Wednesday

Doolin to Aran Islands.

Morning ferry to The Aran Islands from Doolin to the Island of Inismore, for an overnight stay. We visit Dun Aengus Fort. Capture the tranquility, see the whitewashed cottages and the intricate network of stone walls surrounding tiny green pastures. There are about 700 native islanders and their spoken language is Irish. Overnight at Ard Einne Guesthouse. This visit is one of the highlights of our tour. Home to the famous Aran Sweater, we take the opportunity to see Ragus, an island rendition of traditional Irish music and dance, on that you will remember long after you leave the islands and return home!

DAY 5: Thursday

Aran Islands to Ballyvaughn (20 Miles + Ferry trip)

Today's biking is a spectacular ride along one of the most panoramic coastal roads on the western shore. We pedal by Dolphin Cove and the golden sand dunes of Fanore Beach. Time out to stroll in the sand and search out jellyfish and crabs! Onward via Blackhead lighthouse. Explore the grounds of Gleninagh Castle located by the edge of the bay. Onward to the 19th century fishing village of Ballyvaughn where we enjoy the local seafood delights and hospitality. Overnight at Cappabhaile Guesthouse.

DAY 6: Friday

Ballyvaughan to Galway City (31 miles plus transfer)

An early start brings us to a guided tour of Newtown Castle and into the depths of Ailwee Cave, followed by Ballyallaban Hill to the ancient 4500 year old Poul nabrone portal dolman. The route continues to Caherconnell Ring Fort. We then travel onward to the magnificent ruins of Corcomroe Abbey followed by a spectacular off road trail along the Green Road returning to the village of Kinvara for an overnight stay. A full, adventurous and active day! Overnight Galway City at the Ardawn Guesthouse.

DAY 7: Saturday

Farewell and departure.

We bid you farewell and a safe journey home. Transfers by bus and by train are available in Galway City.

Please be aware that the programme given for this tour is strictly intended as a guide only and may not be fully adhered to. 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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