

BEST OF THE WEST

Connemara, Mayo & The Burren - Guided Walking Tour 2007



This tour takes in all that is best on the West Coast of Ireland. Starting in Mayo in the wonderful town of Westport, with its close proximity to the breathtaking Connemara and then crossing the river Shannon into County Clare to the magical Burren area where you finish the week. This tour combines the most fascinating and beautiful areas of Ireland, and offers an authentic and unhurried Irish experience on foot at an easy pace.

The destinations visited will not fail to delight you; they are the most unique and remarkable places in Ireland, and offer a rare chance to experience our music, people, culture, and landscape.

You will walk in the footsteps of Irelands patron saint, Patrick, as you hike a section of a very old pilgrim route that ran to Croagh Patrick, walk the famine track that overlooks Irelands only fjord, the Killary Fjord in Connemara and be amazed by the glacial river valleys of the Burren with spectacular views of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands.

Duration:	8 days (7 nights)
Tour Dates 2007:	Starting on Saturdays Saturday May 19 2007 Saturday June 2 2007 Saturday July 7 2007 Saturday August 4 2007 <i>Dates subject to minimum numbers being booked.</i>
Level:	Moderate walking, with some hill.
Group Size:	Individuals but a minimum of 6 and max of 12 in final group.
Equipment:	This is a guided tour but correct rainproof gear and walking boots are essential to bring with you.
Accommodation:	Westport B&B x 4 nights, Lisdoonvarna Hotel x 3 nights
Meals:	All Irish breakfasts, 7 dinners, 6 packed lunch
Transfers:	Transfers to and from walks Transfer to and from Shannon airport at pre-determined times.
Miscellaneous:	Tour guide with personality
Meeting Point:	Arrivals hall of Shannon Airport
Departure Point:	You depart from Lisdoonvarna arriving at Shannon airport before 11.00am.



PRICE 2007:

Price per adult €900.00 per person sharing

Single Supplement €200.00

All prices are in EURO, and based on per person sharing. Per person sharing means two people in one room. Single Room supplement is applied when people require a room for themselves as part of a booking of two or more. Please do not book return flights before 1300 hours if interested in this tour.



DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1

Saturday: Arrival

Meet in arrivals hall at Shannon Airport at 11am approx and transfer to your accommodation in Westport. This normally takes about 3 hours depending on traffic. The group will meet at 6.30 for a talk on the coming weeks activities with Dinner served in your B&B immediately afterwards.

DAY 2

Sunday: Distance 9 miles Ascent 900 feet.

A 45 minute transfer to Connemara for our first hike. Starting on a back country lane the hike moves gently uphill along a bog track rising to a height of 900 feet. This area is known as Mam Ean which translates to "Pass of the Birds" Leaving the pass behind the track goes downhill and enters the Inagh valley. The last 3 miles is on a country lane and finishes by the shores of Lough Inagh.



DAY 3

Monday: Distance 9 Miles Ascent 300 feet.

We again Visit Connemara today and start with a 90 minute cruise on Killary Fiord on the Connemara Lady. Afterwards we drive to the head of the fiord and walk the famine road. The walk finishes on the outskirts of Leenane village.

DAY 4

Tuesday: Distance 5 miles Ascent 300 feet.

We drive East towards the County town of Castlebar and visit the Museum of Country life at Turlough Park. This will give you a unique insight into Irelands past and the 2 hours we spend there should be very enjoyable. Afterwards we hike a section of a very old pilgrim route that ran to Croagh Patrick. By mid afternoon we will be finished and you will have an opportunity to visit Westport town.

DAY 5

Wednesday: Lisdoonvarna

At 9.30 am the minivan departs for Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare. This will take about two and a half hours. By Lunchtime you will be checked into your Hotel and the remainder of the afternoon is free to spend as you choose. There is a good selection of bars with music on offer most nights from 9.30 onwards.

DAY 6

Thursday: Time 5 Hours approx Ascent 1000 feet

Today is spent in the Western Burren. This five-hour walk will ascend to the higher regions of the area along medieval routes. The walk towers over the pre - glacial river valleys of the Burren with spectacular views of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands.

DAY 7

Friday: Time 4 hours Ascent 800 feet.

This day will be spent in the Eastern Burren. This is a four-hour walk off the beaten track, crossing limestone paths with only wild goats for company. The route encompasses a variety of Burren habitats including limestone pavements, hazel scrubland and turlough banks, giving you an insight into the area's unique flora and fauna. Your guide in the Burren is a local man who farms the area.

DAY 8

Saturday: Departure

After breakfast you will be taken to Shannon Airport for your flight home. Please do not book your return home flight before 12 noon.

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