

HONEYMOON ESCAPE

Self-guided luxury cycling in Connemara 2008



This tour is a wonderful way for honeymoon couples to enjoy each others company while combining cycling and exploring in the magnificent countryside of Connemara and then relaxing in the evening in luxury accommodation.

Quiet roads, spectacular scenery and friendly locals will help to make this a honeymoon from heaven. Even if we cannot promise that the sun will always shine, the fabulous landscape, and the feeling of having something achieved at the end of day will more than make up for it.

At the end of each day, you will stay in wonderful luxury and manor house hotel accommodations, where open fires, warm hospitality and comfortable surroundings will give you both lasting memories of a honeymoon escape to treasure.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights)
Tour Dates 2007: ANY DATE (April - October)
Level: Gentle, some occasional hill, average of 35km daily with shorter and longer options available on most days.

Bicycle: CANNONDALE Hybrid
Equipment: Helmets, front handlebar bag, water bottles, bicycle repair-kit.

Accommodation: Luxury Hotels and Manor House
Meals: 5 evening meals (Days 2,3,4,5,6) & Irish breakfasts each morning.

Transfers: Taxi from Shannon or Galway to your hotel in Clifden on day of arrival. Luggage transfers.

Miscellaneous: Detailed route notes and maps.

Meeting Point: A Killary Tours representative will meet you at your first nights accommodation in Clifden.

Departure Point: You depart from your last night's accommodation in Clifden. If you need us to organise a taxi to your onward destination we will be happy to assist you.



PRICE 2008:

Price for tour €1637.00 per person sharing

All prices are in EURO, and based on per person sharing. Per person sharing means two people in one room.
We provide 21 speed lightweight aluminum hybrid Cannondale bicycles.



DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - CLIFDEN

You will be collected from Shannon or Galway and will be brought to your hotel in Clifden. Clifden is often called the capital of Connemara and is a lovely small town. You will be staying the next two nights in a wonderful luxury hotel or Manor House, where you will get to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of this town and your hotel. Route notes and maps for your tour will be waiting for you at your hotel. You will be met by a Killary Tours representative this evening or tomorrow morning to allocate your bicycles and equipment.

DAY 2 - CLIFDEN

After a leisurely breakfast you will have a couple of cycling options to choose from today. Cycle around the Sky Road, which offers you wonderful views over the Atlantic and the islands lying in it (20km). You perhaps want to extend further and head towards Claddaghduff and Cleggan and then returning to Clifden (50km). You may wish to take some time to explore the many shops and restaurants in the town of Clifden, or perhaps, cycle out as far as Dan O' Hara's Homestead (16km return). This award winning heritage centre is situated on the N59 approximately 8km from Clifden. It offers a unique insight into the history and heritage of this most beautiful part of the West of Ireland.

DAY 3 - BALLYNAHINCH

You leave Clifden today for Ballynahinch. Your cycling route today takes you along the beautiful coastline of Mannin Bay and Ballyconneely as you travel to Roundstone where you may stop for your lunch. Roundstone is a very picturesque village and one of the oldest fishing villages in Connemara. The village was built in the 1820's by Scottish engineer Alexander Nimmo, who settled in Connemara. It has a very busy harbour, where local fishermen prepare and return with the day's catches of lobster, crayfish, and crab. From Roundstone you continue to Toombeola and to Ballynahinch where you will be staying in the splendour of Ballynahinch Castle Hotel for your next two nights. It stands proud and majestic overlooking the famous Ballynahinch Salmon River, whilst being surrounded by the beauty of the Twelve Bens Mountain Range.

DAY 4 - BALLYNAHINCH

You have a choice of relaxing in the wonderful surroundings of Ballynahinch Castle or taking a break from the bicycle and walking hand in hand in its wooded areas. Ballynahinch is steeped in a wealth of tradition and has been intertwined in the history of Connemara and its people for many centuries. From the days of the O'Flaherty Chieftains, to Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen of Connemara, to Humanity Dick Martin, founder of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and to H.R.H. the Maharajah Ranjitsinji, also known as the 'Ranji', Prince of Cricketers. There is also a lovely cycling route for you around the South Connemara Peninsula going via Cashel and Carna to Kilkerin returning on the bog road and through Ballinafad back to Ballynahinch.

DAY 5 - RENVYLE

From Ballynahinch you take a breathtaking cycling through the Lough Inagh Valley which has spectacular views over Lough Inagh with the Twelve Bens Mountain range on your left and the Mamturks on your right. Through the Lough Inagh Valley you make your way via Kylemore Abbey where a visit of Kylemore Abbey is worth a visit with its Victorian Walled Gardens, visitor centre and audiovisual theatre. It has a wonderful history where in 1862 Mitchell Henry, a wealthy Manchester merchant, inherited a fortune from his father with which he decided to build the Victorian Kylemore Castle, as a present to his wife Margaret. They had first seen Kylemore on their honeymoon in 1850. From Kylemore you continue your cycle to Renvyle where you stay in a wonderful hotel.

DAY 6 - RENVYLE

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DAY 7 - CLIFDEN

You leave the Renvyle peninsula today and return to Clifden the starting point of this Honeymoon escape. As you pass through Letterfrack you can make a visit to the Connemara National Park, one of six National Parks in Ireland. The Park grounds are open all year round and the Visitor Centre is open from mid-March to mid-October. In the Park's Visitor Centre there are 3-D exhibitions of the Connemara landscape, audio-visual show, tearoom, nature trails, and an annual summer programme. You get back to Clifden and to your hotel for your last night.

DAY 8

Breakfast, followed by farewell and departure!

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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