

# ISLAND BEAUTIES

## Self-guided cycling and walking 2010

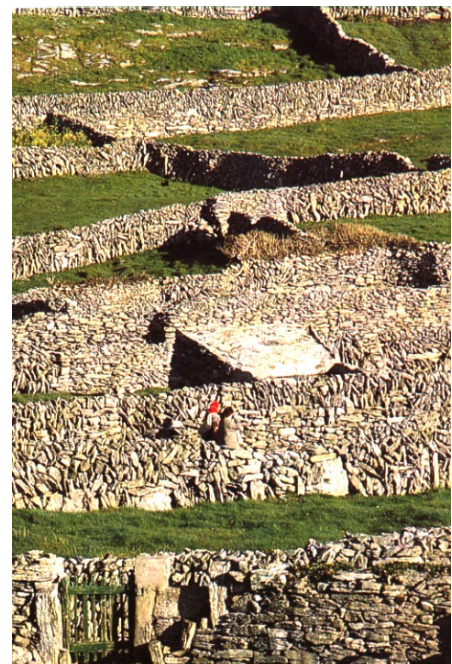


This tour offers you the opportunity to cycle between beautiful coastline and Mountains of Connemara but also walking three of the best islands in of the West: Clare Island, Inishbofin and Inishmore.

Those are places you can truly lose yourself in peace and tranquillity. And finally end your journey in Galway, the bustling and historical city, Gateway to Connemara.

We provide well chosen pre-booked accommodation, for a range of budgets, as well as bikes and any equipment that is needed. The luggage is transferred in order to lighten the load. A full itinerary, maps, and suggested options are also part of this attractive package.

<b>Duration:</b>	8 days (7 nights)
<b>Tour Dates 2009:</b>	ANY DATE (April - Oct)
<b>Level:</b>	Gentle, some occasional hill, average of 35km daily with shorter and longer options available on most days.
<b>Bicycle:</b>	Touring Bike CANNONDALE HYBRID €75 extra
<b>Equipment:</b>	Helmets, front handlebar bag, water bottles, bicycle repair-kit.
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Depending on the option: Hotel, Approved B&B's or Hostels.
<b>Meals:</b>	All Irish breakfasts
<b>Transfers:</b>	Luggage transfers (as far as Rossaveal), ferry to Inishbofin and Inishmore (largest of the Aran Islands), taxi from Clifden to ferry port in Rossaveal for Aran Islands. From Rossaveal to Galway city you travel by public bus, which you pay directly.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	Detailed route notes and maps.
<b>Meeting Point:</b>	A Killary Tours representative will meet you at your first nights accommodation in Leenane.
<b>Departure Point:</b>	You depart from your last night's accommodation in Galway city. There are direct bus and train services daily from Galway city.



### PRICE 2010:

**Hotel Option €849.00 per person sharing**

**B&B Option €679.00 per person sharing**

**Hostel Option €529.00 per person sharing**

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. This is €195.00pp.



# DAILY ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Arrive in Westport. Warm welcome and chance to settle in. You will be given your route pack and general information to study overnight. If there is time we will allocate bikes and equipment. Stay the night in charming B&B.

## DAY 2

After breakfast a taxi will pick you up and bring you to Roonagh Quay where you will get the ferry to Clare Island. Clare Island is the largest island in Clew Bay. It is 5 miles long and 3 miles wide and there are wonderful options for you to walk. On the rocky headland at the harbour is the square tower which served as Grace O' Malley's (Granuaile's) castle. Clare Island was the stronghold of this remarkable 16th century O' Malley clan chieftain who lived by her family trade of piracy and plunder. You can also visit the 12th century Cistercian abbey, the remains of a 19th century Napoleonic signal tower and there are also some lovely beaches for you to explore. You return on the ferry to Roonagh Quay where a taxi will pick you up and bring you back to Westport



## DAY 3

You leave Westport for Leenane, You will cycle along the Atlantic coast of Clew Bay, passing through the lovely village of Louisburgh. Then you will leave the coast to cycle inland via the beautiful Delphi Valley. You discover then the Killary Harbour, the only fjord in Ireland, you cycle alongside the harbour, passing Ashlagh Falls, to arrive to the quiet village of Leenane. You stay the night in Leenane. Relax and enjoy a typical mussel and chips in one of the restaurant of the village.

## DAY 4

You leave Leenane today and head for the small fishing village of Cleggan, where you will take the ferry to your first island: Inishbofin. Inishbofin, means Island of the White Cow, it is one of the most beautiful islands off the west coast. Today it has a population of about 200 people, but was chosen in 655 by St Coleman for the site of his monastery, as it was a place of tranquillity and peace. Several safe sandy beaches strewn with shells and with crystal clear water make swimming, snorkelling and diving a joy. Inishbofin has become an important centre for traditional Irish music and song with its own Ceilí band. Your route takes you around the coastline on to the Renvyle peninsula passing through Tully Cross, the village of thatched cottages and further to Letterfrack home of the Connemara National Park (40km) and onwards to Moyard and to Cleggan. You will be welcomed onto the ferry by Gerry who's b&b you will be staying this evening on the island.

## DAY 5

To day you are leaving Inishbofin for Clifden. You depart after breakfast via Claddaghduff (visit the island of Omey if the tide is out) and the Sky Road offering you fabulous views over Clifden Bay and the islands lying out in the Atlantic (35kms). Clifden is often labelled the capital of Connemara, & is a modern, vibrant town and popular tourist destination. You stay in guesthouse/B&B in the town of Clifden

## DAY 6

Leave the bicycles behind (we will collect them from your B&B), as a taxi picks you up and brings you to Rossaveal in time to take the morning ferry to Inishmore (the biggest of the Aran Island). The ferry takes about 45minutes. There are many antiquities on the island, and some of the most fascinating are Dun Aengus, Dun Eoghasa, early Christian monasteries and many more. You may want to discover them on foot, or alternatively there are bicycles for hire at the pier. Stay the night in an island B&B.

## DAY 7

Return to the mainland with either the morning or the evening ferry and take the public bus (at your own expense) from Rossaveal into Galway. Spend an afternoon in this bustling, historic town. Enjoy the many shops, galleries and the many restaurants, and afterwards the lively pub scene. You will be staying in a B&B in the city.

## DAY 8

Breakfast, followed by 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.*

*Killary Tours, Leenane, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland*

*Tel. 095 42276 Int 00 353 95 42276*

*Fax 095 42314 Int 00 353 95 42314*

*E-mail [tours@killary.com](mailto:tours@killary.com)*

*Web: [www.killarytours.com](http://www.killarytours.com)*