

# Lazy Days

## Self-guided cycling Connemara 2010



This tour is specifically designed for independent travelers, who wish to cycle less of a distance and spend relaxing lazy days along the way for in-depth explorations of the various cultural and natural attractions of the wonderful Connemara region. Connemara - the western wonderland of Europe, where rugged mountains soar above wild Atlantic beaches. Your route will take you both inland and along the coastal region, giving a glimpse of some dramatic scenery of Connemara. Daily cycling will average 30km on low traffic back-roads, the terrain isn't flat, but neither is it hilly, rather a rolling countryside. In the evenings you enjoy traditional Irish hospitality with the 3 options of staying in distinguished hotels or wonderful guesthouses and B&Bs or in comfortable hostels that will suit all budgets. Detailed route descriptions, local information and maps are provided.

<b>Duration:</b>	8 days (7 nights)
<b>Tour Dates 2009:</b>	ANY DATE (April - Oct)
<b>Level:</b>	Easy cycling days with average of 35km a day with other options available on most days.
<b>Bicycle:</b>	Touring Bike CANNONDALE UPGRADE €100
<b>Equipment:</b>	Helmets, front handlebar bag, water bottles, bicycle repair-kits and locks.
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Hotels, Guesthouses and B&B Or
<b>Meals:</b>	Irish breakfasts
<b>Transfers:</b>	Luggage transfers
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	Detailed route notes and maps.
<b>Meeting Point:</b>	A Killary Tours representative will meet you at your accommodation in Clifden. There is a daily direct bus service to Clifden.
<b>Departure Point:</b>	You depart from your last night's accommodation in Clifden.



### PRICE 2010:

**Luxury Option per adult €949.00 per person sharing**

**B&B Option per adult €699.00 per person sharing**

**Budget Option per adult €589.00 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 Clifden (there is a direct daily bus service from Galway to Clifden). Warm welcomes and chance to settle in. You will be given your route pack and general information to study overnight. A Killary Tours representative will allocate bikes and equipment. Clifden is a colourful small town, also often labeled the capital of Connemara. There are many restaurants where you can choose a lovely evening meal and a nice selection of pubs where often you will find Irish music.

### DAY 2

After a hearty Irish breakfast, you will set off along the Sky Road, it offers fabulous views over the Atlantic and its islands. Travelling quiet back roads, you will pass through the quaint fishing village of Cleggan & onto Letterfrack, home of the Connemara National Park. Then your journey will take you to the Renvyle Peninsula is steeped in history and archaeological sites & is renowned for its pristine sandy beaches and spectacular vistas of the Twelve Ben mountain range.

### DAY 3

Leave Renvyle after a hearty breakfast. You will set off, passing through Tullycross with its many thatched cottages and meander along the coast with its perfect beaches to the small village of Leenane, situated at the base of Ireland's only fjord. In the afternoon you have the option of taking a cruise along the Killary Fjord, this catamaran is a wonderful way to see the fjord and surrounding area. The trip is often honoured by the company of leaping dolphins and always includes commentary on all major points of interest along the way. Tonight you will stay the night in Leenane.

### DAY 4

After Breakfast you will continue your journey today leaving Leenane. You cycle away from the coast back towards the mountains on a road through lake-strewn moorlands to the stunning Inagh Valley. You can also lengthen your journey today, as this is quite a short route, by visiting one of Ireland's top visitor attractions, Kylemore Abbey & Gardens. This gothic fairytale lakeside castle lodged in a wooded hillside is the site of one of Ireland's finest gardens, the six-acre Victorian walled garden at Kylemore was created by Mitchell Henry in tandem with the building of Kylemore Castle in 1867. It has won the prestigious Europa Nostra Award for Gardens. Tonight you will be staying in welcoming accommodation overlooking the spectacular Lough Inagh.

### DAY 5

Cycle back towards the coast today, leaving the mountains behind as you head towards Carna. You will be travelling along a route dotted with pretty fishing villages. You'll ride through peat bogs and lovely moorlands still divided by the Neolithic field systems. You will journey into the Gaeltacht (Gaelic speaking) region, which is considered the last bastion of Celtic Ireland. You will rest and relax tonight in a charming family run hotel or will be warmly welcomed to your cosy b&b accommodation.

### DAY 6

Your destination today is Roundstone. As you leave Carna you will pass Lough Skannive where there are two crannogs (neolithic fortified lake dwellings). This is an area rich in ancient culture and tradition. In the sixth century St. McDara built a small church on one of the islands off the coast. The saints feast day is celebrated in mid July when people make their way to island for the celebration of mass. You will arrive in Roundstone where you can enjoy the ambience of this small picturesque fishing village before settling in for the night in your choice accommodation.

### DAY 7

Well fed and well rested, you will begin your day with a gentle cycle along Mannin Bay, with its coralline beach & glorious turquoise bay is a heaven for the beachcomber - and past Ballyconneely, or shorter if you wish to take the Bogroad. Roundstone bog is unique in that it is an unspoiled area of bogscape with rare acid loving plants. Before arriving back at your starting destination of Clifden where you will spend your last night getting a second chance to enjoy the 'craic' in this vibrant town, that is undoubtedly one of the true last treasures in Western Europe.

### DAY 8

Breakfast, followed by fond 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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