

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2010

June 16-22
June 30-July 6
July 7-13
July 14-20
August 27-Sept 2
September 11-17

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

2011

June 15-21
June 29-July 5
July 6-12
July 13-19
August 26-Sept 1
September 10-16

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Ennis/Galway

Activity Level:

Moderate
20-40+ miles daily
van supported

Ireland, Biking

Having cycled all over Ireland, we have found the western coast region including Galway, Connemara, & the Aran Islands to have the most spectacular scenery, with a tremendous abundance of historical monuments, a rich and unique culture, warm and inviting people, and surprisingly few tourists. The hotels and food are a highlight with genuine hospitality. This should be our most popular tour!

Only Great Explorations:

- Small groups, extraordinary guides, and authentic experiences.
- A view you will never forget: the one from the Cliffs of Moher, one of the most stunning in Ireland.
- Learn about the archaeological wonders of Dun Aengus, the prehistoric stone forts, from a local expert.
- Order off the menu at restaurants you won't find in guidebooks.
- Distinctive, charming hotels too small for larger groups.
- We design and operate our own trips so there are only good surprises.

Itinerary



Getting there :

Ennis - We recommend flying into Shannon airport; we'll recommend hotels for the night before the trip start.

DAYS 1+2:

Doolin - We start our trip near Ballyvaughan, beautifully situated on Galway Bay. We'll explore the magical Burren, where megalithic tombs, stone forts and

castles are in abundance. In Doolin, we'll listen to traditional fiddle music and at the Cliffs of Moher, we'll marvel at a view that is nothing short of spectacular. Our hotel, in the hills above Doolin, overlooks South Sound and the Aran Islands.

DAYS 3+4:

Aran Islands - Ferry to Aran Islands. No visit to this part of Ireland would be complete without a visit to Inishmore, where horse-drawn carriages transport luggage and everyone (including the locals) ride bikes. Back on the mainland, we cycle along quiet roads past fishing villages and tranquil bays to our hotel, a charming lodge where the owners welcome us as friends.

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Terrain:

Mostly level with some rolling hills

Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250

Includes 6B/2L/5D

Single Supplement:

US \$400

Bike Rental:

US \$140

Extension add US \$40



DAYS 5+6:

Cashel - After a short ferry ride to Rosaveel, we'll continue past monastic remains in lush countryside on rural roads to Cashel and the luxurious Zetland House Hotel. Next day, our ride continues to Clifden, under the dramatic Twelve Bens mountains. Along the way, we'll visit Roundstone, where the *bodhran* instruments are still made by hand and a loop ride along Skye Road, arguably one of the the most scenic routes in Ireland. Back at the Zetland Hotel, we'll

enjoy the comforts of the hotels large lounge in front of a cozy fire before final night festivities.

DAY 7: Transfer to Galway for flights or extended stay.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation (right to your room)
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at 604.730.1247

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Accommodations



Atlantic View House, Doolin

A family run hotel with spectacular views of the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren, the Atlantic View House has been recently refurbished to a very high standard. The O'Brien's have been welcoming guests here since 1974 and with just 12 tastefully decorated rooms they offer comfortable intimate lodging and a friendly welcome.



Kilmurvey House, Aran Islands

This venerable B&B is steeped in history and has been hosting guests for over 3 generations. This eighteenth century home has been recently renovated to the highest standards while maintaining its old style charm. Recent guests have included Hollywood celebrities who come, as we do, for the wonderful hospitality.



Zetland House, Cashel

Built in 1850 as a fishing lodge for Ballynahinch Castle, this hotel has been recently refurbished and under new management. There are large grounds with tennis courts, large billiard lounge, and a pub next door. The restaurant boasts views over Cashel Bay and fruit and vegetables come from the property.