



**OK CYCLE &
ADVENTURE
TOURS** SINCE 1995

Ireland – The Backroads and Beyond Cycling and Hiking Tour 2018
Individual Self-Guided
12 Day/11 Nights



County Donegal is a cyclists' paradise, but it is equally as attractive for anyone who is willing to step off the bike and see what lies over the crest of a hill or at the top of a cliff. This 11 day adventure combines the best of both worlds. Savour the wonderful backroads, villages and views of a bike tour and the undiscovered secrets of a walking tour. This tour starts and finishes in Donegal Town – with easy connections to both Dublin and Ireland West Airports. You can also opt to fly to Donegal Airport and start there. On this adventure you complete a loop around the most scenic parts of the coast and highlands of County Donegal. You will be awe-struck by the majestic landscape, and charmed by the local hospitality.

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Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrive Donegal Town

Donegal Town – ancient seat of the O’ Donnell chieftains, from where they ruled over much of Ireland, is where the tour begins. We will meet you on arrival for a chat about your upcoming adventure. Depending on your time of arrival, you might like to explore the town or go for a cycle. The town is steeped in history, with its imposing castle and ruined Abbey. It also has a great selection of lively pubs and cafés.



Day 2: Donegal to Killybegs 39 km

Cycle west along Donegal Bay. The salty smell of the sea will soon be all around. Pass quiet bays and inlets. Cycle along the narrow peninsula of St. John’s Point where you will have the Atlantic Ocean on both your left and right. Take in the wonderful views of the mountains further west and across the bay to Sligo. View the remains of Rahan Castle and the Killaghtee Cross. Continue to your overnight destination in the bustling fishing village of Killybegs.

Day 3: Killybegs to Glencolmcille 37 km

As you follow the coast west from Killybegs the scenery becomes ever more dramatic. Towering cliffs, golden sandy beaches and rocky headlands create a magnificent panorama. As you cycle past Slieve League you can see the summit of where tomorrow’s hike will bring you. Continue to Glencolmcille, passing some of the most photogenic coastal views you will ever see. Ancient history, the thriving Gaelic culture, vibrant traditional music and the wonderful natural beauty make this valley a must see destination.



Day 4: Hike Slieve League

Today you hike one of Ireland’s iconic landmarks. The cliffs at Slieve League rise almost 600 meters above the Atlantic. In the morning we will bring you to the start of the hike. We will give you details of either a loop walk – taking you to the highest point, along the cliffs and back by the pilgrims path (approx 5 hours walking) – or a linear route along the full length of the cliffs (approx 8 hours walking). We will pick you up on completion of the walk and take you back to your accommodation in Glencolmcille.



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Day 5: Hike Glencolmcille to Port

The coast between Glencolmcille and the deserted fishing hamlet of Port is among Ireland's most stunningly beautiful spots. Yet you will almost certainly find yourself alone here among the towering rocks and sea stacks. This is a hike that we promise you will never forget. Return to Glencolmcille, again taking in more of the Early-Christian historic sites.



Day 6 Glencolmcille to Glenties 39 km

Today the remoteness of the landscape dominates. You cycle through one of the most sparsely populated areas in Ireland. Descend through dramatic Granny Valley to Maghera where a

pristine beach, a series of caves, and dramatic Assarancagh Waterfall await. Cycle on to the heritage town of Ardara, a centre for traditional Donegal tweed and wool crafts. Continue to your overnight stop in the pretty village of Glenties.

Day 7 Glenties to Annagary – 45 km

The early part of today's cycle allows you to experience the unique splendor of Ireland's blanket bogs. Heathers, mosses, lichens and rough grasses create an artist's dream landscape. Further on you have the chance to visit one of the many inhabited islands off the Donegal Coast. Arranmore is a 20 minute ferry trip from Burtonport. The trip itself makes the journey worthwhile. Spend some time exploring the island before making your way back to the mainland. Cycle through the unique lake and boglands typical of this area to your overnight destination in the seaside village of Annagry.



Day 8: Annagry - Churchill 52 km

The unique beauty of the Donegal Highlands is all around during today's cycle. Pass beneath the peak of majestic Mount Errigal. If you fancy a hike, the trip to the top will take you around 45 minutes, where the views will richly reward your efforts. Further along is the hauntingly beautiful Poisoned Glen. Your cycle then takes you along Glenveagh National Park and past Gartan Lake on your way to your overnight destination, among the lush farmland around Churchill.



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Day 9: Hiking Glenveagh National Park

Spend the day walking in the magnificent surroundings of Glenveagh. The valley, with its pristine lake and cascading waterfalls, as well as the surrounding mountains, are just waiting to be explored. You can choose from a 10 km trek along the valley floor or a more challenging route through the valley and mountains. Return in the evening to the quiet surroundings of Churchill.

Day 10: Glendowan to Glenties 44 km

As you leave Glendowan you gradually climb along the southern edge of Glenveagh National Park. From there descend along a beautiful quiet valley, with the Glendowan Mountains on your left and Slieve Snacht on your right.

You'll need no reminding here why bike tours in Ireland are simply the best way to see the country. Cycle on to Fintown Lake and village, where a restored vintage railway runs along the lake shore. Then it's back once again to Glenties.

Day 11: Glenties to Donegal 32 km

The final day of your biking and walking adventures brings you back to your starting point in Donegal Town. Climb from the town of Glenties over expanses of open bog land. Further on magnificent panoramas over Donegal Bay open up before you. Pass through the village of Mountcharles and back again to Donegal. If time allows you can also cycle around tranquil Lough Eske.

Day 12: Depart after Breakfast

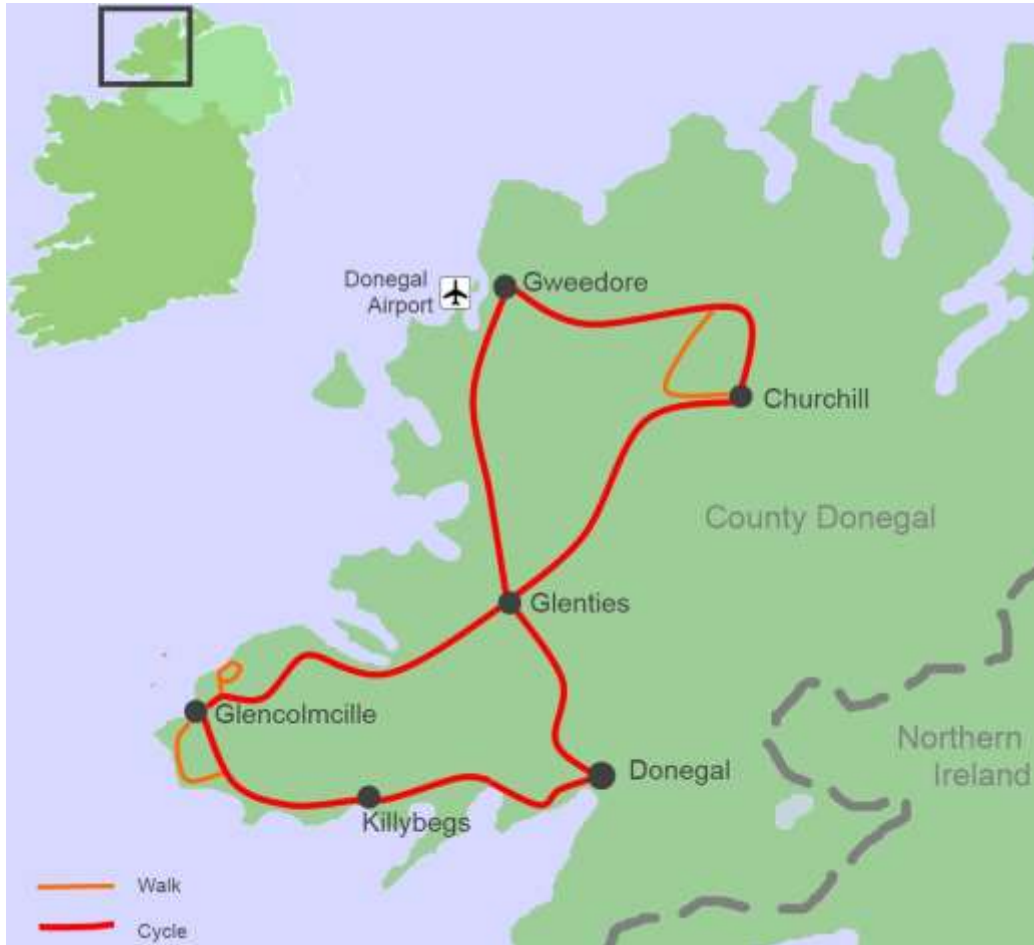
After one more great Irish breakfast it's time to depart, taking with you treasured memories of the natural wonders and friendly people of Donegal.





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Route



Technical Characteristics:

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Total Distance: 288 km by bike and 2.5 days hiking

Travel Season: Daily departures April 3 to September 30, 2018
Peak Season: June 1 to August 30



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Price per Person:

Off Peak Season Double Occupancy	€ 1140.00
Peak Season Double Occupancy	€ 1230.00
Single Occupancy Supplement	€ 230.00
E-bike Rental	€ 155.00
Extra Night Any Location Double Occupancy	€ 80.00
Extra Night Any Location Single Occupancy Supplement	€ 15.00

Accommodation:

For the most part we use traditional family run Bed and Breakfasts, where you will always be made welcome. These establishments tend to cater much more to the needs of the adventure traveler than the larger hotels. All of the rooms we book have their own bathroom. In the morning you'll get a hearty Irish breakfast that will keep you going for most of the day.

Included:

- Bed and breakfast accommodation in carefully selected guest houses and B&B's
- Quality, 24 speed, hybrid bicycle
- Welcome meeting on arrival
- Daily luggage transfers
- Emergency support
- Comprehensive guide booklet
- All maps and guide notes
- Mobile phone with all necessary numbers pre-programmed

Not Included:

- Travel to and from start/finish of tour
- Meals other than breakfast





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Equipment Rental

Hybrid Bikes

The bicycle we use on our tours is the Kellys Axis (men's frame) and Kellys Omega (women's frame), or an equivalent model. These high quality 24 speed hybrid models combine the best features of road and mountain bikes, making them the perfect choice for touring the type of terrain in North West Ireland.



Electric Bikes

We use the high quality Kalkhoff Agattu Impulse. This bike combines an excellent battery life lasting up to 180 km with the comfort and versatility of an all terrain bike. Perfect for bike touring in the hilly terrain of North West Ireland.



Equipment

As well as the bicycle the following are also provided.

- Helmet
- Front carrier bag with map holder
- Mudguards
- Rear luggage carrier
- Lock
- Puncture repair kit
- Pump
- Spare inner tube

Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

www.okcycletours.com



THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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