

Ireland – Connemara, Best of the West (2025)

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Individual Self Guided



On the Connemara - Best of the West trip we take in some of the best that Connemara has to offer including Killary Harbour and the stunning Delphi Valley and the beautiful town of Westport. However we head north into Mayo and cycle along the lovely Greenways Cycle towards the island of Achill. We have a chance to explore Achill with its stunning beaches before finishing up our tour cycling on quiet backroads to the Museum of Country Life near Castlebar. A transfer at the of the week brings us back to the start point, the city of Galway.

This is an easier cycle, there is one day of climbing on our Connemara, Galway & Mayo tour which is not on this tour. Also mileage on this tour is a little lower which makes it a more suitable cycle for younger legs. There are also options to take a break from cycling on a number of days, for example we arrive early in Leenane and you have the choice of relaxing in the hotel spa or you can keep cycling on some fantastic routes.



Day by Day

DAY 1 Galway City

When you arrive in Galway make your way to your accommodation anytime after 2.00pm. You can then explore this bustling medieval city.

DAY 2 Galway via Cong to Leenane (58 kms)

In the morning we transfer you to Cong where the cycle starts! You head north along quiet back roads through rolling green fields full of grazing sheep. You cycle on beautiful backroads via Lough Nafooey, en route to our overnight accommodation, the small village of Leenane looking out over Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord. There is an option in the afternoon of cycling to the beautiful Kylemore Abbey or else relaxing in the spa in our hotel!



DAY 3 Leenane to Westport (52 kms)

In the morning you head north through one of the highlights of the tour, the stunning Delphi Valley with its beautiful lakes overlooked by Ben Bury the highest mountain in Connemara. Your lunch stop is the charming village of Louisburgh before you continue on your journey between Croagh Patrick and the beautiful Clew Bay with its many small islands to the town of Westport where you are staying two nights.





DAY 4 Rest day in Westport

In 2012 Westport was voted by the "Irish Times" as the best place to live in Ireland and it is easy to understand why. The town is beautifully located at the top of Clew Bay, it is one of the few towns in Ireland that was formally planned and has a great beauty and charm about it. You can spend the day relaxing in the town, visiting Westport House, or there are golf and horse-riding available nearby. For something a bit different you could visit Clare Island (you would need to take a taxi for 14 miles to Roonagh Quay.



DAY 5 Westport to Achill Island - Greenway Cycle (54kms)

Another highlight of the trip is todays cycle. The day is spent on the "Greenway Cycle", a route that offers gentle gradients and some of the most idyllic scenery in the west of Ireland. The cycle forms part of the National Cycle Network and it is the longest dedicated cycling path in the Country! The route brings you all the way to Achill Sound, the gateway



to Achill Island (via a bridge) where we are spending the night.

DAY 6 Achill Island Roundtrip 14km, 47km, 72kms (different options!)

You spend your day exploring Achill Island where there are so many options for cycling. There several dramatic cycling routes around Achill, the most impressive being the Atlantic Drive, with its wonderful coastal views and beautiful landscape. You can also head to Keem bay for a swim on its white sandy beach. For those feeling energetic, you



could climb to the top of the nearby cliffs some of the highest in Europe, where you are rewarded with the most breathtaking views of the week.



DAY 7 Achill Island via "Museum of Country Life" in Castlebar - Galway 47kms

The first 17km of our day we head back on the Greenway cycle (there is only one way realistically in and out, which is lucky it is so lovely!) before you make a detour to Lough Beltra in the heart of Mayo. The final part of our tour will take you to the Museum of Country life of Castlebar where there is a nice coffee shop and where you can visit the museum. A taxi will meet you here mid-afternoon



and bring you back to Galway city for a final night on the trip.

DAY 8 Galway departure

Tour finishes after breakfast the next morning.

How to get to Galway:

It is possible to fly to either Dublin airport or Shannon airport. (Please note: Flying into Dublin airport will have more route options)

From Shannon aiport:

There is a bus service to Galway city available, approx €16 per person Duration 1 hour 50 minutes.

From Dublin airport:

There are a number of Bus services that will take you directly from the airport to Galway

Alternatively you can take the <u>Airlink</u> shuttle bus into Dublin city and transfer to a train to Galway city (€7 single ticket) - duration approx 40 minutes)

The Train to Galway takes approx 2hrs 20mins



Route

Daily average 40-52 km This tour does not involve any major climbs and it is a good option for those looking to take it a bit easier.

Tour Dates

Self guided tours are available from May 1 to September 30 and can start any day of the week.

2025 TOUR PRICE -in Euros - all prices subject to confirmation on booking

€ 1250.00 per person double occupancy off peak

€ 75.00 per person double occupancy high season supplement July & August

€ 380.00 single occupancy (if travelling with others)

€ 310.00 solo traveller / an additional charge if travelling on your own to cover the costs of transfers

Bike rental

€125.00 24 speed touring bike with bag carrier, water bottle carrier, lock, helmet and a small pannier bag

€260.00 E-bike

Included

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast (mix of small hotels and guesthouses)
- Luggage transfer
- All route details and maps
- 24 hour service hotline
- GPS tracks available (on request)



Bikes



Merida Crossway Urban 20-D bicycle for our tours. These are a 24 speed alloy frame & fork with twin hydraulic disc brakes. Each bike is fitted with muds, alloy pannier rack, kick stand & handle bar bag. The pannier bags are waterproof 40 liter bags. Bikes come in different sizes and in gents and ladies style frames.

E-bike can also be rented

We use Lappierre Overvolt Urban 300-Wh Electric bikes This Lappierre 300 Wh model bike has a range 70-100km kilometers on a fully charged battery, depending on the person's weight, hills, wind, road surface and setting they on the bike. There are 3 setting: Eco - Normal - Turbo (Eco will last long) 120km

This is a Partner Tour Contact us for details