

Ireland – Highlights of the Highlands Bike Tour (2025) Individual Self-Guided 8 Day/7 Nights



. Discover the "coolest place on the planet" and take home memories to last a lifetime.

DONEGAL truly is one of Ireland's gems, so much so that National Geographic Traveller named it as "The World's Coolest Destination for 2017." Choose this Highlights of Donegal bike tour and savour Ireland's most awe inspiring land and seascapes. Along the way you will meet some of the friendliest and warmest people on the planet. This is the bike tour that has everything; amazing coast, stunning national parks, open boglands, ancient history, pleasant villages and legendary hospitality.



## **Itinerary Day to Day**

## Day 1: Arrive Donegal Town

This self-guided bike tour of County Donegal – Ireland's North West corner starts in historic Donegal Town. The town is steeped in history, with its imposing 15th century castle and ruined abbey. It also has a great selection of lively pubs and cafés. There are easy transport connections to Dublin Airport and Ireland West Airport making it the ideal arrival point for your adventure

## Day 2: Donegal to Carrick. 58/61/75 km

You will be met you at your Bed & Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and set up with everything you need for your bike tour. Once ready you cycle west, along Donegal Bay. The smell of the sea will soon be all around as you pass quiet bays, headlands and inlets. If you feel like some extra cycling visit the Lighthouse at the end of St. John's Point. Cycle to the fishing port of Killybegs and on along the dramatic coastline to Carrick. Jaw-dropping coastal views, golden beaches, tiny



bays and headlands create a picture-perfect coastline. Visit Muckross Head where the beauty is all around. Continue to Carrick for your overnight stop.

## Day 3: Carrick – Glencolmcille – Carrick. 26/34/48 km

In the morning cycle to one of the most awe-inspiring places along the entire Wild Atlantic Way – the Sliabh Liag Cliffs. Take your time here to soak up the beauty of your surroundings. After leaving Sliabh Liag, more breath-taking coast, beautiful sandy beaches and 5,000 years of history await. Don't miss the side trip to the Silver Strand – one of Ireland's most beautiful beaches. From there continue to Glencolmcille valley where a treasure trove of history from the stone age to the present awaits. Return to Carrick where you will spend your second night.

#### Day 4: Carrick to Glenties. 41/61 km

Your cycle today takes you from Carrick north over wild boglands. You have the option of cycling to the now deserted harbour at Port – one of the most remote and atmospheric spots on Ireland's western seaboard. Experience the adrenalin rush of a cycle down amazing Granny Valley to Maghera where a pristine beach, a series of caves, and pretty Assarancagh Waterfall await. Cycle along Loughros Beag Bay to the heritage town of Ardara – a centre for traditional weaving. Continue to your overnight stop in the village of Glenties.





# Day 5: Glenties – Portnoo – Glenties. 0 – 40 km

The stunning area west of Glenties around the villages of Portnoo and Rossbeg is just waiting to be explored. A newly opened cycle path will bring you from Glenties to Portnoo. Here you can stroll along the magnificent golden strand. At low tide it is possible to walk out to tiny Inishkeel Island. Cycle along the coast at Rossbeg where you can take in the views over the bay and mountains beyond. On the way back towards Glenties the stone age dolmen at Kilclooney is not to be missed.

# Day 6: Glenties to Annagry. 46/59/70 km

Follow the coast north from Glenties. overlooking the many inlets, sand dunes and islands of Gweebarra Bay. If you simply can't get enough of dramatic coast a cycle around Crohy Head should do nicely. From the harbour at Burtonport you have the option to visit one of the many inhabited islands off the Donegal Coast. Arranmore is a 20 minute ferrry trip from Burtonport. (Ferry tickets not included) The boat trip

itself makes the journey worthwhile! Make your way back to the mainland where you cycle past yet more beautiful golden beaches to the village of Annagry.

## Day 7: Annagry to Letterkenny. 57/65 km

The unique beauty of the Donegal Highlands is all around during today's cycle. Pass the hauntingly beautiful Poisoned Glen and majestic Mount Errigal. Your cycling tour then takes you to Glenveagh National Park. Red deer and golden eagles live here among the pristine lakes and mountains. A cycle along the

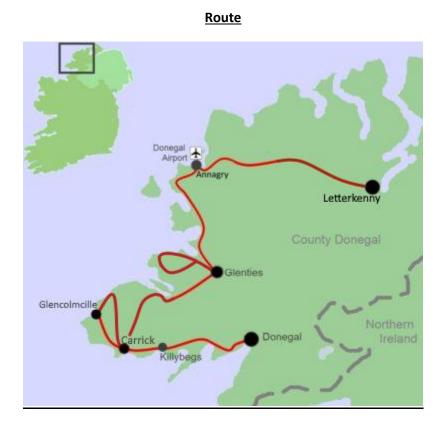


lakeshore here is a wonderful experience. Follow the paths through the park to Lough Gartan. Continue through lush farmland to the bustling town of Letterkenny.

## Day 8: Depart

Time to leave the "Coolest Place on the Planet" Letterkenny has good bus connections to airports and other points around Ireland.





#### **Technical Characteristics:**

**Difficulty Rating:** Moderate but hilly. This tour is suited to anyone with a moderate level of fitness. If cycling on hilly terrain is a problem, then opt for one of our electric bikes, where even the toughest hill

becomes flat! Distance: 284 km

#### **Travel Season:**

Friday departures from April 18 to September 19 -alternate dates available for groups of 5 or more

Peak Season: May 30 – August 22





#### **Price per Person in euros-** all prices subject to confirmation on booking

Off Peak Season Double Occupancy	€ 1390
Peak Season Double Occupancy	€1440
Single Occupancy Supplement	€ 280
Hybrid Bike Rental	€ 115
E-bike Rental	€ 250

#### 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
- Welcome meeting and bike set up on arrival evening or first morning
- Luggage transfers
- Emergency support
- Comprehensive guide booklet
- All maps and guide notes
- GPS unit with all routes pre-programmed (one per group)

#### Not Included:

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





#### Hybrid/Touring Bike

Based on the top of the range Thompson Arosa frame design, our bikes feature complete Shimano Deore T6000 components. This is the highest quality range of touring bike components currently available.

Bike Features:

- 3 x 9 Speed Shimano Deore gearing. With smooth shifting and a huge range of gears this is the perfect combination to tackle Ireland's varying terrain.
- Shimano Deore hydraulic disc brakes. Designed for reliability and smooth operation giving the peace of mind that only comes with top of the range components.



#### E- Bike

The Thompson Enigma is one of the best e-bikes currently available. This is why we have opted to use it as the perfect partner for Ireland's undulating terrain. The Enigma features the world leading Bosch Active Plus drive

system and full Shimano gearing and Hydraulic disc brakes.

E-bike Features.

- Bosch Active Line plus motor. Smooth, quiet and offering 50Nm of assistance this is the world's leading e-bike motor.
- Bosch 500 wh battery. No need to even think about whether your battery will last throughout the day. Rest assured it will!
- Shimano Alivio 9 speed gearing.
- Shimano Hydraulic Disc Brakes giving smooth reliable stopping power.
- Unisex Step-through frame model for easy mounting and dismounting.
- Schwalbe Marathon Plus tyres. The world's leading puncutre resistant tyre.
- Front suspension for for extra comfort.

#### 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



#### THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT