

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS



**BUSHMILLS WHISKEY DISTILLERY**  
Visit Ireland's oldest whiskey distillery and enjoy the ultimate Bushmills experience. Watch whiskey making take place and enjoy a wee taster too as we unlock the secrets of 400 years of distilling at the home of Irish whiskey. *Please note: Bushmills is currently only open for visitors in the mornings*



**THE BURREN** - A vast limestone plateau that spreads itself along the coast of Ireland. In a section near Galway Bay, due to the unique pattern of the rock it is home to many unique species of animal and vegetation. This bleak plateau is often (falsely) compared to the moon's surface and is one of Ireland's most visited attractions.



**KILLARNEY** - Renowned for its beauty, famed for the splendour of its scenery, Killarney is one of the world's best-loved tourist spots. Killarney (Cill Airne - The Church of Sloes) became a magnificent town in about 1750 when the local magnate, Lord Kenmare, developed the tourist business. The present population is about 9,000.



**BLASKET VISITOR CENTRE** - Located on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula, it celebrates the story of the Blasket Islanders, the unique literary achievements of the island writers and their native language. Sadly the Great Blasket was abandoned in 1953 as a result of the decline of its once vibrant population. Centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities.



**THE SKELLIG EXPERIENCE** - Discover this must see attraction for visitors to County Kerry. Enjoy an audio-visual tour recreating the magic of the Skellig region, The Skellig Experience's re-created Skellig sea cliff, with life-size models and related presentations, you can get to know, by sight and sound, the life and times of the seabirds of Skellig.



**BLARNEY CASTLE & WOOLLEN MILL**  
Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney, making it one of Ireland's greatest treasures with the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of our Tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be lost for words. Also visit the popular Blarney Woollen Mill shopping outlet.



**THE OLD MIDLETON DISTILLERY** was moved to the New Midleton Distillery in 1975 and annually produces 19 million litres of whiskey for four different brands; Jameson, Paddy, Powers Gold Label and Midleton. The beautiful Old Midleton Distillery currently serves as a visitor centre where the history of Irish whiskey can be studied.



**LISMORE CASTLE** - Home of the Dukes of Devonshire since 1753. Lismore Castle is possibly the most spectacular castle in Ireland, situated in a panoramic position overlooking the Blackwater Valley with views over rolling, wooded hills to the Knockmealdown Mountains and beyond.

## Your Hotel Accommodation....

### The Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally



a residence in Northern Ireland today.

Ideally located on the scenic Antrim coast only 26 miles from Belfast and close to Larne, Ballygally Castle Hotel faces the soft, sandy beaches of Ballygally Bay. The Castle dates back to 1625 and is unique in that it is the only 17th Century building still used as

### The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus



world go by. Complimentary car parking is available.

In a historical location and walking distance from shops, pubs and restaurants, this hotel boasts easy access to the Antrim Coast and the Causeway Coast and Glens. All of the hotels 68 guestrooms are ensuite. A separate lounge bar is the perfect location to relax and enjoy a leisurely drink, or if you prefer, sit in the Rotunda and watch the

### The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran



en-suite with direct dial telephone, Multi-Channel TV, hairdryers and tea and coffee making facilities.

This luxury Hotel In Bundoran Co. Donegal is located on 130 acres of parkland. After your meal you can enjoy a relaxing drink in our lounge bars or dance the night away in the Atlantic Ballroom. All of the hotels 112 guest rooms are

### The Renvyle House Hotel,



bowls, clay pigeon shooting (extra fee), Canadian hot tub, and sauna.

This unique hotel is renowned for its award-winning food, great service and entertainment. It is located on the Connemara peninsula and facilities include 9-hole par 3 Links golf course, all-weather tennis, outdoor swimming pool, boating, fly-fishing, snooker, lawn

### The Riverside Hotel, Killarney



atmosphere. Hotel facilities include the Riverside Lounge and Bacchus Restaurant, with award-winning chef.

The newly refurbished 4-star Riverside Hotel offers spacious bedrooms and a rejuvenation suite with many treatments. Relax in style and let efficient staff cater for your every need. At the Killarney Riverside Hotel, plush quality comes as standard - the modern interior is tastefully furnished for a relaxed

### The Midleton Park Hotel, Midleton



hotel with relaxing colour schemes and quality soft furnishings.

The Midleton Park Hotel enjoys an enviable reputation for luxury 3 star hotel accommodation, conference and banqueting facilities, superb wedding venue, delicious food, fine wine and unsurpassed hospitality. En-suite guestrooms provide guests with every comfort and convenience expected of a 3 star

### The St Helens Hotel, Rosslare



and come equipped with all the amenities you would expect in a first-rate hotel plus a few extra touches too.

With superb views of the harbour and the Irish Sea, St Helen's offers luxury accommodation with a wide range of leisure facilities and beauty treatments. The hotel's Mariners Restaurant uses a wide range of fresh, local ingredients to create mouth watering dishes. The hotels 100 guest rooms are spacious



# Ireland 2009

## TRAVEL GUIDE & ITINERARY

Friday 26th June to Sunday 5th July



We hope you have a truly wonderful holiday in Ireland !

[www.panthercarclub.com](http://www.panthercarclub.com)

# PANTHER Ireland 2009



A self-drive holiday to Ireland has so much to offer. There are so many attractions to explore including sites of historical interest, beautiful countryside, whiskey distilleries, castles and abbeys, pristine beaches and unique museums to name but a few. Then there's the famous Irish pubs where you'll experience traditional entertainment and a warm welcome.

During your visit you can walk the Giants Causeway, explore the Burren Heathland, marvel at the Cliffs of Moher or be amazed by the beauty as you drive around The Ring of Kerry. You can kiss the famous Blarney Stone, sample some Irish whiskey at Bushmills or Midleton distilleries or visit the world's finest crystal factory at Waterford.



One of the benefits to travelling around Ireland by car is getting off the beaten track and discovering a deserted beach, a remote country pub, a staggering cliff face or even just enjoying the winding country roads, which cut through spectacular scenery and are frequently dotted with sheep - so take care! So if at some point in the tour you want to get away from it all, you can take to the hills or delve into a wooded glen, all at your own pace!

All of the hotels featured in this tour have been hand picked for their comfort, location and secure car parking. All of the hotels feature a restaurant, bar and lounge area to relax in the evening. All guest rooms have en-suite bathroom with wc, colour television, alarm clock radio and direct dial telephone. Some of the hotels have a swimming pool and health spa facilities.

The attractions and places of interest listed in this brochure are just some suggestions that we feel you may like to visit during your journey from point to point. Please note: no reservations have been made and admission charges and parking fees are payable locally.

We feel sure you will enjoy your holiday in Ireland and hope that this Travel Guide assists in making your trip as memorable as possible.

## Travellers check list

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check your car tax & MOT is up to date | <input type="checkbox"/> Passport                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving licence                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit/Debit Cards                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance documents                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign currency /travellers cheques   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warning triangle                       | <input type="checkbox"/> GB sticker                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare bulb kit                         | <input type="checkbox"/> EHIC (European Health ID Card)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reflective jacket                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tow rope                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare oil                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving glasses                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ireland road maps                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic tool kit                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Guide books                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare fuse kit                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone, charger & hands free kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jump-start cables                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakdown rescue cover & details       |

## Itinerary - Days 7 to 10

Depart southbound from Killarney as per [tour option 1](#), then at Molls Gap, take R568 westbound through Dereendaragh to Sneem on coast. Follow N70 circuit through Cahirdaniel and Waterville before taking R565 signposted left to Valencia Island. Stop at Skellig Experience Visitor Centre and views of Skellig Rocks. Return on R565 to N70 and follow circuit through Cahirciveen, Glenbeigh to Killorglin. Take N72 right back to Killarney.

Killarney to Molls Gap	- 13 miles
Molls Gap to Sneem	- 14 miles
Sneem to Cahirdaniel	- 13 miles
Cahirdaniel to Skellig Experience	- 22 miles
Skellig Experience to Killorglin	- 36 miles
Killorglin to Killarney	- 13 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 111 miles</b>

### 3 - Bantry & Mizen Head



**BANTRY HOUSE** - Bantry House is the ancestral home of the Earls of Bantry, still lived in by their descendant Egerton & Brigitte Shelswell-White, and their family. Since 1946 the house containing its important collection of furniture, tapestries and objets d'art has been open to the public. A visit includes a self guided tour of the house.

Follow same route as [tour option 1](#) for Baera Peninsular to Glengarriff, then continue on N71 southbound to Bantry. Sightseeing optional stop at Bantry House and French Armada Museum. Head from Bantry, south on N71, then right turn southwest on R591 via Durrus and Goleen to Mizen Head. Rejoin N71 on R592 via Schull. Return route to Killarney on N71 northbound via Bantry and Kenmare. For continuing on Ring of Kerry Tour, take N70 westbound from Kenmare towards Sneem.

Killarney to Kenmare	- 20 miles
Kenmare to Bantry	- 27 miles
Bantry to Goleen	- 20 miles
Goleen to Mizen Head	- 6 miles
Mizen Head to Schull	- 15 miles
Schull to Joining Point on N71	- 5 miles
Joining Point on N71 to Killarney	- 56 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 149 miles</b>

### FRI 3/7 - Killarney to Midleton

Depart Killarney on N22 south west over Derrynasagart Mountains before taking a right turn at Ballyvourney south west via Coolea and then hairpin left to Ballingearry. Then take the R584 southwest for Ballylickey via the Keimaneigh Pass and Shehy Mountains. Joining the N71 turn southbound to Bantry. Sightseeing optional stop at Bantry House and French Armada Museum. Continue south on N71 to Skibbereen then onwards on N71 eastbound to Clonakilty. After exiting Clonakilty following the N71, take the R600 to Kinsale via Timoleague and crossing the estuary bridge.



**KINSALE** - One of the most picturesque, popular and fashionable resorts of the south-west coast of Ireland. Famous for yachting, sea angling, Dolphin & Whale Watching Trips, gourmet restaurants and golf. The Town nestles between the hills and the shoreline, a maze of narrow streets, never far from the water and little changed in many hundreds of years.

Optional stop in Kinsale or at Charles Fort 2 miles south. From Kinsale, head north on R600 towards Cork Airport and join N27. Take N52 bypass eastbound around Cork City and head eastbound on N25.

Killarney to Ballyvourney	- 19 miles
Ballyvourney to Ballylickey via Ballingearry	- 25 miles
Ballylickey to Bantry	- 3 miles
Bantry to Clonakilty via Skibbereen	- 35 miles
Clonakilty to Kinsale via Timoleague	- 20 miles
Kinsale to N52 Cork Bypass	- 14 miles
N52 Cork Bypass to Midleton	- 15 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 131 miles</b>

### SAT 4/7 - Midleton to Rosslare

#### Sightseeing Route to Waterford

From Midleton, take the R267 northbound to Tallow and join the N72 eastbound to Lismore. Optional stop at Lismore Castle Gardens. Take the R668 northbound over the Knockmealdown Mountains and via Kilcommon to Cahir. Optional stop at Cahir Castle. At Cahir, take the N24 eastbound to Carrick-on-Suir. At Carrick-on-Suir take the bridge south over the river Suir and then left turn eastbound on the R680. The road joins the N25 five miles west of Waterford.

#### Direct Route to Waterford

From Midleton, continue on the N25 eastbound through Youghal and Dungarvan towards Waterford. On N25 just 2 miles west of Waterford, recommended stop - The Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre (Factory tour is currently not operating)



**WATERFORD CRYSTAL** - Home of the world's finest crystal, a visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre is a must-see. Marvel at the luxury pieces commissioned for celebrities, view the impressive display of trophies produced for International sporting events and indulge in a little retail therapy in the world's largest display of Waterford Crystal.

From Waterford Crystal, continue into Waterford. Take bridge north over the river Suir in the direction of New Ross on the N29. From New Ross, take the N25 eastbound to Wexford. Depart Wexford on N25 southeast to Rosslare Harbour. The St Helens Hotel is located on your right hand side 1/2 mile before the ferry terminal. Dinner and overnight at the St Helens Hotel.

#### Sightseeing Route

Midleton to Tallow	- 15 miles
Tallow to Lismore	- 6 miles
Lismore to Cahir via Kilcommon	- 21 miles
Cahir to Carrick-on-Suir	- 23 miles
Carrick-on-Suir to Joining point on N25	- 12 miles
Joining Point on N25 to Waterford Crystal	- 3 miles
Waterford Crystal to Wexford via New Ross	- 39 miles
Wexford to Rosslare Harbour	- 12 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 131 miles</b>

#### Direct Route

Midleton to Waterford Crystal via Dungarvan	- 53 miles
Waterford Crystal to Wexford via New Ross	- 39 miles
Wexford to Rosslare Harbour	- 12 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 104 miles</b>

### SUN 5/7 - St Helens Hotel to Rosslare

Depart following N25 north to the Ferry terminal for the 09h00 ferry crossing to Fishguard, arriving at 12h30.

St Helens Hotel to Rosslare Harbour Ferry Terminal	- 0.5 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 0.5 miles</b>

# Itinerary - Days 5 to 7

South of Listowel on N69 at Six Crosses, turn left on L9 via Reanagowan to Castleisland. At Castleisland take N23 then at Farranfore the N22 southbound to Killarney. The Riverside Hotel is located on the N71 southbound road towards Muckcross House and is a walkable distance into town with good parking. Dinner and overnight at the Riverside Hotel.

Renvyle House Hotel to Clifden	- 12 miles
Clifden to Galway	- 47 miles
Galway to Kilcogan	- 16 miles
Kilcogan to Ballyvaughan	- 17 miles
Ballyvaughan to Cliffs of Moher via Murrough and Roadford	- 24 miles
Cliffs of Moher to Killimer & Tarbert Ferry	- 35 miles
Tarbert Ferry to Six Crosses	- 16 miles
Six Crosses to Castleisland	- 14 miles
Castleisland to Killarney	- 15 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 196 miles</b>

## WED 1/7 - Killarney

### Half Day Excursions from Killarney

Choose just one half day excursion or combine them both together to make a full day tour:

#### 1 - Foynes Flying Boat Museum



**FOYNES FLYING BOAT MUSEUM** - On July 9th 1939, Pan Am's luxury Flying Boat, the "Yankee Clipper" landed at Foynes. This was the first commercial passenger flight on a direct route from the USA to Europe. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, this quiet little town on the Shannon became the focal point for air traffic on the North Atlantic

Take the N22 north to Farranfore, then right turn north-east on the N23 through Castleisland to Abbeyfeale. At Abbeyfeale take left on R524 northbound through Athlea to Glin. Join N69 eastbound to Foynes. Visit to the Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Return by continuing eastbound on N69 for 2 miles then take right turn on R521 south through Ardagh to Newcastle West. Take N21 southwest back through Castleisland and N23, then N22 south back to Killarney or take N21 west to Tralee then N86 west towards Blennerville if you choose to take the Dingle tour.

Killarney to Abbeyfeale	- 30 miles
Abbeyfeale to Glin	- 15 miles
Glin to Foynes	- 9 miles
Foynes to Newcastle West	- 12 miles
Newcastle West to Killarney	- 42 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 108 miles</b>

#### 2 - Dingle Peninsula Tour



**DINGLE PENINSULA** - The most northerly of the mountainous headlands of Kerry in Ireland. The Peninsula at its most dramatic can be seen by travelling north-eastwards from Dingle to Tralee, through the heights of the Conor Pass that reveals sight of the summit of Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak.

Take the N22 north towards Tralee. About 5 miles south of Tralee, take the left signposted turn to Farmers Bridge and follow signs to Farmer Bridge. Continue through village following signs to Blennerville then before reaching N86 main road, follow signs for Derrymore / Dingle. On N86 at Camp, take north coastal road (right turn on R560) and follow route through Stradbally, over the Connor Pass to Dingle.

Follow the 'Atlantic Drive' circuit westbound through Milltown, Ventry and recommended stop for view of Blasket Rocks and the Blasket Visitor Centre. Continue on circuit through Ballyferriter on R559 back to Dingle. Take N86 east to Anascaul, then take right turn on southern coast road (R561) through Inch and onwards through Castlemaine back to Farranfore. Joining N22 main road, head south back to Killarney

Killarney to Turn off point from N22 towards Farmers Bridge	- 12 miles
Turn off point from N22 towards Farmers Bridge to Joining point on N86	- 9 miles
Joining Point on N86 to Camp	- 8 miles
Camp to Dingle via Stradbally	- 19 miles
Dingle to Blasket Visitor Centre (Dunquin)	- 13 miles
Blasket Visitor Centre to Dingle via Ballyferriter	- 10 miles
Dingle to Anascaul	- 10 miles
Anascaul to Farranfore	- 24 mile
Farranfore to Killarney	- 9 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 114 miles</b>

## THUR 2/7 - Killarney

### Half Day Excursions from Killarney

Choose just one half day excursion or combine 2 or more of them together to make a full day tour:

#### 1 - 'Healey Pass Loop' - The Beara Peninsula



**BEARA PENINSULA** - The Beara Peninsula is the wildest and most romantic of the peninsulas in the South West. Start your journey of discovery at Glengarriff opening out to one of the largest of the peninsulas, which make up the highly indented coastline of the South West of Ireland. The peninsula stretches for a distance of 48km (30 miles) from Glengarriff to Dursley Island and back to Kenmare.

Depart southbound from Killarney on N71 past Muckcross House (interesting stop for tour of house frequented by Queen Victoria) and continue winding road up into the Mountains of the MacGillycuddys Reeks (highest in Ireland). Stop at famous beauty spot parking (signposted on right) of Ladies View with great vista of Killarney's upper lakes. Continue up to Molls Gap pass and descend to Kenmare. Continue on N71 southbound and climbing to Healy Pass then down to Glengarriff. Optional Stop for those liking Gardens to visit Garinish Island Gardens. At Glengarriff take westbound R572 along southern coast of Beara Peninsula through Adrigole, Castletown Bere, Cahermore, then continuing circuit north on R575 and R571 via Ahillies, Eyeries, Lauragh and back to Kenmare. Retrace steps on N71 north to Killarney. To continue on Ring of Kerry Tour, take N70 westbound from Kenmare towards Sneem.

Killarney to Kenmare	- 20 miles
Kenmare to Glengarriff	- 12 miles
Glengarriff to Castletown Bere	- 21 miles
Castletown Bere to Cahermore	- 8 miles
Cahermore to Eyeries	- 12 miles
Eyeries to Kenmare	- 23 miles
Kenmare to Killarney	- 20 miles
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 116 miles</b>

#### 2 - 'Ring of Kerry' - The Iveragh Peninsula



**THE RING OF KERRY** - A drive around 'the Ring of Kerry' is one of the most beautiful and scenic Ireland drives through mountains and past loughs. Killarney National Park, stretches along dramatic coastline, past country houses and through pretty towns and villages. The total distance around the Ring of Kerry is about 111 miles (176kms)

## DRIVING IN IRELAND

**Speed limits:** Speed limits are 50 kilometres per hour (roughly 30 miles per hour) in towns, 80 kph (approximately 50 mph) on rural roads (such as R-257, R-600, etc.), 100 kph (about 60 mph) on national roads (N-8, N-30, and so on), and 120 kph (roughly 75 mph) on motorways (M-1, M-50, etc.).

**Motor Insurance:** Third-party insurance cover is compulsory. A green card is not required but your insurer should be advised of your trip.

**Documentation:** Always carry your driving licence, vehicle registration document (V5), and certificate of motor insurance. If your licence does not incorporate a photograph ensure you carry your passport to validate the licence. If the vehicle is not registered in your name, carry a letter from the registered owner giving you permission to drive.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted. Children under 12 cannot travel in the front unless using a suitable restraint system

**Fines:** On the spot fines are issued for parking offences. Ensure an official receipt is issued by the officer collecting the fine.

**Drinking and driving:** Ireland has similar drink driving laws to the UK, only allowing 0.8 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood. Don't do it. Over 0.08 per cent and you could face anything up to imprisonment.

**Fuel:** All grades of petrol, diesel and LPG are available as well as lead replacement petrol (LRP). It is allowed to carry petrol in a can. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted. It's a good idea to let your card issuer know you will be travelling abroad. This ensures they don't suspend your card if they spot it being used in unfamiliar places, which they sometimes do as an anti-fraud measure.

**Headlamp converters:** Are not required for GB cars as in Ireland you drive on the left.

**GB sticker:** UK registered vehicles displaying Euro-plates (circle of 12 stars above the national identifier on blue background) no longer need a GB sticker when driving in European Union countries

**First-aid kit:** It is advised, but not compulsory.

**Horns:** Not to be used between 23h30 and 07h00.

**Mobile phones:** It is illegal to drive and use a mobile phone in Ireland.

**Parking:** Parking regulations are strictly enforced, particularly in Dublin city. Tow trucks and vehicle disabling programs are in operation. Parking meters operate in the centre. The typical cost is euro 1,30 to 1,90 per hour. Disk parking operates outside the central zone and in some suburbs and many cities outside Dublin. Some multi-storey car parks accept credit cards.

## Your Holiday Route.....



### MILEAGE COVERSION

KPH	MPH
30	19
40	25
50	31
60	37
70	43
80	50
90	56
100	62
110	68
120	75
130	81

Main Tour Route	
Alternative Routes	
Renvyle Short Day	
Renvyle Long Day	
Foynes Museum	
Dingle Peninsula	
Beara Peninsula	
The Ring of Kerry	
Bantry & Mizen Head	



This tour has been arranged for the Panther Car Club by :



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# Itinerary - Days 1 to 2

## BALLYGALLY/CARRICKFERGUS • BUNDORAN CONNEMARA • KILLARNEY • MIDLETON • ROSSLARE

### FRI 26/6 - From Stranraer (check-in 1hr prior to departure)

14h40 - HSS (Stena Line) fast ferry crossing departs Stranraer to Belfast, arriving at approximately 16h40. Then drive from Belfast Port to Carrickfergus / Ballygally along A2 coastal road. Dinner and overnight at the Ballygally Castle Hotel or Clarion Hotel Carrickfergus.

Belfast Port to Carrickfergus - 10 miles  
Carrickfergus to Ballygally - 19 miles

### FRI 26/6 - From Holyhead (check-in 1hr prior to departure)

10h25 - HSS (Stena Line) fast ferry crossing departs Holyhead, arriving at approximately 12h25. Then drive north on the T44 coastal road through Blackrock, then right turn following coast to Sandymount in the Dublin outskirts and continue to road tunnel under the Liffey Estuary then follow the R105 through Clontarf to the fishing town of Howth for a scenic lunch stop. You may wish to visit the National Transport Museum.



HOWTH - A fishing and yachting port, and popular resort 9½ miles north-east of Dublin. Howth Head gives fine views of Dublin Bay and the Wicklow Mountains. In the bay is the rocky bird sanctuary and monastic island, to which boat trips may be taken in summer. Cliff paths lead around the coastline, through Howth village and its ruined abbey, and past Baily Lighthouse.

Departure from Howth on the R106 coastal road north via Howth and join the M1 / A1 Dublin to Belfast highway at Swords to head northbound past Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry, before exiting the Motorway just north of Belfast on Junction 2 towards Carrickfergus on the A2. Those staying overnight at Ballygally continue on the A2 coastal road.

Dun Laoghaire to Howth - 15 miles  
Howth to Swords - 10 miles  
Swords to Belfast A2 motorway turnoff - 93 miles  
A2 motorway turnoff to Carrickfergus - 10 miles  
Carrickfergus to Ballygally - 19 miles  
Total - 147 miles

### SAT 27/6 - Ballygally/Carrickfergus to Bundoran

Depart along Antrim Coastal road. Follow A2 as far as signs for Knocknacarry on right and take road to Tor Head (great views over to Scotland). Continue to Ballyvoy, re-joining A2 and continue to Ballycastle, then take the B15 to Ballintoy and follow signs to the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge for views and the famous bridge walk.



CARRICK-A-REDE - A footpath leads to the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge where there are wonderful vantage points to enjoy the natural beauty. The geology, flora and fauna have won recognition as an area of special scientific interest. Fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots and razorbills breed on the islands.



GIANTS CAUSEWAY - For centuries visitors have marvelled at the majesty and mystery of the Giant's Causeway. The rugged symmetry of the columns never fails to intrigue and inspire visitors. Its unique formations have, for millions of years, stood as a natural rampart against the unbridled ferocity of Atlantic storms.

Follow B15 and rejoin A2, then exit on B146 to the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre. A stop at the Giant's Causeway is a must, and recommended as a lunch stop. Continue in the afternoon rejoining A2 towards Bushmills (Please note: The Whisky Distillery is currently only open to visitors in the morning), and take A2 along coastal road past Portrush (good National Trust beach stop at Portstewart Strand). Follow A2 to Coleraine and take A37 to Limavady and A2 towards Londonderry. Follow A2 bridge right over Lough Foyle before reaching Londonderry and take A13 to Letterkenny. Take left at roundabout 2 miles from Letterkenny on N13 south to Stranorlar and over river bridge to Ballybofey. Continue south west through the Barnesmore Gap passing the Blue Stack Mountains and to Donegal Town. Continue through Donegal Town southbound on the N15 towards Bundoran. Take right turn to Bundoran Golf Club and Great Northern Hotel, approx one mile north of Bundoran.



BLUE STACK MOUNTAINS - are the major mountain range in the south of County Donegal in western Ulster, Ireland. They provide an almost impassable barrier between the south of the county. The road between the two parts of the county goes through the Barnesmore Gap.

### Alternative Scenic Route from Letterkenny.

At Letterkenny, follow signs for R250 and exit towards Rashedoge then take right on R251 before reaching Rashe-doge. Continue and then take R254 through Glendowan and skirting wild scenery of the Glenveagh National Park and the Derryveagh Mountains. Continue to Doochary and follow signs to Lettermacaward. Join N56 road over estuary bridge to Maas. In Maas take R261 road to Ardara via Narin. Rejoin N56 road towards Donegal Town via Dunkineely. Continue through Donegal Town southbound on the N15 towards Bundoran. Take right turn to Bundoran Golf Club and Great Northern Hotel 1 mile north of Bundoran. Dinner and overnight in the Great Northern Hotel.

Ballygally to Tor Head - 30 miles  
Tor Head to Carrick-a-Rede - 14 miles  
Carrick-a-Rede to Giant's Causeway - 7 miles  
Giant's Causeway to Portstewart - 4 miles  
Portstewart to Letterkenny - 57 miles  
Letterkenny to Donegal Town - 29 miles  
Donegal Town to Great Northern Hotel - 17 miles  
Total Miles - 158 miles

### Alternative Scenic Route from Letterkenny

Letterkenny to Ardara - 41 miles  
Ardara to Donegal Town - 23 miles  
Additional mileage - 35 miles

# Itinerary - Days 3 to 5

### SUN 28/6 - Bundoran to Connemara

Depart the hotel and and turn left on to N15 north towards Ballyshannon, taking eastbound route on N3 towards Belleek. Rather than crossing river bridge north to Belleek, continue south on B52 to Garrison and then R282 left to Rossiver and Manorhamilton.



PARKES CASTLE - A restored castle of the early 17th century, picturesquely situated on the shores of Lough Gill, once the home of Robert Parke and his family. The Courtyard grounds contain evidence of an earlier 16th century Tower House structure once owned by Sir Brian O'Rourke who subsequently was executed at Tyburn, London in 1591.

Take right turn west on N16 then left on R286 to Leckaun. Scenic stop at Parkes Castle on shore of Lough Gill (open from 10am) and continue to Dromhair. Take R287 and R290 south-west from Dromhair to N4 and cross over on R290 to Collooney before a left turn westbound to Coolaney. Follow road southwest through Carrowneden and Cloonacool to Mullaneys Cross. Cross over the R294 and follow road to Aclare, the follows signs to Swinford. Join the N5 main road southwest to Westport via Castlebar. Scenic drive south on the N59 to Leenane and continue past Kylemore Abbey (Recommended stop).



KYLEMORE ABBEY - is the Monastic home of the Benedictine Order of Nuns in Ireland. As you enter the Abbey you will be introduced to a world steeped in the Benedictine tradition of warmth and hospitality spanning over 1500 years.

Continue to Letterfrack, then take right turn to Tully Cross and follow onwards on signs to Renvyle. As the road descends gently and straight towards coast, take right fork for signposted Renvyle House Hotel and drive through entrance gates. Dinner and overnight at the Renvyle House Hotel.

Great Northern Hotel to Belleek - 9 miles  
Belleek to Leckaun - 19 miles  
Leckaun to Collooney - 13 miles  
Collooney to Swinford - 29 miles  
Swinford to Westport - 27 miles  
Westport to Kylemore Abbey - 28 miles  
Kylemore Abbey to Letterfrack - 3 miles  
Letterfrack to Renvyle House Hotel - 4 miles  
Total - 132 miles

### MON 29/6 - Connemara

Take road back to Tully Cross and take the road left towards Gowlaun. As narrow road winds descent close to shore, a left hand track will appear for parking for a dramatic white sand beach walk. Recommended stop if not raining. Continue north on road past hamlet of Gowlaun and Lough Fee to join N59. Turn northbound towards Leenane and as road descends down to sides of Killary Harbour (looks like a Fjord or Sea Lough), there is a stop for taking the Killary Harbour Scenic Cruise (best to pre-book and must check times). Continue to Leenane to relax then return on N59 via Letterfrack to hotel and relax in its dramatic grounds. Dinner and overnight at the Renvyle House Hotel.

### Extended Day & Alternative to Harbour Cruise (in good weather).

Take scenic route from the head of Killary Harbour, past Glennagevalgh and take left turn on R335 skirting round

the north shore of Killary Harbour, before heading uphill with dramatic mountains on the left up a long scenic pass (not steep) to Creggenbaun. Take left signposted turn to Killadoon, at Killadoon take left turn at T-junction southbound past Kinnadoohy, follow the road straight south, avoiding all turns right until eventually you end up at a smart gated entrance to a house. Here the road turns and descends right down to the beach with a small car park. Walk over the stream bridge onto one of Ireland's most amazing whitesand beaches. Retrace steps back to the Renvyle House Hotel via Leenane and Letterfrack.



SILVER STRAND - Set on the northern entrance to Killary Harbour (Ireland's only Fjord), is one of Ireland's most beautiful and best hidden beaches. Nestled under the majestic Mweelrea mountain, this wide flat expanse of dazzling white sand is a truly wild and breathtakingly scenic spot to which a detour is highly recommended.

### Short Day

Renvyle House Hotel to Leenane via Gowlaun and Lough Fee - 22 miles  
Leenane to Renvyle House Hotel - 15 miles  
Total - 37 miles

### Extended Day

Renvyle House Hotel to Leenane via Gowlaun and Lough Fee - 22 miles  
Leenane to Silver Strand beach - 24 miles  
Silver Strand to Renvyle House Hotel via Leenane and Letterfrack - 39 miles  
Total - 85 miles

### TUE 30/6 - Connemara to Killarney

Depart Hotel, driving through Tully Cross to Letterfrack and turn right southbound on N59 towards Clifden, then continue on N59 with great views of the Twelve Pins mountains on the left, through Maam Cross and onwards to Galway. Take the Galway ring road following signs to N6 and Oranmore before continuing on N18 southbound signposted to Ennis. At Kilcogan, take the N67 right to Kinvara and continue to Ballyvaughan. At Ballyvaughan turn right on the R477 coastal road via Murroogh, skirting the dramatic Limestone Pavement landscape of The Burren, then continue to Roadford, then continue straight south, joining R478 to the Cliffs of Moher. Recommended sightseeing and Lunch Stop (parking charges and entrance fee payable).



CLIFFS OF MOHER - One of Ireland's top Visitor attractions. The Cliffs are 214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean. O'Brien's Tower stands on the headland. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maam Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South.

Continue on R478 to Lahinch. Take N67 southbound to Milltown. South of Milltown take the left turn signposted to Creegh and onwards to Kilrush. Joining the N67 at Kilrush, continue southeast to Killimer and the ferry to Tarbert over the Shannon Estuary. Continue south to Listowel on the N69.



TARBERT FERRY - The main tourist routes of the Shannon Region are linked via the Killimer-Tarbert car ferry. This pleasant, 20 minute journey across the Shannon Estuary saves 85 miles (137 km) from ferry terminal to ferry terminal.