

Hiking

Trip Grade: **Green 2**



Hiking & Island Hopping - Ireland's West Coast


Wilderness Ireland

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Hiking & Island Hopping - Ireland's West Coast

Visit Ireland's iconic west coast on this unique island-hopping adventure! Explore some of Ireland's most diversified landscapes such as the craggy Burren blanketed in wildflowers, the sheer Cliffs of Moher falling into the sea and the remote Irish-speaking communities of Connemara. Hop from island to island, exploring ancient castles, white sand beaches, swirling Atlantic waves and ruined abbeys.

Combined with gentle hikes, you'll explore Ireland's west coast and Wild Atlantic Way from a new perspective! Meet local characters in remote Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) communities, hear the ancient myths and stories of Ireland's island communities - such as the Pirate Queen of Clew Bay, sample traditional dishes by a roaring fire, and feel fresh island breeze as you walk along the wild Atlantic shores!

Highlights

- A sunset hike to the Cliffs of Moher
- Island hop to the Gaelic-speaking Aran Islands and explore the barracks of Inisbofin Island
- Explore the island stronghold of Ireland's infamous Pirate Queen

Book With Confidence

- We guarantee this trip will run as soon as **2** people have booked
- Maximum of **8** places available per departure

PLEASE NOTE – The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of the Wilderness Ireland Guide with regard to weather conditions and other factors.



Wilderness Ireland

Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [The Burren: Ireland's Middle Earth](#)

Day 2 | [The Aran Islands & Cliffs of Moher](#)

Day 3 | [Connemara Gaeltacht: Garumna Island](#)

Day 4 | [The Connemara Gaeltacht](#)

Day 5 | [Inisbofin Island](#)

Day 6 | [Clare Island, A Pirate's Hideaway](#)

Day 7 | [Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain](#)

Arrival Info

- Your Guide will meet you in Galway Railway Station by the ticket machines
- **12.00pm** on Day 1 of your trip

Departure Info

- You will be returned to Westport Railway Station
- **1:00pm** on the final day of your trip

PLEASE NOTE – The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of the Wilderness Ireland Guide with regard to weather conditions and other factors.



Wilderness Ireland

Day 1 | The Burren: Ireland's Middle Earth

From the cosmopolitan centre of Dublin, we start our high points hiking adventure by heading into the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Full of emerald hills topped with purple heather and framed by lush forests, Wicklow is a special place. Back in the 6th century, Saint Kevin, a monk seeking solace and contemplation, found it here in the idyllic surroundings of Glendalough. Today's hike explores the hills beyond Glendalough's monastery following the Glenealo River through a stunning glaciated valley. **(L,D)**

Hike details: 9km/ 6.5 miles | approx. 4 hours

Day 2 | The Aran Islands & Cliffs of Moher

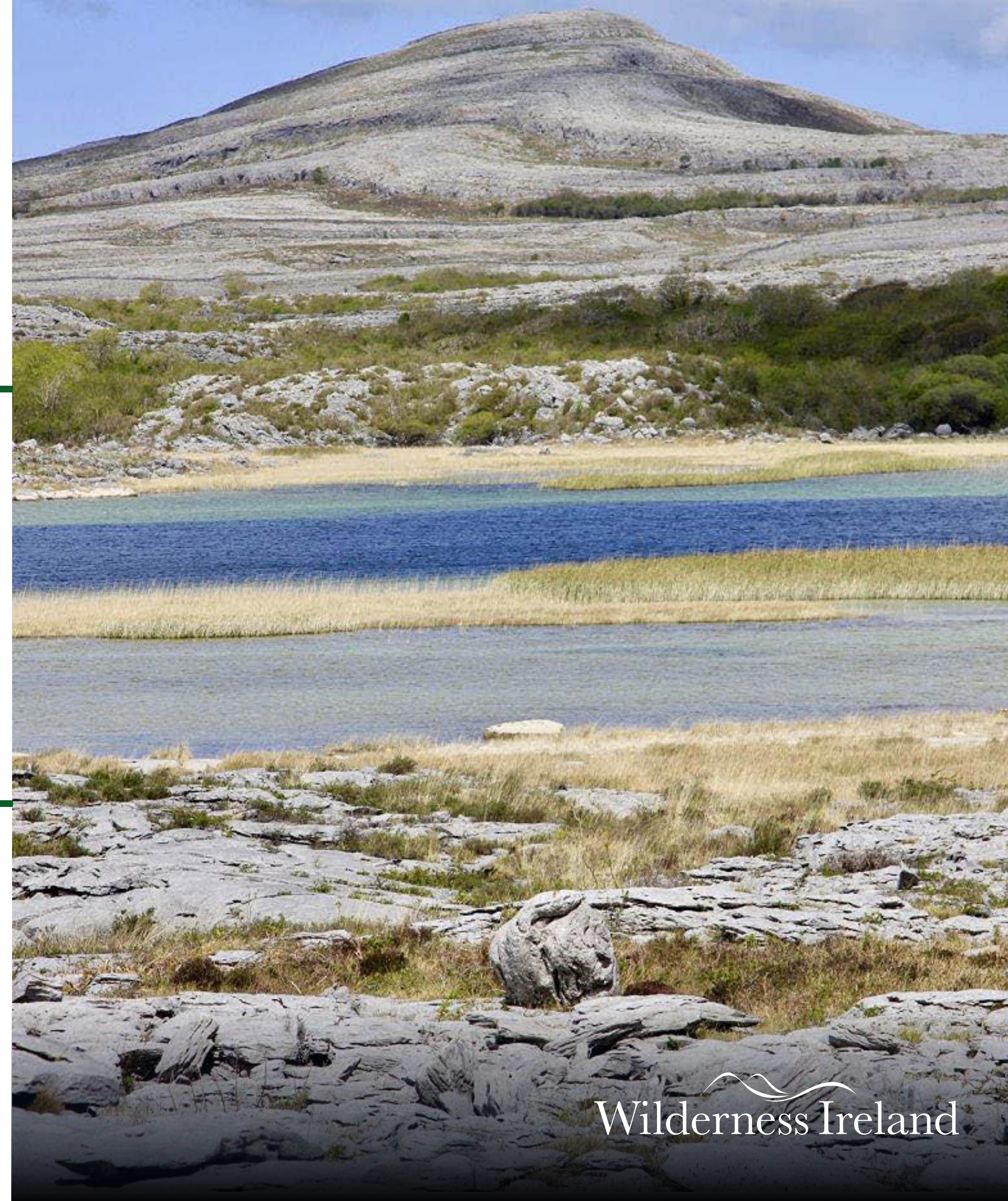
For our first island hopping excursion, we'll set sail to the least-visited of the Aran Islands today. Inis Meain (the middle of the three islands) is a bastion of Irish tradition. First settled about 7,000 years ago by gatherers following the abundance of food along the coastline, the Aran Islands have since been home to centuries of settlers, each leaving an imprint of their history, heritage and tradition. Today's hike follows quiet roads and trails around Inis Meain island. In the evening, we'll visit the Cliffs of Moher (the stand in for the Cliffs of Insanity for cult classic, *The Princess Bride*!) where an additional walk along a breathtaking clifftop trail is an option. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 13km/ 8 miles | approx. 4.5 hours

Day 3 | Connemara Gaeltacht: Garumna Island

Today's walk takes us into the heart of the Connemara Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region). Continuing with our island-hopping adventure, we'll cross a tiny peninsula as we hike to the little-visited Garumna Island. Here the trail meanders through a series of local lanes and paths as you head towards the Trawbaun graveyard with its neatly-preserved medieval church. Along the shore of Greatman's Bay, you'll pass coral beaches and the rocky foreshore but it is the views of Connemara's Mamturk and Twelve Bens mountain ranges that set the scene. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 8km/ 5 miles | approx. 3.5 hours



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Day 4 | Inisbofin Island

Another day, another island! Today we head to iconic Inisbofin Island, where you can take in some of the most stunning Atlantic Coast scenery. Your coastal hike winds along Inishbofin Island's shores, offering jaw-dropping views of the island's blowholes and sea arch, as well as the sea stacks where the island's seal colony resides, the Dún More Cliffs and Iron Age promontory fort ruins, the picturesque Trá Gheal beach and the famine road. The track winds over grass paths, turf banks and shingle beach pebbles. One of the west coast's best pints of Guinness awaits back at the harbour before ferrying back to the mainland. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 16km/ 10 miles | approx. 6 hours

Day 5 | On the Shores of Killary Fjord

Certainly one of Ireland's most spectacular coastal hikes, this gentle walk along Killary Fjord takes you past rocky outcroppings of sheep-shorn grass with distant ocean views spreading out before us. Overlooking a necklace of white sand beaches along the shoreline, sharp eyes can spot pods of dolphins on the surface of a seascape dotted with islands. Delve into Irish history as we pass a famine-era abandoned village while your guide brings to life the rich ancient histories of this little-changing landscape. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 12km/ 7.5 miles | approx. 4 hours



Day 6 | Clare Island, A Pirate's Hideaway

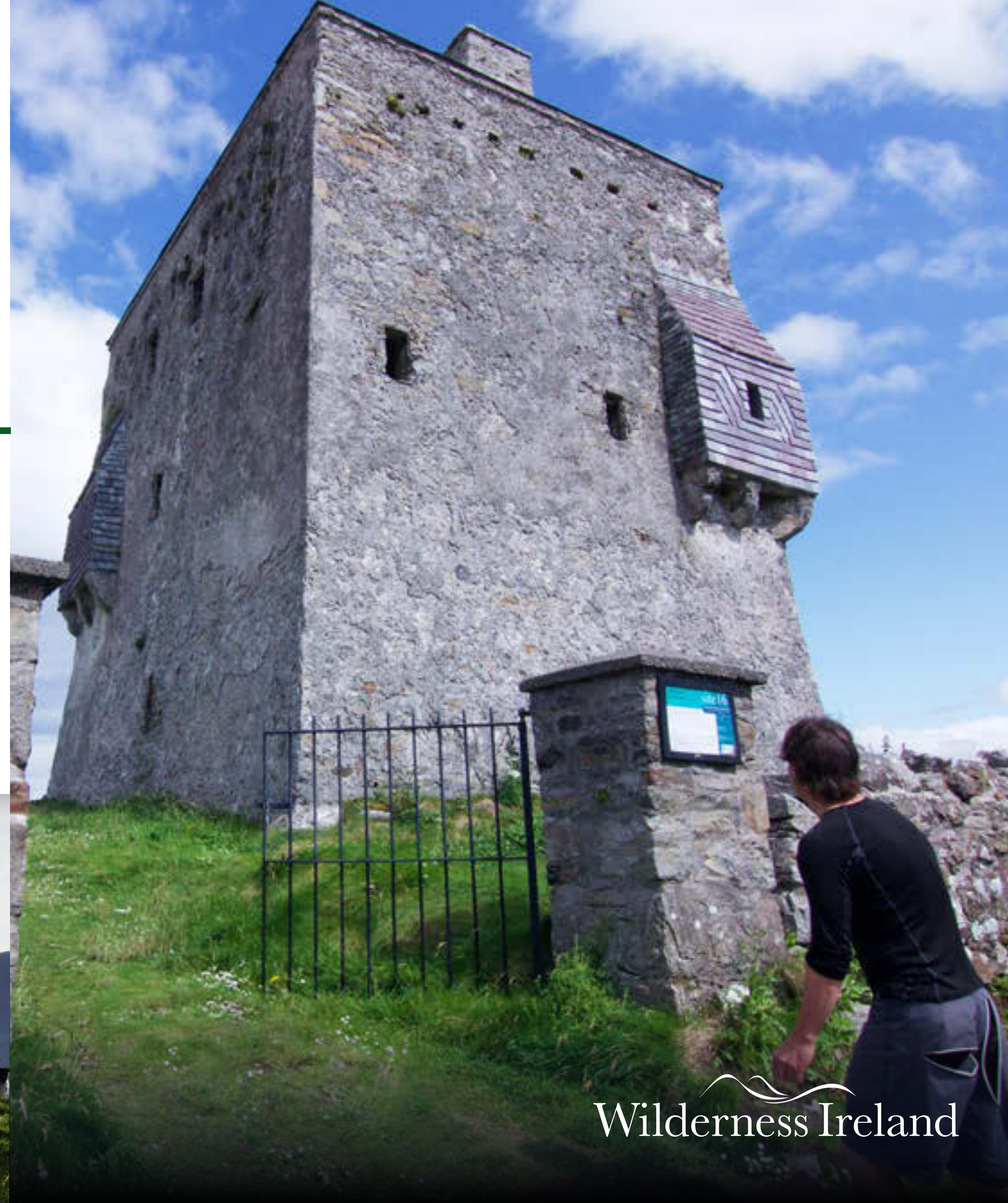
Clare Island, the final island on our tour! In the 16th century, the wild north Atlantic coast of Ireland was ruled by Grace O'Malley, a formidable Gaelic pirate queen, who ruled the seas of Northern Europe. The little-visited Clare Island guards the entrance to Clew Bay, the Pirate Queen's former stronghold. Explore the Pirate Queen's castle, cliffs, beaches and ruins of this magical place. Our hike follows the line of the cliffs on the northern coast, from the dramatically situated lighthouse to the island's highest point before descending back to the little harbour village to relax at the sandy beach there. **(B,L,D)**

Hike details: 11km/ 7 miles | approx. 4-5 hours

Day 7 | Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain

The imposing silhouette of the pilgrimage site of Croagh Patrick Mountain dominates the surrounding countryside. On our way past, we'll stop to enjoy a short hike in the shadow of the mountain that follows sheep tracks through heathery bogland along the last few miles of the traditional pilgrimage route to the foot of the mountain. We'll stop at a beautiful Augustinian friary before finishing up in lively Westport town. **(B)**

Hike details: 4km/ 2.5 miles | approx. 1.5 hours



Trip Grading | Green 3 | ●●●●●●●●

Green graded hiking holidays are suitable for active travellers who are reasonably fit and enjoy moderate hikes.

- We hike at a comfortable pace - expect to be out for 5-6 hours a day.
- The terrain will be on mostly good paths and hill trails but these can still be muddy and rough in places.
- Some hikes may involve an ascent up to a max of approx 1,500 feet/450m.
- Distances will be typically 8-10km but there may be the odd slightly longer day. Daily hike details are available in the itinerary.

If you have any questions about the grading, then please do give our Adventure Consultants a call to chat through your experience and suitability for this trip.



It is your responsibility to ensure you are appropriately fit and capable of doing the described hikes in the expected times. Please refer to the [grading section](#) on our website for more details. If you are unsure we encourage you to speak to us first.



Wilderness Ireland

Accommodation and Meals

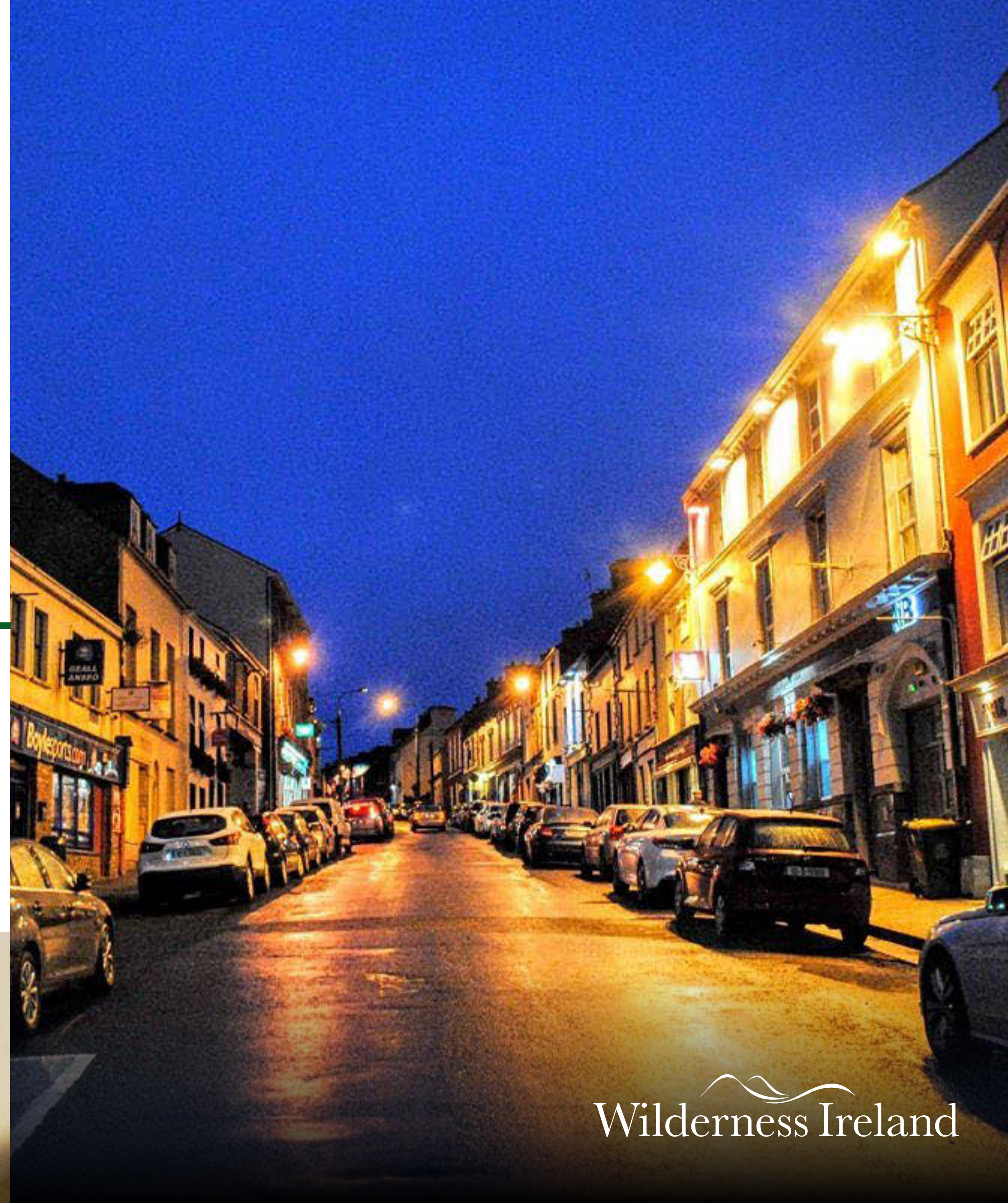
This hiking trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort in Clare as well as on our two night island retreat. Expect small, comfortable and characterful lodging in B&Bs, family-fun hotels or guesthouses, both in town as well as in rural communities. Accommodation is a choice of double or twin rooms, which are en-suite with a shower. Evening meals will be taken either in local towns, which offer a good choice of restaurants to suit every taste, or perhaps in a different location along our route depending on the day's hike.

Each morning, enjoy a homemade breakfast of your choice at your accommodation. Lunch will be taken in a cafe in day 1, and a Wilderness Picnic along route. Throughout the day, your guide will provide water and tasty, Irish snacks. Evening meals are included on the first and last nights only. For all other evenings, your Wilderness Guide can provide expert recommendations.

Single Rooms

There is no supplement charged to solo travellers, however you will be required to share a room with **another person of the same sex**. If you request a double room for single occupancy, a supplement of **€250** is charged.

Due to the nature of the accommodations we use, single supplement are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.



Inclusions

This trip includes the following:

- 6 nights accommodation in a hand-picked, family-run guesthouses, B&Bs & boutique hotels
- Most meals, incl. all Breakfasts, Lunches on Days 1-6, and Dinner on Day 1 and Day 6 (**Meals included indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**)
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable hiking guide / driver throughout
- All transport throughout the trip starting and finishing in Galway
- Activities stated in itinerary, incl. ferries/boat excursions and entrance fees

This trip includes all accommodation, guiding and travel, as well as mosts meals. It does not include drinks or any gratuities you may choose to leave.



Our holidays reviewed in your words...

“

Paul and John were amazing guides, and extremely thoughtful of every detail. They helped make this one of the best guides tours we have ever had!

Carol Biederman - 24/05/2018

”



[All Trip Reviews Here](#)

Your Guide

During this trip you will be accompanied and led by one of our professional guides. Our guides are among the most highly experienced and qualified in the country. Defined by their passion for Scotland's wild places, they have an intimate knowledge of the natural and social history of this land which they will be delighted to share with you. For more info and to meet the team please see our [Guide Pages](#).



Sustainable Travel

Wilderness Ireland is committed to the development of Ireland's sustainable tourism sector. We focus on developing sustainable operational practices and we endeavour to support the local tourism economy in each of the areas in which we work.

We are a proud partner of the Burren Beo, which enhances our commitment to responsible activity in Ireland's wild lands, particularly in the Burren region of County Clare.

Wilderness Ireland is an active, participating member of Leave No Trace Ireland, an outdoor ethics programme designed to inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships.

Thanks in part to the generosity of our clients by participating in our voluntary Conservation Contribution Scheme, we are able to provide financial support to a range of environmental and nature conservation charities and rural communities.

You can learn more about the work we're doing to care for the wild places we love [here](#).



Wilderness Ireland

Equipment List

Check out our guide on what to wear when adventuring in Ireland.

[Hiking-Kit-List-What-to-wear.pdf](#)



Eat | Stay | See

Looking for accommodation for before or after your adventure with us?
Check out our list of where to stay and what to do

[Eat – Stay – See – Dublin.pdf](#)



Getting Around Ireland

From airports to trains to buses, read our Getting Around Ireland document for more information.

[Getting-Around-Ireland.pdf](#)



Wilderness Ireland

Travel Insurance

It is your responsibility to take out appropriate travel insurance to cover you during your trip. This should include cover for cancellation prior to the trip*, the activities undertaken (i.e hiking), curtailment, and adequate medical insurance for sickness/injury and medical repatriation. We also strongly recommend you have cover for your other travel arrangements such as flights, and your personal possessions.

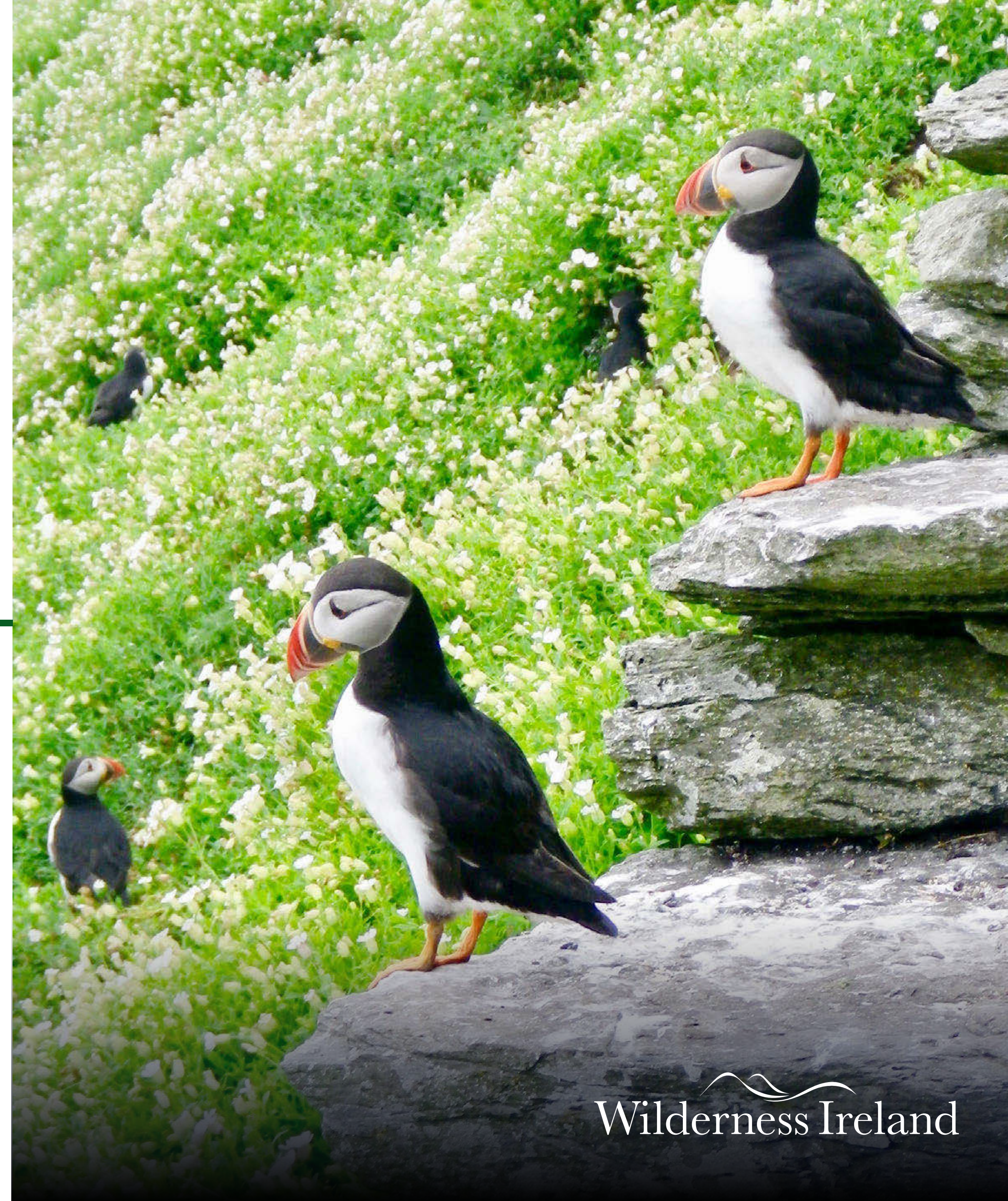
If you cancel your trip, charges will apply. Please see section 2 of our terms and conditions for a breakdown:

<https://www.wildernessireland.com/make-a-booking/booking-conditions/>

Your Satisfaction, Guaranteed

At Wilderness Ireland, we believe our tours are top notch. To back that up, we're the only Irish travel company offering a no-strings-attached 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

If you're not completely satisfied with any aspect of your trip, then let us know. If the issue was not resolved by Wilderness Ireland during your trip, then we'll invite you back to experience another Wilderness Ireland tour of similar value, FREE OF CHARGE to prove you can have a world class vacation in Ireland. See details more here.



Wilderness Ireland

FAQs

Looking for more information? Check out our frequently ask questions page.

wildernessireland.com/faq

Questions To Ask? Ready to Book?

If you want to get in touch please send us an email or give us a call. We accept bookings online, by email, or over the phone. A deposit of 25% is required at the time of booking to secure the trip with the balance payable 8 weeks (56 days) before departure. If booking less than 56 days before the trip start date, full payment of the trip price is required immediately.

We accept payment by credit or debit card, or bank transfer.

email: info@wildernessireland.com

Tel (EU): +353 (0) 91 457 898

Tel (US and Canada): 844-235-6240

[View Trip Dates](#)
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A photograph of a sheep and its lamb in a field of purple flowers. The sheep is standing in the middle ground, and the lamb is standing next to it. The field is covered in purple flowers, and there is a tree in the background.

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