

# Cycling Safaris

## HIGHLANDS OF DONEGAL

Set departure date tour 2022

319 km | 8 days/7 nights



Donegal is one of the undiscovered gems of Ireland. There is a wonderful mix of coastal cycling and a highland landscape where you can feel completely away from it all, before returning back to the coast and the most beautiful beaches in the country. The light is amazing here, with a landscape full of browns, greens and purples constantly altering their tone with the changing light. Traditional music is very strong here and the people have a wonderfully gentle nature.

The roads are all tarmaced and the route is designed to ensure that you spend most of the week on quiet backroads. Occasionally it will be necessary to ride on busier roads which is unavoidable as there may be no minor roads on certain stretches of the route. To experience the majestic scenery of this area the route does have some climbs, so it is worth getting a few weekends training on a bike in varied terrain before coming thus ensuring that you can fully enjoy the week.

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### DAY 1      SATURDAY      DONEGAL

You can check into your accommodation after 3pm. If you arrive early, you can leave your bags in your guesthouse and explore the town.

One month before tour departure we will advise you if we have reached the minimum number of 8 pax to provide you with a guide. And we will send you further details about the meeting point.

If we haven't reached the minimum number to run this as supported tour, you will receive the tour information in your first nights accommodation and commence the cycling tour without a guide in support van the next morning.

**DAY 2****SUNDAY****DONEGAL TO GLENCOLUMKILLE****39 miles/62km**

After being fitted out with your bike you then begin the tour with a cycle out of Donegal town towards the wonderful coastline where we continue to our lunch stop in village of Carrick.

After lunch we cycle up to a viewing point of the spectacular Slieve League Cliffs one of the highest marine based cliffs in Europe. In the afternoon we head to our night stop in the village of Glencolumcille passing freshly cut peat drying in the surrounding bogs.

**DAY 3****MONDAY****GLENCOLUMKILLE TO DUNGLOE****38 miles/60km**

Today we head up into wild highland country along quiet back roads with a wonderful open landscape. There follows a wonderful descent down the dramatic Glengesh Valley to the beautiful Maghera beach.

The beach is well worth stopping at for a walk across its wonderful white sands to explore the caves of Maghera. You can also go for a swim in the lagoon here and pretend you are in the Caribbean (!) before heading to the village of Ardara for a pub lunch.

In the afternoon we continue along a quiet bog road before heading to the coastal town of Dungloe where again we stay in local guesthouses.

**DAY 4****TUESDAY****DUNGLOE TO DUNFANAGHY****39 miles/63km**

We continue through a rolling landscape through quiet sleepy villages and can visit Leo's pub where Enya and Clannad first sang. Later we cycle toward the spectacular Mount Errigal and stop for lunch at the base of this mountain.

In the afternoon we cycle up to take in a view of the Poison Glen and then descend through an empty mountainscape towards Dunfanaghy. You also have the option of visiting Glenveagh National Park in the afternoon.

**DAY 5****WEDNESDAY****REST DAY IN DUNFANAGHY**

The village overlooks Portnablagh Beach and dunes where you can swim, swing a golf club or take a change of saddle, to gallop down the beach.





**DAY 6 THURSDAY DUNFANAGHY TO RAMELTON / RATHMULLAN 39 miles/62km**

The morning's cycle takes you through isolated highland country roads with a worthwhile detour to Doe Castle. We stop for lunch in Downings on the Rosguill Peninsula.

A roller coaster ride around the coast affords spectacular views of white sandy beaches as we wind our way down to our evenings accommodation in the town of Ramelton.



**DAY 7 FRIDAY CIRUCULAR TOUR OF AREA - DONEGAL 45 miles/72km**



Today we cycle the beautiful and remote Fanad Peninsula stopping for lunch in Port Salon. We continue along the shores of Lough Swilly through Rathmullan from where the last Earls of Ireland fled to Europe in 1607, thus ending the old Irish Order.

The final leg of our cycle brings us to Ramelton where our coach will then transfer you back to Donegal town for a farewell night on the town together before heading our separate ways the following morning

**2022 TOUR DATES**

**We offer guaranteed set departure dates:**

July 16

For 2022 we are offering one guaranteed departure date on this tour. On all tours we will organise your accommodation, bike rental & route details, including information on what to see and suggestions on where to eat each day

If there are less than 8 people booked on the tour we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred each day locally by a taxi.

**However if there are more than 8 people on the set departure dates, we provide a guide in a support van.**

Each person will still have their own route details and maps and have the freedom to cycle at their own pace each day, however there is the security of a person in the background offering assistance if and when it is needed.

**2022 TOUR PRICE**

- €880.00 per person sharing
- €255.00 single occupancy

Note that for 2022 bike hire is separated out of the tour price

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- Seven nights accommodation with full Irish breakfast
- One evening meal
- Route maps and details
- Luggage transfer each day
- Guide in support van on set departure dates with minimum of 8 people
- Transfer from Ramelton to Donegal
- GPS tracks available (on request)

### Not included:

€85.00	24 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock, helmet and a small pannier bag
€250.00	Electric - bike

### Meal expenses

All breakfasts are included in the tour price. Clients buy their own lunches and dinner throughout the trip. You should budget between €15 and €20 for lunch each day and an evening meal each night costing somewhere between €20 and €30.

### Extra Expenses

Rest Day Activities (All approximately €30)

- Surfing lessons/sea kayak trips
- Horse riding
- Green fees at golf course

### Are there facilities to change money?

There are banks/cash machines in Donegal Town, Dungloe and Dunfanaghy (banks open Monday – Friday: 10.00am - 4.00pm). Credit cards are also widely accepted.

## GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK UP SERVICE

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If there are under 8 clients booked on our set departure date you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If for any reason you are unable to cycle please contact our Dublin office (+353 1 2600749) so we can liaise with the luggage transfers to organise the transfer of bike(s) and person(s). Please note that you will be charged for any additional runs made on your behalf.

**If we reach a minimum of 8 people on our set departure dates, we provide a guide in a support van.**

Our bikes are serviced after each tour so they should be humming perfectly! If you experience small problems with the bike (i.e., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You can of course phone our office if you experience any major problems (+353 1 2600749).

On a self guided basis we also organize accommodation, bike rental, your route details, advise you on all the best places to eat and visit and we organise for your luggage to be transferred locally each day. We are also at the end of a phone line in case of any problems, but you head off without a back up guide.

## BIKE RENTAL

In 2022 we will be renting **GIANT CITY** bicycles for our tours in Donegal.



To see the specification for this you can visit the website:

[www.giant-bicycles.com/gb/escape-city](http://www.giant-bicycles.com/gb/escape-city) ( Gents model )

[www.giant-bicycles.com/en-ie/bikes/model/alight.2.city/28581/99470/](http://www.giant-bicycles.com/en-ie/bikes/model/alight.2.city/28581/99470/) ( Ladies model )

Bikes come in different sizes and in gents and ladies style frames.

It is very important you give us your height on booking so that we can allocate the correct bike to you.

## WHAT TO BRING

\*We would seriously recommend that you bring **padded cycling shorts and/ or a gel saddle cover** that will definitely make your day's cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment. You can also bring your own saddle which we should be able to attach to our bikes

\*We provide small **pannier bags** (not waterproof) in which you can keep your day-to-day items. Otherwise you may prefer to use a daypack and there are back carriers on each bike for this purpose.

\*We do not provide **rain gear** so be sure to bring your own light weight waterproofs.

\*Don't forget **sun cream, sunglasses, sun hat** as well as a bathing suit for that refreshing dip in the Atlantic Ocean.

\*Finally if you wish to use **toe clips** please bring your own pedals with toe clips which can be attached to our bikes (the pedals on our bikes do not accommodate toe clips)

## ACCOMODATION

The accommodation is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. We stay in a mixture of B&Bs and small hotels, where we hope to fuse the best standard we can get with the warmest welcome. We ensure en suite facilities.

We do reserve the right to change the accommodation around during the week, but we will always provide a high standard.

### Sample Accommodation list – subject to availability

#### Day 1 & 7: Donegal [Eske Villa B&B](#)



#### Day 2: Glencolmcille [Glenn Dobhar B&B](#)



#### Day 3: Dungloe [Radharc an Oiléan](#)



#### Day 4 & 5: Dunfanaghy [Arnolds Hotel](#)



#### Day 6: Ramelton [Ardeen House](#)





### **What if someone needs to contact me during the week?**

If you have a mobile phone which operates on the GSM 900 system, this will be compatible with the Irish system. Alternatively someone can call our office during the day and we will be able to contact anyone on the tour.

### **Looking for extra accommodation at the beginning or end of the tour?**

We would be happy to help you organise extra accommodation in Donegal for the start or the end of the week.

Accommodation websites for Dublin/Ireland

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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

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

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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### **Weather**

Because we are an island located near the gulf stream Ireland has a very mild climate making it ideal for cycling. We recommend that you bring your rain gear as well as your sun hat as a day that starts with rain can end with glorious sunshine! The temperature range during the summer is between 15 and 22 degrees centigrade (60 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit)

### **Visa requirements**

If you hold an EU passport you only need to make sure your passport is valid for the period of your stay.

All other nationalities require a passport that is valid for 3 months beyond the intended length of stay. Most nationalities including the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand do not require visas for Ireland and receive an automatic 90 day visitor's visa on arrival. If your nationality is not mentioned here you should check with your travel agent or consular office.

### **Electrical current/Mobile Phone**

The standard electrical supply is 220 volts AC (50 cycles). To use small appliances mainland European visitors may require a plug adaptor to fit our 3-pin flat or 2-pin round wall sockets. The mobile phone system in use is a digital GSM 900 system.

### **Websites on Ireland**

Some recommended websites on Ireland that might help you organise your trip if you are planning to spend more time in the country before or after your holiday with us.

[www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com) - Irish Tourist Board (Failte Ireland) official website

[www.dun-na-ngall.com](http://www.dun-na-ngall.com) - an interesting website with local facts and up-to-date Donegal news

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) info on historical sites