Cycling Safaris

CONNEMARA SPORTIVE ODYSSEY

SELF GUIDED SPORTIVE TOUR 2027



Oscar Wilde described Connemara as a "savage beauty". This sentiment is well reflected in the stark brooding mountains of the twelve Ben range and the plunging shoreline of Irelands only fjord at Killary. The troubled history of the famine with the monuments to those that died in this era, help to engrain this image of a harsh landscape, that to this day are reflected in Irish Music and culture.

Surprising then it is for the cyclist that this seemingly unforgiving landscape offers instead a greater degree of subtlety that puts it in the Lonely Planets top 10 cycling destinations. Many of the roads go around the mountains rather than over them, so the terrain is not nearly as foreboding as one would imagine. This gives the opportunity to experience this seemingly remote and sublime landscape without actually having to work as hard as in other parts of the country.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 GALWAY CITY

When you arrive in Galway make your way to your accommodation anytime after 3.00pm. You can then explore this bustling medieval city. We will send you on full accommodation details and the necessary contact details for your tour closer to your departure date.

Day 2 Galway / Headford to Westport (85km/740m)

We will arrange a 9.30am transfer from Galway to the Headford (to get away from the busier roads outside the city) where you start your cycle. You follow quiet roads to the village of Cong and onwards north along the quiet back roads into what is known as "Joyces Country". Here rolling green fields full of grazing sheep looking out on mountains and lakes line your route. You descend down to Lough Mask, the fourth largest lake in the country, and a wonderful cycle along the shores ensues.

At the village of Tourmakeady you have your biggest climb of the week over the Partry Mountains with wonderful views back to the Lough and to the Croagh Patrick in the distance. The cycle then continues on quiet back road with stunning views to Westport, consistently rated as one of the most attractive towns in Ireland. The town is also home to Matt Molloys, one of the best known pubs in the country as it is owned by the famous musician of the same name.

DAY 3 **WESTPORT TO LEENANE** **(65km/550m or 75km/721m)**



On the shorter option you cycle between Croagh Patrick and the beautiful Clew Bay with its many small islands, to the village of Louisburgh where you can stop for lunch.



The longer option brings you inland for the first part of the cycle, on quiet backroads where you are surrounded by magnificent scenery before ending in Louisburgh for lunch.

In the afternoon you head south through one of the highlights of the cycle, the stunning Delphi Valley with its beautiful lakes overlooked by Ben Bury, the highest mountain in Connemara. That night you stay in the small village of Leenane which looks out over Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord.

DAY 4 **LEENANE TO CLIFDEN** **(68km/650m or 78km/830m))**

You cycle into the heart of Connemara overlooked by the Twelve Bens mountain range and visit Kylemore Abbey, a wedding gift from a wealthy Liverpool businessman to his wife in 1868.



The cycle continues along quiet backroads past small fields with grazing cattle to the seaside village of Cleggan where you stop for lunch. In the afternoon you follow the scenic coast road to Clifden where you can watch cars travel across the beach to Omey Island only accessible when the tide is out! Clifden, the capital of Connemara , where you spend the next two nights is a pretty and bustling town of art galleries, cafes, pubs and restaurants established 200years ago at the whim of John D'Arcy.

A must do is the hillier & longer option on the Sky road with its great views and descent into Clifden.

DAY 5 **CLIFDEN LOOP** **(62km/450m or 110km/792 m)**

The short option is an easy cycle around the coastline to Ballyconneely and Roundstone returning via a spectacular Bog road with wonderful views of the mountains. The road is interspersed with many beaches, including one of the loveliest in Ireland at Dogs Bay. Roundstone is a pretty fishing village and a great place to take some refreshments . The longer option will take you to deeper into Connemara passing Ballinahinch Castle





Day 6 CLIFDEN TO GALWAY (80km/680m)

You cycle out of Clifden along beautiful waterside roads crossing extensive wild bogs with freshly cut peat waiting to be harvested against a backdrop of the Twelve Bens Mountains.

As you reach close to Rosaveel the route will take a turn in land ono a spectacular road. This is a wild and remote place with wonderful views back to the sea and Connemara wild ponies.



There is then a lovely descent into the attractive town of Oughterard where we will have arranged a short transfer to avoid the busy roads into the centre of Galway for the final night.

Day 7 Departure from Galway

After breakfast you are free to head home!

2027 TOUR DATES

Our Self guided tours can start any day from early April to early October 2027

2027 TOUR PRICE

- €1250.00 per person sharing
  + €75.00 supplement in July and August
- €350.00 single occupancy (if travelling with others)

WHAT THE BROCHURE PRICE INCLUDES

- Six nights Hotel / guesthouse accommodation with full Irish breakfast
- GPS Route maps and details
- Luggage transfer each day
- Private transfer from Galway to Headford
- Private transfer from Oughterard to Galway
- 24 hour service hotline

Note that bike hire is separated out of the tour price

- €220.00 Cannondale Road Bike
- €260.00 E-bike

Meal expenses
All breakfasts are included in the tour price. Clients buy their own lunches and dinner throughout the trip. You should budget approximately €15 - €20 for lunch each day and an evening meal each night costing somewhere between €25 and €40.

Extra Expenses
The optional cruise of Killary Harbour is approx. €27. The entrance to Kylemore Abbey is approx. €18.00.

Are there facilities to change money?
There are banks in Galway, Westport and Clifden (open Monday – Friday: 10.00am - 4.00pm). Credit cards are widely accepted. Cashpoint machines are available in Galway, Westport and Clifden.

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 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.

*Our rental bikes don't have **lights** – no problem on the long summer evenings, but if you are travelling in May or September, please bring your own light or high-visibility vest.

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

BACK UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip 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.

ACCOMMODATION

We stay in a mixture of B&Bs (in Galway & Westport) and small hotels (in Leenane, Clifden). It is possible to upgrade to hotel accommodation Galway, Westport. We can advise you of possible options upon date request

The B&B accommodation is a combination of two or three guesthouses in each night stop, 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 endeavour to provide a high standard.

Accommodation list – subject to availability

Day 1 & 6 : Galway : standard accommodation



In Galway we typically stay in guesthouses just a short walk into the heart of Galway but in a peaceful location! Example Guesthouse : Consilio B&B

Day 1 & 6 Galway : upgrade option



The Hardiman, located on Eyre Square is a wonderful upgrade option. We can price any dates on application Hardiman Hotel

Day 2: Westport : standard accommodation



We stay down by the harbour in this attractive town Example Guesthouse : Rosmo B&B

Day 2: Westport : upgrade option



Wyatts Hotel located in the centre of Westport offers a bit of old fashioned elegance! Price on request

Day 3: Leenane : standard = upgraded accommodation!



Leenane Hotel

Day 4 & 5 Clifden : standard = upgraded accommodation!



Foyle's Hotel