Cycling Safaris

COPPER COAST

Self Guided Tour 2027

252 km | 7 nights



Our Copper Coast Tour is an inspiring blend of Ireland's coastal grandeur and timeless charm—while still preserving all the favourite highlights that our cyclists have loved for years.

Your journey makes its way to Dunmore East, via the rugged Irish coast, where sweeping sea views and salt-tinged breezes set the tone for an unforgettable ride. A night in Dunmore East is followed by a wonderful cycle along the beautiful Copper Coast to your overnight stop in Dungarvan. The route then winds to the charming seaside village of Ardmore, known for its quiet coves, ancient round tower, and warm local hospitality. Further inland, the tour explores the medieval town of Lismore, where castle silhouettes, stone streets, and centuries of history enrich the experience at every turn.

From there, the cycle heads back towards Dungarvan for another night before finishing the tour on the celebrated Waterford Greenway, gliding through lush countryside, historic railway tunnels, and tranquil riverside trails.

As part of Ireland's "sunny southeast," this part of Ireland soaks up more sunshine than most corners of the country. Thoughtfully designed and beautifully paced, our 2026 edition keeps the best of what you've always loved, now elevated with fresh scenery, cultural discovery, and a lot more coastline!



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN WATERFORD

You will have been sent all your accommodation and bike rental details before departure.

Sitting in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's oldest city is a treasure-trove of ancient artefacts, elegant architecture and great local food. Once you have checked into your accommodation you can then spend the rest of the day exploring the city.

DAY 2 WATERFORD TO DUNMORE EAST 68KMS / 42 MILES



The morning starts on quiet roads, towards the South Coast of Ireland. En route you pass the village Fethard and visit Baginbun beach where the Normans first landed in Ireland and on to Hook Head.

Hook Lighthouse has been guarding the Maritime gate way to Irelands Ancient East for over 800 years. It is the Oldest Intact Operational Lighthouse in the World.

That afternoon you keep to the coast as much as possible, taking a short ferry ride across Passage East, that brings you ever closer to the beautiful seaside town and fishing port of Dunmore East where you spend the night.

DAY 3 DUNMORE EAST TO DUNGARVAN 60KMS / 37.5 MILES



Todays cycle brings you along the beautiful Copper Coast, and inspiration for this tour.

A stunning section of the Irish Coastline, it rolls up and down along an unspoilt shoreline.

Although hilly in sections all climbs are worth the literally breathtaking views.

The last section of the cycle is on one of the few dedicated cycle paths in the area. Your nights destination is the attractive town of Dungarvan.

DAY 4 DUNGARVAN TO ARDMORE 40.5KMS / 25 MILES

The route keeps to the coast today.

A shorter distance offers plenty of time to enjoy the coastal views.

You can stop for a break in the attractive seaside village of Ring, located in an Irish Gaeltacht where Irish is still spoken by locals.

The route continues onto your nights location of Ardmore, winner of many awards, including the national title in the Tidy Towns Competition.



Ardmore is a most pleasant place to stay and enjoy the pubs and the excellent food in the restaurants. There are also some lovely walks you can do in the area if you arrive early, including a visit to one of Ireland's best preserved round towers.

DAY 5 ARDMORE TO LISMORE 47.5KMS / 30 MILES



Today you head initially to the seaside town of Youghal in County Cork where you can stop for a break. From here you head inland back on quiet country roads to the beautiful Medieval town of Lismore.

The small town is dominated by an impressive Medieval Castle. Although the castle is private the gardens at Lismore Castle are open to the public, and they're considered among Ireland's oldest continually cultivated gardens

DAY 6 LISMORE TO DUNGARVAN 44KMS / 27.5 MILES

The highlight for today is undoubtedly in the morning as you head towards the "Vee" mountain pass. Although the planned cycle does not take you all the way to the top of the mountain pass (although of course you can climb to the summit and re route back on the tour !) you will still be afforded some beautiful views. Your nights destination is back in the town of Dungarvan.



DAY 7 DUNGARVAN TO WATERFORD 50KMS / 31.5 MILES



The old railway line from Waterford City to Dungarvan is a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail which travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three impressive viaducts and a long atmospheric tunnel all the way from Dungarvan Bay to the River Suir.

Along this route in Ireland's Ancient East is the site of a 9th century Viking settlement; the world renowned ornamental gardens at Mount Congreve; Waterford & Suir Valley narrow gauge heritage railway; former woollen mills and railway stations; and beautiful landscapes of the Comeragh Mountains,

There are a number of hills on this route but you have all day to do the cycling. With the exception of the roads in and out of the larger towns, the traffic on the route should be quite light. You should however cycle carefully at all times, especially when going downhill or during any rain showers.

2026 TOUR DATES

Our Self guided tours can start any day from 15th April to 1st October.

2026 TOUR PRICE

- € 1290.00 per person sharing off peak
- € 80.00 per person high season supplement July & August
- € 380.00 single occupancy (if travelling with others)
- € 280.00 single tour supplement (for solo travellers)

Note that bike hire is separated out of the tour price

€120.00	24 speed touring bike with a lock and a rear rack
€180.00	Electric bike rental (€200.00 refundable deposit required on collection)

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Seven nights' in hotel / guesthouse accommodation with full Irish breakfast
- Route details in the form of GPS tracks
- Luggage transfer each day
- Back up service hotline
- The Passage East ferry is not included in the tour price and is €2.00
- One printed set of maps and details per booking

Meal expenses
All breakfasts are included in the tour price. Clients buy their own lunches and 6 dinners throughout the trip. You should budget between €10 and €20 for lunch each day and an evening meal each night costing somewhere between €25 and €35.

Are there facilities to change money?
There are banks and cashpoint machines in Waterford & Dungarvan. Credit cards are also widely accepted.

Looking for extra accommodation at the beginning or end of the tour?
We would be happy to help you organise extra accommodation in Waterford for the start or the end of the week.

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 very good investment. You can also bring your own saddle which we should be able to attach to our bikes.

*On this tour we **do not** provide pannier bags . If you would like to use a daypack, 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.**

*Although it is not obligatory to wear **a helmet** we strongly recommend that you bring one to wear.

*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.

*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 we can attach to our bikes (the pedals on our bikes do not accommodate toe clips)

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. We typically stay in small hotels, where we hope to fuse the best standard we can get with the warmest welcome. We do reserve the right to change the accommodation around during the week, but we will always provide a high standard.

Typical accommodation list – subject to availability

Day 1 & 7: Waterford City
Dooleys Hotel



Day 1 & 7: Waterford City
Dooleys Hotel



Day 2: Dunmore East
The Strand Inn



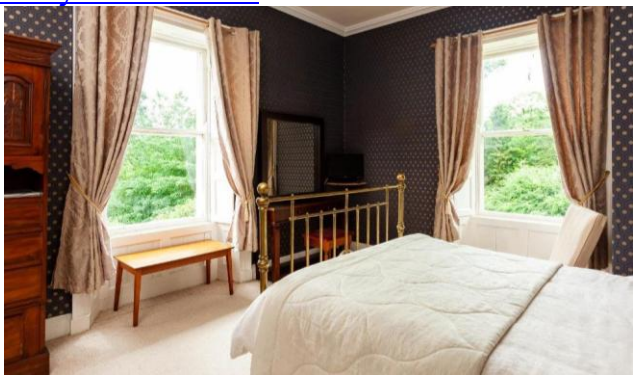
Day 3 & 6: Dungarvan
The Park Hotel



Day 4: Ardmore
Round Tower Hotel



Day 5: Lismore
Ballyrafter House



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.

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).

BIKE RENTAL

In 2027 we will be renting **GIANT CITY** bicycles for Copper Coast tours.





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.

There are a number of hills to climb on this tour so we would recommend that you do try to do some cycling before the tour in order to make your week more enjoyable, if possible do it on varied terrain and include some hill climbing.

Trek E-Bikes are also available for this tour.

We provide a charger, lock and helmet with each bike

Each bike has front and back lights and will be fully charged when you get it



GENERAL INFORMATION

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)

However you are travelling in the part of Ireland known locally as " the Sunny South East! "

Visa requirements

If you hold an EU passport you only need to make sure your passport is valid for the period of your stay. You also just need an up to date passport from the UK into Ireland.

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.