

Self Drive

Trip Grade: **Self Drive**

Belfast, Giant's Causeway & Donegal




Wilderness Ireland

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Self Drive - Belfast, Giant's Causeway & Donegal

The remote northern reaches of Ireland are as magical as they are mythical. Packed with stories of giants and dwarves, selkies and Jedi, heroes and villains, the Causeway Coast and Donegal coast have inspired countless creative minds, such as the creative giants behind *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Game of Thrones* TV series and *Star Wars*.

Start off in cosmopolitan Belfast to learn how far the city has come. Meet local wildlife such as the adorable puffins as well as other seabirds and marine life such as porpoises and dolphins. Explore dramatic geological landscapes such UNESCO Giant's Causeway, the rugged mountains and valleys (and castle!) Of Glenveagh National Park, and Slieve League Cliffs, among Europe's highest sea-cliffs.

Highlights

- Visit the world-famous Giant's Causeway and hike along award-winning Causeway Coast
- Take a boat trip to a fascinating island home to diverse wildlife including puffins
- Stand atop some of Europe's highest and most remote sea cliffs at Slieve League

Book With Confidence

- This is a Private Self Drive trip which means it can suit any group size.

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.



Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [Belfast & Ireland's Ancient East](#)

Day 2 | [The Mystical Mountains of Mourne](#)

Day 3 | [Causeway Coast & Giant's Causeway](#)

Day 4 | [Boat Trip to Rathlin Island](#)

Day 5 | [Derry & Glenveagh National Park](#)

Day 6 | [Donegal's Slieve League Cliffs](#)

Arrival Info

- Pick up your rental car at Dublin Airport (please note that all car rentals are made independently by you) and head to Belfast on Day 1 of your trip.

Departure Info

- You can drop off your car at the airport of 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 | Belfast & Ireland's Ancient East

Collect your rental car before driving north to explore the mythical landscapes of Ireland's Ancient East, a place once home of Ireland's high kings and replete with mystical ancient tombs. Into Northern Ireland, you'll arrive at the bustling city of Belfast, where you will stay at a centrally located hotel. We'll recommend the best ways to explore this vibrant city which's fascinating and colourful recent history.

Day 2 | The Mystical Mountains of Mourne

Journey into the beautiful Mourne Mountains to meet a local hiking guide for a perfect day's walking in the glorious coastal peaks. Your guide will match you with the perfect hike to suit your fitness level, from gentle valley walks to challenging summits, exploring a region that once inspired CS Lewis' *Narnia*. Explore the mysterious 22-mile-long Mourne Wall, once built to enclose a reservoir from livestock, and now a vestige of another era. Pick up a packed lunch this morning and make the most of the scenery with a lakeside or mountaintop picnic lunch before returning to the city this evening to taste Belfast's renowned foodie scene. **(B,G)**

Day 3 | Causeway Coast & the Giant's Causeway

It's easy to see why the Causeway Coast has been named as the top region to visit by Lonely Planet. Follow a stunning coastal route - the 'secret' way to visit the Giant's Causeway - with recommended places to stop along the Causeway Coast. Options include visits to ancient castle ruins, stunning beaches and picturesque harbours. *Game of Thrones* fans can explore some of the series' iconic filming locations, and birdwatchers can spot the variety of species that inhabit the coastal cliffs. Finish your day at the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage site the Giant's Causeway - octagonal columns of rocks created by feuding giants or volcanic activity - myth or science, you decide! **(B)**



Day 4 | Boat Trip to Rathlin Island

A bit of island hopping today! Meet a local boatman to set sail on the waters off the Causeway Coast. Your first port of call is Rathlin Island where you'll sail past hidden coves, dramatic lighthouses and a bird sanctuary, a seasonal home to breeding puffins. The island is best known for the legend of Robert the Bruce and his lesson in perseverance. On the return, boat beneath the swinging Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge or perhaps alongside the cliffs and empty white sand beaches of the Causeway Coast.

(B,G)

Day 5 | Derry & Glenveagh National Park

Continuing your coastal journey, we'll recommend a route that takes in the best that the region has to offer. Start your day visiting quaint Derry, a fascinating town that remains one of Europe's few remaining fully walled cities. On the border with the Republic of Ireland, learn of the city's dramatic past, how it shaped Irish history and Derry has moved beyond its turbulent roots to become a beacon of culture. In the afternoon, stretch your legs in one of Ireland's most remote national parks to visit a castle nestled romantically on the lake shores in a stunningly wild and mountainous landscape.



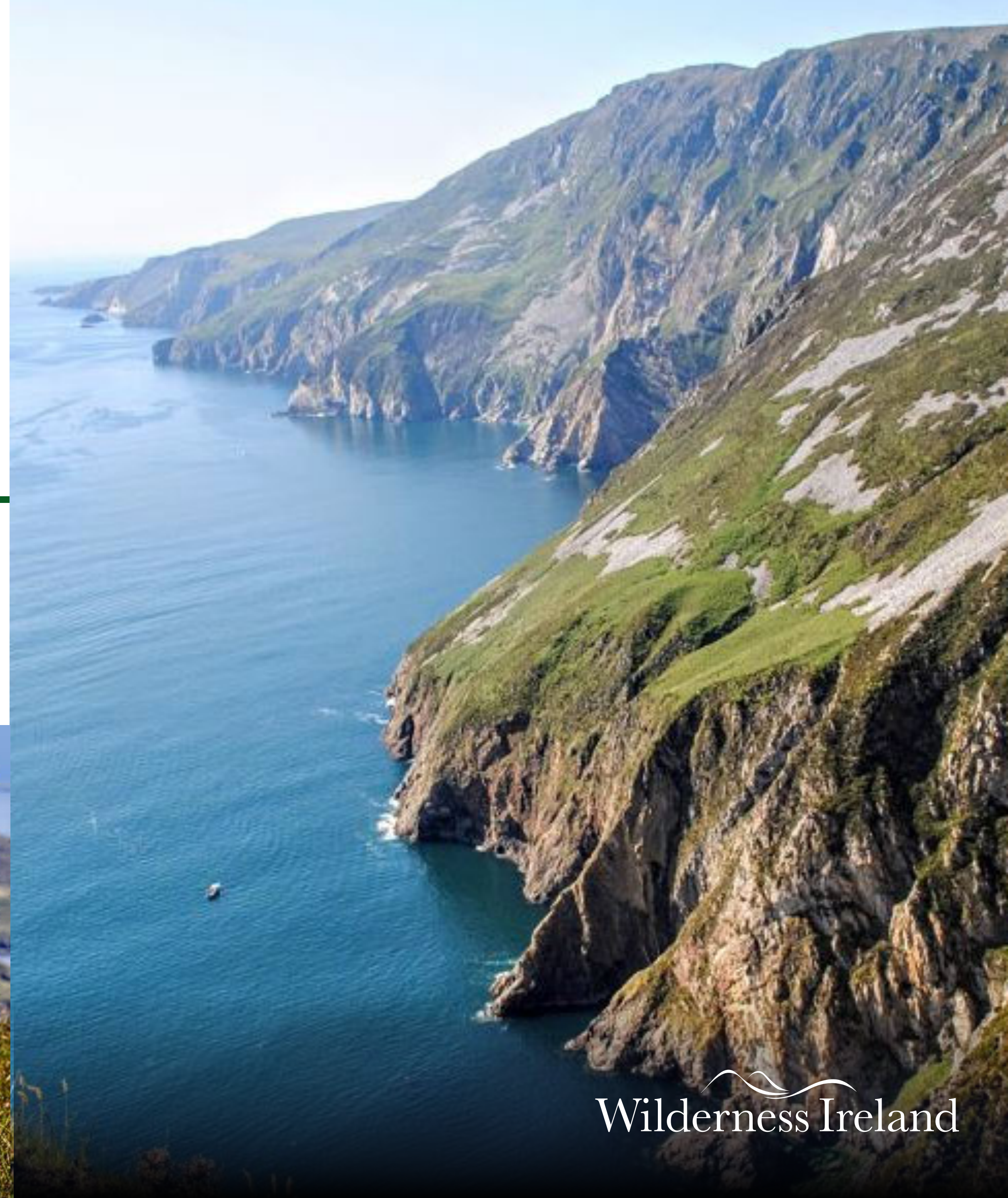
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Day 6 | Slieve League Cliffs

Today, visit some of the highest sea-cliffs in Europe. Your private guide will bring the area to life as you enjoy a hike to suit all levels. There are options for those looking for a relaxed breath of fresh air, and for those itching for a challenge, the aptly named One Man's Pass awaits! A favourite hike of ours follows a little-known ancient pilgrimage path dating back millennia. Along the way, uncover ancient relics such as an illicit mass rock and sites dating back to the Neolithic era before arriving at the summit where you stand atop some of Europe's highest sea cliffs - three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher! Once you're done drinking in the fantastic views, head down to the quaint Donegal town where we will recommend some fantastic pubs and restaurants this evening. **(B,G)**

Day 7 | Departure

Today, say goodbye to the wilds of Donegal. From here, you may head straight to the airport - we will provide interesting stops along the way. Alternatively, why not combine this itinerary with **The Wild Atlantic Way: Ireland's Surf Coast** and enjoy another fantastic week in Ireland! **(B)**



Trip Grading | Self Drive - At Your Own Pace

Self Drive are suitable for anyone as the trip activity can be tailored to meet your needs, preferences and fitness levels.

- Self drive trips include personal activities and experiences tailored to your own group's personal activity level.
- They allow you to experience Ireland at your own pace with one-to-one meet ups with local guides and experts who can lead you through activities at your own pace.
- They also include overnight stops at the very best local 4 and 5 star accommodations.
- Active experiences are at your own pace and can be tailored to meet green, blue or red graded levels depending on your group's preferences.
- For self-guided days, we'll provide you with suggested points of interest to visit, places to eat, local recommendations, and things to see along with maps and directions.

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.



Accommodation and Meals

This self drive trip is graded Luxury, meaning you can expect to stay in some of Ireland's top 5* standard hotels recognised for their comfort, exceptional service, great locations, wonderful amenities and unique charm. Expect character and luxury in some of Ireland's most beautiful and sought-after castles, manors, deluxe guesthouses and boutique hotels. Each traveller has a choice of double or twin rooms, all of which are en-suite with a shower.

Each morning, enjoy a hearty homemade breakfast of your choice at your accommodation. We'll provide local recommendations for afternoon and evening meals in each town or region as well as wilderness picnics for those days spent in the great outdoors.

Single Rooms

Single rooms are available upon request. If you would prefer a double room for single occupancy, a supplement will be charged depending on availability. If you require a single room, please get in touch and let us know.

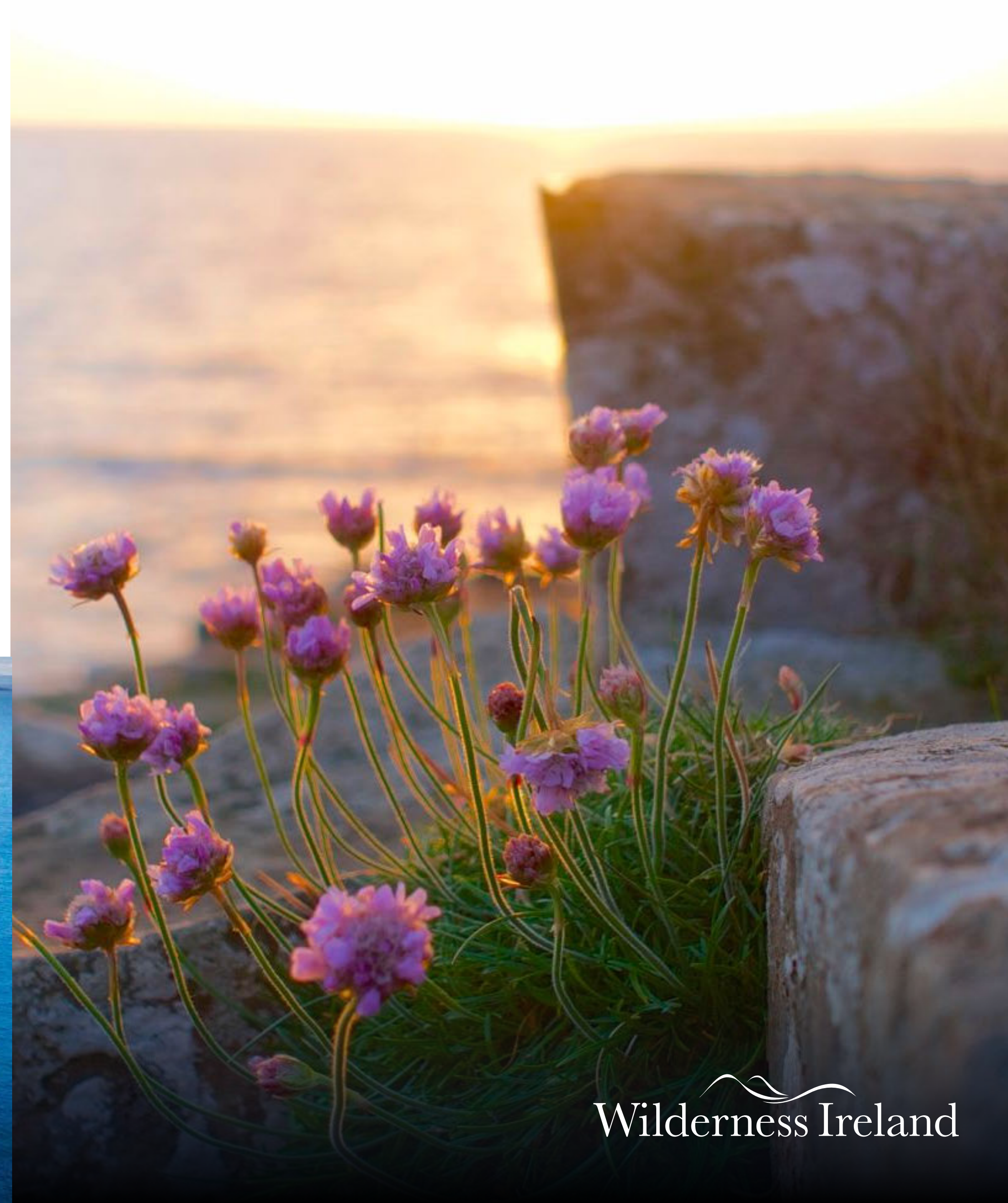


Inclusions

This trip includes the following:

- 6 nights accommodation in a luxury hand-picked 5* standard accommodations
- A detailed itinerary and map outlining your itinerary, accommodations and stops
- Breakfast every morning at your accommodation (**Meals included indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**)
- The services of experienced and knowledgeable guides or local experts at various stages in the trip as stated in the itinerary (**marked G**)
- Recommended stops, hikes and points of interest along the way

This trip includes all accommodation, all full day guided experiences and activities, as well as breakfast. It does not include other meals, entry fees and activities while self-guided, car rental or any gratuities you may choose to leave.



Our holidays reviewed in your words...

“

Simply put - An outstanding experience in adventure travel - a wonderful mix of activities that appealed to everyone in our group.

Barbara Caldwell - Tailor Made Ireland Trip 24/09/2018



”

[All Trip Reviews Here](#)

Guided Activities

This is a Self Drive trip, meaning that it you will not have a guide for the entire trip duration. However, you will benefit from certain guided activities as stated in the itinerary. Our guides are among the most highly experienced and qualified in the country as well as passionate about Ireland's history, culture, nature and traditions. 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.



Equipment List

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

[Ireland Equipment List - What to Wear](#)



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](#)



Getting Around Ireland

Find information about getting to and around Ireland, including airports, trains and buses.

[Getting Around Ireland](#)



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/>

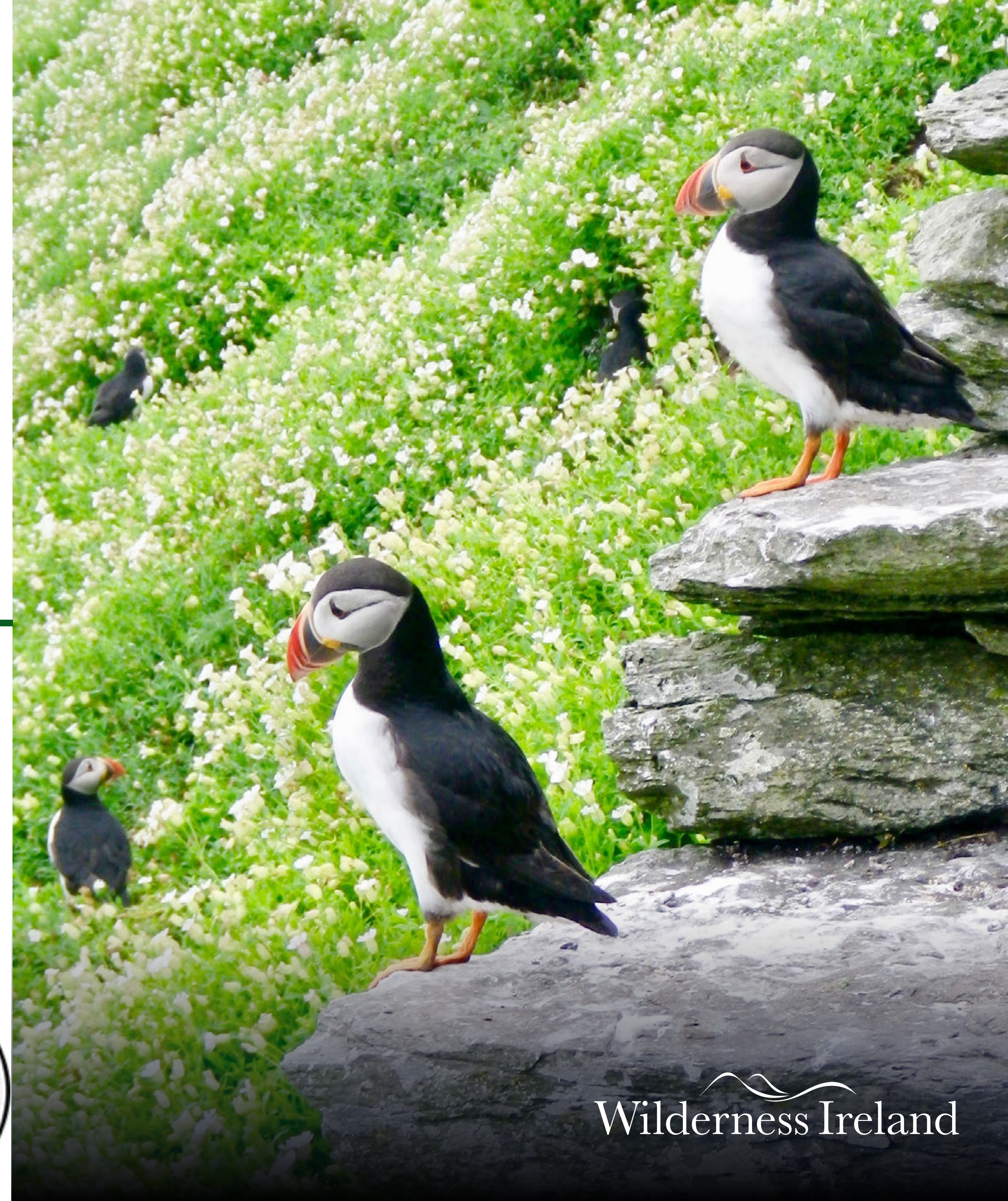
Your Satisfaction, Guaranteed

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

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