

Biking

Donegal From Cliffs to Coast

Trip Grade: **Blue 6**




Wilderness Ireland

[View Trip Dates](#)
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Donegal From Cliffs to Coast

The rugged and beautiful wilderness of Donegal is a corner of Europe overlooked by the rush of the modern world. Voted the Coolest Place on Earth by National Geographic Traveller in 2017, Donegal's rolling mountains, towering cliffs, swathes of white sand beaches and vibrant fishing villages are the perfect vision of Ireland's most remote landscapes and communities - perfect biking country for cyclists looking for a challenge!

Today, Donegal's outer reaches are as romantically remote as they have been for generations. Our cycling route takes us from some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe to Ireland's most northerly point, traversing this secret yet stunning northwestern corner of Ireland on two wheels. Experience the freshest local food and retire each evening to comfortable and characterful lodgings after a day of cycling Ireland's most remote landscapes.

Highlights

- Stand atop the Slieve League Cliffs, some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe
- Bike the beautiful & remote landscapes of Donegal, National Geographic Traveller's Coolest Place on Earth"
- Explore Malin Head, one of Ireland's wildest regions & a Star Wars filming location

Book With Confidence

- We guarantee this trip will run as soon as **3** 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.



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Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [Lough Eske & Bluestack Mountains](#)

Day 2 | [Slieve League Cliffs & Glengesh Pass](#)

Day 3 | [Donegal West Coast & Horn Head Peninsula](#)

Day 4 | [Glenveagh National Park](#)

Day 5 | [Lough Swilly Fjord](#)

Day 6 | [Malin Head](#)

Day 7 | [Yeats Country](#)

Arrival Info

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

Departure Info

- You will be returned to Sligo Railway Station by
- **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.



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Day 1 | Lough Eske & the Bluestack Mountains

Meet your guide at the Sligo Train Station before setting off to the glittering shores of Lough Eske. After a scenic lakeside lunch, we'll hop on our bikes and enjoy an afternoon ride through the unspoilt backcountry and farmlands of southern Donegal, with the impressive Bluestack Mountains as our backdrop. **(L, D)**

Bike details: 33km/ 20 miles | Ascent: 335m/ 1,099ft

Day 2 | Slieve League Cliffs & Glengesh Pass

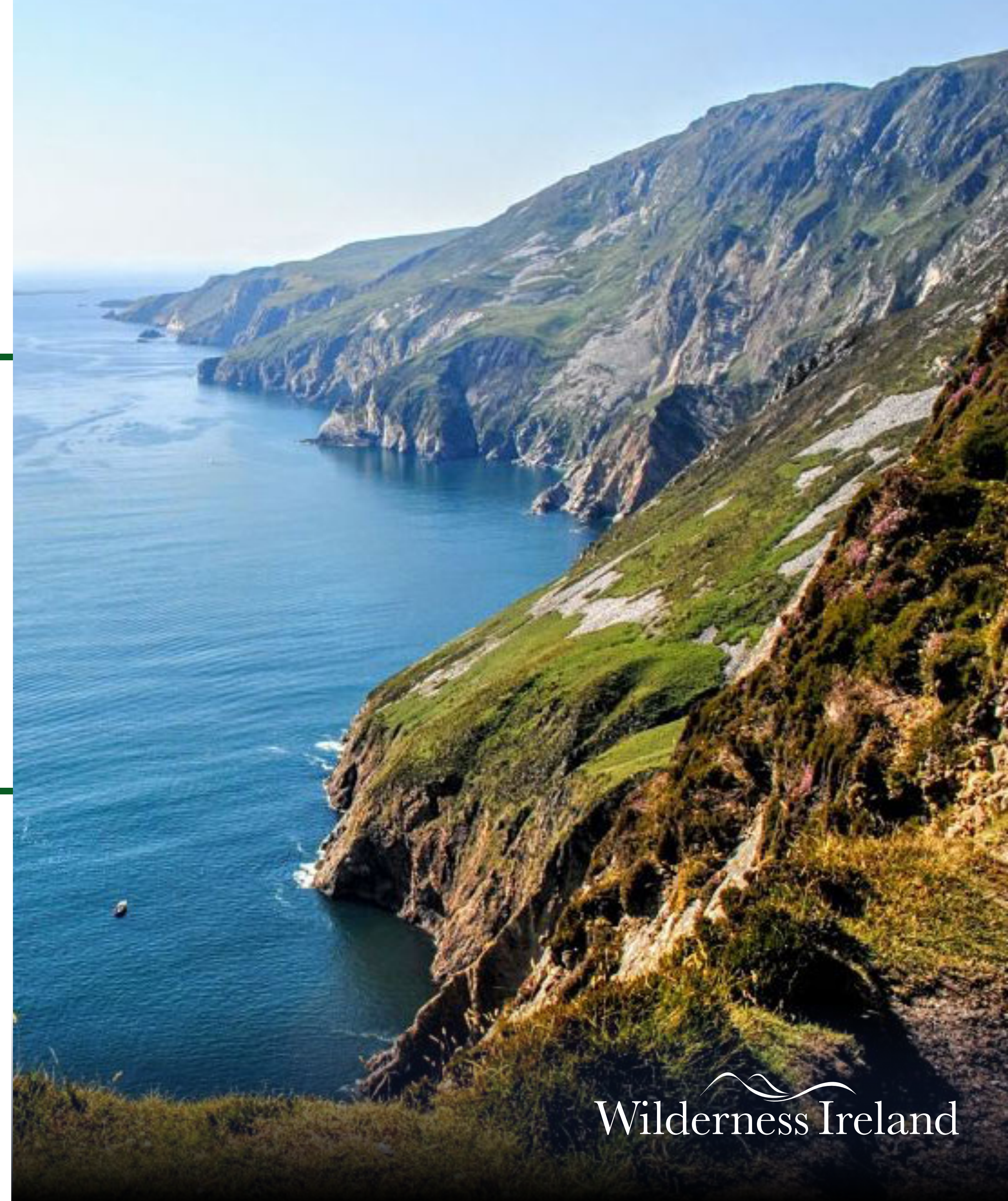
Cycling off the beaten path, we explore the remote Banagh Peninsula overlooking southern Donegal's wild coasts. Bike up to the massive and imposing Slieve League Cliffs, which are some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, and three times the height of the Cliffs of Moher! Admire the enchanted Assaranca Waterfall before rolling down the spectacular Glengesh Pass, voted one of Ireland's most scenic routes. The day's cycle ends in the charming village of Ardara, home to some of Donegal's most famous tweed hand-weavers. **(B,L)**

Bike details: 64km/ 29 miles | Ascent: 928m/ 3,044ft

Day 3 | Rural Donegal & Horn Head Peninsula

Hugging the coast, pedal to the sound of crashing waves on rocky shores. Along the way, we'll explore the dolmen of Kilclooney, an ancient tomb from the Neolithic era. Donegal's tiny villages and rural landscapes are a veritable time capsule of rural Ireland. We'll admire quiet farmlands and the beautiful Tramore Beach in Rosbeg village - there's even a chance to walk to Inishkeel Island at low tide! We'll do a spectacular looped ride of the Horn Head Peninsula from the charming town of Dunfanaghy, rolling through vast moors and desolate bogs, all the while overlooking the sparkling waters of Sheephaven Bay. **(B,L)**

Bike details: 35km/ 22miles | Ascent: 222m/ 728ft



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Day 4 | Glenveagh National Park

Today, we'll bike the desolate yet beautiful mountains and valleys of Glenveagh National Park. Overlooking the lovely Lough Veagh, Glenveagh Castle was inspired by the Victorian idyll of a romantic highland retreat. Enjoy a stroll through the manicured gardens, along the picturesque lakeside or hike above the castle for a stunning panorama of the valley. Back on our bikes, we'll pedal through the majestic Derryveagh Mountains, following the foothills of Muckish Mountain via a narrow mountain pass. **(B,L)**

Bike details: 64km/ 40 miles | Ascent: 716m/ 2,394ft

Day 5 | Lough Swilly Fjord

Continuing our journey north, we'll bike along an elevated road that overlooks the azure shores of Lough Swilly, a huge glacial fjord between the Donegal's two great northern peninsulas, Inishowen and Fanad Head. We'll pass the fortified stronghold of Doe Castle, and enjoy brilliant panoramas of a little-travelled coastline in northern Donegal that sometimes feels as if we're biking at the edge of the world! Tonight, we relax at our accommodation overlooking the white sand shores of Lough Swilly - Donegal's hidden gems! **(B,L)**

Bike details: 61km/ 38 miles | Ascent: 588m/ 1,929ft



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Day 6 | Malin Head

Catching a small ferry across the dazzling Lough Swilly to the rugged Inishowen Peninsula, we follow the eastern shores of the fjord, where we'll bike the wild, remote roads of northern Donegal. Our trip culminates at Malin Head, the northernmost tip of Ireland. This rocky outcrop features in the 2017 Star Wars: The Last Jedi, and a short walk around this rugged headland will transport you to another world! We'll also take in the spectacular ascent and descent of Mamore Gap before finishing our trip back on the shores of Lough Swilly for our final dinner together. **(B,L,D)**

Bike details: 54km/ 33 miles | Ascent: 600m/ 1,929ft

Day 7 | Yeats Country & Departure

County Sligo has long been associated with Ireland's national poet WB Yeats, who drew inspiration from the surrounding mountains, lakes and landscapes. We stop at a tiny monastery under the shadow of the impressive and iconic Ben Bulbin mountain to visit the famous poet's final resting place. We then head to the bustling Sligo town - a lovely place for last minute souvenir shopping - before we say goodbye to Ireland's rugged west coast. **(B)**



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Trip Grading | Blue 6 | ●●●●●●●●

Blue Blue graded biking trips are suitable for people with a good level of bike fitness, who regularly enjoy biking and may have joined a multi-day biking trip before.

- Distances each day will be between 35 - 45 miles (55 - 70 km), biking at around 12/13mph.
- Each day, we will bike the rolling and hilly terrain of Donegal, with notable climbs most days.
- Some climbs will be more testing and riders may opt to push or ride in the support vehicle. Often, climbs are also followed by exciting descents.
- We will be on our bikes for 5 - 7 hours each day plus the odd longer day. There is also time each day for breaks and lunches, plus some visits to sites of interest in Donegal.

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.



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Accommodation and Meals

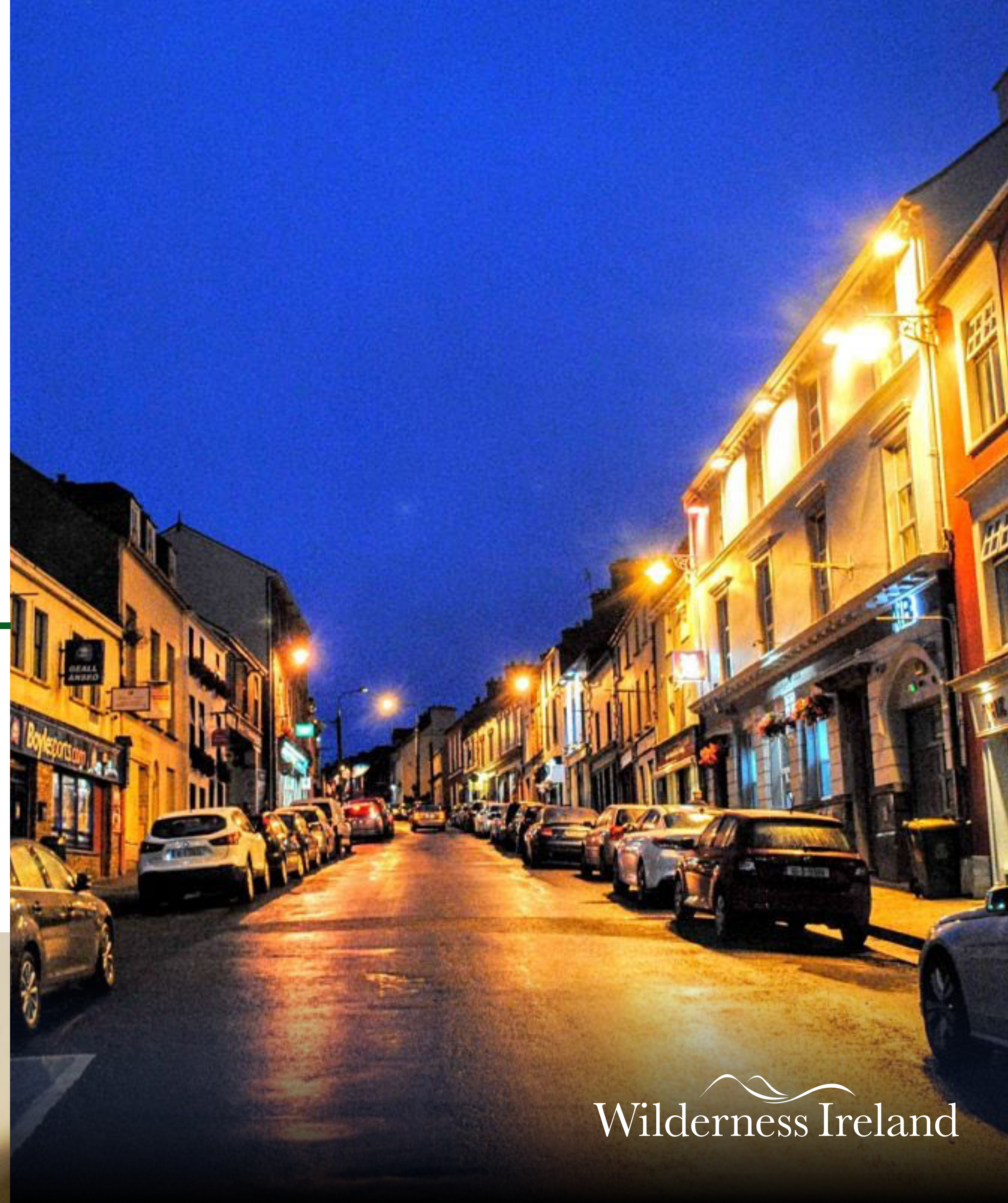
This biking trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort throughout Donegal. Expect small, comfortable and characterful lodging in B&Bs, family-fun hotels or guesthouses, both in Dingle town as well as in rural communities. Accommodation is a choice of double 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 in the countryside, depending on the day's cycle.

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 7 (**Meals included indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**)
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable biking guide / driver throughout
- All transport throughout the trip starting and finishing in Sligo
- Activities stated in itinerary, incl. ferry transfers, etc.

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



Wilderness Ireland

Our holidays reviewed in your words...

“ *From our first lunch together to our final transfer to Sligo, the trip was wonderful! Our guides, Darragh and Shane were knowledgeable, competent, helpful, and a pleasure to be with. I especially wish to thank them both for the efforts they made to help me get my phone back. Each day of our ride had its unique delights and challenges.*

We found Wilderness Ireland to be an extremely professional operation from beginning to end. Great experience and we would do it again!

”

Laura Wilson - Biking Donegal from Cliffs to Coast - 17/09/2018



[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.




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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](#)



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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.

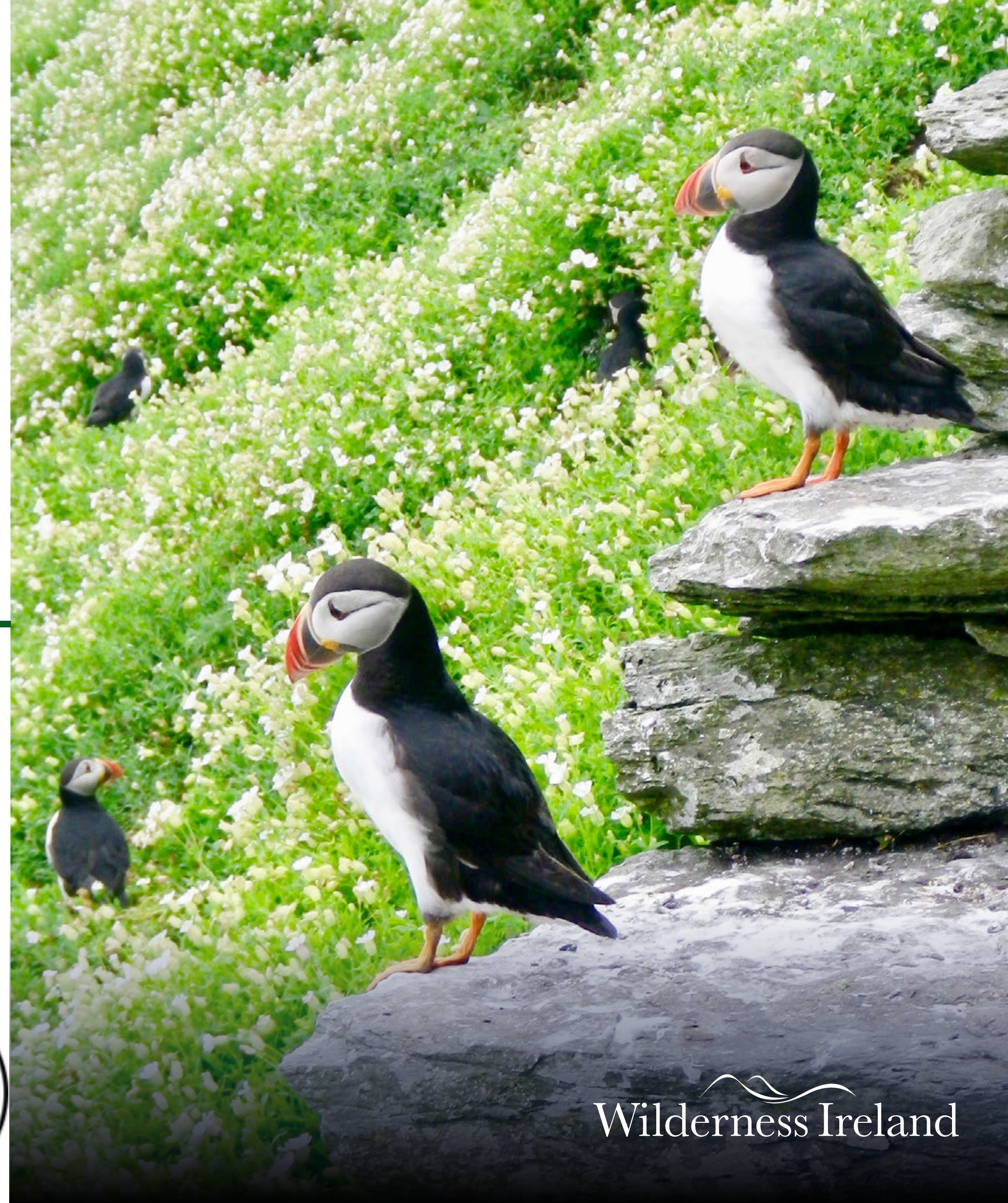
If you cancel your trip, charges will apply. Please see section 2 of our terms and conditions for a breakdown:

<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](#).



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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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