

Self Drive

Trip Grade: **Self Drive**

Connemara, Dingle & the Cliffs of Moher




Wilderness Ireland

[View Trip Dates](#)
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Connemara, Dingle & the Cliffs of Moher

The lakes and landscapes of Ireland's west coast - notably, Connemara, the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher - have been inspiring visitors for generations. In fact, the alien landscapes of the Burren are said to inspire JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth. Stand at the edge of the world overlooking incredible ocean vistas, hike through fascinating geological landscapes and explore ancient monuments. Dingle too has been a magnet for artists and craftsmen, creating a microcosm of local artwork.

Not only are Connemara and Dingle beautiful, but their rural communities are also some of Ireland's last bastions of Irish tradition such as cuisine, music, dance and even the Gaelic language.

Highlights

- Stand atop the iconic Cliffs of Moher away from the crowds
- Explore the alien landscapes of the Burren National Park with a local archeologist
- Immerse yourself in Dingle, lauded by the National Geographic as "the most beautiful place on earth"

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.



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Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [Killary Fjord & Connemara National Park](#)

Day 2 | [Connemara & Pirate's Island](#)

Day 3 | [Galway City](#)

Day 4 | [Alien Landscapes of the Burren National Park](#)

Day 5 | [Cliffs of Moher & North Kerry](#)

Day 6 | [Dingle & the Blasket Islands](#)

Day 7 | [Departure](#)

Arrival Info

- Pick up your rental car at Dublin Airport (please note that all car rentals are made independently by you) and make your way to Connemara 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 Wild with regard to weather conditions and other factors.



Wilderness Ireland

Day 1 | Killary Fjord & Connemara National Park

Through dramatic valleys and along the shores of a beautiful fjord (one of only three in Ireland!), today's route brings us to the heart of Connemara. Along the way, explore recommended stops including a hillside sheep farm to see sheepdogs at work, and a beautiful abbey as famous for its romantic backdrop as it is for the love story that inspired its haunting gothic architecture. For those wanting to stretch their legs, opt for a hike in Connemara National Park where the picture postcard views open up one of Ireland's most beautiful and yearned-for landscapes.

Day 2 | Connemara & A Pirate's Island

Meet a local expert at your hotel who lives and breathes the ancient mysteries of the Connemara landscape. A professional archaeologist, your guide will bring Neolithic and Iron Age sites and sounds of this remote corner of Ireland to life as he regales you with stories on your hike. Our favourite route brings you to a remote and rugged island, where you will hear tales of pirates and invasions while you explore. A pint in an island pub in and perhaps a sampling of some fresh seafood in front of an open fire are a fantastic end to the day. **(B,G)**

Day 3 | Galway City's Colourful Centre

The 'town of the tribes,' Galway City is the west's most vibrant urban centre and a great place to visit on your way south. Cobbled pavement and street performers await as well as some of the best and freshest food Ireland has to offer. As you continue your adventure, we will recommend places to stop along the way, from botanical perfumeries to perfectly preserved historic cottages complete with thatched roofs and turf fires. Leave the car behind for a short hike to breathe some of Europe's freshest air right off the Atlantic! **(B)**



Day 4 | The Burren National Park's Alien Landscapes

The Burren's rocky alien landscape is said to be the inspiration for Middle Earth in JRR Tolkien's world-famous *Lord of the Rings* trilogy - and on your guided hike through this other-worldly region, it's easy to see why! Home to a plethora of unique wildflowers, including some 40 species of orchids you will learn about the human history of the area, dating back thousands of years. Your guide will chose from a number of different routes to suit you and make the most of the Burren's lunar landscape. **(B,G)**

Day 5 | Cliffs of Moher & North Kerry

Start your day off at the beloved Cliffs of Moher before the crowds arrive, enjoying a walk along the dramatic cliff edge on a background of coastal panoramas. Leaving Co Clare behind, keep an eye out for dolphins as you cross the mouth of the mighty River Shannon! As you make your way south through North Kerry, we'll recommend a great beach walk on one of Kerry's best-kept secret beaches, as well as a few other great stops to make a leisurely day of it. Alternatively, you may prefer to head straight to Dingle here you could join an afternoon boat trip to visit one of the world's friendliest dolphins, and Dingle's most famous resident! **(B)**



Day 6 | Dingle & the Blasket Islands

There is no better way to discover the best of the Dingle Peninsula than by boat so today, you'll spend the day in the company of a local guide and passionate wildlife expert. Together you will travel around Sleat Head (Ireland's westernmost point) to circle past the eerie Blasket Islands, a now-abandoned archipelago famous for their rich literary heritage and unique cultural insight these writings have provided about life in Ireland's westernmost fringes. If conditions are right, there are great opportunities to see some of the incredible marine wildlife the area has to offer from whales to seals and porpoises. **(B,G)**

Day 7 | Departure

Today, say goodbye to the wild shores of Dingle. From here, you may head straight to the airport - we will provide interesting stops along the way. Alternatively, why not combine this itinerary with **Kerry, West Cork & the Haven 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.



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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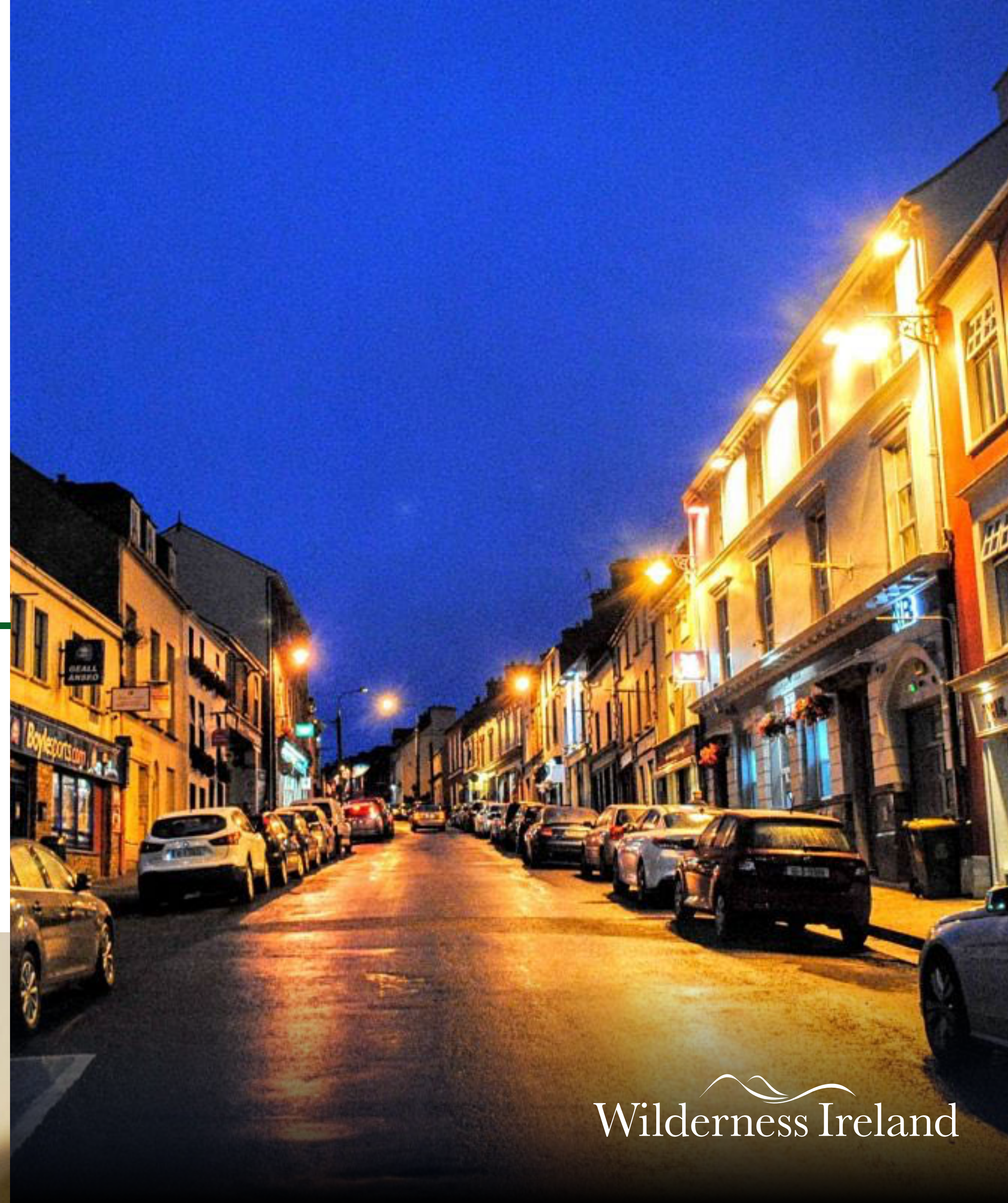
Accommodation and Meals

This 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 luxury accommodation in a 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...

“

Warner Wilders (guide) and Jim the bus driver could not have been more agreeable and informative. They are the ones who made our trip so great...

And of course the friendly Irish people, beautiful scenery, yummy pub food, great beer also helped.

”

Skip Silvers - Tailor Made Ireland Trip 15/09/2018 ★★★★★

[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/>

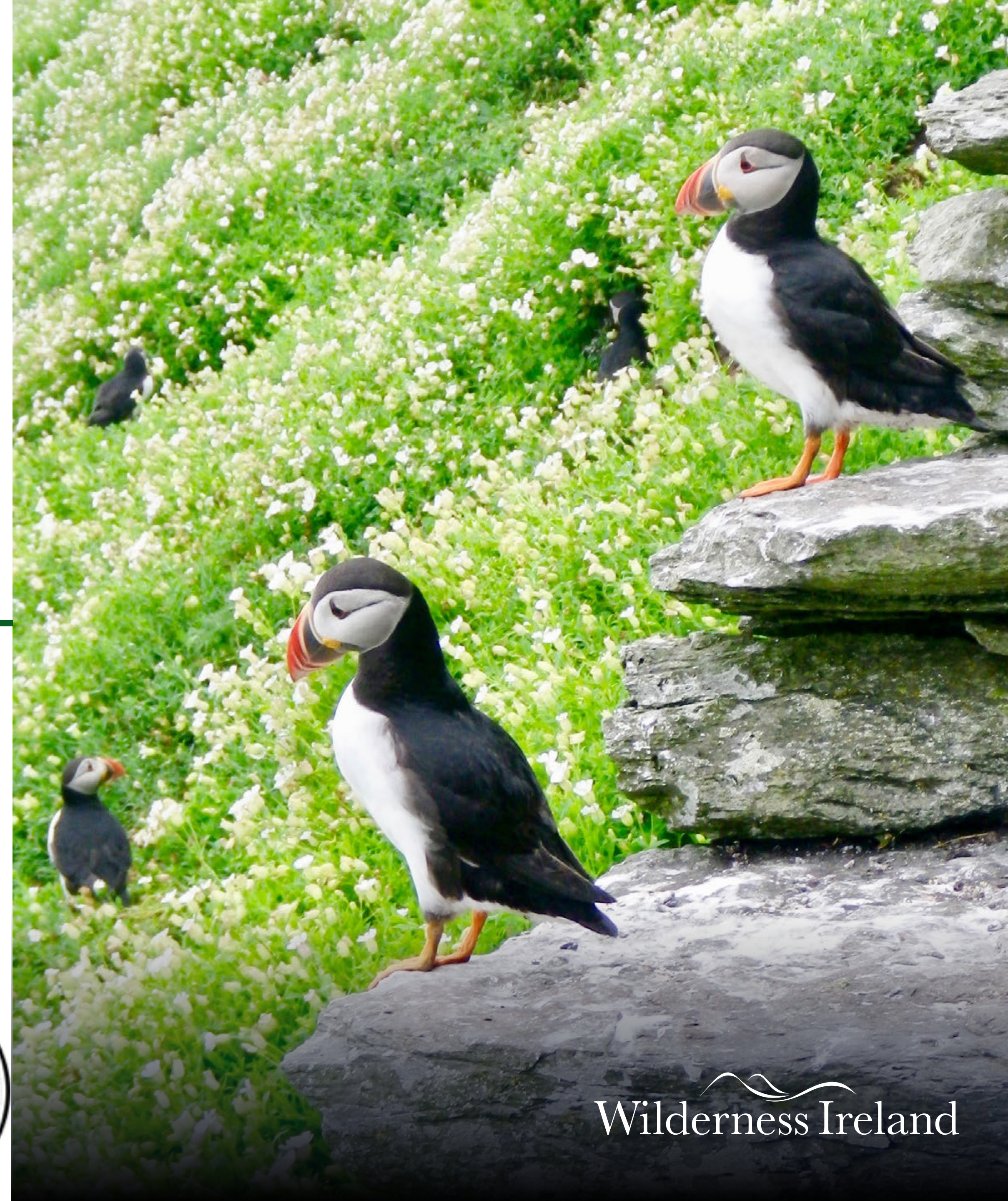
Your Satisfaction, Guaranteed

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

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