

Hiking

Island Hopping in Cork & Kerry

Trip Grade: **Green 2**




Wilderness Ireland

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Island Hopping in Cork & Kerry

A unique island hopping adventure! From land to sea, on foot and by boat, discover southwest Ireland's most scenic islands and fascinating coast. In Baltimore, hear tales of pirates and smugglers and on Skellig Michael, stories of ancient monks and futuristic Jedi. Enjoy gentle yet beautiful coastal and island hikes on a backdrop of majestic mountains and vast horizons, eating at some of the best restaurants and music-filled pubs in Ireland!

Delve into the rich cultural and geological history of these islands and rolling peninsulas. Your guide will help you spot wildlife - such as seabirds, puffins, basking sharks, whales and dolphins - as well as help you identify the rich flora of the region, not to mention introduce you to the colourful characters of Cork & Kerry along the way!

Highlights

- Guided gentle hikes & island hopping along the spectacular coastline and islands of southwest Ireland
- Climb Skellig Michael, UNESCO World Heritage, and now a Star Wars filming location
- Explore remote islands where the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) culture & tradition is still strong

Book With Confidence

- We guarantee this trip will run as soon as **2** 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.




Wilderness Ireland

Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [The Pirates of Baltimore](#)

Day 2 | [Cape Clear Island](#)

Day 3 | [Sheep's Head Peninsula](#)

Day 4 | [Skellig Michael - 'Star Wars Island'](#)

Day 5 | [The Old Kenmare Road](#)

Day 6 | [The Abandoned Blasket Islands](#)

Day 7 | [Dingle Town & Depature](#)

Arrival Info

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

Departure Info

- You will be returned to Limerick Railway Station
- **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.



Wilderness Ireland

Day 1 | The Pirates of Baltimore

After meeting in Cork, we travel to the historical fishing town of Baltimore. We'll stretch our legs with a short hike en route to this vibrantly colourful heritage town known for tales of conquests, abductions and pirates thanks to the town's exotic visitors. Relax before dinner or stroll along the shore with views of the magical Carbery's 100 Isles scattered across the aptly-named Roaring Water Bay. **(L, D)**

Hike details: 5km/ 3 miles | approx. 2 hours

Day 2 | Cape Clear Island

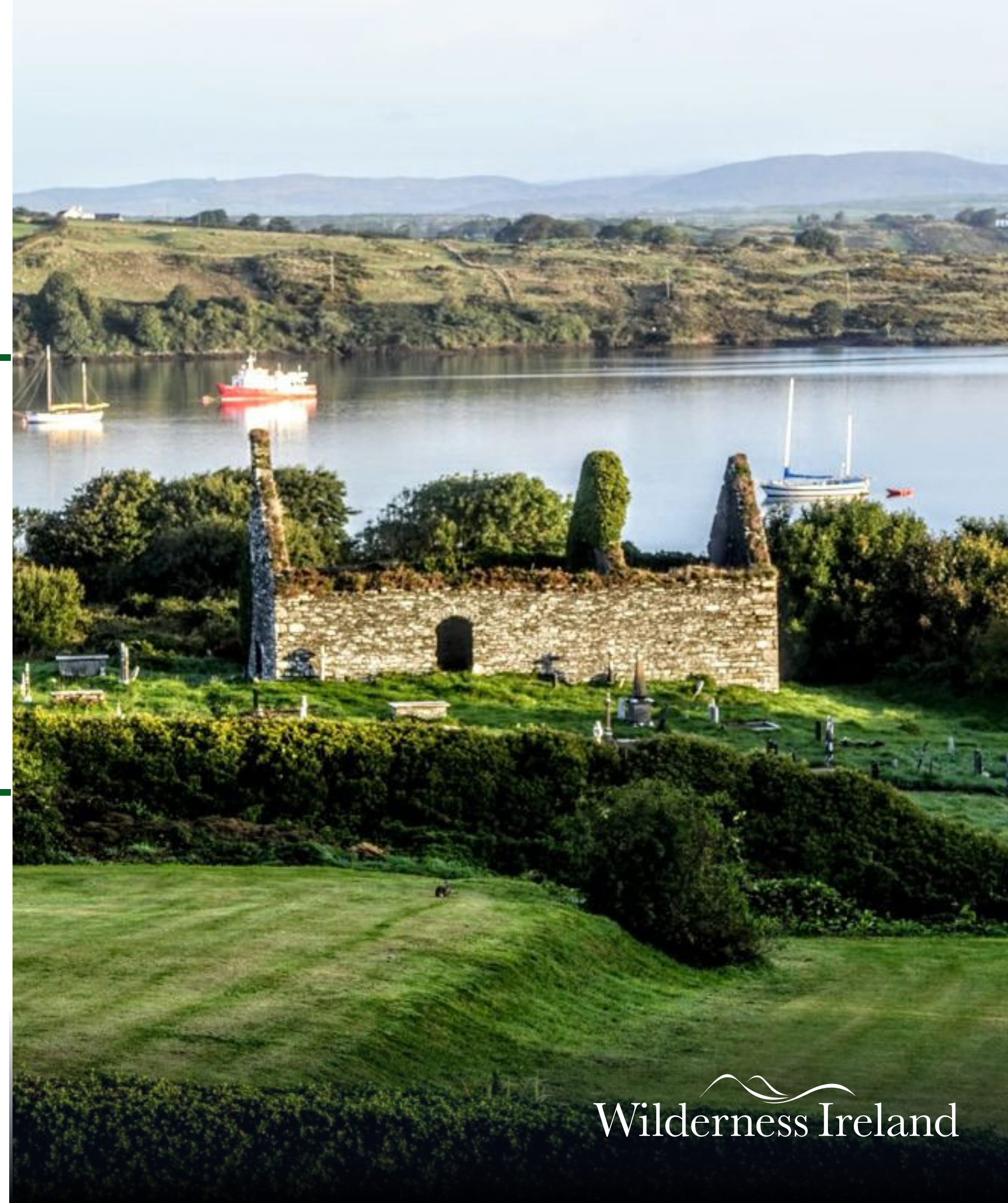
Lying 13km off the coast is Ireland's southernmost inhabited island, and traditionally the last glimpse of Europe for those who once sailed to North America by ship. Cape Clear is a Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) island just 5km long and 2km wide. Hiking across the island, we'll explore its ancient sites, spot the rich birdlife and perhaps even visit a herd of goats to taste some of their very own ice cream! On most days, the iconic silhouette of the dramatic Fastnet Rock Lighthouse can be seen to the northwest of the island.' **(B,L)**

Hike details: 7km/ 4.5 miles | approx. 3 hours

Day 3 | Sheep's Head Peninsula

Heading north, we discover an unspoilt, rolling green landscape so impressive it has been named a European Destination of Excellence. In fact, some of Ireland's best dairy produce comes from this region and sampling local cheese is a must. This timeless region never ceases to surprise where dramatic views, lush emerald hills and charming farmland abounds. On our hike, which takes in sections of the Sheep's Head Way, we will experience some breath-taking views of the headland before continuing to our accommodation in the vibrant town of Kenmare. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 8km/ 5miles | approx. 4 hours



Day 4 | Skellig Michael - 'Star Wars' Island

The Skelligs, perhaps Ireland's most famous islands, are two jagged rock pinnacles standing bare above the battering Atlantic waves. It was on Skellig Michael, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that the monks of yesteryears once lived and prayed in stone beehive huts, many of which still cling to the island's rocky slopes. Today, we'll follow in the footsteps of these 7th century Irish monks to their dramatic island retreat. The small Skellig is equally renowned as home to some 27,000 pairs of gannets, the second-largest colony in the world. The islands have famously been used as a filming location for the 2015 and 2017 Star Wars movies. **(B,L)**

Hike details: The Skellig Michael hike is short but involves climbing 618 ancient steps

Day 5 | The Old Kenmare Road

Leaving the coast behind, we spend a day enjoying part of Ireland's most iconic long distance trail, the Kerry Way. The trail follows part of an old military road built in the 1700s as a means of moving soldiers from the port of Kenmare around the majestic mountain range, Macgillycuddy's Reeks. After enjoying views across Kenmare Bay and a splendid horseshoe of mountain peaks, we'll descend towards the lush green oak woods on the outskirts of Killarney National Park. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 6.5km/ 4 miles | approx. 3 hours



Day 6 | The Abandoned Blasket Islands

On our final hike, we'll explore the narrow paths that weave across the rich fabric of landscape on the largest of the Blasket Islands, the Great Blasket. Inhabited up until the 1950s by a small island community who left behind a strong literary legacy, today the islands are eerily silent, abandoned cottages still huddled on the island's slopes. The remote island cliffs are home to a myriad of seabirds, and whales, dolphins and seals are regular maritime visitors. Back on the mainland, we'll spend our evening in Dingle town, one of the strongest bastions of traditional Irish music, joining the locals in a cozy pub to experience some real 'craic agus ceoil' to mark our last night together. **(B,L,D)**

Hike details: 6.5km/ 4 miles | approx. 3 hours

Day 7 | Dingle Town & Departure

After a relaxing breakfast, we get the chance to explore the vibrant Dingle town. Renowned not only for its quaint and colourful streets but also for its artists and craftsmen, we get a chance for a bit of last minute shopping in Dingle's various craft shops. We then bid farewell to our fellow travellers at Limerick Railway Station, from which there are regular connections to Dublin via train. **(B)**



Trip Grading | Green 2 | ●●●●●●●●

Green graded hiking holidays are suitable for active travellers who are reasonably fit and enjoy moderate hikes.

- We hike at a comfortable pace - expect to be out for 5-6 hours a day.
- The terrain will be on mostly good paths and hill trails but these can still be muddy and rough in places.
- Some hikes may involve an ascent up to a max of approx 1,500 feet/450m.
- Distances will be typically 8-10km but there may be the odd slightly longer day. Daily hike details are available in the itinerary.

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

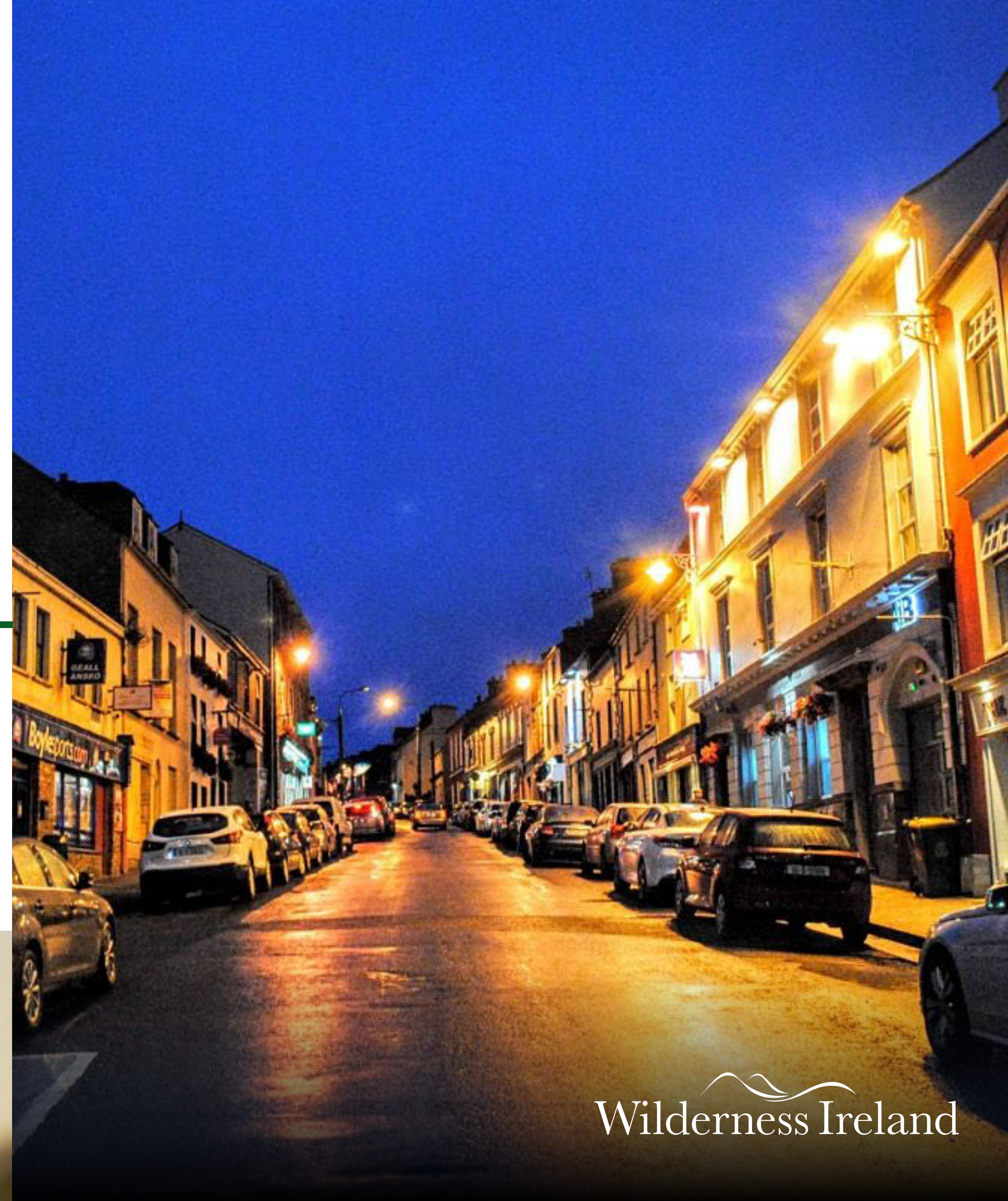
This hiking trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort along in West Cork & Kerry. Expect small, comfortable and characterful lodging in B&Bs, family-fun hotels or guesthouses, both in small towns as well as in rural communities. Accommodation is a choice of double or twin rooms, which are en-suite with a shower. Evening meals will be taken either in towns, which offers a good choice of restaurants to suit every taste, or perhaps in a different location in the southwest depending on the day's hike.

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 6 (**Meals included indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**)
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable hiking guide / driver throughout
- All transport throughout the trip starting in Cork and finishing in Limerick
- Activities stated in itinerary, incl. boat trips and ferries

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.



Our holidays reviewed in your words...

“ *Our trip with Wilderness Ireland was amazing. Beautiful hikes intertwined with music, culture and, history. Guided by Donncha we experienced the wilds of Ireland to a soundtrack of crashing waves, raindrops, wind and Irish songs borrowed from another time. In a word; breath-taking.*

Donncha was an incredible guide- his knowledge of the trails and his love of Ireland was clear throughout each history lesson, Irish translation and song he graciously shared with us. Our trip felt seamless- each trail, meal and van ride unfolded softly and organically into a treasured experience of Ireland. ”

Marni McCarthy - Hiking and Island Hopping in Cork & Kerry - 25/09/2018



[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.



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](#)



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.

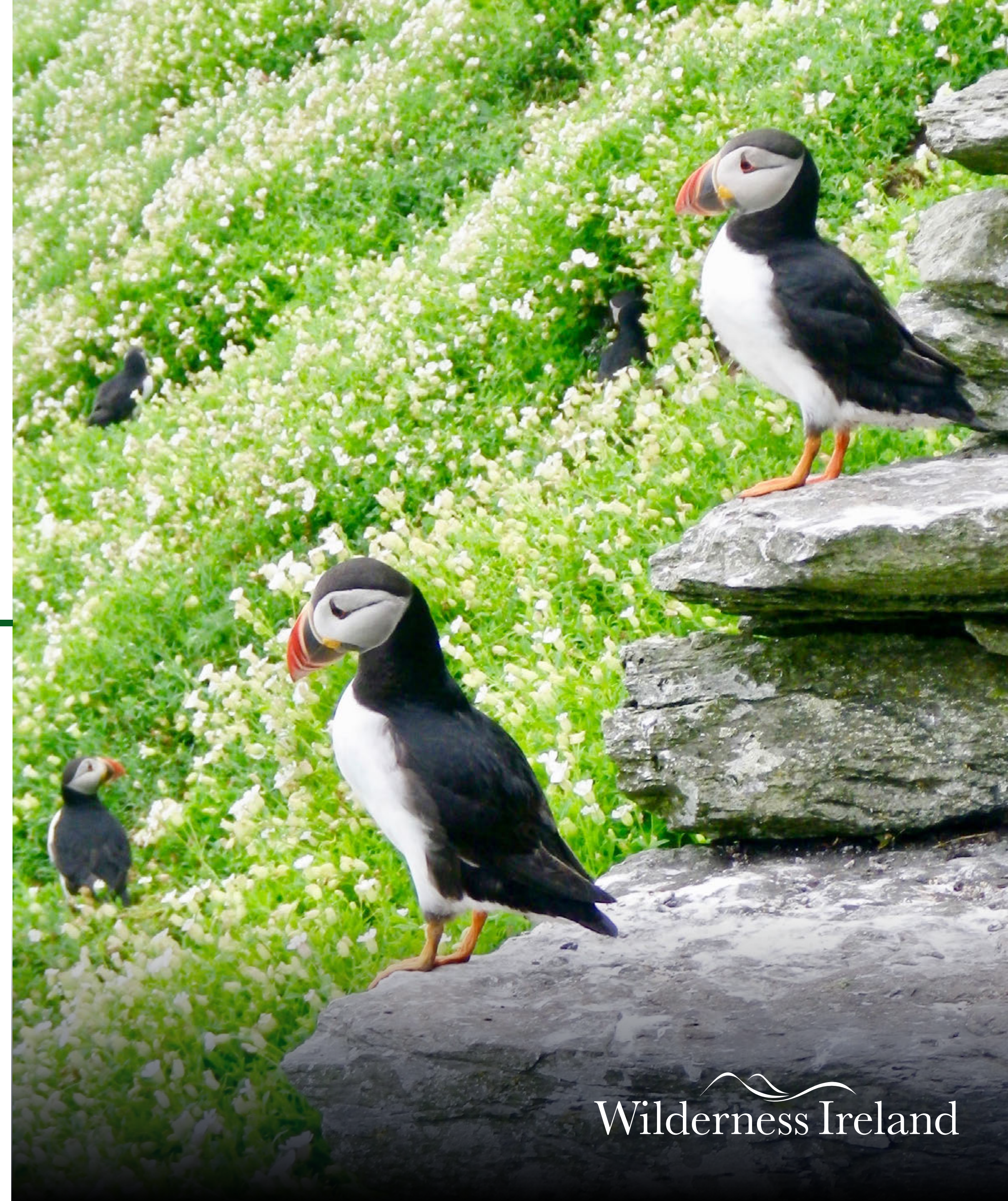
If you cancel your trip, charges will apply. Please see section 2 of our terms and conditions for a breakdown:

<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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