

Hiking

Trip Grade: **Green 3**



The Causeway Coastal Route & Donegal




Wilderness Ireland

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The Causeway Coastal Route & Donegal

Overlooked by the rush of the modern world, the rolling mountains, towering cliffs, white sand beaches, dramatic coastlines and villages of Northern Ireland and Donegal are as romantically remote as they've always been.

Our route takes us from the Giant's Causeway, along the northern edge of Ireland to the dramatic edge of some of Europe's highest sea cliffs. We shall explore rugged headlands, vast bogs and coastal paths rich in wildlife. Hiking across mountain landscapes awash with myths and legends, we'll taste the freshest of seafood, retiring each evening to comfortable and characterful lodgings.

Highlights

- Hike to the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, & up the Slieve League Cliffs
- Explore spectacular locations featuring in Game of Thrones & Star Wars
- Discover Donegal, recently voted National Geographic's Coolest Place on Earth

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.



Planned Itinerary

Day 1 | [Legends of the Giant's Causeway](#)

Day 2 | [Sailing to Rathlin Island](#)

Day 3 | [Fjords of the Inishowen Peninsula](#)

Day 4 | [Star Wars on Malin Head](#)

Day 5 | [Glenveagh National Park](#)

Day 6 | [Towering Slieve League Cliffs](#)

Day 7 | [Yeats Country & Departure](#)

Arrival Info

- Your Guide will meet you in Great Victoria Street Railway Station by the ticket machines in downtown Belfast
- **12.00pm** on Day 1 of your trip

Departure Info

- You will be returned to Sligo Railway Station
- **12:00pm** 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 | Legends of the Giant's Causeway

From vibrant Belfast to the Giant's Causeway, explore Lonely Planet's top 2018 region. Follow the fiercely panoramic clifftop Causeway Coastal Route as it becomes wilder and more alien as we approach this fascinating geological phenomena. Legend claims the Giant's Causeway was formed by two rival giants who hurled rocks at each other across the channel. Designated as a UNESCO site, the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast have inspired visitors for centuries. **(L, D)**

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

Day 2 | Sailing to Rathlin Island

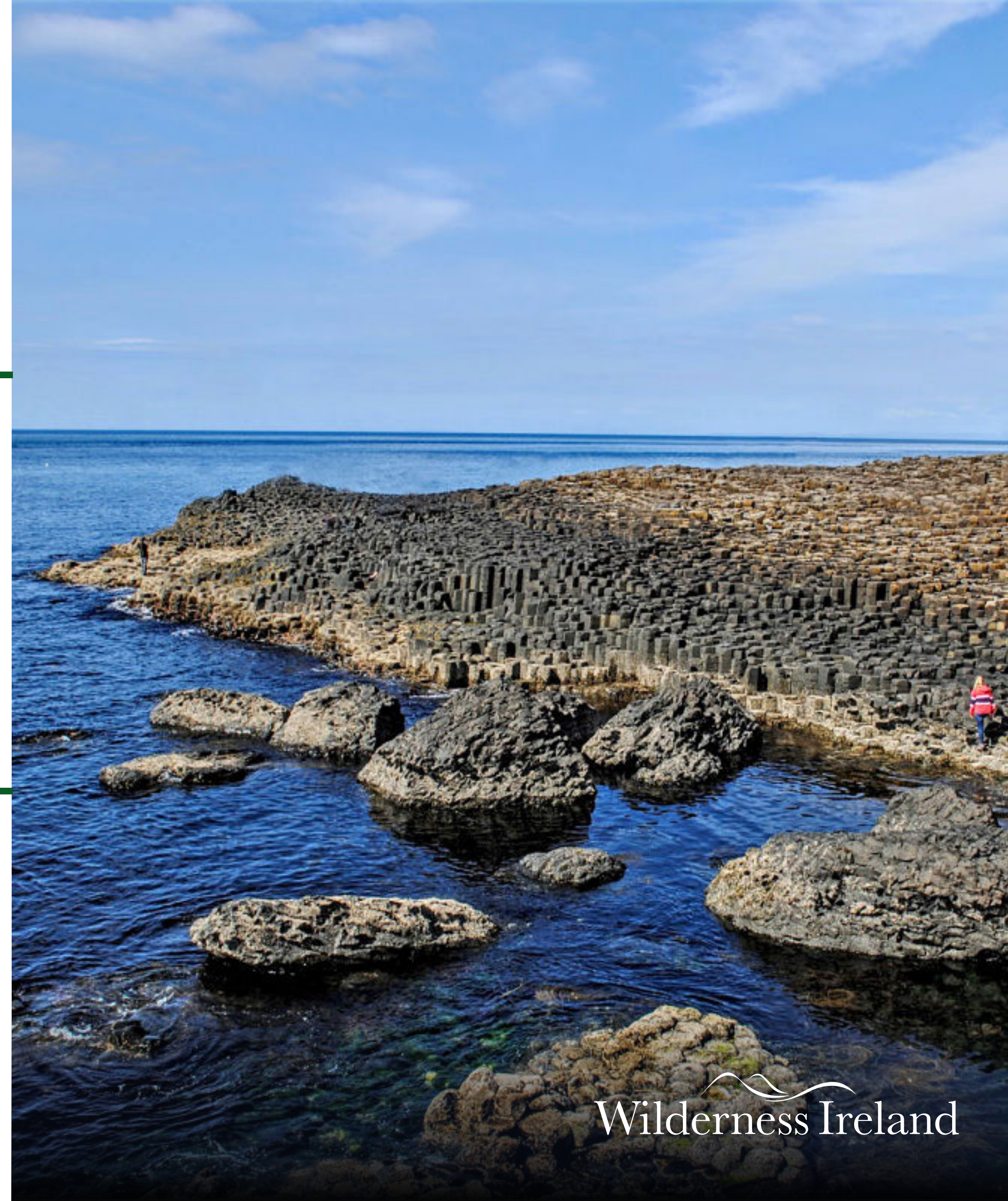
The quiet shores of Rathlin Islands are clouded in myth and mystery. One of the island's most fascinating tales tells of famed Scottish king Robert the Bruce, exiled to the island where he watched a spider persevering again and again to build its web. Taking heart from the spider's eventual success, he returned to Scotland and eventually regained his crown. We'll sail to the island to explore a bird sanctuary that is home to puffins part of the year as well as visit a stunning clifftop lighthouse to spot the adorable puffins and other seabirds who live on the island. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 9km/ 5.5 miles | approx. 4-5 hours

Day 3 | Fjords of the Inishowen Peninsula

The ancient territory of the O'Doherty clan of Co. Donegal is possibly the most remote region of Ireland. Jutting dramatically into the Atlantic Ocean, the Inishowen Peninsula is bordered by the impressive Lough Swilly Fjord and Lough Foyle. This parcel of undiscovered Ireland is perfect for outdoor lovers and budding photographers. After a ferry across the lough to the Inishowen Peninsula, explore a World War II-era lookout tower on hike to climb the gradual shoulder of little-visited Crocknasmug hill for magical coastal views. In the evening, kick back with a local pint and an open fire! **(B,L)**

Hike details: 8km/ 5 miles | approx. 3-4 hours



Day 4 | Star Wars on Malin Head

At the tip of the vast and wild Inishowen Peninsula is Malin Head, the most northerly point of Ireland. Jutting into the restless Atlantic Ocean, it is so other-worldly that scenes from the 2017 Star Wars Episode VIII were filmed here! Malin Head is a wild, windswept landscape peppered with ancient archaeological sites. Our hike climbs over rocky hills, rugged headlands and along dramatic coastal cliffs. We'll cross Lough Swilly on a local ferry for great views of one Ireland's three glacial fjords and make our way to an adorable Donegal coastal village. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 7km/ 4 miles | approx. 3 hours

Day 5 | Glenveagh National Park

Glenveagh National Park is a hauntingly beautiful wilderness of rugged mountains, pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls and enchanted native oak woodland - dominated by Mount Errigal's glittering quartzite peak. Our hike follows a path along the lake to the mystical Glenveagh Castle. Here we'll wander the cultivated castle gardens set in this wild landscape before continuing our walk beyond the castle walls along a winding path through the Derryveagh Mountains. Passing abandoned settlements and forlorn ruins, learn the history of what daily life was like in this desolate wilderness. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 8km/ 5 miles | approx. 7-8 hours



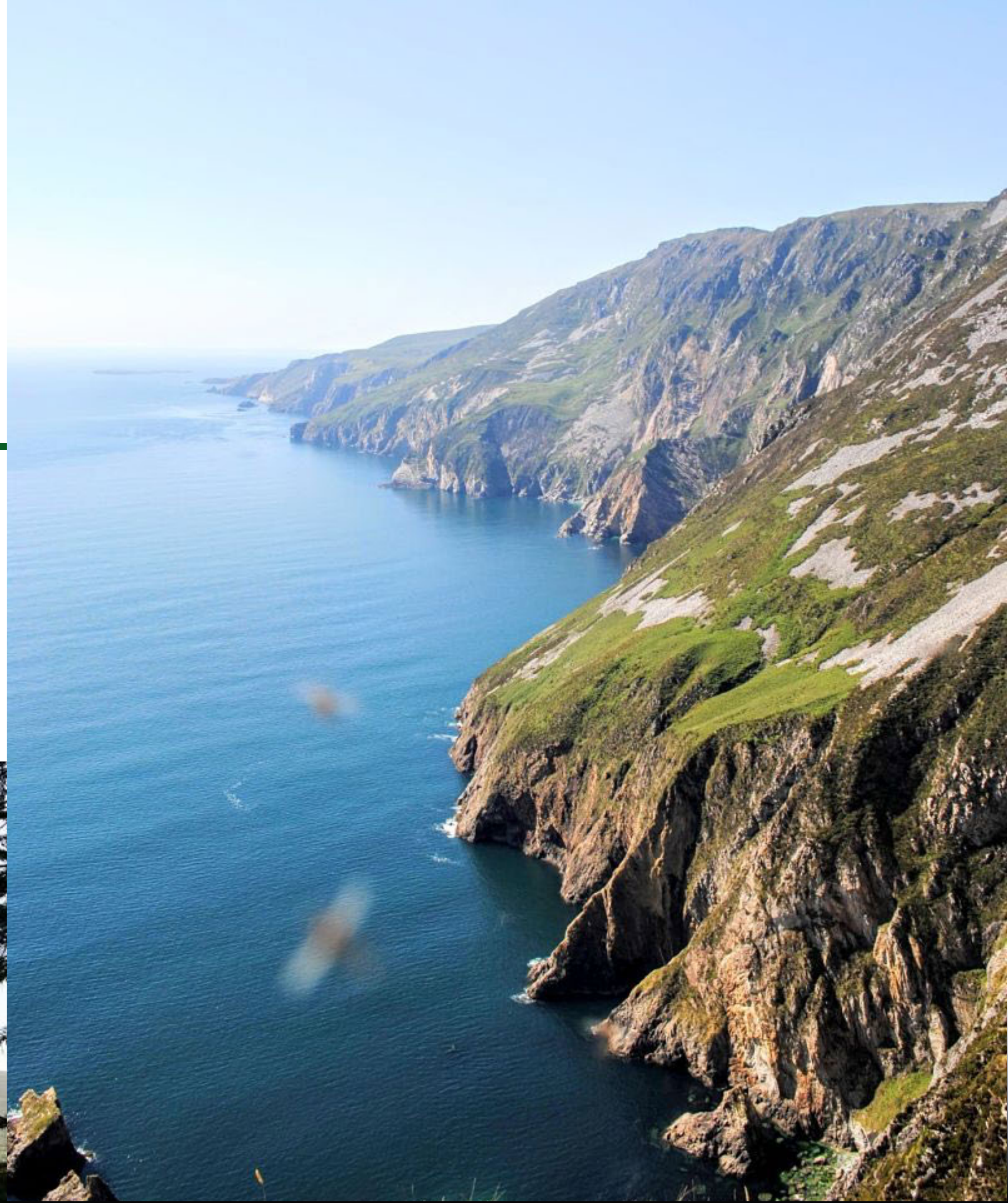
Day 6 | Towering Slieve League Cliffs

The final hike of our trip is also probably the most impressive. The Slieve League Cliffs are some of Europe's highest - three times that of the Cliffs of Moher. Our hike takes us on the little-known Pilgrim's Path, a route used for Christian pilgrimages for centuries. You'll get the chance to do something few visitors get to do: stand atop the edge of the Slieve League Cliffs. There are terrific views of the cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean, the mountains of Sligo and Donegal Bay. Later, meet locals such as tweed-makers still practising their craft on a traditional handloom passed down for generations. This evening, enjoy a delicious farewell dinner together in a local restaurant. **(B,L,D)**

Hike details: 6km/ 4 miles | approx. 4 hours

Day 7 | Yeats Country & Departure

This morning, we shall say goodbye to the Wild Atlantic Way coast in Donegal. We transfer to Co. Sligo, nicknamed "Yeats Country" for WB Yeats, Ireland's national poet, who was greatly inspired by Sligo's landscapes and natural beauty. Along the way, we will stop at Yeats' grave, tucked under the shadow of Ben Bulbin, Sligo's iconic table mountain, before making our way to Sligo town. **(B)**



Trip Grading | Green 3 | ●●●●●●●●

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.



Wilderness Ireland

Accommodation and Meals

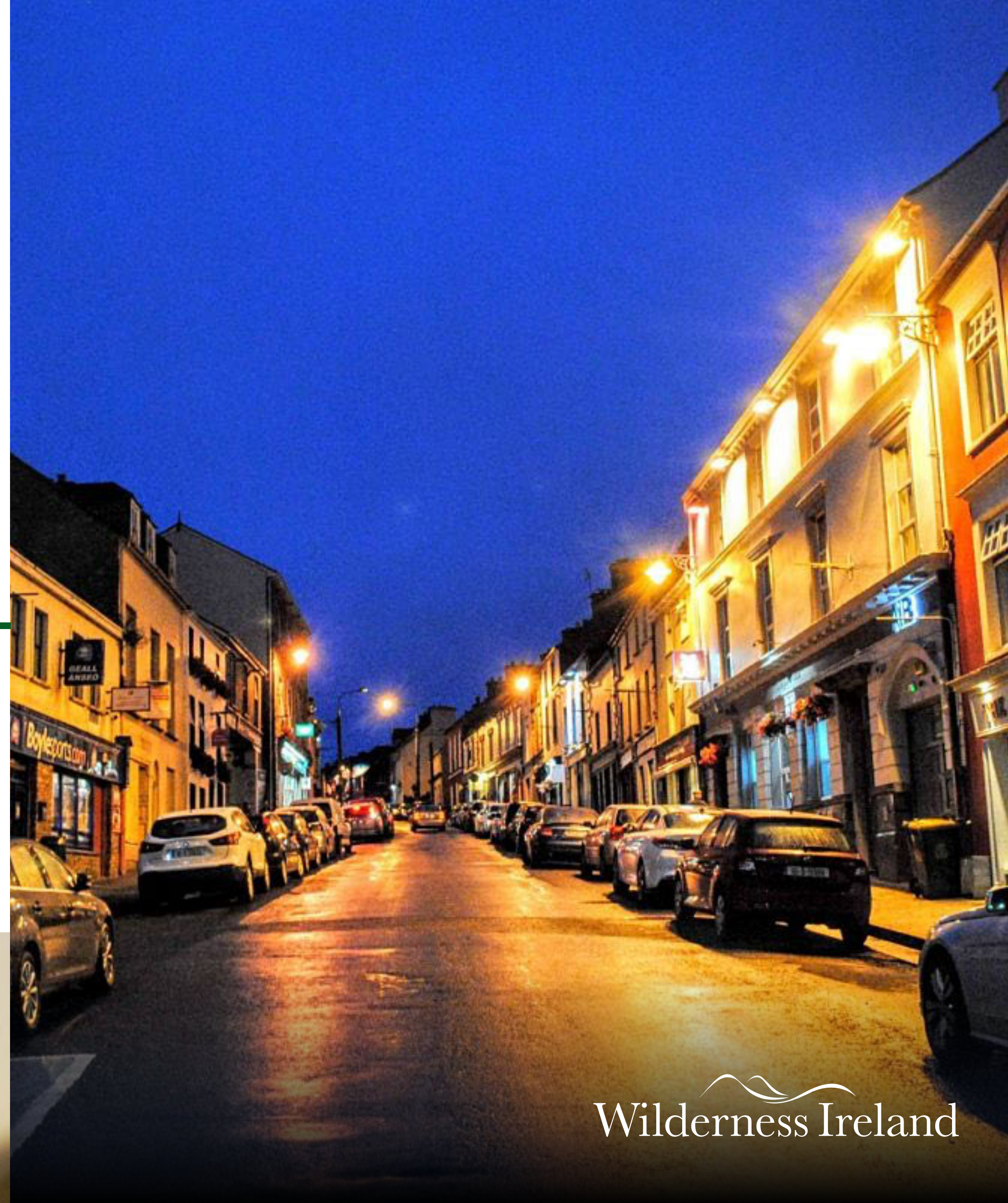
This hiking trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort in Northern Ireland and Donegal. Expect small, comfortable and characterful lodging in B&Bs, family-fun hotels or guesthouses, both in small towns as well as in rural communities. Accommodation is a choice of double or twin rooms, which are en-suite with a shower. Evening meals will be taken either in Dingle town, which offers a good choice of restaurants to suit every taste, or perhaps in a different location along the Causeway Coast and Donegal, 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 Belfast and finishing in Sligo incl. ferries
- Activities stated in itinerary, incl. boat trips, entrance fees, etc.

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



Our holidays reviewed in your words...

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From the first day to the last day I had a smile on my face...The scenery of the coastal route & Donegal was absolutely spectacular. I don't believe there is one view in Ireland that is not unbelievable and I enjoyed each and every one on my hiking trip.

One of the highlights of travelling with Wilderness Ireland was not having to worry about anything... all I had to do was hike, relax and take pictures.

What a holiday!!! The group of people that joined up for this hiking trip were all fantastic and Paul Quinn our hiking guide was fabulous. Each and every day on the hike had its own beauty and I have and will be encouraging everyone I know to put Ireland on their bucket list, and if they like the outdoors in any way, shape or form to look into taking a trip with Wilderness Ireland. It was a blast.

Jullie Anderson - Hiking the Causeway Coastal Route & Donegal 29/10/2018

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[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.

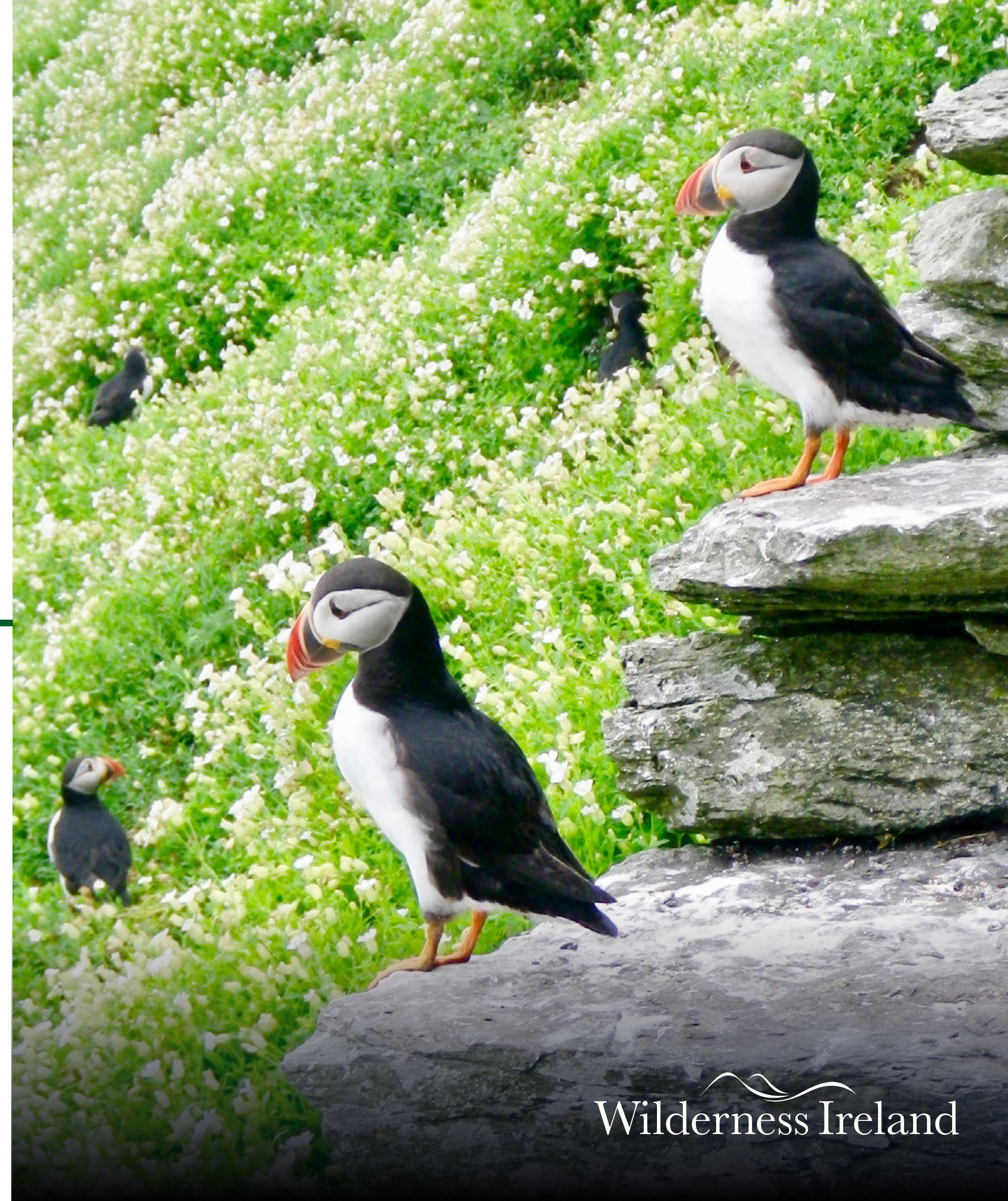
If you cancel your trip, charges will apply. Please see section 2 of our terms and conditions for a breakdown:

<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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