

Hiking

Ireland's National Parks

Trip Grade: **Blue 6**




Wilderness Ireland

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Ireland's National Parks

Ireland is a place renowned for its exceptional natural beauty, rugged coastlines and emerald hills. Hiking Ireland's National Parks is the ultimate hiking trip for outdoor lovers and hiking enthusiasts. On this trip, you'll explore three of Ireland's most spectacular Ireland's national parks, making up some of Ireland's most incredible wild regions: the Wicklow Mountains, Connemara, and Killarney National Parks. In each of these regions, we'll climb the highest mountain of that province - including Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest peak!

In the evenings, you'll soak up Irish culture and heritage in the rural communities we visit surrounding these national parks. Admire the ruins of one of Ireland's most significant monastic ruins in Wicklow, learn a bit of Irish Gaelic in villages of the Connemara Gaeltacht, and tap your feet to some traditional Irish music in any number of Killarney's lively pubs and town centre.

Highlights

- Explore the wilds of 3 of Ireland's 6 national parks: Wicklow, Connemara & Killarney
- Summit the highest mountain in 3 of Ireland's provinces, including Ireland's highest mountain
- Visit the ancient Glendalough monastery, Connemara Gaeltacht & Killarney town

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 | [Wicklow's Glendalough Monastery](#)

Day 2 | [Lugnaquilla, Wicklow's Highest Mountain](#)

Day 3 | [The Mountains of Connemara](#)

Day 4 | [Mweelrea, Connemara's Highest Mountain](#)

Day 5 | [Killarney National Park](#)

Day 6 | [Carrauntoohil, Ireland's Highest Mountain](#)

Day 7 | [Killarney Town & the Lakes of Killarney](#)

Arrival Info

- Your Guide will meet you in Dublin Heuston Railway Station by the ticket machines
- **11.00pm** on Day 1 of your trip

Departure Info

- You will be returned to Killarney 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.



Day 1 | Glendalough - Wicklow National Park

From the cosmopolitan centre of Dublin, we start our high points hiking adventure by heading into the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Full of emerald hills topped with purple heather and framed by lush forests, Wicklow is a special place. Back in the 6th century, Saint Kevin, a monk seeking solace and contemplation, found it here in the idyllic surroundings of Glendalough. Today's hike explores the quiet hills beyond Glendalough's ancient monastery following the Glenealo River through a stunning glaciated valley. **(L,D)**

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

Day 2 | Lugnaquilla, Wicklow's Highest Mountain

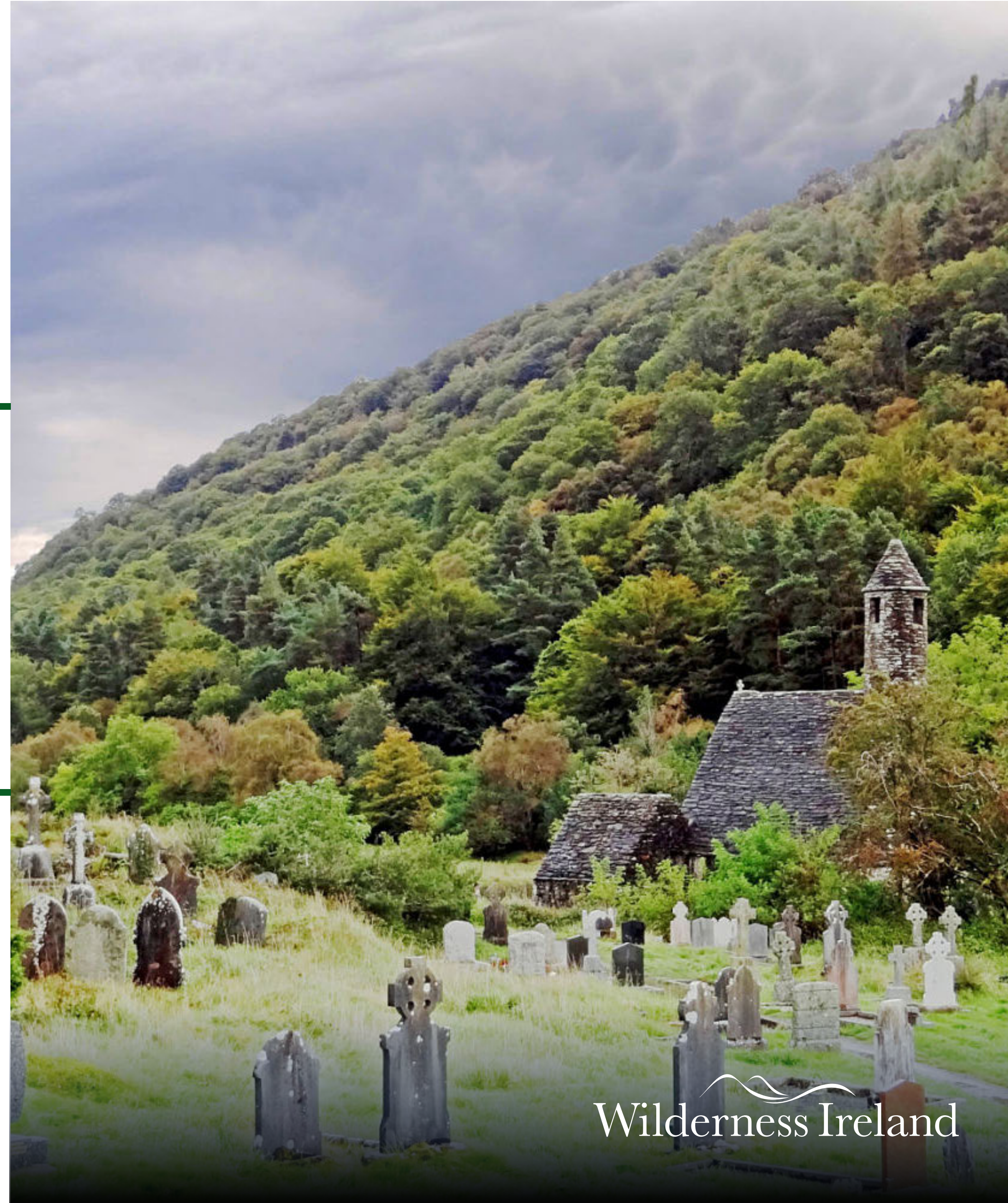
Our goal for today is hiking to the summit of Lugnaquilla Mountain. The highest peak in the Wicklow Mountains - one of Ireland's six national parks - as well as the province of Leinster, majestic Lugnaquilla proudly overlooks the glittering green valley of Glenmalure. We follow an exceptionally scenic route to the top of Lugnaquilla via a cliff-fringed hanging valley to arrive at the plateau summit named after a 17th century local character. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 17km/ 10 miles | approx. 8 hours

Day 3 | Connemara National Park

This morning we hit the road westwards, where Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way coast beckons. Famous Irish playwright and wit Oscar Wilde once described the region as a 'savagely beautiful' and it's easy to see why as the gentle green fields of Ireland's interior gives way to the rugged west coast. In the afternoon, you'll enjoy a lovely hike into the rugged beauty of Connemara National Park. Characterised by its glittering quartzite rocks and boggy slopes, Connemara's peaks contrast sharply with the gentler Wicklow Mountains. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 8-10km/ 5-7 miles | approx. 4-5 hours



Day 4 | Mweelrea, Connemara's Highest Mountain

Mweelrea, the highest mountain in the west of Ireland, is best known for its breathtaking panoramic views. The distance is relatively short but the terrain is challenging and the summit is both hard-earned and very well worth it. The south falls steeply to the waters of Killary Harbour, Ireland's largest fjord. To the east stretches the sprawling Sheffry Hills and the mountain Ben Gorm, and to the west lies white sandy Atlantic shores. **(B,L)**

Hike details: 13km/ 8.5 miles | approx. 7 hours

Day 5 | Killarney National Park

Leaving behind the remote Connemara mountains, we head south to the Kingdom of Kerry. Discover the lush green valleys and wild hills of Killarney National Park, the very first national park established in Ireland. Your hike will lead you away from the more popular parts of the park, instead heading up into the quiet hills where a fantastic view of the Magillicuddy's Reeks Mountains spreads out before us - our first glimpse of tomorrow's challenge. Keep your eye out for the park's beloved wild deer and other animals! **(B,L)**

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



Day 6 | Carrauntoohil, Ireland's Highest Mountain

Carrauntoohil is Ireland's highest peak and the jewel in the crown of our high points hiking tour. At 1,040m, its jagged summit presents an enticing challenge for today! There are many paths to the summit: the cliff-sides of O'Shea's Gully or the aptly named Devil's Ladder are just two options. As we hike, we'll take time to admire the wildflowers, spot raptors soaring on the mountain thermals and keep a lookout for Irish mountain hares. This evening, we'll celebrate our high points accomplishments with a traditional Irish music session in one of the great local pubs in lively downtown Killarney. **(B,L,D)**

Hike details: 12 km/ 7.5 miles | approx. 7 hours

Day 7 | Killarney Town & the Lakes of Killarney

This morning, you'll have time to explore the colourful and bustling centre of Killarney for last-minute souvenir shopping. Or, you have the option to stretch your legs on a gentle and picturesque walk along the lakes and quiet paths of Killarney National Park before returning to Killarney Train Station in plenty of time for the train back to Dublin. **(B)**

Hike details: 5km/ 3 miles | approx. 1.5 hours



Trip Grading | Blue 6 | ●●●●●●●●

Blue graded hiking trips are suitable for fit and experienced hikers.

- We hike at a good pace and you can expect to be out for 6-8 hours a day.
- You will not always be on a path and the terrain underfoot can be rough and boggy, including boulder fields and mountain tops.
- Some of the daily hikes will involve a mountain ascent of over 3000ft/900m high.
- Daily distances will be typically up to 16km but may be longer occasionally. Daily hike details are available in the itinerary.
- The weather in Ireland can be unpredictable and at times can make activities more challenging. Please do bear this in mind when thinking about what trip to join.

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

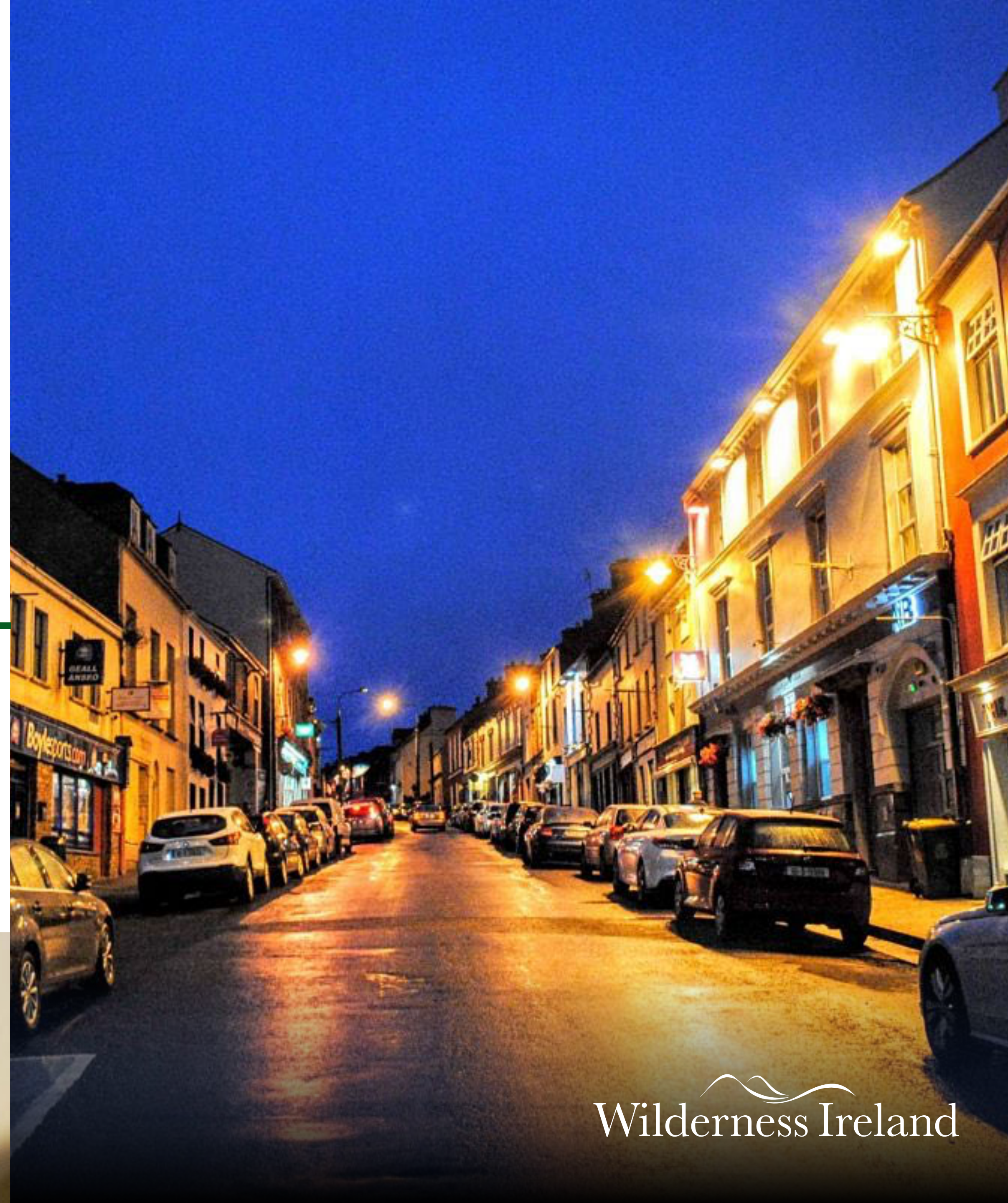
This hiking trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort as well as on our two night island retreat. Expect small, comfortable and characterful lodging in B&Bs, family-fun hotels or guesthouses, both in town as well as in rural communities. Accommodation is a 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 along our route 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 supplements are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

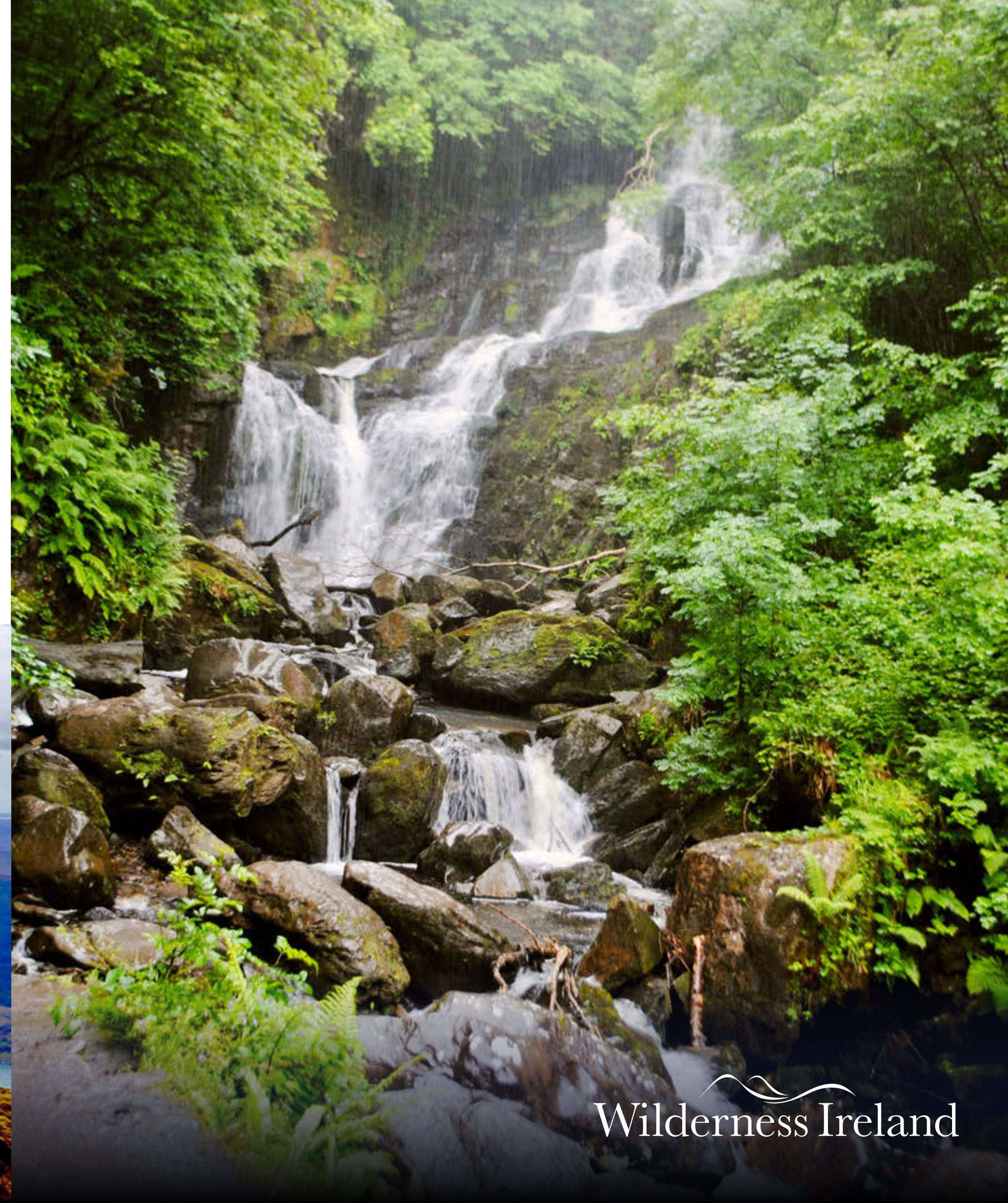


Inclusions

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 Dublin and finishing in Killarney
- Activities stated in itinerary, incl. entrance fees

This trip includes all accommodation, guiding and travel as well as most meals. It does not include a gratuity for your guide nor any drinks.



Our holidays reviewed in your words...

“

Our guide was from the area in which we were hiking, so his knowledge of the routes, flora and fauna was quite comprehensive. Callum is also quite the historian, providing detailed information on Irish culture and history.

I've got a smile on my face an a pocket full of glorious memories! Wilderness Ireland is on the right track.

”

Rosalind O'Donoghue - 22/07/2019



[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/>

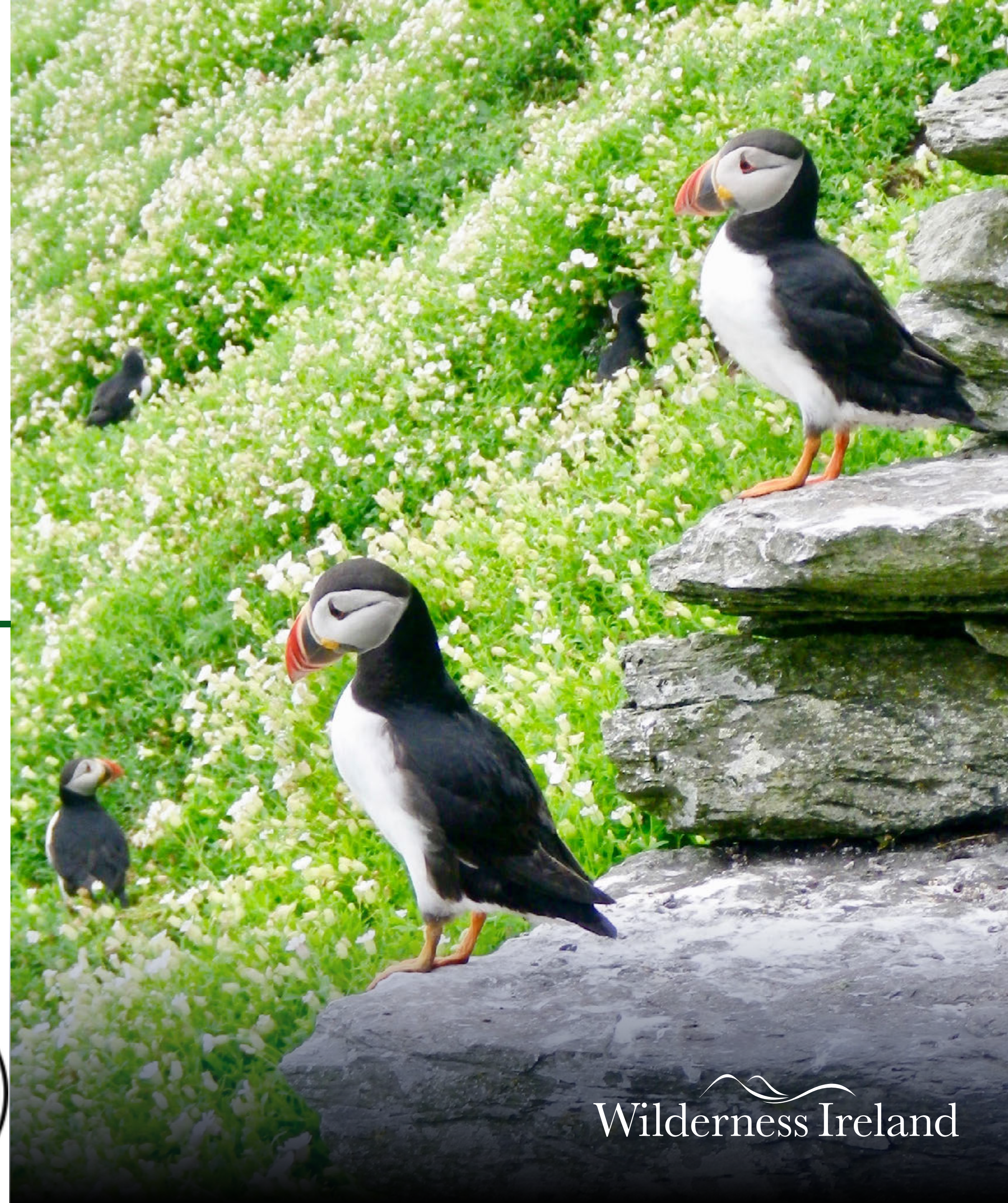
Your Satisfaction, Guaranteed

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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