# IADAY LIKEALOCAL TOUR

This epic journey around Ireland squeezes in almost everything our little country has to offer. Visit Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Galway, Derry and Killarney cities to name but a few.



www.valhallatoursireland.com



Your first day begins nice and leisurely, at 12 o clock. Rendezvous for a meet and greet and lunch in one of Dublin cities hidden gem restaurants.

After lunch we take a short drive to Newgrange to see one of Irelands UNESCO World Heritage sites, older the Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza.

After exploring Newgrange its back to Dublin to enjoy a night on the town with new friends before the tour really begins. Activities can be organised upon request for the evening.

Staying at your hotel of choice in Dublin city.





### Day Two: Dublin to Belfast

And we're off! Departure from Dublin at 9am sharp.

We head for Belfast city to explore all that Northern Ireland has to offer. Starting with the Titanic museum, voted one of the best attractions in Northern Ireland on numerous occasions.

After lunch, we get into the real nitty gritty with a Black Cab tour of Belfast, taking you behind the scenes of what it was like to live through The Troubles and what the city is like today.

After all that information its time either for an early check in or get out and explore the town because we're staying in Ten Square Hotel in Belfast city centre tonight.





Get your hiking boots on, today we are going to explore the Giants Causeway and the surrounding area.

Highlights of today are Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, a 98 foot high rope bridge suspended over the Irish sea which gives unrivalled views of the coastline.

Dunlunce castle and of course the UNESCO World Heritage site The Giants Causeway, where you can hike some of the most beautiful cliff walks in the country or simply take the bus if you want to conserve you energy.

Regardless of how you tackle the day, you are guaranteed to be blown away by the stunning beauty that the Causeway coast has to offer.

After taking in all of that beauty, we make our way to Derry city for the evening, staying inside the walled city in the Shipquay Hotel.

Corrick A Rede rope bridge built 1755



We start the day off with a walking tour of the walled city of Derry.

One of the only remaining intact walled cities in the country, here you will get all the history one could want about Northern Ireland, including talks about Bloody Sunday and how the Apprentice Boys protected the gates.

We leave Northern Ireland behind and head for the wild county of Donegal, making our way to Glenveagh National Park to revel in the beauty of the manicured gardens contrasted with the wilderness surrounding it.

> Tonight we stay in our first village, for the true Irish experience. The Waterfront, Dungloe is the perfect place to meet the locals.





Today is a very exciting day as we explore the off the beaten track sites that Donegal has to offer.

Slieve League is our first destination and it famous for being the highest sea cliffs in Europe.

The views here are jaw dropping and it is general a very quite and peaceful place to be.

Making our way into Donegal town for lunch.

We then meander down through WB Yeats country where we discover what gave him his inspiration for his poetry, we might even stop at one of his favourite sites, Glencar waterfall.

Tonight we stay in Sligo City, The Glasshouse Hotel in the centre of town is close to all the action. This lively city was once the summer home of the WB.Yeats

Mullaghmore, Sligo



### Day Six: Sligo to Galway

Today we make tracks towards the world famous Connemara, County Galway, but along the way we will take in some of what county Mayo has to offer. Westport town is a picturesque place to grab a coffee and maybe do a quick spot of shopping.

As we head west towards Croagh Patrick and on to Irelands most famous famine road where your guide will tell you all the hair raising stories of Irelands Great Hunger.

In the afternoon we lighten the mood as we explore the IOOO acre site that is the beautiful Kylemore Abbey in the heart of Connemara.

And make our way into Galway city for a much needed pint of Guinness or maybe a sneaky whiskey!

Staying in the boujee Dean hotel Galway.





No need you pack your things as we are staying in Galway again tonight.

We kick off today with a walking tour of Irelands medieval city to give you your bearings for the day.

Once you have all the history you need and armed with great recommendations for lunch and dinner you are free to explore the city at your leisure. Whether that is to shop till you drop, hit the pubs or site see every inch of the city, the choice is yours.

Galway city has so much to offer, knowing where to start is the hardest thing, but rest assured we will look after you.





Today is Aran Islands day!

We board the ferry from the docks at Galway Harbour and make our way out to Inís Mór, the largest of the 3 Aran islands.

Here we have options on how to explore the island, either by bicycle or e-bike, horse and cart or by mini bus.

This is a throw back in time where you get to experience what Ireland was like many moons ago. The traditions of old Ireland still live on on the islands, stone walls as far as the eye can see, minimal traffic and a beauty that is unrivalled.

Dun Aonghasa is a promontory fort situated on the far side of the island and is a must see for any visitor.

This is the home of the Aran sweater, where the locals have been spinning yarn and knitting them for generations.

Taking the ferry back to Doolin, it is a very short drive to your hotel, where good food and great music await.

Staying in Moloneys Guesthouse, its like staying with long lost cousins!





# **Day Nine: Doolin to Dingle**

**Cliffs of Moher** 

Today is Cliffs of Moher day.

Doolin is only a short drive from the cliffs which means we'll get there first thing and beat the crowds, walking along these awe inspiring cliffs will give you all the inspiration you need for the day ahead.

As we journey south we will take the ferry to County Kerry and make our way to Dingle, one of Irelands most treasured towns.

As we get onto the Dingle peninsula we find ourselves at a sheep dog demonstration, in awe of how these dogs help their farmer friends. This little village is full of Irish craft, music and tradition. We will spend two nights here so we can really soak up the atmosphere.

Staying in Emlagh House, this is a real sense of elegance.



## Day Ten: Dingle

#### Driving time: 1 hour (optional!)

Today is yours to explore Dingle village.

The craft, the music, the food and the pubs are all waiting for you to discover them.

We will take a short drive out to Irelands most westerly point, Slea Head drive, voted one of the most beautiful drives in the world on numerous occasions, then back into town to enjoy the traditional Irish music that Dingle has in abundance.

Todays options are sea kayaking or maybe rent an e bike for the afternoon to explore at your leisure.





**Driving time: 3.5 hours** 

We leave Dingle behind and venture towards the Ring of Kerry.

This driving tour is full of stunning photo stops and quaint villages. It is one of the most famous roads in the country and is known across the Globe.

Making our way along this route will bring us to Killarney National Park, Irelands first and largest National Park. Spending time here to explore the heart of the park, Muckross House, Torc waterfall and Muckross Abbey.

Its just a short drive into Killarney town where we will spend the night at the Killarney Plaza Hotel.

This town is bustling with energy and has something for everyone.





Day 12 brings us to County Cork, Irelands largest county.

We travel through Kenmare and over the Caha pass in order to give you the best views as we cross the boarder.

Some say Cork is the real capital because of the important role its people played in the War of Independence.

Today is for the history buffs, when your guide will tell you all about Micheal Collins, the man who brought peace to the nation.

This was his home turf and where he met his demise.

All the while we are making our way towards Cork city, the second largest city in the country.

We spend the night in the heart of the action at the exclusive Imperial Hotel where many famous people had spent a night or two.





## Day Thirteen: Cork to Kilkenny

**Driving time: 3 hours** 

#### Today we Kiss the Blarney Stone!

Again, we are not far from Blarney Castle which means we can beat the crowds to one of Irelands most famous attractions.

Kissing the stone will be sure to give you good fortune and the gift of the gab. Not only does Blarney have a world famous stone but it boasts some of the most beautiful gardens in the country.

After exploring the castle and grounds, we are off to The Rock of Cashel. An ancient site that was home to the King of Munster and in later years became one of the largest monasteries in the country.

Tonight, our destination is Kilkenny city, staying in the Pembroke Hotel.





Today is our last day of the tour, but it is sure not to disappoint.

We start the day with a tour of Kilkenny castle, it is one of the finest castles you could visit or maybe a tour of Smickwicks brewery, founded in 1710. Alternatively, free time to get some last minute shopping in.

Making our way to Glendalough for one of our last stops of the tour. This is a gem. A stunning location for a monastery which now lies in ruin. It is a nature lovers paradise with endless forest trails and some great hikes too.

Arriving back to Dublin that evening, between 4 and 6 o clock for fair well hugs and memories that will last a life time!

