



WELCOME TO IRELAND!

CEAD MILE FAILTE

While the information presented here details our current journeys in Ireland, activities and accommodations, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance our itineraries and your experience.

If there are any changes that may affect your arrival or departure or lodging, we will keep you up to date.



IRELAND TOURS

"Ireland, especially the rural West, is a cyclist's dream," writes Bicycling magazine describing CycleWest Ireland's Connemara bike tour..

"A network of intertwined little roads...wind above seaside cliffs and past evenly spaced white cottages with gray slate roofs, each one trailing its signature plume of smoke from a turf fire."

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE NOTES

SHORT ESCAPES AND EXTENDED STAY RECOMMENDATIONS



Private Airport Transfers
available upon request.

Please contact us for more
details.

Arriving and Departure Information

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here are current at time of printing but are subject to change. **Please do not book your flights until you are confirmed on the tour of your choice and have verified the details of arriving and departing with your trip consultant here at CycleWest Ireland.**

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION: GUIDED TOURS

On the first day of your tour A CycleWest Ireland representative will meet you in Galway at 2.00pm at the Park House Hotel located on Foster Street, Eyre Square, Galway.

(For more details please see www.parkhousehotel.ie) This location is just one block away from the rail station and coach park in Galway City. It is a twenty minute cab ride from Galway Airport.

From here we transfer to your tour start point, approximately 1½ hours drive, with a short excursion to visit some local points of interest on the way. There is no need to be dressed in bike clothing for our initial meeting – dress comfortably.

DEPARTURE NOTES

On the last day of your trip we transfer you to the nearest Rail or Coach Park. We can also make arrangements by request for Private Transfer if you are continuing on your journey and wish, for example to pick up car hire. Please see the **Rail and Coach and Private Transfer Section** to and from your tour start point.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION AND DEPARTURE NOTES: SELF LED TOURS

Our Self Led tours commence and end at the first and last accommodation as listed on your itinerary. Private Transfers can be arranged upon request. On the first day of your tour A CycleWest Ireland representative will meet you at your **Tours First Night's Accommodation** at **4.30pm**. We also provide details about local transport for your journey's end.

Please see the **Transport & Transfer Section** to and from your tour start point.



PRE AND POST TOUR EXTENDED STAYS

For some of you it may be necessary to arrive one day early in Ireland and transfer to Galway City. Please see '**Short Escapes – Where to Stay Before Or After Your Tour**' section for a list of our recommendations.

Transport and Transfer Information

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

As Galway City is the nearest city to our tour start points, we recommend flying into Dublin (airport code: DUB) or Shannon (airport code: SNN) en route to Galway City. CycleWest Ireland do not engage in flight bookings but we do recommend Aer Lingus (www.aerlingus.com) for your air travel to Ireland. We also recommend Ryan Air (www.ryanair.com) for flights coming in from the UK and the rest of Europe. Within Ireland, there are frequent return flights available from Dublin Airport to Galway with Aer Arann (www.aerarann.com). This flight take 45 minutes.

Please ensure to check baggage restrictions on all flights. CycleWest Ireland request that each piece of individual luggage you bring weigh no more that 15kg (33 pounds) in order to meet our Health and Safety requirements.

AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Rail: You may choose to travel to and from **Dublin City Heuston Station** to your tour start and end point by rail. Tours start in Galway City and end usually in Westport. The trip in either case takes approx. three hours. You may book your rail tickets on line with Irish Rail (www.irishrail.ie). Your tickets are often subject to a discount when booked online. Please be sure to confirm your tour start and end point with CycleWest Ireland, before confirming your rail tickets. Please note that the rail station is situated in Dublin City and is not accessible directly at the airport. You will require a transfer to the inner city via local bus or Airport Coach t the train station. Use the **748** shuttle bus from the airport to Heuston Station. Rail routes from Heuston Station include Dublin-Cork, Dublin-Limerick, Dublin-Galway and Dublin-Westport. Please check at the arrivals hall at the airport upon arrival for the next available bus service.

Bus: Citylink (www.citylink.ie), **Bus Eireann** (www.buseireann.ie) and **Go Bus** (www.gobus.ie) all offer transfers to and from Dublin Airport and Dublin City Centre to Galway City. Citylink and Bus Eireann also offer a direct service to and from Shannon Airport to Galway City. The trip from Dublin Airport takes 4 hours and from Dublin City Centre is 3 hours. The journey from Shannon to Galway



City takes 1 hour.

Car Hire: Our preferred car hire partner is **Budget Car Hire**. You may book your car online at their Website - **Budget Car Hire Ireland (www.budget.ie)** using **our corporate code** which will be provided to you upon booking your trip. We offer a 10% discount on Budget Cars. Budget Car Hire has locations at Dublin, Shannon and Galway City Airports as well as Galway City and Dublin City. For anyone ending their trip in Westport – you may also pick up a Budget Car at Knock Airport. Please note that your car should be booked no later than two weeks in advance of your tour start date.

Private Transfers: CycleWest Ireland can provide private car or private coach transfers upon request. Please contact us for a quote.

Climate in Ireland

Ireland is known for its unpredictable and often windy and rainy weather, however showers can quickly turn to sunny skies. Weather patterns tend to be localized to the small area you are travelling in and because we are situated on the West Coast, within close proximity to the coast, we rely mostly on local, maritime weather forecasts. A 'What to Pack' recommended list follows in a more detailed pre-tip planning manual, however, we do request that you come prepared with **Bright Colored, Quality Rain Gear: waterproof and windproof, jacket and pants) that are suitable for biking.**

GALWAY AREA CLIMATE DETAILS:

Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
High (F)	45	46	48	52	57	61	65	64	60	55	50	47
Low (F)	37	38	39	40	45	50	53	53	50	46	41	40
Rain(ins)	4.9	3.7	3.4	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.3	4.2	4.4	5.0



Short Escapes: Where to Stay Before or After your Tour

CycleWest Ireland can assist in booking any of the following locations on your behalf.

GALWAY CITY

Park House Hotel

At the **Park House Hotel in Galway** you are guaranteed a warm welcome, exceptional service, luxury accommodation and an experience that will bring you back for more. With it's superb and convenient location in the heart of **Galway city centre**, the Park House Hotel also offers a private secure car-park on hotel grounds. This **Galway Hotels'** ambience blends the warmth and personality of a boutique hotel with the style and luxury of a contemporary **4 Star international hotel**.

www.parkhousehotel.ie

The G Hotel

The **g 5* Hotel Galway**, located in the west of Ireland, a city bursting with life, energy and vitality One of the top 5 star hotels in Ireland, the g hotel Galway combines modern designs with a relaxed atmosphere. Design director, Philip Treacy, created dramatic interiors, where the emphasis is on **luxury** and glamour with personalized service so guests receive the best of Irish hospitality.

www.theghotel.ie

Hotel Meyrick

Hotel Meyrick in Galway is an elegant 4 star hotel, located on the very fashionable Eyre Square in Galway's City Centre. The Galway Hotel Meyrick combines a stunning Victorian hotel with a superb convenient **location** ~ the delights of Galway City are right on your doorstep; with many shops to explore, theatres to delight, restaurants and nightlife to enjoy all a short walk from the hotel.

www.hotelmeyrick.ie

Hérons Rest Boutique Bed & Breakfast

Located in the heart of Galway city, nestled on the banks of the river corrib, The Herons Rest is an award winning waterfront Haven. Offering a quality comfortable serene environment in the historical quarter of Galway City.

www.theheronsrest.com



THE WEST OF IRELAND

Ashford Castle

For centuries Ashford Castle has overlooked the shores of Lough Corrib, as one of Ireland's most magnificent castles and one of the most luxurious resort hotels in the world. Ashford Castle's long and distinguished history dates back to 1228 when the Anglo Norman de Burgos family founded it. The castle changed hands throughout the years whose owners including the Guinness Family adapted its appearance from defensive castle, to French Chateaux to Victorian Neo Gothic. During its time Ashford Castle has hosted Presidents and Princes, Ronald Reagan in 1985 and Prince of Wales George V in 1905. Offers a host of activities including fly fishing, golfing, falconry and horse back riding.

www.ashford.ie

Fox Hollow Cottage

"Fox Hollow Cottage" Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. Perfect for a week long family extended stay in the west of Ireland. This 4-star, 5 bedroomed cottage is located just 5 minutes walk from Louisburgh village. Close to the beach and to Westport Town. Amenities include surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, and horse back riding. Modern facilities: heating, hot water, washer, dryer, fully equipped kitchen, linens and towels provided.

www.ireland-west-cottages.com

DUBLIN CITY

The Merrion Hotel

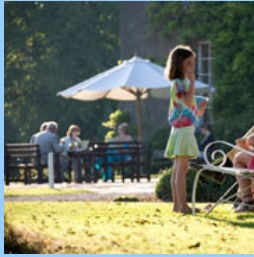
Dublin's most stylish 5 star hotel is situated in the city centre Government Buildings and the National Gallery, **The Merrion Hotel** was created from four listed Georgian Townhouses and was completely restored in 18th century style with landscaped period gardens and a spectacular collection of Irish art. With the meticulous restoration of 4 Georgian town houses, the Merrion provides 145 guest rooms and suites, many overlooking magnificent 18th century gardens.

www.merrionhotel.com

Butlers Townhouse

At Butlers Town House Hotel you will find enchanting quarters and fresh Irish linens in every individually designed bedroom. This ambience of pure luxury characterizes Butlers Town House Hotel Ballsbridge, from the bright and spacious Conservatory Restaurant to the sumptuous Victorian elegance of our Drawing Room. This popular Ballsbridge Hotel offers elegant accommodation in Dublin 4, close to Dublin City centre. Butlers Town House Hotel – the perfect choice for accommodation in Dublin 4. This is a lovely hotel with in walking distance of the city centre, in a quiet neighbourhood.

www.butlers-hotel.com



The Dylan Hotel

An evening arrival to the gates of **Dylan** is a stirring experience. Antique iron lamps cast curious magical designs across the Victorian façade of this boutique Dublin Ireland five-star hotel. Inside, candles, champagne, and a subtle sense of warmth evoke the city's alluring artistic and literary character. Stroll over the Grand Canal along the historic Baggot Street and explore the centre haven of St. Stephens Green. Enjoy the diverse street entertainment. Return to the restful comfort of your guest room or suite. Dine amid the cool energy of Still Restaurant. Take pleasure in this intimate five-star Dublin hotel, entirely enthralling with a playful atmosphere of decadent elegance.

www.dylan.ie

The Shelbourne Hotel

A Dublin City landmark overlooking St. Stephens Green, the Irish Constitution was drafted here. This opulent 18th-century hotel overlooking St Stephen's Green serves as a reminder to Dubliners that it is still central to life in the city today. The Lord Mayor's Lounge - always a popular meeting place for Afternoon Tea - was treated with a light hand in the renovation and the famous Horseshoe Bar, renowned as a meeting place for local politicians and theatrical society and nothing short of a Dublin institution, was taken back to its old Sam Stephenson designed interior.

www.marriott/co.uk

IRELAND'S SOUTHWEST

Doonbeg Resort

Built in harmony with its surroundings, the development is extremely environmentally sensitive taking great measures to preserve particular areas of sand dunes and local flora and fauna. Situated in West Clare, today Doonbeg is one of the most dramatic and exclusive golf resorts in the world - a hidden retreat set amongst rolling sand dunes on one of the most breathtaking coastal sites in Ireland.

www.doonbeg.com.

Ballymaloe Country House

Welcome to Ballymaloe House, the renowned Irish country house hotel and restaurant owned and run by the Allen family for over 40 years. Nestled in a 400 acre estate in rural East Cork, Ballymaloe House is only 20 miles from the historic city of Cork, and minutes from the breathtaking south coast.

www.ballymaloe.ie



Castlemartyr Hotel, East Cork

The unspoiled rolling countryside of Castlemartyr hotel in East Cork Ireland is steeped in rich history. Here an 18th century classic manor house lies adjacent to the ruins of an 800 year old castle originally built by knights under Richard Earl de Clare, known as Strongbow. Castlemartyr Cork hotel in Ireland nestles in 220 acres of mature landscape, with meandering streams, rolling meadows and a tranquil lake that is abundant with wildlife.

www.castlemartyrresort.ie

Please contact us for more information about extended stays in Ireland – chauffeur, private drivers, car hire all available.