



Ancient East

6-Day Self-Driving Tour of Ireland



Small Group & Self-Drive Ireland Tours



Your Ancient East 6-Day Road Trip Through Ireland Starts Here!

Welcome to our Ancient East 6-Day Ireland Road Trip. We have put together an amazing journey for you, jam-packed with stories and legends and the best ancient Ireland tourism has to offer.

Prepare to swoon at historical sights and impressive architecture. Breathe in the fresh air and enjoy our famous Irish “Céad Míle Fáilte” — a hundred thousand welcomes!

You will visit the monastic city of Glendalough, hidden in the Wicklow Mountains and travel to Ireland’s oldest city, Waterford.

Enjoy the Midleton Whiskey Experience and learn the secrets behind our most famous Irish Whiskey.

Discover the real Ireland through exciting experiences and outdoor activities: kayaking, cycling, castles, hiking, biking and so much more.

And before you leave, swing into Blarney Castle and give the Blarney stone a big kiss!

We will look after everything for you and Paddy, your virtual tour guide, will be with you for each step of your journey.

So, buckle up and enjoy the ride! This is a 6-day Ireland road trip you'll never forget.



Book with Confidence

- Expertly Designed Itineraries
- Support Concierge Service
- Overland Ireland Virtual Tour Guide
- Fully Comprehensive Insurance

Due to our tours' off-the-beaten-path locations and the fact that we cannot guarantee that all accommodation partners have ramps/elevators, unfortunately, our tours are **not wheelchair accessible**.

Paddy - The Pocket Pilot

All our self-drive tours come with a guided itinerary, numerous extras, and our renowned exceptional service.

And one of the extras to help you along the way is our Paddy the Pocket Pilot App.

If you want to see Ireland on an independent adventure, but with all the benefits and surprises of a guided tour — like "tried & loved", pre-booked accommodation — you're in safe hands.

What Is Included And Excluded On Your Ancient Ireland Tour?

We are one of the only tour companies to include as much as we can into your tour price. We aim to have no hidden surprises or unexpected charges on your tour

Our quest is to keep costs down and experiences up! We have worked really hard to get you the best deals up and down the country for you.

If you have any special dietary requirements or preferences, please let us know; we can cater this tour to vegans, vegetarians, and pescatarians. It's also worth noting that all of the fish served to our guests is responsibly sourced and as fresh as it gets!

Included

- Paddy the Pocket Pilot App
- Carefully chosen accommodation in locally run guesthouses.
 - We also have options for castle experiences and hotels
- Easy-to-follow and detailed daily itineraries
- Hearty breakfasts every morning
- Simple maps with instructions on how to find your way around the Emerald Isle
- Tour support throughout your trip
 - We are always available should you need to talk.
- All entrance fees to national parks on your itinerary
- Daily hidden gem locations chosen by our expert guides
- Daily entertainment and food recommendations
- Smithwicks Brewery Tour
- Waterford Greenway Bike Hire
- Waterford Crystal Tour
- Kayaking & River Cruise
- Jameson Distillery
- Kinsale Walking Tour
- Blarney Castle

Excluded

- Airfare to Ireland
- A driver guide
- Motorway toll and parking fees
- Fuel for your car and your body!
 - Lunch, dinner, and petrol are on you!
- Glendalough Monastery
- Kilkenny Castle
- Tintern Abbey
- Some suggested experiences and activities
 - We can arrange those you want to do, but you will likely pay the experience/activity provider (i.e. horse-riding, jaunting (horse-drawn carriage) directly
- The self-control to leave stunning locations!
- The determination to discover all the wonderful places on your itinerary
- Mandatory upgrade to a private room for solo travellers



Day 1

Glendalough To Kilkenny

Total driving distance & time: 175 kilometres – 2 hours 30 minutes, excluding stops

Switch on Paddy the Pocket Pilot App and leave the bright lights of the capital behind. Drive to Glendalough Monastery via the Sally Gap and Military Road unveiling the amazing scenery of the Wicklow mountains.

Glendalough perches itself in the glacial valley of the two lakes. Let our friends take you on a walking tour along the many trails.

The next stop is Kilkenny Castle which proudly displays one of the largest and most expertly maintained Irish castles. Roam the grand rooms where the lords and ladies lived and admire the architecture, artwork and furnishings that were once owned by these great families.

A Kilkenny local will take you through the medieval quarter and you will finish your day enjoying a pint of Smithwicks at Ireland's oldest brewery! Smithwicks was originally brewed by monks, so it is quite fitting after our monastic trip to Glendalough to continue our spiritual journey through the Emerald Isle.

Rest your head in Kilkenny before continuing on your road trip of a lifetime.



Day 2

Waterford - The Sunny South East

Total driving distance & time: 70 kilometres - 1 hour, excluding stops

Switch on your engine and travel towards the Sunny South East! It is said that Waterford experiences the nicest weather in the country so don't forget your sun-cream and sun-glasses!

Jump out of the car and stretch your legs with a refreshing walk or cycle along Waterford's Greenway Routes and trails. Hug the coastline and ride or hike into some beautiful forestry trails.

You cannot come to Waterford without a quick visit to the Waterford Crystal Centre.

After oohing and ahing over the beautiful crystal creations, let the expert on all things Waterford, let's take you on a walking tour of the Viking Triangle in Ireland's oldest city. Waterford predates Dublin by 74 years!

Spend your evening in the Seaport town indulging in the musical and culinary delights this fantastic stop has to offer. Our team would be delighted to make some reservations for you. Ask Paddy on your app and we will make it happen.



Day 3

Wexford - Hook Peninsula

Total driving distance & time: 150 kilometres – 2 hours 30 minutes, excluding stops

Wexford is awash with stunning coastal villages and a dramatic coastline. A county that is steeped in Viking and Norman history is definitely worth a visit on your tour of the Ancient East. You will have a wonderful time exploring the hidden treasures of Wexford.

Start your day by delving a little deeper into Irish heritage with a guided tour of Tintern Abbey and Gardens. Every type of person is said to have roamed Tintern Abbey: knights, monks, and scoundrels alike. You will hear all the stories on your tour!

Next up is a hike up to the world's oldest operational lighthouse overlooking the Hook Peninsula. Take the time to stroll around the headland and down to some of the castle ruins along the shoreline. You will have the opportunity to explore the coastline by kayak today. See Ireland from a different perspective on the Irish Sea!

Before parking up for the evening, pick yourself up a roadside punnet of strawberries guaranteed to hit the spot! Tonight you will lay your head down in Dungarvan village to stay in one of our carefully handpicked accommodations!

Day 4

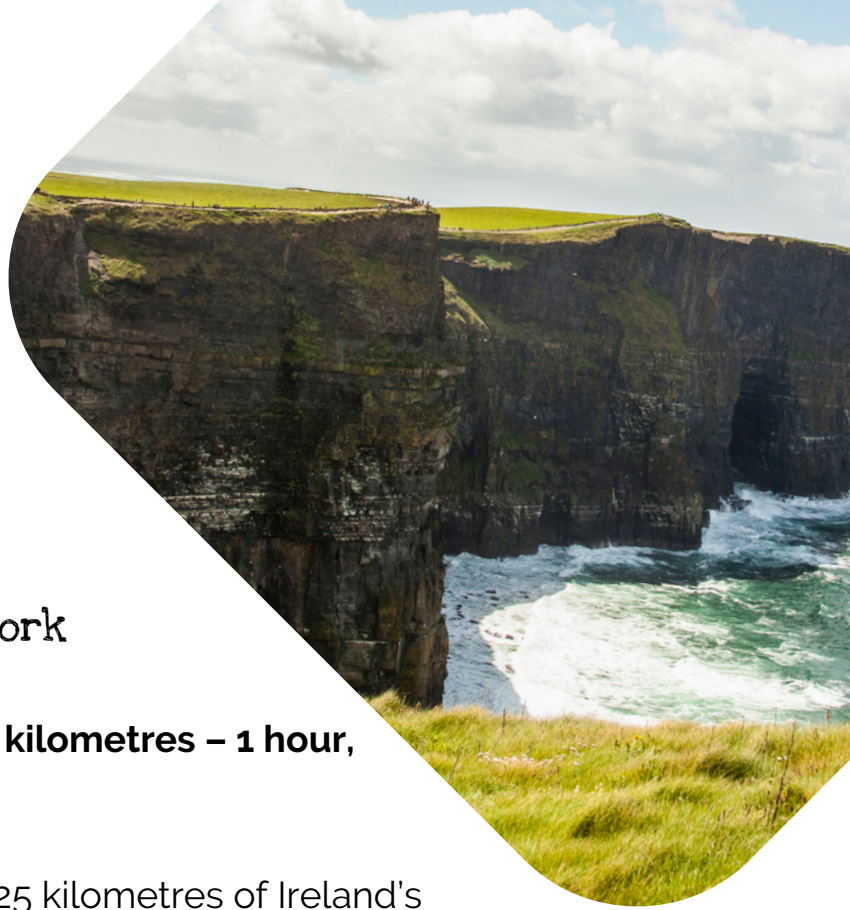
The Copper Coast - County Cork

Total driving distance & time: 55 kilometres – 1 hour, excluding stops

Meander at your leisure over the 25 kilometres of Ireland's Copper Coast with some pitstops for jealousy-inducing photos before reaching your next destination – Youghal.

Youghal is a beautiful coastal town famed for its stunning shoreline. Here you will jump aboard the "Maeve Óg" boat and let Captain Tony take you on a guided light-hearted river cruise up the Blackwater River to Lismore in Waterford with plenty of stories to tell and uncovering areas of tranquil unspoiled natural beauty.

When your feet are back on solid ground you will take your road trip further to the fishing village of Ballycotton. Treat yourself to dinner in the nearby Ballymaloe House – a top favourite among our guests and guides alike.



Day 5

The Ring Of Cork - Kinsale

Total driving distance & time: 70 kilometres – 1 hour 30 minutes, excluding stops

You have without a doubt heard about the Ring of Kerry, but today you will embark on the Ring of Cork Heritage Trail.

Marvel at the same standard of beautiful landscapes as the Ring of Kerry, but with none of the traffic!

Your first stop is the Titanic Experience in Cobh. This is one of the best experiences on tour, giving you a truly personal take on the tragedy that was the Titanic's maiden voyage.

The world's most famous ship made its last port of call in Cobh before sealing its fate on the Atlantic Ocean.

Next up is the Jameson Distillery in Midleton. Only a short drive from Ballycotton, this is the perfect opportunity to learn how Ireland's favourite whiskey is crafted.

From the smoky taste of black barrel to the oaky flavours of the original, this experience is perfect for the whiskey connoisseur in your group. We veer off the Ring of Cork to stay at our next destination – Kinsale, the Gourmet Capital of Ireland.

Here, you can enjoy some downtime wandering the colourful streets and laneways.

Kinsale has a great tradition of poetry as well as gold, silver, and glassware manufacturing.

This means the town's shops and galleries – the latter of which boasts local talented artists – are filled with amazing examples of these crafts.

Get a great night's sleep in your locally run guesthouse this evening.



Day 6

Kiss The Blarney Stone!

Total driving distance & time: 300 kilometres – 3 hours 40 minutes, excluding stops

On the last morning of this self-drive tour, you get to meet Barry! He is one of our favourite friends in Ireland and will bring to life the history of Kinsale.

This local legend will share tales of the Spanish Armada, British Rule, and the sharpening of swords.

Before making your way back to Dublin's fair city, you **MUST** stop at Blarney Castle to kiss the stone!

Legend has it that you will receive the gift of the gab (chatterbox) after giving it a big smooch. Many of us Irish owe our storytelling talents and yarns to the Blarney Stone! Now you know our secret!

And if you're looking for great things to see and do in Dublin, we've got all the recommendations you'll need! Or you could also link up with another Self-Drive Tour of the North or West of Ireland. The choices are endless.

And one last tip: Don't forget to leave plenty of time for your VAT return at the airport!



Getting in the Mood
for your Trip

Any other questions?

Now it's time to get yourself in the mood and really excited
for your trip!

Come join the chat in our fun [Facebook group](#), where you can ask questions, share your own tips, or just generally share your love for all things Ireland.

Also, take a look through our [Instagram photos](#) for inspiration and check out our [blog posts](#) for lots more insights!

Hope to see you soon,
- Team Overland

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