

About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com Website: www.hiddentrails.com

Address

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Hidden Ireland South Walk - Ireland, Europe

Tour Code: ZZ-HKIRJ-05 9 days / 8 nights ~\$6,600.00 Dates: June to Sept

Trip Rating:

Tack: Horses:

Pace: Easy pace. Can skip many of the hikes ...

Airport: Shannon airport





Introduction

Galway, Ireland

Enjoy astonishing cliffs that jut from the Atlantic, wildflowers that tickle your ankles and traditional Irish music and dance that will have you up on your feet. Hike your way through the south of hidden Ireland and encounter strange rock structures, quaint shops and villages, lovely coastal views, peaceful beach walks, historical structures and nights in comfortable accommodations.

Fully escorted by professional and experienced guides, this trek takes you through a wild yet serene piece of Ireland. Immerse yourself in the wildlife and greenery, explore ancient structures and find yourself charmed by the traditional way of like that this regions still follows. If you would like to discover the natural beauty on Ireland on your own two feet, then this trek is for you!

Tour Highlights

- The Cliffs of Moher
- Wild flowers of the Burren
- Unusual geology of the Burren
- Walk part of the Dingle Way
- Magnificent Kerry scenery
- A walk on magnificent Ventry Beach
- Traditional music

Accomodation

Accommodations

This is a progressive tour so nights will be spent in different locations.

escription

All our accommodations have been carefully selected and are approved by the high standards of the Irish Tourist Board. We have chosen locations of outstanding natural beauty, so that you can enjoy the best of Irish rural life and scenery. You will enjoy top quality accommodation in small, family run guesthouses and hotels whilst being charmed by the hospitable and friendly hosts.

We stay in small hotels, guest houses, farmhouses, B & B's and occasionally castles.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 2: Accommodation in Ballyvaughan or Lisdoonvarna

Night 3: Accommodation in Newcastle West

Night 4, 5 & 6: Accommodation in Dingle Night 7 & 8: Accommodation in Kenmare

Room Occupancy

All rooms are en suite twin, double or single. Singles are available on request for a small supplement.

Meals:

All meals are included in your package except from dinner on Day 4, 5, and 6.

Each morning, in addition to the famous full Irish breakfast, there are alternative options available. Everybody loves the Irish soda bread, with creamy Irish butter. But for the more health conscious, you can be assured of plenty of fruit, juice, yogurts and cereals.

We take packed lunches for our lunch breaks during our walks. These are provided from our accommodation or from local delis.

Our evenings are a time for reviewing the day's activities and shared experiences on the hills. Evening meals are taken either in the places where we are staying or in local restaurants. You will be pleasantly surprised at the fine quality meals you will enjoy on your tour.

Riding

This holiday, guided by someone who really knows and cares for Ireland, is the best way to see this enchanting country; imagine yourself hiking (or walking) over Irish mountains, pausing by Irish lakes, drinking in Irish pubs and listening to traditional Irish music.

These hiking trips show you the best of Ireland, its picturesque scenery, the grandeur of its mountains, the warmth and hospitality of its people and the magic of their music. Call it an Irish walking holiday; a hiking vacation in Ireland; even a sabbatical - maybe you're researching Ireland, perhaps for a thesis or book; or perhaps you want to see the Ireland of your Irish ancestors. Call it any or all of these, but treat yourself to a tour of Erin's Isle anyway.

Our hiking tours of Ireland are fully escorted by experienced, professional guides. We travel through Ireland in groups of no more than twelve people. We will escort you on hikes through Ireland's most scenic trails, walk through undiscovered routes lined with extraordinary vistas.

Ireland has a lot to offer the walker: dramatic sea cliffs, high mountain ridges, quiet green roads, butter roads, fuchsia-lined lanes, heath and moorland, sweeping expanses of beach. And then there are the sleepy villages, oak woods, sky-blue lakes, torrential waterfalls and babbling brooks.

Ireland's climate ideally suits the walker as generally it rarely gets too hot to be uncomfortable. Rain and cloud-formations are what bring the interesting light patterns and rainbows. The Western coast and islands are known for magnificent sunsets.

Don't be surprised at the very few people you will meet whilst walking, after all, the entire population of Ireland is







only around four million! Ireland is a birdwatcher's paradise with many rarities such as the corncrake. It is also a great place for botanists, especially the area of the Burren, Co. Clare.

Maybe the best attraction of all is the people, you'll never find another place like it for hospitality, friendliness, warmth, generosity, humor, love of life and love of the land.

Hiking Level

It is important that you are fit and at least a regular hiker / walker. When we do half day walks the distance covered could be from 4 to 9 miles, when we do full day walks the distances covered could be 6 to 13 miles. The pace is relaxed with time to enjoy your surroundings, take pictures, watch the birds, etc. Generally the terrain comprises of combinations of tracks, lanes, moorland, heath, coastal paths, beaches and mountain paths. You may choose not to walk on certain days, it's your holiday, there are always alternatives. You may prefer to relax at our accommodation, draw, paint, read, think...

Generally after a day of walking we can help ourselves to complimentary tea and coffee at our accommodation. We allow for some relaxation time before dinner. We have an official "Diary" which has been kept by previous groups and you may choose to make a contribution at the end of your day. After dinner there is nearly always the option of visiting the local pubs for some traditional music and dancing.

Itinerary

Sample itinerary - subject to changes

The itinerary below is subject to change for varying reasons. Any changes made by the operator and / or the tour leaders will be in the interest and safety of all participants.

Day 1: Meet at Galway City. Hike Slieve Elva in the Burren

We will meet you at Galway City where your journey begins. We will head south to the Burren Region of County Clare - a huge plateau of limestone and shale aptly summed up with the words, "savage land, yielding neither water enough to drown a man, nor a tree to hang him, nor soil enough to bury him". The Burren, also described as a strange lunar-like region of bare carboniferous limestone which occupies around one hundred square miles of County Clare. Our walk today is at the highest point in the Burren: Slieve Elva. We will be rewarded with great views across Galway Bay to the Aran Islands.

Alternative Walk Options: the full walk is 6 miles long, there is an alternative option of just 2-3 miles available.

Terrain: forest tracks, green road, stoney trails | Elev 300 ft.

Walking Distance 6 miles (9.7 km)

Overnight: Ballyvaughan or Lisdoonvarna in the Burren

Meals Included: Lunch and Dinner

Day 2: Morning hike in the Coastal Burren Area, Afternoon hike on the Beach

Today we will be accompanied by our local expert guide. He will take us to sites of botanical, geological and archaeological interest. This will include walking in two separate parts of the Burren with a break for lunch. The Burren region is famous for its flora: you will never see anything like the carpets of primroses, coastal displays of sea pinks, or the white flower of the blackthorn cascading over all the hedgerows. Rare and spectacular plants occur in abundance. Orchids grow everywhere in the Burren and 23 out of the 27 Irish species are to be found

Alternative Walk Options: there are two walks today: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The first is approx. 5 miles, and the second is 2-3 miles.

Terrain: grassy and stoney track | Elev 700ft

Walking Distance 7 miles (11.2 km)

Overnight: Ballyvaughan, or Lisdoonvarna, County Clare

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3: Visit Cliffs of Moher & Travel to Newcastle West

The Cliffs of Moher; one of Ireland's most notable sights. Towering 660 feet above the wild Atlantic, these cliffs are noted for abundant birdlife including puffins. We will begin our walk in the village of Doolin and hike six miles along the cliff path to the actual Cliffs of Moher.

Leaving County Clare, we will drive south to Newcastle West, in County Limerick stopping for a visit to the lovely village of Adare en route.

Alternative Walk Options: the full walk is 6 miles long, there is an alternative option of just 2-3 miles available.

Terrain: grassy and stoney track | Elev gain: 400 ft.

Walking Distance 6 miles (9.7 km)

Overnight: Newcastle West, County Limerick

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4: Dingle Peninsula

We will drive south from Newcastle West to Dingle Town. Stopping on the way, we will hike for a couple of hours along the spectacular Inch Beach. We will arrive in the late morning in Dingle.

Our first walk on the Dingle Peninsula will be along the coast past the old lighthouse, looking out across Dingle

Harbour. We make our walk past dramatic cliffs and coves to Beenbawn and return by the same route.

Terrain: coastal paths | Elev 300 ft.

Walking Distance 4 miles

Overnight: Dingle, County Kerry

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5: Hike at the far end of Dingle Peninsula at Ballydavid Head

We travel today to the western side of the Brandon Ridge to walk at Ballydavid Head, for one of the best walks on the Dingle Peninsula. We climb gently through moorland grass to reach a fine vantage point with expansive views of the surrounding hills, fields, mountains, sea and cliffs. This area could be described as a "photographer's paradise". We will take our time to take pictures, relax, and enjoy the views. We will then return to Dingle for some free time to browse the lovely shops and galleries.

Alternative Walk Options: stroll into Dingle town to visit the shops / galleries / restaurants.

Terrain: country lanes, coast path, moorland | Elev gain: 500 ft.

Walking Distance 6 miles (9.7 km)

Overnight: Dingle, County Kerry

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6: Dingle peninsula from North to South

We will drive across the highest road pass in Ireland, the Connor Pass to reach the spectacular green valley of Magha na Bo. Our path leads through a beautiful steep-sided valley towards the pass at Beenbo Mountain. We climb gently beside the river and on to open heathland where we can find the elusive sundew and butterwort (insectivorous plants of the bog) and the feathery white flags of the bog cotton. We cross over the pass and follow a track to Annascaul village. We can visit the South Pole Inn: once owned by Tom Crean, one of the heroes of the Shackleton expedition to the South Pole.

Alternative Walk Options: stroll into Dingle town to visit the shops / galleries / restaurants.

Terrain: mountain track, bog, country lanes | Elev gain: 1100 ft.

Walking Distance 9 miles

Overnight: Dingle, County Kerry Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch



Day 7: Boat Journey across Killarney Lakes & Kerry Way Walk

We leave Dingle this morning to travel down to Killarney where we will be taken on a boat ride out across the Lakes of Killarney National Park. Disembarking at Lord Brandon's Cottage we will stop for our picnic lunch before heading off to hike part of the Kerry Way in the heart of the mountains known as the MacGillycuddy's Reeks.We will then travel further south to Kenmare, County Kerry.

Terrain: heath and moorland, woodland, boggy tracks | Elev 300 ft.

Walking Distance 4 miles (6.4 km) Overnight: Kenmare, County Kerry

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Travel the Ring of Kerry & Kerry Way Walk

Today we will walk part of the Kerry Way across from Derrynane House and Beach to Abbey Island, over the sand. The views of the coast and mountains are spectacular. We can take a rest at a quiet cove and have lunch. The route then climbs gently above the bay with lovely sea views taking in Scarriff Island. We then return along the Kerry Way to Derrynane House where there will be time to explore the grounds.

<u>Alternative Walk Options</u>: the full walk is 6 miles long, there is an alternative option of just relaxing or strolling in the beautiful town of Kenmare.

Terrain: beach, stone paths, boggy tracks | Elev 600 ft.

Walking Distance 4 miles (9.6 km)
Overnight: Kenmare, County Kerry
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: Departure

We must say Goodbye to Ireland after our drive back to Killarney. Meals Included: Breakfast

<u>Note</u>: Many clients come on a tour who wish to do very little hiking. Every day there are alternative options such as sight-seeing, relaxing, reading, painting, listening to Irish traditional music, and generally just soaking up the Irish atmosphere. You can opt out of the hiking on any day! All our accommodations are based in scenic locations, so you are very welcome to just remain "home" for the day.

Other Info

Meeting: Galway Airport: Shannon airport Transfer: Galway

On Day 1 of the program, pick up is scheduled from Galway City for 12:00 pm (noon). On the last day of the program, drop-off at Killarney Rail / Bus station for 12:00 pm (noon).

Tack: Horses:

Pace: Easy pace. Can skip many of the hikes if preferred. ~6-11 miles per day.

Riders: Min 5 riders Max 12 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - ZZ-HKIRJ-05

Rates include: Galway City pick-up and Dublin Airport drop-off; Accommodation; All land transport; 8 guided walks; Escort of full-time guide; Evening transportation to pubs / music; Entrance to Cliffs of Moher; Most meals

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	9 day trip	€6000	\$6600

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Transfers are included at set times		5000	2000
2024	Single supplement		€800	\$880
Tour Dat	es			
Season	Tour Dates			
A 2024	06/25/2024 - 07/03/2024	9d / 8n	9 day t	rip
A 2024	09/26/2024 - 10/04/2024	9d/8n	9 day t	rip

Min/Max: 5/12

Rates do not include: Dinners on Days 4, 5, and 6

Reservation Form

Tour:	Code #:	from:	to :	
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female Single room / or tent Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height Weight	1	A CHE THE ST OF THE THE ST OF THE ST
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2.				
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Special Diets:				
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor How I	ong have you beer	riding?	
How often do you ride?	Have you been on oth	er riding tours? N	Yes last trip	when?
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local	al airport/station: I wo	uld like the transfe	r to be included: YES	NO 🔘
In an emergency, name and phone number of	f contact:			
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have to s	ign the reservation	form - make copies if	needed
With my signature I confirm my reservation of I made all participants aware of the risk involvement with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and brochure or as listed on the Internet. I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational A Last Name and First Name (The Traveler)	ved with these outdoor d the Hidden Trails Rec activity Release and Inde	adventure activiti reational Activity R	es. All participants have elease and Indemnity	ve read and agree Agreement in this
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Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141

