

Walking the Giant's Causeway Route & Donegal

Trip Code: WGC

Version: WGC Walking the Giant's Causeway Route & Donegal



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike iconic Irish landscapes including UNESCO World Heritage Site the Giant's Causeway, Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park
- Walk Ireland's most northerly peninsula and Star Wars filming location, Malin Head, where mountains

meet sea

- Hike through Donegal, voted National Geographic's Coolest Place on Earth in 2017
- Island hopping to Rathlin Island, in search of myths and puffins

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days walking
- Join at Belfast, end in Sligo

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 6 nights Guesthouse

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Our route takes us along the Causeway Coastal Route and the Giant's Causeway, collectively rated the world's best region to visit in 2018 by Lonely Planet, along the northern edge of Ireland to the dramatic mountains and glens of the Donegal, finishing at Slieve League, some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is suitable for leisurely walkers able to cover around six miles of smooth but often unpaved terrain. This trip includes regular five and six mile walks in usually undulating but never severe coastal areas over generally good terrain. Walks will last around 2-4 hours at a leisurely pace and include cultural stops along the way. You'll return each day from your walks to a comfortable and pleasant guest house or hotel.

Itinerary

Version: WGC Walking the Giant's Causeway Route & Donegal

DAY 1

Meet in Belfast before a walk along the coastal route to the Giant's Causeway

Meeting in vibrant Belfast, you'll explore a region once named as the coolest place on earth by Lonely Planet. Follow the fiercely panoramic clifftop of the Causeway Coastal Route as it gets wilder and more alien upon approaching the Giant's Causeway, a fascinating geological phenomenon. Folklore claims that the Giant's Causeway was formed by two rival giants who hurled rocks at each other across the sea, while science attributes this place to a long-ago volcano. Designated as a UNESCO site, the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast have inspired visitors for centuries.

Meals: **L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
2 hrs walking



Distance
5KM

DAY 2

Sail out to Rathlin Island and walk it's coast full of birdlife, sea stacks and a charming lighthouse

Many tales of myth and mystery surround Rathlin Island, with the legend of Robert the Bruce perhaps the most famous. In 1306, the Scottish King was driven from Scotland by Edward I of England and took refuge on Rathlin Island where he watched a spider persevering again and again to bridge a gap with its web. Eventually, it succeeded. Taking heart from the spider's efforts, he returned to Scotland and eventually regained his crown. Sailing to this rugged little island today, our hiking loop takes in the bird sanctuary, home to an adorable resident puffin colony in season, unparalleled views of the stunning island coast and jagged sea stacks, and the lovely west lighthouse.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
4 hrs walking



Distance
8KM

DAY 3

Cross Lough Swilly by ferry to enjoy an undulating walk along the Inishowen Peninsula

The ancient territory of the O'Doherty clan of Co. Donegal is among the most remote regions of Ireland. Its northern shore is on the restless Atlantic Ocean with Lough Swilly forming its western boundary and Lough Foyle to the east. This parcel of undiscovered Ireland is perfect for outdoor lovers and budding photographers. After a ferry across the lough to the Inishowen Peninsula, explore a World War II-era lookout tower and climb the gradual shoulder of little-visited Crocknasmug hill for magical coastal views. In the evening, kick back with a local pint and an open fire.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
3 - 4 hrs walking



Distance
8KM

DAY 4

Visit Malin Head, Ireland's most Northerly point, a landscape full of rugged headlands and interesting archaeology

At the tip of the vast and wild Inishowen Peninsula is Malin Head, the northernmost point of Ireland. Jutting into the restless Atlantic Ocean, it is so other-worldly that scenes from Star Wars Episode VIII were filmed here. Malin Head is a wild, windswept landscape peppered with ancient archaeological sites. Our hike climbs over rocky hills, rugged headlands and along dramatic coastal cliffs.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
3 hrs walking



Distance
7KM

DAY 5

Visit Glenveagh Castle, walk among the Derryveagh mountains and meet some of the local tweed makers

Glenveagh National Park is a hauntingly beautiful wilderness of craggy mountains, pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls and enchanted native oak woodland, dominated by Mount Errigal's glittering quartzite peak. This morning we cross Lough Swilly on a local ferry for great views of one of Ireland's three glacial fjords before we continue to our day's hike along a lake to the mystical Glenveagh Castle. Here we'll wander the cultivated castle gardens set in this romantic landscape before continuing our walk along a winding path through the Derryveagh Mountains. Passing abandoned settlements and forlorn ruins, learn the history of what life was once like in this desolate wilderness. Later, meet local tweed-makers still practising their craft on a traditional handloom passed down for generations.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
4 hrs walking



Distance
8KM

DAY 6

Walk along the tops of the Slieve League cliffs, some of Europe's largest and most impressive sea cliffs

The final hike is also one of the most impressive. The Slieve League Cliffs are some of Europe's highest cliffs - three times taller than the Cliffs of Moher. Our hike takes us on the little-travelled Pilgrim's Path, a route used for Christian pilgrimages for centuries. You'll get the chance to do something few visitors get to do: stand atop the edge of the Slieve League Cliffs. There are terrific views of the cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean, the mountains of Sligo and Donegal Bay. This evening, enjoy a delicious farewell dinner together in a local restaurant.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse



Time
4 hrs walking



Distance
6KM

DAY 7

Departure day, with stops in 'Yeats' Country' Co. Sligo, before departing in Sligo town

This morning, we say goodbye to the Wild Atlantic Way coast in Donegal, and transfer to Co. Sligo, or "Yeats Country," so nicknamed since Ireland's national poet W.B. Yeats drew great inspiration from Sligo's landscapes and natural beauty. Along the way, we'll stop at Yeats' grave, tucked under the shadow of Sligo's iconic mountain Ben Bulbin, before making our way to Sligo town.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and English-speaking guide
- All transport throughout the trip starting in Belfast and finishing in Sligo
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as listed in the meal plan
- 6 days of hiking along the dramatic coastline and landscapes of Northern Ireland and Donegal
- Entrance and admission fees as stated in the itinerary incl. all boat trips

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Airport transfers
- Drinks
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

Important Notice

This holiday is operated in association with Wilderness Ireland, and they sell their own customers directly on to this trip also. KE acts as an agent for Wilderness Ireland and by booking this holiday you are entering into an agreement directly with Wilderness Ireland under the terms of their [booking conditions](#).

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

You will be met by your Wilderness Ireland Guide at the Lanyon Place Train Station in Belfast at 12 pm. You will be returned to Sligo MacDiarmada Railway Station by 12:00 pm on the final day of your trip

Meal Plan

Breakfast is provided each morning, as well as lunch and snacks throughout the trip. Dinner is provided every night.

All meals are included in the price of this trip as marked on the daily itinerary. Local pubs and restaurants offer a wide choice of local dishes.

On this trip, we generally eat dinner as a group however if you would like to make alternative arrangements you are free to do so. Your guide will have an evening off during this trip where they do not eat with the group. They will recommend options for dinner that evening and will help you make any necessary reservations.

Food & Water

Breakfast is provided each morning, as well as lunch and snacks throughout the trip. Dinner is provided every night.

All meals are included in the price of this trip as marked on the daily itinerary. Local pubs and restaurants offer a wide choice of local dishes.

On this trip, we generally eat dinner as a group however if you would like to make alternative arrangements you are free to do so. Your guide will have an evening off during this trip where they do not eat with the group. They will recommend options for dinner that evening and will help you make any necessary reservations.

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

This trip features accommodations chosen for their excellent location, service and comfort. All accommodations provide breakfast. Whether you're looking for the liveliness of a traditional Irish music session or the sound of the crashing waves, all the accommodations we use on the Causeway Coastal Route & Donegal Hiking Trip play an exciting part in your journey through the northern part of the Emerald Isle! We do not charge single person supplements to people booking on their own. However, you will be expected to share a room with another person of the same sex. If you specifically require a single room you will have to pay the single supplement charge of €300 but this is subject to availability.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by an experienced and qualified leader.

Baggage Allowance

There is no weight limit for your luggage on this holiday, however you will need to be able to lift and move your own luggage easily. There is also limited room in the transfer vehicles, and so one bag to be transferred and one day pack per person is ideal.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Currency

In Northern Ireland, days one and two, pound sterling (GBP) is used. From day three onwards, use the Euro in Ireland. Make sure to carry both currencies with you for this trip.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](#) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](#) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots (trail shoes are not suitable)
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Waterproof jacket

- Thermal gloves
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 25 - 35 litres should be sufficient
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial hand wash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, tick tweezers, antihistamines, re-hydration salts

The following items are optional:

- Travel shoes / Trainers
- Gaiters
- Spare laces
- Shorts
- Shirts (e.g. T-shirts)

- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Thermos flask
- Trekking poles
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Midge net
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis, joining with the group at Lanyon Place Train Station in Belfast on day 1 of the itinerary

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

On our Irish holidays we pride ourselves on the quality of our meals, the excellence of our local expert guides, and our attention to organisational detail, meaning that you can have a world-class experience in some of the world's most majestic scenery.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 14/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change