



Connemara Walking Holiday — 5 Days

Western Way across the Twelve Bens country — Oughterard to Clifden

DURATION

5 days

WALKING DAYS

3

TOTAL DISTANCE

52 km

GRADE

Moderate

From

€865

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

[See website for current rates](#)

About This Tour

Three walking days across the heart of Connemara — from Oughterard to Clifden along the Western Way. 52km through the Maamturks, Inagh Valley and the foot of the Twelve Bens.

Tour Highlights

● The Inagh Valley

A long glacial corridor between the Maamturks and the Twelve Bens — walking its length is one of the great experiences of Irish walking. Mountains close on both sides, the valley floor wide enough to see the full sweep of them.

● Lough Inagh Lodge

Your overnight at Recess: a Victorian fishing lodge on the lakeshore surrounded by the Twelve Bens, with a serious kitchen and an atmosphere of quiet remoteness that is hard to find anywhere else.

● The old bog railway line

Day 4 follows the route of the old Galway–Clifden railway line across open blanket bog — a perfectly graded track with the Atlantic glinting in the distance.

● Clifden — capital of Connemara

The walk finishes in Connemara's liveliest small town. EJ King's for a pint; Mitchell's for dinner. You'll have earned both.

Who Is It For?

This tour is right for walkers who want genuine Connemara without the time for extra days. If you've walked multi-day trails before and want to spend three days in one of Europe's last genuinely wild landscapes, this is the core route.

The grade is moderate — you should be comfortable covering 14–20km daily on bog roads, mountain tracks and minor tarmac over three consecutive days. Good waterproof boots and rain gear are essential; Connemara's bog drains slowly. Previous long-distance walking experience is helpful but not required if your fitness is solid.

Works well for solo walkers, couples, and small groups. The self-guided format gives you complete independence — we handle accommodation and luggage transfers, you walk at your own pace.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY

1

Arrival in Oughterard

Overnight: Oughterard

Tomorrow the walking begins. Tonight, settle in.

Arrive in Oughterard, the gateway town on the eastern shore of Lough Corrib. From Galway it's about 45 minutes by car or bus. We send detailed public-transport instructions in your pre-departure pack — Citylink and Bus Éireann both run frequent services from Galway. If you'd prefer a private transfer from Galway, Shannon or Dublin, we can arrange one as an optional extra.

Collect your route notes, GPS files and maps from reception. Oughterard has a good butcher's, a couple of pubs, and a river running through the centre that holds brown trout — someone is usually fishing it from the bridge. Dinner in town; the early night is well earned by what's coming tomorrow.

DAY

2

Oughterard to Maam

Overnight: Maam

The Western Way leaves Oughterard heading north-west — first along the shore of Lough Corrib, then climbing gently onto open moorland. The Maamturk Mountains rise to your right; ahead, the land opens into blanket bog. Connemara ponies graze in the middle distance; black-faced sheep ignore you completely.

The trail drops into the Maam Valley, a quiet enclosure of mountain and river. Maam itself is barely a settlement — a crossroads, a few houses, and the welcome sight of your B&B. Keane's pub at Maam Cross is a short walk for the evening, a classic country pub that hasn't changed much in decades.

Distance: 18km. Ascent: ~200m.

DAY

3

Maam to the Inagh Valley

Overnight: Recess / Lough Inagh Lodge

The longest day, and the finest. The trail climbs from Maam onto the shoulder of the Maamturk Mountains, crossing open mountain bog with wide views back toward Lough Corrib. Then the descent into the Inagh Valley — a long glacial corridor with the Twelve Bens rising sheer to the left and the Maamturks holding the skyline to the right.

The old coach road runs the length of the valley and you walk it almost entirely alone. The mountains are close enough to feel massive; the valley floor wide enough to see the full sweep of them. At the far end of the valley is Recess, and your accommodation for the night — Lough Inagh Lodge, a Victorian fishing lodge on the lakeshore surrounded by the Twelve Bens, with a serious kitchen. The setting at dusk — mountains reflected in the lough — is worth the stage on its own.

Distance: 20km. Ascent: ~250m.

DAY

4

Inagh Valley to Clifden

Overnight: Clifden

The final walking day follows the route of the old Galway–Clifden railway line across the last stretch of blanket bog before the Atlantic. The abandoned track makes a gentle, perfectly graded path through open moorland — bog cotton in June, purple heather in September. You walk it easily, with time to notice the small things.

The first sight of the sea comes around midday. The land drops slowly toward the coast and you walk into Clifden — the capital of Connemara — in the early afternoon. Time to find your room, clean up, and explore the town at leisure. EJ King's for a first pint; Mitchell's for dinner. Both are reliably good, and you've earned them.

Distance: 14km. Ascent: ~100m.

DAY

5

Departure day — transfer to Galway

Last breakfast in Clifden, then your scheduled transfer back to Galway (approximately 1h 30m). Most walkers leave already thinking about the 6-day version — which adds Diamond Hill and Kylemore Abbey. We'll keep a place for you.

Ready to Walk Ireland?

Every tour is self-guided with hand-picked accommodation, daily luggage transfer, detailed route notes and GPX files, plus our personal local support throughout your walk. Dates and group sizes are flexible — just ask.

What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: Welcoming en-suite B&B rooms
- ✓ Breakfast: Full Irish breakfast every morning
- ✓ Luggage Transfer: Daily transfer of your main bag between accommodations
- ✓ Personalised Itinerary and route app for your smart phone that keeps you on the trail at all times.
- ✓ Support: 24/7 emergency support throughout your holiday
- ✓ Pre-Departure Pack: Information pack sent before you travel, so you know exactly what to expect

Not Included

- ✗ Flights: Travel to Ireland is not included
- ✗ Insurance: You'll need travel and walking holiday insurance
- ✗ Meals: Lunches and dinners are not included (though we'll recommend great local spots)



Get in touch

Email: info@walkingholidayireland.com

Web: walkingholidayireland.com

This tour: walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/connemara-5-days-moderate

FROM

€865

per person

See website for current rates