



Connemara Walking Holiday — 6 Days

Western Way and Diamond Hill — Oughterard to Clifden

DURATION

6 days

WALKING DAYS

4

TOTAL DISTANCE

68 km

GRADE

Moderate

From

€955

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

[See website for current rates](#)

About This Tour

Four walking days across Connemara from Oughterard to Clifden, with Diamond Hill summit and Kylemore Abbey included. 68km of bog, mountain and Atlantic coast.

Tour Highlights

- **Diamond Hill summit**

Day 5 climbs the stone-path loop to Diamond Hill's 442m summit in Connemara National Park. The panorama from the top is the whole of Connemara at once — Twelve Bens, Killary Fjord, Inishbofin and Inishturk in the Atlantic.

- **Kylemore Abbey**

A Victorian neo-Gothic castle built in 1868 on the shore of Kylemore Lough — now a Benedictine monastery with a restored Victorian walled garden, one of the finest in Ireland. Walk to it from Diamond Hill rather than arriving by car.

- **The Inagh Valley**

A long glacial corridor between the Maamturks and the Twelve Bens — one of the great inland walking experiences in Ireland. You walk the old coach road its full length, almost entirely alone.

- **Lough Inagh Lodge**

Overnight at Recess in a Victorian fishing lodge on the lakeshore, surrounded by the Twelve Bens — one of the finest places to stay on any WHI tour.

- **Clifden — capital of Connemara**

Two nights in Connemara's most characterful town — EJ King's for a drink, Mitchell's for dinner, and a proper evening out after days in the wild interior.

Who Is It For?

The 6-day Connemara tour suits walkers who want the core Western Way route plus one great mountain day. If you've walked multi-day trails before and want Connemara with a proper summit experience — bog, mountain and a Victorian abbey — this is the right length.

You should be comfortable covering 14–20km daily over bog roads, mountain tracks and minor tarmac for four consecutive days. Diamond Hill involves ~350m of ascent on a well-made stone path. Good waterproof boots are essential; Connemara's ground is often wet underfoot.

Works well for solo walkers, couples and small groups. Maximum eight walkers per group.

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. If you'd prefer a private transfer, we can arrange one as an optional extra.

Collect your route notes, GPS files and maps from reception. Oughterard has good pubs and a fishing river running through the centre. Dinner in town.

DAY

2

Oughterard to Maam

Overnight: Maam

The Western Way leaves Oughterard along the shore of Lough Corrib, then climbs onto open moorland with the Maamturk Mountains rising to the right. Blanket bog, Connemara ponies, black-faced sheep. The trail drops into the Maam Valley — a quiet mountain enclosure — and into the small settlement of Maam. Keane's pub at Maam Cross is the evening destination.

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 Maamturks, then descends into the Inagh Valley — a long glacial corridor with the Twelve Bens rising steeply to the left and the Maamturks continuing on the right. The old coach road runs the length of the valley and you walk it almost entirely alone.

Overnight at Lough Inagh Lodge in Recess — 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 stage follows the route of the old Galway–Clifden railway line across open blanket bog — a gentle, perfectly graded track with the Atlantic glinting in the distance. The first sight of the sea comes around midday, and you walk into Clifden in the early afternoon.

Two nights here — tonight to explore the town, tomorrow for Diamond Hill. EJ King's for a pint; Mitchell's for dinner.

Distance: 14km. Ascent: ~100m.

DAY

5

Diamond Hill and Kylemore Abbey

Overnight: Clifden

A morning transfer from Clifden to the trailhead at Connemara National Park near Letterfrack. The Diamond Hill loop climbs a well-made stone path to the quartzite summit at 442m — a steep but clear ascent with an extraordinary reward. From the top: the full sweep of the Twelve Bens to the east, Killary Fjord to the north, the Atlantic islands — Inishbofin, Inishturk — stretching west. The descent follows the mountain's western flank back through open bog.

From the park, a 5km walk brings you to Kylemore Abbey on the shore of Kylemore Lough — a Victorian neo-Gothic castle built in 1868, now home to a Benedictine community. The restored walled Victorian garden on the lakeshore is one of the finest kitchen gardens in Ireland; arriving on foot gives you the building in landscape rather than car park. Lunch at Veldon's Seafarer in Letterfrack, then transfer back to Clifden.

Distance: 16km (7km Diamond Hill loop, 5km to Kylemore, return). Ascent: ~350m.

DAY

6

Departure day — transfer to Galway

Last breakfast in Clifden, then your scheduled transfer back to Galway (approximately 1h 30m). If you'd like to stay on and add the Killary Fjord day, the 7-day tour is the natural next step.

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-6-days-moderate

FROM

€955

per person

See website for current rates