



# Connemara Walking Holiday — 8 Days

The complete west — Western Way, Diamond Hill, Killary Fjord and the Sky Road

DURATION

**8 days**

WALKING DAYS

**6**

TOTAL DISTANCE

**104 km**

GRADE

**Moderate**

From

**€1,195**

per person

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[walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours](http://walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours)

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## About This Tour

Six walking days across Connemara from Oughterard to Clifden, with Diamond Hill, Kylemore Abbey, the Killary Fjord and the Sky Road included. 104km — the complete Connemara experience.

### Tour Highlights

- **Diamond Hill summit**

Day 5 climbs the stone-path loop to 442m in Connemara National Park — the whole of Connemara in one panorama: Twelve Bens, Killary Fjord ahead, Atlantic islands to the west.

- **Kylemore Abbey**

The Victorian neo-Gothic castle on the shore of Kylemore Lough, with its restored walled garden — walked to from Diamond Hill rather than arrived at by car.

- **Killary Fjord — overnight at Leenaun**

Ireland's only true fjord — 18km along the Green Road at water level, past mussel rafts with the Mweelrea Mountains rising sheer on the far bank. Overnight at the Leenaun Hotel with Killary mussels from the fjord below.

- **The Sky Road**

The classic 16km coastal loop above Clifden — Atlantic headlands, Inishbofin and Inishturk in the sea, the ruin of Clifden Castle, and the Twelve Bens on the return leg.

### Who Is It For?

The 8-day Connemara tour is right for walkers who want everything Connemara has to offer in a single week. Six consecutive walking days across every terrain the west can offer: bog road, mountain track, fjord shore, Atlantic headland, coastal village.

You should be comfortable covering 14–20km daily on mixed terrain over six consecutive days. Diamond Hill involves ~350m of ascent on a well-maintained path; the Killary day is 18km of flat fjord-shore walking; the Sky Road is a 16km coastal loop. None of it is technically demanding, but the accumulation of six walking days asks for a solid base fitness.

Works particularly well for walkers who want variety — no two days are alike.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY

1

### Arrival in Oughterard

Overnight: Oughterard

A week of the best walking in Ireland begins tomorrow. Tonight, settle in.

Arrive in Oughterard, gateway to Connemara 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. Dinner in town — the early night is well earned.

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 quiet Maam Valley. Keane's pub at Maam Cross for the evening.

Distance: 18km. Ascent: ~200m.

DAY

3

### Maam to the Inagh Valley

Overnight: Recess / Lough Inagh Lodge

The longest and finest walking day. 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 sheer to the left and the Maamturks continuing on the right. You walk the old coach road its full length, 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 and an atmosphere of quiet remoteness that is hard to find anywhere else.

Distance: 20km. Ascent: ~250m.

DAY

4

## Inagh Valley to Clifden

Overnight: Clifden

The final Western Way 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. You walk into Clifden in the early afternoon, with three more days ahead. EJ King's for a pint; Mitchell's for dinner.

Distance: 14km. Ascent: ~100m.

DAY

5

## Diamond Hill and Kylemore Abbey

Overnight: Clifden

Morning transfer from Clifden to Connemara National Park at Letterfrack. The Diamond Hill loop climbs a well-made stone path to the quartzite summit at 442m. From the top: the full sweep of the Twelve Bens, Killary Fjord to the north — which you'll walk tomorrow — and the Atlantic islands to the west. The descent follows the mountain's western flank through open bog.

A 5km walk brings you to Kylemore Abbey on the shore of Kylemore Lough — a Victorian neo-Gothic castle now run by a Benedictine community, with a restored walled Victorian garden on the lakeshore. Lunch at Veldon's Seafarer in Letterfrack, then transfer back to Clifden.

Distance: 16km. Ascent: ~350m.

DAY

6

## Killary Fjord — the Green Road

Overnight: Leenaun Hotel

Transfer from Clifden to the southern shore of Killary Harbour — Ireland's only true fjord, a 15km glacial inlet cut between the Mweelrea Mountains to the north and the Maamturks to the south. The Green Road follows an old drove road along the fjord shore at water level, past mussel rafts floating in the still water, with the mountain slopes rising sheer on the far bank.

Tonight you stay at the Leenaun Hotel at the head of the fjord — Killary mussels farmed in the water directly below the hotel, served with soda bread. An evening in Gaynor's pub, with the fjord still and dark outside.

Distance: 18km. Ascent: minimal — the Green Road follows the fjord shore at water level.

DAY

7

## Sky Road and Roundstone

Overnight: Clifden

Transfer from Leenaun back to Clifden for the morning's walking. The Sky Road loop climbs west out of Clifden onto the Atlantic headland — views of Inishbofin and Inishturk in the sea, the ruin of Clifden Castle on the headland, and the Twelve Bens rising behind the town on the return leg. One of the finest coastal walks in Ireland.

Afternoon transfer south to Roundstone, a small fishing village on its own quiet inlet — a harbour walk, the bog rising behind, the sea ahead. Late afternoon at O'Dowd's seafood pub: local crab, chowder, whatever came in that morning. Transfer back to Clifden for a final celebration dinner on your last evening in the west.

Distance: 18km (Sky Road 16km, Roundstone harbour walk 2km). Ascent: ~250m.

DAY

8

## Departure day — transfer to Galway

Last breakfast in Clifden, then your scheduled transfer back to Galway (approximately 1h 30m). You've walked 104km across one of the finest landscapes in Europe. Well done.



## 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)



Connemara, County Galway

### Get in touch

Email: [info@walkingholidayireland.com](mailto:info@walkingholidayireland.com)

Web: [walkingholidayireland.com](http://walkingholidayireland.com)

This tour: [walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/connemara-8-days-moderate](http://walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/connemara-8-days-moderate)

FROM

**€1,195**

per person

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