

BEST OF THE WEST

Our classic fifteen-day adventure celebrates the very best of Ireland's unspoiled western shores and much more.

"We especially liked the small groups and the individual attention."

Bill and Mary Sue Coates. Hinsdale, IL

You'll experience a dynamic range of awe-inspiring scenery and history, from Tipperary's Golden Vale to Kerry's lush forests and dramatic seascapes, from Clare's limestone hills to Galway's rugged mountains. It's a grand excursion that highlights Eire's amazing geographic contrasts!

Meander down rural lanes where Ireland's history waits in the form of castles, churches and ancient memorials. From the seat of High Kings, to hidden field monuments, we'll gladly share our knowledge of the country's colorful past. Our "backdoor" routes into more acclaimed spots like Killarney and Dingle will also amaze you with views that others so often miss.

All the while, you can unwind and enjoy the high spirited way of life so customary in our daily encounters. Whether it's a country pub brimming with traditional music, or a favorite eatery featuring the finest Irish cuisine, at our relaxed pace you'll soon begin to appreciate the simple pleasures of our Irish friends. With small towns and villages as our touring base, we time our visits so you can explore areas of greater interest on your own. Aaahh... you're finally on "Irish time."

When we first began many years ago, we offered just one tour of Ireland. This is it. We still feel it is the best possible introduction to the Emerald Isle, and as an added advantage of combining our two shorter tours, you receive a substantial price discount. If you have but one chance to see Ireland, make it the Best of the West. It will certainly be an adventure to remember!



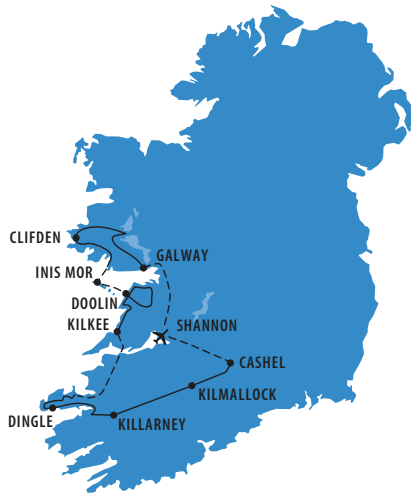
Tour length
15 days/14 nights

Terrain
Gently rolling with moderately hilly stretches.

Mileage
Average 35 miles/day.

Arrive/depart
Shannon, Ireland

For reservations or information call
800-923-4453
or email
info@planetearthadventures.com



Days 1-2

Upon your arrival, we'll whisk you to **Cashel**, the ancient seat of Munster kings. Relax, acclimate, and pay a visit to the Rock of Cashel – one of Ireland's most magnificent ecclesiastical sites, before our first banquet together. ● The following day, we pedal through lush farmland to **Kilmallock** by way of the impressive Cahir Castle and the fabled Glen of Aherlow. We'll reveal hidden field monuments and ancient fortifications as we pass through the small villages that dot this amazing landscape.

Days 3-4

On day three we reach **Killarney**, a colorful town surrounded by richly forested mountains and sparkling glacial lakes. The magnificent Killarney National Park and MacGillycuddy's Reeks, Ireland's tallest peaks, form the backdrop for our two-night stay. ● We've arranged a day of exploration with an intoxicating array of choices. Ride through the Gap of Dunloe; visit the palatial Muckross House; hike part of the Kerry Way; boat across Lough Leane; or combine more than one of these exciting possibilities!

Days 5-6

Breathtaking coastal scenes become the norm as we cycle on to **Dingle** for our next two-night sojourn. The Dingle Peninsula is a mother lode of ancient history from beehive huts to Ogham stones. ● During your layover you can ride around Sleat Head with its fantastic ocean side panoramas, set out in search of ancient monuments on a guided hill walk, or simply unwind in one of Dingle's colorful pubs or cafes.

Days 7-9

Conquer Connor Pass en route to our Victorian era lodgings in the lovely seaside resort of **Kilkee**, County Clare. With some of the finest coastal scenery anywhere and a mighty reputation for traditional music and dance, Clare is magic. ● Onward past the dramatic 700 foot Cliffs of Moher, we pause in **Doolin**, a hotbed of traditional Irish music. There we'll remain yet another day to explore the Burren - a vast limestone wonderland of megalithic forts and tombs, castles, caves, disappearing lakes, and unique botanical life.

Days 10-12

Step back in time as we visit the legendary Aran Islands across Galway Bay, where rough-hewn life has changed little over the centuries. **Inis Mór** is home to some of the finest examples of ancient Celtic stone forts and early Christian churches found anywhere in the world. ● Returning to the mainland, we cruise into Connemara, where the untamed beauty of majestic mountains and moors are interwoven with ocean inlets, rivers and lakes. Awesome panoramas seem endless, and the picturesque town of **Clifden** is our next two-night stay. Memorable stops on our ramble through this magnificent region include Connemara National Park and the neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey.

Days 13-15

Making our way toward Galway, the mountains of Connemara give way to "Joyce's Country" where lovely loughs lie in ancient glens amidst towering peaks. Small lanes along the shores of Lough Mask and Lough Corrib lead us to Cong, principal film locale for *The Quiet Man*. (Our own home place overlooks Lough Mask a few miles away.) From there it's a short journey to our destination, a comfortable bed and breakfast in the heart of **Galway's** city centre, for a two-night stay. ● Spend a day in Galway, Ireland's loveliest city, exploring the city's narrow streets and Old World charm prior to our farewell celebration. A sumptuous feast (one of many) and a lively night on the town are a fitting finale to your stay in this magical land. ● After breakfast we'll see you safely top Shannon for your final departure on to your next adventure. As always, you'll receive our heart-felt "Slan Abhaile."



"Thanks for sharing your knowledge and passion for Ireland. The care and devotion you put into the trip made it the best vacation we ever experienced."

Mary Woods & Brian McCloskey,
New York, NY





2006 TOUR DETAILS BEST OF THE WEST

TOUR DATES: • June 10 – 24, 2006
• August 5 – 19, 2006

COST: \$3795 for 15 days/14 nights*

*This reflects a \$700 savings over our two one-week tours if booked separately!

INCLUDES: • All accommodations in deluxe B&Bs and guesthouses w/private bath
• Most meals – all breakfasts, five lunches, and ten dinners
• All internal land transportation (including airport transfers)
• All ferries
• Support vehicle for you and your gear
• Two or more experienced guides & naturalists
• Admission to historic sites and special events
• Detailed maps and other interpretive information
• Pre-departure packet and assistance
• Planet Earth Adventures T-shirt

BIKE RENTAL: Included – top quality 21-24 speed Bianchi hybrid.

TERRAIN & MILEAGE: Gently rolling, with moderate to hilly stretches. Average 35 miles a day.

ARRIVE/DEPART: Shannon, Ireland

*“The only word
coming to mind is
excellent.”*

Donna & Jerome Dayton, Carpenteria, CA

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PLANET EARTH ADVENTURES

We are a small, family run outfitter with but one mission – to share our love of some very special places with you.

We specialize in the select destinations of Ireland, Texas (and sometimes Scotland) because we know these places intimately. We live, work and play here, and each is so extraordinary we feel they must be shared. Since 1987 we have been proud to offer unforgettable bicycling, walking and tailor-made vacations reflecting that passion.

Furthermore, each of these legendary locales is blessed with a unique cultural identity, a wealth of natural beauty and some of the friendliest folks on the face of this Earth. Our goal is to distill the best of these elements into a richly rewarding experience you'll remember long after your visit is over.

To do so, we skillfully blend elements of cultural discovery, fun, fitness, great food and creature comforts, all backed by our total devotion to you and your enjoyment of our time together. Our adventures are fashioned as journeys of the mind and of the senses. The pace is relaxed, the

atmosphere one of fun and friendship. Best of all, you'll never have to worry about getting lost in the shuffle. Because ours is still a family run business, personal attention is a foregone conclusion. To us, you are like a friend with whom we'd like to share our favorite places.

What can you expect when you travel with us? Small, personable groups that allow you more freedom and a greater sense of place. The best routes and itineraries created with our extensive knowledge and research. Cozy accommodations selected for their quality and character. Unforgettable cuisine chosen from our favorite culinary discoveries. Expert guidance from experienced staff and local resources. And our complete support both before the tour and on the road.

So come along and experience the excitement we feel for these parts of the planet! We're eager to share our world with you!



To find out more about all our tours, visit us on the web at:

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Planet Earth Adventures

UNFORGETTABLE CYCLING, WALKING & CUSTOM TOURS