

FROM CLARE TO CONNEMARA



To discover the essence of Ireland, travel north with us from the River Shannon. There you will find paradise. Along the Clare coastline, picturesque villages border the blue Atlantic, surrounded by soft green hills and the lunar-like landscape of the Burren. Farther out, in Galway Bay, lie the Aran Islands, a gateway to Ireland's ancient past. Then the magnificent mountains and waterways of Connemara form a breathtaking backdrop for some of the most spectacular bicycle routes anywhere.

You will encounter all this and more on our unforgettable journey as we introduce you to the magic of County Clare and the majesty of Connemara. Enjoy quiet country lanes, sparkling ocean panoramas, and the brilliance of Irish wildflowers among the stones. Colorful communities and friendly faces punctuate this marvelous landscape, and the sweet aroma of warm peat fires is one you'll never forget.

You'll also pedal through the heart of Joyce's Country, the wildly scenic ancestral home of that great Irish family. (Passing right by our front gate in the process!) Then delight in the sites of Galway, Ireland's vibrant capital of the Arts as your final hurrah. Come with us and experience our passion for the heart of the west—it's Ireland at its best!

Tour length: 9 days/8 nights

Terrain: Gently rolling with moderate to hilly stretches.

Mileage: Average 35 miles/day.

Arrive/depart: Shannon, Ireland



Days 1–3

Your trip begins with a leisurely sojourn in **Ennis**, the colorful capital of Co. Clare on the River Fergus. The day is yours to explore the mediaeval lanes and streets in search of history, music and fun as you set your clock to "Irish time." ● Our adventure continues with a two-night stay in **Doolin**, a world-renowned hotbed of traditional Irish music situated on the beautiful Clare coast. Pedal to the Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's

most incredible natural wonders, where eons of geologic time are revealed with their precipitous plunge 700 feet into the ocean. ● Surrounded by sparkling ocean panoramas, we'll cycle around Black Head and on through the heart of the Burren, Clare's unique limestone landscape. Discover over 6,000 years of history and amazing botanical life during guided visits to megalithic monuments, ring forts, and castles on our hidden route through this magical region.

Days 4–5

Take a journey back in time as we board the ferry to **Inis Mór**, the largest of the three Aran Islands. You'll learn of the island's ancient past as one of the world's most important centers of learning and Christian pilgrimage. We'll visit Dun Aonghasa, Europe's finest Celtic stone fort, and many other important historic sites on a guided bike ride. ● The following day we depart for Co. Galway. Once on land, we'll cycle into the wild heart of Connemara, bound for the picturesque town of **Clifden**, the "capital of Connemara," for a two-night stay. The majestic mountains and waterways of the region form a backdrop for some of the most spectacular bicycle routes on the entire journey.

Days 6–7

Your free day in **Clifden** offers limitless possibilities for exploration. Ride the breathtaking Skye Road, visit Connemara National Park, pedal through the world famous Roundstone Bog, or set off on foot to explore the local landscape. ●



In the shadow of the Twelve Bens and Maamturk Mountains we pedal on through Connemara, pausing at Kylemore Abbey in the Kylemore Valley and riding along Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord. Then passing into "Joyce's Country," where lovely loughs lie in ancient glens

amidst towering peaks, we arrive in 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.

Days 8–9

Experience Ireland's loveliest city, **Galway**, at your leisure with a day to explore as you please. You could experience sensory overload as you discover the lively mix of Galway's narrow, Old World streets and modern-day charm. But don't worry. We'll direct you to all the best offerings prior to our celebratory farewell banquet. ● If it's time to go home, then after breakfast we'll see you safely to Shannon for your final departure. (If you're asking "So soon?" then our mission has been accomplished). Of course we can always help you plan further exploration of Ireland on your own or on another Planet Earth Adventure.

www.planeteearthadventures.com



"We had an unforgettable experience. The scenery, food, accommodations, and planning were all first rate."

Steve & Vickie West, Iowa City, IA

2007 TOUR DETAILS FROM CLARE TO CONNEMARA

TOUR DATES: • June 22 – 30, 2007
• July 20 - 28, 2007
• Custom Dates upon request

COST: \$2395 for 9 days/8 nights.

INCLUDES: • All accommodations in deluxe B&Bs and guesthouses w/private bath
• Most meals – all breakfasts, two lunches, and five 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

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:

www.planeteearthadventures.com

For reservations and additional information call or email us at:

800-923-4453

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