



IRELAND FROM COAST TO COAST

Tour length: 10 days/9 nights

Terrain: Gentle grades with some moderate climbs

Mileage: Average 5-9 miles per day

Arrive: Dublin, Ireland

Depart: Shannon, Ireland

*"A great trip.
Wonderful food.
Excellent accommodations.
World-class walks. And
Tim really knows
Ireland."*

Ed McMahon, Washington DC

Our enchanting ten-day journey takes you on an unforgettable adventure from the Irish Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.

Ireland is an incredible island of contrasts, and there is no better way to experience this dynamic blend of scenery, culture and craic than on our Coast to Coast walking tour. You'll sample an unbelievable variety of Irish landscapes and lifestyles as we introduce you to many of the country's most treasured landmarks and best-kept secrets. Check our blueprint for this magical escape, and we're sure you'll agree it's the formula for a perfect holiday.

We start with the vibe and vibrance of the Dublin experience combined with Bray's sea-side ambience. Next, we traverse Wicklow's gorgeous granite peaks and Kilkenny's scenic river valleys. Following that with the pastoral charm of Tipperary's lush Golden Vale, we're halfway there. Then we journey across Ireland's highest mountains, and around ocean-bound nooks and coves to discover the incomparable beauty of the southwest's three magnificent peninsulas - the rugged, mountainous Beara Peninsula, Kerry's Iveragh Peninsula - the famous Ring of Kerry, and the inimitable Dingle Peninsula. Finally, we'll finish off with a baptismal plunge in the North Atlantic to complete our rite of passage.

From Dublin's lively urban scene to Dingle's colorful Gaeltacht, the cultural diversity you'll experience is as varied as the physical landscape. You'll relive Eire's ancient past on fascinating visits to majestic castles, exotic gardens and megalithic stone circles. And all along the way you can delight in lively traditions of music, dance and storytelling as you lift a glass with the locals.

Our master plan for this grand adventure is deceptively simple. We've carefully selected some of the finest walks in southern Ireland, connected by scenic jaunts that tie them together. Then we savor each locale by indulging in the only tastiest highlights of that domain. It's just our way of connecting you with our passion for this marvelous land. Above all, we hope to leave you with an unrivaled portrait of Ireland's amazing diversity and a host of indelible memories that may last a lifetime.



Days 1 - 2

We begin in Ireland's capital, Dublin, where splendid Georgian architecture and vibrant street scenes blend into one magnificent mixture of past and present. Enjoy an historic walking tour, visiting sites such as Trinity College, Christchurch Cathedral, Grafton Street and St. Stephen's Green before our evening reception in **Bray**, a quaint seaside resort. ● Today we'll inaugurate our coast to coast quest with a cruise into the spectacular Wicklow Mountains. Walking highlights today include a stroll through the gardens of the magnificent Powerscourt Estate, followed by an afternoon hike in the beautiful valley of Glendalough, site of St. Kevin's 6th century monastic village. Return to **Bray** for a second delightful night's stay.

Days 3 - 4

It's a relatively short jaunt to our next magical destination, Kilkenny, Ireland's loveliest inland city, where the medieval heritage of the once powerful earls of Ormonde is still evident. We'll explore Kilkenny's rich history on a guided tour of the city's narrow lane-ways and majestic Kilkenny Castle. At day's end, we travel briefly onward to **Cashel**, the ancient seat of the Munster kings. ● From Cashel our scenic drive to the Beara Peninsula is punctuated with several fascinating historic stops including magnificent Cahir Castle, and a stroll along the banks of the peaceful River Suir to Swiss Cottage. Then the majesty of Cork's mountain scenery unfolds as we pass through the Shehy Mountains on the way to our two-night stay in the remote fishing port of **Castletownbere**.

Days 5 - 7

From our base in **Castletownbere** we'll explore the rugged beauty of the Beara Peninsula, one of Ireland's best-kept secrets. If the weather allows, we'll take Ireland's only cable car to Dursey Island on the tip of the Peninsula for a wonderful walk along the most remote stretch of the Beara Way. Other options include selected walks on the Beara Peninsula that yield similarly breathtaking views and historical tales. ● We continue with a favorite stretch of the Beara Way walking route that features megalithic sites, stone circles and incredible panoramas of lake, ocean and mountain scenery. Then just a few kilometers up the road, we'll arrive in **Kenmare**, one of Ireland's most picturesque and friendly towns for another two-night stay. ● Today we walk a favorite stretch of the Kerry Way into one of the most spectacular and wild parts of Killarney National Park, Ireland's largest remaining preserve of native woodlands. The walk ends at the majestic Muckross House and Gardens, the centerpiece of the National Park. Then a short excursion on the Ring of Kerry through Moll's Gap brings us back to **Kenmare**.

Days 8 - 10

We complete our coast to coast odyssey as we ramble to **Dingle**, the gem of County Kerry. Spend two days exploring the Dingle Peninsula, a treasure trove of ancient history and breathtaking panoramas, and two nights enjoying Dingle's nightlife in one of over 50 pubs. Upon arrival, you'll have a free day to experience this vibrant coastal Mecca at your leisure. Whether you wish to shop, experience Dingle's lively cultural treasures or take a scenic walk along Dingle Harbor, where you might see Fungee, Dingle's famous dolphin, we'll steer you in the right direction. ● For our final walk, we'll select from a number of favorites – perhaps a hike up Mt. Eagle, the Pilgrim's path to the top of Mt. Brandon, or along Ballydavid Head. Geographically speaking, the Dingle Peninsula is the westernmost point in Europe, so it's the perfect place to dive into the Atlantic to ceremonially complete our journey. Afterwards, we'll conclude our adventure with a flourish as we gather for our final banquet. ● After breakfast we'll see you safely to Shannon, where you'll receive our heart-felt "Slán Abhaile" for your journey home.



For reservations or
information call

800-923-4453

www.planetearthadventures.com



"We walked, we ate, we rode, we saw so much, it was amazing!"

Robin Hitt, Austin, TX

2008 TOUR DETAILS IRELAND FROM COAST TO COAST

- TOUR DATES:
- May 8 – 17, 2008
 - May 22 – 31, 2008
 - June 5 – 14, 2008
 - June 19 – 28, 2008
 - June 26 – July 5, 2008
 - July 3 – 12, 2008
 - July 17 – 26, 2008
 - July 31 – August 9, 2008
 - August 7 – 16, 2008
 - August 14 – 23, 2008
 - August 28 – Sept. 6, 2008
 - September 4 – 13, 2008
 - September 11 – 20, 2008
 - September 25 – Oct. 4, 2008

COST: \$2895 for 10 days/9 nights.

- INCLUDES:
- All accommodations in deluxe B&Bs and guesthouses w/private bath
 - Most meals including all breakfasts, eight dinners and seven lunches
 - All internal land transportation (including airport transfers and ferries)
 - Cable car ride on Beara Peninsula (weather permitting)
 - Admission to historic sites and parks
 - Experienced guides & naturalists
 - Support vehicle for you and your gear
 - Detailed maps and other interpretive information
 - Pre-departure packet and assistance
 - Planet Earth Adventures T-shirt

TERRAIN & MILEAGE: Gentle grades with some moderate climbs. Average 5 - 10 miles/day.

ARRIVE: Dublin, Ireland
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.planetearthadventures.com

For reservations and additional information call or email us at:

800-923-4453

info@planetearthadventures.com



Planet Earth Adventures

UNFORGETTABLE CYCLING, WALKING, CULINARY & CUSTOM TOURS