



Coastal view from Cleggan

## ...CONTRASTS, COLORS, WILDERNESS AND WARM WELCOMES IN THE WEST

Encounter ever-changing landscapes, clothed in different colors each season, in beautiful Galway and Mayo. Situated on Ireland's west coast, taking a deep breath of the clean and crisp salty air here will likely linger long in your mind, as a reminder of your special journey on foot or by bike.

This is a rural, idyllic land, where very little has changed over the centuries. Tiny hamlets scatter the way, and you're surrounded by high mountains plunging into clear blue loughs and Ireland's only true fjord.

Connemara, or 'Inlets of the Sea', is a stunning peninsula with a haunting natural beauty. The wild and remote landscapes have captured the imagination of artists for centuries; transforming throughout the day

according to the changes in light. Marvel at the abundance of sandy beaches, rusty bogs, shimmering blue lakes and wild mountains, interspersed with quaint towns and villages. The wonderful mountain scenery in Connemara marches on into the south of County Mayo and everywhere you walk or cycle is laced by stone walls.

Starting in the refined Georgian town of Westport, highlights along the way include the Lough Inagh valley, a spectacular lake, flanked by mountains on either side, and Killary Harbor, Ireland's only true fjord. The vast landscapes will leave you breathless.

Beautiful Inishbofin Island is just 30-minutes away by boat but feels like you've been transported back in time – peppered

with ancient sites, Cromwell's C16 barracks and friendly local pubs, the tiny island was inhabited as far back as 8,000-4,000BC and today has a population of around just 200 people. Meander laneways, soft, sandy beaches and the old stone walls, and imagine the time when the old gaol was in use from 1585. Enjoy soaking up the traditional music of the island and its renowned *ceilidh* band, perhaps supping a pint of Guinness by a fireside on a misty evening.

Be sure to savor the fresh local cuisine while you're in this part of Ireland. The seafood, including large mussels and river-caught trout and salmon, are delicious, while the lamb is exquisite. Local craft beers, gin and whiskey are all becoming increasingly popular in this region too.

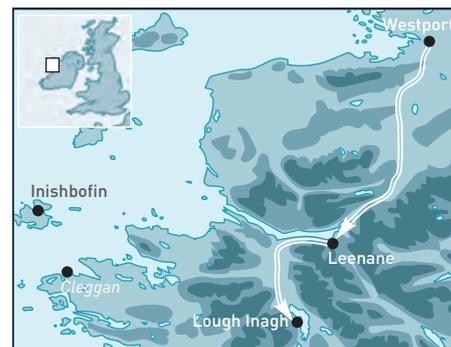
## CONNEMARA TRAILS AND ISLAND WALK

WALKING ACTIVITY LEVEL

1 1+ 2 2+ 3



Killary Fjord



## YOUR HOLIDAY DAY-BY-DAY

## DAY 01 ARRIVE IN WESTPORT

Check in to the centrally-located **Clew Bay Hotel**, and pick from one of the many restaurants or even the chic bistro at the hotel for dinner (payable locally).

## DAY 02 WESTPORT TO LEENANE

15KM/9.5MI/5HR

Set off along the Western Way. Enjoy views of shimmering Lough Tawnyard, pass through the Sheeffry Woods and follow a trail along the Erriff River through the valley. Arrive at Aasleagh Falls then continue to the **Leenane Hotel**, where you spend two nights (dinner included).

## DAY 03 AT LEENANE

Perhaps take a **taxi** up to the harbor and take a cruise on the fjord, or jump on the bus to Kylemore Abbey or Connemara National Park to walk the impressive Diamond Hill.

## DAY 04 LEENANE TO LOUGH INAGH

17KM/11MI/5.5HR

Follow a shepherds' trail above the fjord then drop down through a forest trail. A stunning path opens out as you dissect the Maumturks mountains and Ben Gorm, one of the Twelve Bens. You'll spend the next two nights at **Lough Inagh Lodge** (dinner included tonight).

## DAY 05 AT LOUGH INAGH

Walk along the lough, or up Máméan, a local pilgrimage trail, to a pretty mountain chapel. Tonight we leave you to decide between the 4-course menu or the bar menu (payable locally).

## DAY 06 LOUGH INAGH TO INISHBOFIN ISLAND

8KM/5MI/2HR

We transfer you to the little harbor at Cleggan to take the 30-minute ferry to beautiful Inishbofin. After checking in, you could walk the west end loop to see the impressive stags and enjoy fantastic views over the smaller island. You'll spend two nights at the **Inishbofin House Hotel & Marine Spa** (dinner included tonight).

## DAY 07 AT INISHBOFIN ISLAND

14KM/9MI/4HR

Head up to the middle of the island passing the blanket bog, and Loch Tána. Climb up Cloonamore passing Loch Gabhlán na nGabhair and stunning views of the Atlantic. Cross the lunar landscape as you make your way to the white sand beach of the East End.

## DAY 08 INISHBOFIN TO WESTPORT (OPTIONAL)

Take a short walk to Cromwell's castle then catch the boat back to Cleggan. We then transfer you to Westport; from here you can follow the trail along the river to Westport Quay for great views of Clew Bay, before heading out to eat in one of Westport's many restaurants (payable locally). You stay at the **Clew Bay Hotel**.

## DAY 09 LEAVE WESTPORT

- Exclusive Headwater Rep Service
- Ireland's west coast: rural and idyllic, where time has stood still
- The stunning, wild Connemara peninsula
- Killary Harbour, Ireland's only true fjord
- Inishbofin Island, peppered with ancient sites



Westport

## PRICES FROM

\$1,285 *per person*

With departures every two days from May 19th to October 18th 2018

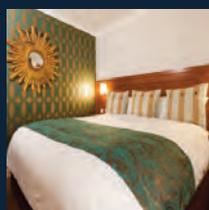
## YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- 8 nights hotel-to-hotel accommodation in a mix of and \*\*\* hotels
- All breakfasts and 4 evening meals
- Services of your local Headwater Representative
- Route directions and maps
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Walking transfers
- Transfer from/to Westport railway station

## OPTIONAL UPGRADES

- Sole occupancy of a double room (including two nights in a single room) \$43 per person per night
- Room upgrades at selected hotels
- Extra nights at all hotels

## WHERE YOU STAY

Clew Bay Hotel  
\*\*\*Leenane Hotel  
\*\*\*Lough Inagh Lodge  
Inishbofin House Hotel  
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