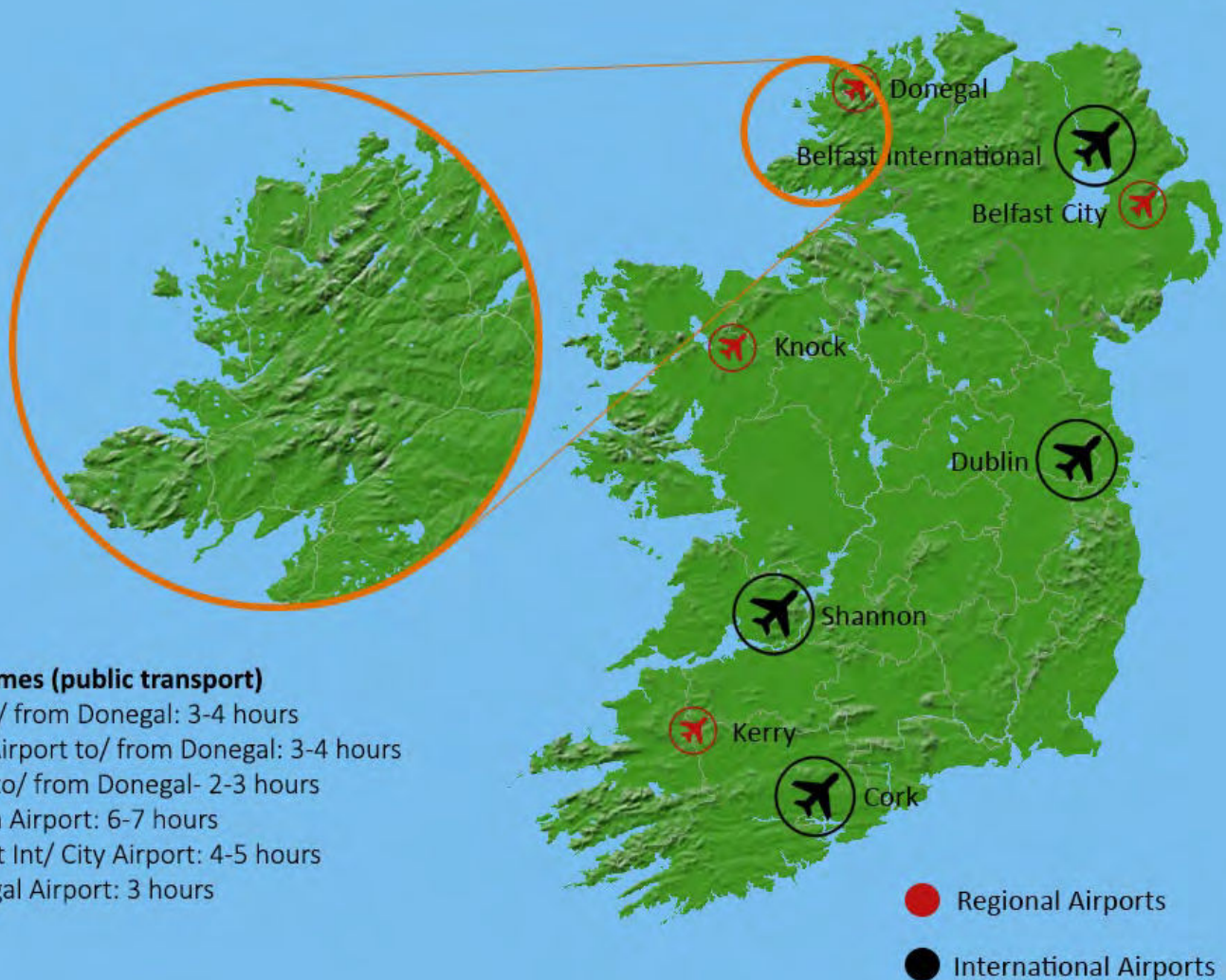




**Your Adventure
Detailed Itinerary**

Donegal

Geographically speaking, Donegal is a county of contradictions: it contains the northernmost point in the whole of Ireland – Malin Head on the remote Inishowen Peninsula and yet it is in ‘the South’ (Republic of Ireland). It is in Ulster (i.e. the nine-county province), but not in Northern Ireland. The county is very sparsely populated, with large tracts of land being uninhabited and a good deal of the open land is covered by blanket bogs. It is a perfect place to explore on foot or by bike & outside the main towns, the county is still relatively undiscovered & untouched.



Ireland Walk Hike Bike

For 25 years Ireland Walk Hike Bike (IWHB) has been welcoming guests to Ireland. The realisation of a dream for company founder Linda Woods who sought to show people the "real Ireland" rather than the traditional tourism template! These ideals continue today, showing you Ireland the way we believe it should be seen: slowly, intimately and knowledgeably. Our terrific office personnel and great guides all share the same philosophy – "to take people into those hidden parts of Ireland that few know about and give people a real "taste and flavour" of Ireland the way we know and love it".

With today's fast pace of life & the lack of "downtime", we at IWHB take great pride in the trust our guests show in us to create great experiences for you. All of us in IWHB are committed to ensuring our fascination for Ireland, its' history, culture, diversity & humour, is part of your holiday. Ireland enjoys a relaxing pace of life; beautiful and varied scenery, with the sea never far from sight & a great selection of music at night. While in Ireland, we ask you to PLEASE take your time as you discover small sections of Ireland, for if you rush, the charm of the country and the people will pass you by. The best made plans will always change in Ireland, and your adaptability to enjoy chance encounters with friendly locals, incredible characters and the odd charismatic sheep is what will make your holiday a truly memorable experience!!



Itinerary at a Glance

Day	Activity	Overnight
1	Arrive to Donegal	Donegal
2	Bluestack Way Hike	Donegal
3	Letterbarra to Glenties Hike	Glenties
4	Glenties to Ardara Hike	Ardara
5	Ardara to Kilcar Hike	Kilcar/ Carrick
6	Carrick to Glencolmcille Hike	Kilcar/ Carrick
7	Glencolmcille to Ardara Hike	
8	Depart Ardara	



Day 1

Arrive to Donegal

Arrive in Donegal town where you will be spending your first 2 nights. On arrival at your first accommodation, your host will be able to recommend places to eat in the town & suggest some of the pubs where you may find Irish music.

Access for this holiday is made by a bus connection from Dublin Airport to Donegal. This service is available all year round.



Day 2

Bluestack Way Hike

Walking from your accommodation you follow the “Bluestack Way Marked Trail” around the shores of the beautiful Lough Eske, along the foothills of Banagher Hill and beside the Eglish River. This glorious walk takes you in amongst the foothills of the Bluestack Mountains and you will finish your hike in the little village of Letterbarra. On your arrival to Letterbarra you can telephone for your taxi to come and collect you (unless you have already arranged this ahead of time). Return to Donegal town for your 2nd overnight.

Terrain: Most of today's walk is on quiet back-roads & tracks with the last 2kms going across bog land before re-joining road to Letterbarra. The “cross-country section can be muddy and wet underfoot, so we recommend boots for this walk.

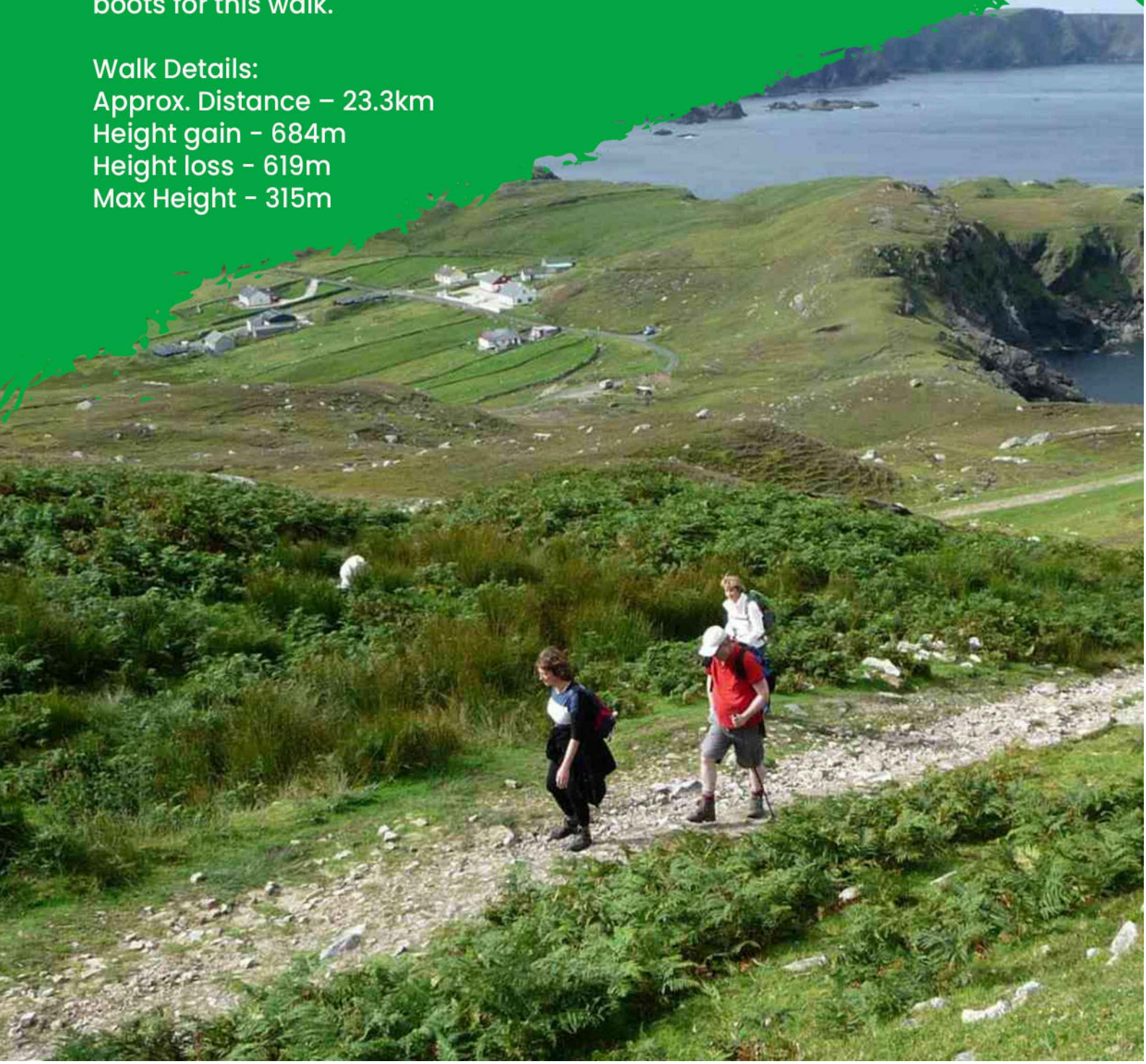
Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 23.3km

Height gain – 684m

Height loss – 619m

Max Height – 315m



Day 3

Letterbarra to Glenties Hike

You will be driven back to Letterbarra to start your hike this morning. Today's route immerses you completely into the natural beauty of Donegal and is quite remote in places. Following across old bog roads & through farmland, you then have a lovely hike over Cloghmeen Hill in the Bluestacks, before you arrive into the village of Glenties. If the weather is not good, we recommend you take the lower level alternative walk to re-join the route further on. From Glenties you can telephone your taxi to bring you to Ardara for your next 2 night's accommodation.

Terrain: Some road walking, muddy and rocky grass tracks, open mountains & bogland which can be wet underfoot. Boots essential.

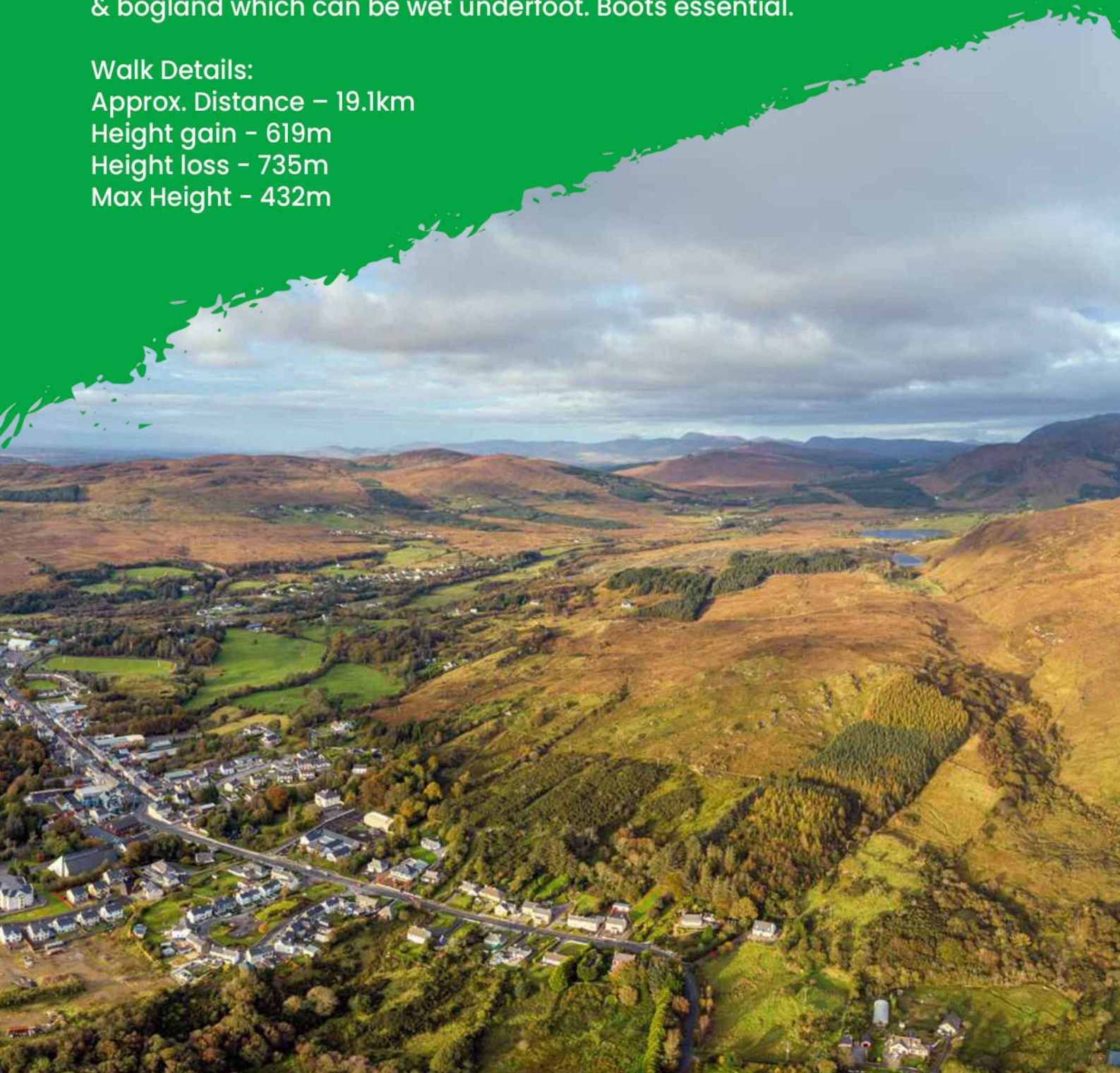
Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 19.1km

Height gain – 619m

Height loss – 735m

Max Height – 432m



Day 4

Glenties to Ardara Hike

You will be driven back to Glenties to start your walk from this lovely village. From here you follow along a quiet back road to arrive at the banks of the Owenea River. Following along beside the river, this beautiful walk brings you into the village of Ardara as you enjoy coastal views on your way to the village. Return to your accommodation for your 2nd night.

Walk Details: Approx. Distance – 11.82km | Height gain – 316m | Height loss – 337m | Max Height – 112m. Terrain: Roadways & tracks, river banks which can be rocky and uneven in places. Then back to track & road walking into Ardara. Boots essential.

Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 11.8km

Height gain – 316m

Height loss – 337m

Max Height – 112m



Day 5

Ardara to Kilcar Hike

You will be leaving Ardara today to hike to Kilcar where you will be based for your next 2 overnights. This walk follows along the magnificent Glengesh Pass an amazing V-shaped valley with some of the most spectacular scenery you could wish to see. Continuing over bogland & through forestry you then descend to the village of Kilcar with wonderful views over Donegal Bay. Kilcar is famous for its woollen & tweed industry & your walk finishes just across from one of the factory shops here where you can get a welcome cup of tea or coffee as well as an opportunity to see their beautiful range of clothing. From here you can walk to your accommodation for the next 2 nights.

Terrain: Road walking, grass and muddy tracks, bogland & rocky paths. Can be very wet underfoot. 75% road walking today but boots are essential for the section off road.

Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 19.4km

Height gain – 481m

Height loss – 491m

Max Height – 320m



Day 6

Kilcar to Glencolmcille Hike

Today you start hiking from Kilcar and follow a lovely coastal track out of the village and around Derrylahan hill with lovely views across Donegal Bay. Reaching the little village of Carrick, you then continue west over Crockunna Hill, and from there you will be in view of the road as you continue to the little village of Glencolmcille. This is a very traditional part of Donegal where the Irish language is spoken by the locals and a local Gaeltacht Centre teaches the language along with traditional Irish music. Enjoy the fabulous views as you descend into Glencolmcille. From here, you can telephone for your taxi back to your accommodation.

Terrain: Road & track walking, also grass tracks – rocky and muddy in places, open hillside & bogland. Can be wet underfoot – boots essential.

Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 16.0km

Height gain – 526m

Height loss – 529m

Max Height – 240m



Day 7

Glencolmcille to Ardara Hike

Your taxi will return you to Glencolmcille where you start your hike through a stunning and very remote route back to the village of Ardara. Starting from the village, you will have glorious views across Glen Head and Donegal Bay, before you descend to "Port". You continue through this beautiful valley under the shadows of Slieve Tooley, before ascending the hillside of Crockuna. Descending from there, your hike takes you alongside the Owenwee River and very close to Maghera Strand with its famous caves. From here, you continue close to the coast to finish your hike in Ardara.

Terrain: Road & track walking, some grassy & boggy tracks – rocky and muddy in places. Open hillside & bogland. Can be wet and muddy underfoot – Boots Essential.

Walk Details:

Approx. Distance – 32.3km

Height gain – 894m

Height loss – 883m

Max Height – 329m



Day 8

Depart Ardara

Departure after breakfast, transfer to Letterkenny bus station for onward connection to Derry, Donegal, Dublin and to all major towns and airports in Ireland.



Elevation Graphs

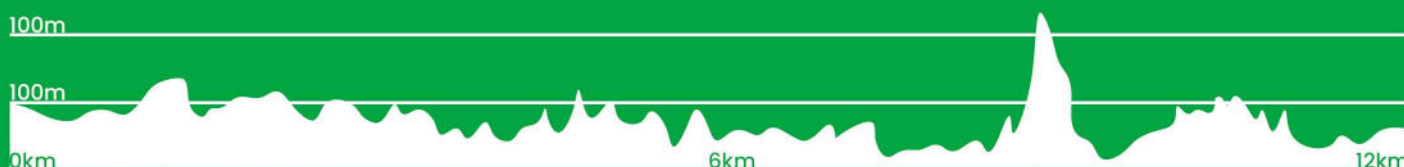
Please see below daily elevation graphs for your selected tour



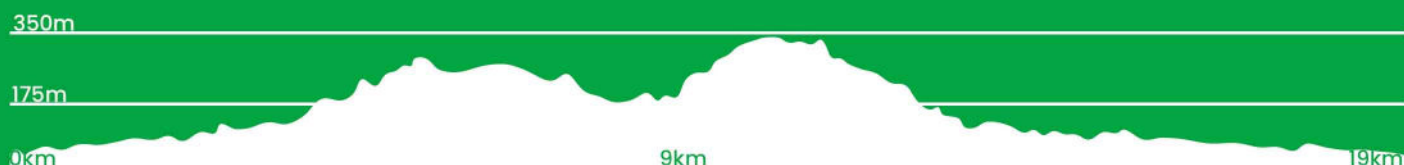
Blue Stack Way Hike | Max Elev: 315m | Elev Gain: 684m | Elev Loss: 619m



Letterbarra to Glenties Hike | Max Elev: 432m | Elev Gain: 619m | Elev Loss: 684m



Glenties to Ardara Hike | Max Elev: 112m | Elev Gain: 316m | Elev Loss: 337m



Ardara to Kilcar Hike | Max Elev: 350m | Elev Gain: 600m | Elev Loss: 600m



Carrick to Glencolmcille Hike | Max Elev: 329m | Elev Gain: 894m | Elev Loss: 883m



Glencolmcille to Ardara Hike | Max Elev: 329m | Elev Gain: 894m | Elev Loss: 883m

What's Included



Stay in en-suite room at our hand-picked accommodations



Complimentary access to our app, tailor-made for your tour, containing all your documents, GPS navigation & points of interest



Delicious Breakfast each morning.



24 hour, emergency telephone support



Move your luggage as per itinerary



Detailed, easy to read, Route Notes with marked maps of each route



Extra days/ nights booking on request



Dedicated, in house, Holiday Specialist to assist with planning any additional activities, travel, airport transfers, etc.

Testimonials



Mathilda, Netherlands, 2022

The people of Ireland Walk Hike Bike were extremely helpful – as much before the trip (re-arranging the schedule because of corona) as during the trip. They literally catered to all our needs. The information we got was very complete, we stayed in nice B&B's and we could always contact Francis if we had a question or a problem. I highly recommend Ireland Walk Hike Bike to anyone who wants to go to Ireland.

David, USA, 2022

We just returned from our guided tour of the Burren, Aran islands and Connemara and it was truly a wonderful experience! The communication and help from Niamh was fantastic, and our guide, Joe O'Donnell was outstanding! Very knowledgeable, and just a good person that we were lucky to get to know. All of the accommodations were also great. This was a two year wait for us due to Covid cancellations and restrictions and everyone at Ireland Walk Hike and Bike were great to work with. Highly recommend using their services if you wish for the best.

Dale, USA, 2022

My wife and I worked exclusively with the team at IrelandWalkHikeBike to arrange a 3-week private tour of Ireland's West Coast this past May, 2022. We actually had to defer the trip twice due to Covid issues and this outfit was amazingly proactive and accommodating through all of the delays. My wife and I had just turned 70 at the outset of the trip and so we wanted to include all of the transportation as I did not want to undertake driving on the "other" side of the road. In addition to all the transfers IWHB arranged all or of our hotels, ferry tickets, and e-bike rentals and provided detailed maps and instructions for all of the hikes and bike circuits. Our trip played out seamlessly, with no glitches or problems and the hotel arrangements were terrific throughout. We visited four islands and each one was a unique adventure. The hikes in Connemara were beautiful and the biking around the Dingle peninsula, Clifden and Westport fantastic. Our drivers were super friendly and knowledgeable. Considering all of this, we thought the cost of the trip was eminently reasonable. Highly recommended!

Russ, UK, 2021

My wife, daughter, her partner and myself have recently returned home after a 7-day self-guided walk of the Dingle Way organised by Ireland Walk Hike and Bike. It was the most fabulous holiday being everything we expected and so much more.

The walking itself was the heart of the holiday. Every day was different. On a daily basis the scenery memorable. Fortunately, we have hundreds of photos to remind ourselves.

We have resolved to go back the west coast of Ireland and already Dean has made a couple of suggestions. Whatever walk we chose to do, it will be organised by Ireland Walk Hike and Bike.



Your Adventure Detailed Itinerary

Our full terms and conditions can be found at www.irelandwalkhikebike.com/terms-conditions/