

Tour de Ireland

Private Cycling Tour
Through Ireland

August 5-15, 2021



Dear Friends,

We've always dreamed of experiencing rural Ireland from the seat of a bicycle, and now we're going to do it! Join us for our 2021 Hound Dog Cycling tour that will take us through a country that features amazing scenery, legends and tradition!

Our journey begins with two nights exploring Dublin and a visit to the Guinness Storehouse, then it's off to the countryside, where our two local guides will lead us through the savage beauty of Clare and Burren with its dramatic contrasts of sea, sky, bogland and hills.

Clare is the music center of Ireland so you'll be sure to have your feet tapping to traditional tunes nearly every night. We'll visit charming villages, pass by coastal vistas overlooking Galway Bay, be spellbound by the Cliffs of Moher ("the cliffs of a ruined fort") and finish the day in a quaint pub sipping your favorite Irish drink.

This trip is limited to 20 people because, in our experience, small groups are more fun! We'll stay in local boutique hotels or castles each night and enjoy full Irish breakfasts in the morning. This trip is simply amazing from start to finish, you won't want to go home!

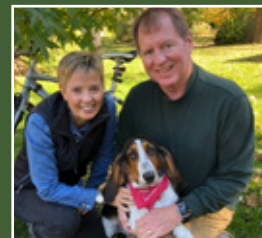
Hound Dog Cycling Tours are supported and led by local outfitters who are the experts in the areas we visit. Executive Travel will handle all of our travel arrangements so we can relax, pedal and enjoy the magnificent scenery and Irish hospitality.

There is strong interest in this tour already, so don't delay. Join us and take part in our "céili" (traditional Gaelic gathering with music and dance) and most of all: cycle and be charmed!

Sincerely,

Rich and Susan Rodenburg
Hound Dog Cycling Adventures

 **ExecutiveTravel**



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



August 5, 2021 **Thursday**

We depart our hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic to Dublin. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as we start our European adventure.

August 6, 2021 **Friday**

Upon arrival in Dublin, our guide will meet us at the airport and escort us by private transfer to our city center hotel. Following time to freshen up, we will have lunch at a local tavern prior to departing by foot (15 min. walk) to the iconic Guinness Storehouse for a tour of this much-loved attraction including a taste of the Guinness beer. Following our tour, we will have time to explore Dublin City before our first night in this bustling city. Music and fun is never far away in Ireland and a good night is guaranteed in Dublin. B (on plane) | L | T

August 7, 2021 **Saturday**

Today takes you around Dublin City with an expert local guide, walking you to many of the highlights & historical places of interest. This walk will incorporate a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral & Trinity College to name but a few. Everyone will enjoy the walk together and any that wish to detour

off for some personal sight-seeing may do so later in the day. Free time will be given for you to do some exploring alone before you return to your hotel. Enjoy another delicious evening meal and afterwards you will have the opportunity to enjoy some wonderful Irish music, song or dance while tapping your feet & humming along to your favorite songs. B

August 8, 2021 **Sunday - Let's go West!**

Leaving Dublin today we will transfer by private coach to Bunratty where we will explore the fascinating Bunratty Castle and folk park, this beautifully restored 15th-century castle is a must-see in this region of Ireland. A guided tour will introduce us to medieval Ireland and you can also tour the recreated 18th-century village where you can walk into the various buildings and learn about another period of Irish history. There is an option to enjoy a medieval banquet in the castle this evening if you wish.

Another interesting option for an activity today is a falconry walk on the grounds of Dromoland Castle. This experience offers a unique insight into the noble and ancient art of Falconry. This is truly a stimulating, unique and memorable experience. All the majestic, beautiful birds are captive bred, both in Ireland and abroad. They include

different species of falcons, hawks and owls. You will walk with the birds of prey as they take off and land on your gloved hand. Our overnight destination is very close Dromoland Castle. Relax and enjoy the Inn at Dromoland and its great leisure facilities. Just what you need to prepare for your first cycle tomorrow. B

August 9, 2021 **Monday - Ancient Ireland, 30 mi.**

After a hearty breakfast, we will cycle through the beautiful rural countryside of East Clare. This region which few people visit is home to wonderful country laneways which wind their way around small lakes and through lush farmland. As part of our tour today, we will take in the sites of Knappogue Castle and the ruins of the 12th century Quinn Abbey. Your cycle will take you back to your accommodation for a second overnight in Dromoland. B

August 10, 2021 **Tuesday - Kilrush to Kilkee, 27 mi.**

Today's cycle tour takes us from Kilrush to Carrigaholt & the beautiful Loop Head cycle. Overlooking the Shannon Estuary, south to County Kerry & north up towards the Cliffs of Moher. Completing our circuit, we end our day in the seaside town of Kilkee. At the end of our cycle, we will be transferred by private coach to our



accommodation in the town of Lahinch. Enjoy this quaint seaside town, take a walk on the beach or go for a swim in the Atlantic to sooth your muscles. B

August 11, 2021

Wednesday - *Lahinch to Burren National Park Loop, 39 mi.*

Today's route will take us through all of what makes this region so special. Meander through quiet country roads and enjoy the sights and smells of Irish country life. Our route takes us to the fantastic Burren National Park where you can see up close the karst landscape which makes this region of Ireland so iconic. On the return journey towards Lahinch we will pass through the village of Kilfenora where we can stop for some refreshments and take time to see this typical Irish village. We complete our circuit back in Lahinch for a second overnight in this great town where traditional Irish music will be heard wafting from the doorways of the vibrant pubs. B

August 12, 2021

Thursday - *Lahinch to Doolin, 23 mi.*

Cycling north from Lahinch we pass the famous Lahinch Golf Course before reaching the coastal town of Liscannor, famous for its stone work. Continuing to the Cliffs of Moher, we will stop here and enjoy a walk out to



these impressive cliffs with wonderful views across to the Aran Islands. Continuing to our accommodation in Doolin - you will have a chance to enjoy some great evening entertainment as you overnight here in the home of Traditional Irish music.

August 13, 2021

Friday - *Aran Islands, 23 mi.*

A ferry ride today will bring us to the largest of the Aran Islands where we will have the opportunity to discover Inish Mor in all its glory - a fascinating place to visit. The islanders have eked out a living by improving the soil over generations with sand and seaweed. Aran is also a bastion of Irish culture where Irish is still the everyday language of most islanders, making it the strongest Gaeltacht (Irish speaking region) in the country. Many traditions that have been lost on the mainland have been maintained here. It also has a wealth of archaeological and historical remains, notably its prehistoric stone forts and early Christian sites. Cycle around this iconic Island to reach the impressive stone fortress of Dun Aonghasa and your breath will be taken away with the wonderful views from here. Returning along the Northern shores of the island you will see the resident colony of seals and have time in the Kilronan village to see the world-famous Aran wool



sweaters. Return in the evening by ferry to Doolin. B

August 14, 2021

Saturday - *Black Head Loop, 35 mi.*

As we cycle to the northern corner of County Clare this is one of the most spectacular regions in Ireland - known as "The Burren". You will be amazed by this landscape and the variety of rock formations. It is wonderful just to park up your bike for a short time and walk across sections of these "paving slabs" to explore the amazing flora hidden in the cracks and crevices. Reaching the village of Ballyvaughan offers you a beautiful place to refresh and enjoy a drink or snacks before we return to Doolin. B

August 15, 2021

Sunday - *Return home*

All too soon, our journey has ended. Morning transfer to Shannon or Dublin airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free shops before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean, back to the United States. Arrival to Omaha airport tonight. B | Meals served on board your international flight.

Itinerary is subject to change.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch T = Tasting



To register contact:

 **ExecutiveTravel**

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Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

executivetravel.com/hound-dog-cycling-tour-ireland

For more information about Hound Dog Cycling, visit:

HoundDogCycling.com

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$3,995
(limited rooms with separate beds)

Per person in single room: \$4,795
(limited number of single rooms)

We offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on April 19, 2021, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services, priced from \$241 per person (covers land up to \$4,000 per person.) For full pricing grid and highlights, please review the enclosed brochure.

For complete details of this travel protection plan, visit policy.travelexinsurance.com/CTSB-0819. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. YIE

This tour will be materialized with 20 travelers. Should the number fall below 20, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level:

Moderate, guided bike and hotel tour. This is not an arduous tour however there are some hills on the route but you have all day to do the cycling. With the exception of the roads in and out of Ennis, the traffic on the route should be quite light. You should, however, cycle carefully at all times, especially when going downhill or during any rain showers.

This is not a tour for inexperienced cyclists. This tour offers our own English-speaking tour guides and support crew. You will be given route descriptions and maps, so you may ride and explore on your own each day or ride along with our guides.

Air:

Group airfare is offered by Executive Travel. We are able to reserve air by mid September 2020. All registered participants will be informed of the airfare once available - estimate \$1,000-1,100 per person (economy class).

Accommodations:

Local 3-star hotels.

Final accommodations will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.

The price quoted within this proposal is based on a USD/EURO exchange rate of 0.85 (1 USD = 0.85 EURO). We reserve the right to adjust pricing at final payment.

Included:

- 9 nights at local 3- and 4-star hotels
- 9 x full Irish breakfast
- 1 x lunch on arrival day (August 6, 2021)
- Airport transfer from Dublin airport to hotel in Dublin on August 6, 2021
- Transfer from hotel in Dublin to Dromoland Inn on August 8, 2021
- Transfer from Doolin to Shannon or Dublin airport on August 15, 2021
- Bike rental incl. helmet (24-speed hybrid bicycle with pannier bag, repair equipment, lock, and bottle cage)
- Hybrid bike insurance
- Half-day guided tour of Dublin, August 6, 2021
- Guinness Storehouse tasting
- Half-day guided tour Dublin, August 7, 2021
- Entrance to St. Patrick's, Trinity Castle (Books of Kells to be paid on the spot), Bunratty Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Aran Islands Ferry (return tickets)
- Cycling tour as described, August 8-15, 2021
- Route description and maps
- Luggage transfer by private van/support vehicle
- Two cycling guides
- Ten days of international fun and adventure with Susan and Rich Rodenburg

Not Included:

- Airfare (group air will be announced by mid September 2020)
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- E-bike (electronic bike), offered at an additional \$150 for all days of cycling, must be booked at time of registration
- \$150 per e-bike insurance, payable with the trip balance
- GPS
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- All beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Gratuities (estimate \$5 per person per day for the local guides)
- Personal expenses
- Professional fee, \$75 per person due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found at <http://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

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Available Bikes!

Hybrid Sport Bike:

- 9-speed Specialized Sirrus Sport or Sora Sport or similar
- Lightweight frame
- 700x32mm tires
- Shimano rapid fire shifters
- Hydraulic disc brakes
- Flat handlebars
- Canopy Sport comfort saddle

Electric bike:

- 9-speed Specialized Turbo Como (or similar)
- Lightweight frame
- Advanced Pedal Assist
- 27.5" x 2.3" sport tires
- Shimano shifters and derailleurs
- Nylon platform pedals with grip traction
- Integrated headlight and rear light
- Specialized "The Cup" comfort saddle
- Fully computerized display
- Hydraulic disc brakes

We recommend you bring your own helmet.

Electric bikes are also offered on this tour, for an additional supplement of **\$150.00**, and must be reserved at least 2 weeks in advance. **E-bikes are limited and offered on a "first come, first serve" basis.**

Our guides will be available to assist with repairs.

For a smooth start each morning, please ensure you take the bike tagged with your first and last name to avoid any unnecessary mix-ups. Never leave your bike unattended, especially in the towns along the route. We recommend that you do not take your bike with you when sightseeing or during a walking tour through any city. For damage other than a tire puncture, please contact the tour leader. Please do not have any repairs done on the rental bikes without the tour leader's consent.

The bicycle always needs to be locked when unattended and the included Bike Protection (for the Hybrid Sport Bike) does not cover the theft of the bicycle while it is unlocked. **E-bike Protection is offered for an additional cost of \$150.00.**

Shipping your own bike(s)!

We recommend that you utilize the provided bikes, but should you wish to bring your own, please be aware of the following:

There is a limit of 2 bikes per airplane. The cost is estimated at \$150 per bike per way, (e-bikes or larger bikes may be charged differently). Please contact Executive Travel if you need further information.

You can also choose to ship your bike(s) in advance. www.flightbikes.com are partners of FedEx and offer their service and assistance, but prices may be as high as \$800 per way to ship your bike(s) to an airport.

5 business days are required for delivery to Dublin airport and you should be aware that dropping off the bike for the return to the United States can be done during weekdays only (we return from Ireland on a Saturday).