

***THE BEST DAY WALKS OF IRELAND***  
***Sunday 22 August – Wednesday 8 September 2027***

***18 memorable days exploring the best trails and scenic sights across the length and breadth of the Emerald Isle. Timed to avoid the summer crowds.***

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Led by Phillip Donnell.
- Requires a minimum group size of 6 persons and maximum of 11 persons.
- \$NZ7495pp Dublin to Dublin.
- Prices are estimated at April 2026, so subject to change until fully paid.

***PRICE INCLUDES:***

- Accommodations in twin share basis (solo use rooms are not standard, but may be requested at time of registration, with a higher final price applicable).
- Transport by hired minivan or people mover.
- All breakfasts.
- Experienced trip leader throughout.
- Entry fees to sites and other relevant inclusions.

***PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:***

- International travel.
- Lunches and other dinners.
- Travel insurance, personal expenses or any arrangements outside of the itinerary and its inclusions.

**STRUCTURE OF THE TRIP**

- **Transport**

A hired minivan for Ireland – Dublin to Dublin. This is hands down the best for a small group and to access trail heads, giving total flexibility, and has been tested on our previous Footsteps overseas trips. While Phillip is the van hirer and main driver, we will need at least one support driver, so will look for volunteers within the group. This is not an onerous task, roads are of a good standard, all are sealed and of course, driving is on the left. A standard NZ car licence is all that is required. Luggage is carried within and will be limited – so only a moderate main bag and daypack please.

- **Accommodation**

This will be a mix of hotels, B & B's and may include a few hostels in remote locations if that is what is available. Our intention is for couples to have their own rooms and for solos of the same sex to twin share

where possible. The final tally of participants will determine the outcomes and some flexibility will be needed. Facilities will be private, but could be shared on occasions. Solo use rooms are not the norm on our trips, but if you would like to secure these then at the time of registration is when we would appreciate knowing this information. The cost to secure solo use rooms is difficult to estimate at this point. The variety of accommodation will be considerable, and some may be quite atmospheric or located in very scenic locations in remote places. Generally we only spend one night in each place, but there are also some two nighters sprinkled through the itineraries, and clearly indicated.

- **Meals**

All breakfasts are included. For other dinners, it is anticipated that the group will either self-cater or go out for dinner together somewhere, which at times may be at the accommodation. Leaving lunches to your own choice gives plenty of freedom. There may be accommodations that can provide a picnic lunch, or items can be bought at local stores or enroute when travelling. Note: not all accommodation units have kitchens or kitchenettes, but most have electric jug, refrigerator and microwave.

- **Walking programme**

We have offered a wide range of options in the daily itinerary along with distances and anticipated times. These will all give a great representation of the areas visited. If you have a medium grade of fitness and tramp regularly then this holiday is for you! All options are day or part day trips. You need to be comfortable with a day pack for carrying gear, clothes, perhaps your lunch, snacks, drink bottle, first aid kit and valuables, not much different to what most people should be used to on day tramps at home. Logistics, the interests of the party and of course weather will dictate the outcomes, but Phillip will brief everyone each day.

## **OTHER THOUGHTS**

- ☒ Rainfall must be expected and exposed places and higher altitudes around peaks will invariably be windy. It is essential that you are prepared for all conditions with appropriate clothes, gear and footwear.
- ☒ History is rich and varied and we will uncover many interesting things. The Celtic imprint is stronger in the west and north.
- ☒ Phillip will do a daily briefing/de-brief and all questions are valid – please participate and support him.

**Pre-trip newsletters** will provide further information and details that cannot be included in this dossier., including recommended gear list, accommodation schedule and anything else relevant. This is normally assembled after final payments have been made, supplier invoices cleared and all inclusions finalised.

### **To secure your place, you need to:**

1. Read the Booking Conditions at the end of this dossier.
2. Fill in the Registration and Waiver forms. Return these (along with a copy of your passport) to Footsteps (by scan or post).
3. Pay your deposit.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**



**Scotland**

*Atlantic Ocean*



Carrickfergus

Newtownards

*Irish Sea*



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# ITINERARY: IRELAND (18 days)

See [www.walkni.com](http://www.walkni.com), [www.theirelandwalkingguide.com](http://www.theirelandwalkingguide.com)

Participants should be in Dublin by the evening of Sunday 22 August 2027.  
The initial briefing for the group will take place at 6 p.m.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Day 1 Monday 23 August	<b>Dublin to Belfast</b> (165km, 2h) <b>Mourne Mountains</b> <i>Possible walks:</i> Slieve Donagh from Bloody Bridge (11 km, 5 hours) Slieve Bearnagh (14.5 km, 6h) The Mourne Inner Horseshoe (21 km, 8-9 hours) Trasey to Bloody Bridge (11.6 km, 4-5h) Central Mournes (15.8 km, 5-6 hours) Reservoir View: Southern end to Newcastle (15 km) Bearnagh to Meelmore (9.6 km) Lough Shannagh (11 km loop)  <i>O/n Belfast</i>
Day 2 Tuesday 24 August	<b>Belfast</b> A free day to explore the capital of Northern Ireland. West Belfast (murals), Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Crumlin Road Gaol, The Titanic Experience, are all fascinating as you discover how the city has emerged from 'the troubles' of the past. *Bangor (Northern Ireland's biggest and most prestigious marina and Bangor Abbey, whose tower dates from the 15th century)  <i>O/n Belfast</i>
Day 3 Wednesday 25 August	<b>Belfast to Cushendall</b> (80 km, 1h) <b>Game of Thrones Country:</b> Larne, Black Cave Tunnel, Glens of Antrim, Torr Head Scenic Road, Cushendun. <i>Glenariff</i> is sometimes called the 'Queen of the Glens' and is the biggest and most popular of the Glens of Antrim. <i>Possible walks:</i> <b>Glenariff Forest Park</b> Scenic Trail (9.5 km) The Moyle Way (52 km - part thereof): Glenaan (10 km, 3h) and/or Glendun (10 km, 3h) from Cushendall. <b>Antrim Hills Way</b> (35 km - part thereof)  <i>O/n Cushendall</i>
<b>NORTHWEST IRELAND</b>	
Day 4 Thursday 26 August	<b>Cushendall to Derry</b> (95 km, 1h30m) <b>Causeway Coast Way</b> (parts) Giant's Causeway to Dunseverick Castle (9 km, 2h45m). Dunseverick Castle to Carrick-a-Rede Rope bridge/ Ballintoy (7 km, 2h15m) Torr Head Scenic Road? Bushmills Distillery? * <i>Bushmills is the home of the oldest working whiskey distillery in Ireland.</i>  <i>O/n Derry</i>




The Giant's Causeway

<p>Day 5 Friday 27 August</p>	<p><b>Derry to Ardara</b> (90 km, 1h20m)  <b>Glenveagh National Park and the Derryveagh Mountains</b>  <i>Possible Walks:</i>  <b>Mt Errigal</b> (752m, 1-2h), Poisoned Glen (2h), Slieve Snaght /Poisoned Glen (12.8 km, 5h), Lough Veagh (8 km,2h30m), Lough Inshagh (7 km,1h30m), Glen (Bridle Path) Walk (8 km, 2h), View Point Trail (1 km, 30 mins), Garden Trail (1 km, 1h), Derrylahn Nature Trail (2 km,45 mins), Lakeside Walk (3.5 km, 40 mins).          Fintown Scenic Railway along Loch Fin.   <i>O/n Ardara</i></p>
<p>Day 6 Saturday 28 August</p>	<p><b>Ardara to Killybegs</b> (50 km, 1h)  <b>Slieve League</b> (clifftop walk 12 km, 5h30mj)  <i>* Sliabh Liag (Slieve League) are the highest accessible sea cliffs in Europe reaching a height of 600m, making them nearly <b>three times the height</b> of Co Clare's Cliffs of Moher. Once at the car park at the top of Sliabh Liag you can walk even higher to the highest point of the cliffs using the Pilgrims Path.</i>          We will drive the <i>Wild Atlantic Way</i> via Glen Gesh Pass, Assarancagh waterfall, Maghera Caves, Glencolumbcille.   <i>O/n Killybegs</i></p>
<p>Day 7 Sunday 29 August</p>	<p><b>Killybegs to Westport</b> (190 km, 2h40m)  <b>Croagh Patrick</b>          Travel to Croagh Patrick (8 km from Westport)  <i>Croagh Patrick is considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. It rises 762m above Clew Bay. Here the tradition of pilgrimage stretches back over 5,000 years. Each year, around 1 million pilgrims climb to the summit of 'The Reek' (as it is warmly known), in honour of Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. It was on the summit of the mountain that Saint Patrick fasted for forty days in 441 AD. The ascent from the Visitors Centre usually takes 2-3 hours, and the descent 1h30m-2 hours.</i>          We will pause at Drumcliff (just north of Sligo) to see the grave of the famous poet W.B. Yeats.   <i>O/n Westport</i></p>
<p><b>COUNTY CLARE, GALWAY AND THE WEST</b></p>	
<p>Day 9 Monday 30 August</p>	<p><b>Westport to Galway via scenic coastal route</b> (150 km, 2h30m)  <b>Connemara National Park</b>  <i>Possible Walks among The 12 Bens:</i></p>



	<p>Tully Mountain (8 km,3h), Binn Bhan (9 km,3h30m), Lower Diamond Hill (4 km), Diamond Hill (7 km,2h30m), Muckanaught and Ben Baun (10.5 km, 5-6h), The Glencaghan Horseshoe (6 of the Bens,16 km,7-8h), Killary Famine Walk (10 km,6h). A lovely walk is 'Máméan'; the Pass of the Birds, which looks onto the Twelve Bens of Connemara and the Inagh Valley (10 km,3-4h)</p> <p><b>Galway City:</b> the vibrant youthful capital of the west. Known for its festivals, music and bars, Galway is both ancient and modern.</p> <p><i>O/n Galway City</i></p>
<p>Day 10 Tuesday 31 August</p>	<p><b>Rest day in Galway City</b></p> <p><i>O/n Galway City</i></p>
<p>Day 11 Wednesday 1 September</p>	<p><b>Galway City to Tralee via Shannon Estuary ferry</b> (170 km, 3h30m) <b>Cliffs of Moher</b> Coastal Walk (13-20km) (the clifftop walk is part of the Burren Way) <b>The Burren National Park</b> <i>Possible Walks:</i> Mullaghmore Hill (6.5 km, 2-3h), Gleninagh Mountain (10 km, 3-4h), <b>Burren Way</b> (114 km - part), Poul nabrone Dolmen (short walk off road between Ballyvaughan and Kilnaboy). We take the Killimer to Tarbert car ferry across the Shannon Estuary (20m) to Tralee.</p> <p><i>O/n Tralee</i></p>
<b>SOUTHWEST IRELAND</b>	
<p>Day 12 Thursday 2 September</p>	<p><b>Tralee to Killarney via the Dingle Peninsula</b> (110 km, 2h) Today we traverse the Dingle Peninsula, walking a section of the 160 km <b>Dingle Way</b>, e.g. Anascaul to Dingle (19 km, 6-7 hours), Dingle to Sleah Head (20 km, 6h30m).</p> <p><i>O/n Killarney</i></p>
<p>Day 13 Friday 3 September</p>	<p><b>Ring of Kerry</b> Today we drive the full <b>Ring of Kerry</b>, with numerous stops along the way. This 180km road offers outstanding scenic vistas. Starting from Killarney you'll explore the beautiful Inveragh peninsula, taking in the remote Black Valley and charming towns and villages of Sneem, Waterville, Cahersiveen, Glenbeigh and Caherdaniel. Hopefully we can include the Beentee Circuit, a 3h tramp near the town of Caherciveen.</p> <p><i>O/n Killarney</i></p>
<p>Day 14 Saturday 4 September</p>	<p><b>Killarney to Cork</b> (88 km, 1h15m) <b>Killarney National Park</b> The park protects the glaciated valleys around 3 lakes. Here there is virgin forest featuring oak, yew and the Mediterranean arbutus (strawberry tree). Red deer, pine marten, otter, red squirrels and 140 bird species can also be found. We will cover the gorgeous must-see parts of the park, including the Gap of Dunloe, Ladies View, Moll's Gap, Muckross House. <i>Possible Walks:</i> Muckross Lake and Torc Waterfall (2-3 hours, 9-11 km), Torc Mountain (9.5 km, 3h30m).</p> <p><i>O/n Cork</i></p>
<b>SOUTH-EAST IRELAND</b>	
<p>Day 15 Sunday 5 September</p>	<p><b>Cork to Kilkenny</b> (155 km, 1h50m) Today we visit some significant sites in County Tipperary and County Cork selected from: Tipperary, Rock of Cashel (traditional seat of the Kings of Munster prior to the Norman invasion), Cahir Castle, Athassel Priory, Holy Cross, Dunmore Caves, Blarney Castle.</p>

	 <p><i>O/n Kilkenny</i></p>
Day 16 Monday 6 September	<p><b>Kilkenny to Rathdrum</b> (95 km, 1h20m)  <b>Wicklow Mountains National Park and Glendalough</b>  <i>Possible Walks:</i>  *The <b>Wicklow Way</b> from Glenmalure to Glendalough (4.5h,14 km), or Glenmalure to Iron Bridge (4-5h,14 km) or Glenmalure to Moyne (7h,21 km).  * <i>Glendalough is a surprisingly remote and beautifully glaciated mountain valley which shelters an atmospheric monastery, founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by St Kevin.</i>  Walk <b>St Kevin's Way</b> from Hollywood (25 km) or from Vallemount (22km) to Glendalough via the Wicklow Gap,  OR the Glenealo-Turlough Hill-Camaderry Loop (14.5 km,4-5h)  OR simply amble around the Glendalough Walking Tour (5 km,1h)</p> <p><i>O/n Rathdrum</i></p>
Day 17 Tuesday 7 September	<p><b>Rathdrum to Dublin</b> (60 km, 1h10m)  Dublin has so much to see and do. Go on a walking tour that includes some of the city's fine parks, Georgian buildings and cultural sites. Explore such classic landmarks as Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Dublin Castle, the National Museum, Chester Beatty Library, Kilmainham Gaol, and the Guinness Storehouse. Enjoy our final <i>celebration/farewell dinner</i> in the Temple Bar district and follow this with an optional guided pub crawl introducing traditional Irish music. Maybe a last minute show booking at the legendary Abbey Theatre?</p> <p><i>O/n Dublin</i></p>
Day 18 Wednesday 8 September	<p><b>Trip ends after breakfast.</b>  <b>Own arrangements.</b>  <b>Some in the group may take a break and then join the Footsteps tour to Iceland (10-25 September).</b> It is possible to fly direct from Dublin to Reykjavik.</p>



**Mourne Mountains**

***Below you will find:***

***Booking Conditions  
Registration Form  
Waiver Form***

## **FOOTSTEPS WALKING AND TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

### **Ireland 2027: Booking Conditions**

1. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. All prospective participants on this trip must abide by the Footsteps Covid policy (see below)
3. Phillip Donnell and *Footsteps Walking and Travel Club* are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, pandemic, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip. Everyone participates entirely at their own risk. The separate waiver form must be completed.
4. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be refunded. The minimum number for this trip is ten.
5. *Footsteps* reserves the right to make any modifications to the trip that may be necessary. The walks undertaken each day are determined by group consensus, but as far as possible we endeavour to meet your personal preferences.
6. The trip fee includes subsidisation of the leader/driver administrative and travel expenses, as well as a gift of appreciation/gratuity.
7. Registrations close on **1 May 2027**, or earlier if all the spaces are filled. The trip is currently viable in terms of minimum numbers and will proceed.
8. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comer's basis on receipt of the Registration Form and passport scan. A deposit of \$500 per person is paid at the time of registration. The balance of the trip fee is due to be paid by **1 July 2027**.
9. Our preferred method of payment is internet banking to Footsteps P J Donnell/Katrina Tulip, Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03. Please write your surname and the name of the trip ("Ireland") in the reference box.
10. Cancellations: If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise *Footsteps* in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable, a phone call alone is not. In the event of cancellation by Footsteps, you will receive a full refund. Under *normal* circumstance, cancellations up to 60 days prior incur a 10% cancellation fee. For 60-30 days prior, 30% is deducted. For 30-15 days prior, 60% is deducted. After 14 days prior, there is no refund. If you find a suitable replacement person, the above cancellation fees MAY be waived.
11. Personal travel insurance is compulsory. It is recommended that this includes cover for travel plans being disrupted by Covid-19.

***Registration and Waiver forms are below...***

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING AND TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

***Ireland 2027: Registration Form***

Complete and send this (along with a passport scan and the waiver form) to our postal address (see base of page) or scan and email. The deposit required is \$500 per person. Our preferred payment method is internet banking into Kiwibank 38-9002-0435674-03 (with covering email please, or your surname/name of trip in reference column).

Your full name(s) and please underline or highlight your preferred first name(s)

Postal Address:

Day/Night phone:

Mobile"

Email:

Date(s) of birth:

Are you comfortable in close contact with like-minded travellers with all the give and take needed for harmony?  
Please extend your answers overleaf or on separate paper, or by email.

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions:

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email and the relationship to you. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are authorizing us to liaise with

I/We have read the trip information and booking conditions. I / We enclose the deposit of \$500pp. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by the due date (signed and dated by each person registering):

**Send (with passport scan and waiver form) to :**

**Footsteps, 3/B Te Arawa Place, Welcome Bay, Tauranga  
3112. Email: [footstepsanz@gmail.com](mailto:footstepsanz@gmail.com)**

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING AND TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND  
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM**

**PROVIDER:** Footsteps Walking and Travel Club (Phillip John Donnell)("Footsteps")

**PARTICIPANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

("the Participant")

I, the Participant, release and forever discharge and hold harmless Footsteps from all and any liability, claims, demands and damages, of whatsoever kind or nature, whether foreseeable or otherwise, either at law or in equity, which arise or may arise from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Waiver discharges Footsteps from any liability or claim that I may have against Footsteps in respect of personal injury, illness, medical treatment, death, property loss or damage, and otherwise howsoever, resulting from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps. I hereby waive all such rights and remedies.

I accept that I participate in the services and activities entirely at my own risk.

I acknowledge and accept that this Release and Waiver:

- (a) Extends to and covers all contractors, agents, volunteers and employees of Footsteps;  
and
- (b) Binds the executors, administrators, successors, attorneys and assigns of both parties.

Signed by the Participant:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

