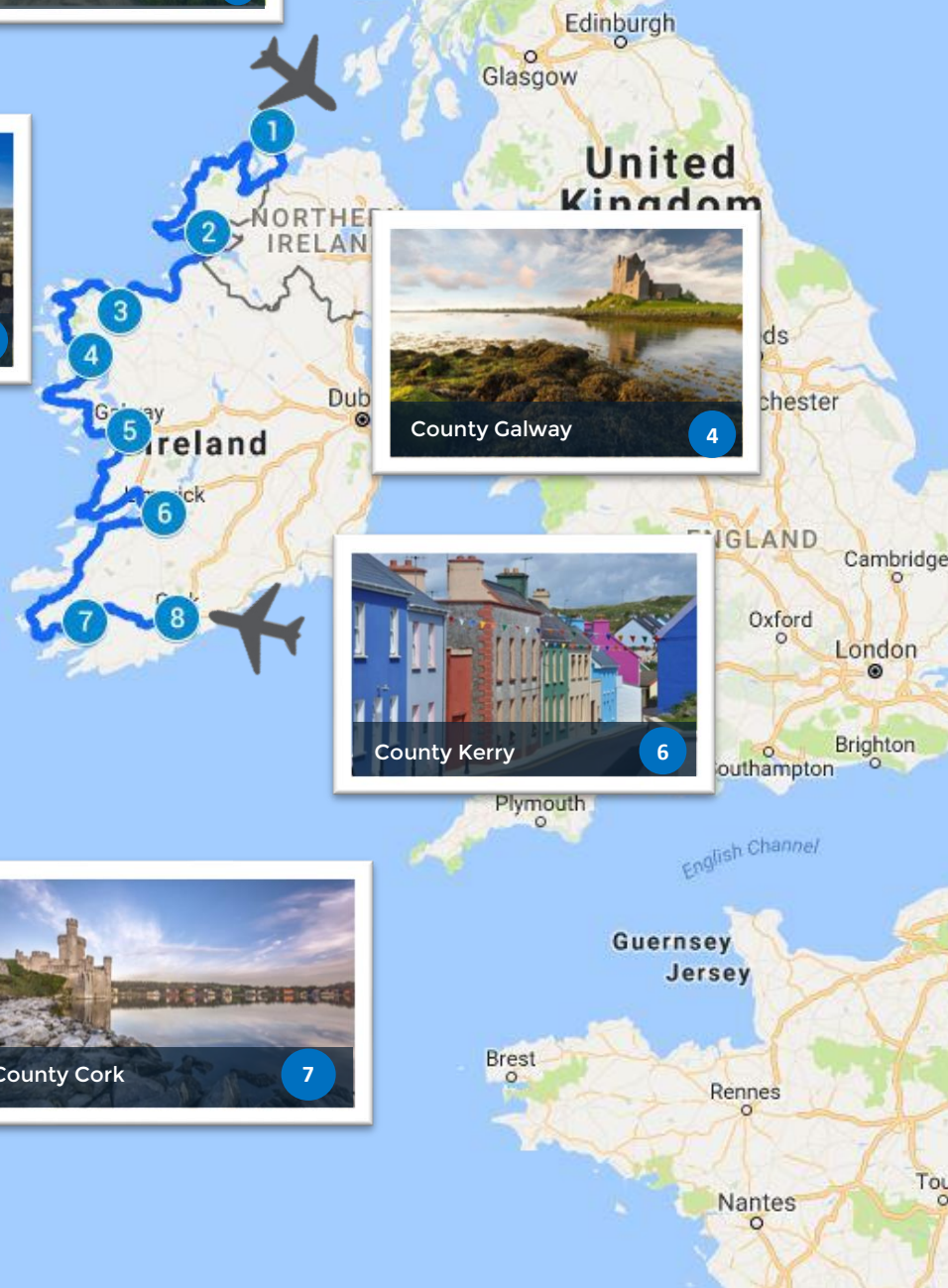
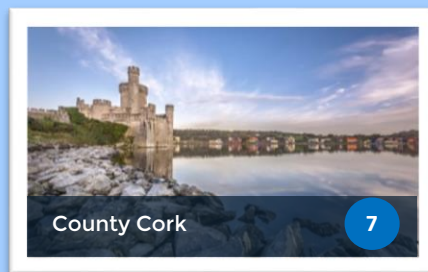
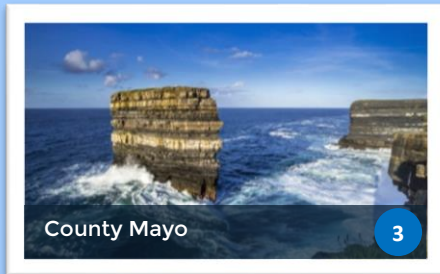




DRIVE TO DISCOVER IRELAND

THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Culloort to Donegal	187 miles	5 hours 18 minutes
Donegal to Ballina	83 miles	2 hours
Ballina to Westport	91 miles	2 hours 15 minutes
Westport to Galway	98 miles	2 hours 43 minutes
Galway to Limerick	136 miles	3 hours 48 minutes
Limerick to Kerry	152 miles	4 hours 3 minutes
Kerry to Cork	58 miles	1 hour 24 minutes
Total Distance Covered:	805 miles	

The Wild Atlantic Way never strays too far from Ireland’s west coast and spanning from County Donegal at Malin Head in the north to County Cork at Kinsale in the south. Along this Drive to Discover route, you will experience the world-famous views of the sweeping, green landscapes and sheer coastal cliffs that are so characteristic of the Emerald Isle. Dolphins, whales, and thousands of species of birds wait to be seen on this route as well, giving animal lovers something to look forward to. The Wild Atlantic Way also passes by some of the country’s most significant historical sites, including castles, monasteries, lighthouses, and ruins.

TO/FROM:

In this road trip guide, you’ll begin your journey at Londonderry, Northern Ireland and end your journey in Cork.

1. County Donegal

The journey begins in the north of Ireland at County Donegal. At Malin Head on the tip of the Inishowen Peninsula, the raging sea continues its millennia-long battle against the shoreline, carving out the rocks into craggy crevasses and jagged cliffs. Further south in County Donegal are the Slieve League Cliffs. These marine cliffs are among the highest in Europe, giving travelers awe-inspiring views of the coastal region and the crashing waves below.

2. County Sligo

The Coasts off of Sligo produce excellent waves for surfing, so whether you partake in this exciting sport or just like to watch as the professionals do their thing, this is a great place to stop, especially during the winter months when the waves really get going. Nature lovers are guaranteed to love the walking trails of Gleniff Horshoe Valley. Meandering past a mill from the 1800s and through woodlands, the sylvan scene of the Benwisken Trail makes for inspiring photographs to remember your adventure by. History buffs will want to check out Streedagh Beach in Sligo, where a portion of the Spanish Armada was ripped apart by a rough storm in 1588. Some of the wreckage can still be seen during low tides.

3. County Mayo

Crossing over to County Mayo, you can visit Downpatrick Head where the ruins of a stone church founded by St. Patrick can still be seen. The place seems draped in mystical energies, as ancient and mysterious as the ruins are. Farther south, you can join a foraging tour along scenic Killala Bay. Crossing mudflats and rocky shoreline, you will be guided to search for different sea creatures like mussels and clams. Make sure you lollygag, because whatever you find will be your dinner.

4. County Galway

Traveling south again along the coast to County Galway, you will see the vast, gently sloping hills that were formed over the centuries by the water of Killary Harbour. There are plenty of pubs and restaurants along the way that offer fresh seafood and other great local favorites. If you prefer to work for your own dinner, take a tour of a lobster fishing boat and help bring in the day’s catch. They’ll have you back on land just in time to eat.

Travelers with less time could always choose to [rent a car in Galway](#) and head north or south.

5. County Clare

As you move on to County Clare, get ready for some of the most breathtaking views that you will see on your trip. Here lie the Cliffs of Moher, which are known throughout the world. This natural rock formation rises 214 meters from sea level at its highest peak and offers a look at the Aran Islands across the sea, as well as pristine Galway Bay, as the waves whoosh and crash violently against the rocks below.

6. County Kerry

Driving south again along the rocky coast, travelers can visit Loop Head Lighthouse at Kilbaha on the peninsula, where you can climb to the top and see for miles across the coastline to the recently visited Cliffs of Moher to the north, as well as to the green landscape of County Kerry in the south. Moving on, you can travel farther south to Portmagee village in County Kerry. Though this seaside village is small, what it offers a picturesque example of an old Irish fishing village.

7. County Cork

The drive from County Kerry to County Cork is filled with excellent views of the surrounding country. You can stop at Dursley Sound and take a cable car to Dursley Island, where you will enjoy some peace and quiet away from the bustle of the mainland. This island has only a few resident farmers, but that doesn’t mean there’s not a lot to do. Attractions include the ruins of a castle, ancient standing stones like those of Stonehenge, a lighthouse, and a signal tower.