



Our Premier Donegal Coastal Bike Tour and Gaelic Village Immersion FAQ's

Below you will find the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about this premier tour offering and what sets it apart.

How is the Cottage at Glenmaire's Premier Touring Package Different?

Glenmaire's Premier tour, unlike all other tour offers, is a full-service operation that:

- Includes executive coach airport transfers for all groups
- Includes all group transportation in and outside the village
- Our bike tours are always guided and accompanied by a support vehicle
- Includes lodging in highly appointed village cottages – the finest in the village
- Full village immersion when not biking
- A service team selected for their knowledge of the community and culture and who are good *craic*!

How Long is the Premier Tour?

The Premier Tour is 7 days and 6 nights

Saturday Arrival and Airport Transfer to the Village

Friday Departure and Airport Transfer

How Many Days Will You Bike?

5 days: Sunday – Thursday

How Many Bikers Per Group?

#8-16 - The Cottage at Glenmaire has a collection of three cottages with a combined 8 well-appointed bedrooms. Our weekly Premier Tour groups include a minimum of 8, and if with spouses or partners sharing a room, maximum of 16

What is Village Immersion?

Unlike any other Irish travel experience, our village immersion starts with basing our tour in one place, a home base in a spectacularly beautiful Gaelic coastal village. Unpack once and spend your entire visit truly getting to know this magical location, the villager residents, their unique culture, and charming character.

What Is Included?

- Executive Coach Transportation (Airport transfers, and transport in and outside the village)
- Premier Lodging with House Attendant Service
- Breakfast
- E-Bike or Standard Bike
- Knowledgeable Tour Guides
- Tour Support Vehicle

What is Not Included (very little)?

- Travel to and from Ireland*
- Optional Helicopter Transfer*
- Dinners and Evening Expenses**

* Airfare and Optional Helicopter Transfer

**Standard itineraries plan for 4 private chef created dinners in the village with two evenings transported out of the village to acclaimed local restaurants. All dinners are paid for by the group and will cost slightly less than a very good meal in your hometown.

Does the Cottages at Glenmaire Have a Recommended Travel Partner?

Yes. You may choose to make your own flight arrangements, or we highly recommend you work with our expert travel partner, details below:

Vivienne Kelly, Crystal Travel.

Contact by phone: [\(617\) 327-4242](tel:6173274242).

Contact by email: vivienne@crystal-travel.com

Vivienne is located in Boston, MA (Eastern Standard Time). You can purchase your flights directly through her plus specify seats, arrange desired upgrades, and assign the flight's mileage to existing frequent flier accounts.

We highly recommend working with Vivienne, especially in these times of unpredictable, challenging air travel, as it is good to have someone with whom you can confer if things change, cancel, or simply get confusing!

IMPORTANT - Each group must coordinate arrival and departure times as the package provides for a single group transfer on arrival and departure days.

[To see our Transportation page click here](#)

What is the Tipping Policy?

The people of our village and in Donegal are extremely kind and giving, and will want to make every minute of your trip memorable. When in and around the village please consider tipping those who serve you as you would your favorite servers at home.

When Not Biking What Activities are Included in the Premier Package?

When not biking, our team offers optional group experiences that include, but are not limited to: boat excursions along the coast of Donegal Bay (weather permitting); world class sheepdog demonstrations; hiking; sea kayaking; beach yoga; and tours of the village with personal introductions to some of the village's most cherished knitters, artists, musicians, pubs and villagers. [Click here for a full list of activities](#)

What Activities Are Not Covered in the Premier Package (Very Few)?

- Spa treatments at Lough Eske Castle
- High Tea at Lough Eske Castle
- Vaya Seaweed Baths

Who is this tour suitable for?

This tour is suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness. The distances you cycle each day are relatively short, typically 30 – 40 km with some extra options. However, it is important to note that the routes are very hilly.

For this reason, we recommend using an electric bike.

Do I need to be a regular cyclist?

It is important that you are a competent cyclist (as distinct from a fit cyclist) with adequate bicycle handling ability and a proper knowledge of the rules of the road. It is not recommended that you book a cycling holiday unless you have cycled at least occasionally before you arrive.

Will I be cycling along with others?

No – this premier tour will only include those in your group, your guide and your support vehicle. At busy times of the year June/July/August it is possible that others will be following the same routes, but we will endeavor to choose those routes less traveled. In the quieter months when numbers are smaller it is quite possible that yours will be the only group on the road at that time.

Is this tour on cycle paths or public roads?

For the vast majority of this tour you are on roads that are also open to traffic. However, we focus on small back roads where the traffic is almost non-existent in most places. There are some short stretches on roads with moderate traffic. However, even here cycling is not difficult.

Are the routes hilly?

The routes on this bike tour are VERY hilly (this is partly why it is so beautiful!!). The gradient varies constantly from gentle to very steep. On an average day of cycling 40 km you can expect an elevation gain of approximately 400 metres (1,300 ft). For this reason, we recommend using an electric bike for this tour.

What is the best time of year for a bike tour in Ireland?

Our tours run from Late April to September. There are advantages to coming at different times within that period. In Spring and Autumn, roads are generally quieter. Although it can still be quite cold in April/early May, and towards the end of September, these can be great times to travel if you simply come prepared for the weather.

During May and June, flowers bloom and there's an abundance of foliage. Young lambs are to be seen playing virtually everywhere and the days are really really long.

In the second half of August, the heather is in full bloom, covering the hills with a magnificent purple carpet.

Photographers say that September is the best month for light and color.

Our best advice is to come when it suits you best. There's so much to see and do at all times of the year. You really won't be disappointed.

What is the weather in Ireland like?

Our climate is mild. This is because the North Atlantic current of the Gulf stream protects Ireland from extremes of climate. It's not uncommon to get sunny dry weather at any time of the year, although rain is also common. Showers are often localized, which means that you may have a showery morning but a sunny afternoon along your route! In summer, most rain showers don't last very long, so light rain gear that you can fold up and use when needed should leave you ready for all eventualities.

The peak season is July and August, but the weather can be just as good, or sometimes better, earlier or later in the year.

The average summer daytime temperature is usually between 15°C (59°F) and 22°C (72°F). On rare occasions the temperature can approach 30°C (86°F), however Ireland never experiences the extreme temperatures seen in many parts of Europe in recent years.

What type of Bicycles and E-bikes are provided?

Hybrid bikes:

Our partners with their 10 years of experience equipping biking tours, have carefully chosen what they consider to be the perfect bicycles and e-bikes for touring in Ireland.

Bike Features:



Based on the top of the range Thompson Arosa frame design, our bikes feature original Shimano components.

- 3 x 9 Speed Shimano gearing. With smooth shifting and a huge range of gears this is the perfect combination to tackle Ireland's varying terrain.
- Shimano hydraulic disc brakes. Designed for reliability and smooth operation, giving the peace of mind that only comes with top of the range components.
- Schwalbe Marathon Plus tires. Allowing you the freedom to explore knowing that you are riding on the world's leading puncture resistant tires.

Our partners have a range of sizes so there is always one to fit you. They also have men's (with crossbar) or ladies (step-through) bikes available.

Electric Bikes:



The Thompson Enigma is one of the best e-bikes currently available. This is why our partners have opted to use it as the perfect partner for Ireland's undulating terrain. The Enigma features the world leading Bosch Active Plus drive system and full Shimano gearing and Hydraulic disc brakes.

E-bike Features:

- Bosch Active Line plus motor. Smooth, quiet and offering 50Nm of assistance this is the world's leading e-bike motor in its class.
- Bosch 500 wh battery. No need to even think about whether your battery will last throughout the day. Rest assured it will!
- Shimano Alivio 9 speed gearing.
- Shimano Hydraulic Disc Brakes giving smooth reliable stopping power.
- Unisex Step-through frame model for easy mounting and dismounting.
- Schwalbe Marathon Plus tyres. The world's leading puncture resistant tyre.
- Front suspension for extra comfort.

What Equipment/Accessories are provided with the bikes?

Bikes are supplied with everything you will need during the day on your bike tour including*:

- Front waterproof handlebar bag with map holder (7 litre capacity.)
- Rear waterproof pannier (20 litre capacity.) We can provide a second pannier free of charge on request.
- Lock
- Repair kit. Containing: Spare inner tube, puncture repair kit, tire levers, multi-tool, pump, 15mm spanner.

*The support vehicle is available to provide anything else stored or needed.

Should I bring my own helmet and high-visibility clothing?

Yes. If at all possible, please bring your own helmet and high-viz vest or top. However, we understand that as helmets are bulky they are sometimes difficult to pack. In this case our partners will supply you with one of our helmets free of charge. They will also provide high-viz vests if you do not have your own.

Can I bring my own pedals and saddle?

Yes! Our partners will happily fit them to your bike for you.