

Gaeltacht Itinerary

Day 1

Start the day with a step back in time at [Glencolmcille Folk Village](#), a museum of traditional thatched cottages. Each house is an exact replica of a dwelling used by local people in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The homes are equipped with a fascinating selection of authentic furniture, artifacts and utensils from each period. It's set in the picturesque Gaeltacht village of [Glean Cholm Cille](#) on the heights of the Sliabh Liag peninsula.

Allow 1 hour for this experience

Turn south now and prepare to be wowed at [Silver Strand Beach](#) (Malin Beg) - a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point. Donegal's lengthy coastline has more than its fair share of stunning beaches, but Silver Strand is one of a kind. It's a spectacular horseshoe bay, sheltered by high cliffs, which gives it a 'world apart' feel. The fine sand and shallow waters make for a great swimming spot.

Drive north towards Ardara next on the winding mountain road, known as the [Glengesh Pass](#) (Malaidh Ghleann Gheis). You will be blown away by the unspoilt beauty of this magical valley. When you reach the top of the pass, stop and look towards Ardara for a truly jaw dropping view. This must be one of the best drives in the county.

Continue into Ardara to visit the [Triona Donegal Tweed Visitor Centre](#) and learn about the tradition of handweaving. Ten years after the collapse of the local tweed industry, Denis Mulhern started this small bespoke tweed company from his family home. A fifth-generation hand weaver, Denis wanted to maintain and preserve this tradition. In 1992, they began to welcome visitors from across the world to showcase the skills involved in hand weaving. All their tweed is made from 100% Irish lambswool. After it is woven, it is tailored to produce unique pieces of clothing such as coats, jackets, and capes. Thirty years later, Triona remains a family business. The Visitors Centre allows you to experience the craft of making Donegal Tweed first-hand.

Stay in Ardara for a taste of more fine craft and design at the [Donegal Design Makers](#) gallery. Here you can visit local artists, designers, and makers at work. The range of craft work includes jewellery, pottery, textile design, paper-craft, wood-turning and furniture design.

Allow 1 hour for these Ardara experiences

Head west after Ardara along the coast for [Maghera Beach and Caves](#). The picturesque and secluded strand is surrounded by high mountains. You will find the caves at the western tip of the beach, and you can reach them at low tide. Stop off en route at the magnificent Assaranca Waterfall, an 8k drive or cycle from Ardara. The waterfall tumbles wildly down into a rock pool and is the perfect backdrop for a family photo.

Day 2

Time for a bit of adventure today with [Far and Wild](#), who will take you on a cycling tour of the Rocky Rosses. This lowland area unique to Donegal is littered with small glacial lakes and stunning beaches.

Start in Annagry, close to Donegal's famous and fabulous airport - recently voted the best place to fly into in Europe. Cycle minor roads with superb views of northwest Donegal, as the coastline rounds the bends from Gweedore to Dungloe. Far and Wild provide all equipment, a knowledgeable guide, advice and maps.

Allow up to 4 hours for this trip

As you finish your cycle in Burtonport, take a 15-20 minute ferry trip to the island of Árainn Mhór (Arranmore). You can take the car or go as a foot passenger, but it's a stunning route between tiny, picturesque islands. Árainn Mhór is wild and untamed with a rich and vibrant heritage and culture, and a spirit of innovation. Inhabited since prehistoric times, it's a close-knit community where Irish culture and language flourishes. So, if you are looking for a real taste of island life, then don't miss it. It's also a wonderful place to find makers of great food, clothing and art - inspired by the incredible landscapes.

The Sli Arainn Mhor (Arranmore Loop Walk) is part of the Bealach na Gaeltachta. This is a National Waymarked Way with stunning views in all directions. Highlights include bird watching along the cliffs, Arranmore Lighthouse, dramatic sea caves and golden sandy beaches.

Allow a minimum of 2-4 hours for this trip

Back on dry land, head south through Dungloe to Crohy Head, a quiet coastal strip on the Mullaghmullan Peninsula. This hidden gem offers some remarkable rock formations, most famously the Crohy Head Sea Arch - also known as "The Breeches".

Continue along the Wild Atlantic Way soaking up the breathtakingly beautiful seascapes before arriving at Blue Flag Dooley Beach. This peaceful oasis is close to 'Leitir Mhic an Bhaird' (Lettermacaward), and it is a Green Coast Award winning beach. It's also home to the Wild Atlantic Surf School and provides a fun and safe introduction to the sport of surfing. Dooley Beach is the perfect location to get started, with over 3 kilometres of sandy beach and ideal waves suited to surfers of all abilities.

If you have more time.....

Tábhairne Leo (Leo's Tavern) is the family home of 'Clannad' and 'Enya' and is the perfect place to enjoy some traditional music when in Na Rosa (The Rosses).

Burtonport Railway Walk passes through spectacularly remote landscape with magnificent views.

Bloody Foreland (Cnoc Fola)

Hike Mount Errigal - Donegal's highest peak - for spectacular views of the Derrveagh Mountain Range, the coast and the islands.

Ionad Cois Locha in Dún Lúiche (Dunlewey) is an award-winning centre at the foot of Mount Errigal. It's perfect for a family day out with boat trips on the lake, farm animals and an adventure play area.

Away to Me Sheepdog Trial Demonstrations - visit the Meghan family's working sheep farm on the sea cliffs of Malinbeg, Glencolmcille, for authentic sheepdog demonstrations with their friendly clan of border collies.

The Poisoned Glen, Dún Lúiche (Dunlewey), is in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht and is renowned for its sweeping valleys, imposing mountains and shimmering lakes.