

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



IRELAND: CORK, KERRY AND THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY WITH CHRIS ROCHE

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stunning Atlantic coastline
- South-westerly tip of Ireland
- Beehive huts
- Stone forts
- Killarney National Park
- Abundant birdlife, seals & dolphins.
- Dramatic mountain passes
- Dingle Peninsula
- Colourful villages
- Miles of protected sand dunes
- Enchanting hotels

INTRODUCTION

The Wild Atlantic Way, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world. We will focus on the dramatic remote Southwest part including the picturesque town of Kinsale, County Cork and Kerry in the south. Our journey from start to finish unfolds the wonders of nature, the power of the ocean and its imprint on the west coast of Ireland. Enchanting villages are nestled along the coast as well as ancient monuments – their origins having long sunk into the mists of oblivion dot the landscape. Behind every bend on this magical coastal road a new delight awaits.

With untameable tides and storms there has been a constant meeting of water and land, a deeply indented and

wild terrain with towering cliffs, spellbinding bays and beaches, mystical islands, always changing and never reaching the end. The isolation of living near and with the Atlantic on the doorstep has ensured that old traditions and the Irish language have been preserved. Our photographic journey will also be an encounter with the past.

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE

Christopher Roche was born in Quebec, Canada to Irish parents. He has since lived in Africa and several cities around Europe. Dividing his time between working as a filmmaker and a photographer he is now based in London. He has won many awards internationally and his

photographs have been published in international journals, exhibited at Royal Geographical Society in London and at United Nations Office at Geneva.

In addition to receiving many international photographic awards Chris has published two photographic books, 'The Priests and Pilgrims of Ethiopia' and 'Banaras, Holy City'. More about Chris [on his website...](#)

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet in Kinsale.

Today you will be picked up at Cork International Airport and transferred to our hotel in Kinsale only 20 minutes away.

Kinsale is located at the start of the Wild Atlantic Way and is famous for its colourful houses, bustling streets and rich history. One of the oldest towns in Ireland, Kinsale has been a centre for trade and fishing for centuries. The famous 'Battle of Kinsale' in 1601 saw the English defeat the Irish and their Spanish allies. This was a turning point in Irish history and Kinsale remained a garrison town for hundreds of years, leaving a legacy of forts, Georgian and Victorian architecture. The town has now become a foodies' paradise and hosts an annual gourmet festival.

Hotel Kinsale (D)

Day 2,3: West Cork

Over the next two days we will make our way along the Wild Atlantic Way to the most south westerly tip of Ireland – Mizen Head. Nature sets the pace in this beautiful corner of Ireland – one moment wild and windy, the next serene. Empty white sand beaches, craggy cliffs,

picturesque towns, ruined castles, endless inlets and hidden coves punctuate the coastline. The Gulf Stream ensures a mild climate and a unique area of flora and sea life.

We will be based in Baltimore, a pretty town which looks out across the dramatic Roaring Water Bay and its Carbery's Hundred Isles. Baltimore, once the haunt of pirates is now a bustling harbour of fishing vessels and sailing boats. The entire area is considered as a Special Area of Conservation, which protects the unique terrestrial and sea life that includes dolphins and whales. Highlights will include Toe Head and its Napoleonic Signal Tower. This remote area boasts dramatic cliffs and remarkable rock formations.

We will wander around Lough Hyne which is connected to the ocean by a narrow tidal channel resulting in a unique habitat for marine plants and animals. The Lake was declared the first marine nature reserve in Europe in 1981. The remains of Cloghan Castle can be seen on the small island in the middle of the lake and the neighbouring Knockourmah Hill and woods offer wonderful vistas and further photographic opportunities.

We will explore the bustling fishing port of Baltimore and head up to the Beacon for sunset. The locals call the whitewashed tower Lot's Wife after the biblical figure that was solidified into a pillar of salt. From here there are stunning views across Sherkin Island and Cape Clear out into the Atlantic.

On our second day we will drive from Baltimore to Mizen Head, exploring Roaring Water Bay, the back lanes and waterfronts, the colourful village of Schull and Crookhaven which has a truly end of the world feel.

Along the way we will get views of the famous Fastnet Lighthouse on the horizon. Heading around BarleyCove we will visit the lighthouse at Mizen Head – the south western point of Ireland.

Finally we will travel to Three Castle Head. Founded in 1207, Dunlough is one of the oldest Norman castles in Ireland and with its three towers connected by a rampart wall, it lies dramatically located along the peninsula, commanding views in all directions.

Hotel Baltimore (B,D)

Day 4: Healey Pass to Kerry

This morning we rise early and take the ferry from Baltimore to the isolated Sherkin Island to enjoy photographing the flora and fauna whilst meandering the quiet lanes free from cars and the gorgeous empty beaches.

We then leave Baltimore and travel north, stopping off to visit Garnish Island in Bantry Bay. Here we can photograph a large colony of seals sunning themselves on the rocks as we boat out to the island and its world renowned gardens. The magical gardens contain many rare plants and wonderful walks that offer great viewpoints.

Crossing the Healey Pass we leave Cork and head into Country Kerry. This is perhaps the most dramatic road in Ireland (the other contender we will visit in a couple of days!). The high pass and mountain landscape offers great panoramic photography.

Our first stop in Kerry will be Lauragh Forest, a world you could imagine inhabited by fairies with its waterfalls running between moss covered trees.

We then head into lively Kenmare which will be our base for the night.

Hotel Kenmare (B,D)

Day 5,6,7: The Dingle Peninsula

This morning we will explore the Killarney National Park before heading on to the Dingle Peninsula. Crossing through the mountain pass of Moll's Gap we will get great views of the MacGillycuddy's Reeks mountains. The Killarney National Park offers many walks and photographic opportunities with its 140 species of wild birds and red stags, numerous lakes, woodlands and Ross Castle.

After lunch we will make our way to The Dingle Peninsula – one of the most dramatic areas in the whole of Ireland. National Geographic described it as 'The most beautiful place on earth'. The peninsula is dominated by the range of mountains that form its spine, with Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak looking out across the Atlantic Ocean. Gaelic is commonly spoken by the locals here and life moves at a leisurely pace. The peninsula has long been a beacon for artists and musicians with traditional music often played in the pubs. For those who love history there is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments and because of the the peninsula's remote location there is a remarkable preservation of over 2000 monuments, ranging from the famous Ogham Stones, Neolithic tombs, ring forts and Beehive Huts. Our first stop will be the 4 mile Inch Beach before settling into Dingle. For the remainder of the day we can enjoy this vibrant town, practice our street photography, capturing images of the colourful doorways, pubs and local characters.

The following morning we rise early to spend the day exploring the peninsula itself. We will discover quiet, hid-

den coves and beaches, colourful hamlets, the dramatic Slea Head and Dunquin Pier which featured in the climax of David Lean's film Ryan's Daughter. The coast offers spectacular views out to the Blasket Islands which were inhabited until the 1950s. We will stop off at the village of Ballyferriter, Smerwick Harbour and the magical Brandon Creek where according to legend Saint Brandon set sail westward in the 6th century and travelled across the Atlantic – a voyage replicated by Tim Severin in 1976.

On our final day we will head over the Conor Pass – one of the highest in Ireland to the north side of the Dingle Peninsula. The views from the pass are breathtaking with a glaciated landscape of mountains, corrie lakes and a broad sweeping valley spread out below. Here we will explore the Tombolo of Maharees, a special area of conservation and home to tens of thousands of nesting birds each summer, including Storm Petrels, shearwaters, terns, gulls and auks, including the colourful Puffin. The end of the road brings us to the small fishing village of Brandon.

We return to Dingle Town in the evening for a review of our photographs and a dinner in one of the local pubs. Hotel Dingle (B,D)

Day 8: Homeward Travel

Transfers are arranged for departure at Kerry Airport, Tralee. Shannon Airport is also a possible departure point. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Airport transfers
- All accommodation

- Breakfasts and dinners

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Lunches
- Beverages (tea, coffee) except with meals
- Alcohol & soft drinks
- International flights/ferries
- Anything not listed as included

FOOD

All meals except lunches are included. Breakfasts will always be taken at our accommodation. Dinners will be either at our accommodation or in restaurants close by.

ALCOHOL

For lovers of Guinness, it doesn't get any better!

SPENDING MONEY

It is advisable to bring a small amount of € Euros, but if not there are plenty of ATM's around.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation and loss of baggage. We will need a copy of your travel insurance at the time of booking.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the UK do not need a passport to enter the Republic of Ireland but most airlines will require Passport ID. A European health insurance card is valid in the Republic of Ireland. EU and North & South American

Nationals will need a valid passport but do not require an entry visa.

LANGUAGE

English & Gaelic

CLIMATE

The spectacular ragged coastline stretches out into the Atlantic Ocean and therefore is subject to the whims of the Gulf Stream. Temperature extremes are rare and we can expect changeable conditions, diverse and often beautiful photographic landscape light.

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

As we will often be standing around in one location it's important to have some warm clothes. The best solution to temperature control is to have a number of layers available from lightweight thermal underwear through mid-layer insulation to a windproof jacket. A warm down jacket is great for standing around. For the lower body choose a pair of warm trousers. There are numerous makes and types of warm trousers to choose from, just ensure that the cut is generous to allow freedom of movement. A pair of wellington boots can be useful on the beach but these are not essential if space/weight is an issue.

CLOTHING LIST RECOMMENDATIONS

- Backpack to contain camera gear and few spare items
- Pair warm trousers (fleece lined optional)
- Thermal tops e.g. 'smartwool' (base layer)
- Thermal leggings e.g. 'smartwool' (base layer)

- Light fleece/wool jumper
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Quality warm walking socks
- Leather/waterproof walking boots
- Wellington boots (optional)
- Warm hat
- Fleece neck-warmer
- Light warm gloves
- Casual clothes for inside wear
- Sun cream, sunglasses
- Head torch
- Small, basic first aid to include plasters, blister repair
- and any medication that you normally use

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at any-time before the trip.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- In addition to your chosen camera equipment you will need to carry a day pack that will also hold a few extra items such as water, spare layer etc. Specially designed camera rucksack like F-Stop, Lowepro and Peak design will be fine.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...
for full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle,

17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.

- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod for low light photography
- Remote release to avoid shake on long exposures
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. Please do not buy especially for this tour.
- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop or tablet with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers.
- International all-in-one travel plug adapter, if you're coming from outside the UK. These are on sale at airports. All electrical sockets are UK three-pin.

MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick

way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.

PARTNERS

Non photographer partners will be very welcome although this primarily a photography holiday we also visit some very beautiful and relaxing places. If any participants do not wish to join the walks/photographic sessions they will be able to relax in and around the accommodation. The cost will be the same for photographers and non photographers.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

This is an outdoor travel holiday and the itinerary is dependent on the weather, local conditions and other variables. Wild Photography Holidays may use their discretion to change the itinerary should conditions dictate this; your health, safety and enjoyment will always be our primary concern when making such changes.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.

Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)