

Herdsman's Holidays - 6 Day Tour

Arrival Day:

Meet us and settle into the Herdsman's House. Walk 5 minutes over the road with us and stand on top of the magical ring forts, the mystical home of the fairies. There are breath-taking views for miles and the sound of musical instruments is amazing from here. Then you could continue walking to the local fishing pier (Raghly Harbour) to get a feel for the area. Plan your stay with us.

Day Two:

Visit Yeat's Grave. Have a cup of tea and homemade scones/bread in Drumcliffe Tea House. Go to Glencar Lake and Waterfall. After Glencar, you might want to continue on to Parke's Castle (a restored plantation castle) on the shores of Lough Gill. Alternatively you can travel into Sligo town and take a boat tour of Lough Gill (<http://www.roseofinnisfree.com>). When in town, visit Sligo Abbey (<http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/North-West/SligoAbbey>). Go for a walk in Hazelwood or Dooney Rock Nature Trail <http://www.irishtrails.ie>. If you fancy some food, go to Reidy's Wine Bar and Bistro on Stephen Street. Then maybe a bit of shopping <http://thecatandthemoon.com>, <http://www.johnstoncourt.ie> and <http://www.quayside.ie>.

Day Three:

Go horse riding at Island View Stables (<http://islandviewridingstables.com>) in the morning. Go to Cliffoney to see the Creevykeel Court Cairn (<http://www.sligoheritage.com>) thought to be 4,500 years old. Then continue on to Mullaghmore Peninsula where you can take a walk on the pier and walk along the sheltered beach. You could take a trip to InishMurray Island (<http://www.sligoheritage.com>). Boat trips require pre-booking.

Day Four:

Go to Eagles Flying (<http://www.eaglesflying.com/index.htm>), the Irish Raptor Research Center for birds of prey and owls, in Ballymote (about 45 minutes drive). Watch eagles flying and visit their Touch-Zoo where one and all can cuddle and pet animals. This is a fun 1/2 day out for everyone. The bird shows are at 11am and 3pm. The centre closes from 1-2pm.

Day Five:

Go towards Strandhill. The first stop is the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery. About 10-15 minutes down the road is the car park for your climb Knocknarea (1.2km walk to the summit) to see Queen Maeve's Cairn and the spectacular views of Sligo (<http://www.sligotown.net/knocknarea>). Travel on to Strandhill. Go to the Shells Café, top-rated restaurant in Sligo, for a bite to eat. Then go to the award winning Voya seaweed baths (<http://voyaseaweedbaths.com>) for a massage or seaweed bath (pre-booking needed) OR for the more adventurous person, go surfing (<http://www.strandhillsurfschool.com>).

Day Six:

Visit Lissadell House and Gardens. Park near the beach. If interested, walk through the woods to the look-out hatch for the Ballygilgan Nature Reserve. Otherwise walk up the road to see the house, garden and surrounding buildings. Go to the Spanish Armada Interpretive Center in Grange to learn about the Spanish Armada and Captain Francisco de Cuellar. Then go to Streedagh beach, where the Armada washed up. Collect some shells and sea stones. Return home and go rock fishing or crab fishing at Raghly Harbor. In the evening go to Ellen's Pub for some traditional music and poetry.