

Great Bear Ireland tour – 23rd – 31st July 2022

The Ireland tour price for 2022 is £960 per person
This tour will be running with approx 10 riders

WHAT THE PRICE INCLUDES

- * Transport for bikes and bags to Ireland and back
- * Transport from Cork to Mizen Head and from Malin Head to Antrim
- * 8 Nights accommodation in twin occupancy rooms in hotels
- * Breakfasts
- * Baggage transfers for the duration of the trip
- * Vehicular support for the entire cycle including back up vehicle carrying spares, mechanical support and use of spare bike should you need it
- * Overnight bike storage

WHAT THE PRICE EXCLUDES

- * Bike and helmet hire
- * Personal clothing and equipment
- * Insurance
- * Lunches and evening meals

PAYMENT

I take a £200 deposit per person to secure your place on a tour – this is refundable up until the New Year, if I can find a rider to take your place then the deposit can be refunded should you need to cancel. The balance of payment is due 12 weeks prior to the trip departure date.

DAILY

Day 1-23rd - Meet up at hotel in Cork

Day 2-24th - Transfer to Mizen Head and ride from Mizen head to Kenmare - **54 miles**

Day 3-25th - Kenmare to Tarbert - **68 miles**

Day 4-26th - Tarbert to Kinvarra - **70 miles**

Day 5-27th – Kinvarra to Leenaun - **57 miles**

Day 6-28th - Leenaun to Sligo - **84 miles**

Day 7-29th – Sligo to Letterkenny - **84 miles**

Day 8-30th – Letterkenny to Malin Head - **59 miles**

Day 9- 31st – Travel home

*Daily mileages can sometimes vary due to road closures, route deviations etc and also due to slight changes in accommodation

TRANSPORT OUT – You will need to fly to Cork for the evening of the 23rd July where the first nights' accommodation is included. Bikes will need to be with me by the 21st July as I will be travelling over on the boat on the 22nd to meet with the group in Cork

HOME – The accommodation in Antrim after the ride is only a short taxi journey away from Belfast airport where you can fly home from. The van will be travelling back to England on the 31st and bikes/bags will be available for collection from that evening.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation provided on the trip is a variety of independent and chain hotels. They vary due to nature of our locations each night and are based on 2 people sharing a twin room. Most accommodation has food and a bar available on site or nearby as well as Wi-Fi. Single supplements are charged for those not wanting to share – please contact for availability.

NAVIGATION

I have recommended routes available in GPS format and have enough Garmin cycle computers available for 1 between every 2 riders. If you would like to use one of the Garmins then please just say and I will load each daily route on for you and it will be waiting for you on your bike when you set off every morning.

Very simple to follow breadcrumb mapping and the unit will let you know if you stray off course. If you already have a Garmin of your own and would like the routes emailing over please just let me know.

Individual daily GPX routes will be sent out next summer before the ride.

BIKES AND EQUIPMENT

I strongly recommend that you ride a road bike for the cycle and have put in sufficient training on this same bike. Whatever you choose make sure the bike has a suitable range of gears as you will be climbing steep hills in places and if you are not familiar with the mechanics of your bike it would pay to take it to a cycle shop for a service prior to the trip. If you intend on completing the ride on anything other than a road bike then please let me know prior to the ride as the vehicles are set up to carry road bikes.

One bike only please. You really won't need panniers; now and then people turn up with them and end up leaving them in the van halfway through day one. Also please consider if you really need that bar bag on your road bike, I would guess that 90% of people who turn up with one end up leaving it in the van for the entire trip after day one.

If you don't already own a pair prior to the ride you may want to get hold of some waterproof overshoes. These are often overlooked when planning the trip as most riders don't choose to go out in the rain but in completing the Ireland tour it is inevitable that you will have to set out in the rain at some point.

Lights, you may think well 'I won't be riding at night', but in heavy rain, fog and under tree cover you need to give that vehicle approaching you from behind at 60mph every chance they can to see you.

There is also a tunnel on day 1 in Ireland that you would be advised to have lights on your bike for.

Gloves - you can never have too many pairs.

Water bottles – If you have 1 x 500ml bottle then you may want to invest in a couple of nice big bottles.

Helmets – It is now mandatory to be wearing a helmet while on one of our rides.

It is recommended that you bring a few spares for your bike (chain links, spokes, inner tubes) I have a certain amount for sale on board the support vehicle, please understand however that it is not possible to stock for every single bicycle. I have tyres, tubes, bar tape, cleats, brake pads, gear and brake cables, chains, chamois cream and more.

You are responsible for your own routine maintenance throughout the trip but I will help out in any way that I can. I have track pumps and you do not need to bring your own.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Your baggage allowance for this trip is just the one piece of main luggage in the form of a sports/expedition bag or suitcase (not 4 small bags please). If you have anything with wheels this will be preferred. It is also a good idea to bring a small rucksack for you to keep all of your items in that you may need during the day (sun cream, tablets, chamois cream etc) to save you dragging your suitcase out and rummaging through it in a wet lay-by.

If it is more convenient for you to fly your bike in and out of Ireland then I will be able to accommodate a couple of soft bike bags in the van.

SUPPORT

The support vehicle will always be on hand should you need assistance at any time during the trip. In the van is a full tool kit, spare wheels and spare bikes. I will always be close to the riding group and will get ahead of you now and again for you to fill up water bottles and have a sit down. Whether you need a break, have bike trouble or just need emotional support getting up a big hill, I will do what I can to keep you going.

FOOD

Breakfast is provided by your accommodation and ranges from the usual full Irish through to cereals, yoghurts, fruit, toast and fruit juices, tea and coffee.

Lunches – from 2015 onwards I regret that I will no longer be able to offer lunches as I used to due to unpredictable weather, unpredictable locations and unpredictable breakdowns. Feel free to leave any food you require in the van or sample all of the great local produce as you wind your way North.

Evening meals and drinks are not included in the price. Evening meals are available at most accommodations or we are close to pubs/towns with selections of eating places. If you have any dietary requirements i.e. vegan, vegetarian etc please let us know so we can advise accommodations in advance.

LAUNDRY

Due to the fact that we are constantly moving on during the cycle trips it is not practical to be using commercial washing services and it is recommended that you bring enough cycle clothing to rotate and wash in your accommodation by bringing some detergent with you. Due to the material that most bibs are made from people find they are normally dry by the next morning's ride anyway. If not you are welcome to hang gear up to dry in the vehicle.

Any further queries or questions please contact me on –

Carl – 07860 563810

carlshearman@live.co.uk

Or through the website at www.great-bear-tours.co.uk