

IRELAND

Birding & Natural History

51.70° N - 55.20° N

April 25 - May 4, 2027



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

IRELAND

Birding & Natural History

Greetings Fellow Traveler,

Ancient Castles, rugged landscapes, breath-taking coastlines, and some of the world's most enchanting scenery... Ireland is truly a country that warms the heart and feeds the soul. Join Wild Latitudes on this 10-day adventure and experience the best the Emerald Isle has to offer...the birds, the land and the culture.

We'll welcome you at the **Dublin** airport, check into our lodging, then head out for a bit of birding in local parks, adding our first European bird species like the **Jay**, **Magpie**, and **Jackdaw**. Time permitting, we'll get to bird the coast a bit, where **Oystercatcher**, **Lapwing** and **Grey Heron** are possibilities. Next, it's off to Wexford, birding **Wicklow Mt. National Park** on the way in hopes of seeing bird like the **Chiffchaff**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and the **Goldcrest**. We'll also have time to enjoy the old-world charm of the village.

We continue to County Cork, birding **Tacumshin Lake** on the way. This beautiful lake can yield **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Redshank**, **Greenshank**, and many more. Tonight we stay at another classic Irish lodge in the quaint village of Blarney. While there, we'll bird the lovely grounds of **Blarney Castle**, looking for **Coal Tit**, **Red Crossbills**, **woodpeckers** and more. After kissing the Blarney Stone, we bird our way along the coast, including the world-famous **Cliffs of Moher**, home to seabirds like **Razorbills**, **Black Guillemots** and the **Atlantic Puffin**. This is also a prime location for the delightful corvid known as the **Red-billed Chough**.

After another night on the coast, we travel through **Burren National Park**, to experience its unique geology. Then its onward to the quintessential Irish town of **Galway**, with time to enjoy the cities' vibrant charm. We then circle back to Dublin for one last night, meeting for happy hour to go over our bird list one last time, no doubt with a pint of Guinness in hand.

● EXTENSION TRIP: Northern Ireland

En route to **Belfast**, we'll visit the impressive site of **Newgrange**, the largest burial mound in Europe, thought to be older than the Pyramids! From our base at the wonderful House Hotel in Belfast, we'll venture out to visit the **Devil's Causeway** and the stunning **Carrick-a-Rede Bridge**, both sites offering excellent birding. Everyone will have a free day in Belfast to be sure folks get to experience the true essence of Northern Ireland...its museums, its pubs, the waterfront... all while traditional Irish music fill the streets.



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes
info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date of Main Tour: April 25, 2027

Duration of Main Tour: 10 days

Duration of Extension: 4 days

Number of participants: Max of 6

Fee for Main Tour: \$6,325 per person

Fee for Extension: \$1,695 per person

Deposit: \$3,200 (+\$500 for Extension)

Single Supplement: \$1,125 (+\$395 for Extension)

Trip Leaders: Niall Keogh

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Flights
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides

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Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - April 25 - Arrive in Ireland: Local Birds & Brew

Group arrives in **Dublin** to a warm welcome by our Irish trip leader, after which we'll load the vans and head out for our first accommodation. Time-permitting, we'll bird a local greenspace or two to get a few of the more common birds under our belt such as the **Eurasian Jackdaw**, **Eurasian Blackbird** and with luck, the semi-elusive **Eurasian Jay**. Our hotel in Dublin is the same for the first and last nights of the tour, giving everyone the chance to experience the rich culture of this iconic city. After we check in, we'll gather before dinner for our daily ritual of recording the bird species we've seen, then enjoy dinner and have our first chance at a taste of **Guinness**.

Lodging: [The Marine Hotel, Dublin](#)

Day 2 - April 26 - Nesting Seabirds on "Ireland's Eye" Island

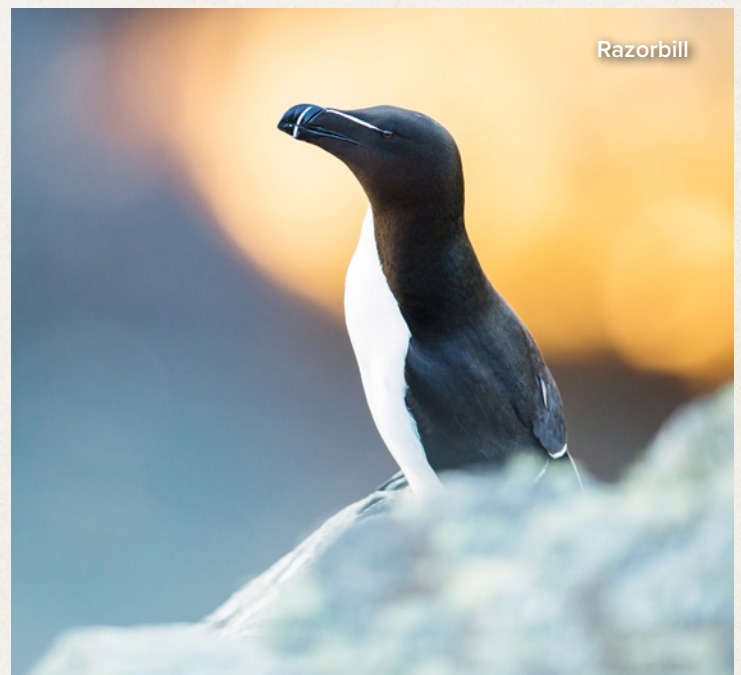
After breakfast, we travel the short distance to the small hamlet of Howth where we

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board a boat to bird the small island known as Ireland's Eye. Most renowned for its nesting colonies of Atlantic Puffins, a number of other seabirds can be seen here as well, including **Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes, Cormorants, Shags, Fulmars, Great Black-backed Gulls**, and more. After our outing to the island, we head back to shore for lunch and an afternoon of birding local hotspots. We'll gather in the early evening to go over our bird list, then head into Dublin where folks can experience this vibrant city and dine where they like. We'll rendezvous to return to our hotel and call it a night.

Lodging: [The Marine Hotel, Dublin](#)



Day 3 - April 27 - Birding Mountains, Forests, Beaches & Marshes

After a classic Irish breakfast, we'll head out to bird the moorlands and forests of **Wicklow Mountains National Park** in hopes of seeing **Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, White-throated Dipper** and other European species, with a chance of **Red Kite** and **Red Grouse**. We'll arrive at our charming hotel-pub with time to refresh before gathering to go over our bird list and have dinner.

Lodging: [Lynham's Hotel, Wicklow](#)

Day 4 - April 28 - Birding Coastal Wetlands

Today will be spent birding a variety of wetlands, including the beaches and coastal marshes of Kilcoole, where we'll see a stunning breeding colony of **Little Terns**, along

with many other birds like **Lapwing**, **Ringed Plover** and the **Oystercatcher**. Once in Wexford, we check in, then gather for our bird list, after which we'll enjoy dinner at the hotel before calling it a night.

Lodging: [Riverbank House Hotel](#)

Day 5 - April 29 - Shore-birding a Few of Ireland's Lagoons and Lakes

Today will be spent birding the famous **Tacumshin Lake**; we'll visit key points around the lake's perimeter, searching for the many species of shorebirds like **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Curlew**, **Dunlin** and other wetland species like the **Reed Warbler**, **Marsh Harrier** and **Bearded Reedling**. **Lady's Island Lake** will yield additional species, such as **Great Crested Grebe**, **Common Redshank**, a bustling **tern colony** (four species) and maybe even a **Water Rail**. As always, we'll check in with time to freshen up before we meet to go over our bird list. Dinner at the hotel's pub.

Lodging: [Muskerry Arms](#)



Great Crested Grebe

Day 6 - April 30 - Visit the Blarney Castle & Bird the Grounds

After a hearty breakfast, we'll visit the **Blarney Castle**, giving those who dare have the chance to kiss the **Blarney Stone**. We'll have lunch at the café on the grounds and then bird the grounds of the castle, where woodland species like **Jay**, **Coal Tit**, **Treecreeper** and **Sparrowhawk** are to be found, just to name a few. The castle grounds contain a nice mix of wooded and open habitats, so we'll want to give it the time it deserves. We'll head back to the hotel by mid-afternoon and gather up again in the evening to go over our bird list and have dinner.

Lodging: [Muskerry Arms](#)

Killarney National Park



Day 7 - May 1 - Killarney National Park & the Cliffs of Moher

After breakfast, we'll load the vans and head for **Killarney National Park**. We'll spend the morning in this beautiful park, birding a number of sites as we keep an eye out for such rarities as the **White-tailed Eagle** and the **Red-breasted Merganser**. Native **Red Deer** can also be seen here. From here we travel north to the **Cliffs of Moher**, a highlight of any tour to Ireland. Here, many seabirds thrive, and **Red-billed Chough**, **Peregrine Falcon** and **Northern Wheatear** can also be found. Time permitting we may make a little side trip to Quilty to see if we can spot a **Purple Sandpiper**. We'll likely have lunch in the field today, then after the cliffs, head to our next lodging, arriving in time to enjoy its lovely setting on the coast. Bird list, dinner.

Lodging: [Bellbridge Hotel](#)

Day 8 - May 2 - The Stunning Burren NP then on to Galway

After breakfast at the hotel, we continue north, stopping to explore **Burren National Park** in the morning. Within this park lies an ancient landscape of "pavement limestone" and one of the best examples of **Karst geology** in the world. Massive limestone deposits

can be found here (the remains of ancient coral reefs) and they have been differentially eroded over time, creating caves, potholes and other fascinating, geologic formations. The park's haunting landscape is made even more interesting by a number of ancient burial tombs, centuries-old stone ruins of churches, homes and other structures found here. We'll enjoy all this park has to offer... its birds (including the famous **Cuckoo**), butterflies, flora, and rugged geology, before heading off to **Galway**, a vibrant city with a life and feel all its own. After checking into our hotel and taking a bit of time to refresh, we'll meet to review our bird list before enjoying a free evening to explore Galway and dine when you like.

Lodging: [Park House, Galway](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.



Cliffs of Moher



European Goldfinch



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Day 9 - May 3 - Return to Dublin, Free Time in Dublin!

Then plan today is to get to Dublin in time to have lunch, check into our hotel, and then head into Dublin to give everyone a free afternoon to explore and enjoy the city, and enjoy a bit of live local Irish music that can be found in almost any pub one pops into. Folks are free to dine together or go solo for the evening, and we'll gather to head back to the hotel at a predetermined time and place.

Lodging: [The Marine Hotel, Dublin](#)

Day 10 - May 4 - Final Bird List, Head Home

We'll go over our bird list one last time over breakfast, then we head to the airport and say goodbye to those folks going home; Those folks participating in the Extension head north, to Northern Ireland.



The Giant's Causeway

Day 1 - May 4 - Newgrange en route to Belfast

After dropping those folks heading home at the airport, we'll drive north towards **Belfast**, visiting the **Newgrange** burial tomb enroute. This amazing structure is over 5,000 years old, and predates the Pyramids of Egypt. It is not known who built this tomb, and it is only one of many such ancient monolithic structures in Ireland. Rivers in this area can offer up **Common Kingfisher** and **Grey Wagtail**. After our visit to Newgrange, we'll head to our hotel in Belfast, arriving in time to freshen up before having an early dinner together at a near-by restaurant. We may have time for a little late-afternoon birding in a local park or greenspace before we gather for our bird list.

Lodging: [House Belfast](#)

Day 2 - May 5 - Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Bridge & Belfast

Today we drive east from Derry along the north coast to visit the **Giant's Causeway** and another less famous but even more spectacular site, the **Carrick-a-Rede Bridge**. Though the Causeway looks like steps that are man-made from solid stone, this gigantic stone edifice is actually a natural geologic feature. It is, in-fact, the solidified remains of an ancient Basalt flow that cooled so slowly (over thousands of years), it "chinked" into stone columns, i.e. Columnar Basalt.

Next we'll visit the famous Carrick-a-Rede suspension bridge. Traversing the bridge is optional of course, but the stunning scenery will be impossible to forget. This site is most favored for birders because of the amazingly close-up views one gets of seabirds such as **Razorbills** and **Guillemots**. This region of the far north coast is considered one of the most beautiful places in the world, and home to other coastal bird species such as **Eider**, **Rock Pipit**, **Raven** and a chance of seeing the now very rare breeding **Twite**. We'll enjoy lunch at a very cool little pub near the Causeway, then head to Belfast, arriving in time to meet for our bird list in the hotel bar, before folks get a free evening to dine out-n-about in Belfast.

Lodging: [House Belfast](#)



Day 3 - May 6 - Return to Dublin, Free Time in Dublin!

After breakfast we'll visit and bird the lovely **Botanical Gardens**, located withing walking distance of our hotel. After having lunch together at a nearby restaurant, everyone will enjoy a free afternoon in this historic city. Options include visiting the famous **Titanic Museum**, taking a tour of the city by tour bus or cab, visiting other venues of personal interest, or just strolling the streets and feeling the vibe of Belfast. We'll gather again in the evening to enjoy our last dinner together of the tour.

Lodging: [House Belfast](#)

Day 4 - May 7 - Departures

We'll all meet to enjoy breakfast together before saying our farewells and catching our flights home. *

**Please Note: This tour ends in Belfast, so those on the extension should fly home from the Belfast Airport, not Dublin's.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOUR GUIDE

NIALL KEOGH

Niall is a lifelong birder, out in the field since the age of eight. He has been working in the environmental sector since 2010, after completing a BSc in Environmental Biology through University College Dublin. Since then he has been employed as a bird surveyor and conservation advisor for consultancies, state bodies, environmental NGOs and third-level institutes. Niall's work includes baseline biodiversity surveys, targeted conservation of threatened species, land management, public engagement, and student training. Of note is his extensive offshore experience, in relation to the research and survey of seabirds and marine mammals in the waters around Ireland and the North Atlantic. Seabirds are his thing! Niall's favorite birding locations are remote islands and headlands, especially those facing out into the open ocean where he can observe bustling seabird colonies or active migration.

Niall is a dedicated recorder of birds in his home country and abroad. He acts as the eBird Regional Reviewer for Ireland and is a Voting Member of the Irish Rare Birds Committee. This involvement with citizen science and encouraging birders to document their sightings leads naturally into Niall's other passion, engaging people to get out there and enjoy nature! Whether it's leading bird walks for local bird clubs, bringing visiting birders on tours around his favorite local birding sites or teaching university students on field courses, Niall feeds off other people's enthusiasm for nature and uses that to deliver fun and exciting outings for all!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.