



**BEM IRELAND**

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*Céad Míle Fáilte!*

# West Coast Golf Sample

## Split programme in Galway & Mayo

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## *4 Star Hotels: Radisson Galway & Mt Falcon Mayo*

Ideally situated along the waterfront of Lough Atalia in County Galway, **the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Galway** is a luxury, four-star hotel. The urban retreat of spirit one spa is nestled underground, allowing guests to be cocooned in large state of the art thermal facilities whilst enjoying luxurious treatments from Elemis & Touch Therapy. It is located in the heart of the City Centre.

**Mount Falcon Estate** adjoins the River Moy, between Foxford and Ballina in north County Mayo. The 100 acre parkland estate offers a luxury 4 star hotel and a selection of 3 and 4 bedroom lodges. On-site activities include salmon and trout fishing, clay pigeon shooting, archery, falconry, woodland trails, kitchen gardens, a golf driving range, and a spa and leisure facility. The estate is a perfect location to explore the bountiful resources of the North West, including a number of links golf courses including Enniscrone, Carne, and Rosses Point.



## *5 Star Hotels: Glenlo Abbey Galway & Mt Falcon Mayo*

At **Glenlo Abbey**, golfers can enjoy 140 acre lakeside golf course, a 21-bay driving range, and golf lessons. Falconry and fishing are also available on-site. Other activities that can be organised near the property include horse riding, boating, water sports, tennis, and hiking. Glenlo Abbey is the ideal location for exploring Connemara and the West of Ireland. The award-winning Pullman Restaurant aboard the Orient Express at the Glenlo Abbey Hotel offers a unique dining experience. Two of the original carriages from the Orient Express, have been beautifully restored and are now set on the grounds of the hotel. These historic Pullman train carriages are rich in history. The first-class carriage - Leona - was used as one of several carriages in the making of Sidney Lumet's never-to-be-forgotten classic, *Murder on the Orient Express*.

**Whilst Mount Falcon is not 5 star, the setting and service make up for it so it can be paired with Glenlo Abbey.**



## *Day 1: Arrive and check in*

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Arrive into Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport and transfer to Galway where you will stay for 3 nights. Golf can be arranged on this day subject to arrival time and time of year.

## *Day 2: Galway Bay Golf Club*

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The natural water hazard is the Atlantic Ocean, such is the dramatic backdrop to this Par 72 PGA Championship 18 hole golf course that is Galway Bay Golf Resort. When designing the course, former Ryder Cup and World Cup golfer Christy O Connor jnr. superbly blended the stunning backdrop of Galway Bay and the rugged curves of the Atlantic coastline with mature trees, water hazards, concealed bunkers and highly acclaimed putting surfaces. With variable wind speed and directions this Championship course plays differently each day posing a considerable challenge to even the lowest handicap golfers, yet it is a true and fair test of golf. As you decide on club selection the panorama of Galway Bay and its beauty unveiled before you, with the hills of Clare to the south, while to the West sits the majestic city of Galway –city of the tribes- surrounding the rugged and unpredictable Atlantic Ocean.



## *Day 3: Lahinch*

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One of the oldest golf clubs in Ireland, Lahinch Golf Club is also one of the most respected links courses in the world. Set right on the Atlantic coastline, Lahinch is exposed to the ocean through all her moods and has been moulded and shaped over the centuries by nature's harsh elements and an occasional touch of human genius. Lahinch, with its towering sand dunes, undulating fairways, rolling greens and fair share of blind shots, is the perfect natural golfing terrain; a true links in the traditional meaning of the word. Apart from the splendour of its location, Lahinch has gained wide recognition for its charming idiosyncrasies, not least among them being the goats, whose outline adorns the club's crest. It is said that the goats of Lahinch act as weathermen for all golfers. If the goats are grazing on the dunes, the weather will remain fine but if they venture towards the shade of the clubhouse, then prepare for a spot of rain.

Lahinch possesses two of the most famous holes in Irish golf in "Klondyke", the 5th and "Dell", the 6th. The par 5 Klondyke demands a drive into a scenic valley from where one plays a completely blind second shot over a monstrous dune to a gently rolling green some 200 yards further on. Dell on the other hand is one of the most photographed and controversial short holes in golf. The green on this par 3 is nestled between two steep dunes and is completely blind from the tee. The line here is over a stone moved along the face of the fronting dune, while the outcome can be very much in the lap of the golfing gods.



## Day 4: Connemara Golf Club

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Transfer to Mount Falcon. Enroute play Connemara At the edge of Europe on the wild Atlantic coast lies a links course that is a challenge to all who play her. Nestled between the mountains and the sea in the West of Ireland, the **Connemara Championship Golf Links** is an exhilarating golfing experience. This awesomely picturesque 72 par course with breath-taking views of the Atlantic Ocean was designed by Eddie Hackett and measures 7,229 yards from the back tees. Wind and rainbows are the specialty of the house at this 27 hole course which was started in 1973. The back nine has been described as "the equal of any in the world." Greens set high in the hillside on the 14th and 15th can be unnerving, particularly after the very short but testing 13th.



## Day 5: Rosses Point

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A centenarian with all the dignity and maturity of age, this is one of Ireland's great championship links. The course which was designed by the legendary Harry Colt and has hosted most of Ireland's major championships in its long and venerable history. Three large beaches beneath the cliffs keep the Atlantic Ocean at bay as Benbulbin Mountain competes with the ocean for scenic splendour on the land side. Many believe that Rosses Point offers the finest 18 holes in the country. Among the most beautiful holes on the front nine is the short par four 2nd hole. Measuring just over 278 metres, the hole plays severely uphill and your approach can be very difficult to judge, while the panoramic view from the green is as vast as it is sensational.

The wind from the sea is a constant factor but the 3rd and 5th holes have very satisfying downhill drives to compensate. The 7th may appear straightforward for a hole rated as the index one but when your approach makes an unscheduled visit to the brook in front of the green, your comprehension of this rating will grow. The homeward journey will not disappoint and the 10th and 11th holes, which offer excellent views of the great Benbulbin Mountain, are two excellent par fours. The par four 14th, measuring some 394 metres from the championship stakes, is Tom Watson's favourite and is an extremely testing hole, which when the wind is blowing is almost a par five. Your drive at the 15th needs to carry quite a distance over some very wild dunes close to the shore, while the pick of the final three holes is probably the par four 17th, which is rated as the second most difficult hole of the course and requires a long second shot to an amphitheatre green.



## *Day 6: Carne Golf Links*

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Carne Golf Links in North Mayo on the West Coast of Ireland lies in magnificent unspoiled sand dunes overlooking Blacksod Bay and the wild Atlantic Ocean near the town of Belmullet. Carne Golf Links was the last links course to be designed by the late Eddie Hackett and it is now believed by many who have played it to be his greatest challenge. The course was 'created' with minimal environmental impact with the first nine opening in 1992. Play began on the second nine in 1993 and the Clubhouse was completed and opened in 1995. **Carne Golf Links** has gone on to become one of the premium links golf courses in Ireland and is a true gem in North Mayo. It has recently been voted 7th in the top 100 golf courses in the UK & Ireland.



## *Day 7: Enniscrone*

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Situated in County Sligo in northwest Ireland, Enniscrone Golf Club was founded in 1918, redesigned by Eddie Hackett in 1974 and by Donald Steel in 2001. Considered one of Ireland's finest authentic links golf courses, Enniscrone boasts scenic vistas of Bartra Island, Killala Bay and sandy beaches, with Nephin and the Ox Mountains forming the backdrop. Dramatic dunesland, an inspired design concept, superb greens all year round and breath-taking views, Enniscrone has the lot.



## *Day 8: Depart*

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Enjoy breakfast in your hotel and check out. Transfer to Dublin or Shannon Airport for your return flight home.