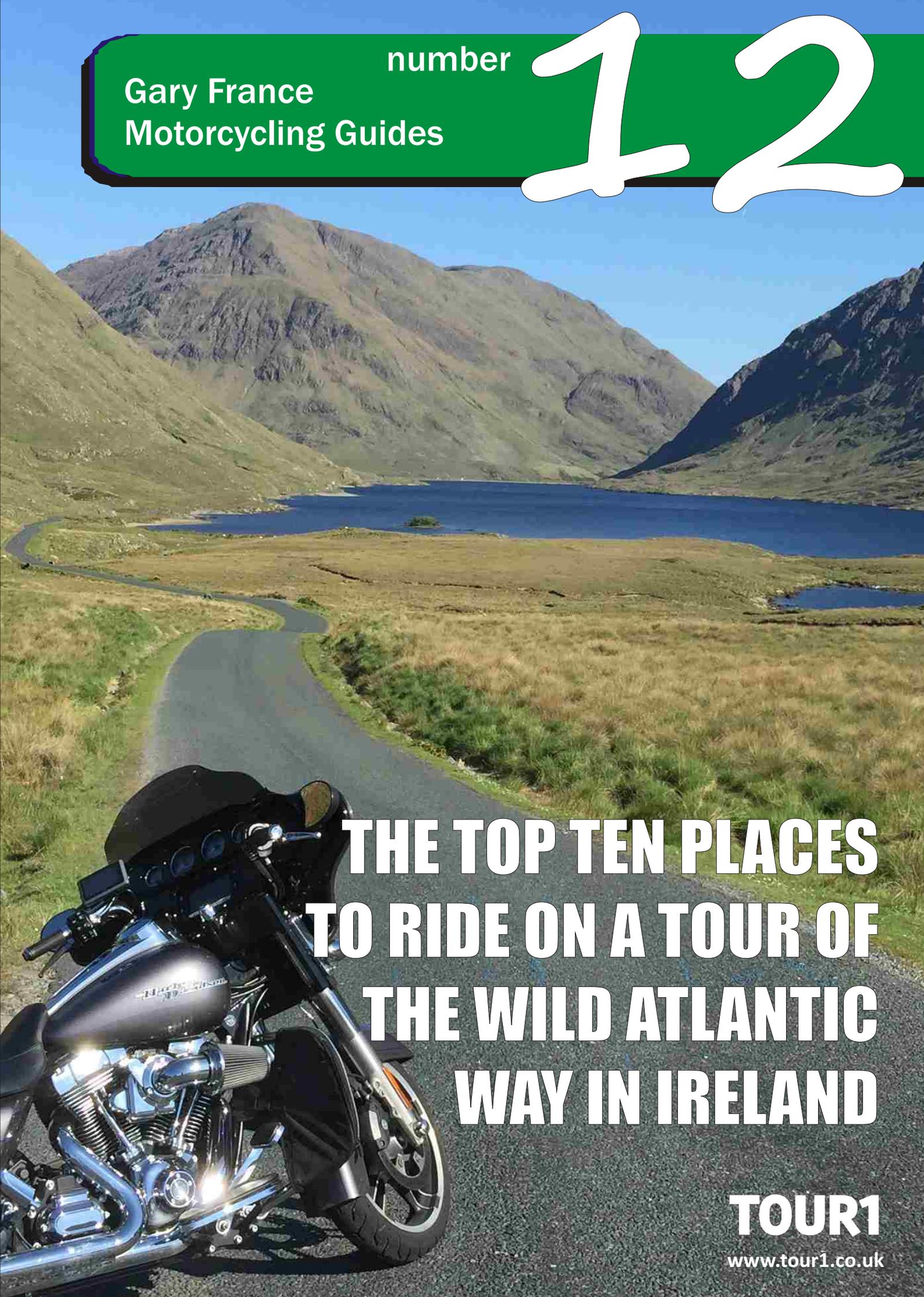


Gary France
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**THE TOP TEN PLACES
TO RIDE ON A TOUR OF
THE WILD ATLANTIC
WAY IN IRELAND**

TOUR1

www.tour1.co.uk

Introduction

The Wild Atlantic Way is the coast road on the west coast of Ireland and what a stunning place it is to ride!

As it has become more popular in recent years, I have often been asked what are the best parts of the road to ride.

Here are my top ten, in order of north to south.

Other people may have other thoughts about places that are equally as good, but these are my favourites that I have ridden and seen for myself.

Gary France.

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1. Doolough Pass

The pass is on the R335 road, between Cregganbaun and Delphi, in County Mayo. It is a good riding road set between scenic mountains and beside a stunning lake. Doolough Pass is shown on the cover of this guide.



2. Sky Road, Clifden

Immediately to the west of Clifden in County Galway is Sky Road which runs around a peninsula jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Sky Road route takes you up among the hills overlooking Clifden Bay and its offshore islands, Inishturk and Turbot. Be sure to ride around the whole Sky Road loop and I have found clockwise to be the best direction.



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3. The Connemara

The Connemara is a district on the west coast of Ireland which runs broadly from Killary Harbour to Kilkieran Bay, in County Galway. It is said to be one of the most beautiful areas of this part of Ireland. The area is very large indeed, with many scenic views and great roads to ride. The picture below is of Derryclare Lough, a freshwater lake in the Connemara. It is located on the N59 road, just to the west of the R340.



4. Cliffs of Moher

The stunning Cliffs of Moher are on the R478 road at the southwestern edge of the Burren region in County Clare. They rise 120 metres (390 ft) above the Atlantic Ocean at Hag's Head and reach their maximum height of 214 metres (702 ft) just north of O'Brien's Tower, eight kilometres to the north. An entry fee is payable. There is a café in the visitors centre.



5. Connor Pass

Connor Pass runs diagonally across the Dingle Peninsula, in County Kerry. The twisty R560 road is narrow and exciting and has spectacular views on the northern side of the Pass. The road is so narrow in places, larger vehicles are not allowed on the pass.



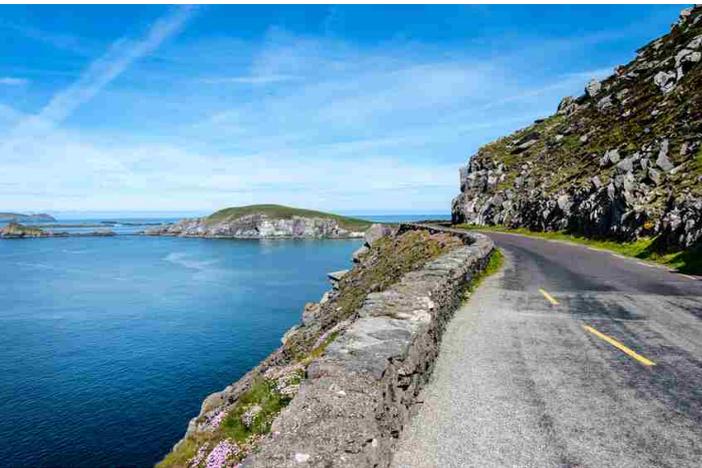
The southern side of the Pass is much faster to ride as it is almost straight but with bends that are oh so tempting to ride at speed.



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6. Dingle Peninsular

The most westerly point of mainland Ireland, the Dingle Peninsula protrudes a long way into the Atlantic Ocean. Riding around the peninsula may seem a long way, but it is most definitely worthwhile. Sleah Head Drive is one of the Dingle Peninsula's most stunning routes and should be driven West to East. Leave Dingle via the R559 and travel anti-clockwise via the town of Tiorabhain and then follow the coast road all the way back to Dingle.



7. The Ring of Kerry

Another of southern Ireland's spectacular peninsula, the Ring of Kerry is a must for motorcycle riders. The view below was taken at Beenarourke lookout point on the N70 road near Loher.



8. The Gap of Dunloe

A little-known road, the Gap of Dunloe is definitely worth seeking out. It is a narrow mountain pass between MacGillycuddy's Reeks and Purple Mountain in County Kerry, Ireland. It is about 11 km (6.8 mi) from north to south. Within it are five lakes and these lakes are connected by the River Loe.



9. Road from Killarney to Molls Gap

This part of the Ring of Kerry is the N71. It climbs as the road leaves Killarney in the distance, through parkland and past scenic lakes. It has some wonderful twisty bends, some very tight - great fun!



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10. Healy Pass

The final road in my top ten places to ride on the Wild Atlantic Way is Healy Pass. This crosses the Caha Mountains that run down the centre of the Beara Peninsula to the south west of Kenmare.

Healy Pass itself the R574 road that runs north-south and bisects the peninsula. It is twisty and narrow, with a fantastic view of the road ahead from the top of the pass.

