



A Connemara Journey

A Thousand Miles on Horseback through Western Ireland

HILARY BRADT

Hilary Bradt's classic account of a journey through Ireland on horseback in the 1980s published for the first time in a single volume.

Backed by a full media campaign by Sam Evans PR

Author has a regular column in the *Daily Telegraph*

'An inspiring adventure beautifully interwoven with fascinating cultural history' – *Wanderlust*

'Entertaining and inspiring' – *Horse magazine*

In 1984, Hilary Bradt achieved an ambition from her pony-mad childhood to undertake a long-distance ride. This warm, funny and heart-wrenching account centres on the growing bond between the author and her Connemara ponies, Mollie and Peggy. Using her experience of horsepacking in Peru with saddlebags imported from America, she and Mollie set forth with no decent maps, and only a vague idea of the route. The many challenges and obstacles they face include impassable rivers, bogs, and stone walls. The book is also a portrait of a vanished rural Ireland before the Celtic Tiger era, built up from descriptions and conversations with local people.

The journey takes Bradt and her ponies a thousand miles south from county Mayo, around the peninsulas of Kerry and Cork, and inland towards Waterford. 'I've never tried hitchhiking with a horse before,' comments the author, faced with the challenge of getting across the River Shannon. 'It's not easy!'

Originally published in two separate volumes, *Connemara Mollie* and *Dingle Peggy*, this brand new edition brings the whole story together for the first time, with new photographs and material.

Since founding Bradt Guides in 1974, **Hilary Bradt MBE** has combined writing and publishing with tour-leading to South America, Africa and, more recently, Madagascar, getting to know tourists' interests, values and foibles first hand - invaluable experience for a travel publisher.

She has written or co-written a total of 14 books, as well as numerous articles for national newspapers and the travel press. She currently has a regular column in the *Daily Telegraph*.



9781784778255 | Paperback | 320pp | £12.99
5 April 2021 | Travel Writing

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