

Diana Markova

Gateway to Ireland Tours



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Gateway to Ireland Tours, founded by Diana Markova, offers private guided tours and experiences across Ireland. Diana relocated to Ireland in 2017 from Saint Petersburg in Russia and, upon leaving her IT sales role, she decided to explore something different.

Diana studied Ireland as part of her linguistics studies and holds a PhD in that field. Since moving here, she has had the opportunity to experience the country's history, heritage and culture first-hand.

She now combines her academic background with her interest in Ireland and enjoyment of working with people to provide her services to her growing list of clients.

Gateway to Ireland Tours is built around Diana's passion for Ireland's landscape, historical sites, storytelling and unique experiences. In her tours, she explains, Ireland is the main character.

The business focuses mainly on private tours for tourists visiting Ireland, including individuals, couples and groups. Diana and her small team also offer walking tours and guided hikes.

A new branch of the business has recently launched with the addition of Dublin Architecture Tours. These tours focus on what the capital's buildings reveal about the city, including politics, wealth, society, migration and more. The tours aim to help tourists understand the city by learning how to read its architecture.

For Diana, the ACORNS programme was beneficial as she continued to develop her business and look at future opportunities, as well as providing strong connections with fellow entrepreneurs.

Looking ahead, Diana plans to continue growing Gateway to Ireland Tours, with a focus on developing Dublin Architecture Tours and expanding the company's guided hiking experiences. Her aim is to provide visitors with thoughtful, engaging and memorable ways to discover Ireland through its places, stories, culture and landscape.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine