## EMBRACE A GIANT SPIRIT EXPERIENCE

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The Lough Neagh Fishing Story









### Itinerary for "Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience": The Lough Neagh Fishing Story (2.5 hrs)

We are absolutely delighted that "Tourism NI" has adopted "The Lough Neagh Fishing Story" with us as one of their new "Embrace a Giant Spirit" brand experiences!

Treat yourself to this unique opportunity to gain an exclusive, **authentic insight** into one of the oldest traditional ways of life in the province.

Follow in the footsteps of the earliest northern settlers who navigated their way up the Lower River Bann and into the great central body of water that is Lough Neagh, (the third largest lake in western Europe), before filtering out into the rest of Ulster.



The giant heritage story of fishing on Lough Neagh, including its epic resilience during a very turbulent history, has rarely been told, and certainly has never been told before in this intimate way by a seasoned, practising Lough Neagh fisherman. Well, now you are able to gain a snapshot of this largely unknown commercial fishing community for yourself!



## "Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience": The Lough Neagh Fishing Story (2.5 hrs)





Take a passenger boat tour, which will acquaint you with the working lives of traditional Lough Neagh fishermen – unfortunately, now very much an endangered species themselves – and the importance of the entire Lough Neagh ecosystem. Experience the sights and sounds of giant Lough Neagh, our inland sea, from the water.

Start your excursion by departing from Ballyronan Marina. As you cruise along, take in the impressive, natural landscape, keeping your eyes peeled for views of the Belfast Hills, the Sperrin Mountains, the international airport and even the Mourne and Cooley Mountains (weather depending).

Through the lens of your captain, who has over thirty years' experience operating in these waters, you'll learn about the wide variety of fish to be found in them, the importance of various fish species and locations. He'll talk you through his typical working day, the sustainable, traditional fishing methods used on Lough Neagh, and introduce you to his fishing ancestors, who date back at least seven generations, and one of whom was a real local legend. You might even see a fishing boat in operation.





You'll view some of the typically humble Lough Neagh fishing quays, where the prestigious Lough Neagh eel and Lough Neagh pollan are landed.

Have a go yourself at authentic net-making with Gary, who has inherited this traditional craft from his father, grandfather, and many others before them.



\*The cost of this guided tour is £60 per 'adult'.

('Adult' participants are those aged twelve and above.)

\*Participants aged less than twelve: £40 each.

Tour lasts 2.5 hours.

#### **Contact:**

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www.loughneaghsstories.com

Email: info@loughneaghsstories.com

Find us on Facebook and Instagram at Lough Neagh's Stories.

#### WHY TOUR WITH US?

All of our boat tours shall be skippered by Gary, an experienced, seventh-generation, practising commercial Lough Neagh fisherman.

We shall introduce you to interesting Lough Neagh artefacts and photographs on all of our boat tours.

We are proud to offer tours which are richly experiential, and which we believe will be genuinely memorable for all.

We pride ourselves on the fact that our tours will acquaint you with the authentic Lough Neagh landscape, people, and stories.

May 9

Lough Neagh people generally have a **notable wit, magnanimous spirit and unassuming, intelligent charm**.

These giant, welcoming traits are particularly true of Lough Neagh fisher people.

Gary's passion for these waters, and the real life stories he shares, will make it an unforgettable experience.

#### **Terms and Conditions**

#### **AVAILABILITY**

- \*Our boat tours run between the start of April and the end of Oct.
- \*All guided tours are available on request as well as on advertised dates.
- \*Lough Neagh's Stories (LNS) advertises specific itineraries, but is very happy to create bespoke itineraries for a group's needs. We shall always be happy to speak to you in advance to provide a quotation. LNS is also very happy to provide information sessions /educational workshops either in conjunction with tours, or as separate events.

\*On occasion, and working in collaboration with other local businesses, it will also be possible to provide taster "eel suppers" or "afternoon teas" in conjunction with tours, or as separate events.

#### GROUP SIZES/ MAKE-UP

\*We can accommodate groups of up to twelve 'adult' participants (aged twelve and above), although this currently has to be reduced in line with public health regulations. We continue to monitor public health regulations, and will amend our group sizes accordingly. In the first instance, "The Lough Neagh Fishing Story" boat tour is intended for adults. (Please follow our site for additional tours, dates and events most suitable for younger children.) Unfortunately, our boat is not suitable for wheelchair users.

#### PAYMENTS/ REFUNDS

- \*We do not store credit card details.
- \*Obviously, our boat trips are weather-permitting. We shall always monitor weather conditions and forecast in advance, and have contingency plans in place, including amending timings and routes to suit weather conditions, to enable us to proceed with bookings if at all possible. In the highly unlikely event of LNS being unable to proceed with a booking for any other reason, a full refund will, of course, be provided to customers (within seven days).
- \*Unfortunately, it will not be possible to issue a refund if a customer cancels a booking with less than forty-eight hours' notice.
- \*This experience requires a minimum number of travellers. If it is cancelled because the minimum number isn't met, you'll be offered a different date/experience or a full refund.

#### **Terms and Conditions**

#### PLEASE COME SUITABLY PREPARED

\*It is also very important that we point out that even on a perfectly still, calm summer's day on land, there can often be cold wind-chill and wave on the Lough. It is essential that tour participants come equipped with flat footwear, and warm, waterproof and windproof clothing. They should also enjoy a moderate level of good physical health. We thank you for your understanding and support with these important health and safety matters.

\*If you are inclined to 'sea sickness', please take your anti-sea sickness medication in the prescribed way before boarding – many people find approx. fifteen minutes before boarding works best for them, but obviously please be advised by the prescribed instructions.

\*There are no toilet facilities on board the boat, but there are toilets close at hand at all our departure points. It is strongly recommended that you go to the toilet last thing before boarding.

#### INFORMATION REQUESTED PRIOR TO BOOKING

\*All group leaders will be asked to provide both a phone number and an email, including for contact tracing purposes, at the time of booking. Also, group leaders are asked to inform us and discuss with us in advance if any passenger suffers from a medical condition or learning disability, with the potential to be negatively impacted on a trip. After such a discussion, where it is agreed that the booking should advisably proceed, group leaders are asked to inform us in writing at the time of booking, of anything LNS could reasonably do to mitigate problems for any such passenger.

All such details shall be kept securely, as per our Privacy Policy.

We pride ourselves on the fact that our tours will acquaint you with the authentic, real Lough Neagh landscape, people, and stories.

Join us for experiences you will reflect on, recall fondly, and certainly never forget.



# Two Photographs. 100 Years Apart. 5 Generations In The Making. Same Authentic Lough Neagh Heritage.

"The Lough Neagh Fishing Story" and "A Lough Neagh Sequel Tour" are the most exclusive signature experiences offered by Lough Neagh's Stories.