



Coastal Touring Routes of Ireland

Journeys of discovery along
the Wild Atlantic Way & the
Causeway Coastal Route

Jump into 
Ireland
ireland.com

Embark on a journey of discovery along the most beautiful coastlines of Ireland.

There are many captivating places and enthralling landscapes ...

The Wild Atlantic Way is the longest fully sign-posted touring route in the world. Stretching 2500km along the west coast of Ireland, from Donegal in the north to Kinsale in the South. Along the Way.

The Causeway Coastal Route runs 200kms along the coastline from Belfast to Derry-Londonderry.

Taking either journey - the whole route or sections, you'll find unique and authentic places like nowhere else!



Wild Atlantic Way

Tucked away in little villages and towns that snuggle into the coastline are delightful cafés and restaurants, where you can indulge in your passion for good food and great wine. Maybe you will hear a few words of Irish spoken along the way in Ireland's Gaeltacht (Irish speaking regions) or reignite your passion for life while surfing on magnificent waves off the coast of Donegal and Sligo.

Or you might take time to reflect on times past with a visit to the ruins of a sixth century monastic settlement on the stunning Skellig Michael in Kerry.

You may roam through the romantic beauty of scenic Ards Forest Park in Donegal. Or you might watch the weather change from the historic Clare Island Lighthouse in Mayo.

This breath-taking coastal route will intrigue and remain in your heart and mind long after you have returned home to the everyday world.

The Causeway Coastal Route

From Belfast to Derry-Londonderry, the Causeway Coast offers unique sites and spectacular scenery, which changes around every corner! One exceptional place is the UNESCO World Heritage site the Giant's Causeway where the geological wonder of 40,000 interlocking basalt columns meets the North Atlantic Ocean. The coastal road winds its way past panoramic cliff tops through quaint villages and beautiful seaside hamlets, fishing villages and towns. Detour a few miles inland and you will uncover more delights. Said by many, to be one of the most beautiful roads in the world, a few kilometres inland, at Ballymoney, you'll find a country lane known as the Dark Hedges – made more famous by the Game of Thrones TV series.

Wherever you go along the Wild Atlantic Way or the Causeway Coastal Route, you will encounter moments that will be forever etched in your memory...



THE CAUSEWAY COASTAL ROUTE

THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

THE RING OF KERRY ROUTE

A.

ROUTE KEY

- The Wild Atlantic Way >>
- The Causeway Coastal Route >>
- The Ring of Kerry Route >>
- Ferry Access Point -----



Another popular touring route of Ireland includes:
A: The Grand Tour

The Wild Atlantic Way



If you're looking for something that little bit special, take in one of our 'Signature Experiences' at some of the breath-taking Discovery Points along the Way. Here, at these points of outstanding scenic beauty, are experiences that every visitor will savour.

Signature Discoveries along the Wild Atlantic Way

- **Malin Head** – circle Ireland's far north at Malin Head
See An Grianan Ailigh, a stone ringfort.
- **Fanad Head** – take in one of the most beautiful beaches in the world
Meet An Artist King on the Donegal Gaeltacht outpost of Tory Island – known for its strong folklore and musical traditions.
- **Sliabh Liag (Slieve League)** – amongst the highest sea cliffs in Europe.
The huge panoramas presented to you from these cliffs can look different in every segment.
- **Mullaghmore Head** – see giant sea swells
Off the coast of Sligo they've discovered 'Prowlers' – a wave like no other with swells said to be up to 100ft.
- **Downpatrick Head** – forage for wild food along the Killala shoreline.
- **Keem Strand** – wander through a deserted village on Ireland's largest island.
- **Cliffs of Moher**
A trip to Ireland isn't complete without experiencing the Cliffs of Moher.
- **Explore Inis Oirr**
Explore the smallest and nearest of the Gaeltacht Aran Islands – Inis Oirr.
- **Doolin** – enjoy the traditional music in Doolin.
- **Commune with nature in The Burren**
A vast limestone landscape stretching across northern Clare and southern Galway.
- **Loop Head** – catch rainbows on the loop head drive.
- **Blasket Sound** – take a boat to the home of Ireland's born-storytellers.
- **Skellig Michael** – a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Eight miles off Kerry's magnificent Iveragh Peninsula is one of the wonders of the world: The monumental rocks of Skellig Michael, built 1300 years ago.
- **Beara Peninsula, Mizen Head** – take the cable car for 'Europe's last sunset'.
- **Old Head** – feel the spirit of Kinsale
Enjoy the thrill of sea-kayak through caves beneath Kinsale's Old Head.



The Causeway Coastal Route

Along the Causeway Coast and Glens of Antrim you'll discover an area of myths, magic and folklore. A feast for all your senses, you'll find a place of peace and relaxation or a place of full-on adrenalin filled action. Whichever your choice, it will be against a jaw-dropping backdrop of scenic splendour.

Legendary Encounters along the Causeway Coastal Route

- **Portrush** – a popular seaside town, well known for its three sandy beaches, as well as the Royal Portrush Golf Club, the only golf club outside of mainland Great Britain which has hosted the Open Championship (2012).
- **Portstewart** – discover its long crescent shaped seafront promenade, a lovely harbour and scenic coastal path which leads to 2 miles of the golden Portstewart Strand - popular with surfers.
- **Dunluce Castle** – clinging to the cliffs, Dunluce is one of the most romantic and picturesque castles in Ireland – view it from all sides and in changing light to appreciate its majesty.
- **Downhill Demesne & Mussenden Temple** – explore this 150 acre estate, with its beautiful gardens and cliff top walks. Close to the edge stands the 18th Century folly, Mussenden Temple.
- **Carrickfergus Castle** – over 800 years old, this Norman castle is situated on the northern shore of Belfast Lough and remains one of the best preserved medieval structures in Ireland.
- **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge** – traverse the 30m deep, 20m wide chasm by rope bridge - a 'must do' exhilarating encounter
- **Giant's Causeway** – created 60 million years ago, walk this stunning piece of coastline and discover how it was formed, at the award winning visitor centre.
- **Bushmills Distillery** – experience the unique whiskey making traditions with guided tours and tastings to write home about!
- **Ballycastle** – is a small rural seaside town surrounded with breath-taking beauty and steeped in cultural history. From here take a ferry to the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland or to Raithlin Island
- **Ballintoy** – a small village and harbour was used during the filming of the Game of Thrones, as the fictional town of Lordsport.
- **The Dark Hedges** – a unique avenue of beech trees near Ballymoney, also made famous by the TV series the Game of Thrones.
- **Cushendun** – is small sheltered harbour which lies at the mouth of the River Dun and Glendun, one of the nine Glens of Antrim. The Mull of Kintyre in Scotland is only about 15 miles away across the North Channel and can be seen easily on clear days.
- **Cushendall** – a delightful picture postcard setting of Irish Georgian architecture and seaside views.





For more information, brochures or maps, please visit
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