THE BEST OF IRELAND

ENJOY AN ADVENTURE ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF IRELAND’S ANCIENT EAST

ESCAPE INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY BEAUTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND
The scenery is enchanting, the culture is captivating and the people will give you a welcome that will warm your heart. Ireland is unique, and a trip here will make memories that last a lifetime. Delve into Ireland’s Ancient East, where history flows through the landscape; feel the ocean’s blast on the Wild Atlantic Way as you travel a coastline like no other, or experience the drama of the Causeway Coastal Route. The time is right.

Ireland’s Ancient East
Where 5,000 years of history come to life

The Northern Scene
From fabulous food to scenic gems in Northern Ireland

Seven Wonders of the Wild Atlantic Way
Awesome sights on this incredible coastal route

Towns and Villages
From music hubs to seafood favourites, here are some of Ireland’s best towns and villages

The Last Word On...
Traditional music around the island of Ireland

General Information
Everything you need to know about organising a holiday to Ireland

PICTURE THIS
Explore one of Ireland’s most picturesque landscapes

THIS IS IRELAND
A round-up of the best Ireland experiences

HISTORIC PLACES TO STAY
Step into the past with accommodation around the island

DISCOVER ALL ABOUT...
Ireland on the big screen

FOOD IN IRELAND
Fire up your tastebuds with Ireland’s best food

A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST
How to trace your ancestry

IRELAND’S CITIES
What to see, where to eat, what to do

ONLY IN IRELAND
Explore the incredible experiences that make Ireland unique
Cuilcagh Legnabrocky Trail
County Fermanagh

Stretching out beneath the rocky drama of the Cuilcagh Mountains, this glorious walking trail will bring you deep into the heart of south County Fermanagh. Chestnut-coloured bog, incredible geology and vast panoramas that unfurl towards the distant blue hills make this a walk on the wild side. Climb the boardwalk that protects this rare blanket bog and you’ll be rewarded with stunning views over Lough Atona, a glacial lake nestled at the foot of the mountain. The trail is 7.4km long and should take around six hours to complete.
Ireland is a country known for its everlasting rural landscapes and wide open spaces, also hosting some of the world’s most spectacular ancient castles, historic towns, heritage houses, lively pubs and vibrant cities. What better way to discover any county than with a self-drive holiday.

Top Three Ireland Drives

Wild Atlantic Way
Leave the ordinary behind, drive the Irish west coast and immerse yourself in the unique Wild Atlantic Way. Stretching along Ireland’s west coast from Donegal to Cork, this captivating drive is filled with buzzing towns and cities, soaring cliffs, beautiful beaches and hidden bays.

The Causeway Coastal Route
Follow the majestic coastal road starting in Belfast and ending in Derry~Londonderry. The drive takes in historic landmarks, culture-filled villages and unforgettable scenery. Follow the coast road through the nine Glens of Antrim, winding between picturesque towns including Cushendun. Then continue on to the Giant’s Causeway, before heading west towards Derry~Londonderry, with its 17th century city walls.

The Braveheart Drive
Discover beautiful Co. Wicklow, through wooded glens and marvellous countryside where you’ll see where some scenes from the movie ‘Braveheart’ were filmed. Ironically, this drive begins in the tiny village of Hollywood, roughly 30kms south of Dublin and sets off in the direction of the Wicklow Gap.

Start your Ireland journey today by calling the self-drive specialists on 1300 363 500 or visit www.driveaway.com.au

This is Ireland

A small island with a big heart, Ireland is a soul-stirring destination – a world unto itself, with wave-lashed cliffs, rolling green hills and historic, story-filled castles. It’s a land of vibrant cities bustling with top-restaurants, hip cafes and friendly locals, and a destination dotted with isolated islands where traditions still define daily life. You’ll come across secrets, too, buried in silent monastic villages, winding along coastal roads and written in our libraries’ ancient manuscripts. But here’s the thing: you’ll find the people on the island of Ireland have little interest in keeping secrets. They are storytellers at heart, after all.

So make your way to a special place that pulses with toe-tapping music, to traditional pubs where chatter and laughter ring in your ears, and to ancient tombs where you can connect with Stone Age man. Whether you’re travelling along the windswept Wild Atlantic Way, uncovering primitive history and intriguing tales in Ireland’s Ancient East, or taking it to the edge on the Causeway Coastal Route, you’ll encounter an island where memories are created and stories are retold for years to come. Ireland is home to adventures both big and small. It’s time to discover them for yourself.
Experience the Best of Ireland & Britain

49 Unique Itineraries starting at only AS1120

With more options, you will find the perfect tour to Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. CIE Tours earn 94% customer satisfaction ratings

Guaranteed Best Guides

CIE Tours’ certified, professional guides are local with extensive experience escorting travellers around Ireland and Britain.

Small Group Departures

Choose from a wide range of specially chosen itineraries where you travel with a small group of up to 26 guests in the comfort of a state-of-the-art luxury coach.

Discover Family-Friendly Itineraries

Discover authentic, local experiences crafted by CIE Tours just for families. Your driver’s expertise in local history will enhance your skills, keeping your entire family actively engaged and entertained every step of the way.

1800 502 911
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www.cietours.com

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<th>HISTORIC PLACES TO STAY</th>
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<td><strong>Clare Island Lighthouse</strong> <strong>County Mayo</strong>&lt;br&gt;Balboating a dramatic location at the entrance to island-studded Clew Bay, Clare Island is all about getting back to nature. This thrilling destination rewards visitors with cliffs, woodland, mountains and Clare Island Lighthouse boutique accommodation. Here, guests relax in the well-stocked library, tuck into six-course feasts in the elegant dining room and explore the island’s great walking routes. claireislandlighthouse.com</td>
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<td><strong>Belle Isle Estate</strong> <strong>County Fermanagh</strong>&lt;br&gt;Set on the shores of the rippling waters of Lough Rynn in County Leitrim, this historic castle is enveloped in 350 acres of green pasture and ancient forest. Stay here and you can enjoy a sumptuous dinner in the award-winning restaurant, stroll the Victorian Walled Garden and relax in the piano room. Or how about afternoon tea in the Baronial Hall? It doesn’t get better than that. loughrynn.ie</td>
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<td><strong>Bushmills Inn</strong> <strong>County Antrim</strong>&lt;br&gt;If you like the idea of a warming whiskey beside an open fire after a day exploring the Causeway Coastal Route, then The Bushmills Inn could be for you. In days of old, saddle-sore visitors to the coast would use the inn as a stopover, and the oldest part of the building is thought to date back to 1608. A gas-lit bar, nooks and crannies, and a secret library create an atmosphere of heritage in a village that’s famous for its whiskey. bushmillsinn.com</td>
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<td><strong>Cnoc Suain</strong> <strong>County Galway</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wild heather, bogland, hedgerows and stone surround these exceptional thatched cottages, one of which dates back to 1691. This is simple, authentic accommodation with a very Irish soul – local stone, salvaged timbers, handcrafted furniture and cast iron beds add comfort and character, while outside, the beautiful Connemara countryside is waiting to charm. cnocsuain.com</td>
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See Exquisite Pieces of Crystal manufactured before your eyes

“Great Tour of Waterford Crystal”<br>Great history, very close to the process and fall beautiful items.

No.1 of 53 attractions in Waterford

+353 (0) 51 317000
houseofwaterfordcrystal@fiskars.com
www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com

See Exquisite Pieces of Crystal manufactured before your eyes

“It’s crystal clear”
A factory tour where you can almost rub shoulders with the artisans as they produce beautiful objects.

“Great T our of Waterford Crystal”
Great history, very close to the process and fall beautiful items.
The cliffs, the green fields, the quaint thatched cottages – it’s no wonder Ireland has long been a favourite of filmmakers. This is an island that feels tailor-made for big-screen stardom, from the thrilling drama of Mel Gibson’s *Braveheart*, starring Trim Castle in County Meath, to the vast sands of Wexford’s beaches, perfectly pictured in *Brooklyn*. Tour the stunning Connemara film locations that featured in *The Quiet Man*, climb Killiney Hill in County Dublin, which wowed in Oscar-winning *Once*, or be awed by the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, scenic stars of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Riding the swirling waves out to Skellig Michael off the coast of County Kerry feels cinematic enough in itself. But once you step onto this island, originally home to a community of monks from the 6th to the 13th century, it’s hard not to feel like you’ve walked onto a film set. And that may be because you have: in addition to the compelling history of this remote Atlantic monastic site, Skellig Michael made its on-screen debut at the end of *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens*. This stunning Atlantic spot is not the only part of Ireland to feature in *Star Wars*, either – the location scouts were so taken with the Wild Atlantic Way, they also picked Malin Head at the tip of County Donegal to star in *Episode VIII*, as well as Loop Head in County Clare and Brow Head, near Crookhaven, County Cork, at the southwestern tip of the island.

With more Seven Kingdoms locations than anywhere else in the world – Northern Ireland has certainly earned its title as *Game of Thrones®* Territory. This epic medieval fantasy series employs bewitched forests, mysterious caves and otherworldly backdrops to deliver big-time drama and in Northern Ireland, they certainly found it. Just look at Tollymore Forest Park, a mesmerising expanse of wild woodland known as the Haunted Forest in Westeros, and 12th century Inch Abbey, where the War of the Five Kings began. Other filming locations from the series include the ancient Antrim plateau; Slemish Mountain in County Antrim, where St Patrick once served as a shepherd; and the twisting, haunting beauty of the Dark Hedges, a captivating avenue of beech trees, also in Antrim.

Famous for its bohemian vibes, artistic outlook and dynamic creativity, *Galway* is a filmmaker’s dream – a city both old and new that boasts medieval streets, charismatc old pubs and flashes of bold modern architecture. In 2014, this western gem was designated a UNESCO City of Film, acknowledging Ireland’s writers and producers, as well as the Galway Film Centre, the Irish Film Board and RTÉ (the Irish-language television station), all of which are based in the city. The Galway Film Fleadh (festival) in July is a great way to soak up a slice of Galway’s film scene, and the intimate venues, post-screening events and sense of energy and fun throughout the city during festival time give it a unique ambience. Beyond the city, the county of Galway has featured in numerous films including *Marley & Me*, *The Guard* and *The Field*.
When it comes to food on the island of Ireland, you need to start at the very beginning. The natural produce here has made Ireland one of Europe’s most talked-about food destinations, with artisan cheese, exceptional beef and lamb, and fresh seafood. From smoked salmon to the creamiest butter, Ireland’s food is pure and simple, while traditional dishes of coddle (a bacon, sausage, potato and onion stew), Irish stew (made with lamb, carrot and potatoes), soda bread (a brown bread) and the Ulster Fry (a cooked breakfast) celebrate the great flavours of the past.

A taste of the sea

With oysters and crab claws, mussels and lobster, Ireland’s seafood is nothing short of exceptional. All around the island, you’ll find enticing places to enjoy super-fresh flavours, from the plates of oysters at the Temple Bar Food Market in Dublin to cosy Klaw in Dún Laoghaire and the famous Moune Seafood Bar in Dunmore East, County Waterford. Fancy some top-notch seafood right by the water? Then check out Harry’s Shack on Portstewart Strand, County Antrim, or Moran’s Oyster Cottage in Kilcolgan, County Galway, and Trá Bán in Strandhill, County Sligo.

Traditional meets modern

With such a prodigiously stocked natural larder, it’s no wonder that the island’s chefs make full use of the great produce on their doorstep. There’s a real buzz about restaurants right now, which plays out in creative, authentic cooking everywhere from the big cities to the smallest coastal villages. You’ll find wonderful dishes using the best ingredients at great spots such as Canteen, a simple, modern eatery in Celbridge, County Kildare, specialising in local, seasonal Irish and European food. Idás in Dingle, County Kerry, also turns the best local and foraged produce into amazing tasting menus that celebrate West Kerry’s flavours, while Wine & Brine in Moira, County Armagh, uses age-old techniques to create exceptional dishes including black pudding sausage rolls, slow-cooked pork shoulder, and cured and torched mackerel.

The best local drinks

Great food deserves great drinks to go with it – and Ireland certainly delivers. Irish whiskey ranges from the traditional flavours of Bushmills and Jameson to the newer tastes of Teeling, Glendalough and Nephin. Craft beers can be found everywhere, so keep your eye out for local brews such as Trouble Brewing, James Brown Brews and Northbound. Gin, meanwhile, is emerging as one of the island’s most exciting artisan drinks, with small distilleries including Blackwater No.5 and Shortcross Gin. Finally, enjoy a taste of the “orchard county”, County Armagh, with the award-winning AJ Apple Juice, made from freshly pressed Armagh apples, and Armagh cider – simply delicious!

FOOD IN IRELAND

With innovative restaurants, gastropubs and fab farmers’ markets, Ireland’s food scene is all fired up.

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY EVERY DAY

Discover more than 95 boutiques with savings of up to 60%, excluding Só Collective – a new home for Irish fashion, design and craft – exclusively at Kildare Village. Present this at the Tourist Information for an additional 10% saving.

KILDARE VILLAGE

STAY AT THE HEART OF THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

A part of your journey across Ireland, travel through the stunning Connemara landscapes and discover the magical five-star Delphi Resort. Scattered on a deep green valley, the Wild Atlantic Way it’s the perfect place to stay along a Wild Atlantic Way! Experience your own 5-star life, unwind your senses and to embrace Ireland’s magnificent landscapes and scenery, all from the comfort of Ireland’s most breathtaking resort.

Irish National Stud & Gardens

Discover more than 95 boutiques with savings of up to 60%, including Só Collective – a new home for Irish fashion, design and craft – exclusively at Kildare Village. Present this at the Tourist Information for an additional 10% saving.

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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From horses to horticulture, the Irish National Stud & Gardens offers a unique experience that may be enjoyed as part of a guided tour or at your own leisure.

Open 7 Days: 10am-5pm (last admission 4pm) from early February to mid-November. Located in the heart of the Dublin Horse Racing Festival, off the R404, just onto the N45.
Getting started

Tracing your ancestry involves its fair share of history, bloodlines and late-night sleuthing, but when it comes to Ireland, it’s also about the maths. While just over six million people live on the island of Ireland, nearly 30% of Australians claim some Irish ancestry. From Canberra to Cairns, and from Adelaide to Alice Springs, generations of emigrants have spread their wings, taking their own brand of Irishness to places all over Australia. Of course, starting on a journey of discovery can be daunting, but it’s a good idea to think simple. Make a list of siblings, parents, grandparents and cousins, as far back as possible, and include any details you know: names, dates of birth, where they lived, where they were born. If you don’t know, ask relatives. Next, gather together any material you can, including letters, birth, marriage or death certificates, photos, memorial cards, and locations of family graves. Focus your research first on where you know the ancestor spent the last years of their life and broaden out from there. Karel Keely of Roots Ireland recommends trying to find out where your relatives may have died, and if they appear in ships’ passenger lists or in newspapers. Collect as much information as possible and keep notes.

Make the journey home

Coming to Ireland will add a whole new dimension to your genealogy experience, and enables you to access an amazing amount of resources, as well as visiting the very place that your ancestors were born. There are free, walk-in advisory services and census records at the National Library and National Archives in Dublin, and in Northern Ireland you can access public records at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and registers of births, deaths, marriages and adoptions at the General Register Office for Northern Ireland (GRONI). Many counties boast their own county genealogy centres, and a list is available on rootsireland.ie. Dublin’s Glasnevin Cemetery holds burial records for over 1.5 million people and a Genealogy Research Centre (glasnevintrust.ie), while the Military Archives offers a range of information for the Republic of Ireland (militaryarchives.ie). Don’t miss the Irish Family History Centre at EPIC Ireland in Dublin, with genealogy experts, family history records and interactive displays. And while rummaging through records is a vital part of the genealogy experience, remember that tracing your ancestry is ultimately an emotional undertaking and nothing can compare with the living history aspect of this journey. It’ll stay with you forever.

Think outside the box

You will encounter obstacles along the way, so be flexible. Online databases make a good place to go hunting. Use websites such as the Irish Government-sponsored irishgenealogy.ie, or build a family tree on ancestry.com that faraway relatives can add to. Ireland Family History on Facebook is great for making contacts, while the Ulster Historical Foundation at ancestryireland.com is a useful resource that traces Scots-Irish and Irish roots. Remember that sometimes you don’t need to start your research in Irish databases, though, as Karel Keely advises: “If your ancestor emigrated from Ireland, don’t start your research in Ireland. Working back from the known to the unknown, generation by generation, is the only way to be sure.”
Dublin

Dublin charms the visitor with a gorgeous coastal setting, compelling history. Lively nightlife and an impressive food scene. The city offers a warm, laid-back atmosphere thanks to friendly locals who will welcome you with a smile. It’s a destination you’ll want to return to again and again.

Dating back to Viking times, Dublin is a city where historic buildings sit next to cool cafés and quirky craft shops. Take a wander around the old city area and you’ll happen upon ancient structures such as Christ Church Cathedral (founded around 1030) or the Brazen Head Pub (1298) and Dublin Castle (1220)

Around Merrion Square and Parnell Square, Georgian terraces of tall, elegant townhouses from the 18th and 19th century overlook leafy parks used for festivals and an outdoor cinema in summer. Georgian Dublin also boasts impressive, free-to-enter museums and galleries, including the National Gallery and the Natural History Museum.

Dublin is a cultural capital. You won’t go far in the city without hearing a tune, whether it’s from talented buskers on Grafton Street or traditional music coming from a pub. The city is also famous for having a powerhouse of the written word. In this UNESCO City of Literature, you can immerse yourself in all things literary at the Dublin Writers Museum, join the entertaining Literary Pub Crawl around some pubs beloved of writers such as The Duke, frequented by Patrick Kavanagh and Brendan Behan, or visit the James Joyce Museum beside the sea in Sandycove, County Dublin, now a pilgrimage site for enthusiasts of modern literature.

Backed by mountains and on the edge of the Irish Sea, Dublin makes the most of its striking location, with great coastal villages that oozes charm and a bounty of cliffs, walks, carvings, cool bars and “craic” (fun). So whether you’re enjoying the energetic atmosphere of the modern city or a leisurely stroll to take in the views, you’ll find Dublin is a breath of fresh air.

Food and drink

Dublin has plenty of grassy spaces – there’s St Stephen’s Green, known for its pretty ponds and blooming flowers, and the spacious St James’s Park, Europe’s largest enclosed city park, which has a small lake with deer. Or try the peaceful Iveagh Gardens, a secret green oasis off Pembroke Street, which has a yew maze and ornate fountains.

For a bracing cliff walk and exhilarating sea views, spend a couple of hours exploring the remarkable cliff path on the Howth Peninsula, easily accessible by rapid rail service (DART) heading north from the city centre.

Take the DART south to Sandycove for a dip at the famous Forty Foot bathing spot, and a walk along the scenic seawall. Top things off with an ice cream from Teddy’s, close to the DART’s first stop – it’s a favourite with Dubliners.

See the 800-year-old mummies in the vaults of St Mochan’s Church. The first church was founded here in 925 and the bodies are thought to have been preserved by limestone in the vaults.

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Belfast

With welcoming locals and sensational sightseeing attractions, Belfast is a city with an undeniable allure. Spend a weekend, a week or even longer here, and you’ll discover a place that can trace its origins back to the Bronze Age—a magnetic metropolis with a Titanic past and a vivacious present.

To soak up Belfast’s unique atmosphere, it’s best to explore it on foot, walking the compact centre to absorb the pulsating heart of Belfast’s industrial quarter (Metropolitan Arts Centre). Filled with bars, such as the characterful Crown Liquor Saloon, pubs, such as the characterful Duke of York, as well as the bustling restaurant-filled St Anne’s Square and the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre), the Cathedral Quarter, set around St Anne’s Cathedral, contains art galleries. The Cathedral Quarter, set around St Anne’s Cathedral, contains some of the city’s oldest streets and radiates an arty vibe, with distinctive old pubs, such as the characterful Duke of York, as well as the bustling restaurant-filled St Anne’s Square and The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre).

Walk along the River Lagan, and you’ll enter the heart of Belfast’s industrial past, when it was once one of the greatest places in the world for shipbuilding. This is the site where the Titanic was built. Belfast Harbour is now home to Titanic Belfast, a state-of-the-art exhibition tracing the tragic tale of the “Ship of Dreams”. It’s also where you can take a walk back in time on board the SS Nomadic, which once ferried first- and second-class passengers out to the Titanic, and is the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world. At Alexandra Dock, a short walk from Titanic Belfast, sits HMS Caroline, a WWI Light Battle Cruiser. The exhibition on the ship covers battles, weaponry and life at sea. Most recently, Belfast has become a hub of all things Game of Thrones®. The epic series is filmed in the Titanic Studios in the city, and many tours around Game of Thrones® locations in Northern Ireland depart from Belfast. For another slice of Westeros intrigue, nip into the Dark Horse coffee shop to see one of the 10 Game of Thrones® dozen, which are carved from felled trees from the Dark Hedges.

Harbour is now home to Titanic Belfast, a state-of-the-art exhibition tracing the tragic tale of the “Ship of Dreams”. It’s also where you can take a walk back in time on board the SS Nomadic, which once ferried first- and second-class passengers out to the Titanic, and is the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world. At Alexandra Dock, a short walk from Titanic Belfast, sits HMS Caroline, a WWI Light Battle Cruiser. The exhibition on the ship covers battles, weaponry and life at sea. More recently, Belfast has become a hub of all things Game of Thrones®. The epic series is filmed in the Titanic Studios in the city, and many tours around Game of Thrones® locations in Northern Ireland depart from Belfast. For another slice of Westeros intrigue, nip into the Dark Horse coffee shop to see one of the 10 Game of Thrones® dozen, which are carved from felled trees from the Dark Hedges.
Derry~Londonderry

With its ancient city walls, great street food and craft-beer scene, and a strong creative streak that vibrates through galleries, studios, shops and museums, the city of Derry~Londonderry has never been more exciting than it is right now.

Still buzzing from its year as UK Capital of Culture, the city’s many layers unfold as you walk around its historic streets, from the soaring modern lines of the Peace Bridge to the 400-year-old walls. As the main city in Ireland’s northwest, Derry~Londonderry is where the Wild Atlantic Way meets the Causeway Coastal Route. The beauty of its setting on the River Foyle can be best enjoyed from these famous walls, where views stretch as far as the distant Donegal hills.

From on high, you can also look down on the tangle of city streets, where modern life bustles in energetic trad sessions, great local restaurants and enchanting old buildings – all combining to give the city its unique local flavour.

First time here? Take a tour and see one of the city’s fascinating flaphouses, whether it’s the story of the colourful street art and murals with Bogside Artists, or up-and-coming food tours with Madam Derry. Take a step into something special.

What to see

Sitting pretty within reach of the walls, the beautiful seashore Fabulous Fishball boats-stunning stained glass windows and stands like an anchor within the vibrant Guildhall Square. More steps from here is the river-spanning Peace Bridge – a Derry~Londonderry icon, and a scenic spot from which to watch the majestic River Foyle rush towards a meeting with Lough Foyle to the north. And don’t miss the award-winning Tower Museum, which traces the city’s history and culminates in a panoramic open-air viewing platform. Located within the historic city walls, the museum also includes an exhibition on the shipwrecked Armada vessels.

Food and drink

Traditional pubs, culture on tap and elegant alehouses, the Derry~Londonderry food scene is a joy to explore. A good place to start is the traditional pub of Peadar O’Donnell’s for live music, and a pint of poteen. For something a bit different, the Weled City Brewery mixes a restaurant and brewery to great effect, serving craft beers and gin. A taste of Derry~Londonderry’s renowned local food can be best appreciated in the fine-dining favourite, Brown’s. Mixing elegant surroundings, top ingredients, it’s one of the city’s best restaurants. Finally, don’t miss Warehouse No 1, a building shop, gallery, café and sister’s, it’s the perfect balance of culture and food in the scenic surrounds of Guildhall Square.

Cork

Cork is resolutely charismatic, with warm, friendly people who are fiercely proud of their city. And why wouldn’t they be? With a beautiful location on an island at the mouth of the River Lee, the city serves up a bustling blend of cafés and restaurants, vibrant art galleries, absorbing museums and old pubs. Walking through the streets you can weave from the working hustle and bustle of the 19th century English Market to the elegant Crawford Art Gallery, where Irish artists such as Paul Henry, Jack B Yeats and Dorothy Cross share space with the original 15th century Athenian discus thrower, Discobolus. You can lunch on oysters overlooking the River Lee at the Electric Fish Bar, and dine alfresco at the famous walls, where views stretch as far as the distant Donegal hills.

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What to see

Two Cork attractions allow a peek into the distant Donegal hills. Two Cork attractions allow a peek into the distant Donegal hills.

Food and drink

Foodies will get a real kick out of Cork’s fabulous food scene. Walk around the historic English Market and you’ll come across artisan cheese, smoked Fish and traditional deli salads and you’ll be in food stalls. The city’s restaurants are energetic, and innovative, with celebrated vegetarian hotspots such as Piers and Café Paradiso. The Farmgate Cafe in the English Market does out-of-the-ordinary dishes, and you’ll get wonderful salads at The Rocket Man. If you’re feeling fancy, there are workshops at the Franciscan Well Brewery, music filled Crane Lane and Dan Lowery’s Tavern, with local beers, filmed sandwiches and traditional décor.

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Walk in the footsteps of giants

The Causeway Coastal Route stretches from Belfast to Derry~Londonderry and is one of Ireland’s greatest adventures. Right at the heart of it you’ll find the astounding Giant’s Causeway. This unusual, honeycomb landscape features 40,000 hexagonal basalt stepping stones, whose history reaches back 60 million years to a time of intense volcanic activity. Today, crashing Atlantic waves, soaring hills and fascinating legends that tell of warring giants make visiting this UNESCO World Heritage Site an experience to cherish. Hop over the terrain of interlocking stones splashed by waves, explore the different walking trails that reach out along the coast and marvel at the mix of science and stories within the award-winning Visitor Experience. After all of that, it’s time to sit back, relax and watch the intense green, grey and warm orange of the landscape change in the light, over one of the most remarkable geological formations on the planet. It’s what dreams are made of.

Traditional music

Picture this: a cosy pub, friendly locals and the rapturous sounds of traditional Irish tunes. Irish music sessions are legendary for good reason – toes are tapped, hands are clapped and the atmosphere is electric. Dotted around the island, you’ll find hundreds of traditional music pubs boasting local musicians and guest performers. Drop in, sit back and soak up the sounds, or if you can play an instrument, pull up a stool and take part – it’s what makes a music session on the island of Ireland so enjoyable. Step through the doors of amazing pubs such as The Cobblestone in Dublin, Buckley’s in Killarney, County Kerry, and Kelly’s Cellars in Belfast and you’ll be treated to the delightful melodies made by bodhráns (a handheld drum), fiddles (violins) and tin whistles.

See the Burren in wildflower season

The moon-like limestone plateau of the Burren in County Clare is one of Ireland’s most intriguing natural wonders. Cool grey rock etched with crevices and cracks tumbles down to the Atlantic Ocean creating a dramatic windswept space. It may seem like a hostile environment for nature to bloom, but in May, this stark stretch of County Clare is splashed with exceptional colour as Arctic, alpine, Mediterranean and local plants and flowers burst through the stone. To enjoy the Burren and its environment to the full, walk it with experts such as Heart of Burren Walks; visit the Burren Nature Sanctuary on a 50-acre organic farm, and soak up the Burren in Bloom Festival (May), which features garden visits, demonstrations and cultural events.

Tour Belfast by taxi

We like to do things a little differently on the island of Ireland, and city tours are no exception. There are so many exciting ways to visit our cities, from zipping around on a fun-filled tour by Segway to guided beer or whiskey outings, but if you’re after a unique way to discover Belfast, then don’t miss a Black Taxi Tour. Friendly and informative local drivers will whisk you to some of Belfast’s most interesting sights, all from the comfort of a traditional black taxi cab. It’s a great way to see the city and get the inside track on Belfast’s history, culture and customs. You can even take a Black Taxi Tour all the way out to the Giant’s Causeway or around some key Game of Thrones® locations, including the Dark Hedges and Ballintoy Harbour.
Cycle onto an island
Cycling onto an island might sound like a hard thing to do, but not in Ireland! Take to two wheels on the Great Western Greenway in County Mayo and you can pedal right onto one of the most beautiful spots off Ireland’s west coast – Achill Island. Starting in the lively town of Westport, famous for its traditional pubs and 18th-century elegance, the 42km Greenway is a wonderful off-road walking and cycling trail, and passes dramatic mountain scenery, alongside Clew Bay and through the pretty villages of Newport and Mulranny. The end point is Achill – a beautiful Atlantic gem featuring coffee-coloured peat bogs, mountain peaks and the sublime Keem Bay. Don’t miss the famous Dooagh beach, which reappeared after a 30-year absence and caused a sensation worldwide!

Try a castle banquet
A unique way to enjoy Ireland’s castles is with a sumptuous banquet, which take place all over the island and offer wonderful food, wine, storytelling and song within historic surroundings. There’s the 15th century Bunratty Castle in County Clare, where the Earl of Thomond’s butler hosts an evening within the Great Hall amidst decorative tapestries and medieval furniture. At the Dunguaire Castle Banquet on the shores of Galway Bay, the Banquet Hall brings you back to the medieval era with bench seating, dim candlelight and long oak tables. Or step into the world of Game of Thrones® at the Winterfell Tours Medieval Banquet Nights in the grounds of Castle Ward in County Down with costumes, open fires, hog roasts and traditional music. There’s winterfell Craft Beer from the Castle Brewery and pitchers of fine wine to enjoy along with roasted boar and a 17th-century-style apple pie.

Ride a jaunting car through Killarney National Park
Deep in the heart of County Kerry, the Killarney National Park is one of the most majestically beautiful parts of the island, with mountains, tranquil waters and indigo lakes. Walking or cycling around is a real delight, but one of the most enjoyable ways to discover this landscape is in a traditional jaunting car. With a soundtrack of horses’ hooves clip-clopping along and a cheerful guide leading the way, a jaunting tour covers the park’s most scenic spots including the 15th century Ross Castle and the moodily beautiful Lough Leane. Sit back, relax and enjoy a very Irish mode of travel before taking some time to explore the beautiful 19th century Muckross House, with its craft shop and traditional farm.
At first glance, the east of Ireland is all soft green fields, busy little towns and genteel rivers. But this is a landscape full of secrets, of battles and betrothals, of stars and the spirit world, of wealth and sometimes wickedness. Welcome to Ireland’s Ancient East.

01 Brú na Bóinne
In a quiet part of County Meath is one of the most important prehistoric landscapes in the world. At Brú na Bóinne, human activity can be traced back 6,000 years and it’s where you will find a passage tomb that predates the pyramids at Giza. Nevalgrange’s spiral-engraved kerbstones and white-Wicklow quartzite topped with grass make an impressive sight, but step into the dark heart of this UNESCO World Heritage site and a secret is unveiled. Every year, on the winter solstice, a beam of sunlight travels up the stone-lined passage illuminating the inner chamber. Quite literally, it’s an ancient architectural masterpiece.

What’s nearby
The Boyne Valley is packed with historical attractions, such as the passage tombs of Knowth & Dowth, the Hills of Slane and Tara, and the 6th century Christian settlement of Monasterboice.

Take time out
Enjoy lunch at elegant Tankardstown House, visit St Peter’s Church in Drogheda to see the head of St Oliver Plunkett in its gilded glass case, and take a walk through the breathtaking Loughcrew Gardens.

Try something new
Get close to magnificent birds of prey with a falconry lesson at Nevalgrange Falconry.

02 The Rock of Cashel
County Tipperary
Nothing can quite beat the spectacle of the iconic Rock of Cashel, which looms over the landscape like a fairy-tale castle. Legend has it the towering rock was dropped here by the devil, but today it is home to one of the most impressive collections of medieval buildings in Europe. Centuries of history blow through the mysterious remains of the Gothic cathedral, round tower and 15th century castle. Listen closely and you may hear tales of lightning strikes, massacres and the 5th century conversion of the King of Munster to Christianity by St Patrick (when he accidentally stabbed the king in the foot with his staff).

What’s nearby
Seek out Holy Cross Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded by the King of Munster in 1168. The abbey was bestowed with a piece of the True Cross by Queen Isabella of Angoulême around 1235.

Take time out
Visit the Fethard Horse Country Experience in the medieval town of Fethard, have lunch at Café Hans in Cashel, and take a walk in the verdant Glen of Aherlow.

Try something new
Check ahead to see what’s happening at the Brú Ború centre, Cashel’s hub for traditional Irish music and dance.

03 Kilkenny Castle
Kilkenny city
The city’s famous 12th century Norman castle was home to the Butlers of Ormonde for nearly five centuries, before the 6th Marquess of Ormonde offered it to the city of Kilkenny for a mere £50 in 1867. A tour will bring you to the Picture Gallery and around the opulent library, with its vivid colour scheme of garnet-red curtains and Berber-style carpets. Don’t have time for a full tour? No problem: 500 years of history is condensed into a 12-minute film in the Medieval Room.

What’s nearby
Join The Kilkenny Way Ultimate Hurling Experience for an insight into the world’s oldest and fastest field sport.

Take time out
Head to Midleton for dinner at Sage Restaurant, a tour of the Jameson Distillery Midleton, and the excellent Midleton Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Try something new
Jump on a boat from Cobh to Spike Island, where you can uncover the stories of a prison so petrifying it was once called “Ireland’s hell.”

04 Cobh
County Cork
Along an elegant stretch of promenade in the coastal village of Cobh, you’ll come across a statue of Annie Moore—the first immigrant to be processed through Ellis Island in New York. Moore was just one of hundreds of thousands of people, from Famine-stricken peasants to convicts bound for Australia, who left Cobh for a new and uncertain life elsewhere. The town also gained fame as the last port of call for Titanic before it left on its ill-fated transatlantic voyage. Discover all about Cobh’s maritime connections, history of emigration and Titanic tales at the Cobh Heritage Centre and the Titanic Experience Cobh.

What’s nearby
A 10 minute journey by car or bus from Cobh is the city of Cork, with its great attractions including the food hub of the English Market, Fascinating Cork City Gaol and the Butter Museum.

Take time out
Join The Rock of Cashel Coach Tour for a day out to the Rock of Cashel, explore the medieval town of Cashel, take a walk in the tranquil Glen of Aherlow.

Try something new
Take a tour of Smithwick’s Experience Kilkenny to find out about the famous brew, and head out of town to the Nicholas Mosse Pottery mill by the River Nore.

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05 Glendalough County Wicklow
Walk among Glendalough’s glassy lakes, wooded valleys and silent ruins and it’s easy to see why St Kevin was drawn here in the 6th century. The saint lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer in this pastoral wonderland, before establishing a vibrant monastic settlement. The Round Towers, cathedral and priests’ houses made the “valley of two lakes” a bustling hub – and a natural target for merciless Viking raids. Explore the ghostly monasteries, battle kings and make off with priceless treasures. But they also laid the foundations of many Irish towns and cities, including Waterford, established by Norse raiders in 944AD. Today, Waterford celebrates its Viking legacy in the Viking Triangle at the heart of the city. Join the 45-minute Epic Tour of the Viking Triangle, which traces the city’s 1,100 years of history before visiting the King of the Vikings, an exciting 3D virtual-reality experience in a recreated Viking house.

What’s nearby
With views of the River Vartry, The Lighthouse Seafood Restaurant in Wicklow town makes a nice stop; lunch at Hunter’s of Rathnew – one of Ireland’s oldest coaching inns – is something to savour, and the gardens of Mount Usher in Ashford make for a delightful afternoon stroll.

Take time out
Outside the village of Enniskerry is the stunning Powerscourt Estate and gardens, created by Walker with the help of master horticulturist Tassa Eida from Japan. It’s a peaceful place where the rest of the world seems to just fade away.

Take something new
Kayak down the picturesque Avonmore River with Wicklow Adventures.

05 Viking Triangle Waterford
The Vikings certainly made their mark on Ireland. Bearing down on the island in the late 8th century, they went on to loot monasteries, battle kings and make off with priceless treasures. But they also laid the foundations of many Irish towns and cities, including Waterford, established by Norse raiders in 944AD. Today, Waterford celebrates its Viking legacy in the Viking Triangle at the heart of the city. Join the 45-minute Epic Tour of the Viking Triangle, which traces the city’s 1,100 years of history before visiting the King of the Vikings, an exciting 3D virtual-reality experience in a recreated Viking house.

What’s nearby
Waterford itself is packed with things to do, from a visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre, to a tour of the Waterford Treasures, a trio of museums including the Bishop’s Palace, Reginald’s Tower and the Medieval Museum.

Take time out
Try a ‘Waltz’, the floury bread roll for which the city is famed, drop into Henry Downes bar, with its own whisky blend, or visit the seaside village of Dunmore East.

Try something new
Between Waterford and Dungarvan, journey to the stunning Waterford Greenway to walk or cycle all or some of the 46km off-road trail.

05 Irish National Stud County Kildare
Surrounded by the pastures of County Kildare, the National Stud is one of the most prestigious thoroughbred horse-breeding facilities on the island of Ireland. Here, stallions and stargazing are mixed – or at least they used to be – thanks to the superstitions of the stud’s founder, Colonel William Hall Walker. The colonel drew up a birth chart for each foal, and if he didn’t like the stars, the foal would be sold. Equestrian astrology means a million miles away at the adjacent Japanese Gardens, created by Walker with the help of master horticulturist Tassa Eida from Japan. It’s a peaceful place where the rest of the world seems to just fade away.

What’s nearby
Two of Europe’s best racecourses, Punchestown and the Curragh are nearby, and a race course at either is a thrilling experience. Or visit the Curragh Military Museum, which traces the area’s absorbing military history.

Take time out
Indulge in a retail therapy at Kildare Village, a designer outlet that offers up to 60% of top labels, enjoy lunch at Lock 13 overlooking the Grand Canal and visit the blooming gardens at Burtown House, near Athy.

Try something new
Take a barge trip down the River Shannon with Waterford Treasures.

07 Clonmacnoise County Offaly
Travelling down the River Shannon on a replica Viking ship to the ancient monastic site of Clonmacnoise is enough to give you goosebumps. It’s a captivating way to arrive at this sacred place, which was founded by St Ciaran in 544AD. Today, Clonmacnoise catapults you back to a time of religious, literary and artistic creativity, and the site abounds with tales of devotion, Viking raids and kingly connections. Set amid the beautiful green fields of County Offaly and next to the River Shannon, there are churches, two round towers, high crosses and a cathedral, as well as the largest collection of Early Christian gravestones in Europe.

What’s nearby
Follow the river north to the town of Athlone, where you can discover the history of the area at the Athlone Castle Visitor Centre; visit Birr Castle, Gardens and Science Centre; or explore the beautiful Lough Boora Discovery Park.

Take time out
Relax with a slow lunch at The Fatted Calf in Glasson; have a pint in Sean’s Bar in Athlone, reputed to be the oldest pub in Ireland; and take a stroll around the Ballinaheen Eco-Craft Village, on the outskirts of Athlone.

Try something new
Take a boat trip down the River Shannon with The River Run Pleasure Cruiser from Athlone.

09 Russborough House County Wicklow
Tucked away in the County Wicklow countryside sits a grand Palladian mansion that is pure glamour. Step through the impressive façade of Russborough House (said to be the longest of any in Ireland), and you’re into a world of captivating stories, sumptuous interiors and exquisite art. The house was bought by Sir Alfred Beit in the mid-20th century and once he moved in, Beit and his wife set about installing a truly phenomenal art collection. Today, the collection remains largely intact and it’s a joy to behold these works in rooms that have entertained everyone from Fred Astaire to Mick Jagger.

What’s nearby
Russborough sits on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains National Park, with its abundance of walking trails. The monastic site of Glendalough is nearby, while the Blessington Lakes are only a stone’s throw away.

Take time out
Enjoy a feast in the Museum of Style Icons, and visit the Blessington Greenway, which links Blessington with Russborough House.

Try something new
Watch a sheepdog demonstration in the grounds of Russborough House on weekend afternoons.

ireland.com
There’s no place like it. With so many adventures packed into a small space, Northern Ireland is 2018’s game-changing destination. Fantastical Game of Thrones’ landscapes, great food, epic experiences – all within easy reach.

**Causeway Coastal Route**

Dramatic cliffs, castles, white-sand beaches, charming little villages – the Causeway Coastal Route delivers an incredible amount of beauty within just 314km. Starting in the vibrant city of Belfast and finishing in Derry-Londonderry (or the other way around if you prefer), the route is all about slowing down, taking your time, and savouring the sights, sounds and flavours of this spellbinding coastline. See show-stopping views from the craggy heights of Torr Head, experience the warmth of local people in the villages of the Glens of Antrim, enjoy music and storytelling, and tuck into fresh seafood in cosy pubs after a day of outdoor adventure.

Frequently cited as one of the best touring routes in the world, it’s no surprise that the Causeway Coastal Route is a genuine joy to drive. And it’s not just the views that impress, either. Part of this route’s allure is that so many great places are packed into a relatively short stretch of coastline. There’s Carrickfergus, with its 12th century Norman castle, there’s The Cobbins, a restored 1800-year-old cliff path through tunnels and over bridges, there’s Glenarm Castle, home to the Exits of Antrim for around 400 years, and there’s Mussenden Temple, perched on a cliff above the churning ocean. Catch the ferry from Ballycastle to Rathlin Island and you’ll discover a haven for wildlife, including basking seals, puffins and large colonies of seabirds. When you’re back on the mainland again, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Giant’s Causeway brings you the astounding sight of 40,000 hexagonal stone columns. According to science, intense volcanic activity 60 million years ago created this whimsical landscape, but the local legend of warring giants is a lot more fun.

As you head along the coast, the ruins of the 14th century Dunluce Castle sit boldly on a stark, rocky headland. And if it looks like it’s about to topple into the sea, that may be because part of it already has. According to local tales, on a dark and stormy night in the 17th century, part of the kitchen actually collapsed into the pounding waves below. Not far from Dunluce is one of Northern Ireland’s most exceptional golf courses – Royal Portrush. Standing proudly on a rocky promontory, edging out into the Atlantic, it has been hailed by golfing greats such as Rory McIlroy and is set to host The Open in 2019.

The route ends in Derry-Londonderry, with its impressive 440-year-old walls. Walking the ramparts, the beauty of this remarkable city is revealed in all its splendour – a lasting memory of a unique journey.

And if the Causeway Coastal Route has whetted your appetite for spectacular seascapes and memorable experiences, why not continue your adventure on the Wild Atlantic Way?

**Experience Food in Northern Ireland**

Boundary pushing chefs, a deep respect for local ingredients and a convivial atmosphere in pubs and restaurants have turned Northern Ireland into one of Europe’s most exciting food destinations. And a great way to see the landscapes, meet the people and experience the incredible flavours is with a food inspired tour that takes you from city to sea.

Thanks to an invigorating array of cafés, bars and restaurants that sit elbow-to-elbow with delis, street food and the historic St George’s Market, Belfast is the perfect place to start. This vibrant city has a bumper crop of great places to eat including fine dining at Michelin starred Ox and brunch Belfast-style at Established Coffee or General Merchants Café. To taste some of what the city has to offer, join a tour such as Taste & Tour, which offers outings with all sorts of themes, such as local producers, craft beer and whiskey.

Once you’ve enjoyed what Belfast has to offer, head south to County Down and the Schoolhouse. Set in the heart of the Comber countryside (famous for its potatoes, the Comber potato), this luxury guest house and restaurant has earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand for creative, quality cooking.

**Take a Walk Through the Scenic Murlough Nature Reserve Across the Lagoon to Work Up an Appetite Before Enjoying a Feast of Crab Claws**

The Schoolhouse also makes a great base for discovering the local highlights of Strangford Lough, Mount Stewart House and Gardens, and the world of Game of Thrones at Castle Ward. Get a taste of all things Winterfell with the ClearSky Adventure at the castle.

The historic Ballyo House, a short drive away in the village of Kilclenyc, is an impressive place to dine. This 400-year-old manor delivers a lovely mix of comfort and charm, with two different dining experiences under one roof. Downstairs is a classic pub, while upstairs you can enjoy seasonal dishes such as Finnebrogue venison liver with creamy mash, crispy oysters, bacon, and red wine jus – all in a rustic restaurant setting.

The Mourne Mountains area is known for excellent produce, from artisan honey to creamy Abernethy Butter, used in top restaurants around the world. Ni Food Tours offers a number of treks in County Down, including a Deep in the Mournes jaunt, where you can meet some of the area’s top artisan food producers. Heading back to Belfast, stop off in the small city of Lisburn, where the Mourne Mountains area is known for excellent produce, from artisan honey to creamy Abernethy Butter, used in top restaurants around the world. Ni Food Tours offers a number of treks in County Down, including a Deep in the Mournes jaunt, where you can meet some of the area’s top artisan food producers. Heading back to Belfast, stop off in the small city of Lisburn, where the Mourne Mountains area is known for excellent produce, from artisan honey to creamy Abernethy Butter, used in top restaurants around the world. Ni Food Tours offers a number of treks in County Down, including a Deep in the Mournes jaunt, where you can meet some of the area’s top artisan food producers. Heading back to Belfast, stop off in the small city of Lisburn, where the Mourne Mountains area is known for excellent produce, from artisan honey to creamy Abernethy Butter, used in top restaurants around the world. Ni Food Tours offers a number of treks in County Down, including a Deep in the Mournes jaunt, where you can meet some of the area’s top artisan food producers.
Ireland

Hidden gems
Dominated by the heather-clad Sperrin Mountains, County Tyrone is one of Ireland's hidden gems. Dotted with the remains of Celtic standing stones and crisscrossed by a network of quiet farm roads, this is the ideal landscape for walking and cycling, as well as exploring the intriguing journey of the Irish emigrant at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. Just 45 minutes from Belfast or Derry/Londonderry, the Seamus Heaney HomePlace is a must-see on any visit to Northern Ireland, and celebrates the life and literature of one of the world's great Nobel laureates, the poet Seamus Heaney. The exhibition is filled with artefacts, personal stories, images and books, many of which have been donated by the Heaney family.

Destination Fermanagh
Swaying reeds. Rippling waters. Fields blanketed in vivid green. The Fermanagh Lakelands are a place of profound tranquillity, offering a continuous stream of quiet moments and hidden gems, from ancient statues to forest trails. Rent a small day boat, stay on a canal boat or paddle a kayak through this liquid maze and you'll discover islands, ruined castles, isolated towers and great manor houses, each with a story to tell. Travelling by water is the perfect way to soak up the languorous charm of County Fermanagh, which recently hosted a G8 summit, but there are plenty of land-based adventures to experience along the way. Set in picturesque locations, Fermanagh's magnificent National Trust mansions and gardens bask in beauty. There's Crem Estate, a vast demesne on the shores of Upper Lough Erne; there's Castle Coole, one of Ireland's finest neo-classical houses with sumptuous Regency interiors; and there's Florence Court, the former home to the Earls of Enniskillen, with walks through native woodland.

Back on the water, you'll find an abundance of gentle bends and creaking locks with more waterside curiosities that will entice you to moor up for a few hours. One spot is the award-winning Watermill Restaurant at Kilmore Quay, a charming spot on the edge of Upper Lough Erne. This delightful restaurant treats guests to fine dining with great local produce and views over the lough. You'll notice that the Lakelands are studded with islands – in fact, there are 154 of them and Devenish is one of the most famous. A monastery was established here in the 7th century, before being raided by Vikings, but the oratory of St Molaise and the 12th century round tower have survived, painting a vivid picture of the island's monastic past. Keep an eye out, too, for Boa Island, with its 1,500-year-old Janus Man statue; White Island, boasting ancient stone figures; and Lucky Beg, a 74-acre resort with comfortable self-catering and B&B accommodation, featuring activities including archery and kayaking.

Of course, it's not just islands that Fermanagh has to offer. The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is home to one of the finest show caves in Europe. Situated at the foothills of Cuilcagh Mountain, this captivating subterranean world is filled with rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers. It's an amazing experience that blends an underground boat journey with a short guided walk through the caves. Arriving in the town of Enniskillen, it's hard to miss the vast stone castle, originally built in the 16th century. Now housing two museums, along with a genealogy and ancestry research facility, it's an impressive introduction to this County Fermanagh island town, which pulsates with pubs, cafés and restaurants. With surprises around every corner, Fermanagh never fails to enchant, whether you're enjoying the natural charm of the Bubble Dome accommodation at Finn Lough or the traditions of the beautifully crafted Belleek Pottery just outside Enniskillen.

Beauty, tranquillity, forests and lakes – it's all in a day's play in Fermanagh.
remote Atlantic experience, take a car ferry to the Aran Islands) and, for a more of Doolin (where you can also catch a drive, plan a stop in the lively music town limestone formations. On your coastal National Park, a wonderland of karstic The Cliffs of Moher are close to the Burren in 1854. There’s an Irish island for every taste. The Cliffs of Moher are close to the Burren National Park, a wonderland of karstic limestone formations. On your coastal drive, plan a stop in the lively music town of Doolin where you can spot dolphins and whales, as well as the Loop Head Lighthouse, which dates to 1854. Where to eat? Try Vaughan’s Anchor Inn in the old fishing village of Liscannor, sample local Burren ingredients at the Wild Honey Inn in Lisdoonvarna, or stop into a restaurant with its own turf fire, such as the Riverside Bistro in Doolin. You won’t go hungry on the Wild Atlantic Way! The Islands Where are they? All along the Wild Atlantic Way. Why are they a wonder? Unique, friendly and steeped in traditional culture, Ireland’s islands are full of exceptional landscapes, prehistoric forts, Irish-speaking communities and a real sense of escape. There are those that can be easily accessed, connected by bridges to the mainland at islands such as Achill, County Mayo, and Valentia, County Kerry, or abandoned gems such as Inishmurray off County Sligo and the Blaskets off County Kerry. Which island should I visit? There’s an Irish island for every taste. Fancy a thrill? Take the cable car to West Cork’s Dursey Island, where the resident population is said to be just three. Clear blue waters meet secluded beaches on Inishturk, County Mayo; culture vultures can try a few words of Irish on Cape Clear, County Cork or Tory, County Donegal; and Inis Mór in County Galway is perfect for families. Where to eat? Find local produce elevated to high art at Inis Meáin Restaurant & Suites on the Aran Islands, County Galway, break your adventure on Achill, County Mayo, with a stop at the Achill Cliff House Hotel, or try Sean Ruaidh’s restaurant and pizzeria on Cape Clear, County Cork. 02 Skellig Michael County Kerry Where is it? The Southern Peninsulas. Why is it a wonder? Skellig Michael lies over 11km off the coast of Kerry’s Iveragh Peninsula, a chalk-like rock capped by a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a difference. Close to its peak sit several beehive-shaped huts in a monastic site that dates back to the 6th century, with sensational views of the Irish coast. As seen in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, history, myth and stunning scenery collide with monumental effect at this wilderness site – but come prepared with food and water (there are no facilities). Boats, both to the island and around the island, run from May to October, and are weather-dependent. There are also wonderful views of the islands to be had from the Kerry Cliffs. What is there to do nearby? The Ring of Kerry is Ireland’s iconic touring loop around the Iveragh Peninsula, while the Dingle Peninsula is famous for seafood, the Slea Head Drive and a celebrity dolphin called Fungie. 04 Downpatrick Head County Mayo Where is it? The Surf Coast. Why is it a wonder? Downpatrick Head is one of the wildest, most glorious places on the island of Ireland. It may look modest on the map, but those who venture out from nearby Ballycastle, County Mayo, are rewarded with stunning views of the Dún Briste sea stack, rugged coastal scenery and wildlife. Dún Briste means “broken fort” in Irish, and this piece of rock is believed to have broken away from the mainland in 1393. St Patrick is also said to have founded a church on a headland where you’ll find an old holy well and stone cross perched above the Atlantic Ocean. What is there to do nearby? Visit the oldest known stone-walled farmlands in the world at Céide Fields,
view the strags of Broadhaven—a set of five rocky islands off the shore of Mayo’s Berrowe Head, take a walk around Sig’s Mullaghmore Peninsula (in winter, watch the big wave surfers), or catch a wave yourself at Strandhill beach.

Where to eat?
Soak up views of Downpatrick Head from the Stella Maris Country House Hotel, have your fill of tasty home cooking at Mary’s Cottage Kitchen in Ballycastle, or continue south to Sig’s for the pick of Irish food and drink at Haugan’s atmospheric pub.

05 Old Head of Kinsale
County Cork
Where is it?
The Haven Coast.
Why is it a wonder?
Stretching nearly 9km into the Atlantic off the coast of West Cork, this dramatic headland is one of Ireland’s most exceptional geographical formations. Although the tip of Old Head is now a private golf course, visitors can still take a stunning 6.5km walk around the base of the peninsula—or discover your adventurous side with a sea-kayaking tour. In 1915, German U-boats famously torpedoed the Lusitania offshore, and a 98ft-lighthouse guides ships to the safety of Kinsale Harbour.

What is there to do nearby?
Explore the foodie town of Kinsale (bring an appetite), which is packed with craft shops, pubs and seafood restaurants, take a tour of the star-shaped Charles Fort, dating from the late 17th century, or travel west for a mosey around Clonakilty. Its colourful shops, restaurants and nearby Inchydoney beach make this a firm favourite with visitors.

Where to eat?
Eat beautifully presented local dishes in Pilgrim’s of Rosscarbery, a small, friendly restaurant with a daily-changing menu, or visit the charming villages and towns between the Connemara mountains; visit the charming villages and towns of Cleggan, Clifden, Letterfrack and Roundstone, and don’t miss Kylemore Abbey. The Benedictine abbey, which casts a breathtaking reflection in its lake, is set on a 1,000-acre estate and is home to Ireland’s largest walled garden.

Where to eat?
Pop into Mitchell’s of Clifden for a local seafood feast; stop for some tasty, home-cooked fare at the Blackberry Café in Leenane; or break your journey home-cooked fare at the Blackberry Café in Leenane; or break your journey at the renowned Johnnie Fox’s Hooley Night - this includes the famous Fox’s troupe of Irish dancers, the pub has become famous for its guests and its true ‘Céad mile fáilte’.

From Presidents to Prime Ministers, from film icons to farmers, from sporting greats to singing legends, the pub has become famous for its guests and its true ‘Céad mile fáilte’. 

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Don’t just explore our heritage, immerse yourself in it… people from all over the world have set on a journey through the Dublin mountains to discover the quaint allurement that lies behind the doors at Johnnie Fox’s.

HAVE A HOOLEY

Step back in time to discover the true Irish experience at the renowned Johnnie Fox’s Hooley Night - this includes the famous Fox’s troupe of Irish dancers, lively band playing traditional Irish music, a four course meal by our award winning kitchen and plenty of good ‘aul’ Irish craic.

SINCE 1798
TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Ireland’s towns and villages are full of charm, with beautiful coastal, river and mountainside settings. Fascinating historic attractions and best of all, great food, drink and entertainment. Whether you’re dropping into a town or village for a browse around the shops and galleries, or picking a base for a few days of exploring the sights, you’ll find a warm welcome waiting.

Wild Atlantic Way

Sprinkled along the coastline of the Wild Atlantic Way, charming towns and villages offer the visitor a chance to relax and recharge after a windswept day out along the route which stretches from Malin Head in County Donegal to Kinsale in County Cork. Presiding over tranquil bays, cradled by hills or fronting vast Atlantic panoramas, these hamlets mix traditional culture, lively pubs and great seafood restaurants to create truly enchanting coastal destinations.

Once home to the acclaimed Irish playwright Brian Friel, who lived here from 1960 until his death in 2015, Greencastle rests on the edge of Lough Foyle in County Donegal. With a lively port and pleasant beach, the village takes its name from an early 14th-century castle, the ruins of which loom over the entrance to the lough. As well as being perfectly placed to enjoy the natural wonders of the stunning Inishowen Peninsula, the village is also home to the popular family-run Kealy’s Seafood Bar, which overlooks the harbour and its busy fishing boats. Settle down and take in the view while enjoying great seafood dishes, such as pan-fried hake with chorizo, olives and cherry tomatoes.

The lively heritage town of Westport in County Mayo is set around two main streets and is famous for its pubs, such as Matt Molloy’s, which hosts nightly traditional music sessions. By day take a tour of Westport House, which was built in 1650, or bring younger visitors to enjoy the Pirate Adventure Park in the grounds. By night, seek out the town’s best restaurants, which include An Port Mór, right in the centre. As well as being a destination in its own right, Westport is a great base for exploring the islands of Clew Bay and nearby Croagh Patrick Mountain, or for starting the Great Western Greenway cycle route, which winds its way to Achill Island.

Nature has been kind to Roundstone, set in the fabled area of Connemara in County Galway. Surrounded by mountains and the sea, the village was built in the 1820s and boasts a busy harbour where fishermen haul in the day’s catch of lobster, crab and mackerel. Boats bob in the water against a backdrop of the Twelve Bens Mountains, while craft shops, cafes and restaurants create an atmosphere that makes you want to linger. Just outside the village is one of the area’s real highlights – the stunning Dog’s Bay beach while the Connemara National Park is a short drive away, with some splendid walks amongst mountains, bog and heath.

Thatched-roofed cottages, friendly pubs and a perfect location in the heart of County Clare’s Burren has made Doolin one of the most popular destinations on Ireland’s west coast. From the village, you can take a walk on the wild side along the Cliffs of Moher Cliff Path, which hugs the coast closely all the way to the cliffs themselves. Doolin is also perfectly placed for exploring the surrounding limestone plateau of the Burren, with its remarkable flowers that burst through the grey rock, as well as being one of the best places on the island for a night of traditional music in pubs such as Gus O’Connor’s and McGann’s. You may never want to leave. With bright, colourful shop fronts and cafes, and a row of fishing boats moored along the quay, Dingle in County Kerry is a thriving town and one of the most popular for visitors to the southwest. Take a trip out on the water to meet the town’s most famous resident, Fungie the dolphin, who has been charming visitors since he moved here in 1983 (there are lots of boat trips available). When you return, enjoy some seafood along the quay with live music in the evenings and great traditional pubs such as Poxy John’s and Dick Mack’s. And don’t miss a visit to Murphy’s – a tub of the sea salt ice cream is one of the most popular in the country.

Ireland’s Ancient East

A former fishing village that is best known for its oysters, Carlingford in County Louth is an ideal spot for exploring the Cooley Peninsula. Its small medieval streets, where you can see historic sights such as the Tholsel (an old toll gate) and the old mint, are also home to plenty of places to eat, drink and stay. The ruins of King John’s Castle look out over Carlingford Lough, and the waterfront area is now a popular spot for watersports. Try kayaking and...
boatng, as well as cruises or fishing trips on the sheltered lough. It’s hard to take your eyes off Trim Castle when entering the town of Trim, County Meath. Dating back to 1272, the Anglo-Norman castle overlooking the River Boyne is one of the most impressive in Ireland, with its long curtain wall and 18 towers. After visiting the castle, spend a day exploring the town’s historic sights, which include a medieval gate, Sheep Gate, the ancient St Peter’s Bridge and the ruins of the Hospital of St John the Baptist, which dates back to the 13th century.

Birr town in County Offaly, which was originally planned around the estate of Birr Castle, the seat of the Earls of Rosse, is famous for its Georgian layout and architectural features. Spend an hour or two in the grounds of Birr Castle Demesne, where walking trails lead you into the tranquil gardens, the forest and along the river. In the grounds you can also see the Great Telescope, once the largest in the world. With lively pubs and restaurants such as Spinners and The Thatch, this town makes a perfect base for exploring the Slieve Bloom Mountains and the beauty spots of Devenish Island, Florence Court, Crom Castle and Castle Coole make for a great day exploring the town’s historic sights, including the ruins of the Hospital of St John the Baptist, which dates back to the 13th century.

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Northern Ireland

Dropped like a jewel into the Fermanagh Lakelands, the lovely town of Enniskillen occupies a natural island that separates the upper and lower sections of Lough Erne. The beautiful waterside setting is accentuated by the stone bastion of stately Enniskillen Castle. Explore the castle museum, enjoy a music show at the Ardhowen Theatre, or jump on a boat tour with Erne Tours at the Round O’ Jetty. The trip is the perfect way to take in some of County Fermanagh’s natural landscapes.

In the charming courtyard of the old dairy market, now called the Buttermarket, you can browse galleries, craft studios and cafes, and the nearby beauty spots of Drennan Island, Florence Court, Cism Castle and Castle Coole make perfect day trips by car or boat. Back in town, top off the day with dinner at the family-run Blakes of the Hollow, a lovely Victorian pub.

A coastal gem near the top of Northern Ireland’s Antrim Peninsula, Donaghadee in County Down has a strong seafaring past. The scenic harbour has long been a haven for ships and boats, its famous lighthouse guiding the way for maritime traffic. Walk the south pier to soak up the coastal atmosphere, play a round of golf at the local golf club, or enjoy an evening at characterful Grace Neill’s pub –

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Irish times
THE LAST WORD ON...
TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Enjoy the captivating sounds and pulse-racing pace of traditional music on the island of Ireland

All about the music
Irish traditional music is legendary throughout the world for good reason – from the infectious beats of fast-paced tunes to the haunting beauty of slow, unaccompanied ballads, this is music with a very emotional heart. The two places you’re most likely to experience traditional music in Ireland are at a session and a ceilí – and there’s a difference between the two. A session (trad music session) can be best described as an informal gathering of musicians. Often it’ll kick off with just one or two instruments, but before long you’ll have a whole group of fiddlers, bodhráns, banjos and bodhráns (drum) playing together to create a phenomenal sound. You’ll find a session in every village, town and city on the island, especially at weekends, and usually in a pub. A ceilí (dance), meanwhile, is all about dancing to the music and there’s a huge emphasis on joining in with the locals, so prepare to get on your feet! Céilís can take place at Irish cultural centres or pubs with larger dancing spaces, such as Vaughan’s in Kilkenny, County Clare. To get to grips with the steps, pop into the Céilí by the Lee in Cork every Monday night, where you’ll be guided through the basics. It’s great fun!

The festivals
Irish music festivals take the great atmosphere you find at a session and spread it over a few days or even weeks. Temple Bar TradFest in Dublin (January) uses eclectic venues for gigs and concerts, while local pubs keep the tunes going after dark. The world-famous festival of Feis Cheoil na hÉireann takes place every year in August and is the biggest celebration of Irish music on the planet. In 2018, the location is Drogheda, County Louth, featuring sessions, competitive events and street music. Or get into the spirit of things at the Derry International Irish Music Festival (late January), a week-long event featuring the best musicians of the trad scene.

With a history stretching back to the 17th century, the Ulster-Scots community in Northern Ireland has a rich musical heritage with a very distinct sound. Flutes, pipes and drums can be best heard at festivals such as the Belfast Tattoo in September in the SSE Arena on the banks of the River Lagan. It features marching bands, musicians and dancers from all over Ulster and beyond.

Listen out for
Possibly the most famous of all Ireland’s instruments, the bodhrán is a one-sided frame drum, played with a paddle (wooden stick). At a session, you’re also likely to notice the uilleann pipes, a bagpipe variant, and the fiddle ( basically a violin played in a different way). Keep your eyes out, too, for the different pipes, often regarded as the most melodic pipes in the world.

Three great music experiences
An Droichead Belfast Traditional Music Trail Belfast
Experience the best of traditional music in Belfast led by two professional musicians. This great trail winds around the Cathedral Quarter, stopping at pubs including The Dirty Onion, Duke of York and McHugh’s.

Tig Cóilí Galway
It may have a city location, but this lively pub in Galway city’s Latin Quarter has a real country atmosphere. Local and visiting musicians mean there are 14 sessions a week, all year round.

McCabe’s Doolin, County Clare
The softly worn wooden interior of this lively pub in the music hub of Doolin, County Clare, makes the perfect backdrop for impromptu music sessions.

Waterford is Ireland’s oldest city. It’s a buzzy, picturesque place, full of atmospheric streets, historic architecture as well as a variety of craft studios, galleries, cafes, restaurants and traditional style pubs. A great base to explore the Copper Coast, Comeragh Mountains and the historic towns and villages of Waterford.

Kilkenny is a cosmopolitan city, – an ancient city with contemporary appeal – steeped in medieval history and heritage, a jewel in the crown of Ireland’s Ancient East.

With a spectacular coastline, a wealth of historic sites and attractive towns and villages, it’s little wonder that Wexford is a favourite holiday destination for visitors and locals alike. The county offers a mix of mountainous scenery, river valleys with fine fishing, spectacular parks and gardens, scenic walking trails and mile upon mile of fine unspoiled beaches such as Rossalere and Curraclae. And not forgetting the many fascinating visitor attractions to choose from... Wexford has it all!
PASSPORT/VISA REQUIREMENTS
Australia and New Zealand citizens are simply required to show a valid passport. If you wish to work in Ireland, you may apply for an authorisation permit to do so. However, there are certain criteria you will need to meet for a permit to be considered and strict rules apply. Working permits must be gained prior to arrival in Ireland.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES
Embassy of Ireland – Australia
20 Arkania Street, Yarralumla, ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6214 0000
Email: canberraembassy@dfa.ie
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The British High Commission – Australia
130 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT 2600
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gov.uk/government/world/australia

The British High Commission – New Zealand
44 Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011
Tel: (04) 924 2888
gov.uk/government/world/new-zealand

VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES
Ireland extends a warm welcome to visitors with disabilities. Australian & New Zealand Disability Parking Permits can be used in Ireland and allow parking in areas reserved for people with disabilities, or longer parking periods or exemption from charges. Many public places and visitor attractions are accessible to wheelchair users and an increasing number of hotels and restaurants are well equipped to accommodate guests who have any kind of disability. Useful contacts include:

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
National Disability Authority
Tel: +353 1 608 0400; nda.ie

NORTHERN IRELAND
Disability Action
Tel: +44 28 9029 7880; disabilityaction.org

CURRENCY
The euro is the currency of the Republic of Ireland. One euro (€) consists of 100 cent. In Northern Ireland, the currency is pound sterling (£). There are 100 pence to each pound sterling.

ELECTRIC CURRENT
The standard electricity supply on the island of Ireland is 230 volts AC, the same as in the UK. Visitors from elsewhere may require a transformer and plug adaptor (to convert 2-pin plugs to the standard 3-pin plugs), which can be bought at airports or electrical suppliers.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018
New Year’s Day 1 Jan
St Patrick’s Day Holiday 19 Mar
Good Friday (N only) 30 Mar
Easter Monday 2 Apr
May Bank Holiday 7 May
Spring Bank Holiday (N only) 28 May
June Bank Holiday (N only) 4 June
July Holiday (N only) 12 July
Aug Bank Holiday (N only) 8 Aug
Aug Bank Holiday (N only) 27 Aug
Off Bank Holiday (N only) 28 Oct
Christmas Day 25 Dec
St Stephen’s Day (ROI) 26 Dec
Boxing Day (NI) 26 Dec

If you’re travelling in your own car, or renting a vehicle, it’s important to know the following:
- cars drive on the left-hand side of the road;
- signposts in Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) areas are written in Irish (Gaelic);
- you will need either a full valid national driving license or an international driving permit to drive on the roads; Northern Ireland uses miles per hour, while the Republic of Ireland uses kilometres; and
- passengers are required by law to wear seat belts at all times in the front and back of the vehicle.

There are no tolled roads in Northern Ireland but you’ll find tolls on a number of roads in the Republic of Ireland (disabled drivers are not charged). These are managed by the National Roads Authority and Dublin City Council. Generally tolls are paid at the barrier of the toll booth, however, there is one exception: M50 eFlow Barrier System. For more information visit: etoll.ie

TRAVELLING AROUND IRELAND
The island of Ireland is well serviced with bus, coach and train operators. You can plan your trip using public transport by using the Journey Planner and Translink.
journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie
translink.co.uk

If you’re travelling in your own car, or renting a vehicle, it’s important to know the following:
- cars drive on the left-hand side of the road;
- signposts in Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) areas are written in Irish (Gaelic);
- you will need either a full valid national driving license or an international driving permit to drive on the roads; Northern Ireland uses miles per hour, while the Republic of Ireland uses kilometres; and
- passengers are required by law to wear seat belts at all times in the front and back of the vehicle.

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- you will need either a full valid national driving license or an international driving permit to drive on the roads; Northern Ireland uses miles per hour, while the Republic of Ireland uses kilometres; and
- passengers are required by law to wear seat belts at all times in the front and back of the vehicle.

TRAVELING AROUND IRELAND
The island of Ireland is well serviced with bus, coach and train operators. You can plan your trip using public transport by using the Journey Planner and Translink.
journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie
translink.co.uk

If you’re travelling in your own car, or renting a vehicle, it’s important to know the following:
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- you will need either a full valid national driving license or an international driving permit to drive on the roads; Northern Ireland uses miles per hour, while the Republic of Ireland uses kilometres; and
- passengers are required by law to wear seat belts at all times in the front and back of the vehicle.

There are no tolled roads in Northern Ireland but you’ll find tolls on a number of roads in the Republic of Ireland (disabled drivers are not charged). These are managed by the National Roads Authority and Dublin City Council. Generally tolls are paid at the barrier of the toll booth, however, there is one exception: M50 eFlow Barrier System. For more information visit: etoll.ie
TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY AIR

The island of Ireland is easily accessible by air with over 30 airlines flying routes from more than 70 destinations to Ireland’s international and regional airports. Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways offer one-stop service with direct access to Ireland from Australia via the Middle East. One-stop options from New Zealand include Emirates, Qatar, as well as an Air New Zealand/Aer Lingus partnership via San Francisco and Los Angeles. Codeshare partnerships operate under Emirates/Qantas and Etihad/Air New Zealand along with a number of other partner combinations. Many airlines offer fares to Dublin as a continuation of their one-stop services to the UK and continental Europe. “Open jaw” airfares are also commonly available (i.e. fly into London and out of Dublin or vice versa, or fly into Paris and out of Belfast or vice versa). This can take advantage of Ireland’s zero/reduced departure tax, saving hundreds of dollars.

AIRLINE CONTACT DETAILS

AUSTRALIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AIRLINE</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Qantas</td>
<td>1300 651 960</td>
<td>qantas.com/au</td>
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<td>Jetstar</td>
<td>1300 392 192</td>
<td>jetc.com.au</td>
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<td>Virgin Australia</td>
<td>1300 304 016</td>
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Europe

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<td>British Airways</td>
<td>britishairways.com</td>
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<td>Cathay Pacific</td>
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<td>etihad.com</td>
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<td>Finnair</td>
<td>finnair.com</td>
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<td>Japan Airlines</td>
<td>jal.com</td>
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<td>KLM Royal Dutch Airlines</td>
<td>klm.com</td>
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<td>TAP Air Portugal</td>
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NEW ZEALAND

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<td>0800 174865</td>
<td>airnewzealand.co.nz</td>
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<td>Air NZ</td>
<td>0800 655 727</td>
<td>airnz.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Asia</td>
<td>0800 655 303</td>
<td>airasia.co.nz</td>
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REGIONAL AIRPORTS

The following internal flights are available within Ireland:

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<td>Kerry</td>
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TRAVELLING FROM DUBLIN AND BELFAST AIRPORTS INTO CITY CENTRES

DUBLIN

On arrival in Dublin Airport, you can take a bus or a train into Dublin city centre. Buses and trains are located just outside the arrivals hall. Dublin Airport is north of the city so a taxi to the north side will normally be cheaper than one to the south side. Dublin Bus AirLink operates direct buses to the city centre, bus and train stations, 47 and 50 return. Children travel free. Airlink also runs coaches from Dublin Airport to and from the city centre and suburbs of Dublin, County Dublin locations and from and to Belfast. For details visit: airlink.ie

BELFAST

Belfast International Airport Belfast city centre is just 20 minutes from the airport and can be accessed by buses and taxi. Airport Express 600 now operates a 24-hour service between the airport and city centre with buses departing regularly throughout the day. £5.00 single and £10.00 return. The bus leaves from the bus stop located opposite the terminal exit. A taxi to the city is approximately £15.00. Stena Line runs coaches from Belfast International Airport. Airport Express 6000 into the city centre runs on the hour (every 10 minutes during peak times); £2.50 single and £4.00 return. A taxi to the city is approximately £20.00. Stena Line operates under the Stena Line Irish and European Express. For more information, please see website for details.

FERRY PORTS

The island of Ireland has 5 main ferry ports – Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Larne and Rosslare.

FERRY AND COACH OPERATORS CONTACT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FERRY COMPANY</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
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<td>P&amp;O Ferries</td>
<td>+44 871 099 2992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irish Ferries</td>
<td>+44 871 099 2993</td>
<td>irishferries.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam Packet Company</td>
<td>+44 871 099 2994</td>
<td>steampacket.co.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stena Line</td>
<td>+44 871 099 2995</td>
<td>stenaline.co.uk</td>
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* All direct flight information is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to future operating changes. Please see websites for details.
## AUSTRALIA TOUR OPERATORS

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<td>Access Ireland Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 916 676</td>
<td>accessirelandholidays.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avis International</td>
<td>(03) 9951 556</td>
<td>avis.com.au</td>
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<td>Budget Car Rental</td>
<td>(02) 9356 498</td>
<td>budget.com.au</td>
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<td>Budget Hire Cars</td>
<td>(03) 927 126</td>
<td>budgethirecars.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celtic Travel</td>
<td>(02) 9249 0000</td>
<td>celtictravelservices.com.au/agent-detais/celtic-travel-services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collium Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 952 911</td>
<td>collium.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compass Car Rentals</td>
<td>(02) 922 835</td>
<td>compasscarrental.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contiki Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 266 845</td>
<td>contiki.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>DQ International Travel Service</td>
<td>(02) 964 4584</td>
<td>dqinternational.com.au/au</td>
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<td>Driveaway Holidays</td>
<td>(03) 935 913</td>
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<td>Drive Travel</td>
<td>(02) 678 720</td>
<td>drivetravel.com.au</td>
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<td>Emerald Travel</td>
<td>(02) 9670 6946</td>
<td>emeraldtravel.com.au</td>
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<td>Europcar</td>
<td>(03) 9500 2110</td>
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<td>Flight Centre</td>
<td>(02) 931 831</td>
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<td>Globus</td>
<td>(02) 953 1014</td>
<td>globusfamily.com.au</td>
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<td>Golf Explorer</td>
<td>(02) 878 649</td>
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<td>Handpicked Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 928 136</td>
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<td>Hellworld</td>
<td>(02) 945</td>
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<td>Hertz Australia</td>
<td>(02) 30 39</td>
<td>hertz.com.au</td>
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<td>Holiday Autos</td>
<td>(03) 681 4248</td>
<td>holidayautos.com.au</td>
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<td>Holidays and Locations</td>
<td>(02) 822 8222</td>
<td>holidayslocations.com.au</td>
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<td>Insight Vacations</td>
<td>(02) 902 957</td>
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<td>Ireland Journeys</td>
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<td>(02) 915 582</td>
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<td>(02) 441 486</td>
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<td>Rail Plus</td>
<td>(02) 955 001</td>
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<td>(02) 727 059</td>
<td>renaissanceaustralia.com</td>
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<td>(02) 989 139</td>
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<td>Shandon Travel</td>
<td>(02) 9870 670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shmoo Travel</td>
<td>(02) 9870 670</td>
<td>shmoolodradventures.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tradie Up Golf Tours</td>
<td>(02) 949 9000</td>
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<td>Tempo Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 924 907</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wayfarers</td>
<td>(02) 949 4222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top Deck Tours</td>
<td>(02) 981 132</td>
<td>toppickettravel.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelz tours</td>
<td>(02) 961 041</td>
<td>traveanztours.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travix</td>
<td>(02) 983 368</td>
<td>travix.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Drive Holidays</td>
<td>(02) 650 270</td>
<td>worlddriveholidays.com.au</td>
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All information correct at time of going to press but may be subject to future operator changes.

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### Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience

**The world’s unique visitor attraction**

- **Memorable Experience**
  - Reconnects emigrant journey
  - Actions bring tour to life
  - Appeals to all ages

#### Spectacular Setting

- Panoramic River Views
- Waterfront Restaurant
- Overlooking Famine Ship & Emigrant Plume

**Open 7 days a week**

- April-September 9:00am-6:00pm
- October-March 9:00am-5:00pm

**Free admission**

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10–5

- Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland
- www.dunbrody.com
- www.dunbrody.com
- T: +353 (0)96 73508
- clarkecollection@mayoboco.ie

---

### The Jackie Clarke Collection

The award winning Jackie Clarke Collection comprises over 100,000 historical artifacts, spanning 400 years. It includes items associated with some of the most influential figures in Ireland’s history.

Located in a restored 19th century bank in the centre of Ballina with a newly designed walled garden. Special features of the attraction include a memory booth where you can record your own memories and interactive touch-screens throughout. Suitable for all ages.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10–5

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### Seamus Heaney HomePlace

“A beautiful story, told wonderfully well. A world class exhibition!”

A stunning exhibition telling the story of the life and literature of Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, one of Ireland’s greatest writers.

**Step into Seamus Heaney HomePlace and be inspired!**

Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy, Co. Derry, N. Ireland.
- Tel: +44 28 7938 7444
- Email: seamusheaney@midulstercouncil.org
- www.seamusheaneyhome.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Walking</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<th>Cruising</th>
<th>Cycling</th>
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<th>Ferries</th>
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<td>(09) 486 7473</td>
<td>walkersworld.co.nz &amp; cycling-europe.com</td>
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<td>Air New Zealand Holidays Travel Brokers</td>
<td>0800 717 767</td>
<td>airmcos.co.nz/newzealand/travel-brokers</td>
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<td>First Travel Group</td>
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<td>Global Family</td>
<td>(09) 379 5375</td>
<td>globalfamily.co.nz</td>
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<td>0800 567 468</td>
<td>houseoftravel.co.nz</td>
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<td>Insight Vacations</td>
<td>(09) 360 3980</td>
<td>insightvacations.com</td>
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<td>Kilimanjaro Corporate Events &amp; Golfing Holidays</td>
<td>(09) 486 1077</td>
<td>paarzi.co.nz</td>
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<td>Rail Plus</td>
<td>(09) 377 3450</td>
<td>railplus.co.nz</td>
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<td>Supreme Tours (for the mature traveller)</td>
<td>0800 809 100</td>
<td>supremeholidaysandtravel.com</td>
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<td>trafalgartours.co.nz</td>
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<td>(04) 380 2500</td>
<td>williment.co.nz</td>
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<td>WP Maker Tours</td>
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<td>You Travel</td>
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<td>youtravel.co.nz</td>
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All information correct at time of going to press but may be subject to future operator changes.

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