

# Ireland

Your Travel Magazine

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## AMAZING PLACES

TAKE THE TRIP OF A  
LIFETIME ALONG STUNNING  
WINDSWEPT COASTS

GREAT FOOD EXPERIENCES  
FROM MARKETS TO FESTIVALS

10 TOP THINGS TO DO IN  
DUBLIN AND BELFAST

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*"We have just returned from Ireland, and it was absolutely wonderful. Our tour guide, Liam, did a marvelous job from start to finish. He was both knowledgeable and entertaining, making the tour informative and enjoyable. We had been wanting to visit Ireland for many years, and this tour exceeded our expectations in almost every way. I would highly recommend CIE Tours for anyone who wants to see this beautiful country, with the peace of mind of knowing that you are in reputable, experienced hands."*

– Rosemary and Mike

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## IRELAND WELCOME

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...



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Everything you need to know about organising a holiday to Ireland





# PICTURE THIS

## Cushendun

*County Antrim*

Cushendun is a picture-perfect seaside village steeped in character and folklore, with a beautiful location along the Causeway Coastal Route. Managed by the National Trust, the village is famed for its sheltered harbour and pretty rows of houses, built in the style of a Cornish village by architect Clough William-Ellis in the 1920s. Pop into the Corner House Tea Room for tea and cakes in a lovely setting, listen to traditional music at Mary MacBride's pub, and visit the nearby caves, which were used as a filming location for the hit HBO series *Game of Thrones*. 🍷

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## IRELAND IN SEASON

Get set for four fabulous seasons on the island of Ireland, each with its own unique appeal

Autumn at Powerscourt House and Gardens County Wicklow

### Spring

Bluebells blanket ancient woodland, orchards bloom with the pink flowers of apple blossom season and lambs frolic in green pastures – spring is the perfect time to make Ireland your own, as the days get longer and the weather warms up. Spring is all about taking off into the great outdoors, with many grand estates re-opening their gates after a quiet winter. Delve into a riot of colour and fragrance at one of the island's glorious gardens, such as the world-renowned **Mount Stewart** in County Down, where delicate snowdrops give way to crocuses as the season progresses. Or take a walk through the subtropical wonderland of **Kells Bay Gardens** in County Kerry, amid mountain streams, birdsong and wind-rustled trees. And don't forget that in spring, Ireland enjoys one of the biggest festivals of the year on 17 March – don some shamrocks, feel the vibes and join one of the most enjoyable festivals in Europe!



Foyle Maritime Festival Derry-Londonderry



Killarney County Kerry

### Summer

Stand on a golden beach on the stunning County Down coastline or relax in a calm, butter-coloured cove in County Wexford and you'll realise there's a good reason Ireland in summer is so popular. Busy fishing villages thrum with people enjoying fish and chips in the sunshine, valleys shimmer with shades of jade green and emerald and the days seem to last forever. Come summer, festivals erupt all over the place, and parks, rivers, harbours and beaches turn into ideal locations for celebrations of literature, food, music, art and even surfing. Try a spot of music at the **Westport Folk and Bluegrass Festival** (June) in the beautiful town of Westport, County Mayo; enjoy immersive artistic events at the **Carlow Arts Festival** (June); or soak up the summery vibes of the **Foyle Maritime Festival** (July) in Derry-Londonderry with a line-up that includes sail boating, tall ships, kayaking, markets and music.



Bluebells, Glenariff County Antrim

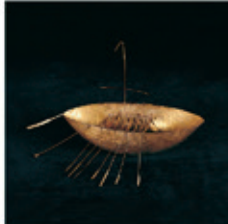
### Winter

Take it from us, when the weather turns cold there's no better place to be than on the island of Ireland, where you'll find a welcome so warm you could wrap yourself up in it. Winter in Ireland is all about traditional pubs with roaring fires, Irish music sessions, fragrant hot whiskeys and incredible coastal walks. The colder months are also an ideal time to visit some of Ireland's most popular sights, including the **Giant's Causeway**, the **Cliffs of Moher** and the **Rock of Cashel**, all of which can be surprisingly quiet. You can be sure of an authentic local atmosphere at great winter festivals, too, such as the **Temple Bar TradFest** (January) – a celebration of Irish traditional music in some of Dublin city's unique venues. And make sure not to miss an **Irish-themed Christmas**, with local Christmas markets, quirky traditions and huge New Year's Eve celebrations in both Dublin and Belfast. ☘

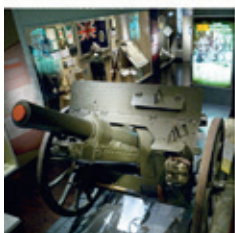


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Devenish Island County Fermanagh



Ashford Castle County Mayo

### Cruisers

While Ireland may be famous for its coastline, the interior offers a complete contrast with sleepy villages, canals, rivers and lakes. A great way to enjoy this part of the island is to take to the water, discovering the island at a different pace on modern cruisers or traditional old barges. Great destinations for cruising include the majestic River Shannon, which weaves through the heart of the island; tranquil Lough Erne in County Fermanagh, famed for its castles, food and great golf; and the angler's paradise of Lough Derg, between the counties of Clare, Tipperary and Galway.

### Castles

Peat-scented whiskeys by crackling log fires, resplendent medieval architecture and an old-world ambience have made castle hotels in Ireland among the best in the world. Luxury living is beautifully displayed in rooms decked with four-poster beds, oak panelling and windows that boast peaceful views over woodland, parkland and glassy lakes. Not only that, but with many castle hotels located on vast estates, you'll often have the chance to try everything from clay-pigeon shooting, to archery, to wandering through Victorian walled gardens.

### B&Bs

Tucked away in picturesque corners of the island, perfectly placed in cities and sitting at the heart of rural farms – B&Bs in Ireland are really something. You'll discover cosy rooms, incredible locations and a breakfast that could sustain a whole army, but you'll also find a friendly welcome that keeps going throughout your entire stay. The really great thing about a B&B in Ireland is that they are family homes, and the people who run them are hives of local knowledge, offering cheerful inside information on the places to go, things to do and hidden gems to uncover in the local area.

### Cottage holidays

Whether you're seeking an extraordinary adventure on the Wild Atlantic Way, an unforgettable tour through Northern Ireland or a farm stay in the historic pastures of Ireland's Ancient East, you're guaranteed to find a lovely little self-catering cottage to suit your needs. Cottages on the island really do spring up everywhere – on remote headlands that nudge out into the tumultuous ocean, at the edge of vast beaches and in cosmopolitan cities where everything is right on your doorstep. You can even rent a thatched cottage for a slice of traditional charm with all the modern comfort you require.

### Country houses

Ireland's great houses are like chapters of history cast in stone, and are imbued with culture, character and an abundance of charm. Many of these gracious historic mansions are still inhabited by the descendants of the original families who built them, and staying in one opens a window into a bygone era of architectural grandeur, antique furnishings and sumptuous glamour. Take walks through beautiful estates, relax in traditionally furnished libraries and sleep in rooms that transport you back in time.

## UNIQUE PLACES TO STAY

A round-up of the very best places to stay on the island of Ireland, whether you want to escape to a traditional thatch-roofed cottage, or lord it up in your very own castle



Anna's House B&B County Down



Ballygally Castle County Antrim



Self-catering, Cnoc Suain County Galway



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# IRELAND GETS CINEMATIC

From Star Wars stunners along the majestic Wild Atlantic Way, to a wonderland of Westeros locations in Northern Ireland, we present Ireland's stars of the screen...



Dark Hedges County Antrim

## Game of Thrones® Territory

Northern Ireland is a place of fabled castles, spectacular coastline and out-of-this-world heritage sites – and the makers of the HBO blockbuster Game of Thrones® certainly agree. This remarkable corner of Europe has been home to more Seven Kingdoms locations than anywhere else in the world since it first hit TV screens back in 2011. A good place to start? Head to County Down's **Castle Ward** (Winterfell) – a stunning, sprawling demesne that doubles as the ancestral home of the Stark family. With Clearsky Adventure at the castle, you can test your hand at archery in the same spot as Jon Snow, model some authentic Westeros costumes and take part in an opulent medieval banquet inspired by the show. The **Dark Hedges** in County Antrim is a haunting avenue of serpentine beech trees that will take your breath away, while in County Londonderry you'll find another spectacular shooting location at **Binevenagh Mountain**, which boasts panoramic views from the summit.

## Star Wars on screen

Movies evoke the magic of travel, transporting viewers on an otherworldly adventure. Nowhere is this better illustrated than along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, where you'll discover the real-life locations that posed as a galaxy far, far away. Star Wars location scouts chose Ireland to film scenes from Episodes VII and VIII. And from the craggy coastal beauty of **Sybil Head** in County Kerry to the jagged coastline and thriving birdlife of Ireland's most northerly point at **Malin Head** in County Donegal, these landscapes are so dramatic they feel like a ready-made film set. Stand amid the majestic scenery of **Loop Head** in County Clare, or book ahead for a journey out to **Skellig Michael** in County Kerry, a 6<sup>th</sup> century monastic settlement on a wonderfully wild island in the Atlantic Ocean.

## Lights, camera, Ireland

All over the island of Ireland you'll find stunning landscapes fit for the big screen. From the opening shot high above the **Dingle Peninsula** in County Kerry, Oscar-winning Ryan's Daughter captures the drama and romance of Ireland's southwest coast. **Slea Head** and **Dunmore Head** are two perennial standouts and one thing's for sure – love on the rocks has never looked so good! In Ireland's Ancient East, the romantic drama of P.S. I Love You is a bit like a love letter to Ireland. Featuring some of the most beautiful locations on the east coast, including the **Sally Gap** and the picturesque lakeside village of **Lacken**, it's hard not to be smitten by the heather-flecked landscape and enchanting views of the Wicklow Way featured in the film. And Braveheart might be Mel Gibson's movie, but **Trim Castle** is the real star. This Norman stronghold in County Meath is a real showstopper, with its crenellated towers, medieval keep and battlements. **Dublin** isn't overlooked, either, when it comes to our cinematic legacy. And in the charming movie Once, it's not just the love story and the Oscar-winning soundtrack that sets it apart; it's the great Dublin locations that include **Grafton Street**, **Temple Bar**, **St Stephen's Green** and **Killiney Hill**. ☘

### Look out for:

**Bangor** *Northern Ireland*  
Scene of cult film, High Rise.

**Curraclloe Strand** *County Wexford*  
This vast beach starred in both Saving Private Ryan and Brooklyn, which was also filmed in the town of Enniscorthy.



Castle Ward County Down



Star Wars: The Last Jedi Wild Atlantic Way



Basket Islands from Dunmore Head County Kerry

# GREAT TASTES OF IRELAND

Boasting homegrown ingredients, innovative chefs and warm hospitality, the island of Ireland is an epicurean paradise. Unearth the history of Ireland's food and drink culture, meet friendly local producers and enjoy seafood at the ocean's edge with six of the best food experiences in Ireland.

By Joanna Braniff

## Visit a market

Hot apple juice made from local organic apples, glistening oysters served with crisp white wine and an abundance of farmhouse cheeses and local salamis – the Irish farmers' market is a bedrock of local community life. This is where you can try authentic street food with an artisan twist, as people picnic in the sunshine and snack on the go. The two most famous markets are Cork's **English Market** and Belfast's **St George's Market**, both of which offer a tantalising range of foods from the island of Ireland in stunning 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century surroundings. These famous covered markets certainly attract the crowds, but many towns and cities on the island also support a thriving weekly food market, where you can meet the very people who have grown the produce. Try **Kilkenny Farmers' Market** every Thursday in front of the 12<sup>th</sup> century castle, stroll through the bustling **Midleton Farmers' Market** in County Cork on Saturday mornings, or enjoy the community feel at the **Comber Farmers' Market** in the home of the unique Comber potato in County Down, which runs on the first Thursday of every month.



St George's Market Belfast

## Take a tour

Food tours are an excellent way to get to know the local food culture with an expert guide. For an experience to nourish both body and soul, **The Sligo Food Trail** (sligofoodtrail.ie) is a spectacular scenic journey of fresh organic produce along an exciting slice of the Wild Atlantic Way. If your interest in food is more academic than gastronomic, try an entertaining insight into how food has shaped Irish society on a two-hour stroll through Dublin with **The Story of Irish Food** (historicaltours.ie). Or journey to the land of legends on the phenomenal Causeway Coast in Northern Ireland for a culinary tour of artisan producers and chefs. **Causeway Coast Foodie Tours** (causewaycoastfoodietours.com) provides exclusive tasting sessions and behind-the-scenes access to introduce you to new and exciting food experiences along Northern Ireland's Causeway Coast.

Galway Farmers' Market



## Food festivals

With such a rich bounty of culinary treasures and genuine enthusiasm for the joy of food, there's hardly a week that goes by without a food festival being held somewhere on the island, from Kinsale in County Cork to the city of Belfast. Celebrating everything from seafood to craft beer, a festival is a great way to sample the unique taste of the land and sea. Such is the love of oysters and seafood in Ireland that festivals dedicated to them are a big part of the food calendar and events such as the **Portavogie Seafood Festival** in County Down (Aug) and the **Carlingford Oyster Festival** (Aug) in County Louth serve up tastings, music, demos and competitions. And for a food festival to remember, head to the beautiful town of Dingle in County Kerry during the first weekend of October for the lively **Dingle Food Festival**. Part of the festival includes a food trail that offers over 70 different local taste experiences, and you can also enjoy market stalls, wine tasting, cookery demos and more.



Carlingford Oyster Festival County Louth



Old Bushmills Distillery County Antrim



Octopussy's Seafood Tapas Howth, County Dublin

## Liquid favourites

The island of Ireland has a reputation for producing quality beverages, from fine whiskeys to famous stouts, many of which run tours and classes. Ireland's gin industry is booming right now with great local gins such as Blackwater No5, Listoke and Glendalough Dillisk, but if you want to take your gin knowledge one step further then head to the **Shortcross Distillery** in County Down. At this craft gin distillery on the enchanting Rademon Estate, visitors can join a carefully curated tour that brings them through the distilling process, as well as a tutored tasting. And don't forget to raise a glass to the island's esteemed whiskey distilleries... In Dublin's Liberties area, you'll find the **Teeling Whiskey Distillery**, with a family legacy that stretches all the way back to 1782, as well as the delightful **Pearse Lyons Distillery**, set within the lovely restored St James's Church. Other great distilleries around the island include the **Walsh Whiskey Distillery** in County Carlow, and the iconic **Old Bushmills Distillery** along the Causeway Coastal Route, County Antrim.

## A cooking experience

A cookery class is a fun way to learn new skills and explore local ingredients and techniques. Want to know how to craft a traditional brown Irish soda bread, how to make your very own butter, or how to cook seafood to perfection? Then check out one of the quality cookery schools that offer a range of bespoke classes to suit all tastes. Famous chef and Irish food champion **Nevin Maguire** presides over a purpose-built cookery school in County Cavan, which runs small cookery classes for all experience levels. Or opt for a Fish Masterclass at the **Belfast Cookery School**, where you can prepare, fillet and cook a selection of delicious fresh fish from local waters, including succulent Strangford Lough mussels.

## Great seafood

From sumptuously crafted dishes to tasty street food, Ireland is justly famous for its delectable fish and seafood. Looking for something simple, fresh and authentic? A good place to start is with fish and chips. **Leo Burdock's** famous establishments have been offering traditional fish and chips in locations around Dublin since 1913, but you'll also find local "chippers" all over the island, from the beautifully located **Saltee's Chipper** in the fishing village of Kilmore Quay, County Wexford, to the super-tasty **Quinlan's Seafood Bar** in Tralee, County Kerry. And nothing quite beats seafood in the very place where local boats unload their daily catch, so head to the scenic town of Ballycastle in County Antrim, and enjoy fish, scampi and homemade crab cakes at **Morton's Fish and Chips**.

Cheese tasting Dingle, County Kerry



## Traditional tastes

On your visit, make sure you try some traditional food!

### Boxty

A traditional savoury pancake made of mashed and grated potato, which is often enjoyed at breakfast.

### Dulse

A dried seaweed that is eaten as a snack or added to dishes such as soups and salads.

### Smoked salmon

Produced in small batches in turf smokehouses on the Burren and in Connemara, smoked wild Irish salmon is simply delicious served on brown bread with butter and a squeeze of lemon.

### Cheese

West Cork is Ireland's cheese hub, but you'll find farmhouse cheese everywhere on the island of Ireland. Keep an eye out for St Tola (County Clare), Durrus (County Cork) and Young Buck (County Down).

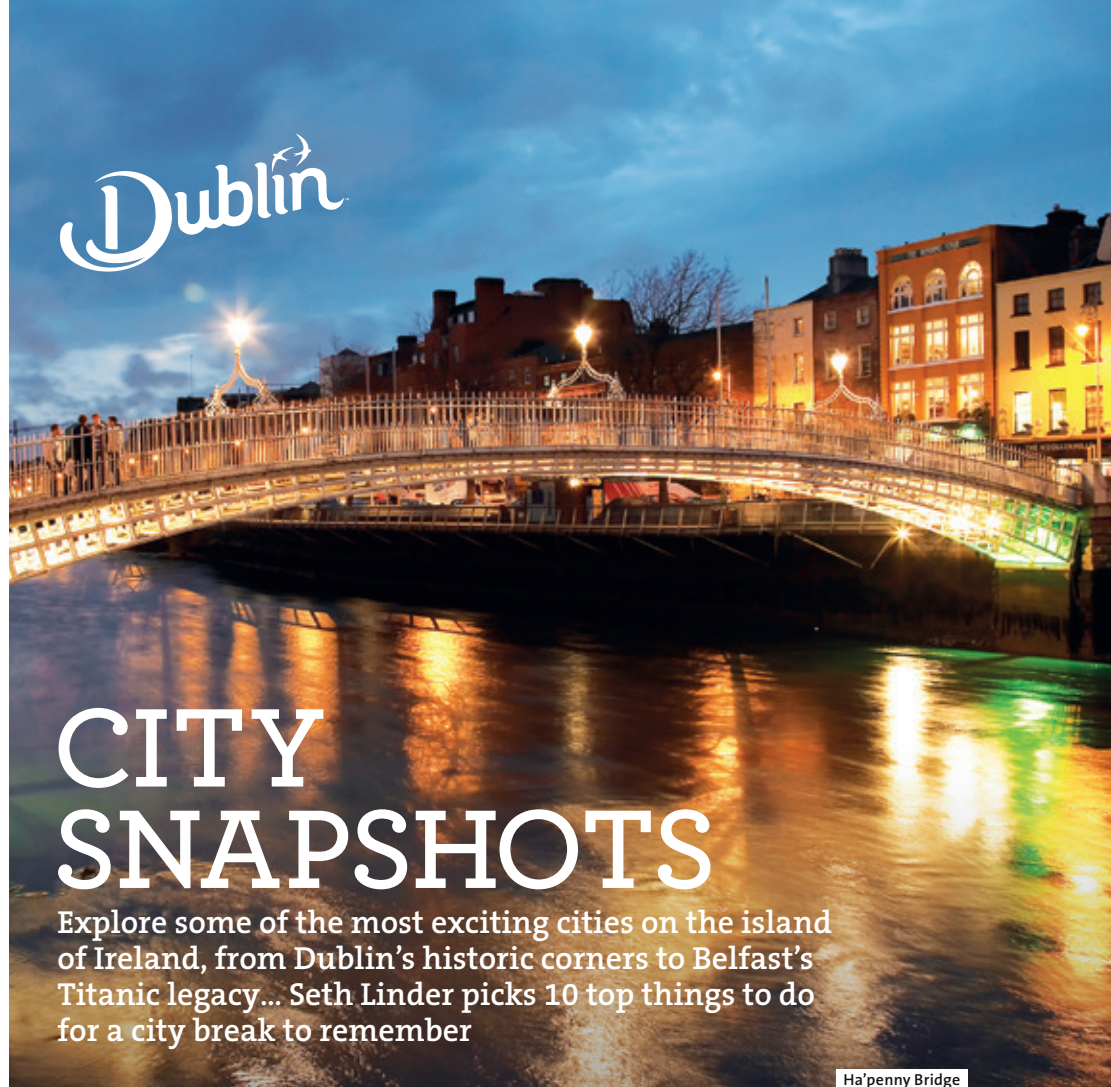
### Ulster Fry

Northern Ireland's famous breakfast is a delicious combination of eggs, soda farl or potato bread, sausages, black and white pudding, and a grilled tomato.

# Dublin

## CITY SNAPSHOT'S

Explore some of the most exciting cities on the island of Ireland, from Dublin's historic corners to Belfast's Titanic legacy... Seth Linder picks 10 top things to do for a city break to remember



Ha'penny Bridge



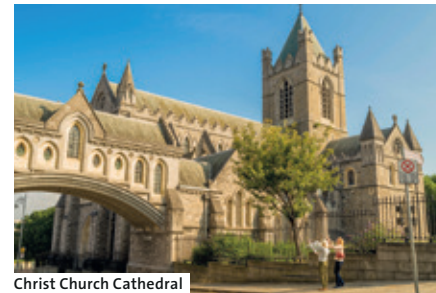
Trinity College Dublin

**05 Christ Church Cathedral**  
Founded by the Normans, Dublin's oldest building has been a place of pilgrimage for over 1,000 years. It's famous for its architecture and exquisite floor tiles, and the fascinating 12<sup>th</sup> century crypt houses an enthralling exhibition on its history. [christchurchcathedral.ie](http://christchurchcathedral.ie)



Little Museum of Dublin

**06 The Book of Kells/Trinity College**  
In the heart of the city sits Trinity, one of the world's most illustrious universities. This is where Swift, Wilde and Beckett studied, and it's also where you'll find a true treasure, the remarkable Book of Kells. After wandering the beautiful campus, step into the Old Library to enjoy the astonishing beauty of the 9<sup>th</sup> century gospel manuscript at The Book of Kells Exhibition. [tcd.ie](http://tcd.ie)



Christ Church Cathedral

**07 Dublin Bay Cruises**  
Get a unique perspective on Dublin, sailing past seals, lighthouses, islands and coastline, with these delightful boat trips that take you on journeys around Dublin Bay. The bay is a UNESCO biosphere – a place where natural and cultural heritage connect. There are five cruises every day (seasonal) between Dún Laoghaire port, the city centre and the traditional fishing village of Howth. [dublinbaycruises.com](http://dublinbaycruises.com)



Howth Head County Dublin

**08 Great Dublin pubs**  
Why are Dublin pubs the world's favourites? See for yourself at alluring gems such as Doheny & Nesbitt, literary McDaid's and the ancient Brazen Head. Tour the fashionable Temple Bar area, Dublin's pub hub; take in traditional music at welcoming spots such as O'Donoghue's and the Cobblestone; or soak up the beauty of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Long Hall, Stag's Head and Palace Bar.

**09 Dublin day trips**  
Dublin boasts a magnificent setting, with the coast and mountains on the city's doorstep. Take the Dart to the seaside village of Howth and walk the beautiful Cliff Path followed by a seafood lunch at one of the many restaurants. Or stroll around the rugged Dublin Mountains and enjoy a drink at Johnnie Fox's, one of Ireland's highest pubs.

**10 Take a tour**  
Get up close and personal with Dublin on tours that cover nearly every aspect of city life. Delve into the past with Historical Walking Tours of Dublin; explore on two (electric) wheels with Lazy Bike Tours Dublin; or get around and enjoy some background on Dublin's key sights with the Hop-on/Hop-off bus tour.

## DUBLIN

Step into a city where Viking history lurks beneath the surface, where modern architecture stands next to ancient buildings and where literature is written into the very fabric of the streets. Welcome to Dublin.

**01 The National Museum of Ireland**  
You'll find three great museums under the "National Museum of Ireland" banner covering Archaeology, Natural History and Decorative Arts & History. Explore Europe's finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts and exquisite Celtic jewellery at the Archaeology branch on Kildare Street. Discover extinct animals among the Natural History Museum's fascinating collection (Merrion Street Upper), and trace Ireland's social, design, arts and military stories at historic Collins Barracks. [museum.ie](http://museum.ie)

**02 The Little Museum of Dublin**  
Friendly experts will guide you through Dublin's remarkable history at this great

little museum, voted the city's "Best Museum Experience" by the Irish Times. With over 5,000 objects – many donated by Dubliners themselves – you'll get a unique insight into subjects as diverse as James Joyce and U2! [littlemuseum.ie](http://littlemuseum.ie)

**03 Kilmainham Gaol**  
A monument to the long struggle for Irish independence, the restored Kilmainham Gaol offers a hugely atmospheric glimpse into 19<sup>th</sup> century prison life. Famous movies, including Michael Collins, were filmed in the spectacular East Wing. The tour gives a dramatic insight into the history of this forbidding prison, with its overcrowding, hardships and brutal conditions. A definite don't-miss. [kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie](http://kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie)

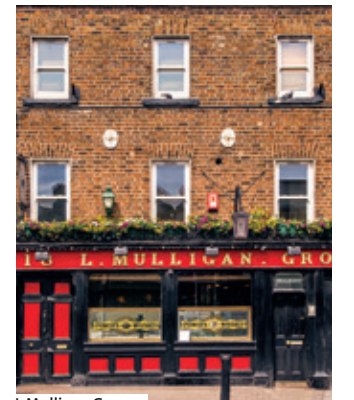
**04 Guinness Storehouse**  
With a great location at St James's Gate, the Guinness Storehouse invites you to explore seven floors of interactive experiences discovering the unique heritage of Ireland's national drink. Finish with a pint and a 360° view over Dublin at the rooftop Gravity Bar. [guinness-storehouse.com](http://guinness-storehouse.com)



National Museum



Guinness, St James's Gate



L Mulligan Grocer

**Flavours of Dublin**  
From tempting artisan fare at the Temple Bar Market to fabulous seafood at SOLE, great food is an essential part of the Dublin experience. Enjoy Ireland's wonderful local produce at charming restaurants such as the lovely Winding Stair overlooking the River Liffey, or gastro pubs such as L Mulligan Grocer in Stoneybatter.





MAC Belfast



Titanic Belfast and SS Nomadic

# visit Belfast

## 05 HMS Caroline

Moored in Alexandra Dock and recently restored as a visitor attraction, this survivor of the Battle of Jutland has cabins decked out as if the crew were still on board. There's a dramatic film about the ship's history and a café recreating the sailors' mess. [nmrn.org.uk](http://nmrn.org.uk)



HMS Caroline

## 06 City Hall

Sumptuous City Hall reflects the grandeur of Edwardian Belfast; its spectacular reception halls are overlaid with marble from the quarries that supplied classical Rome. Once known as the "Stone Titanic", there are lots of associations with the doomed ship, including the Titanic Memorial Gardens. The free daily tours include a history of City Hall and its finest features. [belfastcity.gov.uk/leisure](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/leisure)



City Hall

## 07 St George's Market

As one of Ireland's oldest covered markets, St George's Market is a foodie's paradise where you'll find all kinds of artisan fare, freshly caught fish and seafood, stalls of fine Irish cheeses, organic meats, gourmet sausages and local seaweed. Saturday is the main day for food and you might even get a bit of jazz as you wander around this late 19<sup>th</sup> century gem.



Hillsborough Castle County Down

## 08 Cathedral Quarter

Taking its name from beautiful St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast's cobblestoned cultural and entertainment hub host some of the city's best pubs and liveliest clubs, as well as a selection of wonderful eateries. Look out for the splendid MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre), home to cutting-edge drama and more.

## 09 Day trips from Belfast

Discover the Georgian beauty of the remarkable 18<sup>th</sup> century Hillsborough Castle, which was recently reopened to the public after extensive conservation works. For great day trips just outside Belfast, explore the seaside town of Bangor by Belfast Lough and the linen legacy of historic Lisburn city.

## 10 Tours with a local

Get to know the locals on black cab tours of the famous murals of West Belfast or try the visual feast of the Street Art Walking Tour of the Cathedral Quarter. The Belfast Food Tour offers specialised food and drink outings, including a Gin Jaunt and a Whiskey Walk or jump on a Riverboat Tour and see the Titanic Quarter from the water. Blue Badge guides will take you to historic locations and there's a Hop-on/Hop-off bus, too.



St George's Market

# BELFAST

Vibrant culture, gripping history and super-friendly locals are what Belfast is all about. With incredible Titanic attractions, old-world pubs and a dynamic restaurant scene, this is one city you won't want to leave.

## 01 Titanic Belfast and SS Nomadic

Travel to the heart of prosperous Edwardian Belfast and the legendary ship it produced at Titanic Belfast, by the slipways from which Titanic was launched. Voted the world's leading visitor attraction in 2016, it features nine interactive galleries. Nearby is the SS Nomadic, the tender that took first-class passengers to Titanic. [titanicbelfast.com](http://titanicbelfast.com); [nomadicbelfast.com](http://nomadicbelfast.com)

## 02 Ulster Museum

Walk through the charming Botanic Gardens to the stunningly renovated Ulster Museum and discover the first mummy to be displayed outside Egypt, and the most complete dinosaur fossil



Crumlin Road Gaol

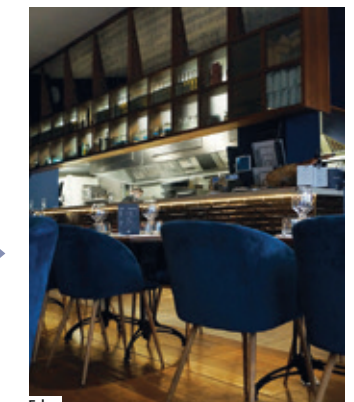
in Ireland. Stroll art galleries and get an unrivalled insight into Belfast's famous industrial history. It's free too! [nmni.com](http://nmni.com)

## 03 Crumlin Road Gaol

A guided tour around this former prison includes the condemned man's cell and the adjoining execution room. Restored cells reveal the grim prison life of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and you will discover the stories of former inhabitants, including Irish President Eamon de Valera. The gaol claims to be one of the most haunted spots in Belfast, and visitors can take the Paranormal Tour through the hotspots of spooky activity. [crumlinroadgaol.com](http://crumlinroadgaol.com)

## 04 Great Belfast pubs

The energy and excitement of Belfast can be fully felt within its great pubs. With exquisite tiling and delightful snugs, the Crown Liquor Saloon is surely the world's finest 19<sup>th</sup> century bar. Other venerable Belfast gems include White's Tavern and Kelly's Cellars, and the Dirty Onion and Maddens are great for traditional music. Enjoy the unique triangular Bittles or live it up at the Revolución de Cuba! [visitbelfast.com](http://visitbelfast.com)



Edo

## Belfast flavours

Thanks to talented chefs and their use of superb local produce, Belfast has become a leading foodie destination. Restaurants such as Molly's Yard, in an old coaching house, and the Mourne Seafood Bar are famous for their produce. Join the locals at Belfast's oldest chip shop, Longs, or taste Northern Ireland's acclaimed "salt-aged" steaks at Edo.

# GALWAY 2020

Galway's gearing up for a year-long party when it becomes European Capital of Culture 2020, with a calendar that reflects the richness and diversity of this creative city on the Wild Atlantic Way

Galway has a bohemian flavour that is typical of the west of Ireland psyche: laid back, relaxed and ready to party. Home to the renowned Druid Theatre Company, as well as being a permanent UNESCO City of Film, the flamboyant arts scene here attracts visitors from all over the world. A whirlwind calendar of annual events includes the excellent Galway Food Festival (April), the much-lauded Galway International Arts Festival (July), and the wonderfully entertaining Galway Jazz Festival (October), with performances in charming venues such as St Nicholas's Church. All this against a backdrop of County Galway's ruggedly beautiful landscapes, Wild Atlantic Way vistas and charismatic villages.

Any time, really, is a great time to pop by, but the city has something extra special tucked up its sleeve for 2020. Hosting hundreds of events, Galway's stint as European Capital of Culture kicks off with an ambitious opening ceremony on 20 January, 2020. From that day on, you can expect an impressive programme that covers arts, sport, theatre, circus, film, architecture and literature on a scale the city has never seen before. The European Capital of Culture is one of the biggest cultural events in the world, and the City of Tribes (as Galway is affectionately known) is most definitely stepping up to the mark.

As well as that, the exciting Galway 2020 programme is going to bring a sense of belonging and connection through innovation and fun. So while enjoying the daily cultural events and activities, you'll also be able to immerse yourself in Galway's bewitching culture: have a sing-song in a traditional Irish pub, chat with locals in vibrant cafés, or simply jump in and enjoy the "craic" (fun). Voted "The Most Friendly City in the World" by Travel + Leisure magazine, Galway is filled with locals who exude genuine warmth and a cheerful spirit – perfect ingredients for a fun-filled year as European Capital of Culture.

With all this going on, it might feel hard to tear yourself away from the city, but venture beyond the urban boundaries and you'll be surrounded by some of the most spectacular natural landscapes on the island of Ireland. Climb majestic mountains, stroll golden beaches, and soak up the beauty of lakes, rivers and the mighty Atlantic Ocean. For outdoor enthusiasts, the region of Connemara – a 45-minute drive from the city – is unlike anywhere in the world and a place that Oscar Wilde once described as "a savage beauty". Or take to the ocean on a ferry to enjoy the tranquillity, serenity and rich heritage at the heart of the Aran Islands.

From exciting cultural events to the wild beauty of the terrain – Galway is the place to be for 2020. 🍀



Quay Street Galway city



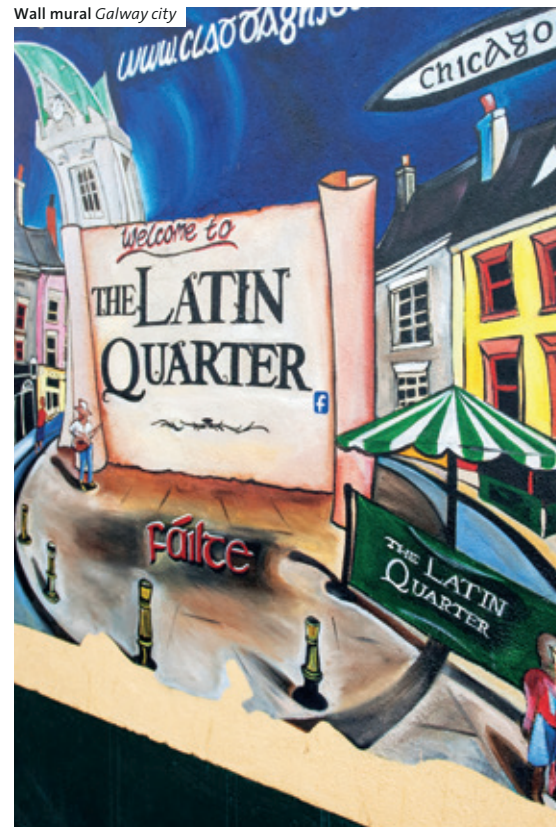
Spanish Arch Galway city



Kirwan's Lane Galway city



Cashel County Galway



Wall mural Galway city



Traditional music Galway city

## CORK

Cork is laden with great museums, local breweries, enjoyable walking tours and a graceful 18<sup>th</sup> century food market. After a few days soaking up this entertaining spot, push out beyond the city to the lovely fishing village of Cobh, the island-prison of Spike Island and historic Blarney Castle, where you can kiss the Blarney Stone for the "gift of the gab".

01

### The English Market

One of Europe's finest, this historic food market is a haven of foodie temptations. From freshly baked soda bread and delicious Irish cheeses to local delicacies such as "drisheen" (blood sausages) and "crubeens" (pigs' feet), there's a dazzling array of artisan produce. The Farmgate Café here is a great spot for lunch, too. [englishmarket.ie](http://englishmarket.ie)

02

### Ring the Shandon Bells

Follow in a world-famous tradition. Walk the 132 steps to the top of the 18<sup>th</sup> century St Anne's Church to enjoy an amazing 360° panorama of Cork. On the way you'll have a chance to ring the Shandon Bells. [shandonbells.ie](http://shandonbells.ie)

03

### Cork Butter Museum

Fancy seeing thousand-year-old butter? The Cork Butter Museum tells the story of creamy Irish butter from ancient times, and traces its huge importance to the economy of Cork, once home to the largest butter market in the world. [thebuttermuseum.com](http://thebuttermuseum.com)

04

### The pubs of Cork

It's the breadth of choice that makes Cork's pub culture so attractive to visitors. Enjoy the candlelit atmosphere of the historic Mutton Lane Inn; traditional music at Sin É; fabulous craft beers at the Franciscan Well Brewery and Brewpub; or head to the rooftop bar at Suas, with views over the city.

05

### Day trips from Cork

Gorgeous Cobh, the buzzing harbour town and last port of call of Titanic, is only 30 minutes from Cork. Visit the Titanic Experience Cobh, take a boat trip out to Spike Island – "Ireland's Alcatraz", or explore the town's history in the Cobh Museum. Foodies should head straight for the stylish seaside town of Kinsale, and its seafood restaurants and buzzing pubs.

[ireland.com](http://ireland.com)

## DERRY~ LONDONDERRY

Sitting at the point where the Causeway Coastal Route meets the Wild Atlantic Way, Derry~Londonderry is cultured, cosmopolitan and characterful. Enjoy traditional music in cosy pubs, walk the 400-year-old city walls and hear stories of times past in excellent city museums.

01

### Museum of Free Derry

Derry~Londonderry's fascinating history comes to life at several unique museums, and a particularly interesting choice is the Museum of Free Derry, which offers a local perspective of the Civil Rights Movement. The museum recently won an award for the most authentic visitor experience at the Tourism Northern Ireland Awards. [museumoffreederry.org](http://museumoffreederry.org)

02

### The Guildhall

Located between the mighty city walls and the winding Foyle River, the striking red sandstone 19<sup>th</sup> century Guildhall hosts a fascinating exhibition on the Plantation. Restored as a visitor attraction, the Guildhall is famous for its exquisite stained glass windows.

03

### The Walls

The magnificent city walls, which celebrate their 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, were built in the early 1600s to defend newly arrived settlers. Transport yourself back to those times as you circle the atmospheric old city, its four great gates and the huge cannons! And within the walls, don't miss both the Tower Museum, for a history of the city, and the Siege Museum, which retells the story of the 1689 siege.

04

### Ebrington Square and the Peace Bridge

A symbol of Derry~Londonderry's renaissance, crossing the spectacular Peace Bridge has become a rite of passage for visitors. It leads from the city centre over the River Foyle to Ebrington Square, home to sporting and cultural events.

05

### The Craft Village

Wander through a recreated 18<sup>th</sup> century street and 19<sup>th</sup> century square, exploring artisan craft shops, intimate eateries and live music. It's a wonderful place to seek unique Irish gifts. 🍀



The English Market Cork



Pub culture Cork



Peace Bridge Derry~Londonderry



The Guildhall Derry~Londonderry

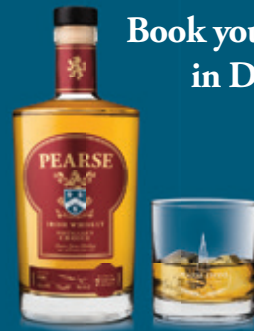
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## CITIES TO EXPLORE

Whether you're planning a quick city trip or a longer getaway, you'll find that the cities on the island of Ireland are as diverse as they are fascinating

### Armagh

Ireland's ecclesiastical capital? Welcome to Armagh, proud possessor of two cathedrals, both dedicated to St Patrick. A small and attractive city, Armagh is perfect for exploring on foot and is only an hour or so from Belfast, making it a great spot to enjoy even on a day trip. Wander through the gracious Georgian Mall; watch out for the 22 quirky bronze gargoyles and angels around the city; or visit the ancient monument of Navan Fort. Armagh has some great pubs and restaurants, including Uluru Bar and Grill and the historic The Hole in the Wall bar, making this a city to be savoured.

### Kilkenny

Located in Ireland's Ancient East, Kilkenny mixes nightlife, great food and culture to perfection. This city will wow you with medieval showpieces by day, and keep you entertained in traditional pubs, such as Cleere's and Tynan's Bridge House, by night. Walk the Medieval Mile and be catapulted back centuries amid Tudor inns, merchant townhouses, hidden alleys and historic big hitters such as Kilkenny Castle and St Canice's Cathedral. A Medieval Mile pass can be purchased online at [visitkilkenny.ie](http://visitkilkenny.ie) and includes admission to many sights and attractions. The city also boasts a wealth of great craft shops, design studios and the Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny. Not to mention the excellent Michelin-starred Campagne restaurant.

### Limerick

Limerick is a place with culture at its heart. Overlooking the River Shannon, this appealing medieval city is known for its festivals, galleries and museums. There's the faded Georgian elegance of the Newtown Pery district; the Hunt Museum, with its collection of precious art and antiquities; and the Frank McCourt Museum, based in the author's old school. See rugby at Thomond Park, try local food at the Milk Market's weekend market and explore the fortifications of the 13<sup>th</sup> century King John's Castle. Pop into the Limerick City Gallery of Art for a superb collection of Irish art from the likes of Jack B Yeats.

### Waterford

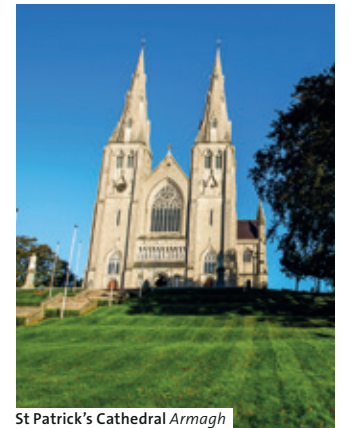
Waterford feels more small town than big city, with a friendly atmosphere and easy-going vibe. Founded by the Vikings and located within Ireland's Ancient East, the city boasts a fascinating history that you can explore within the Viking Triangle of the Medieval Museum, Bishop's Palace and Reginald's Tower – three great museums with different collections. Afterwards, head to the the House of Waterford Crystal to admire the renowned cut glass, taste a fresh "blaa" (bread roll) at the Granary Café or take a walk along the historic quays. ☘

[ireland.com](http://ireland.com)

#### Ireland Cities



Reginald's Tower Waterford



St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh



Kilkenny Castle Kilkenny



King John's Castle Limerick

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# IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Turtle Bunbury embarks on three road trips from Dublin, Cork and Shannon and experiences exceptional history, mesmerising beauty and compelling tales, with a journey around parts of Ireland's Ancient East



Hill of Tara County Meath



Trim Castle County Meath



Hill of Uisneach County Westmeath



## Ancient wonders

**Start:** Dublin

Ever since I set off west across the River Liffey from **Celbridge** in County Kildare, the history of this region has been rock-solid blockbuster stuff. At **Trim** in County Meath, I march around a massive stone castle built with such precision by a Knights Templar architect that Mel Gibson used it as a location for the Braveheart movie.

Further west over the Westmeath border, I travel to the **Hill of Uisneach** where the Ail na Míreann (or "Stone of Divisions") marks the very spot where the five original kingdoms of Leinster, Munster, Connacht, Ulster and Meath met in ancient times. It's staggering how close it stands to Ireland's actual geographical centre. I close my eyes and imagine the Druid ceremonies taking place here long ago; it's said that the bonfires from



Hill of Slane County Meath



Loughcrew Cairns County Meath

Bealtaine, the ancient Celtic festival, that blazed on its summit to mark the start of summer could be seen from the **Hill of Tara**, ancient seat of Ireland's high kings, some 80km east.

Onwards, I pass through Westmeath to explore the passage graves of Loughcrew in County Meath, built over 5,000 years ago. The **Loughcrew Cairns** are aligned with the spring and autumn equinoxes; the one I see later at **Newgrange** is famously lined up with the winter solstice. How is it that the architects of these masterpieces were so incredibly in tune with the secrets of the sun and stars? I pay my respects to these wise old souls amid the grassy shadows of what was once the Royal Palace at Tara. The **Hill of Tara** was once the seat of High Kings of Ireland, but has been an important site since the Stone Age. Looking north I see the **Hill of Slane**; small wonder that is where St Patrick chose to light the Paschal fire and introduce Christianity to Pagan Ireland. With all the kings and druids around, he could be sure of a decent audience.

At my journey's end, standing by the **River Boyne**, I can see why the battle fought here in 1690 was so epic. The conflict could have gone either way, but fate fancied William of Orange. It was certainly not the first time Ireland's future was shaped by the events that took place in this historic landscape.



Athlone Castle County Westmeath



Ormond Castle County Tipperary

## A land of castles

**Start:** Shannon

Travelling east towards the **Glen of Aherlow**, I can easily see why Ireland has gained a reputation for being so green. This lush glen in County Tipperary sits between the Galtee Mountains and the hill of Slievenamuck, and makes a wonderful place for tranquil walks surrounded by verdant scenery.

I journey on through Tipperary's Golden Vale to the astounding **Rock of Cashel**, surmounted by its fairytale-like citadel. Here, the heroic Irish figure who fought the Vikings, Brian Boru, was crowned king of Munster over 1,000 years ago.

In his time, Boru must have admired the splendid high crosses that now adorn the ruined graveyards of the **Lingaun River Valley**; these ecclesiastical gems are the subject of a fabulous exhibition at **Kilkenny city's Medieval Mile Museum**.

For many long centuries, Kilkenny was the stronghold of the Butlers, an Anglo-Norman family, headed up by the Dukes and Earls of Ormond. My mother was a Butler so I feel a special affinity with Kilkenny, as well as **Ormond Castle** in **Carrick-on-Suir** in County Tipperary and the innumerable ruined churches and towers scattered throughout this former Butler dominion.

Other castles offer interesting tales



Clonmacnoise County Offaly



Rock of Cashel County Tipperary



Birr Castle County Offaly

– strange and spooky ones at **Leap** in County Offaly; inspirational ones at **Birr** also in Offaly, home to a vast telescope, the world's largest for over 70 years; and architectural ones at **Emo Court**, a neoclassical mansion in County Laois.

The **River Shannon** wends into view as I behold the round tower and temples of the 6<sup>th</sup> century monastic site of **Clonmacnoise** in County Offaly, once a seat of learning to which the leading Christians of ancient war-torn Europe sent their sons to study in peace.

Further north, the castle at **Athlone** overlooks perhaps the most important crossing in Ireland, the gateway between the former kingdoms of Leinster and Connacht. I enjoy a pint in nearby **Seán's Bar**, one of the oldest pubs in the world, before spinning onwards to compare the whiskey distilleries of **Kilbeggan** in County Westmeath and **Tullamore DEW** in County Offaly.

The mighty **Rock of Dunamase** presents an exceptional site on a rocky outcrop in County Laois and was refortified when the Normans arrived to the island in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In fairness, the Normans introduced Arabian horses to Ireland and now, entering County Kildare, there are so many stud farms, racecourses and paddocks that the horses in this serene, green landscape might even outnumber the stars in the tranquil sky above.

## Take a tour

The **Waterford Greenway** is a wonderful way to discover the scenic delights of the southeast coast, and you can hire a bike or go on a tour of this 46km off-road cycling or walking trail. It may seem long, but it can also be visited in smaller parts, and the 10km section from Dungarvan to Durrow is known for its stunning scenery. Drop into O'Mahony's pub in Durrow for restorative post-cycle refreshments.

Award-winning Kilkenny ambassador **Frank Kavanagh** is the ultimate storyteller for the Kilkenny-Tipperary region, having mastered his craft during 40 years' service at Kilkenny Castle. He's a great one for really unearthing the unique stories that swirl around Kilkenny, or if you fancy something a little quirkier, try a night-time **Kilkenny Ghost Tour** with tales of witches and plagues!

A very special way to visit the 6<sup>th</sup> century monastery site of **Clonmacnoise** in County Offaly on the banks of the River Shannon is with **Viking Tours Ireland**. Captain Michael McDonnell is brilliant for bringing the area's history to life as you sail the same route the Vikings would have taken. The boat leaves from Athlone and sails down the Shannon to approach the site uniquely from the water.

## A maritime adventure

**Start:** Cork

Laying claim to the title of second largest natural harbour in the world, **Cork Harbour** stands at the mouth of the River Lee in southwest Ireland. It's an impressive place, but just further south of here is a smaller seaport that is tied to the island's history of emigration. So many people left Ireland forever via the small town of **Cobh** that this colourful coastal spot became known as the "Town of Tears". Monuments to the Titanic and Lusitania ocean liners also serve as stark reminders of the perils of the sea.

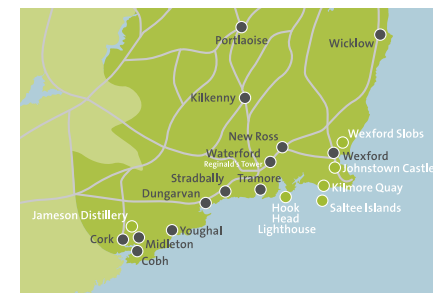
From Cobh, I head east to **Midleton** where a beautiful sculpture honours the generosity of the Choctaw Indians of Oklahoma at the height of the Great Irish Famine. A visit to the **Jameson Distillery** sets me up for the journey to **Youghal**, home to many fine medieval buildings, including the Clock Gate Tower, a unique structure that holds many timeless stories of tragedy and rebellion.

Over 4,000 years ago, a new wave of settlers arrived in Ireland from Europe with cutting-edge copper mining technology. I think of them as I drive along the **Copper Coast** from **Dungarvan** to **Stradbally**; the sliver of land running by the sea to the south is stuffed with secret coves and sandy beaches.

At **Tramore**, I turn north for **Waterford**,



Cobh County Cork



The Waterford Greenway County Waterford



Johnstown Castle County Wexford

once the largest Viking settlement outside of Scandinavia, where today Georgian architecture and pints of stout in **Geoff's Bar** settle my soul. Next day, at **Reginald's Tower**, I learn of a wedding that sealed the deal for the Norman invaders, and marvel at the handsome medieval vestments on show at the city's excellent **Medieval Museum**.

I jump on a ferry headed east next, across the **River Suir** into County

Wexford. Stories of chivalry, crusades and castles abound from **Hook Head Lighthouse** to the town of **New Ross**.

The history of this part of the island is spliced with tales of emigration, but also with a real sense of rural life. At the **Irish Agricultural Museum** you can see recreations of trade workshops and details of the history of farming, before taking a walk through the lovely **Johnstown Castle Gardens**. There is immense coastal beauty here, too – in the whitewashed thatched cottages of **Kilmore Quay**; with the seabirds of the **Wexford Slob**s and the **Saltee Islands**; with the basking sharks who first came to these shores long before the humans arrived. 🐋

## Need to Know

Ireland's Ancient East highlights the immense wealth of over 5,000 years of history in an area that stretches over 15 counties, filled with stories, festivals and fun, with great free-to-visit attractions along the way. Here, you'll find ancient passage tombs that are older than the pyramids at Giza, Celtic-era ringforts, Early Christian monasteries and medieval castles. Some of Ireland's most exceptional sights are here, including the monastic village at **Glendalough**, County Wicklow, the spectacular collection of medieval buildings that is the **Rock of Cashel** in County Tipperary, and the Neolithic passage tomb of **Newgrange**, County Meath.

The region is serviced by airports in **Dublin**, **Cork** and **Shannon**, as well as the ferry ports at **Dublin**, **Cork** and **Rosslare**. You can travel around Ireland's Ancient East by either public bus (coach) on Bus Éireann's Expressway Coach Service or local bus service. For a full map of the area's public bus transport options see [buseireann.ie](http://buseireann.ie). Rail travel in places is an option ([irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)), and guided tours are also available.

# THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Vanessa Harriss wraps herself in the exceptional landscapes, great pubs and restaurants, and spectacular experiences along 2,500km of coastal road on the Wild Atlantic Way



Slieve League County Donegal



Inishowen Peninsula County Donegal



Inishowen County Donegal



Bloody Foreland County Donegal



Mullaghmore County Sligo



Bundoran County Donegal

## NORTHERN HEADLANDS AND SURF COAST

Craggy coasts contrast with quiet glens and surfers enjoy some of the world's best swells along an extraordinary stretch of the Wild Atlantic Way. **Malin Head** in County Donegal, with its rugged landscapes and beautiful beaches, is a fitting start for this windswept adventure. Watch the sun set over the rocks and sea at **Bloody Foreland** (which gets its name from the colour the evening sun turns the land) as these rocky headlands are pounded by waves. Don't miss **Nancy's Bar** in Ardara. This whitewashed traditional pub boasts a quirky interior, a chunky flagstone floor and a roaring fire. It's a real gem, with some of the best seafood around.

Stay a while – **Ardara** is a great base for exploring the countryside, hiking up into the mountains; visiting ancient sites; experiencing the land's myths and legends; and rambling by lakes in quiet glens. You're spoiled for walking and hiking opportunities here, but the high grasslands of **Glengesh Pass** are something special, or head further south and stroll the gentle lanes around **Glencolmcille**, with its megalithic sites.

Not to be missed are the exceptional cliffs at **Slieve League**, majestic rugged precipices that plunge into the Atlantic Ocean below. People have been coming here for thousands of years and you'll find Neolithic tombs along with early Christian monastic sites close to the cliffs.

Heading south towards **Bundoran** and **Mullaghmore**, look out to sea – the waves here are famous with surfers around the world. Hire a board and wetsuit from one of the many surf schools and take to the waves, or simply grab a spot on a beach and watch the surfers do their thing.

Sea air means big appetites, so stop off at **Eithna's By the Sea** restaurant in Mullaghmore, where the menu is built around seaweed and seafood. You can work it off with a bracing hike, such as the **Gleniff Horseshoe walk**, an exhilarating 9.6km route with fantastic views, or try a looped walk around the stunning flat-topped mountain of **Ben Bulbin**.

Nearby **Glencar** is a total contrast, with a pretty waterfall that inspired the poet WB Yeats. If you have an interest in Yeats you're in the right place – the poet's grave is in **Drumcliffe Cemetery**, a short drive away. Sligo beckons with great

bars and restaurants, as well as some top walks, such as **Knocknarea** just outside town. Pamper yourself afterwards with a relaxing seaweed bath at **Voya** in Strandhill, or book with **Wild Atlantic Way Cultural Tours** for a foraging course, where you'll be picking out seafood and seaweed to be cooked up into a feast.

If gathering your own dinner sounds too much like hard work and you're in the mood for a serious treat, make your way to **Coopershill House**. Once a stately home, this vast manor is now a grand country house that also welcomes dinner guests. It's a great place to end your journey through this incredible area.

### Donegal town

Wander around the 15<sup>th</sup> century castle and the ruins of Donegal Abbey. Take the Donegal Bay Waterbus down the calm waters of the River Eske and enjoy a night out around The Diamond in the town centre.

### Strandhill

This little surf village is bursting with energy. Brush up on your surfing technique or go sea kayaking, walk Strandhill Beach or take in a round of golf.



Gurteen Bay County Galway



Keem Strand Achill Island, County Mayo



Kylemore Abbey County Galway



Croagh Patrick County Mayo



Burren County Clare



The Kerry Cliffs



Dunquin Harbour County Kerry



Kinsale County Cork

## BAY COAST AND CLIFF COAST

The mid-section of the Wild Atlantic Way offers sandy beaches, dizzying cliffs and the mysterious grey stone blanket of County Clare's **Burren**. Hugging close to the coastline, the road skirts around north Mayo to **Céide Fields**, an enormous prehistoric landscape and the oldest known field system in the world. Step into the award-winning visitor centre before marvelling at the lives of our Stone Age ancestors. **Achill Island** (accessible by land bridge) amps up the wild factor with a landscape that sweeps from bogland to cliffs to sparkling bays.

Watching over the island-studded **Clew Bay** is the mighty mountain of **Croagh Patrick**. Follow in the footsteps of centuries of pilgrims with a climb up to the top – the view out over the bay and its islets is definitely worth the effort.

The gentle white sand beaches of **Connemara** are perfect for strolling and paddling, and the landscape here is among the most beautiful on the island. Walk through the **National Park**; go horse riding down the beach near **Cleggan**; or visit the astounding **Kylemore Abbey** and Victorian walled garden.

Relax for a while in charming **Clifden**, or spend some time in the city of **Galway**, with traditional music, a bohemian buzz and excellent places to eat.

Heading into County Clare the scenery changes dramatically. The **Burren** is a karst limestone landscape with unique flora and fauna. Walk part of the **Burren Way**, visit the ancient megalithic tomb of **Poul nabrone Dolmen**, and drop into the **Burren Perfumery** in Carron. The company creates perfumes, soaps and cosmetics from their own herb garden. Food-wise you're in for a treat in this part of the island – take lunch in the garden at **Burren Fine Wine and Food** or drop into the award-winning **Burren Smokehouse** for some smoked salmon.

Traditional music fans should hotfoot it straight to **Doolin** and to **Fitzpatrick's** and **McGann's** pubs, both of which host legendary music sessions. And after a night listening to cracking tunes, you can clear your head with a trip to the **Cliffs of Moher** for blasts of Atlantic sea air and astonishing views of the coastline.

Heading south, a good place to stop is the village of **Kilkee**, where excellent seafood is served in every pub and restaurant. While you're there, look out for the **Pollock Holes**, deep pockets left by the

outgoing tide where you can swim and dive. From here you are very close to the **Loop Head Peninsula** – fabulous walking country with wonderful views.

As you head further south, cross the River Shannon on the ferry to **Tarbert**, and on arrival visit the **Tarbert Bridewell**. This 19<sup>th</sup> century courthouse, now a museum, is a chilling reminder of how hard life could be for the poor or the criminal. To go back even further, book a day's cycling tour with **Ecotrek** and explore the myths and the megalithic monuments between **Ballybunion** and the **Bromore Cliffs**. The perfect way to end the trip? Take a seaweed bath at the **Ladies Beach** in Ballybunion. Bliss.

### Westport

This strikingly pretty town will make you want to stay. Browse the art galleries, visit Clare Island in Clew Bay and enjoy dinner at Sage Restaurant or An Port Mór.

### Doolin

Welcome to the traditional music capital of Ireland and gateway to the gorgeous Aran Islands. Doolin is also a great base for exploring the surrounding Burren area, with its great cafés and cliffs.

## SOUTHERN PENINSULAS AND HAVEN COAST

Travel through wild terrain to gentle coves and quiet lanes. Take your time and let the region work its magic on you as the Wild Atlantic Way heads south.

It's a warm welcome you'll get in **Tralee** in County Kerry. Drop into the **County Museum** for 7,000 years of history and book a table at **Croi Restaurant** for great seafood dishes. Traditional ways live on in this region. In the summer, you might just be lucky enough to see **Irish naomhóg boats** race off the Maharees in the bay at **Castlegregory**, and you can get a taste of the past at **Tinteán Ceoil** every Monday night in Cloghane in a replica Irish cottage kitchen. Music, storytelling and dancing is fuelled by tea and scones beside the fire.

The gorgeous town of **Dingle** is packed with excellent restaurants and pubs, but make sure to leave room for a **Murphy's Ice Cream** – the queue out the door tells its own story. While here, take a boat trip out to the bay and say hello to **Fungie** the dolphin, who greets visitors and happily swims beside the boats.

On the next peninsula you'll find **St Finian's Bay**, where the monks used to

set off to the **Skelligs** back in the 6th century. Sitting 11km out into the Atlantic Ocean, the dramatic outline of the islands is just visible, but if the weather is fair, you're fit and you book well in advance, a trip out to visit **Skellig Michael** is an experience not to be missed. In not so fair weather, head to the **Skellig Experience Centre** for a taste of monastic life without the climb. **Waterville** is a must for seafood, and you'll find it served in relaxed pubs and more formal settings. Or if you love a traditional pub, drop into the **Blind Piper** in **Caherdaniel** for great pints and music.

The coast of Kerry is fantastic wild walking country on what feels like the edge of the world. There are long-distance trails and circular routes, or take a stroll through the ancient oak woods of **Killarney National Park**. In this region the nights are as eventful as the days, and not just because of the lively nightlife. Kerry is designated by the **International Dark-Sky Association** – you can hire an astronomer or join a group to go out and explore the heavens. In West Cork, try kayaking by starlight on **Lough Hyne**, where the silence and the moonlight make for a magical experience.

To the south and heading east into

County Cork, the warm sea's influence softens the land. Pretty lanes are lined with fuchsia hedges, gardens bloom around elegant houses and little coves welcome explorers and kayakers. Dining choices get tougher in this part of the world, with great places to eat around every corner. **Scannell's Bar** in **Clonakilty** has delicious lunches and music at night, or head to nearby **Ring** and **Deasy's Seafood Restaurant**.

In the beautiful seaside town of **Kinsale** at the end of the Wild Atlantic Way, food is king. Fantastic restaurants and cafés work wonders with local ingredients, with lots to keep you happily fed and watered! ☘

### Glenbeigh

Along the famous Ring of Kerry driving route, the very pleasant village of Glenbeigh is a great base for outdoor activities such as walking, fishing, golfing and horse riding.

### Kinsale

Kinsale's narrow, winding streets are lined with irresistible artsy shops (artists love the light and the views), cafés and seafood restaurants, all set around a beautiful harbour full of bobbing fishing boats.



# NORTHERN IRELAND'S GIANT BEAUTY

Dunluce Castle County Antrim



In Northern Ireland, you're never far from a memory in the making. This is a land of story-strewn cities and wave-lashed coastline, of Titanic attractions and tranquil moments surrounded by undiscovered landscapes. And with friendly locals, lots of charm and a diverse range of experiences from epic attractions to under-the-radar gems, you'll find Northern Ireland has a giant spirit of its own. By Lynn Harding



Mussenden Temple County Londonderry



Blackhead Lighthouse County Antrim

## A majestic coastline

It's not enough to call the Causeway Coastal Route a trip, a drive, or even a discovery – this monumental stretch of coastline is more a series of adventures, with cliffs, pretty villages, sandy beaches and mysterious caves.

Starting in the energetic buzz of **Belfast** and reaching all the way to **Derry~Londonderry**, the route is on Lonely Planet's Best in Travel list 2018. No surprise either, with sights such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the **Giant's Causeway** – 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns that tumble down to the sea – and the **Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge**, which wobbles precipitously over the crashing ocean below.

There's the craggy ruins of **Dunluce Castle** and the elegant beauty of the clifftop **Mussenden Temple**. And how about **Rathlin Island**? Venture out by boat and you're bound to meet one of the 150 islanders lucky enough to call this nature reserve home. But amongst all these epic sights, there are quiet moments, too... a post-touring pint in the cosy **McCollam's** pub in the village of Cushendall; a walk through breathtaking **Glenariff Forest Park**, near Waterfoot; a wander around the handsome Georgian village of **Glenarm**. Our advice? Go slow, and take it all in.

## Watery wonderlands

Whether you're visiting the underground river of the **Marble Arch Caves** or admiring **Lough MacNea** from a distance at the top of the **Cuilcagh Legnabrocky Trail**, the waters in this part of the world invite you to embark on a relaxed, slow-moving adventure.

This is the other side of Northern Ireland, where you can cruise into Belfast via the **River Lagan**, and where loughs contain mysterious islands, each with their own story. A good place to start is at the largest lake in both Ireland and Great Britain: **Lough Neagh**. Filled with more nooks and crannies than you could possibly hope to explore, this vast body of water borders five of Northern Ireland's six counties, and is the beating heart of a historic network of waterways.

**The Lough Neagh Canoe Trail** is perhaps the best way to get to grips with all this fantastic environment has to offer, and to discover why it's as unmissable for nature lovers as for water lovers. The lake is home to one of Europe's most significant waterfowl populations, with 10,000 birds nesting here.

Different in character yet no less beautiful are **Upper and Lower Lough Erne** in County Fermanagh – two serene, connected lakes dotted with islands. Life moves at a slow pace here. The countryside is deeply infused with rural charm and seems dominated by deep greens and navy blues. Explore the elegant beauty of **Crom Estate**, where walking trails weave through quiet forest and alongside the water; step into the 18<sup>th</sup> century glory of **Florence Court**, one of the most important Georgian houses in Ireland; or visit one of the many islands, from the monastic beauty of **Devenish** to the intrigue of **White Island**, with its carved stone figures.

And for water teeming with wildlife along with history, holy wells and ancient abbeys, try **Strangford Lough**, just 20 minutes outside Belfast. Breathe in the old world glamour of **Mount Stewart House** and its spectacular gardens on the shores of the lough, before revving up the excitement with a high-speed **Strangford Sea Safari** boat tour.

## Take it slow

Northern Ireland is the perfect place to get off the beaten track and into a wonderland of slow-travel experiences, where you can connect with locals and soak up authentic culture and nature. Whether you fancy wild camping, gentle kayaking and fascinating slow food tours, or you want to learn about an indigenous craft, there's something to suit.

How about a **Nature Connections Tour of the Sperrin Mountains** in County



Mount Stewart County Down



Strangford Village County Down

Tyrone in the company of a local ecologist, or a visit to the **Steensons Économusée** in County Antrim, where you can watch goldsmiths at work.

Immerse yourself in local culture on walking trails around undiscovered areas such as **Lough Foyle** and the **Lower Bann**. Or head for a real hidden gem – the **Faughan Valley** in County Londonderry, where the **Beech Hill Country House** makes an elegant base for a spot of horse riding through leafy and fragrant woodland.

To keep the dream going, grab the rare chance to spend a night in an unforgettable and outstanding natural location. Waking up in a magical place, such as the remarkable **Finn Lough Forest Domes** in County Fermanagh, which boast huge transparent domed ceilings, is like nothing else. And as night falls, you can stargaze in utter comfort and silence as the stunning night sky reveals itself in all its glory.



Finn Lough Forest Domes County Fermanagh



Devenish Island County Fermanagh



## Captivating museums

It's impossible to visit Northern Ireland and not feel a connection to those who have gone before. Whether you can trace your family tree back to this rugged land or not, the stories, struggles and successes of the people whose lives are represented throughout its museums strike a chord with all who visit. Take **Titanic Belfast**: voted the world's leading tourist attraction, the harrowing tales behind the "Ship of Dreams" are brought to life through nine interactive galleries, artefacts from the White Star Line and a tour of the very spot where Titanic was launched. Ask around, and the city's characteristic wit will reiterate wryly that, "She was all right when she left here!"

If you're a lover of literature, **Seamus Heaney HomePlace** is a pilgrimage worth making. One of the world's most beloved writers and Nobel laureate, Heaney was born and laid to rest right here in the Bellaghy area of County



Titanic Belfast



Murlough Beach County Down

Londonderry. The centre's Helicon theatre hosts events year round, along with permanent exhibitions on the poet's life. The 18<sup>th</sup> century **Robinson Library** in Armagh has a similarly literary theme, and counts Jonathan Swift's very own copy of Gulliver's Travels amongst its treasures. Further west in County Tyrone, the **Ulster American Folk Park** offers an authentic look into the humble existence of countless emigrants before they made the perilous journey across the Atlantic.

## Soaring beauties

There's something otherworldly about Northern Ireland's mountains, where walking and biking trails bring you to silent peaks and around moody valleys. It's a feeling that you've stumbled upon a secret that makes the **Silent Valley**, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in County Down's **Mourne Mountains**, such a delight. At the heart of the valley is a massive reservoir, fringed



Seamus Heaney HomePlace County Londonderry

by mountains and surrounded by trails. To facilitate its construction in the 1920s, the picturesque village of **Watertown** sprang up, complete with cinema, hospital and dance hall.

Today, an information centre remains, complete with details on local wildlife, trail maps and abandoned artefacts of a once-bustling hub. Beauty comes easily to the Mourne Mountains, so take some time to enjoy the 28 peaks, the highest of which, **Slieve Donard**, offers stunning views out over **Murlough Bay**.

No less breathtaking, the mighty **Sperrins** reach skyward through the heather-dotted moors of counties Tyrone and Londonderry. This is true hikers' territory, with 10 summits spanning 64km across sparse valleys that were hewn during the Ice Age; but if you're looking for a more relaxing trip, it's worth noting that National Geographic also named the Sperrins one of the Top 101 Scenic Drives in the World.

## Northern Ireland on a plate

With spectacular flavours, super-skilled chefs and a deep respect for local ingredients, when it comes to food, Northern Ireland is cooking up a storm. This is destination delicious, thanks to waters teeming with fish and shellfish, and fields full of grass-fed cattle and sheep. Although Northern Ireland's restaurant scene is anchored by the food-conscious city of Belfast, with its Michelin-starred restaurants and cutting-edge eateries, you'll find exciting and innovative places to try the very best homegrown cuisine.

Fuelled by great produce such as grass-fed salt-aged beef, succulent shellfish, artisan cheese and local butters, honeys and herbs, chefs all over Northern Ireland are creating food experiences you won't want to miss. Try the unique old-world cottage charm of **Clenaghans** in County Antrim, where innovative cooking is served against a backdrop of stone walls and low-beamed ceilings, or taste traditional baking in **Ursa Minor Bakery and Café** in Ballycastle. Savour the flavours of the Mourne Mountains with a Mourne Honey Afternoon Tea at **Enniskeen House** in County Down, or step into the warm, traditional surrounds of **Chapter V** in Moy, County Tyrone, for locally sourced produce. 🍷

## Five more to try in Northern Ireland

**01 Moonlight Kayaking**  
With backdrops including Binevenagh Mountain and Magilligan Fort, this enchanting night-time kayak is an experience to remember. [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com)

**02 Tour Lough Neagh**  
Accompanied by a local historian, this great tour will bring you along the western shores of Lough Neagh and its fascinating fortifications. [loughneaghtours.com](http://loughneaghtours.com)

**03 Newry Canal Way**  
This scenic towpath can be enjoyed on bicycle or on foot as it weaves along a 32km route from Portadown to Newry. It also skirts the borders of counties Down and Armagh from Lough Neagh to Carlingford Lough. [cycleni.com](http://cycleni.com)

**04 St Patrick's Trail**  
Follow in the footsteps of Ireland's patron saint on this trail through Christian sites at Bangor, the Ards Peninsula, Downpatrick, Newry and Armagh. [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com)

**05 Corralea Electric Bike Tour**  
Tour around beautiful Fermanagh by bike and stop at country pubs, megalithic sites and Game of Thrones' locations. [ebikeni.com](http://ebikeni.com)

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# EXPERIENCE IRELAND

A tour of a 13<sup>th</sup> century lighthouse, a medieval banquet, a traditional Irish music session. There are so many amazing ways to enjoy the island of Ireland, here are some to get you started...



Traditional music session

## A traditional music session

*County Kilkenny* by Colin White

The city of Kilkenny in Ireland's Ancient East isn't just a great spot to explore medieval history, it's the perfect place to experience the undulating rhythms and lilting melodies of traditional Irish music. Music runs in the blood here, and at John Cleere's Bar & Theatre, situated within the old medieval city walls, I find something quite special. Amongst friendly faces and top-notch local brews, the next few hours pass in the blink of an eye. The music on offer is distinctively Irish, but its jigs and reels cross cultural boundaries and strike a chord with the many nationalities that are present in this charming pub. Feet stomp, fiddles romp and the good times roll. Kilkenny may be famous for its medieval history, but don't miss the opportunity to discover a side to the city that comes alive to music.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Dunguaire Castle County Galway

## Medieval magic at Dunguaire Castle Banquet

*County Galway* by Jane Cowen

Stepping inside the stone walls of Dunguaire Castle is akin to stepping back in time. This 16<sup>th</sup> century castle has become a popular spot for medieval banquets, and we are lured by the thought of fine wines, great food, historic surroundings and a whole host of stories. And Dunguaire doesn't disappoint. Long wooden tables illuminated by candlelight fill the room, the walls are adorned in medieval shields and a King and Queen are crowned at the top table. After a huge feast served by kitchen maids in aprons and ruffled caps, the evening is rounded off with tasty apple pie, as our goblets are filled with wine. It's great fun, and the banquet is a unique way to experience ancient castle living on the island of Ireland from the inside. It's fair to say we were living the (medieval) dream!



Black Taxi Tour Belfast

## Belfast Black Taxi Tour

*County Antrim* by Lisa Gaughran

The grand Victorian city of Belfast is home to welcoming locals famed for their dry sense of humour. So who better to help get under the skin of this compelling city than a resident who can show me around in a taxi? The Belfast Political & Mural Black Taxi Tours are operated by local drivers who are eager to share stories that illuminate Belfast's complex history. We meet Danny, our charismatic driver and tour guide for the afternoon outside Belfast's iconic City Hall, and begin a whistle-stop journey around the historic sites, from the murals on Divis Street, to the elaborate artwork that portrays the city's fascinating past. Along the way, Danny enlightens us with hidden histories and anecdotes that you can only get from a local. And it's this degree of insider information, background and stories that make the tour an experience to remember.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## An island adventure

*West Cork* by Emily O'Sullivan

Like all of the islands scattered around Ireland's coast, Cape Clear seems wrapped in an air of mystery – remote, traditional, unique. The sense of isolation, of far-flung romance, of island secrets and maritime drama hits me as soon as I step onto the pier. As I walk around the island, I discover an undulating landscape of dry-stone walls and wildflowers, of traditional music and the Irish language, of friendly islanders and car-free country lanes. Cape Clear's relative remoteness has allowed traditions to continue unchanged, which gives it a unique atmosphere. Exploring this island makes you feel like you're in another world. Maybe it's the green hills set against the vast blue ocean, or the crystalline tones of the light, but Cape Clear's wild beauty is hypnotic. I make a promise to myself: one day, one day soon, I'll come back.

Cape Clear County Cork

## Hook Head Lighthouse

*County Wexford* by Emily O'Sullivan

"It's an amazing place to work," our tour guide smiles at us as we look out at the view. We're at Hook Head Lighthouse, on a balcony 46 metres off the ground, being gently buffeted by a fresh sea wind. The striped black-and-white tower that stands here today dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but a light has burned on this spot since St Dubhan lit one in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Walking up through Hook's chambers is a surprisingly profound experience – the building is unadorned, but it bears the marks of soot from medieval coal and boasts the original rib vaulted ceilings under which monks would have slept, eaten and worked. As our guide explains its 800-year-old history, we start to get a sense of what an astonishing place Hook really is, and how much history is contained here, in this maritime gateway to Ireland's Ancient East.

Hook Head Lighthouse County Wexford



Marble Arch Caves County Fermanagh

## Marble Arch Caves and Cuilcagh Trail

*County Fermanagh* by Emer Taaffe

Otherworldly – that's what it's like inside the Marble Arch Caves. There's a chill in the air. Bright sunlight fades to darkness. The sound of water is everywhere... I board a small flat-bottomed boat and we set off, ducking to avoid rocky outcrops as our guide shows us weird and wonderful geological phenomena – stalagmites sitting like melting candles atop bare rock; the drape of a cave curtain. It's an astonishing tour, but just down the road is something equally amazing. The Cuilcagh Legnabrocky Trail takes you from the undulating foothills of Cuilcagh Mountain right up to its flat-topped summit, and climbs steadily to a stepped boardwalk that protects the rare blanket bog. At the boardwalk's end a steep wooden stairway takes me to the mountain-top, offering views of Lough Atona. They call this the Stairway to Heaven. Standing at the top, I can see why. ☘



# OPEN SEASON

Major championship golf returns to Northern Ireland's iconic Royal Portrush in 2019, giving visitors from around the world the opportunity to see this beautiful part of the island and play some great golf themselves, writes Peter Ellegard



5<sup>th</sup> hole, Royal Portrush Golf Club County Antrim

Over eight spellbinding July days in 2019, a beguiling stretch of the spectacular **Causeway Coastal Route** in Northern Ireland will become the focus of attention for the sporting world. The Open will be returning to the hallowed fairways and greens of **Royal Portrush Golf Club** for the first time since 1951, when Max Faulkner lifted the famous Claret Jug aloft. It will also be only the second time that golf's most prestigious championship has been staged on the island of Ireland.

The 148<sup>th</sup> Open is set to be the biggest sporting event ever held in Northern Ireland, if not the island as a whole. At least 190,000 spectators are expected for the 2019 event, including the practice days, and the competition days are expected to attract a daily attendance of around 40,000. A park-and-ride system will be used to ferry the public from and back to nearby car parks.

As in 1951, the drama will be played out on the links of the famous Dunluce

Course at Royal Portrush, which was laid out by celebrated designer Harry Colt in 1932 and has recently been enhanced. The best golfers in the world will undoubtedly find the Dunluce Links a stern challenge at The Open. However, it is a fair test for all levels of golfer – provided you play straight and avoid the punishing marram grass rough and its deep bunkers. The wind is a constant factor as it twists and winds around the dunes. No two consecutive holes run in the same direction. Among the special qualities that make it so revered is the fact that it is a true links, enjoying an elevated position on the dunes and blending into the rugged landscape as Colt intended, rather than being below the dunes like some links.

As a result, golfers enjoy stirring views of the Atlantic Ocean and north Antrim coast, from the **Giant's Causeway** and the cliff-top ruins of **Dunluce Castle** in one direction, to the sweep of beaches that

Royal Portrush Golf Club County Antrim



Royal Portrush Golf Club County Antrim

## The Irish Open 2019

Beautifully situated on the Wild Atlantic Way in County Clare, Lahinch Golf Club is gearing up for a bumper year with the hosting of the Irish Open 2019. From its opening in 1892, Lahinch has been renowned for the quality of its links course with exceptional views of the Atlantic Ocean. According to 2014's Ryder Cup Captain and Dubliner Paul McGinley, Lahinch is "embedded in the history of Irish amateur golf, as well as in the hearts of our many international visitors, and it now deservedly gets the opportunity to showcase itself on the world stage." [lahinchgolf.com](http://lahinchgolf.com)



Lahinch Golf Club County Clare

lie beyond neighbouring **Portstewart** and **Castlerock** courses as far as Donegal to the west. On a clear day, golfers can even see beyond the offshore **Skerries islands** to the island of Islay, the southern bastion of Scotland's Inner Hebrides. The green of the par-four 5<sup>th</sup> hole, White Rocks, sets hearts racing with its spectacular position right on a cliff edge high above a beach, as does the adjacent 6<sup>th</sup> tee box.

Royal Portrush is steeped in the success of its local heroes. Fred Daly, a one-time caddy at the club, became Northern Ireland's first Champion Golfer of the Year with his victory at Hoylake in 1947. Graeme McDowell was born and grew up in Portrush, and won the US Open in >



5<sup>th</sup> Green, Royal Portrush Golf Club County Antrim

## Championship courses to try

Actor Bill Murray once said, "My favourite place to play golf is in Ireland. When you come as a guest, you're treated as a king." And he's not wrong. With courses to suit all abilities, majestic locations and a very warm welcome waiting, you'll find courses on the island of Ireland to be a cut above the rest. With The 148<sup>th</sup> Open hitting our shores in 2019, we look at other championship courses around the island where you can test your skills with the best of them.



Adare Manor County Limerick

### Adare Manor Golf Club County Limerick

The last major golf course designed by celebrated architect Robert Trent Jones Senior and opened in 1995, Adare Manor Golf Club in the pretty village of Adare, County Limerick, has just undergone a complete revamp, which is intended to position it at the very top of Ireland's golf facilities. The course meanders through 230 acres of lush parkland and majestic mature trees, crossed at various points by the River Maigue. The closing hole demands an approach shot over water to a green adjacent to the magnificent, turreted 19<sup>th</sup> century Adare Manor. [adaremanorgolfclub.com](http://adaremanorgolfclub.com)



Ballybunion County Kerry

### Ballybunion County Kerry

Regarded by many as Ireland's finest course, Ballybunion's Old Course is situated on the shores of the Shannon in County Kerry, and winds through huge sand dunes. The opening hole is one of golf's most intimidating, with a cemetery bordering the right for 200 yards. Five-time Open champion, Tom Watson, first visited in 1981, and recalls that it "started his love affair with Ballybunion and links golf, side by side." He also describes it in the official course planner as "a true test of golf". [ballybuniongolfclub.com](http://ballybuniongolfclub.com)



Whiterocks Beach County Antrim

2010, eight years after being awarded life membership of Royal Portrush.

Although the 148<sup>th</sup> Open at Royal Portrush is the biggest golfing event in Northern Ireland in 2019, it's also set to be a bumper year for the game in Northern Ireland, with the **Northern Ireland Open** taking place at Galgorm Castle, only 48km from Belfast. A **Ladies European Tour** event will also run at the same time as the European Challenge Tour.

### Beyond the course

Golf may dominate Portrush, but there's plenty to keep visitors occupied off the course. The small seaside resort town makes a great base for exploring the coastline, and there are wonderful beaches such as **Whiterocks**.

Those with time can drive the entire 193km Causeway Coastal Route that hugs the Atlantic coast from **Belfast to Derry~Londonderry**. Stay a while in Derry~Londonderry, and walk around the city's 400-year-old walls, followed by a guided tour of the auburn-brick beauty known as the **Guildhall**. At the opposite end of the route is Belfast, with its vibrant and exciting attractions including **Titanic Belfast**, the **Botanic Gardens**, the **Ulster Museum** and the excellent Michelin-starred restaurants, **OX** and **Eipic**.

For a taste of some great local traditional music, head inland to the quaint **Crosskeys Inn**, just north of Lough Neagh. This little thatched pub is one of the most famous traditional music pubs on the island, and, quite incredibly, dates back to 1654. If you're lucky you might even catch an eel supper!

Of course, a highlight for whiskey fans has to be the **Old Bushmills Distillery**, in the village of Bushmills. Here they've been producing whiskey since 1608,



Harry's Shack County Londonderry

making it the island of Ireland's oldest working distillery.

Interested in more golf? Besides Royal Portrush, other local courses to tee up on include 2017's Irish Open host **Portstewart** and **Castlerock's** 110-year-old Mussenden Links, reworked by Harry Colt in 1925, and then updated by Martin Hawtree in 2018, as well as the 18-hole **Ballycastle** course. Among inland courses are those at **Lough Erne** and **Castle Roe** resorts and **Galgorm Castle Golf Club**, venue for the annual Northern Ireland Open.

Once you've worked up an appetite, Portrush harbour has the **Mermaid**, the **Neptune & Prawn** and the **Harbour Bistro**, all of which are popular dining spots with golfers. You can also head to **Harry's Shack** or Italian restaurant **Amici**, both a few minutes away in Portstewart. **The Bushmills Inn** also dishes up great food with a nice "wee dram" on the side.

A perfect way to toast The Open, Ireland-style, perhaps? ☘

For more information visit [ireland.com/golf](http://ireland.com/golf)

### The K Club

County Kildare

The Kildare Country Club, to give it its full name, memorably hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup on its Palmer Course, created by Arnold Palmer in 1991. The River Liffey is an ever-present danger and the closing holes are memorable, especially the tight fairways and risk-reward temptation of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – as the Ryder Cup stars of Europe and America will recall. You can also try fly-fishing on the K Club Estate, which is situated near Dublin in Straffan, County Kildare. [kclub.ie](http://kclub.ie)



Old Head of Kinsale County Cork

### Old Head of Kinsale Golf Links

County Cork

Perhaps the most exhilarating golf course of all in Ireland, the Old Head of Kinsale Golf Links is laid out atop 91-metre high cliffs in the shadow of the Old Head of Kinsale lighthouse along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way in County Cork. Few courses will distract you as much as this, with its stunning coastal and ocean views – quite apart from the sheer drop down to the Atlantic waves, which crash against the rocks just beyond the edge of its fairways and greens. For golfers with cash to splash, arrive by helicopter at the heliport close to the opening hole and stay on-site in luxury suites. [oldhead.com](http://oldhead.com)

### Mount Juliet Golf Club

Kilkenny

Its opening hosted a match featuring golfing legends Christy O'Connor Snr and Jack Nicklaus back in 1991, and the prestigious Mount Juliet has been wowing both professionals and amateurs ever since. Set amid the gorgeous County Kilkenny countryside, the painstakingly designed parkland course boasts water features, fairways and contoured greens with plenty of tests for the keen golfer. Stick around afterwards as the resort hotel here features one of the most acclaimed restaurants on the island of Ireland – the delightful Michelin-starred Lady Helen. [mountjuliet.ie](http://mountjuliet.ie)

### Royal County Down

County Down

Royal County Down has to be one of the island's most formidable courses. Golf Digest calls it its "favourite course outside of the US" thanks to designer Tom Morris, who shaped the natural undulations of sand dunes on the edge of Dundrum Bay into a links layout that is as beautiful as it is challenging. The Mourne Mountains provide this sculptural masterpiece with a dramatic backdrop, but a word to the wise: don't get distracted by your surroundings at any of the five blind tee shots, deep pot bunkers, domed greens and narrow ribbons of hummocky fairways, or you'll rue your scorecard in the Irish 19<sup>th</sup>, the clubhouse. [royalcountydown.org](http://royalcountydown.org)

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[info@delphiresort.com](mailto:info@delphiresort.com) | +353 (0) 95 42208 | [www.delphiresort.com](http://www.delphiresort.com)

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 INGOLSTADT VILLAGE MUNICH | MAASMEHELEN VILLAGE BRUSSELS | FIDENZA VILLAGE MILAN | LA ROCA VILLAGE BARCELONA  
 LAS VEGAS VILLAGE MADRID | CHINA: SUZHOU VILLAGE SUZHOU | SHANGHAI VILLAGE SHANGHAI

# FIVE GREAT OFF-THE-BEATEN TRACK EXPERIENCES

We look at five amazing ways to uncover the road less travelled, from exciting outdoor adventures to captivating trails



Shannon-Erne Blueway Counties Leitrim, Cavan and Fermanagh

## Shannon-Erne Blueway

Gently flowing waters, pale reeds and a sense of getting away from it all. The Shannon-Erne Blueway is a stunning 70km mix of canal, river and lake that weaves from Leitrim village in County Leitrim to either Belturbet in County Cavan or Crom in County Fermanagh. Paddling these waters is a dreamily quiet experience with a real sense of escape and some lovely little places to enjoy lunch or dinner, such as The Olde Post Inn in Cloverhill. Check out [bluewaysireland.org](http://bluewaysireland.org) for descriptions of each section, or book in a trip with [leitrimsurf.ie](http://leitrimsurf.ie)



Rock of Dunamase County Laois

## The Rock of Dunamase County Laois

Even though it's been a ruin for hundreds of years, there's something about the castle on the Rock of Dunamase that can send a shiver down the spine. This rocky outcrop can be seen for miles, and not surprisingly, it's been used as a stronghold for centuries, at least since early Christian times. Although it fell into ruin in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the rock was once given as a lavish wedding present when the King of Leinster's daughter Aoife married the legendary Norman warrior Strongbow in 1170. Today it's open to explorers, offering great views from the top.



Gortin Lakes County Tyrone

## The Sperrin Mountains County Tyrone

Stretching from Strabane to the shores of Lough Neagh, the Sperrins in County Tyrone are a place apart. At 64km long, this is the largest and least explored mountain range in Northern Ireland and boasts 10 peaks above 500 metres. Vast views stretch in every direction across a landscape that seems almost impossibly green, while Gortin Lakes and Glenelly Valley reflect the passage of the Ice Age through this quiet part of the island. You'll find riverside strolls, Neolithic remains and an annual Sperrins and Killeter Walking Festival (Sept).



Ballyhealy Castle The Norman Way, County Wexford

## The Norman Way County Wexford

The Normans arrived in Ireland in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and changed the course of the island's history. Want to find out more? Why not try the Norman Way in County Wexford. Snaking along a picturesque slice of the coastline, the route is packed with hidden gems along its 22km, from the starting point at Lady Island to the finish at the seaside village of Kilmore Quay. Taking in 10 historic sites, the Norman Way also boasts pretty country lanes, deserted beaches and lush landscapes, making it ideal for exploring on two wheels. [thenormanway.com](http://thenormanway.com)

## Across Carlingford Lough Counties Down and Louth

Locals and visitors alike have been waiting a long time for a ferry over this narrow neck of water across the opening to Carlingford Lough, and it's certainly worth it. The trip between Greenore in County Louth and Greencastle in County Down takes only 15 minutes and is incredibly beautiful. Greenore is on the Cooley Peninsula, where you can walk, cycle or drive to find mountain walks, prehistoric ruins and seaside strolls. Greencastle, on the opposite side, at the base of the Mourne Mountains is close to the busy fishing port of Kilkeel.

Greencastle County Down





Valentia Island County Kerry



## IRELAND GENERAL INFORMATION & KEY TRAVEL FACTS



Giant's Causeway County Antrim

### 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 Arkana Street, Yarralumla, ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6214 0000

Email: [canberraembassy@dfa.ie](mailto:canberraembassy@dfa.ie)

#### The Consulate General of Ireland – Sydney

Level 26, 1 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9264 9635; Fax: (02) 9264 9740

Email: [sydneycongen@dfa.ie](mailto:sydneycongen@dfa.ie)

#### The British High Commission – Australia

130 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6270 6666

[gov.uk/government/world/australia](http://gov.uk/government/world/australia)

#### Embassy of Ireland – New Zealand

Level 14, Solnet House, 70 The Terrace, Wellington 6140

[dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand](http://dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand)

#### Consulate General of Ireland – New Zealand

Tel: (09) 919 7450; email: [consul@ireland.co.nz](mailto:consul@ireland.co.nz)  
Twitter: @irlnz1

Facebook: [ConsulateGeneralofIrelandAucklandireland.co.nz](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateGeneralofIrelandAucklandireland.co.nz)

#### The British High Commission – New Zealand

44 Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011  
Tel: (04) 924 2888

[gov.uk/government/world/new-zealand](http://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](http://nda.ie)

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

##### Disability Action

Tel: +44 28 9029 7880; [disabilityaction.org](http://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 2019

New Year's Day	1 Jan
St Patrick's Day	17 Mar
St Patrick's Day Holiday	18 Mar
Good Friday (NI only)	19 Apr
Easter Monday	22 Apr
May Bank Holiday	6 May
Spring Bank Holiday (NI only)	27 May
June Bank Holiday (ROI only)	3 June
July Holiday (NI only)	12 July
Aug Bank Holiday (ROI only)	5 Aug
Aug Bank Holiday (NI only)	26 Aug
Oct Bank Holiday (ROI only)	28 Oct
Christmas Day	25 Dec
St Stephen's Day (ROI)	26 Dec
Boxing Day (NI)	26 Dec

Good Friday is not an official public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, although some shops and businesses are closed.

### 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](http://journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie)  
[translink.co.uk](http://translink.co.uk)

If you're travelling in your own car, or renting a vehicle, it's important to know the following: as in Australia and New Zealand, 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](http://etoll.ie)



Powerscourt House and Gardens County Wicklow

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E: [reservations@irishnationalstud.ie](mailto:reservations@irishnationalstud.ie)

**IRISH NATIONAL STUD & GARDENS**

[www.irishnationalstud.ie](http://www.irishnationalstud.ie)

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[www.clarkecollection.ie](http://www.clarkecollection.ie)

# TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY AIR

## AIRPORTS

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. One-stop services from Australia to Ireland include Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways through the Middle East, while Cathay Pacific also offers one-stop services from Australia to Ireland via Hong Kong. One-stop options from New Zealand include Cathay Pacific, Emirates and Qatar, as well as an Air New Zealand/Aer Lingus partnership via San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago. 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.

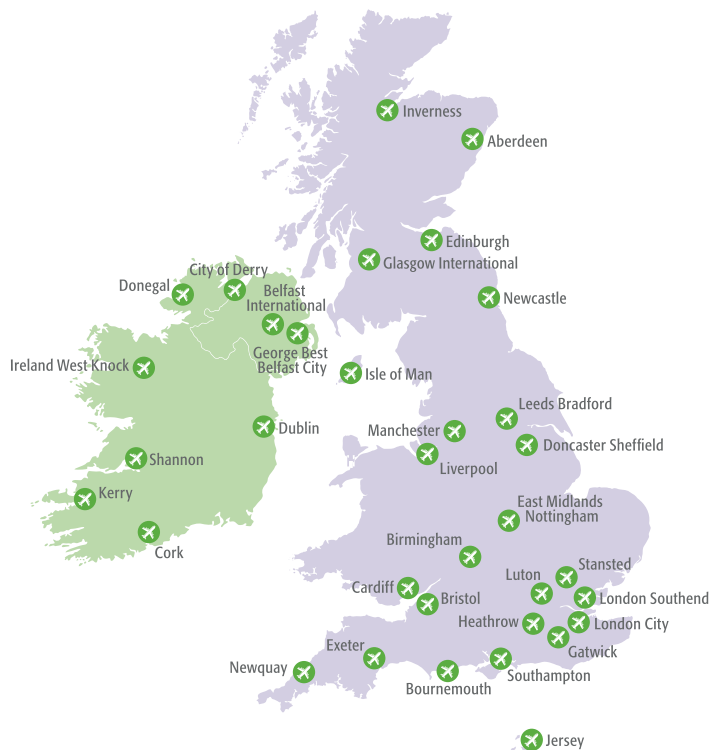
## AIRLINE CONTACT DETAILS

### AUSTRALIA

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Aer Lingus	1300 304 016	aerlingus.com
Air France	1300 390 190	airfrance.com.au
Austrian Airlines	02 827 84385	austrian.com
British Airways	1300 767 177	britishairways.com.au
Cathay Pacific	131 747	cathayairways.com.au
Emirates	1300 303 777	emirates.com
Etihad Airways	1300 532 215	etihad.com
Finnair	1300 132 944	finnair.com/au
Japan Airlines	1800 531 870	au.jal.com
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	1300 392 192	klm.com
Lufthansa	1300 655 727	lufthansa.com
Malaysia Airlines	132 627	malaysiaairlines.com
Qantas Airways	131 313	qantas.com.au
Scandinavian Airlines	1300 727 707	flysas.com
Singapore Airlines	131 011	singaporeair.com
Thai Airways International	1300 651 960	thaiairways.com
Qatar Airways	1300 340 600	qatarairways.com/au
Virgin Australia	136 789	virginaustralia.com.au

### NEW ZEALAND

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Aer Lingus	(09) 308 3351	aerlingus.com
Air France KLM	(09) 921 6040	klm.com/home/nz/en
Air New Zealand	0800 737 000	airnewzealand.co.nz
Austrian Airlines	0800 945 220	austrian.com
British Airways	(09) 966 9777	ba.com
Cathay Pacific	0800 441 289	cathayairways.co.nz
Ethiopian Airlines	(09) 300 4514	ethiopianairlines.com
Emirates	0508 352 436	emirates.com/nz
Etihad Airways	(09) 977 2207	etihadairways.com
Finnair	(09) 969 7603	finnair.com
Lufthansa & Swiss	0800 945 220	lufthansa.com/swiss.com
Malaysia Airlines	-	malaysiaairlines.com
Qantas Airways	-	qantas.co.nz
Qatar Airways	0800 174865	qatarairways.com/nz
Scandinavian Airlines	-	flysas.com
Singapore Airlines	0800 808 909	singaporeair.com
Thai Airways International	0800 100 992	thaiairways.co.nz
United	02111 902435	united.com
Virgin Australia	0800 670 000	virginaustralia.com



## EUROPEAN

AIRLINE	WEBSITE
Aer Lingus	aerlingus.com
BMI Regional	flybmi.com
British Airways	britishairways.com
CityJet	cityjet.com
easyJet	easyjet.com
Finnair	finnair.com
Flybe	flybe.com
Ryanair	ryanair.com

## REGIONAL AIRPORTS

The following internal flights are available within Ireland:

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE	WEBSITE
Dublin	Donegal	Aer Lingus Regional	aerlingus.com
	Kerry	Aer Lingus Regional	aerlingus.com

## TRAVELLING FROM DUBLIN AND BELFAST AIRPORTS INTO CITY CENTRES

### DUBLIN

On arrival in Dublin Airport, you can take a bus or a taxi into Dublin city centre. Buses and taxis 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; €7\* single and €12\* return. Children travel half price. Aircoach also runs coaches from Dublin airport to and from the city centre and suburban County Dublin locations and to and from Belfast. For details visit: [aircoach.ie](http://aircoach.ie)

### BELFAST

**Belfast International Airport**  
Belfast city centre is just 29km from the airport and can be accessed by bus and taxi. Airport Express 300 now operates a 24-hour service between the airport and the city centre with buses departing regularly throughout the day; £8\* single and £11\* return. The bus leaves from the bus stop located opposite the terminal exit. A taxi fare to the city centre is approximately £30\*.  
**George Best Belfast City Airport**  
Airport Express 600 into the city centre runs on the hour (every 20 minutes during peak time); £2.50\* single and £3.80\* return. Taxi fare to the city is approximately £10\*. Trains run from adjacent Sydenham station to Belfast and beyond.

\*Prices are correct at time of going to press but are subject to change

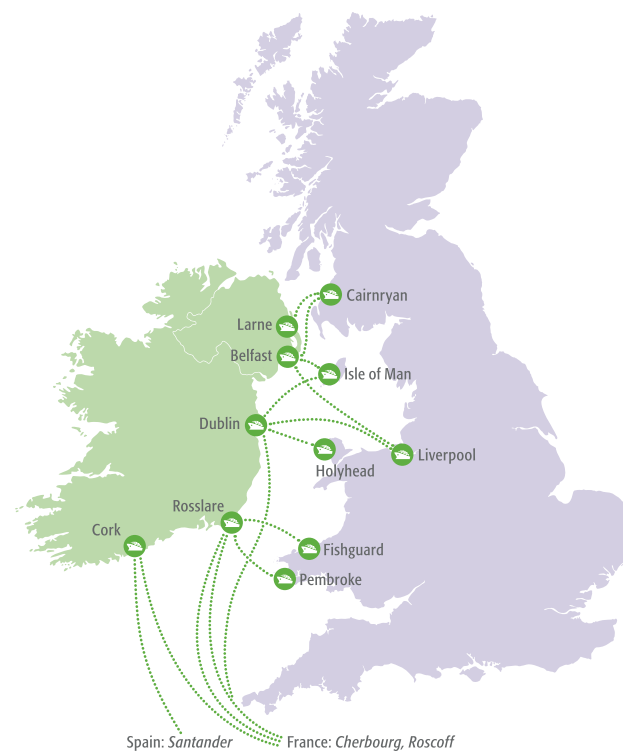


Marble Hill Beach County Donegal

# TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY SEA

## FERRY PORTS

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



## SEA ROUTES

DEPART	ARRIVE	CARRIER	VESSEL	DURATION
Cairnryan	Belfast	Stena Line	Superfast VII/VIII	2hrs 15mins
	Larne	P&O Ferries	Express Superferry	1hr 1hr 45mins
Fishguard	Rosslare	Stena Line	Stena Line Europe Superferry	2hrs 3hrs 30mins
Holyhead	Dublin	Irish Ferries	Ulysses Cruise Ferry	3hrs 15mins
		Irish Ferries	Dublin Swift	1hr 49mins
		Stena Line	Adventurer	3hrs 15mins
Isle of Man	Belfast	Steam Packet Company	Fastcraft	2hrs 55mins
	Dublin	Steam Packet Company	Fastcraft	2hrs 55mins
Liverpool	Dublin	P&O Ferries	Irish Sea Ferry	8hrs
Liverpool (Birkenhead)	Belfast	Stena Line	Stena Lagan	8hrs
			Stena Mersey	8hrs
Pembroke	Rosslare	Irish Ferries	Cruise Ferry	3hrs 45mins

## FERRY AND COACH OPERATORS CONTACT DETAILS

FERRY COMPANY	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Brittany Ferries	-	directferries.co.uk/brittany.htm
Irish Ferries	+44 871 730 0400	irishferries.com
P&O Ferries	+44 871 702 3477	poferries.com
Steam Packet Company	+44 872 299 2992	steam-packet.com
Stena Line	+44 844 770 7070	stenaline.co.uk
Eurolines	+44 871 781 8181	eurolines.co.uk

\* All direct routes/information correct at time of going to press but may be subject to future operator changes. Please see websites for details. Calls to operators may incur local or national call charges.







Cloughoughter Castle County Cavan



# AUSTRALIA TOUR OPERATORS

COMPANY	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	B&B	Car hire	Coach/rail tours	Cruising	Cycling	Entertainment	Equestrian	Ferries	Fishing	Golfing	Hostels	Hotels	Luxury travel	Rail/bus passes	Self-catering	Special interest	Walking	Motor homes	Dublin pass
Access Ireland Holidays	1800 336 676	accessirelandholidays.com	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avis International	136 333	avis.com.au		•																	
Backroads Touring Company	1300 100 410	backroadstouring.com		•										•	•			•			
Budget	1300 362 848	budget.com.au		•																	
Busabout	1300 287 226	busabout.com		•									•			•					
Celtic Travel	(02) 8243 2600	travellerschoice.com.au/agent-details/celtic-travel-services	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CIE	1800 502 911	cietours.com			•									•							
Collette	1300 792 196	gocollette.com			•									•							
Contiki Holidays	1300 856 298	contiki.com.au			•								•								
DQ International Travel Service	(03) 9614 4588	email: travel@dqinternational.com.au		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DriveAway Holidays	1300 363 500	driveaway.com.au			•																•
Drive Travel	1300 883 588	drivetravel.com.au		•											•						•
Emerald Travel	(03) 9690 2123	emeraldtravel.com.au	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eurovillas	(03) 9593 2170	eurovillas.com.au	•	•											•			•			
Flight Centre	133 133	flightcentre.com.au	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Globus Family	1300 973 415	globusfamily.com.au			•										•						
Golf Explorer	(08) 8376 4495	golfeplorer.com.au		•									•								
Handpicked Holidays	07 567 921 21	handpickedholidays.com.au	•	•	•										•						•
Helloworld	131 415	helloworld.com.au	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hertz Australia	13 30 39	hertz.com.au		•																	
Holiday Autos	(08) 6365 4248	holidayautos.com		•																	
Holidays on Location	03 9851 8747	holidaysonlocation.com	•	•	•	•	•	•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Insight Vacations	1800 001 778	insightvacations.com/au			•										•	•		•			
Irelandjourneys	0417 206 932	irelandjourneys.com.au			•										•			•			
Outdoor Travel	1800 331 582	outdoortravel.com.au				•	•								•				•		
Qantas Holidays	1300 443 485	qantasholidays.com.au	•	•	•			•		•									•		•
Rail Plus	1300 555 003	railplus.com.au			•												•				
Renaissance Tours	1300 727 095	renaissancetours.com.au																	•		
Scenic Tours	1300 173 812	scenic.tours.com.au			•									•							
Shamrock Travel	(03) 9882 8368	shamrocktravel.com.au	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shamrock	1300 287 226	shamrockradventures.com			•								•								
Teed Up Golf Tours	(02) 8458 9000	teedupgolf.com										•		•							
Tempo Holidays	1300 558 987	tempoholidays.com	•	•	•										•						
The Wayfarers	(02) 8091 4045	thewayfarers.com													•					•	
Top Deck Tours	1300 886 332	topdeck.travel		•	•									•							
Trafalgar Tours	1800 940 447	trafalgartours.com			•										•						
Utracks	1300 303 368	utricks.com					•							•						•	
World Drive Holidays	1300 653 270	worlddriveholidays.com.au		•																	•

All information correct at time of going to press but may be subject to future operator changes.



# A GREAT BASE TO EXPLORE DUBLIN

Sandymount Hotel is conveniently located beside the Aviva Stadium, close to Dublin Airport and ferry port. Experience the warmth and charm of this renowned family-run Dublin hotel. Complimentary parking offered to all our guests.

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[info@sandymounthotel.ie](mailto:info@sandymounthotel.ie)  
[www.sandymounthotel.ie](http://www.sandymounthotel.ie)



Thinking of a trip – but not sure where to begin? We're right here to help! For tips, tricks and recommendations, talk to the people who know Ireland best.

Visit us on [community.ireland.com](http://community.ireland.com)



# NEW ZEALAND TOUR OPERATORS

COMPANY	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	B&B	Car hire	Coach/rail tours	Cruising	Cycling	Entertainment	Equestrian	Ferries	Golfing	Sports	Hotels	Rail	Self-catering	Special interest	Walking	Motor homes	Other	Dublin pass
A Walker's World & Cycling Europe	(09) 486 7473	walkersworld.co.nz & cycling-europe.com	•	•			•						•			•	•			•
All Blacks Tours	0800 87 2011	allblackstours.com			•							•								•
Avis Rent-A-Car	0800 655 111	avis.co.nz		•																
Backroads Touring Company	0800 223 369	backroadstouring.com			•								•			•				
Budget Rent-A-Car	0800 283 438	budget.com		•																
Contiki Holidays NZ	0508 266 8454	contiki.com			•											•				
Creative Holidays	0800 652 441	creativeholidays.com	•	•			•			•			•			•				•
Drive Away Holidays	0800 885 590	driveaway.co.nz		•						•										•
Eurolynx Travel Ltd	(09) 361 3661	eurolynx.co.nz			•	•							•		•					
Europcar	0800 800 115	europcar.com		•																
First Travel Group	0800 432 737	first-travel-group.co.nz/our-members.aspx	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flight Centre	0800 243 544	flightcentre.co.nz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flora Tours	0800 356 728	floratours.co.nz and pilgrimagetours.co.nz			•											•				
Globus Family	(09) 379 5375	globusfamily.co.nz			•	•										•				•
HelloWorld	0800758787	helloworld.co.nz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hertz New Zealand	0800 654 321	hertz.com		•																
House of Travel	0800 367 468	houseoftravel.co.nz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Insight Vacations	(09) 300 1580	insightvacations.com			•											•				•
Maher Escorted Tours	0800 500 518	mahertours.co.nz			•		•									•				•
PaR n.z Corporate Events & Golfing Holidays	(09) 486 1077	parnz.co.nz			•						•		•			•				•
Rail Plus	(09) 377 5415	railplus.co.nz												•						
Supreme Tours (for the mature traveller)	0800 809 300	supremetoursandtravel.com	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tempo Holidays	-	tempoholidays.co.nz	•	•	•								•	•						•
Trafalgar Tours (NZ) Ltd	0800 484 333	trafalgartours.co.nz			•															•
UK-Europe Self Catering	(09) 536 4200	uk-europe.co.nz													•					
Williment Sports Travel	(04) 380 2500	williment.co.nz			•			•		•	•					•				•
World Travellers	0800777730	worldtravellers.co.nz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
You Travel	0800 YOU TRAVEL	youtravel.co.nz/home	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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# MAP & ROUTE MILEAGE PLANNER

Roads in Ireland range from modern motorways to narrow country lanes, and driving in Ireland can be a magical experience, with scenic treasures around every corner.



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