

Ireland

Your Travel Magazine

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THE BEST OF IRELAND

ENJOY AN ADVENTURE
ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

UNCOVER THE SECRETS
OF IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

ESCAPE INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY
BEAUTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Glenveagh National Park, County Donegal

 ireland.com



PHOTO: @STORYTRAVELERS



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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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PICTURE THIS

Binevenagh
County Londonderry

From the summit of Binevenagh, shades of green sweep out to the distant blue hills on the horizon, overlooking the majestic Lough Foyle. This is a place where drama, beauty and nature collide with spectacular effect, and is one of Northern Ireland's real hidden gems. The short but steep walk brings you along a forest road and through coniferous forest to the headland where you can admire the incredible panorama – on a clear day, you might even catch a glimpse of Scotland. 🍀



Kylemore Abbey County Galway

PHOTO: @STORYTRAVELERS



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Ireland This is Ireland

THIS IS IRELAND

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

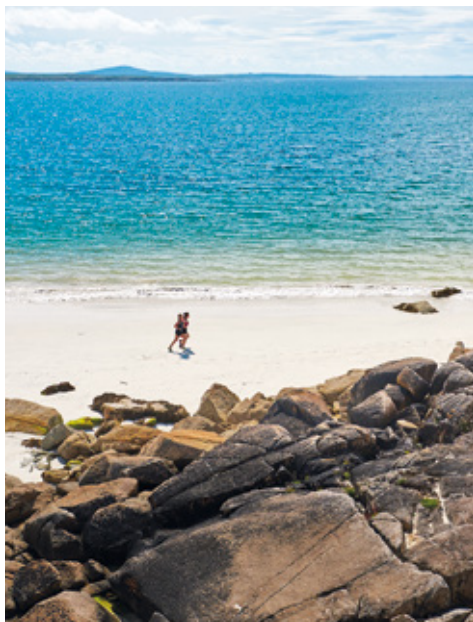
So make your way to a special place that pulses with toe-tapping music, to traditional pubs where chatter and laughter ring in your ears, and to ancient tombs where you can connect with Stone Age man. Whether you're travelling along the windswept Wild Atlantic Way, uncovering primitive history and intriguing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



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- 01 Giant's Causeway County Antrim
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- 03 Passing time in the local pub
- 04 Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge County Antrim
- 05 Seafood fresh from the sea
- 06 Gurteen Beach County Galway
- 07 Tranarossan Bay County Donegal

DISCOVER ALL ABOUT... IRELAND ON SCREEN

Lights, camera, action! There's a good reason that Ireland is a star of the screen – from romantic castles to the mysterious beauty of the landscape, the island has a cinematic sense of style

The cliffs, the green fields, the quaint thatched cottages – it's no wonder Ireland has long been a favourite of filmmakers. This is an island that feels tailor-made for big-screen stardom, from the thrilling drama of Mel Gibson's **Braveheart**, starring Trim Castle in County Meath, to the vast, graceful sands of Wexford's beaches, perfectly pictured in **Brooklyn**. Tour the stunning Connemara film locations that featured in **The Quiet Man**; climb Killiney Hill in County Dublin, which wowed in Oscar-winning **Once**; or be awed by the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, scenic stars of **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**.

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

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

Famous for its bohemian vibes, artistic outlook and dynamic creativity, **Galway** is a filmmaker's dream – a city both old and new that boasts medieval streets, charismatic old pubs and flashes of bold modern architecture. In 2014, this western gem was designated a **UNESCO City of Film**, acknowledging Ireland's writers and producers, as well as the Galway Film Centre, the Irish Film Board and TG4 (the Irish-language television station), all of which are based in the city. The Galway Film Fleadh (festival) in July is a great way to soak up a slice of Galway's film scene, and the intimate venues, post-screening events and sense of energy and fun throughout the city during festival time give it a unique ambience. Beyond the city, the county of Galway has featured in numerous films, including **Marley & Me**, **The Guard** and **The Field**. 🍷



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- 01 **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**
Skellig Michael, County Kerry
- 02 **Game of Thrones**
Dark Hedges, County Antrim
- 03 **Brooklyn**
Curracløe Beach, County Wexford
- 04 **Braveheart**
Trim Castle, County Meath

PHOTO: © STORYTRAVELERS

HISTORIC PLACES TO STAY

From decadent drawing rooms to secret little libraries, explore an elegant side to Ireland with some of the island's most historic places to stay

Clare Island Lighthouse County Mayo

Boasting a dramatic location at the entrance to Clew Bay, Clare Island is all about getting back to nature. This thrilling destination rewards visitors with cliffs, woodland, mountains and Clare Island Lighthouse boutique accommodation. Here, guests relax in the well-stocked library, tuck into six-course feasts in the elegant dining room and explore the island's great walking routes. clareislandlighthouse.com

Belle Isle Estate County Fermanagh

County Fermanagh is perfect for a relaxing holiday, with its mix of undulating green fields, glassy lakes, and charming towns and villages. In the heart of this idyllic beauty is Belle Isle, a magnificent castle estate set over eight islands and inhabited since the 12th century. The castle is rented out in its entirety and sleeps up to 26, but there are attractive self-catering apartments and coach-house cottages to choose from, too. belle-isle.com

Killiane Castle County Wexford

Located in a delightfully tranquil part of the southeast, Killiane Castle was named Farmhouse of the Year in 2017 by the Georgina Campbell Guide for good reason. Set on a narrow, leafy road in County Wexford only 4.8km from Wexford town, this 17th century house offers beautiful accommodation next to a 15th century castle. Play croquet on the lawn, read by the fire or ramble through the peaceful grounds. killianecastle.com

The Bushmills Inn County Antrim

If you like the idea of a warming whiskey beside an open fire after a day exploring the Causeway Coastal Route, then The Bushmills Inn could be for you. In days of old, saddle-sore visitors to the coast would use the inn as a stopover, and the oldest part of the building is thought to date back to 1608. A gas-lit bar, nooks and crannies, and a secret library create an atmosphere of heritage in a village that's famous for its whiskey. bushmillsinn.com

Clonalis House County Roscommon

In County Roscommon sits a historic Irish manor house that has been home to generations of the O'Connor family, traditional high kings of the province of Connacht. Step through the gates, and you'll find a beautiful avenue that winds through woodland and fields to the 19th century house. With picture-lined walls and a library stocked with fascinating old books, Clonalis charms guests with the spirit of a bygone era. clonalis.com 🍷



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- 01 **Clare Island Lighthouse**
Clare Island, County Mayo
- 02 **Belle Isle Estate**
County Fermanagh
- 03 **Killiane Castle**
County Wexford
- 04 **Bushmills Inn**
County Antrim
- 05 **Clonalis House**
County Roscommon



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AT KILLIANE IN COUNTY WEXFORD, YOU CAN PLAY CROQUET ON THE LAWN, READ BY THE FIRE OR RAMBLE THROUGH THE PEACEFUL GROUNDS



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THREE AMAZING ROAD TRIPS

Ireland is famous for the fabulous road trips of the Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coastal Route, but the island also boasts an incredible array of lesser-known routes that are just as thrilling. Here are three to get you going...



Conor Pass, County Kerry



01

NORTHERN IRELAND Mourne Coastal Scenic Drive

Distance: 161km

Backed by the Mourne Mountains and stretching along Carlingford Lough and the Irish Sea, the Mourne Coastal Drive has all you could want from a road trip: scenery, adventure and charm. Heading from **Newry** along the northern shore of the magnificent **Carlingford Lough** and up to the scenic seaside town of **Newcastle**, the route takes in enigmatic forest parks, mountain peaks, and seaside towns and villages. Take time out to explore the exciting mountain bike trails and appealing walks through **Kilbroney Forest Park** and **Rostrevor Forest**; cook up a storm at the **Mourne Seafood Cookery School** in Kilkeel, which overlooks the harbour and specialises in local dishes; and head off into nature on a trek through the **Mourne Mountains**. This is the very landscape that is thought to have inspired author CS Lewis to create the magical kingdom of Narnia in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Mountain, sea, forest and fantasy – the Mourne Coastal Scenic Drive has it all.



02

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST Copper Coast and Comeragh Mountains

Distance: 166km

The Copper Coast runs along a small but stunning stretch of coastline in County Waterford – a UNESCO Global Geopark fringed by the rocky Comeragh Mountains. Named after the 19th century copper mines that dot the landscape here, this route offers everything from thrilling medieval history in the city of **Waterford**, to glorious seaside towns such as **Tramore**, which has been attracting holidaymakers since the 1850s. Following the coastal road, you'll come upon lovely places to stop, such as **Guillamene Cove**, where deep clear waters invite you in for a swim. From the town of **Newtown**, the route passes through photogenic villages such as **Fenor**, **Annestown** and **Stradbally**, with hidden beaches overlooked by dramatic sea stacks. There are craggy cliffs, little coves and abundant wildlife, as well as a wealth of places to enjoy great food including the stylish **Tannery** in Dungarvan, **The Copper Hen** in Fenor and **The Victoria House** in Tramore. Coastal magic.



03

WILD ATLANTIC WAY Sheep's Head Peninsula

Distance: 71km

Want to feel like you're driving to the edge of the world? Then venture onto Sheep's Head Peninsula where pale grasses meet cliff edges, and crashing Atlantic waves provide fantastic panoramas at every turn. Wild landscapes cradle small villages, with friendly locals and attractive little pubs and restaurants such as **Arundels by the Pier** in Ahakista. This is a seriously invigorating part of the island, and a road trip here encourages you to park up, get out and explore. Starting at the lively town of **Bantry**, the route creeps along this exceptional peninsula past holy wells, standing stones and incredible scenery. At the very end of Sheep's Head, walk out to the lighthouse and enjoy views that stretch across the Atlantic Ocean. Head back to the charming village of **Durrus** for lunch or dinner at the **Good Things Café** before the short drive back to Bantry. ☘

01 Cloughmore Stone Rostrevor, County Down
02 Dunabratton Pier County Waterford
03 Sheep's Head Peninsula County Cork

FOOD IN IRELAND

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

When it comes to food on the island of Ireland, you need to start at the very beginning. The natural produce here has made Ireland one of Europe's most talked-about food destinations, with artisan cheese, exceptional beef and lamb, and fresh seafood. From smoked salmon to the creamiest butter, Ireland's food is pure and simple, while traditional dishes of coddle (a bacon, sausage, potato and onion stew), Irish stew (made with lamb, carrot and potatoes), soda bread (a brown bread) and the Ulster Fry (a cooked breakfast) celebrate the great flavours of the past.



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Traditional meets modern

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

01 Klaw Temple Bar, Dublin
02 Idás Dingle, County Kerry
03 Love Fish Belfast
04 Moran's Oyster Cottage Kilcolgan, County Galway
05 Taste & Tour Belfast

ireland.com



01

A taste of the sea

With oysters and crab claws, mussels and lobster, Ireland's seafood is nothing short of exceptional. All around the island, you'll find enticing places to enjoy super-fresh flavours, from plates of oysters at the **Temple Bar Food Market** to cosy **Klaw** in Dublin's Crown Alley – and from the famous **Mourne Seafood Bar** in Dundrum, County Down, to **Love Fish** in Belfast. Fancy some top-notch seafood right by the water? Then check out **Harry's Shack** on Portstewart Strand, County Londonderry, **Moran's Oyster Cottage** in Kilcolgan, County Galway, and **Trá Bán** in Strandhill, County Sligo.



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The best local drinks

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



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Top Tip

Get to know Ireland's food scene from the inside out and taste some excellent local produce with a walking tour from Belfast's Taste & Tour, and Fab Food Trails in Dublin and Cork. ☘



IRELAND'S CITIES

Take a break in some of the most exciting cities in the world, from bursts of fresh coastal air in Dublin to great sightseeing in Belfast, Cork and Derry~Londonderry

01

Five great places to visit

Guinness Storehouse
Learn all about the history of Ireland's famous black stout in the impressive Guinness Storehouse at the home of the brewery in St James's Gate. The fascinating tour ends with a pint of the "black stuff" in the Gravity Bar, which has panoramic views across the city.



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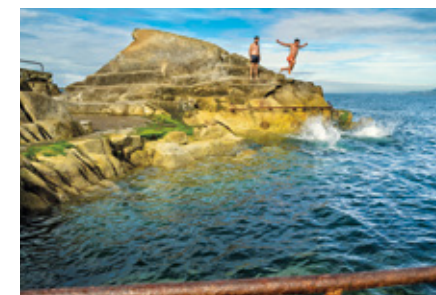
Trinity College and the Book of Kells
The cobblestone courtyards of Trinity College are a peaceful haven from the bustle of the city centre. Trinity's highlights include the Book of Kells, a richly decorated manuscript from the 9th century, and the impressive Long Room, home to 200,000 of the library's oldest books.



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Kilmainham Gaol
When it first opened in 1796, this prison was used to house convicts bound for Australia. Kilmainham later became a symbol of the Irish fight for independence, when the leaders of the 1916 Irish Rising were executed here.

National Museum of Ireland
Uncover Ireland's rich history through artefacts that date back thousands of years. The glittering collection of prehistoric gold jewellery at Or, Ireland's Gold exhibition, includes decorative collars dating from the Bronze Age. And don't miss the section on the mysterious Iron Age bodies discovered in Irish bogs.



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Temple Bar
In this central location between the River Liffey and Dame Street, you'll find pubs, restaurants and clubs along Temple Bar's cobbled streets. The Gallery of Photography, a weekend book market and a summer design market every Saturday at Cow's Lane add to the attractions.



PHOTO: BARRY MCCALL

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Food and drink

With its hip cafés, bustling brasseries and elegant fine-dining restaurants, Dublin's food scene is one of the most exciting in Europe.

Enjoy a taste of Ireland's famous seafood in restaurants such as **Matt the Thresher** on Pembroke Street Lower, **Fish Shop** in Smithfield and **Catch 22** on South Anne Street. Modern-meets-traditional at **Delahunt** on Camden Street Lower, where menus feature local produce transformed by often-overlooked cooking techniques. For innovative cuisine with a focus on the best local ingredients, try **Locks** in Portobello or the contemporary neighbourhood bistro **Bastible** on South Circular Road.

The **Temple Bar Food Market** in Meeting House Square is great for a Saturday stroll, featuring stalls laden with everything from seasonal fruit and vegetables to cheeses and meats. Don't miss **Leo Burdock's** at Christ Church Cathedral for traditional takeaway fish and chips wrapped in paper, or go for a light lunch in one of the city's popular cafés such as the Grafton Street institution of **Bewley's**.



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Dublin

Dublin charms the visitor with a gorgeous coastal setting, compelling history, lively nightlife and an impressive food scene. The city gives off a warm, laid-back atmosphere thanks to friendly locals who view the world with a wry smile. This is a destination you'll want to return to again and again.

Dating back to Viking times, Dublin is a city where historic buildings sit next to cool cafés and quirky craft shops. Take a wander around the old city area and you'll happen upon ancient structures such as **Christ Church Cathedral** (founded around 1030), **The Brazen Head Pub** (1198) and **Dublin Castle** (1204).

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

Dublin is a cultural capital. You won't go far in the city without hearing a tune, whether it's from talented buskers on

Grafton Street or traditional music coming from a pub. The city is also famous for being a powerhouse of the written word. In this UNESCO City of Literature, you can immerse yourself in all things literary at the **Dublin Writers Museum**; join the entertaining **Literary Pub Crawl** around some pubs beloved of writers, such as The Duke, frequented by Patrick Kavanagh and Brendan Behan; or visit the **James Joyce Museum** beside the sea in Sandycove, County Dublin, now a pilgrimage site for enthusiasts of modern literature.

Backed by mountains and on the edge of the Irish Sea, Dublin makes the most of its striking location, with great coastal villages that ooze charm and a bounty of cliff walks, castles, cool bars and "craic". So whether you're enjoying the energetic atmosphere of the modern city or a leisurely stroll to take in the views, you'll find Dublin is a breath of fresh air.

- 01 Ha'penny Bridge
- 02 Dublin Castle
- 03 Howth Head
- 04 Guinness Storehouse
- 05 Trinity College
- 06 The Forty Foot, Sandycove
- 07 Delahunt restaurant



Dublin tips

Dublin has plenty of grassy spaces – there's St Stephen's Green, known for its pretty ponds and blooming flowerbeds, and Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed city park, with its resident herd of fallow deer. Or try the peaceful Iveagh Gardens, a secret green oasis off Harcourt Street, which has a yew maze and ornate fountains.

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

Take the DART south to Sandycove for a dip at the famous Forty Foot bathing spot, and a walk along the scenic seafront. Top things off with an ice cream from Teddy's, close to Dún Laoghaire's East Pier – it's a favourite with Dubliners.

See the 800-year-old mummies in the vaults of St Michan's Church. The first church was founded here in 1095 and the bodies are thought to have been preserved by limestone in the walls.



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Five great places to visit

Crumlin Road Gaol

A working prison from 1845 to 1996, Crumlin Road Gaol is now an exciting visitor attraction within a dramatic 19th century space. Concerts and events are regularly held at the prison, and those who dare can take the Paranormal Tour after dark.

Belfast City Hall

Belfast's architectural centrepiece is City Hall, with beautiful surrounding gardens and impressive statues. Free public tours bring visitors through the interior's finest rooms and exhibitions.

Ulster Museum

Set within the delightful Botanic Gardens, the Ulster Museum has exhibitions that trace the history and prehistory of Ireland and map out the rise of Belfast's crafts and trades. There are marvels wherever you turn, so give yourself enough time to enjoy it all.

Carrickfergus Castle

About 30 minutes north of the city on the shores of Belfast Lough, you'll find Carrickfergus Castle. Built in the 12th century by the Normans, it has withstood sieges by the Scots, Irish, English and French over the years, and is one of the best-preserved medieval castles on the island of Ireland.

The MAC

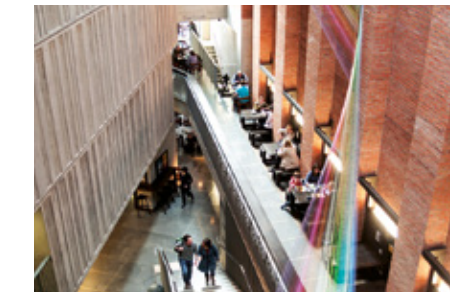
Belfast's award-winning cultural centre in the heart of the Cathedral Quarter occupies a beautiful modern building with three art galleries. It hosts a variety of exhibitions, theatrical performances, music and comedy.



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Food and drink

With Michelin-starred restaurants, award-winning food producers, breweries and food markets, Belfast's food scene is winning international accolades for good reason. The creativity in the kitchens of both **Ox** and **Eipic** has been recognised with Michelin stars in recent years, while fresh seafood is the star at **Fish City**, popular for its fish and chips.

Don't miss **St George's Market** (Fri-Sat), offering all types of gourmet nibbles from fresh produce to hot food, plus delicious coffees and cakes, often accompanied by live music. You can also take a guided food tour of the city from the market, sampling local drinks and dishes and learning about artisan food producers.

There are pubs to suit all tastes in Belfast, but it's the old pubs that have the most character. Between Ann Street and High Street, explore the tiny cobblestone area called **The Belfast Entries**, for historic establishments such as **White's Tavern** and **The Morning Star Bar**. Or check out the beautiful 19th century **Crown Liquor Saloon** on Great Victoria Street.



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Belfast

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

To soak up Belfast's unique atmosphere, it's best to explore it on foot, walking the compact centre to absorb the pulsating mix of music venues, traditional pubs, critically acclaimed restaurants and art galleries. The **Cathedral Quarter**, set around St Anne's Cathedral, contains some of the city's oldest streets and radiates an arty vibe, with fine old pubs such as the characterful **Duke of York**, as well as the restaurant-filled **St Anne's Square** and **The MAC** (Metropolitan Arts Centre).

Walk along the River Lagan, and you'll enter the heart of Belfast's industrial past, when it was once one of the greatest places in the world for shipbuilding. This is the city whose shipyards built the Titanic and her sister ships, the Olympic and Britannic. The **Titanic Quarter** in Belfast

Harbour is home to **Titanic Belfast**, a state-of-the-art exhibition tracing the tragic tale of the "Ship of Dreams". It's also where you can take a walk back in time on board the **SS Nomadic**, which once ferried first- and second-class passengers out to the Titanic, and is the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world. At Alexandra Dock, a short walk from Titanic Belfast, sits **HMS Caroline**, a WWI Light Battle Cruiser. The exhibition on board covers battles, weaponry and what life was like at sea for the 300 crew members.

In the Queen's Quarter, home of **Queen's University**, you'll find eclectic cafés and bars such as **Muriel's**, as well as the **Ulster Museum**, with ancient mummies and an impressive art collection. And in the Gaeltacht Quarter, learn more about Belfast and its political history, including the famous murals and Peace Walls, on an open-top bus or Black Taxi tour.

- 01 Titanic Belfast
- 02 Belfast City Hall
- 03 Queen's University
- 04 Crumlin Road Gaol
- 05 Carrickfergus Castle
- 06 The MAC
- 07 The Crown Liquor Saloon



Belfast tips

Almost hidden away on Donegall Square, the handsome Linen Hall Library is Belfast's oldest library and was founded in 1788. A general tour of the building takes place each day Mon-Sat at 11.30am.

Drop in for lunch or afternoon tea at Belfast Castle Estate and Cave Hill Visitor Centre, and explore the gardens and walking trails – they offer great views over the city and Belfast Lough.

The Chronicles of Narnia writer CS Lewis was born in east Belfast – visit CS Lewis Square to see sculptures from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, or follow a self-guided trail to places from the author's early life that may have inspired his later writings.

Take a day trip from Belfast to visit key Game of Thrones® locations, such as the Dark Hedges and impressive Castle Ward, home of Winterfell. Or journey along the stunning Causeway Coastal Route, dropping in at the Giant's Causeway and then on to beautiful Ballintoy Harbour, otherwise known as the Iron Islands.



Derry~Londonderry

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

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

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

First time here? Take a tour and see one of the city's fascinating flip sides, whether it's the story of the colourful street art and murals with **Bogside Artists**, or artisan food tours with **Made in Derry**. Take a step into something special.

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Cork

Cork is resolutely charismatic, with warm, friendly people who are fiercely proud of their city. And why wouldn't they be? With a beautiful location on an island at the mouth of the River Lee, the city serves up a bustling blend of cafés and restaurants, vibrant art galleries, absorbing museums and old pubs.

Walking through the streets you can weave from the working hustle and bustle of the 19th century **English Market** to the elegant **Crawford Art Gallery**, where Irish artists such as Paul Henry, Jack B Yeats and Dorothy Cross share space with the original 5th century Athenian discus-thrower, Discobolus. You can lunch on oysters overlooking the River Lee at the **Electric Fish Bar**, and dine alfresco by a waterfall in the pretty courtyard at **Greenes Restaurant**, housed within an old warehouse.

Best explored on foot, Cork is the kind of city that has a little bit of everything, including artsy enclaves and the historic Huguenot district. Attractions here often come with a pleasing quirk, whether it's the fascinating **Butter Museum** or a chance to ring the church bells at **St Anne's Church**. Creative, cultured and cool, Cork is a charmer.



03

What to see

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

- 01 The Guildhall
- 02 Derry~Londonderry Walls
- 03 The Peace Bridge
- 04 Warehouse No 1



07

What to see

Two Cork attractions allow a peek into the bygone age of the penal system: the 17th century **Elizabeth Fort** was used as an army barracks, a female prison and a police station in its time, and **Cork City Gaol** housed prisoners during the 19th century. Take a walk on the wild side at the **Fota Wildlife Park**, a 30-minute journey from the city centre. Dedicated to conservation and education, the park is home to lions, gibbons, bison and red panda; animals either roam free or live in natural paddocks. Back in the city, get an art fix at the **Lewis Glucksman Gallery** or mix with the stars at the **Blackrock Castle Observatory**, just outside the city on the banks of the River Lee.

- 05 The River Lee
- 06 The English Market
- 07 Elizabeth Fort
- 08 Café Paradiso



04

Food and drink

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



08

Food and drink

Foodies will get a real kick out of Cork's fabulous food scene. Walk around the historic **English Market** and you'll come across artisan cheese, smoked fish and creamy chocolate among the buzzing food stalls. The city's restaurants are energetic and innovative, with celebrated vegetarian hotspots such as **Iyers** and **Café Paradiso**. The **Farmgate Café** in the English Market does a nice line in traditional Irish food, and you'll get wonderful salads at **The Rocket Man** on Princes Street. When it comes to pubs, you're spoiled for choice in Cork with the craft-beer favourite of the **Franciscan Well Brewery**, music-filled **Crane Lane** and **Dan Lowery's Tavern**, with local beers, toasted sandwiches and traditional décor.

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. Wander through the gracious tree-lined **Georgian Mall** (once a rather scandalous racecourse); watch out for the 22 quirky bronze gargoyles and angels hidden around the city; or visit the ancient ceremonial monument of **Navan Fort**. Armagh has some great restaurants, including **The Moody Boar** and **4 Vicars**, making this a spot to be savoured.

Galway

The spirit of Ireland's west coast is very much present in this vibrant seaside city. Galway is never far from a festival (arts, film, horse racing and oysters are all celebrated in quick succession during the summer months). This, combined with its compact streets and colourful shop fronts, gives the feeling of a rolling street party. The super **Galway City Museum**, thriving food scene (Galway has two Michelin-starred restaurants, **Aniar** and **Loam**) and the scenic coastal suburb of **Salthill** seal the deal.

Kilkenny

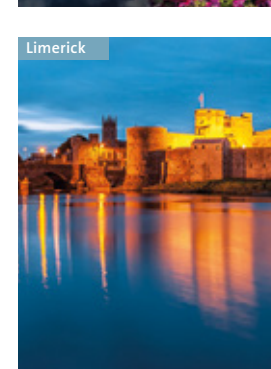
Located in Ireland's Ancient East, Kilkenny mixes nightlife, great food and culture to perfection. This city will wow you with medieval showpieces by day, and keep you entertained in traditional pubs by night. Walk the **Medieval Mile** and be catapulted back centuries amid Tudor inns, merchant townhouses, hidden alleys and historic big hitters such as **Kilkenny Castle** and **St Canice's Cathedral**. The city also boasts great craft shops, design studios and the **Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny**.

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 13th century **King John's Castle**.

Waterford

The atmosphere in Waterford is more small town than big city, but you'll find lots to do in this mini medieval metropolis in Ireland's Ancient East. Waterford was founded by the Vikings and the city's history is explained within the **Viking Triangle**, which contains the **Medieval Museum**, **Bishop's Palace** and **Reginald's Tower**. See beautiful cut glass at the **House of Waterford Crystal**, taste a freshly baked "blaa" (bread roll) at the **Granary Café** or take a walk along the historic quays. ☘





ONLY IN IRELAND

Whether you're seeking adventures in spectacular coastal locations, exciting city escapes or some of the finest music in the world, the island of Ireland is ready to take your breath away

Walk in the footsteps of giants

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

01



02

Traditional music

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



03

See the Burren in wildflower season

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



04

Cross a swinging, swaying rope bridge

The creak of wooden slats in the rushing wind. The waves swirling below. The salty sea-spray on your face. Make no mistake – crossing the **Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge** is an awesome experience. There has been a rope bridge swaying between Carrick Island and the County Antrim mainland for more than 250 years as it was used by local salmon fishermen. Back in the 1970s, it comprised just a single handrail and a handful of gapped wooden planks. Today, thankfully, things are a little sturdier, but it's still utterly exhilarating and truly spectacular, as all who cross it can testify! The Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge is operated as a timed ticket attraction by The National Trust.

- 01 **Giant's Causeway** County Antrim
- 02 **Johnnie Fox's Pub** Glencullen, County Dublin
- 03 **The Burren** County Clare
- 05 **Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge** County Antrim



Explore one of the world's most beautiful gardens

The jewel in County Wicklow's crown, Powerscourt Estate contains what are widely considered to be the most majestic gardens in the world. When the house was completed in 1741, it was praised as possessing the "massive dignity of a great Italian Renaissance villa", but it is the gardens that really make this place special. Lush, playful and enchanting, it's easy to spend hours wandering from the pretty Japanese gardens to the wooded valleys and back to the quirky pet cemetery, which sits in a quiet part of the estate surrounded by roses and rhododendrons in summer. And if you're hungry after all that, feast on cakes, salads and soups served up in the Avoca Restaurant and Café with views across the gardens to the Sugar Loaf Mountain.

05



06

Cycle onto an island

Cycling onto an island might sound like a hard thing to do, but not in Ireland! Take to two wheels on the **Great Western Greenway** in County Mayo and you can pedal right onto one of the most beautiful spots off Ireland's west coast – Achill Island. Starting in the lively town of Westport, which is famous for its traditional pubs and 18th century elegance, the 42km Greenway is a wonderful off-road walking and cycling trail. It wanders past mountain scenery, along Clew Bay and through the pretty villages of Newport and Mulranny, which make good places to stop for lunch. The end point is Achill – a craggily beautiful island boasting moody peat bogs, mountain peaks and the sublime Keem Bay, with its stunning arc of sandy beach. While on the island, don't miss the famous Dooagh beach, which reappeared after a 30-year absence and caused a sensation worldwide!

See the Northern Lights, Irish-style

Think of the Northern Lights, and you might imagine having to set your compass for Scandinavia, Iceland or Greenland. But in Ireland, the Aurora Borealis sets the skies over County Donegal's **Inishowen Peninsula** alight with heavenly waves of pink, green and blue. This remote and unspoiled headland is Ireland's most northerly point (next stop – the Arctic Circle) and it's well known for its clear skies and lack of light pollution, making it a perfect place to spot the Northern Lights. And while this glorious natural light-show is predictable in its unpredictability, on the Inishowen Peninsula there are some things you can be sure of: ruggedly beautiful landscapes, attractive Atlantic vistas and warm and friendly villages. Light or no lights, this is a very special part of the world – it's one of a kind!



07

Experience St Patrick's Day

It's unique, it's iconic, it's exhilarating. On 17 March, the island of Ireland thrums with energy, celebration and events that range from artistic to eccentric. Dublin gives itself over to a fabulous four-day festival with a parade, music and a carnival atmosphere. Armagh and Down, meanwhile, embark on a thrilling programme of events in the **Home of St Patrick Festival**. Special performances feature local and international acts with music, art and theatre all inspired by the life and work of St Patrick. Wherever you go, whether it's the oldest parade on the island in Wexford town, or a family concert in Galway, you'll find a celebratory atmosphere like no other.



08



09

Experience a "walk on water"

Wrapped around the sea cliffs of County Antrim, **The Gobbins** is the only guided adventure walk of its kind in Europe. Here, along the Causeway Coastal Route only 32km from Belfast, lies a stunning path that weaves around the coast, winds through passages hewn out of rock and over dramatic bridges suspended over the sea. Designed by the railway engineer Berkeley Deane Wise in 1902 as a bold new visitor attraction, the path was closed to the public in 1954. But after extensive, exciting renovations, this remarkable walk is once again thrilling visitors with glimpses of native sea birds, tales of smugglers' caves and exceptional coastal views.

- 05 Powerscourt Estate County Wicklow
- 06 Great Western Greenway County Mayo
- 07 St Patrick's Festival Dublin
- 08 Inishowen Peninsula County Donegal
- 09 The Gobbins County Antrim



IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

At first glance, the east of Ireland is all soft green fields, busy little towns and gentle rivers. But this is a landscape full of secrets, of battles and betrothals, of stars and the spirit world, of wealth and sometimes wickedness. Welcome to Ireland's Ancient East



PHOTO: LOLA AKINWADE AJERSTRÖM

01

01 Newgrange County Meath

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

What's nearby

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

Take time out

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

Try something new

Get close to magnificent birds of prey with a falconry lesson at **Newgrange Falconry**.



02



02 The Rock of Cashel County Tipperary

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

What's nearby

Seek out **Holy Cross Abbey**, a Cistercian monastery founded by the King of Munster in 1168. The abbey was bestowed with a piece of the True Cross by Queen Isabella of Angoulême around 1233.

Take time out

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

Try something new

Check ahead to see what's happening at the **Brú Ború** centre, Cashel's hub for traditional Irish music and dance.

03 Kilkenny Castle Kilkenny city

The city's famous 12th century Norman castle was home to the Butlers of Ormonde for nearly five centuries, before the 6th Marquess of Ormonde offered it to the city of Kilkenny for a mere £50 in 1967. A tour will bring you to the Picture Gallery and around the library, with its vivid colour scheme of garnet-red curtains and Berber-style carpets. Don't have time for a full tour? No problem: 500 years of history is condensed into a 12-minute film in the Medieval Room in the South Tower. Afterwards, stroll around the stunning formal terraced gardens and parkland, with pleasant woodland walks beside the River Nore.

What's nearby

The **Medieval Mile** is a great way to uncover the city's many secret stories and historic attractions, which include accused witches and intricate stained-glass windows.

Take time out

Have lunch in the Michelin-starred **Campagne**, take a tour of **Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny** to find out about the famous brew, and head out of town to the **Nicholas Mosse Pottery** mill by the River Nore.

Try something new

Join **The Kilkenny Way – Ultimate Hurling Experience** for an insight into the world's oldest and fastest field sport.



04



05 Cobh County Cork

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

What's nearby

A 30-minute journey by car or bus from Cobh is the city of Cork, with its great attractions including the food hub of the **English Market**, fascinating **Cork City Gaol** and the **Butter Museum**.

Take time out

Head to Middleton for dinner at **Sage Restaurant**, a whiskey tour of the **Jameson Distillery Middleton** and the excellent **Middleton Farmers Market** on Saturdays.

Try something new

Jump on a boat from Cobh to **Spike Island**, where you can uncover the stories of a prison so petrifying it was once called "Ireland's hell".

03



09 Clonmacnoise

County Offaly

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

What's nearby

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

Take time out

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

Try something new

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



05

06 Glendalough

County Wicklow

Walk among Glendalough's glassy lakes, wooded valleys and silent ruins and it's easy to see why St Kevin was drawn here in the 6th century. The saint lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer in this pastoral wonderland, before establishing a vibrant monastic settlement. The Round Tower, cathedral and priests' houses made the "valley of two lakes" a bustling hub – and a natural target for merciless Viking raids. Explore the ghostly monastic village before setting off into the surrounding landscape on one of the walking trails that skirt the lake and offer incredible views down through the valley.

What's nearby

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

Take time out

Outside the village of Enniskerry is the stunning house and gardens of **Powerscourt Estate**, with the beautiful **Powerscourt Waterfall** just a 15-minute drive away.

Try something new

Kayak down the picturesque Avonmore River with **Wicklow Adventures**.



06



07 Viking Triangle

Waterford

The Vikings certainly made their mark on Ireland. Bearing down on an unsuspecting island in the late 8th century, they went on to loot monasteries, battle kings and make off with priceless treasures. But they also laid the foundations of many Irish towns and cities, including Waterford, established by Norse raiders in 914AD. Today, Waterford celebrates its Viking legacy in the Viking Triangle at the heart of the city. Join the 45-minute Epic Tour of the Viking Triangle to trace the city's 1,100 years of history before visiting the King of the Vikings, an exciting 3D virtual-reality experience in a recreated Viking house.

What's nearby

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

Take time out

Try a "blaa", the flourey bread roll for which the city is famed; drop into **Henry Downes** bar, with its own whiskey blend; or visit the seaside village of **Dunmore East**.

Try something new

Between Waterford and Dungarvan, journey to the **Waterford Greenway** to walk or cycle all or some of the 28 mile/46km off-road trail.

08 Irish National Stud

County Kildare

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

What's nearby

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

Take time out

Indulge in some retail therapy at **Kildare Village**, a designer outlet that offers up to 60% off top labels; enjoy lunch at **Lock 13** overlooking the Grand Canal just outside Naas; and visit the blooming gardens at **Burtown House**, near Athy.

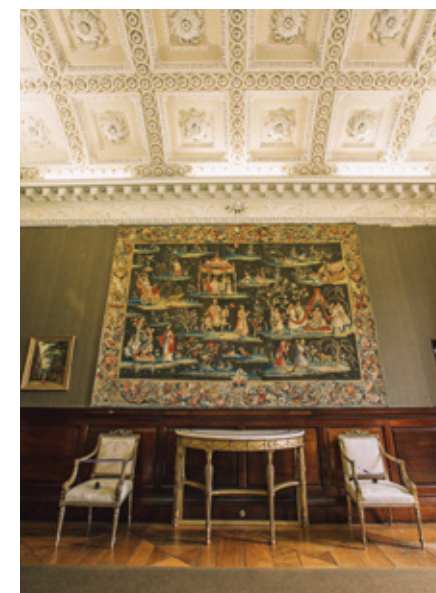
Try something new

Take a barge trip from Sallins through 250 years of history along the **Grand Canal**.

07



08



09

09 Russborough House

County Wicklow

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

What's nearby

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

Take time out

Enjoy a feast in the **Ballymore Inn**, visit the **Museum of Style Icons** at Newbridge, and walk the **Blessington Greenway**, which links Blessington with Russborough House.

Try something new

Watch a **sheepdog demonstration** in the grounds of Russborough House on weekend afternoons. 🐕

THE NORTHERN SCENE

There's nowhere else like it. With so many adventures packed into a small space, Northern Ireland is 2018's game-changing destination. Fantastical Game of Thrones® landscapes, great food, epic experiences – all lie within easy reach



02



03

Causeway Coastal Route

Dramatic clifftop castles, white-sand beaches, charming little villages – the Causeway Coastal Route delivers an incredible amount of beauty within just 314km. Starting in the vibrant city of **Belfast** and finishing in **Derry~Londonderry** (or the other way around), the route is all about slowing down, taking your time and savouring the sights, sounds and flavours of this spellbinding coastline.

Frequently cited as one of the best touring routes in the world, the Causeway Coastal Route is a genuine joy to drive. And it's not just the views that impress, either. Part of the route's allure is the sheer amount of great places packed into a relatively short stretch of coastline. There's **Carrickfergus**, with its 12th century



04

ACCORDING TO LOCAL TALES, ON A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT IN THE 17TH CENTURY, PART OF DUNLUCE CASTLE ACTUALLY COLLAPSED INTO THE POUNDING WAVES FAR BELOW

Norman castle; there's **The Gobbins**, a restored 100-year-old cliff path through tunnels and over bridges; there's **Glenarm Castle**, home to the Earls of Antrim for around 400 years; and there's **Mussenden Temple**, perched on a cliff above the churning ocean.

Catch the ferry from **Ballycastle** to **Rathlin Island** and you'll discover a haven for wildlife, including basking seals and puffins. When you're back on the mainland again, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the **Giant's Causeway** brings you the astounding sight of 40,000 hexagonal stone columns. According



- 01 **Whiterocks County Antrim**
- 02 **Giant's Causeway County Antrim**
- 03 **Mussenden Temple County Londonderry**
- 04 **Torr Head County Antrim**
- 05 **Rathlin Island County Antrim**

to science, intense volcanic activity 60 million years ago created this whimsical landscape, but the local legend of warring giants is a lot more fun.

As you head along the coast, the ruins of the 14th century **Dunluce Castle** sit boldly on a stark, rocky headland. And if it looks like it's about to topple into the sea, that may be because part of it already has. According to local tales, on a dark and stormy night in the 17th century, part of the kitchen actually collapsed into the pounding waves far below.

The route ends in Derry~Londonderry. With its beautiful 400-year-old walls, this lovely city will invite you to linger... And if the Causeway Coastal Route has whetted your appetite for spectacular seascapes and memorable experiences, why not continue your adventure on the Wild Atlantic Way?



05

Experience food in Northern Ireland

Put simply, Northern Ireland is destination delicious. Here, out of a landscape of lush green fields, fresh pure lakes and crystal clean Atlantic and Irish Sea waters, a distinct food culture has developed, with a focus on the very best local ingredients. Boundary-pushing chefs, a deep respect for local ingredients and a convivial atmosphere in pubs and restaurants have turned Northern Ireland into one of Europe's most exciting food destinations.

Wherever you go in Northern Ireland, you'll naturally find fabulous food and drink, but you'll also hear stories of the passionate people who rear, make, cook, distill and serve these feasts to your table. And a great way to see the landscapes, meet the makers and experience the incredible flavours is with a food-inspired tour that takes you from city to sea.

Thanks to an invigorating array of cafés, bars and restaurants that sit elbow-to-elbow with delis, street food and the historic **St George's Market**, Belfast is the perfect place to start. This vibrant city has a bumper crop of great places to eat including Michelin-starred **Ox** and brunch Belfast-style at **Established Coffee** or **General Merchants Café**. To taste some

TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE SCENIC MURLOUGH NATURE RESERVE ACROSS THE LAGOON TO WORK UP AN APPETITE BEFORE ENJOYING A FEAST OF CRAB CLAWS

of what the city is famous for, join a tour such as **Taste & Tour**, which offers outings with different food and drink themes.

Once you've enjoyed what Belfast has to offer, head south to County Down and the **Schoolhouse**. Set in the heart of the Comber countryside (famous for its potato, the Comber Early), this luxury guest house and restaurant has earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand for creative, quality cooking. It also makes a great base for discovering the local highlights of Strangford Lough, Mount Stewart House and Gardens, and the world of Game of Thrones® at Castle Ward, where the popular television series is filmed. Get a taste of all things Winterfell with ClearSky Adventure at the castle.

The historic **Balloo House**, a short drive away in the small village of Killinchy, is an impressive place to dine. This 400-year-old inn delivers a lovely mix of comfort and charm, with two different dining experiences under one roof. Downstairs is



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a classic pub, while upstairs you can enjoy seasonal dishes such as Finnebrogue venison liver with creamy mash, crispy onions, bacon, and red wine jus – all in a rustic restaurant setting.

The shores of Dundrum Bay beckon next with a cluster of cosy local pubs and family-run eateries such as **The Buck's Head** and **The Dundrum Inn** as well as the celebrated **Mourne Seafood Bar**. Backed by the Mourne Mountains and overlooking

- 06 Balloo House County Down
- 07 Ox Belfast
- 08 St George's Market Belfast
- 09 General Merchants Café Belfast

the sea, this beautifully located brasserie serves locally caught seafood. Take a walk through the scenic Murlough Nature Reserve across the lagoon to work up an appetite before enjoying a feast of tasty crab claws.

The Mourne Mountains are known for excellent produce, from artisan honey to creamy Abernethy Butter, used in top restaurants around the world. **NI Food Tours** offers a number of treks in County Down, including a Deep in the Mournes jaunt, where you can meet top artisan food producers and sample their award-winning fare.

Heading back to Belfast, make sure and take a gourmet pit stop in the small city of Lisburn, where the **Yellow Door Deli** serves up home-cooked breads, rustic stews and pastries.



10

Destination Fermanagh

Swaying reeds. Rippling waters. Fields blanketed in vivid green. The **Fermanagh Lakelands** are a place of profound tranquillity, offering a continuous stream of quiet moments and hidden gems, from ancient statues to forest trails. County Fermanagh is a water-lover's paradise. Strange, maybe, for a county without a coastline but here's the thing: Fermanagh has an amazing abundance of lakes, rivers, inlets and waterways. Either island-hop via kayak or canoe, take a tranquil cruise, cycle waterside or trek the mountains. This is a place with a rich history. Think rock carvings dating from 3000BC, majestic estates and mysterious island sculptures. Rent a small day boat, stay on a canal boat or paddle a kayak through this liquid maze and you'll discover islands, ruined castles, isolated towers and great manor houses, each with a story to tell.

Set in picturesque locations, Fermanagh's magnificent National Trust mansions and gardens bask in beauty. There's **Crom Estate**, a vast demesne on the shores of Upper Lough Erne; there's **Castle Coole**, one of Ireland's finest neo-classical houses with sumptuous Regency interiors; and there's **Florence Court**, the former home to the Earls of Enniskillen, with walks through native woodland.

Back on the water, you'll find an abundance of gentle bends and creaking locks with more waterside curiosities that will entice you to moor up for a few hours. One spot is the award-winning **Watermill Restaurant** at **Kilmore Quay**, a charming spot on the edge of Upper Lough Erne. This delightful restaurant treats guests to fine dining with great local produce and views over the lough.

You'll notice that the Lakelands are studded with islands – in fact, there are 154 of them and **Devenish** is one



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RENT A SMALL DAY BOAT, STAY ON A CANAL BOAT OR PADDLE A KAYAK THROUGH THIS LIQUID MAZE AND YOU'LL DISCOVER ISLANDS, RUINED CASTLES, ISOLATED TOWERS AND GREAT MANOR HOUSES, EACH WITH A STORY TO TELL

of the most famous. A monastery was established here in the 6th century, before being raided by Vikings, but the oratory of St Molaise and the 12th century round tower have survived, painting a vivid picture of the island's monastic past. Keep an eye out, too, for **Boa Island**, with its 1,500-year-old Janus Man statue; **White Island**, boasting ancient stone figures; and **Lusty Beg**, a 74-acre resort with comfortable self-catering and B&B accommodation, featuring activities including archery and kayaking.

Of course, it's not just islands that Fermanagh has to offer. The **Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark** is home to one of the finest show caves in Europe. Situated at the foothills of Cuilcagh Mountain, this subterranean world is filled with rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers. It's an amazing experience that blends an underground boat journey



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Hidden gems

Dominated by the heather-clad **Sperrin Mountains**, County Tyrone is one of Ireland's hidden gems. Dotted with the remains of Celtic standing stones and crisscrossed by a network of quiet farm roads, this is the ideal landscape for walking and cycling, as well as exploring the intriguing journey of the Irish emigrant at the **Ulster American Folk Park** in Omagh, a fascinating open-air museum.

Conveniently located just 45 minutes from Belfast or Derry~Londonderry, the **Seamus Heaney HomePlace** is a must-see on any visit to Northern Ireland, and celebrates the life and literature of one of the world's great Nobel laureates, the poet Seamus Heaney. The exhibition is filled with artefacts, personal stories, images and books, many of which have been donated by the Heaney family. ☘

with a short guided walk around the caves themselves.

Arriving in the town of **Enniskillen**, it's hard to miss the vast stone castle, originally built in the 16th century. Now housing two museums, along with a genealogy and ancestry-research facility, it's an impressive introduction to this County Fermanagh island town, which pulsates with a great range of pubs, cafés and restaurants.

With surprises around every corner, Fermanagh never fails to enchant, whether you're enjoying the natural charm of the **Bubble Dome** accommodation at **Finn Lough** or the traditions of the beautifully crafted **Belleek Pottery** just outside Enniskillen. Beauty, tranquillity, forests and lakes – it's all in a day's play in Fermanagh.

- 10 Devenish Island County Fermanagh
- 11 Boa Island County Fermanagh
- 12 Marble Arch Caves County Fermanagh
- 13 Seamus Heaney HomePlace County Londonderry



SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Get in gear for some of the most spellbinding destinations on the 1,500 mile/2,500km wave-lashed Wild Atlantic Way

01

01 The Islands

Where are they?
All along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Why are they a wonder?
Unique, friendly and steeped in traditional culture, Ireland's islands are full of exceptional landscapes, prehistoric forts, Irish-speaking communities and a real sense of escape. There are those that can be easily accessed, connected by bridges to the mainland at islands such as Achill, County Mayo, and Valentia, County Kerry, or abandoned gems such as Inishmurray off County Sligo and the Blasket Islands off County Kerry.

Which island should I visit?
There's an Irish island for every taste. Fancy a thrill? Take the cable car to West Cork's Duresey Island, where the resident population is said to be just three. Clear blue waters meet secluded beaches on Inishturk, County Mayo; culture



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PHOTO: @STORTRAVELERS



03

vultures can try a few words of Irish on Tory, County Donegal; and Inis Mór in County Galway is perfect for families.

Where to eat?
Enjoy fine dining at Inis Meáin Restaurant & Suites on the Aran Islands, County Galway; break your adventure on Achill, County Mayo, at the Achill Cliff House Hotel; or relax at Seán Rua's restaurant on Cape Clear, County Cork.

02 The Cliffs of Moher County Clare

Where is it?
The Cliff Coast.

Why is it a wonder?
Towering 702ft/214 metres above the crashing Atlantic waves, County Clare's iconic cliffs offer incredible views out over the ocean. The cliffs are more than 300 million years old, and the walks they offer, the teeming birdlife and the interactive visitor centre make for an unforgettable few hours.

What is there to do nearby?
The Cliffs of Moher are close to the Burren National Park, a wonderland of karstic limestone formations. On your coastal drive, plan a stop in the lively music town of Doolin (where you can also catch a ferry to the Aran Islands) and, for a more remote Atlantic experience, take a car or bike around Loop Head, an awe-inspiring

headland where you can spot dolphins and whales, as well as the Loop Head Lighthouse, which dates back to 1854.

Where to eat?
Try Vaughan's Anchor Inn for great seafood in the old fishing village of Liscannor, and sample local Burren ingredients at the Wild Honey Inn or the Burren Storehouse in Lisdoonvarna. If you're looking for a cosy spot with its own turf fire, then call into the Riverside Bistro in Doolin, which has a lovely cottage setting and friendly atmosphere.

03 Skellig Michael County Kerry

Where is it?
The Southern Peninsulas.

Why is it a wonder?
Skellig Michael lies over 11km off the coast of Kerry's Iveragh Peninsula, a shard-like rock capped by a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a difference. Close to its peak sit several beehive-shaped huts in a monastic site that dates back to the 6th century, with sensational views of the Irish coast. As seen in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, history, myth and stunning scenery collide with monumental effect at this wilderness site – but come prepared with food and water (there are no facilities). Boats, both to the island and around the island, run from May to October, and



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- 01 Achill Island County Mayo
- 02 The Cliffs of Moher County Clare
- 03 Skellig Michael County Kerry
- 04 Downpatrick Head County Mayo

are weather-dependent. There are also wonderful views of the islands to be had from the Kerry Cliffs.

What is there to do nearby?
The Ring of Kerry is Ireland's iconic touring loop around the Iveragh Peninsula, or try the Dingle Peninsula for seafood, the Sleat Head Drive and a celebrity dolphin called Fungie.

Where to eat?
The Moorings at Portmagee is where the Star Wars crew set up shop while filming on the Skelligs. QC's in Cahersiveen is the place to tuck into fresh seafood, or stop for a cup of hot chocolate at Skelligs Chocolate Factory overlooking the sea.

04 Downpatrick Head County Mayo

Where is it?
The Surf Coast.

Why is it a wonder?
Downpatrick Head is one of the wildest, most glorious places on the island of Ireland. It may look modest on the map, but those who venture out from nearby Ballycastle, County Mayo, are rewarded with stunning views of the Dún Briste sea stack, rugged coastal scenery and wildlife. Dún Briste means "broken fort" in Irish, and this piece of rock is believed to have broken away from the mainland in 1393. St Patrick is also said to have founded a church on a headland where you'll find a holy well and stone cross perched above the mighty Atlantic Ocean.

What is there to do nearby?
Visit the oldest known stone-walled farmlands in the world at Céide Fields; view the Staggs of Broadhaven – a set of five rocky islands off the shore of Mayo's Benwee Head; take a walk around Sligo's Mullaghmore Peninsula (in winter, >

watch the big wave surfers); or catch a wave yourself at Strandhill Beach.

Where to eat?

Soak up views of Downpatrick Head from the Stella Maris Country House Hotel; have your fill of tasty home cooking at Mary's Cottage Kitchen in Ballycastle; or continue south to Sligo for the pick of Irish food and drink at Hargadon's atmospheric pub.

05 Old Head of Kinsale

County Cork

Where is it?

The Haven Coast.

Why is it a wonder?

Stretching nearly 3km into the Atlantic off the coast of West Cork, this dramatic headland is one of Ireland's most exceptional geographical formations. Although the tip of Old Head is now a private golf course, visitors can still take a stunning 4 mile/6.5km walk around the base of the peninsula – or discover your adventurous side with a sea-kayaking tour. In 1915, German U-boats famously torpedoed the Lusitania offshore, and a 30-metre lighthouse guides ships to Kinsale Harbour.

What is there to do nearby?

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

Where to eat?

Eat beautifully presented local dishes in Pilgrim's of Rosscarbery, a small, friendly restaurant with a daily changing menu; pop into Clonakilty for a local feast at An Súgán pub, restaurant, and guest house; or head to Bastion for cutting-edge cuisine in Kinsale.

06 Killary Harbour

County Galway

Where is it?

The Bay Coast.

Why is it a wonder?

Located within the wilderness of Connemara, Killary Harbour stretches 16km inland from the Atlantic to its head below the Aasleagh Falls, and serves up some of the most dramatic views in Ireland. Cleaving the border between counties Galway and Mayo, activities in Killary range from sea kayaking to sightseeing boat tours. There's a stunning 19th century road here, too – the Green Road hugs the coastline tight above the waters of the fjord and is a leap into breathtaking scenery.



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What is there to do nearby?

Drive to Westport through the awe-inspiring Doolough Valley, set between the Connemara mountains; visit the charming villages and towns of Cleggan, Clifden, Letterfrack and Roundstone; and don't miss Kylemore Abbey. This Benedictine abbey, which casts a breathtaking reflection in its lake, is set on a 1,000-acre estate and is home to Ireland's largest walled garden.

Where to eat?

Pop into Mitchell's of Clifden for a local seafood feast; stop for some tasty, home-cooked fare at the Blackberry Café in Leenane; or break your journey with delicious pub grub at O'Dowd's of Roundstone, all in County Galway.

07 Malin Head

County Donegal

Where is it?

The Northern Headlands.

Why is it a wonder?

Want the ends of the earth? Ireland's most northerly point is every bit as elemental as you would expect, with rock formations, ancient ruins and some of Europe's largest sand dunes. Crowning the Inishowen Peninsula, Malin Head's natural wonders include basking sharks and exotic birdlife.

- 05 Old Head of Kinsale County Cork
- 06 Killary Harbour County Galway
- 07 Malin Head County Donegal

You might even see the Northern Lights, which are known to make an appearance in the skies above the peninsula. Steeped in myth and history, the area also boasts Banba's Crown, a clifftop tower dating from 1805, and the ominously titled Hell's Hole, where the Atlantic waves dramatically crash against cliffs.

What is there to do nearby?

Take a journey through Irish life from the 1840s to the present day at Doagh Famine Village; marvel at some of the highest sea cliffs in western Europe at Slieve League further south; or head towards Derry~Londonderry and explore the sights and sounds of the Causeway Coastal Route, where you'll come across amazing experiences all the way to Belfast.

Where to eat?

The convivial Seaview Tavern is Ireland's most northerly bar, hotel and restaurant and boasts wonderful views overlooking islands in the Atlantic. You'll meet an equally friendly welcome at Lily's Bar and Tea Room in Malin town, or grab a cuppa and a pastry from Caffè Banba, the "café on wheels" at Banba's Crown (Easter to September). ☺



Mullaghmore Head County Sligo



GOLF IN IRELAND

There's no doubt about it, there's some fabulous golf to be played on the island of Ireland... but don't forget, there's plenty of "craic" (fun) to be found beyond the fairways

01

The island of Ireland is a golfer's delight, with world-class courses in some of the most spectacular locations on the planet.

From epic links to phenomenal championship courses, Ireland's golfing credentials are sky-high. The island boasts a quarter of the world's natural links courses, including Royal County Down, which topped Golf Digest's Top 100 Courses in the World. Ireland is frequently referred to as the "Home of Champions", too – which is no surprise given that some of the world's best golfers including Rory McIlroy and Padraig Harrington hail from here – and it's a regular host of major championships. In 2019, the 148th Open will be held at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

But the truly great thing about golfing in Ireland is the ability to blend an exceptional game with wonderful off-the-course experiences. Check out some of the great things you can do beyond six of our finest fairways...



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PHOTO: PAUL SAFFERY

Portmarnock

County Dublin

Founded in 1894 on a sandy peninsula that was once only accessible by boat, this wonderful links course is renowned worldwide. A purely natural course, Portmarnock has hosted 12 Irish Opens as well as the Walker Cup and the Canada Cup – now the World Cup of Golf – and its finishing holes are regarded as some of the best to be found anywhere. Often described as a true test of golf, champion American golfer Tom Watson noted on one of his visits that at Portmarnock, "There are no tricks or nasty surprises, only an honest, albeit searching test of shot-making skills."

Beyond the fairway

Portmarnock Golf Club is just 16km north of Dublin city, making it ideal for mixing a city break with a golfing adventure. And thanks to its great coastal setting, you're in the perfect spot for getting to two of County Dublin's scenic seaside villages – Howth and Malahide. In Howth, you can walk all or parts of the stunning cliff path, enjoy seafood by the working harbor, and stroll the pier. Malahide, meanwhile, has an impressive castle, parts of which date to the 12th century; as well as lots of busy cafés, pubs, and restaurants. Relax at the Garden House Café or go for fine-dining at Bon Appétit, set within a Georgian townhouse.



04

Ballyliffin Golf Club

Don't miss Ballyliffin Golf Club on your visit to the island of Ireland. Sitting on the northernmost point of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way in County Donegal, the club boasts two championship golf courses. Ballyliffin is the host of the 2018 Irish Open.

Old Head Golf Links

County Cork

Humpback whales splashing in the swirling waters, swooping seabirds, scampering hares – you're certainly at one with nature's immense power on this beautiful links golf course in Kinsale, County Cork. Encompassing 180 acres of a diamond-shaped rocky headland extending nearly 3km out into the Atlantic Ocean, Old Head possesses cliff-top drops for half of its 18 holes. Designed as a walking course, this is where memories will be made – just remember to keep your eyes on the ball.

Beyond the fairway

The star of the show here is the town of Kinsale, a short drive away and the southernmost point of the Wild Atlantic Way. This breezy, beautiful town is a major foodie destination with great restaurants, a farmers' market, and a food festival in October. Enjoy oysters and cocktails at The Supper Club, explore Charles Fort, perched on the water's edge, or relax with a pint of porter in the Bulman Bar.



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PHOTO: RAYMOND FOGARTY



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- 01 Portmarnock County Dublin
- 02 Howth Head County Dublin
- 03 Castle Market Dublin
- 04 Ballyliffin County Donegal
- 05 Old Head County Cork
- 06 Kinsale Harbour County Cork
- 07 Old Head County Cork
- 08 Royal County Down County Down
- 09 Tollymore Forest Park County Down

Royal County Down

County Down

"Royal County Down is one of my favorites," says Rory McIlroy. "The more you play it, the more you recognize it for the class place it is." The majestic, savage beauty of Royal County Down makes it a clever test of skills, but even the shrewdest players can be challenged by what is arguably Irish golf's finest course. Peppered with blind tee shots, deep pot bunkers, domed greens, and narrow ribbons of hummocky fairways – it is still a pleasure to play and was justifiably voted the number one course in the world by Golf Digest in 2017.

Beyond the fairway

Part of what makes Royal County Down such a magnificent place to play golf is the haunting beauty of the Mourne Mountains, an alluring mountain range that forms a backdrop to the course and boasts 28 peaks. The club also sits around halfway between the gorgeous natural playgrounds of Strangford Lough to the north and Carlingford Lough to the south. Explore the scenic walkways, follies, and forests of Tollymore Forest Park, enjoy excellent local and seasonal dishes at Brunel's Restaurant at the Anchor Bar in the small nearby town of Newcastle, and take in some more golf at the courses of Ardglass and Kilkeel, also in County Down.



THE
OPEN
148TH ROYAL PORTRUSH

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Royal Portrush Golf Club

County Antrim

Host to over 50 national championships in its time, Royal Portrush Golf Club became the first course on the island of Ireland to stage The Open back in 1951 – and will do so again from July 15 to July 21, 2019. “This is among my favorite places to play in Northern Ireland, it’s one of the truly great links courses,” said Rory McIlroy. And he’s not the only one to think so. This is also the place that 2016 European Ryder Cup team captain Darren Clarke claims made him fall in love with the game. Test your skills on the Dunluce Links. Known for being one of the most challenging courses in the world, it boasts a backdrop of impressive coastal beauty.

Beyond the fairway

Royal Portrush is located on the Causeway Coastal Route, with the romantic ruins of Dunluce Castle, the epic UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Giant’s Causeway, and the heart-stopping Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, all on your doorstep. If you’re looking for another excuse to come here, then whiskey might be the answer. Only a few kilometres down the road is the Bushmills Distillery where you can take a tour and sample some whiskey.



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Lahinch Golf Course

County Clare

Central to the Irish golfing scene for 125 years, Lahinch’s Old Course has undergone many changes since Old Tom Morris came over from Scotland to create it in 1894. Over the years, it has been enhanced by esteemed architects Charles “Mo” Gibson, Dr Alister Mackenzie, and Dr Martin Hawtree, and it now stands as an enjoyable and challenging test of skill and expertise. Keep an eye out for the goats while you’re here. It’s said if they’re seen near the clubhouse, the weather prospects aren’t so good; if they’re out on the dunes, the day is sure to be fine.

Beyond the fairway

Off the greens, you’ll enjoy some of the area’s great seafood at Vaughan’s in nearby Liscannor, and at the tiny, beautifully situated restaurant of Barrtrá overlooking the ocean. Lahinch is also close to the famous Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland’s most spectacular natural wonders, as well as the rock-strewn landscape of the Burren National Park, where a vast limestone plateau tumbles down to the ocean.



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Waterville Golf Links

County Kerry

With a location on the world-famous Ring of Kerry which skirts the Wild Atlantic Way, Waterville Golf Links has it all: a heady combination of dunes, gorse, and native grasses, sod-faced bunkers, and subtle putting surfaces. Waterville is right on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean and the landscape changes color with the shifts in weather, making it look just as dramatic in clear sunshine as in cloud. According to course designer Tom Fazio, “Everything at Waterville is spectacular – the setting is one of the best that I have seen anywhere in golf.” Little wonder then that it regularly features as one of the top 100 courses in the world.

Beyond the fairway

Beautifully positioned between the Atlantic Ocean and Lough Currane, the village of Waterville has been enjoyed by everyone from Charlie Chaplin to the late US Open and US PGA champion Payne Stewart. And great sights are everywhere – to the north, there’s the Skellig Ring, with Valentia Island and views of Skellig Michael; to the south, you’ll find Derrynane Bay, and the foodie hub of Kenmare.

10 Royal Portrush Golf Club

County Antrim

11 Lahinch Golf Course

County Clare

12 Waterville Golf Links

County Kerry

13 Valentia Island

County Kerry



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Portstewart Strand County Londonderry



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TOWNS AND VILLAGES

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

Wild Atlantic Way

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

Once home to the acclaimed Irish playwright Brian Friel, who lived here from 1960 until his death in 2015, **Greencastle** rests on the edge of Lough Foyle in County Donegal. With a lively

port and pleasant beach, the village takes its name from an early 14th century castle, the ruins of which loom over the entrance to the lough. As well as being perfectly placed to enjoy the natural wonders of the stunning Inishowen Peninsula, the village is also home to the popular family-run Kealy's Seafood Bar, which overlooks the harbour and its busy fishing boats. Settle down and take in the view while enjoying great seafood dishes, such as pan-fried hake with chorizo, olives and cherry tomatoes.

The lively heritage town of **Westport** in County Mayo is set around two main streets and is famous for its pubs, such as Matt Molloy's, which hosts nightly



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traditional music sessions. By day, take a tour of Westport House, which was built in 1650, or bring younger visitors to enjoy the Pirate Adventure Park on the grounds. By night, seek out the town's best restaurants including An Port Mór, right in the centre. As well as being a destination in its own right, Westport is a great base for exploring the islands of Clew Bay and nearby Croagh Patrick Mountain. It is also the starting-point for embarking on the Great Western Greenway cycle route, which winds its way to Achill Island.

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

Thatched cottages, friendly music pubs

and a perfect location in the heart of County Clare's Burren has made **Doolin** one of the most popular destinations on Ireland's west coast. From the village, you can take a walk on the wild side along the Cliffs of Moher Cliff Path, which hugs the coast closely all the way to the cliffs themselves. Doolin is perfectly placed for exploring the surrounding karstic limestone plateau of the Burren, with a unique array of flora and fauna, as well as being one of the best places on the island for a night of traditional music in lively pubs such as Gus O'Connor's and McGann's. You may never want to leave...

With bright, colourful shop fronts and cafés, and a row of fishing boats moored along the quay, **Dingle** in County Kerry is a thriving town and one of the most popular for visitors to the southwest. Take a trip out on the water to meet the dolphin, who has been charming visitors since he moved here in 1983 (there are lots of boat trips available) and when you return, enjoy some seafood along the quay, with live music in the evenings and great traditional pubs such as Foxy John's and Dick Mack's. And don't miss a visit to Murphy's – a tub of the sea salt and honeycomb ice cream here is a fast track to foodie heaven. Day-trip options

- 01 **Murphy's Ice Cream** Dingle, County Kerry
- 02 **Matt Molloy's** Westport, County Mayo
- 03 **Roundstone** County Galway
- 04 **Kinsale** County Cork
- 05 **Westport House** County Mayo
- 06 **Doolin** County Clare
- 07 **Carlingford** County Louth
- 08 **Kealy's Seafood Bar** Greencastle, County Donegal
- 09 **Dingle** County Kerry

about from Dingle – go south and you'll hit the remarkable sands and dunes of Inch Beach, one of County Kerry's most beautiful. Or head out along the Sleah Head Drive, which curves around Sleah Head taking in sights such as the Early Christian stone church of Gallarus Oratory, views of the deserted Blasket Islands and the much-photographed Dunquin Harbour.

Ireland's Ancient East

A former fishing village that is best known for its oysters, **Carlingford** in County Louth is an ideal spot for exploring the Cooley Peninsula. Its small medieval streets, where you can see historic sights such as the Tholsel, (an old toll gate), and the old mint, are also home to plenty of places to eat, drink and stay. The ruins of King John's Castle look out over Carlingford Lough, and the waterfront area is now a popular spot for watersports. Try kayaking and boating, >



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as well as cruises or fishing trips on the sheltered lough.

It's hard to take your eyes off Trim Castle when entering the town of **Trim**, County Meath. Dating back to 1172, the Anglo-Norman castle beside the River Boyne is one of the most impressive in Ireland, with its long curtain wall and 10 towers. After visiting the castle, spend a day exploring the town's historical sights, which include a medieval gate, Sheep Gate, the ancient St Peter's Bridge and the ruins of the Hospital of St John the Baptist, which dates back to the 13th century.

Birr town in County Offaly, which was originally planned around the estate of Birr Castle, the seat of the Earls of Rosse, is famous for its Georgian layout and architectural features. Spend an hour or two in the grounds of Birr Castle Demesne, where walking trails lead you off into the tranquil gardens, forest and along the river, with many rare species of trees and plants. In the grounds you can also see the Great Telescope, once the largest in the world. With lively pubs and restaurants such as Spinners and The Thatch, the town makes a perfect base for exploring the beautiful Slieve Bloom Mountains and Lough Derg.

Set at the entrance to Waterford Harbour, **Dunmore East** in County Waterford is one of the southeast's most charming fishing villages. Taking its name from an Iron Age promontory fort, the village has a busy harbour and eye-catching cliffs, as well as sandy beaches and sheltered coves to explore – it's a popular holiday spot during summer. You can take to the water and have a go at sailing, kayaking, windsurfing or stand-up paddleboarding. It's a short drive to Waterford city from Dunmore East, and you can access other small and charming villages, such as the fishing port of Passage East.

CUSHENDUN HAS A PICTURESQUE HARBOUR AND THE CAVES NEAR HERE WERE USED AS A LOCATION IN HBO'S FANTASY SERIES, GAME OF THRONES®. ENJOY TEA AND CAKE IN THE LOVELY CORNER HOUSE TEAROOM

Northern Ireland

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

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

A coastal gem near the top of Northern Ireland's Ards Peninsula, **Donaghadee** in County Down has a strong seafaring past. The scenic harbour has long been a haven for ships and boats, its famous lighthouse guiding the way for maritime traffic. Walk the south pier to soak up the coastal atmosphere; play a round of golf at the local golf club; or enjoy an evening at the atmospheric Grace Neill's pub – established in 1611, it's one



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10 **Cushendun** County Antrim
11 **Birr Castle** County Offaly
12 **Enniskillen** County Fermanagh

of the oldest on the island of Ireland!

In a stunning setting amidst the rich, green Glens of Antrim, the village of **Cushendun** is a characterful spot, known for its graceful Georgian buildings that line the town's four original streets and its great traditional music pubs. It's a wonderful base for visiting the Glenariff Forest Park, which is about 8km away and is an enticing natural wonderland of waterfalls, rivers, woods and rocky gorges.

Don't miss a visit to the nearby coastal village of **Cushendun**, just 8km to the north. Managed by the National Trust, it has a picturesque harbour and the caves near to here were used as a location in HBO's fantasy series, *Game of Thrones*®. Pop into the Corner House Tearoom for tea and cakes in a gorgeous setting.

Set at the mouth of Strangford Lough, and across the water from Portaferry and the Ards Peninsula, **Strangford** in County Down is a petite, well-preserved harbour village that has relaxation written all over it. It's ideal for accessing the very best this area of natural beauty has to offer, including delicious local food at The Cuan and The Poacher's Pocket, the delightful Castle Espie Wetlands and the 5th century Nendrum Monastic Site, which has links to St Patrick.

An attractive, wide main street and two squares lined with chestnut trees add to the charm of **Castlewellan** village in County Down, but the highlight has to be Castlewellan Forest Park and Lake just to the north of the village, which offers lots of walking and mountain bike trails, a giant maze, equestrian centre and camp grounds, plus an arboretum that was first planted in the 1740s. 🍷



01

THE LAST WORD ON... TRADITIONAL MUSIC

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

All about the music

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

The festivals

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

01 **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann**
02 **Temple Bar TradFest** Dublin
03 **Belfast Tattoo**
04 **Duke of York Belfast**
05 **Bodhrán maker Roundstone**, County Galway



04

Three great music experiences

An Droichead: Belfast Traditional Music Trail Belfast

Experience the best of traditional music in Belfast led by two professional musicians. This great trail winds around the **Cathedral Quarter**, stopping at pubs including The Dirty Onion, Duke of York and McHugh's.

Tig Cóilí Galway

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

McGann's Doolin, County Clare

The softly worn wooden interior of this lovely pub in the music hub of **Doolin**, County Clare, makes the perfect backdrop for impromptu music sessions.



05

Listen out for

Possibly the most famous of all Ireland's instruments, the *bodhrán* is a one-sided frame drum, played with a *cipín* (wooden stick). At a *seisiún*, you're also likely to notice a *tin whistle* (a simple wind instrument) and the *fiddle* (basically a violin played in a different way). Keep your eyes out, too, for the *uilleann pipes*, often regarded as the most melodic pipes in the world.

Ulster-Scots traditions

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



02



03



South William Street Dublin

GENERAL INFORMATION & PLANNING YOUR TRIP

GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

486km long and 275km wide, the island of Ireland is divided into four historic provinces – Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht – and 32 counties, of which 26 are in the Republic of Ireland and six are in Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is a parliamentary democracy headed by the President of Ireland; Northern Ireland has its own regional/local government and is part of the United Kingdom. The population of the island is approximately six million, with over 4.3 million living in the Republic of Ireland and 1.7 million in Northern Ireland.

LANGUAGE

Irish (Gaelic) and English are the official languages of the Republic of Ireland: street and road signs are all bilingual. In Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas, road signs may only be displayed in Irish and Irish is spoken daily, though everyone speaks English as well. In Northern Ireland, English is the official language. The Irish language is also taught in many schools and summer schools. Ulster-Scots, spoken in Northern Ireland, is also on the increase.

PASSPORT/VISA REQUIREMENTS

Visitors from Nordic countries require a valid passport to enter the island of Ireland. Visitors of other nationalities should contact their local Irish embassy/consulate or their local embassy.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Denmark

Østbanegade 21
2100 København Ø
Tel: 35 47 32 00
Fax: 35 43 18 58
Email: copenhagenembassy@dfa.ie
www.embassyofireland.dk

Finland

Erottajankatu 7 A
00130 Helsinki
Tel: 09 682 4240
Fax: 09 646 022
Email: helsinkiembassy@dfa.ie
www.embassyofireland.fi

Norway

Haakon VII's gate 1
0244 Oslo
Tel: 22 01 72 00
Fax: 22 01 72 01
Email: osloembassy@dfa.ie
www.embassyofireland.no

Sweden

Hovslagargatan 5
PO Box 10326
100 55 Stockholm
Tel: 08 5450 4040
Fax: 08 660 1353
Email: stockholmembassy@dfa.ie
www.embassyofireland.se

NORTHERN IRELAND

Denmark

Kastelsvej 36-40
2100 København Ø
Tel: 35 44 52 00
Fax: 35 44 52 93
Email: enquiry.copenhagen@fco.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-copenhagen

Finland

Itäinen Puistotie 17
00140 Helsinki
Tel: (09) 2286 5100
Fax: (09) 2286 5262
Email: info.helsinki@fco.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-helsinki

Norway

Thomas Heftyesgate 8
0264 Oslo
Tel: 23 13 27 00
Fax: 23 13 27 41
Email: briteb@online.no
www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-oslo

Sweden

Skarpögatan 6-8
Box 27819
115 93 Stockholm
Tel: 08 671 3000
Fax 08 662 9989
Email: stockholm@fco.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-stockholm

MEDICAL

Vaccines are neither compulsory nor necessary unless you are travelling from an infected country. Visitors to the Republic of Ireland are covered under an agreement with the Department of Health, but some form of identification or a European Health Insurance Card is necessary. Visitors to Northern Ireland require no documentation and will receive treatment as they would in their own country. Visitors from all other EU countries travelling to Ireland should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) prior to departure. Visit www.ehic.org.uk for further information. For visitors from non-EU countries travelling to Ireland, private medical insurance is highly recommended.

VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES

Ireland extends a warm welcome to visitors with disabilities. 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 with disabilities.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

National Disability Authority

Tel: +353 (0) 1 608 0400

www.nda.ie

NORTHERN IRELAND

Disability Action

Tel: 028 9029 7880

www.disabilityaction.org

PETS

Pets entering Ireland must comply with Ireland's requirements under the EU Pet Passport System to avoid quarantine. Pets entering the UK from the EU can travel into Ireland without quarantine, provided they satisfy the requirements of the UK Pet Travel Scheme and are cleared on arrival in the UK. Tel: 0845 933 5577 or visit www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad for more information. For further information contact:

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Tel: +353 (0) 1 607 2000

www.agriculture.gov.ie

NORTHERN IRELAND

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Tel: 028 9052 4999

www.dardni.gov.uk

CURRENCIES

In the Republic of Ireland the currency used is the euro (€) and in Northern Ireland the currency used is the pound sterling (£).

BANKS

Banking hours are generally 09.30/10.00 to 16.30hrs Monday to Friday. Some banks are open on Saturday in Northern Ireland. ATM (cash) machines are located at most banks and accept most credit and debit cards.

CREDIT CARDS

Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are widely accepted in Ireland. Visitors with other cards should ask in advance or see if the card is on display where they wish to use it.

VAT AND TAX REFUNDS

Visitors from the EU are not entitled to any VAT or tax refunds. Norwegians are entitled to VAT or tax refund. Look for the "Tax Free Shopping" signs in shop windows. You must fill out a valid refund document and give this to the customs authorities when you travel out of the EU.

TELEPHONE

Mobile phones

Only digital phones with GSM subscriptions and a roaming agreement will work on the island of Ireland. Visitors should consult with their supplier before travelling.

Pay phones

Easy-to-use country calling cards are widely available at many outlets.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

If calling the Republic of Ireland, all telephone numbers must be prefixed with +353 (remove the first 0).

www.goldenpages.ie

POSTAL SERVICES

Post offices are generally open from 09.00 to 17.30hrs, Monday to Friday. Main post offices also open on Saturday between 09.00 and 12.30hrs in Northern Ireland and 09.00 and 17.00hrs in the Republic of Ireland. Please note that exact opening hours vary depending on the size and location of the branch.

SHOPPING

Shops are generally open Monday to Saturday from 09.00 to 17.30/18.00hrs with late-night shopping until 20.00hrs or 21.00hrs on Thursdays at many large stores. Sunday opening hours are generally midday until 17.00hrs or 18.00hrs (13.00 – 17.00hrs in Northern Ireland).

TIPPING

In restaurants, when a service charge is not included, 10-15% of the bill is appropriate. Taxi drivers are usually tipped by rounding up the fare to the nearest euro or pound and porters about €1.50 or £1 per bag. In pubs, tipping bar staff is at the customer's discretion.



Dunluce Castle County Antrim

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The standard electricity supply on the island of Ireland is 230/240 volts AC (50 cycles). Visitors will 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.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Though the general level of personal safety is high, should you be unfortunate enough to be a victim of crime, contact:

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Irish Tourist Assistance Service

(Mon-Fri), 6-7 Hanover Street East, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 (0) 1 661 0562

Email: info@itas.ie; www.itas.ie

Store Street Garda Station

(Weekends and public holidays), Dublin 1

Tel: +353 (0) 1 666 8109

NORTHERN IRELAND

Contact the local police station where support will be available.

Tel: 101

www.psn.police.uk

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal & Mountain Rescue) Tel: 112 or 999

NORTHERN IRELAND

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastal & Mountain Rescue) Tel: 999

PUBS

The legal drinking age is 18 years. Some pubs will insist patrons are over 21 years and carry some form of identification. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland stipulates that children under 18 years are not allowed in premises that serve alcohol after 21.30hrs.

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Smoking is not allowed in public areas and workplaces including pubs, restaurants, hotels and taxis, in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018

New Year's Day	1 Jan
St Patrick's Day Holiday	19 Mar
Good Friday (NI only)	30 Mar
Easter Monday	2 Apr
May Bank Holiday	7 May
Spring Bank Holiday (NI only)	28 May
June Bank Holiday (ROI only)	4 June
July Holiday (NI only)	12 July
Aug Bank Holiday (ROI only)	6 Aug
Aug Bank Holiday (NI only)	27 Aug
Oct Bank Holiday (ROI only)	29 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 most shops and businesses are closed.



Fanad Head County Donegal



TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY SEA

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



SEA ROUTES

DEPART	ARRIVE	CARRIER	VESSEL	DURATION
Cairnryan	Larne	P&O Ferries	Express	1hr
			Superferry	1hr 45mins
Fishguard	Belfast	Stena Line	Superfast VII/VIII	2hrs 15mins
	Rosslare	Stena Line	Stena Express Superferry	2hrs 3hrs 30mins
Holyhead	Dublin	Irish Ferries	Cruise Ferry	3hrs 15mins
		Irish Ferries	Dublin Swift	1hr 49mins
		Stena Line	Superferry	3hrs 15mins
		Stena Line	HSS Fast Craft	2hrs
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	7hrs 30mins
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
Irish Ferries	0871 730 0400	www.irishferries.com
P&O Ferries	0871 702 3477	www.poferries.com
Steam Packet Company	0872 299 2992	www.steam-packet.com
Stena Line	0844 770 7070	www.stenaline.co.uk
Eurolines	0871 781 8181	www.eurolines.co.uk

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



Aran Islands County Galway



TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY AIR

DENMARK

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE
Copenhagen	Dublin	Norwegian Airlines
	Dublin	Ryanair
	Dublin	SAS

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Norwegian Airlines	7080 78 80	www.norwegian.dk
Ryanair	+44 871 246 0002	www.ryanair.com
SAS – Scandinavian Airlines	7010 20 00	www.sas.dk

FINLAND

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE
Helsinki	Dublin	Finnair
	Dublin	Norwegian Airlines
	Dublin*	SAS

*via Stockholm or Copenhagen

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Finnair	0600 140 140	www.finnair.fi
Norwegian Airlines	09 231 01 600	www.norwegian.com
SAS	06000 25 831	www.sas.fi

NORWAY

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE
Oslo	Dublin Dublin	Norwegian Airlines SAS

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Norwegian Airlines	815 21 815	www.norwegian.no
SAS – Scandinavian Airlines	05400	www.sas.no

SWEDEN

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE
Stockholm Arlanda	Dublin	Norwegian Airlines
Stockholm Arlanda	Dublin	SAS

AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Norwegian Airlines	0770 45 77 00	www.norwegian.com
SAS – Scandinavian Airlines	0770 727 727	www.sas.se





Belfast City Hall

REGIONAL AIRPORTS AND FLIGHTS

The following internal flights are available within Ireland.

DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRLINE	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Dublin	Donegal	Aer Lingus Regional*	+44 0333 004 5000	www.aerlingus.com
	Kerry	Aer Lingus Regional*	+44 0333 004 5000	www.aerlingus.com

* Operated by Stobart Air
Please check website for details, as air routes are subject to change.



TRAVELLING FROM DUBLIN AND BELFAST AIRPORTS INTO CITY CENTRES

DUBLIN

Arriving in Dublin Airport, the options to get into the city centre are by bus or taxi. Buses and taxis are located just outside the arrivals hall. A taxi can cost between €20-30* depending on where you are travelling within the city. Dublin Airport is located on the north side of the city so fares to this part of Dublin will normally be cheaper than if you were taking a taxi to the south side. Direct buses to the city centre and bus and train stations are available from Dublin Bus Airlink; c6* single and c10* return. Children travel half price. Aircoach also operates coach services from the airport to the city centre and suburban areas. Fares from €6* single and €10* return.

BELFAST

Belfast International Airport
The airport is situated just 29km outside Belfast city centre and you can take a bus or taxi into the city.

Airport Express 300 now operates a 24-hour service between the airport and Belfast city centre with buses departing regularly throughout the day; £7.50* single and £10.50* 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); £2.60* single and £3.80* return. A taxi fare to the city is approximately £10*. Trains run from adjacent Sydenham station near the airport to Belfast and beyond.

*Prices are subject to change.

i For information on access to and from airports and ferry ports throughout the island of Ireland, log on to www.ireland.com



TRAVELLING AROUND IRELAND

TAXIS

There are metered taxis in Belfast, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Cork. In other areas, fares should be agreed beforehand. Taxis are most commonly found at ranks in central city locations.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The island of Ireland has a reasonably comprehensive public transport system of rail and bus services. The rail network serves many large towns and cities across the island, including the ferry ports of Larne, Belfast, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Cork and Rosslare. Bus services link to the rail system as well as providing access to ferry ports and airports. Recent investment in road and rail has provided more comfort for travellers, offered greater frequency of service, improved travel times and opened up new services, including the western rail link between Galway and Limerick. Rail and bus fares offer good value for the traveller, with various discount tickets available that give unlimited travel on bus and rail services.

The Dublin Bus 3-day Freedom Pass offers visitors unlimited travel on tour buses, airport links and regular bus services. Please check for offers when booking.

The Leap Visitor card offers 72 hours unlimited travel on Airlink, Dublin Bus, Luas, DART and Commuter Rail services. It is available for purchase at Dublin Airport only, and costs €19.50 for 72 hours.

The Belfast Visitor Pass includes unlimited travel on all scheduled Metro buses, NI Railways and Ulsterbus services operating within the Translink Belfast Visitor Pass Zone, as well as discounts on attractions and tours plus special offers for shopping and eating out.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann)

Tel: +353 (0) 1 836 6222; www.irishrail.ie

Irish Bus (Bus Éireann)

Tel: +353 (0) 1 836 6111; www.buseireann.ie

Dublin Bus (Bus Átha Cliath)

Tel: +353 (0) 1 873 4222; www.dublinbus.ie

DART (Rapid Transit Rail)

The Dublin area is served by the "DART" rapid transit rail from Howth to Malahide in north County Dublin, and via Dun Laoghaire to Greystones in County Wicklow.

www.irishrail.ie/DART

Dublin Luas

The Dublin Luas is a state-of-the-art Light Rail Transit (LRT) system connecting outlying suburbs to Dublin city centre with a high-capacity, high-frequency, high-speed service. When in the Republic of Ireland, call Luas on 1800 300 604 or visit www.luas.ie
If you do not have a validated bus ticket, keep in mind that Dublin Bus services require exact change to be given; notes will not be accepted. Bus/rail/Luas travel tickets are available from

most newsagents in Dublin city centre and the surrounding suburbs.

The Dublin Bike Sharing Scheme is another good option for travelling around the city.

www.dublinbikes.ie

Cork, Galway, Limerick and Belfast (from February 2015) also have bike schemes.

www.ireland.com

NORTHERN IRELAND

Translink

(Northern Ireland Railways, Ulsterbus, Metro – Belfast's bus service)

Tel: 028 9066 6630 or visit www.translink.co.uk

Check for specially discounted fares when travelling by public transport. For instance, the iLink card provides unlimited bus/train travel for 1 day, 1 week or 1 month.

The Enterprise

The Enterprise is a fast, high-quality rail network linking Dublin and Belfast. The journey takes around 2 hours and is probably the most comfortable way to travel between the 2 cities. Catch the Enterprise from Connolly Station in Dublin and Central Station in Belfast.

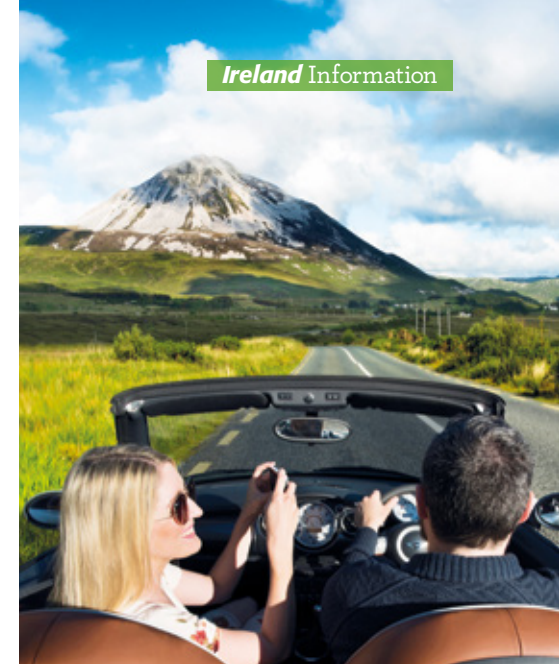
INLAND FERRIES AND ISLAND BOAT SERVICES

When visiting any of the offshore islands around the Irish coastline, check out island boat services well in advance – and check again just before travelling as changes in the weather may affect services. Regular island boat services operate to the Aran Islands off the Galway coast, Rathlin Island off the north Antrim coast, Aranmore Island off the coast of Donegal, Clare Island off the Mayo coast, and Sherkin and Cape Clear Islands off the coast of West Cork. There are also several inland ferry services that ease travelling around Ireland and make the journey more interesting, such as the Strangford Lough ferry at Portaferry, County Down; the ferry across the Shannon Estuary between Tarbert, County Kerry and Killimer, County Clare; and the ferry link between Greencastle, County Donegal, and Magilligan Point, County Londonderry.

DRIVING IN IRELAND

Visitors to Ireland must bring a valid national driving licence with them, issued in the country of their permanent residence. Driving in Ireland is on the left and seatbelts must be worn at all times, in the front and back of the vehicle. Drivers should note that they are obliged by law to carry their driving licence at all times when driving in the Republic of Ireland. Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear helmets. There are very strict laws on drinking and driving, and the best advice is simply "don't drink and drive".

The measurement of speed limits on roads in the Republic of Ireland is kilometres per hour (km/h) and miles per hour (mph) in Northern Ireland. Motorists are urged to remember the change of driving laws when crossing the



Mount Errigal County Donegal

border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, the speed limit is 30mph in built-up areas, 60mph on the open road and 70mph on motorways unless shown otherwise. In the Republic of Ireland, the speed limit is 120km/h on motorways, 100km/h on national roads and 80km/h on non-national roads. Barrier-free tolling is operational on certain motorways in the Republic of Ireland – visit www.eflow.ie for further information.

CAR RENTAL

Most of the major car rental companies have desks at airports, ferry terminals and cities across Ireland. Some companies do not rent cars to drivers under 21 years or over 70 years, but please check with your car rental company before making a booking. All drivers must hold valid licences. It is advisable to book in advance, especially if you are travelling during the high season, as it is generally cheaper. The majority of rental cars are standard shift but automatic cars are available, if booked in advance, for an additional charge. Child seats should also be booked in advance.

To avoid misunderstandings, it is recommended that you always check the detailed terms and conditions of your rental booking in advance. Even if you book through a third party (broker, agent, tour operator), you will be required to sign a rental agreement with the car rental company, so spend some time in advance selecting the various insurances, waivers and other options appropriate to your needs and understand the costs involved. For insurance reasons you should advise the car rental company if you intend travelling between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The trade organisation for the car rental industry in the Republic of Ireland is the Car Rental Council – email: info@carrentalcouncil.ie or visit www.carrentalcouncil.ie
In Northern Ireland, contact the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association. Tel: 01484 434 747 or visit www.bvrla.co.uk



MAP & ROUTE KILOMETRE 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.



Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this map, Tourism Ireland cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Due to the small scale of this map, not all holiday centres can be shown. The information on this map is correct at time of going to press. © 2018 Tourism Ireland. Map creation by Michael Schmeling, www.maps.airdocan.com | Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC BY SA