

# Ireland

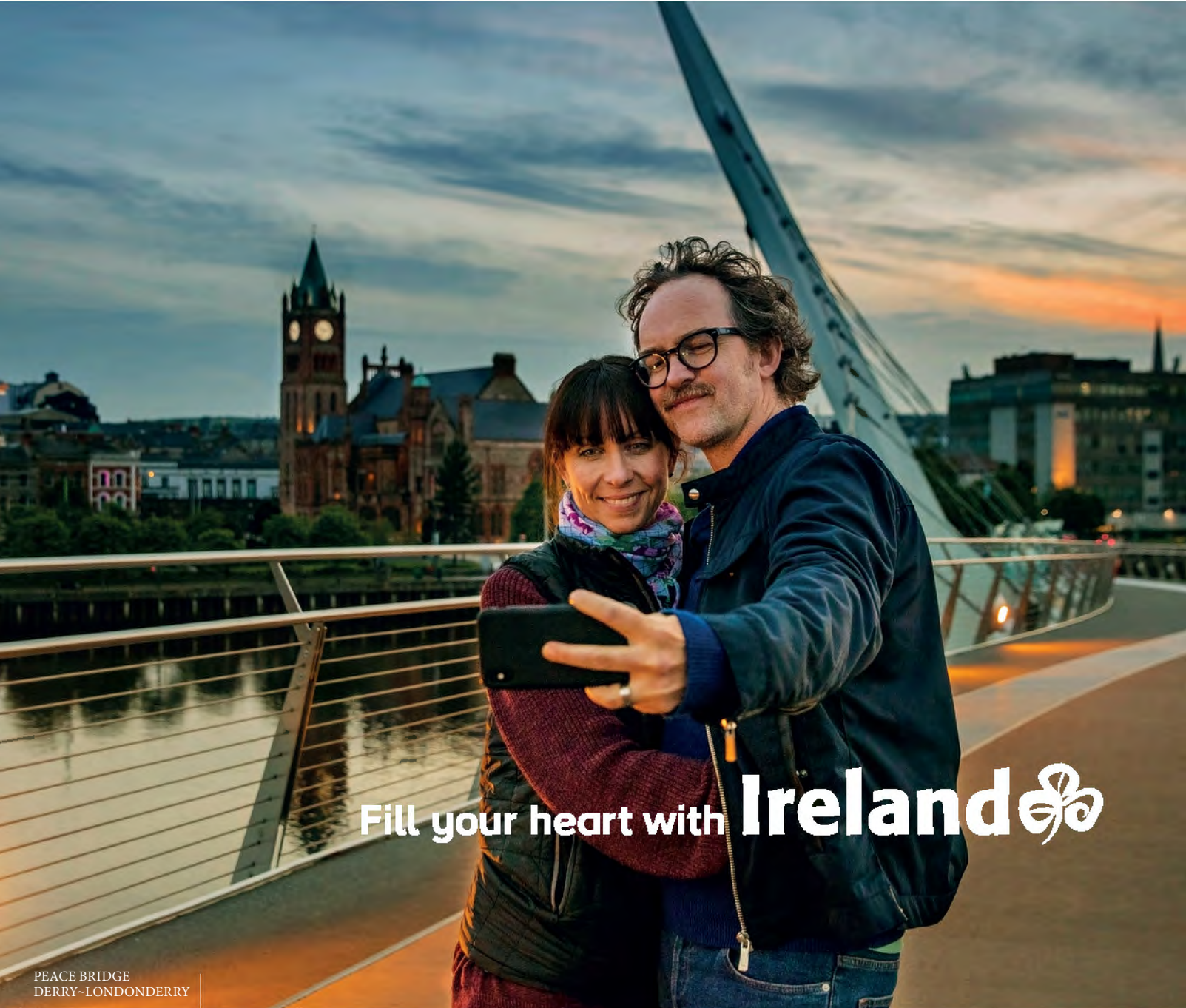
Heritage

Food & Drink

Culture

Landscapes

On Screen



Fill your heart with **Ireland** 

PEACE BRIDGE  
DERRY-LONDONDERRY

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS

*Drama and romance in Ireland's castles*

## FABULOUS FOOD & DRINK

*Delicious feasts to tempt the taste buds*

## IRELAND'S CULTURE

*Urban escapes filled with warm welcomes*

## AMAZING LANDSCAPES

*Discovering Ireland's incredible scenery*

## IRELAND ON SCREEN

*Explore real-life Westeros in Northern Ireland*

# Fill your heart with Ireland



# WELCOME TO IRELAND

If modern life has left you yearning for more authentic experiences, then the island of Ireland is the perfect antidote. You see, Ireland is more than just a destination, it's a feeling.

It's the thrill of standing at the top of Donegal's Slieve League cliffs along the Wild Atlantic Way. It's the sensation you get at a traditional Irish music session, such as the ones that kick off in Matt Molloy's of Westport, County Mayo, or the House of McDonnell in Ballycastle, County Antrim.

It's the cool touch of the ancient stones that dot the island's landscapes, from Wexford to Kerry, and the echoes of the shipbuilding heritage of Belfast, Titanic Town. It's the chance to see the thrilling real-life locations from HBO's *Game of Thrones*, and *Star Wars Episodes VII and VIII*. It's those 100,000 welcomes that the people are famous for.

They say you should always listen to your heart. Right now, Ireland can fill your heart with the good stuff. ♥

 **Ireland.com**

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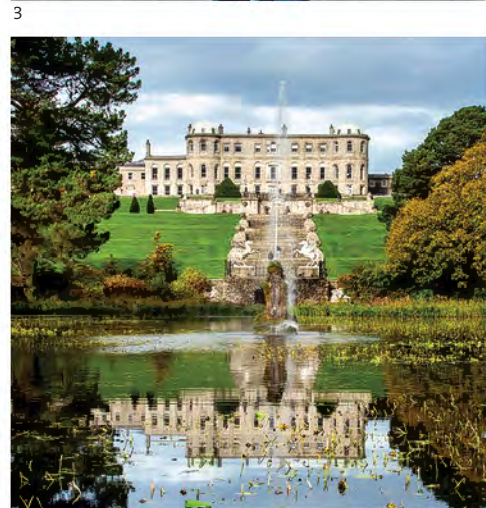
# HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Ireland's historic landmarks are not all about bricks and mortar. As you walk up the 800-year-old stone steps in Hook Head Lighthouse in County Wexford; wander through the 17<sup>th</sup> century pleasure gardens at Loughcrew in County Meath; or stare up at a round tower built nearly 900 years ago by monks at Devenish Island in Lough Erne – two interconnected lakes in County Fermanagh – it's good to take some time to absorb the history embedded in these walls.

Nothing captures the imagination quite like a good story, and on the island of Ireland, you don't have to look far to find one. In towns and villages, on hillsides and cliff-edges—especially around Ireland's Ancient East – you'll find battlements, fortifications, and historic mansions filled with tales of parties, fascinating characters, and even a ghost or two. Take the eerie 16<sup>th</sup> century Leap Castle in County Offaly, which claims to be the “world's most haunted location.” Or Carrickfergus Castle, a Norman stronghold in County Antrim, which has been besieged by the Scots, Irish, English, and French over its 800 year history. And just because the island's country houses look genteel, it doesn't mean they don't have their own tales of intrigue, like Westport House in County Mayo. Today, it may be the very picture of aristocratic elegance, but venture down into the dungeons and you'll see the remains of a castle owned by 16<sup>th</sup> century pirate queen, Grace O'Malley.

Ireland's early Christian history is also packed with compelling stories and beautiful settings. Dating from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century, Clonmacnoise was established by St Ciarán on an idyllic site on the River Shannon – stroll around here and you're catapulted back to an age of “saints and scholars.” At Gallarus Oratory on Sleah Head in County Kerry, you can still experience what drew monks here hundreds of years ago – heart-stirring views of the brooding Three Sisters coastal peaks and the picturesque bay of Smerwick Harbour. And on St Patrick's Trail, which weaves through key sites linked to Ireland's patron saint in counties Armagh and Down, beauty abounds, especially at tranquil Saul Church.

It's inevitable that a journey into Ireland's past will lead to Ireland's cities, whether it's the Viking history of Dublin and Waterford, or Titanic-era Belfast. And, whichever one you visit, a compelling piece of history awaits. Walk the 400-year-old walls in Derry~Londonderry, where cannons roared during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Travel back to the Middle Ages with a stroll along Kilkenny's Medieval Mile. Or imagine the life of a Norman soldier in the 13<sup>th</sup> century King John's Castle in Limerick. On the island of Ireland, you can experience history right under your feet. ♥



Heritage

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# STEP INTO THE STORIES

*Museums, galleries, and visitor attractions on the island of Ireland bring the past to life, from the hopes and dreams of migrants to the creativity of the Celts*

## 1 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND – ARCHAEOLOGY *Dublin*

The big draw at the National Museum is Ireland's Bronze Age jewelry. Exquisitely crafted between 2200BC and 500BC, it's one of the most important prehistoric gold collections in Europe. Within the museum, you'll also find remarkably preserved bog bodies from the Iron Age, an exhibition on Viking Ireland, and the beautifully crafted 8<sup>th</sup> century Ardagh Chalice.

## 2 TITANIC BELFAST *Belfast*

This monumental visitor experience stands at the head of the slipways where the "Ship of Dreams" was built. Inside, nine interactive galleries with original artifacts, dramatic recreations, and interactive features allow you to fully immerse yourself in Titanic's history and the vibrant city that built her.

## 3 WATERFORD TREASURES *Waterford*

Reputed to be Ireland's oldest city, Waterford is packed with history and the best place to uncover it is in the trio of museums

called the Waterford Treasures. Here, the Medieval Museum, Bishop's Palace, and Reginald's Tower (pictured) recount the story of the city, from its foundation 1,100 years ago by the Vikings to an era of Georgian opulence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4 DERRYGLAD FOLK AND HERITAGE MUSEUM *County Roscommon*

Ireland's history is about big dramatic events, but it's also about the life and times of ordinary people. At this small, family-owned museum you'll discover a trove of humble objects that show what life was really like not so very long ago. Examine horse-drawn farm machinery, browse the display of school life, and visit a reconstructed 1930s bar and grocery – the heart of every country town.

## 5 ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK *County Tyrone*

Emigration to the New World is central to Ireland's story, and here you can uncover it within thatched cottages and log cabins, both Irish and American. The buildings were either moved from their original sites, or replicated, and show both what people left behind and the new lives they created. Costumed characters tell their stories and build a bridge to the past.

## 6 POWERSCOURT ESTATE *County Wicklow*

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, a rich and lavish aristocracy sought to make their mark with huge houses and sprawling grounds – and they don't come much grander than Powerscourt. Located on a commanding hilltop position with views of the Great Sugarloaf Mountain, Powerscourt is a showstopper with exquisite gardens that unfold over 47 acres. Welcome to the age of elegance! ♥

PHOTO: GARETH MCCORMACK



*Ireland's castles are set in some of the most beautiful parts of the island, from tranquil lakefronts to the edge of dramatic coastal cliffs. We look at three of the most captivating...*

DUNGAIRE CASTLE  
COUNTY GALWAY

**T**ravel around Ireland and you'll quickly discover that castles here have the power to stop you in your tracks with their sheer good looks. Whether it's a crumbling 12<sup>th</sup> century pile overlooking a glassy lake, a gracious Baronial mansion set in glistening green fields, or a dramatic cliffside ruin pounded by waves, these structures never fail to surprise and delight.

A good place to start is with Dunguaire Castle. Nestled on the south shore of Galway Bay, this 16<sup>th</sup> century tower house is built on the site of a 7<sup>th</sup> century fort. It's fairly modest – as castles go – but its history takes in the clans of Ireland, Queen Elizabeth I of England, the Celtic revival of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a divorce case so scandalous that it triggered a change in the law. With the waters of Galway Bay to the north, and the barren, rocky landscape of County Clare's Burren to the south, Dunguaire has one of the most scenic locations on the island. No wonder it's one of the most photographed castles in the west!

It's hard to imagine how James Arthur Butler, 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Ormonde, owner of 13<sup>th</sup> century Kilkenny Castle, and last in line in his family, must have felt as he handed over the keys to his ancestral home back in 1967. In an act of supreme generosity, James transferred the castle to the people of Kilkenny for a mere £50. With a commanding position on the River Nore, the castle today is at peace. Instead of sieges, battles, and a rise and fall in its fortunes, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Kilkenny Castle has a firm

“DUNGAIRE HAS ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC LOCATIONS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND. NO WONDER IT'S ONE OF THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED CASTLES IN THE WEST”

position within the city's social and cultural life with classical music recitals and art exhibitions held here. Take the castle tour and you'll find rooms that reflect the excess and elegance of the 19<sup>th</sup> rather than the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with sumptuous furnishings, decorative plasterwork, and Venetian Gothic motifs.

For a total contrast, go north to Antrim on the dramatic Causeway Coast where you'll find the ruin of Dunluce Castle. Perched on a craggy outcrop that's pounded by the waves, Dunluce is accessible over a footbridge, with a stout heart and steady feet. It seems a remote and dangerous place to live – a ship from the Spanish Armada was wrecked on the rocks, and a pair of lovers met their end below the castle – yet this wild place has had fans for centuries. The Earl of Ulster built the first castle here back in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, on an old Viking fort, and by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century it was fought over by rival clans – it's even attracted the banshee (a mythical wailing female spirit), according to legend. And you can see why: this coastal stretch of County Antrim lifts the heart and refreshes the soul with its stunning views. ♥

# FABULOUS FOOD & DRINK

**S**eafood chowder by the fire in a wind-whipped coastal pub. Traditional Irish stew in the surrounds of an 18<sup>th</sup> century market. Afternoon tea overlooking a misty lake. Food in Ireland isn't just about the taste; it's about the place, the experience, the land and sea, and the people who created it.

Whether you're enjoying beautifully crafted dishes of local, seasonal produce in Wine & Brine, Moira, County Armagh, or savoring a bowl of Killary Harbour mussels at the Misunderstood Heron food truck in the wild surrounds of County Galway's Killary Fjord, it's bound to be memorable.

To get to the heart and soul of food on the island of Ireland, a farmers' market is a good place to start. Here, busy stalls laden with artisan cheese, local charcuterie, beech-smoked Irish salmon, soda breads, and mountain lamb reflect the richness and variety of what's on offer. Farmers' markets take place all over the island, usually – but not exclusively – on the weekend. Some to look out for include the Midleton Farmers' Market in County Cork, Kilkenny Farmers' Market in the medieval city of Kilkenny, and the Walled City Market in Derry~Londonderry.

Occupying a special place in the hearts of Cork city locals, the English Market (closed Sun) has been around since 1788 and is a great place to pick up traditional specialties such as drisheen (blood pudding) and pigs' feet, as well as freshly baked bread, fish, cheese, and the Cork favorite – spiced beef. In Belfast, in-the-know foodies favor the historic 19<sup>th</sup> century St George's Market (Fri-Sun) for everything from wild venison to gourmet fudge.

Beyond the markets, the island is packed with pubs, Michelin-starred restaurants, and cafés where you can taste traditional Irish food. Order a glass of Guinness and settle down to centuries of tradition with an Irish stew at Hargadon's grocery-pub in Sligo or an Ulster fry (a traditional breakfast dish) at Maggie May's in Belfast. And keep your eye out on menus for boxty (a potato pancake), coddle (a Dublin dish of bacon, sausage and potato), Waterford blaa (a soft, floury bread roll unique to the city), and, of course, Irish whiskey, stout, local craft beers, and artisan gins.

Travel around and it's not hard to see the excitement surrounding the food scene right now, from food festivals to restaurant-packed city streets. But visit during fall, and you'll be treated to a whole three months of culinary celebrations with the Taste the Island series of events. Taking in a range of food and drink experiences like distilleries and breweries, food trails, festivals, cooking classes, and even a bit of foraging... it's a great way to experience local culture, through your taste buds! ♥

# FOOD EXPERIENCES

*Food tours are the perfect way to experience the pure flavors and traditional foods of each locality on the island of Ireland...*

Ireland has undergone a food revolution as the farmers, fishermen, producers, and chefs appreciate the pure, rich flavors that can be found around the island. And food tours have become a popular way for locals and visitors alike to experience the best of each locality.

“People always tell us they wish they had done the tour at the start of their trip,” says Caroline Wilson, who runs *Taste & Tour NI’s* food and drink-focused walking tours of Belfast city. “They’re amazed at the variety on offer – and they love that they’re getting to meet locals and not just other tourists.”

Each tour has its own distinct personality, too. About an hour and a half down the road from Belfast, *Enniskillen Taste Experience* uncovers several sides to this historic town’s food – from local butcher Pat O’Doherty’s Fermanagh Black Bacon, reared on the peaceful pastures of Lough Erne’s Inish Corkish island, to contemporary fine-dining at 28 Darling Street.

Want to find out more about the foodie city of Cork? The knowledgeable guides of *Fab Food Trails* will give you the inside story of Cork’s historic English Market, as well as little local places that are off the usual food route. Galway Food Tours’ *Around the Marketplace* starts with Atlantic oysters and Irish farmhouse

cheese at the medieval city’s beloved farmers’ market before meeting the producers and tasting the flavors of award-winning restaurants and cafés.

And if you’re interested in whiskey, you’ve come to the right place, with guided tours of distilleries, as well as trails and tastings. Delve into the history of Old Bushmills Distillery on the Causeway Coast, Dingle Whiskey Distillery in County Kerry, and Tullamore D.E.W in County Offaly.

Food festivals come in many different flavors, but their chief ingredient is a celebration of Irish foods and the local producers, chefs, and restaurateurs who champion them. Armagh throws a Food and Cider Festival in September to celebrate its abundant apple harvest. And against the natural backdrop of the Burren in County Clare, the Burren Slow Food Festival in May advocates sustainable food production and tradition. But for the mother of all food festivals, head to Kinsale, County Cork, where the annual Gourmet Festival in October unleashes a fun week of walking tours, parties, seafood spectaculars, and great music. ♥

“PEOPLE ARE AMAZED AT THE VARIETY OF FOOD ON OFFER, AND LOVE THAT THEY’RE GETTING TO MEET THE LOCALS AND NOT JUST OTHER TOURISTS”

FORAGING  
COUNTY LEITRIM



Ireland.com



TASTE THE WILD  
ATLANTIC WAY



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- 1 Pyke 'N' Pommies Derry~Londonderry
- 2 Sheridans Cheesemongers Galway
- 3 Harry's Shack County Londonderry
- 4 Glenarm Shorthorn County Antrim

## IRELAND'S NATURAL FLAVORS

*Great flavors, passionate producers, and traditions handed down through generations: there's never been a better time to enjoy a true taste of Ireland*

With bountiful oceans and fertile fields, Ireland’s produce translates into pure deliciousness on the plate. Take beef for starters... Rich green pastures and small-scale farming make grass-fed beef the standard on the island of Ireland. Want to try it for yourself? Check out the Wagyu beef burgers at Derry~Londonderry’s Pyke ‘N’ Pommies food truck, or Hannan’s Glenarm Shorthorn Himalayan salt-aged sirloin at Balloo House in County Down.

Lamb is the bedrock on which one of Ireland’s most famous dishes, Irish stew, is built. This casserole of lamb, potatoes, onions, and carrots might be simple, but it’s enduringly popular and reflects a culinary tradition of cooking over an open fire.

From its origins in the late 1970s, Ireland’s farmhouse cheese scene has grown into one of the most exciting in Europe, with punchy new styles like Young Buck raw milk blue cheese and well-established favorites such as Durrus, Killeen, and St Tola. A visit to a cheesemaker, such as Cashel Farmhouse Cheese in County Tipperary, is a great way to find out more about the cheese-making process, and farmers’ markets are ideal for meeting local producers and tasting artisan products.

The flavors of the shoreline are showcased on the Taste the Atlantic trail along the Wild Atlantic Way, with tours of smokehouses, seafood producers, and oyster farms. Keep your eye out in restaurants all along the island’s coastline for smoked Atlantic salmon, oysters, mussels, and crab.

It’s not just the fine-dining restaurants or traditional pubs where you can sample the ocean’s bounty, either. Enjoy fish fresh off the boat at Harry’s Shack on Portstewart Strand in County Londonderry or award-winning chowder at Killybegs Seafood Shack, overlooking the fishing port of Killybegs in County Donegal. For something a little different, make sure to try some of the island’s seaweeds, such as dulse and carrageen moss from the Antrim coastline.

And with a new generation of well-traveled chefs eager to explore the island’s extraordinary natural larder, enjoying the great tastes of Ireland has never been easier! ♥

TASTE & TOUR  
BELFAST



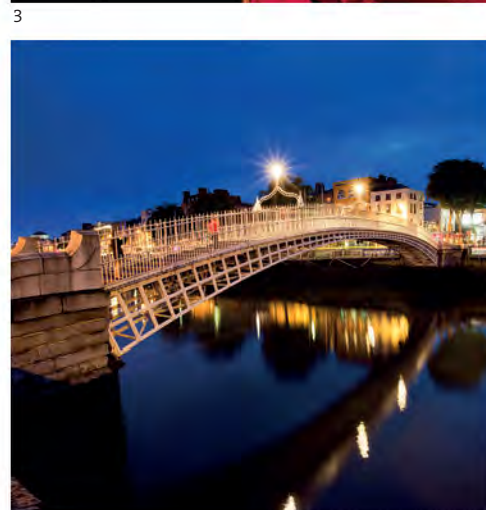
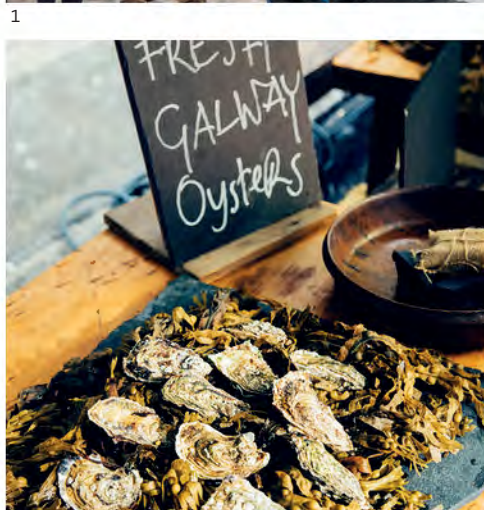
# IRELAND'S CULTURE

Ireland's spirit can't be captured; it has to be experienced. The stories, scenery, songs, and special atmosphere are what bring people back here, time and again.

With nearly 2,000 miles of coastline, the ocean has an inescapable influence on Ireland's culture, especially in the towns and villages scattered along its shores. From the currach boats unique to the west of Ireland to the lighthouses that stand on rocky headlands, the way of life here is dominated by the ocean. Ireland's coastal communities play a huge part in keeping the Irish language alive, with many locals speaking their native tongue every day, in areas that are known as Gaeltachtaí. Visit Achill Island in County Mayo, or the western parts of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry, and you'll hear locals speaking the language. Further north in County Antrim and along the Ards Peninsula, the same is true for speakers of Ulster-Scots (Ullans), whose vibrant music and dance traditions keep the culture alive.

For a small island, Ireland's contribution to world literature is immense. From playwrights to poets, songwriters to storytellers, Ireland's literary heritage takes in four Nobel prizewinners (George Bernard Shaw, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney), and continues to thrive today with Pulitzer prizewinning poet Paul Muldoon, and award-winning novelists such as Eimear McBride, Emma Donoghue, Colm Tóibín, and Anna Burns. These writers follow a historic tradition of storytelling across the island of Ireland, which once took the form of folklore, heroic tales, and myths passed down by people known as *seanchaí*. The ancient art of storytelling is today celebrated at events such as the Cape Clear Island Storytelling Festival in County Cork, as well as popular literature festivals such as Listowel Writers' Week (Sept), County Kerry; Dalkey Book Festival (June), County Dublin; and the Hillsborough Festival of Literature and Ideas in County Down (April). And in Dublin – a UNESCO City of Literature – you can get the whole story at the new Museum of Literature Ireland, with multimedia exhibitions and priceless artifacts.

Of course, while many a story has been told in the firelit, stone-floored surrounds of a traditional Irish pub, they're more famous as places to hear a spot of music and dance (known as a céilí). Dotted around the island, from the cities of Cork and Waterford to rural gems such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century thatched cottage of Crosskeys Inn, County Antrim, you'll find hundreds of traditional pubs with a weekly roster of in-house musicians and guest performers. Drop in, sit back, and enjoy the tunes. And if you've got the know-how, pull up a stool and join in... the more the merrier. ♥



- 1 Buskers in Galway city
- 2 Sawers Deli Belfast
- 3 Museum of Literature Ireland Dublin
- 4 Galway oysters
- 5 Big Fish Belfast
- 6 Ha'penny Bridge Dublin

## THREE CITIES

With 11 cities all boasting great food, easy-going locals and lots of culture, you're sure to be busy on the island of Ireland. We've got three to get you started

### GREAT FOR ATMOSPHERE: GALWAY

Big-hearted, bohemian, and brimming with energy, Galway is packed with the best of the west. Known as the "City of Tribes" – after the 14 medieval tribes who once ruled it – the people here have cultivated a culturally diverse haven that remains true to its traditional roots. The streets of this city sing with an upbeat spirit... literally! Galway is famed for its buskers (street performers), with Shop Street, William Street, and the Spanish Arch alive with music. In the evening, traditional Irish music pours from the doorways of pubs, with Tig Cóilí, Taaffes Bar, and The Crane Bar all famed for their great tunes. Add in Galway's status as a UNESCO City of Film, its designation as European Capital of Culture in 2020, and the fact that it's been named as one of Lonely Planet's top ten cities to visit in their Best in Travel 2020 guide, and you've the perfect city break sorted.

### GREAT FOR FOOD: BELFAST

It may be famous for building the Titanic, but right now, Belfast's food scene is flourishing with award-winning restaurants, trailblazing chefs, and great local produce. Wondering where

to start? Head to St George's Market (Fri-Sun) for fresh flavors followed by the John Hewitt pub for a taste of Irish craft beers. You can sample the best innovative cooking at Michelin-starred restaurants Ox and Eipic; enjoy local seafood at the Mourne Seafood Bar and John Long's – famous for its fish and chips; or try big bowls of ramen, Irish-style, at Bia Rebel. Fancy something a little different? The Titanic Belfast Sunday Afternoon Tea serves up tasty treats by the "Grand Staircase."

### GREAT FOR CULTURE: DUBLIN

Dublin welcomes every visitor with a smile and the promise that no trip will end without a story or two. It's easy to see how this Viking city has inspired so many artists of every calling; and it loves to celebrate them, too, with free entry to the National Gallery, National Museums, Hugh Lane Gallery, and Irish Museum of Modern Art. The city's political history is best appreciated with a tour of Dublin Castle, fascinating Glasnevin Cemetery, or spooky Kilmainham Gaol. Or drop into beautiful Trinity College to see the 9th century illuminated manuscript, The Book of Kells. Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature and for a fun take on the city's history, join the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl and stroll around the watering holes of Ireland's literary greats. And the best thing about Dublin? You never know what's waiting around the corner... After all, Bono has been known to busk on Grafton Street on Christmas Eve – no ticket required. ♣

# FESTIVAL ISLAND

Come rain or shine, festival season never stops in Ireland, where there's always something to celebrate and the people love a good party

### SPRING

The island of Ireland springs to life with *St Patrick's Day* on 17 March. Kicking off with the earliest festival at 6am in Dingle, County Kerry, the festivities and parades spread around the island from Dublin's carnival-style party to the *Home of St Patrick Festival* in County Armagh and Down. April is when the *Galway Food Festival* makes its tasty mark on the west; and the super-fun *Star Wars Day* on May 4th celebrates some of the finest Star Wars locations on the Wild Atlantic Way. Still have room for more? Try the *Belfast Maritime Festival* along the city's quays with Tall Ships, nautical fun, and great food.

### SUMMER

Westport in County Mayo hosts a *Folk and Bluegrass Festival*, bringing music, masterclasses, and merriment to this scenic west coast town. *The Ould Lamas Fair* sees traditional music, dancing, horse trading, artisan markets, and more take over the seaside town of Ballycastle, County Antrim. And if it's culture you're after, you're spoiled for choice with *Bloomsday* in Dublin; the *Dalriada Festival* in Glenarm Castle, County Antrim; and the acclaimed *Carlow Arts Festival* in Carlow town.

### AUTUMN

Festival season heats up in autumn, thanks to the *Dublin Theatre Festival* with 18 days of drama, and the *Belfast International Festival*, featuring theater, dance, and arts. In Cork, the famous *Guinness Cork Jazz Festival* takes center stage, with internationally acclaimed blues and brilliance. But the spookiest celebration each fall is *DerryHalloween*. Billed as the greatest Halloween party in the world, it features haunted houses, ghost walks, and spectacular costumes. Hot on its heels is the *Púca Halloween Festival* in counties Meath and Louth. Named after the Irish word for "ghost", this fiesta takes scaring seriously!

### WINTER

Voted best opera festival in the world at the International Opera Awards, *Wexford Festival Opera* brings 12 whole days of operatic majesty to the southeast. Music of a different kind can be enjoyed at the *Atlantic Sessions* in Portrush and Portstewart, with concerts in restaurants, hotels, bars, and cafés along the beautiful Causeway Coast. Things get festive in Dublin with both the *Docklands Christmas Festival* and the *New Year's Festival*. And as a new year unfolds, *TradFest* in Dublin's Temple Bar neighborhood is the place to be, with traditional music concerts and gigs. ♡

ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL  
DUBLIN





# AMAZING LANDSCAPES

**D**ramatic, impactful, inspirational – the scenery on the island of Ireland encourages you to be at one with it, to stand on a wind-whipped beach and feel the transformative beauty of the Atlantic Ocean. To experience the poetry of the heather-flecked Wicklow Mountains sculpted over millennia and dotted with shaggy white sheep. To sit and gaze at a night sky that dances with swirling lights in one of the most remote parts of Europe, the Inishowen Peninsula.

From the breathtaking northern tip of Malin Head in County Donegal to the safe southern haven of Kinsale Harbour in County Cork, the Wild Atlantic Way will wow you with its cliffs and coves, and charm you with the warmth of its people. There are quiet islands where hardy communities continue age-old traditions; jagged peninsulas surrounded by surging seas; and friendly towns and villages where traditional pubs boast roaring open fires and nightly music sessions. Northeast of Donegal, the Wild Atlantic Way meets the Causeway Coastal Route – one of Northern Ireland's greatest adventures. Here, the road hugs the coastline around craggy headlands, past sandy beaches, and gorse-covered valleys. You can lunch at the pretty harbor of Ballintoy, walk the historic Gobbins Cliff Path, and explore its charming villages, such as Glenarm.

And while Ireland may not have the highest peaks in Europe, the tobacco-colored boglands, heathery ridges, and rich green glens of the mountains here are filled with fascinating myths, legends, and ancient tales. There's Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, where St Patrick spent 40 days in the year 441, and Slieve Gullion in County Armagh, where legendary hero Cú Chulainn received his name. In County Down, you'll find Northern Ireland's largest mountain range, beloved of hillwalkers. It's said that the wintry snow-dusted peaks of the Mourne Mountains inspired Belfast-born author C.S. Lewis to create the icy wonderland of Narnia. Come here in winter, and it's easy to see why.

Looking for somewhere to nourish your spirit? You wouldn't be the first to fall in love with the inky blue waters of Ireland's inland lakes, canals, and rivers. Ancient Celts, Christian monks, and marauding Vikings have all left their mark here, with pagan rocks and crumbling churches charting their journeys over the centuries. Today, their quiet, off-the-beaten track charm will win you over, whether you're following the flow of the mighty River Shannon or exploring the castle-laden shores of Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. There's nothing quite like the amazing landscapes of Ireland. ♥



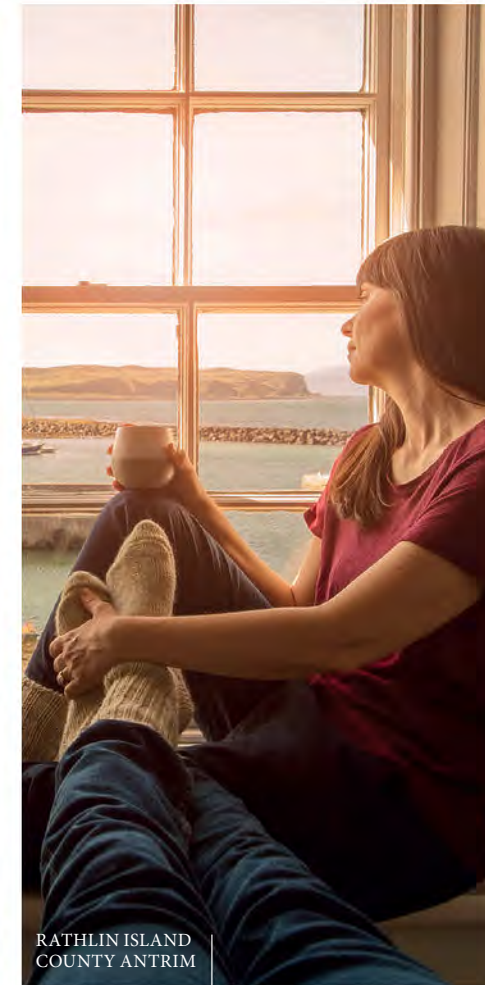
# THE ANCIENTS

*On the island of Ireland, it pays to look closely. As you stand gazing out on a beautiful view, keep your eye out for some dramatic reminders of the island's ancient past*

NEWGRANGE  
COUNTY MEATH



GREAT BLASKET ISLAND  
COUNTY KERRY



RATHLIN ISLAND  
COUNTY ANTRIM



DALKEY ISLAND  
COUNTY DUBLIN

For a relatively small island, Ireland boasts an astounding number of Neolithic passage tombs, ancient burial grounds, and mysterious stone circles. These structures contain the secrets to the island's early history, and often sit within intensely dramatic locations, such as Céide Fields in the wild boglands of north County Mayo – a field system that's thousands of years old; and the Legananny Dolmen, a 5,000-year-old portal tomb on the slopes of Slieve Croob in County Down.

Considering the fact that some of these sites date back thousands of years, the condition in which they stand is remarkable. Take Newgrange, for example. Built around 3200BC, the passage tomb is older than both Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Giza, yet it's perfectly intact – its grassy mound unchanged for millennia; its stones still etched with rock art.

Just up the road is the Hill of Tara, where the ancient High Kings of Ireland would have been inaugurated. Visit on a clear day, and you can stand upon the hill, gaze out upon the endless green fields of County Meath, and see for miles – some even say you can see half the counties of Ireland.

One of the best things about these sites is their accessibility. Rather than being shielded behind ropes and walkways, they are out in the open countryside. Like the stone circles at Beaghmore in County Tyrone, which were only discovered during peat cutting in the 1940s – these Bronze Age structures aren't kept at

“BUILT AROUND 3200BC, NEWGRANGE IS OLDER THAN BOTH STONEHENGE AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA, YET IT IS PERFECTLY INTACT”

the other side of a visitor center, but are free to access among the hills of the Sperrins.

Over in County Clare, you'll find one of the island's most iconic ancient monuments – the Poul nabrone Dolmen. This portal tomb is found in the depths of the Burren, where limestone plateaus are dotted with wildflowers and clumps of moss.

But sometimes you have to know where to go... Deep in County Fermanagh in the scenic waters of Lough Erne sits Boa Island. You can drive onto the island, but once there keep an eye out for signs for the Boa Figures. Down a little country lane, hidden in an old cemetery you'll find the Boa Island Figures – intricately carved Celtic figurines that have an almost totem pole look to them, as they stand silently among crumbling tombstones.

Sites like this can look out of place, as they sit within quiet valleys or in the middle of tiny islands. But the more you familiarize yourself with Ireland, you'll see that these structures, soaked in history and witness to thousands of years gone by, are exactly where they should be. ♥

## IRELAND'S ISLANDS

*From day trips to longer stays, and from traditional culture to wildlife-watching, you'll find beauty, mystery, legend, and more amongst Ireland's many islands*

Scattered all along the weather-beaten coast of Ireland are some of our best-kept secrets: the islands. Here, you'll encounter some truly exceptional landscapes – white sand beaches, clear blue waters, and untouched countryside – as well as a way of life that is distinct from anywhere else in the world.

Take the Aran Islands, for example. From what Oscar Wilde described as the “savage beauty” of Connemara, you can make the short ferry hop to Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, and Inis Oírr (or as an alternative, the aeroplane crossing takes just ten minutes and gives you incredible views of the coastline). These three islands, each with their own distinct personality and charm, all share an inimitable terrain, with giant flat slabs of rock stretching towards cliff tops, stone walls interweaving on rolling fields, and small thatch cottages overlooking the sea.

Kerry's uninhabited Blasket Islands mark the most westerly point in Ireland (and the winding, zig-zagging pathway to the ferry at Dunquin has to be one of the most photographed spots on the island of Ireland). Though the sea-crossing can sometimes

be a little rocky, Great Blasket Island is well worth the trip and has barely changed in hundreds of years. Stroll around these rolling hills and you'll see abandoned cottages, some of which you can peek inside. The island was inhabited until 1953, when the population declined to just 22 and it was officially evacuated.

Unsurprisingly, given their unspoiled natural environments, Irish islands are magnets for wildlife. Nowhere is this more apparent than on Rathlin Island. Just six miles off the coast of County Antrim, the island is such an integral part of bird conservation that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has its own seabird center on the cliffs. From there, you'll see rare and beautiful birds, including guillemots, razorbills, and puffins, as well as some of the most beautiful views on the island of Ireland.

### GETTING THERE

Accessing Ireland's islands is easy. Some you can drive to (Achill Island is connected to the mainland by landbridge); some are tidal (Coney Island, County Sligo) meaning that you can walk across at low-tide; and some you can reach by local boat (Devenish Island, County Fermanagh). But for most islands, a ferry is the way to go. With smaller and uninhabited islands, sailings may be seasonal, but larger islands will be accessible all year round, weather dependent. ♥

# IRELAND ON SCREEN



**L**uke Skywalker meditating on his rocky island retreat. Dragons soaring over the Westerosi coast. John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara falling in love against a background of green fields. There's one place that links these memorable moments – the island of Ireland.

Maybe it's the drama of the landscapes that attracts so many location scouts. When soaring sea cliffs lashed by wind and rain were required for *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, there was no more fitting location than the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, a highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way. The rocky landscapes of County Mayo and Galway make an impressive backdrop for *The Quiet Man* starring Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne. And anyone who's watched the harrowing opening scenes of Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* will marvel at the real-life serenity of Curracloe Beach in County Wexford, where they were filmed. Curracloe also made an appearance in the movie *Brooklyn* starring Saoirse Ronan.

Of course, it's not just the island's natural beauty that appeals. Some of Ireland's greatest stars are the historic landmarks that have graced our screens. In County Meath, Trim Castle, which dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, made a convincing substitute for the fortified English town of York in Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*. Elegant mansions such as Castle Coole in County Fermanagh (*Miss Julie* with Colin Farrell and Jessica Chastain) and Killruddery House in County Wicklow (*Far and Away* with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, and *The Tudors*, among others) are instant film sets, showcasing a bygone age of privilege and luxury. When it comes to genuine drama, the real-life tales of crime and punishment that haunt the cells of Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin and Crumlin Gaol in Belfast almost overshadow their appearances in films such as *The Italian Job* and independent drama, *Starred Up*.

Ireland's cities have also had their share of the limelight. The riotous TV comedy *Derry Girls* paints a memorable picture of Derry~Londonderry in the 1990s, and now half the fun of a visit to this historic walled city is trying to recognize locations from the show. Belfast starred as itself in *The Fall*, where Jamie Dornan's serial killer played mind games with Gillian Anderson's police detective. And Dublin has appeared on screen so many times that audiences have seen everything from the realism of *The Commitments* and *Once* to the sepia tones of John Huston's *The Dead*, adapted from James Joyce's short story.

With so much to offer fans of TV and film, the island of Ireland is the perfect location to set out on your own adventure. ♥

# EXPLORE THE SEVEN KINGDOMS

Take off on a *Game of Thrones*® adventure through the forests, mountains, moorlands, and castles of Northern Ireland

Winter is never truly over in Northern Ireland. The nail-biting saga of *Game of Thrones*® may have reached an end, but the legacy of the hit HBO show lives on in this part of the island, which is home to more Seven Kingdoms locations than anywhere else in the world.

You'll find the world of Westeros in the most unexpected places. There are the *Game of Thrones*® doors – 10 beautifully carved pieces of wood situated in pubs, cafés and inns around Northern Ireland – made out of fallen beech trees from the Dark Hedges (Kingsroad). At The Steensons in Glenarm, County Antrim, you can meet the resident goldsmiths who crafted the crowns worn by King Joffrey and his bride Margaery, as well as Daenerys' dragon brooches. And in Belfast city, you can follow a Glass of Thrones stained-glass windows trail around some of the city's most famous landmarks, and see a hand-embroidered *Game of Thrones*® Tapestry in the Ulster Museum.

Offering a range of thrilling experiences for fans of the show, Winterfell Tours allows you to really get into the spirit of things.

Plus, it's got a great location in the courtyard of Castle Ward – a spellbinding spot that doubled as Winterfell in the show. "It really felt like we had stepped into Westeros," says fan Emily O'Dwyer. "One of the highlights for me was sword fighting – that's when I really started to feel like a Stark." Authenticity is all part of the experience here. With a fur cloak on your shoulders, you can test your aim with archery, have a go at axe-throwing, and even meet some dire wolves.

A great way to experience several of the filming locations at once is with a tour. And for the inside track, then a trip with McCombs Coach Tour is a good way to go, as you'll be in the company of drivers who worked on the show, ferrying *Game of Thrones*® actors to and from their Northern Ireland filming locations. Traveling along the Causeway Coastal Route, you'll visit a number of locations, including the 400-million-year-old Cushendun Caves, which featured Melisandre giving birth to the shadow assassin, and Ballintoy Harbour, where Theon Greyjoy returned to the Iron Islands. ♥

WITH A FUR CLOAK ON YOUR SHOULDERS, YOU CAN TEST YOUR AIM WITH ARCHERY OR HAVE A GO AT AXE-THROWING ♥

"DRAGONSTONE CLIFFS" COUNTY ANTRIM



"LUKE'S ISLAND" WILD ATLANTIC WAY

## STAR POWER

You don't have to go to a galaxy far, far away to find landscapes that are out of this world. *Star Wars* and the Wild Atlantic Way have created the perfect cinematic double-act

If, at certain points along the Wild Atlantic Way, it feels like you're staring at a film set – that's probably because you are. But while Ireland's cinematic coastline has appeared in everything from *The Princess Bride* to *Ryan's Daughter*, its performance as a Jedi island retreat is undoubtedly its most iconic, with a starring role in both *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*.

First port of call for cast and crew of *The Force Awakens* was the pretty village of Portmagee in County Kerry. It is close to here – seven miles out into the swell of the Atlantic Ocean, to be precise – that you'll find one of the film's most iconic locations – Skellig Michael.

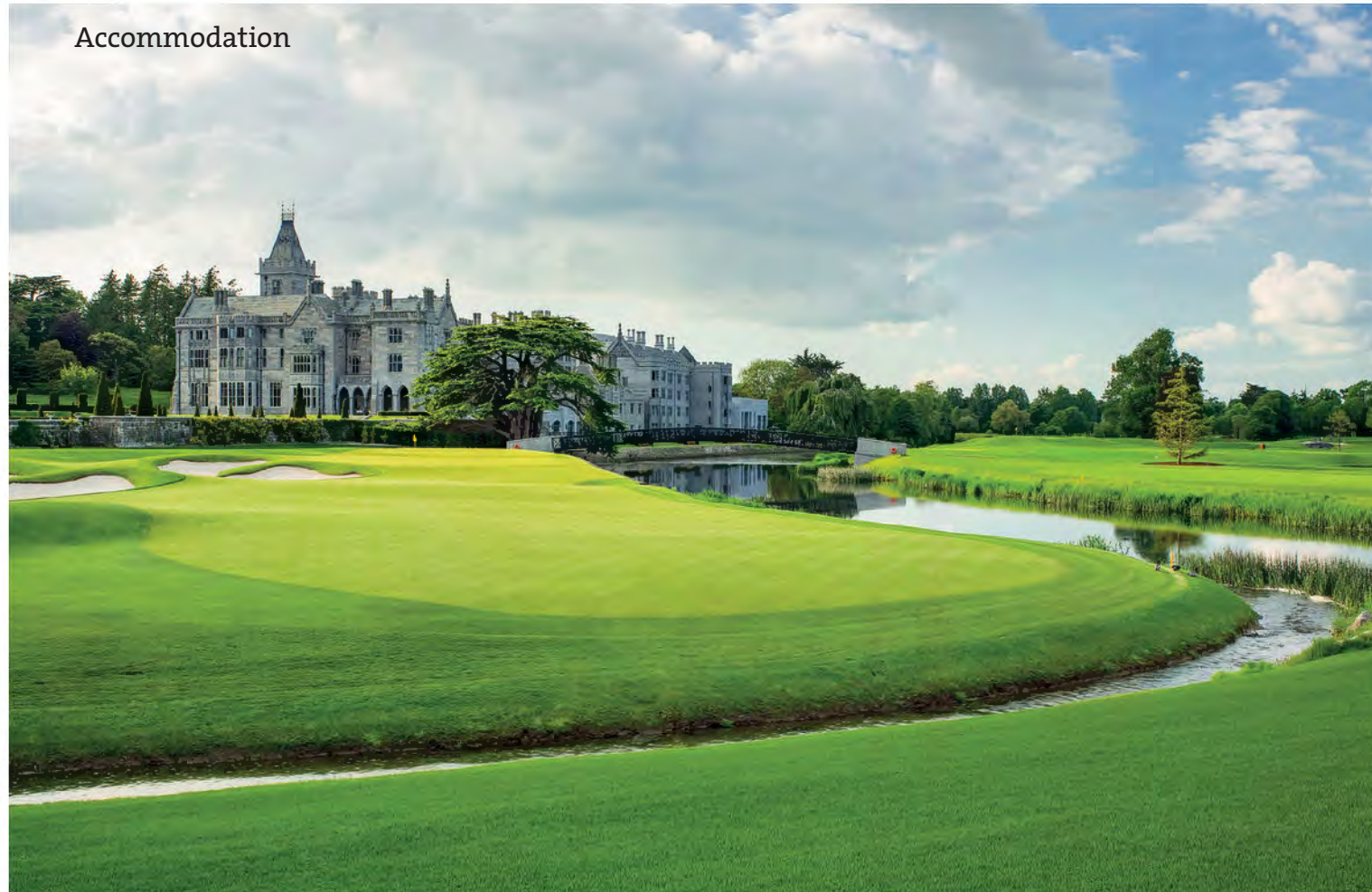
"We were just blown away by it," says Martin Joy, Supervising Location Manager. "It certainly fed into our *Star Wars* universe." Originally inhabited by 6<sup>th</sup> century monks, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has restricted visitor numbers, but you can take a boat from Portmagee and sail around it and the surrounding area, a place Mark Hamill called "indescribable."

Today, in this quiet village it's hard to imagine a huge film crew bustling around, but Portmagee was the epicenter of the action for *The Force Awakens*. B&Bs in the area were filled with production folk, local guides including adventurer Mike O'Shea carried loads up Skellig Michael, and boatmen transported equipment and crew onto the island. Drop into the Moorings Hotel (a pre-production site for filming and location for the wrap party) and you can pull your own pint of Guinness, just like Mark Hamill did, as part of "The Force Perfect Pint Challenge."

Travel north and south along this coastline – with its moody skies, pulse-pounding cliffs, and craggy headlands – and you'll encounter even more *Star Wars* locations. For *The Last Jedi*, the 6<sup>th</sup> century beehive huts of Skellig Michael were meticulously recreated on windswept Sybil Head near Ballyferriter, while the cast and crew celebrated the end of filming in Dingle's old grocery-pub, Foxy John's. Filming also took place at Brow Head in County Cork, a picturesque slice of land that edges out into the Atlantic Ocean, and Loop Head in County Clare, famed for its dramatic cliffs and caves that bear the brunt of crashing tides.

And if you're wondering how it felt for locals when the Millennium Falcon and its entourage came to town, then Hugh Farren of Farren's Bar in Donegal's Malin Head tells it like it is. "It was unbelievable that *Star Wars* was filming a mile and a half away from us," he explains... "It was out of this world." ♥

## Accommodation



ADARE MANOR  
COUNTY LIMERICK



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Clare Island Lighthouse County Mayo
- 2 Finn Lough Bubble Domes County Fermanagh
- 3 A B&B breakfast is served County Sligo
- 4 Ballyvolane House County Cork
- 5 Cruit Island County Donegal
- 6 Lough Eske Castle County Donegal

# PLACES TO STAY

*Ever slept in a lighthouse? Or how about a medieval castle? Whether you're after a farmhouse or a cozy B&B, Ireland has something to suit*

### HISTORIC HOUSES

If your idea of relaxation is 19<sup>th</sup> century drawing rooms, book-laden libraries, and breakfasts around huge tables, then walk through the doors of a historic Irish country house. Often owned by descendants of the original families who built them, these beautiful houses sit on tranquil estates and offer old-fashioned informal hospitality, blazing fires, antique furnishings, and candlelit dinners. As well as being friendly and relaxed, historic houses also have atmosphere in abundance and many offer the chance to dine in the drawing room at night, using fresh ingredients sourced from the beautiful surrounding countryside and kitchen gardens.

### FARMHOUSES

An Irish farmhouse stay offers up a slice of authentic rural life – enjoy fresh farm produce for breakfast, great walking routes, and a real sense of getting away from it all. This is a wonderful way of getting back to the simple things in life on a working farm. Lots of farms offer extra activities, too, so you can try milking cows, or learn the art of baking Irish soda bread.

### UNIQUE PLACES TO STAY

Looking for accommodation with a twist? You've come to the right place... The island of Ireland has an amazing array of unique accommodation, whether you want to rent a medieval castle or bed down in your very own island resort. Stay in a transparent bubble dome underneath the starry skies at County Fermanagh's stylish Finn Lough resort. Give your vacation in Dublin a twist by renting an early 19<sup>th</sup> century Martello Tower in Dublin Bay, originally built to defend against Napoleonic invasion. Or fall asleep to the sound of water at a converted corn mill on the River Bush in County Antrim, by the village of Bushmills. Whatever way you want to stay, the island of Ireland has lots of special places to choose from.

### LIGHTHOUSES

Tales of shipwrecks, adventure, and tragedy swirl in the waters surrounding the beacons that are Ireland's lighthouses. Perched on cliff edges, keeping a watchful eye over the turbulent seas, and withstanding all the weather can throw at them, these lighthouses are unique places to stay, whether you're cozying up in a lightkeeper's house, or spending a few nights in the lighthouse tower. And the great thing about a lighthouse stay? It's a year-round affair; in winter, light the fire, make yourself at home, and gaze at the wild seas below; in summer, enjoy late sunsets and sublime ocean views.

### B&BS

The Irish welcome is famous. And it's not a myth, either. Step inside a B&B on the island of Ireland, and you'll have smiling faces serving up your breakfast, people making sure you're comfortable, and the owners ready and willing to give you the inside track on where to go in the local area. A B&B stay is a way to connect, first-hand, with Irish culture, and if you're looking for relaxed, affordable accommodation, then they're just the ticket. Ranging from elegant historic houses in the heart of the countryside to low-key and comfortable family homes, the one thing B&Bs have in common is the people: charming, full of character, and warm, they'll make sure you have a holiday to remember.

### ECO-FRIENDLY SLEEPS

Ireland's green accommodation options are growing all the time, with yoga retreats on quiet islands, low impact self-catering cottages, and sustainable hotels and guesthouses. Check out Gregan's Castle in the Burren area of County Clare, a founding member of The Burren Ecotourism Network for special ecotourism packages. Delphi Resort in the beautiful Connemara countryside in County Galway is a member of Green Hospitality Ireland, and The Salthouse in Ballycastle, County Antrim, is a brand new luxury sustainable hotel powered by wind turbines and solar energy.

### CASTLES

Peat-scented whiskeys by crackling log fires, magnificent medieval interiors, and an old-world ambience... a castle stay is the ultimate in style. Luxurious and indulgent – but friendly and relaxed, too – castle hotels generally sit on vast estates where you can enjoy walks into woodland, go clay-pigeon shooting, try falconry, or enjoy a traditional boat trip along gentle rivers. Super-elegant five-star castle hotels can be found all over the island, from the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East to the Causeway Coast. You can even rent entire castles just for you, your friends and family, with staff who will look after your every need. There are some more affordable offerings around, too, with self-catering castles available to rent for groups both big and small.

### COTTAGE STAY

Whether you're after an extraordinary adventure on the Wild Atlantic Way, an unforgettable tour through Northern Ireland, or a farm stay in the historic pastures of Ireland's Ancient East, you're guaranteed to find a lovely little self-catering cottage to suit your needs. Cottages on the island really do spring up everywhere – on remote headlands, on the edge of vast beaches, and in busy cities where everything is right on your doorstep. And for a real sense of tradition, opt for a thatched cottage because it doesn't get better than that. ♥



## A GOLF COURSE CALLED IRELAND

*With world-class courses in some of the most spectacular locations on the planet, the island of Ireland is often referred to by golfers as the Green of Dreams. This is why...*

When bestselling American author Tom Coyne was planning his golfing trip to Ireland, he found the island has over 400 golf clubs: true links, impeccable parkland courses, and many hidden gems. Over 16 weeks, he played every single seaside course on foot and his book *A Course Called Ireland* went from his imagination to print.

Coyne's experiences were many, but his golfing marathon was anchored by what makes a golfing trip to Ireland such a dream: "Even though an Irish welcome is always warm," Coyne says, "some of the pockets where people don't often visit are even warmer and the conversation even easier." Actor Bill Murray echoes Coyne's sentiments, too, and his favorite place to play golf is in Ireland: "When you come as a guest, you're treated like a king."

So where to start? Well, you can take your lead from where homegrown champions Shane Lowry (Clara, County Offaly), Rory McIlroy (Holywood Golf Club, County Down), Darren Clarke

(Dungannon Golf Club, County Tyrone), Graeme McDowell (Rathmore Golf Club, County Antrim), Paul McGinley (Grange Golf Club, County Dublin) and Pdraig Harrington (Stackstown Golf Club, County Dublin) honed their skills. You can walk in the footsteps of the greats on courses that have made the world stage, including Golf Digest's number one course outside of the US, Royal County Down, or the exceptional greens on display at 2019's 148<sup>th</sup> Open at Royal Portrush, County Antrim. You can even get a sneak preview of what's in store for Ryder Cup players at Adare Manor in County Limerick, when Europe plays the US in 2026.

The island of Ireland is also studded with courses that are beloved of top international players, such as Tiger Woods. On occasion, the sublime fairways of County Kerry's Waterville Golf Links have taken Woods's fancy. And he isn't the only one. This was a spot also adored by the late Payne Stewart, whose 19<sup>th</sup> hole was the Butler Arms Hotel in the village, where he famously sang songs, played harmonica, and chatted with locals. A bronze statue of Stewart was unveiled at the golf links course in 2000, and has become an iconic memorial ever since. Waterville, which is located on the Iveragh Peninsula, boasts sensational views of the Atlantic, and is surrounded by the rich natural beauty of the Ring of Kerry. It's this kind of location that makes golf on the island of Ireland so special. ●

## IRELAND INFORMATION

*So you're coming to the island of Ireland and want to know how to get here, how you'll get around when you arrive and even what currency to bring? We've got the lowdown on all you need right here*

### TRAVELING TO IRELAND BY AIR

It's never been easier to get to Ireland from anywhere in the US. Most airline carriers operate direct flight options from over ten major US cities. Alternatively, all US-based carriers operate connections within the US or Europe. Visit [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com) for information and to start planning your Ireland vacation.

### SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Smoking is banned in enclosed public places all over the island of Ireland.

### CUSTOMS

Customs operate green and red channels at most ports and airports. If you need to declare goods over the duty and tax-free allowances for non-EU visitors, you must use the red channel. Pass through the green channel if you have nothing to declare. The United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) facility at Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport is a purpose-built facility that allows US-bound passengers to undertake all immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections in Dublin prior to departure. Shannon Airport also has pre-clearance facilities available.

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The metric system is used in the Republic of Ireland (not strictly enforced at times) and in Northern Ireland, it's a mix.

### CURRENCY

Higher denomination notes such as €100, €200, and €500 will not normally be accepted in retail outlets, so bring cash in lower denominations when you're coming to Ireland.

### CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted throughout the island of Ireland; American Express is accepted in some places but not all. Credit cards can be used for purchases and also to access money from ATMs (although this usually is accompanied by a high fee). You can also withdraw money from ATMs with your US debit card, fees will still be charged but they are not as high as credit cards and the money will come directly from your US checking account. Each ATM has a list of card symbols that can be used. Ireland uses a "chip and pin" system for debit and credit card purchases, which means you key your pin into a pinpad. If your card doesn't have a chip, most retailers will still accept it and you can just sign for your purchases.

### VAT (SALES TAX) AND REFUNDS

Visitors to Ireland from non-EU countries can claim back sales taxes on purchases made in Ireland; shopping in Ireland is subject to a sales tax of 23%. Always look for the "Tax-Free Shopping" sign in the windows of participating stores. To avail of your tax refund, complete a valid tax refund document, which you can get from participating stores.

Present this to customs on departure from the EU, and you can receive your refund on the spot at some airports; otherwise, you can mail your tax refund document to the store and a refund will be issued. Select shopkeepers will offer you the Horizon Tax-Free Shopping card, a new paperless method of getting tax refunds brought to you by FEXCO Tax-Free Shopping.

With each purchase, the card is swiped and tax-free eligible items are logged. At the end of your trip, hand in the card to the FEXCO Tax-Free Shopping desk at Dublin or Shannon Airport. You can apply for a card online at [shoptaxfree.com](http://shoptaxfree.com)

For details on how to claim tax back on goods bought in Northern Ireland, please visit [gov.uk/tax-on-shopping/taxfree-shopping](http://gov.uk/tax-on-shopping/taxfree-shopping)

### 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 some schools and summer schools. Ulster-Scots is also spoken in Northern Ireland.



Gurteen Beach County Galway

### CLIMATE

Ireland has a mild, temperate climate with summer temperatures generally ranging from 60°F to 70°F. Temperatures in spring and autumn are generally 50°F, and in winter between 40°F and 46°F. Snow is rare but rain showers can occur at any time of the year. For up-to-the-minute weather reports visit [met.ie](http://met.ie)

### PASSPORT/VISA REQUIREMENTS

A valid US passport is required to visit the island of Ireland and no visa is required. However, if you are traveling on a passport issued by another country (although a resident in the United States), please check visa requirements with the embassy.

### PERSONAL SAFETY

The Irish Tourist Assistance Service (ITAS) provides immediate support and assistance, seven days a week for visitors who become victims of crime or other traumatic incidents in the Republic of Ireland. The service operates from **Pearse Street Garda Station** in Dublin and can be contacted on +353-1-666-9354/1-890-365-700 or [info@itas.ie](mailto:info@itas.ie)

For those who are victims of a crime in Northern Ireland, contact **Victim Support Northern Ireland**. Tel: +44 (0) 28 90 244039; email: [info@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:info@victimsupportni.org.uk)

### DRIVING IN IRELAND

American visitors to Ireland must bring a valid American driver's license with them. Driving in Ireland is on the left of the road 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 driver's license at all times.

Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear helmets. There are very strict laws on drinking alcohol 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 kilometers per hour (km/h). The measurement of speed limits on roads in Northern Ireland is miles per hour (mph). Drivers are urged to remember the change of driving laws between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

### CAR RENTAL

Most of the major car rental companies have desks at airports, ferry terminals, and cities across Ireland. The trade organization for the car rental industry in the Republic of Ireland is the **Car Rental Council**. [carrentalcouncil.ie](http://carrentalcouncil.ie) In Northern Ireland, contact the **British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association**. [bvrla.co.uk](http://bvrla.co.uk)

For more information on car rental, please visit [Ireland.com/en-us/about-Ireland/travelling-within-Ireland/travel-by-road](http://Ireland.com/en-us/about-Ireland/travelling-within-Ireland/travel-by-road)

# Ireland



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 locations can be shown. The information on this map is correct at time of going to press.  
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