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Ireland's



Top Things Not to Miss in Ireland

Ireland is fully open and welcoming the world back to their magical island. Maximize your visit with these amazing things to do and see.



DAN MEISTER-IRISH TRAVEL SPECIALIST | TOPGROUPTRAVEL.COM



Welcome to Ireland!

Don't miss these when you visit Ireland



Introduction:

Ireland is fully open and visitors are enjoying their visits to the emerald isle. Ireland is a fantastic destination for a first-time or repeat visitor to Europe and can easily be combined with a visit to the UK or Paris. Irish hospitality food, drinks, music, festivals and dance are legendary, and the green natural landscapes are breathtaking.

Over 50 million North Americans trace their heritage back to Ireland so it is always a popular destination to visit and "reconnect" with your "roots". Check out the top things to do in Ireland...



1) St. Patrick's Festival and Parade (Dublin)

Even if you have visited Ireland before it is a totally different experience when visiting over the national holiday of St. Patrick's Day.

Dublin, Ireland is the ultimate St. Patrick's destination and is a dynamic showpiece of Ireland's culture and heritage drawing over 500,000 revelers for the St. Patrick's Festival and parade annually March 13-17. Don't miss the 2022 celebration when the world will reunite to celebrate all things Irish.

[Home](#) | [St Patrick's Festival](#)

Pro Tip: Book your center city hotel early as the city gets sold out for this popular celebration.

2) Irish Pubs (all over Ireland))

Pubs have been an integral part of the social fabric of the Irish for over 800 years. Traditionally the pub was where the town met, stories were exchanged, and the 'craic' (fun) had.

Pubs are the living room of the Irish culture and you will find good food, drinks, music and some dancing by the locals. Pubs vary in cities, towns and the countryside so suggest stopping in whenever/wherever for some local flavor. Cheers!



Pro Tip: If you just order a “Pint” in a pub, you will be served a Pint of Guinness Stout. If you would like another type of beer or drink just ask.



3) Guinness Storehouse (Dublin)

Ireland's number one attraction is the Guinness Storehouse which is centrally located on its original site since 1759 on St. James Gate on the river Liffey in Dublin. People from all corners of the world come to visit the birthplace of Ireland's most iconic beer and learn its long history and how it is brewed.



The visitor's center is a fantastic multi-media visitor experience and a must-see while in Dublin. At the end of the tour all visitors are offered a complimentary pint of Guinness, to enjoy in the Gravity Bar on the top floor with a fantastic view over Dublin city.

[Welcome to the Home of Guinness \(guinness-storehouse.com\)](http://guinness-storehouse.com)

Pro Tip: Due to its popularity the Tour and Gravity Bar can get very crowded daily after 1pm. We suggest purchasing a skip the line ticket ahead of time and arriving mid-morning for less crowds.

4) Cliffs of Moher in Ireland (Western Ireland)

Located on the West Coast of Ireland in County Clare, these famous cliffs are approximately 5 miles long and up to 700' high.

The Cliffs of Moher are the top natural attraction in all of Ireland and a stunning sight you will never forget. These spectacular Cliffs have been featured in many movies including Harry Potter and the Princess Bride.

They are located about 165 miles from Dublin and we suggest staying close-by to hike the scenic trails and also catch the incredible sunrise or sunset.



[Ireland Cliffs, Famous Cliffs in Ireland | Cliffs of Moher](#)

Pro Tip: The cliffs face west, so the afternoon and evening offer the best lighting for your photographs. The cliffs can also be very windy so bring a sweater or waterproof jacket along with sturdy walking shoes.



5) House of Waterford (South Ireland in Waterford)

Waterford Crystal, the prestigious brand behind New York City's Times Square New Year's Eve Ball and many of sports famous trophies was founded back in 1783. Located in the south of Ireland in the ancient city of Waterford, the main crystal factory complex has a must-see behind the scenes tour.

The tour tells the history of Waterford Crystal while observing skilled craftsmen blowing the molten crystal to gain a better understanding of the time, work, talent, and dedication that goes into making these handcrafted crystal pieces. The tour also includes a visit to their gallery to visit incredible crystal glass masterpieces.

[Waterford Visitor Centre](#)

Pro Tip: The well-stocked gift store has some amazing, one-of-kind crystal pieces that make for great souvenirs and can be shipped directly to your home so don't need to pack them for the rest of your trip.

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6) Ring of Kerry (SW Ireland)

The famous "Ring of Kerry", a 100-mile panorama drive of marvelous scenery around a rocky peninsula in the Southwest of Ireland is considered one of the world's most scenic drives. You'll see some of Ireland's highest peaks on one side of the road and a coastline scattered with golden beaches and rocky headlands on the other.

Besides castles and fabulous landscapes, You can even get a distant view of the Skellig Islands that were featured in the Star Wars movies "The Force Awakens and Last Jedi".



Pro Tip: You can drive this loop tour on your own, hire a driver or purchase a motorcoach tours but suggest starting your day early so are not rushed...the roads can be windy and narrow.



7) Cobh Cultural Centre (SW Ireland)

The Cobh Heritage Centre tells the stories of Irish heritage and emigration to the United States. Between 1848 and 1950 more than 6 million people emigrated from Ireland, and more than 2.5 million of them left from Cobh, more than any other Irish port.

Cobh was the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic and many other ocean liners bringing immigrants to America. Cobh is a quaint coastal town the the museum is located in the old train station downtown.

[Home - Cobh Heritage Centre](#)

Pro Tip: If you have keen interest in the Titanic, the ship was built in the shipyards of Belfast, Ireland in the Northern Ireland. They have an amazing, award winning, and interactive attraction on the Titanic that is worth a visit to Belfast alone to see.

[Titanic Belfast](#)



8) St. Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin)

Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, founded in 1191, is the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland. Built in honor of Ireland's patron saint between 1220 and 1260, Saint Patrick's Cathedral offers visitors a rich and compelling cultural experience and is one of the few buildings left from medieval Dublin.

As the largest cathedral and one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Ireland, Saint Patrick's has been at the heart of Dublin and Ireland's history and culture for over 800 years.



St Patrick's Cathedral

Pro Tip: Attending a mass that features the organ and full choir will really provide a glimpse of the excellent acoustic as well as the power and influence the church's services had upon the congregation for centuries.



9) Kylemore Abbey (W Ireland in Connemara country)

If you want an Irish "Fairytale" experience than Kylemore Abbey is an excellent choice. Set in a dramatic landscape close to Galway on the west coast, Kylemore Abbey was designed to look like it belonged in fairy tale and is the story of a castle mansion that was built as a romantic gift in the 1860's.

This Instagram worthy attraction is now an Abbey for Benedictine nuns that fled Belgium in the 1920's after their Abbey was burned down in World War I. The restored Victorian mansion, Abbey and neo-Gothic church along with a magical walled garden and nature trails are open to explore and a top Irish attraction.

Kylemore Abbey – Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens

Pro Tip: The University of Notre Dame has one of their Global Education Centers located at Kylemore Abbey so you can stay onsite and attend a conference, do research, or take a course in this quintessential Irish setting.

10) Visit and / or stay in a Castle (all over Ireland)

With over 4,000 castles in the Emerald Isle, you don't have to look far for the royal treatment or photo opportunity. During Ireland's long history of feuding armies, castles provided a protected fortress for kings and nobles.

Many castles and their sprawling grounds are now tourist attractions and open to the public while others have been completely renovated and transformed into 4- and 5-star deluxe hotels featuring fine dining, accommodations, high tea, golf, spa and hunting.



Pro Tip: Castle hotels & Resorts are very popular for corporate incentive programs or celebrating milestone events like weddings, anniversaries and reunions. When planning your Ireland trip, consider staying a night in a castle hotel and add a night of "royalty" to your story.



Summary:

We hope you found this useful for planning a trip to the Emerald Isle. Reach out if have questions or need additional information.

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