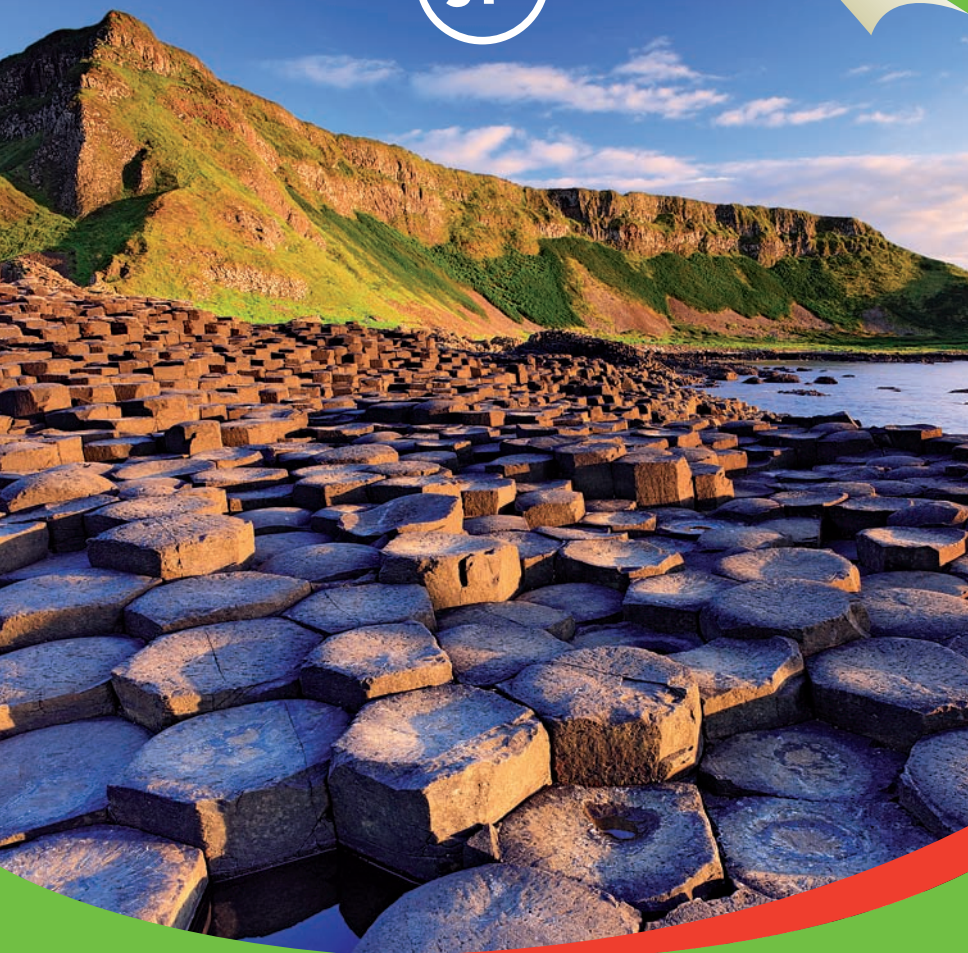




PULL-OUT  
MAP



# Discover Ireland

Experience the best of Ireland



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Experience the best  
of Ireland

**This edition written and researched by**

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# This is Ireland

For a small country, Ireland gets huge billing. Its praises are sung in song and described in prose; its many charms are evoked to delicious perfection by artists on canvas and poets in verse. Part of that is down to the Irish diaspora, whose attachment to the land of their ancestors gets stronger with each passing generation.

**But much of the credit goes to Ireland itself.** Despite the trappings of modernity and the fickle hand of fortune, Ireland remains one of the world's most beautiful countries, and is worth every effort you make to explore it. From the postcard-perfect peninsulas of the southwest to the brooding loneliness of Connemara, Ireland's hold on the imagination remains as strong as ever. Brave the raging Atlantic on a crossing to the Aran Islands or spend a summer's evening in the yard of a thatched cottage pub and you'll experience a country that has changed little in generations – this is most likely the Ireland you came to see.

*Céad míle fáilte* – a hundred thousand welcomes. Why a hundred thousand when one is perfectly adequate everywhere else? Everyone has heard of Irish friendliness, and once you arrive you'll gladly discover it's not a myth. A bit of friendly banter and the offer of a helping hand – to make sense of garbled directions or share a pint (it's a sin to drink alone!) – are never far from the first hello, for the Irish consider hospitality to be their greatest asset. A hundred thousand welcomes. It seems excessive, but in Ireland, excess is fine, so long as it's practised in moderation.

**And when we say Ireland, we mean the whole island.** The North, for so long scarred by conflict, is fully engaged in the process of recovery and is once again parading its stunning self to a world that, until recently, knew of it only through the stories on the evening news.

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”

