

# Discover Ireland

Contents 

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

### Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping



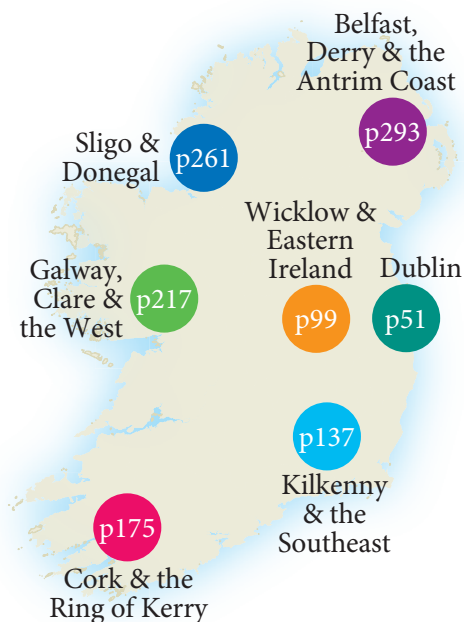
Information

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- Rock of Cashel
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- Walks on Hook Head
- Southeastern Kitchens
- National 1798 Rebellion Centre

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# This Is Ireland

For such a tiny country, Ireland gets a pretty big 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. They tell of a green landscape brushed with rain, a wild coastline tormented by a wind-blown sea... Hang on, can this idyll actually be real?

**As it turns out, it is.** You'll find this side of Ireland along the postcard-perfect peninsulas of the southwest, the brooding loneliness of Connemara and the dramatic wildness of County Donegal. Ireland may have modernised dramatically, but some things never change. Brave the raging Atlantic on a crossing to Skellig Michael 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.

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. And when we say Ireland, we mean the whole island – the North, for so long scarred by conflict, is now finally engaged in the process of recovery and is able once again to parade its stunning self to a world that for so long only knew of it through the stories on the evening news.

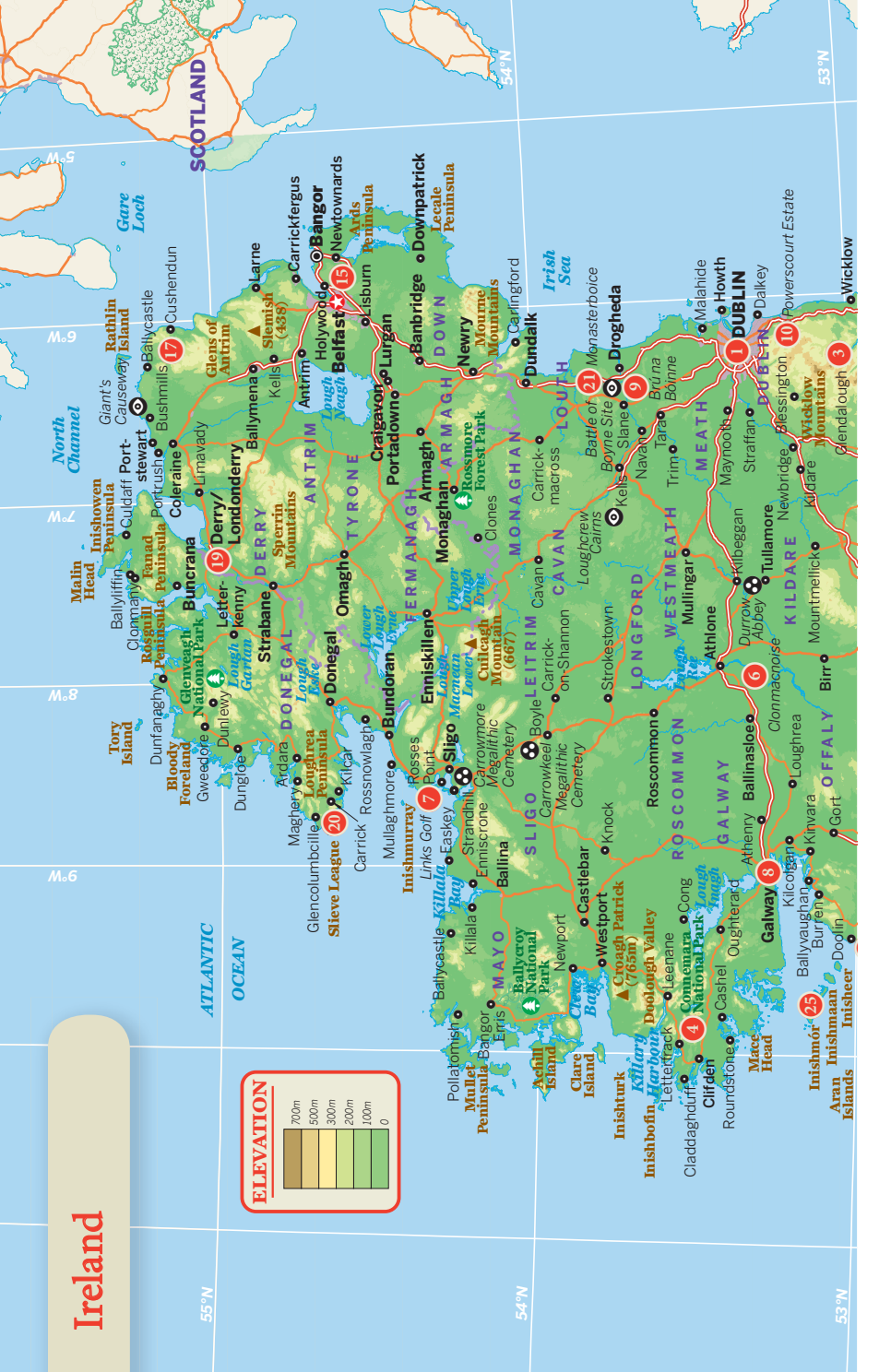
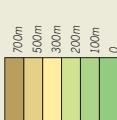
*Céad míle fáilte* – a hundred thousand welcomes. Why a hundred thousand when one is perfectly adequate everywhere else? Everyone has heard of Irish friendliness, and once you arrive you'll gladly discover it's not a myth. A bit of friendly banter and the offer of a helping hand – to read a map, make 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. Friendly but never fawning.

“  
...postcard-  
perfect  
peninsulas,  
the brooding  
loneliness of  
Connemara  
and the  
wildness of  
Donegal  
”



# Ireland

## ELEVATION







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## Top Experiences

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- 2 Ring of Kerry
- 3 Glendalough, County Wicklow
- 4 Connemara, County Galway
- 5 The Sound of County Clare
- 6 Clonmacnoise
- 7 Links Golf in Sligo
- 8 Galway City
- 9 Brú na Bóinne, County Meath
- 10 Powerscourt Estate, County Wicklow
- 11 Dingle, County Kerry
- 12 Cork City
- 13 Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary
- 14 Skellig Michael, County Kerry
- 15 Black Taxi Tour, Belfast
- 16 Medieval Kilkenny
- 17 Antrim Coastal Walk
- 18 Cliffs of Moher, County Clare
- 19 Derry/Londonderry
- 20 Slieve League, County Donegal
- 21 Monasterboice, County Louth
- 22 Ardmore, County Waterford
- 23 Kinsale, County Cork
- 24 Killarney National Park
- 25 Dún Aengus, Aran Islands, County Galway