



Ireland

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Ring of Kerry	621
Galway.....	623
Aran Islands	625
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Best Traditional Pubs

- ➔ Stag's Head (p612)
- ➔ Kyteler's Inn (p616)
- ➔ O'Connor's (p621)
- ➔ Crown Liquor Saloon (p630)
- ➔ Peadar O'Donnell's (p634)
- ➔ Crane Bar (p625)

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Fade Street Social (p611)
- ➔ Market Lane (p618)
- ➔ Quay Street Kitchen (p625)
- ➔ Barking Dog (p630)

Why Go?

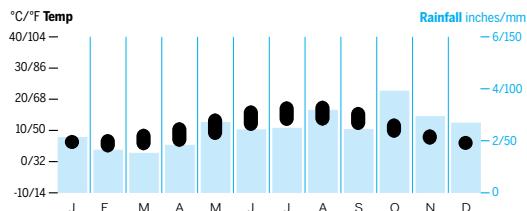
Few countries have an image so plagued by cliché. From shamrocks and *shillelaghs* (Irish fighting sticks) to leprechauns and loveable rogues, there's a plethora of platitudes to wade through before you reach the real Ireland.

But it's well worth looking beyond the tourist tat, for the Emerald Isle is one of Europe's gems, a scenic extravaganza of lakes, mountains, sea and sky. From picture-postcard County Kerry to the rugged coastline of Northern Ireland (part of the UK, distinct from the Republic of Ireland), there are countless opportunities to get outdoors and explore, whether cycling the Causeway Coast or hiking the hills of Killarney and Connemara.

There are cultural pleasures too in the land of Joyce and Yeats, U2 and the Undertones. Dublin, Cork and Belfast all have world-class art galleries and museums, while you can enjoy foot-stomping traditional music in the bars of Galway and Killarney. So push aside the shamrocks and experience the real Ireland.

When to Go

Dublin



Late Mar Spring flowers everywhere, landscape is greening, St Patrick's Day festivities beckon.

Jun Best chance of dry weather, long summer evenings, Bloomsday in Dublin.

Sep & Oct Summer crowds thin, autumn colours reign, surf's up on the west coast.



ATLANTIC OCEAN



Ireland Highlights

1 Meander through the museums, pubs and literary haunts of **Dublin**.

2 Hang out in bohemian **Galway** (p623), with its hip cafes and live-music venues.

3 Hike the Causeway Coast and clamber across the **Giant's Causeway** (p632).

4 Take a boat trip to the 6th-century monastery perched atop the wild rocky islet of **Skellig Michael** (p621).

5 Sip a pint of Guinness while listening to live music in one of Dublin's **traditional pubs** (p612).

6 Cycle through the spectacular lake and mountain

scenery of the **Gap of Dunloe** (p620).

7 Discover the industrial history of the city that built the world's most famous ocean liner at **Titanic Belfast** (p627).

8 Wander the wild, limestone shores of the remote and craggy **Aran Islands** (p625).