



# Ireland

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## Best Traditional Pubs

- Kyteler's Inn (p626)
- O'Connor's (p631)
- Crown Liquor Saloon
- Peadar O'Donnell's (p644)
- Crane Bar (p635)

## Best Places to Eat

- Fade Street Social (p622)
- Market Lane (p629)
- Barking Dog (p639)
- Oscar's (p635)

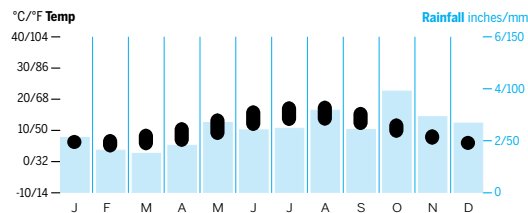
## Why Go?

Few countries have an image so plagued by cliché. From shamrocks and *shillelaghs* (Irish fighting sticks) to leprechauns and lovable 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.



## Ireland Highlights

- 1 Dublin** (p16)  
Meandering through the museums, pubs and literary haunts of the Irish capital.
- 2 Galway** (p633)  
Hanging out in bohemian Galway, with its hip cafes and music venues.
- 3 Giant's Causeway** (p642)  
Hiking along the Causeway Coast and clambering across the Giant's Causeway.
- 4 Skellig Michael** (p631)  
Taking a boat trip to the 6th-century monastery.
- 5 Irish Pubs** (p622)  
Sipping a pint while tapping your toes to a live music session in one of Dublin's traditional Irish pubs.
- 6 Gap of Dunloe** (p630)  
Cycling through spectacular lake and mountain scenery.
- 7 Titanic Belfast** (p638)  
Discovering the industrial history of the city that built the famous ocean liner.
- 8 Aran Islands** (p643)  
Wandering the wild shores of the remote and craggy islands.