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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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UNDERSTAND IRELAND

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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Tracing Your Roots
Roughly 80 million people worldwide can claim to be of, or descended from, Irish ancestors, with a large percentage of those.

Literary Corners
Four Nobel laureates, literature and the light of a rising sun. Irish literature is a rich and varied tradition.

if Ireland were 100 people

87 would be White Irish
7 would be White Other
7 would be Asian
1 would be Black
2 would be Other
1 would be...

TIMELINE

10,000–8000 BC
After the last ice age ends, humans arrive in Ireland during the mesolithic era, originally crossing a landbridge between Scotland and Ireland. Few archaeological traces remain of the...

4500
The first farmers introduced agriculture to Ireland as they brought their domesticated animals and crops with them.

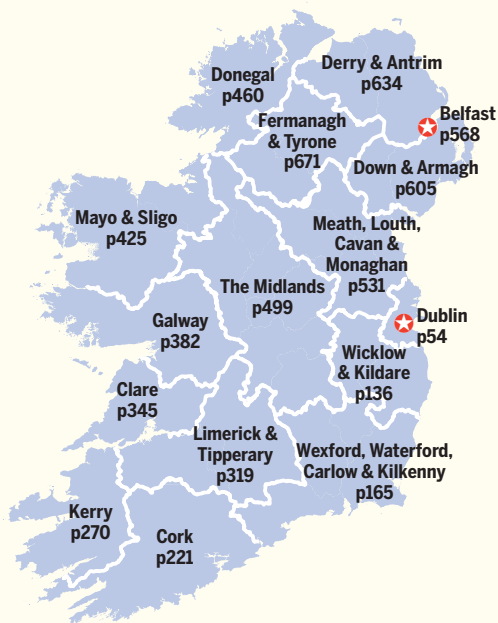
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Language

Irish (Gaeilge) is the country's official language. In 2007 the government introduced the Official Languages Act, whereby all official documents, street signs and public information leaflets are both in Irish and English. Despite its official status, Irish is rarely used. Considerable efforts are made to encourage its use. The main areas being Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Wick. In 2007 the government introduced the Official Languages Act, whereby all official documents, street signs and public information leaflets are both in Irish and English. Despite its official status, Irish is rarely used. Considerable efforts are made to encourage its use. The main areas being Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Wick. In 2007 the government introduced the Official Languages Act, whereby all official documents, street signs and public information leaflets are both in Irish and English. Despite its official status, Irish is rarely used. Considerable efforts are made to encourage its use. The main areas being Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Wick.

BASICS
Irish: *Gaeilge*
English: *English*

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Fionn Davenport,
Catherine Le Nevez, Etain O'Carroll,
Ryan Ver Berkmoes, Neil Wilson

**Look out for these icons:**

Our author's recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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Irish hedonism epitomised (p395)

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Cliffs and coastal splendours (p364)

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Beautiful, Irish-speaking fishing town (p299)

Ring of Kerry

Ireland's most famous panoramic loop (p284)

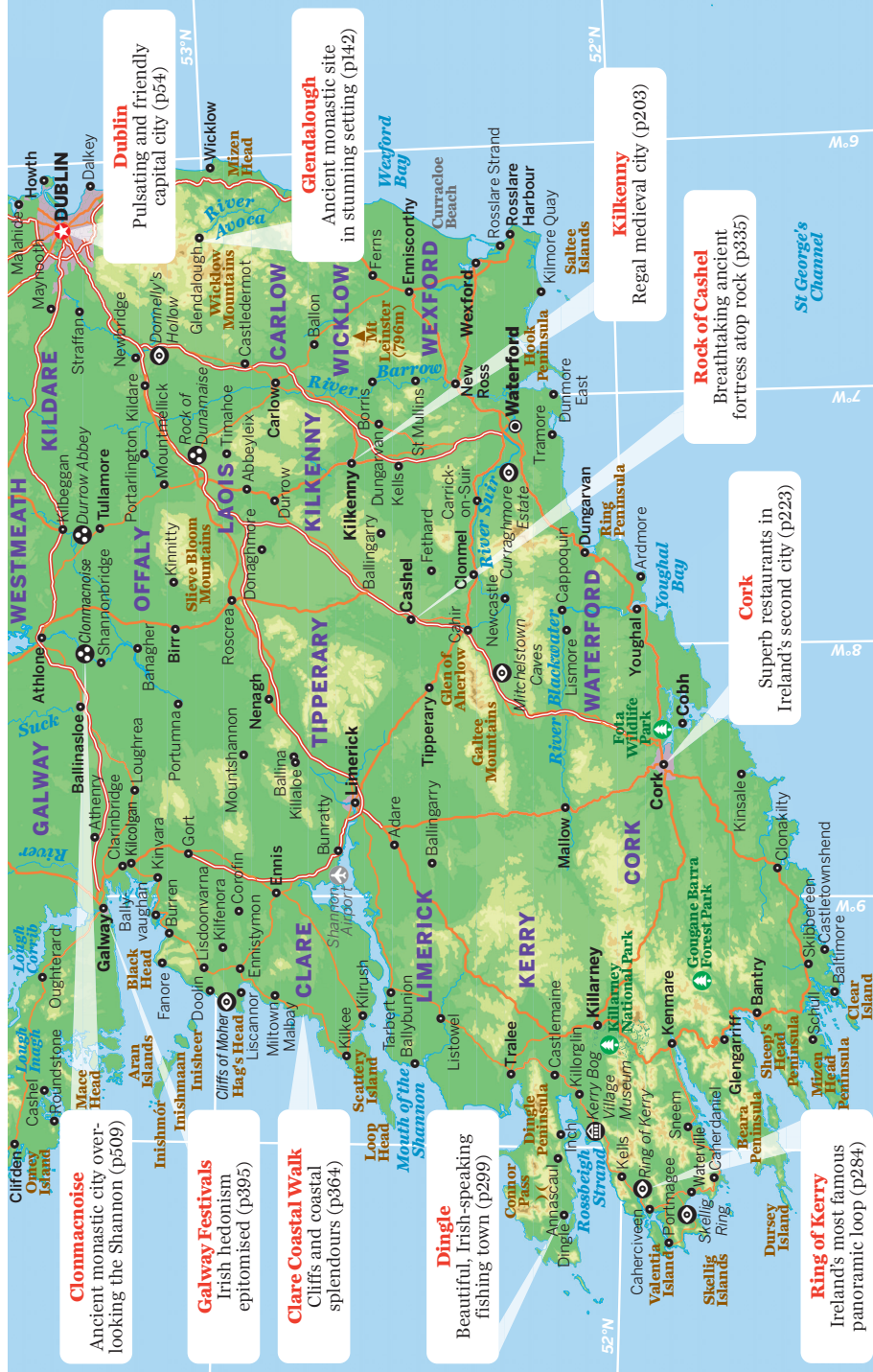
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Pulsating and friendly capital city (p54)

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Ancient monastic site in stunning setting (p142)

Kilkenny
Regal medieval city (p203)

Rock of Cashel
Breath-taking ancient fortress atop rock (p335)

Cork
Superb restaurants in Ireland's second city (p223)





Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Counties Clare, Galway and Wexford From Galway to Wexford, with plenty of delights in between, Ryan Ver Berkmoes has delighted in the great swath of Ireland. He first visited Galway in 1985 when he remembers a grey place where the locals wandered the muddy tidal flats for fun and frolic. Times have changed! From lost rural pubs to lost memory, he's revelled in a place where his first name brings a smile and his surname brings a 'huh?' Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com

Read more about Ryan at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/ryanverberkmoes



Neil Wilson

Belfast, Counties Down & Armagh, Derry & Antrim and Fermanagh & Tyrone

Neil's first visit to Northern Ireland was in 1994, during the first flush of post-ceasefire optimism, and his interest in the history and politics of the place intensified a few years later when he found out that most of his mum's ancestors were from Ulster. Working on recent editions of the Ireland guidebook has allowed him to witness first hand the progress being made towards a lasting peace, as well as enjoying some excellent hiking and biking in the Ring of Gullion and the Mourne Mountains. Neil is a full-time travel writer based in Edinburgh, Scotland, and has written more than 50 guidebooks for half a dozen publishers.

Read more about Neil at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/neilwilson



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Fionn Davenport

Coordinating author Counties Dublin, Wicklow and Cork Despite its myriad economic problems, Ireland has proven itself to be undaunted, beautiful and just as bloody interesting as it ever was. Fionn suspected as much, but he needed to traipse through his hometown of Dublin and explore the wilds of west Cork to have it confirmed in spades.



Catherine Le Nevez

Counties Kerry, Limerick & Tipperary and Meath, Louth, Cavan & Monaghan Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe aged four and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and post-grad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. With Celtic connections including Irish and Breton heritage (and a love of Guinness!), Catherine's travelled throughout every county in the emerald isle, and has covered 20 of them for Lonely Planet, including several editions of this book.



Etain O'Carroll

The Midlands; Counties Mayo & Sligo and Donegal Born and bred in the boggy hinterland of the Irish midlands, Etain made the great escape to become a travel writer and photographer but despite criss-crossing the globe somehow the lure of the old sod never quite went away. She now writes about her homeland for a variety of publications and has worked on several editions of *Lonely Planet Ireland*. Savouring pristine beaches and remote pubs was one of the sheer joys of

research for this edition.

Read more about Etain at:
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OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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