



# Counties Fermanagh & Tyrone

POPULATION: 230,000/ AREA: 4846 SQ KM

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Dollakis (p675)
- » Deli on the Green (p689)
- » Terrace Restaurant (p676)
- » Rectory Bistro (p680)
- » Kissin Crust (p678)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Westville Hotel (p675)
- » Cedars Guesthouse (p680)
- » Tullylagan Country House (p689)
- » Kilmore Quay Club (p678)
- » Mullaghmore House (p686)

## Why Go?

The ancient landscape of Fermanagh is shaped by ice and water, with rugged hills rising above quilted plains of half-drowned drumlins (rounded hills formed by retreating glaciers) and shimmering, reed-fringed lakes. A glance at the map shows the county is around one-third water – as the locals will tell you, the lakes are in Fermanagh for six months of the year; for the other six, Fermanagh is in the lakes. This watery maze is a natural playground for anglers and canoeists.

County Tyrone – from Tír Eoghain (Land of Owen, a legendary chieftain) – is the homeland of the O'Neill clan, and is dominated by the tweed-tinted moorlands of the Sperrin Mountains, whose southern flanks are dotted with pre historic sites. Apart from the hiking opportunities offered by these heather-clad hills, the county's main attraction is the Ulster American Folk Park, a fascinating outdoor museum celebrating Ulster's historic links with the USA.

## When to Go

May marks the start of the mayfly season, the most exciting time for trout fishing on Lough Erne and Lough Melvin, while June is the ideal month for cruising the lakes. If hiking is more to your taste, July is ideal for hillwaking in the Sperrins – you can join a mass pilgrimage to the summit of Mullaghcarn, above Gortin, on Cairn Sunday, the last Sunday in the month. The tail end of summer is enlivened by the Ulster American Folk Park's annual Appalachian and Bluegrass Music Festival.



## Counties Fermanagh & Tyrone Highlights

- 1** Hike over rare blanket bog to the remote summit of **Cuilcagh Mountain** (p685)
- 2** Ponder the meaning of the strange stone figures on **White Island** (p680) and **Boa Island** (p681)
- 3** Follow the course of an underground river through the **Marble Arch Caves** (p685)

- 4** Hire a canoe and explore the reed-fringed backwaters of **Lough Erne** (p684)
- 5** Learn about the historical links between Ireland and the USA at the **Ulster American Folk Park** (p687)
- 6** See how the Irish aristocracy enjoyed the high life in the elegant country

- house of **Florence Court** (p684)
- 7** Explore the Celtic monastic settlement on **Devinish Island** (p679), and climb to the top of its ancient round tower