



Counties Wexford, Waterford, Carlow & Kilkenny

POPULATION 507,000 / AREA 7193 SQ KM

Includes »

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Why Go?

Counties Wexford, Waterford, Carlow and Kilkenny are (along with the southern chunk of Tipperary) collectively referred to as the 'sunny southeast'. This being Ireland the term is, of course, relative. But due to the moderating effect of the Gulf Stream, it *is* the country's warmest, driest region.

Wexford and Waterford are wreathed with wide, sandy beaches, along with thatched fishing villages, genteel seaside towns and remote, windswept peninsulas littered by wrecks – as well as a swashbuckling history of marauding Vikings, lighthouse-keeping monks and shadowy knights' sects.

Deeper inland, the meandering River Barrow separates the verdant counties of Carlow and Kilkenny. County Carlow offers farm-filled spaces, country lodgings and flowering estates. County Kilkenny's namesake city is the urban star with a castle, cathedral, medieval lanes, cracking pubs and hip eateries, making it one of Ireland's top destinations.

When to Go

During summer, the long, craggy coast of Counties Wexford and Waterford is alive with holidaymakers enjoying the long days on the countless beaches, seaside seafood cafes and music-filled pubs. Outside of this time, the scenery will be grey and windswept. Towns and cities like Waterford, Dungarvan and Kilkenny have indoor pleasures year-round. However if you're a foodie, you may find that the non-winter months offer up the greatest range of the bounty for which the four counties are famous. Hardy walkers can enjoy trails during all but the winter months.

Best Places to Eat

- » Tannery (p192)
- » Lennons (p199)
- » Campagne (p211)
- » Cafe Nutshell (p178)

Best Places to Stay

- » Waterford Castle (p184)
- » Butler House (p210)
- » Richmond House (p196)
- » Powersfield House (p192)



Counties Wexford, Waterford, Carlow & Kilkenny Highlights

- 1** Revel in the urban pleasures of **Kilkenny** (p203), one of Ireland's most vibrant cities
- 2** Learn about Ireland's poignant history aboard the

- Famine ship in **New Ross** (p178)
- 3** Gobble your way into foodie heaven at **Dungarvan** (p191), where top chefs ply their trade

- 4** Immerse yourself in County Waterford's coastal beauty including hidden cove beaches in and around historic **Ardmore** (p194)