



lonely planet

IRELAND

PLANNING MAP

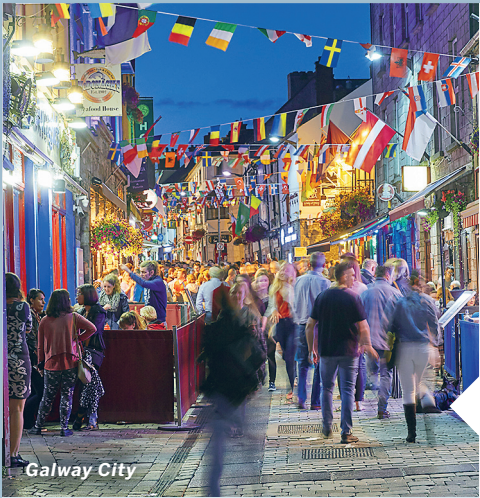
Discover Ireland's top regional sights, and experience it through an inspiring list of themes

When to Go

High Season (Jun–mid-Sep)
Weather at its best. Accommodation rates at their highest (especially in August). Tourist peak in Dublin, Kerry, southern and western coasts.

Shoulder Season (Easter–May, mid-Sep–Oct)
Weather often good: sun and rain in May; 'Indian summers' and often warm in September. Summer crowds and accommodation rates drop off.

Low Season (Nov–Feb)
Reduced opening hours from October to Easter; some destinations close. Cold and wet weather throughout the country; fog can reduce visibility. Big city attractions operate as normal.



Galway City



Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery

THE WEST

CONNEMARA B3

A filigreed coast of tiny coves and beaches is the Connemara Peninsula's beautiful border with the Atlantic. Wandering characterful roads bring you from one charming village to another. Inland, fantastically desolate valleys, green hills, yellow wildflowers and wild streams provide elemental beauty.

GALWAY CITY C3

Ireland's liveliest city literally hums through the night at music-filled pubs where you can hear three old guys playing spoons and fiddles or a hot, young band. Join the locals as they bounce from place to place and enjoy the craic.

CARROWMORE MEGALITHIC CEMETERY C2

One of the most significant megalithic monuments in Europe, the collection of stone circles, passage tombs and dolmens at Carrowmore is a fascinating mystery, especially its mathematical relationship with the rising and setting of the sun at Halloween.

ARAN ISLANDS B3

Easily visible from the coast of counties Galway and Clare along the Wild Atlantic Way, the rocky, windswept Aran Islands sing their own siren song to travellers who find their desolate beauty beguiling. Ancient forts here are some of the oldest in Ireland.



Cliffs of Moher

THE SHANNON REGION

CLIFFS OF MOHER B3

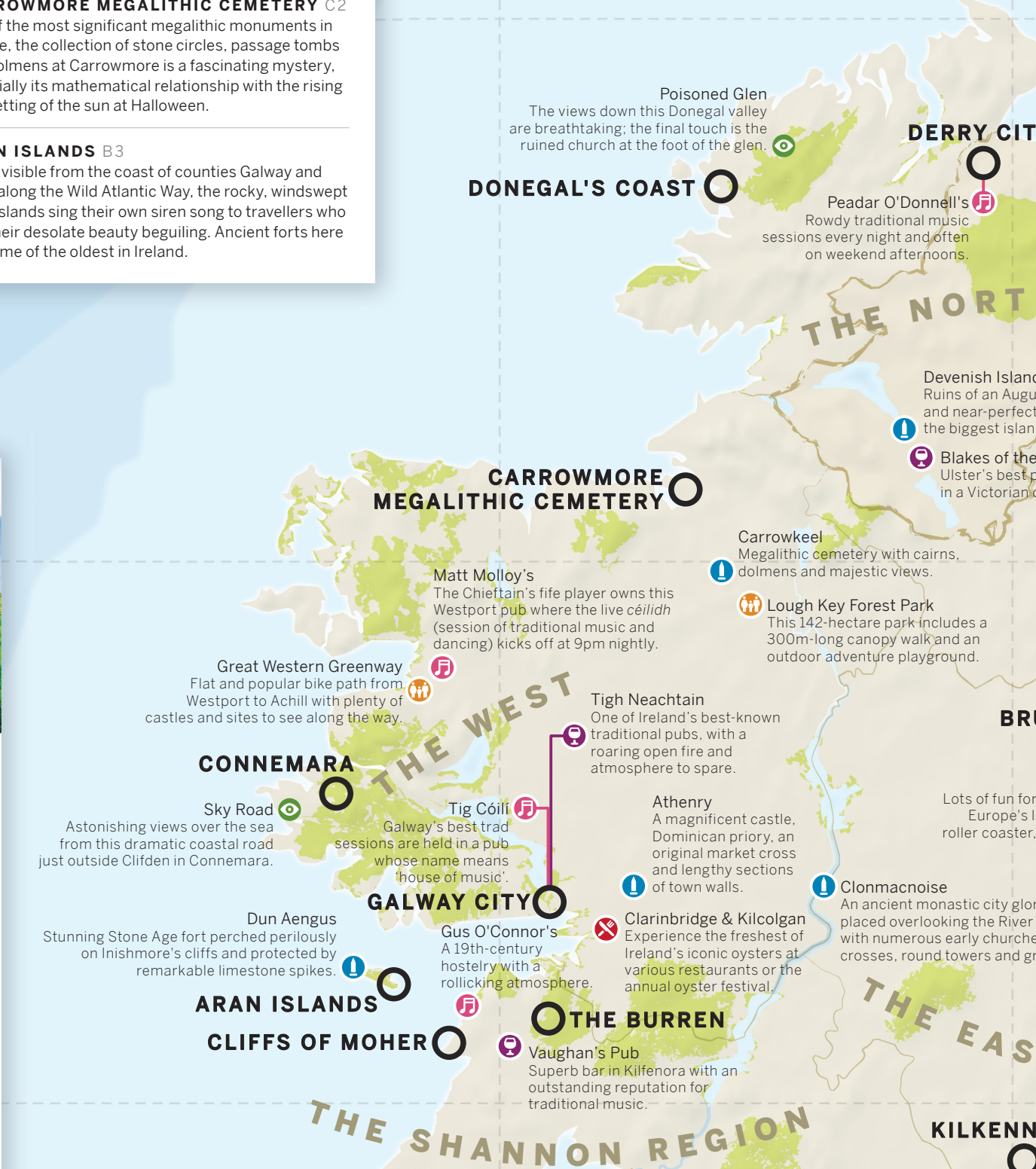
The towering stone faces of these iconic cliffs have a jaw-dropping dramatic beauty that's enlivened by scores of seabirds, including cute little puffins. Along the coast are appealing villages like music-filled Ennistimon and the surfer mecca of Lahinch.

THE BURREN C3

Discover lost dolmens and abandoned abbeys among the arid expanses of the Burren. Vistas of the rocky moonscape stretch in all directions from the tiny village of Carron, where wildflowers that bloom in this bare, ethereal landscape are made into perfumes.

ADARE C4

Adare's reputation as 'Ireland's prettiest village' centres on its clutch of perfectly preserved 19th-century thatched cottages, which today house craft shops and



ITINERARIES

DUBLIN, WICKLOW & MEATH

Dublin 011
Spend two days in the capital, sampling the top sights and restaurants, and perhaps a theatre performance.
🚗 1hr to Powerscourt/1½hrs to Glendalough

County Wicklow 013
Spend a day exploring the delights of Enniskerry and Powerscourt, and another touring the Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough.
🚗 2hrs Glendalough to Brú na Bóinne

County Meath 010
On day five, head north into County Meath and visit Brú na Bóinne, Tara and the site of Battle of the Boyne.

WESTERN WANDER

Galway H12
Three nights based here provides time to soak up the city's cultural delights, followed by a day's scenic drive along the Connemara coastline.
🚗 4hrs to Ennis via Cliffs of Moher

Ennis H14
Enjoy an overnight stay in Ennis, where you can enjoy a trad music session in one of its pubs.
🚗 3hrs to Dingle

Dingle E16
Explore Dingle town the afternoon you arrive; the next day take a harbour cruise to see Fungie the dolphin, then motor around Sea Head Drive.
🚗 1hr to Killybeggie

Killybeggie F17
Stay for two nights and explore Killybeggie National Park, then drive (or take a coach tour) around the scenic splendours of the famous Ring of Kerry.

NORTHERN DELIGHTS

Belfast P6
Enjoy two days sightseeing, including a black-taxi tour. On the third take a Game of Thrones tour.
🚗 2hrs to Causeway

Causeway Coast 04/N4
Spend a day exploring the Glens of Antrim, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and the spectacular Giant's Causeway.
🚗 1hr to Derry

Derry (Londonderry) L5
Take in the sights, walk around the city walls, and view the Bogside murals.

