

2014 Ireland Trip

Note* (Aside from Dublin) 9pm all food closes! 9pm closes for pubs, closes 10pm for restaurants, you can keep drinking after, but the kitchens close.

DUBLIN

**I choose Hotels between St Stephens Green and Temple Bar area for easiest central location to walk it all.

(I've stayed at Fleet Street Hotel, and Grafton Capital Hotel)

Best Irish Restaurant: Oliver St John Gogarty (most say Gogarty's) This place also has the best music on the second floor, funny musicians.

Goto Temple Bar, and Quays has great music.

Another area is the oldest bar in Dublin; Brazen Heads, great drinks and ask to sign the guest book, my names on the front page I think, food was mediocre. Defiantly do the Whiskey Museum tour near Trinity (recommended over Jameson). Book of Kells is a must see.

The Free Walking tour is always great-google Sandemans Dublin free tour. The hop-on- hop-off was also good. And the Prison tour is suppose to be the best, I didn't get to go yet, but my friends loved it=Kilmainham Gaol

Main Shopping Street is Grafton Street. Penny's is a great cheap store (cheaper H & M style and many basics)

Great Breakfast Café is Metro Café! (near shopping Street)

Fancier restaurants and night spots are near St Stephen's Green, such as The Saddle Room, Lounges: House (27 Lesson Street Lower, best place) Buck Whaleys, No. 27, Café en Seine (Dawson St.) & SamSara, 37 Dawson, Sam's bar

Club/Lounge cool antique décor: Lillies Bordello

Bar for drinks and locals: Bruxelles & some nights has music downstairs.

Driving!! Watch out for Sheep!!

Sept 21st

Sunday - Leave Dublin city to Dublin Airport, pick up car rental at >10:30am -start driving

((Trim to Ashford to Galway, hang and sleep, then tour sky road, back to Galway hang and sleep, then south to Killarney all stops towards Cork then back to Kilkenny to Dalkey)))

(1 Hour Drive)

>11:30AM-1pm: Trim Castle {Braveheart film set}

open 10am-6pm daily 1-2hr to view 4E/ 45min tour [pay to park 2hr]

{Trim Castle Hotel next door has a terrace overlooking - vino/Guinness}

(3hr drive.....)

>4pm CLIFDEN - (Connemara, Letterfrack, Ireland)

- Connemara National Park -- Emerald of Ireland Drive thru
- KYLEMORE ABBY & Gardens - Stop 13E tour open 9-6pm 1-2hrs time, <1hr, missed gardens> Most Beautiful Stop!! Recommend it!

6pm (2.5hr w/o stops)

- <30min around>Sky Road: an 11 km drive along Clifden Bay and Streamstown Bay rising more than 150 m above sea level at Slyne Head, with views of the Atlantic, Clifden Castle, coast-guard station, the islands of Inishturk and Turbot and the town. - drive & view, few stop points
- NOTE: Enter at N59 going towards Clifden
- Off sky Road stops: CLIFDEN Castle<photo from road>

* * ABBYGLEN Castle<awesome> A Fav, great for a drink, left after 8pm

- Exit Sky Road loop, Drive N59 again
- Errislannan Peninsula - plane memorial wing/tail (photo op)
- If time- Derrygimlagh Bog: a natural wilderness of blanket bog 6 km south of Clifden and the site of the Alcock and Brown crash-landing and the Marconi transatlantic wireless station.
- If time - Slyne Head Lighthouse (farthest point to water and view lighthouse, if time allows. Not that awesome)
- Twelve Bins / Pins (the view of 12 mountains- drive thru, off N59)

9pm all food closes 9pm for pubs, closes 10pm for restaurants
GALWAY (Arrive and stay the night)

** We had Dinner the Western Hotel Galway, nice Pub and restaurant in back had the most delicious Chicken with Garlic Mushroom sauce!!)

Suggested from reviews:

Teffs, Quays, kings head / Tig Coili: This popular pub with a red façade in the heart of Galway's lively Latin Quarter :
Mainguard Street, Galway, 353-91-561-294

Park House restaurant, Ard Bia, or McSwiggan's restaurants are all good

Afternoon tea or brunch in the G Hotel is incredible (but pricey) mod looking

For nightlife there's so many really lively bars around Eyre Square and Shop street you can't go wrong (stay away from Club K or karma though!)

** We did enjoy all the bars listed, walked up Mainguard Street and back just following the sound of good Irish music!

SLEEP in Galway

(Pass Ross Errilly Friary- stop photos)

8:30am--45min drive--

Ashford Castle

Options: Gardens 5E heard it's worth it

Falconry 60E for 60min Falcon Walk

Horse Ride 1hr/45E 2hr/85E

(arrive at 11am for 1hr history Lake Cruise 20E)

(10am or 2pm guided bike tour 2hrs / 40E)

Sugg: 10am bikes & 1pm Falconry

** Long Beautiful Day at Ashford Castle, the Horse Riding was fun and the Falconry was very cool. The Gardens were just OK, I

think we just went in, no fee. Tea inside the Castle was just lovely ☺ We didn't try the bikes, or lake cruise.

In Galway; Dinner Skeffington Arms Hotel Pub, and walked up Mainuard Street again.

SLEEP GALWAY

8am, 55min drive--

9am: The Burren (Green Arrow 40min or Orange Route 20min)
(also, cool town called Doolin on the way)

(50min drive)

10:30am: Cliffs of Moher, Cliffs of Moher, Liscannor, Co. Clare
open 9am-7pm 6E allow exhibit theater 25-45min, & self walk
3hr

** Very windy and chilly and usually rainy. Lots of walking.

(50min Drive)

12:45pm: Dromoland Castle Hotel, Clare -Lunch/drinks, self
tour

** Dromoland Castle was very Beautiful

(13min drive)

2:45pm Bunratty Castle closes at 4pm 2hr to view, 15E
Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co.
Clare, Ireland

** Lots to see, real castle they've a whole village attached to
show how a castle & community used to be. Optional advertised
banquet dinner. We skipped the dinner.

(25 min drive)

4:45pm (Drive Thru) village of adare, houses straw roofs

(2hrs drive)

7pm : Dingle Peninsula - Drive thru & photos

** (ran out of daylight, skipped the Dingle stop)

(1hr Drive)

9pm: Killarney- dinner & hang out

Sleep Killarney

9am -Drive-photos-stops

**I don't remember much about this stop, college town. There had been a big game the night before so no one was out the night we were there.

(Drive 1hr-not counting photo stops) to Cahersiveen to (drive 8mins)

Ballycarbery Castle, Kerry, Ireland (Fav, must see, Castle ruins-photos)

Ring of Kerry, Killarney: cars drive clockwise: along the Ring of Kerry includes: Gap of Dunloe, Bog Village, Rossbeigh Beach, Cahersiveen Heritage Centre, Derrynane House, Skellig Experience, Staigue Fort, Kenmare Lace, Moll's Gap, Ladies View, Torc Waterfall, Muckross House, The Blue Pool, Ross Castle, Ogham Stones, St Mary's Cathedral, Muckross Abbey, Franciscan Friary, Kelleggy Church, O'Connell Memorial Church, Sneem Church and Cemetery, Skellig Michael (chocolates), Beehive Cells and the Stone Pillars marking an important grave. 3hr but takes 5-6hr w/ photos/stops/traffic

**It did take hours longer than expected with our stops and photos. I recommend extra time in Waterville, would've been nice to had time for a café stop, also has a statue of Charlie Chaplin for great photos!

2:30pm: Muckross House - Killarney National Park, Muckross House - Killarney National Park, Kenmare Road / open 9am-5:30pm 8-12E fee

**Great Tour and very beautiful house & gardens!

(1hr 34min drive)

4:30pm (Can't enter tour after 5pm)

Kinsale- Desmond Castle & Wine Museum! Open 10-6pm 45min tour 3E

** running late we missed the closing time.

(1hr drive)

7pm: Cobh Cathedral, Cathedral Terrace, Cobh- in a town-photos

** running late, skipped this photo op.

(25min drive)

SLEEP CORK – explore & stay over

** Cork is all about shopping with many streets closed to traffic and cobble stones. Very “big city” life feel

** BEST Cork Dinner: Market Lane, Highly recommend!

(12min) Blarney Castle, Cork, Ireland –Kiss the Blarney stone

** One of my fav stops and you have to walk through the poisonous garden

Drive Back through Cork for Fast Route

1hr) Cahir Castle, Castle St, Cahir (open 9:30am-5:30pm

40min tour, 3E)

Filmed part of Excalibur here, also The Tudors

17 min) Rock of Cashel / open 9-5:30pm tour 45min 6E

Just missed the closing, we walked around the grounds with a local telling us the story, very cool history, he says it has the best old weapons & Armor collection inside.

1hr) Dunmore Cave (&Castle til 6pm/free) open 10-4pm for 1hr visit 3E **no time to stop

15min) Kilkenny Castle, The Parade, Kilkenny open 9:30am-5:30pm tour 45min 6E

SLEEP Kilkenny

** Best Dinner at Design Centre, Anocht Restaurant, highly recommend!

2 bars open the night we were there, just ask, I can't remember the name

Waterford

1.15hr) Drove to Waterford, visited Waterford Crystal Museum then the castle (big) Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort, Stop for Drinks, photos inside hotel.

33min) Reginalds Tower / open 9:30am-5:30pm 45min tour 3E

** Unless you're crazy about Waterford Crystal, there's not much to see that's different from any other busy small city. No charm here. The castle was nice, but not worth the drive south. Skip Waterford

Also Stay in Wicklow? Option.

2hr Drive) Wicklow Mountains National Park, Wicklow
** we just went to Dalkey instead

SLEEP Dalkey

1.35hr) from Kilkenny drive to Dalkey

Dalkey (40min drive from Dublin)
(Bono's Home is here, In this town)

** Dalkey Stay at Fitzpatrick Castle, great place

Goto Finnegans famous pub that Bono and other stars go to!

Had dinner at Benitos, great Italian, cute place.

Tour Stop Places Near Dublin

40min Drive) Dun Aengus, Tallaght, Ireland 10-6pm 1 hr visit
3E

20min) Dublinia 10-5:30pm & free guide tour at 2:30pm daily
M-F 8.5E

12min) The Swiss Cottage Open 10am-6pm, tour 1 hr, 3E

15 min) Malahide Castle (20 min Dublin) 9:30am-4:30pm 1 hr
& Needs to book in advance 12E

Research Notes:

Kilkenny

While you're in Kilkenny—about 90 minutes from Dublin by car—take a tour of [Kilkenny Castle](#), a stone structure built in the early 13th century. Beginning with James Butler, the third Earl of Ormonde, it served as the domain for the Butler

family for nearly 600 years. [St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower](#), built in the sixth century, feature beautiful stained glass windows and carved stone tombstones.

Galway City

Set on Ireland's west coast, Galway City is known as the "City of Tribes" in honor of the 14 families who reigned over Ireland until Galway was captured in 1652. In fact, the city's roots date back pretty far. At Gention Hill, just outside the city, archaeological digs uncovered 10,000-year old cooking areas and a 300,000-year old axe-head on the [Aran Islands](#).

Killarney

Killarney is alive day and night with street performers and overflowing pubs, making it a popular tourist destination. Just outside the city is the [Ring of Kerry](#), a road where you can get access to some of the best beaches this side of Europe and a nice view of Ireland's ancient structures.

From here it's a short drive to [Ross Castle Killarney](#), a 15th century lakeside fort built by one of the O'Donoghue Chieftains. As legend has it, O'Donoghue sleeps in the lake waters and circles the lake on a white horse on the first morning in May every seven years. All who witness it are believed to have good fortune from that day forward.

Dublin

Ireland's capital city features a harmonious blend of Victorian pubs and stately Georgian townhouses, with modern nightclubs next to chic restaurants. From the North Star Hotel in the city's center, it's only a 15-minute walk to Grafton Street, near Trinity College and St. Stephen's Green, known for its high-end shopping. Visitors can savor an Irish whiskey or a Guinness in one of the city's pubs, such the famed Temple Bar, then learn about the drinks' origins on tours of the Guinness Storehouse and the Old Jameson Distillery.