

# Ireland

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## TRAVEL GUIDE



**Oliver's Travels**  
— YOUR GREAT ESCAPE —

A land of literary greatness, folktales, incomparably romantic landscapes and legendary good times, Ireland is an unsung hero when it comes to fantastic European destinations ripe for exploration. Drink in the atmosphere, hubbub and culture of Dublin, the splendour and sea air of Galway or strike out in your walking boots and revel in the beauty of the countryside – there's so much to love in Ireland, whatever you choose you'll end up leaving a piece of your heart there!

## IRELAND 101

<b>CURRENCY</b>	EURO	<b>TIME ZONE</b>	GMT
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	THREE PIN	<b>HIGHEST TEMP.</b>	19° C
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	ENGLISH	<b>LOWEST TEMP.</b>	7° C
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	999	<b>PEAK SEASON</b>	MAY - SEPT





## TRANSPORT TALK



### BY WHEELS

Hiring a car gives you the flexibility and freedom to reach the most remote and tourist-free places in Ireland, where public transport won't go.



### BY BIKE

Seeing Ireland's spectacular countryside by bike can be a fantastic experience for those brave enough to take a chance on the variable weather.



### BY TAXI

Taxis in Ireland are easy to find if you're in any of the larger centres, you'll be able to hail one down on the street. In the smaller towns, you'll need to wait at a taxi rank.



### BY WATER

Getting to Ireland from the UK by ferry is easy! With regular crossings from Cairnryan, Liverpool, Holyhead and Fishguard to Rosslare, Dublin and Belfast. [StenaLine](#) is a good place to start.



### BY AIR

Flying in to Ireland is easy with flights from the UK landing in Dublin airport, Cork airport, Waterford airport or Donegal airport. [Ryanair](#) offers an affordable and frequent service.



### BY BUS OR TRAIN

It's fairly easy to travel by public transport between the bigger towns in Ireland but the smaller villages are often only serviced by buses once or twice a week..





## TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

### Get in the Saddle



Fancy taking a trip on something a little more unique? [Dartfield Horse Museum](#) gives the kids the chance to ride through some parkland, or if they don't fancy that they can enjoy looking at other farm animals.



### Tales From the Past



[Boyne Valley Tour](#) is the kind of guided tour that'll have the kids spellbound from start to finish. Heading out into Ireland's Ancient East, you'll discover the tales and myths from 5,000 years of fascinating Irish history.



### Spot Whales



[Cork Whale Watch](#) will take you and the family out on the hunt for elusive whales, and though sightings aren't guaranteed, there's always the chance of basking sharks and dolphins whilst out there.



### Kayak around Dingle



Ireland's coast is full of adventure! Thinking of staying on the water, [Irish Adventures](#) offers the whole clan the chance to paddle around Dingle Harbour in a kayak, where they might even meet a friendly dolphin.



### Go Ball Crazy



If your kids are sport mad, there's a ton of new sports they could pick up during their Irish break! [Experience Gaelic Games](#) runs days in Galway and Dublin where everyone can try their hand at a new sport.



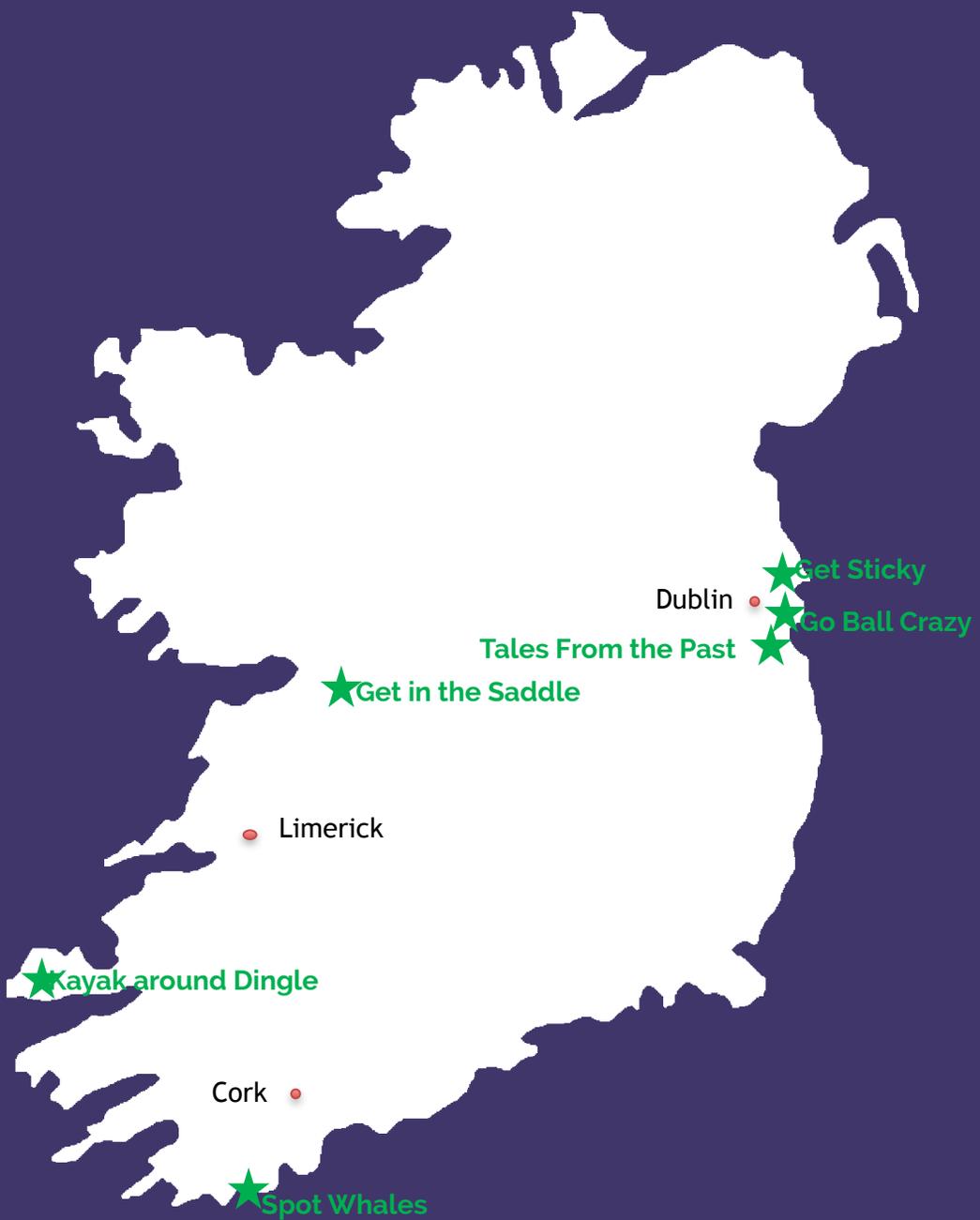
### Get Sticky



There's one thing that will always put a smile on your child's face: chocolate. At [Butler's Chocolate Experience](#), tours include a chocolate movie, a glimpse at the factory production and, of course, ample tasters!



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS



## CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

### Connemara's Coastline



A boat trip makes a great way to explore Ireland's dramatic coastline. [The Killary Fjord Boat Tour](#) takes in some of the majesty of the Killary fjord over a 90-minute excursion, you may even spot dolphins!



### Take a hawk on a walk



[Ireland's School of Falconry](#) is found in the impressive Ashford Castle near Galway, and it's the perfect place to learn about the history of falconry and even take a hawk out for a fly yourself.



### Cruise the Canals



If taking to the water appeals to you but you're not quite sold on risking a voyage out to sea, Try a half-day excursion with [Barge Trip](#), where you can take a boat down County Kildare's relaxing Grand Canal.



### Go on a Tour



There's plenty to see in the Irish countryside. [Finn McCool's Tours](#) offer trips to see many of Ireland's foremost attractions, and fantasy fans will revel in the Game of Thrones tour which takes you to iconic filming locations.



### Stop for a Stout



And of course, it'd be criminal not to enjoy a pint while you're over in Ireland. If you like your pubs with a little extra history, try [Sean's Bar](#). It boasts over 1,000 years of history and regularly hosts music nights.



### Go Rambling



There's no better way to explore Ireland's scenic countryside than by foot. [Joyce's Ireland Hiking Tour](#) has a fantastic one day trip to Glendalough, the stunning backdrop is ready and waiting!



## MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS





## BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



### Teeling Whiskey

Of course, it wouldn't be a trip to Ireland without having a whiskey. [Teeling Whiskey](#) have been distilling whiskey since 1782, and have just opened a Dublin distillery where you can take a tour and try a sample.



### O'Dowd's Seafood Bar



[O'Dowd's Seafood Bar & Restaurant](#) looks out over Roundstone Harbour and is a top choice for experiencing the very best and freshest seafood, straight from the fishing boats to your plate!



### Kitchen in the Castle

[The Kitchen in the Castle](#) offers a range of great cookery classes that aren't just limited to Irish recipes. Try your hand at Moroccan, Italian or some seafood specials, and kick back afterwards and enjoy your efforts.



### The Courthouse



[The Courthouse Restaurant](#) in the small village of Kinelough serves a delicate and delicious fusion between Irish and Mediterranean cuisine – definitely different, and definitely not to be missed.



### Dishes to Try

**Irish Stew** is still one of the best comfort foods out there and a must try when in Ireland. For fans of seafood, Dublin bay **prawns** are well worth a try! **Barmbrack** is also worth sniffing out if you have a sweet tooth.

### Copper Hen



The wonderful [Copper Hen](#) is an informal and delightfully rustic restaurant above a pub, and prides itself on whipping up amazing dishes that don't cost the earth from traditional Irish ingredients.



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journals has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From [family chateaux in France](#) and [luxury castles in Ireland](#), to Mediterranean [villas with pools](#) and [Caribbean beach villas](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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