

# A Beginner's Guide to Travel in Ireland



Steve  
Ulm

# Agenda

- Overview of Ireland
- Sights
- Travel Tips

# Overview of Ireland

## Why Travel to Ireland?

- Irish heritage
  - 30 million people in the US claim Irish heritage
- Beautiful scenery
- History everywhere you look
- Great Golf Courses
- Great people
- They speak English
- Travel is easy
- Nice size

# Overview of Ireland - Geography

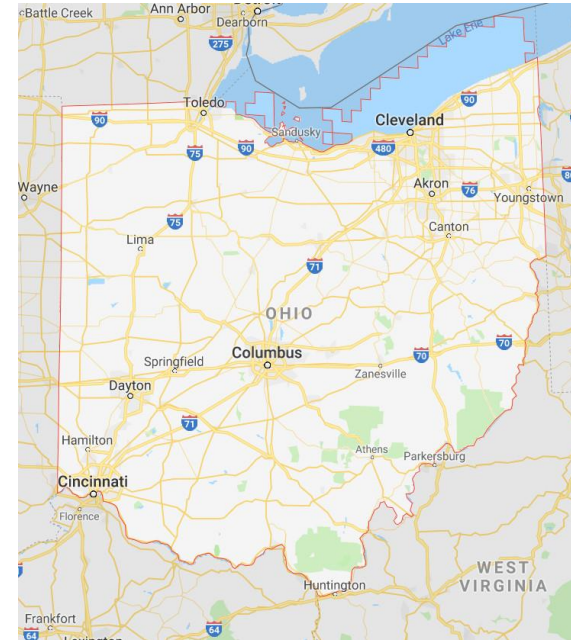
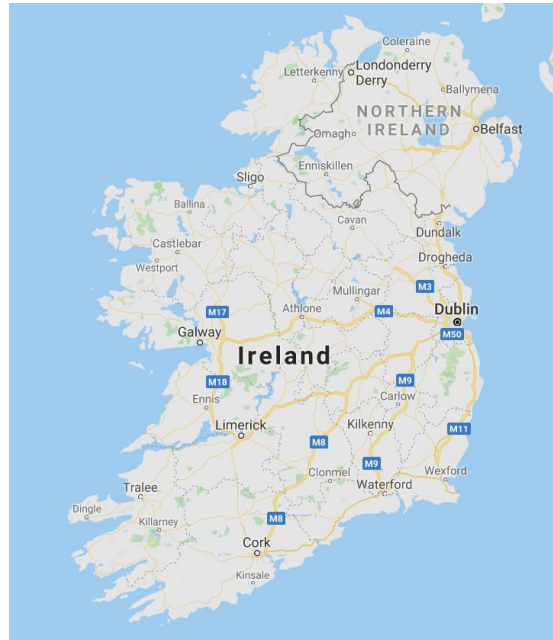


# Overview of Ireland - Geography



# Overview of Ireland - Geography

Ireland  
vs  
Ohio



	Ireland (ROI + NI)	Ohio
Area	32,595 sq mi	44,825 sq mi
Population	6.9 Million 5.0 Million ROI – 1.9 Million NI (1.9 M in Greater Dublin)	11.8 Million

# Overview of Ireland - History

- First evidence of humans dates to about 12,500 years ago
- Christianity arrived in 4<sup>th</sup> century
  - St Patrick arrived sometime in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century
  - Monks left Europe to escape barbarians and found solitude in Ireland
  - Monks built round towers 800 to 1200 AD



# Overview of Ireland - History

- Vikings arrived around 800
  - Established cities
    - Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork  
Limerick
  - Influence started to decline after about 200 years
- Normans invaded from Great Britain in 1167
  - Battled the Irish for centuries
  - Built a lot of castles
  - Eventually gained control





# Overview of Ireland - History

- English eventually gained full domination over Ireland in 1601
  - Battle of Kinsale
  - Irish people had few rights
  - Tried to eradicate language
  - repressed Catholic church
  - English settlements
  - Many rebellions
- Potato famine in 1840's
  - Population peaked at about 8-1/2 million before famine
  - Lost 2 million during the famine
  - 1 million died, 1 million emigrated
- Irish revolution gained independence for Republic of Ireland in 1922
  - Ireland divided into ROI and Northern Ireland



# Overview of Ireland - History

- “Troubles” in Northern Ireland began in the 1960’s
  - Deadly conflict between protestants and Catholics
  - Heavy discrimination against Catholics
  - Finally resolved by “Good Friday Agreement” in 1998
  - Most of violence has subsided but tensions still exist
- Border between ROI and Northern Ireland was a major sticking point for Brexit agreement
- Take Phil Thompson’s Olli class for more detail on Irish history

# Overview of Ireland

## Travel Between ROI and NI

- Travel to Northern Ireland is safe
- There are still bad feelings but very localized and not against tourists
- NI has a lot of interesting things to see and is well worth the visit
- You'll barely notice the difference from ROI
  - BPS vs Euro
  - English units vs metric
  - Cell phones



# Overview of Ireland

## Travel Between ROI and NI



# Agenda

Overview of Ireland

Sights

Travel Tips

# Top Sights of Ireland

- I investigated various web sites and books to try to determine the best sights
- All sources had different opinions. Some didn't agree at all
- Based on them all I developed a list that seems representative
- I added a few of my own
- Use as a starting point but do your own research



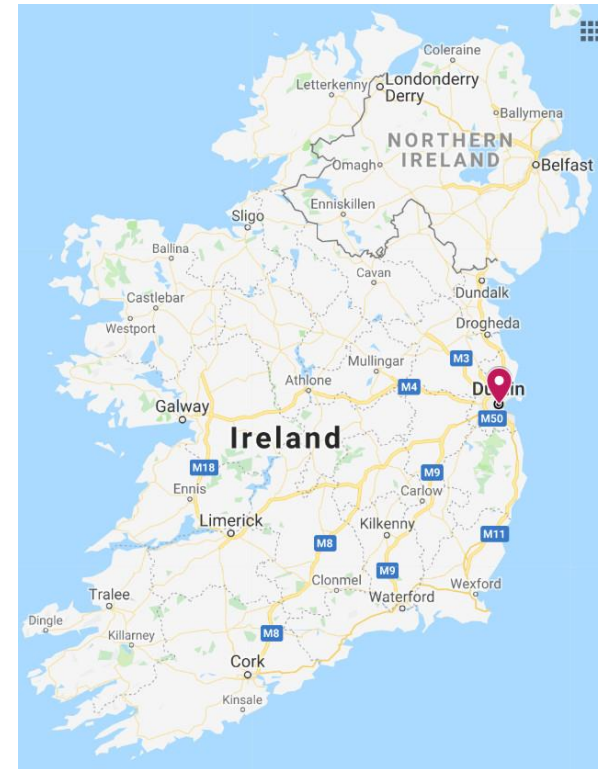
# Top Sights of Ireland

1. Dublin
2. Cliffs of Moher
3. Giant's Causeway
4. Newgrange
5. Glendalough
6. Rock of Cashel
7. Ring of Kerry
8. Blarney Castle/Stone
9. Aran Islands / Dun Aengus
10. Killarney National Park and Muckross House
11. Burren
12. Belfast / Titanic Belfast
13. Dingle Peninsula
14. Galway
15. Cork / English Market
16. Bunratty Castle & Folk Park
17. Skellig Michael
18. Sligo and Area
19. Kinsale, Co. Cork
20. Kylemore Abbey

# Ireland Sights

## 1 - Dublin

- Trinity College / Book of Kells
- Guinness Storehouse
- Easter Rising exhibit in Post Office
- Kilmainham Gaol
- Dublin Castle
- Nat'l Museum of Ireland – Archaeology
- Christ Church Cathedral
- St. Patrick's Cathedral



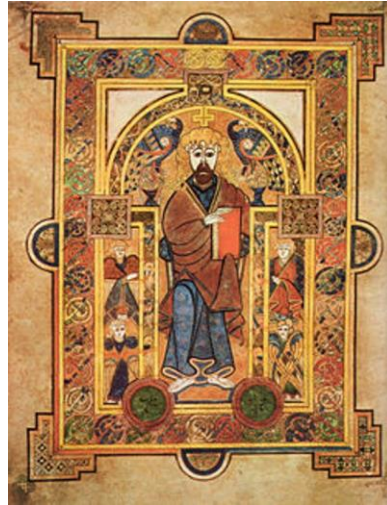


# Ireland Sights

## 1 - Dublin

Trinity College  
Book of Kells

Guinness  
Storehouse



# Ireland Sights

## 1 - Dublin

National Museum of  
Ireland – Archaeology

Dublin Castle



# Ireland Sights

## 1 - Dublin

### Easter Rising Exhibit in Post Office

### Kilmainham Gaol



# Ireland Sights

## 1 - Dublin

Christ Church  
Cathedral

St. Patrick's Cathedral



# Ireland Sights

## 2 - Cliffs of Mohr

- Spectacular cliffs
- 600 feet high
- Frequently used in movies
- Often foggy



# Ireland Sights

## 3 - Giant's Causeway

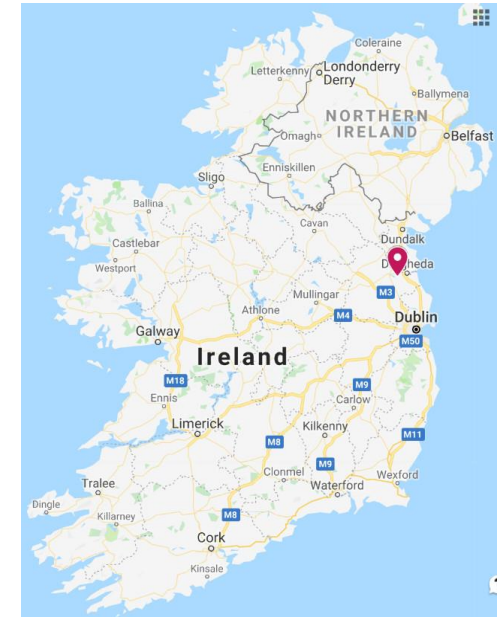
- Thousands of hexagonal columns of rock
- UNESCO World Heritage site



# Ireland Sights

## 4 - Newgrange

- Ancient passage tomb
- 5200 years old – older than pyramids
- 280 feet in diameter
- 45 feet high
- 63 foot passage tunnel into interior
- Aligned with rising sun at Winter Solstice.
- One of the most remarkable prehistoric sites in Europe



# Ireland Sights

## 5 - Glendalough

- Ancient Monastery founded by St. Kevin in 5<sup>th</sup> century
- Very scenic valley

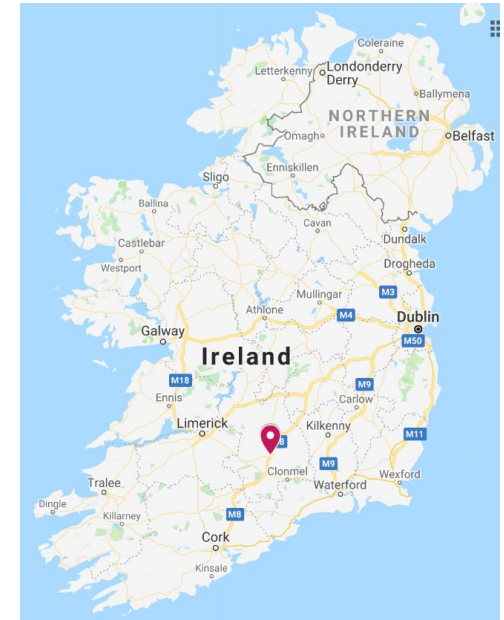




# Ireland Sights

## 6 - Rock of Cashel

- Seat of power for kings and churchmen for 1000 years
- Considered one of Ireland's most spectacular archeological sites
- Round tower
- 13<sup>th</sup> century Gothic cathedral
- Finest 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque chapel in Ireland



# Ireland Sights

## 7 - Ring of Kerry

- Very scenic peninsula in county Kerry on SW corner of Ireland
- Ring of Kerry is a driving route through the roads of Kerry
- Take tour bus or drive
- Take your time and make stops
- Drive clockwise
- 111 miles long



# Ireland Sights

## 8 - Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone

- Impressive 16<sup>th</sup> century tower
- Up a spiral staircase several stories to the Blarney Stone at the top



# Ireland Sights

## 9 - Aran Islands / Dun Aengus

- Islands off the west coast
- Inishmore is largest
- Inhabitants speak Irish
- Dun Aengus is an ancient fort
  - First construction goes back to 1100 BCE
  - Wall 20 ft high enclose 14 acres



# Ireland Sights

## 10 - Killarney National Park and Muckross House

- Very Scenic National Park
  - lakes
  - mountains
  - panoramic views
- Impressive Victorian Mansion
  - antique furniture
  - portraits
  - china



# Ireland Sights

## 11 - Burren

- Rocky and windswept area of Ireland
- Conditions support an extraordinary mix of plant life
- Poul nabrone Portal Tomb
  - Constructed 3000 – 4000 BCE



# Ireland Sights

## 12 - Belfast

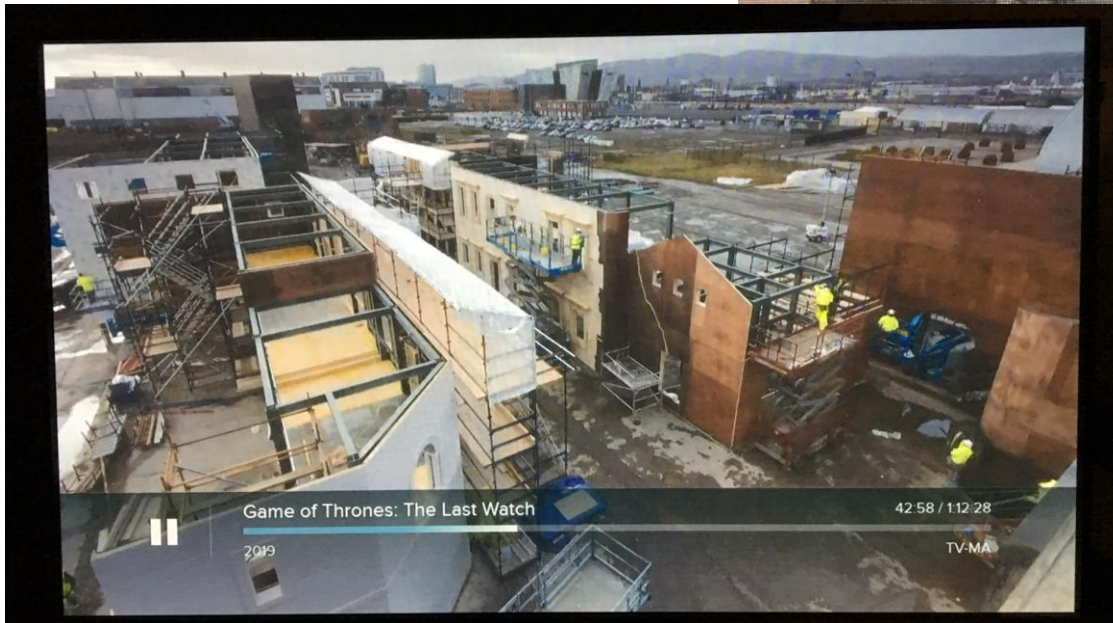
- Titanic Museum
- City Hall
- Black cab tour



# Ireland Sights

## 12 - Belfast

- Game of Thrones
- Filmed at Titanic Studios

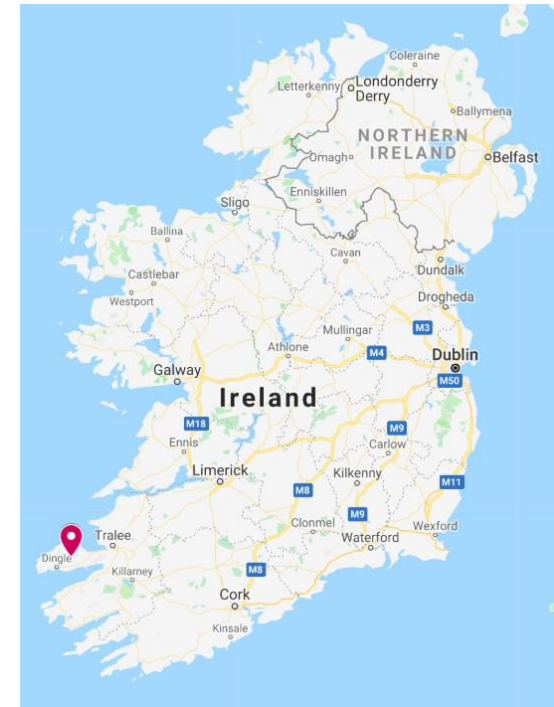




# Ireland Sights

## 13 – Dingle Town / Bay / Peninsula

- Another scenic peninsula in county Kerry
- Alternative to Ring of Kerry
- Dingle town is a quaint little fishing town with a lot of pubs and a nice harbor
- Blasket Island museum



# Ireland Sights

## 14 - Galway

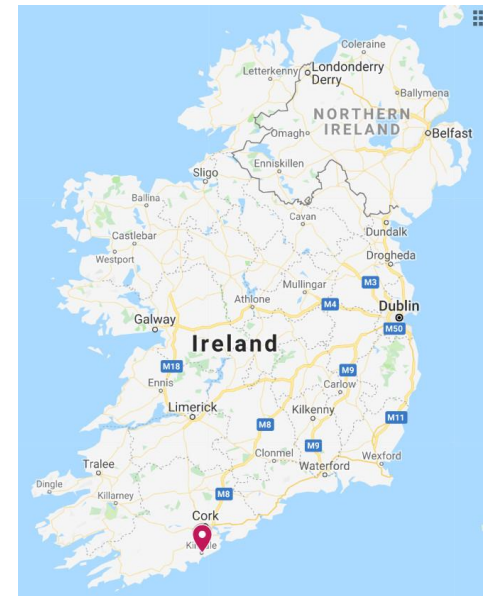
- Good base for exploring the surrounding sights
- Most Irish of Irish cities
- Good pubs and restaurants
- Fun place to wander



# Ireland Sights

## 15 – Cork / English Market

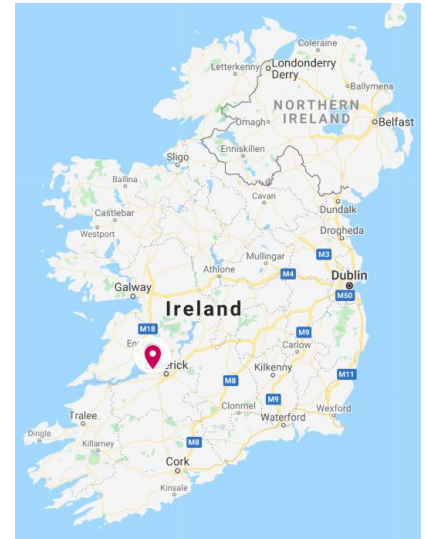
- The center of Cork is on an island in the river
- Nice city to explore
- English Market was created in 1788
- One of the oldest municipal markets of its kind in the world.
- Historic Gaol



# Ireland Sights

## 16 – Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

- Castle dates to early 1400's
- Restored and loaded with period furniture, tapestries, paintings, etc
- Park exhibits old time Irish village



# Ireland Sights

## 17 - Skellig Micheal

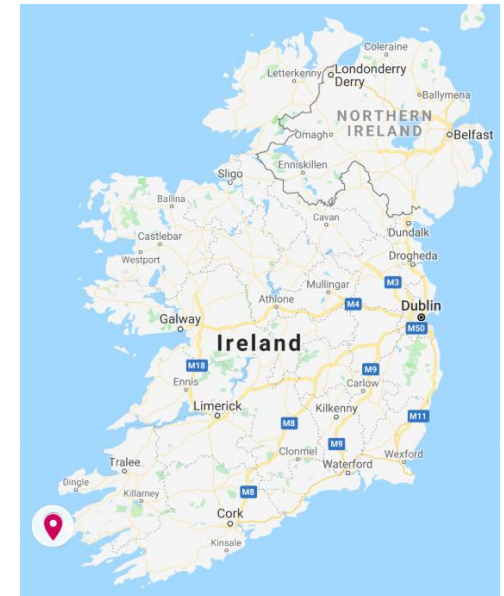
- An Island 8 miles off the coast of Co Kerry
- Monastery, from the 6th to 8th centuries
- Occupied by monks until about 1200
- A destination for pilgrims for centuries
- a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996
- Used in the last 3 Star Wars movies



By MollyCrilly - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=42980353>



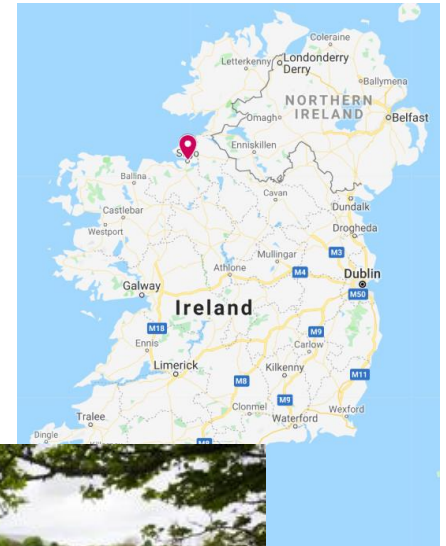
By Towel401 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41989094>



# Ireland Sights

## 18 – Sligo and Area

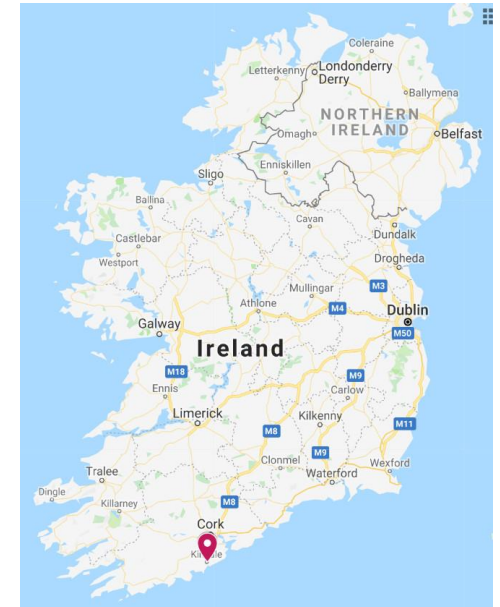
- Sligo Abbey
- Benbulbin - “Sligo’s Table Mountain”
- Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery
  - one of Ireland’s four most significant Neolithic sites



# Ireland Sights

## 19 - Kinsale

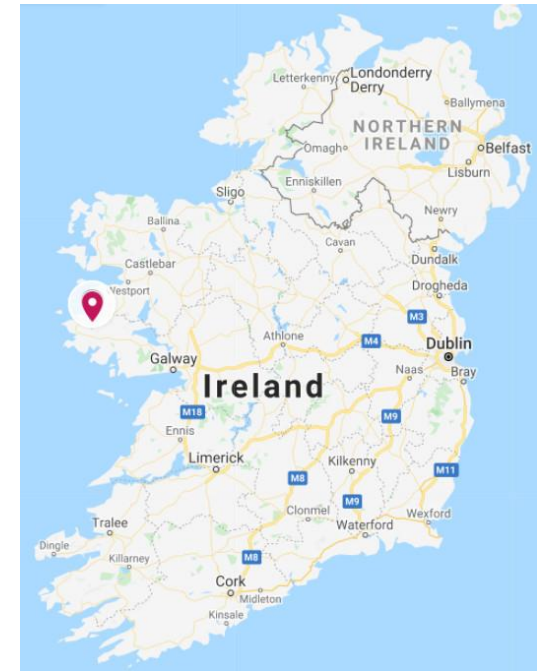
- Fun place to explore
- Very picturesque harbor
- Charles Fort
- Good Restaurants (Fishy Fish)
- Lusitania museum



# Ireland Sights

## 20 - Kylemore Abbey

- Kylemore Castle was built in 1868 as a home
- Benedictine Nuns used as girl's school until 2010
- Grounds and main building open to the public
- Very picturesque setting





# Top Sights of Ireland

1. Dublin
2. Cliffs of Moher
3. Giant's Causeway
4. Newgrange
5. Glendalough
6. Rock of Cashel
7. Ring of Kerry
8. Blarney Castle/Stone
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# Ireland Sights

## Steve's Additional Favorites

- Kilkenny
- Dunbrode Famine Ship
- Derry
- Carrick-a-Rede Bridge
- Round Towers
- Castles
- Ring Forts
- Random Ruins
- Pubs
- Irish Music

# Ireland Sights

## Kilkenny

- Old town with medieval atmosphere
- Smithwick's Brewery
- Kilkenny Castle
- St. Canice's Cathedral
- Round tower – can climb



# Ireland Sights

## Dunbrode Famine Ship

- Reconstruction of a 'Coffin Ship'
- Gave a sense of what the passage to America was like
- In New Ross, Co. Wexford



**INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS**

**Ticket fares**

Average fares: New Ross to Quebec/New York ..... £5 - £5  
Cabin class passengers: ..... £3.15s.0d - £4.7s.0d  
Steerage passengers: ..... half price  
Children below the age of 12: ..... free of charge  
Infants: ..... free of charge  
Tickets may be purchased from Graves & Son or from one of our approved agents in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Waterford or Gorey.

**Accommodation**

Our superior ships are fitted up in the most approved manner for Cabin and Steerage passengers. They are well ventilated and lofty between decks. Cabin passengers each have their own berth. Steerage passengers are accommodated in berths for four people.

**Food supplies**

Each passenger is provided with the following supplies weekly:  
- 2 ½ lbs of bread - 1 lb of flour - 5 lbs of oatmeal - 2 lbs of rice - 2 oz of tea - ½ lb of sugar - ½ lb of molasses - Vinegar  
All passengers will receive three quarts of water daily. Passengers are advised to bring additional supplies of fresh vegetables, dried fish, salt pork etc

**Journey times to North America** | **Passenger safety**

Average: four to six weeks | All of Graves & Son ships travel with a surgeon on board.



# Ireland Sights

## Derry

- Northern Ireland's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city
- Also called Londonderry
- Totally enclosed by 17<sup>th</sup> century wall
- Major site of unrest during “troubles”
- Site “Bloody Sunday” in 1972



# Ireland Sights

## Carrick-a-Rede Bridge

- Originally used by fisherman to reach a small island
- Now, basically a tourist trap but still fun



# Ireland Sights

## Round Towers

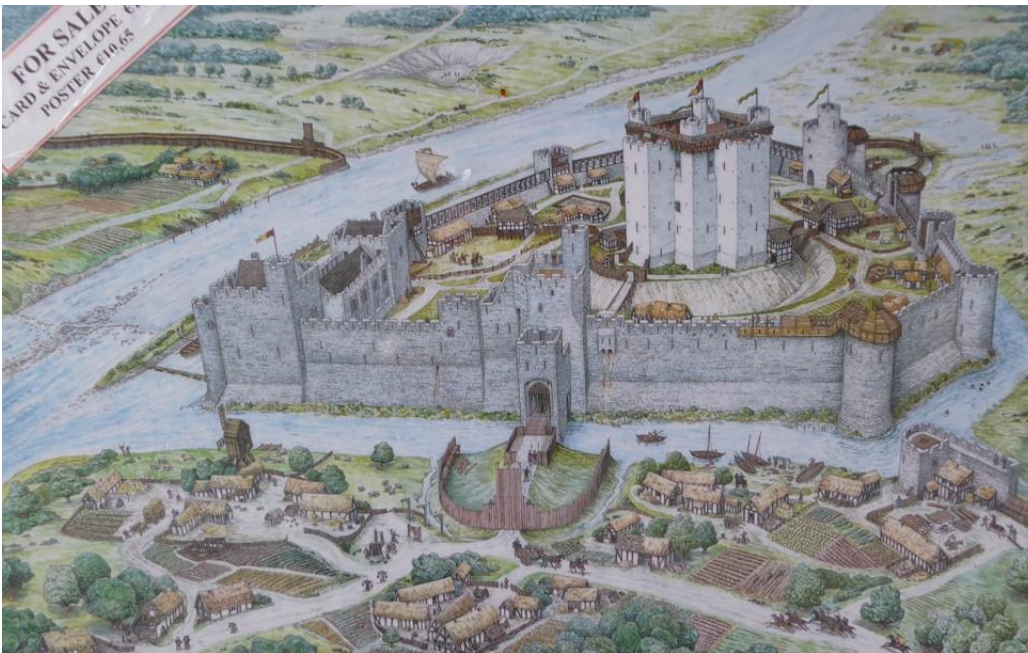
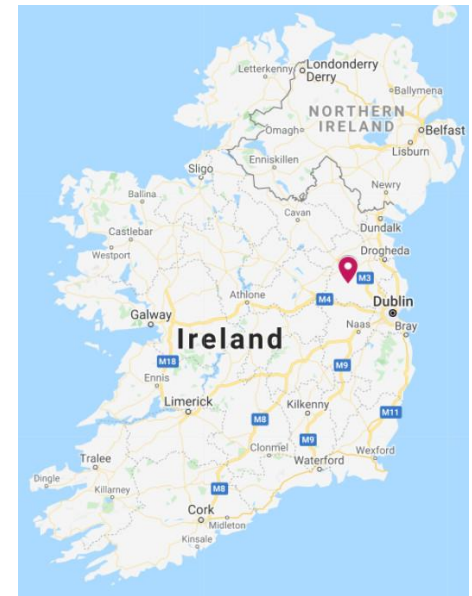
- probably built between 9th & 12th centuries
- About 120 originally, about 65 remain,
- About 20 are in very good condition
- 60 to 130 ft high, 40 to 60 ft in diameter



# Ireland Sights

## Castles - Trim Castle

- Very important Norman castle
- Built shortly after the Norman Invasion
- Good restoration
- Just one of many Castles in Ireland





# Ireland Sights

## Ring Forts

- Dun Aengus on Inishmore
- Grianan of Aileach
- Ring Forts on Ring of Kerry
- 40,000 ring forts around the country
- Made of earth or stone



# Ireland Sights

Random Ruins all over Ireland



# Ireland Sights

## Pubs

- O'Neill's in Dublin is a good place to start
  - Across street from Molly Malone statue
- The Brazenhead claims to be Ireland's oldest pub.
- Experiment and chose your favorite



# Ireland Sights

## Trad

- Irish traditional music
- Irish pubs often have excellent Irish music
- Many are informal gatherings of locals who enjoy music
- Dalton's Bar in Kinsale



# Ireland Sights

1. Dublin
2. Cliffs of Moher
3. Giant's Causeway
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18. Sligo and Area
19. Kinsale, Co. Cork
20. Kylemore Abbey
21. Kilkenny
22. Derry
23. Dunbrode Famine Ship
24. Carrick-a-Rede Bridge
25. Trim Castle



# Agenda

Overview of Ireland  
Sights

**Travel Tips**

# Travel Tips

## When to go to Ireland

- Temperature
- Daylight
- Crowds of Tourists

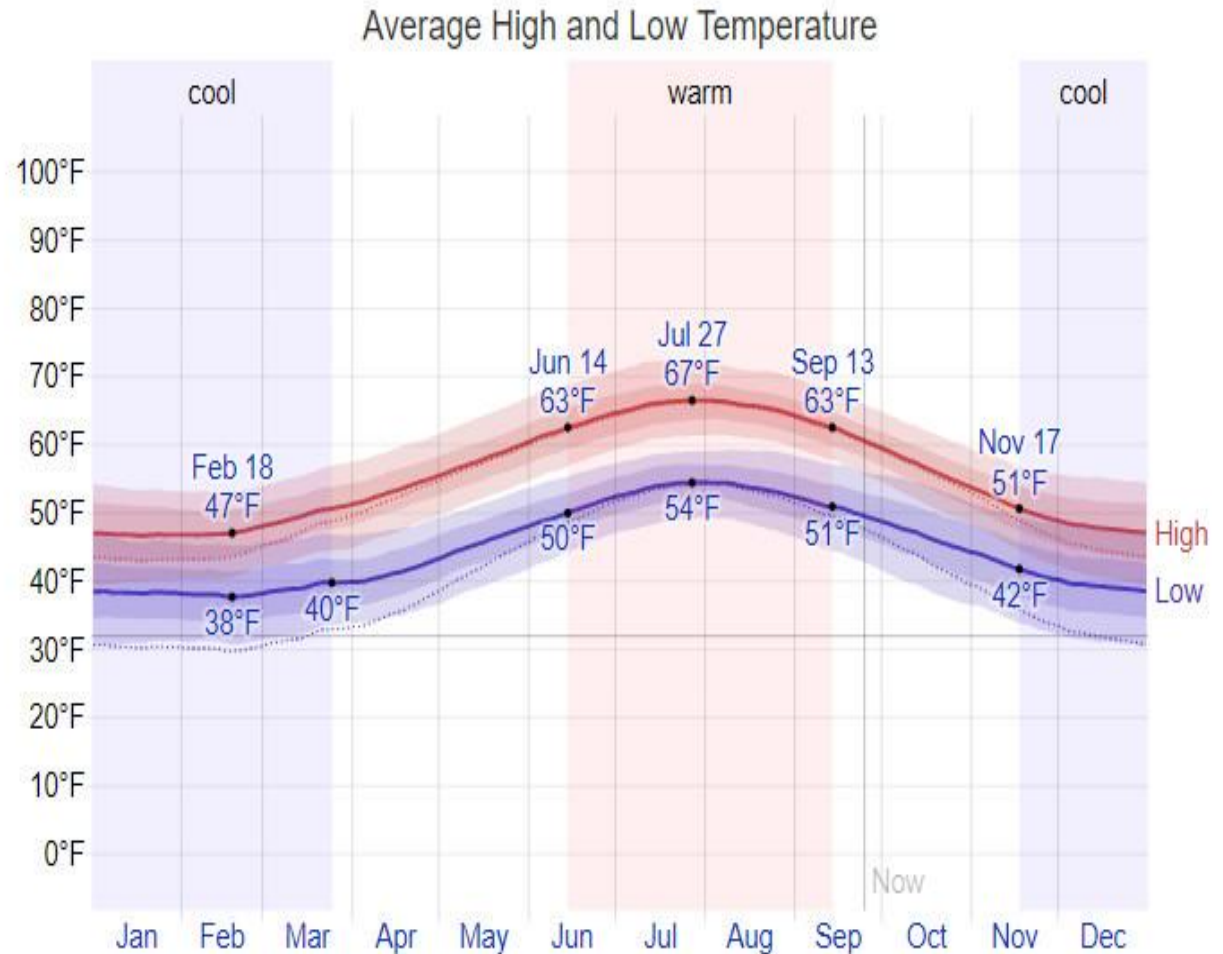


# When to Go - Temperature

Compared to Ohio:

Cooler summers

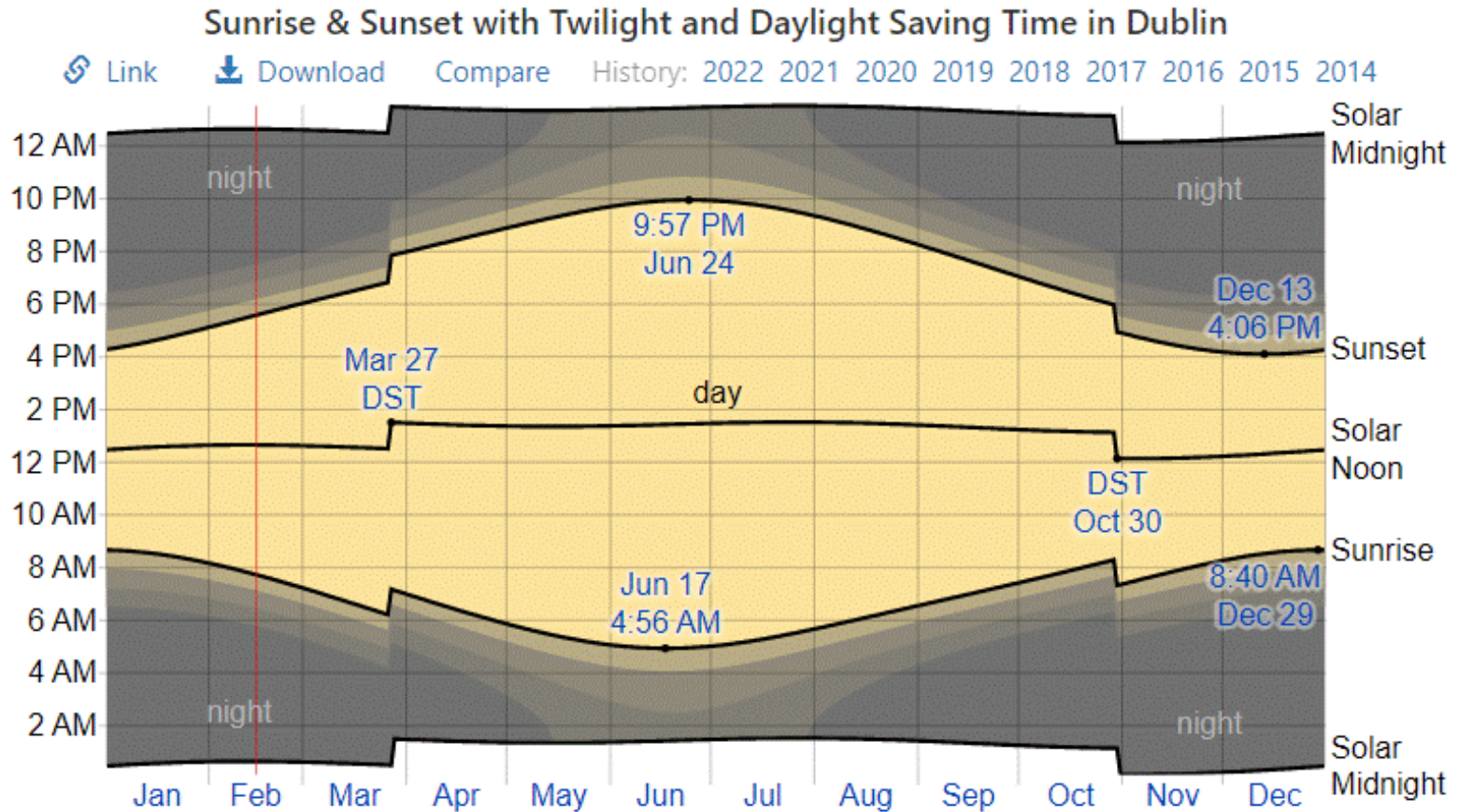
Warmer winters



The daily average high (red line) and low (blue line) temperature, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted lines are the corresponding average perceived temperatures.



# When to Go - Daylight



Compared to Ohio:

- Longer days in summers
- Shorter days in winters

# Travel Tips

## When to go to Ireland...

- Temperature is more mild than Cincinnati
- Days are shorter in winter
- From personal experience large crowds aren't a major problem There are a few exceptions at major attractions
  - Guinness Storehouse
  - Trinity College / Book of Kells
  - Kilmainham Gaol
  - Newgrange
  - Carrick-a-Rede Bridge

# Travel Tips

## Airports

- Dublin
- Shannon
- Belfast
  - Need to connect through another UK airport



# Travel Tips

## Lodging

- Hotels
- B and B
  - [bandbireland.com](http://bandbireland.com)
  - [bedandbreakfast.com](http://bedandbreakfast.com)
  - [ireland-bnb.com](http://ireland-bnb.com)
- airbnb
  - [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

# Travel Tips

## Money

- ROI uses Euros
- Northern Ireland uses British Pound Sterling
- Credit Cards / ATM cards
  - Tell credit card company about travel plans
  - Ask about fees
- Carry some cash. Smaller vendors may not accept credit cards
- Keep money secure
  - pickpockets don't appear to be a big problem but you never know

# Travel Tips

## Transportation – How to get around Ireland

- Organized Tours
  - More expensive
  - You have less control
  - Easy
- Public Transportation
  - Buses and trains go about everywhere
  - Takes some planning effort
  - Can be slow
- Rental car
  - Gives lots of freedom
  - Requires you to drive...on the left

# Travel Tips

## Driving

- Drive on left side of road
  - Can get used to fairly quickly
  - Freeway is a good place to start
- Remember to watch for cars on right hand turns
- Be aware of the left side of car
  - Roads are narrow
  - Cars frequently park overlapping the road
  - Hedges on side of roads often have stone wall behind
- Lots of roundabouts – get used to them
- Have a navigator to allow driver to concentrate on driving
- Google Maps works well for Navigation
  - download maps when on Wi-Fi so you don't need cell data

# Travel Tips

## Car Rentals

- Most American rental companies are in Ireland. Also Eurocar and other local companies
- Research car options on-line. Can save bad decisions at counter.
- Unfortunately on-line prices often don't give complete information about extras like insurance
- Manual transmission is a lot cheaper than automatic but shifting is a distraction
  - shift with left hand
- Most credit cards do not provide Insurance coverage in Ireland
- Read fine print of insurance.
  - E.g. Make sure mirrors and wheels are included
- Liability insurance is automatically included in Europe
- Pack light – trunks are small
- Avoid hatchback if you can for better security



# Travel Tips

## Cell Phones

- Cell phone can be used for a lot of things beyond making calls
  - Text messages
  - Use the web to research sight, activities, restaurants, etc
  - Navigate using maps
  - Find buses to take to sights in cities
  - Misc apps: travel, calculator, etc
- Four approaches to using a cell phone in another country
  - Just use your phone like normal - Easy but can be expensive
  - Use your carrier's international plan – A pretty good trade off but takes a little research
  - Just use wi-fi – Free and easy but need access to wi-fi
  - Get a SIM card – Cheap but requires more work

# Travel Tips

## Miscellaneous

- Don't leave your passport in your car
- Take electric converter/adaptor
- Take a hooded rain jacket instead of an umbrella
- Tips are typically smaller in Ireland
- Look into an Ireland Heritage card
  - includes admission to a lot of popular sights in Ireland
    - <https://heritageireland.ie/visit/heritage-card/>
    - Purchase at the first place you visit
  - Dublin Visitor Leap Card for Dublin Buses
    - Ride buses for 1, 3 or 7 days including bus from/to airport
    - <https://about.leapcard.ie/leap-visitor-card>



# Sláinte!



# How to download presentation

<https://www.uc.edu/about/continuing-ed/olli/resources.html>

The screenshot shows the University of Cincinnati OLLI website. The top navigation bar is red with the UC Cincinnati logo and the text "OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL & CONTINUING EDUCATION". Below this is a search bar and a list of links: Contact Us, OLLI, Community at UC, Test Prep, Continuing Education for Teachers, Professional Development, IMAP - Microcredentials, EMS Academy, CTAP - Talent Acceleration. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home > About UC > Office of Professional and Continuing Education > OLLI > Member Resources. On the left, a vertical menu lists: About OLLI, Classes & Registration, Member Resources (highlighted with a red bar and a checkmark), Member Handbook, Class Handouts, Teach for OLLI, and Support. A blue arrow points from the URL above to the top navigation bar, and another blue arrow points from the "Class Handouts" link in the left menu to the "Class Handouts" link in the main content area. The main content area has a sub-menu for "Member Resources" with options: About OLLI, Classes & Registration, Member Resources (selected), Member Handbook, Class Handouts, Teach for OLLI, and Support. Below this is a "Member Resources" section with a photo of hands holding materials and four red buttons: WINTER 2022 CATALOG, WINTER 2022 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE, ONE-WEEK CLASS SURVEY, and MULTI-WEEK CLASS SURVEY.

Contact me if you have problems  
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