

TRAVEL SNAPSHOTS



The Cliffs of Moher.

# IRELAND

With its rugged, windswept landscapes, **historic castles** and rich lore, the **Emerald Isle** is a **fairy-tale destination**. A honeymoon in **Ireland** promises an unforgettable getaway filled with long, romantic hikes along the **dramatic coastline**, hours spent exploring ancient sites and plenty of time snuggled up with a pint, listening to **traditional music** in a cozy pub. —Karen Gardiner



The Wild Atlantic Way.

## HIGH LIFE

The world's longest defined coastal touring route, the Wild Atlantic Way covers 1,500 miles of winding road, hugging the dramatic ocean's edge around hairpin turns and past sheer cliffs. Drive from Donegal County in the north to County Cork in the south through a landscape that has inspired poets (it passes through Yeats Country) and musicians (check out the traditional scene in Dingle, County Kerry). There are 157 designated "discovery points" along the route, which include the precipitous Cliffs of Moher and the Skellig Islands, just offshore.



Dromoland Castle.



Repose in Dromoland Castle.

## BE ROYALS

Channel the aristocracy of another time with a stay at **Dromoland Castle** in County Clare. The ancestral home of the O'Briens of Dromoland, Kings of Thomond, the turreted stone expanse dates to the 16th century. Today it houses 99 stately and spacious guest rooms and suites furnished

with four-poster beds and elegant chandeliers. Locally sourced seafood is served at the fine-dining Earl of Thomond restaurant. The activity menu features golfing, trail rides and falconry on the estate's 450 green acres, as well as a pampering spa and outdoor hydro pool (room rates start at \$280 a night; dromoland.ie).

**FUN FACT** It's no secret locals and visitors enjoy a good *craic* (music, gossip and fun) of a visit to the local pub. In fact there are more than 7,000 pubs in the Republic—that's around one to 570 people.

## Dig In

Perched on the dramatic Hook peninsula in County Wexford, the intimate Dunbrody House occupies a Georgian manor with original 1830s features including Irish oak floors and crackling peat fires. The hotel is noted for its multiple awards-winning restaurant and cooking school, overseen by celebrity chef Kevin Dundon. Fresh, seasonal produce, much of which is sourced from the surrounding gardens, is the focus at The Harvest Room restaurant. The eatery showcases an eight-course tasting menu with wine pairings. Or choose to dine at the chic Seafood and Champagne Bar or in the relaxed atmosphere of the cozy pub.



Kilkenny Castle.

## Arts and Crafts

About halfway between Dublin and Cork, the medieval city of Kilkenny is home to Kilkenny Design Centre, one of Ireland's best shopping experiences. Housed in the former stables of the 12th-century Kilkenny Castle, the cool center is known for championing young Irish artisans. There's an excellent selection of modern takes on ancient designs as well as more traditional offerings—soft wool scarves and throws, handcrafted pottery and exquisite jewelry.

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