

Contents

List of Maps

viii

What's New in Ireland

1

1	The Best of Ireland	4
1	The Best Picture-Postcard Towns	4
2	The Best Natural Wonders	5
3	The Best Castles	8
4	The Best of Ancient Ireland	9
5	Remnants of the Golden Age: The Best Early Christian Ruins	10
6	The Best Literary Spots	11
7	The Best Gardens	12
8	The Best Family Activities	12
9	The Best Active Vacations	13
10	The Best Luxury Accommodations	13
11	The Best Moderately Priced Accommodations	14
12	The Best Restaurants	16
13	The Best Pubs	16
14	The Best Websites	17
2	Planning Your Trip to Ireland	19
1	The Regions in Brief	19
2	Visitor Information	21
3	Entry Requirements & Customs	22
4	Money	24
	<i>What Things Cost in Ireland</i>	25
5	When to Go	26
	<i>Ireland Calendar of Events</i>	27
6	Travel Insurance	32
7	Health & Safety	33
8	Specialized Travel Resources	36
9	Planning Your Trip Online	40
	<i>Frommers.com: The Complete Travel Resource</i>	41
10	The 21st-Century Traveler	42
	<i>Online Traveler's Toolbox</i>	43
11	Getting There	43
	<i>Getting through the Airport</i>	45
	<i>Coping with Jet Lag</i>	47
	<i>Flying with Film & Video</i>	48
12	Packages for the Independent Traveler	49
	<i>Ask Before You Go</i>	50
13	Escorted General-Interest Tours	50
14	Special-Interest Trips	50
15	Getting Around Ireland	51
	<i>Money-Saving Rail & Bus Passes</i>	54
	<i>Road Rules in a Nutshell</i>	56
16	Tips on Accommodations	58
17	Tips on Dining	63
	<i>Tips for Digital Travel Photography</i>	65
18	Recommended Books, Films & Music	66
	<i>Fast Facts: Ireland</i>	67

3 Suggested Ireland Itineraries 73

1 The Best of Ireland in 1 Week74	4 Discovering the North80
2 The Best of Ireland in 2 Weeks76	5 The Best Dublin Pub-Crawl82
3 The Best of Ireland for Families78	

4 Ireland Outdoors 84

1 Bicycling84	6 Fishing92
2 Walking86	7 Kayaking93
<i>Ireland's National Parks</i>87	8 Sailing93
3 Bird-Watching89	<i>A Bit of Adventure</i>94
4 Golf90	9 Diving95
5 Horseback Riding91	10 Windsurfing95

5 Dublin 97

1 Orientation97	<i>Hard to Love: Jonathan Swift</i>141
<i>Dublin Neighborhoods in Brief</i>102	<i>Monumental Humor</i>143
2 Getting Around103	<i>Family Favorites</i>150
<i>Fast Facts: Dublin</i>107	6 The Great Outdoors155
3 Where to Stay109	7 Spectator Sports157
4 Where to Dine123	8 Shopping158
<i>How to Eat like an Irishman</i>130	<i>Going to Market</i>162
5 Seeing the Sights133	9 Dublin After Dark163
<i>Should You Purchase a</i>	<i>Listen to the Music</i>165
<i>Dublin Pass?</i>136	<i>Staying Up Late</i>166
<i>The Tortured Tale of the</i>	<i>Smaller Concert Venues</i>171
<i>Hugh Lane Gallery</i>139	10 Side Trips from Dublin171

6 Out from Dublin 179

1 County Wicklow & County Carlow179	<i>St. Brigid: Early Feminist</i>198
<i>Russborough House:</i>	3 Counties Meath & Louth/
<i>A Life of Crime</i>185	The Boyne River Valley201
2 County Kildare: Ireland's Horse Country195	<i>Threatening Tara</i>203
	<i>High Crosses</i>209

7	The Southeast	212
1	County Wexford	212
	<i>A Trip through History: Exploring the Ring of Hook</i>	219
	<i>The Rising (and Falling) of Vinegar Hill</i>	222
2	County Waterford	229
3	South Tipperary	240
4	County Kilkenny	249
8	Cork City	263
1	Orientation	264
2	Getting Around	266
3	Where to Stay	267
	<i>Fast Facts: Cork City</i>	267
4	Where to Dine	270
5	Attractions	272
	<i>The Gift of Gab (Or Is It Just Blarney?)</i>	274
6	Spectator Sports & Outdoor Pursuits	275
7	Shopping	276
8	Cork After Dark	277
	<i>Brewing Up Loyalty</i>	277
9	Out from Cork	280
1	Kinsale & South Cork	280
2	East Cork	288
3	West Cork	292
	<i>Who Was Michael Collins?</i>	294
	<i>Southern Exposure: An Excursion to Cape Clear Island</i>	300
10	County Kerry	308
1	The Iveragh Peninsula	308
	<i>The Skellig Islands</i>	313
2	Killarney	318
	<i>MacGillycuddy's Reeks</i>	325
3	The Dingle Peninsula	331
	<i>You Say "Dingle," I Say "An Daingean"</i>	332
	<i>Up Close with Fungie</i>	337
4	Tralee	341
	<i>Rose of Tralee</i>	343
11	Counties Limerick & Clare	348
1	Limerick City & Environs	348
	<i>There Once Was a Poet from Limerick</i>	351
2	County Clare	360
	<i>The Lough Derg Drive</i>	366
	<i>Falling in Love with Love in Lisdoonvarna</i>	378
	<i>Irish Spelunking</i>	381

12 Galway City	385
<i>Souvenir Stories: The Claddagh Ring</i>	386
1 Orientation	386
2 Where to Stay	389
3 Where to Dine	392
4 Attractions	394
5 Spectator Sports & Outdoor Pursuits	395
6 Shopping	396
7 Galway City After Dark	398
8 Side Trips from Galway City	399
13 Out from Galway	404
1 The Galway Bay Coast	404
2 Connemara	408
<i>An Excursion to Inishbofin</i>	411
<i>Lough Inagh & the Walk to Maum Ean Oratory</i>	414
3 Eastern Galway, Westmeath & Offaly	419
14 Mayo, Sligo & the North Shannon Valley	427
1 County Mayo	427
<i>A Trip to Clare Island</i>	432
<i>Local Hero: Pirate Grace O'Malley</i>	434
2 Sligo & Yeats Country	438
3 The North Shannon Valley: Roscommon, Leitrim & Cavan	449
15 County Donegal	456
1 Donegal Town	456
2 The Donegal Bay Coast	462
3 The Atlantic Highlands	470
4 The Inishowen Peninsula	477
16 Northern Ireland	483
1 Northern Ireland Essentials	487
<i>Fast Facts: Northern Ireland</i>	489
2 Belfast	490
<i>Choosing Sides</i>	495
3 Side Trips from Belfast	510
4 The Causeway Coast & the Glens of Antrim	519
<i>Going to the Birds: A Trip to Rathlin Island</i>	522
5 The Mourne Mountains	527
6 Derry City	533
<i>The Apprentice Boys</i>	536
<i>Climbing the Walls</i>	539
7 The Sperrin Mountains	548
8 The Fermanagh Lakelands	552

Appendix: Ireland in Depth 560

1 History 101	560	<i>"An Bhfuil Gaeilge Agat?"</i>	
<i>Dateline</i>	561	<i>("Do You Speak Irish?")</i>	570
2 Ireland Today	573		

Index 576

General Index	576	Restaurant Index	593
Accommodations Index	590	Pub Index	595

List of Maps

Ireland	6	Cork City	265
Irish Rail Routes	53	County Cork	281
Major Irish Bus Routes	55	County Kerry	309
The Best of Ireland Itineraries	75	Killarney	319
The Best of Ireland for Families	79	Limerick City	349
Discovering the North	81	County Clare	361
Dublin Pub-Crawl	83	Lower Shannon River Valley	367
Dublin Orientation	98	Galway City	387
Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) Routes	105	Counties Galway, Westmeath & Offaly	405
Where to Stay in Dublin	110	County Mayo	429
Where to Stay in Ballsbridge & the Southern Suburbs	121	County Sligo	439
Where to Dine in Dublin	124	Sligo Town	441
Dublin Attractions	134	Upper Shannon River Valley	451
Side Trips from Dublin	173	Donegal Town	457
The East Coast	181	County Donegal	463
The Southeast	214	Northern Ireland	484
Wexford Town	217	Belfast Attractions	491
Waterford City	231	Where to Stay & Dine in Belfast	501
Kilkenny City	251	Derry City	535