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
• Beautiful scenery
• History at every turn
• Great people
• They speak English
• Travel is easy
• Nice size
Overview of Ireland - Geography
Overview of Ireland - Geography

Ireland vs Ohio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ireland (ROI + NI)</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>32,595 sq mi</td>
<td>44,825 sq mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>4.89 Million</td>
<td>11.72 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.9 M in Dublin)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Overview of Ireland - Temperature

Compared to Ohio:

- Cooler summers
- Warmer winters
Overview of Ireland - History

• First evidence of humans dates to about 12,500 years ago
• Christianity arrived in 4th century
  – St Patrick arrived sometime in the early 4th century
  – Monks left Europe to escape barbarians and found solitude in Ireland
  – Monks built round towers 800 to 1200 BCE
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
  – 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 ROI 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 is a major sticking point for Brexit agreement

• Take Phil Thompson’s Olli class for more detail on Irish history
Agenda

• Overview of Ireland
• Sights
• Travel Tips
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. Bunratty Castle & Folk Park
17. Kilkenny
18. Derry
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

Easter Rising Exhibit in Post Office

Kilmainham Gaol
Ireland Sights

1 - Dublin

National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology

Dublin Castle
Ireland Sights

1 - Dublin

Christ Church Cathedral

St. Patrick’s Cathedral
Ireland Sights

2 - Cliffs of Mohr

- Spectacular cliffs
- 600 feet high
- More than 30 species of birds
- Often foggy
Ireland Sights

3 - Giant’s Causeway

- Thousands of hexagonal columns of rock
- Unesco World Heritage site
Ireland Sights

4 - New Grange

- Ancient passage tomb
- 5200 years old – similar to 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 5th century
- Very scenic valley
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
- 13th century Gothic cathedral
- Finest 12th 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
- Drive clockwise
- 111 miles long
- Take your time and make stops
Ireland Sights

8 - Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone

- Impressive 16th century tower
- Climb 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 BC
  - 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
- Poulnabrone Portal Tomb
  - Constructed 3000 – 4000 BCE
Ireland Sights

12 - Belfast

- Titanic Museum
- City Hall
- Black cab tour
Ireland Sights

12 - Belfast

- Game of Thrones
Ireland Sights

13 – Dingle town / Dingle Peninsula

- Another scenic peninsula in county Kerry
- Alternative to Ring of Kerry
- Dingle town is a quaint little fishing town with a lot of pub 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 – Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

- Good Castle
- Dates to early 1400’s
- Restored and loaded with period furniture, tapestries, paintings, etc
- Park exhibits old time Irish village
Ireland Sights

16 - Kinsale

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

17 - Kilkenny

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

18 – Derry

• Northern Ireland’s 2nd largest city
• Also called Londonderry
• Totally enclosed by 17th century wall
• Major site of unrest during “troubles”
• Site “Bloody Sunday” in 1972
Ireland Sights

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Agenda

• Overview of Ireland
• Sights
• Travel Tips
Travel Tips

Airports

• Dublin
• Shannon
• Belfast
  – Need to connect through another UK airport
Travel Tips

Lodging

• Hotels
• B and B
  – bandbireland.com
  – bedandbreakfast.com
  – ireland-bnb.com
• airbnb
  – www.airbnb.com
Travel Tips

Money

• ROI uses Euros
• Northern Ireland uses British Pound Sterling
• Credit Cards
  – Tell credit card company about travel plans
  – Ask about fees
• Carry some cash. Smaller vendors may not accept credit cards
• Cash/ATM cards
  – Tell bank about travel plans
  – Ask about fees
• 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
  – Cheaper than organized tours
  – Can take a lot of 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
• Have a navigator to allow driver to concentrate on driving
• Lots of roundabouts – get used to them
• Google Maps works well for Navigation
  – download maps when on Wi-Fi so you don't need cell data
  – on iPhone:
    • Google Maps / menu / "Offline Maps" / "Custom Map"
    • Select area
    • "Download"
Travel Tips - Car Rental

- 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 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

• Three approaches
  – Just use wi-fi – Free and easy but need access to wi-fi
  – Get a SIM card – Cheap but requires more work
  – Use US carrier for cell service – Easy but can be expensive

• Techniques presented here are based on iPhone and Verizon but other cell phones should be similar
Travel Tips – Cell Phones

Option 1 – Wi-fi only - cellular data turned off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get directions while driving</td>
<td>Google maps, Maps.me</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Don’t need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Download maps ahead of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf the web</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use most apps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find public transportation – Dublin buses</td>
<td>Google maps</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan route when on wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text messages between iPhones</td>
<td>iPhone to iPhone</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Only for iPhones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text messages in general</td>
<td>Facebook, Google Hangouts, What’s App</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
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Travel Tips – Cell Phones

Option 1 – Wi-fi only - cellular data turned off

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<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone call - Audio and video</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Google Hangouts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What's App</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone call (dial a phone no)</td>
<td>Skype</td>
<td>Almost Free</td>
<td>Need wi-fi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Travel Tips – Cell Phones

### Option 2 – Use Irish SIM card – cell data turned on

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Do everything in option 1 but don’t need wi-fi | Get a SIM card in Ireland. | ~$10 to $30 | Use phone w/o wi-fi  
Use local cell towers  
Do research for best results.  
Save original SIM card  
Need separate card or ROI and NI  
Will have Ireland phone no.  
Only for calls/text to Ireland |
Travel Tips – Cell Phones

Option 3 - Use home carrier – cell data turned on

Without an International package (Verizon)
  – Talk     $1.79/min
  – Text     $0.25 sent
              $0.25 received
  – Data     $2.05/MB

With an International package (Verizon)
  – TravelPass
    • Use Data, Text, Minutes from US plan internationally
    • $10/day/phone
Travel Tips – Cell Phones

Cell Phone Settings - iPhone

Option 1 - use wi-fi but not cellular service
  – Leave the phone in Airplane mode (very important)
  – Turn wi-fi on
  – Don’t turn Airplane mode off or phone will use data downloading email, text images, data for apps, etc

Option 2 - use cell service with Irish SIM card
  – Turn off Airplane mode after inserting new SIM card

Option 3 - use home carrier
  – Turn off Airplane mode when you want to start using phone
Travel Tips – Miscellaneous

- Don’t leave your passport in your car
- Take electric converter/adapter
- Ditch the umbrella for a hooded rain jacket.
- Tips are typically smaller in Ireland
- Look into an Ireland Heritage card
  - includes admission to a lot of popular sights in Ireland
- 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
How to download presentation

www.uc.edu/ce/olli

Contact me if you have problems
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