

Ireland Golf Adventure Guide

The essential planning resource for great Irish golf trips.



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Introduction

Planning my first golf trip to Ireland was time consuming and difficult. The tourist board information, travel guides, books about golf in Ireland,

and countless possibilities for making smart choices among 400 golf courses to make a list

I started by finding accommodation choices. You won't find them here, just the ones that you could add tools and policies, could help you create

Compact, concise guide well. It's a flowery prose

The result is a guide specifically for golfers that delivers the essential information and tools for planning great golf trips to Ireland. The way I've done it is non-traditional, but I think it's incredibly effective.

No Ads. No placement fees or advertisements. Golf courses, hotels, airlines, car rental firms, and tour operators can't buy their way into my guide. I provide an unbiased, independent view of the travel-planning experience and my only objective is to make it easier and more enjoyable for you.

This guide is not free. See the [Paying for This Guide section on page 34](#) for details.

Using This Guide (PDF Version)

This guide is designed to be printed on letter- or A4-size paper, but you can also view it directly in Adobe Reader as well. It's your choice.

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Print button
 printer, page
 tions, and
 "Shrink

to use the
 example,
 will take you

Clicking on a
 web browser;
 a new
 "W" will

appear in the cursor, indicating it's a web link. If you have the full Adobe Acrobat software (not Adobe Reader), you may see a "+" in the cursor. If so, change your Web Capture Preference to open web links in your browser, not Adobe Acrobat.

Course Cards & Calendar

The Course Cards and Calendar are separate PDF files. When printing these documents I recommend you disable (uncheck) the "Shrink oversized pages to paper size" option.

Clear Plastic Envelope

Buy an expanding, clear plastic envelope to hold the printouts of this guide and calendar pages. During your trip it makes a great place to file away score cards, brochures, receipts, etc. gathered during your trip.

Ireland Tourist Boards

Tourism Ireland is the official tourism marketing body for the island of Ireland, representing the Irish Tourist Board (Bord Fáilte) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Their tourist information web site is:

www.discoverireland.com

They operate tourism marketing offices throughout the world. Call them and they will gladly send you a **Golf In Ireland** information pack with a detailed magazine, brochures, and accommodation listings.

Some of their local office phone numbers are:

US/Canada	800 SHAMROCK
UK	0800 313 4000
France	01 70 20 00 20
Germany	069 668 00950
Sweden	02 0015 9101

Their web site's Contacts page has a complete list of worldwide offices and phone numbers.

Other Official Tourist Board Web Sites

www.discoverireland.ie
www.discoverireland.com/golf
www.discovernorthernireland.com

A Word of Caution

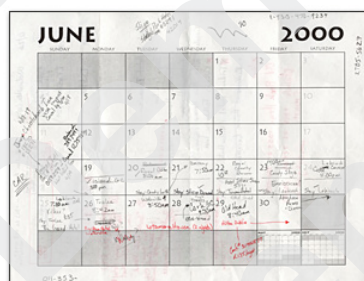
The volume of information from the tourist boards can be overwhelming. They promote every golf course, hotel, tour operator, and travel-related establishment in all of Ireland. Their material and listings are supported by advertisements. Use them wisely to supplement and reinforce the carefully edited information found in this guide.

The Big Picture

Make your plans and reservations as early as possible. I recommend going through the planning and reservation process in these steps.

1. Rough itinerary

Your first step in the planning process is to create a rough itinerary with proposed arrival and departure dates. It may seem rather obvious, but before you make any other plans you've got to have a good idea when you plan to arrive (and into which city), the length of your trip, which courses you want to try to get on, and the date and city of departure.



Use the **When to Go** and **Temperature & Rainfall Statistics** sections to select an approximate time of year for your trip. Go through the **Building a Rough Itinerary** process to get more specific about which courses you'll play. Read through the **Sample Itineraries**, **Driving Times & Distances**, **Golf Courses**, and **Accommodations** sections as you craft your itinerary.

At the end of this step, you should have your calendar page(s) filled in with all of the courses you intend to play (on specific days) and have decided upon your arrival and departure dates and cities.

2. Travel reservations

Why make travel reservations so early in the process? Well, if you're not actually in Ireland you can't play golf in Ireland. If you're travelling by air your first priority is to get your flight booked.

Use this guide and connect both you and your trip to the planned. You'll find "Baggage Service" and "Travel Insurance" sections.

Take the arrival step one and make your travel reservations using a travel agent, online service, or the airlines directly. Use the **Getting to Ireland** section for airline and ferry service details.

Booking early will help you get a better fare and the exact flights you want. Don't make tee times or hotel reservations until you've got your travel plans set.

3. Tee times

Now that you know exactly when you'll be in Ireland, it's time to finalize the golf itinerary and make the tee times. This is the ultimate objective of the trip.

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Especially those in Ireland, are inherently low tech. Online tee-time reservation requests are likely to go into a black hole. By calling the course directly, scheduling conflicts can be resolved and tee-time decisions can be made immediately.

Start with the most important (to you) courses on your itinerary. Work your way through the list until you've secured all of your tee times, adjusting the itinerary along the way as needed.

Ask if a fax confirmation is needed and be sure to understand their deposit requirements. I recommend taking care of all deposits with your credit card which you can easily provide along with your fax confirmation.

4. Accommodations

Book accommodations after you've made the tee times. Until you have your tee times set, you really don't know where you'll be and need to stay.



Thankfully, there are many options to choose from and in all price ranges. Depending on your travel style and how many "base camps" you use, you may have relatively few reservations to make. Use the **Driving Times & Distances**, **Choosing Where to Stay**, and **Accommodations** sections to help you decide.

5. Rental car

You could certainly book a rental car along with the other travel reservations, but I've placed it at the end to emphasize that it's the least critical step in the process. Just don't forget it. Also, if you're coming into Ireland from the U.K. on a ferry you may not even need a rental.



Use the **Renting a Car** and **Rental Car Price Worksheet** sections to understand and simplify this process.

Tools for Planning Your Trip

Get a copy of the recommended map and books as soon as possible. They're helpful to have during the planning process and the map is essential to have on-hand during your trip.

This Guide

You obviously have a copy of this already. Good job! The **Ireland Golf Adventure Guide** will be your primary resource as you plan your trip.



As you build your itinerary you've got important decisions to make like selecting golf courses, how far to drive each day, where you'll stay, etc. This guide will help you get 95% of the way, but information is power and I want you to have three more tools on hand.

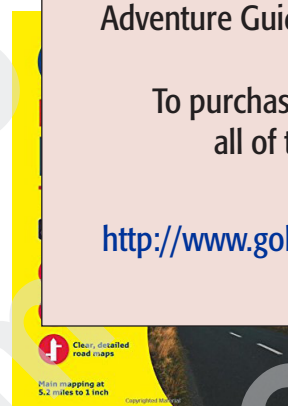
I strongly recommend you get

- a really good map,
- a book on golf courses in Ireland, and
- a travel guide

in that order of importance. If you only purchase one more item, make sure it's the map.

A Good Map

The best map to get is the **Collins Road Atlas Ireland: Touring Edition**. This road atlas contains detailed road maps of the whole of Ireland. In addition it also includes a distance chart, a list of towns and villages, and a list of golf courses. You will find it very useful as you plan your trip through Ireland.



ISBN 978-0007541294

You may not find this map in your local book or travel store. Save yourself the trouble of driving all around town and purchase it online from:

- Amazon (www.amazon.com)

Tip! – Enter the map's ISBN number in the web site's Search box; it's more accurate and quicker than entering the title. This works with the books too, by the way.

Another Good Book

The golf course entries in this guide are purposely brief. While they certainly contain enough information to build an itinerary and make tee times, I find myself referring back to them often. I find myself referring back to them often.

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Armstrong's book provides in-depth and enjoyable descriptions of the top courses in Ireland. If you're going to buy just one more book about golf in Ireland (other than this guide), this is the one to get.

Other books worth considering:

Trolleys and Squibs:

A Golfer's Guide to Irish Links

Lousie and Rick Miracle (ISBN 0764913360)

Emerald Fairways and Foam-Flecked Seas:

A Golfer's Pilgrimage to the Courses of Ireland

James W. Finegan (ISBN 0684818469)

Emerald Greens:

The Essential Guide to Holiday Golf in Ireland

Roisin McAuley (ISBN 1566563801)

A Travel Guide

I think the **Ireland Eyewitness Travel Guide** is one of the best travel guides and will enhance your trip and planning process. It has great information for what to do when you're not playing golf as well as good, solid tips for travelling around Ireland.



ISBN 978-1465400567

You'll more than likely find the Ireland golf and travel guide books in your local bookstore. You can also purchase them online from:

- Amazon (www.amazon.com)
- Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com)
- Powell's Books (www.powells.com)

Other travel guides worth considering:

Fodor's Ireland 2016

Fodors (ISBN 978-1101878446)

Footprint Ireland

Pat Levy & Seán Sheehan (ISBN 1904777368)

AAA Spiral Guide Ireland

Christopher Somerville (ISBN 1595084290)

When to Go

Anytime is a good time to go golfing in Ireland. Right? Well, not exactly. Given the choice, most tourists prefer playing in warmer and drier conditions. Here's how to maximize your chances of doing so.

While most Irish locals golf year round, November through March is not recommended for the visiting golfer. During this time, the days are shorter (no daylight savings time), colder, and wetter. Not exactly what we're looking for in a holiday golf experience. Unless you're in Ireland anyway, on a business trip or visiting relatives, avoid these months.

May through September is most popular for golf in Ireland, when the weather is generally warmer and drier. According to the Irish Tourist Board, 77% of all holiday golfers arrive during these months. Consider visiting in April and October for more travel flexibility and fewer crowds, and you end up with a practical golf season of April through October.

You may have other travel constraints, but if your schedule is flexible, use the weather and crowd rankings below to help fine tune a time that works for you.

Temperature

Ireland has a mild climate compared to other countries at a similar latitude, thanks to the temperate effects of the Atlantic. While the winters never get that cold, it doesn't get very warm in the summer, either. Perfect golfing weather I say! Here's how the golfing months rank, from warmest to coolest:

- August (warmer)
- July
- June
- September
- May
- October
- April (cooler)

Rainfall

Yes, it rains in Ireland, but perhaps not as much as you might think. And unless a course is under water, which is highly unlikely given the well-draining links courses in Ireland, rain probably won't stop you from playing. On a windy day, I can't even imagine enjoying the "full-on" great stories.

Still, no one wants what you need to maximize your chances of the golfing months.

- April (drier)
- July
- June
- May
- August
- September
- October (cooler)

Wind

The wind in Ireland is relatively constant across the golfing months of April to October. There's just no escaping it. And for many courses, it is their primary means of defense.

Rather than trying to avoid it, which you can't anyway, you're better off learning how to play a solid knockdown shot and brushing up on your bump-and-run game. You'll need it.

Overall Golf-Weather Ranking

Using the temperature and rainfall rankings, here's an overall golf-weather ranking for Ireland. From the best golfing weather to the least best (I don't want to say "worst"):

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Daylight Hours

Should you desire, two rounds in a day is no problem from April to October when daylight savings time is in effect. See the calendar PDF that accompanies this guide for sunset times.

Club Closures

Most golf clubs are open to visitors year round. But, not all. Tralee isn't open for visitor play until the beginning of May and Old Head is typically closed for maintenance between mid-November and mid-April. So if you're looking to play those courses during an early April trip, you need to rethink your plans.

Prices

If you're looking to economize, prices for airfare, hotels, and rental cars are typically at their peak June/July/August and are often cheaper in the shoulder months of April/May and September/October.

As an example, round-trip airfare on Aer Lingus from JFK to Shannon (with early booking, flying on Tuesday, at least one Saturday stayover) is \$US 860 in April/May, \$US 960 in June/July/August, and \$US 860 in September/October.

From April to October, green fee rates are, for the most part, unchanged throughout Ireland. You need to get out there and give it a lashin' in January if you want to get a price break!

courses:

- October (fewer golfers)
- April ¹
- May
- September ²
- June ³
- August ⁴
- July ³ (more golfers)

¹ Month with fewest American golfers

² Month with most American golfers

³ Months with most Mainland European golfers

⁴ Month with most British golfers

Temperature & Rainfall Statistics

These charts show Ireland's historical temperature and rainfall data as measured over a 30-year period by the Irish Meteorological Service.

Ireland's Climate

For the more visually inclined, these charts back up the weather information and conclusions made on the previous page.

Fahrenheit & Celsius Comparison

Forget those wacky formulas! For our North American friends, here's a more practical chart which relates the temperatures in °F and °C to what you might actually need to wear on the golf course.

Mean Daily Maximum/Minimum Temperatures

The data shown represents the temperature ranges as measured at four locations across Ireland: Dublin Airport (East), Valentia (Southwest), Belmullet (West) and Malin Head (North). The mean daily minimum temperatures are those you'll likely encounter if you have an early start to your round of golf.

Mean Monthly Rainfall

The data shown represents the mean monthly rainfall as measured at Dublin Airport (East) and Valentia (Southwest). For each month, the bottom line is from the east coast (Dublin) and the top line is from the wetter southwest coast (Valentia) of Ireland.

Additional Resources

The Irish Meteorological Service (Met Éireann) has excellent historical climate information, current weather reports, and weather forecasts available on their web site (www.met.ie).

Fahrenheit/Celsius Comparison

Not Very Likely!

75° F

24° C

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Winter Hats & Gloves

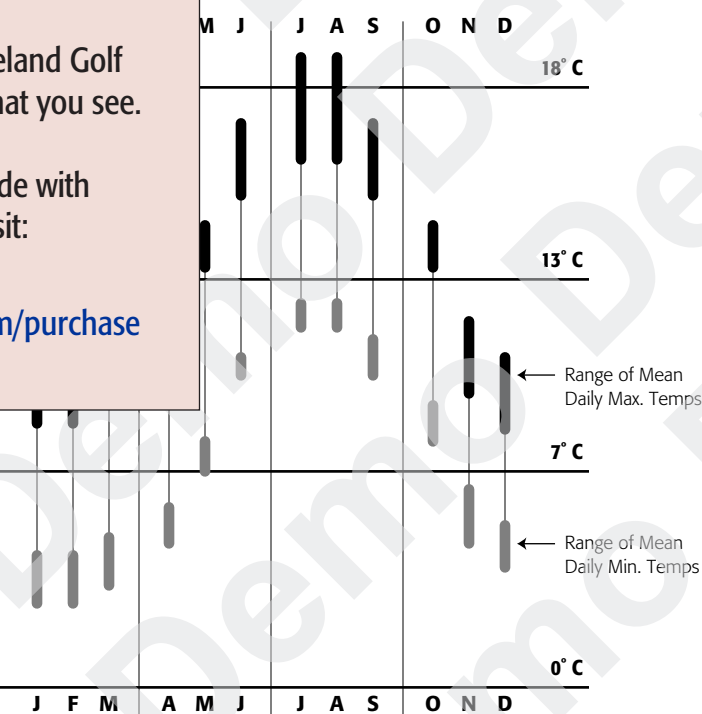
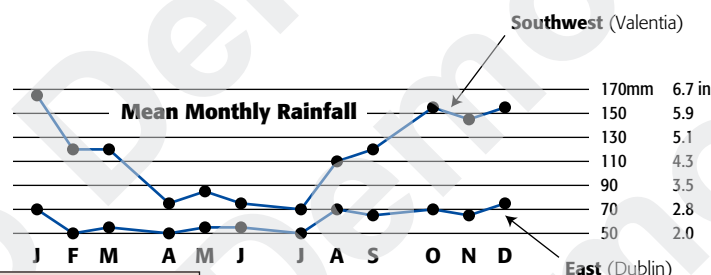
45° F

7° C

You're Crazy!

32° F

0° C



Mean Daily Maximum/Minimum Temperatures

Building a Rough Itinerary

Make your picks and assemble them in an order that makes sense.

An itinerary is not just a list of courses to be played. You must assemble them in chronological order and in a sequence that works geographically. Course visitor policies and holidays influence which days of the week you can play a particular course. The sequence is influenced by the driving times and distances between the courses and towns in which you'll be staying.

Get Started By Building A List

Start out by writing down any "must play" courses. The source can be friends, magazine articles, books, the web, wherever. If you've read anything about golf in Ireland you probably have a few courses in mind that you want to play. Write them down. At this point, don't worry about geography or visitor policies — we're creating a wish list.

Now, do more general research and add to your list. Go over the sample itineraries and read the course descriptions in this guide. Rob Armstrong's book, *Golfing in Ireland*, has wonderful accounts of most courses in this guide. An excellent article you can find online is *The 18 Best Courses in Ireland*, from Golf Magazine (www.golf.com/special-features/18-best-courses-ireland).

Your wish list should be bulging by now. If you have a week or less, you shouldn't try to play courses at opposite ends of the island — like trying to squeeze in Old Head and Royal Portrush. It can be done, but why kill yourself? Concentrate on one or two regions and save the courses elsewhere for subsequent trips. You'll be back.

Armed with your wish list of courses, it's time to put them in order and build an itinerary that makes sense.

Arrange The Courses In Sequence

Use the course cards as an easy way to visually organize the itinerary. For each course on your wish list, get its card and put them all in a separate stack. If you've kept the cards in geographic order,

as you gather reasonable pieces on a large table, "Monday", etc. course cards the course's week under becomes clear forward or backward allow for visitor fit your trip

For example, play Tralee on Tuesday, your itinerary is Friday, by the time Pormamock works if you swap the days for Dingle/Tralee and Co. Sligo/Donnegal. Starting with Tralee on Tuesday puts you at Royal County Down on Saturday and they don't allow visitors that day.

I think you get the picture. And that's the point. Using the course cards greatly simplifies the process. If you're not familiar with driving times and distances, you should also have the golf course and driving time maps handy to make sure you can get from course to course or hotel to course each day.

Use a calendar to pull it all together. Print the calendar page(s) that cover the span of your trip. With your course cards still in place, write the course name on its appropriate calendar day. I recommend putting the course name at the top of

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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Tralee <small>Enniscrone, Cork, Ireland</small> Phone: +353 66 713 6079 Fax: +353 66 713 6088 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Fax Confirmation Required? Yes/No Conf. Fax Sent: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____	Dingle (Ceanntólaí) <small>Enniscrone, Cork, Ireland</small> Phone: +353 66 915 6255 Fax: +353 66 915 6409 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Fax Confirmation Required? Yes/No Conf. Fax Sent: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____
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County Sligo (Rosses Point) <small>Enniscrone, Sligo, Ireland</small> Phone: +353 71 917 7124 Fax: +353 71 917 7460 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Fax Confirmation Required? Yes/No Conf. Fax Sent: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____	Donnegal (Murlagh) <small>Enniscrone, Donegal, Ireland</small> Phone: +353 74 975 4054 Fax: +353 74 975 4077 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Fax Confirmation Required? Yes/No Conf. Fax Sent: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____
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time and city at

ndar, it's
ing and
to make

course. For example, let's say you've been staying in Lahinch and you want to move on to Sligo. Try playing Enniscrone along the way. After playing in the Lahinch area, stay there another night. Get an early start from Lahinch and drive to Enniscrone for a late-morning or early-afternoon tee time. After golf and a pint in the clubhouse (diet coke or coffee for the driver, of course), drive on to Sligo. You've done a bit more driving that day, but you've eliminated a one-night hotel stop.

When changing cities, drive to the new city *after* the day's golf. If possible, do a reconnaissance mission to the next day's course so you'll be able to find it easily the next morning. Note: A complete reconnaissance mission involves sampling pints of Guinness in the clubhouse bar to determine their freshness.

Finally, don't ever be late for a tee time. Try to avoid long, early-morning drives where you're rushing to make a tee time. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early and allow time to get caught in a tractor- or cow-jam along the way.

Itinerary Tips

Try to stay in the same place for the first 3 nights (minimum), preferably close to your arrival airport. It will give you a chance to recover from jet lag and ease into your vacation. If your baggage is lost, the airlines will be able to deliver it to you more easily than if you've already driven halfway across Ireland and are still on the move.

Try to stay at least two nights in each town. Keeping the number of hotel check-in and check-outs to a minimum helps keep everyone's stress level down.

If you have two courses far from each other, play a course in between to break up the long drive. But don't spend the night at the intermediate

The point of this guide is to give you the tools to come up with your own itineraries. However, it's often helpful to see a few examples.

Two-Week Grand Tour

Play	Stay
<i>Arrive Shannon</i>	
Castlegregory ¹	Tralee
Tralee	Tralee
Dingle	Tralee
Waterville	Tralee
Ballybunion Old ²	Lahinch
Lahinch	Lahinch
Doonbeg	Lahinch
Enniscrone	Sligo
County Sligo	Sligo
Donegal	Portrush
Royal Portrush	Portrush
Portstewart	Newcastle
Royal County Down	Newcastle
County Louth	Dublin
Portmarnock GC	Dublin
European Club	Dublin
<i>Depart Dublin</i>	

Best start day: Tralee GC on Friday.

¹ If you have the time and energy.

² Take the car ferry from Tarbert to Killimer to shorten the drive to Lahinch.

Around the Top

Play **Stay**

Arrive Dublin
Island 1

Portmarnock
County Lou
Royal Coun
Royal Portu
Portstewart
Castlerock 3
Ballyliffin G
Ballyliffin O
Donegal
County Slig
Enniscrone
Carnie

Depart Shannon

Free D

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To purchase a ver
all of the con

<http://www.golfadventure.com>

Best start day: Island GC on Friday or Saturday.

¹ Close to the airport.

² Consider staying at Baltray for one night and playing 36 holes. If you're on a budget, the B&B at the County Louth GC is a great deal.

³ Take the car ferry from Magilligan to Greencastle to shorten the drive to Ballyliffin.

⁴ Consider staying an extra day in Galway and playing Galway GC, an Alister MacKenzie design.

Fine Irish Mix

Play	Stay
Arrive Shannon	
Unlabeled	Don't know

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or Saturday.

¹ If you have the time and energy.

² Take the car ferry from Killimer to Tarbert to shorten the drive to Ballybunion.

³ Or any of the clubs in the Dublin area.

Northwest Adventure

Play	Stay
<i>Arrive ¹</i>	
<i>Dublin or Shannon</i>	Sligo
County Sligo	Sligo
Donegal	Ballyliffin
Ballyliffin Glashedy	
Ballyliffin Old	Ballyliffin
Portsalon	Rosapenna
Rosapenna Old	
Rosapenna New	Rosapenna
Cruit Island	Narin
Narin & Portnoo	Narin
Donegal	Sligo
County Sligo	Sligo
<i>Depart ²</i>	
<i>Dublin or Shannon</i>	

Best start day: County Sligo GC any day except Tuesday or Wednesday.

Sligo is a 3-hour drive from either Dublin or Shannon airports, so take your pick. Depending on which city you pick, you may want to add a course or two on to the beginning or end of the trip.

² If your departing flight is earlier in the day and you don't think you can make the drive the day of your flight, you should consider staying near the airport the night before. Ennis is close to Shannon.

Note how I play County Sligo and Donegal twice each. Many golfers tell me they wish they had done this more often on their trip. It's mentally tough to play new courses and new holes every day.

Driving Times & Distances

For itinerary planning and getting to the course on time, knowing the driving time is key. Times shown as hours:minutes. Distances are in miles.

Driving in Ireland

The roads are narrow and a bit bumpy in most parts of Ireland so you won't be able to cover as much ground as you're used to on the high-speed freeways and autobahns of the U.K., U.S., and mainland Europe. Please plan accordingly.

Driving Times

The driving times shown are based on normal driving conditions. You'll average 40-45 miles-per-hour on most Irish roads, considering the topography, towns, roundabouts, narrow roads, and getting stuck behind an occasional tractor or even a herd of cows. **Give yourself plenty of time!**

Miles, Kilometers or Minutes?

You'll find road signs in kilometers (the new ones) and miles (the older ones). The map I recommend uses miles. Use the distance conversion chart on the right to convert as needed. However, the exact distance is not nearly as important as the time it will take to make the drive.

Driving Tips

If you're not used to driving on the left-side of the road, repeat after me: "Stay to the left, look to the right." Repeat that each time you get behind the wheel. Designate a navigator who does all of the route planning, map reading, and sign watching. It will help the driver immensely.

Route Planning

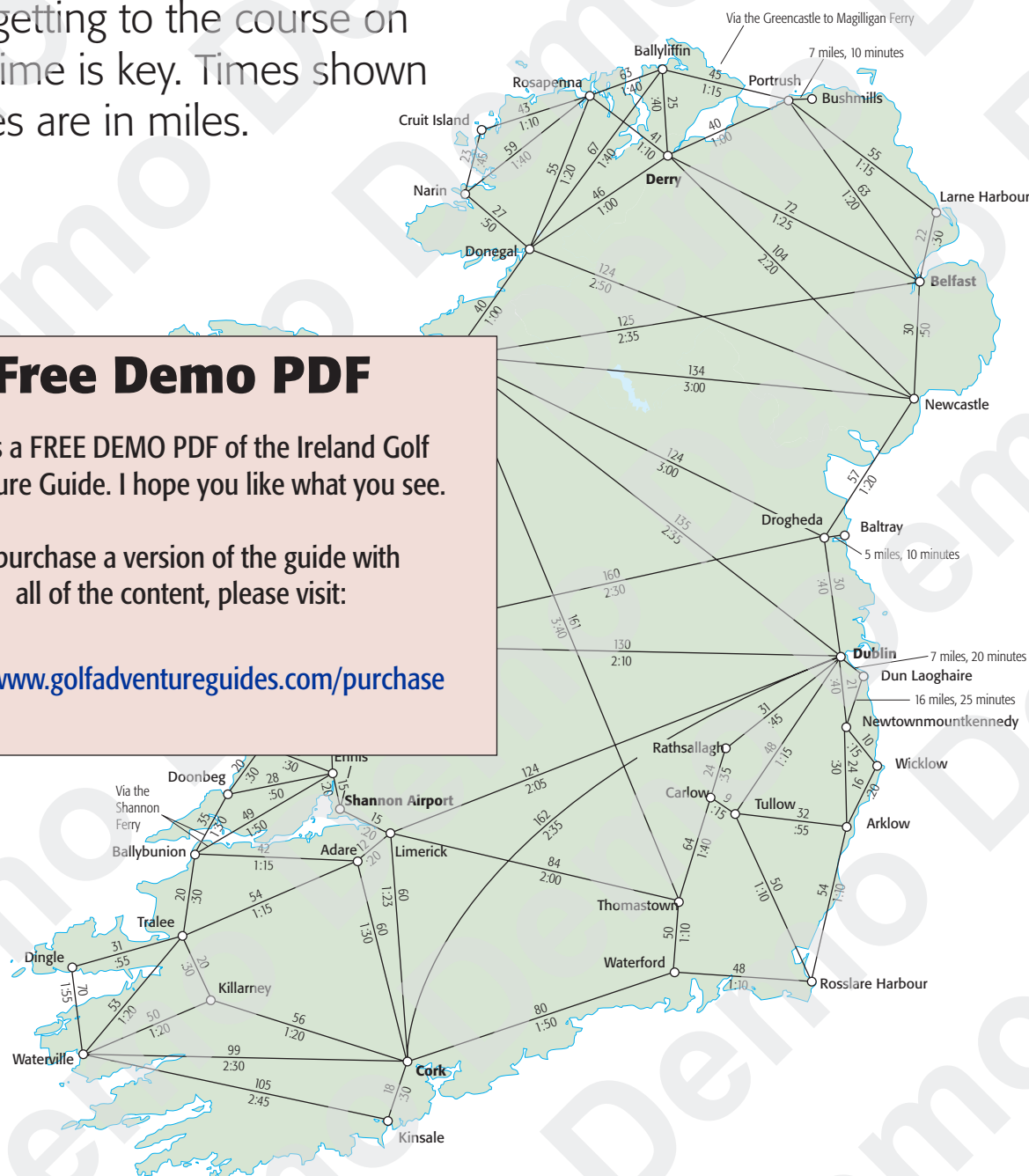
You should be able to determine your driving routes using the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) road atlas. If you want a second opinion, a good online resource is AA Ireland (www.theaa.ie/routes). Click on the Route Planning link on their web site.

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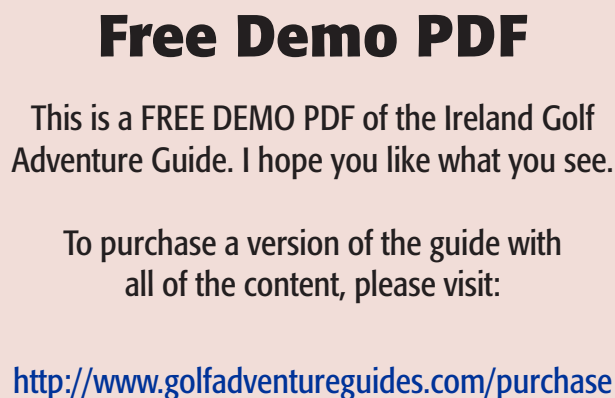
<http://www.golfadventureguides.com/purchase>



This map shows the golf courses covered in this guide and the towns in which I recommend you stay. Details for each course are in the Golf Courses section. Details for the accommodations are in the Accommodations section.

Alphabetical golf course listings follow in the Golf Courses section on the next six pages. For each course, if powered ride-on carts (buggies) are available a small icon will appear. If proof of medical need is required for rental/use, the letters "MED" will appear next to the icon.

Green fee rates are simplified to show prices for the May through September high season and are per round per person, unless otherwise indicated. Most courses charge weekend rates on holidays. As you know, green fees are subject to change and if they change you can be assured the direction will be up.



Golf Courses

From nearly 400 golf courses in Ireland, I've narrowed it down to the following courses you should consider when planning your trip.

 = Buggies (ride on carts) available; always book ahead of time. MED = Medical need/cert required in order to use a buggy.

Adare Golf Club

Adare, Co. Limerick

PARKLAND. An 18-hole championship course on the 840-acre estate of Adare Manor. If you're in the area, why not treat yourself and take a break from the links courses for just a day. Reduced rates for hotel guests.

Phone +353 61 605 200
800-462-3273 (from USA)

Fax +353 61 605 271

Web www.adaremanor.com

Email golf@adaremanor.com

Designer Robert Trent Jones, Sr. (1995)

Visitors No restrictions

Rates €130 non-residents, €95 residents

Directions Off the N20, 15 km southwest of Limerick. Near Shannon airport.

Note Closed until Fall 2017 for remodel! Not to be confused with the local Adare Manor Golf Club, which is not associated with the Adare Manor.

Ardglass

Ardglass, Co. Down, Northern Ireland

LINKS. Stunning views and excellent golf on this largely undiscovered course. A 14TH-century castle forms part of the clubhouse, adding to the overall charm.

Phone +44 28 4484 1219

Fax +44 28 4484 1841

Web www.ardglassgolfclub.com

Email info@ardglassgolfclub.com

Founded 1896

Visitors Sunday mornings members only. Wednesday is Ladies day so times are limited. Saturdays limited to visitors playing in open competitions.

Rates £60/round or £105/day Mo-Fr
£85/round or £143/day Sa-Su

Directions Off the A2, 19 miles (30 minutes) northeast of Newcastle. 30 miles (50 minutes) from Belfast.

Note If you're in the area to play Royal County Down give Ardglass a try. Beautiful photos of the course on their web site!

Arklow

Abbeylands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

LINKS. Excellent fairways, brilliant greens, and a comfortable clubhouse with friendly staff. What more could you want?

Phone +353 51 871 111

Fax +353 51 871 111

Web www.arklowgolfclub.com

Email info@arklowgolfclub.com

Designer Frank Pennick (1993)

Visitors No restrictions

Rates €120 non-residents, €95 residents

Directions Off the N11, 15 km southwest of Limerick. Near Shannon airport.

Note Closed until Fall 2017 for remodel! Not to be confused with the local Adare Manor Golf Club, which is not associated with the Adare Manor.

Ballybunion

Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

LINKS. One of the most famous links in Ireland, Ballybunion is a must-play for any golfer visiting Ireland.

There's a special rate for playing both the Old and Cashen courses on the same day.

Phone +353 68 27146

Fax +353 68 27387

Web www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie

Email reservations@ballybuniongolfclub.ie

Designers Jo McKenna & Members (1897), Tom Simpson (1937), Tom Watson (1995)

Visitors Morning times available Mo-Fri April through October. NO visitor times on the weekend.

Rates €185; €215 for both courses (great deal!)

Directions Off the R551, half a mile south of the town of Ballybunion.

Note Make tee times early! This is a tough course to get on. Play both courses on the same day for the price of the Old course.

Ballybunion - Cashen

Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

LINKS. While some have been critical of its difficulty—length, massive dunes, elevated greens, blind shots—I say lighten up. You're in Ireland, playing a spectacular course. From a pint of Guinness to a glass of wine, the clubhouse is a great place to get out there.

Phone +353 68 27146

Fax +353 68 27387

Web www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie

Email info@ballybuniongolfclub.ie

Designer Pat Ruddy & Tom Craddock (1993)

Visitors No restrictions.

Rates €110 (Book online)
Both courses (same day): €170

Directions Off the R238, just north of Ballyliffin town. 11mi north of Buncrana.

Note The 9-hole Oakpark course designed by Jeff Howes opened in Spring 2003.

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<http://www.golfadventureguides.com/purchase>

Email info@ballyliffingolfclub.com

Visitors No restrictions.

Rates €110 (Book online)
Both courses (same day): €170

Designers Pat Ruddy & Tom Craddock (1993)

Directions Off the R238, just north of Ballyliffin town. 11mi north of Buncrana.

Ballyliffin - Old

Ballyliffin, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

LINKS. The Old Course plays over the "flatter" terrain between the dunes and sea, but you'll rarely find an even lie during your round. This is a classic, no-nonsense links golf course.

Designers Mother Nature
Eddie Hackett, Lawrie, Pennick, Hopkins (1973)

Rates €110 (Book online)
Both courses (same day): €170

Carlow - Deerpark

Deerpark, Carlow, Co. Carlow

PARKLAND. The Deerpark course is laid out over undulating terrain with numerous elevated tees, several excellent dog-legs, and small slick putting surfaces. With sandy subsoil, Carlow is an inland links and is playable twelve months of the year.

Phone +353 59 913 1695

Fax +353 59 914 0065

Web www.carlowgolfclub.com

Email info@carlowgolfclub.com

Designer Cecil Barcroft (1922), Tom Simpson (1937 rework)

Visitors No visitors Sundays. Times limited on Tuesdays to allow for Ladies Club competitions.

Rates €60 Mo-Th; €70 Fr-Su

Directions Off the N9, 2 miles north of Carlow. 50 miles south of Dublin.

Note The 9-hole Oakpark course designed by Jeff Howes opened in Spring 2003.

Carne (Belmullet)

Carne, Belmullet, Co. Mayo

LINKS. Now featuring 27 holes, Carne lies in North Mayo on the West Coast of Ireland lies in magnificent unspoiled sand dunes overlooking Blacksod Bay and the wild Atlantic Ocean near the town of Belmullet. It's remote, but well worth the journey.

Phone +353 97 82292

Fax +353 97 81477

Web www.carnegolflinks.com

Email info@carnegolflinks.com

Designer Eddie Hackett (1993, his final design)

Visitors No restrictions.

Rates €70/round & €90/27 holes

Directions Off the R313, 12 km west of Bangor, 2 miles west of Belmullet on the Mullet Peninsula.

Note The spectacular new Kilmore 9 opened August 2013. 27-hole packages available for €90 – Hackett 18 + Kilmore 9

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Open Fairways Ireland

Open Fairways (www.openfairways.com) offer discount passes good at 250+ courses and over 150 hotels in Ireland. Typical offers are "4 for 2", "2 for 1", and 25% off green fees; hotel discounts are typically 50%. The price is €99. Check the web site for details.

Not all the courses and accommodations in my guide are on their list, but many are. I looked at two of my itineraries. Based on their published discounts, I figure you'd save €580 on the Northwest Adventure and €430 on the Around The Top itineraries (based on four golfers). On those trips, discounts were available at Donegal, Ballyliffin, Portsalon, Rosapenna, Narin & Portnoo, Enniscrone, and Carne golf courses; Bushmills Inn accommodation.

Golf Course Rankings

So many great courses, so little time. Deciding which to play, or rather not play, will be the hardest part of planning your trip. Use these rankings as another frame of reference as you develop your list.

Ireland has nearly 400 golf courses and approximately one-third of all of the links courses in the world. The typical golf trip to Ireland is 10-14 days which means you need some way to decide which courses to play.

One obvious method is to concentrate on one or two geographic regions. This minimizes driving and limits accommodation changes while still giving you lots of great courses to choose from.

Another method is to play all the "top-rated" courses in Ireland. The 5-star courses are the only courses in Ireland to make [Golf Magazine's Top 100 Courses in the World](#) list from 2015.

I took that idea one step further and ranked the other courses in the guide, placing them into three additional groups. The parkland and 9-hole courses were placed in their own categories.

About These Rankings

The rankings are based on course reviews, articles, golfer feedback, and my own personal experience and opinions. Within each group, the courses are listed in alphabetical order; an absolute ranking was far too difficult. Yes, these ratings are subjective, but I think they're useful.

When you get to the point in the trip-planning process when you're trying to decide between two or more courses, use these rankings as another datapoint. For example, if the choice is between Ardglass and County Louth, I would recommend playing County Louth. Between Galway Bay and Galway, choose Galway (Salthill).

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

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★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

Another Comment On These Rankings

Every course in this guide is a gem. You could throw ten darts at this page and end up playing ten great golf courses (but you might do a lot of driving if you created your itinerary this way). This guide contains the top 10% of all golf courses in Ireland. No matter which ones you play, you can't go wrong. Still, everyone has opinions; these are ours.

Golf Course Designers

Really love a course? Use this page to find others designed by the same architect. Then create a custom itinerary, e.g. the "Hackett Classics" tour.

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Getting to Ireland

Ireland is an island, so your only two options are by air or sea. Unless you're bringing your own car over on a ferry from Great Britain or France, you'll be flying. Both options are covered in the following sections.

From the United States

If you can avoid it, don't fly through London Heathrow. It makes the trip longer, plus you're more likely to lose your checked baggage, especially if you don't have a minimum of two hours between connecting flights. You may make the connection between terminals, but your golf clubs may not. Do yourself a favor and fly directly to Dublin or Shannon, Ireland.

The **Flights Between U.S. & Ireland** chart on the next page shows available direct flights from the U.S.. Schedules vary throughout the year (flights are added during the high season and departure/arrival times fluctuate in early April and late October when the U.S. and Ireland are out of synch between regular and daylight savings time) so don't be surprised if you encounter minor variations.

My advice for booking flights? Overall it's a lot less hassle if you use a local travel agent. If you have a preference, tell them which flights you want to take into and out of Ireland (use the chart), and let them book it all for you. Online travel sites are great, but it's not always easy to configure specific flights consisting of multiple segments and airlines.

United and JetBlue are codeshare partners with Aer Lingus, so if you fly either of those airlines into one of the cities served by Aer Lingus you can book your entire flight with them, which is quite convenient. If you're flying out of one of the cities on the chart, book with the airline directly.

Aer Lingus

www.aerlingus.com

800 474 7424 (US & Canada)

0818 365 0111 (Ireland)

American Airlines

www.aa.com

800 443 7300

+353 1 602 1111 (Ireland)

Delta Airlines

www.delta.com

800 241 4141

(01) 407 3111 (Ireland)

1850 882033 (Ireland)

United Airlines

www.ual.com

800 864 8343

1890 925 2111 (Ireland)

US Airways

www.usairways.com

800 622 1015 (US & Canada)

1890 925 065 (within Ireland)*

* You must dial the 0818, 1890, 1850, and 1800 prefixes when dialing within Ireland.

** See the [phone dialing instructions on page 33](#) for calling this number from within Ireland.

From Great Britain

There are oodles of flights between Great Britain and Ireland. Another alternative is to travel across the Irish Sea via ferry, which affords you the option

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From Mainland Europe

There are a surprising number of direct flights between major European cities and Ireland. Most are into Dublin, but Belfast, Cork, and Shannon airports are also served. Of course, you can book connecting flights into Ireland through many of the airports in Great Britain.

The **Flights Between Mainland Europe & Ireland** chart on [page 21](#) shows which airlines offer direct flights to Ireland.

The **Ferry Service to Ireland** chart on [page 22](#) shows which companies offer ferry service between various French and British ports and Ireland.

Contact information for the airlines and ferry companies is given on their respective charts.

From Elsewhere in the World

There are no direct flights to Ireland from Canada (non-charter flights), Australia, New Zealand, or elsewhere to my knowledge, so the usual route involves flying through New York or London and then on to Ireland.

If you have a connecting flight through London Heathrow, make sure your layover is at least two hours to give your checked baggage enough time to make it onto your flight to Ireland.

Flights Between U.S. & Ireland

Aer Lingus, Continental, Delta, and US Airways offer direct flights from the United States to Ireland. Here are the cities with non-stop flights.

Aer Lingus

www.aerlingus.com

800 474 7424 (US & Canada)

0818 365 0

American Airlines

www.aa.com

800 443 73

+353 1 602

Delta Airline

www.delta.com

800 241 41

(01) 407 31

1850 88203

United Airlines

www.ual.com

800 864 83

1890 925 2

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* You must dial the 0818, 1890, 1850, and 1800 prefixes when dialing within Ireland.

** See the phone dialing instructions on page 33 for calling this number from within Ireland.

Flights Between Great Britain & Ireland

Here are the known direct flights between various British airports and Ireland. Lots of options here!

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* These are not the standard airline industry codes, but rather two-letter abbreviations that most closely match the airline name.

Flights Between Mainland Europe & Ireland

Here are some of the most popular direct flights between various mainland European airports and Ireland.

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Ferry Service to Ireland

Bring a car into Ireland using one of the ferries providing connections between Scotland, North Wales, England, and France.

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Choosing Where to Stay

Ireland has a wonderful selection of hotels, guesthouses, manors, and B&Bs to fit every budget and lifestyle. Here's what I recommend.

We all play basically the same golf courses and drive the same rental cars. But your choice of accommodations — and that includes which cities you stay in — enables you to customize your golf trip to best suit your travelling style.

I couldn't possibly list all options here, and what would be the point anyway? My job is to help you choose your accommodations by narrowing down the choices. So that's what I've done. Still, if you find other places to stay that look more suitable than my recommendations, by all means stay there. You won't hurt my feelings.

My Recommendations

The accommodations listed on the next five pages are my recommendations for where to stay if you don't want to put too much extra time and effort

into this part of the trip. If possible, I've ranges as wide as possible.

Ratings and

The star rating and are [irelandhotels.com](http://www.irelandhotels.com) price ranges per person per season. The rates shown are comparative.

Do Your Research

I encourage booking — at least see what the place looks like. Almost all hotels and guest houses have their own web sites and this guide provides convenient web links to access them with a single click.

B&Bs

I don't include many B&Bs in my accommodation listings — there are simply too many of them. However, the B&B Ireland web site (www.bandbireland.com) provides an extensive listing and online search engine.

Picking Cities

I use the following "rules" when planning my own itineraries:

Stay at least three nights in the first city.

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Enniscrone
County Sligo

The "Right" Way Play

Ballybunion
Doonbeg
Lahinch
Enniscrone
County Sligo

Ballina
Sligo

Stay
Ennis
Ennis
Ennis
Sligo
Sligo

You might choose to stay in Lahinch instead of Ennis, but the point is I enjoy Ennis and Sligo so I want to maximize my time in those towns.

Online Resources

If you want more accommodation options, you can find them on the web. Here are the best resources:

Irish Hotels Federation

www.irelandhotels.com The 1000+ hotels, lodgings and guesthouses featured in the Ireland Hotels directory are all members of the Irish Hotels Federation. This is a great resource for finding places to stay or checking up on a place you may have read about in a guide book.

Ireland's Blue Book of Country Houses & Restaurants

www.irelands-blue-book.ie A unique association comprising Ireland's most gracious country manor houses, castles, and restaurants. They will mail a booklet/brochure upon request.

B&B Ireland

www.bandbireland.com The best Irish Bed and Breakfast directory. Their online guide covers 1,700+ Irish homes.

The Hidden Ireland

www.hiddenireland.com The Hidden Ireland is a unique collection of historic country houses offering visitors the opportunity to sample Irish country life at its very best, in a style not usually experienced by the ordinary tourist. The houses are not hotels, guest houses or B&Bs, but historic listed buildings of great character, with unusual and interesting owners who all enjoy sharing their homes and their way of life with appreciative visitors.

Accommodations

Listed alphabetically by town and golf club. When the club name is not the same as the town, cross-references to nearby towns are given.

Adare

F13

Adare is relatively close to Shannon airport, so consider staying here as a first or last night in Ireland treat. Not a great base-camp location. For the golf courses in Co. Kerry, staying in Tralee or Killarney is better. For the courses in Co. Clare, stay in Ennis or Lahinch.

Adare Manor – ★★★★★ Hotel
Adare, Co. Limerick

Phone +353 61 605 200
Fax +353 61 396 124
Web www.adaremanor.ie
Email reservations@adaremanor.com
Rates €240-650 per room
Note Adare GC golf course on site. Closed for renovations until fall 2017.

Ardglass

See Newcastle, Belfast

Ballina

F6

Consider staying in Ballina when playing Enniscrone (15 minutes), Carne (60 minutes), or Westport (50 minutes).

Downhill Inn – ★★★ Hotel
Sligo Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Phone +353 96 73444
Fax +353 96 73411
Web www.downhillinn.ie
Email info@downhillinn.ie
Rates From €49 per room

Twin Trees Hotel – ★★★ Hotel
Ballina, Co. Mayo

Phone +353 96 21033
Fax +353 96 21338
Web www.twintreeshotel.ie
Email info@twintreeshotel.ie
Rates From €119 per room

Ballybunion

D13

Many golfers stay in either Tralee/Killarney or Ennis/Lahinch and play Ballybunion as they travel north or south between these base-camp cities.

The 19th Lodge – ★★★★★ Guesthouse
Golf Links Road

Phone
Fax
Web
Email
Rates
Note

Teach de Bric
Ballybunion, Co.

Phone
Fax
Web
Email
Rates

Kilcooley's
Main Street, Ballybunion

Phone +353 68 27787
Fax
Web www.golfballybunion.com
Email info@golfballybunion.com
Rates €150-200 per room

Ballyliffin

K1

Stay here two nights if you're playing 36 holes at Ballyliffin. Drive to Ballyliffin the night before, play the Glashedy Links and Old courses the next day, spend another night and then get up early the following morning and drive to that day's course.

Ballyliffin Hotel – ★★★ Hotel
Ballyliffin, Co. Donegal

Phone +353 74 937 6106
Fax +353 74 937 6658
Web www.ballyliffinhotel.com
Email info@ballyliffinhotel.com
Rates €75-110 per room

Strand Hotel – ★★★ Hotel
Ballyliffin, Co. Donegal

Phone +353 74 937 6107
Fax +353 74 937 6486
Web www.ballyliffinstrandhotel.com

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Down and Ardglass.

Jurys Inn Belfast – ★★★ Hotel

Fisherwick Place, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, NI

Phone +44 28 9053 3500
Fax +44 28 9053 3511
Web jursinns.com/hotels/belfast
Email jurysinnbelfast@jursinn.com
Rates From €69 per room

Hilton Templepatrick – ★★★★★ Hotel

Castle Upton Estate, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim, NI

Phone +44 28 9443 5500
Fax +44 28 9443 5511
Web www.templepatrick.hilton.com
Email reservations.templepatrick@hilton.com
Rates From £119 per room
Note 10 minutes from Belfast International Airport.

Belmullet

C6

Carne Golf Links is in Belmullet.

Broadhaven Bay Hotel – ★★★ Hotel
Belmullet, Co. Mayo

Phone +353 97 20600
Fax +353 97 20610
Web www.broadhavenbay.com
Email info@broadhavenbay.com
Rates €62-89 per room

Drom Caoin – B&B
Belmullet, Co. Mayo

Phone +353 97 81195 (fax number also)
Web www.belmullet-accommodation.com
Email stay@dromcaoin.ie
Rates €38-40 pps (€40 single)
Note Carne Golf Links green fee discount packages available. Close to town and course.

Bushmills

M2

The town of Bushmills is nothing special really, but Bushmills Inn is a great place to stay. Stay in Bushmills or Portballintrae if you want to avoid the more touristy Portrush and Portstewart scene.

Bushmills Inn – ★★★ Hotel
Dunluce Road, Bushmills, Co. Antrim

Phone +44 28 2073 3000
Fax +44 28 2073 2048
Web www.bushmillsinn.com
Email mail@bushmillsinn.com
Rates £148-268 per room
Note Walk to the Old Bushmills Distillery.

Bayview Hotel – ★★★ Hotel

Portballintrae, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, NI

Phone +44 28 2073 4100
Fax +44 28 2073 4330
Web www.bayviewhotelnl.com
Email info@bayviewhotelnl.com
Rates £120-149 per room
Note One mile from Bushmills, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and close to the Giant's Causeway.

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Renting a Car

Considering all of the options and types of insurance coverage, renting a car in Ireland may be the trickiest part of the planning process.

The Basics

Here are the important things to consider when renting a car in Ireland for your golf trip.

Vehicle Size

Make sure you get a vehicle that is big enough to hold all of your luggage and golf clubs. See my recommendations to the right.

What's Included?

When you get quotes, ask for an "inclusive" price and carefully note what's included. Also, get any optional charges so you can make an accurate comparison between companies. The worksheet on the next page gives contact information for six of the top firms and will help you keep track of the price information you gather.

CDW (Collision Damage Waiver)

If your credit card claims to provide free auto rental insurance, you'd better double check. Visa does *not* offer insurance protection for car rentals in Ireland. Typically, the only credit cards accepted for CDW coverage in Ireland are US-issued Gold/Platinum MasterCard. Even then, coverage is usually limited to \$50,000 and only for rental periods of 14 days or less. Call the customer service number on the back of your credit card and ask them specifically about their rental insurance coverage in Ireland.

Where You Can and Can't Go

You cannot take a rental car onto any of the ferries that leave Ireland. If you rent your vehicle in the Republic of Ireland and intend to drive into Northern Ireland you need to let them know when you pick up your rental car; there will be a one-time additional insurance fee of €25-30.

Two Golfers

A mid-size/intermediate car is just right for two golfers and their luggage. Put your clubs in the trunk, where they'll be out of site. When travelling between airports, you'll need to leave your luggage between airports.



Vehicles in this rental group include the Ford Mondeo, Skoda, Renault, and Toyota.

Approximate Rates

Here are example rates based on a 10-day rental in June, inclusive of compulsory insurances (CDW, theft protection, and third part insurance), taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Avis, €47/day (Opel Vectra)
- Budget, €29/day (Toyota Avenis)
- Dan Dooley, €34/day (Ford Mondeo)
- Hertz, €36/day (Ford Mondeo 1.6)

Most companies offer automatic transmission models for about €20-30 extra per day.

Note. Car rental rates vary widely and change rapidly. These are ballpark figures. Go online or ask your travel agent about special rates and offers for these vehicles.

Three Golfers

You'll need at least a small/intermediate wagon when you have three golfers in your group. Put your clubs and a few of the suitcases in the back.

can go on high room for



the Ford Mondeo, Skoda, Renault, and Toyota Avenis.

Here are example rates based on a 10-day rental in June, inclusive of compulsory insurances (CDW, theft protection, and third part insurance), taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Avis, €65/day (Toyota Avenis Wagon)
- Budget, €52/day (Opel Astra Wagon)
- Dan Dooley, €55/day (Ford Mondeo Wagon)
- Hertz, €52/day (Ford Mondeo Wagon)

Dan Dooley offers an automatic transmission Ford Wagon for about €100 per day.

Four+ Golfers

For four golfers or more, you'll need a vehicle from the minivan/minibus group to hold you and all of your gear.



Vehicles in this rental group include the Ford Transit, Hyundai Trajet, Mercedes V Class (auto), Seat Alhambra (auto), Toyota HiAce, and VW Caravelle (pictured). The Ford Galaxy is in the "van/people carrier" group and *does not* have room for four golfers, especially with the third-row seat in place.

Approximate Rates

Here are example rates based on a 10-day rental in June, inclusive of compulsory insurances (CDW, theft protection, and third part insurance), taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Argus, €100/day (Hyundai Trajet)
- Avis, €133/day (VW Caravelle)
- Budget, €110/day (VW Caravelle)
- Dan Dooley, €138/day (VW Caravelle)
- Hertz, €115/day (VW Caravelle)

Another option: Hire a minibus/coach and driver. More details in the [Coach & Bus Hire](#) section on page 34.

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Rental Car Price Quote Worksheet

Use this worksheet to track and compare rental car quotes. Place a checkmark next to standard items included in the quote. Note prices of any items not included or optional items you may desire.

Desired Rental Car Model/Group	
Pick-up Date	Drop-off Date
Flight Number	Arrival Time

Dan Dooley		Argus		Budget		Hertz		Avis	
Web	www.dan-dooley.ie	ie.argusrentals.com		www.budget-ireland.com www.budget-ireland.co.uk www.budget.com		www.hertz.ie www.hertz.co.uk www.hertz.com		www.avis.ie www.avis.co.uk www.avis.com	
Phone	+353 62 53103 US 1 800 331 9301 UK 0800 282 189	+353 1 490 +353 1 490	<div><h2>Free Demo PDF</h2><p>This is a FREE DEMO PDF of the Ireland Golf Adventure Guide. I hope you like what you see.</p><p>To purchase a version of the guide with all of the content, please visit:</p><p>http://www.golfadventureguides.com/purchase</p></div>			+353 1 676 7476 US 1 800 654 3001 UK 020 7026 0077		+353 21 281 111 US 1 800 230 4898 UK 0870 6060100	
Email	info@dooleycarrentals.com dooley@monmouth.com (US)	info@argus					shannon@hertz.ie		Via www.avis.ie web site
Rental Locations	Dublin, Shannon, Cork, Belfast City, Belfast Intl airports. Dublin, Cork, Belfast city centers. Dún Laoghaire, Cork, Larne ferry ports.	Dublin, Sha City, Belfast Knock airpo centers. Ros					Dublin, Shannon, Cork, Belfast City, Belfast Intl, Knock, Derry airports. Dublin city center. Dún Laoghaire, Rosslare ferry ports.		Dublin, Shannon, Cork, Belfast City, Belfast Intl, Knock, Derry airports. Dublin, Cork, Belfast city centers. Larne ferry port.
Car / Group									
Rental Quote Total									
Daily Rate									
Standard Items									
CDW									
Theft Protection									
Third-party Liability									
Local Taxes (VAT)									
Unlimited Mileage									
Optional Item Prices									
SDW/Excess Liability									
Personal Accident Ins.									
Additional Driver									
Airport Fee									
North. Ireland Insurance									
Total for Comparison									

Tour Operators & Tee-time Services

From full-service escorted motor-coach tours to tee-time reservation services, here are a few options for handling the details of your trip. Their web sites and brochures are also good sources of information.

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Most travel guides have pages and pages of fairly obvious travel tips. Here's what I've found to be most relevant for golfers in Ireland.

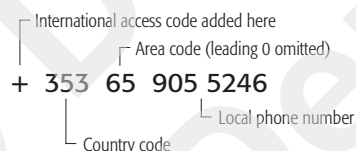
Also known as “flicking the vick.” Holding up two fingers with your palm facing you (a backwards peace sign) is a serious insult. Be careful when ordering two pints of Guinness in a crowded, noisy pub. Either avoid hand gestures entirely, or be sure your palm is facing away from you.

<http://www.golfadventureguides.com/purchase>



Phone Calls

Irish phone numbers in this guide are given in the following format:



When calling from outside Ireland, replace the '+' with your international access code; 011 for the USA and Canada, 00 for UK and Europe. Next, dial the country code. The Republic of Ireland country code is 353 and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, is country code 44. Throughout this guide, phone and fax numbers in Ireland are shown without the leading 0 in front of the area code. When calling from within Ireland, add a leading zero to the area code if you are *calling from outside* that area code. When calling from within the same area code, the area code is omitted. Note that the Republic of Ireland has a special way to call Northern Ireland (048, then the local number without the 028 area code).

Calling From	Calling To
	<i>Republic of Ireland</i>
	e.g. Doonbeg GC
	+353 65 905 5246
USA or Canada	011 353 65 905 5246
England, Scotland, or Wales	00 353 65 905 5246
Northern Ireland	00 353 65 905 5246
Continental Europe	00 353 65 905 5246
Republic of Ireland	065 905 5246
Republic of Ireland (Same Area Code)	905 5246

When calling to the USA or Canada from anywhere in Ireland, dial 0

Toll Free Numbers

There are some toll-free phone numbers – valid within the Republic of Ireland only – in this guide with the prefixes 1890 and 1800. You must dial those prefixes when calling.

Credit Card Calls

You can make long-distance phone calls with your credit card or calling card using the following access numbers:

From Republic of Ireland		From Northern Ireland (UK)	
AT&T	1800 550 000	AT&T	0500 890 011 or 0800 890 011
Sprint	1800 552 001	Sprint	0500 890 877
MCI	1800 551 001	MCI	0800 279 5088

Reporting Lost or Stolen Credit Cards

MasterCard — Republic of Ireland: 1-800-55-7378, Northern Ireland (UK): 0800-96-4767
Visa — Republic of Ireland: 1-800-55-8002, Northern Ireland (UK): 0800-89-1725

Irish–American Dictionary

Irish and American English have colorful differences. Here are some common words and expressions Americans need to know and use properly.

bacon – Canadian-style bacon
biscuit – cookie
black pudding – sausage made from pig's blood
buggy – motorized golf cart
champ – mashed potatoes
chemist – pharmacist
chips – french fries (more like steak fries)
crisps – potato chips
dual carriageway – divided highway
en suite – bathroom is attached to room

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happy – cheerful
pants – underwear (underpants)
petrol – gas
plaster – Band-Aid
post – mail
ride – to have sex; ask for "a lift" not "a ride"
ring – call (telephone)
serviette – napkin
strand – beach
take away – take out or to go (food)
trolley – pull cart
trousers – pants
water closet / WC / toilet – bathroom, restroom
way out – exit

Irish Language

English and Irish are co-official languages of the Republic of Ireland. English is really all you need, but many road signs are in both languages and a knowledge of Irish can be helpful when trying to find your way around town or into the correct toilet. Here's a smattering of Irish words and phrases you're likely to encounter on your golf holiday.

an lár – town center

Baile Átha Cliath (BALL-yah A-ha CLEE-yah) – Dublin

bodhrán (BOW-rah-n) – hand-held goatskin drum

Bord Fáilte – Irish Tourist Board

céad míle fáilte (KAY-ed MILL-uh FAULT-chuh) – a hundred thousand welcomes

céilí (KAY-lee) – Irish dance and music gathering

craic (crack) – good atmosphere & conversation

fáilte (FAULT-chuh) – welcome

fir (fear) – "man" (on toilet door)

gaeltacht – Irish-speaking area or district

galchumann – golf club

galfchúrsa – golf course

garda – policeman, short for Garda Síochána meaning in English "Guardian of the Peace". The plural is gardaí (gar-DTHEE)

mná (min-AW) – "woman" (on toilet door)

oifig an phoist (UFF-ig an fwisht) – post office

quay (key) – waterside street

sláinte (SLAWN-chuh) – cheers, to your health

Time

Ireland is 5 hours ahead of eastern time in the United States. Make all of your calls to the golf clubs before 17:00 (5pm) local Ireland time.

San Francisco	9:00	
Denver	10:00	
Chicago	11:00	
New York	12:00	
Dublin	17:00	
London	17:00	
Berlin	18:00	
Sydney	6:00	(next day)
Auckland	8:00	"

Paying for This Guide

If you haven't already paid, payments are accepted via PayPal (an eBay company) which is the web's most-trusted online payment system.

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If you've purchased this guide, I'd like to thank you. If you've somehow downloaded or received a digital PDF copy of this guide without paying, I'd like to ask you to pay for it.

I put the same effort and expense — actually a lot more — into developing this guide as any other book. I deliver it in printed and digital formats (Adobe PDF) which lets me provide you a product that's leaner, more accurate (you get free online updates), and more useful (I can deliver extra digital and online goodies you can't get with just a paper book).

Thanks.

The Price

The price for this guide is US\$ 28.50. *

This includes free updates. When I update the guide, registered customers can download the latest up-to-date version without any extra charge. Try that with just a printed book!

Using this guide makes the planning process easier, faster, and more enjoyable. I think it's a great value. What's \$28.50 worth to you?

- A box of golf balls (you'll need 'em!)
- A few rounds of Guinness for the lads
- A nice bottle of wine at dinner in Ireland
- Countless hours of tedious research avoided; I've done all the hard work for you!

* Suggested retail price for single country guide. Subject to change without notice.

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www.golfadventureguides.com/ireland/

and click on "Free Demo Guide" button

Credit card or PayPal company. You can pay on PayPal or a major credit card in any currency, the

The entire purchase is safe, and easy

Electronic

If you purchase a third-party product of purchase

confirmation to bonus@golfadventureguides.com) and I'll send you the digital version of the guide, which includes the course cards, calendar, and fax templates.

My Mailing List

Subscribe to my email mailing list and I'll notify you when updates are available. And that's all I'll use this list for: I will never share your email address. Plus, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Feedback

Please contact me with ideas, suggestions, or corrections so I can incorporate them in future updates and versions of this guide.

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Email a copy of your printed book order confirmation to:
bonus@golfadventureguides.com and I'll send you the digital files
 (guides, course cards for itinerary planning, calendars, and fax templates)

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Ireland Course Cards

Use these cards to visually organize your itinerary and keep track of information during the tee-time reservation process.

Printing the Course Cards

Print at 100% size. That means you want to make sure Adobe Acrobat's "Shrink Oversized Pages to Paper Size". To save paper, don't print this cover page; print pages 2 through 7 only.

After printing, cut out the course cards. They are in geographical order (top to bottom, left column to right column graphic order, it facilitates the initial itinerary-building process.

Avery Business Card Stock

Eliminate the card-cutting step by printing on Avery business-card paper, available at office supply stores. The card is 3.5 inches wide. Visit www.avery.com for more information and local retailers.

Using the Course Cards

See "Building a Rough Itinerary" in the Ireland Golf Adventure Guide for a description of how you can use the card process of building your itinerary. We find them extremely helpful in identifying visitor-policy conflicts when you're which courses you'll be playing on which days.

Course
The golf course name and location.

Map Location
Indicates area of Ireland coordinates on the map.

County Sligo (Rosses Point)
NW G5-99

Contact Info
The card gives the course's phone and fax numbers. See the guide for dialing instructions. The course's web site URL and email address is in the golf guide.

Phone: +353 71 917 7134
Fax: +353 71 917 7460

Tee Time
Date: _____
Players: _____
Tee Time: _____
Tee Time: _____

Visitor Policy Summary
This is a visual summary of the course's visitor policy. The legend at the bottom of each page explains what the symbols mean. See the course's entry in the guide for detailed policy information.

Tee Time Details & Notes
Use this area to note the date of play, tee time, and number of players. If a fax confirmation and/or deposit is required you can keep track of it here. Jot down any other relevant notes.

Printing Tip: Print at 100%. Turn OFF Acrobat's "Shrink Oversized Pages to Paper Size" option. Print on Avery business-card paper and eliminate cutting out each card.

on Avery business-card paper and eliminate cutting out each card.

Legend: ● Visitors welcome; ● No visitors, members only; ● See guide; ● Some restrictions, afternoon tee times best; ● Some restrictions, morning tee times best

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11			
15	16	17	18			
22	23	24	25			
29	30					

May 2005

July 2005

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