

# THINGS TO DO IN IRELAND

UPDATED – 2/4/26

## DUBLIN

- HOP ON/HOP OFF BUS TOUR AROUND DUBLIN (32 STOPS, TAKES ABOUT 2-1/2 HOURS IF YOU DON'T GET OFF)
- GUINNESS DRAFHOUSE TOUR (FREE GUINNESS AT THE GRAVITY BAR AFTER THE TOUR)
- JAMESON TOUR
- PEARCE LYONS WHISKEY TOUR
- WALKING TOUR OFF DUBLIN (TAKES ABOUT 4 HOURS)
- TRINITY COLLEGE & BOOK OF KELLS
- HOWTH (SMALL PORT VILLAGE ABOUT 45 MINUTES EAST OF DUBLIN)
- DUBLIN CASTLE
- SHOPPING & PEOPLE WATCHING ON GRAFTON STREET
- ST. STEPHENS GREEN
- PHOENIX PARK
- ST. PATRICKS CATHEDRAL
- GREAT PUBS IN DUBLIN
  - THE BRAZEN HEAD (OLDEST PUB IN DUBLIN AND SECOND OLDEST IN IRELAND)
  - THE TEMPLE BAR
  - O'NEILL'S
  - THE HAIRY LEMON
  - PETE'S SNUG

## BUNCRANA & COUNTY DONEGAL

- MALIN HEAD (30 MINUTE DRIVE FROM BUNCRANA) ONE OF MANY STAR WARS MOVIES FILMED HERE.
- RAMELTON/RATHMULLAN/PORTSALON/FANAD HEAD DRIVE (3 HOUR SITE SEEING TRIP)
- GLENVEAG NATIONAL FOREST AND CASTLE (3 HOURS)
- SLIEVE LEAGUE (4 HOURS)
- FIVE FINGERS STRAND (WHERE MAUREEN & GRANDMA LARKIN'S ASHES ARE SCATTERED)
- FORT DUNREE
- SCENIC DRIVE AROUND THE TIP OF THE INISHOWEN PENINSULA (MOVILLE/REDCASTEL/GREENCASTLE/STROOVE/MUFF)
- WALK THE ALPACA'S
- DAY IN DERRY – WALLS OF DERRY
- TRAD MUSIC AT O'FLAHERTY'S (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS)
- GOLF – BALLYLIFFIN OR NORTHWEST GOLF CLUB

- GREAT PUBS IN BUNCRANA
  - DINNY GRANTS BAR
  - O'FLAHERTY'S
  - THE DRIFT INN
  - THE EXCLESIOR
  - THE COTTAGE BAR

### **BREAKFAST/LUNCH SPOTS IN BUNCRANA**

- TANK & SKINNY'S
- MAIN STREET KITCHEN
- SWAN PERK CAFÉ
- BLACK FOREST CAFE
- SEVERAL OTHER SMALL CAFÉ'S ALONG MAIN STREET

### **DINNER PLACES IN BUNCRANA**

- THE RAILWAY TAVERN (ACTUALLY IN FAHAN & RECOMMEND RESERVATIONS)
- THE HARBOR INN
- UBIQUITOUS
- SHERPA (INDIAN FOOD)
- OSCARS ON MAIN

### **ACCOMMODATIONS IN BUNCRANA**

- VARIOUS AIRBNB'S AROUND TOWN
- THE INISHOWEN GATEWAY HOTEL
- THE HARBOR INN
- LAKE OF THE SHADOWS HOTEL
- O'FLAHERTY'S BNB
- ST. COLUMBS HOUSE BNB
- SHIPS QUAY HOTEL (IN DERRY)
- BISHOPS GATE HOTEL (IN DERRY)
- WALLED CITY HOTEL (IN DERRY)

### **ANTRIM COAST**

- GIANTS CAUSEWAY AND CARRICK-A-REDE ROPE BRIDGE (1-1/2 HOUR DRIVE FROM BUNCRANA)
- PORTRUSH/PORTSTEWART
- BOAT TOUR OF WHITE CLIFFS
- DUNLUCE CASTLE

- THIS IS A GOOD ROUTE TO TAKE BACK TO DUBLIN ON THE WAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT IN A HURRY

### **KINSALE (3 HOUR DRIVE SOUTHWEST FROM DUBLIN)**

- WONDERFUL SMALL ARTSIE TOWN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FOOD CAPITALS OF THE COUNTRY
- EAT AT “FISHY FISHY” (RESERVATIONS NEEDED)
- GOLF AT OLDE HEAD GOLF LINKS (PRICED BUT YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED)
- BOAT TOUR OF KINSALE HARBOR
- LOTS OF SMALL SHOPS AT PUBS

### **DINGLE**

- A “MUST SEE” IF YOU ARE IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY
- GOLF AT DINGLE GOLF CLUB
- DRIVE THE DINGLE LOOP WHERE 1 OF THE MANY STAR WARS MOVIES WERE FILMED
- DINNER – OUT OF THE BLUE SEAFOOD (NEED RESERVATIONS)
- GREAT TRAD MUSIC AT MURPHY’S (HOW MANY MURPHY’S PUBS ARE THERE IN IRELAND?)
- GREAT MUSIC AT O’SULLIVANS
- NOTE: DINGLE IS A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY BUT TOTALLY WORTH THE DRIVE
- PLENTY OF AIRBNB’S IN THE AREA

### **GALWAY**

- GALWAY IS THE MUSIC/CUTURAL HUB OF IRELAND
- WALKING FOOD TOUR OF GALWAY
- WALKING GHOST TOURS
- TOUR THE CLIFFS OF MOHER EITHER BY BOAT OR CAR. NOTE: IF BY BOAT, ALLOW 1 WHOLE DAY AS THE BOAT STOPS FIRST AT THE ARRAN ISLANDS FOR ABOUT 4 HOURS.
- GOOD HOTEL – THE HARBOR HOTEL

### **HELPFUL TIPS/TIDBITS/HINTS**

- TIPPING IS NOT CUSTOMARY OR EXPECTED. IF YOU TIP, YOU’LL BE CONSIDRED A HERO
- DRIVING’S 4 RULES:
  - ALWAYS LOOK TO THE RIGHT FIRST
  - WHEN IN A ROUND-ABOUT, ALWAYS REMEMBER THE CAR TO YOUR RIGHT HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY

- ROADS ARE NARROW AND EASY TO RUN UP ON THE CURB AND POP A TIRE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CAR. IF YOU ARE ON A NARROW ROAD AND A CAR IS COMING FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION, PULL TO THE SIDE AND LET THEM PASS.
- SHEEP HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY!!!
- IF YOU GO INTO DERRY, THE CURRENCY CHANGES FROM THE EURO TO THE BRITISH STERLING. EURO WILL USUALLY BE ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF THE POUND, BUT IT WON'T BE HONORED AT FULL PRICE.
- AMERICAN CREDIT CARDS AND DEBIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED EVERYWHERE.
- IF YOU HEAR THE WORD "CRAIC" (SOUNDS LIKE "CRACK"), IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS!!!
- IF RENTING A CAR, YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO PURCHASE THE ADDITIONAL INSURANCE OR MAKE SURE IT IS COVERED BY YOUR AMEX CARD (IF YOU HAVE ONE). I HAVE STATE FARM INSURANCE IN THE STATES AND THEY DO NOT COVER INSURANCE IN IRELAND.
- WHEN PAYING YOUR BILL IN A RESTAURANT, YOU LITERALLY HAVE TO ASK FOR THE CHECK. THEY WILL NOT VOLUNTARILY BRING IT TO YOU