

Photo: Monicami/Shutterstock.com



Breathe in the ocean air as you embark on a journey along emerald scenery and

rugged limestone cliffs. Donegal's windswept coastal landscape is a treasure trove for all those interested in history. The region is known for producing the finest of traditional tweed garments, as well as a few mythic tales. Wash it all down with a creamy Guinness and experience and sublime marine cuisine.

NickKont/Shutterstock.com

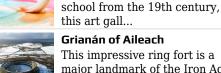


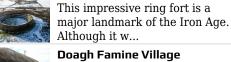
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grafxart/Shutterstock.com











re-thatched ever... Salthill Gardens Set just a short distance from the sea near Mountcharles,

Featured

Mountains (Sli...

Benbulbin (Dartry Mountains)

Benbulbin is a large flat-topped

A fever hospital-turned-national

rock formation in the Dartry

The Gallery Dunfanaghy



Top 5

Glenveagh National Park & ... Ireland's second-largest national park offers several walking and cycling tr...



Donegal Castle The Donegal castle was built by the mighty O'Donnell dynasty in the 15th cen...

Dunlewey Centre Weaver Manus Ferry's

farmhouse in Dunlewey

welcomes families with



Killybegs Maritime and Her... The Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre was established to give visitors an...



Donegal County Museum A rich collection of artifacts, galleries, and exhibitions showcasing the co...

COUNTY DONEGAL



Phil Darby/Shutterstock.com

Sharing the province of Ulster with Northern Ireland, Donegal has always been considered an odd-out in the Republic—up here it's different, as local word has it. However, Donegal has had its fair share of the turbulences of Irish history: it was among the most hardly hit regions of the Great Famine in the 1840s, and also suffered as the forefront of the partition of Ireland in 1921.

From megalithic landmarks to the long-cherished traditions of the fishing and weaving industry, Donegal, home to the second-largest Gaelic-speaking community in the world, is a county where history is still stunningly alive today.

The region is considered as one of the most picturesque destinations one can visit in entire Europe, and so did think National Geographic when it selected Donegal as the Coolest Place on the Planet in 2017. Start the engine and see it for yourself: Donegal's rugged coastline awaits you with probably the most scenic stretch of the 2,500-km long Wild Atlantic Way, and wherever you are driving along the route, we made sure you'll also get your fix of entertainment, to top the admirable view.

DONEGAL TOWN



PJ photography/Shutterstock.com

Overshadowed by the Bluestack Mountains ("Croaghs"), Donegal Town was once the capital of a Gaelic kingdom. Nowadays, the town centre or "Diamond" is a hub of cultural activity for the Northwestern region. A seaside town, don't miss your chance to experience the magic of the Irish coast.

Donegal Castle



Donegal Castle is a fascinating 15th-century castle with a later Jacobean wing. Built by the--almost legendary--historical

figure Red Hugh O'Donnell in 1474, this castle was one of the strongest fortresses in Ireland. When the O'Donnell clan fled in 1607 (a period known as "The Flight of the Earls"), the castle came under British control and a Jacobean wing was added. Today, the castle has been almost fully restored and is the site of regular Gaelic culture events.

Photo: noradoa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saint Helenes, 11 Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Opening hours: Easter to Mid September: 10am-6pm. Mid September to Easter: Thu-Mon 9:30am-4:30pm Phone: +353 74 972 2405 Internet: heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/donegal-castle/ Email: donegalcastle@opw.ie

Lough Derg



Not to be mistaken with the larger lake of the same name on the River Shannon, Lough Derg in Co. Donegal is a renowned place of

pilgrimage. A traditional three-day pilgrimage takes place each August, but the Lough is open to visitors (including anglers!) year-round. The Lough is composed of over 30 islands and inlets, the most famous of which is Station Island - it is said that when St. Patrick traversed Ireland converting kings to Christianity, Jesus appeared to him here and revealed the entrance to Purgatory!

The Lough's name comes from the Irish word "dearg" (red) as a local legend holds that a local mortal once called the magic powers of the lake to transform a worm into a vicious cow. Once defeated, the red blood of the cow changed the colour of the rocks (which are in fact sandstone) to red.

Photo: Jesus Barroso/Shutterstock.com Address: St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, Pettigo Opening hours: Open May-September, but office open all year round 9am-5pm Phone: +353 71 986 1518 Internet: www.loughderg.org Email: info@loughderg.org

Salthill Gardens



A stone's throw from the sea near Mountcharles, Salthill Garden is a verdant selection of perennials, vegetables, and shrubs, individually

styled by Elizabeth Temple. This walled garden also has a walking trail which can be fully

explored within two hours.

Photo: Louise Price/Geograph.ie Address: Salthill Demesne, Mountcharles, Co. Donegal Opening hours: May to September: 2-6pm daily Phone: +353 87 798 8078 Internet: www.donegalgardens.com Email: etemple@eircom.net

Bundoran Surf Co.



Toted as the surf capital of Ireland, make sure to catch some waves at Bundoran's surfing classes and rentals. Beginners should stick to

the beach of Rossnowlagh, while seasoned surfers should make their way to the world-class waves at The Peak.

Photo: Wonderful Nature/Shutterstock.com Address: Main St, Drumacrin, Bundoran, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 71 984 1968 Internet: bundoransurfco.com/welcome-to-bundoran-surf-mobile Email: info@bundoransurfco.com

Castle Adventure Farm



An interactive open farm with plenty of activities for the whole family: experience country living and try your hand at driving a go-kart or mini

digger. Don't forget to feed the adorable goats! Both indoor and outdoor play areas make the farm an all-weather attraction for young families. For parents looking to relax, there is also a cafe with delicious cakes and sandwiches.

Photo: Steven Frame/Shutterstock.com Address: Wardtown Castle, Ballymacaward, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Sat-Sun 10am-5pm Phone: +353 71 985 2688 Internet: openfarm.ie Email: info@openfarm.ie

Waterworld Bundoran



All goes swimmingly at this indoor aqua park. Attractions range from a toddler pool for the youngest visitors to gravity and twister pools

for the most adventurous. Seaweed baths are also available for those weary travellers looking to relax after a long day.

Photo: PHOTOCREO Michal Bednarek/Shutterstock.com Address: Atlantic Way, Dumacrin, Bundoran, Co. Donega Opening hours: April and May: 12-6pm weekends only, June: 12-6pm daily, July and August: 12-7pm daily, first two weeks of September: 12-6pm daily Phone: +353 71 984 1172 Internet: www.waterworldbundoran.com Email: info@waterworldbundoran.com

Biddy's O'Barnes



For a classic Irish pub experience, look no further than Biddy's O'Barnes in Barnesmore, Donegal. With origins dating back to the 18th

century, Biddy's is still an iconic watering hole for roadtrippers looking to enjoy some of the best Guinness in the country. Think open fires, cosy seating, and traditional tunes.

Photo: Christian_Birkholz/Pixabay

Address: Barnesmore Gap (between Croaghconnelagh and Croaghonagh) Opening hours: Wed-Sun 1pm-11:30pm Phone: +353 74 972 2647 Internet: www.biddysobarnes.com Email: hello@biddysobarnes.com

Donegal Craft Village



Ireland's craft tradition lives on in this magical village. Discover the most authentic Irish souvenirs, such as fine jewellery and Donegal tweed. There is

an on-site Glass studio for those interested in the craft, as well as a popular coffee shop.

Photo: ianmitchinson/Shutterstock.com Address: Lurganboy, Donegal Opening hours: Summer: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Winter: Tue-Sat: 10am-5pm Phone: +353 74 972 2225 Internet: www.donegalcraftvillage.com

Magee 1866



Founded by John Magee in 1866, Magee's is now an internationally acclaimed tweed manufacturer that produces the finest

hand-woven menswear and womenswear, incorporating over 150 years of experience into the latest fashion trends.

Photo: Taz/ Flickr(image cropped) Address: The Diamond, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5:30pm Phone: +353 74 97 21100 Internet: www.magee1866.com Email: info@magee1866.com More Info: www.instagram.com/magee1866/

Olde Castle Bar & Red Hugh's Restaurant



Nestled at the foot of the town's signature landmark, the Olde Castle, this is a multi-award winner restaurant with a divine

selection of lunch and dinner options, ranging

from venison pie and chowder to locally sourced seafood. Craft beer aficionados won't want to miss Red Hugh--a speciality craft beer brewed exclusively for the visitors of Olde Castle.

Photo: Christopher Elwell/Shutterstock.com Address: Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am Phone: +353 74 972 1262 Internet: www.oldecastlebar.com Email: info@oldecastlebar.com More Info: www.instagram.com/oldecastlebar/

The Chasin' Bull



The Chasin' Bull is a proud family-run business with a non-stop atmosphere. The best of local live music can be heard here seven nights a

week in summer, and the bar is the most popular spot in town to watch live sports. A mix of traditional brews and cocktails ensures there is "craic" to be had by all.

Photo: hxdbzxy/Shutterstock.com Address: Main Street, Bundoran Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11:30am-11:30pm, Fri 11:30am-12:30am, Sat 11:30am-12am, Sun 12pm-11pm Phone: +353 71 984 1988 Internet: www.thechasinbull.com Email: thechasinbull@gmail.com

Ard Na Breatha Guesthouse & Restaurant



Ard Na Breatha is a cosy bed and breakfast for those seeking peace and relaxation. The homemade lunches served daily here make

this a good stopping point on any Wild Atlantic Way journey.

Address: Middle Drumrooske, Donegal Phone: +353 74 972 2288 Internet: www.ardnabreatha.com Email: info@ardnabreatha.com

The Restaurant at Harvey's Point



The Restaurant is located within Noel Cunningham's famed Harvey's Point Hotel. Enjoy a seven-course tasting menu or a casual

lunch in an idyllic rural setting - the restaurant's views of Donegal are as unparalleled as its menu.

Photo: triocean/Shutterstock.com Address: Lough Eske Road, Donegal Opening hours: Daily 12pm-9pm Phone: +353 74 972 2208 Internet: www.harveyspoint.com Email: stay@harveyspoint.com More Info: www.instagram.com/harveyspoint/

The Reel Inn



A trip to Ireland would not be complete without listening to some traditional live music. This award-winning Irish bar hosts nightly live

music, and it is an excellent meeting point for both visitors and locals.

Photo: bbernard/Shutterstock.com Address: Bridge Street, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-1am, Sun 10:30am-12am Phone: +353 87 933 8456 More Info: www.instagram.com/thereelinn/

The Peak Restaurant



Nestled in the heart of Donegal Bay, this Bundoran restaurant is known as one of the finest restaurants in the region and offers a peaceful,

intimate dining experience - with epic waterfront views. The a la carte menu features seafood which may have been caught just a few metres away!

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com Address: 2-8 W End, Magheracar, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5-9:30pm, Sun 12-9pm Phone: +353 71 984 1339 Email: the_peak_restaurant@hotmail.com

The Blueberry Tearoom



After a visit to Donegal Castle, make sure to recharge at this cosy tearoom. The daily soup and quiche specials can be followed with a

delicious chocolate or fruit-topped dessert.

Photo: Jacek Wojnarowski/Shutterstock.com Address: Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Phone: +353 74 972 3663 Internet: theblueberrytearooms.ie Email: info@theblueberrytearooms.ie More Info: www.instagram.com/theblueberrytearooms/

The Salty Fox



Those with a sweet tooth should not miss his hidden gem in Bundoran. The Saly Fox is a lovely pastel café with a rich offering of sweet treats

not limited to hot chocolate, pumpkin spice latte,

scones, and ginger-coated cheesecake. The cafe is also a good resting point for parents, as there is a well-stocked play corner for kids.

Photo: Efetova Anna/Shutterstock.com Address: Tullan Strand Rd, Drumacrin, Bundoran Opening hours: Thu-Sun 10am-4pm Phone: +353 83 058 7928 Email: thesaltyfoxcoffeeshop@gmail.com

SLIEVE LEAGUE



MNStudio/Shutterstock.com

Rugged and windswept, Slieve League has the highest sea cliffs in Europe. Take a spiritual journey through hundreds of years of tradition on the Pilgrim Path. To learn about the region's rich history and culture, join a guided offer at the local visitor centre.

Killybegs Maritime and Heritage Centre



The Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre showcases the industries and rich crafts alive in this region. The intricate hand-knotted carpets are

a fine example of the local weaving industry and make for fine souvenirs - they've even been scooped up by visitors from the venerable Buckingham Palace! With your newfound weaving know-how, try your hand at the world's largest loom, also on-site. Photo: Holly Kuchera/Shutterstock.com Address: Fintra Road, Killybegs Opening hours: Easter to end of September: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 1-5pm Phone: (+353) 74 974 1944 Internet: www.visitkillybegs.com Email: info@visitkillybegs.com

Triona Donegal Tweed Center



Located in what has always been a prominent village of the Donegal tweed industry, here you will not only find the finest tweed garments to

take home, but will also get an insight into weaving traditions through various displays and the works of craftsmen still based here.

Photo: Zaitsava Olga/Shutterstock.com Address: Main Street, Ardara Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm Phone: +353 74 954 1422 Internet: www.trionadesign.com Email: customerservice@trionadesign.com

Studio Donegal



Studio Donegal preserves centuries-old craft traditions. Visitors will learn about the production and lore surrounding weaving,

tour a genuine studio, and have a chance to pick up the finest tweed clothing and homewares at this unique gift shop.

Photo: aidart/Shutterstock.com Address: The Glebe Mill, Lower Main St, New Church Glebe, Kilcar, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm Phone: +353 74 973 8194 Internet: www.studiodonegal.ie Email: info@studiodonegal.ie More Info: www.instagram.com/studiodonegal/

Charlie's West End Cafe



Good honest pub grub has made Charlie's a much-praised cafe and takeaway. Local flavour and character make this a good old reliable option

for any visitors to Ardara.

Photo: Subbotina Anna/Shutterstock.com Address: 5 Main St, Drumbaran Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30am-9pm, Sun 5-9pm Phone: +353 74 954 1656

The Silver Strand



A sheltered horse-shoe shaped beach, The Silver Strand is a cove of serenity and inspiration. Maghera, on the northern side of the peninsula, is

also worth a dip.

Photo: Milosz Maslanka/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin Beg, Glencolumbkille

Nancy's Bar Ardara



Throughout its seven-generation history, Nancy's has become a distinct landmark in the small seaside village of Ardara. Make yourself

comfortable, and grab a pint (or rather, a cake) of Guinness.

Photo: EddieHernandezPhotography/Shutterstock.com Address: Front St, Drumbaran, Ardara Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-12:30am, Sun 12:30-11pm Phone: +353 74 954 1187 Internet: www.nancysbarardara.com Email: ardaranancysbar@gmail.com More Info: www.instagram.com/nancysbarardara/

Hughie's Bar



Hughie's Bar has diverse offerings, from fresh seafood to great cocktails. Live music is frequently performed in the evenings, as well as

unique events such as a vintage disco show!

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com

Address: 22 Main St, Cashelcummin, Killybegs, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-12:30am, Sun 10am-12:30am Phone: +353 74 973 2876 Email: info@22mainstreet.com

Ahoy Cafe



Embrace maritime vibes at this comfy seaside cafe. Overlooking Killybegs Harbour, offerings include a classic Irish breakfast, an apple

tart, or a seafood lunch.

Photo: Elena Veselova/Shutterstock.com Address: Shore Road, Killybegs Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Phone: +353 74 973 1952 Email: info@ahoycafe.ie

GAELTACHT



Patrick Mangan/Shutterstock.com

Gweedore ("Gaoth Dobhair") is a Gaeltacht region in County Donegal. Gaeltacht regions exist mainly on the West coast of Ireland and are preserves of traditional, Gaelic-speaking Irish culture. Lift the lid on old traditions and embrace a rich culture. The region is also home to Mount Errigal, a 751m high mountain, which provides ample views of the spectacular landscape.

Dunlewey Centre



Take a lake tour on the Dunlewey Lough and visit the historic homestead of world-renowned weaver Manus Ferry. Tour guides weave magical tales of

green ladies who haunt the nearby Guinness estate.

Landlubbers may prefer the family-friendly activities on offer: climbing frames, zip-wires, rodeo bull, pedellos, kayaks, and zorbing, as well as a playground and bouncy castle for the kids.

Photo: Gerry McNally/Shutterstock.com Address: Dunlewey, Gweedore Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-5pm Phone: +353 74 953 1699 Internet: www.dunleweycentre.com Email: dunleweycentre@gmail.com

The Art House Ireland



This cosy art gallery boasts a selection of both Irish and international contemporary art, including the works of artist Brian O'Doherty -

who happens to own this studio and is more than willing to share his love of all things art with visitors.

Photo: Denis Kuvaev/Shutterstock.com Address: Main Street, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-6:30pm Phone: +353 74 910 0552 Internet: arthouseireland.com Email: info@arthouseireland.com

Marble Hill Strand



Sheephaven's Bay's most protected, and indeed, most spectacular beach is known for its white sand and local eatery The Shack, a must-stop for

artisan coffee and ice cream.

Photo: Janelle Lugge/Shutterstock.com Address: Marble Hill

Tory Island



Until the 16th century, Colmcille's monastery defined the island. In Toraigh, the most remote of all the inhabited Irish isles, tradition and high

spirits abound. A Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region), this island is fiercely proud of its folklore, music, and dance. A haven for artists, the beauty of this small island has inspired the imagination for generations. Other landmarks of note include the Lighthouse, the Wishing Stone, and Balor's Fort. An interesting fact is that this island traditionally elects its own king - the only place in Ireland to do so.

Photo: Julianne Ford/Wiki Commons(image cropped) Address: Ferry leaves from Magheroarty Phone: +353 87 199 3710 Internet: www.toryferry.com

The Lobster Pot



Winner of the Irish Pub of Distinction award, the Lobster Pot exudes Irishness: fresh seafood, a fascination for Gaelic sports, and warm

hospitality! Unique dishes include the Titanic Platter.

Photo: Linus Strandholm/Shutterstock.com Address: Burtonport Opening hours: Specials served 12-2pm. À la carte begins at 6pm Phone: +353 74 954 2012 Internet: www.lobsterpot.ie Email: tim@lobsterpot.ie

Leo's Tavern



Fans of Enya and Clannad will revel in this chance to see the place that sparked their careers! Leo's is a local treasure where a celebratory mood

reigns and Irish music is performed every night. Food is also served daily.

Photo: Jozef Klopacka/Shutterstock.com Address: Meenaleck, Crolly Opening hours: Mon-Fri 5pm-12:30am, Sat-Sun 1pm-12:30am Phone: +353 74 954 8143 Internet: leostavern.com Email: info@leostavern.com

Buttermilk



This coastal café combines sweet treats and sandwich specials with tranquil views of Portnablagh Bay. No doubt, this epic scenery

sparks the imagination. Art enthusiasts won't want to miss Throatlake Art Gallery, which promotes fine Irish art at reasonable prices.

Photo: marcin jucha/Shutterstock.com Address: Rockhill, Portnablagh Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm Phone: +353 74 913 8791 Internet: www.buttermilk.ie Email: info@throatlake.com

Muck n Muffins



Muck n Muffins is a classic small-town cafe, with the added benefit of jaw-dropping views of Horn Head. Irresistible homemade cakes and tray

bakes, as well as paninis, quiches, and jacket potatoes, are the ultimate comfort food after a long day's sightseeing. The on-site gift shop also stocks a selection of local pottery and crafts, an ideal souvenir or gift idea.

Photo: cobraphotography/Shutterstock.com Address: The Square, Dunfanaghy Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-5pm Phone: +353 74 913 6780 Internet: www.mucknmuffins.ie Email: mucknmuffins@hotmail.com

INISHOWEN



Ester Lo Feudo/Shutterstock.com

At the northernmost tip of the island, the spectacular and almost eerie views of the Inishowen peninsula seem to spirit visitors away to another world. Explore the dramatic coastline to get a feel for the bewitching landscape, which inspired countless myths and legends. Notable points include Malin Head, which featured in the Star Wars movie.

Malin Head



Malin Head, known locally as Banba's Crown, is Ireland's most northerly point. A place of dramatic, otherworldly beauty, Malin Head is

also an area of historical, scientific, and ecological importance. Visit the old Radio Station, spot the wreckage of Twilight that never made it to Derry, and admire the enthralling view of the endless sea embracing Tory Island.

Photo: shawnwill23/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin Head, Inishowen

Grianán of Aileach



An impressive ring fort constructed in the 6th century, Grianán is a remnant of the Iron Age, or more locally, the Kingdom of Aileach. Rife

with legends, the fort teems with mystery and lore. If the thought of giants rumoured to be sleeping here doesn't scare you off, take a short drive (3 km) south of Burt, and experience breathtaking Inishowen peninsula views on your way.

Photo: ianmitchinson/Shutterstock.om Address: Burt, Inishowen

Doagh Famine Village



This open-air museum transports you back to one of the most formative, and indeed tragic, periods of Irish history. The Great

Famine devastated the country between 1845 and 1850. Explore this "Famine village", dotted with authentic Irish cottages still re-thatched every year. More macabre visitors may be interested o attend a traditional Irish wake, one of the many activities on offer which explore the Famine's effect on Irish society.

Photo: Linda Buckley/ Flickr(image cropped) Address: Doagh Island, Inishowen Opening hours: 17 March to 31 October: 10am-5pm daily Phone: +353 74 937 8078 Internet: www.doaghfaminevillage.com Email: info@doaghfaminevillage.com

Five Fingers Strand



Just south of Malin Head, the Five Fingers Strand is a unique beach embedded between 30m dunes - some of the highest in Europe. The

secluded, unspoilt nature of this beach will enable you to experience first hand the tranquillity and dramatic beauty of this corner of Ireland. As you explore the dunes, you may stumble upon a desolate but beautiful small church.

Photo: shawnwil23/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin, County Donegal

Inch Wildfowl Reserve



Located on the shore of Inch Lough, this reserve is a very important wetland site for migrating birds gathering here every year from various

parts of the world. Take a walk along the scenic 8-km long trail, spotted with bird hides waiting to be explored.

Photo: Mirko Graul/Shutterstock.com Address: Inch black swans Reserve, Inch Level, Burt, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Open every day Internet: www.inchwildfowlreserve.ie

Fort Dunree Military Museum



Fort Dunree features one of the largest artillery gun collections in the world. As well as this, the centre offers diverse activities such as hiking,

kayaking, and even exhibitions on wildlife. Afterwards, relax in what is regarded as the most

scenic coffee shop in Ireland.

Photo: shawnwil23/Shutterstock.com Address: Dunree View, Leophin, Linsfort, Buncrana, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10:30am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 12-6pm Phone: +353 74 936 1817 Internet: www.fortdunree.com Email: info@fortdunree.com More Info: Open all year round

The Gallery Dunfanaghy



Dunfanaghy Gallery features some of the most acclaimed Irish watercolour paintings and antiques, housed in a 19th-century building.

The region also sparked the imagination of Frank Egginton, the famous landscape artist. With free admission, and an impressive gift shop.

Photo: PowerUp/Shutterstock.com Address: Figart, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 913 6224 Internet: www.thegallerydunfanaghy.com Email: thegallerydunfanaghy@yahoo.ie

Flight of the Earls Heritage Centre



Housed in a historic British defensive gun battery, this museum explores the dramatic "Flight of the Earls", a key event in Irish history.

Be transported back to the 17th century and learn about the famous Earls, who fled their clan lands following invasion and prolonged battle with English forces.

Photo: Philip McErlean/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Rathmullan Heritage Centre, Rathmullan Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Sun 12-4pm

Ballyliffin Golf Club



Two scenic links courses and 36 holes await you at Ireland's finest golf club. Equipment adjustment services and lessons are also available.

Photo: ZoranOrcik/Shutterstock.com Address: Ballyliffin, Inishowen Phone: (+353) 74 937 6119 Internet: www.ballyliffingolfclub.com Email: info@ballyliffingolfclub.com

Glendowen Craft Shop



Ann McGonigle's craft shop is a step in to the Old World. With a vivid selection of tweed garments and jewellery, this shop has all you need

to add a unique stamp to your style. Old family traditions and quality craftsmanship inspire the range of products which includes gift ideas like lamps and blankets.

Photo: Rido/Shutterstock.com Address: Meentagh Glen, Clonmany Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-5:30pm Phone: (+353) 74 937 6265 Internet: glendowen.com Email: glendowen@eircom.net

The Rusty Nail



Just a short walk from the golden sands of northerly Tullagh Bay, the Rusty Nail is a friendly restaurant with fresh food specials multiple times a

week and music sessions on weekends.

Photo: Andy Wang/Unsplash Address: Crossconnell, Clonmany, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Fri-Sat 4-9pm, Sun 1-20:30pm Phone: +353 74 937 6116 Email: therustynail2018@outlook.com

An Bonnan Buí



sea to table.

Photo: Ildi Papp/Shutterstock.com Address: Pier Rd, Aghavannan Near, Rathmullan, Co. Phone: +353 74 915 8868 Internet: www.anbonnanbui.ie Email: bonnanbui1@gmail.com More Info: www.instagram.com/bonnanbui/

Kealy's Seafood Bar



Experience an authentic Irish fishing village in Greencastle. Breath in the ocean air as you enjoy fresh and locally sourced seafood. The Early Bird

Since 1993, An Bonnan

Buí ("The Yellow Bittern",

from a classic Irish poem)

has offered quality food

ingredients, direct from

using the freshest

menu is between lunch and dinner from 5pm to 6:30pm.

Photo: vanillaechoes/Shutterstock.com

Address: Milltown Harbour, Eleven Ballyboes, Greencastle, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Lunch: Thu-Sun 1-4pm. Dinner: 5-9pm Phone: +353 74 938 1010 Internet: www.kealysseafoodbar.ie Email: info@kealysseafoodbar.ie

The Singing Pub



Fuel up for the rest of your Wild Atlantic road trip at one of Ireland's oldest pubs! Wholesome specialities like the beer-battered Atlantic

haddock will provide much-needed nourishment after a day's exploring. This pub also shows all major sports events (a great way to experience everyday Irish culture!) as well as live traditional music.

Photo: shutterupeire/Shutterstock.com Address: Clontallagh, Mevagh, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11am-11pm, Mon 1-11pm Phone: +353 74 915 5176

O'Flaherty's



A fun Irish pub on the Inishowen peninsula, with board games and quiz nights held regularly. Consider branching out from the classic Guinness

here: O'Flaherty's has a remarkable selection of local and international options!

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: 41 Upper Main Street, Buncrana Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11:30am-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 11:30am-12:30am, Sun 12:30pm-11:30pm Phone: +353 74 936 1305

Lily's Bar & Tea Rooms



A quaint café where the Guinness is just as creamy as the warm fresh coffee, this bar and tea rooms offer a cheerful atmosphere and a chance

to mingle with locals.

Photo: Denys Bogdanov/Shutterstock.com Address: McGonagles, Malin Diamond, Malin Town Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-1am Phone: +353 74 933 2969 Internet: lilys-bar-malin-town.business.site Email: lilysmalin@gmail.com

Gap Coffee Company



Multi-layered sandwiches with homemade piccalilli, extra creamy artisan coffee, and freshly baked goodies: you will not regret that short detour

out of Derry!

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com Address: Bridg End, Inishowen Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm Phone: +353 74 936 8001 Internet: www.gapcoffeeco.com Email: gapcoffee@hotmail.com

LETTERKENNY



Kingfort Studios/Shutterstock.com

Nestled in the wild emerald countryside, Letterkenny, often nicknamed the Cathedral Town, is the largest town in County Donegal, a lively place with a unique spirit and bursting with culture.

Glenveagh National Park & Castle



Ireland's second-largest national park is a must-see for visitors to this region. There is no better way to admire the scenic views than by

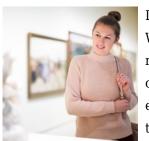
following one of the many walking or cycling trails. The park is also a red deer conservation ground.

If you work up an appetite, stop for a snack at the 19th-century Victorian castle - as did Greta Garbo during her 1967 visit to Donegal.

Photo: alexilena/Shutterstock.com

Address: Glenveagh National Park, Gartan Mountain, Church Hill, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm Phone: +353 76 100 2537 Internet: www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie Email: glenveaghbookings@ahg.gov.ie

Donegal County Museum



Located in the famine-era Warden's House, this museum offers a collection of artifacts and exhibitions showcasing the county's history.

Admission is free.

Photo: lakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com Address: High Rd, Ballyboe Glencar, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4:30pm, Sat 1-4:30pm Phone: +353 74 912 4613 Internet: www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/countymuseum/ Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie

Oakfield Park



Oakfield Park is a family-friendly park, regarded as one of the best in Ireland. A place of verdant beauty, make sure to take a stroll

among the ponds and sculptures, have a ride on the narrow-gauge train, admire the Longsleeper monument, and even make a wish under the Faerie tree! For dining options, visit the Buffers on site.

Photo: Pascal Raymond Dorland/Shutterstock.com Address: Oakfield Demense Oakfield Demense, Raphoe, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 917 3922 Internet: www.oakfieldpark.com

Alcorn's Flower & Garden Centre



Alcorn's is not only a garden shop with an impressive plant selection, but also a Tropical Zoo with colourful birds and

butterlies, as well as lemurs! For refreshments, check out the earthy café ThymeOut on site.

Photo: enchanted_fairy/Shutterstock.com Address: Hazelwood House, Loughnagin, Glebe, Letterkenny Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 1-6pm Phone: +353 74 912 1541 Internet: alcorns.ie More Info: Closed for winter until April 2019

The Lemon Tree Restaurant



A widely acclaimed inland restaurant with an extensive Early Evening Menu. Signature dishes include the Donegal pork hash and the cheddar-filled steak burger, as well as heavenly desserts that delight the senses.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com Address: 32-34, Courtyard Shopping Centre, Lower main Street, Letterkenny Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5-9pm, Sun 1-2:30pm, 5-8pm Phone: +353 74 912 5788 Internet: www.thelemontreerestaurant.com Email: info@thelemontreerestaurant.com

The Restaurant at the Castle Grove



Set in an elegant Georgian house, Castle Grove's restaurant serves the finest seafood, game, and vegetarian alternatives - embracing

locally grown ingredients. The à la carte menu is famed for its specialities, such as the Slaney Valley lamb, and afternoon teas are a treat everything from homemade scones to oak-smoked salmon.

Photo: Ingus Kruklitis/Shutterstock.com Address: Ramelton Rd, Eighterross, Letterkenny, Co. Donega Phone: +353 74 915 1118 Internet: www.castlegrove.com/restaurant Email: enquiries@castlegrove.com

Sister Sara's



Spread over three floors, hosting live music from local artists as well as the best DJs in Ireland, and boasting lots of TV screens--including the

largest one in Donegal--for you to watch all major sports, Sister Sara's in Letterkenny is where it all happens.

Photo: Shyripa Alexandr/Shutterstock.com Address: Port Rd, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12-11:30pm, Fri 12pm-12:30am, Sat 12pm-1:45pm, Sun 12:30pm-12am Phone: +353 74 912 2238 Internet: sistersaras.ie Email: info@sistersaras.ie More Info: https://www.instagram.com/sister.saras/

Bonners Corner Bar



A quaint Irish pub with great offers on Guinness. Enjoy the live music or steal the show on the karaoke nights!

Photo: Patricia Hofmeester/Shutterstock.com Address: Glenfin Street, Ballybofey Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12pm-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-1:30am, Sun 12:30pm-11pm Phone: +353 74 913 1361

Letterkenny Shopping Centre



This is Donegal's premier shopping destination boasting an ample selection of shops, services, cafés, and popular seasonal and

recurring programs, such as fashion shows and fundraising events. Super easy access with free parking and WiFi connection!

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com Address: Port Rd, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Tue 9am-6pm, Wed-Fri 7am-11pm, Sat 8am-11pm, Sun 9am-11pm Phone: +353 74 912 3094 Internet: www.letterkennysc.com Email: manager@letterkennyshoppingcentre.com More Info: www.instagram.com/letterkennyshoppingcentre/

DRIVING ROUTES



Brian Kelly/Unsplash

1) Atlantic Tour Drive Donegal

This self-drive tour starts from Letterkenny, on to Ramelton, a Heritage Town on Lough Swilly. Then on to Milford, and Carrigart, on the isthmus separating Mulroy Bay and Sheephaven Bay. Follow the Atlantic Drive signs around the Rossguill Peninsula, to Melmore Head where there are great views. Then head for Carrigart and right to Creeslough where you will see the ruins of 16th century Doe Castle. The drive continues through Portnablagh, where boats leave for Tory. Drive through Dunfanaghy via Horn Head, and on to Falcarragh in the Irish-speaking area of West Donegal. The road passes the Derryveagh Mountains and Glenveagh National Park. Turn left for Kilmacrennan where there is Lurgyvale Thatched Cottage a 150-year-old restored building. Then back to Letterkenny.

2) Fanad Scenic Drive

The Fanad Peninsula scenic tour is a 72km circuit of the area, which is well signposted and is a splendid drive. Follow the R247 from Ramelton and enjoy the views of Lough Swilly all the way to Rathmullan. Continue for a short distance along the coast to the harbour where the Flight of the Earls Heritage Centre is located. A fully equipped sea angling boat can be hired at the nearby pier and the glorious beach at Rathmullan flies an E.U blue flag. Follow the Fanad Drive and Portsalon signs, passing the Otway 9 hole links, where golf can be played all year round. Keep right at the fork for Portsalon. As the road rises around Knockalla Mountain enjoy the breathtaking views across Lough Swilly. Below you, is the Ballymastocker Bay bedecked with a trilogy of golden beaches and punctuated by fingers of grassy dunes. Portsalon lies across the bay. Resume your drive turning left into Portsalon. A left turn in the village will take you to Fanad Head via the coast. Follow the signs for the lighthouse. From the attractive lighthouse grounds, you can see the rugged horn of Dunaff Head across the bay and further east, the long finger of Malin Head, the most northerly point in Ireland. Retrace your steps, this time ignoring the sign for Portsalon, and keep the coast on your right. Turn left, signposted Kerrykeel 13km. Keep following the Fanad Drive signs past the inner lakes of Mulroy Bay and over a small bridge. Joining the R246 follow the sign, right, for Milford, which lies at the foot of Mulroy Bay. At the T - junction a left turn takes you into the village of Milford and right is the road to Carrigart (R245).

DO & SEE



Andrea Ferrario/Unsplash

There's a lot to see and do in Donegal, from places of stunning natural beauty to adventure parks for the whole family to sites housing years of history.

Glenveagh National Park & Castle



Ireland's second-largest national park offers several walking and cycling trails for you to admire its scenic views and abundant wildlife,

which also includes a remarkable red deer habitat. Stop for a tea and travel back in time at the 19th-century Victorian castle, also enjoyed by Greta Garbo during her visit to Donegal.

Photo: alexilena/Shutterstock.com

Address: Glenveagh National Park, Gartan Mountain, Church Hill, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm Phone: +353 76 100 2537 Internet: www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie Email: glenveaghbookings@ahg.gov.ie

Donegal Castle



The Donegal castle was built by the mighty O'Donnell dynasty in the 15th century. After the Flight of the Earls in 1607, which saw the

O'Donnells leave the country, the castle was granted to the English Brooks family, whose ownership also left remarkable marks on one of the most prominent landmarks of Irish history.

Photo: noradoa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saint Helenes, 11 Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Opening hours: Easter to Mid September: 10am-6pm. Mid September to Easter: Thu-Mon 9:30am-4:30pm Phone: +353 74 972 2405

Internet: heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/donegal-castle/ Email: donegalcastle@opw.ie

Dunlewey Centre



Weaver Manus Ferry's farmhouse in Dunlewey welcomes families with interesting stories and vast entertainment in a scenic rural setting, with

stunning views of Lough Dunlewy (boat trips available) and Donegal's highest mountain, Errigal. Learn about the story of the haunted witch.

Photo: Gerry McNally/Shutterstock.com Address: Dunlewey, Gweedore Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-5pm Phone: +353 74 953 1699 Internet: www.dunleweycentre.com Email: dunleweycentre@gmail.com

Killybegs Maritime and Heritage Centre



The Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre was established to give visitors an introduction to the main industries in the region. Admire some

hand-knotted carpets, many of which also appear at places as venerable as Buckingham Palace, learn about the know-how of the weaving industry, and try your skills at the world's largest loom!

Photo: Holly Kuchera/Shutterstock.com Address: Fintra Road, Killybegs Opening hours: Easter to end of September: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 1-5pm Phone: +353 74 974 1944 Internet: www.visitkillybegs.com Email: info@visitkillybegs.com

Donegal County Museum



Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie

A rich collection of artifacts, galleries, and exhibitions showcasing the county's history, located in the former Warden's House dating

back to the era of the Great Famine. Admission is free.

Photo: lakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com Address: High Rd, Ballyboe Glencar, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4:30pm, Sat 1-4:30pm Phone: +353 74 912 4613 Internet: www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/countymuseum/

Benbulbin (Dartry Mountains)



Benbulbin is a large flat-topped rock formation in the Dartry Mountains (Sligo, Ireland). This magical scenery has long sparked

the imagination - the site of many mythical tales. The area later inspired the evocative poetry of renowned Irish writer W.B. Yeats and is thus known as "Yeats Country". The mountain is certainly unique, home to Arctic-Alpine plants, and many species of flora not found elsewhere in Ireland. Fossils are also regularly found. Climbers should approach the mountain from the gentler and safer South Side (avoid the North Side and its dangerous Atlantic winds!) and are recommended to follow the Gortarowey Forst Loop to take in views of Donegal Bays.

Photo: Dingbat2005/ Flickr(image cropped) Address: Cloyragh, County Sligo Internet: www.sligotourism.ie/listing/benbulben

Lough Derg



Not to be mistaken with the larger lake of the same name, which straddles the Tipperary-Limerick border, Lough Derg in

Co. Donegal is visited for the St Patrick's Purgatory on Station Island, a renowned pilgrimage site still keeping thousand-year-old traditions alive. The three-day pilgrimage is open to anyone interested.

Photo: Jesus Barroso/Shutterstock.com Address: St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, Pettigo Opening hours: Open May thru September, but office open all year round 9am-5pm Phone: +353 71 986 1518 Internet: www.loughderg.org

Email: info@loughderg.org

Malin Head



Malin Head, known locally as Banba's Crown, is Ireland's most northerly point and an area of great scenic beauty with historical,

scientific, and ecological importance. Visit the old Radio Station, try to spot the wreckage of Twilight that never made it to Derry, and admire the stunning view of the endless sea embracing Tory Island.

Photo: shawnwill23/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin Head, Inishowen

Oakfield Park



Regarded several times among the best parks in Ireland, Oakfield Park welcomes its visitors with plenty of verdant beauty and family-friendly

entertainment. Take a stroll among the ponds and sculptures, have a ride on the narrow-gauge train, admire the Longsleeper landmark, and don't forget to make a wish under the Faerie tree. For dining options, visit the Buffers on site.

Photo: Pascal Raymond Dorland/Shutterstock.com Address: Oakfield Demense Oakfield Demense, Raphoe, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 917 3922 Internet: oakfieldpark.com

Grianán of Aileach



This impressive ring fort is a major landmark of the Iron Age. Although it was built during the Kingdom of Aileach around the sixth century,

it is argued that the site had already been in use before. History has provided legends that fill the place with a mysterious atmosphere, but if sleeping giants don't scare you off, take a short drive (3 km) south of Burt, and admire the view of the scenic Inishowen peninsula.

Photo: ianmitchinson/Shutterstock.om Address: Burt, Inishowen

Doagh Famine Village



Attend a traditional Irish wake, visit Irish cottages still re-thatched every year, and join an informative guided tour to learn about how rural

communities lived in the times of the Great Famine at this interesting outdoor museum.

Photo: Linda Buckley/ Flickr(image cropped) Address: Doagh Island, Inishowen Opening hours: 17 March to 31 October: 10am-5pm daily Phone: +353 74 937 8078 Internet: www.doaghfaminevillage.com Email: info@doaghfaminevillage.com

Salthill Gardens



Set just a short distance from the sea near Mountcharles, Salthill Garden is a fine verdant selection of perennials, vegetables, and shrubs,

individually styled by Elizabeth Temple. The garden also has a trail which can be done in less

than two hours.

Photo: Louise Price/Geograph.ie Address: Salthill Demesne, Mountcharles, Co. Donegal Opening hours: May to September: 2–6pm daily Phone: +353 87 798 8078 Internet: www.donegalgardens.com Email: etemple@eircom.net

Alcorn's Flower & Garden Centre



Alcorn's is not only a garden shop with an impressive plant selection, but it also has a Tropical World zoo with playful lemurs and

colourful birds and butterflies, giving you an impromptu performance. Finish your visit with a coffee at the ThymeOut on spot.

Photo: enchanted_fairy/Shutterstock.com Address: Hazelwood House, Loughnagin, Glebe, Letterkenny Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 1-6pm Phone: +353 74 912 1541 Internet: alcorns.ie More Info: Closed for winter until April 2019

Marble Hill Strand



Sheephaven's Bay's protected and probably most spectacular beach makes for a great stop with its white sand and The Shack, selling artisan

coffee and ice cream.

Photo: Janelle Lugge/Shutterstock.com Address: Marble Hill

Bundoran Surf Co.



Surfing classes and rentals in what is also noted as the surf capital of Ireland. For beginners, the beach of Rossnowlagh is protected enough for a

first try, while old-timers can ride world-class waves at The Peak.

Photo: Wonderful Nature/Shutterstock.com Address: Main St, Drumacrin, Bundoran, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 71 984 1968 Internet: bundoransurfco.com/welcome-to-bundoran-surf-mobile

bundoransurfco.com/welcome-to-bundoran-surf-mobile Email: info@bundoransurfco.com

Tory Island



Home to Colmcille's monastery until the late 16th century, Tory Island today is renowned for its small art community (with a king elected up

until today) and for being an interesting detour off the Wild Atlantic Way for its spectacular scenery, spotted with historical landmarks such as the lighthouse or the Balor's Fort. A five-km long island, easy to explore on foot.

Photo: Julianne Ford/Wiki Commons(image cropped) Address: Ferry leaves from Magheroarty Phone: +353 87 199 3710 Internet: toryferry.com

The Silver Strand



A sheltered horse-shoe shaped beach, in south-west County Donegal, with B&Bs and a coffee shop nearby, and the views only Slieve

League can provide. Maghera, on the northern

side of the peninsula, is also worth a dip.

Photo: Milosz Maslanka/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin Beg, Glencolumbkille

Five Fingers Strand



Just south of Malin Head, the Five Fingers Strand is unique in that it is located among some of the highest dunes of Europe.

Photo: shawnwil23/Shutterstock.com

Inch Wildfowl Reserve



Located on the shore of Inch Lough, this reserve is a very important wetland site for migrating birds, gathering here every year from various

parts of the world. Take a walk along the scenic 8-km long trail, spotted with bird hides waiting to be explored.

Photo: Mirko Graul/Shutterstock.com Address: Inch black swans Reserve, Inch Level, Burt, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Open every day Internet: www.inchwildfowlreserve.ie

Castle Adventure Farm



An interactive open farm with plenty of entertainment for the whole family: drive a go-kart or a mini digger, feed the goats, and

discover the indoor or outdoor play area! The place also has a café with delicious cakes and sandwiches. Photo: Steven Frame/Shutterstock.com Address: Wardtown Castle, Ballymacaward, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Sat-Sun 10am-5pm Phone: +353 71 985 2688 Internet: openfarm.ie Email: info@openfarm.ie

Waterworld Bundoran



Indoor aqua park where everyone will find something to their taste (and swimming skills). Toddler pool for the youngest, gravity and

twister for the bravest, and seaweed bath for those looking to relax, among many others.

Photo: PHOTOCREO Michal Bednarek/Shutterstock.com Address: Atlantic Way, Dumacrin, Bundoran, Co. Donegal Opening hours: April and May: 12-6pm weekends only, June: 12-6pm daily, July and August: 12-7pm daily, first two weeks of September: 12-6pm daily Phone: +353 71 984 1172 Internet: www.waterworldbundoran.com Email: info@waterworldbundoran.com

Fort Dunree Military Museum



Fort Dunree does not only feature one of the largest artillery gun collections in the world, but also offers hiking and kayaking activities,

exhibitions on wildlife, and what is regarded as the most scenic coffee shop in Ireland.

Photo: shawnwil23/Shutterstock.com

Address: Dunree View, Leophin, Linsfort, Buncrana, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10:30am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 12-6pm Phone: +353 74 936 1817 Internet: www.fortdunree.com Email: info@fortdunree.com More Info: Open all year round

The Gallery Dunfanaghy



hospital-turned-national school from the 19th century, this art gallery features some of the best Irish watercolour

paintings and antiques today, and also served as an inspiration to Frank Egginton, the famous landscape artist. With free admission, and an impressive gift shop.

Photo: PowerUp/Shutterstock.com Address: Figart, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 913 6224 Internet: www.thegallerydunfanaghy.com Email: thegallerydunfanaghy@yahoo.ie

Flight of the Earls Heritage Centre



Housed in an old British defensive gun battery, this museum explains the Flight of the Earls, the departure of Hugh O'Neill (Earl of Tyrone)

and Rory O'Donnell (Earl of Tyrconnell) from Ireland in 1607 after a prolonged conflict with English forces in the 16th century.

Photo: Philip McErlean/Flickr(image cropped) Address: Rathmullan Heritage Centre, Rathmullan Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Sun 12-4pm Phone: +353 74 915 8131

Ballyliffin Golf Club



Two scenic links courses and 36 holes await you to provide a one-of-a-kind golfing experience at what is regarded as Ireland's finest golf club.

Equipment adjustment services and lessons are also available.

Photo: ZoranOrcik/Shutterstock.com Address: Ballyliffin, Inishowen Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm Phone: +353 74 937 6119 Internet: www.ballyliffingolfclub.com Email: info@ballyliffingolfclub.com

ACTIVITIES



gerry eaton/Unsplash

Whether your passion is golf, fishing, or splashing about on a surfboard, Donegal is a perfect location - with surprises around every corner, a backdrop of stunning coastline and beautiful countryside, and a whole host of thrilling activities.

Spa and Wellness



Tucked away in Donegal's most tranquil spots, you will find some of the finest and most luxurious spas in the world. These sanctuaries of calm and

pampering combine the nourishment of the island's natural resources, such as mineral-rich seaweeds, with cutting-edge treatments from around the world. Throw in a good dose of that famous Irish hospitality, and you have a spa getaway that is pretty much unforgettable.

Photo: engin akyurt/Unsplash Internet: www.discoverireland.ie/spa

On the Water



Fancy catching some waves? Donegal has a fantastic collection of reefs, beaches and points dotted all around the coastline and the cooler

water means it's never too crowded.

Photo: Brian Kelly/Unsplash Internet: www.discoverireland.ie/adventure

Biking and Cycling



On yer bike! Check out some suggested trails for an adrenaline rush and or explore the countryside with excellent cycle routes.

Photo: Jay Kudva/Unsplash Internet: www.discoverireland.ie/cycling

Walking & Hiking



What better way to enjoy Donegal's breathtaking scenery other than a great walk? Explore Donegal by foot on a trail or looped walk.

Photo: Phil Aicken/Unsplash Internet: www.discoverireland.ie/walking

Golf



From internationally renowned courses to welcoming local clubs in every corner of the country, Ireland is a golfer's paradise. From

green parkland to rugged coastal links and everything in between, there is a course to suit every skill level from beginner to pro and, now more than ever before, every budget.

Photo: Markus Spiske/Unsplash Internet: www.discoverireland.ie/golf

DINING



kostin77/Shutterstock.com

Donegal does not only have some of the best seafood just out of the bustling seaports of Greencastle or Killybegs but will also spoil you with excellent pies and game chowders, found in cosy taverns as well as the finest of restaurants—high chances are, with a view of the sea.

The Lemon Tree Restaurant



A widely acclaimed inland restaurant with an extensive Early Evening Menu, including signature dishes such as the Donegal pork hash

and the cheddar-filled steak burger, and desserts that are also a delight to the eye.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com Address: 32-34, Courtyard Shopping Centre, Lower main Street, Letterkenny Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5-9pm, Sun 1-2:30pm, 5-8pm Phone: +353 74 912 5788 Internet: www.thelemontreerestaurant.com Email: info@thelemontreerestaurant.com

Charlie's West End Cafe



Highly acclaimed Donegal-wide, Charlie's Cafe is the place to go if you want to grab a good pub grub. Short of time? Ask for a takeaway; you

won't have to compromise on quality.

Photo: Subbotina Anna/Shutterstock.com Address: 5 Main St, Drumbaran Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30am-9pm, Sun 5-9pm Phone: +353 74 954 1656

The Restaurant at the Castle Grove Country House



Set in an elegant Georgian house, Castle Grove's restaurant serves fine seafood, game, and vegetarian meals made of locally grown ingredients.

The à la carte menu is famed for its specialties, such as the Slaney Valley lamb, and afternoon teas are also a feast here with housemade scones and oak-smoked salmons.

Photo: Ingus Kruklitis/Shutterstock.com Address: Ramelton Rd, Eighterross, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 915 1118 Internet: www.castlegrove.com/restaurant Email: enquiries@castlegrove.com

Nancy's Bar Ardara



A family-run bar and restaurant for seven generations, Nancy's has become a distinct landmark in the small seaside village of Ardara.

Make yourself comfortable, and grab a pint—or rather, a cake of Guinness.

Photo: EddieHernandezPhotography/Shutterstock.com Address: Front St, Drumbaran, Ardara Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-12:30am, Sun 12:30-11pm Phone: +353 74 954 1187 Internet: www.nancysbarardara.com Email: ardaranancysbar@gmail.com More Info: www.instagram.com/nancysbarardara/

The Lobster Pot



A proud owner of the Irish Pub of Distinction award, at the Lobster Pot you will find everything that is essentially Irish: fresh seafood, sports

games, and warm hospitality! If unsure what to try, go for the Titanic platter.

Photo: Linus Strandholm/Shutterstock.com Address: Burtonport Opening hours: Specials served 12-2pm. À la carte begins at 6pm Phone: +353 74 954 2012 Internet: www.lobsterpot.ie Email: info@lobsterpot.ie

Olde Castle Bar & Red Hugh's Restaurant



Located by the city's signature landmark, the Olde Castle, this place is just as filled with history as it is with guests. A multi-award winner

restaurant presenting a finely chiselled lunch and dinner menu, from venison pie and chowder to locally produced seafood. Red Hugh Brew is exclusively brewed for the visitors of Olde Castle!

Photo: Christopher Elwell/Shutterstock.com Address: Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am Phone: +353 74 972 1262 Internet: www.oldecastlebar.com Email: info@oldecastlebar.com More Info: www.instagram.com/oldecastlebar/

The Weeping Elm



The Weeping Elm at Rathmullan House counts many blessings as far as dining is concerned: the walled garden provides the kitchen with fresh

fruit, vegetables, and herbs. The seaside setting provides fresh local fish, seaweed, and seafood, while rich local farmland produces specialities like Rathmullan lamb, John Hamilton's free-range pork, and Pat O'Doherty's black and white pudding.

Photo: Anastasiia Rusaeva/Unsplash Address: Rathmullan Terrace, Kinnegar, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 915 8188 Internet: www.rathmullanhouse.com Email: reception@rathmullanhouse.com More Info: At Rathmullan House Hotel

The Rusty Nail



Just a short walk from the golden sands of northerly Tullagh Bay, the Rusty Nail is a friendly restaurant with fresh food specials several days a

week and music sessions on weekends.

Photo: Andy Wang/Unsplash

Address: Crossconnell, Clonmany, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Fri-Sat 4-9pm, Sun 1-20:30pm Phone: +353 74 937 6116 Email: therustynail2018@outlook.com

Ard Na Breatha House Bed and Breakfast



Ard Na Breatha is a cosy bed and breakfast place that is also worth a visit if you need a fresh homemade lunch off the Wild Atlantic Way.

Photo: Aedka Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Middle Drumrooske, Donegal Phone: +353 74 972 2288 Internet: www.ardnabreatha.com Email: info@ardnabreatha.com

An Bonnan Buí



In 1993, Martin Kelly and his Brazilian wife Monica Santos brought the bittern back to life by opening their marvellous restaurant An Bonnan

Buí. Since the beginning, the restaurant has been offering great food in a relaxed atmosphere, bringing the freshest ingredients from the sea to the table.

Photo: Ildi Papp/Shutterstock.com Address: Pier Rd, Aghavannan Near, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal Phone: +353 74 915 8868 Internet: www.anbonnanbui.ie Email: bonnanbui1@gmail.com More Info: www.instagram.com/bonnanbui/

The Restaurant at Harvey's Point



The restaurant is located within Noel Cunningham's famed Harvey's Point Hotel in an idyllic countryside setting. Enjoy a

seven-course tasting menu or a casual lunch, and admire an unparalleled view of Donegal!

Photo: triocean/Shutterstock.com Address: Lough Eske Road, Donegal Opening hours: Daily 12pm-9pm Phone: +353 74 972 2208 Internet: www.harveyspoint.com Email: stay@harveyspoint.com More Info: www.instagram.com/harveyspoint/

Kealy's Seafood Bar



The fishing village of Greencastle is a guarantee that food at Kealy's is always locally sourced and freshly delivered to your table at

any hour of the day. Early Bird menu between lunch and dinner from 5pm to 6:30pm!

Photo: vanillaechoes/Shutterstock.com Address: Milltown Harbour, Eleven Ballyboes, Greencastle, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Lunch: Thu-Sun 1-4pm. Dinner: 5-9pm Phone: +353 74 938 1010 Internet: www.kealysseafoodbar.ie Email: info@kealysseafoodbar.ie

The Peak Restaurant



Located in the heart of Donegal bay in the county's southernmost town, the fine fish you are having at this warm and inviting restaurant might

have just been caught a few metres away!

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com Address: 2-8 W End, Magheracar, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5-9:30pm, Sun 12-9pm Phone: +353 71 984 1339 Internet: www.facebook.com/ThePeakRestaurant Email: the_peak_restaurant@hotmail.com

CAFES



By AlexandriaBryjak/Shutterstock.com

Choose from the plenty of cosy cafés all across Donegal to stop for an afternoon tea or to satisfy your sugar cravings: you will find that chocolate-watered fudges and fruit-filled cakes and pies are baked here just like at home.

Mrs B's Coffee House



From the lemon sunshine cake to the autumn-inspired blackberry and cinnamon flan, Mrs B's place is an unrivalled spot for the

sweet-toothed.

Photo: istetiana/Shutterstock.com Address: Merchant House Main Street, Killybegs Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Phone: +353 74 973 2656 Internet: www.mrsbscoffeehouse.com More Info: www.instagram.com/mrsbskillybegs/

Caffe Banba



The most northerly café on the island is in fact a café on wheels—standing on the rugged Donegal coastline, it offers a stunning view of the wild

Atlantic. Visit Caffe Banba at the top of the world for fabulous fresh roasted coffee, delicious home baking, hot chocolate, and fresh air with a warm welcome.

Photo: 4kclips/Shutterstock.com Address: Malin St, Gort Glebe, Carndonagh Opening hours: Mon 10am-4:30pm, Tue-Thu 9am-4:30pm, Fri-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-4:30pm Phone: +353 74 932 9277 Internet: www.caffebanba.com Email: dominic@caffebanba.com

Ahoy Cafe



Whether it's an Irish breakfast, an apple tart, or a seafood lunch, this café overlooking the Killybegs harbour will surely not disappoint!

Photo: Elena Veselova/Shutterstock.com Address: Shore Road, Killybegs Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Phone: +353 74 973 1952 Internet: www.facebook.com/ahoycafekillybegs Email: info@ahoycafe.ie

Buttermilk



A cosy coffee shop offering daily sweet and sandwich specials, and scenic views on the Portnablagh bay. You will also find Throatlake here,

an art gallery spanning family generations, and which prides itself on promoting fine Irish art at affordable prices.

Photo: marcin jucha/Shutterstock.com Address: Rockhill, Portnablagh Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm Phone: +353 74 913 8791 Internet: www.buttermilk.ie Email: info@throatlake.com

Muck n Muffins



Muck n Muffins has some truly irresistible home-made cakes and tray bakes, and also serves paninis, quiches, and jacket potatoes.

Admire the potteries in the on-site gift shop, or the scenic view of Horn Head this café overlooks!

Photo: cobraphotography/Shutterstock.com Address: The Square, Dunfanaghy Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-5pm Phone: +353 74 913 6780 Internet: www.mucknmuffins.ie Email: mucknmuffins@hotmail.com

Lily's Bar & Tea Rooms



A quaint café where Guinness is just as creamy as the warm fresh coffee, to be had in a friendly atmosphere with cheerful locals.

Photo: Denys Bogdanov/Shutterstock.com Address: McGonagles, Malin Diamond, Malin Town Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-1am Phone: +353 74 933 2969 Internet: lilys-bar-malin-town.business.site Email: lilysmalin@gmail.com

The Blueberry Tearoom



Once you visited Donegal castle, don't forget to hop in for the daily soup and quiche specials. Make sure you finish your lunch with a chocolate or

fruit-topped dessert.

Photo: Jacek Wojnarowski/Shutterstock.com Address: Castle St, Milltown, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Phone: +353 74 972 3663 Internet: theblueberrytearooms.ie Email: info@theblueberrytearooms.ie More Info: www.instagram.com/theblueberrytearooms/

The Salty Fox



This hidden gem of Bundoran is a lovely pastel café with sweet treats like hot chocolate, pumpkin spice latte, scones, ginger-coated

cheesecake, and a play corner for the kids.

Photo: Efetova Anna/Shutterstock.com Address: Tullan Strand Rd, Drumacrin, Bundoran Opening hours: Thu-Sun 10am-4pm Phone: +353 83 058 7928 Email: thesaltyfoxcoffeeshop@gmail.com

Gap Coffee Company



Multi-layered sandwiches with homemade piccalilli, extra creamy artisan coffee, and freshly baked goodies: you will not regret that short detour

out of Derry!

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com Address: Bridg End, Inishowen Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm Phone: +353 74 936 8001 Internet: www.gapcoffeeco.com Email: gapcoffee@hotmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Loud taverns overflown with Irish music, beer taps, and cheerful locals: no visit to Donegal is complete without experiencing the Irish craic!

Sister Sara's



Sister Sara's is Letterkenny's favourite source of entertainment: three floors, live music from local artists as well as the best DJs in Ireland,

plenty of TV screens--including the largest one in Donegal--for you to watch all major sports, just to pick a few.

Photo: Shyripa Alexandr/Shutterstock.com

Address: Port Rd, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12-11:30pm, Fri 12pm-12:30am, Sat 12pm-1:45pm, Sun 12:30pm-12am Phone: +353 74 912 2238 Internet: sistersaras.ie Email: info@sistersaras.ie More Info: https://www.instagram.com/sister.saras/

Leo's Tavern



Also known as the home of Enya and Clannad, Leo's is a most beloved place still led by the Brannen family, where Irish music is not only paid homage to but is played every single night. Food is also served daily.

Photo: Jozef Klopacka/Shutterstock.com Address: Meenaleck, Crolly Opening hours: Mon-Fri 5pm-12:30am, Sat-Sun 1pm-12:30am Phone: +353 74 954 8143 Internet: leostavern.com Email: info@leostavern.com

Hughie's Bar



This is the place where fresh seafood is combined with great cocktails, live music, and if the timing is right, even a vintage disco show.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com

Address: 22 Main St, Cashelcummin, Killybegs, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–12:30am, Sun 10am–12:30am Phone: +353 74 973 2876 Email: info@22mainstreet.com

Bonners Corner Bar



A quaint Irish pub with great offers on Guinness. Enjoy the live music or steal the show on the karaoke nights!

Photo: Patricia Hofmeester/Shutterstock.com Address: Glenfin Street, Ballybofey Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12pm-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-1:30am, Sun 12:30pm-11pm Phone: +353 74 913 1361



Biddy's O'Barnes' origins date back to the 18th century, and it still is one of the most sought-after watering holes of roadtrippers in Donegal,

proudly drawing the best Guinness in Donegal.

Photo: Christian_Birkholz/Pixabay Address: Barnesmore Gap (between Croaghconnelagh and Croaghonagh) Opening hours: Wed-Sun 1pm-11:30pm Phone: +353 74 972 2647 Internet: www.biddysobarnes.com Email: hello@biddysobarnes.com

The Chasin Bull



The Chasin Bull is proudly run by the O'Doherty family, whose mission is to provide customers with sports, music, beer, and

customer service of excellent quality. Its great cocktails, off licence, and acoustic room offer a diverse source of entertainment!

Photo: hxdbzxy/Shutterstock.com Address: Main Street, Bundoran Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11:30am-11:30pm, Fri 11:30am-12:30am, Sat 11:30am-12am, Sun 12pm-11pm Phone: +353 71 984 1988 Internet: thechasinbull.com Email: thechasinbull@gmail.com

The Reel Inn



while in town.

Photo: bbernard/Shutterstock.com Address: Bridge Street, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-1am, Sun 10:30am-12am Phone: +353 87 933 8456 More Info: www.instagram.com/thereelinn/

The Singing Pub



Fuel up for the rest of your Atlantic road trip at one of Ireland's oldest pubs! Specialties like the beer-battered Atlantic haddock will surely keep

you going. You can also catch up on the latest football games or listen to live traditional music.

Photo: shutterupeire/Shutterstock.com Address: Clontallagh, Mevagh, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11am-11pm, Mon 1-11pm Phone: +353 74 915 5176

O'Flaherty's



A fun Irish pub on the Inishowen peninsula with board games and quiz nights held regularly. Don't get stuck on Guinness here:

O'Flaherty's has a unique beverage selection!

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: 41 Upper Main Street, Buncrana Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11:30am-11:30pm, Fri-Sat 11:30am-12:30am, Sun 12:30pm-11:30pm Phone: +353 74 936 1305

If it's live Irish music you're here for, then don't leave without visiting the Reel Inn: its daily singalongs are considered unmissable

SHOPPING



PJ photography/Shutterstock.com

Donegal is world-renowned for its traditional products and crafts, rich in history and offering fantastic quality. Textures and vibrant colours of wool & tweeds that blend in naturally with Pottery, Crystal, and Art. You will find these types of shops dotted throughout the county. knitwear.

Triona Donegal Tweed Center



Located in what has always been a prominent village of the Donegal tweed industry, here you will not only find the finest tweed garments to

take home, but will also get an insight into weaving traditions through various displays and the works of craftsmen still based here.

Photo: Zaitsava Olga/Shutterstock.com Address: Main Street, Ardara Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm Phone: +353 74 954 1422 Internet: www.trionadesign.com Email: customerservice@trionadesign.com

Studio Donegal



Despite its eventful history, Studio Donegal has succeeded in preserving the century-old traditions of tweed production, and

today welcomes its visitors with the insights of a genuine weaving studio, and a gift shop with the finest tweed wear and home accessories in the scenic village of Kilcar.

Photo: aidart/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Glebe Mill, Lower Main St, New Church Glebe, Kilcar, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm Phone: +353 74 973 8194 Internet: www.studiodonegal.ie Email: info@studiodonegal.ie More Info: www.instagram.com/studiodonegal/

Donegal Craft Village



Stock up on the most authentic Irish souvenirs in the number-one craft shop in town! Fine jewellery, Donegal tweed, an on-site Glass studio,

and the popular Arome coffee shop await the visitors.

Photo: ianmitchinson/Shutterstock.com Address: Lurganboy, Donegal Opening hours: Summer: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Winter: Tue-Sat: 10am-5pm Phone: +353 74 972 2225 Internet: www.donegalcraftvillage.com

Letterkenny Shopping Centre



This is Donegal's premier shopping destination boasting an ample selection of shops, services, cafés, and popular seasonal and

recurring programs, such as fashion shows and fundraising events. Super easy access with free parking and WiFi connection!

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com Address: Port Rd, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Tue 9am-6pm, Wed-Fri 7am-11pm, Sat 8am-11pm, Sun 9am-11pm Phone: +353 74 912 3094 Internet: www.letterkennysc.com Email: manager@letterkennyshoppingcentre.com More Info: www.instagram.com/letterkennyshoppingcentre/

Magee 1866



Founded by John Magee in 1866, Magee's is now an internationally acclaimed tweed manufacturer that produces the finest

hand-woven menswear and womenswear, incorporating over 150 years of experience into the latest fashion trends.

Photo: Taz/ Flickr(image cropped) Address: The Diamond, Donegal Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5:30pm Phone: +353 74 97 21100 Internet: www.magee1866.com Email: info@magee1866.com More Info: www.instagram.com/magee1866/

Glendowen Craft Shop



Ann McGonigle's craft shop offers you a vivid selection of tweed garments, jewellery, and various other crafts like postcards, lamps, and

blankets, all inspired by old family traditions.

Photo: Rido/Shutterstock.com Address: Meentagh Glen, Clonmany Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:30am-5:30pm Phone: +353 74 937 6265 Internet: glendowen.com Email: glendowen@eircom.net

TOURIST INFORMATION



MNStudio/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



Influenced by the Gulf Stream, Ireland has a mild and wet climate, which means that regardless of the month selected, rainfall is to be

expected all year round, but temperatures rarely ever drop below zero. Summer is considered to be the high season, but one might want to consider a visit during the grandiose St Patrick's Day celebrations, which take place on the 17th of March. Photo: VectorA

Passport / Visa



Ireland's passport and visa requirements vary for different nationalities. If you are a UK citizen, you can just use official photo identification,

whereas if you are an EU citizen, you need a national identity card. Visitors from EU countries (including Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein), the USA, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, do not need a visa to visit the Republic or Northern Ireland. South African visitors can visit the Republic of Ireland visa-free, but they need a UK visa in order to enter Northern Ireland. If you're not sure whether or not to apply for a visa, we recommend that you contact the embassy or consulate in your country.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Donegal Airport (CFN)



Donegal Airport is approximately 15 mins drive from Dungloe and Gweedore, and 45 mins from Letterkenny. For transfer to/from the

airport, contact Hughes Taxi +353 87 261 8885, or Cronan Mac +353 87 237 8888. The closest major airport is Belfast International Airport.

Photo: Juan Garces Address: Carrickfinn, Kincasslagh Internet: www.donegalairport.ie

Public transport



The national bus service provider in Ireland is Bus Éireann. Further providers of coach service within the County and/or the island are John Mc

Ginley, Lough Swilly, Paddy Gallagher, Feda O Donnell, McGeehan Coaches, North West Busways. https://www.donegal.ie/bus-services

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Phone: +353 1850-836-611 (08.30-18.00 daily) Internet: www.buseireann.ie, www.irishrail.ie

Taxi



Glencar Cabs (based in Letterkenny, airport tranfers) +353 87 685 6676 Haughey Coaches (Southwest) +353 87 671 1944

Photo: Taxi

Post



Postal services in Ireland are provided by An Post, which has several branches across County Donegal. Use the link below to locate the office

nearest to you.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Letterkenny: Annagry Post Office, Teach Na Rossan. Donegal: Tirchonaill Street Opening hours: Mon to Fri: 9:00-17:30, Sat: 9:00-13:00 Phone: Letterkenny: +353 74 954 8101, Donegal: +353 74 972 1024 Internet:

www.anpost.ie/AnPost/at+your+local+Post+Office.htm

Telephone



Country Code: +353 Area Code: 074 (Donegal, Letterkenny, Dungloe, Buncrana)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



In Ireland the standard voltage is 230 V. Socket type: G

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population 159.192 (2016)

Currency Euro (EUR) 1 € = 100 cents

Opening hours

Business hours are from 9am–6pm. Many shops have extended opening hours on Thursdays.

Newspapers Donegal News donegalnews.com

Donegal Democrat www.donegaldemocrat.ie

Donegal Daily www.donegaldaily.com

Emergency numbers 112, 999 +353 74 917 2288 (Roads Service)

Tourist information Donegal Discover Ireland Centre The Quay Donegal Town

+353 74 972 1148 donegal@failteireland.ie

