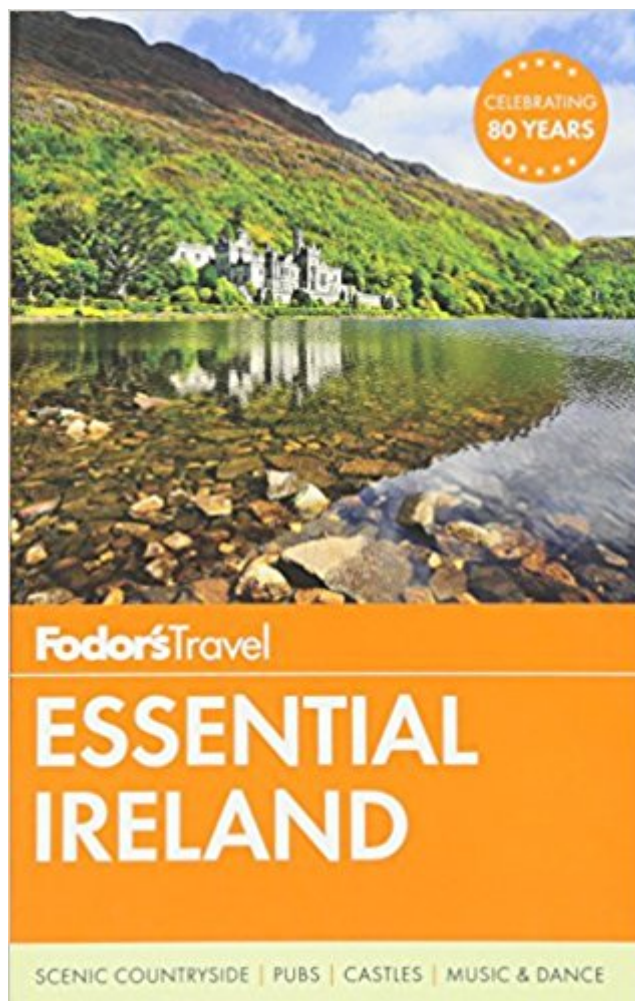


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# Fodor's Essential Ireland (Full-color Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. With an array of dazzling photographs, this book deftly guides the traveler through all the sights and experiences--from Connemara to Georgian Dublin to pub culture to Irish dance--that make the Emerald Isle one of Europe's most popular destinations. • This travel guide includes: • Dozens of full-color maps • plus a handy pullout map with essential information • Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks • Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path • In-depth breakout features on Dublin's literary heritage, Irish traditions from pub life to dance and music, shopping tips, and Belfast's Titanic history • Major sights such as The Rock of Cashel, The Giant's Causeway, Newgrange, Book of Kells, The Blarney Stone, Ring of Kerry, and Aran Islands • Coverage of Dublin; The Midlands; The Southeast; County Cork; The Southwest; County Clare, Galway City, and the Aran Islands; Connemara and County Mayo; The Northwest and Northern Island

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher, aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. • The New York Times “The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. • Chicago Tribune “In terms of

comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market. Fodor's Booklist "Fodor's super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Sacramento Bee "Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure. Fodor's Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor's Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

Great!

Of the various travel books, I think people tend to stick with their favorite format... Fodor's, Lonely Planet, Rough Guides, et cetera. If you are a fan of Fodor's Travel Guides, then this "Essential Ireland" book should do the trick. For me, it is all about planning my trip to Ireland. From the enclosed map to the details about site-specific activities, lodging, and places to eat, this Fodor's guide has, well, if not all, then a lot. To me, looking at the other (usually a bit outdated) guides in our library on Ireland, this guide book is up-to-date and worthy of its weight in my luggage.

Even though this Fodor's Essential Ireland guide will add a little weight to your carry-on, I suggest you buy it for your next Ireland trip. Fodor's is to some the gold standard of travel guides, for many good reasons. To me, the best thing about this guide is how comprehensive it is. You could use it to completely and independently guide your trip from the planning stages through your entire visit. I'd love to sit and just read the guide; it makes for great browsing and dreaming of going to Ireland someday. It is filled with not only practical items that you'd expect, but also fun information and colorful facts such as "All about Irish Whiskeys" and several "Did You Know" blurbs. Even the very first pages contain more relevant and helpful information than you'd expect, such as additional ways to connect with Fodor's, a list of top reasons to go, a very thorough table of contents (no search engine needed, this is easy to use), an explanation of Fodor's recommendation system and legends, and an Experience Ireland section that gives a wonderful overview of Irish culture and some key facts and points of knowledge. From that point, the book is organized into regional information sections, each of which is crammed with anything a traveler would want or need to

know. I got this book because family members are planning a trip to Ireland sometime this year, and this guide will be a constant reference and helpful companion for them.

Ireland remains a great destination for travelers, with its history, its beautiful countryside, and its wonderful people. This Fodor's "Essential Ireland" is a terrific planning resource for a visit. Within a surprising compact six hundred pages is good advice on where to go, what to see, and what to do, along with Fodor's normally outstanding recommendations for where to stay and where to eat. This guide features chapters on every region of Ireland, starting of course with the major city of Dublin. There are listings of top attractions, for those in a hurry, and listings of out of the way places for those who want to appreciate the real Ireland. The new Star Wars movies have publicized the former hermit refuge on Skellig Michael, but the entire West Coast offers some of the way places where Ireland's history and stunning scenery are preserved side by side. The guide is fleshed out with lots of nice color pictures, maps, and diagrams, and a pull out map at the back. The book includes some fascinating insights on Irish culture and history. All in all, highly recommended for your first trip to the Emerald Isle.

While this guidebook has tons of information, I took one star away because it has so much. Counter-intuitive as that sounds, I am biased to the Access series of guides as they have already filtered out many things that would be of no interest to me. However, if you love an encyclopedic approach to travel options you will be happy with this guide. The tear out map is useful, as are their pros and cons for hotels. I was a fan of the quick bites section full of cool tips, and the Fodor's choice content that alerts you to especially interesting places or deals in various categories. I also appreciated the photos liberally scattered though the book. The beginning pages, called Experience Ireland, were very useful and separated into categories like: flavors of Ireland, music and dance, natural wonders, shopping, etc.

In addition to my reading it and reviewing it this has been actually tested as I gave it to friends of ours who went to Ireland for their honeymoon. From my reading it seems very helpful. It gives tour ideas with recommended hotels throughout Ireland but besides the usual hotels and museums and spots to visit there are lists of interesting facts about each area of Ireland. My friends used the book as a guide to plan out what they would do each day they were there and it worked very well. The book gives you places not to miss as well as places to skip unless you have more time to spend in the area. There are lots of photos and maps included. If you plan on visiting Ireland I wouldn't go

without this book.

While I haven't traveled to Ireland yet, and thus can't verify all the information contained in this travel guide, it is very well presented. The photos are amazing, and the information provided is vast. I like that the guide does not bore you with mundane details, but provides enough descriptions and photos to help you plan your trip. I look forward to using this guide along with others to make my trip to Ireland wonderful.

As always, Fodor's delivers. Great book for use on my trip!

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