

BISKOOPIAK TIMES

Dear Reader,

The leitmotif of this edition is Ireland. Since it boasts stunning locations both in the interior and around its marine borders, this is the place that offers some unique attractions. It also provides a fantastic opportunity to explore ancient historical sites, vast and green uplands, breathtaking views from the cliffs as well as great festivals.

Enjoy your reading!

Beautiful countenance of Ireland

Ireland is a beautiful country located in the north-western part of Europe. This land is known for its lovely landscapes, rich history and culture. Ireland is a popular destination for tourists from around the world. I have never been to Ireland, but whenever I think about it, I want to visit Wicklow Mountains. In my favourite movie, there was also a scene that was recorded in Ireland. In the movie, 'Harry Potter and Half-Blood Prince' one moment was recorded on Lemon Rock. That's why I would like to go there and feel like actors. Of course I couldn't forget about 'Game of Thrones'. Thanks to this series, I also want to



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicklow_Mountains

I love nature, so I want to visit one of the most famous landmarks, that is the Cliffs of Moher. These cliffs offer breathtaking views on the ocean. Kylemore Abbey is a place that looks like from tale.

I have the impression that I would feel like a princess there and it would be an unforgettable feeling. The next thing I love is food.



https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kylemore_Abbey



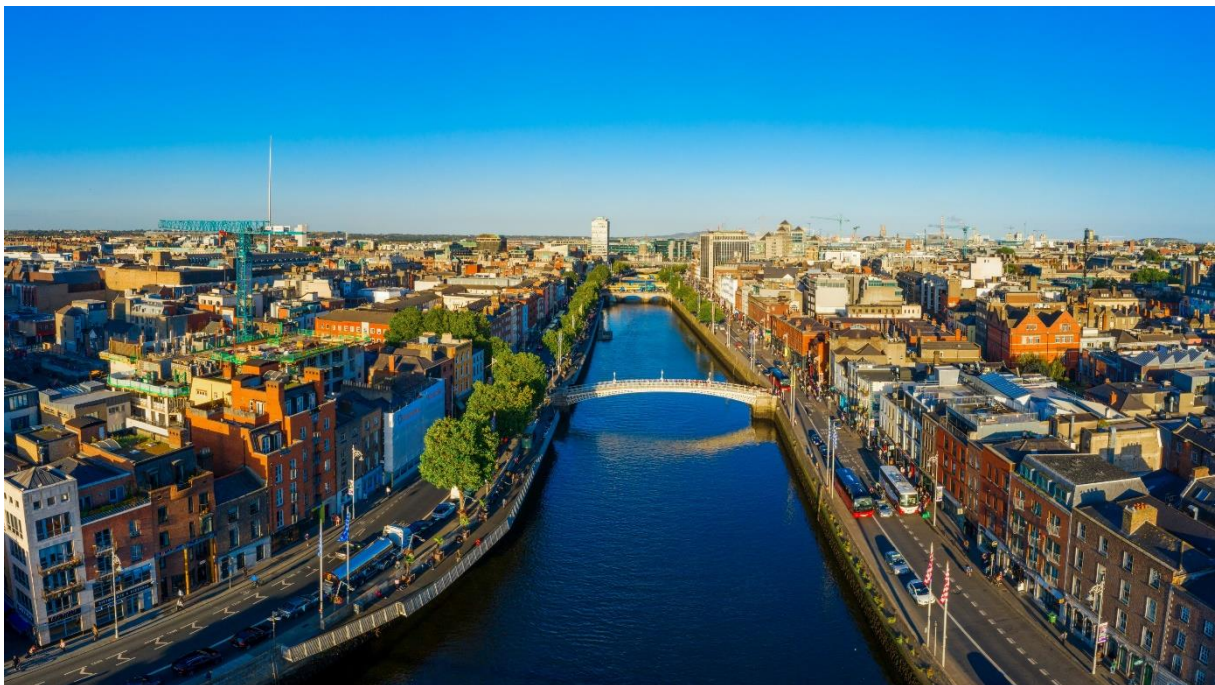
That's why I like to try Irish cuisine. I would probably like to try the Irish casserole, which is made of beef, potatoes, carrots and peas. I also dream of being in Ireland during Saint Patrick's Day, because I have the impression that is a very loud celebration. Reportedly, the Irish are known for their hospitality and their love of a good fun. Overall, I think Ireland is a country that offers something for everyone. Ireland is a destination that should not be missed. I certainly wouldn't miss it during my future journey.

<https://www.history.com/news/is-st-patricks-day-celebrated-in-ireland>

By Oliwia Oczkowska

Landmarks of Dublin

Dublin, the capital of Ireland, is a city rich in history and culture, attracting tourists from all over the world. Known for its magnificent architecture, bustling streets, and fascinating landmarks, Dublin offers much to discover. Below are the most important landmarks worth seeing during a visit to this unique city.





1. Dublin Castle

Dublin Castle is one of the city's most important landmarks, witnessing many key events in Irish history. Its construction began in the early 13th century on the site of a former Viking fort. Over the centuries, the castle served defensive, administrative, and residential functions. During British rule, it was the seat of colonial authorities. Today, the castle is open to visitors, offering a glimpse into its rich history, as well as its beautiful gardens and historic chambers. Noteworthy is the Chapel Royal with its intricately carved ceilings and the State Apartments, where ceremonies and banquets were held.





2. St. Patrick's Cathedral

St. Patrick's Cathedral, built between 1191 and 1270, is the largest cathedral in Ireland. It stands on the site where, according to legend, St. Patrick baptized the first Irish Christians in the 5th century. The cathedral is not only an important place of worship but also a treasure trove of history and art. Inside, you can find numerous tombs, including the grave of the famous writer Jonathan Swift, author of "Gulliver's Travels." The cathedral is also a venue for numerous cultural events such as concerts and exhibitions.

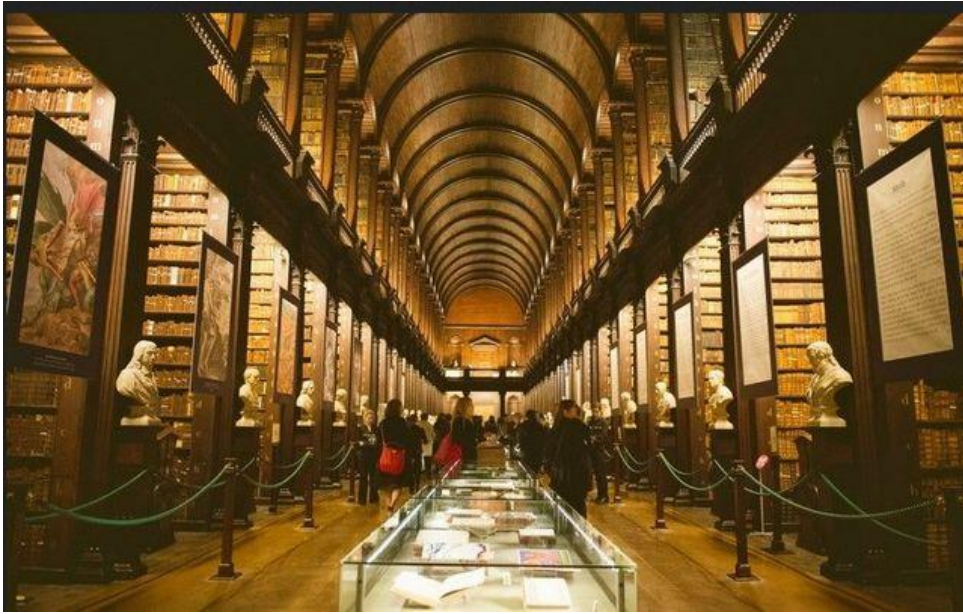




3. Trinity College and the Book of Kells

Founded in 1592, Trinity College is Ireland's oldest university, known for its beautiful architecture and impressive library collections. Its most famous exhibit is the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript of the Gospels from the 9th century, considered one of the most important works of medieval art. The book is displayed in the Old Library, which itself is an architectural masterpiece with its impressive wooden shelves filled with ancient books. A walk through the Trinity College campus also offers a chance to see other historic buildings and beautiful gardens.





4. Kilmainham Gaol

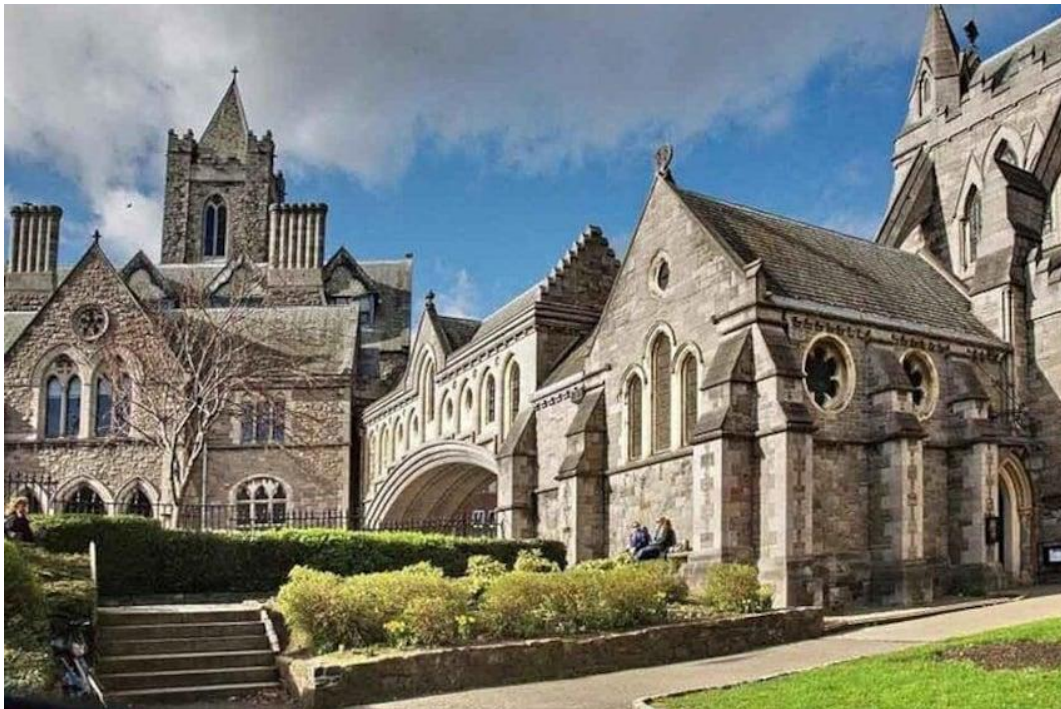
Kilmainham Gaol is a former prison that played a crucial role in Irish history, especially in the context of the struggle for independence. It opened in 1796 and closed in 1924. During its existence, the prison was the site of imprisonment and execution of many Irish patriots, including leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising. Today, it is a museum where you can see the prisoners' cells, learn about the harsh conditions, and hear the stories of those who were incarcerated there. Kilmainham Gaol is a place full of emotion and important historical lessons.





5. Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral, founded in 1030 by the Viking king Sitric, is one of the oldest buildings in Dublin. It combines elements of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Its crypts house numerous treasures, including unique manuscripts and church silverware. The cathedral is also known for its beautiful stained glass windows and the tomb of Norman Strongbow, one of the most important medieval knights. It is a place of both religious and historical and cultural significance. Regular choral concerts enhance the majestic and spiritual atmosphere of the cathedral.





6. Grafton Street and St Stephen's Green

Grafton Street is one of Dublin's main shopping streets, full of shops, cafes, and street performers. It's a place where you can feel the city's pulse and enjoy its unique atmosphere. At its end is St Stephen's Green, a beautiful city park, ideal for a relaxing stroll after a busy day of sightseeing. The park was established in 1664 and is full of charming pathways, ponds, and sculptures commemorating important figures and events in Irish history. It's a place where both locals and tourists can relax and enjoy the greenery in the heart of the city.





7. National Museum of Ireland

The National Museum of Ireland has several branches in Dublin, each offering something unique. The most important ones are:

- **Archaeology Branch:** Located on Kildare Street, it offers rich collections of artifacts from prehistoric and early Irish history. Here you can see gold treasures from the Bronze Age, rich Celtic collections, and unique artifacts from the Viking era.
- **Decorative Arts and History Branch:** Located in Collins Barracks, it presents a wide range of exhibits related to Irish history, military, decorative arts, and culture. Collections include furniture, ceramics, textiles, and costumes from various periods.
- **Natural History Branch:** Also known as the "Dead Zoo," it is located on Merrion Street and is one of the oldest museums of its kind in Europe. Exhibits include rich zoological, geological, and botanical collections, showcasing the diversity of flora and fauna from around the world.



8. General Post Office

The General Post Office on O'Connell Street is not only a functioning institution but also an important symbol of Ireland's struggle for independence. It was here, during the 1916 Easter Rising, that Irish rebels proclaimed the country's independence, heralding a new era in its history. The GPO also serves as a memorial to this key event, with an exhibition dedicated to the uprising and its heroes. The building, designed in Georgian style, is an impressive example of architecture from that period.



9. Jameson Distillery Bow St.

For whiskey lovers, a visit to the Jameson Distillery Bow St. is a real treat. Located in the heart of the city, the distillery offers fascinating tours combined with tastings. Here you can learn about the production process of one of the most famous Irish whiskeys and discover

more about the history of the Jameson brand, which dates back to 1780. It's a place where tradition meets modernity, offering unforgettable experiences.



Dublin is a city full of history, culture, and extraordinary places worth visiting. From majestic cathedrals to historic prisons and bustling streets, Ireland's capital offers something for everyone. Exploring Dublin is a journey through the ages, allowing you to discover the rich and diverse past of this fascinating city.

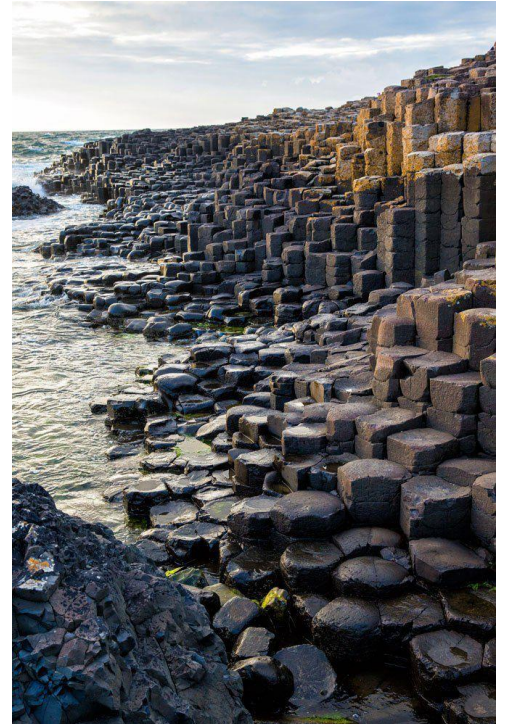


By Kamil Karpiuk

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY - a natural wonder in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has only one object on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List - the famous Giant's Causeway, a picturesque rock formation that attracts crowds of tourists every day. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is renowned for its approximately 40,000 interlocking basalt columns which were formed by volcanic activity around 60 million years ago. The columns are mostly hexagonal, though some have four, five, seven, or eight sides, creating a striking and almost artificial-looking landscape.

The formation of the Giant's Causeway is the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. As the lava cooled, it contracted and cracked in a way that formed these unique column shapes. The scientific explanation is fascinating, but the site is also steeped in myth and legend. According to one famous story the causeway was built by the giant Finn McCool. He constructed it to cross the sea to Scotland to challenge his rival, Benandonner. However, when Finn saw how enormous Benandonner was, he fled back to Ireland and destroyed the causeway behind him to prevent Benandonner from following.



The natural beauty of the Giant's Causeway is breathtaking. The dramatic cliffs and the deep blue sea provide a stunning backdrop to the unique rock formations. Visitors can enjoy several walking trails that offer different perspectives of the area. The most popular trail takes you down to the columns themselves, where you can walk on the rocks and feel the texture of the ancient basalt under your feet.



The Giant's Causeway is not just about the rocks. The surrounding area is rich in wildlife and plant life. Many species of birds can be seen nesting on the cliffs and the coastal flowers add splashes of color to the landscape. The Visitor's Centre provides a wealth of information about the geology, history, and legends of the causeway making it an educational experience as well as a visual one. In addition to its natural and educational value, the Giant's Causeway is a place of great cultural significance. It has inspired artists, writers, and musicians over the centuries. The combination of its unique geological features, its beauty, and its legendary stories make it a site of wonder and inspiration.

In conclusion, the Giant's Causeway is a place where natural history and myth come together to create a truly unique experience. Whether you are interested in geology or enjoy stunning coastal scenery, or are fascinated by

legends the Giant's Causeway offers something for everyone. It is a must-see destination for anyone visiting Northern Ireland providing unforgettable sights and stories that will stay with you long after your visit.

Sources: <https://pl.pinterest.com/pin/532761830930533162/>

By Ewa Ozimek

GALWAY

Galway is in the west of Ireland. It is located on the Galway Bay so it has access to the sea. It has over 80 thousand inhabitants. Its name comes from the word „Gaillimh” which is the name of the river. It means „stony”.

This city has the nickname „City of the Tribes” because „Tribes” (merchant families) led the city in its Hiberno-Norman period.

Now Galway is popular for its seafood. Many people travel there just to taste their food. Lots of tourists visit Galway to eat oysters between September and April. They even made the festival dedicated to them.

Galway is also famous for its festivals and cultural events. There are over 122 of them per year. So everyone can choose one just for them. There are festivals connected with Christmas, literature, music, art, film and food. For example, Galway Christmas Market is one of the most popular events of the year. You can visit it from November to January. There are many attractions like 32 meter high Big Wheel, traditional carousel and Santa's Express Train. Last year 450 thousand people visited that festival.

Sport is well known in Galway. The most popular sports are horse racing, soccer, rugby and hurling. There are organised horse races called The Galway Races. They last seven days and they are the longest races in Ireland. The next sport that is connected with that region is hurling. It is a typical Gaelic Irish team sport that is similar to football but there are some differences.

If you want to explore Galway, you should definitely see:

- Galway Cathedral
- St. Nicholas' Church
- Eyre Square (a popular place to stroll and shop)
- the Cliffs of Moher (a place to see the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean)
- Aran Islands (an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city).



By Piotr Grzqdka

SKELLIG MICHAEL

Skellig Michael is an island off the coast of Ireland and is stunningly beautiful and historic. It's one of two Skellig Islands, the other being Little Skellig. Skellig Michael is famous for its cliffs and steepness. The island rises up out of the Atlantic Ocean and is dramatic and breathtaking. Visitors often say it's otherworldly because of its untouched look. The island has a 6th century monastic settlement. The monks built stone huts called beehive huts on the island. These huts were shelter from the weather and designed to last.

The monks lived a simple and isolated life, dedicating themselves to prayer and contemplation. In 1996 Skellig Michael was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This means the island is culturally and historically important. Preserving the island's natural beauty and ancient structures for future generations is the key. Skellig Michael became famous worldwide after being in the Star Wars movies "The Force Awakens" and "The Last Jedi". The island was Luke's remote hideout. Hence, the islet has brought more visitors where the iconic scenes were filmed.

Visiting Skellig Michael is an adventure. The journey involves a boat trip from the mainland which can be rough due to the Atlantic waves. Once on the island you have to climb over 600 steps to the monastic site. It's a tough climb but the views and sense of achievement are incredible because of its fragile environment and historical importance. As a result, different measures are in place to protect Skellig Michael. Only a certain number of visitors are allowed each day to prevent damage to the site.

Conservation work continues to keep the island beautiful and historic. In short, Skellig Michael is special. Natural beauty, historical importance and cultural significance make it a must see if you're in Ireland.





Photos: google.com

My favourite places in Ireland

Boston is a village in north County Clare, Ireland. It is situated near Lough Bunny, at the northeastern edge of the Burren National Park, and close to the border with County Galway. It is at the intersection of the townlands of Kylecreen, Drumnadeevna, and Rockvale, which are in the civil parish of Kilkeedy.



The name "Boston" is most likely to have been an ironic reference to the city of Boston in the United States, applied as a nickname to what was described **in 1839** as "a few cabins situated on the property of the Marquis of Thomond". The official Irish-language name recorded in the Placenames Database of Ireland is *Boston*. The electoral division containing the village is also named Boston in both English and Irish although a 1929 Act of the Oireachtas gives the Irish name *Druim na Doimhne* "ridge of the abyss".



Boston is also known for hosting an annual race for redheads on St. Patrick's Day, inspired by the Irish leprechaun—a type of sprite dressed in green who guards a treasure at the end of the rainbow. It is a very interesting and unique tradition not found anywhere else.

By Agata Drożdziel