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# National Geographic Traveler: Ireland, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

On every page, you'll find in-depth information on Ireland's rich history and culture, along with helpful hints on how to get around and how best to visit each site. Illustrated with 170 beautiful color photographs and two dozen maps, the guide also showcases several three-dimensional drawings that detail the intricate architectural features of Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin and the myriad plants found in the Burren heath. Insider tips from National Geographic and local experts point out favorite or little known sites and events, and dozens of sidebars highlight experiences that allow the visitor to truly get inside the local culture, such as learning traditional dance in Galway, taking Irish language classes in Ennis, or volunteering to help restore the country's native boglands. This newly revised and updated guide, written by one of England's most acclaimed travel writers, covers every region in Ireland, including Dublin, the cosmopolitan capital city; County Kildare; the enchanting Wicklow Hills; the limestone terraces of eerie Burren; Yeats Country surrounding Sligo Town, offering insight into one of Ireland's great poets; and Northern Ireland, beginning with vibrant Belfast and moving on to Ulster, Derry, and other historic spots of note. Aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and expert advice from a trustworthy source, National Geographic Travelers provide ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the true feel of each destination not easily found online.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

CHRISTOPHER SOMERVILLE is one of Britain's best-known travel writers, with some 25 books to

his name including the best-selling National Geographic Traveler: Great Britain. His love affair with Ireland was kindled on his first trip, an 800-mile walk through the rugged, romantic west. He has since written four books about the island, and he returns there whenever he can to see old friends, walk the mountains and coasts, and play traditional music.

The best guide book I had for our recent trip to Ireland. We spent a good deal of time in a rural part of northern Ireland that most guidebooks don't even mention. This book had suggestions for interesting things to do in that area. We went to an old beetling mill, a National Trust site, with some relatives who live nearby, and we all enjoyed it. They had never heard of this old mill themselves, although they live within 20 miles of it. Even for the sights and activities that most guidebooks mention, this guide had many more practical details.

wonderful travel guide for Ireland

Beautiful book! Reads easy and is excellent for preparing for our up coming trip!

Just as described

Can't wait to plan my vacation with this!

This book was great for our trip to Ireland!

This book is a merely okay guide to Ireland, a lot of sizzle and little steak. The list of hotels and restaurants is pretty limited, and the better restaurants in Galway and Dingle, our two favorite destinations, aren't even mentioned. There are three music pubs in Doolin, not two -- for some reason McDermott's is left out. And as for Taaffe's Pub having the best music in Galway, Tig Coili blows it out of the water. Of course, these are just opinions. But factually, the book falls short as well. For example, Yeats' tower, Thoor Ballylee, is listed as being open to the public. It hasn't been for years, although one can still walk around the outside. Also the Nora Barnacle House and Museum in Galway has been out of operation for several years as well -- tours are *\*not\** available. These are things I know specifically, having learned in person last May. I can only imagine what other errors might be here. I think such errors come from not keeping the new editions up to date. This book tries to cover too much, and as a result, little is covered in detail. I'd recommend LONELY

PLANET: IRELAND, a lengthy and comprehensive volume which would be of far more value to travelers in Ireland than this book.

The National Geographic brand promises something more than a bound sheaf of advertisements for hotels, restaurants, and attractions. This book delivers on that promise. The Traveler: Ireland guide is a well-written and judiciously illustrated collection of experiences, organized by locality. Page after page urges one to Walk, Drive, Look, Ride, and otherwise experience the major treasures of Ireland. Having toured Ireland in 2009 (self-guided, driving and bicycling), I looked up some of the places I'd been. Trinity College, in Dublin, is given a lovely overview that does not dwell upon (or even mention) the "cracked earth" sculpture which attracts snarky and overwrought comments from other travel guides. The historical overview leads you to the old Library, the Book of Kells, and mentions the oft-overlooked fact that a copy of the Republic Declaration is also on view there. The "Ring of Kerry" drive highlights eight sights to see that are not all on the tourist circuit, including the gorgeous Staigue Fort that requires a bit of adventure to reach. (They hint--and I know--that you have to drive down a one-lane dirt farm road to reach it. But it's totally worth it.) Our bicycle circuit through the Connemara region is well represented. Padraic Pearse's cottage is an occasion, in a few simple words, to place Pearse in the context of the struggle for Irish independence. A set of about 50 "blue pages" at the end provide essential travel information. It is refreshing to see these details deemphasized, as they are likely to be outdated by the time a guide is published. Front and center of this guide is Ireland itself, rightly so. We will be traveling to Ireland very soon for a self-driving tour of the central and northwestern regions. This book will be along.

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