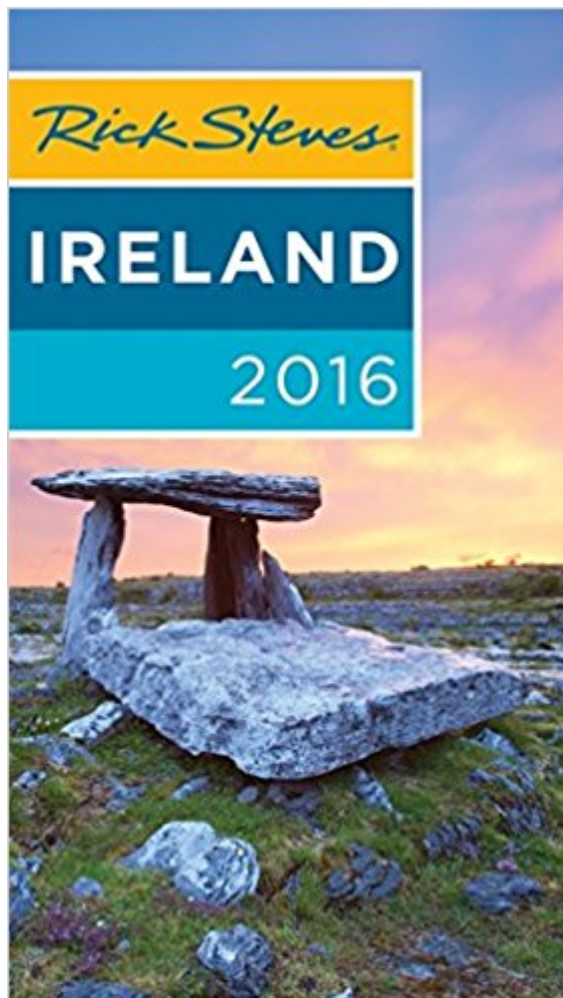


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Rick Steves Ireland 2016



Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in Ireland. With this guide, you can explore lively Dublin, quaint Kilkenny, and the moss-draped ruins of the Ring of Kerry. Navigate meandering back roads that lead to windswept crags on the dramatic Dingle Peninsula. Explore Ireland's revered past by following St. Patrick's footsteps to the Rock of Cashel. Marvel at Newgrange, the mysterious mound older than the pyramids; then connect with today's Irish culture by grabbing a pint at the local pub, enjoying the fiddle music, and jumping into conversations that buzz with brogue. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. He'll help you plan where to go and what to see, depending on the length of your trip. You'll get up-to-date recommendations on what is worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

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Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Rick Steves' Europe, Inc. in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle; Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening

for Americans. Irish-American Pat O'Connor first journeyed to Ireland in 1981, and was hooked by the history and passion of the feisty Irish culture. Frequent return visits led to his partnership with Rick Steves and his work as a tour guide and coauthor of this book. Pat loves all things Hibernian (except the black pudding) and thrives on the adventures that occur as he annually slogs the bogs in search of new Irish travel discoveries.

My go to guidebook to a destination is usually the Eyewitness series, at least if there is a recent edition, and for my fourth visit to Ireland in January (this time with a companion who has never been), we are carrying the 2016 edition of *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Ireland*. We are also going to hire a guide to drive and explain various sites, so we feel well prepared. I also like to carry another book or two, especially since Ireland is so rich in history. This time I have been reading Rick Steves's version as supplemental reading with great pleasure. This extract from his website hints at the pleasures here: "Flung onto the foggy fringe of the Atlantic pond like a mossy millstone, Ireland drips with mystery, drawing you in for a closer look and then surprising you. An old farmer cuts turf from the bog, while his son staffs the tech helpline for an international software firm. Buy them both a pint in a pub that's whirling with playful conversation and exhilarating traditional music. Pious, earthy, witty, brooding, proud, yet unpretentious, Irish culture is an intoxicating potion to sip or slurp as the mood strikes you." Great stuff. And, I've dusted off some of my supplemental reading from previous trips; some of the best included: Susan Cahill, *For the Love of Ireland: A Literary Companion for Readers and Travelers*, an anthology introducing Ireland through the words and lives of James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, Frank McCourt and Samuel Beckett and many others. Bernard Meehan, *The Book of Kells*, Meehan is the keeper of manuscripts at Trinity College; this book features 110 color illustrations, including enlargements, of some of the more spectacular decorations in this medieval manuscript. Richard Killeen, *A Brief History of Ireland*, short, snappy, accurate history of a complex country. Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe (The Hinges of History)*, a best seller and beautifully written. And, for a fascinating historical fiction version of the same era, Peter Tremayne's series on Sister Fidelma. An excellent introduction to the series is by Edward J. Rielly, *The Sister Fidelma Mysteries: Essays on the Historical Novels of Peter Tremayne*. Robert C. Ross December 2015

Rick Steves Ireland is as reliable as all his travel books; we used this one in conjunction with Dorling Kindersley DK Eyewitness Travel Guide - Ireland. Each covers an impressive number of sites, as

well as other important information for the traveler. We stayed at several of Rick's recommended B&B's, and were very pleased with their quality and reasonable prices. Irish Breakfasts are to die for - you really don't need to eat again until dinner! Rick's mention of taking the Aer Arann Islands flight to Inish Mor allowed us to arrive well before the "ferry crowds" - and we toured Dun Aenghus for an hour - alone. Also, The Worm Hole really is a MUST SEE - though it's VERY difficult to find! Driving is a bit more challenging than Rick describes, but definitely the BEST way to see the whole of Ireland. Dingle is adorable, the Shannon and Wicklow areas are beautiful, and the Waterford Crystal Visitors Centre has a Cafe with truffles better than any in the USA. Great Book & Great Place to Visit!!

Didn't include Cork in the book so I knocked off one star. Otherwise the usual good advice from Rick Steves. Looked up his suggested places on Tripadvisor to get a better idea and view more photos. I'm traveling in a group tour for 85% of my time there, but Rick's writing is really anti-group tour and is more for the individual traveler with a rental car.

I feel that Rick Steve Books are very opinionated. There were places in Ireland that Steve thought were not worth going to. He really panned the Blarney Stone. Yes, if you are on a tour and you can only spend certain amounts of minutes at each place, then maybe it is not a good stop. Even if you don't kiss the stone, the view from the top of the castle is fantastic. It was not mentioned in his book, but we were thrilled that there were beautiful gardens to walk through and enjoy. The Lonely Planet books for me are more accurate on what to expect. I feel that a lot of Steve's book is written for those that go on his tours. I recommend you read as many different sources and plan your trip. We rented a car and googled a lot of hotel information and found cheaper hotels but just as good as the one that are recommended in his book. I think some of his restaurants and hotels are only rated because the establishment pays a fee.

Have traveled 3 other times with the Rick Steve's guides to Spain, Italy and Germany. As usual, his approach is very much on point if you would like to get more of the essence of the country versus the biggest tourist draws. If you enjoy scripted high-end tours or cruises this book probably isn't for you. Recommendations are good values, he creates a quality experience with reasonable forays into local life and he saves many hours avoiding the obvious choices that are more crowded, trite &/or expensive. Again this trip, where we strayed to cities/villages not recommended we often could see why they were not. As he has grown more popular, it is increasingly difficult to use the precise

restaurants and hotels as they can be crowded due to being rated in the book. The book can be a bit short on detail if a site is of intense interest but that can be supplemented with a little internet research back at the hotel. The maps in the book are good but I would recommend purchasing a very detailed map or stay on main roads since Irish navigation often lacks street signs. This book was an integral part of a great time.

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