

# Ireland

Guide for Business Gatherings, Incentives + More



Meet in   
**Ireland**  
Connect with Excellence





## “One hundred thousand welcomes”

is much more than a popular Irish phrase. It's an authentic personal welcome... and a promise. The Irish are famous for their hospitality and will go

### Did You Know?

Total population = **6.2 million**

# Why Meet in Ireland

the extra mile to make your business gathering a resounding success. Ireland is open for business. Millions have been invested to modernize transportation and telecommunications infrastructures. Any type of conference, corporate event or incentive travel program can be realized because the choice of first-class conference facilities, accommodations, catering and activities is second to none. This ancient and magical island is very accessible and easy to get around. Business visitors love to explore the spectacular landscape, cosmopolitan cities and charming villages. You can't help but get into the local spirit. The Irish love of music, art, theatre, dance and sports is undeniably infectious. *It all adds up to productive and unforgettable experiences.*



Grand Canal Theatre

### Breathtaking Venues

It's a given that Ireland's meeting venues are technically sophisticated, but what may surprise you is that you're spoiled for choice: ultra-modern conference centres, historic sites, museums, art galleries, golf resorts, botanical gardens, country estates and castles. Here are a few examples: The Theatre Royal Waterford in Waterford City, home of the famous Waterford Crystal, is a restored auditorium and conference centre. The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's No.6 Kildare Street building in Dublin is an elegant and intimate option. National Museums Northern Ireland manages four unique sites: Ulster Museum, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Ulster American Folk Park, and the Armagh County Museum. It's easy to mix business with pleasure. Many 5-star properties offer a combination of meeting facilities, accommodations, spa and on-site championship golf.



Convention Centre Dublin

### Did You Know?

The island of Ireland is **486 km long** and **275 km wide**



## Air Canada and Air Transat offer seasonal direct flights.

Or make your connection through a range of U.S. and U.K. gateway cities



### Rest Easy

» Expect the royal treatment, whether your group is staying at a funky boutique hotel, an international resort, a country manor or one of several historic castles. Ireland offers 60,000+ bedrooms in more than 900 hotels. Take your pick of luxurious 4- and 5-star accommodations; say yes to reserving an entire castle or a privately-owned estate complete with landscaped gardens, superb dining, spa facilities and fitness centre.

### Did You Know?

Irish motorways tend to be less crowded than in Canada, so you get where you're going faster



Titanic Quarter

## Bring the Whole Team

Ireland's stadiums, conference and convention centres can handle any sized group. Dublin opened three new venues in 2010: Convention Centre Dublin is located within the newly developed Spencer Dock area; the 51,700-seat Aviva Stadium Conference Centre offers 36 impressive corporate boxes; and the Grand Canal Theatre will tailor hospitality packages to the needs of large groups. The Irish National Events Centre in Killarney offers enough flexible space to host gatherings of up to 3,000. The Belfast Waterfront features airy gallery spaces, functional rooms and picturesque river views. The city's Titanic Quarter features the Odyssey Arena sports and entertainment centre. Opening in 2012, the impressive Titanic Belfast building features theatre, banqueting and conference facilities.

### Did You Know?

The **5 largest cities: Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Londonderry/Derry and Limerick**

### Authentic Flavours

There's a gourmet revolution going on in Ireland. The Michelin Guide loves the Emerald Isle having awarded stars to six establishments in 2011 including the 2-star Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud in Dublin. Ireland is famous for its fresh-caught fish, artisanal cheeses, locally farmed meat, dairy and produce. Dig into rustic fare at a classic neighbourhood pub, or sample more sophisticated offerings at high-end hotels and restaurants. Book a slow food tour; visit a traditional smokehouse; sample fresh produce at a farmers market. Ireland is renowned for its spirits (Jamesons, Bushmills), liqueurs (Baileys Irish Cream) and stout (Guinness, Murphy's). And, thanks to a shot of fine Irish whiskey, even the ubiquitous Irish Coffee comes with a kick. Craving a hands-on experience? Ireland boasts several cookery schools where guests can spend a day learning professional cooking skills using fresh ingredients sourced from local organic farms.



# Ireland Spectacular

Looking to inspire, reward and pamper? Ireland is a feast for the senses and offers experiences not found anywhere else.

**Ireland is for the adventurous.** The island boasts some of the world's most impressive surfing waves. No less challenging is the ancient practice of falconry. Learn to handle magnificent birds of prey, or try your hand at archery and fly-fishing. If golf is more your thing, plan to visit one of the many seaside courses where you'll find an amazing juxtaposition of perfectly groomed links alongside the rugged beauty of the Irish coast.

Not to be missed is the breathtaking Causeway Coastal Route, which hugs the north coast between Belfast and Londonderry/Derry. The Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge spans a 23-metre deep chasm, and Giant's Causeway features 40,000 hexagonal columns rising out of the sea. The Mourne Mountains are said to have inspired C.S. Lewis's land of Narnia.

The best way to learn why the Irish are world-class distillers and brewers is to book a private tour and tasting at Bushmills, Old Jameson Distillery or the Guinness Storehouse.

Ireland is dotted with hundreds of grand country manors and medieval castles offering luxury accommodations. Whether perched at the edge of an ocean cliff or nestled among woodlands and countryside, these unique properties are the perfect places to sample true Irish heritage and culture.

Causeway Coast and Glens



Dunluce Castle



Jameson Distillery



The European Club

Meet in   
Ireland



Helen Cole  
Trade & Online Promotions Executive  
**Tourism Ireland**  
2 Bloor Street West, Suite 3403  
Toronto, ON, M4W 3E2  
416.925.6368 x 6202  
hcole@tourismireland.com  
[www.meetinireland.ca](http://www.meetinireland.ca)

## Connect with Excellence

» Meet in Ireland is your one-stop resource for business meetings, incentive trips, conferences and exhibitions. Meet in Ireland works with a number of regional convention bureaus to coordinate site inspection visits, RFPs, bids for international meetings and more. Friendly professionals help locate hotels and venues, and can connect you with reputable professional services through the Irish Tour Operators Association and the Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers.

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