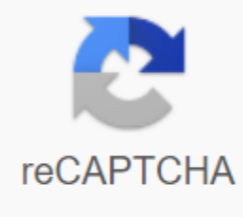




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County donegal ireland map

This is the chapter of Counties Mayo & Sligo from Lonely Planet's Guide to Ireland. Despite its natural wonders and malaise, Mayo and Sligo remain well-kept secrets, offering all of Ireland's romantic beauty, but without crowds. Find an unlikely steed of prehistoric sites, Georgian towns, abandoned manes, fishing villages and old-fashioned rural hospitality. stare at the raging waves of Dun Briste, a huge sea chimney chipped off the coast maps follow in the footsteps of St Patrick's Day to the conical peak of Croagh Patrick traffic to discover Blue Flag beaches, abandoned villages and a sea-salt factory on Achill Island restaurants & accommodation Coverage includes: County Mayo, Cong, Doolough Valley, Clare Island, Inishturk Island, Croagh Patrick, Westport, Newport, Achill Island, Bangor Erris, Ballycroy National Park, Mullet Peninsula, Ballycastle, Killala, Ballina, Lahardane, Castlebar, Knock, County Sligo, Sligo Town, Lough Gill. Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, a great violinist and singer of the Irish folk-rock band Altan, told me: The reason I play music is because of these stories. They're full of magic and romance and a sense that anything can happen. My father taught me the violin and made these stories part of our daily lives. We had to look at the rocks of Trí Mic Ó gCorra in the sea in case the Tory island returned to paganism. The big boulder in Crolla was to be thrown by Fiona MacCumhaill in Diarmuid and Gráinne because he was jealous. The legend was that the stone would fall when the most beautiful and honest couple in Ireland passed by. It was a little trembling when your mother and I went under it! father said. Rocks: impossible to plow, but prolific for legends. Inside Coffee Go Leor; local pub sign Line KleinYou maybe you come to the music, and you wouldn't be wrong. It is played with such conviction at night that the next day feels like a score into the landscape. We heard it not far from the condemning rock at Crolla, leo's tavern named after Leo Brennan, Enya's father and several clannad band members. Children with metal on their shoes danced a hurricane set on a bagpipe. I've been to hundreds of sessions in Ireland and London and Chicago, but few could match the one we saw with Danny Minnie, who played a nine-year-old violin wizard, and Anraí O'Domhnaill, a special forces veteran who once swam around the perimeter of Ireland, sang, as did his wife and young daughters and girls from the youth music organization An Crannóg. Chef O'Domhnaill explained the meanings of the songs throughout the evening. The past began, eerily and seductively, to surface when we got to Bunbeg, where I saw in Caife Kitty in the eyes and forehead of my owner, Kathleen Bonner, her late father, Matt, who ran the shop next door. Hiúdaí Beag's was still across the street. so, surprisingly, was Kitty Gallagher, now in her 90s and tapping her foot on preparations and reels in Monday night sessions. She told me it was after her sale date and she was just waiting to take a job as a bouncer at the gates of hell for the men downstairs. I think it would suit me. Her eyes flashed as the music grew louder. View to Donegal Thatched Cottages Line Klein The next day we took the local ferry, Cricket, to Gola. Captain Sabba Curran listened when I told him about the summer I spent here 40 years ago. I don't get much with a story like that,' he said. I learned that the house went back to the Sweeneys through Jimmy, Sabba's neighbor, and son Hughie, the man who built it. We drove into the slip way and walked down a low climb to the house, now freshly painted. I walked past him and looked through the windows. Fine wooden floors, a bright kitchen, a comfortable bed and photos of Hughie himself on the walls – a place torn from abandonment, like the island itself. We walked along the beach, past restored houses and out to the cliffs, like cormorants, razorbills, and guillemots glided and dived over, the heat in bloom, the sunlight at sea. Things rarely seem more beautiful than you remember, but here they were. You could come especially for the people. But even with this melancholy in the air, people are unusually direct and quickly establish a connection. You feel like you would have to do something particularly unusual to get their suspicions. Usually when you travel, whether you are amazed or fascinated or disturbed by people, you remain a spectator. But here you are unexpectedly drawn into the scene. You watch music, and through some effortless secrets you are suddenly in music. It's like a game repeatedly penetrating the fourth wall.17Line KleinIrian tricolor Where to StayDonegal Thatched Cottages are traditional houses on cruit island, with the warmth and intimacy of a lawn fire and the drama of a thriving sea just outside the window (from about \$565 per week for five guests; donegalhatchcottages.com). Kevin Boyle, the son of a Donegal native who immigrated to Chicago and made a fortune in packaged food, renovated the Waterfront Hotel in Dungloe (doubles from about \$90; waterfronthoteldungloe.ie). The rooms are not large but have elegant finishes and the place has ambitions for a Michelin-starred restaurant. Danny Minnie's in Annagry, currently the best place to eat in the area, has a small collection of beautiful rooms full of antiques and pieces that the family brought from all over Europe (doubles from about \$125; dannyminnies.ie). How to get around Cricket Captain Sabba Curran sails twice a day in summer from Magheragallon pier and by appointment For more information about visiting Donegal, go to ireland.com. The Republic of Ireland is located in northern Europe and the North Atlantic Ocean, west of the United Kingdom. The country occupies the vast majority of the island of Ireland, with Northern Ireland (part of the United Kingdom) covering the north-east. PLACES ECONOMY MORE RESOURCES 9 Things you need to buy when you're in Ireland from Donegal tweeds to Irish whiskey and Waterford crystal, here's what you need to make sure to bring home the next time you travel to... Todd Plummer Getty Images With 2016 marking the centenary of independence, Ireland has a moment. A quick stop on the Emerald Isle, even for one or two nights, is richly rewarding. Architecture enthusiasts will fall in love with Dublin's ranks of beautifully preserved Georgian houses, bookworms will get lost in literary heritage, and shopping lovers will be delighted to discover that Ireland is in fact a treasure trove of artisans, handmade and historic products. Go to the rest of Europe to shop for luxury luxury shopping - come to Ireland for something with a little more soul. Get lost in the streets and shops around St Stephen's Green in Dublin or better yet, drive half an hour out of town into the undulating countryside to explore the charming shops in the nearby village of Kildare. Until the Irish have any luck, you'll find something or two worth squeezing into your suitcase to bring home. Slàinte! Advertising – Continue reading under chocolate If chocolate enthusiasts know to go to England to buy their Cadbury, then they know that Ireland is a hotspot for irresistible small-batch craft chocolate. Chocolatiers like Bean and Goose use local Irish ingredients such as freeflower, blackberries, fennel and rosemary in their iconic favorite confectionery. Beans and goose, beanandgoose.ie; Wilde Irish Chocolate, wildeirishchocolates.com; Clonakilty Chocolate, a madeinwestcork.ie Ireland teeming with expert potters. The range ranges from traditional Pieces with Celtic motif for everyday use to unique, handmade modern objets. Hunt through the home needs department at Brown Thomas in Dublin for elegant splurge, or check out the selection at So Collective in County Kildare for something a little more unconventional and unique. Brown Thomas, brownthomas.com; So Collective, kildarevillage.com Foxford Blankets Founded in 1892, there's a reason that Foxford is one of the last working mills in Ireland – their sumptuous blankets more than stand the test of time, and are the perfect pairing for a cold Irish night. The mill uses traditional techniques transmitted over generations to produce blankets of all kinds, from chunky wool to luxury mohair, in more modern styles and traditional Irish tartans. Foxford, foxfordwoollenmills.com beekeeping is a tradition of hundreds in Ireland and the country has a thriving bee community. Not only is Irish honey known for its full, rich clover flavor, but beekeepers have also found countless creative ways to use bee products, from candles to lotions. Check out brookfield farm's classic candles, dublin herbalist's addictive peppermint beeswax lip balm, or Bushmill's decadent honey liqueur. Brookfield Farm; Brookfield Farm; Dublin liners, dublinherbalists.ie; Bushmills Distillery, bushmills.com Donegal Tweeds Robust tweed fabrics, designed to withstand brutal cold and rainy climates, have been part of Irish culture for centuries. Today, County Donegal in northern Ireland is the last bastion of clothing production in the country. The largest remaining mill - Magee, Mollóy & McNutt - dates back to 1866 and produces much of the weight, but many of them are still produced in the house of local artisans. A typical delivery tweed is an ordinary fabric with multi-colored yarns, which are added at regular intervals to create a raw effect. Magee, Mollóy & McNutt, magee1866.com Waterford Crystal The origins of Irish crystal date back to the early 18th century. Today, Waterford Crystal still stands as a global leader in this area-Waterford Crystal creates a New Year's Eve ball dropped every year in Times Square, and Waterford Crystal chandeliers hang in Westminster Abbey in London. A visit to the factory puts you up close with artisans and closes what could be the most decadent souvenir shop in the world. Waterford Crystal, waterford.co.uk Duffy Books Although only founded in the 1970s (which is virtually yesterday by European historical standards), Duffy Bookbinders is now the oldest continuously operating bookbinder in Ireland. Students from nearby Trinity College know Duffy as a place to get their graduate job tied up, but the store's fully customizable line of handbound laptops are essentially a must-have accessory for a literary city like Dublin.Duffy Bookbinders, duffbookbinders.com Aran sweaters No trip to Ireland is complete without picking up a substantial woollen sweater to fend off a bitter winter. Each stitch is steeped in tradition and symbolism: cable knitwear means fishing ropes and wishes for a rich catch; diamond stitches trigger Irish moss farmers use to fertilize fields; and zigzag stitches resemble rocky cliffs along the Irish coast. Aran Sweater Market, aransweatermarket.com and Aran Sweaters Direct, a aransweatersdirect.com Lemon soap from Sweny's Everyone Who Read James Joyce's Ulysses knows that the titular character makes the point of buying a bar of lemon soap from Sweny's, a non-fictional drugstore just around the corner from Merrion Square. Today, Sweny operates as a sort of kurio knick-knack shop and living ode to James Joyce, with piles of Joyce books lining the walls. Sign a guest and the salesman is likely to pull out his guitar and sing you a traditional Gaelic ballad. Sweny Pharmacy, sweny.ie this content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. For more information about this and similar content, see piano.io piano.io