

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



PLACES TO SHOP

- **Sheridan's Cheesemongers:** sheridanscheesemongers.com Virginia Road Station, Pottlereagh, Kells, Co. Meath
- **Joe the Baker:** joethebaker.com "The Bread Table", 32 Paget Lane, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- **O'Doherty's Fine Meats:** blackbacon.com 3 Belmore St, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- **Ispini Charcuterie:** www.ispinicharcuterie.com Rawdon Court, Main St, Moira, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Hannan's Meats:** www.hannanmeats.com Moira Industrial Estate, 34 Old Kilmore Rd, Moira, Craigavon, Co. Armagh



PLACES TO VISIT / EXCURSIONS

- **Slane Castle & Distillery:** www.slaneirishwhiskey.com Slane, Co. Meath www.slane castle.ie & Distillery Tours
- **Castle Saunderson:** cuilcaghlakelands.org/geosite/castle-saunderson Castlesaunderson, Co. Cavan
- **Cavan Burren Park:** www.cavanburrenpark.ie Burren, Blacklion, Co. Cavan
- **Wild Atlantic Distillery:** wildatlanticdistillery.ie Trienamongan Road, Aghyaran, Co. Tyrone
- **Enniskillen Taste Experience Tour:** www.enniskillentasteexperience.com
- **Armagh Cider Company:** armaghcider.com Drumnasoo Rd, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Long Meadow Cider:** longmeadowcider.com Long Meadow Farm, 87 Loughgall Rd, Portadown, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Hillsborough Castle & Gardens:** www.hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle
- **Newgrange:** www.newgrange.com Stone Age World Heritage Site, Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Donore, Co. Meath
- **Skerries Walks:** see www.visitdublin.com/guides/things-to-do-skerries



PLACES TO EAT

- **The Olde Post Inn:** www.theoldepostinn.com Cloverhill, Co. Cavan
- **Blakes of the Hollow:** blakesofthehollow.com 6 Church St, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- **Wine & Brine:** www.wineandbrine.co.uk 9 Main St, Moira, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Clenaghan:** clenaghansrestaurant.com 48 Soldierstown Rd, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Brabazon:** www.tankardstown.ie Tankardstown House & Gardens, Rathkenny, Co. Meath
- **Man O'War:** Gastro Pub, Courtlough, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin
- **Potager:** www.potager.ie 7 Church St, Townparks, Skerries, Co. Dublin



PLACES TO STAY

- **Sheelin's Shepherds Huts:** www.sheelinshepherdshuts.com Cavancoulter, Mount Nugent, Co. Cavan
- **The Olde Post Inn:** www.theoldepostinn.com Cloverhill, Co. Cavan
- **Lough Erne Resort:** www.loughernereresort.com 193 Lough Shore Rd, Ross Inner, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- **Clenaghans:** clenaghans.com 48 Soldierstown Rd, Craigavon, Co. Down
- **Newforge House:** www.newforgehouse.com 8 New Forge Rd, Magheralin, Craigavon, Co. Armagh
- **Tankardstown House & Gardens:** www.tankardstown.ie Rathkenny, Slane, Co. Meath



TOURISM OFFICES

- www.discoverireland.ie
- discovernorthernireland.com



Gastro Guide

by *Trish Deseine*

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1:

Meath / Cavan

- Dublin Port → Slane Castle 45 mins/55km
- Sheridans Kells 35 mins/35km
- Sheelin Shepherd's Hut 23 mins/22km

Day 2:

Cavan

- Sheelin Shepherd's Hut → Cloverhill, Co. Cavan 35 mins/36km
- Blacklion, Co. Cavan 42 mins/48km

Day 3:

Enniskillen

- Cloverhill, Co Cavan → Enniskillen 40 mins/41km
- Aghyaran 25 mins/47km
- Craigavon 1hr 26 mins/104km

Day 4:

Moira / Hillsborough

- Craigavon → Moira 22 mins/27km
- Hillsborough 13 mins/13km

Day 5:

Dublin

- Hillsborough → Newgrange 1hr 10 mins/105km
- Rathkenny 19 mins/15km
- OR
- Skerries 35 mins/31km



IRISH FERRIES

Sea travel differently

Gastro Guide

by *Trish Deseine*



Dublin Bay from Howth Head

Once you've arrived in Ireland (not that I might be biased, coming as I do from **Co. Antrim!**), why not head north instead of south or west as you drive off the ship, and discover some of the country's hidden foodie gems?

Day 1:

Just an hour's drive north of **Dublin** port is the majestic **Slane Castle**. Built in 1785, it is famous for its rock gigs since the '90s when Lord Henry Mount Charles started inviting superstars (Bowie, U2, The Rolling Stones...) to play in the natural amphitheatre behind his ancestors' castle. You can take guided tours around the castle and follow walking trails in the grounds. Most importantly perhaps for epicurean visitors, adjacent to the castle is **Slane Distillery** where you can discover how Slane's triple distilled whiskey is made and do some tasting and buying.



Slane Castle

A short drive from **Slane**, just outside **Kells**, is **Sheridan Cheesemongers'** HQ, housed in the old **Virginia Road Station** with a warehouse shop, offices and maturing rooms. Every Saturday they host a small market for local producers and annually they hold their now famous Irish Food Festival, celebrating the best of Irish food. Their selection of Irish



Sheridan's Cheesemongers

cheeses is next to none, but you'll also find interesting charcuterie and deli items for all your picnic needs. Not far, a fun place to overnight is **Sheelin's Shepherd's hut**, set in peaceful fields overlooking **Lough Sheelin**. A brand new, beautifully appointed tiny house, with everything you could need to feel cosy and looked after, including a well-equipped kitchen and nicely stocked fridge.

Day 2:

Next stop, **Cloverhill**, a charming village with beautiful buildings in county **Cavan**, including a local church dating from the mid-1800s, and **Castle Saunderson** just outside the village. The large grounds of the castle demesne offer a lovely walk with a lake and a woodland walking trail. The village is home to one of the region's finest restaurants, the **Olde Post Inn**, as well as comfortable accommodation. It's the perfect place from which to head north to the slopes of the **Cuilcagh** mountain outside the village of **Blacklion**, where you will find the **Cavan Burren Park**, a limestone plateau rich with archaeological features, and a prehistoric landscape dotted with megalithic tombs, glacial erratics (boulders) and dolmens to be explored on one of the five walking trails.



Cavan Burren

Day 3:

Drive further north onto **Fermanagh**, where you can stay in some luxury at **Lough Erne resort**, either in the sumptuous five star hotel, or in one of their comfortable golf cottages. In **Enniskillen** town, check out **Joe The Baker's** superb sourdough and **O'Doherty's** famous Fermanagh black bacon, made from 'happy' pigs who roam freely on **Inishcorkish Island** on **Upper Lough Erne**. Have a pint in



Blakes of the Hollow



Howth, Co. Dub.



Banagh Apple Cider

characterful **Blakes of the Hollow**, one of Ireland's oldest pubs or take a foodie **'Taste Experience'** tour available on foot or by boat on the **Erne** waterway.

From **Enniskillen**, a 45-minute drive takes you to the **Wild Atlantic Distillery and Gin School** in **Co. Tyrone**. Spend a day learning about the distilling process, enjoying a gin and tonic with a light lunch, and making your very own, unique gin to take away.

Day 4:

Then, head east to **Moira**, a small, unassuming town in **Co. Down**, rapidly becoming a mini Irish food Mecca. Travel via the Orchard County **Armagh** where both **Armagh Cider Company** and **Long Meadow Cider** offer tastings and tours for an enjoyable stop on the way. In **Moira**, eat at Chris McGowan's Michelin Bib Gourmand awarded, **Wine and Brine** or for a more traditional gastro pub setting and menu (including a good vegetarian option) try **Clenaghan's**, who also do comfortable self-catering accommodation. Two first class food stores in **Moira** are **Ispini Charcuterie** and **Hannan Meats**. Both offer their own fantastic meats, fresh and cured, alongside a treasure trove of local artisan produce. Pick up some delectable **Abernethy Butter**, **Ballylisk Triple Rose** cheese (think a slightly funkier Chource) or multi award winning raw milk blue cheese, **Young Buck**.

Head for **Hillsborough Castle**, Northern Ireland's royal and state residence, which sits at the top of the pretty, well-kept town. Visit the castle and gardens, before falling into a four-poster bed for the night at the gorgeous **Newforge House** and build up your energy and



Hillsborough Castle



IRISH FERRIES



Newgrange, Co. Meath

Day 5:

On your way back to **Dublin**, both the famous neolithic **Newgrange** World Heritage site in the heart of the **Boyne Valley** and the 18th century **Tankardstown House and Gardens**, are well worth a detour. There you will find 80 acres of formal gardens, woodland and parkland to explore, and you can also enjoy a casual lunch in the **Brabazon** restaurant. Or head to the coastal north **Dublin** village of **Skerries**, where you can enjoy a pint in the 400-year-old **Man O'War** pub with its thatched roof, whitewashed walls, and an interior that is home to a lively, traditional Irish atmosphere. Enjoy great modern Irish food in neighbourhood restaurant **Potager** in the heart of the village, with a focus on outstanding Irish producers and their ingredients. Then walk it all off on the 1.5km-long **Skerries Coastal Trail**, a path that loops around the headland of Red Island and links both the South and North beaches of the village, before heading to the port for the trip home.



Skerries

appetite for one of Ireland's best breakfasts the next morning.