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Rick Steves' Ireland 2009



Synopsis

Get to know Dublin on a musical pub crawl, explore the towering ruins of Trim Castle, or stand 650 feet above the Atlantic on the Cliffs of Moher; Rick Steves' Ireland 2009 allows any traveler to experience all that the country has to offer; economically and hassle-free. Rick covers all of the well-known sites, from the Book of Kells to the Blarney Stone, but doesn't leave out where to grab a pint and chat with a local. With Rick's expert advice, historical knowledge, and humorous asides, Rick Steves' Ireland 2009 is tour guide that fits in your pocket.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent resource! I've been to Ireland and am planning another trip there. This book covers everything that I saw and did on my first trip plus a bunch of stuff that I wish I had known then. It has info on avoiding crowds and getting off the beaten path as well as lots of practical tips on where to stay, eat, even park your car. Even if you're not planning a trip in the near future this book is a good read.

It is a much better version... Extremely user friendly. We have gotten a lot of good advice and even our friends who recommended the newer version. Congrats!!!

Rick Steves provides a ton of information on a selection of quality sites. This contrasts with other

books such as Lonely Planet that try to cover every attraction, every sight, every restaurant, and every place to eat. I appreciate Mr. Steve's curated approach as it gives me much more useful information about fewer sights, rather than a minimum of information for every possible sight. Rick Steves' books are full of practical and straight-talk travel advice.

This book is absolutely invaluable. With tips on everything from how to pack (and yes, you really CAN travel without checking a bag), historical information, and how to get to sites that are well off the beaten path, we would have had a much harder time finding our way around when we decided to just rent a car and drive the coast. Thank you, Rick Steves. We will never travel out of the US without you.

This was absolutely worth reading and having along for our trip to Ireland. We found a restaurant in this guide that turned out to be among the best seafood I have ever eaten in my life - and that is saying something because I know food. There are lots of good tips in here - Rick Steves knows how to make the most of a trip. My tips? If you decide to drive around the country as we did, bring your GPS or get the one from the rental car company. We thought it was too expensive from the rental car company (which already borders on extortion for the amount of insurance they charge you) but as it turned out we really wished we had it. In western Ireland and in more remote places street signs are optional or not in English and we wasted lots of time and aggravation trying to find out way around. To be fair, getting lost turned out to be kind of fun and we stumbled onto some fabulous places -- but still - it made it hard to stay on schedule. Also, pick up a copy of one of the B&B guides when you are there. You can easily find a relatively inexpensive B&B almost anywhere and it's so much better than a hotel. We love Ireland.

On a family getaway trip to Ireland (two geezers, i.e., my wife and I) and our son and daughter (in their thirties) found ourselves consulting Steves' book time after time, and found him right on the money. The writer for this book is an Irishman with a feel for the tourist's interests, and he doesn't pull punches when he feels a place (like the Blarney Castle/Blarney Stone) is an over-hyped tourist trap. Good detailed info on how to access things that are sometimes inaccessible, like Skellig Michael. The book gives names and phone numbers for the ferry boat companies that take you there, for instance. There's the usual and basic stuff about USD-to-Euro conversion, when to use a debit card as opposed to a credit card, some background on the many sites with huge historical significance, lists of current and classic Irish novels, music, musical performers, etc. These are the

stuff of most tourist guide books, and truthfully, others might do as well, but I found the Steves book consistently accurate. It's probably important to get the most current book you can (we had the 2014 edition), especially in a case where the economic situation of the nation overall is in a state of flux. We did not use any of the Steves book suggested tours--had our own agenda, driven by particular interests and ancestral ties, so I can't comment on his suggested one-week or two-week mapped-out tours. At a glance, thought they looked pretty good. We found a few inaccuracies about where/when to get in on ceilidhs (music sessions) at pubs in various cities, but we did some scouting about and find them on our own. I suppose the musical groups drift about from time to time, so it would be hard to keep current on such things. A "hardware-store-plus-pub in one town turned out to be a tiny bar with a rack of hardware on one wall--not quite the way it seemed in the book. We didn't get into the north of Ireland at all--had ancestor connections in the southeast and mid south, and toured the southern peninsulas of the West Coast--so I can't comment on the book's treatment of Ulster, etc.--but we spend a month in the Irish Republic and found the Steves book worth the price and then some.

If you travel to Europe and do not use Rick Steve's you are doing yourself a great disservice. His books have enhanced our trips SIGNIFICANTLY, from finding quality reasonable hotel rooms, places to eat depending where you currently are within particular towns, entertaining step by step walks through the most interesting parts of a town or even within some of the specific sights and an abundance of insight including tips to avoid standing in long lines. As he puts it, his book is a \$20 investment which will enhance a several thousand dollar trip. It is as close as you will ever get to having a friend who is expert tour guide and you get to pick his brain as you research your trip, as well as while you are there. I cannot recommend his books highly enough. And we travel quite frequently.....

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