



BALLYNAHINCH © BARRY MURPHY

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The 10 best luxury hotels in Ireland

If you're dreaming of an escape to the Emerald Isle, these are the most covetable hotels in Ireland to book now

BY [CAROLINE LEWIS](#) PUBLISHED: 24 OCTOBER 2023

Ireland boasts a slew of luxury hotels to book now, from city boltholes to castles and country piles, making it the ideal spot for a weekend getaway this autumn.

While you're there, Dublin is not to be missed – the Republic of Ireland's capital is an excellent choice for a lively city break with free-flowing Guinness, visits to possibly the most beautiful library in the world (at Trinity College) and homage-paying to writers such as Oscar Wilde and James Joyce.

The Wild Atlantic Way, home to some spectacular scenery and perfect for a road trip, runs from Donegal to County Cork and is one of the world's longest coastal driving routes. Another scenic drive is around the Ring of Kerry in the south-west of

Ireland, a circular journey that encompasses seaside villages and abandoned 7th century monasteries.

Ballynahinch Castle is the perfect choice if you want to live like royalty for a weekend – the County Galway seat has hundreds of acres of woodland, its own salmon fishery and magical views of the Twelve Bens mountains.

Or book a stay at Park Hotel Kenmare in County Kerry, which has been practising the art of hospitality for more than 125 years now.

Read on to discover more of the grandest luxury hotels in Ireland – all you need to do is decide which one takes your fancy...

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Cliff House Hotel, County Waterford



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

On the rugged coast of County Waterford, Cliff House Hotel is a small-scale luxury hotel in the fishing village of Ardmore. Its five-star frills, however, include a Michelin-starred restaurant and a sea-facing spa. At the latter, you'll be able to take your pick from the bathing therapies, which take place in twin copper bath tubs overlooking Ardmore Bay – these can be filled with Irish peat and ginger, or organic seaweed.

The remote setting at the edge of a cliff means panoramic views of the water and, if you're lucky, a pod of passing dolphins. Both Cork and Waterford are around an hour away by car.

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Ballynahinch Castle, County Galway



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Ireland has many grand castle hotels, many of which are part of the Relais & Châteaux collection. One such opulent retreat is Ballynahinch Castle, set in 700 acres of woodland in County Galway. It's on the west of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, should you be in search of a luxurious pitstop on the driving route between Donegal and County Cork.

The Connemara estate is home to a salmon fishery, rivers and walking trails, all with a backdrop of the Twelve Bens mountains. There are lots of fireplaces to keep things cosy during the winter. At the restaurant, guests can enjoy produce grown on the castle's acreage or sourced from the surrounding farmland.

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Marlfield House, County Wexford



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

In coastal County Wexford in Ireland's south-east, Marlfield House is a grand manor with 36 acres of woodland. The grounds include an ornamental lake, various types of garden (rose, vegetable and herb) and resident animals, from peacocks to ponies.

Accommodation options span suites surrounded by oak-trees and ferns down by the pond, a two-bedroom cottage and rooms in the manor house with antiques, canopied beds, marble bathrooms and views of the gardens and lake.

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Park Hotel Kenmare, County Kerry



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Park Hotel Kenmare has been welcoming guests since 1897. The hotel is surrounded by beautiful countryside, on the edge of Kenmare Bay. As with many

luxury hotels in Ireland, the food is one of the biggest draws today, with ingredients sourced from the kitchen garden or local fishermen, farmers, bakers and cheesemakers.

It's also home to a destination spa, the Gaelic name of which – 'Sámas' – means 'pure indulgence of the senses'. Instead of booking a treatment ahead of arrival, guests can see what mood they're in when they arrive. The grounds feature tennis courts and a croquet lawn, and there's a golf course next door. Other activities on offer include coastal walks and drives, horse riding, and sea and game angling.

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Sheen Falls Lodge, County Kerry



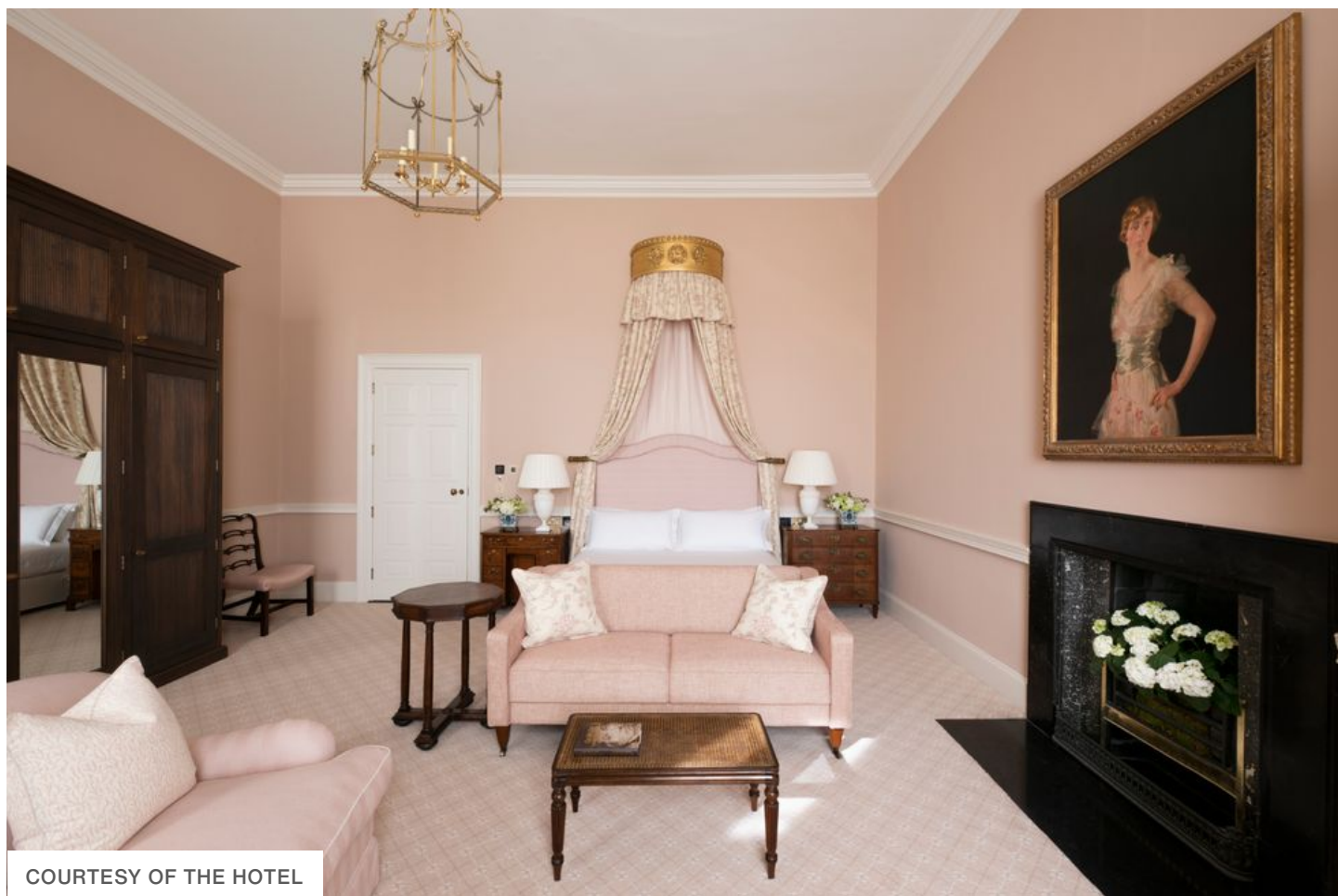
Another of Ireland's luxurious Relais & Châteaux properties is Sheen Falls Lodge in Kenmare, which has a captivating setting between mountains and the river rushing past. It's an inviting pitstop on the Wild Atlantic Way, should you be in need of a refined refuge for the night.

While you're in residence, be sure to try the fine-dining restaurant and some of the activities on offer at the 300-acre estate, which include horse and carriage trips, fishing, falconry and paddle-boarding. There's also a golf course and a pampering spa.

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Cashel Palace, County Tipperary



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Cashel Palace is a Palladian manor in the Tipperary town of the same name, which is also home to a namesake rock, said to be the site of a religious conversion in the 5th century. The hotel was home to members of the clergy for centuries and was turned into a luxury hotel by a British peer in the Sixties. Since then, its famous guests have included Jackie Kennedy and Princess Diana.

Today, it's owned by a family of thoroughbred stud owners, but it's as opulent as ever, with all the chandeliers, gilded mirrors and grand living rooms (with fireplaces, of course) you could wish for.

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The Westbury, Dublin



The Westbury is a part of the Leading Hotels of the World collection, with modern, luxurious rooms and suites that make for the perfect base for exploring the city.

This five-star hotel is in the centre of Dublin, with an art collection, elegant afternoon teas and an all-day brasserie on Balfe Street, where guests can dine on seaweed-cured salmon, seafood from the Atlantic and steaks cooked on the Jospier grill. Before, you'll be able to enjoy pre-dinner drinks at the Sidecar, the hotel's Thirties-style cocktail bar.

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Dromoland Castle, County Clare



COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

If you need your luxury hotel in Ireland to have turrets and towers, Dromoland Castle is the stately seat for you. The 500-acre estate, which has been receiving

guests since the 16th century, is the ancestral home of the O'Brians of Dromoland, a family with a lineage that can be traced back to one of the last High Kings of Ireland.

Behind the grand baronial façade, you'll find equally lavish interiors: opulent dining rooms with elaborate chandeliers, a gallery with stag heads and brocade curtains, and, of course, lots of fireplaces.

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Lough Eske Castle, County Donegal
