Water sports in Ireland

Ireland



Get out there and make a splash

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Welcome to water sports heaven!

You'd never think it but Ireland is the 20th biggest island in the world – boasting roughly 1,448km of coastline.

Add to that more than 950km of waterways navigable by pleasure craft, uncountable freshwater lakes in the midlands, and rivers that cascade from the mountains which dot the coastline, and what do you have but an overlooked water sports haven.

From the high-octane kick of whooshing down your very first wave on a surfboard to mellowing out on water as still as glass in a sea kayak, there is a blissful watery way for just about everyone to spend a day in this country – from the adrenaline junkie to the serenity seeker and from the young to the young at heart.

The Emerald Isle has the Atlantic to thank primarily for the fact that we punch above our weight in this water sports department. Over centuries, this mighty ocean has sculpted our shores, creating a treasure trove of beaches and bays, coves and cliffs, just waiting to be explored. The Irish coastline is, without a doubt, an unspoiled, crowd-free playground for any number of aquatic activities.

As for which to choose, that really only depends on your mood – and of course that of the ocean.

Since the time of St Brendan and before, this has been a nation of ocean goers and when the wind blows, it's the sailors, windsurfers and kite-surfers that itch to feel salt on their skin as they harness Mother Nature's power.

When weather systems are farther out to sea, pushing in row upon row of perfect waves, Ireland is transformed into a surfers' paradise. Some have even termed the country a 'cold water Hawaii', comparing the wave quality and swell frequency to the Pacific archipelago.

While it is true that our waters are a bit chillier than other tropical locations, the benefit of this is that it keeps the crowds at bay. And we'll let you in on a little secret; the water is not actually that cold! Thanks to the modern wetsuit and, more importantly, the Atlantic's warming Gulf Stream, you can comfortably take to the ocean most times of the year and even in the depths of winter if you're hardy.

This current also entices creatures like humpback whales and leatherback turtles to visit, and there are even rare appearances by killer whales or white beaked dolphins on long-distance trips from exotic climes. These magnificent wonders of the deep will be happy to entertain you on a whale or dolphin watching trip — particularly in late summer. Or better still, why not enter their world for a spot of snorkelling or scuba diving.

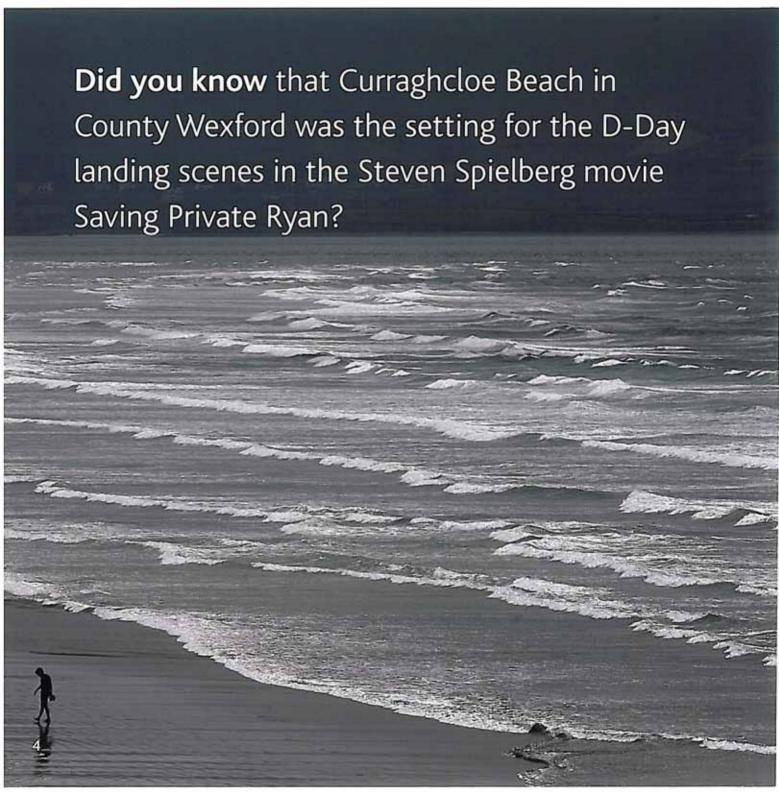
You may even be lucky enough to have an encounter if you head out sea kayaking, one of the most laid-back ways to immerse yourself in nature. Even if the star attractions are feeling shy, their more common cousins, the seals and dolphins, are likely to pop up to say hello.

And if that's not enough watery entertainment for you, why not explore Ireland's myriad of inland rivers and lakes.

If you seek an adrenaline high, you might consider waterskiing, wakeboarding, or the bubbly excitement of white-water kayaking. Or if it's a soothing experience you're after, there's not much that could outdo navigating a Canadian canoe amongst the rushes of the Shannon or the lakes and waterways that emanate from it,

If this all sounds too good to be true but you don't know where to start, rest assured that highly qualified teachers are at hand to help you enjoy all these activities, be you an expert or a complete novice.

So what are you waiting for? Get out there and make a splash!



Beach bliss

If you're a water sports enthusiast, you already know that beaches are not just for reclining lifeless and baking on hot summer days.

Rather they are a natural resource for any number of pleasures and pastimes to suit any season – from reviving and rejuvenating while sucking in the fresh air to enjoying a hearty picnic as the kids create an alternative universe with their sandcastles.

Unspoiled and nearly always crowd-free, Ireland is blessed with such an embarrassment of seaside riches that it is difficult to know where to begin. On this small island, you are never much more than a short journey away from one of these national treasures.

Long golden swathes of sand are ideal for family days out, isolated romantic walks or the heart-racing thrill of thundering through the white water on horseback. From the north to the south, some of the most famous of these beaches seem to stretch endlessly – like Benone Beach, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in north Derry boasting wonderful sand dunes and a magnificent backdrop of mountains and cliffs. Or Inch strand on the Dingle Peninsula in Kerry where the water recedes a mile at low tide.

On the east coast, a standout is golden Brittas Bay in Co. Wicklow. Only a stone's throw from Dublin, escape from the city to its crystal waters and magnificent dunes has been a summer tradition for generations of folk. And what about Portsalon beach in the far reaches of wild County Donegal? With heather-covered mountains plunging to the blue seas of Ballymastocker Bay, it is simply stunning. It was even declared the second most beautiful beach in the world by British newspaper The Observer.

As well as being a huge natural amenity, our beaches provide wonderful habitats for coastal wildlife. Kids can have a fabulous day

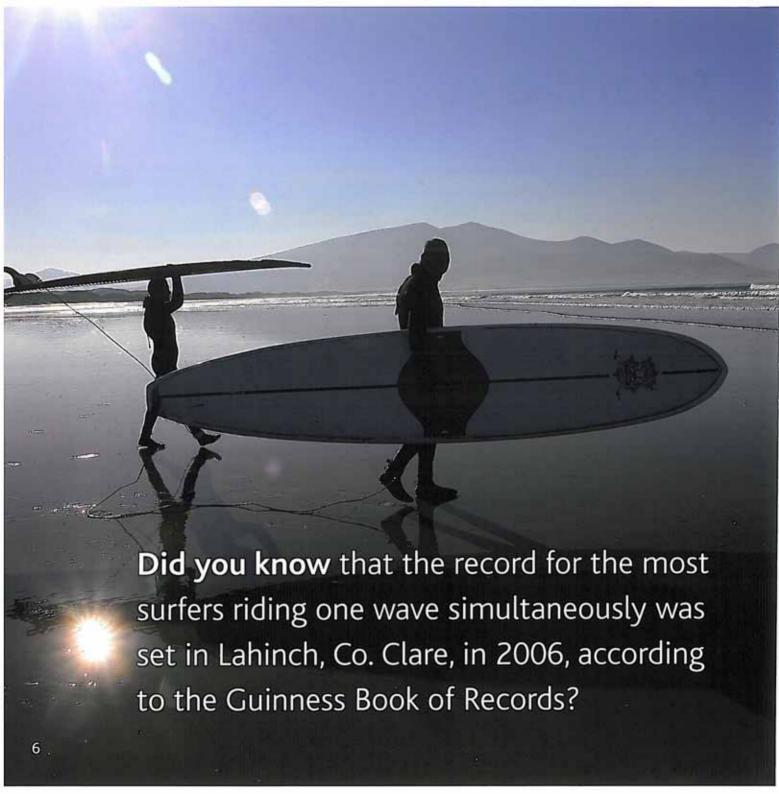
exploring what hides in the whispering marram grasses of the sandy dunes or the rippling water of rock pools. It's a thrill in itself to watch their faces flower with amazement as they spy anemones, blennies, gobies, crabs, starfish, sea urchins and much more. And if they want to learn about these creatures, aquariums at various seaside locations, like Bray in Wicklow, Dingle in Kerry or Lahinch in Clare, are a winner. Other providers can even bring groups on fascinating but fun guided trips, like T-Bay Surf and Eco Centre's eco hikes, which explore one of Europe's largest inter-tidal lagoons.

If you fancy an energising and bracing dip in the rejuvenating waves, you'll be glad to know that our shores are washed with some of the cleanest waters in Europe thanks to the mighty Atlantic. The island of Ireland boasts no fewer than 85 blue flag beaches (2008) meaning that they meet stringent EU guidelines for bathing water quality. These beaches are usually lifeguarded during the summer months but make sure to check that flags are flying to indicate that it is safe to enter the water.

A further 33 beaches have received the Green Coast Award which aims to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of rural beaches.

So whatever beachside pleasure you seek – from bird watching to bathing – your wish is Ireland's command.





Surf's up!

The secret is officially out. Ireland is one of the top surfing destinations in the world.

But don't take our word for it! The internet is alive with tales of the waves that were ridden in Mullaghmore in Donegal in winter '07 and were caught on camera for the surfing feature/documentary film 'Wave Riders'. They were arguably the biggest ever surfed in Europe.

And then there's the massive and perfect wave that breaks in the surreal setting of the base of the Cliffs of Moher. Christened Aileens by the first surfers that rode it, this monster has been compared to Jaws (also known as Peahi) off Maui in Hawaii and featured on the cover of one of the biggest British surfing magazines, Carve, under the heading 'Epic Ireland'. Professional surfers are now queuing up to ride it.

But don't panic! If you want to try this ancient Polynesian art, you won't be thrown to the lions and have to deal with these enormous waves. Ireland may have huge swells on its day but it also offers gentle beginner's waves on safe and friendly beach breaks, like Tramore in Waterford, Lahinch in Clare, or Portush in Co. Antrim.

And if you give surfing a go here in Ireland, you can learn from the best. Many of the highly skilful surfers that have ridden those aforementioned headline-grabbing behemoth waves are fully qualified teachers willing to pass on their impressive wave knowledge to novices.

To name but a few, Irish women's champion, Easkey Britton, coaches at Finn McCools school in Rossnowlagh; current senior Irish surf champion, John McCarthy, heads up Lahinch Surf School; pro rider Richie Fitzgerald teaches at TurfnSurf School in Bundoran, while well-known wave charger Martin Cullinane is Director of T-Bay Surf and Eco Centre in Tramore.



All of these instructors have surfed Aileens, so you'll be in good hands with them. Or for that matter with ex-Irish team members Andy Hill of Trogg's Surf School and Martin Kelly of TK Surf School in Portrush, not to mention Perfect Day Surf School in Strandhill where former Irish team coach Tom Hickey takes novices into the water.

Ireland may just be the hottest place to learn to surf right now despite our not-so-hot sea temperatures. The good news on that front is that cooler water keeps the crowds at bay — a big downside for learning to surf in warmer destinations.

But be warned. Surfing is addictive! Before long, you could find yourself scouring weather charts and maps, seeking out new surf spots as you graduate to more challenging beaches and maybe even on to reef and point breaks which abound in this country. To name but a few, surfers wax lyrical about the Peak in Bundoran, Crab Island in Co. Clare, Garrywilliam Point in Kerry, Shreadder in Donegal and many, many more. You'll just have to get to know the local surfers to find out where they are and whether you're good enough to ride them.

But one thing is certain. With our craggy coastline, regardless of wind or swell direction, it's a rare day that you won't find perfect surf conditions in some idyllic spot.



Set sail

Dramatic unspoilt coastlines, generous breezes and endless welcoming nooks and crannies in which to drop anchor combine to make Ireland one of the world's best sailing locations.

And we're not the only ones that think it's special! From 22 May to 6 June 2009, Galway has been handpicked to host a stopover during the world's premier offshore yachting event, the Volvo Ocean Race 08-09. Seven of the world's best professional teams will sail the fastest yachts on the planet into the City of Tribes, as Galway is known. They will also take part in nail-biting in-port races. Powered by main sails as large as 175 square metres and spinnakers big enough to blanket two tennis courts, you can expect quite a show.

While these sailors will be experiencing the Emerald Isle's seas at break-neck speeds, many prefer to take a more leisurely approach by chartering a yacht and meandering down the coastline. Visitors' moorings are provided by local councils along the way so you can always return to civilisation at serene fishing villages or bustling towns to savour a pint of Guinness or a bowl of seafood chowder.

If you've no sailing experience, don't worry. These boats can be hired with a skipper who will let you participate in sailing the craft as much as you like — or as little! Anyone for a sunset gin and tonic on deck?

If, on the other hand, you'd love one day to be the captain of your own destiny, there are endless opportunities to learn to sail at the many yacht clubs and sailing schools that dot the coast. From classes filled with kids getting kicks from capsizing their dinghies, to mile builders where the young at heart enjoy feeling the wind in their sails and the spray on their faces, everyone is guaranteed to have a ball. Courses range from a few hours' instruction to intensive week-long sessions.

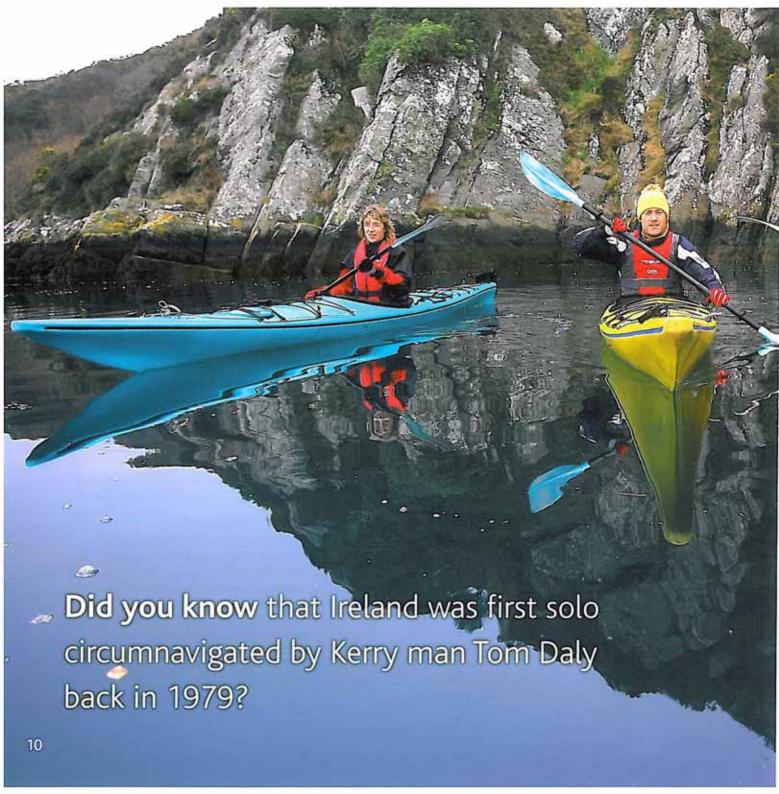
And you'll be in the safe hands of highly experienced seamen and women. For many of these instructors, seafaring has been in their blood for generations. So it's no surprise that Ireland has several renowned annual sailing contests, like Cork Week, the biggest club regatta in Europe, or Calves Week which sees the normally sleepy West Cork village of Schull explode with excitement. These events are as social as they are competitive with many non-sailors joining in the land-based activities.



And don't forget the traditional boat festivals which celebrate our maritime heritage – like Cruinniú na mBád (the Gathering of the Boats) in Kinvara, Galway, or the Wooden Boat Festival in Baltimore, West Cork. The old vessels on show, such as Galway hookers, púcáns or gleoiteogs, were designed for the shallow and often stormy waters around the west of Ireland and were used for fishing or carrying turf out to the islands. Year round, it's possible to take a cruise on one of them and be transported back in time as you listen to the creaking of the wooden beams.

Incidentally, if traditional vessels are of interest, you might like to drop into Belfast from 13 to 16 August 09 when it will be the final port of call for the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge. Half a million visitors are expected to witness the spectacle of at least 20 class A tall ships coasting majestically into Belfast Lough. These vessels wouldn't be out of place in a pirate fantasy and will light up the docklands with their colourful display of flags, banners, sails and pennants.

Clearly there is no end to salty pursuits on this island, but whichever you choose, you're in for a treat.



Paddle power

Whether it's lazy hazy days of river excursions in Canadian canoes, voyaging over the big blue in a sea kayak, or bubbling and bouncing rides on a white-water river, you've come to the right place if your idea of fun is travelling by paddle power.

With Ireland's 1,448km-long coastline, 'kid in a candy store' is the expression that springs to mind when it comes to sea kayaking. In West Cork there are laidback paddles in sheltered inlets like Rineen or magical midnight jaunts on Lough Hyne, Europe's first Marine Nature Reserve. These are ideal for beginners or family groups, including grandparents and kids alike. And anyone who feels less confident will be well looked after as there's always the option of heading out in a double kayak with a more experienced paddler.

For the more adventurous or experienced, taking in the age-old sea stacks and ethereal caves on Waterford's Copper Coast or heading on a guided expedition-style overnight trip out to the many offshore islands in Mayo's Clew Bay might be more the ticket. Don't forget to ask your guide to stop on the water to fish for fresh mackerel to cook on the barbecue later.

Or for those with a curious mind, there's always the option of getting a view like no other of the weird and wonderful basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The options are simply limitless if the serenity of the ocean environment is what you're after.

Those who prefer the open-top freedom of Canadians are well catered for too on the network of lakes, rivers and canals that are interwoven across Ireland's midlands and northern region. Perhaps the jewel in the crown is Northern Ireland's canoe trails, offering a complete package of on-shore interpretation, waterproof guides and interactive web maps – perfect for those who love to canoe tour and camp. Or you can moor and head for the warm welcome of a local pub or village.

The liquidy maze of Shannon is also a warren of delights and will provide wilderness therapy for the world weary, where the only disturbance might be a swan flapping its enormous wings before sailing imperiously away towards the swaying rushes.

If that all sounds lovely but a little too mellow, don't despair! It's no secret that Ireland gets its fair share of rain and when those laden clouds roll in from the west, mountainous rivers spring to life and put smiles on the faces of the adventure seeking white-water kayakers.

If you fantasise about shooting rapids, making steep drops and slides, or crashing through waves, we've got the natural facilities for your thrills and spills – from the benign beginners' Grade 1 Aughrim River in Wicklow to the scenic intermediate Grade 3 Glenarm in Antrim to the extreme Grade 5 alpine Gaddagh River in Kerry, which thunders down from Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest mountain.

Of course, to get started paddling, you should seek the help of instructor but whatever your paddling desire, it can be catered for!



Did you know that the two most common types of diving qualification in Ireland are PADI and BSAC? For recreational diving, the PADI system is more widespread and you should always check that the dive centre with which you are diving is accredited. All PADI dive centres will include equipment hire and insurance as

part of the instruction cost.

Into the big blue

Ireland is a diving and snorkelling paradise boasting great visibility, numerous mysterious wrecks and nutrient-rich water teeming with sea life.

It's an ideal destination to lose yourself in the gently swaying kelp forests or catch an underwater lift on a powerful current during a drift dive – just like in the movie 'Finding Nemo'!

You can expect to meet cheeky seals that will mimic beginner divers and snorkellers, often nibbling on their fins and playing 'hide and seek'. Dolphins, migrating basking sharks, porpoises, whales and even leatherback turtles also frequent our Gulf Stream-fed waters. Amateur and professional underwater photographers can capture colourful images of velvet swimming crabs, bloody Henrys, dahlia anemones and a wealth of other species.

Havens for this sea life, our coastline is also dotted with wrecks from historical warfare or where sailors in search of sheltered water were lured onto the reefs and rocks. In total, between 7,000 and 12,000 ships have ended their days off the coast of Ireland. Undisturbed except for the dead man's fingers, mermaid's purses and jewel anemones that have made their homes on these artificial reefs, each sunken artefact has become a time capsule offering enigmatic glimpses into history.

If you fancy being transported back in time while you float weightlessly in this watery underworld, you'll be spoiled for choice. For example, the Laurentic lies in its watery grave just off Malin Head in Co. Donegal. Once a White Star liner, it was commandeered as an armed merchant cruiser by the Royal Navy at the outbreak of the Great War and sank in 1917 with its 35-ton gold bullion cargo. Some of this loot has never been salvaged but for the diver, the real treasure here is the accessibility of the wreck at just 36 to 42m, the crystal clear clarity of the water here and the wonderful marine life.



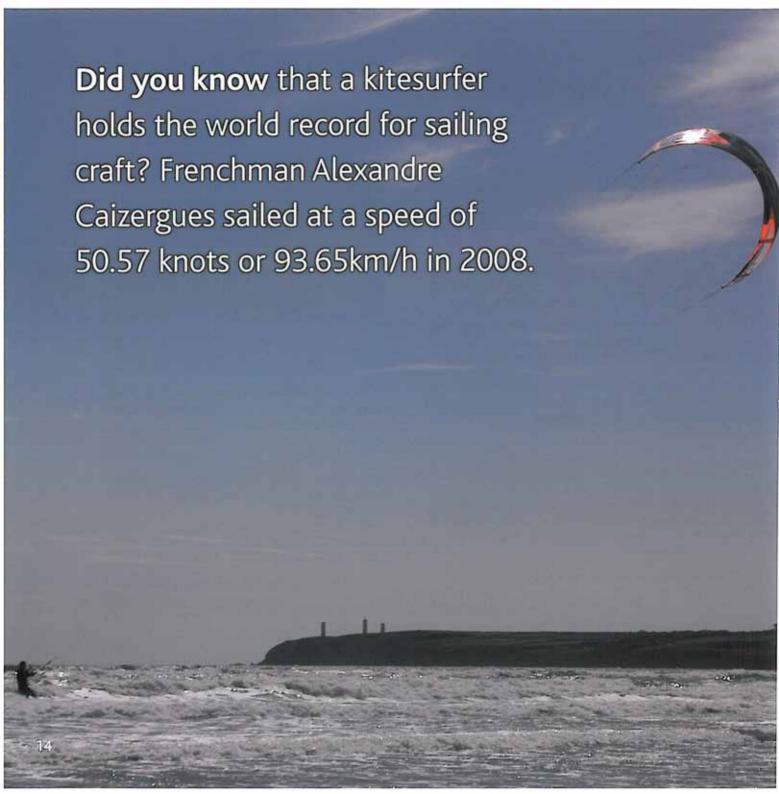
In the south-west of Ireland, the Kowloon Bridge, is the largest wreck by tonnage in the world. It came to its end with its cargo of iron ore in November 1986 when sailing from Quebec to the River Clyde.

And Northern Ireland offers a treasure trove of sunken vessels too. Diving to see the HMS Drake is a highlight. Lying at only 20m in the crystal visibility of Church Bay near Rathlin Island, it was torpedoed by a German U-boat during the First World War. A further 150 German U-boats share this watery grave along the northern coast.

However, if you're more interested in Mother Nature's offerings, superb scenic wildlife dive locations can be found near the island of Inisbofin in Co. Galway. In places like Middle Rock near Kilkee in Co. Clare, you can explore the arch formations in the rocks and visit cavernous underwater cathedrals. This magical place has been carved out of the underwater cliffs by the might of the ever-pounding Atlantic Ocean.

If entering this space under the waves sounds appealing but you've no experience, most diving centres offer an introductory 'try dive' to get you started. You just need to be able to swim 200m and float for 10 minutes.

But if you'd be happier checking out the creatures of the deep from the surface, the whole family might prefer a snorkelling outing. Centres supply snorkel masks, flippers, and wetsuits or semi-dry suits to keep you warm. As for experienced divers, this watery world is your oyster.



Kitesurfing and windsurfing

Theses days, the sport of kitesurfing is blooming in Ireland.

The skies above our beaches and lagoons are painted with brightly coloured kites, where seasoned enthusiasts hang in the air for an impossibly long time and first-timers hang on for dear life. And many qualified activity providers have popped up to cater to the growing number of converts.

Windsurfing too is enjoying a massive upswing in popularity. The sport has come a long way since the early days when a beginner would spend weeks frantically 'uphauling' the sail, only to topple over backwards when it finally emerged from the water. With modern equipment, a novice can be standing and cruising happily in a few hours, soon to look forward to the thrill of 'planing', 'carve gybing', 'water starting' and hanging out of the powerful sail in a harness.

Kitesurfing is a little trickier to master it seems. Given that the kite is so powerful, a minimum of about 12 hours of instruction is needed for beginners to be able to safely handle the equipment alone and progress by themselves in a controlled way.

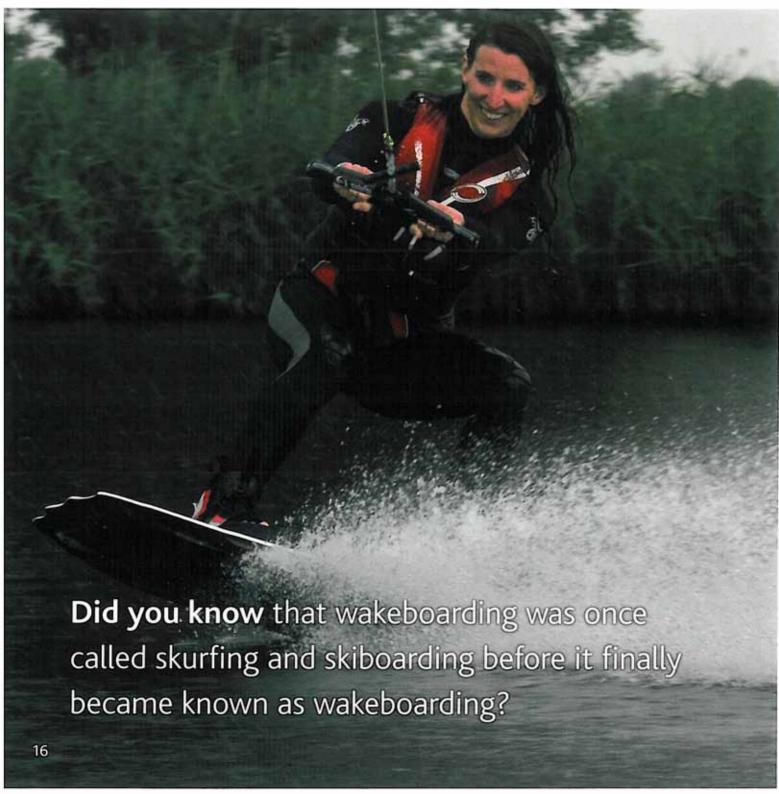
But one thing is certain; enthusiasts will rarely be short of wind, which is something this little Atlantic isle has in plentiful supply. Because of our situation at the north-west tip of Europe, the north and west coasts of Ireland are two of the gustiest areas on the continent and some of the most scenic to boot. Take, for example, the windswept 4km of Rossnowlagh Beach in Co. Donegal. Known as the 'heavenly cove', wind addicts flock here to play, taking in the dramatic views of Slieve League with its epic sea cliffs. And there's a lively après-surf scene in the nearby pubs too.

In fact, opportunities to try these water sports are endless. To name but a few, Tramore's lengthy beach and lagoon are ideal places to start because no matter what direction the gusts are coming from, there is almost always a safe cross-shore breeze at one of the spots. Or if you wanted to combine some sporting action with a city break, Malahide's shallow and protected estuary might be the ticket. It's only a short trip north from the hustle and bustle of Dublin and provides a haven for windsurfing just as the wildlife reserve on nearby Dollymount Strand offers gnarly kitesurfing action.

Or if rural bliss is what you're after, what could be better than whizzing along between the mountains and the sea in Castlegregory, Kerry, under the watchful eye of holy Mount Brandon? Just so you know, this region was voted the number 1 windsurfing location in the world by British newspaper The Sunday Times, but kitesurfers love it too.

But that really is just the tip of the iceberg. Your own favourite windy spot is out there just waiting to be discovered and to take you to new highs.





High-speed thrills and spills

Ireland's sheltered bays, lakes and waterways are a haven of calm, where time ticks slowly and the mercurial water laps gently against rushy banks.

These might not seem like likely destinations for an adrenaline high but the flat-water environs that wind across Ireland, from the lengthy Shannon to the lakelands that dot the country, and indeed the sheltered coastal bays, are the perfect locations for trying your hand at the high-octane sports of waterskiing, wakeboarding or even the newly developed wakesurfing (riding the wave formed by the boat).

Some of the most scenic spots are on Lough Derg near Portumna in Galway or on Lough Muckno nestled in a forest park near Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Not just beautiful, these are ideal spots to learn too as the wake from the boat tends to be absorbed by the thick bank-side greenery, minimising the turbulence that might trip a novice up.

In any case, adrenaline is sure to pump through those veins the first time your drunkenly wobbling form glides across the water standing up, being towed by a boat. What a high! And a natural one too.

Of course, you may not have success on your first attempt. The odd splashing mishap is inevitable along the way. But the excellent news is that when you are travelling at beginner speeds, falling in water will produce a lot more laughs than ouches.

Learning with a qualified instructor is definitely the best way to start as they will prioritise safety first and speed next. They will also supply all the right equipment to you get skiing or boarding quickly – from wetsuits and buoyancy aids, to boats equipped with a training boom to allow you to start skiing at the side of the boat in easy earshot of your instructor!



Most novices get to grips with the basics in as little as 30 minutes and in no time many are cockily cruising across bubbling cauldron of the wake, trying small jumps or simply flying along at what feels like the speed of light sending arcing spray in all directions.

Then the showing off can start with handed riding and tricks like 'ollies', 'side slides', 'lipslides' and 'surface 360s'.

Wakeboarding, waterskiing and wakesurfing really are activities for the whole family. They can even be enjoyed by small children as long as they can swim and are happy in water. Providers will usually start by giving these tots their first splashy highs by towing them along on body boards behind the boat and alongside their parents. If they are comfortable being bounced around in the spray, there is no reason why they can't try a board or skis. The only trouble is that just like on the ski slopes, the little ones are likely to show the adults up!

Right now, you might be stumped about whether to try waterskiing, wakeboarding or wakesurfing but one thing is guaranteed, after a day on and in the water, there will be grins from ear to ear on the faces of the whole family and memories to last a lifetime.



Have a whale of a time!

The Irish government declared the coastal waters of Ireland the first whale and dolphin sanctuary in Europe during the early 1990s – and with good reason.

A rich array of marine life can be found in this watery environment, including pilot whales, humpback whales, Risso's dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and sardine whales. In fact, a total of 24 whale and dolphin species have been sighted off our coast which makes it one of the best places in Europe to get up close and personal with these wonderful inhabitants of the deep.

This wildlife frequents our shores thanks to the Gulf Stream and the ocean bed topography which combine to create a nutrient-rich environment. Many of these species are lured here on long-distance visits to take part in an immense flurry of summer feeding in the plankton-loaded waters. So the best time of year for heading out on the high seas to see what this marine life is up to is roughly from April to October.

Operators run boat tours out of coastal villages from Dunmore East in Waterford right round to Antrim in the north. These trips are a fantastic way of making an intimate connection with these creatures within the confines of their own breathtaking environment. Or there is even the possibility in select locations of getting even closer by using sea kayaks.

Head out from the wonderful West Cork fishing village of Union Hall and the most likely whale encounters you will have are with fin and minke whales. But there is also the chance that a striking black and white killer whale or a white beaked dolphin will make a rare appearance. Or if you keep your eyes peeled, you might even spot a leatherback turtle or a basking shark. This species is the second biggest fish in the world – growing up to 13m in length – but this gentle giant has no teeth and feeds only on microscopic organisms.

Further up the coast, many excursions leave from the sleepy village of Carrigaholt, the seaside town of Kilkee and other towns in Clare to see the self-contained community of bottlenose dolphins that reside in the mouth of the Shannon. These playful cetaceans regularly entertain onlookers with acrobatic shows as they go about their business of mating and feeding on the bounty of mackerel, herrings and other fish drawn inwards by strong local currents.

On any trip you're also like to see plenty of playful seals, not to mention some of our wonderful sea birds. You'll be charmed if you happen across a cute little puffin bobbing in the water or hanging out on a remote cliff, and mesmerised by the grace of a sparkling white gannets plunging the depths from on high in search of fishy delights.

Hopefully, when you return back to dry land, you'll be taking with you an indelible image of a school of dolphins bow riding alongside the boat as they make eyes at you or of a mighty whale breaching the surface, blowing spray into the air, before flicking its tail fin and disappearing into its own private underwater world.





A better way to play

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

Although written over 150 years ago and more than 3,000 miles away in America, the words of Native American Squamish tribal leader, Chief Seattle, are no less applicable on this side of the Atlantic today.

Look around at all the natural treasures that Ireland had has to offer. We are blessed with a rich and diverse environment, but that comes with a responsibility. And that responsibility is growing all the time as more and more of us take to the great outdoors and put greater pressure on Mother Nature's resources.

It is also up to us as individuals to make sure that our pleasure doesn't infringe on other people's enjoyment or safety.

Here's some food for thought and tips to ensure that we all get the most out of our natural facilities and that we preserve them for those who come after us:

- If you are lucky enough to come across marine life, such as dolphins, seals or birds in the wild, enjoy observing them but try to avoid disturbing them. And if you spot a marine creature in distress, contact the Marine Mammal Rescue Team (tel. 087-2333406) or the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Strandings Coordinator, (tel. 064-24934 or 087-6328106).
- Sun cream damages corals. The chemicals in many brands can promote viral infections and bleach coral, eventually causing it to die off. Where possible, it's best to use biodegradable suntan lotion to preserve local ecology.
- The non-native zebra mussel, which is striped with patterns of dark and pale bands, is a pest in Ireland. Each mussel can filter as much as one litre of water per day causing problems with drinking water and other systems. They can also cause changes to the ecology of the aquatic system which could affect fish populations

and other wildlife. To help prevent its spread, hose and brush down all boats, including kayaks and canoes; drain bilge water and live wells; and remove all weed from boats and trailers. Allow boats to dry out and leave them in the sunshine for a week where possible. For more information, visit:

www.shannon-fishery-board.ie/aboutus/zebramussels.htm

- Make water safety a priority by asking for local advice about tides, currents and conditions. Always check weather reports and the sea area forecast at Met Éireann (www.met.ie) if you are headed out on the water.
- If you spot someone in trouble at sea, or on the cliffs or coast, or even if you think that someone may be in trouble, dial 112/999 and ask for the Coast Guard. If you are in trouble at sea, call on VHF Channel 16, MF 2182 KHz or use DSC.
- If you need to cross private land to access a beach or a river, always ask permission from the landowner. And close gates after you, use stiles where provided and never block a gate.
- Be aware of other people enjoying the same surroundings as you. Surfers, kitesurfers and windsurfers, pay attention to any designated areas on the beach and keep a safe distance from swimmers. Or if you are waterskiing/wakeboarding, try and make sure the roar of your motorboat engine is not disturbing the peace of other water users.
- After a day at the beach, always bin all rubbish. Better still, bring your waste home with you as wind can sometimes scatter it.

Provider Listings

Surfing

North West

Adventure One Surf School Ballyheirnan Bay

Fanad

Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)74 9150262 iain@adventureone.net www.adventureone.net

Bundoran Surf Co Main Street Bundoran

Co. Donegal Tel +353 (0)71 9841968 info@bundoransurfco.com

www.bundoransurfco.com

Donegal Adventure Centre & Surf School

Bayview Avenue Bundoran Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)71 98 42418 Fax +353 (0)71 98 42429 info@donegaladventurecentre.net www.donegaladventurecentre.net

Fin McCool Surf School

Rossnowlagh Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)71 9859020 Fax +353 (0)71 9852100 finmccools@gmail.com www.donegalsurfing.com North Sligo Surf Club

Drumcliffe Co. Sligo

bertapaul@eircom.net

Perfect Day Surf School

Strandhill Co. Sligo

Tel +353 (0)87 2029399 info@perfectdaysurfing.com www.perfectdaysurfing.com

ISS Inishowen Surf School

Inishowen Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)87 7773323 danielgallanagh@eircom.net www.inishowensurfschool.com

Seventh Wave Surf School

Enniscrone Co. Sligo

Tel +353 (0)87 9716389 seventhwavesurfschool@yahoo.co.uk

www.seventhwavesurfschool.com

Gartan Outdoor Education Centre

Church Hill Letterkenny Co. Donegal

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office@gartan.com www.gartan.com Jaws Watersports 21 Birchill Ave Cresslough Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)86 1735109 jawswatersports@gmail.com www.jawswatersports.com

North West Surf School

Enniscorne Co. Sligo

Tel +353 (0)87 9595556 info@nwsurfschool.com www.nwsurfschool.com/

Strandhill Surf School

Beach Front Strandhill Co. Sligo

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Turf n Surf Lodge & Surf School

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Tel +353 (0)71 98 41091

info@turfnsurf.ie www.turfnsurf.ie

West Sligo Surf Club

Rathlee Easkey Co. Sligo

Tel+353 (0)87 2333789

Surfing (continued)

West

SurfMayo Breaffy Castlebar Co. Mayo

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Delphi Adventure Centre

Leenan Co. Galway

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www.delphimountainresort.com

UISCE Watersports Centre

Cuan Eili

Beal an Mhuirtheach

Belmullet Co. Mayo

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Shannon Region

Aloha Surf School

www.uisce.com

4 RHO Fanore Co. Clare

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Co. Clare

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White Water Surf School Co

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The Green Room Surf School

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www.greenroomlahinch.com

Ocean Scene Church Street Lahinch

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surf@oceanscene.ie www.oceanscene.ie

South West

H2O Sea Kayaking and G-Town Surf School

Coolbawn Garrettstown

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www.surfgtown.com

Kingdom Waves Surf School

Derryquay Tralee Co. Kerry

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West Coast Surf School

4 Cois Chnoic Dingle Co. Kerry

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West Cork Surfing Inchydoney Clonakilty Co. Cork

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Surfing (continued)

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Oceanics Surf School & Heritage Walking Tours The Red Cottage Tramore Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)51 390944 oceanic@eircom.net www.oceanics.ie

T-Bay Surf & Wildlife Centre The Beach Tramore Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)51 391297 info@surftbay.com www.surftbay.com

Northern Ireland

101 Ballybogey Road Ballymoney BT53 6PD Tel +44 (0)28 207 41545/41662/ +44 (0)7743860509 info@alivesurfschool.com

Alive BodyBoard and Surf School

Atlantic Shores Scuba and Watersports Centre Quay Lane Enniskillen BT94 6AQ Co. Fermanagh Tel +44 (0)28 6632 8383/ +44 (0)7734429488 lorraine@atlanticshores.co.uk

www.atlanticshoresscuba.co.uk

Corralea Activity Centre Ltd Upper Lough MacNean Belcoo Corralea, BT93 5DZ Co. Fermanagh Tel +44 (0)28 6638 6123 info@activityireland.com

www.activitvireland.com

go-canoeing.com Newtownards BT9 6PB Co. Down Tel +44 (0)7749011283 info@mobileteamadventure.co.uk www.go-canoeing.com

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martin@tksurfschool.com
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Sailing

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www.gartan.com

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reception@mevaghdiving.com

Mullaghmore Sailing Club and Centre Ltd Mullaghmore Cliffoney Co. Sligo

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www.mevaghdiving.com

Sligo Yacht Club Rosses Point Co. Sligo Tel+353 (0)71 9177168 sligoyc@eircom.net www.rossespoint.com/sligoyc

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Fahan
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Chartering:

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West

Bow Waves - Galway Sailing & Powerboat School Bow Waves Harbour Enterprise Park Galway City Tel +353 (0)91 560560 info@bowwaves.com www.bowwaves.com Galway Bay Sailing Club Renville

Renville
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Sail West Seol Siar 56c Bowling Green Galway City Tel +353 (0)95 33546 Fax +353 (0)91 564405 sailwest@indigo.ie

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West Galway School of Navigation Bunowen Pier Ballyconneely Co. Galway Tel +353 (0)95 23569 Fax +353 (0)95 23001 john@serioussailing.com

Marinas:

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www.serioussailing.com

Chartering:

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Shannon Region

Kilkee Diving and Watersports Centre

East End Kilkee Co. Clare

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Kilrush Creek Adventure Centre

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kcac@eircom.net

www.kilrushcreekadventure.com

Lakeside Watersports Centre

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Tel +353 (0)61 927225 Fax +353 (0)61 927336 Powercharter.ie Droim na Coille

Nenagh Co. Tipperary

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Shannon Sailing New Harbour Dromineer Nenagh North Tipperary

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Shannon Sailing Dromineer Nenagh Co. Tipperary

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boating@iol.ie www.aquatrek.ie

Baltimore Sailing School

The Pier Baltimore Co. Cork

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www.baltimoresailingschool.com

Bantry Bay Sailing Club

Abbey Rd Bantry Co. Cork

BBSC.web@gmail.com www.sailing.ie/bantrybay

Cape Clear Island Adventure Centre

Cape Clear Island Skibbereen Co. Cork

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Courtmacsherry Water Sports Centre

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Kinsale Yacht Club

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Co. Cork

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info@kyc.ie www.kyc.ie Gannetsway Sailing Horseshoe Cottage B&B

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Glenans Sailing Baltimore The Old Station House

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Heir Island Sailing School

Heir Island Skibbereen Co. Cork

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Fax +353 (0)21 4661671 euroair@yahoo.co.uk www.hoverlink.net International Sailing

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Irish Water Sports Inish Beg Estate Inish Beg Baltimore Co. Cork

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9044409

info@kinsailing.com www.kinsailing.com

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Salve Marine Crosshaven Co. Cork

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Schull Watersports Centre

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Star Sailing & Adventure Centre

Dauros Kenmare Co. Kerry

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Oysterhaven Kinsale Co. Cork

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Valentia Island Sea Sports & Adventure

Centre Knightstown Valentia Island Co. Kerry

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2420714

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7502737

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tadgh.wright@castleparkmarina.com

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Crosshaven Boatyard

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cby@eircom.net

Cahersiveen Marina Marina Offices The Pier

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acard@eircom.net

Dingle Marina The Quay, Dingle Co. Kerry

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Dingle Sailing Centre The Marina Centre

Dingle Co. Kerry

Tel +353 (0)66 9152603 info@saildingle.com

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East Ferry Marina

Cobh Co. Cork

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Fenit Marina Harbour Offices

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Salve Marine

Crosshaven

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Fax +353 (0)21 483 1747 salvemarine@eircom.net

Chartering:

Archibald H. Reid & Co. Ltd

PO Box 32

Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)23 39499 Fax +353 (0)23 39498 ahryachts@eircom.net www.archibaldreid.com

Baltimore Yacht Charters

Ballylynch Baltimore Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)86 2738368 Fax +353 (0)28 20160

info@baltimoreyachtcharters.com www.baltimoreyachtcharters.com Dingle Bay Charters Yacht Marina Dingle

Co. Kerry

Tel +353 (0)66 9151344/ +353 (0)87 6726100

info@dinglebaycharters.com www.dinglebaycharters.com

Glandore Harbour Yacht Club

The Old Craft Shop

Leap Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)28 34676

clairenthompson@eircom.net www.glandoreyc.com

Harbour Yacht Management Ltd

2 Harbour Hill

Cobh Co. Cork

Tel + 353 (0)21 4813911

Fax +353 (0)21 4813916

jor@emeraldislegroup.ie www.sailcorkharbour.com

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info@kinsailing.com www.kinsailing.com

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www.soverignsailing.com

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South East

Dunmore East Adventure Centre Stoney Cove Dunmore East Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)51 383783 Fax +353 (0)51 383786 info@dunmoreadventure.com www.dunmoreadventure.com

Dungarvan Harbour Sailing Club Dungarvan Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)58 45663 info@dungarvanharboursailingclub.com www.dungarvanharboursailingclub.com Wexford Harbour Boat Club Redmond Road, Wexford Tel +353 (0)53 9122039 [evenings/weekend] Tel +353 (0)53 9147504 [9am-5pm] info@whbtc.ie

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Tel +353 (0)53 9129955
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hmkilmore@eircom.net
www.wexford.ie/kilmorequaymarina

Waterford City Marina c/o Waterford City Council The Mall Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)51 309900 dfanning@waterfordcity.ie www.waterfordcity.ie

New Ross Town Council The Thosel New Ross Co. Wexford Tel +353 (0) 863889652/ +353 (0)51 421284 marina@newrosstc.ie

Three Sisters Marina

Chartering:

Sailing Ireland
Kilmore Quay Marina
Kilmore Quay
Co. Wexford
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dermot@sailingireland.ie
www.sailingireland.ie

East & Midlands

Arklow Sailing Club North Quay Arklow Co. Wicklow Tel +353 (0)402 32264 Fax +353 (0)402 33700

Blessington Sailing School Blessington Co. Wicklow Tel +353 (0)45 867051 philipos2@eircom.net www.sailing.ie/blsailsch

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www.carlingfordadventure.com

Celtic Ventures Kingshill Arklow Co. Wicklow

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Lakeside Leisure Blessington

Burgage Blessington Co. Wicklow

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Lilliput Adventure Centre

Lilliput House Lough Ennell Co. Westmeath

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Lough Ree Power Boat School

Hodson Bay Athlone Co. Roscommon

Tel +353 (0)87 0621558

Lough Ree Yacht Club

Ballyglass Coosan Athlone Co. Westmeath

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info@lryc.ie www.lryc.ie Mullingar Sailing Club

Lough Owel Mullingar Co. Westmeath

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www.msail.net

South East Cruising School

7 Glenvale Park Wicklow Co. Wicklow

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technical@asl.ie www.arklowmarina.com

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Athlone Marina Athlone Co Westmeath

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Hodson Bay Public Harbour

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Chartering:

Lough Ree Yacht Club

Ballyglass Coosan Athlone Co. Westmeath

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Carlingford Yacht Chartering & Sea School

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www.beauforthhouse.net

Dublin

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DMG Sailsports Marina Centre Malahide Co. Dublin

Tel +353 (0)1 8456946 info@dmgsailsports.com www.dmgsailsports.com

Fingal Sailing School Upper Strand Broadmeadow Estuary Malahide Co. Dublin

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Dalkey Marina Charter Tours of Dublin Bay

Coti Conygham Dalkey Co. Dublin

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Fingal Traditional Sailing Apt 1 Bayside – Arbours Sandy Road Rush

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Tri Sailing Club 24 Elmcastle Green

Tallaght

Tel +353 (0)1 4515512 info@trisailing.ie

Marinas:

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Dublin City Moorings Custom House Quay

Dublin 1

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Malahide Marina Malahide Co. Dublin

Tel +353 (0)1 8454129 Fax +353 (0)1 8454255 info@malahidemarina.com

Poolbeg Yacht, Boat Club & Marina

South Bank Pigeon House Road Ringsend

Dublin 4

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Chartering

Sailing West Ltd Ferry Terminal Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin

Tel +353 (0) 1 2304227 info@sailingwest.ie

Northern Ireland

Atlantic Shores Scuba and Watersports

Centre

Quay Lane Enniskillen

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Tel +44 (0)28 6632 8383/

+44 (0)7734429488

lorraine@atlanticshores.co.uk

Clearsky Adventure

Peak Discovery Group,

The Gables,

Newcastle,

BT33 OLF

Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 4372 3922 admin@clearsky-adventure.com

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Craigavon Watersports Centre

1 Lake Road Craigavon BT64 1AS

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Craigavon.watersports@craigavon.gov.uk

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Creggan Country Park

Westway BT48 9NU

Co. Londonderry

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info@creggancountrypark.com www.creggancountrypark.com East Coast Adventure

Rostrevor House

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Co. Down

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Lagan Watersports Centre

2 Rivers Edge

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Mechanical Technologies Training Nutts Corner Training Centre

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N I Motor Cruising School 20 Dellmount Road Bangor

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River Bann Cruises

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Share Holiday Village

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celia@sharevillage.org

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Ultimate Watersports Castlearchdale Marina

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Chartering

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Castle Archdale Marina Boat Hire Castle Archdale Country Park

Lisnarick BT94 1PP Co.Fermanagh

Tel +44 (0)28 6862 1156 www.drumhoneyholidaypark.com

Castle Cruises Ltd - Carlingford Lough

BT34 3UE Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 417 53425 castlecruises3@yahoo.co.uk

East Coast Adventure Rostrevor House Lower Knockbarragh Road

Rostrevor BT34 3DP Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 4173 9923 info@eastcoastadventure.com www.eastcoastadventure.com

Foyle cruise line Harbour Museum Harbour Square BT48 6AF Co. Derry

Tel +44 (0)28 71 362857 info@foylecruiseline.com www.foylecruiseline.com

GT High Speed Boat Charter 12 Drumadarragh Road,

Ballyclare BT39 OTA Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)28 93342020 maeve.tinsley@btinternet.com www.qthiqhspeedboatcharter.com

Knockninny Marina Boat Hire Knockninny Quay Derrylin

BT92 9LU Co. Fermanagh

Tel +44 (0)28 67 748590 info@knockninnymarina.com www.knockninnymarina.com

Lough Neagh Cruises 136 Ballynease Rd. Portglenone BT44 8NU Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)7969 927098 conlaw@btinternet.com Manor House Marine Cruiser Hire

Lough Erne Killadeas

BT94 1NY Co. Fermanagh

Tel +44 (0)28686 28100 info@manormarine.com www.manormarine.com

Manor House Marine Day Boats

Killadeas BT94 1NY Co. Fermanagh

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Master McGra' Oxford Island Lurgan Craigavon BT66 6NU Co. Armagh

Tel +44 (0)28 3832 7573/ +44 (0)77 7481 1248 kinnego.marina@craigavon.gov.uk

www.craigavon.gov.uk

Sail Northern Ireland The Marina Carrickfergus

BT38 8BE Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)7809 155 856 info@sailnorthernireland.com www.sailnorthernireland.com Strangford & Mourne Sea Safari

The Gables,

98 Bryansford Road,

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Tel +44 (0)2843723933 admin@pd-group.eu

Strangford Yacht Charter 30 Clea Lough Road Killyleagh

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Tel +44 (0)7836327272

skipper@strangfordyachtcharter.com www.strangfordyachtcharter.com

Triton Marine Charter Services

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Ardglass BT30 7TH Co. Down

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Kayaking/Canoeing

North West

Carratraw Canoe Centre

Carratraw Bridge

Inishmore

Inishmore

Co. Cavan

Tel +353 (0)87 2905752

Donegal Adventure Centre & Surf School

Bayview Avenue

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Delphi Adventure Centre

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Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre

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UISCE Watersports Centre

Cuan Fili

Beal an Mhuirtheach

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Belmullet Co. Mayo

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Galway Sea Kayak Tours

The Forge Lisheenageeha Headford Co. Galway

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Roscrea South Tipperary

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Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre

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Shannon Adventure Canoeing

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South West

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Cape Clear Island Adventure Centre

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Ross Leisure The Lagoon Rosscarbery Co. Cork

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Star Sailing & Adventure Centre

Dauros Kenmare Co. Kerry

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Tralee Bay Sailing School

Fenit Tralee Co. Kerry

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Dunmore East Adventure Centre

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www.rosslareholidayresort.com

Seapaddling.com The Bushes Islandtarnsey South Fenor

Co. Waterford

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Hodson Bay Watersports & Training Centre

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Lakeside Leisure Blessington

Burgage Blessington Co. Wicklow

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Lilliput Adventure Centre

Lilliput House Lough Ennell Co. Westmeath

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Neptune Leisure, Outdoor Adventure Centre

Booking Office 13 Dublin Road Drogheda Co. Louth

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The Tain Adventure Centre

Ballyoonan Omeath Carlingford Co. Louth

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Tullamore Canoe Club

Wood of O Tullamore Co. Offaly johnjb02@gmail.com Deep Blue Sea Kayaking

Cluainin

Barchuillia Commons

Kilmacanogue Co. Wicklow

Tel +353 (0)1 2760263 info@deepblueseakayaking.com www.deepblueseakayaking.com

Shearwater Sea Kayaking c/o Eileen Murphy Manor Kilbride Blessington Co. Wicklow

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icu@ioLie

Shearwater Sea Kayaking c/o Eileen Murphy Manor Kilbride Blessington Co. Wicklow

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BT24 8SW Co. Down

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Activities Ireland

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Adventure Quest Adventure Quest Admin, Peak Discovery Group, The Gables, Newcastle

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Adventure Tours Northern Ireland

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Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure

Sundial House 11 High St Cushendall Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)28 2177 1340 info@ardclinis.com

Atlantic Shores Scuba and Watersports

Centre

Quay Lane Enniskillen

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AWOL Paintball & Adventure Activities

Ravella Rd, Aughnacloy

BT65 6AW Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)7966477858 info@awolpaintball.ie

www.awol.ie

Belfast Activity Centre The Stableyard Barnett's Demesne Malone Road Belfast Co. Antrim

Tel +44 (0)28 9060 0132 info@belfastactivitycentre.com www.belfastactivitycentre.com Bluelough Mountain and Watersports Centre

The Grange Courtyard Castlewellan Forest Park

Castlewellan BT31 9BU Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 4377 0715 info@mountainandwater.com www.mountainandwater.com

Clearsky Adventure Peak Discovery Group,

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Craigavon Watersports Centre 1 Lake Road Craigavon

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Craigavon.watersports@craigavon.gov.uk

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Westway BT48 9NU Co. Londonderry

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Ganaway Activity Centre 268 Ballywalter Road,

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go-canoeing.com Newtownards BT9 6PB Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)7749011283 info@mobileteamadventure.co.uk www.go-canoeing.com

Gortin Accommodation Suite

and Activity Centre 62 Main Street Gortin

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Green Box

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Tel +353 71 9856898 info@greenbox.ie www.greenbox.ie

Highpoint Group The HighPoint Group Corncrane Building Lower Square Castlewellan BT31 9DQ Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 4377 0714 info@interactiveteambuilding.com www.thehiahpointgroup.com

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3 Upper Bennett StreeT

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Lough Melvin Holiday Centre

Garrison BT93 4ET Co. Fermanagh

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Lusty Beg Island Activity Centre

Lusty Beg Island Boa Island Kesh BT93 8AD Co. Fermanagh

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Outdoor Concepts 40 Woodvale Dromara

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Paul Blanchard 3 Ballaghnone Park, Portballintrae, Bushmills BT57 8YU Co. Antrim

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Share Holiday Village

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Ski Supreme

197 Loughan Road Coleraine

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Ultimate Watersports

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Diving

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Dive Tory

Toraigh Faoi Thonn

Big Strand Tory Island Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)74 9135282 Fax +353 (0)74 9135613 dive@toryhotel.com www.toryhotel.com

Inishfree Charters Martine Activity Centre

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liam@inish.ie www.inish.ie

MV Spirit Rosses Point Co. Sligo

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West

Achill Island Scuba Dive Centre

Purteen Harbour

Keel Achill Co. Mayo

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Dive West Ireland Belmullet Dive Centre

Blacksod Belmullet Co. Mayo

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Tarrea Queen Tours

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Scubadive West Glassillaun Beach

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Shannon Region

Burren Adventures Ltd Ballyvaughan & Doolin

Burren Adventures Dive Centre and

Watersports Shop Main Street Ballyvaughan Co. Clare

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Kilkee Diving And Watersports Centre

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divekilkee@iol.ie www.diveireland.com

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Diving (continued)

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Baltimore Diving And Watersports Centre

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West Cork Marine Tours

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Youghal Dive Charters

Seafield Youghal Co. Cork

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Ballinskelligs Watersports

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Bantry Bay Divers Atlantic Shore Newtown Bantry Co. Cork

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Diving (continued)

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BT57 8YU
Co. Antrim
Tel +44 (0)28 2073 1663/
+44 (0)7754389641

Triton Marine Charter Services
17 Whierock Drive
Ardglass
BT30 7TH
Co. Down
Tel +44 (0)28 4484 2865/+44 (0)78 2153
7044
enquiries@tritonexplorer.com
www.tritonexplorer.com

Kitesurfing & Windsurfing

North West

Gartan Outdoor Education Centre

Churchill Letterkenny Co. Donegal

Tel +353 (0)74 9137032 Fax +353 (0)74 9137254

office@gartan.com www.gartan.com

LSD Kiteboarding Ballyweelin Rosses Point Co. Sligo

Tel +353 (0)86 8051390 info@lsdkiteboarding.com www.lsdkiteboarding.com

West

Allplay Bertra Strand Murrisk Westport Co. Mayo cathal@allplay.

cathal@allplay.ie www.allplay.ie Windwise

Crumpaun Keel Achill Co. Mayo

Tel +353 (0)98 43958 info@windwise.ie www.windwise.ie Rusheen Bay Windsurfing Centre

Rusheen Bay Salthill Co. Galway

Tel +353 (0)87 2605702 cathal@rushbay.com www.rusheenbay.com

Shannon

Nevsail Watersports The Promenade Kilkee

Co. Clare

Tel+353 (0)86 3308236 info@nevsailwatersports.com www.nevsailwatersports.com

Orbital Winds Faha Patrickswell Co. Limerick

Tel +353 (0)87 0659338 info@orbitalwinds.com www.orbitalwinds.com

South West

Irish Water Sports Inish Beg Estate Inish Beg Baltimore Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)28 21745 Fax +353 (0)28 23389 contact@irishwatersports.ie www.irishwatersports.ie Jamie Knox Watersports

Brandon Bay Castlegregory Co. Kerry

Tel +353 (0)66 7139411 jamieknox@eircom.net www.jamieknox.com

The Oysterhaven Centre

Oysterhaven Kinsale Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)21 4770738 Fax +353 (0)21 4770776

info@oysterhaven.com www.oysterhaven.com

Irish Kitesurfing Lessons

No. 8

Collanorige, Moonavalley

Tralee Co. Kerry

Tel +353 (0)87 2229542 info@irishkitesurfinglessons.com www.irishkitesurfinglessons.com

South East

Dunmore East Adventure Centre

Stoney Cove Dunmore East Co. Waterford

Tel +353 (0)51 383783 Fax +353 (0)51 383786 info@dunmoreadventure.com www.dunmoreadventure.com

Kitesurfing & Windsurfing (continued)

Rosslare Watersports Centre Rosslare Co. Wexford Tel +353 (0)53 9132202 rcda@eircom.net www.rosslareholidayresort.com

T-Bay Surf & Wildlife Centre The Beach Tramore Co. Waterford Tel +353 (0)51 391297 info@surftbay.com www.surftbay.com

Dublin

DMG Sailsports
Marina Centre
Malahide
Co. Dublin
Tel +353 (0)1 8456946
info@dmgsailsports.com
www.dmgsailsports.com

Pure Magic Kitesurfing 326 Clontarf Road Clontarf Co. Dublin Tel +353 (0)1 4875157 info@purernagic.ie

Northern Ireland

Corralea Activity Centre Ltd Upper Lough MacNean Belcoo Corralea, BT93 5DZ Co. Fermanagh Tel +44 (0)28 6638 6123 info@activityireland.com

Craigavon Watersports Centre 1 Lake Road Craigavon BT64 1AS

www.activityireland.com

Co. Armagh

Tel +44 (0)28 3834 2669 Craigavon.watersports@craigavon.gov.uk

www.craigavon.gov.uk

Creggan Country Park

Westway BT48 9NU Co. Londonderry

Tel +44 (0)2871 363133 info@creggancountrypark.com www.creggancountrypark.com

East Coast Adventure Rostrevor House Lower Knockbarragh Road Rostrevor

BT34 3DP Co. Down

Tel +44 (0)28 4173 9923 info@eastcoastadventure.com Share Holiday Village Smiths Strand Shanaghy Lisnaskea BT92 OEQ Co. Fermanagh Tel +44(0)28 6772 2122 celia@sharevillage.org www.sharevillage.org

Waterskiing & Wakeboarding

North West

Lough Muckno Water Ski Club Muckno Lake Castleblayney Co. Monaghan Tel+353 (0)87 2491305 Fax+353 (0)42 9740752 info@skimuckno.com www.skimuckno.com

West

Galway Watermark Ski Club Lough Derg Portumna Co. Galway Tel +353 (0) 87 2573661 watermark@irishwaterski.com

South West

Carrig Waterskiing and Wakeboard Centre Caum Macroom Co. Cork info@carrigwaterski.com www.carrigwaterski.com

Cork Power Boat & Water Ski Club Agherinagh Lower Dripsey Co. Cork Tel +353 (0)21 7334605 barry@waterskiireland.com Derrynane Sea Sports
Derrynane
Caherdaniel
Co. Kerry
Tel +353 (0)87 9081208
derrynaneseasports@eircom.net

Dublin

Irish Waterski Federation Knocknacree Road Dalkey Co. Dublin Tel +353 (0)1 4502122 Fax +353 (0)1 4502138 des@burke-kennedy.com

Golden Falls Water Ski Club

Northern Ireland

Atlantic Shores Scuba and Watersports
Centre
Quay Lane Enniskillen
BT94 6AQ
Co. Fermanagh
Tel +44 (0)28 6632 8383/
+44 (0)7734429488
lorraine@atlanticshores.co.uk

Craigavon Watersports Centre

1 Lake Road Craigavon

BT64 1AS

Co. Armagh

Tel +44 (0)28 3834 2669

Craigavon.watersports@craigavon.gov.uk

www.craigavon.gov.uk

Rostrevor House Lower Knockbarragh Road Rostrevor BT34 3DP Co. Down Tel +44 (0)28 4173 9923 info@eastcoastadventure.com

East Coast Adventure

Manor House Marine Cruiser Hire Lough Erne Killadeas BT94 1NY Co. Fermanagh Tel +44 (0)28686 28100 info@manormarine.com www.manormarine.com

Manor House Marine Day Boats Killadeas BT94 1NY Co. Fermanagh info@manormarine.com

Ski Supreme 197 Loughan Road Coleraine Co. Londonderry Tel +44 (0)28 7035 5700

The Edge Watersports
233 Loughan Road Coleraine
BT52 1UD
Co. Londonderry
Tel +44 (0) 7710015067
enquiries@edgewatersports.co.uk
www.edgewatersports.co.uk

Waterskiing & Wakeboarding (continued)

Tudor Farm Watersports 619 Boa Island Road Kesh Co. Fermanagh Tel +44 (0)28 6863 1943

Ultimate Watersports
Castlearchdale Marina
Lisnarick
Irvinestown
BT94 1PP
Co. Fermanagh
Tel +44 (0)7808736818
info@ultimatewatersports.co.uk
www.ultimatewatersports.co.uk

Dolphin & Whale Watching

South West

Whale of a Time Ballydavid Cloyne Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)86 3283250 Fax +353 (0)21 4652059 info@whaleofatime.ie www.whaleofatime.ie

Whale Watch Ireland Beara Peninsula Co. Cork

Tel+353 (0)23 38761 padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie

www.iwdq.ie

Whale Watch Ireland

Bray Head Valentia Island Co. Kerry

padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie

www.iwdg.ie

Whale Watch West Cork

Carrigillihy Union Hall Co. Cork

Tel +353 (0)86 1200027 Fax+353 (0)28 33387 nic@whalewatchwestcork.com

www.whalewatchwestcork.com

Shannon Region

Dolphin Watching on the Shannon

Kilrush Co. Clare

Tel +353 (0)65 9051327 Fax +353 (0)65 9051327 info@discoverdolphins.ie www.discoverdolphins.ie

Saoirse Sea Sports Limited Deep Sea Angling

Dolphin Watching Carrigaholt Co. Clare

Tel +353 (0)65 9058990 Fax +353 (0)65 9058288 kilstiffin@eircom.net www.gannetsway.com

Dolphin Watch Carrigaholt Co. Clare

Tel +353 (0)65 9058156 info@dolphinwatch.ie www.dolphinwatch.ie

West

Killary Cruises Leenane Co. Galway

Tel +353 (0)87 4181799 alex@killarycruises.com www.killarycruises.com

Useful contacts

Environment, beaches and other

- The Leave No Trace environmental code is specifically designed to help outdoor enthusiasts understand the impact of their activities, and to enable them to make decisions to minimise that impact while still enjoying their activities with freedom. For more information, contact Leave No Trace Ireland, C/O CAAN, The Stableyard, Barnetts Demesne, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5PB; tel. +44 (0)28-90303938; Fax +44 (0)28-90626248; e-mail: info@leavenotraceireland.org; web: www.leavenotraceireland.org
- Waterways Ireland is the guardian of Ireland's inland navigations. Its mission is to provide a high-quality recreational environment on the waterways for the benefit of all. For information, contact Waterways Ireland Headquarters, 5/7 Belmore Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT74 6AA; tel. +44 (0)28-66323004; Fax +44 (0)28-66346257; e-mail: info@waterwaysireland.org; web: www.waterwaysireland.org
- For a list of Blue Flag beaches and lifeguard details, visit www.blueflag.org/blueflag/2008/Ireland for the Republic of Ireland and www.blueflag.org.uk for Northern Ireland.
- For map products and information, contact Ordnance Survey Ireland, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8; tel. +353 (0)1-8025300; Lo-Call Number: 1890-674627; web: www.osi.ie

Surfing

- For surf news, events and clubs, contact the Irish Surfing Association; web: www.isasurf.ie
- For surf forecasts and information on different surf spots in Ireland, visit www.globalsurfers.com, www.beachwizard.com and www.wannasurf.com, www.magicseaweed.com and www.surf-forecast.com

Sailing

- For information on courses, clubs and events, contact
 The Irish Sailing Association; web: www.sailing.ie
- For information on marinas, moorings, charters and sailing schools, contact Sailing Holidays in Ireland; e-mail: sailirl@indigo.ie; web: www.sailingireland.com

Sea kayaking

- For info, news, meets and links check out the Irish Sea Kayaking Association, e-mail: iskacommittee@gmail.com; web: www.irishseakayakingassociation.org
- Oileán: A Guide to the Irish Islands (Pesada Press) is a book by a kayaker for kayakers. It comes highly recommended.

White water and Canadian kayaking

For news, events, details on courses and providers, and up-to-date information on river levels, contact the Irish Canoe Union, www.canoe.ie; the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland, www.cani.org.uk; or www.irishwhitewater.com

Diving and snorkelling

For information on snorkelling and diving, weather, tides and a list of operators, contact The Irish Underwater Council (Comhairle Fo-Thuinn), 78A Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin; tel. +353 (0)1 2844601; e-mail: info@cft.ie; web: www.cft.ie

Kitesurfing

- For information, events, weather forecasts and a list of instructors, contact the Irish Kitesurfing Association; e-mail: info@kitesurf.ie; web: www.kitesurf.ie
- For details on good kitesurfing spots, weather and contact with other kitesurfers, visit Irish Kitesurfing Forum www.kitesurfing.ie

Windsurfing

- Visit the Irish Windsurfing Association for information, news, and a list of providers and events; web: www.sailing.ie/windsurf
- For details on good windsurfing spots and contact with other windsurfers, visit Windsurfing Locations Ireland www.windsurfingireland.net

Waterskiing and wakeboarding

- Irish Water Ski Federation, Eileen Galvin, Cork PB & WSC, Agherinagh, Dripsey, Co. Cork; e-mail: info@iwsf.ie; web: www.iwsf.ie
- For a list of clubs where you can go waterskiing/ wakeboarding visit www.extremewipeout.com/links.asp and www.planetwaterski.com/whereire.htm

Whale and dolphin watching

- The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group is dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of whales, dolphins and porpoise in Irish waters. For information on species, to report sightings or marine life in distress, or for a list of providers, contact the Irish Whale and Dolphin Watching Group, web: www.iwdq.ie
- The Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife Foundation has been established to develop and provide educational awareness and conservation of the Shannon dolphins and other wildlife in the region. For details visit www.shannondolphins.ie

Tourism Ireland Overseas Marketing Offices – Consumer Contacts

The international marketing body for the island of Ireland covering the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is Tourism Ireland.

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN)
Nations House
103 Wigmore Street
London
W1U 1QS
Tel 0800 039 7000 (Call Centre)
info.gb@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN)
James Miller House
98 West George Street (7th Floor),
GLASGOW, G21 PJ
Tel 0800 039 7000 (call centre)
info.glasgow@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN) 345 Park Avenue NEW YORK, NY 10154 Tel 1800 223 6470 info.us@tourismireland.com www.discoverireland.com Tourism Ireland (WALK IN) 2 Bloor St. West, Suite 3403 TORONTO, M4W 3E2 Tel 1800 223 6470 info.ca@tourismireland.com www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN Mon-Fri 09h00-14h00) Gutleutstrasse 32, D-60329 FRANKFURT AM MAIN Tel + 49 69 66 800 950 info.de@tourismireland.com www.entdeckeirland.de

Tourism Ireland
Hindergartenstrasse 36
CH-8447 Dachsen
SWITZERLAND
Tel. + 41 (0)44 210 4153
info.ch@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland Libellenweg1, A-1140 VIENNA Tel +43 (0)501 59 60 00 info.at@tourismireland.com www.discoverireland.com Tourism Ireland (WALK IN) Spuistraat 104 1012 VA AMSTERDAM Tel + 31 20 504 0689 info@ierland.nl www.ierland.nl

Tourism Ireland

Louizalaan 66 Avenue Louise 1050 Brussels Belgium. Tel +32 2 275 01 71 Fax +32 2 642 98 51 info.be@tourismireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN) 33 Rue de Miromesnil 75008 PARIS Tel +33 1 70 20 00 20 info.fr@tourismireland.com www.irlande-tourisme.fr

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN)
Piazzale Cantore no. 4
20123 MILANO
Tel +39 02 4829 6060
(Information office)
Informazioni@tourismireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN)
Paseo de la Castellana 46
3a Planta, 28046
MADRID
Tel +34 91 745 6420
info.sp@tourismireland.com
www.turismodeirlanda.com

Tourism Ireland
Rua a Imprensa a Estrela 1-4,
1200 LISBOA
Tel + 51 21 392 94 40
info.sp@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN) Level 5, 36 Carrington Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Tel + 61 2 9299 6177 info@tourismireland.com.au www.discoverireland.com.au

Tourism Ireland (WALK IN)
L7, Citibank Building
23 Customs St East
AUCKLAND 1010
Tel + 64 9 977 2255
tourism@ireland.com.nz
www.discoverireland.com.nz

NORDIC REGION

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Copenhagen K
Denmark
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info.nordic@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland
Finland
Tel +358 80041 969
infonordic@tourismireland.com

Tourism Ireland
OSLO
Tel 800 35 018
infonordic@tourismireland.com

Tourism Ireland Sweden Tel +46 200 15 9101 infonordic@tourismireland.com

Tourism Ireland
C/o Development Promotions
Everite House, Level 7,
20 De Korte Street
Braamfontein 2001, Gauteng
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel +27 11 339 48 65
tourismireland@dpgsa.co.za
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland
c/o Marketing Garden
International Place
Sanei-Cho 26-3
Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 160-0008
Tel +81 3 5367 6525
Fax +81 3 5363 1118
Email:sakamoto@marketinggarden.com
www.tourismireland.jp

Tourism Ireland
Suite 728, Shanghai Centre
1376 Nanjing Road West
Shanghai 200040, P.R.China
Tel +86 21 62798788
Fax +86 21 62798799
info@tourismireland.com.cn
www.discoverireland.com

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c/o Manager - Tourism Department
Embassy of Ireland
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Israel
Tel +972-3-6951827
Fax +972 3 6964160
nsapir@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland
Gulf Reps
3008 Gold and Diamond Park
PO Box 32878
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel + 971 4 3416764
Fax + 971 4 3415731
Vanessa@tourismireland.ae

Tourism Ireland
Grants Building Annexure
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Near Strand Cinema
Colaba
Mumbai 400 005
Tel +91 22 3296 1624
Fax +91 22 2287 6355
Info.india@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

61-765 Poznan
Poland
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Fax +48 61 510 067 325
poland@tourismireland.com
www.discoverireland.com

Tourism Ireland Kramarska 1/7

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Fáilte Ireland, Amiens Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 00 353 1 8847700 Fax: 00 353 1 855 6821 E-mail: info@failteireland.ie Website: www.failteireland.ie



- · Plan Ahead and Prepare
- · Be Considerate of Others
- · Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
- · Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
- · Leave What You Find
- · Dispose of Waste Properly
- · Minimise the Effects of Fire

www.leavenotraceireland.org

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