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MUMMYPAGES MUM'S TOP TEN IRISH BEACHES

Inch Beach, Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry

Inch Beach was chosen by David Lean as the beach location for "Ryan's Daughter". It is three miles of beautiful white sandy beach and is very popular all year round.

This beach is a safe environment for all types of water sports including surfing, kayaking, windsurfing and kite surfing. Lifeguards are on duty during the bathing season and more information can be found on the notice boards located at the beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Beautiful big beach with stunning scenery. It is a very good beach for kids as the water stays shallow for a long way out and the current isn't very strong. The sheer size of the beach means that you have plenty of space for the kids to run around and build GIANT sandcastles without getting in anybody's way."

Culleton's Gap, Curracloe, Co. Wexford

The beach at Culleton's Gap is in a section of the sandy Curracloe stretch situated 5 miles north of Wexford Town and facing in an easterly direction over Wexford Bay and the Irish Sea. It is 1 mile from the village of Curracloe. The Raven Nature Reserve, the North Slob Land and the Wild Fowl Reserve border the beach to the west.

Culleton's Gap beach has received the Green Coast Award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"I would say this is the best beach in Ireland. Fantastic beach with golden sands and beautiful blue sea. Shop facilities close by as well as bathroom facilities, so it is super handy for days with the whole family without spoiling the coastline with arcades ect.. I really love the chance to share with the kids the simple pleasures I used to enjoy as a child, like a bucket and spade and just playing in the sea. Truly beautiful place to just get back to nature".

Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Inchydoney Beach is located a few kilometres from the town of Clonakilty and is accessible by car. It is backed by dunes and overlooked by Inchydoney Island Lodge and Spa. There is a public car park and toilet facilities adjacent to the beach.

The beach has excellent surfing conditions for beginners and there is a surf school at the beach, providing board and wetsuit hire as well as lessons.

The beach is life guarded during the bathing season and more information can be found on the notice board located at the beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Lovely beach for walking and playing with the kids. The kids always have a great time at Inchydoney. My youngest enjoys the usual beach fun of sandcastles and paddling and loves nothing more than watching her big brother do surf lessons. Beautiful place and guaranteed fun for all the family!"

Rosslare Strand, Co. Wexford

Rosslare Strand is located on the southern edge of Wexford Harbour.

The beach itself is comprised of sand and stone running the length of the southern peninsula which protrudes into Wexford Harbour. It is segmented by a series of timber breakwaters which are designed to retain sandy deposits along the beach.

The main beach is accessed by various walkways and its main access point is from the main car park. Rosslare Strand is lifeguarded during the bathing season and further information can be found on the notice boards located at the beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Rosslare beach is gorgeous and very clean, there is clearly a lot of effort from the local people to keep it that way which is really nice. My whole clan love it there! We can happily spend the day splashing and playing on the beach. There are some lovely spots nearby for lunch too."

Tramore, Co. Waterford

Meaning 'Big Strand', Tramore is one of the most aptly named towns in the region, with its famous 5km golden, sandy beach surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the traffic coming to Tramore comes from the Waterford City direction, but the most spectacular approach to this exciting resort is the route from Annestown and the coast road to the elevated western suburbs of the town.

The panorama of Tramore Bay, broken by the peninsula, which carries the promenade and the strand, with the protecting arm of Brownstown Head beyond, is truly magnificent. The town itself is built on steep hills rising up from the beach. The long, rolling waves in Tramore attract swimmers and of course, surfers. Surf lessons and equipment are available locally. Sailing lessons and sea kayaking are also available.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"The beach is beautiful and is safe for children to play in the sand or have a paddle. My little ones had a great time building sand castles and burying Daddy in the sand (Mummy prefers to stay sand free). After a long day of fun on the beach, there is a great amusement park nearby to keep everyone smiling until dinner time. My little ones are already asking when we can go back."

Enniscrone, Co Sligo

Enniscrone offers visitors a wide range of activities for all age groups, including almost 5km of safe Blue Flag beach, world famous seaweed baths, a marvellous 27 hole golf links course, a leisure centre, playground and amusement park.

A section of the beach is lifeguarded during the summer and more information can be found on the noticeboard located at the beach.

This beach has been dual awarded, achieving the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award status 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Enniscrone is a fabulous beach for a family day out. There is plenty to keep the whole family busy. There are sand dunes for playing on and rolling down (my kids' favourite beach activity), waves for splashing in and the added bonus of a playground and amusements right beside the beach. We go to Enniscrone beach any time we are nearby"

Brittas Bay North, Co. Wicklow

Brittas Bay North is one of the most popular beaches in Wicklow. It has a 3.2km stretch of powdery sand & sand dune system which is a designated area of significant interest as they are home to many interesting wildlife species & plants.

It is ideal for bathing, sailing & walking and has car park and toilet facilities. Dogs are allowed on beach but must be on a lead and under strict supervision of the owner. Owners must clean up after their dogs.

The beach is lifeguarded during the bathing season and more information can be found on the notice board located at the beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"When looking for beaches near Dublin you can come across many that are very rocky but then you get to Brittas Bay and you would think you are in the Bahamas. It's clean, has shallow pools for the littlies to paddle in, and has great sand dunes for the older lot to have adventures in - fun for all ages, leaving mum free to relax J There are also easy to access to clean toilets, which is great when spending the day at the beach with three kiddies."

Barley Cove, Co. Cork

Barley Cove is a sandy beach located in County Cork. It is quite a remote area and there is a floating bridge in place to manage access and reduce impact on the natural surroundings. It has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the European Habitats Directive.

It is lifeguarded on weekends during bathing season and there is a noticeboard with visitor information on the beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

"This beach is ideal for young families. Perfect balance of waves and shallow bathing for younger and older kiddies with ample sand and dunes to play in. My five simply love it here - sandcastles, paddling and picnics, what more could you need?"

Fanore Beach, Co. Clare

Fanore Beach is an extensive sandy beach located near the seaside village of Fanore in County Clare. The Caher River enters the sea here.

It is very popular with walkers, surfers and swimmers and is also close to the heart of the Burren area which can be fascinating for the botanist, zoologist, archaeologist and geologist to explore.

The beach is lifeguarded during the summer and more information can be found on the noticeboard located at the beach.

This beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014

MummyPages Mum's Say:

“Lovely clean sandy beach ideal for families. It perfectly safe for a great paddle, which my youngest LOVED! The drive to Fanore, in my opinion, is one of the most spectacular drives in the world – amazing views.”

Ballybunion North Beach, Co. Kerry

Ballybunion North Beach is located within walking distance of the town of Ballybunion in County Kerry. It is also known as Ladies Beach due to the fact that women and children used to bathe on a separate beach from the men. It has an extensive rock formation and some shallow caves to explore at low tide.

From the north beach there is path which leads round to a beautiful beach that is overlooked by an old convent. This beach is known as Nun's Beach and is approximately a 20 minute walk from Ballybunion North Beach.

The beach has received the International Blue Flag award for 2014.

MummyPages Mum's Say:

“The beach was so clean, kids absolutely loved it. There were bins located everywhere and the beach was well maintained. My little ones had a great time building castles and having a picnic, it is such a beautiful part of the country.”

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