

# DISCOVER IRELAND.IE

*#this is*  
**LIVING**



**MUMMYPAGES MUM'S  
SEASIDE SPOT TO  
GET AN ICE CREAM**

# SEASIDE SPOT TO GET AN ICE CREAM

## Lahinch, Co.Clare

Lahinch is a coastal village on the west coast of County Clare. It is one of Ireland's most popular resorts offering visitors great variety and spectacular scenery, with its one mile stretch of golden beach.

Lahinch is acclaimed for the top quality surfing conditions available offshore. Other water sports including kitesurfing and windsurfing are catered for as well. All-weather facilities at the seaside resort includes an indoor pool along with many shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"Without a doubt this is the best zoo our little family have been to. The staff are brilliant, the animals are amazing and obviously really happy and you feel like you get to see them in a really natural environment. The whole place is really well planned out; there are lots of loos, picnic areas which is great when you are walking little legs around for the day."

## 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. Our little ones love to build sandcastles and then indulge in a tasty ice cream while looking at their big builds of the day."



## Howth, Co. Dublin

Howth is a bustling village that offers visitors a myriad of attractions – look out for Lambay Island, Ireland’s Eye, Howth Castle, The National Transport Museum, the Martello Tower and the Baily Lighthouse. Wildlife enthusiasts will adore this area, particularly Ireland’s Eye and its bird sanctuary which boasts guillemots, razorbills, fulmars, gulls and gannets. If you’re lucky, you may even see grey seals diving for fish just offshore.

### **MummyPages Mum’s Say:**

“Hands down one of my most favourite places in the world. Lovely at any time of the year and day. Our little family love to swim there in the summer or just wandered about and play any other time of year. The kids just love it, especially when we get an ice cream after all of our activity. There is really nothing quite like and ice cream by the sea.”

## Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Bundoran is a sandy beach facing Donegal Bay and the Atlantic. With Bundoran’s main street only 250 metres away, there are lots of activities to get involved in and many amenities within walking distance, including cafes, restaurants and hotels.

The beach is very popular with surfers, but beginners are advised to be aware of the rocks and reefs, which can be very dangerous.

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

### **MummyPages Mum’s Say:**

“Our crew love Bundoran! The kids have taken surf lessons, while mum and dad have had a nice relaxing time on the beach. After a long and energetic surf lesson, there’s nothing the kids love more than an ice cream”

## Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Superbly situated on Dublin Bay, Dun Laoghaire is a first-class base for a holiday in Dublin. Nestled beneath the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, with a striking marina and harbour, its facilities for sport and leisure make Dun Laoghaire a firm favourite with all who visit.

Whether you want to stroll along the pier, partake in some marine activities or just enjoy some fine seafood dining you’ll discover it in Dun Laoghaire.

### **MummyPages Mum’s Say:**

“We love going for a walk on the pier and seafront in Dun Laoghaire. The kids always demand a Teddy’s ice cream during the walk. They were delighted when one opened at the end of the pier, so that they could enjoy their treat while watching the boats go by.”

## Donabate, Co. Dublin

Donabate Beach is located in North County Dublin and is a great spot for walking and canoeing. From the beach there are beautiful views of Lambay Island, Howth Peninsula and Malahide Estuary.

It is easily accessible from the M50 and M1 motorways and has a car park and toilet facilities.

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

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"It has everything, a beach to build sandcastles, rocks to jump on and on the way back stop off for some ice-scream in Scrumdiddlys and then the playground in Newbridge Park. Guaranteed to be a great family day out!"

## 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. After a long day of fun on the beach, we enjoyed some ice creams before hitting the amusements. The kids are still raving about it."

## Mullaghmore, Co Sligo

Mullaghmore is a small fishing village and popular holiday centre. The beach is a sandy beach stretching as far as the eye can see. It is safe for swimming, windsurfing and water sports, with sheltered anchorage for small and medium craft at the harbour.

It is also renowned for being a base for licensed angling/passenger boats for charter, sea angling and trips to Inishmurray Island.

This beach has been awarded the Green Coast Award for 2014.

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"We just love the beach at Mullaghmore, The beach is beautiful, very unspoilt and very clean. Lots of other families around which is lovely to see. We had great fun splashing around and having ice creams by the sea. The kids are already looking to go back again."

## 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:

"Our whole family simply love Brittas Bay. 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. After some great adventures, the kids love curl up on their towels with an ice cream and just take in their surroundings."

## Ballybunion Co. Kerry

Ballybunion South Beach is a beautiful stretch of golden sand, surrounded by rocky headlands and high cliffs overlooked by a picture perfect castle. This beach is lifeguarded during the bathing season.

The area is within a proposed Natural Heritage Area and also forms part of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation.

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

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"We went to Lahinch for a week and were on the go from start to finish. The whole family attended a weekend of surfing. It got the whole family to bond and we all had a right giggle. Our girls loved the fact that we were able to get a delicious ice cream to have on the prom after our surf lessons. It was the perfect trip for our family of water babies."





# FAB FAMILY FESTIVAL

## Groove Festival

Groove Festival is set in the amazing Killruddery Estate situated between Bray and Greystones and right on the doorstep of Dublin. Groove is a hassle free festival with an impressive line-up across many music genres from Soul to Rock & Roll. With some very cool outdoor activities – Groove is a family friendly festival with lots on for all ages.

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Fantastic festival, fun for all the family, stunning location, great line up and magical atmosphere."

## Dingle Food Festival

This food festival has a line-up that features taste trails, charity cookout, wine tastings, foraging walks, cookery demonstrations and food workshops, the festival promises 3 days of food, fun and entertainment.

Farmers markets' will line the streets of Dingle from Friday right through until Sunday.

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"The Dingle Food Festival is a great festival for all the family with plenty to keep smiles on everyone's faces."

## Electric Picnic

The Electric Picnic has established itself as a truly unique annual Irish festival, set amid the rolling lawns of Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois. Renowned for great music, art, theatre, comedy, pantomime, food and holistic health, the festival has in recent years expanded its appeal to younger picnickers with great results.

The effort by organisers to understand and meet families' needs has certainly paid off. The feedback from families that attend is positive, with the result that the Electric Picnic is firmly on the family-friendly list of festivals.

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"Electric Picnic is a step off the thread mill to a world filled with the best of life's treasures: family, friends, great music, dancing, creativity, relaxation, fresh air, camping & good craic. What isn't there to love? Great fun for all the family!"

## Rose of Tralee International Festival

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is one of Ireland's largest & longest running family festivals connecting the global Irish community since 1959 through the annual selection of a Rose of Tralee.

It is a massive party for all the family as the festival also includes street entertainment, carnival, live concerts, theatre, circus, markets, funfair, fireworks and the internationally renowned Rose Parade.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"We have watched the Rose of Tralee for year. It was great to go with the kids and see all of the family fun that goes on behind the scenes."

## A Taste of West Cork Festival

A Taste of West Cork Festival is a premier showcase event which encompasses the entire food producing community in West Cork. West Cork is traditionally a farming and fishing community dotted with small market towns and a number of fishing villages. West Cork has long been a sought after destination for tourists, now this region has a proud reputation for producing some of the best artisan food in Ireland.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"The Taste of West Cork Festival is great fun for all of the family. We left the festival with happy kids and happy tummies."





# FORESTS TO EXPLORE

## Lough Key Forest Park

Comprising some 350 hectares of mixed woodland, a lake and a number of islands, Lough Key in Boyle County Roscommon is one of Ireland's most extensive and picturesque forest parks in Ireland. For the more adventurous, the development also includes the tree canopy trail, Boda Borg Challenge and the adventure play kingdom. Boats are available for hire within the park. Guided tours are available for groups by arrangement.

The visitor centre is the gateway to the parkland and forest at Lough Key. Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency are at the heart of its design and facilities at the centre include a restaurant, gift shop, conference facilities, toilets and baby changing facilities.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"A beautiful lake for the view and a playground for the kids. A wonderful forest to walk the dog, but on top of that there is Boda Borg, an adventure for kids and adults. It certainly seemed to prove that kids have more confidence and guts than their older counterparts. The people who work there are very patient and sweet as well as fun loving. They are all great with kids."

## Donadea Forest Park

Donadea Forest Park is situated in northwest Kildare and comprises of approximately 243 hectares of mixed woodland. It is part of the old Aylmer family estate. The last of the Aylmers, Miss Caroline died in 1935 leaving the property to the Church of Ireland, who in turn sold it to the State. There are many historical features including the remains of the castle, walled gardens, church, tower, ice house, boat house and Lime Tree Avenue. There is also a 2.3 hectare lake with ducks and other birds and a wonderful display of water-lilies in the summer. Walled streams form part of the drainage of the park.

There are many different walks through the forest, including the 5km Aylmer loop, the lake walk (wheelchair accessible) and a nature trail with stops. A small café serves light refreshments and is open year round. The park is a designated National Heritage Area.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"We have had many great family days out in Donadea Forest Park. Feeding the ducks on the lake and exploring the grounds of the estate."

## Castlecomer Discovery Park

The grounds consist of mixed woodland, on the banks of the River Deen, which was once part of the old Wandesforde Estate. There are numerous activities and attractions including the tree top adventure walk, a 140 metre walk through the beautiful riverside trees 10 metres above ground level. Discover the richness and diversity of the areas local history and science through exploration of the intriguing indoor multi-media experience 'footprints in coal' and engaging outdoor activities.

The woodlands also play host to 6 kilometres of themed woodland walks and a number of wooden sculptures. Twelve sculptures were created within the woodland, each designed to blend in with surroundings and five of the sculptures can be found scattered throughout the woodlands. The park itself is free to visit and perfect for a family day out, with its walking trails, woodland sculptures and many things to see and do throughout the year.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"Excellent diversion for a family like ours, where our teenagers can only visit so many castles and museums before getting bored. They loved the rock wall, the leap of faith and the tree top walk. There were children of perhaps 8 and up doing all the activities but it is definitely not for the timid. The staff are great and really helpful. We went for a fab family walk afterwards too."

## The Fairy Forest in Corkagh Park Dublin

Corkagh Park is located near the Naas road stretching towards Clondalkin, in County Dublin. Opened to the public in 1986, it consists of 120 hectares and was formerly part of Corkagh Demense. The Fairy Forest is located near the Pet Farm, the Rose Garden, the fishing lakes and the Arboretum will increase the level of free fun young families can have in this award winning park before they get to the playground!

Corkagh Playground is located in the heart of Corkagh Park, bordering a woodland and stream, the setting is very picturesque and people of all ages visit it for play and picnics. This is a large playground providing play opportunities for both junior (two-six years) and senior (six-twelve years) age groups. Additionally Corkagh Pet Farm is located near the visitor centre and rose garden and is home to an aviary and animal enclosure for housing a range of farm animals and pets.

### **MummyPages Mum's Say:**

"The kids simply adored their day at the Fairy Forest. Such a great idea, our youngest was truly enchanted as we walked around visiting the fairies."

## Fairy Trail in Parknasilla

The fairy houses in Parknasilla are probably the most recent 'discovery' for enthusiasts of Irish Fairy Folklore. Eleven miniature fairy houses are dotted throughout the trail. Searching for the fairy homes on the Irish Fairy Trails is a great family fun adventure. On a rainy day and in the shelter of the woods makes this a memorable day out for all!

### MummyPages Mum's Say:

"The kids just loved their trip to Parknasilla. They were so awe struck by the fairy houses and didn't want to leave until they say a fairy out in the woods. We left some raisins for the fairies to eat and the kids were happy enough with that. They were delighted when we returned the next day and the fairies (or birds) had really enjoyed the treats we had left them."





**DISCOVER  
IRELAND.IE**

*#this is*  
**LIVING**

 **mummy**pages.ie