1. TAKE THE DURSEY ISLAND CABLE CAR, CO. CORK

PULL YOUR CAR up to the start of the 1.3-mile cable car journey from Allihies (a village in the Beara Peninsula). It’s the only island cable car in Europe; it’s rise of 200 feet in less than five minutes.

2. TAKE A SEAWEED BATH IN SLIGO

You can take one of the world's most unusual spa treatments in this small coastal town, where the Wesley family has been mining seaweed for over 150 years. The process involves being immersed in a tank of seaweed, then washed and dressed in an all-natural soap made from the same seaweed.

3. RIDE A HORSE ON THE BEACH

On the beautiful beaches of County Sligo, you can take a guided horseback ride along the sand,感受 the rhythm of the waves and the sound of the ocean. It's a unique way to explore the coast and witness the breathtaking scenery.

4. CLIMB CROAGH PATRICK —允许 about two hours to get to the sacred mountain's 764m summit… out towards the hallowed turf itself

Croagh Patrick is one of the most sacred mountains in Ireland, associated with St. Patrick, who is said to have climbed it on three separate occasions. A pilgrimage involves climbing to the summit, where you can enjoy panoramic views of Clew Bay and the surrounding countryside.

5. EXPERIENCE GRAFTON STREET AT CHRISTMAS

While the street itself is always a highlight, Christmas in Dublin is truly special. The shops are decorated, the lights are sparkling, and the atmosphere is festive. It's a great time to get into the spirit of the season and soak up the vibrant energy of the city.

6. VISIT THE VROUWEN SOLONGE-PLAATS AT NEWROUSE, CO. MEATH

This is one of the quirkiest museums around. The museum is housed in a former convent and offers a unique insight into the history and culture of the area. It's a must-visit for anyone interested in Irish history and culture.

7. GO TO GLASNEVIN CEMETERY

Glasnevin Cemetery is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Ireland, dating back to 1832. It's a peaceful, contemplative place, with a wealth of history and stories to discover. The guided tours are highly recommended.

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9. TAKE A BLACK TAXI TOUR IN BELFAST

While you’re at it: Take a nighttime tour of the city’s political murals and ‘Peace’ Walls in the company of a local guide. It’s a unique way to experience the city’s history and culture, and to gain a deeper understanding of the complex political landscape.

10. WATCH MINSTER AT THOMOND PARK, LIMERICK

Limerick's original home is the recently re-opened King John's Castle, but its modern-day battles are fought up the road at perhaps Ireland's most iconic rugby stadium. Munster's fortunes may wax and wane, but their games at Thomond Park are always something special.

11. TAKE A BRAZING WALK ALONG STRANACHALL BAY

This bay is one of the most beautiful in Ireland, with crystal-clear waters and a wide, sandy beach. It's a perfect spot for a bracing swim, or for simply enjoying the stunning scenery.

12. RIDE A HORSE ON THE BEACH

With so many beautiful beaches around our coastal towns, it's an exhilarating experience to gallop along the water's edge and feel the sea spray in your hair. It's the ultimate way to connect with nature and experience the beauty of the Irish coast.

13. TAKE A NIGHT'S KAYAKING ON LOUGH FILLY, CO. MEATH

Go for a pre-dawn paddle on Lough Filly, one of the most scenic lakes in Ireland. You can see the first rays of sunlight reflected on the water's surface, and hear the calls of the birds as they awaken.

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15. TAKE A BLACK TAXI TOUR IN BELFAST

While you’re at it: Take a tour of the People’s Gallery and Titanic Belfast, two of the city's most iconic attractions. The gallery offers a unique perspective on the history of the Troubles, while Titanic Belfast is a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to the story of the world-famous ship.

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15 TUCK INTO TEA AND SCONES AT KYLEMORE ABBEY, CONNEMARA
A quiet hideaway in the mountains, Kylemore Abbey is a Benedictine monastery and is still home to a community of nuns. You can take a short tour of the house and explore the walled garden, but one of the best parts of the visit is taking in part of the amazing Connemara views, tucked away in the mountains.

16 STAY AT BALLYFIN, CO. LAOIS
A modern day retreat for all ages, Ballyfin is an idyllic country house set in the heart of the midlands. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and offers unparalleled views of the surrounding countryside. It’s perfect for a weekend getaway or a longer stay.

17 TAKE A WHISKEY TASTING TOUR
Why not try out the world famous Irish whiskey? Teeling Whiskey Distillery in Dublin offers a tour where you can learn about the history and making of whiskey, and even taste some of their delicious products.

18 FEEL THE PEARL ON THE MAP OF CONNEMARA
Admire the stunning views of the Connemara Pearl, a large sea stack located off the coast of County Galway. It’s a great place to go for a scenic walk or to simply relax and take in the beauty of the area.

19 GO ON A BAT WALK IN GLENDALOUGH, CO. WICKLOW
Glendalough is home to one of Europe’s finest monastic ruins, and it’s also a great place to go on a bat walk. You’ll get to see these creatures up close as they make their way out after sunset.

20 PATRICK KAVANAGH COUNTRY, CO. MONAGHAN
This is the birthplace of the famous Irish poet, Patrick Kavanagh. You can visit his childhood home and learn about his life and work. It’s a great destination for anyone interested in literature and history.

21 CLIMB A SEA STACK OFF THE COAST OF DONEGAL
Donegal is home to some of Ireland’s most stunning coastline, and you can’t miss the chance to climb a sea stack. The cliffs are breathtaking and offer a unique perspective on the ocean below.

22 AMBLE AROUND UISNEACH, CO. WESTMEATH
This is the home of the ancient site of Uisneach, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It’s a great place to learn about Ireland’s historical and cultural heritage.

14 WEEKEND MAGAZINE 19 March 2016
22 WEEKEND MAGAZINE IRISH INDEPENDENT 43
23 GET TO A FESTIVAL IN IRELAND
When it comes to festivals, Ireland is the place to be. The country is a playground for music and art, with events happening year-round. From the Electric Picnic, one of the largest music festivals in Europe, to the Galway International Arts Festival, there’s something for everyone.
Details: discoverireland.ie; wexfordfestival.ie

24 DRIVE SLEA HEAD, CO KERRY
The Wild Atlantic Way is the perfect place to drive. Slea Head is a stunning drive with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. You can stop at the Mizen Head, the southernmost point of Ireland, and see the lighthouse. It’s a great way to explore the coastline.
Details: mizenhead.ie; wildatlanticway.com

25 SLEEP ON AN ISLAND
There’s something special about waking up on an island. The Comeragh Islands in Waterford offer a peaceful retreat from the mainland. You can stay at Inishbofin Hotel in Inishbofin, which is a great base for exploring the island.
Details: inishbofin.com; discoverireland.ie

26 STEP INTO THE HOLE IN THE WALL, KILKENNY
The first time I visited Kilkenney, I was blown away by the beautiful town. It’s a great place to explore the ruins of Kilkenny castle and visit the local shops.
Details: kilkenny.ie; visitkilkenny.ie

27 TRAVEL IN TIME IN WATERFORD
Waterford is Ireland’s oldest city, and a port founded by Vikings, bolstered by Normans, and electrified by 21st-century cool. From the ancient city wall to the modern Waterford Crystal factory, there’s something for everyone.
Details: visitwaterford.com; waterfordtreasures.com

28 DRIVE THE HOOK, CO WEXFORD
The Wild Atlantic Way is the perfect drive. Take the Hook Peninsula for a coastal drive with stunning views of the sea.
Details: hookpeninsula.com; visitwexford.ie

29 VISIT “CRAGGY ISLAND” & FATHER TED’S HOUSE, CO CLARE
It’s easy to believe that more than 10 years have passed since Father Ted burst onto our screens. It’s even harder to find someone who doesn’t have a soft spot for the series, which is why catching a glimpse of the parochial house is such a thrill. The house itself is stand-alone among several other locations in the Burren (including the Aran Caves), and the owners do a lovely curio and gift (CLP).
Details: fathertedshouse.com; visitclare.com

30 VISIT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF IRELAND, CO CORK
When you get to the very bottom of Ireland, at Mizen Head, there’s a bridge across a gorge. On the other side, set on a tiny rock outcrop above the wild waters of the Atlantic is Mizen Head Signal Station which was home to three-light keepers until 1993. The Mizen Centre museum sets the scene but it’s not until you walk down the 60 steps and then get yourself across the bridge that you feel the power of the ocean and the isolation that the keepers must have experienced in times past.
Details: mizenhead.ie; malinhead.ie; wildatlanticway.com

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