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Inside the Drawing Room at The Adare Manor in County Limerick. Courtesy of Adare Manor. JACK HARDY

7 Stunning Hotels in Ireland to Visit

From 800-year-old castles to fairytale cottages

By Shivani Vora

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Yet another European destination is gearing up to welcome Americans once again: on July 19th, Ireland intends to re-open its borders to travelers from the United States. Visitors must be fully vaccinated or present evidence of a negative PCR test within 72 hours prior to arrival.

In honor of the occasion, we're doing a roundup of the best hotels in the country.

Although Ireland has no shortage of properties to pick from, whether they're family-run hotels or grand castles turned luxury resorts, only a handful are truly exceptional, says Siobhan Byrne Learat, the founder of [Adams & Butler](#), a Dublin-based company selling luxury Ireland trips.

"It's hard to pick because Ireland has so many fantastic properties, but the ones that truly stand out exemplify Irish hospitality," she says. "They have staff who treat you like family or their new best friend and offer charisma, excellent food, interesting architecture or some other memorable element."

As an added incentive to make the trip, traveling to Ireland from the U.S. is easy: Aer Lingus currently operates daily nonstop flights to Dublin from New York, Boston and Chicago. The airline expects to restart more routes to Dublin from additional U.S. destinations in the coming months, said a spokesperson on a phone interview. [Aer Lingus](#) is also a gateway to the rest of Europe and offers numerous connections to cities all over the continent. Plus, it has a 'Book with Confidence' policy until December 31st which allows customers to change their flights up to two hours before their scheduled departure with no change fee.

From an 800-year-old castle where you can climb trees by day and enjoy a fine-dining meal at night to a bucolic property near Dublin with cottages covered in ivy, our list of seven top hotels in Ireland follows.



The view to Dromoland Castle. Courtesy of Dromoland Castle. Laurence Lambrecht

Dromoland Castle, County Clare

Set on 450 acres of parkland, Dromoland dates back to the 16th century when it was the home of the O'Brien family, whose lineage goes back 1,000 years to Brian Boru, one of the last High Kings of Ireland. Given its royal past, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the interiors are lavish, but Dromoland has more to offer than just good looks: pursuits include golf (the property's 18-hole golf course is world renowned), fishing, biking, estate walks, horseback riding, and clay shooting. A must when staying here: have the kitchen pack you a decadent picnic basket complete with champagne, and enjoy it over a leisurely afternoon at one of the many scenic spots on the grounds.