

Culture & Cuisine

Ireland

An Ireland vacation is as much for the mind as it is for the body; if you allow yourself to be taken along by the people and places you encounter, you will have an unforgettable experience. Don't plan too much, but embrace serendipity. There's something distinctive about Ireland that can't be captured in a picture, but must be experienced first-hand. Be spontaneous, and you may find yourself in some wonderful locations like the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, where the myth has it that the giant Finn McCool built this path to cross the sea to Scotland. The unique landscape is unlike anything with columns rising from the earth. This UNESCO World Heritage Site instills a sense of wonder, then set your heart racing by crossing the Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, suspended 80 feet above the sea.

Get involved in the lively Irish culture that surrounds you. By leaving your travels to chance, you're bound to discover delights on every side. If you find yourself in Co. Cork, visit Cork City's English Market, which dates back to 1610. Get lost in the tastes and smells of the freshest artisan food, and wander through stalls of Irish Cheeses, soda breads, and fresh herbs. Upstairs allow time for a treat at The Farmgate Restaurant, or create a picnic for your next adventure through West Cork.

With lush landscapes and bustling towns and villages, there is a wealth of experiences to enjoy. Ancient traditions are wedded with modern conveniences, all creating a rich experience that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world. Let your imagination be awoken and drawn into the history and mythology of the island. A visit to Belvedere House and Gardens in Co. Westmeath, which was built in 1740 by the Wicked Earl Robert Rochfort, the first Earl of Belvedere, and discover it's Folly—the Jealous Wall.

From giants to gourmet to the beauty and wonder of nature, you never know what is in store for you in Ireland. Each trip is unique, but a vacation here is a journey of a lifetime. To get started, visit discoverireland.com for travel tips, destination videos, and great vacation offers. Go Where Ireland Takes You.



GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, CO. ANTRIM



THE ENGLISH MARKET, CORK CITY

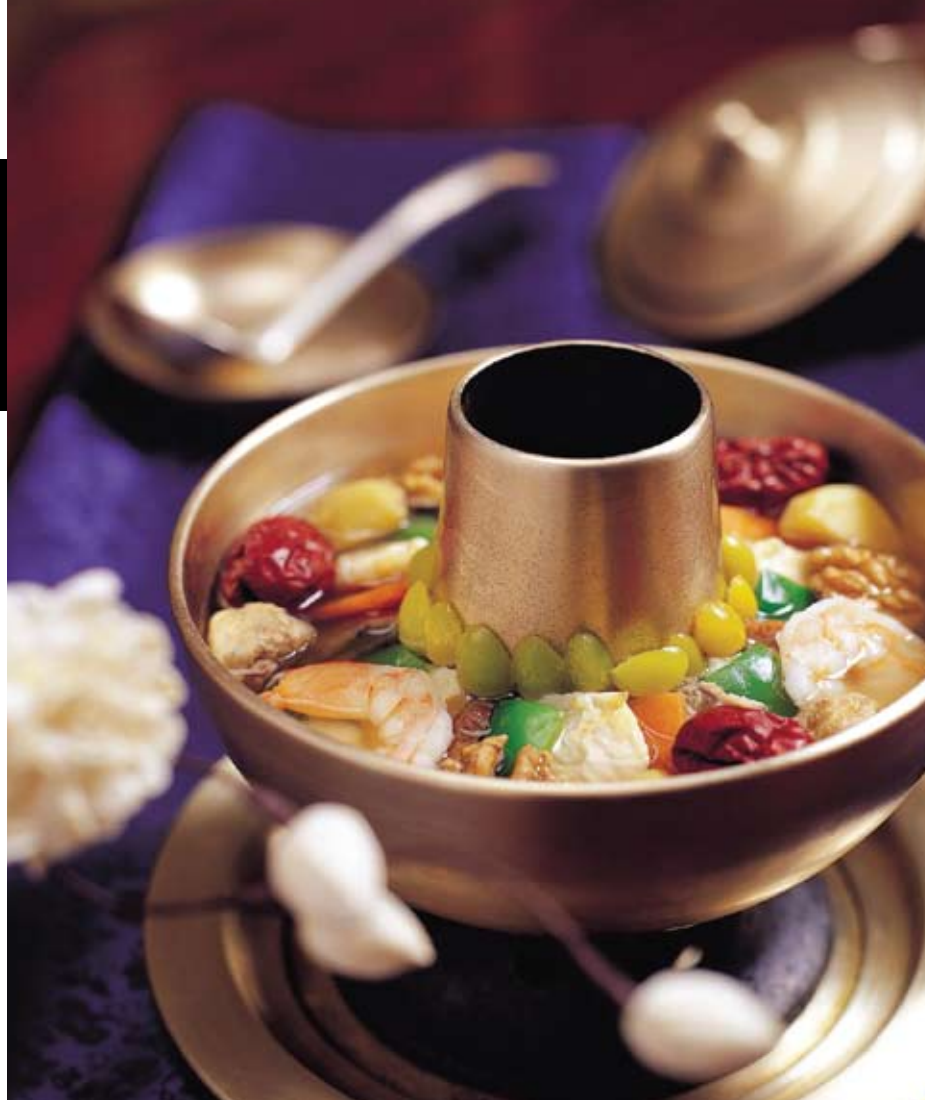
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Korea

From kimchi to samgyetang, visitors to Korea can savor their favorite dishes while expanding their culinary horizons. In Korea, it is traditional to have a number of side dishes on the table. The number can range from 3 to 12 or more, and it's a great way to try a little bit of everything. Each item is prepared in bite-size pieces, and traditional Korean cuisine is eaten with chopsticks, though spoons are employed for the many stews and soups. Try Sinseollo, a casserole of beef, radishes, sea cucumber, abalone, and ginkgo nuts. The royal dish Gujeolpan is a colorful feast for the eyes; eight ingredients, including beef, seasonal vegetables, and seafood, are decoratively arranged in a wooden bowl and eaten with wheat pancakes and a bit of sauce.

Food festivals are the perfect way to experience Korean cuisine. The Gwangju Kimchi Festival (October 23–November 1) celebrates kimchi, Korea's signature dish. Visitors can sample a variety of kimchi and make their own! At the Namdo Food Festival (October 29–November 1), visitors can try the Namdo province's delicious food at an array of sampling stalls and view an exhibition on traditional royal dishes.

Start planning your culinary adventure at VisitKorea.or.kr.



Switzerland

Switzerland has much more to offer the discerning culinary traveler than just cheese and chocolate. Enjoy a five-course meal in one of the many Gault Millau–rated restaurants or visit the highest vineyards in Europe. In Switzerland, gourmet pleasures abound.

Switzerland has four distinct regions, each with its own language and culture. Each of these regions combine local food traditions with modern culinary arts. Since there's no single Swiss cuisine, a trip through the countryside becomes a culinary adventure. Find Malakoff cheese fritters in Canton Vaud, Racelette in the Valais, Capuns and walnut cake in Graubünden, and fabulous polenta with rabbit in the Ticino.

Following an exhausting day jam-packed with sight seeing, it's only natural that visitors expect something better than a simple plate of food and a plain room at a generic hotel. Swiss Historic Hotels, Guest houses, and Restaurants offer food and accommodations with an enchanting historic ambiance. All built between 1682 and 1908, these buildings have been carefully restored to showcase original architectural details and charm, without compromising modern luxury.

Start planning your Switzerland culinary journey. For more information, excursion tips, and product highlights, sign up for both the Gourmet Travel and Time Travel guides at MySwitzerland.com.