

Ireland's

MOST BEAUTIFUL DRIVES

EBOOK BY CHILL.IE



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THANKS!

Ireland is a beautiful place, there's no denying it. From stunning, scenic landscapes to cultural and historic cities there really is something for everyone.

We asked over 400 Irish people to vote on their favourite drives in Ireland, including some of the most famous and some lesser known routes.

We have also teamed up with some top bloggers who share their insights into Ireland's most beautiful drives from their perspective, and also offer some top tips for staying safe whilst driving - whatever the Irish weather throws your way!

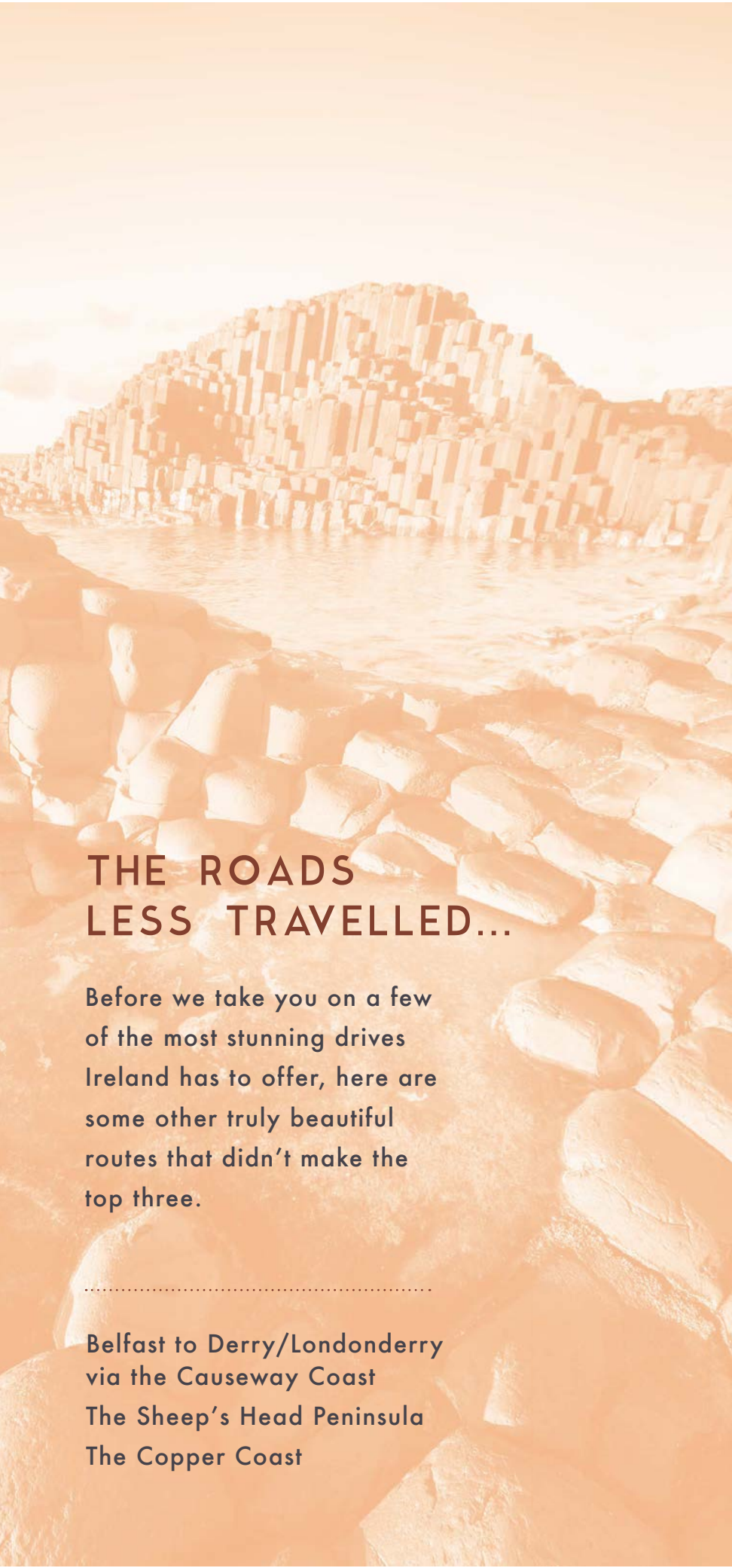
So sit back, relax and begin to plan your next road trip around this stunning landscape of ours.

A scenic mountain landscape with a wooden bench in the foreground. The bench is made of weathered logs and sits on a grassy hillside. In the background, there are steep, rocky mountains with patches of green grass. A winding road is visible in the distance. The sky is overcast.

The VOTE

We asked over 400 Irish people to vote on the most beautiful drives our stunning country has to offer...

So, what is Ireland's most beautiful drive?



THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED...

Before we take you on a few of the most stunning drives Ireland has to offer, here are some other truly beautiful routes that didn't make the top three.

- Belfast to Derry/Londonderry via the Causeway Coast
- The Sheep's Head Peninsula
- The Copper Coast



16% VOTED BANTRY TO KILLARNY

If you're travelling between Bantry and Killarney, take some time out to see the village of Glengarriff, along with its charming harbour and fleet of fishing boats. Further north along the N71, you'll drive through the village of Kenmare near the head of Kenmare Bay. Set in undulating terrain, the town is characterised by its colourful buildings. It's also renowned for its range of gourmet eateries - making it the perfect pit stop!



17% VOTED GALWAY TO WESTPORT

The Galway to Westport route has lots to offer, including the picturesque town of Clifden. Set against the backdrop of the Twelve Bens mountain range, this is the perfect place for some sightseeing. You can also take a spin along the circular Sky Road, which runs for 11km and offers spectacular views over the surrounding area.



35% VOTED THE DINGLE PENINSULA

dingle-peninsula.ie

"The Dingle Peninsula has some of the most dramatic scenery in Europe, and forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way. This includes the Slea Head Drive that takes in a large number of attractions and stunning views on the western end of the peninsula. The peninsula also features the Conor Pass, one of the highest mountain passes in Ireland. The views from the road are breath-taking, as the glaciated landscape of mountains and corrie lakes comes into view. From the summit there are views as far as the Aran Islands off County Galway."

WHAT MAKES THE DINGLE PENINSULA SO BEAUTIFUL?

Stunning beaches and coves
Slea Head Drive
Walking trails and routes



THINGS TO NOTE

Speed limits on the Dingle Peninsula are in kilometres per hour (km/h)

There are a limited number of petrol stations, so fuel up before your visit

Drive on the lefthand side

Car insurance is compulsory in Ireland

Driving whilst under the influence is illegal,
as are distractions like using a mobile phone



Blogger's CHOICE

So now you know the results of the vote, what do some of the country's best bloggers have to say?

We teamed up with travel, lifestyle, foodie and family bloggers from Ireland and the UK to bring you their insiders insights into what they think are Ireland's most beautiful drives...

THE BLOGGERS



Ordered from Top Left to Bottom Right.

IRISH TRAVEL KEY 013
is a blog showcasing Ireland’s treasures, featuring events and activities in Ireland and beyond.

irishtravelkey.ie

ITS A TRAVELFUL LIFE 014
is an Irish lifestyle and travel blog run by Marteen Lane.

itsatravelfullife.com

CLARE WITH THE HAIR 016
is an all-round Irish blog featuring news, beauty, fashion and reviews.

clarewiththehair.com

KATE TAKES 5 018
is a top Irish lifestyle and parenting blogger covering travel, fitness and reviews.

www.katetakes5.com

MAIDEN VOYAGE TRAVEL 020
is a travel blog for twenty-somethings.

maiden-voyage-travel.com

GOURMET GRAZING 022
is a top Irish food blog run by Niamh O Shaughnessy.

gourmetgrazing.ie

MAMAS HAVEN 024
is an award-winning Irish mummy blog run by Oana.

mamashaven.com

GO BOOK YOURSELF 026
is a book and lifestyle blog run by Amanda Horan, who lives in Ireland.

www.gobookyourself.info

LIFE WITH BABY KICKS 028
is a travelling mummy blogger from the UK.

www.lifewithbabykicks.com





CLONAKILTY – OLD HEAD OF KINSALE

irishtravelkey.ie

“Starting at the West Cork village of Timoleague, follow the coast to the famous Old Head of Kinsale. Head along the Cork coast, which lends itself to many photo opportunities along the way. It is best to start

early in the morning. Take your time and build up an appetite to enjoy when you arrive in Ireland’s gourmet capital; Kinsale.”



SOUTH MAYO SCENIC DRIVE

itsatravelfullife.com

“Being from Mayo and south Mayo more specifically, I love the South Mayo Scenic Drive. This drive takes in Castlebar, Ballintubber Abbey, Ballinrobe, Cong, Clonbur, Tourmakeady and back to Castlebar. At various points along the drive you’ll spot three beautiful lakes,

Lough Corrie, Lough Corrib and Lough Mask. With the best of both world’s you can enjoy the stunning scenery of south Mayo and stop off at Ballintubber Abbey, Ballinrobe or Cong for a bit of culture and history. Sure what more would you want?”





CORKSCREW HILL, COUNTY CLARE

clarewiththehair.com

"Being a Clare woman I must share with you what I believe to be one of the most stunning drives that Ireland has to offer and it is right here in Co. Clare.

Thousands of people visit the Burren each year and yes it is spectacular, but a little hidden gem that many of these visitors are unaware of and is not far from the Burren is 'Corkscrew Hill'. Now this drive is not for nervous motorists - but for those who want to discover something extra special, take the N67 road that runs between Ballyvaughan and Lisdoonvarna. On a clear day, you will see truly stunning views - and it's still pretty amazing even if conditions are not so clear. There is a little viewing point at the top where you can park and admire the views over Ballyvaughan and Galway Bay."

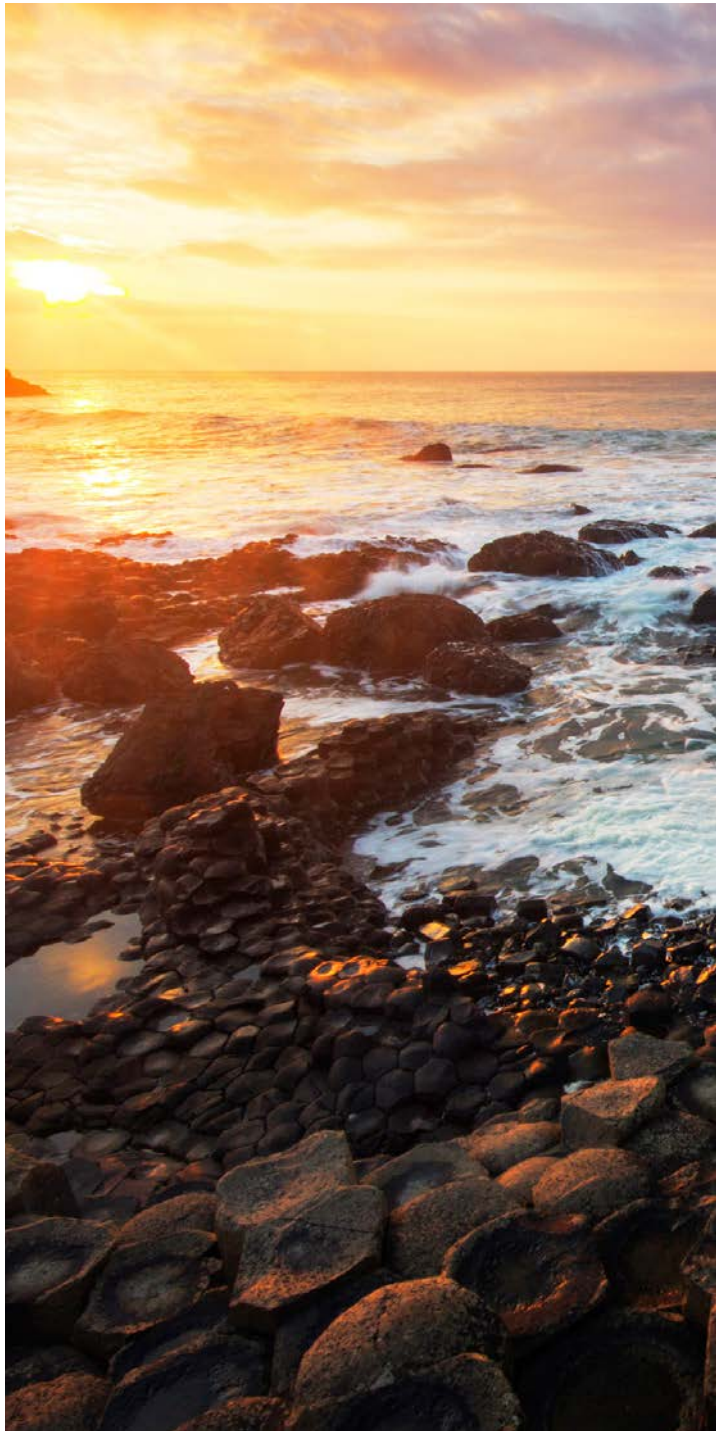


THE MILITARY ROAD, COUNTY WICKLOW

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katetakes5.com

"Being a Wicklow girl I have to choose the amazing drive of the Military Road, which winds its way through the spine of the Wicklow mountains. At times barren and wild, it takes in bogland, mountains, lakes and waterfalls. There is history everywhere around you, from

the actual road you drive along, which was built by the English around 1800 to quash the Irish rebels, to Glencree where the German World War Cemetery lies, to Glendalough - one of the most impressive historical sites in the country that dates back to the 6th century. On a sunny day there's nowhere in the world you'd rather be."



GIANTS CAUSEWAY - BELFAST

maiden-voyage-travel.com

"Growing up in Northern Ireland, I have to say the most beautiful drive on the island is the gorgeous scenic route from the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland's only UNESCO heritage site, to Belfast. Not only do you get to experience those two highlights of the north, but the rugged northern coast will truly make you feel like you're in Ireland. Breathtaking."

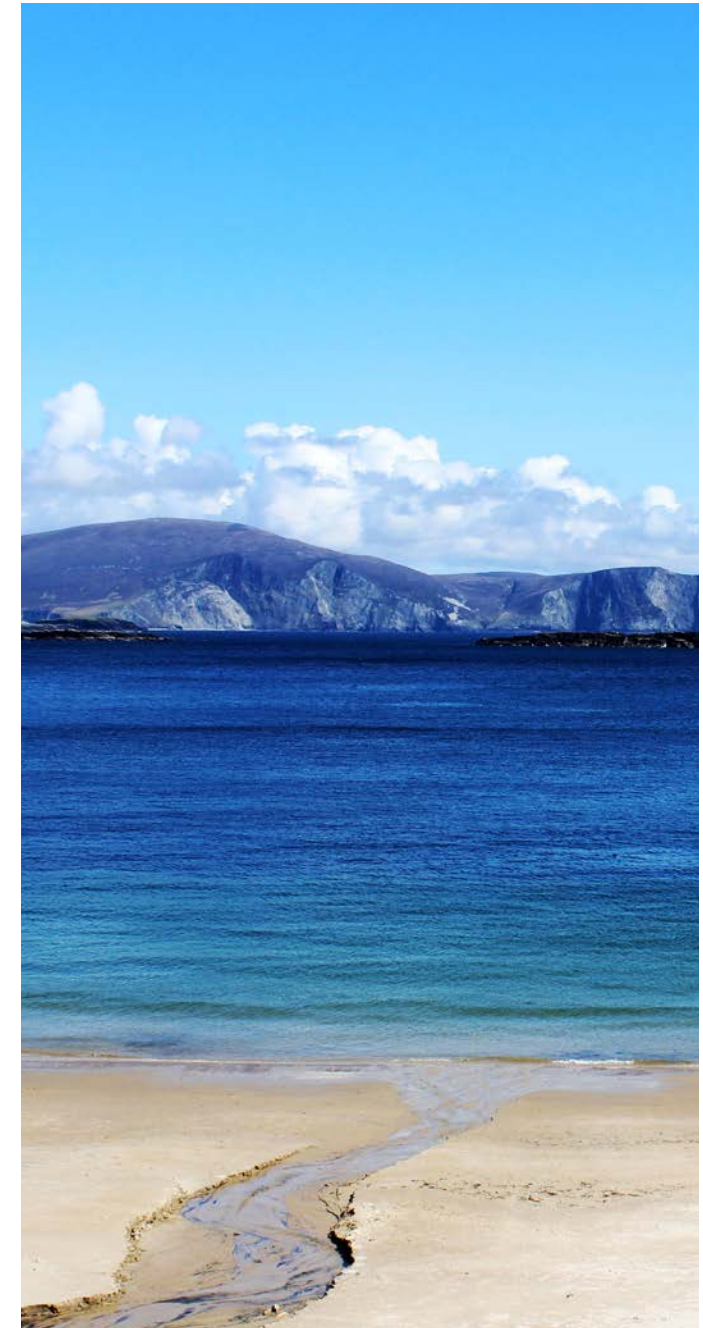


ATLANTIC DRIVE, ACHILL ISLAND, COUNTY MAYO

gourmetgrazing.ie

"Achill Island off the west coast of Ireland is renowned for its beautiful shorelines, dramatic sea cliffs and endless Blue Flag beaches. The 40km coastal drive will take you through a number of quaint, small villages on the island, as well as Granuaile's Castle (one of Ireland's great female pirates), and if you're lucky, you might spot some dolphins or basking sharks in the Atlantic Ocean.

Achill Island is not only one of the most beautiful places in Ireland, but it also boasts some of Ireland's best local seafood. A visit to the Chalet restaurant to try some Achill Island oysters, lobster and in-house smoked salmon is a must and there is nothing more satisfying than this after a day of breathing in that fresh, sea air."





THE ANTRIM COAST BELFAST TO NEWCASTLE, COUNTY DOWN

mamashaven.com

"During my 10 years living here, we've done a lot of travelling around the country. Northern Ireland never ceases to impress us with its diverse scenery, from rugged hills to foaming sea waves and everything in between!

Two of our favourite drives are the Antrim Coast and the route from Belfast to Newcastle, County Down.

The Antrim Coast combines small country lanes with stunning views of the North Sea. The end destination is, of course, the Giant's Causeway - and some whiskey and a bit of craic in the Bushmills Inn!

The Newcastle drive from Belfast is mainly inland and offers the traveller another perspective over the diverse Northern Irish scenery. Rolling green hills are followed by stunning mountain scenery as you approach your destination. And of course, the sea and a few days' stay in the stunning Slieve Donard luxury hotel is the epitome of county Down's beauty."



BLOGGERS'

TIPS & THOUGHTS

"Ireland's sweeping green valleys and majestic mountains will never fail to take my breath away."



MAJESTIC IRELAND

gobookyourself.info

"I've seen many wonders in this world. I've travelled from the top of the Eiffel Tower to the bottom of Ramesses' tomb in Egypt, but Ireland's sweeping green valleys and majestic mountains will never take fail to take my breath away."



SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH A CHILD'S EYE

lifewithbabykicks.com

Having children is often seen as something that will stop your travel plans, but I don't see it that way. Rather than halt my travel plans, I just amend them to make them more 'kid-friendly'.

Staying closer to home within the same time zone allows you to keep to a routine more easily and it also gives you the ability to drive to your destination, which means no luggage limit! However, cars can also mean bored and whiny little people. To combat this, we have a few top tips:

TIPS

1. Try set out at nap time or bedtime so they sleep for at least some of the journey.

2. Play games, too young for real I Spy? Play I Spy with colours, adapt as you go along.

3. Play a nursery rhyme CD. Sing along, do the actions, laugh!

4. Take regular breaks, stretch their legs, feed them, explore your surroundings you might find a hidden gem on the way to your final destination.



TOP DRIVING TIPS

TOP DRIVING TIPS, WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Here in Ireland and across the pond in the UK, we're no stranger to a cold winter (and not the warmest of summers either). This can cause difficulties being a driver on the roads, so whether it's de-icing your car on a chilly morning or driving carefully in torrential rain, you always need to know the best ways to keep you and your family safe.

We asked a selection of car experts and bloggers for their top tips on driving in a variety of different weathers, including fog, wind, rain and ice.

This collection of useful pointers will help keep you safe and prepared on the roads, whatever the weather.

TIPS AND TRICKS FROM THE CAR EXPERT

“One thing that constantly amazes me is the number of people who don’t make an effort to keep their windscreens clean. Being able to see clearly ahead of you is a critical safety issue, yet every day in winter I see drivers peering through small clear spots because they didn’t clear the ice off the whole windscreen, or they were in too much of a rush to wait a few minutes for the inside of the screen to demist before setting off.

Keeping your windscreen washer fluid topped up is key, because you use it a lot more during winter to deal with grit and grime thrown up off the road. Having your vision obscured by a dirty windscreen is unsafe, so you need to rectify it immediately before carrying on with your journey.”



TO STAY UNFROZEN...



IRISH CAR BLOGGER,
CAROLINE

(changinglanes.ie)

“To keep your car from freezing over, park your car in the direction of the morning sun so it will get a head start on defrosting!”



IRISH PARENT BLOGGER,
LAURA

(confessionsofanirishmammy.com)

“To warm up the car use a bucket of warm water (NOT hot or boiling) on the windows to get rid of any frost.”



LIFESTYLE BLOGGER,
KERRY

(fabuliciousfifty.com)

“When driving in icy conditions use your gears to slow down and keep away from the brake!”



IRISH PARENTING BLOGGER,
AILEEN

(oliviasmotherblog.com)

“Start the car 5 minutes before you leave the house for two reasons: 1. To heat it up and 2. So you don’t have to be sitting and waiting in a cold car for the windows to defrost!”

WHATEVER THE WEATHER...



WHEN THINGS GET FOGGY...

BLOGGER,
SANDRA
(chicest.co.uk)

“Give yourself plenty of space and keep your distance from the car in front.”



DRIVING IN THE RAIN...

IRISH BLOGGER,
SINÉAD
(bumblesofrice.com)

“Always use dipped headlights and stay well back from the car in front of you.”



ON THOSE BLUSTERY DAYS...

IRISH BLOGGER,
ELENA
(ruinireland.com)

“Keep both hands on the wheel as much as possible. Being in control of the wheel and paying attention to ergonomics makes you a much safer driver.”



KNOW YOUR CAR...

IRISH BLOGGER,
NICOLA
(www.ladynicci.com)

“Know where your fog lights are. They can be different in every car and you need to be able to find them, fast.”





SAFE DRIVING SUGGESTIONS FROM CHILL.IE:

Even in good weather conditions, it's important to take care on the roads. With this in mind, here are some general safety suggestions from the experts at chill.ie.

MAINTAINING YOUR CAR...

No one wants a vehicle breakdown, so to keep your car in working order it's important to conduct regular checks. For example, it's advisable to test your engine oil once a month. If it's below the safe level, you'll need to top it up. It's also recommended to check your coolant twice a year. You can do this by opening the radiator cap when your car's engine is cool. Keep an eye on your tyres as well. Over or underinflated tyres can affect fuel efficiency and safety, so they must be inflated to the correct pressure. You will find information on this in your vehicle handbook. Look out for wear and tear and signs of tyre punctures too.

STAYING FOCUSED...

Driving requires a lot of concentration, so don't get behind the wheel if you are feeling tired. If you start to become sleepy on a long journey, the safest thing to do is pull over in a suitable place and take a rest. It's also important to stay focussed and avoid distractions at all times when you're behind the wheel. Remember that even on sections of road that

you are very familiar with, problems can arise. This means it's vital that you always drive at a safe speed and are ready to respond quickly to unexpected events.

KEEPING CONTROL DURING A MOTORWAY BREAKDOWN...

Breaking down on any section of road can be stressful, but it's particularly difficult if you're on a motorway. If your vehicle develops problems while you're on one of these routes, do your best to keep a cool head. Rather than slamming the breaks on, try to move across to the slow lane safely and reduce your speed gradually. If you need to stop, indicate to move into the hard shoulder, giving as much notice to other motorists as you can. Bring your car to a halt as far to the left of this lane as possible and, once you are in a suitable position, turn your hazard lights on. You should then exit your car through the passenger side as soon as possible - no matter what the weather is doing. Once you are out of your vehicle, get off the road and call the emergency or breakdown services.



THANK YOU!

Thanks for taking the time to download and read this ebook.
We hope you have found the insights, tips and tricks useful
and will continue to stay safe on the roads while exploring
our stunning landscapes.

chill.ie

Chill
INSURANCE
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE