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An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The foreground shows dark, jagged rock formations jutting into the sea, with white foam from waves crashing against them. The middle ground features a narrow strip of land with green grass and some small buildings, bordered by steep cliffs. The background shows a vast expanse of the ocean under a heavy, grey, overcast sky. The overall mood is dramatic and wild.

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# Donegal


Best in Travel 2024

50 YEARS  
lonely planet  
OF TRAVEL

# BEST IN TRAVEL 2024

The best destinations, journeys and experiences, for the year ahead





*I love walking on Fintona Beach or watching the fishing boats come into Killybegs with their heavy loads. Killybegs is where you come to get away from it all and just breathe.*


**Maibead O'Hagan Anderson**, who with her husband runs the Seafood Shack and Anderson's Boat House Restaurant and accommodation in the fishing town of Killybegs.

and scenic electric 160-mile hours of Glenties National Park, rises that hug the coast around Mageesmagh and around of Tory islands.

The magnificent sea stack (rocky coastline) of Antrimore island is an unforgettable Donegal experience. The two-hour sea safari and maritime heritage tours that leave from the island run at a pace that is respectful to local wildlife, including seals, eagles and their young. The island is also introducing a guided tour for beginners and more experienced snorkelers.

And it's worth going to be in the quietest form of sea surfing, you've got to take to the waves. The McLeod Surf School is located on the coast from the wide expanse of Killybegs Beach.

**Neighbourhood food**  
From pop-ups to award-winning chefs who've moved back home to Donegal for wildlife balance, the county is brimming with local produce and experiences with a homespun feel.



**Since he took over the MICHEAL at the CROSS Glen Bar near Carrigan, head chef Cavan Sweeney started a food revolution, prompting chefs in the county to raise their game. Making use of local produce and fish off the boat several times a day, he has a renewed focus on unfussy but sharp food that's won a place in the MICHEAL guide. From the Seafood Bar in Donegal to NORA'S Spin (also in Carrigan) on the Inishowen Peninsula, chefs are cooking what's in season and available locally, but NORA'S award-winning seafood chowder served with wheaten bread.**

**Getting there**  
By car, Belfast City and Belfast International airports are a 2hr drive from Donegal's coast. Derry airport is a 3hr drive away. There are also bus links from major towns and cities.

**When to go**  
The summer months are busier with visitors, but winter offers opportunities for watching migratory birds. The Donegal Arts Festival in July celebrates local culture and language.

**Further reading**  
Cathal Conroy's *The Little Book of Donegal* is a pocket-size guide to folklore and customs, while Sean Beattie and Jim MacLaughlin's *An History, Environmental and Cultural Atlas of County Donegal* is the ultimate guide.

**IRISH DAILY Mirror**  
**Planet a trip to Donegal.**

**TRAVEL** Donegal has been named as the world's fourth-best region to visit in 2024, according to Lonely Planet's annual Best in Travel 2024 survey. The county is the only destination in Ireland to be ranked in the top five, with the award being bestowed on Donegal as the world's fourth-best region to visit in 2024. The award is based on the experiences of over 100,000 travellers who voted on the online survey. Donegal is the only Irish county to be ranked in the top five, with the award being bestowed on Donegal as the world's fourth-best region to visit in 2024. The award is based on the experiences of over 100,000 travellers who voted on the online survey.

**THE IRISH TIMES**



**Tourism**  
**Donegal ranked 'fourth-best region to visit' in world**

Donegal is among the best regions in the world to visit in 2024, according to Lonely Planet, the travel media company. Lonely Planet announced Donegal as the highest in Europe – and miles of unspoilt coastal hiking trails along the Wild Atlantic Way – are listed among the reasons for Donegal's inclusion on the list.

**Irish Daily Mail**

**It's grin up north! Donegal makes Lonely Planet top 5**

By Chloe O'Keeffe

**DONEGAL** has been named as the fourth-best place in the world to which to pay a visit next year by travel bible Lonely Planet. The leading travel guide looked at trends, destinations and experiences in regions for the coming year, with the county placed among the top five places in the world. Donegal earned praise for having 'the highest sea cliffs in Europe at Slabh Liag and miles of unspoilt coastal hiking trails along the Wild Atlantic Way.'

for the curious visitor.' Coming in ahead of Donegal was the Western Balkans' Trans Dinarica, Kangaroo Island's Cycling Route in Australia, and Tuscany in Italy. Alice Mansergh, chief executive designate of Tourism Ireland, welcomed the 'really great news'. Ms Mansergh said: 'It will surely help inspire international travellers to put Donegal and Ireland on their holiday wish-list for next year. It's another well-deserved accolade which will help position us well for 2024 and set us apart from competitor destinations.'

**Lonely Planet ranks Donegal as the fourth-best region to visit in the world!**

Renowned travel guide Lonely Planet has ranked Donegal, the only destination in Ireland, as the fourth best region in the world to visit



Garry Martin, Mary Daly, Margaret Sweeney, Martin Harley, Shane Smyth, Sarah Nolan, Marion Callaghan and James Cassidy, with the Top Region Lonely Planet award. Photo: Clive Wasson

FROM IRELAND GUIDE

Donegal is...a land of unspoilt splendour where stark peaks and sweeping beaches bask in glorious sunshine, and port-side restaurants serve fine food.





For Explorers Everywhere.

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