



D O L M E N
INSURANCE BROKERS

IRELAND'S BEST CAMPERVAN ROUTES

THE COMPLETE GUIDE

THE ESSENTIAL CAMPERVAN ROUTES GUIDE

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IRELAND'S ESSENTIAL CAMPERVAN ROUTES GUIDE

Exploring Ireland by campervan offers a truly special kind of freedom - one that invites you to slow down, take the scenic route, and experience the journey as much as the destination. From quiet coastal lanes along the Atlantic to the rolling landscapes of the inland countryside, every stop presents a new opportunity for adventure, discovery, and connection.

Whether you're planning a short weekend escape or setting out on a longer tour across Northern Ireland and the Republic, travelling by campervan allows you to set your own pace and uncover places that often lie beyond the well-trodden path. It's a way of travelling that brings flexibility, spontaneity, and a deeper appreciation of Ireland's natural beauty.

At Dolmen Insurance, we're proud to support a growing community of people travelling with their campervan and who are embracing this way of exploring. This guide has been created to both inspire and assist you, bringing together some of Ireland's most popular and rewarding routes alongside practical advice from experienced campervan users.

Within these pages, you'll find ideas to spark your next journey, along with helpful guidance on planning, packing, and making the most of every stop along the way. You can dive straight in and explore route ideas, hidden gems, and travel inspiration.

From preparation and route selection to seasonal tips and useful extras, this guide is designed to help you travel with confidence, comfort, and ease.

Wishing you safe travels and unforgettable experiences on the road ahead,

Paul Clements

Executive Director, Dolmen Insurance Brokers





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Preparing Your Campervan

For many people in Ireland, a campervan is more than just a vehicle - it's a gateway to adventure and the key to exploring at your own pace. Whether it's a self-build conversion, a factory-built motorhome, or a van you've upgraded over time, taking a little time to prepare your campervan before every trip ensures your journey is smooth, safe, and enjoyable.

Even experienced travellers benefit from a quick checklist. A well-prepared campervan can save you headaches on the road, prevent unexpected issues, and let you focus on the fun parts of your trip.



Mechanical & Safety Checks

Before you leave, make sure your campervan is in good working order:

- **Tyres** – Check pressure and tread.
- **Fluids** – Oil, coolant, and windscreen fluid levels.
- **Lights & Signals** – Headlights, indicators, brake lights, and interior lights.
- **Gas & Appliances** – Test your gas system, fridge, and any electrical appliances.
- **Water & Waste** – Sanitize tanks and ensure all waste systems are functioning.

These small steps can prevent bigger issues while you're on the road.

MYTH OR FACT?

Myth:

I don't need to check my campervan before every trip.

Fact:

Even experienced travellers benefit from a quick safety and equipment check - it can save time, stress, and unexpected costs on the road.

Interior Preparation

- Secure loose items to avoid damage while driving.
- Confirm bedding, kitchen supplies, and storage are ready.
- Restock your first aid kit and emergency equipment.
- Make sure all doors, windows, and hatches operate smoothly.
- Even seasoned campervan users often find a quick interior check helps everything feel ready for the journey ahead.

Documentation & Admin

- While this guide focuses on travel and routes, it's worth a quick reminder to check:
- Driver's licence and vehicle registration are up to date.
- Any campsite or ferry bookings are confirmed.
- Emergency contact numbers are saved and accessible.
- Maps or route apps are downloaded for offline use if needed.

Planning Your Trip

Even if your campervan is ready to go, a little planning can make the difference between a smooth journey and a stressful one. Overlooking simple details is one of the most common pitfalls, whether you're a first-time camper or a seasoned traveller.

Even occasional trips benefit from a quick checklist: confirming bookings, mapping your route, and thinking about seasonal conditions can save you time and frustration on the road. Planning doesn't take the adventure away - it simply helps you enjoy it more.

Common Prep Pitfalls

Overlooked Maintenance

- Double-check tyres, brakes, fluids, and lights before setting off. Even small issues can become bigger problems on long journeys.

Gear & Storage

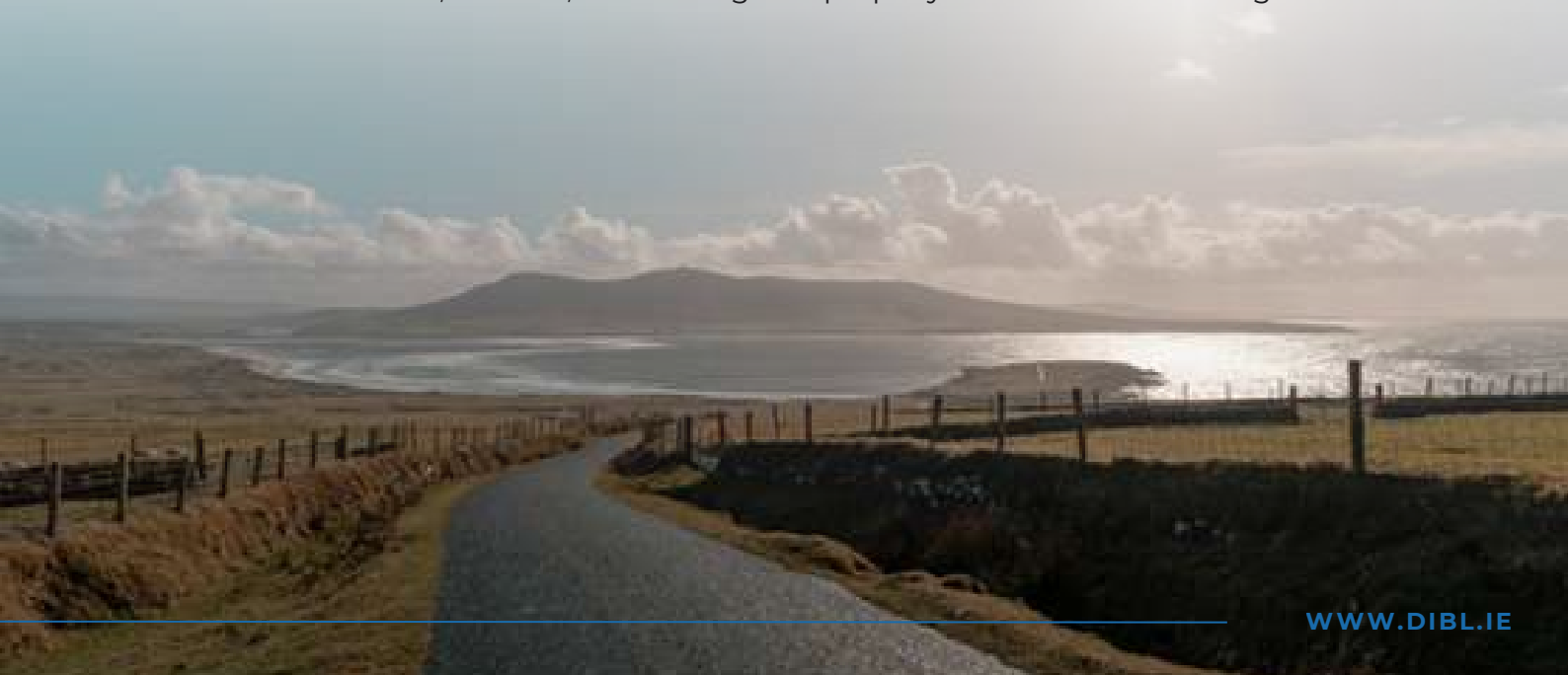
- Secure awnings, bikes, or extra furniture. Loose items can shift during travel and cause damage.
- Organise kitchen gear, bedding, and personal items so they're easy to access on the road.

Trip Essentials

- Confirm campsite bookings, ferry tickets, or any guided activities.
- Download offline maps or route apps - mobile coverage isn't guaranteed everywhere.

Weather & Seasonal Considerations

- Ireland's weather can change quickly. Check forecasts and pack for rain, wind, or cold snaps.
- Ensure windows, hatches, and awnings are properly secured before setting off.



Useful & Bonus Items to Bring

Even a well-prepared campervan can be improved with a few extra items. Some are practical, some make life more comfortable, and some are just nice-to-haves that turn a good trip into a great one.

Practical Extras

- **Levelling blocks** – essential for stable parking on uneven ground.
- **Extra water containers** – useful if campsites are full or you're travelling off-grid.
- **Tool kit & duct tape** – minor repairs happen, and being prepared saves hassle.
- **Portable power bank** – keeps devices charged when you're away from hook-ups.
- **Torch or headlamp** – invaluable for night-time trips or campsite tasks.

Tip: Pack these items in an easy-to-access location. Emergencies often happen when you least expect them.

Comfort Upgrades

- **Outdoor rug & foldable table** – create a pleasant outdoor space no matter where you stop.
- **Portable BBQ or small stove** – enjoy hot meals without relying solely on campsite facilities.
- **Extra blankets or cushions** – small comforts can make chilly nights much more enjoyable.
- **Fairy lights or small lanterns** – for a cozy atmosphere at your campsite.

Tip: Comfort items don't have to be heavy or bulky - think compact, multi-purpose items.

Seasonal Essentials

Summer / Spring:

- Bug spray & sun protection
- Cooler box or portable fridge
- Lightweight outdoor chairs or shade canopy

Autumn / Winter:

- Thermal layers and waterproof clothing
- Extra gas for heating appliances
- Dehumidifier or moisture absorbers for damp conditions

QUICK TIP

Rotate seasonal items as you pack. Keeping your campervan ready for the season prevents last-minute stress.

No Matter Your Insurance Needs, We've Got You Covered



Home Insurance

Protect your home and belongings with trusted insurance. Flexible cover for homes across Ireland. Expert advice from an Irish-based team.

[Get a quote](#)



Car Insurance

Drive with confidence knowing you're fully protected on the road.. Clear advice and flexible options. Support from a local team.

[Get a quote](#)



Life Insurance

Give your loved ones financial security and peace of mind for the future. Flexible cover to protect your family's future. Guidance from Irish-based experts you can trust.

[Get a quote](#)



Campervan Insurance

Cover your campervan and travel adventures with flexible, reliable insurance. Specialist cover for your home on wheels. Ireland & European driving options available.

[Get a quote](#)



Pensions

Plan ahead and secure your retirement with expert pension advice. We make pensions in Ireland simple, clear and tailored to your needs, whether you're just starting out, mid-career, or nearing retirement.

[Talk to our team](#)



Key / Fob Insurance

Protect yourself from the cost and hassle of lost or stolen car keys with quick, reliable cover. With Dolmen Insurance Keycare, you can enjoy 24/7 protection for just €25 per year.

[Get a quote](#)

What You Need to Know Before You Go

Ireland is one of the most rewarding places in Europe to explore by campervan - but it's not always as straightforward as it looks on Instagram.

A little local knowledge can make the difference between a stressful trip and a smooth, memorable adventure.

Expectation vs Reality

Expectation: Open, empty coastal roads.

Reality: Narrow lanes, blind bends, and the occasional sheep crossing.

Expectation: A quick drive between stops.

Reality: You'll want to pull in every 20 minutes for photos.

Expectation: Standard road rules everywhere.

Reality: Speed limits change from mph in Northern Ireland to km/h in the Republic.

None of this is a problem - it's part of the charm. You just need to allow for it.

MYTH OR FACT?

Myth:
You can park your campervan anywhere overnight.

Fact:
Parking rules vary - always check local signage.

Driving in Ireland: What Surprises People Most

- Rural roads can be narrow with limited passing space
- Coastal routes may be exposed to strong winds
- Fuel stations are less frequent in remote areas
- Mobile signal can drop along scenic stretches

None of this is a problem - it's part of the charm. You just need to allow for it.

Border Differences to Keep in Mind

If your route crosses between Northern Ireland and the Republic:

- Speed limits switch between mph and km/h
- Currency changes from Sterling to Euro
- Some insurance details may differ depending on your provider

It's a seamless border - but being aware avoids small mistakes.

Staying Overnight – Do It Right

Ireland is welcoming to campervans - but responsible travel keeps it that way.

- Book campsites in advance during summer
- Check height restrictions before arrival
- Dispose of waste at proper facilities
- Respect local parking rules

Leaving places as you found them ensures they remain open to future travellers.

Route 1:

The Wild Atlantic Way

The Wild Atlantic Way stretches along the entire west coast of Ireland, offering some of the most dramatic cliffs, sweeping beaches, and charming coastal towns in Europe. This route is perfect for those who love scenic drives, photo stops, and discovering hidden gems along the way. Whether you're a first-time camper or a seasoned traveller, the Wild Atlantic Way promises unforgettable views and experiences at every turn.



Quick Facts

Distance: 2,500 km

Best Time to Travel: Late spring to early autumn (milder weather, longer daylight)

Who It Suits: Families, couples, solo travellers, scenic drive enthusiasts

Road Type / Difficulty: Mostly main roads with occasional narrow coastal lanes; allow extra time for stops and photo opportunities



Must-See Highlights

Slieve League Cliffs, Donegal – Some of Europe's highest sea cliffs, perfect for breathtaking views.

Sligo Beaches & Coastal Towns – Surf, walking trails, and charming seaside villages.

Galway City & The Claddagh – Arts, music, seafood, and vibrant coastal culture.

Cliffs of Moher, Clare – Iconic cliffs with scenic coastal walks.

Ring of Kerry (Optional Detour) – Lush landscapes, historic towns, and panoramic drives.

Overnight / Campsites

Portsalon, Donegal – Quiet coastal campsite, ideal for sunset views.

Letterfrack, Connemara – Well-equipped site near walking trails and mountains.

Doolin, Clare – Perfect base for exploring the Cliffs of Moher and local music pubs.

Don't rush! The Wild Atlantic Way is about the views, not the miles.
Stop often - the best moments aren't always on the map.



Route 2:

Causeway Coastal Route

The Causeway Coastal Route stretches along the stunning north coast of Northern Ireland, offering dramatic cliffs, historic sites, and charming seaside villages. Perfect for a shorter trip or a scenic detour, this route combines breathtaking natural beauty with cultural highlights. Whether you're after iconic landmarks or peaceful coastal drives, the Causeway Coastal Route delivers unforgettable experiences.



Quick Facts

Distance: 200 km

Best Time to Travel: Late spring to early autumn (longer daylight, calmer weather)

Suggested duration: 2–4 days

Who It Suits: Families, couples, photographers, history and nature enthusiasts

Road Type / Difficulty: Mainly well-maintained coastal roads, occasional narrow lanes in villages



Must-See Highlights

Giant's Causeway, Antrim – UNESCO World Heritage site with iconic basalt columns.

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge – Thrilling coastal crossing with ocean views.

Dunluce Castle, Ballycastle – Dramatic cliff-top ruins with historic charm.

Bushmills & The Old Distillery – Famous whiskey distillery and quaint village.

Mussenden Temple, Downhill – Stunning cliff-top temple with panoramic views.

Overnight / Campsites

Whitepark Bay, Ballycastle – Quiet coastal campsite near beach and walking trails.

Carnalea, Portrush – Family-friendly site close to town amenities and local attractions.

Ballygally, Larne – Seaside camping with easy access to scenic stops along the route.

Take it slow and leave room for detours. The Causeway Coastal Route is packed with photo opportunities and short scenic walks - plan extra time to soak it all in.



Route 3: Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry is one of Ireland's most famous driving routes, circling the Iveragh Peninsula in County Kerry. From rugged coastlines and lush mountains to charming towns and historic sites, this route is perfect for those who want a complete taste of Ireland's natural beauty. Ideal for campers, it offers a mix of adventure, culture, and breathtaking scenery at every turn.



Quick Facts

Distance: 179 km

Best Time to Travel: Late spring to early autumn (longer daylight, calmer weather)

Suggested duration: 2–4 days

Who It Suits: Families, couples, photographers, history and nature enthusiasts

Road Type / Difficulty: Mainly well-maintained coastal roads, occasional narrow lanes in villages



Must-See Highlights

Moll's Gap – Panoramic mountain views along the Iveragh Peninsula.

Ladies View – Famous viewpoint offering sweeping vistas of lakes and mountains.

Killarney National Park – Lakes, woodlands, and historic Muckross House.

Kenmare & Sneem Villages – Quaint towns with colourful streets, cafes, and local crafts.

Skellig Ring Detour – Dramatic coastal roads leading to Skellig Michael (World Heritage Site).

Overnight / Campsites

Fossa, Kerry – Peaceful campsite close to Killarney National Park.

Kenmare, Kerry – Family-friendly site near the town with local amenities.

Sneem, Kerry – Scenic site along the route, ideal for short hikes and exploring villages.

Start early each day to avoid traffic and make the most of photo stops. The Ring of Kerry is best enjoyed slowly, with plenty of time to soak in the scenery.



Route 4:

Dingle Peninsula

The Dingle Peninsula offers one of Ireland's most breathtaking coastal drives, combining dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and vibrant Irish-speaking culture. Smaller and more manageable than longer routes, it's ideal for a relaxed campervan escape filled with scenic stops, traditional music, and unforgettable Atlantic views.



Quick Facts

Distance: 47 km
(Slea Head Drive loop)

Suggested Duration: 2–3 days

Best Time to Travel: Late spring to early autumn (clearer views and longer daylight)

Who It Suits: Couples, photographers, culture lovers, relaxed road-trippers

Road Type / Difficulty: Narrow coastal roads in sections; take care on tight bends



Must-See Highlights

Slea Head Drive – One of Ireland's most scenic coastal loops.

Dunquin Pier – Iconic winding pier with dramatic Atlantic backdrop.

Inch Beach – Long sandy beach perfect for walks and surfing.

Conor Pass – High mountain pass with sweeping panoramic views.

Dingle Town – Colourful harbour town known for seafood and traditional music.

Overnight / Campsites

Fleming's White Bridge, Dingle – Quiet riverside site close to town.

Inch Beach Campsite – Coastal camping with direct beach access.

Camp Village, Kerry – Peaceful base between Tralee and Dingle.

Drive Slea Head clockwise where possible - it's the recommended direction and makes narrow sections easier to navigate.



Route 5:

The Antrim Glens & Causeway Coast Extension

Beyond the famous highlights of the Causeway Coastal Route lies a quieter stretch of Northern Ireland known as the Glens of Antrim. This route blends peaceful green valleys with rugged coastline, offering a slower, more relaxed campervan experience. Ideal for those who want scenic drives without the crowds, it delivers natural beauty at every turn.



Quick Facts

Distance: 150 km
(Slea Head Drive loop)

Suggested Duration: 2–3 days

Best Time to Travel: Late spring to early autumn

Who It Suits: Nature lovers, relaxed travellers, photographers

Road Type / Difficulty: Well-maintained roads with winding rural sections through valleys



Must-See Highlights

The Glens of Antrim – Nine lush valleys with scenic viewpoints and waterfalls.

Glenariff Forest Park – Walking trails, waterfalls, and peaceful woodland drives.

Torr Head Scenic Route – Narrow coastal road with views toward Scotland.

Cushendun Village – Quiet seaside village with historic charm.

Carnlough Harbour – Small harbour town perfect for a relaxed stop.

Overnight / Campsites

Glenariff Caravan Park – Set within forest park surroundings

Cushendall Holiday Park – Seafront camping with mountain backdrop.

Ballygally, Larne – Coastal site with easy access to both glens and cliffs.

Take the smaller scenic detours through the glens - they're quieter than the main coastal road and often the most memorable part of the journey.



Make the Most of your Campervan Journey

Exploring Ireland by campervan gives you the freedom to travel at your own pace, discover hidden places, and experience the country in a way that traditional holidays rarely allow. Whether you're following one route or combining several, the most memorable trips are often shaped by flexibility, curiosity, and a willingness to take the scenic road. Here are some final tips we think could help you travel Ireland with confidence



Take Your Time - Ireland's coastal and rural roads are made for slow travel. Allow extra time for stops, viewpoints, and unexpected detours - they often become the highlights of the trip.

Stay Flexible - Weather, local events, and simple curiosity can all change your plans. Keeping your itinerary flexible helps you enjoy the journey without feeling rushed.

Support Local Communities - Stopping in small towns, eating in local cafés, and staying in local campsites helps support the communities that make these routes so special - and often leads to the most authentic experiences.

Respect the Environment - Ireland's landscapes are one of its greatest assets. Dispose of waste responsibly, follow campsite guidelines, and be mindful of where you park to help preserve these places for future travellers.



Thank You for Reading

We hope this guide has helped you plan your campervan journey and inspired you to explore more of Ireland's incredible landscapes, coastal drives, and welcoming towns.

Travelling by campervan offers a unique way to experience the country - giving you the freedom to follow your own route, discover hidden gems, and take your time along the way.

If you'd like more advice, travel inspiration, or guidance on protecting your campervan, our team is always here to help.



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***Under Irish skies, even the simplest
campervan stop becomes
unforgettable!***

Paul Clements

Executive Director, Dolmen Insurance Brokers



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