

RESOURCE LIST

Ireland: Literature, History, and Culture

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This list was compiled in the hopes that you would find it useful in preparing yourself for departure or in continuing the learning experience after you return home.

Guide Books

A guide book will go a long way in answering many of your general questions about what things to do and where to eat during your free time. It will also typically provide a few words and phrases, sometimes a tip on pronunciation, and other useful things such as tipping guidelines, how best to obtain money, and maps.

Keep in mind that your faculty leaders will not know the cities like the back of their hand. They are present to help influence the group experience, not to be an expert on tourism in each location. Thus, we recommend bringing a guidebook to help you make decisions about your free time. You can find all the standards, such as *DK Eyewitness Guides*, *Fodor's*, *Frommer's*, *Insight Guides*, *Lonely Planet*, *Rick Steves*, and *Rough Guides*.

General

The Happy Traveler: Unpacking the Secrets of Better Vacations, by Jaime Kurtz

A psychology professor applies research on happiness and decision-making to enhance the experience of travel.

Travel as a Political Act, by Rick Steves

I've been sharing this same idea with travelers for years, captured here in the summary on amazon.com: "By sharing his experiences from Europe, Central America, Asia, and the Middle East, Rick shows how we can learn more about own country by viewing it from afar."

Two articles, each about a 3–4 minute read:

"What is Cultural Appreciation (And How It's Different From Cultural Appropriation)?"

<https://preemptivelove.org/blog/what-is-cultural-appreciation/>

"The Difference Between Cultural Appropriation and Cultural Appreciation"

<https://passionpassport.com/cultural-appropriation-appreciation/>

~ Heidi Quiram P '21, Director of Alumni & Family Travel

The following list was prepared by your faculty leader.

Nonfiction - History and General Interest

Thomas Bartlett, *Ireland: A History*. There are a number of books that provide an overview of the history of Ireland. This is a rather lengthy academic history, similar to what you might expect in a college course.

R.F. Foster, *Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland, 1890-1923*. An engaging overview of the decades that set Ireland on a path to the establishment of the Republic.

Fintan O'Toole, *We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Modern Ireland*. Fintan O'Toole is a journalist who has been chronicling events in Ireland for many decades. In this recently published book, he tells his own story in relation to the place of his birth.

Patrick Radden Keefe, *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*. A suspenseful and fascinating picture of the Troubles and their aftermath.

J.M. Synge, *The Aran Islands*. This book, written about a century ago by a famous Irish playwright, played a crucial role in drawing attention to the Aran Islands.

Drama, Fiction, and Poetry

Samuel Beckett, *Murphy*. Along with Joyce and Yeats, Samuel Beckett is one of the most influential Irish writers of the twentieth century. The Irish dimension of Beckett's plays, poems, and fiction is not always obvious, but *Murphy* is a distinctly Irish novel (and more accessible than some of his other writings).

Roddy Doyle, *The Commitments* or any of his other novels.

Wes Davis (editor), *An Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry*. This is a massive anthology, but it provides a very comprehensive selection of twentieth- and twenty-first century Irish poetry.

John P. Harrington (editor), *Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*. Reading plays is not for everyone, but drama has been an important genre in Ireland, and many Irish plays offer a window into Irish history and culture.

Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground: Selected Poems, 1966-1996* or another edition of Heaney's poetry. Seamus Heaney was the most celebrated Irish poet of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. I'd recommend starting with this collection if you are new to his work. His essays are also recommended. James Joyce, *Dubliners*. A short story collection. An accessible and entertaining introduction to Joyce's writing. Highly recommended.

James Joyce, *Ulysses*. A notoriously challenging book, but a book that captures Joyce's deep affection for the Dublin of his youth. If you find yourself in need of help, there are a number of guides (books and online resources) that provide summaries of chapters and/or explanations of Joyce's references.

Medbh McGuckian, *The Unfixed Horizon: New Selected Poems*. A selection of poems from one of Ireland's outstanding contemporary female poets. Includes a helpful introduction to her writing.

Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, *The Water Horse*. If you are curious about contemporary writers who work in the Irish language and make use of Irish myth and legend, this is a good place to start. Don't worry, the poems in the Wake Forest University Press edition have been translated into English.

W. B. Yeats, *Selected Poems* or *Collected Poems*. Various editions are available. Selected poems will offer Yeats's most famous poems. Collected poems will include all of his work. Another option would be *The Yeats Reader: A Portable Compendium of Poetry, Drama, and Prose*, if you want to get a sense for his writing in a variety of genres.

Film

Here is a small selection of Irish films from recent decades:

Angela's Ashes (1999)

The Banshees of Inisherin (2022)

Bloody Sunday (2002)

Brooklyn (2015)

The Commitments (1991)

Hunger (2008)

In the Name of the Father (1993)

The Magdalene Sisters (2002)

Michael Collins (1996)

My Left Foot (1989)

Once (2007)

Sing Street (2016)

The Wind that Shakes the Barley (2006)