



WHAT'S FOR DINNER? >>

Many traditional foods evolved from this country's poorer past. For example, no part of the pig goes to waste—people here use "everything but the grunt."



TRAVEL TIP >>

Don't turn down a spot of tea. The people here are famous for their tea-making and enjoyment of this afternoon beverage with friends.



HELLO! >>

English is widely spoken here, although it has a unique flavor. Canadians might confuse the accent with Scottish English.



LOOK FOR THIS >>

Drive the Ring of Kerry, a circular road trip that takes visitors past ancient monuments, stone castles, spectacular gardens and charming villages.



BRING THIS >>>

A raincoat. The Atlantic Ocean brings plenty of rainfall to this country. The result is lush greenery. They don't call this place the Emerald Isle for nothing.



CHECK IN > DAY ONE

CULTURE >

You may know that St. Patrick's Day originated in Ireland, but do you know why? Patrick, a Roman citizen in England, was kidnapped at age 16. He was a slave in Ireland until he escaped at age 22. Later, he returned as a missionary to this Emerald Isle where he used the shamrock to teach about the Trinity (three in one concept). Some think the shamrock is the symbol of Ireland, but it's not. The national symbol is the harp.

PLAY >

"Mr. Fox" is a version of tag. One player is Mr. Fox, while others stand in a line about 20 feet away from Mr. Fox, whose back is turned. The players ask, "What time is it, Mr. Fox?" Fox replies, "1 o'clock." Players step forward, repeating the question each step they take until Mr. Fox answers, "Dinner time!" The players scatter, with Mr. Fox chasing them. The first person tagged is the Fox. Thank God for laughter and fun times together (**Proverbs 17:22**).

LAYOVER > DAY TWO

LANGUAGE >

What would life be without such simple words as *yes* and *no?* In the Irish language, those two words don't exist. People need to restate the verb used in the question. If someone asks whether you've had lunch, you wouldn't say, "Yes!" Instead, you'd say, "I ate lunch at home," or something similar. Answers are more detailed.



ACTIVITY >

As a family, try going a whole day without using "yes" or "no." You might find yourself saying more to each other than you normally do!

PRAY >

There are sure a lot of beautiful cathedrals in Ireland. Sadly, many are no longer used to worship God. Pray for Focus on the Family Ireland as it strives to help Irish people recognize that life is a gift from God.