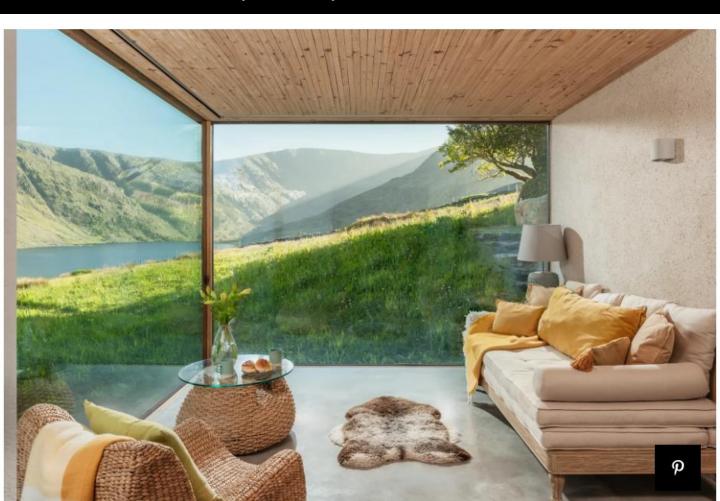


## The best holiday homes in Ireland

From minimalist island escapes and tucked-away cottages to retro lakeside cabins and eco farmstays, these are our pick of the best holiday homes to book in Ireland



Unique Homestays

## Limehouse Cottage, Co Kerry

This sensitively restored whitewashed cottage is all about the epic setting, looking onto dark-asporter Coomasaharn Lake with the heather-covered mountains sloping gently in the background. For those who get their kicks from cold-water swimming, there's a path down to the shore, and for warming the bones up again afterwards there's an outdoor bath hewn from a rock - surely Ireland's best tub with a view. Inside, the one-bedroom hideaway feels bigger than it first appears, with thick walls finished in traditional lime plaster, exposed gnarled beams and textured upholstery in shades and green. The flame-scorched open hearth looks like it has borne witness to many fireside tales, and at the other end of the cottage, a modern glass extension is a wonderfully framed spot for reading the latest holiday page-turner. Nearby, the village of Glenbeigh – a stopping off point for hikers on the Kerry Way hiking trail – has atmospheric

Sleeps: Two

**Price:** Three nights from £1,150

pubs and a pizzeria/deli that stocks artisan Irish products.



shores of Lough Ree has the vibe of an Upstate New York hideaway. Tongue and groove walls and white-painted exposed beams bounce the light around the space, and retro crockery and fabrics give an authentic feel. A wood-burner and cocktail trolley provide warming distraction on rainy days, and kingfishers are regular sightings from the large deck. Originally a holiday hideaway and then a fishing cabin, it was transformed by its interior designer owners and has won plaudits such as Irish Home of the Year. But the location is the real scene stealer: for kayaking and swimming in the lake just steps away; woodland walks amid towering hazel, beech and oak; sipping pints in the pubs of nearby Glasson; sailing trips on the Shannon.

**Sleeps:** Four

**Price:** £1,250 per short break

BOOK YOUR STAY: UNIQUE HOMESTAYS