

# 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-as-porter 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 of 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 pubs and a pizzeria/deli that stocks artisan Irish products.

**Sleeps:** Two

**Price:** Three nights from £1,150

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## Walden Lakehouse, Co Westmeath

With its festoon-hung deck and setting amid the trees, this reimagined '60s lakehouse on the 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

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