

Weekend City Breaks: 3 Irish cities vs. 3 European cities

Comparison of costs for a weekend break (Sat-Mon or Fri-Sun). Putative dates: 1-3 or 2-4 July 2005. Booking 3-4 weeks in advance.

	DUB-CORK	GALWAY-DUB	DUB-GALWAY	DUB-AMSTERDAM	DUB-PRAGUE	DUB-BARCELONA
Travel to destination (total for 2 adults)	Rail = €113 Air = €233	Rail = €84 Air = €258	Rail = €84 Air = €214	€270 (Transavia w/ gohop to Rotterdam) €394 (Aer Lingus)	€493 (Aer Lingus) €646 (CZA w/ ebookers)	€610 (Ryanair) €865 (Aer Lingus)
3* Hotel (double room, per night)	€115 (Gresham Metro) €115 (Jury's Inn - N/A) €125 (Commons Inn)	€145 (Grafton Capitol) €150 (Frederic Handel)	€145 (Imperial Hotel) €150 (Brennan's Yard) €212 (4* Great Southern)	€103 - €150	€98 - €143 €63 (3* floating hotel!)	€85 - €140
Do-It-Yourself COST (2 flights or rail tickets, 2N B&B in 3* hotel)	€343 (rail) €463 (air)	€374 (rail) €548 (air)	€384 (rail) €514 (air)	€490 (average hotel €110 p.n.)	€703 (average hotel €105 p.n.)	€830 (average hotel €110 p.n.)
Transfer from airport (one-way cost)	--	€6 Airlink €1.40 public bus	--	€3 Rail Link €15 (Rotterdam shuttle, 70mins)	€3 Express bus €0.50 public bus	€3.50 Express bus €11 (from Girona, 75mins)
Public Transport	--	€10 (bus only 3-day rambler)	--	€6.50 (integrated 15- journey book tix)	€6.50 (integrated 3-day pass)	€6.30 (integrated 10- journey book tix)
Food				Beer slightly cheaper	Beer/wine much cheaper	Beer/wine much cheaper
Stats from 2004 survey of 15 European cities of average restaurant prices (by Swedish Tourist Authority)	--	--	--	6 th highest	Lowest average restaurant prices of 15 cities	Second lowest average restaurant prices of 15 cities
Special Packages	Irish Railbreaks €358 (Gresham Metro: 2N B&B, Rail ticket) €306 (Jury's Inn - N/A: 2N B&B + Rail ticket) Ireland.ie €300 (Best Western: 2N B&B, 1D)	Irish Railbreaks €448 (4* Burlington: 2N B&B, Rail ticket) Ireland.ie N/A	Irish Railbreaks €274 (Imperial: 2N B&B, Rail ticket) €316 (4* Great Southern: 2N B&B + Rail ticket) Ireland.ie €360 (Ross Lake HH 22km outside city: 2N B&B, 1D)	cityscapes.ie €892 (Online booking, incl. flights + 2N B&B) Clubtravel.ie €?? (advertise €630, but subject to avail)	cityscapes.ie €895 (Online booking, incl. flights + 2N B&B) Clubtravel.ie €820 (not much availability, "need to book 3 months in advance", 30JUN-3JUL available)	cityscapes.ie €?? (no flights available) Clubtravel.ie €?? (advertise €820, but subject to avail)
Which is cheaper?	DIY	DIY	Railbreak	DIY	DIY	DIY
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Ireland.ie breaks include one dinner Cheaper to book Irish hotels through hotelclub.net website than to call up hotel directly. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All travel agents prices are FROM prices. Usually more expensive w/ weekend supplements. Ebookers.ie and flyingvisits.ie also offer European city breaks Competitive direct flights available to Budapest, Dubrovnik and Copenhagen (flysnowflake.com). Flights sourced through Ryanair, Aer Lingus, Ebookers.ie and GoHop.ie. Hotels through www.hotelclub.net 		