



Jaywalking with the Irish

David Monagan, Lonely Planet

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David Monagan has always dreamed of relocating to Ireland, the land of his forebears. With humour and candour, he describes the pleasures and pitfalls, challenges and frustrations of moving a feisty family to a foreign land. Jaywalking with the Irish is an honest, penetrating and often hilarious portrait of a contemporary Ireland that is so often portrayed through the wistful lens of clichés that no longer apply

Jaywalking with the Irish Details

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From Reader Review Jaywalking with the Irish for online ebook

Erin says

The author is an Irish-American writer who moves from Connecticut to Cork, Ireland with his wife and three children. The story is a fish-out-of-water tale that provides a lot of humor and insight about the Irish people. It really made me rethink some of my naive assumptions about whether or not you'd be embraced in Ireland just because you have Irish roots, and also how frustrating it would be to try to start a new life in a foreign country. I enjoyed this book and definitely recommend it.

Jeff says

I found it next to the Fodors Guide at the library while planning a trip to western Ireland, and thought it would be a good read while traveling there. It was a warm introduction to the overall feeling of being among Irish people in the non-Dublin parts, and felt very familiar, even though we never made it to the Cork region that the book focuses on. Good character studies and an easy, enjoyable read.

Michelle says

Paints a realistic picture of how a family adapts to relocation in Ireland. The author compares the Ireland he knew while attending college and his dream to relocate there to the reality in its present-day culture. The author focuses on increased crime, alcoholism and xenophobia in a wealthier Ireland and how the country is slowly losing its Irishness with the economic prosperity. One interesting comment made was how it is turning into the 52nd state. While visiting Ireland briefly, I was sad to see that in a lot of ways, its own culture is being absorbed by an increasing present American influence ie McDonalds, Asda (aka Walmart), KFC. At the same time, it was nice to smell turf fires burning and how people would greet each other on the street and make visitors feel welcome. I love the comparison he makes to his home in Connecticut and describes society in that east coast state. He is spot on when he says that people act indifferent and it is a sign of greatness and how he missed his neighbors and friends in Ireland who were warm and loved to carry on conversations.

Glad I read it.

Oscar Maquito says

* 4.2/5

Bianca says

Man moves family to Cork, tries to pitch a local magazine, fails, eventually they move back to States. I wanted to like this, and I wanted to feel like I was getting a good idea of the people in that area of Ireland, but instead I felt this was more about this man and his family than Ireland itself. Sure, Ireland plays a big role, but it's the Ireland he chooses to see (mostly through rose-tinted glasses) and isn't until toward the end that he begins to see the "true" side of things.

Diana says

Mr. Monagan has written an impossible book: a book about Ireland without any charm whatsoever. I slogged through the book & after finishing it, I had three thoughts: 1) If you are going to have a mid-life crisis, try not to involve your family. 2) I would love to see what his family thought of the adventure. 3) The man really likes to drink. I found this book to be shallow & indulgent. I wish I could get a refund.

Mickie says

He writes in a way that is much like how he describes the Irish--fickle, mercurial and in double-speak. He seems to love them and hate them, fear them and pity them, romanticize them and put them down. I am not sure what to take from this book. I feel like the Irish should have been given a rebuttal.

Jacquie Jerrard says

Wonderful

A story of aspiration moving from one country's culture, to one where you are not accepted until they know you. Here is the story of friendship, history, and the all encompassing Irish sense of humour I loved it.

Jim Reaugh says

I was first interested in this book for the sheer boldness of a family uprooting themselves to move to the Emerald Isle. I have often dreamed of doing this very thing...however, sanity does prevail!

I enjoyed this biographic book for its presentation of very many quirky characters but especially for its welcome, insightful, and clearly focused update on a country too often looked at through rose-colored North American lenses.

I also enjoyed the lexicon used! I have expanded my vocabulary with every chapter...although I wonder if some of these new words are a wee bit Oirish...

Mike Collins says

Delightful Writing

I greatly enjoyed this collection of, essentially, essays on moving to and living in Ireland. The author's choice of words and phrases is inspiring and leaves me wanting to be able to replicate his style and vocabulary. Overall, for an Irish-American who's only visited Ireland for 7 days, this was a very enjoyable book.

Ellanden says

A good travel read...wonderful anecdotes about places visited, people met and intermingled with just the right amount of history.

Still confused as to "why" the author moved to and from. Found his annoyance with changes or anything that did not fit his memory/stories off putting. Time can not stand still and change, good or bad, happens. Seemed a bit arrogant for a briefly transplanted American. No wonder the Irish aren't as enamored of Americans as we'd like...they must be tired of all the mid-life crisis Yanks showing up ready to be inspired and inspire the Irish to keep everything as it was...only to leave after a brief stint.

Kristin says

This is a touching, at times a little boring, account of an American family moving to Cork, Ireland. They deal with a lot of the outsider issues that pop up for anyone that lives abroad, but deal in Irish quirkiness the most. I was ready to pick up and move to Ireland after reading about how in Cork "people are valued for being unpredictable, for being chancers and dreamers and misfits, and above all for being characters. If you are odd [t]here, you might fit in." Such is the romantic picture he painted of a place unlike any other place on earth. Of course, that's true of every place: that it's, in some small way at least, unlike any other place on earth. But a city of misfits and dreamers? I will definitely be planning a future holiday there.

I also love the following exchange, being a bit (okay, sorely) lacking in irreverent humor lately:

"Did you know that the sun is a nuclear weapon?"

"I never heard that, no."

"Well, it is, and if you are against nuclear power, you are then against the sun, and therefore you want to be dead."

"The only time I want to be dead is when I am listening to you."

Biblioixen says

Not a terrible book. It has solid writing. My interest just waned mid-book.

Nicole says

I bought and read this book while I was in Ireland. I wish I would have read it before I'd gone. Because it is written from a point of view that I could relate to, it gave me an insight into the Irish sensibilities (they'll gladly discuss any topic as long as it isn't about themselves). I had just finished the 5th chapter while I was sitting in a pub in Dingle and struck up a conversation with a local at the end of the bar. I made what I thought was a harmless joke about how he takes his coffee is how he likes his women (hot and bitter) and he did NOT like that. See if I'd only read the book BEFORE going and not during my trip, I wouldn't have put my foot in my mouth, as much.

Teresacooks says

I tried to read this book but was too bored. Then I moved to Ireland for a year and tried to read it again. I think I hate his pompous writing style. Cramming as many big words as you can into a sentence doesn't always make them good. Or interesting. Can't muster enough interest to keep with it even now.
