

# 2011 - IRELAND

28 June 2011



29 hours to fly from Dublin to Brisbane. Just imagine that - 29 hours!! Enough time (and inclination) to watch 7 movies!!

## Homeward Bound

### MOTORHOMES

After hiring 5 motorhomes in 2 years we are somewhat qualified to give advice on things to look out for. Here is our priority of things to be watchful about van design and, most importantly, the extras that should be "supplied" with the van to make your trip more memorable.

#### Van:

1. Consider the turning circle - it will save an awful lot of frustration
2. You should not have to read a manual to make up a double bed - it should be bleeding obvious and very easy.
3. Ensure the water in your water tank is not liable to slosh out while driving.
4. Hot water and space heating should be dual - electric AND gas.
5. Diesel is more economical than petrol.
6. Overhead beds are for agile people.

#### Extras:

1. The pillows should be comfortable, not pieces of thin wadding (especially if you have paid for them as an extra).
2. The van should have maps AND caravan park book at no extra cost.
3. There should be a mirror in the van (either in bathroom or in driver's cabin).
4. Kitchen washing up items and long handle broom should be standard.
5. Decent cutlery with serrated, bread, and vegetable knives. Vital to also have some plastic storage containers.



## LAST DAY IN IRELAND

The weather today is absolutely BEAUTIFUL !!!!! Full sun and a warm 22 degrees. We woke late and started to clean the van and pack our bags. There was no rush but we had to make sure our bags were not over the weight limit. We saw another similar van to ours from Bunk so I went over to have a chat. They were from France so their english was not so good. I asked them how they fared with their two young children, in such a confined space, for the 3 weeks. She made some comment about "Irish weather" which I will not repeat while he, the driver, complained about the turning circle of the van. "Sacre blu". I noticed that their front driver's side mirror and bumper bar were a little worse for wear. We swapped some more small talk and I decided to leave them to clean up the van as they too were leaving today.

## FELLOW MOTORHOMERS

We have found that if we make the effort to have a chat most caravaners will willingly carry on a conversation. Trouble is that we usually start this conversation when we are about to leave. Because the weather has been so inclement people seldom venture outside in the evenings and we are not keen to disturb them or knock on their door and



say "can we talk". The topics of conversation are always the same anywhere - children, retirement, politics, immigration, economics and taxes. People are intrigued about Australia but at least one in every two persons we have spoken to have either been to the land of OZ (or NZ) or know someone who's been there.

## MOTORHOME VANS

There are some huge vans on the roads in Ireland. How they get around is beyond me. This is particularly so on the western coast. We were warned (maybe incorrectly) that Irish roads are far too treacherous for large motorhomes. That is the reason why we opted for a narrow one. Although we did not have any problems, I imagine driving a larger

van in some areas would be very stressful. Anyway we will be glad to get back to our little Avan caravan back in Brisbane. After traveling 1000 kms a week for 3 months it will take us 29 hours to fly the 16,671 kms to get home.

Cheers from Heather and Sigg.

### Detailed 7-day Forecast

**Today...**Numerous showers until midday...then numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.

**Tonight...**Cloudy with scattered rain showers. Lows in the mid 50s. West winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

**Friday...**Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday Night...**Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday...**Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to around 25 mph.

**Saturday Night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

**Sunday Night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

**Monday...**Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.





### Summary

Petrol - \$1,887  
Airfares - \$4,400  
Broadband - \$164  
Accommodation - \$1,920  
Food and eating out - \$2,300  
Ferries and public transport - \$1,098  
Camping fees - \$1,337 (\$27 per night average)  
Total kilometers traveled in motorhome - 12,580

