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The Kildare Hotel

Kildare, Ireland

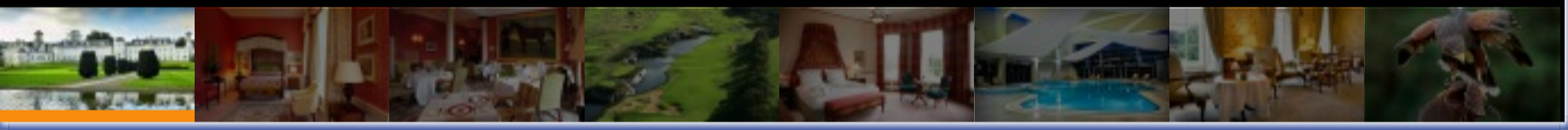
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Set on 550 acres, this Georgian mansion is a lavish country retreat 30 minutes west of Dublin.





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Sprawling Georgian mansion with opulent interiors, a Ryder Cup golf course and a 20,000-square-foot spa

 **Jetsetter Verified**
Our editors have been here and it has met our standards

 **Fullscreen Gallery**
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 **TripAdvisor Rating**

417 Reviews

What we love

- The Jetsetter rate includes Irish breakfast and a 20 percent discount on spa treatments
- Grand country estate with garden and river views and luxe, color-saturated interiors
- Two Arnold Palmer—designed golf courses; the Palmer course hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup

What to know

- Golfers should book tee times in advance and wear proper attire: collared shirts and tailored shorts
- The property is popular for weddings, so you may share the bar with a crowd of new friends
- The Byerly Turk restaurant is open Wednesday through Sunday; men must wear a jacket and tie

From **\$221** / night Hotel website \$316/night
Lowest available rate for this sale

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- Afternoon tea in the elegant Chinese drawing room, with hand-painted wallpaper and Waterford crystal chandeliers

- WiFi is complimentary
- Museum-quality art collection, including paintings by Ireland's best-known artist, Jack B. Yeats



The Look

Rolling green fields and wispy weeping willows along the River Liffey set the pastoral stage for this restored 19th-century Georgian mansion in County Kildare. Set on 550 acres, the Kildare Hotel, Spa & Country Club, affectionately known as the K Club, is a luxe but laid-back golf and spa retreat. The interiors, by Dublin-based Peter Johnson, mix colorful fabrics (rich tones of red, green and blue) with traditional dark wood furniture and 16th-century antiques, and the lavish public spaces feature ornate ceilings bedecked with crystal chandeliers and fireplaces framed by carved mantles. The walls are adorned with museum-worthy oil paintings by Irish masters and contemporary artists.

Bed and Bath

The hotel's 69 unique guestrooms, including nine suites, are spacious (400 to 440 square feet) and comfortably appointed in country manor style. Tall windows swathed in formal curtains open to views of the gardens and river. Original oil paintings and prints framed in gold are arranged on wallpapered walls while the four-poster and canopy beds are outfitted with Frette linens and floral spreads. The bathrooms feature hand-painted murals and Irish-made Voya bath products.

Beyond

Designed by golfing legend Arnold Palmer, the hotel's two courses are among Europe's best. Tee off on the Palmer Course, which hosted the Ryder Cup in 2006, or practice your swing on the Smurfit Course, the setting for several European championships. Aspiring horticulturists can take a 30-minute garden walk that meanders along the banks of the Liffey. Anglers can cast their lines into the river in the hope of catching a plump wild brown trout or into the estate's stocked lakes for rainbows and perch. Country pursuits such as falconry, clay pigeon shooting, and horseback riding are also available. The 20,000-square-foot K Spa offers treatments that incorporate organic seaweed oil. Sip an Irish whiskey at the Vintage Crop bar before settling in for a multi-course dinner at the fabulously formal Byerly Turk, rich with brocade wall coverings, Irish crystal, and monogrammed linens.

In the Area

Along with golf, Kildare is renowned for its thoroughbreds. Visitors can learn about famous horses at the **Irish National Stud** by wandering among paddocks. Two prominent gardens are nearby: the **Japanese Gardens** and St. Fiachara's Garden, designed in 1999 by Martin Hallinan to pay homage to the patron saint of gardeners. During the summer months, the **Butterfly Farm** in Straffan is all aflutter. A handful of local gastropubs, such as **Harte's of Kildare**, offer respite with hearty fare and Irish brews. Dublin is a 22-mile drive to the east.

— Kim Fredericks



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