



Irish Examiner

Romantic Irish breaks

Want to stay closer to home for Valentines? There are plenty of options, writes **Ciara McDonnell**

Time may not be on your side, but if you need to make a big Valentine's splash this year, then we've got you covered with nine of the most romantic Irish **hotel** breaks on offer.

Cliff Hanger

If a five star break is on the cards then look no further than the Cliff House **Hotel** in Ardmore, Co Waterford.

We recommend booking into a sea-view room. Try a couples massage at The Well Spa and round the day off with a Michelin-star meal in House Restaurant.

Overnight and breakfast for two costs from €205 mid-week, and couple's spa treatments are from €65 per person.

■ cliffhousehotel.ie

The Whole Package

The Twelve in Bearna is known for doing things differently, and their Valentine's package is no different. With 12 separate elements, this package starts with rose petals on your bed and freshly baked muffins in the room.

The **hotel** will prepare a romantic picnic for you and your love to enjoy on a romantic walk before enjoying dinner à deux in the **hotel** restaurant.

There is an in-room spa treatment, a love potion cocktail in the Pins bar and even a discount at Hartman's jewellers just in case someone gets carried away

with the romance of it all.

This overnight package is available on February 14, includes a late check out and costs €470 per person.

■ thetwelvehotel.ie

Urban Idyll

Take the train to Dublin and stay at the newly refurbished Conrad Dublin.

Ideally located just off St Stephen's Green, this **hotel** is perfectly placed for a weekend jaunt. The 'Romance In Dublin' package starts at €375 per room and includes bed and breakfast, a dinner in The Coburg restaurant or an Afternoon Tea experience, a selection of Cocoa Atelier chocolates, a bottle of Henriot Champagne and rose petal turndown.

■ conraddublin.com

Old Fashioned Romance

If log fires, lakeside walks and cosy dinners spell romance for you and your special someone, then check out the Valentine's Escape package at Glenlo Abbey **Hotel** and Golf Course.

Check into a room overlooking Lough Corrib and enjoy a bottle of Taittinger Champagne before indulging in a candle lit dinner in the Pulman restaurant.

If you require some screen time post dinner, the in house cinema will be showing *The Notebook* after dinner.

The package costs from €319 per room.

■ glenloabbeyhotel.ie

Island Life

Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa doesn't have to do much to be romantic — set overlooking one of the most stunning beaches in the country, it's made for love.

The Valentine's break at Inchydoney has packed in lots of extras to ensure that love stays in the air.

Check into a guestroom with its own private balcony and unwind before enjoying dinner at The Gulfstream Restaurant.

Guests can enjoy a choice of Elemis Facial or massage at The Island Spa before meeting up again in the thalassotherapy seawater pool.

This two-night break costs from €648 per couple. ■ inchydoneyisland.com

Lust After The Lodge

If you want to seriously impress someone then whisk him or her away for an overnight stay at The Lodge at Ashford Castle.

The estate offers myriad options for romantic strolls, and is on the edge of the village of Cong, which offers welcome respite from the luxurious surroundings of the castle's estate.

Their Valentine's package includes a tasting menu in Wilde's restaurant, B&B, two glasses of prosecco and a 'romantic turndown' of strawberries and rose petals.

The package costs from €339 per room.

■ thelodgeac.com

Love Connection

The Limerick Strand is determined to set the scene for residents with their Connect package.

Guests are welcomed with a bottle of prosecco and chocolate-dipped strawberries on arrival before settling into to a four-course menu created by Executive chef Tom Flavin.

After dinner, retire to a superior king room, where rose petals will be strewn, and a bath drawn — if you are planning to pop the question and don't fancy setting the scene yourself, then consider it done.

This package costs €122 per person.

■ strandlimerick.ie.

Outdoor Pursuits

If you and your significant other enjoy the great outdoors, then consider Delphi Resort for your romantic getaway.

This ultra luxurious resort has a fantastic spa and outdoor adventure centre and is set in some of the

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most arresting scenery the west coast has to offer.

The Delphi Experience offer includes two night's B&B and a three-course meal in the 814 restaurant each evening.

You and your lover will experience both half a day of adventure activities and a 30-minute spa treatment and seaweed bath in the Delphi Spa before indulging in the Thermal Suite.

This package costs €320 per person and is available seven days a week.
■ delphiresort.com

Northern Lights

Lough Erne Resort in Enniskillen is offering a two-night Valentine's getaway that is ideal for two foodies.

The 'Lover's Weekend' costs from €320 per person and includes two night's accommodation and dinner for two in The Catalina Restaurant which under the direction of Noel McMeel is producing some of the most innovative dishes in the country.

With full use of the thermal suite and infinity pool, this is an opportunity to unwind, luxe-style.
■ loughernereresort.com

