



## RUDY MAXA'S WORLD CAREY CHECK-IN REPORT

Northern Ireland - Fermanagh Lakelands Region  
December 2014



Rudy Maxa's World is America's #1 Travel Radio Show, with a weekly audience reach of 1.4 million upscale leisure & business travelers via 250 terrestrial stations, a 24/7 TuneIn.com Channel, online streaming, active social media platforms and more.

Click the following links to hear our broadcast from The Lough Erne Resort & Fermanagh Lakelands area —

6 Dec 14 | Hour 1 — <http://rudymaxa.com/2014/12/december-6-2014-hour-1/>

6 Dec 14 | Hour 2 — <http://rudymaxa.com/2014/12/december-6-2014-hour-2/>

Watch a fun Video Summary via this link — [http://youtu.be/6dUc\\_FJ3yFo](http://youtu.be/6dUc_FJ3yFo)



Travel is an important part of our lives. For many it's a passion, while for others it's a necessity. Sharing travel experiences, and discovering new places up-close is a staple component of Rudy Maxa's World. So seeking to explore a different side of Ireland, we packed-up the show and took it on the road to visit Derry & Enniskillen in Northern Ireland. Rudy spent time discovering Derry, while we explored the Fermanagh Lakelands Region. Both were great experiences and places we recommend you make plans to visit.

Most travelers to the Republic of Ireland spend their time in Dublin, Galway, Cork or Killarney in the south. Those visiting Northern Ireland tend to stay in or around Belfast. But whether you're visiting Northern Ireland, or the Republic, Ireland is a diverse country with many unique sights and experiences for visitors. If you're planning a trip, certainly the larger cities offer a lot and are places to visit — but we'd also encourage you to venture out and see the full country of Ireland.

You can drive from Dublin to Cork or Belfast to Donegal in under 3 hours, and most visitors tend to stay on the coasts of Ireland. But unless you venture into the heartland of the country, you're missing some terrific gems that are worth experiencing.

We based ourselves at the only 5-Star Resort in Northern Ireland, and the 2014 Hotel of the Year — The Lough Erne Resort ([LoughErneResort.com](http://LoughErneResort.com)). The property hosted the G8 Economic Summit in 2013, and it will host the Irish Open in 2017. If you love golf, they have two outstanding courses calling your name. The PGA champ Nick Faldo designed



The course will test the skills of any golfer. The Lough Erne Resort also offers a Thai Spa with authentic Thai treatments and a staff consisting of both Thai and Irish therapists. But the biggest draws of the Lough Erne Resort may be the relaxing views along Lough (Lake) Erne, and the culinary expertise of Executive Chef Noel McMeel. Chef McMeel (@NoelMcMeel on Twitter) is an award-winning, well credentialed chef, whose warm and inviting personality has made him a celebrity on various food television programs in Ireland and elsewhere. His cookbook, Irish Pantry, can be found on Amazon.com. The Lough Erne Resort staff is friendly and professional and will work to make your stay memorable.

Within 30 minutes of the resort, and all within the Fermanagh Lakelands area, are some outstanding venues to visit. We spent time touring the famed Belleek Pottery Works ([www.Belleek.com](http://www.Belleek.com)) and in addition to learning the rich history of this 130+ year old company, all visitors can walk the factory floor and engage with craftspeople who create each piece of



pottery by hand. The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark ([www.MarbleArchCavesGeopark.com](http://www.MarbleArchCavesGeopark.com)) is an unspoiled, natural wonder that's another must see. Here you'll descend hundreds of feet below the ground to walk an impressive trail of underground rivers, waterfalls, stalagmites, stalactites, limestone formations and more. Fishing, boating (motor or paddle), water skiing, hiking and cycling are very popular in the area. There are numerous lakes and rivers in the region — all alluring and different.



If you enjoy touring castles and estates, three we recommend visiting are Crom Castle ([www.CromCastle.com](http://www.CromCastle.com)), Castle Coole ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-coole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-coole)), and Florence Court ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk/florence-court](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/florence-court)), the longtime home of Florence Wrey and sister to Lord Belmore of Castle Coole. All three can be toured, rented for events or serve as a place to spend a relaxing afternoon walking the picturesque grounds.

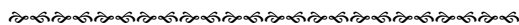
Back in Enniskillen, the only island town in Ireland, there's the Enniskillen Castle and Museum, an important site for defense of the area dating back to the 16th Century ([www.EnniskillenCastle.co.uk](http://www.EnniskillenCastle.co.uk)). There's also a charming artisan's village called "The Buttermarket." Be sure to check out Rebecca's Coffee Shoppe, site of the first freshly baked bread shop in Enniskillen within The Buttermarket ([www.Enniskillen.com/local\\_businesses/buttermarket-enniskillen-craft](http://www.Enniskillen.com/local_businesses/buttermarket-enniskillen-craft)), or the Jolly Sandwich ([www.TheJollySandwichBar.co.uk](http://www.TheJollySandwichBar.co.uk)), just steps away on Darling Street. If you enjoy history, Enniskillen hosted many of our Military GI's during World War II, and you can walk in the footsteps of our American soldiers stationed there, or visit locations where President Dwight D. Eisenhower reviewed the troops during a



visit. History of another type is on display at the Headhunters Railway Museum ([www.HeadhuntersMuseum.com](http://www.HeadhuntersMuseum.com)), the only working barbershop and museum dedicated to Irish Railway memorabilia and preservation that exists anywhere. And if you love bacon, a "pop-in" to local legend and organic butcher Pat O'Doherty's shop for his legendary Black Bacon is required ([www.BlackBacon.com](http://www.BlackBacon.com)). It's across from the Clinton Centre, a conference center and art gallery created by former President Bill Clinton's foundation after his visit to rebuild the historic site destroyed during the Remembrance Day bombing in 1987. There's also a popular Garden of Celtic Saints in nearby Irvinestown ([www.VisitIrvinestown.co.uk/Garden-of-Celtic-Saints](http://www.VisitIrvinestown.co.uk/Garden-of-Celtic-Saints)).



On the final day of this trip to Ireland, Rudy joined us in Dublin and we dined with Executive Chef Edward Cooney and Director of Sales Garrett Power at Dublin's only 5-Star Hotel — and a favorite property we thoroughly enjoy and recommend — The Merrion Hotel. ([www.MerrionHotel.com](http://www.MerrionHotel.com)). Chef Ed has been directing the outstanding foods at this proudly independent, first-rate property now for 17 years, and his passions are expressed wonderfully through masterful cooking.



Special thanks to Tourism Ireland ([www.TourismIreland.com](http://www.TourismIreland.com)), Northern Ireland Tourism Board ([www.NITB.com](http://www.NITB.com)), Fermanagh Lakelands Tourism ([www.FermanaghLakelands.com](http://www.FermanaghLakelands.com)), Andrew Phelan, General Manger of The Lough Erne Resort and his team, Executive Chef Noel McMeel of The Lough Erne Resort and his team, musician Sean Magee as well as his Dad Conor, and brother Jamie ([SeanMagee.co.uk](http://SeanMagee.co.uk)), John Maguire, Chief Executive of Belleek Pottery Works and his team, Michelle Shannon of Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Catherine Scott of Enniskillen Castle Museum, Alan Devers & Nigel Johnston of Headhunters Railway Museum, Jim Chestnutt of Castle Coole, Joe Mahon and Father McGourty of the Garden of Celtic Saints, Noel Johnston of Crom Castle, the patrons of Blake's of the Hallow Pub, broadcast engineering from the BBC, Ian McCutcheon of Lakeland Tours ([www.LakelandTours.co.uk](http://www.LakelandTours.co.uk)), Garrett Power and Executive Chef Ed Cooney of The Merrion Hotel, and all those who enabled us to experience such a wonderful visit.

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