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Entertainment / Television

Explore the world of Game of Thrones firsthand

The success of HBO's Game of Thrones has inspired Northern Ireland, Iceland and Croatia to offer tours of the show's filming locations.

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The historic Croatian city of Dubrovnik serves as the setting for King's Landing in Game of Thrones.

By: Joel Eastwood Staff Reporter, Published on Fri Apr 11 2014

Can't get enough of *Game of Thrones* on the paperback page or the television screen? Now you can explore the fantasy world firsthand.

Diehard *Game of Thrones* fans can walk the streets of King's Landing and look out across Blackwater Bay by travelling to the real-life [Croatian city of Dubrovnik](#), which sits on the shore of the Adriatic Sea.

The ancient city is well-suited to play the role of the capital city King's Landing.

A [UNESCO world heritage site](#), the well-preserved medieval-walled city has narrow stone streets, magnificent fortifications and buildings dating back to the 11th century.

The Croatian ruins of Diocletian's Palace and the mountain stronghold Klis Fortress are key locations in the battles waged by Daenerys Targaryen in the current season.

Numerous companies offer *Game of Thrones*-themed walking tours of Dubrovnik. And at least one tour operator is offering a seven-day *GoT*-inspired [tour of Croatia](#), starting at \$3,200 (U.S.) per person, not including airfare.

Ireland has also embraced its part as an extensive stand-in for various parts of the Seven Kingdoms. Tourism Ireland has teamed up with HBO to [promote the island](#), which was featured heavily in the first few seasons as the land of the Starks and Greyjoys in north Westeros. The promotion suggests relevant itineraries and places to stay, even a *Thrones*-themed "[archery experience](#)."

The gothic architecture of 18th-century mansion [Castle Ward](#) served as Winterfell, the ancestral home of House Stark. The rolling hills and lush grasslands of Northern Ireland were the backdrop for the battles of the nomadic Dothraki horsemen in the first couple of seasons. And the northern coast stood in for the stormy Iron Islands and the

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sea fortress Dragonstone.

Many of the show's interior scenes were shot in the Titanic Studios in Belfast, Northern Ireland. A [exhibition](#) *Game of Thrones* exhibition featuring costumes, weapons and a replica of the Iron Throne will come to Belfast this June.

A visit to Iceland will take you north of the wall into a landscape of rock, snow and (hopefully not) white walkers. The northern country's [Lake Myvatn](#) was a primary location for many of the scenes with Mance Rayder and his wildling tribes. Iceland Travel is trying to cash in on its barren scenery with a "[beyond the wall](#)" promotion.

Tourism fuelled by fantasy fans can be big business. New Zealand, the filming location of the *Lord of the Rings* and the *Hobbit* films, took in \$3.3 billion (U.S.) last year in holiday and vacation tourism, with about 47,000 international tourists visiting a film location annually, according to Tourism New Zealand.



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