

11 Things You Should Know About English Springer Spaniels

Spaniels in general have a long history as valued companions, both as affectionate family pets and highly skilled working animals. English Springer Spaniels are the oldest breed of sporting gun dogs and are mentioned in writing in their earliest form as early as 1387. The Springer is bred for human companionship both in the home and the field, and their medium build, silky coat and playful, affectionate nature can make them wonderful pets. It's no wonder they are listed as one of the top ten most popular breeds in the United Kingdom. On paper, they sound like the dream dog! But, as with every breed, it doesn't mean they are for everyone. Sadly, many people take them on as family pets for their eternal puppy-dog eyes and sweet, playful nature but soon find themselves overwhelmed by the intelligence and energy of their new friend.

If you're considering welcoming an English Springer Spaniel to the family, read on to find out if you are both each other's best fit.



Not Too Big, Not Too Small

So what do they look like? As with all pedigrees, there are certain specifications that Springer breeders strive to achieve in order to produce ideal pups. English Springer Spaniels can be either liver and white or black and white in colour. They are generally divided into the “show type” and the “working type”, but apart from slight differences in size, ear length and quality of coat, there is little difference between the two in terms of temperament. They have medium length double-coats with a variation of patterns no matter the colouring, often featuring speckling around the paws and flank. They have long ears and tails but traditionally the tails were docked as newborns to prevent entanglement or damage due to their purpose as gun dogs used to flush prey. This practice has become far less common and certainly would not be considered necessary for a family dog. The “ideal” is a slightly stocky dog built for speed, agility, and endurance. The average life expectancy is 12-14 years.

To get a better idea of their size, take a look at the average height and weight for the breed:

	Male	Female
Shoulder height (cm)	51	48
Weight (kg)	22-25	18-22

Primping and preening

One of the key considerations when deciding on a breed is grooming. Springer Spaniels have medium length coats which tend to tuft around the ears, elbows and stomach. Daily brushing is highly recommended, particularly around the ears which are prone to matting. If the ears are not brushed, the matts can irritate your pup as well as being unsightly. They love to crash around through bushes and long grass too, so a daily brush avoids any debris becoming stuck and matting into their coats.



Due to their longer coat, Springers may need to be washed slightly more often than short haired breeds to avoid bad odours. However, it's important not to wash too often as this strips away natural oils on the dog's coat. Once a month should be plenty, and if they get particularly mucky on a walk then a wash should be done. Make sure to buy a shampoo specific for dogs as regular shampoo and soaps can irritate your dogs' skin!

Special Agent Springer

One of the things Springers are best known for is their high intelligence. It's the reason they are still seen as working dogs in many different fields today!

Having originated in Britain around the mid-18th century, they were bred as hunting dogs, primarily to “spring” birds from the bushes for shooting, and could be found bounding alongside gentlemen in many country manors. As well as flushing the birds, they would also retrieve the prey to the shooter. Their intelligence made them highly useful out in the fields while their affectionate nature made them equally acceptable in the home.



Springers are still used for their traditional shooting purpose but can also be seen as sniffer dogs, particularly used as drug dogs in airports and other customs ports. They have also established a place as cherished family dogs and can be found in all types of homes and situations around the world.

Knowing this history of the breed can go some way to understanding the level of intelligence and energy you are dealing with when bringing a Springer into your life. Their intelligence makes them easy to train and their working dog background makes them eager to please, however, when these aspects are combined with their energy it can take a firm and patient hand to keep them in check.

Good as gold?

Springer Spaniels are a high energy breed, not just in puppyhood but well into adulthood as well. This, combined with their intelligence, can make for some fairly extreme pros and cons.

They are a joy to take on a woodland walk or a run down the beach. If you are an active individual the Springer is an excellent companion. There is no better dog to bring with you on an all-day adventure as their energy never seems to dissipate.



The reverse effect of this is that without the proper level of stimulation and physical exercise, this energy can easily become destructive in the home. Vocalization such as whining and barking can be your Springer's way of letting you know that they are bored, anxious or under-stimulated. You may also notice an increase in destructive behaviour such as chewing and tearing inappropriate items or furniture. It's not necessarily naughty or defiant behaviour, as Springers are generally very eager to please. The answer is usually that their current exercise regime is not sufficient, so you should adjust accordingly. If the Springer is currently getting one long walk in the morning, try including another shorter excursion in the evening as well and vice versa.

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clingy and suffer from separation anxiety

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Their high energy levels can also have a negative psychological impact on your Springer without a daily outlet. If their energy is not spent they can become clingy and suffer from separation anxiety. Again, vocalization and destructive behaviour are the main indicators for separation anxiety. If you find that your Springer is vocalizing even after short periods of separation (a couple of minutes while you go upstairs or if you close them into a separate room) you should take corrective action for separation anxiety. Understanding that the root of this is usually a dog with unspent energy is key. It is also worth noting that this is fairly inherent in the breed. Springer Spaniels' bond with humans is strong and they always want to be by their master's side. They will always need plenty of care and attention so it's important to be sure you can devote this to them before taking one on.

When researching the English Springer Spaniel you may come across references to "Springer Rage Syndrome". This syndrome has become arbitrarily associated with spaniels, particularly Springers. There is currently absolutely no research to suggest that Rage Syndrome is associated with one breed more than another and recorded instances are exceptionally rare. It's also worth noting that a lot of people who claim to have seen Rage Syndrome in their dog are not vets or medical experts, and often what they perceive as unwarranted aggression is actually a result of poor training and a general lack of understanding of a dog's need for clear boundaries and routine in the household.

This is not to say that Rage Syndrome does not occur, merely that it's no more common in Springers than any other breed and in any case, it rarely happens at all. The best course of action is always to buy from highly reputable breeders who perform the recommended health checks and genetic screenings on their breeding dogs.

Running rings around you

By far the most important consideration for a Springer is how much exercise you can provide for them. A Springer should get at least an hour of good exercise a day. This does not mean a leisurely stroll or a jaunt to a small dog park in your neighbourhood. Springers are built for endless bounding and running through fields. If you can only walk your Springer on a leash, be prepared for about 2 hours brisk walking a day to keep them calm and orderly at home. Where possible, they should be allowed the freedom to stretch their legs and run around in a wide open space. You'll never see your Springer happier than when they are crashing through long grass, chasing a ball, or dashing around just for the fun of it! Imagine being built for running around fields for hours at a time only to find yourself on a 30 minute leash walk once a day? If you cannot dedicate a significant amount of time to exercising your Springer, they are not the dog for you.



A leash walk is often not enough to expend their significant energy levels. If there is a dog park near you, make use of it! Springers are built for bursts of running and have a

lot of stamina. If you like to go for a daily run, leash-train your Springer and bring them along with you!

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Springer Spaniels also love water, so if you have a beach or lake nearby where they can happily splash in and out, this will make for fun and stimulating exercise for them and great entertainment for you.



As well as simply just walking and running, Springers are retriever dogs, so training them to retrieve a ball is another great way to exercise them, as well as providing them with some mental stimulation. After all, this is an opportunity for them to do what they are built for!

If there is a day where you can't provide their usual exercise routine, mental stimulation is key to avoiding destructive behaviour. Toys and puzzles are a great way to keep them occupied and use up some of that boundless energy until you can get around to taking them out for a walk.

A great tip is to freeze some wet food in a Kong and leave them to spend the better part of an hour getting every last morsel. There are also many "treat puzzle" toys out there which are sure to keep them busy.

Love to learn

By now we've learnt that Springers are a highly energetic but also a sensitive breed. It's important to note this before launching into a training regime with your new pup.

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It is highly recommended that training is done after a long walk so that some of their excess energy has been burned off. This will make them more attentive during the training. Start small and have them master one or two basics first. If they get over-excited when learning something new, simply return to the basics and continue to praise them for correct actions before going back to learning a new command.



You'll find that Springers learn exceptionally quickly and are eager to please, but they can also be a bit too clever for their own good! They need a firm hand and very clear commands. No dog should be trained using punishment methods, but Springers are particularly sensitive so avoid reprimands or raised voices. Instead, focus on ignoring incorrect actions and rewarding a job well done. Consistency is key!

You may also find that advanced work such as agility training is good for your Springer too. They love nothing more than running fast and using their brain, so if there is a facility near you, why not give it a try? It's great for bonding with your dog and is good physical and mental exercise for you both!

Part of the Family

Springer Spaniels are highly affectionate towards the people they know, and most are friendly towards people in general. However, if you are adopting another dog, having a child or bringing an adult rescue Springer into your home, caution should be taken.

Springers are sensitive souls, and if they have not been socialized correctly as puppies they may be prone to fear aggression or anxiety towards other dogs or even new people in the household. Again, there are techniques available to correct this should they arise, but it should be noted that highly intelligent breeds can have a higher tendency towards these types of behavioural problems and the English Springer Spaniel is no exception.



Generally, Springers love to be around people and will usually try to befriend anyone who walks through the door. A Springer is equally comfortable crashing about on a walk or curling up in the living room, which is why they have become such popular family pets over the years.

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With their sturdiness and playful nature they are brilliant around children. A Springer can go from bounding around the yard to sitting patiently while children get acquainted with their soft fur and fluffy ears. If they are brought up around children from puppyhood, you won't find a more loyal or gentle companion for your kids. However, as with all dogs, caution should always be taken, particularly if the dog is a rescue and you are unsure of their history.

Part of the Pack

As with children, early socialization is important when it comes to Springer Spaniels and other dogs. Lack of socialization can result either in nervousness, aggression or just plain bad manners around other dogs. Just like people, dogs need to learn appropriate social behaviour, and a few overly boisterous encounters in the local dog park will quickly teach your puppy to respect his elders.



Where possible, it's also a good idea to socialize with other dogs in the Springer's home. They can become quite territorial otherwise, which is worth noting if you have an older Springer and are considering introducing a younger dog to the household.

For the most part, their fun and gentle nature extends to other dogs. If you do notice aggressive behaviour towards other dogs, the following steps are worth noting:

1. Always be in full control of your Springer, including restraints and basic obedience
2. Take a slow approach with socializing them towards other dogs and do so in a neutral environment at first, like a dog park, rather than in your home
3. Ignore aggressive, negative behaviour and reward any signs of calming down with food and praise
4. One step at a time: little and often is key when beginning to reduce aggressive behaviour towards other dogs
5. Do not increase to unrestrained contact with other dogs until you are completely confident the aggression issue has been resolved

Run rabbit, run!

There's always an exception to the rule, but I have found myself chasing a Springer who was chasing a herd of deer, so imagine what they are like around something smaller that they might actually catch.

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They are hunting dogs first and foremost and should be treated as such when it comes to smaller pets in the home

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Springer Spaniels are absolutely not suitable for homes with other small animals. If you already keep cats, rabbits, hamsters, or chickens you are in for a lifelong headache trying to keep them apart. The Springer's working dog instincts are always just below the surface, and it would take a serious amount of training to override them, especially if your dog comes from a "working Springer" bloodline.



We had rabbits when we got our first Springer. The result? Two separate occasions where the dog got into the garden while the rabbits were also out of their hutch and an hour was spent chasing both the dog and rabbits so that it didn't end in a bloodbath. The rabbits were kept in an enclosed wire run, and our Springer would have spent hours running round and round the run if she was allowed, barking and trying to dig

under the fence to get to them. We tried slowly socializing them in controlled conditions and the dog continued to lunge. This was a dog who first met the rabbits when she was 12 weeks old. It's not their fault. They are hunting dogs first and foremost and should be treated as such when it comes to smaller pets in the home.

Springers are highly instinctual dogs due to the history of their breed, it's just part of who they are. So expecting them to behave otherwise is unfair, both to them and any other pets within a household.

Guardian of the galaxy

Springers are fiercely protective of their home and family, but are not usually prone to out and out aggression. So they make a great guard dog in that they will be sure to alert you and vocalize if they feel a threat but they'll also smother a new visitor with affection and demands for attention. If you bring someone new into the home, you shouldn't have any worries about your Springer's reaction. If you're a burglar prowling around a Springer's house, they will rat you out immediately!



A Springer Spaniel will be highly unlikely to get to the point of physically attacking an intruder, but they are great for warding them off.



Our Springer was staying with my grandfather once while we were away on vacation. At some point he went out and she managed to get out into the hallway and set off the house alarm. My grandfather arrived home to two policemen standing outside the house as they were too afraid to go in "because of the dog". My grandad looked at them in confusion, Tillie was small even for a Springer and was one of the friendliest dogs you could meet. When he put the key in the door, an almighty booming bark came from

behind the door and he could see what they meant! She sounded like a dog three times her own size and a fearsome protector, proof that although a Springer Spaniel will be highly unlikely to get to the point of physically attacking an intruder, they are great for warding them off.

Good health is wealth

It's an unfortunate reality that purebred dogs often carry hereditary health issues and this is something to be aware of with any breed. If your Springer has the correct pedigree papers, you may be able to trace any potential health issues by looking at the lifespan of previous litters or the health of the parents if they are available to view.



Responsible breeders should genetically test for these conditions in their breeding dogs and you should check with them that this has been done. However, if you have adopted

a Springer then you should look out for early signs of the following conditions so they can be identified and treated as early as possible:

1) Hip/Elbow Dysplasia

Dysplasia literally means “poorly formed”, and in this case refers to a malformation of the hip or elbow joint sockets. This condition is not so important in and of itself, but it’s the health issues it can lead to that are important to watch out for in Springer Spaniels.

Eventually, dysplasia can cause severe and painful arthritis or lead to lameness. If this occurs in more than one joint it can become necessary to put the dog to sleep as they will have no quality of life. In the large majority of cases these conditions develop over time and it is only in mature dogs that it becomes severe enough to warrant treatment. For this reason, it’s important to spot the signs as early as possible and seek advice from your vet. They may prescribe supplements, pain medication or recommend physiotherapy exercises.

Don’t forget that “pain” is not always a viable symptom in dogs. They can’t tell us how they are feeling and often they will simply adapt their movements to pain rather than whimpering or crying out, so it can be difficult to spot. If your Springer shows signs of “bunny hopping” with their back legs, sitting over on one hip a lot of the time, or becoming reluctant to jump or climb up steps, then you should seek the advice of your vet.

It’s also important to note that environmental factors can contribute to health issues as a result of hip dysplasia. So ensuring your Springer has a good diet, gets plenty of exercise and maintains a healthy weight can help to prevent these conditions.

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2) Progressive retinal atrophy

The retina is the part of the eye that takes in light and translates it into sight.

Progressive retinal atrophy has been noted in English Springer Spaniels, but it's not particularly widespread. As the retina progressively gets worse, the eventual outcome is complete loss of sight. It's usually seen in older dogs but can develop early in Springers as well.

Early symptoms can include dilated pupils and lack of light sensitivity. You might also notice more of a glow or shine in the eyes than is normal. There is no cure or specific treatment for PRA and the prognosis is always complete blindness, usually within 1-2 years of diagnosis. If the condition is caught early enough, special antioxidant supplements can be given to prolong the dog's sight for as long as possible.



4 Phosphofructokinase (PFK) Disorder.

In a nutshell, this is a metabolic disorder which affects the breakdown of glucose, which in turn causes damage to red blood cells. The severity of the following symptoms can vary greatly:

- Depression
- Fever
- Lethargy or general weakness
- Blood in urine
- Pale mucous membranes
- Muscle wasting and cramping
- Exercise intolerance

The vet will make a diagnosis based on blood and urine samples. There is no cure for this condition but the symptoms can be treated and managed. It's important that

Springers with this condition are not over-exercised and are kept in stress-free environments.

Your vet will be able to guide you on [how to feed your Springer](#) through puppyhood, young adulthood and right up to old age where they may need extra supplements to combat issues like these.

These conditions should not necessarily put you off adopting an English Springer Spaniel. Nearly every pure breed will have hereditary health conditions associated with them and the presence of the gene by no means guarantees that those conditions will definitely develop, but they are something to be aware of and to keep an eye out for when assessing your Springer's overall health and wellbeing.

There is a lot of information to digest when considering which dog breed is best for you, but the main thing to consider is whether your lifestyle matches the needs of the dog. The biggest takeaway from this article is to be aware of English Springer Spaniels high energy and gentle nature. If these are qualities that are important to you and you can provide what the dog needs, you can live a happy life with a Springer by your side!

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The Future of Corporate Training: What You Need to Know About AI in eLearning

May 29, 2019 [Lauren Farrell](#) [Adaptive Learning](#) [Tech](#) [Artificial Intelligence](#) [No Comments](#)

Artificial Intelligence has been steadily creeping into our technologies for several years now, but it has come to the fore more recently as tools like chatbots, voice-powered assistants and content recommendations on different platforms have become the norm. In the learning and development arena, eLearning has become an invaluable tool for creating operational efficiencies over traditional classroom based training, but remains pretty basic in terms of how it impacts the actual learning experience of employees.



This is where the [use of AI in e Learning](#) can have truly valuable impact: in the way it can improve performance and the effectiveness of corporate training. A [study by Deloitte](#) in 2018 showed that 63% of enterprises have adopted machine learning in some capacity. 11% said AI is of critical strategic importance today, and 42% believe it will be critical within the next two years.

AI is quickly becoming a core part of technology in the enterprise level organization, and it seems that learning technologies are beginning to quickly catch up on this latest trend. But is this just hype? AI sounds complex and cutting edge, but what bottom line benefits could it provide to the learning department?

The Learner

Research has shown that in today's digital world, cognitive overload is becoming more of an issue than ever before. People are overwhelmed, and as learners they have naturally become more impatient about the relevance, duration, and type of training they are put through.

AI has the potential to enable online courses to be shaped more closely by these individual needs. It can help ensure that the training provided to learners on an individual basis is relevant, not only to their day-to-day role, but to their existing knowledge levels. It can monitor progression in a skillset and automate the process of moving an employee through the hierarchy of learning.

As a result, learners are presented with the right training at the right time. They are less frustrated by irrelevant, overly complicated or overly simplified learning for their role and knowledge level. This means learners that are more engaged and training that is more effective for moving the needle in terms of performance.

The L&D Department

For the learning department, the potential for AI to change how they plan, design, and deploy training cannot be underestimated. If AI and machine learning continue to progress as predicted, it could automate a lot of processes that are currently so time-consuming they are actually out of reach for most training departments, despite the learning platforms currently available.

At the moment, tasks such as training needs analysis, instructional design and course content development are still hugely complex and time-consuming. AI has the potential to simplify and streamline these tasks, showing training departments what content needs to be developed and at what level, and which skills or areas need more development within the organization.

The evaluation of training and development is another area that could benefit greatly from machine learning. So often, L&D professionals are working tirelessly to produce quality content, with no real metrics as to the effectiveness of that training. If analytics are available, they are still quite limited in scope. AI can help by providing stronger

metrics in learning tools on how learners have progressed in a specific skill set and informing the training department on next steps.

Current Use of AI in eLearning

At the moment, AI is not being as widely used in corporate learning as it is in other sectors. However, machine learning and AI have a way of creeping into the background of technologies without us knowing. Even those who have only the most basic knowledge of what AI actually is probably use it all the time in daily life without even realizing.

The same goes for AI in eLearning. Although there are not many advanced machine learning technologies in use, AI is still a factor in the functions of many learning tools today. For example, the use of big data and gamification in eLearning often have their roots in AI. Some SaaS platforms have used AI and machine learning to [customize learning](#) for employees and improve the efficiency of course deployment. While it may be an industry that has slightly lagged behind in the adoption of AI, there is no doubt that this will be changing in the very near future.

The Future of Corporate Learning

Although the implementation of AI technology in corporate learning is still in its infancy considering its huge potential, the figures show that this is changing, and fast. AI is on everyone's radar, whether they already use it or are predicting when they will adopt it.

The latest figures on the implementation of AI across all areas of business speak for themselves. In [Deloitte's 2018 study](#), several industries reported an average of 20%

ROI on investment in AI technology. 82% of early adopters of AI are seeing a positive ROI from production-level projects in 2018.

Ultimately, AI will mean more effective and streamlined learning for the individual. With this kind of automated tailored approach that AI can offer, both learning departments and learners alike will be [saving](#) precious time and resources. There is nothing to suggest this idealized version of online learning will become the norm any time soon. However, huge advances are being made, especially as the spotlight continues to shine on the potential for AI in eLearning

If you want to learn more about innovative technologies to automate and streamline your training development process,

[download our FREE eBook.](#)

IrishCentral was live on an Irish Whiskey Museum tour

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IRISH WHISKEY MUSEUM.

The Irish Whiskey Museum is celebrating its third birthday and the Dublin city center museum is booming given the renewed global interest in Irish whiskey.

IrishCentral was live from The Irish Whiskey Museum, in Dublin's city center, celebrating their third anniversary, just in time for St. Patrick's Day. We were live on a

tour of the only museum in Ireland dedicated to the true story of Irish whiskey's demise and superb revival.

The last three years has seen an explosion of renewed interest in whiskey, particularly the Irish variety. Many distilleries have newly opened in Ireland and many are planned in the near future. After a long battle by a few remaining distilleries to keep the industry afloat, Irish whiskey is back with a bang. Dublin was once acknowledged as the whiskey capital of the world and is now racing to reclaim its former title. This revival of Irish whiskey is epitomized by the [Irish Whiskey Museum](#) at the heart of Dublin city center.

Opened in late 2014, the museum depicts the beginnings, the rise to glory, the disastrous decline and recent rebirth of this historic industry. Told by warm and witty tour guides and including tutored whiskey tastings, the Irish Whiskey Museum brings this fascinating story to life.



Finish up a tour of Irish whiskey with a guided tasting session over looking Trinity College, at the Irish Whiskey Museum.

Whiskey is rooted in Irish culture and the industry has borne witness to the volatile political, social and cultural changes in Ireland over the centuries. From the illegal shebeens producing “poitín” (an early version of whiskey) to the struggle to maintain the

integrity of the craft when new technologies became available, Irish whiskey is an industry defined by Irish cultural identity, an identity the Irish Whiskey Museum are keen to continue to emulate.

From funerals to weddings, whiskey was always an important part of any Irish celebration and that is no different today at the Irish Whiskey Museum. They continue to celebrate traditional Irish culture through events of all shapes and sizes, whether it is corporate hospitality, birthday celebrations, bachelor parties, birthdays, book launches or weddings. With such a unique space there is no group they cannot cater for, and over the past three years, they have cultivated a reputation for hosting events in the true spirit of Irish hospitality.

The same welcoming atmosphere can also be found at McDonnells Bar, a cozy café bar in the museum with beautiful views overlooking the famous Trinity College in Dublin city center. From Irish coffees to cocktails, to a pint of Guinness, take the opportunity to sit back and soak up some authentic Irish atmosphere. The whiskey tasting experience can also be extended by sampling one of the 99 varieties of Irish whiskeys available at the bar. The good news is McDonnells Bar is now open till late on the weekends, so you can sit and relax for as long as you like.



McDonnells Bar, a cozy café bar in the Irish Whiskey Museum with beautiful views.

Having spent the last three years establishing themselves as knowledge leaders in whiskey and providing the most informative and entertaining Irish whiskey tours around, the Irish Whiskey Museum is beginning to branch out into offering some niche and exclusive events. From storytelling evenings to exclusive tasting events in association with different whiskey brands, they are ones to watch for whiskey events in the coming year.

Irish whiskey is now officially the fastest growing spirit industry in the world and the Irish Whiskey Museum is keeping pace with this growth and then some. With many exciting new developments in store this year, it's an exciting time for Irish whiskey and for the Irish Whiskey Museum.

The Irish Whiskey Museum is part of EI Travel Group, founded by Keith McDonnell and comprising of Extreme Ireland Adventures, EI Travel Coach Hire, Irish Day Tours, The Riddler restaurant, Tourist Office Dublin, and the Irish Whiskey Museum. To avail of a 10% discount on Extreme Ireland Adventures, Irish Day Tours and the Irish Whiskey Museum, use the following codes at the online checkouts before 31st March 31, 2018:

On [Extreme Ireland](#) use the promo code IC 102.

For [Irish Day Tours](#) use IC 102.

And for the [Irish Whiskey Museum](#) use DC201813.