

# Bar Food

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## Making the most of your dollars in Ireland

With the Euro hovering at \$1.25, and food prices akin to big City prices in the U.S., the cost of traveling in Europe has become challenging, but there are excellent alternatives to the standard restaurant cuisine. No, I'm not talking of fast food chains.

Traveling recently with my twenty-something daughter for a week in Kinsale, Ireland, a place often characterized as either the seafood or gourmet capital of Ireland, this challenge was especially apparent. A meal for the two of us in any of the area's wonderful restaurants would have run us about \$100 U.S. That's much more than we could justify, so we elected to shun the restaurants, and head instead to the local pubs for every meal.

## The White House, Kinsale

[www.whitehouse-kinsale.ie](http://www.whitehouse-kinsale.ie)

Our first stop was the White House. While the establishment has a very fine restaurant, the "Restaurant



de Antibes," we headed instead to the bar. White House's seafood chowder earned a prize in Newport, Rhode Island's

"Great Chowder Cookoff" televised on the Food Network. Their absolutely mouth watering chowder was only 5.95 Euro (\$7.37 US). The chowder comes with brown bread and I had Beamish stout from Cork, Ireland. We liked the food so much that we ate three meals there. All were excellent. We couldn't resist ordering dessert from the restaurant menu, but managed nevertheless to keep all three meals under \$30. We were there in the off season, but still



entertained ourselves watching the tourists. One middle-aged American woman was especially interesting. She left a couple of times with a local man, only to return a hour or so later with her hair and clothes a bit less orderly.

## The Bulman Pub, Summercove

[www.thebulman.com](http://www.thebulman.com)

Another good pub choice is the Bulman in Summercove, just a few kilometers southeast of Kinsale. Upstairs is a very fine restaurant. Downstairs is the pub. Seafood chowder and leek soup, with home-



made Irish soda bread, and a pint of stout (see photo above) were perfectly adequate for our needs. The place is the epitome of an Irish Pub. It has incredible ambiance.

Other area pubs offer similar chowder or stew selections at prices more comparable to those at home. Mother Hubbard's, open only for breakfast, was our prime choice for morning meals of pancakes and jam, but The Armada Bar was a surprisingly good choice for a traditional Irish breakfast.