

# Welcome to Walford-on-Sea

Follow these EastEnders west – to County Waterford in Ireland

**Kat and Alfie: Redwater**  
Thursday 8.00pm BBC1

**I**N THE NEW *EastEnders* spin-off *Redwater*, Kat and Alfie Moon pitch up in a seaside village in Ireland where Jessie Wallace's Kat hopes to track down the son she gave up for adoption 33 years earlier. But this close-knit community has secrets of its own and events soon take a sinister turn.

The six-part drama was filmed in Dunmore East, a fishing village in County Waterford with a lovely beach, a little harbour and sheltered coves. Ireland's south-east coast is beloved by Dubliners looking for some sea air, but it's often overlooked by Brits, who tend to make a beeline for the rugged west coast. That's a shame, because there's plenty to do in the "sunny South

East" – as it's called by the Irish – and there's something rather magical about Dunmore East in particular.

Within ten minutes of arriving in the village, I'm tucking into fresh hake and potatoes dauphinoise at the Strand Inn, drinking in the view of sand, sea and endless sky. Renamed "Peter Dolan's" in *Redwater*, the Strand is a friendly, unfussy hotel with a popular pub and restaurant overlooking a sandy beach framed by red cliffs. The owner, who is in her 60s, swims every day.

Across the bay is County Wexford and the 13th-century Hook Head Lighthouse, the oldest operational lighthouse in the world (you can take a guided tour). Locals believe the phrase "by hook or by crook" dates back to 1649, when Oliver Cromwell resolved to invade Ireland by Hook Head or the nearby village of Crooke (although some historians dispute it). The lush

headland opposite belongs to Dunmore East Golf Club, which boasts spectacular sea views.

Mary and Martin Tritschler volunteer to show me round the village. Mary is an artist and Martin an architect and they have holidayed here all their lives. They moved to Dunmore East five years ago, but even so they're still considered "blow-ins".

"Everyone who comes on holiday here always comes back. It's addictive," Mary explains, as we walk to Ladies Cove, named for the nuns who used to bathe and enjoy a spot of shrimping here. Crystal-clear water laps the pebbles. It's only spring, but I'm regretting not packing a swimming costume. Our next stop is the harbour, which is noisy with the cries of kittiwakes nesting on the cliffs. Before EU quotas were introduced in the 70s, it's said you could walk from one end of the harbour to the other



**ON THE HUNT**  
Kat (Jessie Wallace)  
and Alfie (Shane  
Richie) search for  
her long-lost son

on boats piled high with herring. Nowadays there's a sailing school and an adventure sports centre where you do kayaking, windsurfing and caving.

It takes only ten minutes to walk across the village, but the Tritschlers' tour takes two hours by the time we've said hello to everyone we meet and stopped for a pint at Power's Bar, a cosy pub stuffed with seafaring artefacts, which everyone calls "Bill the Butcher's" – a throw-back to the war years when the owner also sold groceries and Guinness to fishermen.

The next day I walk west along the cliff path and have the panoramic views all to myself. After filming here for two months, Shane Richie, who plays Alfie, was so taken with Dunmore East he plans to buy a house here, and it's easy to see why.

Afterwards I dine on John Dory and risotto at the village's family-run Italian restaurant Azzurro, and ask a fellow diner if he'll be tuning in to *Redwater*. "As long as it's not diddy-diddy, or they should never show their faces in this village again," he says, eyes twinkling. "It's not like *Broadchurch* round here... We just push people off cliffs." He is, of course, joking.

## GETTING THERE

Dunmore East is a two-hour drive from Cork airport, and a little longer from Dublin. By boat, catch a car ferry from Fishguard to Rosslare near Wexford, then it's a 90-minute drive to Dunmore East. **CLAIRE WEBB**

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At the Waterford Crystal factory you can see the famous crystal blown and cut, while the treasures in the Medieval Museum include a whalebone hat belonging to Henry VIII. For a wonderfully wry take on the Viking history of Waterford – Ireland's oldest city – try Jack Burtchaell's twice-daily walking tours. [jackswalkingtours.com](http://jackswalkingtours.com)

### WATERFORD GREENWAY

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**WATERFORD WONDERS**  
The Dunmore East  
harbour, and, below, the  
Waterford Greenway



‘Everyone who holidays here always comes back’

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