

# NEWPORT

CO. MAYO, IRELAND



## NEWPORT TOURISM

T: 098-41895 E: [tourism@newportmayo.ie](mailto:tourism@newportmayo.ie)

W: [www.newportmayo.ie](http://www.newportmayo.ie)

Dear Visitor,

A very warm welcome to Newport, a picturesque heritage town in the Barony of Burrishoole. Historically known as Ballyveaghan (Irish: Baile Uí Fhiacháin), Newport was established in the early 18th century by Captain Pratt, a former Treasury official and land agent for the Medicott Estate. He leased tracts of land in Burrishoole from the Medicott family with a view to developing a linen trade. A new port was built and a new town developed, later named Newport-Pratt. We hope you enjoy your visit to Newport and invite you to explore the many cultural and recreational activities we have to offer.

### Railway Viaduct - Black Oak River

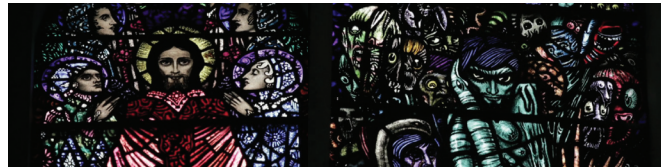


The railway viaduct was built in 1892 as part of the extension of the Westport line to Achill Sound. Newport was the first station on this extension, opening in February 1894, followed by Mulranny in August of the same year. The line to Achill was completed in May 1895. The line was a great social and economic asset to West Mayo but the usage never consistently reached the levels originally anticipated and the development of roads in the 1930's sealed the fate of the line. The last train ran in the Autumn of 1937, a mere 42 years after the line had opened. Today, the line between Westport and Achill, with its many fine engineering structures, gentle gradients and breath-taking scenery has been given a new lease of life as the Great Western Greenway, a dedicated 42km off-road walking and cycling amenity.

### St. Patrick's Church



The stained glass window over the High Altar, in the east wall of St. Patrick's Church is one of the outstanding features of this building. The window, which is really made up of three windows of equal size is often called "the Three Sisters" but is more commonly known as "the Last Judgment window". It was the last work executed by the late Harry Clarke (1889-1931). It was installed in the church at Newport in February 1931. Canon Michael MacDonald commissioned Harry, who was undoubtedly Ireland's greatest stained glass artist, to create a large three-light window for the east wall of the chancel in 1926. The cost of the window was £800 and Canon MacDonald sold his life insurance to finance the project. The first light depicts our lady with saints, angels and souls that have been saved. Mary is depicted seated, surrounded by six saints and five cherubs. A procession of saints and angels on their way to heaven is depicted in the lower panels. The central light shows Christ on judgement day, resplendent in crimson robes and a golden halo, surrounded by saints and angels dressed in sumptuous robes. The souls of the dead are depicted in the lower panels rising from the dead to be judged. The right light depicts the damned being thrust down to hell. The top panels depict St. Patrick surrounded by six saints. In the lower panels, the souls who have been judged unworthy are depicted on their way down to hell. The green figure positioned upside down being cast down to hell is said to be a self-portrait of Harry Clarke.



### Burrishoole Abbey



Burrishoole Abbey was founded in 1469 by Richard (Burke) de Burgo and was originally a wooden structure. The Abbey was situated alongside the old town on the port of Burrishoole. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the harbour was a very busy one, with trade exceeding that of Galway. Clew Bay was even listed on Italian maps of the time. Despite its remoteness, friars from the Abbey travelled to the continent where they are recorded as having worked and studied in Spain, Belgium and France. The Abbey was abandoned in 1698 with the expulsion of the Catholic clergy under the Penal Laws. The Abbey roof eventually collapsed in 1793. When originally built, it consisted of the main church and a convent chapel to the south side. A number of years later, a bell tower was built as an additional feature. Today, all that remains intact is the church and all that remains of the convent are the ruins of the beautiful cloister. The oldest inscribed monument within the abbey is the O'Kelly altar tomb. The inscription on the tomb is in Latin and gives the date 1623. The Abbey was inhabited and used by the Dominican Order which did not actually have abbots - so, the more correct term for Burrishoole Abbey is Burrishoole Friary. Mass continues to be celebrated annually at the abbey on the feast of St. Dominic for the dead of the parish. As part of your visit, do not miss the 'Angel Grotto', a memorial to all of the children buried here.



### Fr. Manus Sweeney (1763 - 1799)

Fr. Manus was born on Achill Island and raised in Rossmore, Newport. He was educated in France at the time of the French Revolution. He was curate in Newport in 1798. Seeing so much poverty and oppression around him, he joined the French (led by General Humbert) as an interpreter in the Rebellion of 1798. After the collapse of the Rebellion, he went on the run but was captured in Achill in May 1799. He was sentenced to death in Castlebar and hanged in Newport on the 8th June 1799. He is buried in Burrishoole Abbey.



NEWPORT

Heritage Town on the Greenway

The Newport Health Centre is on Medlicott Street  
T: 098 41256.

The Newport Pharmacy is on Main Street  
T: 098 41577.

Westdoc provides out of hours GP care  
T: 1850 365 000.

Mayo General Hospital is in Castlebar - follow the R311.

Sunday Mass is at 10 am.

PROOF

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## Grace Kelly Film Festival



Grace Kelly holds a very special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Newport. The paternal grandfather of the late Hollywood star and princess, John Kelly, hailed

from the townland of Drimurla near Newport. He emigrated to Philadelphia in 1887, where he founded one of that city's leading construction companies and made his family's fortune.

From a young age, Grace showed a huge interest in acting and performing and although her parents disapproved, it was her uncle, George Kelly, who encouraged his niece to pursue a full-time acting career, mentoring her through her rise in Hollywood. After high school, she enrolled in the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and graduated at 19. She became a huge sensation with her natural beauty and elegance. Grace's path through life eventually brought her back as royalty to the Newport area in 1961 accompanied by her husband, Prince Rainier Grimaldi of Monaco. During a number of visits to Newport in the 1960s and 1970s, Princess Grace became familiar with the birthplace of her forebears and even purchased the family homestead. Many Newport people fondly recall meeting the Princess when she visited Newport. Following her untimely death in September 1982, local residents sent a wreath of wild flowers - picked around her ancestral home in Drimurla - to Monaco for the funeral. In 2012 on the 30th anniversary of her death, Newport honoured Grace Kelly, film star, and Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, with a film festival dedicated to her memory. Following the success of the inaugural event, it is planned to hold the film festival every second year.

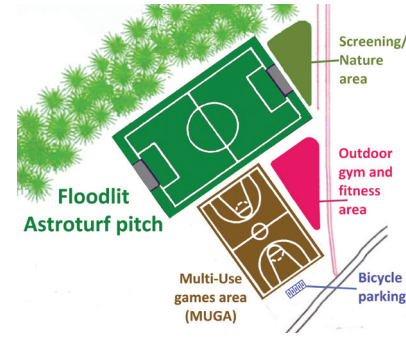
[www.gracekellyfilmfestival.ie](http://www.gracekellyfilmfestival.ie)

## Gráinne Úaile Festival



Music, dancing and craic - Every August Bank Holiday Weekend. Parade, Children's Novelty Events, Fancy Dress Pub Crawl, Sheep Shearing, Putóg Throwing Championship, Squelchy Wellie Race, and much much more.

## Greenway Activity Park



Built in 2014 with assistance from South West Mayo Development Company (LEADER), the Greenway Activity Park (adjacent to Newport National School) offers a multi-use games area, outdoor gym, bicycle parking and a seven-a-side floodlit astro-turf pitch.

## Newport Splash

Splash events are held approximately every 2 weeks during the summer months (depending on the tide) and offer kayaking, a water trampoline, water zorbing and a diving board. A paddle under the stately 1892 railway viaduct is an absolute must! Kayak club members, in addition, enjoy kayaking every Wednesday evening. There are currently 45 kayaks available and 2 safety boats operate at every event. For more information and event time-table, go to:

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



## Grace O'Malley (Gráinne Úaile)



Grace O'Malley lived in the 16th century and was principally a sea trader. At the height of her career she controlled much of the Irish west coast. She traded with Spain, Portugal and Scotland, and fought rival clans as well as English forces sent to bring Connacht under control. At one stage she held 11 castles and a fleet that included captured Turkish corsairs.

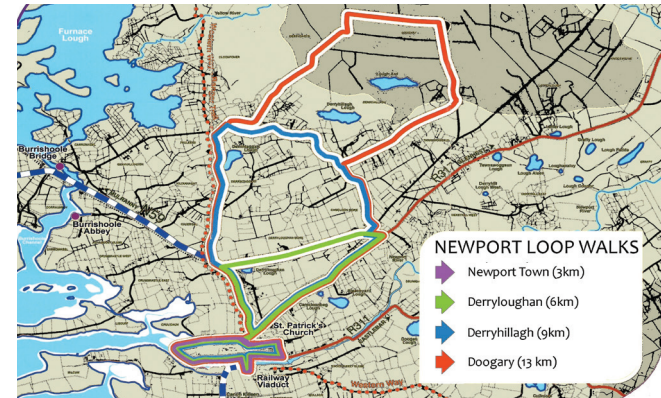
She came from a wealthy family and inherited her father's fleet of ships and estate, as well as land her mother had owned. Her fortune included one thousand cattle and horses, a sign of great wealth in those times. A significant part of her income came from a tax she imposed on trading vessels passing by the coastal areas she controlled - this tax was collected by force, if necessary, and may well be the reason she became known as the 'Pirate Queen'.

In the late 16th century, English rule steadily increased in Ireland and Grace O'Malley's power diminished. When her sons and her half-brother were taken captive in 1593 by Sir Richard Bingham, she sailed to England to petition Elizabeth I for their release. It must have been a fascinating meeting - two powerful women in what was then an entirely male-dominated world. Elizabeth agreed to grant her requests, provided that Gráinne Úaile end her support of Irish rebellions and piracy against England.

Gráinne maintained her dominance into old age. She died in her seventies in 1603, and is buried in the abbey on Clare Island.

Carrickahowley Castle (Rockfleet) near Newport became the main residence of Gráinne from the time of her marriage to Richard Bourke in 1566 to the time of her death in 1603. It was here that she withstood and routed a 21 day siege mounted by English soldiers coming from Galway city in 1574.

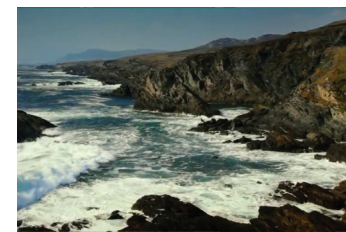
## Newport Loop Walks



Loop Name	Distance
Purple Loop (Newport Town Loop)	3 Km
Green Loop (Derryloughan)	6 Km
Blue Loop (Derryhillagh)	9 Km
Red Loop (Doogary)	13 Km

## On the Edge of Europe ...

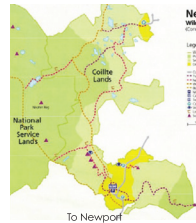
The Wild Atlantic Way stretches for 2,500km along Ireland's western seaboard. From Donegal in the north to Cork in the south, through regions like Connemara, The Burren, Galway Bay and Kerry, the route is the longest defined coastal drive in the world.



[www.failteireland.ie/wildatlanticway](http://www.failteireland.ie/wildatlanticway)

You could drive the whole route in one go - but you don't have to. Instead, you may want to slow down - the breath-taking Mayo seascapes and golden sand beaches will reward the traveller who refuses to be rushed.

## Ireland's First Wilderness



Wild Nephin is an ambitious project that is setting aside a significant parcel of land for the creation of a unique wilderness landscape. The project will complement Ballycroy National Park, which borders the Coillte lands, which is in itself a significant attraction of national importance comprising 11,000 hectares of blanket bog, mountainous terrain and unspoilt natural beauty. As well as providing completely unique recreational opportunities where challenge, solitude and remoteness are the hallmark, the project also aims to increase nature conservation bio diversity values, protect a large landscape from human artefacts while facilitating research and enhancing the status of natural ecosystems through a process of nonintervention.