

West

Pocket Guide



FREE COPY



THINGS TO DO

PLACES TO SEE

FAMILY FUN

EVENTS & MAPS

AND LOTS MORE...



GET IN TOUCH!



Visit one of Fáilte Ireland's official tourist offices, where you will receive free and unbiased advice, information, maps and literature. You can also book accommodation, attractions, events, festivals, tickets and tours.

GALWAY

Aran Tourist Office

Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co Galway
T 099 61263
E aran@failteireland.ie
#lovegalway

Clifden Tourist Office

Galway Road, Clifden, Co Galway
T 095 21163
E clifdentouristoffice@failteireland.ie
#lovegalway

Galway Discover Ireland Centre

Forster Street, Galway City
T 091 537700
E irelandwestinfo@failteireland.ie
#lovegalway

MAYO

Cong Tourist Office

Old Courthouse, Cong, Co Mayo
T 094 9546542
E cong.touristoffice@failteireland.ie
#lovemayo

Westport Discover Ireland Centre

Bridge Street, Westport, Co Mayo
T 098 25711
E westport@failteireland.ie
#lovemayo

LIMERICK

Limerick Discover Ireland Centre

20 O'Connell Street, Limerick City
T 061 317522
E limericktio@failteireland.ie
#lovelimerick

CLARE

Ennis Tourist Office

Arthur's Row (off O'Connell St.),
Ennis, Co Clare
T 065 6828366
E ennistio@failteireland.ie
#loveclare

For a complete list of all Community Tourist Offices and Visitor Information Points affiliated with Fáilte Ireland, please visit our website below.



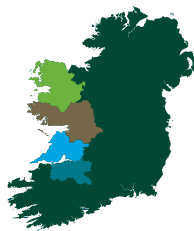
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Family Friendly: This symbol denotes attractions that are suitable for families.



Wheelchair Friendly: This symbol denotes attractions that are wheelchair accessible.



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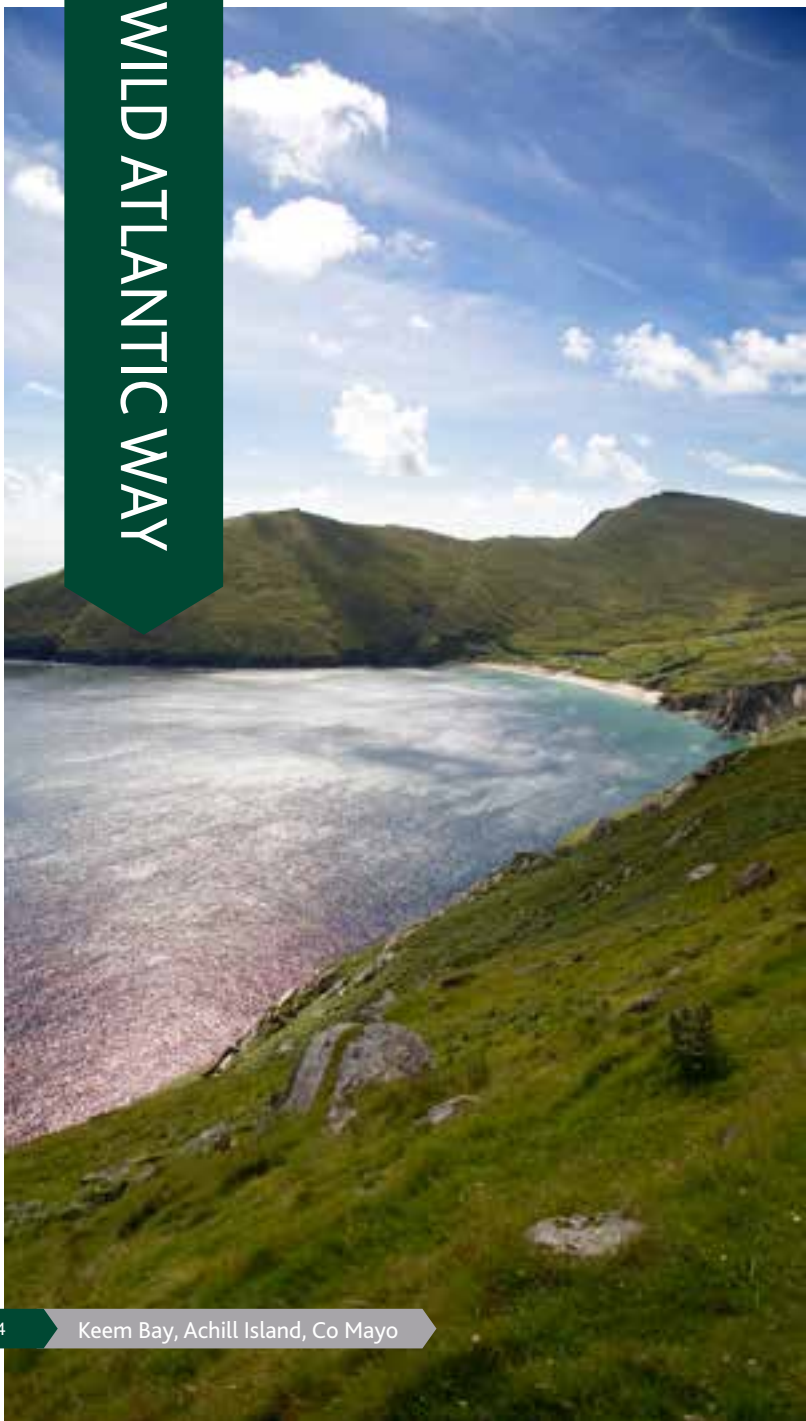


Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this guidebook to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for printed errors or omissions, or alterations occurring after the guidebook has been published.

WILD ATLANTIC WAY



Wild Atlantic Way



WILD ATLANTIC WAY
SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN

Out at the very edge of Europe, the Wild Atlantic Way stretches for 2,500 km (1,500 miles) along Ireland's western seaboard. From Malin Head in Co Donegal down to Kinsale in Co Cork and passing along by famous landmarks and film locations, this is the longest defined coastal drive in the world.

Here, the Atlantic Ocean's force has carved a coastline of wild, raw Irish beauty. Jagged cliffs, wave-capped inlets, surfing-friendly strands and deserted beaches line a coast guarded by islands and lighthouses dotted along the way.

Highlights along the West include a Neolithic settlement at the Céide Fields in North Mayo, Achill Island and the island-strewn Clew Bay under the shadow of Croagh Patrick, and the haunting beauty of Connemara in West Galway. Feel the energy of Galway City ("City of the Tribes") before continuing your journey southwards to the unique Burren region, the towering Cliffs of Moher and Loop Head Lighthouse at the very southwest tip of County Clare.

Travel the entire Way or pick your part of the Atlantic coastline to explore using this Pocket Guide. Suggested experiences include meeting some unforgettable local characters or even venturing along part of the Way by kayak, bike or Connemara pony. Sit by a turf fire in a traditional pub for a seafood feast or to hear the Irish language, song and stories. Wherever you travel along the Wild Atlantic Way you will encounter moments of magic along one of the world's most unforgettable coastal routes.

For more information on the Wild Atlantic Way, visit www.wildatlanticway.com





Downpatrick Head, Co Mayo. Credit: © Raymond Fogarty www.aircamireland.ie

Signature Discovery Point: Downpatrick Head

Forage for wild food along the Killala shoreline

Spend an afternoon with Denis Quinn of Wild Atlantic Cultural Tours – foraging for food along the shoreline under the huge skies of north Mayo. Against the backdrop of booming Atlantic waves and swooping seabirds, Denis will guide you around Killala Bay, across its mudflats and shores as you gather edible seaweeds and uncover cockles, mussels, clams and winkles from rock pools and the soft sands uncovered at low tide. Later he'll help you dry your seaweed, and prepare a feast from your finds. Cockle soup for anyone?



Keem Bay, Achill Island, Co Mayo

Signature Discovery Point: Keem Bay

Wander through a deserted village on Ireland's largest island

Cross the road bridge to Ireland's largest island – Achill Island – home to towering sea cliffs, bare mountains and sweeping sandy beaches. Follow the Atlantic Drive before turning north towards the Golden Strand to discover the settlement, known simply as the Deserted Village. Tucked under Slievemore Mountain, no-one knows exactly why it was finally abandoned in the early 20th century. However we do know it was one of the last places in Europe to be used as a “booley” or place where people lived in summer to graze cattle on the mountainside.

You can book a guided tour with expert archaeologists from the Achill Archaeological Field School who usually work on a dig here every summer. Or simply walk alone from cottage to cottage, imagining life here in this remote and poignant place down through the centuries.

Signature Discovery Point: Killary Harbour

Lights, cameras, action!

Follow in the path of filmmakers around Leenane and Lettergesh Beach, the settings for the iconic movies *The Field* and *The Quiet Man*. Just north of Leenane village is Aasleagh Falls, a picturesque waterfall located close to the haunting beauty of Doolough Pass.

Take a cruise (seasonal) along Killary Harbour, the Way's only fjord, or visit romantic Kylemore Abbey, built as a wedding present. 5,000 acres and the Diamond Hill trail await visitors and walkers in the Connemara National Park in nearby Letterfrack.

Signature Discovery Point: Derrigimlagh

Listen to the echoes of history in a sea-swept blanket bog

Hire a bike in 'Connemara's capital' - Clifden - and strike out across the single narrow road through a strange blanket bog, a mosaic of tiny lakes and peat.

Along this Bog Road, you'll uncover two remarkable events of 20th Century history. First, you'll pass the scattered remnants of the world's first permanent trans-Atlantic radio station which was built by Marconi and was burned to the ground during the Irish War of Independence. At its peak it employed several hundred people, transmitting world news across the ocean.

A nearby landmark is a white aeroplane wing-shaped memorial to Alcock and Brown, who crash-landed into Derrigimlagh Bog in 1919 at the end of their historic first non-stop flight across the Atlantic.

Two unique examples of transatlantic connections in one lonely spot in Connemara. And as they say in these parts, "Next parish, Boston".

Signature Discovery Point: Cliffs of Moher

Above and below the Cliffs of Moher

Standing 214m at their highest point, the iconic Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most visited natural attractions. The much-photographed cliffs stretch for 8km along the Atlantic coastline of Clare and have even featured in the "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" film.

Set into a hillside is the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre and from here, discover the best vantage points along the 800m enclosed pathways for spectacular views of the cliffs, Atlantic Ocean, Liscannor Bay and the Aran Islands perched out in Galway Bay. Catch a ferry from the nearby seaside village of Doolin, a traditional music and surfer's haven, to the Aran Islands. Another seasonal excursion from Doolin is a boat cruise under the soaring cliffs to view the An Branán Mór sea stack, Hags Head and O'Brien's viewing tower from sea level.

Adventures and High Notes around the Burren

The Wild Atlantic Way meets the Burren region north of the Cliffs of Moher. Once a submerged seabed, the lunar-like landscape of the Burren National Park is the home of megalithic tombs and monuments older than Egypt's pyramids. Criss-crossed by walking trails, the Burren's unique habitat includes rare and Mediterranean flora.

Explore Doolin Cave with its Great Stalactite, carved out by time and nature, to the north of the namesake village. Famous for its traditional music sessions, Doolin also attracts surfers keen to tackle the Atlantic waves. Lahinch, a family seaside resort for generations, lies nestled within Liscannor Bay, while further south is Spanish Point, named after the wild Atlantic claimed part of the Spanish Armada offshore in 1588.



Loop Head, Co Clare. Credit: Alan Soutar, www.soutarimages.com

Signature Discovery Point: Loop Head

Watch rainbows on the Loop Head drive

Peaceful roads and deserted beaches stretch out along Clare's western tip of the Wild Atlantic Way and here the Loop Head Drive offers an off-the-beaten-track alternative to the popular Cliffs of Moher route.

At this narrow peninsula at the mouth of the Shannon, watch huge Atlantic swells smash into miles of sheer granite cliffs. Surf kicked high into the air catches this airborne spray to form endless rainbows.

An aerial view of the end of the peninsula shows a still-visible relic from WWII times when the words E-I-R-E were carved out in white letters on the grassy cliff top.

Climb the Loop Head Lighthouse for panoramic views of the coastline from Kerry to the Cliffs of Moher. A lighthouse has guarded Loop Head since 1690 and for that extra-special experience, you can even stay in the 19th century light keepers accommodation, courtesy of the Irish Landmark Trust

And while there ...

See and hear the Shannon dolphins

Around 160 bottlenose dolphins have made the Shannon Estuary their home, just at the point where the Shannon River joins the wild Atlantic on the Loop Head peninsula. Follow the road from Kilrush to Aylevarro Point, to watch them frolic offshore or for more close-up views, take a dolphin watching boat trip from nearby Carrigaholt.

CLARE



Clare

Unspoiled natural beauty and traditional hospitality are County Clare's treasured assets.

Follow the Wild Atlantic Way along Clare's coastline of striking beauty which is the perfect backdrop for outdoor activities. Walk through the lunar like landscape of the Burren, passing by many of the Burren's ancient monuments; go on dolphin watching tours off Loop Head; surf the renowned Lahinch beach; marvel at the world famous Cliffs of Moher or enjoy one of the many top class golf courses nearby.

Descend down into the still air of the caves of Aillwee and Doolin. Celebrate the founder of the largest cultural and sporting movements in Ireland, the GAA, at the Michael Cusack Centre. Drop in on a traditional music session in Doolin, 'the home of traditional music'. Take in the breath-taking views of the Shannon Estuary scenery from a working steam train, at the West Clare Railway.

Further inland, is the quaint County town of Ennis, known as the 'Boutique Capital of Ireland'. Ennis has narrow winding streets with connecting lanes that give the town an intimate atmosphere. One of Ireland's largest and most beautiful lakes, Lough Derg, forms the eastern boundary of County Clare and is the perfect location from kite surfing to walking, sailing, cruising, kayaking and fishing.

Did you Know?

- Population: 117,196
- Area: 3,450km² (7th largest county in Ireland).
- John Philip Holland inventor of the submarine was born in Liscannor.
- After visiting the birthplace of his great-grandfather, Muhammad Ali was made the first Honorary Freeman of Ennis in 2009
- The Pope is the Bishop of the parish of Kilfenora.
- In 1947, Shannon Airport opened the first airport duty free shop in the world.



Above Black Head, Co Clare. Credit: © Raymond Fogarty www.aircamireland.ie



Map No.	Attraction
1	Aillwee Cave and The Burren Birds of Prey Centre
2	Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre
3	Burren Smokehouse
4	Caherconnell Fort and Sheepdog Demonstrations
5	Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience
6	Doolin Cave


Map No.	Attraction
7	Dysert O'Dea
8	Lahinch Seaworld
9	Michael Cusack Centre
10	Moher Hill Open Farm
11	The Burren Centre
12	The Farmyard


North Clare & The Burren

Experience the unique landscape of the Burren, "Europe's Largest Rock Garden", which extends over 160 square Kilometres.

Mostly made up of bare, grey limestone rock, the weather has cracked and creviced over time to produce amazing patterns on the land. Do watch your step but don't miss the opportunity to marvel at this lunar landscape on Earth! You may even see the rare Alpine plants that thrive here peeking up through the fissures. A short distance away you can visit the seaside town of Lahinch or venture further north to experience the world famous Cliffs of Moher.


North Clare - Towns & Villages


 **Ballyvaughan** (F4) village and small port on the southern shores of Galway Bay is a convenient centre for exploring the fascinating surrounding countryside. It also has a lot to offer the visitor: sea fishing, pubs, restaurants and craft workshops.

 **Doolin** (G4) is renowned for its cosy pubs and their traditional music. Here you will find stores filled with all kinds of traditional Irish crafts and clothing. Doolin has everything a traveller to Ireland might be looking for.

Ennistymon (G4) has long been a bustling market town for the North Clare area and is renowned for its many attractive traditional shop fronts. The town neighbours the popular resort of Lahinch.

Kilfenora (G4) a mere half hour drive from Ennis, is the gateway to the Burren Region. A village steeped in rich history and culture, Kilfenora is known in ancient manuscripts as the 'City of Crosses'.

 **Lahinch** (G4) is one of Ireland's most popular resorts, attracting thousands of visitors each year; the town is world renowned for its surfing.

 **Lisdoonvarna** (G4) in the north of the county is a popular town, long famed for its Spa Wells and its annual matchmaking festival.

For more information on towns & villages in North Clare, visit www.discoverireland.ie

 * Indicates the town or village is located on the Wild Atlantic Way.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Aillwee Cave and Birds of Prey Centre

Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7077036

www.aillweecave.ie



Explore one of Ireland's ancient caves, experience the Birds of Prey Centre with flying displays and sample delicious local food products. With experienced tour guides, you can enjoy the beautiful caverns and interact with nature's top predators.

Open: Daily, from 10.00. Please check website for further information

Admission: Cave – Adults €12, Children €5.50

Birds of Prey – Adults €10, Children €8

2 Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre

Carron, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7089102

www.burrenperfumery.com



Visit the working factory (free), to browse the Perfumery's range of organic, natural and plant-based products. Enjoy refreshments at the Tearooms, see a locally-shot short film and explore the organic, award-winning Herb Garden.

Open: May & Jun (10.00 – 18.00), Jul & Aug (10.00 – 19.00)

Rest of Year (10.00 – 17.00), Tearooms open Apr – Sep

Admission: Free

★ **Offer:** Free tea or coffee in the tearooms

3 Burren Smokehouse Visitor Centre

Kincora Road, Lisdoonvarna,
Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7074432

www.burrensmokehouse.ie



Discover the secret of salmon smoking and taste our salmon right in our shop. Soak up the nostalgic atmosphere, find locally crafted presents, and let our mosaics tell you the story of the Salmon of Knowledge.

Open: Winter Months (11.00 - 16.00), Summer Months (09.00 - 17.00)

Admission: Video & Tastings: Free of Charge

Presentation for groups: Please enquire.

4 Caherconnell Fort and Sheepdog Demonstrations

Caherconnell, Carron,
Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7089999

www.caherconnell.com



Caherconnell Fort is more than twice the size of the regular fort and has on-going excavation each summer. Sheepdog Demonstrations Daily. CIE Award of Excellence Winner

Open: Mar-end Oct (10.00 - 17.00), Jul & Aug (10.00 - 18.00)

Admission: (Fort / Sheepdog Demos) Adults €7/€5, Students/Seniors €6/€4, Child €3/€3, Under 6 Free, Family €17/€15. Group rates and Joint Admissions available.

5 Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience

Liscannor, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7086141

www.cliffsofmoher.ie



Ireland's most visited natural attraction, stretching for 8kms along the Atlantic Coast. Facilities include Visitor Centre, exhibition, gift shop, cafés, Free Customer Wi-Fi, O'Brien's tower, safe & scenic pathways & viewing areas.

Open: Every day (from 09.00), Closing with daylight hours.

Admission: Adults €6, Student/Senior €4, Kids under 16 Free

★ Offer: Online discount 10%

6 Doolin Cave

Craggycoradon West,
Doolin, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7075761

www.doolincave.ie



Doolin Cave is home to the largest free hanging stalactite open to visitors anywhere in the world. Extend your adventure from underground to above ground and follow a charming farmland nature trail that takes a looped walk around the cave setting.

Open: Daily (10.00 - 17.00)

Admission: Adult €15, Child €8, Family €50

★ Offer: 20% discount on presentation of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

7 Dysert O'Dea Castle & Clare Archaeology

Corofin, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6837401

www.dysertcastle.com



A 15th Century Tower house situated off R476. Dysert O'Dea Castle is North-Clare's Hidden Gem. Audio-visual presentation of local archaeology, panoramic roof walk & various exhibitions. The archaeology trail contains 25 original field monuments.

Open: 1st May – 30th Sep (10.00 – 18.00)

Admission: €5 per adult, Group rate €4, children €3

★ **Offer:** Admission & Tea/Scone €8 every Monday

8 Lahinch Seaworld and Leisure Centre

The Promenade

Lahinch, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7081900

www.lahinchseaworld.com



Come to Lahinch Seaworld and Leisure Centre for an action-packed, fun-filled day for the whole family! 25m heated pool, kiddies pool, state-of-the-art gym, sauna, Jacuzzi, steam room and inflatable obstacle course. We've got it all!

Open: Winter: Mon-Wed (07.00-21.30), Thu-Fri (07.00-21.00), Sat-Sun (10.00-18.00). Summer: Mon-Wed (07.00-21.30), Thu-Fri (07.00-21.00), Sat-Sun (10.00-20.00).

Admission: Adult Pool €7, Child Pool U16 €5.50, Under 3s Free, Inflatable Obstacle Course €6.50, Gym €10, Gym & Pool Combo €14

9 Michael Cusack Centre

Carron, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7089944

www.michaelcusack.ie



The Michael Cusack Centre is dedicated to Michael Cusack, founder of the GAA. At the centre, visitors can enjoy the new famine era cottage and exhibition and walk the new Burren Walking trail.

Open: Daily, Apr – Oct (10.00 – 17.00). The Cusack Way Walking trail is open daily all year round.

Admission: Adults €6, Senior/Student €4, Child under 16 €3, Family €16 (2 adults and 2 children). Groups (more than 5 persons) €5 per head.

10 Moher Hill Open FarmCliffs of Moher Road, Liscannor,
Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7081071

www.moherfarm.ie

Come and visit our wide variety of animals, including llama, deer, ostrich, emu, alpaca and many more. Wizz on the outdoor go karts, and have fun in the indoor play areas including a bouncing castle and ball pool. See website for special events at Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

Open: May – Sep, Mon – Sat (10.00 – 18.00), Sun (12.00 – 18.00)**Admission:** €8 per person, under 18 months free, OAP €6**11 The Burren Centre &
The Kilfenora Ceilí Band Parlour**

Kilfenora, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 7088030

www.theburrencentre.ie

The Burren Centre offers a comprehensive introduction to the unique Burren landscape and traces the history and music of The Kilfenora Ceilí Band. We have a Tea Room, Craft Shop and licensed Tourist Information Point.

Open: Daily (10.00-17.00) - Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct
Daily (09.30-17.30) - Jun, Jul & Aug**Admission:** Adults €6, Students €5, Seniors €5, Child (Under 16) €4,
Family (2 Adult & 3 Children) €20 **Offer:** 20% off for individual admission**12 The Farmyard**

Dabrian, Corofin, Co. Clare

Tel: 087 7413618

www.thefarmyard.ie

The Farmyard is a working farm which is open to the public for fun farm activities. All activities are pre booked and packages are tailored according to the needs of the particular groups.

Open: All year for pre-booked groups (minimum 20 people)**Admission:** Varies according to packages



Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Co Clare

Map
No.

Attraction

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Atlantic Airventure Aviation Centre |
| 2 | Bunratty Castle & Folk Park |
| 3 | Clare Museum |

Map
No.

Attraction

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Craggaunowen The Living Past Experience |
| 5 | Ennis Friary |
| 6 | Imecofarm |

South Clare, Ennis & Bunratty

Ennis, the capital town of County Clare, is a lively market town with medieval roots. Here you can enjoy the delightful riverside walk, admire the imaginative sculpture trails, or visit Glór Theatre.

Ennis is known as the “Boutique Capital of Ireland” and accredited with Purple Flag Status, it is a delight to wander through the narrow winding streets to come upon unusual shops, or refresh yourself in the cafes and bars that line the sidewalks. Located only 25kms from Shannon International Airport, you are only a stone’s throw from Bunratty Village where you can experience the world famous Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and a culinary explosion with the many restaurants & hostelryes on offer.

South Clare - Towns & Villages

Bunratty (H5) Bun Raite in Irish, means the ‘bottom’ or end of the ‘Ratty’ river. This river, alongside the castle, flows into the nearby Shannon estuary. When visiting Bunratty one should not miss the opportunity to visit Bunratty Castle and Folk Park which is open all year round. Medieval Castle Banquets and Traditional Irish Nights take place regularly at the castle and are a great way to spend an evening. Great shopping, restaurants & bars are dotted throughout the village.

Ennis (G5) is at the beating heart of Clare. The atmospheric, winding medieval streets of this historic market town reveal intriguing characters and stories that shaped its history and are brought to life by local walking tour companies. Ennis is home to some wonderful attractions such as the Ennis Friary, Ennis Cathedral and Clare Museum. Ennis is also known as the ‘Boutique Capital of Ireland’, due to the variety of unique retail outlets on offer in the town.

Shannon (H5) is Clare’s youngest town and its international airport is the gateway to the West of Ireland and the world’s first duty free zone.

For more information on towns & villages in South Clare, visit www.discoverireland.ie

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Atlantic Airventure Aviation Centre

Link Road, Shannon Town
Co. Clare

Tel: 061 363687

www.atlanticairventure.com



Experience aviation with an educational and enjoyable day out. Visit Shannon Aviation Museum, see jet fighters, airline cockpits, engines, gliders, artefacts and more. Learn about flight and then test your skills in a Flight Simulator.

Open: All Year, Mon – Sat (10.00 – 17.00) (Call in advance)

Admission: Museum Visit: Adults €6, Children €3

Flight Simulation Packages (Additional cost). Booking essential.

See website for details.

2 Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty, Co. Clare

Tel: 061 360788

www.shannonheritage.com



Explore 15th century Bunratty Castle featuring furnishings and tapestries from the period. Bunratty Folk Park is a stunning recreation of 19th century Irish life featuring over 30 buildings including farm houses and a village street.

Open: Year Round (Closed 24th, 25th, 26th Dec). 09.00 - 17.30, Last admission: Folk Park (16.15), Castle (16.00). Opening times are subject to change.

Admission: Adult €15, Senior €9.45, Family: 2 adults + 2 children €33.60, 2 adults + 6 children €38. Online rates available.

3 Clare Museum

Arthur's Row, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6823382

www.clarelibrary.ie



Visit the Riches of Clare exhibition that features 6,000 years of Clare's history. The exhibition is displayed using the themes of Earth, Power, Faith and Water and includes artefacts from the National Museum.

Open: Jun-Sep (Mon-Sat), Oct-May (Tues-Sat) 09.30-13.00 & 14.00-17.00, Last Admissions (12.30 & 16.30). Closed on Bank Holiday Weekends.

Admission: Free

4 Craggaunowen The Living Past Experience

Near Quin, Co. Clare

Tel: 061 360788

www.shannonheritage.com



Situated on 50 acres of wooded grounds, Craggaunowen interprets Ireland's pre-historic and early Christian eras. Explore the Crannog, Ring Fort and 'Brendan Boat'. See Craggaunowen Castle built in 1550, wild boar and much more!

Open: Easter Saturday – August (10.00 -17.00) (Last Admission 16.00). Opening times may be subject to change.

Admission: Adult €9, Senior €6.85. Family: 2 adults + 2 children €21.50, 2 adults + 6 children €24.50. Online rates available.

5 Ennis Friary - 13th Century Franciscan Friary

Abbey Street, Ennis Town Centre,

Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6829100

www.heritageireland.ie/en/ennisfriary



One of Ireland's earliest surviving Franciscan friaries: Ennis Friary was founded in the 1240's & is the burial place of O'Brien and McMahon families-the ancient Kings of Clare. Visitors can view the friary's famous medieval sculptures & FREE guided tours are available

Open: Daily (2nd Apr – 28th Oct), Apr - Sep (10.00 - 17.15), Oct (10.00 – 16.15)

Admission: Adult €4, Group / Seniors €3, Students/ Children €2, Family €10
Children under 7 years: FREE - FREE admission with OPW Heritage Card.

★ **Offer:** No additional charge for guided tours at any time. Free admission on the first Wednesday of each month.

6 Imecofarm

Islandmcgrath, Clarecastle, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6841552

www.imecofarm.com



Family fun visitor farm, feed the animals, pony rides, indoor crazy golf, indoor bouncy castle & fun activities, farm walks, forest & river trails, history and origins of the McGrath Clan, wildlife and renewable energy.

Open: Details unavailable at time of print, please contact directly

Admission: Details unavailable at time of print, please contact directly



Doonbeg, Co Clare. Credit: Alan Soutar, www.soutarimages.com



Map No.


Attraction


- 1 Loop Head Lighthouse
- 2 Scattery Island Visitor Centre
- 3 Vandeleur Walled Garden
- 4 West Clare Railway


West Clare & Loop Head


An ideal way to experience this contrasting coastline is by taking the Loop Head Drive, which will take you through the villages of Doonaha, Carrigaholt & Kilbaha to the lighthouse at Loop head "where the Shannon meets the sea" and where you'll find the last pub before America!

West Clare - Towns & Villages

 **Doonbeg** (H3) village was developed around Doonbeg Castle in the 16th century. Today, it's famed for its sandy beaches and Greg Norman Golf Course.

 **Kilkee** (H3) is a well-known seaside resort that has something for everyone; dramatic cliff walks, safe bathing and numerous activities.

 **Kilrush** (H3) is a heritage town with fine attractions; from its marina, the Vandeleur Walled Gardens to the Scatterry Island Visitor Centre.

 **Loop Head** (I2) juts into the Atlantic Ocean like a gnarled finger pointing westward. Three villages in the area are Kilbaha, Carrigaholt and Kilkee.

Milltown Malbay (G4) situated on the Atlantic Coastline, is famed for its annual Willie Clancy School of Traditional Irish Music in July.

For more information on towns & villages in West Clare, visit www.discoverireland.ie

 * Indicates the town or village is located on the Wild Atlantic Way.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Loop Head Lighthouse

Kilbaha, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6846429

www.loophead.ie



Visitors are guided to the top of the Lighthouse to take in the magnificent views from the balcony. An Exhibition on the history of Irish Lighthouses is located in the Lighthouse Keepers Cottage.

Open: 3rd Apr - 2nd Oct (10.00-18.00)

Admission: Adults €5, Children €2, Family (up to 3 children) €12

Visitor Attractions

2 Scattery Island Visitor Centre

Scattery Island, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Tel: 087 9958427

www.heritageireland.ie



Located where the mighty Shannon River meets the wild Atlantic! Explore the ancient ruins of St Senan's monastery and marvel at the 120 foot tall round tower. Take a free guided tour to learn about the Island's unique folklore.

Open: Tours available daily, (late-May to early-Sep).
Dependent on tidal and weather conditions.

Admission: Admission and guided tours are free.
Charges for ferries to the island (contact details on pg. 156)



3 Vandeleur Walled Garden

Killimer Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 9051760

www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie



This beautiful garden with a maze, giant chess game and Victorian-style glasshouse specializes in many unusual and tender plants. Facilities: coffee-shop, gift-shop, conference-room, plant sales area, collection of old farm-machinery, exhibitions, kids play-area and butterfly-trail.

Open: Apr – Sep, Mon-Fri (10.00-17.00) & Sat/Sun & Bank Hols (12.00-17.00)
Oct-Mar, Mon-Fri (09.30-16.00). Check website / Facebook for updates.

Admission: Free entry in 2015

★ **Offer:** Great discount on our plant sale days



4 West Clare Railway

Moyasta, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 9051284

www.westclarerailway.ie



Working Steam Engine from 1890, various diesel engines, 2km rail trip approx.
Museum, Guided Tours & Souvenir Shop.

Open: May – Sep, Daily (13.00 – 16.00). Halloween & Christmas specials.
Other times on request.

Admission: Adults €8, Children €4, Students/Seniors €6

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on Groups of 25 and over. Family concessions.



East Clare & Lough Derg

East Clare literally sparkles with rivers and lakes. Lough Derg, the largest and one of the most beautiful of the lakes on the River Shannon, forms the eastern boundary of County Clare.

The picturesque town of **Killaloe** is a network of charming narrow streets alongside a 13th century Cathedral. It is also the birthplace of Brian Ború (941 AD), one of the most influential and colourful characters in Irish history. The pretty village of **Mountshannon** is one of the busiest cruising and yachting centres on Lough Derg. If walking or driving is more your thing, then the scenic beauty of the region will charm you as you travel.

East Clare - Towns & Villages

Feakle (G6) A traditional Irish music venue, this small village hosts an International Traditional Music Festival with workshops, lectures, concerts, open air events and much more. Throughout the year you can catch a great session and soak up the atmosphere by dropping into the local pubs.

Killaloe (H6) nestled on the banks of Lough Derg, is the ancient capital of Ireland from the time of Brian Ború, and today a charming visitor base for exploring the River Shannon. Killaloe is a great activity hub, offering visitors a range of activities from walking trails to cruising to angling.

Ogonnelloe (G6) is an ideal base for engaging in a wide-range of pursuits, on or off the water. The nearby UL Activity Centre offers a range of adventure pursuits for young and old to enjoy as individual sports or as part of a team challenge. Other pursuits in this area include golf, hill-waking & equestrian.

Scarriff (G6) remains an important market town which offers excellent facilities for the visitor interested in either active pursuits or leisurely sightseeing. The town is a noted angling centre, with wide appeal for both coarse and game anglers in the surrounding East Clare Lakelands comprised of over 40 lakes and rivers.

For more information on towns & villages in East Clare, visit www.discoverireland.ie

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.



Lough Derg, Co Clare



Map No.	Attraction
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- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Irish Seed Savers |
| 2 | Brian Boru Heritage Centre |

Visitor Attractions

1 Irish Seed Savers Association

Capparoo, Scariff,
Co. Clare

Tel: 061 921866

www.irishseedsavers.ie



20 acres of Organic seed gardens, orchards & woodland trails. Ireland's Native Apple Tree Collection with over 140 different varieties of apple trees. Regular guided tasting tours during apple harvest season where visitors can learn about these rare varieties and experience apples that taste of lemons, bananas, peaches and pineapples. There are over 800 varieties of open pollinated, heritage vegetable, herb and flower seed, and over 50 varieties of potatoes—all of which are held in the Seed Bank, the only one of its kind in Ireland. Guided Tours available on request. Children's Trail with activity sheets. Regular weekend workshops. Garden Shop – selling open pollinated heritage vegetable seeds, plants, books and garden accessories.

Open: Tue - Fri (09.30 – 16.30), Sat (12.30 – 16.30), Closed Sun & Mon. Cafe open from Apr – Sep.

Admission: Adults €4, Children Free.



Offer: Free entry for Children and Free Children's Nature Trail

2 Brian Ború Heritage Centre

Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061 360788

www.shannonheritage.com



The 11th century High King of Ireland, Brian Ború was born in Killaloe. The Heritage centre reveals the story of Brian Ború through a series of colourful exhibits, graphic illustrations and an interactive audio-visual presentation.

Open: May - end of Aug (10.00 – 17.00), Last admission 16.30. Opening times may be subject to change.

Admission: Adult €3.35, Senior €2.35

Family: 2 adults + 2 children €8.15, 2 adults + 6 children €10.45

Pick up your
FREE local Town or City map
in our Discover Ireland Centres!

1

Find these attractions in the map on page 26

More to Experience

Points of Interest

Burren National Park (F4, F5, G4, G5) The Burren, North Clare. www.burrenbeo.com

This lunar like rocky landscape is a National Park and geological wonderland of terraced grey limestone covering 250 square miles in North Clare. The Burren is world famous for the richness and beauty of its wild flowers, where Arctic and Mediterranean species flourish side by side.

Knappogue Castle (H5) Quin Village. Tel: 061 360788, www.shannonheritage.com

Knappogue Castle, built in 1467 is a magnificent example of a medieval tower house located outside Quin village. The walled garden is now restored to its former splendour. The medieval banquet is not to be missed! Open from May - August.

Liscannor Stone Story (G4) Liscannor. Tel: 065 7081930, www.therockshop.ie

Visit the audio visual room which illustrates quarrying methods through the ages. The shop is packed full with earth's natural treasures and gift items. Café also available.

Poulabrone Dolmen (F4) The Burren

This dolmen is among the most famous landmarks in the Burren. The remarkable image of the sun setting through the Dolmen is one of those most commonly associated with the area.

Quin Abbey (H5) Quin Village.

Quin Abbey was founded by the Mc Namaras in the 14th century. The cloisters were built in 1402 and remain one of the prominent features of the abbey.

Entertainment

Castle Banquets & Traditional Irish Nights Tel: 061 360788, www.shannonheritage.com

Experience a unique castle banquet at Bunratty Castle, Knappogue Castle and Dunguaire Castle. These castles were once the splendid homes of noble medieval lords, today they are the imposing venues for nights of revelry, fine food and wine. Traditional Irish Nights are also available at the Corn Barn in Bunratty Folk Park. Enjoy the best in Irish music, song and dance, complemented with traditional home cooked food and wine. The Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet operates year round whilst the others operate seasonally (Reservations necessary).

Glór Theatre in Ennis Tel: 065 6843103, www.glor.ie

Glór - being the voice of Co. Clare brings the best of local, national and international entertainment to Co. Clare. Gallery space available and café on site.

Ask our Travel Advisors for a comprehensive listing of
"Whats On"
 in the local area!

Tours

Regional Bus Tours

Around the Loop Tours Kilkee, Tel: 087 9602047, www.aroundtheloop.ie

Barratt Tours Tel: 087 2375986, www.4tours.biz

Marty's Limo Services Tel: 089 4213788, www.martyslimoservices.com

PK Travel Tel: 061 471111. www.pkexctravel.com

Quicktours.ie from Dublin to the West, Tel: 01 4659972

Railtours Ireland Tel: 01 8560045, www.railtoursireland.com

Ted Tours Kilfenora, Tel: 065 7088281, www.tedtours.com

Walking Tours

Ennis Crawlers Tel: 085 1275353, www.EnnisCrawlers.com

Ennis Walking Tours Tel: 087 648 3714, www.enniswalkingtours.com

Killaloe Historical Walks Tel: 087 7554391

Boat Tours

Cliffs of Moher Cruises & Doolin2Aran Ferries, The Pier, Doolin,
Tel: 065 7075949, www.doolin2aranferries.com

Dolphin Discovery Kilrush Creek Marina. Tel: 065 9051327.
www.discoverdolphins.ie

Dolphinwatch Carrigaholt, Tel: 065 9058156, www.dolphinwatch.ie

Killaloe River Cruises Killaloe / Ballina, Tel: 086 8140559,
www.killaloerivercruises.com

Scattery Island Ferries Kilrush, Tel: 065 9051327, www.discoverdolphins.ie

The Doolin Ferry Company, The Pier, Doolin, Co Clare. Tel: 065 7075555
www.doolinferry.com

The O'Brien Line, The Pier, Doolin, Co Clare. Tel: 065 707 5618
www.obrienline.com

GALWAY



Galway

Proudly positioned along the middle of Ireland's west coast, Galway is a county with a confident strut which stems from its rich history, festivals, landscapes, stately homes, artistic pedigree and traditional pubs where mischief and music mingle around amber fires.

To the west of the county lies **Connemara & the Offshore Islands**, where many of the Wild Atlantic Way's top attractions are located. Breathe in the salty ocean air on the rocky outcrops of the Aran Islands to the south, or Inishbofin Island to the north west. Or why not ramble the hills and valleys of The Western Way, while taking in the views of the mighty Lough Corrib.

Experience the medieval charm of **Galway City & its Surroundings**, home of the world famous Claddagh ring. The City has a bohemian reputation, due to its many arts groups and third level institutions and is widely known as one of the most culturally rich cities in Ireland.

Visit **Galway East & South** for a truly historical experience with a vast number of heritage sites to choose from. Literary fans will certainly appreciate the many sites along the Lady Gregory & Yeats Heritage Trail, particularly during 2015 with the 150th anniversary celebrations of the birth of W.B Yeats, who had strong connections with the area.

Did you Know?

- Population: 250,653
- Area: 6,148km² (2nd largest county in Ireland).
- The Medieval town of Athenry is immortalised in the song 'The Fields of Athenry'.
- Galway City had electricity thirty years before most of the country, powered by the water-driven turbine of the Perry Mill, situated on Middle River.
- The first non-stop transatlantic flight from Newfoundland in Canada to Derrigimlagh in Connemara, was made by Alcock and Brown in June 1919.



Daily Scenic Flights over the Aran Islands. Credit: www.aerarannislands.ie



Map No.	Attraction
1	Aughnanure Castle
2	Brigit's Garden
3	Cearclann, Spiddal Craft and Design Studios
4	Celtic Crystal Visitor Centre
5	Cnoc Suain Cultural Experience
6	Connemara Marble Visitor Centre
7	Connemara National Park
8	Connemara Smokehouse and Visitor Centre
9	Dan O'Hara Homestead

Map No.	Attraction
10	Dun Aonghasa
11	Glengowla Mines & Working Farm Experience
12	Joyce Country Sheepdogs
13	Killary Sheep Farm
14	Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden
15	Letterfrack & Ballinakill Harbour Water Tours & Visitor Centre
16	Loughwell Farm Park
17	Roundstone Music and Craft Shop
18	Sheep and Wool Centre

Connemara & Offshore Islands

The picture postcard region of **Connemara** lies to the west of Galway City. Described by Oscar Wilde as a "savage beauty", Connemara's stunning scenery includes cloud-capped peaks, near-deserted beaches, colourful fishing villages and heather-clad bogs.

Experience romantic Kylemore Abbey, the Diamond Hill walking trail in Connemara National Park and the haunting beauty of Lough Nafooy, lined by the Maumturk mountains. Multi-lingual signposts point to the Gaeltacht areas, where the lyrical Irish language is often overheard from passing conversations and traditional sean-nós music can be listened to in the cosy local pubs.

Surrounded by water; from the wild Atlantic to Ireland's only fjord at Killary Harbour to Lough Corrib; Connemara is a magnet for outdoor pursuit enthusiasts. Exhilarating hill walks, cycling around the 'Sky Road', practising the perfect golf swing, fishing on Lough Corrib or horseback gallops along the beach all await. Connemara pony enthusiasts gather from around the world each August for the Clifden Pony Show, held in the "capital of Connemara". The annual horse race on Omey Island is another unique Connemara summertime fixture.

Or why not visit one of Connemara's **Offshore Islands**, such as Ceantar na nOileán, Inishbofin or the Aran Islands (Inishmore, Inishmaan & Inishere), where you can wander along a maze of stone-walled laneways and tiny fields. On Inishmore, a visit to the ancient cliff edge fort of Dún Aonghasa is a must. The islands are also havens for nature lovers, due to the multitude of flora and fauna and the many walking/cycling routes available. Traditional music fans will also take delight in visiting the islands.



Leenane Village

Connemara & Offshore Islands - Towns & Villages

🌊 Aran Islands (F3) The 3 stunningly beautiful Islands of Inis Mór, Inis Meáin & Inis Oírr are located at the mouth of Galway Bay. Ways to view the islands include walking, hiring a bike, taking a local bus tour or by Pony & Trap. There is also a selection of local craft shops, pubs and cafes on the islands. Ferries depart from Rossaveal (Co Galway) and Doolin (Co Clare). Flights depart from Inverin (Co Galway). More information on the Islands can be found on pages 150 - 152.

🌊 Clifden (D2) 78km northwest of Galway City, is Connemara's largest town. With fine hotels, guesthouses and restaurants, it is the ideal base for the holiday maker touring Connemara. In October 1907, a defining event in world communication took place when the first commercial transatlantic message was transmitted from Marconi's Station in Clifden to Glace Bay, Newfoundland, Canada. This message effectively launched the concept of telecommunication accessibility for all.

🌊 Cleggan (D2) on the southern shores of sheltered Cleggan Bay, 9km from Clifden, is the centre of the north Connemara sea fishing industry and the ferry port for Inishbofin Island lying 9km out in the Atlantic.

Clonbur (D4) lies near Cong and the Mayo border and is an ideal centre for the trout angler as it nestles easily between the two great lakes Corrib and Mask. Try your hand at the excellent and exciting fishing on three of Europe's premier trout and salmon lakes, as Lough Carra is also within easy reach.

🌊 Leenane (D3) is nestled snugly beneath the Maamturk Mountains on the southern inner shore of Killary Harbour – Ireland's only fjord. The village enjoys wonderful scenic views of Mayo's Mweelrea Mountains across the dark blue waters of the harbour. The film 'The Field' was shot here and Leenane is also known for its outdoor pursuit's centres.



Aran Islands (Inis Oírr)

🌊 **Letterfrack** (D2) is a delightful village 13km from Clifden. Today the village's old Victorian school buildings house a number of enterprises that form the nucleus of what is now Connemara National Park. A Furniture College linked to the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology is a thriving centre of activity for local and regional development.

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🌊 **Oughterard** (E4) the 'Gateway to Connemara', offers the visitor an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. This is Lough Corrib's main angling centre and its hotels, guesthouses and pubs cater for the many anglers who come for the Mayfly dapping season in early summer and for the Daddy and Harry dap in early autumn.

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🌊 **Rossaveal** (F3) village is 36km west of Galway City and is the county's main fishing harbour. The village is also the ferry port for the short trip to the Aran Islands.

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🌊 **Roundstone** (E2) in the heart of Connemara is one of the oldest fishing villages on the west coast, and is an area of much natural beauty, as well as being the birth place and inspiration for much of Ireland's artistic creations. The village has been described many times as a botanist's delight as many of Ireland's rare wild flowers are found in the area known as Errisbeg which rises to almost 1,000ft (west of the village). Roundstone enjoys unparalleled views of the Twelve Bens and the vast Atlantic Ocean.

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🌊 **Spiddal** (F4) is an area which still manages to value the culture and traditions of Gaeltacht heritage. Its charming stone church, traditional pubs and excellent restaurants combine with a fine sandy beach to make Spiddal a favourite tourist stop.

For more information on towns & villages in Connemara, visit www.discoverireland.ie

🌊* Indicates the town or village is located on the Wild Atlantic Way.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Aughnanure Castle

Oughterard, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 552214

www.heritageireland.ie



Built by the O Flahertys c1500, Aughnanure Castle lies in the picturesque surroundings close to the shores of Lough Corrib. The castle is a well preserved example of an Irish tower house.

Open: 16th Mar – 28th Oct

Admission: Adult €4, Senior/Group €3, Child/Student €2, Family €10

2 Brigit's Garden

Roscahill, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 550905

www.brigitsgarden.ie



Unique Celtic-themed gardens offer a magic experience for all ages. Explore the four seasonal gardens, discover the nature trail, stone chamber and other features. Discovery trail and fun for children. Garden Café and Gift Shop.

Open: All year round, Daily (10.00 - 17.30)

Admission: Adult €8/€6 (high/low season), Senior/Student €6.50/€5, Child €5/€4, Family €24/€18, Under 4s free

★ **Offer:** 10% off admission on presentation of this guide.

3 Ceardlann, Spiddal Craft and Design Studios

Spiddal, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 553376

www.spiddalcrafts.com



Ten craft workers designing, creating, making and selling their work. This unique and very accessible craft village, is a "must stop" for visitors interested in Irish culture and craft. An added attraction is our award-winning café Builín Blasta-The Hungry Loaf.

Open: All year, Mon-Sat (09.30 - 17.30) & Sun (14.00 - 18.00) Phone for confirmation of times out of season

Admission: Free

4 Celtic Crystal Visitor Centre

Moycullen, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 555172

www.celticcrystalireland.com

A totally unique style of handmade Irish crystal, featuring Claddagh Ring, Harp, Celtic Knotwork, and Wheat designs.

Witness thousands of years of Irish culture & history brought to life before your eyes during our factory tour and live demonstration.

Open: All Year, Mon – Fri (09.00 – 18.00)

Apr – Oct, Weekends (09.00 – 17.00)

Admission: Free

★ **Offer:** 10% discount crystal giftware on producing this guide (not valid for personalised items)

5 Cnoc Suain Cultural Experience

An Spidéal (Spiddal),

Co. Galway

Tel: 091 555 703

www.CnocSuain.com

Real Irish Culture & the Gaelic Heart in a restored 17th century Connemara Gaeltacht hill-village & homestead. Two hour Cultural Experience – a 25 minute drive from Galway City. Engaging, informative & fun. An international award-winner!

Open: By Arrangement. Feb – Nov, Mon - Sun

Admission: Organised groups only. Pre-booking essential.

6 Connemara Marble Visitor Centre

Moycullen, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 555102

info@connemaramarble.ie

The Joyce family have quarried Marble for generations. Their Marble adorns the floor of Galway Cathedral and walls of the Senate Chamber in the State Capital Building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. View craftsmen at work. Jewellery & gift items available.

Open: May-Oct, Mon-Sun (09.00-17.00). Rest of year, Mon-Fri (09.00-17.00)

Admission: Free

Visitor Attractions

7 Connemara National Park

Letterrack, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 41054 or 087 2919721

www.connemaranationalpark.ie



The Park offers an exhibition on Connemara's landscape, an audio visual, playground, indoor and outdoor picnic areas, Connemara ponies & Diamond Hill Trails (ranging in length from 15 minutes to 3 hours). Tearoom serving home baking, light lunches, teas & coffees.

Open: Visitor Centre: Mar-Oct Park Grounds: All Year

Admission: Free of charge

8 Connemara Smokehouse and Visitor Centre

Bunowen Pier, Aillebrack,
Ballyconneely, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 23739

www.smokehouse.ie



High quality hand prepared traditional Irish smoked and marinated seafood. Emphasis on freshness, seasonality and sustainability. Wild & Organic Salmon and line caught Smoked Tuna. Multi-Award Winning since 1979. One of Rick Stein's Super Food Heroes. Tours available.

Open: Mon-Fri (09.00-17.00, closed 13.00-14.00). Closed Bank Holidays & Seasonal Holidays.

Admission: Free Admission (except for fully guided tours). Children under 16 go half price for "Wed Smokehouse Tours".

9 Dan O'Hara Homestead

Lettershea, Clifden, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 21246

www.connemaraheritage.com



Learn about 'broken-hearted farmer' Dan O'Hara & Connemara's Colourful Past. Visit Dan's hillside cottage & sit beside the turf-fire. Spectacular views from the Mountains to the Sea. Audio-visual & History Display. Visit Crannog, Ringfort & Clochaun. Restaurant & Craft Shop.

Open: 1st Apr - 31st Oct, Daily (10.00-18.00, Last Admission 17.00). Off season by request for groups.

Admission: Adult/Senior €8, Child €4, Student €7, Family (2 adults & 4 children) €20. Group rates on request.

★ **Offer:** 25% discount off admission on presentation of this guide book.

10 Dun Aonghasa

Kilmurvey, Inis Mór, Aran Islands,
Co. Galway

Tel: 099 61008

www.heritageireland.ie



The largest of the prehistoric stone forts on the Aran Islands. Set on a cliff edge with a 300ft drop to the Atlantic Ocean, the semi-circular fort is enclosed by three massive stone walls.

Open: All Year

Admission: Adult €4, Senior/Group €3, Child/Student €2, Family €10

11 Glengowla Mines & Working Farm Experience

Oughterard, Co. Galway

Tel: 087 252 9850

www.glengowlamines.ie



Explore a 19th century silver & lead mine. Guided underground tours, gold panning station (keep the gems you find!), farm walks, picnic areas & gift shop. The perfect destination for your family day out. Advanced bookings for turf cutting and sheep dog herding demonstrations.

Open: Mid-Mar to Mid-Nov (10.00–18.00)

Admission: Adult €10, Senior €9, Student €9, Child €4, Family €25 *Additional charge applies for turf cutting & sheep dog herding demonstrations.

★ **Offer:** 10% off all tickets when this guide is presented.

12 Joyce Country Sheepdogs

Shanafaraghaun, Finny, Clonbur, Co. Galway

Tel: 094 9548853

www.joycecountrysheepdogs.ie



Demonstration of working sheepdogs against the dramatic lakeshore backdrop of the Connemara Mountains. Guests also provided with insight into hill sheep farming plus shearing demonstration and interaction with puppies during high season.

Open: 1st Apr – 30th Sep, Mon - Sat (demos: 10.30, 13.00 & 15.30)

Admission: Adults €8, Children (5-12 yrs) €5, Under 5yrs free. Group rates available

Visitor Attractions

13 Killary Sheep Farm

Bunowen, Leenane,

Co. Galway

Tel: 087 2988051

www.killarysheepfarm.com



Killary Sheep Farm is a traditional working Connemara Farm overlooking Killary Harbour which is open to visitors. Visitors can experience working sheepdog trials, sheep shearing, turf cutting and bottle feeding orphan lambs.

Open: 1st Apr – 30th Sep, Tue - Sun

Demos at 11.00, 13.00 & 15.00

Admission: Individuals €10, Families (4 people) €25, Groups (10+) €7pp

14 Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden

Kylemore, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 52001

www.kylemoreabbey.com



Home to the Benedictine nuns, the 1000 acre Kylemore estate is the perfect day trip destination. Discover an award winning Victorian Walled Garden, children's play trail, guided tours, musical performances and excellent shopping and dining experiences.

Open: Daily, Mar to mid-Nov (09.30-17.30), mid-Nov to Mar (10.00-16.30), Jul & Aug (09.00-19.00), Bank Holidays (normal working hours)

Admission: Adult: €13, Senior: €10, Student: €9, Family Type A: €26, Family Type B: €35

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on all tickets when this guide is presented.

15 Letterfrack & Ballinakill Harbour Water Tours & Visitor Centre

Derryinver, Letterfrack Bay,

Co. Galway

Tel: 095 43473 / 087 6461189

www.letterfrackwatertours.com



Scenic and Wildlife nature tours on Ireland's only Glass-bottom boat. Cruise departs Letterfrack Pier on the N59 beside Avoca Handcrafts and Connemara National Park. The Maritime Centre and craft shop will contribute to an enjoyable outing. Sailings (weather permitting): 11.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.00, 17.15

Open: Easter - Nov, Daily, 10.00-18.00

16 Loughwell Farm Park

Loughwell, Moycullen,
Co. Galway

Tel: 091 868631

www.loughwellfarmpark.ie



Loughwell Farm Park is a children's paradise with acres of indoor and outdoor fun. It has some of the largest slides in Ireland suitable for children & adults. It is a great day out for the whole family.

Open: Jun - Sep, Daily (11.00 - 18.00)

Sep - May, Sat & Sun only (11.00 - 17.30)

Admission: Adult €5, Child €12

17 Roundstone Music and Craft Shop

The Monastery, Killeen Park,
Roundstone, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 35808

www.bodhran.com



Bodhrán making within an old Franciscan Monastery where Malachy Kearns (or 'Malachy Bodhrán'), manufactures bodhráns in a traditional manner. A small folk museum, 'Craftsman's craft shop' & coffee shop also onsite. Bodhráns are hand painted with Celtic designs and family crests.

Open: All year, Daily (10.15 - 18.00, Summer), closed on Sundays from Nov-Mar.

Admission: Free of charge

18 Sheep and Wool Centre

Leenane, Co. Galway

Tel: 095 42323

www.sheepandwoolcentre.com



Unique in Ireland for its focus on the history of sheep and wool handcrafts with daily demonstrations in carding, spinning and weaving. A short introductory DVD is available in English, Irish, French, German or Italian.

Open: 17th Mar - 31st Oct. Mar (10.00 - 17.00), Apr to Oct (10.00 - 18.00)

Admission: Adult €5. Senior/Student €4. Pre-booking essential for groups.

★ **Offer:** 10% on museum demos



Quay Street, Galway City

Galway City & Surroundings

Nestled on the north inner shore of Galway Bay is one of Ireland's most charming and best loved cities. Galway (Gaillimh in Irish) is known as the "City of the Tribes", after the 14 famous families who forged the city's history. It is a magnet for visitors with its rich Celtic and Spanish heritage, vibrant arts scene and lengthy list of festivals.

Galway City has a population of approximately 76,000 which makes it delightfully compact and easy to stroll around. Explore its cobblestoned medieval streets dotted with brightly-painted shop fronts, handsome limestone buildings and landmarks such as Lynch's Castle, St. Nicholas Church, (where the Galway market is held alongside each weekend), the innovative City Museum and the Spanish Arch. Surrounding streets are filled with unique craft, book and vintage shops (the world famous Claddagh Ring is a popular Galway souvenir!), alongside iconic pubs and restaurants. More award-winning restaurants and lively pubs are found in the 'West End' on the western side of the River Corrib around the Domnick Street area.

Salthill, less than 2km west of the City Centre, has been a favourite seaside resort for decades. The famous lengthy promenade is popular with both locals and visitors alike, for a fast paced jog or a gentle stroll that offers stunning views across Galway Bay to the hills of Clare.

Oranmore, less than 10km East of the City Centre, is a quaint village with some excellent pubs and restaurants, and much to do for all the family including the much loved nearby Rinvilla Park. One of the main attractions is the nearby Oranmore Castle.



Map No.	Attraction
1	Claregalway Castle
2	Galway Atlantaquaria
3	Galway City Museum

Map No.	Attraction
4	Oranmore Castle
5	Pure Skill - Fusion of Sport
6	St. Nicholas Collegiate Church

Visitor Attractions

1 Claregalway Castle

Claregalway, Co Galway

Tel: 086 2020999

www.claregalwaycastle.com



This superb 15th Century architectural gem is one of the chief Clanrickarde Burke castles. Guided tours, learn its colourful history, view period artefacts in this award-winning restoration project. Home to Galway Garden Festival, music festivals and many cultural and fun events.

Open: Mar – Oct, Thu - Sun (12.00 – 16.00)

Admission: Adults €6, Child/Student/Concession €3

2 Galway Atlantaquaria

The Promenade, Salthill

Tel: 091 585100

www.nationalaquarium.ie



The National Aquarium of Ireland is home to the country's largest display of aquatic life. With over 150 species of fish and invertebrates in five hundred tonnes of water, the exhibits provide an insight into native marine and freshwater habitats.

Open: All Year, Daily (10.00 - 18.00)

Admission: Adult €11.50, Child €7.50 (extra child €4.50), Family (1 adult & 2 children) €22, Family (2 adults & 2 children) €33, Student/Senior €8.

3 Galway City Museum

Spanish Parade,

Galway City

Tel: 091 532460

www.galwaycitymuseum.ie



Galway City Museum is a spacious, modern building, situated in the heart of Galway City on the banks of the River Corrib and overlooking the famous Spanish Arch. It houses a variety of permanent and touring exhibitions representing Galway's rich archaeology, heritage and history.

Open: Tue – Sat (10.00 - 17.00) & Sun (12.00 – 17.00, Easter to Sep only)

Admission: FREE

Visitor Attractions

4 Oranmore Castle

Oranmore Village

Tel: 086 6003160

www.oranmorecastle.com



A hidden jewel on the shores of Galway Bay. A medieval tower house restored by Anita Leslie and her husband Bill King, sailor and submariner and is now home to her daughter Leonie King (artist) and husband Alec Finn (musician).

Open: Jun, Jul & Aug (Tours: 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00)

May & Sep (prearranged by appointment)

Admission: Adult €6, Child €3

5 Pure Skill - Fusion of Sport

Knocknacarra,

Galway City

Tel: 091 515510

www.pureskill.ie



24,000 sq. feet of indoor sports entertainment in an automated, floodlit, Astroturf arena. Sports: Baseball, Cricket, Basketball, Soccer, Hurling, Tennis, Rugby, Gaelic Football, Golf Putting and Chipping. Non-contact and weather independent. Complete the scorecard out of 100 points doing all 10 sports.

Open: Daily (11.00-19.00). Pre booking essential.

Admission: Adults €20, Children €15

★ Offer: 10% discount mid-week on presentation of this guide.

6 St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church

Market Street,

Galway City

Tel: 091 564648

www.stnicholas.ie



The oldest Medieval Church in Ireland that has been in continuous use. Built by the Tribes of Galway on the ruins of an earlier Christian Church circa 1320.

Open: All year round, Daily (09.00– 18.00)

Admission: A Donation of €2 per person is requested.

Groups with tour guide or Leader €1 each.

★ Offer: Children and Tour Guides are free.

More to Experience

Eyre Square

This focal point and popular gathering place in the City Centre includes the imposing Browne's Doorway, "Quincentenary" fountain and the Christmas Continental Market.

Galway Cathedral

The green octagonal dome of another distinctive Galway landmark soars above the city skyline and stands beside the Salmon Weir Bridge.

Galway Fisheries Watchtower Museum

Located alongside Wolfe Tone Bridge, the recently renovated former look out tower now houses an extensive collection of various historical artefacts.

Hall of the Red Earl

This original custom house, courthouse and banqueting hall was built by Richard De Burgo in 1271. Traces of the original structure and samples of unearthed artefacts are on display in the Druid Lane site.

Lynch's Castle

One of the most striking Galway streetscape sights in Shop Street is this Norman-era tower House, adorned with gargoyles and coats of arms.

Salthill Promenade

Stroll along the two kilometre long Promenade and enjoy stunning views of Galway Bay and the Clare hills. A local ritual is to "kick the wall" at the promenade's end to signify the completion of your Prom walk!

Spanish Arch

Originally built as an extension of the famous city walls, designed to protect the quays. Walk through the Arch to discover the innovative City Museum and stroll along Galway's famously picturesque "Long Walk".

The Claddagh

A former fishing village, this area is internationally famous because of the Claddagh ring (popular as both a friendship and wedding ring). Visit a small but very unique museum located at Thomas Dillon jewellers in Quay Street, one of the original makers of The Claddagh Ring. Also, visit the Arts Centre in the heart of the Claddagh with beautifully designed gardens, gift shop and event space.

Theatres

Galway City has a thriving theatre community with several top class theatres dotted throughout the City. Please check with Tourist Office staff for a full listing.



The Galway Market, beside St Nicholas' Church (City Centre)

City Tours

Galway Tourist Train www.GalwayTouristTrain.com, Tel: 087 2188314 / 087 2188317 A unique 45 minute guided historical tour of Galway City and Salthill, with full commentary and music on-board. Hourly pick up points at the top of Eyre Square and outside the Aquarium in Salthill.

Open Top Bus

Take a 'Hop On/Hop Off' open-top bus tour of the "City of the Tribes" and Salthill. Tours operate seasonally and last 90 minutes typically.

Galway Sightseeing Tours, Tel: 091 524728.

Lally's Old Galway City Tour, Tel: 091 562905. www.lallytours.com

Walking

Galway's winding medieval streets are perfect for exploring on foot. Bespoke guided walking tours can be arranged throughout the year from the Discover Ireland Centre on Forster Street.

Regional Tours

Year-round tours depart from Galway City, southwards to the Burren's lunar landscapes or westwards to Connemara's haunting scenery and the Aran Islands on the edge of Europe! Tickets from the Discover Ireland Centre on Forster St.

Connemara - Choose an itinerary that can include visits to the iconic Kylemore Abbey, Cong village, coastal routes and striking Connemara views.

Cliffs of Moher & the Burren - Select a tour to take you to the Aillwee Caves, ancient Poul nabrone Dolmen, breath-taking Cliffs of Moher or even a Burren farm walk.

Aran Islands - Discover the unique world of the Aran Islands and explore the fabled fort of Dún Aonghasa. See pages 150 – 152 for more information.

Regional Tour Operators:

Burren Wild Tours Tel: 087 8779565. www.burrenwalks.com

Faherty Tours Tel: 091 442913. www.fahertytours.com

Galway Tour Company Tel: 091 566566. www.galwaytourcompany.com

Healy's Tel: 091 770066. www.healytours.ie

Lally's Tel: 091 562905. www.lallytours.com

Wild Atlantic Way Day Tours Tel: 087 7777805. www.wildatlanticwaydaytours.com



Horse Racing fun at the Galway Races!

Other Local Experiences!

Bone Carving Studio and Gallery Merchants Road, Galway City Centre
Tel: 086 6658100, www.bonecarving.ie

Avail of the opportunity to craft your own unique memento of Galway. The Bone Carving Studio and Gallery, just off Eyre Square, offers the only bone carving classes in Ireland. Create your own gleaming jewellery on a sunny or dull day.

Corrib Princess sailings from Woodquay, Galway City
Tel: 091 592447. www.corribprincess.ie

Take a summer time cruise on the river Corrib from the near city centre departure point at Woodquay.

Galway Food Tours, Galway City
Tel: 086 7332885, www.Facebook.com/AroundTheMarketPlace

A tour around Galway's finest foodie destinations. Sheena will guide you along the streets of Galway where you will meet artisanal producers and sample their products, while soaking up the alluring atmosphere of the west.

Sports

GAA – see Ireland's famous national sports played at Pearse Stadium in Salthill. Visit www.galwaygaa.ie.

Rugby – watch Connacht Rugby Club play their professional games at the Sports Ground on College Road. Visit www.connachtrugby.ie

Soccer – Galway United FC is the home club of Galway and plays at national level in Eamonn Deacy Park. Visit www.galwayunitedfc.ie

Greyhound Racing - Follow the pack to the Sports Ground on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for some excellent racing. Visit www.igb.ie

Horse Racing – visit Galway Racecourse for one of their summer/autumn meetings.

Water Sports – plenty of options on Galway Bay including surfing, kite surfing, paddle boarding and kayaking. See pages 90 – 97 for more information.



Entrance to Mountbellew Forest Park. Credit: David Walsh Photographer



Map No.	Attraction
1	Athenry Castle
2	Athenry Heritage Centre
3	Burren Nature Sanctuary
4	Coole Nature Reserve
5	Dartfield Horse Museum / Heritage Centre
6	Dunguaire Castle

Map No.	Attraction
7	Pallas Karting & Paintball
8	Portumna Castle and Gardens
9	The Irish Workhouse Centre
10	Turoe Farm & Leisure Park
11	Woodville Walled Garden & Museum

Galway East & South

Discover brooding battlefields and castles, idyllic forest parks, homes of literary legends and ecclesiastical gems. Experience festivals and fairs, ranging from horse-trading in Ballinasloe to watching red-sailed boats racing across Galway Bay in Kinvara. Discover Galway East & South!


Galway East & South - Towns & Villages

Athenry (E6) 23km east of Galway City, a medieval Heritage town famous worldwide due to the stirring ballad "The Fields of Athenry".

Ballinasloe (E7) 65km east of Galway City, the town lies on the banks of the River Suck and hosts one of Europe's oldest and largest horse fairs each autumn.

Gort (F5) 38km south of Galway City, the area has connections with literary greats WB Yeats and Lady Gregory, as well as impressive historical sites such as Kilmacduagh.

Headford (E5) 28km north of Galway City, a popular angling town known as the "Gateway to the Corrib" & is on the doorstep of scenic Joyce Country.

 **Kinvara** (F5) 30km south of Galway City, a picture-postcard village on Galway Bay featuring Dunguaire Castle, which hosts medieval banquets (seasonal) and the Cruinniú na mBád (Gathering of the Boats) festival each August.

Loughrea (F6) 40km east of Galway City, the town boasts an inland Blue Flag beach and the impressive St. Brendan's Cathedral.

Mountbellew (E6) 48km north east of Galway City. The town boasts beautiful wooded walks & is host to one of Ireland's oldest agricultural shows each September.

Portumna (F7) 70km south-east of Galway City, located on the shores of the River Shannon and Lough Derg. Interesting landmarks include Portumna Castle, Famine Workhouse and 1,000-acre forest park.

Tuam (D5) 34km north of Galway City. St. Jarlath founded a monastery here in the 6th century. Today, the town boasts 2 magnificent Cathedrals.

For more information on towns & villages in Galway East & South, visit www.discoverireland.ie

 * Indicates the town or village is located on the Wild Atlantic Way.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Athenry Castle

Athenry Town, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 844797

www.heritageireland.ie



A 13th Century tower house. The oldest part of the castle is the hall – keep, it is a large rectangular building originally containing a hall at first floor level, & dark storerooms at ground level.

Open: 2nd Apr – 21st Oct

Admission: Adult €4, Senior/Group €3, Child/Student €2, Family €10.

2 Athenry Heritage Centre

St. Mary's, The Square,

Athenry, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 844661

www.athenryheritagecentre.com



Enjoy a Medieval Experience in the Athenry Heritage Centre with dressing up in medieval costume, test your skill with Have-A-Go-Archery and discover history through interactive exhibits. Guided tours available for all visitors.

Open: Feb – May & Sep - Oct, Mon – Fri (10.00 – 16.00), Jun - Aug, Tue – Sun (10.30-17.00).

Admission: Medieval Experience €7.50, Child €5, Family €26
General Admission €4.

3 Burren Nature Sanctuary

Cloonasee, Kinvara

Co. Galway

Tel: 091 637444

www.bns.ie



BNS is the interpretive centre for the natural history of the Burren. Burren walk - Botany Bubble, Disappearing Lake, pavement, meadow, farm cafe, fairy woodland, farm pets, bird hide, adventure play indoor and outdoor. All ages.

Open: All year except January, Daily (10.00-18.00)

Admission: Adults: €5 (free to cafe & indoor exhibit)

Children 3 and under: €5 (incl. 1 adult)

Children over 3: €10 (incl. 1 adult). All day access

★ **Offer:** Family day pass (2 adults & 3 kids): €25

4 Coole Nature Reserve

Coole, Gort

Co. Galway

Tel: 091 631804

www.coolepark.ie

The nature reserve is 450 hectares of woodland, and wetland and the former estate of Lady Gregory. There are marked trails, a visitor centre and tearooms and a picnic area in the walled garden. Walks and family activities during the summer.

Open: Reserve: All Year, Daily. Visitor Centre & tearooms: Easter - Sep

Admission: Free

5 Dartfield Horse Museum / Heritage Centre

Kilrickle, Loughrea,

Co. Galway

Tel: 091 843968

www.dartfield.com

Dartfield is the vision of the famous horseman, Willie Leahy, largest breeder of Connemara Ponies in the world. Activities available: Horse Riding / Clay Pigeon Shooting / Archery / 4 X 4 Off-Roadng / Blacksmith Workshop / Café / Tack & Gift Shop.

Open: Jan – Dec, Mon – Sun (09.00 – 18.00)

Admission: Adult €6.50, Child €3.50 (Under 3yrs free)

Students/Seniors €5, Family €15, Group of 10+ €4.50 p.p.

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on presentation of pocket guide

6 Dunguaire Castle

Kinvara, Co. Galway

Tel: 061 360788

www.shannonheritage.com

Overlooking the picturesque village of Kinvara, is Dunguaire Castle built in 1520. One of its most famous occupants was the surgeon and literary figure Oliver St. John Gogarty.

Open: May – Sep, (10.00 - 17.00, last admission 16.30). Opening times may be subject to change.

Admission: Adult €6, Child €3.40, Senior/Student €3.50, Family tickets available.

★ **Offer:** 20% discount on family and adult admission.

Visitor Attractions

7 Pallas Karting & Paintball

Pallas, Tynagh, Loughrea
Co. Galway

Tel: 090 9745147

www.pallaskarting.com



Pallas Karting & Paintball offers you fun and exhilaration, whether it is racing a great speed on Europe's Largest Karting Centre or battling it out to see who the top Solider is. Pallas has it all.

Open: Open every day except Bank Holidays. 10.00 - 18.00

Admission: Karting from €20pp
Paintball and Splatball from €20pp

★ **Offer:** 20% off our Normal Prices – Monday to Friday

8 Portumna Castle and Gardens

Portumna, Co. Galway

Tel: 090 9741658

www.heritageireland.ie



Built before 1618, this Jacobean manor was the seat of the De Burgo family for over 200 years. The castle & gardens include a 17th Century walled kitchen garden. Nearby are Lough Derg, the River Shannon and the beautiful Portumna Forest Park.

Open: 2nd Apr – 15th Oct (15th Oct - 26th Oct - Weekends Only)

Admission: Adult €4, Senior/Group €3, Child/Student €2, Family €10

9 The Irish Workhouse Centre

St. Brigid's Road, Portumna,
Co. Galway

Tel: 090 9759200

www.irishworkhousecentre.ie



A Real Story in a Real Workhouse! These hated institutions were the last resort of destitute people from the 1840s to the 1920s. Find out about life in the workhouse or poorhouse. Fully guided tours.

Open: 1st Mar – 30th Nov, Daily from 09.30
Mar, Oct & Nov (last tour 16.00), Apr – Sep (last tour 17.00)

Admission: Adult €6, Senior/Student €4, Family €14
Primary School Tours €2.50 per student. Group discounts available.

10 Turoe Farm & Leisure Park

Bullaun, Loughrea,

Co. Galway

Tel: 091 841580

www.turoepetfarm.com

Feed and cuddle the animals around the farm, have lots of fun in "Jungle Town" and in the "Inflatable City". Enjoy all the outdoor playgrounds and the football Pitch.

Open: Summer: Mid May-31st Aug, Daily (10.00-19.00). All other months: Weekends (13.00-18.00). Extra Opening: Easter, Halloween and Christmas

Admission: Adults €6, Children €12, Family Rates available.

★ Offer: 5% Discount on Presentation of this guide.

11 Woodville Walled Garden & Museum

Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co Galway

Tel: 087 9069191

www.woodvillewalledgarden.com

Colourful herbaceous borders, espaliered fruit trees, Rose garden, water fountain, original Dovecote home to white fantail doves. Museum artefacts from Perse family & Lady Gregory patron to W.B. Yeats. Gift shop, tearoom, toilet & free parking.

Open: Easter - Oct (11.00 - 17.30). Feb, Mar & Nov, Fri - Sun (12.00 - 17.30)

Admission: Adults €5, Students €3, Family (2 ad + 2 ch) €15

★ Offer: 10% discount off gift shop purchases over €10

More To Experience

Lady Gregory Yeats Trail incorporates historical sites between Gort and Loughrea which are associated with Lady Gregory and W.B. Yeats. These sites include Kilmacduagh, Coole Park, Kiltartan Gregory Museum, Thoor Ballylee, Killinane Graveyard, Roxborough Gates, Woodville Walled Gardens and St. Brendan's Cathedral. www.ladygregoryyeatstrail.com

Aughrim (E7) The story of the bloodiest battle in Irish history is told at the Battle of Aughrim Interpretative Centre (seasonal). Tel: 090 9673939.

Clonfert Cathedral (Clonfert, F7) & St. Brendan's Cathedral (Loughrea, F6) are two fine historical cathedrals which are well worth a visit.

Forest Parks dotted around the region offer peaceful and well maintained forest walks. Some locations include Monivea, Mountbellew and Portumna.

LIMERICK



Limerick

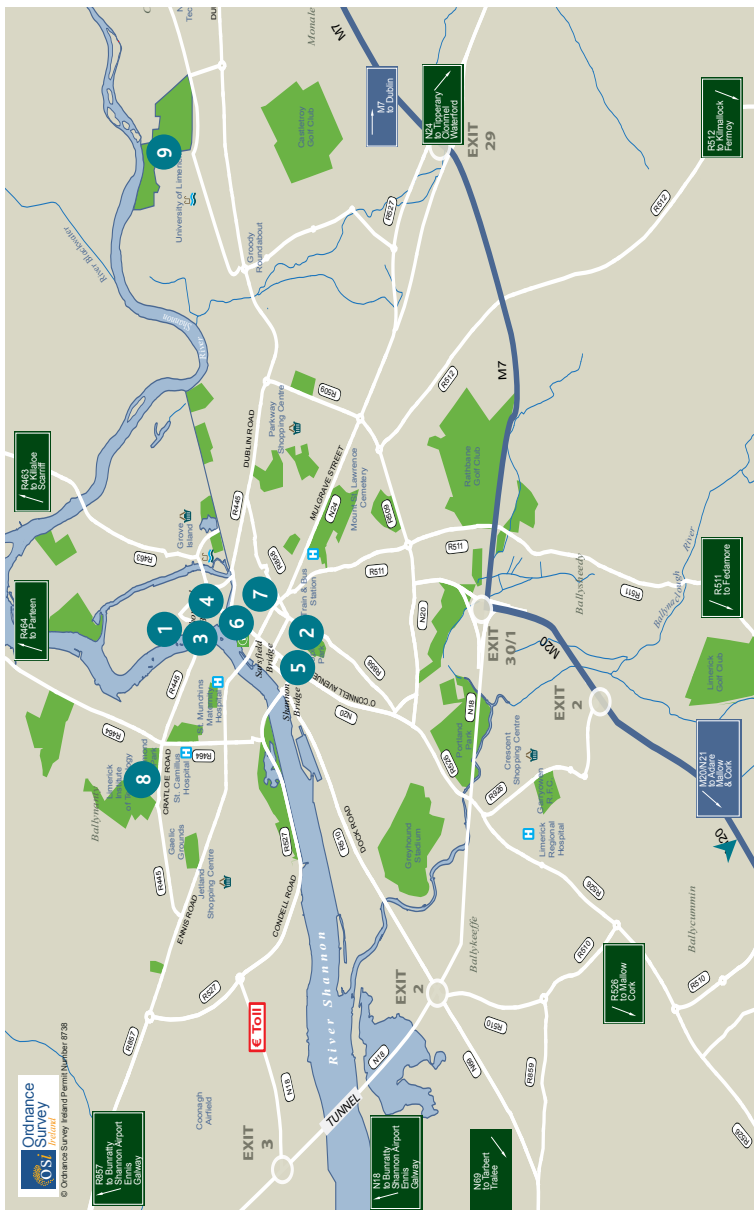
With its historic city and luscious countryside, Limerick offers the perfect blend with something for everyone.

Limerick City is a down to earth city where history and culture greets you on every street. Absorb Limerick City's rich history as you take in the commanding view of the majestic Shannon from King John's medieval castle; stroll like a Georgian gent through Limerick's Georgian section; or learn about the Limerick Soviet, a major event in the opening blows of the Irish War of Independence. The Milk Market has daily themed markets with an abundance of items and characters.

Limerick County is home to many quaint villages and charming towns; including the Walled Town of Kilmallock, Adare (also known as "the prettiest village in Ireland"), Newcastle West and the port town of Foynes where the Flying Boat & Maritime Museum is a delight for plane and mechanical enthusiasts or for kids big and small. A fully equipped Boeing 314 is the main attraction. Starting in Rathkeale, 'The Great Southern Trail' is a unique 40km route that runs along the abandoned Limerick- Tralee railway line. This facility is ideal for walking or cycling through Limerick's lush countryside.

Did you Know?

- Population: 191,809
- Area: 2,755km² (10th largest county in Ireland).
- Author Frank Mc Court wrote the book *Angela's Ashes* based on his life, living in Limerick City.
- The River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland and Britain (approx. 240 miles) and flows through Limerick.
- The poetry style 'limerick' originated in Croom, Co. Limerick, thus giving its name.



Map No.	Attraction
1	King John's Castle
2	Limerick City Gallery of Art
3	Limerick City Museum
4	St. Mary's Cathedral
5	The Frank McCourt Museum

Map No.	Attraction
6	The Hunt Museum
7	The Milk Market
8	Thomond Park Stadium and Museum Tours
9	UL Sport



Limerick City at dusk

Limerick City

Limerick is built around a medieval core on King's Island and has a charter older than that of London. However, it's also considered a vibrant, bustling modern city that continuously reinvents itself which surprises the visitor with every stay!

From the medieval quarter at King's Island with its cathedral, museum and newly renovated King John's Castle, to the elegant splendour of the Georgian new town, Limerick is full of historical and architectural surprises.

Providing a twist on the shopping experience, the Milk Market offers bustling themed market days and activities for those with an eye for environmentalism, while the art connoisseur can peep at Picasso and relax with Renoir at the Hunt Museum.

Limerick City is also home to some of the very best stadia and sporting infrastructure in Ireland including Thomond Park Stadium, home to the Munster team, the Gaelic Grounds, the University of Limerick Arena and the recently developed Limerick Greyhound Stadium.

For those on a weekend break or those planning a longer stay, there is a wealth of attractions and activities for you to enjoy in Limerick City!

Visitor Attractions

1 King John's Castle

King's Island,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 370500

www.shannonheritage.com



Don't miss this amazing brand new castle visitor experience in the heart of Medieval Limerick. Features include a stunning interactive exhibition, an enhanced courtyard and scenic battlement walks. Relax afterwards in our panoramic café.

Open: All Year. Apr - Sep (09.30-17.30, last admission 16.00).
Oct-Mar (09.30-16.30, last admission 15.15). Closed on 24th, 25th & 26th Dec.

Admission: Adult €10, Child €5.25, Senior/Student €7, Family rates available.

2 Limerick City Gallery of Art

Carnegie Building, Pery Square,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 310633

www.gallery.limerick.ie



In visiting one of Limerick's foremost tourist attractions, you can see the best of international Contemporary Art, along with works from an extensive Irish Collection.

Open: Mon - Wed (10.00 - 17.30), Thu (10.00 - 20.30), Sat (10.00 - 17.00), Sun (12.00 - 17.00)

Admission: Free

3 Limerick City Museum

City Hall, Merchants' Quay,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 417826

www.limerick.ie/museum



Local authority museum, with displays illustrating the history of Limerick and its region.

Open: Mon - Fri (10.00 - 13.00 & 14.15 - 17.00)

Admission: Free

4 St. Mary's Cathedral

Bridge Street, Limerick City

Tel: 061 310293

www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org



Founded in 1168, the Cathedral has a long and fascinating history. With Medieval monuments, notable stained glass, carved monk's choir seats, leper's squint and much more, the Cathedral is well worth a visit.

Open: Daily, check times on website. Extra opening by arrangement.

Admission: Donation of €3 accepted

5 The Frank McCourt Museum

Hartstonge Street,

Limerick City

Tel: 061 319710

www.frankmccourtmuseum.com



A unique, quirky museum in a listed building (1843), formerly Leamy School in Limerick City Centre. It showcases the actual classroom and 1930s/40s home of Frank McCourt, Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Angela's Ashes*.

Open: Mon – Fri (11.00 – 16.30), Sat & Sun (14.00 – 16.00)

Admission: Adults €4, Students & Seniors €3, Children under 12 €1, Children under 6 Free, Groups of 10+ 10% discount.

6 The Hunt Museum

The Custom House, Rutland Street,

Limerick City

Tel: 061 312833

www.huntmuseum.com



The Hunt Museum exhibits one of Ireland's greatest private collections of art and antiquities. The C18th Custom House provides an ideal setting for these treasures.

Open: Mon – Sat (10.00 – 17.00), Sun (14.00 – 17.00)

Admission: Adult €5, Family €12, Seniors €3.50, Child €2.50

★ **Offer:** Sun admission FREE, Mon '2 for the price of 1'.

Visitor Attractions

7 The Milk Market

Cornmarket Row,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 214782

www.milkmarketlimerick.ie



This all-weather venue, established in 1852, is open Friday, Saturdays, Sundays every week. Come and sample some of the delicious local produce and artisan foods, colourful traders with a variety of arts and crafts.

Open: All Year, Fri (10.00 - 15.00), Sat (08.00 - 15.00), Sun (11.00 - 15.00)

Admission: Free



8 Thomond Park Stadium and Museum Tours

Cratloe Road,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 421109

www.thomondpark.ie



The stadium tour takes you to places usually only accessible to players & officials. The full stadium tour consists of a museum visit and film, plus visits to pitch side and Munster Dugout, as well as the home & away dressing rooms and post-match interview area.

Open: Mon - Sat (advance bookings recommended)

Admission: Adult €10, Child €8, Family (2 adults & 2 Kids) €30

★ **Offer:** 10% off ticket price with presentation of Pocket Guide.



9 UL Sport

University of Limerick,
Limerick City

Tel: 061 213555

www.ulsport.ie



Home to the National 50m Swimming Pool, Ireland's largest indoor sports venue.

Open: Check website for details.



More to Experience

Tours

Bus Tour (Open Top) - Red Viking Tours, www.redvikingtours.com
Tel: 061 394033.

Walking Tours – Enjoy a range of guided day and evening time historical and medieval tours, including the Angela's Ashes tour, the Kings Island tour and the Georgian Limerick tour. Full details available from the Tourist Information Office at 20 O'Connell Street, Tel: 061 317522 or visit www.limerick.ie

Historic Buildings & Landmarks

Bishop's Palace, Tel: 061 313399, www.limerickcivictrust.ie

Treaty Stone, Tel: 061 317522.

The Georgian House & Garden, Tel: 061 314130, www.georgianhouseandgarden.ie

Limerick Masonic Centre, www.freemasonsnorthmunster.com

Limerick Genealogy, Dooradoyle. Tel: 061 496542, www.limerickgenealogy.com

St. John's Cathedral, Tel: 061 457000.

Sporting Venues

Limerick GAA Pairc na nGael, www.limerickgaa.ie

Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Tel: 061 448000, www.igb.ie

Limerick Racecourse, Tel: 061 320000, www.limerickraces.ie

Thomond Park Stadium, Tel: 061 421100, www.thomondpark.ie

Arts, Cultural & Entertainment Venues

69 O'Connell Street, Tel: 061 774774, www.limetreetheatre.ie

Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick. Tel: 061 314483, www.dolanspub.com

Limerick City Gallery of Art, Tel: 061 310633, www.gallery.limerick.ie

Lime Tree Theatre, Tel: 061 774774, www.limetreetheatre.ie

The Loft Theatre @ The Locke Bar, Tel: 061 413733, www.lockebar.com

The White House, Tel: 061 412377

University Concert Hall, Tel: 061 331 549, www.uch.ie



Limerick's rolling countryside



Map No.

Attraction

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Adare Heritage Centre |
| 2 | Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails |
| 3 | Coillte Forest Park Curragh Chase |
| 4 | Desmond Hall |

Map No.

Attraction

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum |
| 6 | Lough Gur Heritage Centre |
| 7 | Stonehall Wildlife Park |

Limerick County

Limerick County has rolled out the green carpet to welcome you! From the diversity of its breath-taking landscapes and spectacular coastline, to the mystical charms of its ancient past and its picturesque towns and villages full of character, this County is full of colour and charm.

Some of Ireland's most impressive archaeological and historical sites, including the 5,000 year old Neolithic settlement at Lough Gur, are located in the County. A visit to the Flying Boat Museum at Foynes will reward you with the perfect end to a great day. Here, in 1940, some weary passengers sipped the first ever 'Irish coffee'. Adare Village, beloved for fairy-tale beauty, is dominated by thatched boutique shops and intimate eateries. If al fresco dining is more your thing, Curraghchase Forest Park offers picnic and BBQ facilities in unparalleled surroundings.

Limerick County is a playground for outdoor pursuits! Here you can go angling in plentiful waters, golfing on our world renowned courses, go biking on the longest trail network of its kind at the Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails in the south of the County or go horse riding in wonderfully scenic surroundings. Don't feel obliged to take part though – instead, come horse racing at Limerick Racecourse in Patrickswell.

It has often been said that perhaps Limerick's biggest attraction of all is the people themselves who are warm, witty and welcoming! So whether you are visiting city or county (or both!), you are sure to enjoy your stay.



Adare Village, Co Limerick

Limerick County - Towns & Villages

Adare (I5) with its broad main street lined with thatched houses and colourful doors, Adare has long been a much-admired stopping place for tourists. It is often referred to as 'Ireland's Prettiest Village'. Must see features of Adare are its three medieval abbeys, a 13th Century castle and the Adare Heritage Centre.

Abbeylea (I4) Abbeylea is the second largest town in County Limerick. This historical market town is pleasantly situated on the river Feale in the foothills of the Mullaghareirk Mountains which is a great spot for fishing.

Athea (I4) This small rural village in the west of County Limerick hosts the famous Athea Motorcycle Road Races; an annual event which draws thousands to the village each June.

Askeaton (H5) This medieval village on the scenic N69 driving route was once a stronghold of the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Today, the impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle dominate the town.

Ardagh Village (I5) near Newcastle West is the site of the discovery of the exquisitely worked 8th century Ardagh Chalice, now on display in the National Museum of Ireland.

Bruff (I6) See the habitat and artefacts of Neolithic Man in Lough Gur, just outside Bruff one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites.

Castleconnell (H6) a picturesque village on the River Shannon and home to well stocked fishing waters.

Croom (I6) The famous 5 line bawdy rhyme form, known as a limerick, was first devised here by 18th Century Maigue poets.

Dromcollogher (J5) A small town in close proximity to the Cork border situated in the Golden Vale.



Newcastle West, Co Limerick

Foynes (H5) Relive the pioneering days of transatlantic aviation in the Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Irish coffee was invented here by barman Joe Sheridan for the cold, weary travellers of the flying boat days.

Glin (I4) Glin is an attractive village overlooking the Shannon Estuary and is home to some fabulous scenic walking trails.

Kilcornan (H5) Here you will find some fantastic family fun activities to keep you and your little ones entertained. Enjoy the great outdoors in the vast Curraghchase Forest Park consisting of some 600 acres of forest. Curraghchase was once the estate of the De Vere family and is known for its nature walks, ornamental gardens, arboretum and camping park.

Kilfinane (J6) Kilfinane is a small market town in the south east of County Limerick, nestled within the Ballyhoura Mountain range in the Golden Vale region.

Kilmallock (I6) The Walled Town's rich architectural heritage is evident in its many national monuments, an interesting museum and history trail. The town is close to the Ballyhoura Mountain Biking Trails, the largest trail network of its kind in Ireland.

Murroe (H6) to the east of the County is home to the Benedictine Monks of Glenstal Abbey, famed for their Gregorian chant.

Newcastle West (I5) is the County town of Limerick and well worth a visit. The town is a shopper's delight with fabulous boutiques and shops and is home to the Desmond Banqueting Hall, an imposing two storey structure used by the Earls of Desmond for banqueting and entertainment.

Patrickswell (H5) Derived from a holy well dedicated to St. Patrick, the village is also home to the hugely popular Limerick Racecourse.

Rathkeale (I5) Rathkeale is situated on the River Deel and dates back to at least 1289. It has been influenced by many periods of settlement over the centuries.

For more information on towns & villages in Limerick, visit www.discoverireland.ie

 Indicates the town or village is located on the Wild Atlantic Way.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Adare Heritage Centre

Adare, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 396666

www.adareheritagecentre.ie



Historical exhibition, a reconstruction of Adare's unique past from the arrival of the Normans to the ancient Abbeys of the Middle Ages.

Open: Jan – Dec, 09.30 – 17.00

Admission: Free. Donations accepted.



2 Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails

Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick

www.visitballyhoura.com



This trail network is the largest of its kind in Ireland. There are 5 cross-country loops to choose from, varying in lengths from 6km to 50km with sweeping single track, boardwalks and forest roads.

Open: Mon-Fri (08.00 – 21.00), Sat-Sun (08.00 - 20.00)

Admission: €5 per car or €35 annual admittance (www.coillteoutdoors.ie)



3 Coillte Forest Park Curragh Chase

Kilcornan, Askeaton,

Co. Limerick

www.coillteoutdoors.ie



300 hectares of mixed woodland and parkland. Attractions include waymarked walks, family cycling, playgrounds, historic house, arboretum, pet cemetery, lake and specimen trees.

Open: Summer (07.00 – 21.00), Winter (08.00 - 18.30)

Admission: €5 per car or €35 annual admittance (www.coillteoutdoors.ie)



4 Desmond Hall

Newcastle West, Co. Limerick

Tel: 069 77408

www.heritageireland.ie/en/desmondhall/

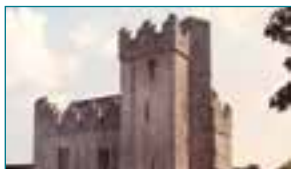


Built by the Fitzgerald's (Earls of Desmond) in the 1200's, the castle has survived numerous sieges and rebellions. The

restored medieval banqueting hall is open to visitors, free of charge.

Open: Daily tours (29th May - 3rd Sep). Otherwise by arrangement.

Admission: Guided tours and admission are free



5 Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum

Foynes, Co. Limerick

Tel: 069 65416

www.flyingboatmuseum.com



Museum dedicated to the history of Flying Boats and passenger travel across the Atlantic from 1937-1945. Original film, radio equipment, flight simulators etc. New Maritime Museum open which portrays the history and personality of the River Shannon from Limerick to Loop Head.

Open: 14th Mar – 31st May (09.30 – 17.00), 1st Jun – 30th Sep (09.30 – 18.00)
1st Oct – Early Nov (09.30-17.00) *Last admission one hour before closing*

Admission: Adults €11, Seniors/Students €9, Family ticket €28 (2 Adults + 4 children) Child €6 (under 5's free).

6 Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Lough Gur lake, Bruff,

Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 385186

087 2852022

www.loughgur.com



Lough Gur is one of Ireland's archaeological gems surrounded by exceptional natural beauty. Visit today and visit a wealth of attractions that have inspired generations for thousands of years.

Open: Daily, Mon-Fri (10.00-17.00), Sat & Sun (12.00-18.00), Later opening in the summer. Check website for details.

Admission: Adults €5, Children €3, Students/Seniors €4. Family rate €15
Group rate on request.

7 Stonehall Wildlife Park

Curraghchase, Kilcornan,

Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 393940

www.stonehallvisitorfarm.ie



A family friendly attraction where all the family will enjoy the large variety of domestic & wildlife animals & all can enjoy indoor play area to have fun, suitable for all ages & all weather conditions.

Open: Apr-Jun & Sep-Oct, Sat & Sun only (11.00-18.00). Jul & Aug, Daily (11.00-18.00)

Admission: €8 per person

More to Experience

Museums & Historic Buildings

Adare Franciscan Friary (I5) Adare Tel: 061 396666, www.adareheritagecentre.ie
In 1464, Thomas, Earl of Kildare and his wife founded the Franciscan Friary in Adare.

Askeaton Castle and Franciscan Friary (H5) Askeaton Tel: 061 392149.
It is believed that William de Burgo established the property around 1199.

DeValera Museum (I6) Bruree Tel: 063 909000.
The Museum tells the story of the late President Eamon de Valera and of the area which formed his character.

Glenstal Abbey (H6) Murroe Tel: 061 621000. www.glenstal.org
Home to a community of Benedictine monks who work and pray together. Visitors are welcome to join the monks for all the liturgies that take place throughout the day in the Abbey Church. Open: All year round.

Kilmallock Museum and Historic Town Trail (I6) Kilmallock Tel: 063 98259.
This museum holds a small collection of implements dealing with life in the 19th and 20th centuries as well as models of medieval Kilmallock.

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre (I5) Rathkeale. Tel: 069 63511, www.irishpalatines.org
In 1709 several families of German origin settled in Ireland. Known as the Palatines, they established roots mainly in County Limerick.

Plunkett Heritage Centre (J5) Dromcollogher. Tel: 063 83433.
Ireland's First Cooperative Creamery set up in 1889.

Nature & Wildlife

Limerick's Garden Trail www.limerickgardentrail.com
Includes a number of award-winning gardens. Most are open daily during the spring, summer and early autumn.

Clare Glens (H6) Murroe. Tel: 061 496000, www.lcc.ie
An extremely picturesque location, which has become very popular due to its natural beauty.

Buttercup Visitor Farm (I6) Croom. Tel: 061 397556, www.buttercupfarm.ie
Traditional farm with a large selection of farm animals including Cattle, Sheep, Pigs & Exotic Birds.

Ryans Honey Farm (I7) Pallasgreen. Tel: 062 57147.
Honey Farm is where the bees are farmed and the gardens are planted with a wide variety of plants and trees to provide the raw materials for the honey.

Arts cultural & entertainment venues

Friar's Gate Theatre (I6) Kilmallock. Tel: 063 98727, www.friarsgate.com

Honey Fitz Theatre (I6) Lough Gur. Tel: 087 0852022, www.loughgur.com/honey-fitz-theatre

Tours

Join an organised tour and let your guide bring the history, folklore and heritage of this fascinating city and its beautiful surrounding countryside to life. There are a wide range of tours on offer. Contact Limerick Tourist Office for details. Tel: 061 317522

Regional Bus Tours

There are a number of private bus companies operating on routes throughout the West. Please check with your nearest Tourist Office for more information.

Authentic Ireland Travel Ltd www.authenticireland.com Tel: 01 293 3088

Barratt Tours www.4tours.biz Tel: 061 384700

Glynn's Coaches www.glynncoaches.com Tel: 065 6828234

Hynan Coaches www.mikehynancoaches.ie Tel: 061 381 700

Keating Coaches www.limericktours.com Tel: 069 68201

Manning's Coaches www.manningscoaches.com Tel: 061 397311

Martins Coaches www.martinscoaches.ie Tel: 061 333100

PK Executive Travel www.pktravel.com Tel: 061 365365

Railtours Ireland www.railtoursireland.com Tel: 01 8560045

Walking Tours

Walking is truly the best way to fully absorb the beauty of Limerick, whether it's a walk in Limerick City, Ballyhoura, the Great Southern Trail, the Clare Glens, the Lough Derg Way or the Slieve Felim Way. Contact Limerick Tourist Office Tel: 061 317522 or visit www.discoverireland.ie

Walking Tours of Askeaton. Guided tours of Askeaton Friary, Desmond Castle and the Hellfire Club. Tel: 061 392149.

Walking Tours of Ballyhoura. Offering spectacular walking in ancient and unspoiled landscapes. www.ballyhouracountry.com

Other Tours

Adare Desmond Castle Tours. The Adare Heritage Centre offers guided tours (June – September). www.adareheritagecentre.ie, Tel: 063 396666.

Heritage Sports Car Hire. Self-drive classic car hire. www.heritagesportscars.com, Tel: 069 63770/085 7296964.

Shannon Ferries. Tarbert-Killimer Car Ferry links the main tourist routes of the West of Ireland www.shannonferries.com, Tel: 065 9053124.

MAYO



Mayo

With the Atlantic Ocean to the North and West, and counties Sligo, Roscommon and Galway to the South and East, Mayo boasts a beautiful unspoilt environment with magical attractions for visitors. Vast swathes of Mayo's spectacular natural scenery lies along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Unique highlights include The Great Western Greenway (longest off-road cycling and walking trail in Ireland), and Croagh Patrick (Ireland's holy mountain) with spectacular views of Clew Bay and its 365 islands from the summit.

History comes alive at the world famous Céide Fields in Ballycastle, North Mayo where man's imprint on the land dates back 5,000 years. The extensive Jackie Clarke Collection (one of the most important collections of Irish artefacts in the World) can be seen in the town of Ballina. Foxford Woollen Mills offers a glimpse of the county's industrial past while The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life (just outside Castlebar), houses the national folk life collection depicting everyday life in Ireland from the 1850s through to the 1950's.

Westport was voted the best place in Ireland to live recently, and offers plenty for visitors to experience.

Did you Know?

- Population: 130,638
- Area: 5,586km² (3rd largest county in Ireland).
- 'The Quiet Man' movie was filmed in Cong in 1952 starring John Wayne.
- 20,000 climb the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick, on 'Reek Sunday' each year.
- Achill Island is Ireland's largest island.
- Admiral William Brown, born in Foxford, was founder of the Argentine Navy.



From the movie 'The Quiet Man', Cong, Co Mayo

Mayo - Towns & Villages

🌊 **Achill Island** (B2) is Ireland's largest offshore island and connected to the mainland by a bridge over the causeway – Achill Sound. The island has glorious cliff scenery, spectacular drives and walks, beautiful beaches and good sea and shore angling. Early Christian, famine and related artefacts make a visit to the island a must for the discerning tourist. Achill in recent years has become a hub for all kinds of water based activities – surfing, kayaking, canoeing and kite surfing. The island is also part of the Irish speaking Gaeltacht area.

🌊 **Ballina** (B4) is a busy industrial and commercial town on the estuary of the River Moy and is the cathedral town of the Catholic diocese of Killala. The town, the River Moy and the local area are world renowned in angling circles with tremendous lake, river and sea fishing all on offer. Anglers the world over dream of landing a salmon at the Ridge Pool located in the centre of the town.

Ballinrobe (D4) on the River Robe is at the centre of south Mayo's Lake District, with the angling waters of Loughs Mask, Carra and Corrib all close by. The stained glass windows by the renowned stained glass artist Harry Clarke, in St. Mary's Catholic Church are worthy of perusal while a genealogical service is provided by the South Mayo Family Research Centre based in the town. Ballinrobe has good sports facilities, including an excellent golf course and a fine racecourse.

🌊 **Belmullet** (A2) in the centre of the Barony of Erris and lying between the two bays of Broadhaven to the north, and Blacksod to the south, is the ideal place for a sea angling holiday. Nearby to the west is the renowned championship links golf Course at Carne. The Mullet Peninsula is an area of natural beauty and charisma and is also famous for the exceptional quality of birdlife found there.

Castlebar (C4) located in the centre of the county, is the county town and administrative capital. Until the collapse of the 1798 Rising, Castlebar was the capital of the 'Provisional Republic of Connacht' – a memorial now stands at the entrance to the Mall in honour of the French soldiers who died on Irish soil that year. The pleasant tree-lined Mall, once a cricket pitch of Lord Lucan, is now a town park.




Westport, Co Mayo


Cong (D4) is a picturesque village nestled between the two lakes of Corrib and Mask. Whether you are an angler, a walker, a historian, or simply a lover of nature, a visit to this village is something you will always treasure. Cong Abbey, built in the 12th Century, was commissioned at the same time as the Cross of Cong, a masterpiece of religious art. The classic film 'The Quiet Man' was shot on location in the Cong area in 1951.

Claremorris (C5/D5) is reputedly the fastest growing town in County Mayo. South of the town, McMahon Park is a peaceful place for a nature walk.

Foxford (B5) is a pleasant town on the River Moy and an angler's paradise. Foxford owes much to the Sisters of Charity who established the famous Foxford Woollen Mills in 1892. Admiral William Brown the founder of the Argentine Navy was born in Foxford.

Knock Village (C5) is best known for its religious associations. On 21st August 1879 Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist reportedly appeared at the gable of Knock Parish Church. From this miraculous occurrence Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognised Marian Shrine. The village also boasts a fine Basilica and Knock Folk Museum which documents the story of the apparition and places it in the context of life at that time.

 **Louisburgh** (C3) at the mouth of the Bunowen River is the focal point of a region of innate beauty and is endowed with some fabulous beaches. Notable for angling, surfing, swimming and nature trails and is the starting point of the famous Doolough Drive going from Louisburgh along by Doolough Lake, passing by Aasleagh Falls and ending up in Leenane, Co. Galway.

 **Westport** (C3) This delightfully laid out town boasts elegant Georgian streetscapes and effortlessly friendly character making it an authentic but lively holiday base. The Westport area offers a wide range of sporting and outdoor activities including golf, sailing, angling, walking, cycling and horse riding. In nearby Murrisk, Croagh Patrick provides an arresting backdrop to the town and has its pilgrim climb on the last Sunday of July each year.

For more information on towns & villages in Mayo, visit www.discoverireland.ie

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*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

1 Ballintubber Abbey & the Celtic Furrow

Ballintubber, Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9030934

www.ballintubberabbey.ie



Ballintubber Abbey founded by Cathal Crovderg O'Connor celebrates its Octocentenary (800 Years) in 2016. This remarkable Abbey is the only church in Ireland where Mass has been offered

without a break since 1216A.D. Experience the story of "the Abbey that refused to die". Guides and video will tell the visitor the history of the Abbey restoration, Cromwellian burning, suppression and the story of the notorious priest hunter Sean na Sagart. The visitor is encouraged to spend some time to savour the atmosphere of quiet contemplation on the grounds or perhaps walk a few miles of Tóchar Phadraig Pilgrim Path.

Open: Ballintubber Abbey: All Year, 09.00 – 22.00

Celtic Furrow: Jul & Aug

Admission: By donation. Guided Tour €5 per person

2 Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre

Ballycroy Village,
Westport, Co. Mayo

Tel: 098 49888

www.ballycroynationalpark.ie



Ballycroy, Ireland's most recent National Park has its Visitor Centre located in Ballycroy village along the main N59 road between Mulranny and Bangor-

Erris. The Centre houses an exhibition about the Park, its landscapes and wildlife. A 2km nature trail allows visitors enjoy views of the surrounding mountain, bog and coastal landscapes. There is a Tearoom serving home baking including scones and cakes, light lunches including Panini's, quiches, salads and vegetable soups, teas, coffees and fruit juices.

Open: 3rd Apr – 26th Oct, Daily, 10.00 – 17.30

Note: Opening details are subject to change, please check website.

Admission: Free

3 Belleek Castle

Garrankeel, Ballina,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 096 22400

www.belleekcastle.com



Belleek Castle, iconic Country Home from 1831, castle hotel, fine dining restaurant, spectacular exhibition of the eclectic Marshall Doran Collection. The castle set in a walking friendly forest, has so much interesting history and houses one of the finest collection of medieval European armour in Ireland, plus a stunning collection of fossils, including Jurassic dinosaurs. Explore the history of the castle on a castle tour and enjoy your afternoon tea in the stylish drawing room. Our award-winning restaurant is open every day with menus to suit all tastes and budgets.

Open: Tour times: May - Sep (11.00 & 14.00), Winter (14.00 only) Please check website for details

Admission: Tour €10pp. Family and group deals available

4 Céide Fields Visitor Centre

Ballycastle,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 096 43325

www.heritageireland.ie



Preserved beneath the unspoilt blanket bog the Céide fields are the most extensive Stone Age and oldest known field systems in the world. Guided walking tours allow the visitor to probe for a wall unseen for millennia. The multi award winning Visitor Centre is spectacularly located beside the North Mayo cliffs and provides exhibitions, film and tearoom.

Open: 2nd Apr – 28th Oct, Daily. Available for bookings in winter. Jun – Sep, 10.00 – 18.00. Other months 10.00 – 17.00

Admission: Adult €4, Senior €3, Student / Child €2, Family €10

★ **Offer:** Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

Visitor Attractions

5 Clew Bay Heritage Centre

The Quay, Westport,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 098 26852

www.westportheritage.com



Located in a 19th Century building, The Clew Bay Heritage Centre traces the history of Westport and the Clew Bay area from pre-Christian times to the present day. A wonderful display of artefacts, documents and photographs provide a basis for the presentation of local history, customs and traditions.

Open: 1st Jun - 30th Sep, Mon - Fri, 10.00 - 17.00,
(Jul & Aug, Sun, 14.30 - 17.00). Oct - May, 10.30 - 14.00

Admission: Adult €3, Child (accompanied) Free of charge, Senior/Student €2

★ Offer: 10% discount mid-week on presentation of this guide

6 Clogher Heritage Complex

Clogher, Claremorris,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 93 60891

www.clogherheritage.com



The Clogher Heritage Complex features the Heritage Cottage and Cottage Garden with a display of vintage farm machinery, a water feature and a picnic area. The restored working forge is open

to visitors - Stauntons Forge, Newtown was authentically rebuilt in its former form in 1999, and it reopened in 2001. The Heritage Complex is also the starting point for the Clogher Bog Walk, a loop walk of 8km. The walk takes in the biodiversity of the flora of the bogland, which is a unique habitat for both common and rare protected species

Open: Mon - Fri (10.00 - 15.00). Weekends by arrangement

Admission: Free

7 Croagh Patrick Visitor Centre

Murrisk, Westport,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 098 64114

www.croagh-patrick.com



The Visitor Centre located at the foot of Croagh Patrick is an ideal base camp whether one is about to climb or is just soaking up the atmosphere of Ireland's ancient holy mountain. The centre provides information, guided tours, coffee shop, craft shop and shower facilities.



Open: Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Oct (10.00-17.00), Jun, Jul & Aug (9.00-19.00)

Admission: Free

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on all shop purchases over €50 on presentation of this guide.

8 Foxford Woollen Mills

Foxford, Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9256104

www.foxfordwoollenmills.com



A story still being woven - Foxford Woollen Mills is an historic mill nestled along the River Moy in Co Mayo, a 120+ year old story continues. Here you'll find a fully integrated domestic woollen operation still in existence - making blankets, throws and accessories - a living testament to the ever fading art of Irish made excellence and one of the only mills fully integrated to produce product from start to finish under one roof. A living legacy to its founder Mother Arsenius, a woman of vision and devotion who made dreams into realities for Foxford.



Open: Mon-Sat (10.00-18.00), Sun (12.00-18.00)

Admission: Adults - €5, Tour Group €3, Family €10.

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on presentation of this guide.

Visitor Attractions

9 Fr. Patrick Peyton Memorial Centre

Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Tel: 096 45374

www.fatherpeytoncentre.ie



Dedicated to the late Fr. Peyton, internationally known as the Rosary Priest in the 60's & 70's. A spiritual, historic and social experience. Theatre presentation on Fr. Peyton's life, tour of the Centre, archives & heritage room. Dining room for up to 70 people. Refreshments available at all times. Lunches must be pre-booked.

Open: 1st Apr - End Oct (Daily), End Oct - 1st Apr (Mon-Fri), 09.30 - 17.30

Admission: Adult €4, OAP €2.50

10 Gairdín Cuimhneacháin – Blacksod Memorial Garden

An Fód Dubh (Blacksod),

Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet),

Co. Mayo

Tel: 097 85728

www.BlacksodBayEmigration.ie



In 1883-84, 3,300 people emigrated from North West Mayo, from Blacksod Bay bound for Boston & Quebec. The memorial garden consists of a granite boat sculpture, divided into fifteen sections, with the names of the passengers who left. Visit Ionad Deirbhile to receive the booklet regarding this special period in time.

Open: All Year, Daily

Admission: Free

★ **Offer:** Visit Ionad Deirbhile and receive a Free Information Booklet.

11 Glen Keen Farm & Visitor Centre

Glen Keen, Louisburgh, Co Mayo

Tel: 087 6167396

www.glenkeenfarm.com



Glen Keen Farm is one of Ireland's largest working sheep farms. The newly built visitor centre has a craft shop and restaurant serving homemade delicious food and breath-taking views of the Sheffrey and Mweelrea Mountain ranges. Activities include Farm pets and Nature Walks. Basket making, Sheep Herding & Sheep Shearing demos for group bookings.

Open: Apr – Jun & Sep, Wed – Sun, (10.00 – 17.30)

Jul & Aug, Mon – Sun (10.00 – 18.00)

Admission: Visitor Centre/Craft Shop free admission

Farm Pets & Nature Walk €4pp. Demos €5pp

Visitor Attractions

12 Granuaile & Famine Exhibition Centre

Church Street, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

Tel: 098 66341

www.granuaile.org



The Louisburgh Interpretive Centre gives us some idea of the facts of the famous "Pirate Queen" her life and times, through pictures, artefacts, replicas and videos. Also home to an excellent Famine Exhibition.

Open: Mon - Fri (11.00 - 16.00, and by appointment)

Admission: Adults €5, OAP/Students €2.50

Family rates and bus tours negotiable.

13 Hennigan's Heritage Centre

Rubble, Killasser, Co. Mayo

Tel: 087 2491402

www.hennigansheritage.com



Hennigan's Heritage is an 18th-19th Century family home showcasing life in the West of Ireland at that time. Guided Tours only, lasting 75-90 minutes. A real experience not to be missed.

Open: Daily (12.00 - 18.00), Guided Tour at 14.00 (Booking Required)

Admission: Adults/Senior Citizen's €10, Family €25

★ Offer: 10% discount mid-week on presentation of this guide.

14 Íonad Deirbhle - Eachleim Heritage Centre

An Eachléim, An Fód Dubh, Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Co. Mayo

Tel: 097 85728

www.ionaddeirbhile.ie



Ionad Deirbhile houses a valuable insight into local folklore & lifestyle. A 10ft. high stained glass window illustrates the story of St. Deirbhile. Several interesting historical artefacts and a wealth of information relating to archaeology, genealogy, the Holy Well, Children of Lir and life on the Inis Geidh Islands.

Open: All Year, Daily (10.00 - 17.00)

Admission: Adult €3, Family ticket €8

★ Offer: Complementary Tea or Coffee & Wi-Fi for all visitors.

Visitor Attractions

15 Kiltimagh Museum

Kilkelly Road, Kiltimagh,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9381585

www.museumsofmayo.com



The museum is situated in our old railway station. The collection celebrates a way of life now forgotten. Two antiquated train carriages that can be boarded are a unique feature of the museum.

Open: Jul & Aug, Daily (14.00-18.00). Viewing during other months by appointment

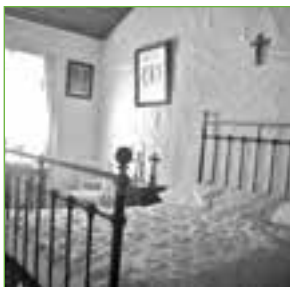
Admission: Free

16 Knock Museum

Knock Shrine,
Knock, Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 93 75034

www.knock-shrine.ie



Knock Museum is located in Knock Shrine grounds and tells the compelling story of the Knock Apparition of 1879 and sets it in the context of life at that time in the west of Ireland, from living

in the thatched house to working in the forge. Knock Museum is fully accredited in the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. Audio guides are available in seven languages including English, Irish, French, German, Italian, Spanish & Polish.

Open: Daily (10.00 - 18.00)

Admission: Adult €4, OAP/Children €3, Group Rate €2, Family Rates available, Children Under 5 (Free)

★ **Offer:** 1 x free admission with this guide when a 2nd of equal or greater value is purchased.

17 Knock - Ireland's National Marian Shrine

Knock, Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9388100

www.knock-shrine.ie



Following a miraculous Apparition in 1879, the small rural village of Knock has become an international place of prayer and pilgrimage where over one and a half million people from all over the world

make their way every year. The Shrine today is set in 100 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens incorporating five churches where there are daily Masses and ceremonies. Other facilities include Knock Museum, Knock Religious Book centre, Caravan & Camping Park, Knock House Hotel, Cafe Le Chéile and an on-site complimentary shuttle service.

Open: All Year, Daily (08.00 - 22.00)

Admission: Free

18 Michael Davitt Museum & Straide Abbey

Straide, Foxford,

Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9031942

www.museumsofmayo.com/davitt



Experience an inspiring story of triumph over adversity at the birth and final resting place of one of Ireland's greatest patriots – Michael Davitt 1846-1906

father of the Land league, social reformer, International Humanitarian, Labour rights activist, patron of the GAA and Glasgow Celtic FC. The Museum is housed within the award winning restored church, in which Davitt himself was baptised, and contains a wealth of unique artefacts, which through the life of one man, illustrate an era of land revolution across Ireland and beyond.

Open: All year, Daily 10.00 – 16.30 & Sunday 14.00 – 17.00

Admission: By donation

Visitor Attractions

19 National Museum of Ireland - Country Life

Turlough Park, Castlebar,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9031755

www.museum.ie



This award-winning Museum presents traditional life in Ireland throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Set in the beautiful grounds of Turlough Park, the Museum treats visitors to a taste of how our ancestors lived their daily lives, in good times and bad. This national collection is displayed over four floors and includes original artefacts and displays, captivating archival video footage and interactive screens. Discover the lives of our very recent ancestors through agriculture, fishing and hunting, clothing and textiles, furniture and fittings, trades and crafts, transport, calendar customs, leisure and religion. Shop and Café open during Museum hours.

Open: Tue-Sat (10.00-17.00), Sun (14.00-17.00). Closed on Mondays (including Bank Holidays), Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Admission: Free of charge

20 Quiet Man Museum

Cong Village,
Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9546089

www.quietman-cong.com



In 1951 John Ford's movie 'The Quiet Man' starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was set in the village of Cong. The Quiet Man Cottage Museum is a must for any Quiet Man Enthusiast. Guided Tours of the film locations and Cong Ghost Tours run daily from the Museum. Gift Shop with Quiet Man Gifts.

Open: 1st Apr - 31st Oct, Daily (10.00-16.00)

Admission: Adult €5, Child €4, Senior/Student €4, Family €15

★ Offer: €1 discount per person on presentation of this guide.

21 The Jackie Clarke Collection

Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Tel: 096 73508

www.clarkecollection.ie

The Jackie Clarke Collection comprises of over 100,000 items spanning 400 years on Irish history. On display for the first time in the newly restored 19th century building designed by Sir Thomas Manly Deane are artefacts from Theobald Wolfe Tone, Michael Collins, Dr Douglas Hyde and personal items from Leaders of the 1916 Rising. It also contains rare books, proclamations, posters, political cartoons, newspapers, maps, pamphlets and handbills. Special features of the attraction include a memory booth where you can record your own memories; interactive touch-screens as well as a walled urban garden.

Open: Tue - Sat (10.00 - 17.00)**Admission:** Free**22 Westport House, Pirate Adventure Park & Westport Train Tour**

Westport, Co. Mayo

Tel: 098 27766

www.westporthouse.ie /
www.WestportTrainTour.ie

Still owned by the Browne family who built it in 1730, award-winning Westport House has been the home of family fun for over 50 years. Create memories you'll all treasure with rides & attractions for children, Ireland's most beautiful historic house, caravan & campsites, special events & a range of adventure activities. Join us on a tour of historic Westport town and Quay and immerse yourself in a fun, yet fact-filled journey suitable for all the family. Pick up at multiple stops in Westport House, town centre or Quay.

Open: Westport House: 1st Mar – early Nov, Daily (from 10.00)

Pirate Adventure Park: Easter & Oct mid-term,

Jun (Wed-Sun), Jul & Aug (Daily from 11.00).

Train: Mar-Jun (weekends), Jul – Sep (Daily), Oct-Dec (weekends)

Admission: Westport House: Adults €13/ Children €6.50

Pirate Adventure Park: Adults €21 / Children €16.50 / Family of 4 €60

Train Tour: Adults €9 / Children €5 / Family of 4 €22 / Family of 6 €28

Offer: Discounted tickets on sale in Tourist Office for the House & Park

More to Experience

The Great Western Greenway

Following the old Westport to Achill railway line which closed in 1937, this 42km traffic-free route is the longest off-road cycling and walking trail in Ireland. It is ideal for getting out on a leisurely cycle or stretching your legs. Along with taking in the fresh country air, you also get to marvel at the spectacular Nephin Mountains to the North and the iconic Croagh Patrick across Clew Bay to the South. Historical sites along the way include the seven-arch bridge over the Black Oak and Bunnahoona rivers, Grace O'Malley's Rockfleet Castle and a 15th Century Dominican Abbey.

If you don't have your own bike, then not to worry as there are plenty of options for bike hire in towns and villages along the route. For those who don't wish to complete the return leg of the route, then bike hire with a drop-off and collection service is also available.

For more information, visit discoverireland.ie/greenway or contact Westport Tourist Office on 098-25711.

Mayo Peace Park - Garden of Remembrance (C4) Lannagh Road, Castlebar (www.mayopeacepark.ie)

The Park commemorates the men and women of Mayo killed in the World Wars of the last century, including those who died on UN operations.

Titanic Memorial Garden (B4) Laherdane, Addergoole (www.mayo-titanic.com)

A memorial to the 'Addergoole Fourteen' who left their village in Mayo to travel on the ill-fated ship Titanic.

Clew Bay Cruises (C3) Westport Quay, Westport (www.clewbaycruises.com)

A unique way to take in the natural sights and sounds of the famous Clew Bay area.

Jack's Old Cottage (C4) Islandeady (www.jacksoldcottage.com)

A restored cottage and farmyard that takes visitors back to a time and place when the pace of everyday life was much different.

Ireland's School of Falconry (D4) Ashford Castle, Cong (www.falconry.ie)

Your chance to fly a hawk around the spectacular grounds of Ashford Castle in a private one-hour Hawk Walk.

Eviction Cottage (C4) Belcarra, Castlebar (www.museumsofmayo.com)

This 19th Century cottage was the scene of the last eviction in Belcarra in October 1886. It has now been restored as a heritage centre and refurbished to how it would have looked before the eviction.

*Brackets () indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

Cycling Hubs

Achill Cycle Hub

3 looped routes on Achill Island in lengths of 12km, 28km and 44km.

Louisburgh Cycle Hub

4 looped routes from Louisburgh Village in lengths of 7km, 19km and 26km.

Westport Cycle Hub

3 looped routes from Westport town Centre in lengths of 8km, 14km & 24km.

Walking Routes

Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail

A 61km linear walking route that extends from the village of Balla (an early Christian monastic site with a broken round tower, between Claremorris and Castlebar) to the village of Murrisk (site of a 15th Century Augustinian Friary at the foot of the holy mountain Croagh Patrick). The route follows parts of an old pilgrim route as it wanders through the rural landscape of west Mayo.

Woodland Walks

Tourmakeady Loop is a great walk for all the family, it's relatively easy and the bonus has to be the waterfall (magical for all ages!). Cong Looped Walks give an excellent overview of the village. The walks commence at Cong Abbey and the walker is given a deep insight into the history of Cong en route through the local woodlands. Other excellent woodland walks in Co Mayo include Brackloon (near Westport) and Letterkeen (near Newport).

Rehins Wood Walks

A series of newly developed forest walks on an 81 acre site, located approximately 4km outside Castlebar Town on the Newport Road (R311).

Belmullet Looped Walks

The scenic Belmullet area on the North Western tip of Mayo offers some excellent options for looped walks. These include Ceathrú Thaidhg Loops (Children of Lir, Black Ditch and Beach Loop) which offer some of the finest sustained coastal walks in the West, with a profusion of precipitous cliffs, crags, caves, chasms and islands. Belmullet also offers the Erris Head Loop (5km). Above is just a sample of what Mayo can offer for the walking and cycling enthusiasts!

For more information, please contact Westport Tourist Office on 098-25711 or visit discoverireland.ie/walking OR discoverireland.ie/cycling



Map No.	Attraction
1	Ballintubber Abbey & the Celtic Furrow
2	Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre
3	Belleek Castle
4	Céide Fields Visitor Centre
5	Clew Bay Heritage Centre
6	Clogher Heritage Complex

Map No.	Attraction
7	Croagh Patrick Visitor Centre
8	Foxford Woollen Mills
9	Fr. Patrick Peyton Memorial Centre
10	Gairdín Cuimhneacháin – Blacksod Memorial Garden
11	Glen Keen Farm & Visitor Centre



Map No.	Attraction
12	Granuaile & Famine Exhibition Centre
13	Hennigan's Heritage Centre
14	Ionad Deirbhle – Eachleim Heritage Centre
15	Kiltimagh Museum
16	Knock Museum
17	Knock - Ireland's National Marian Shrine

Map No.	Attraction
18	Michael Davitt Museum & Straie Abbey
19	National Museum of Ireland - Country Life
20	Quiet Man Museum
21	The Jackie Clarke Collection
22	Westport House, Pirate Adventure Park & Westport Train Tour

ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS



Adventure & Water Sports

The rugged scenery, crystal clear waters and winds sweeping in off the wild Atlantic Ocean, make the West of Ireland perfect for lovers of the outdoors and adventure of all kinds.

Whether you're a fair weather adventurer just hoping for a little fresh air, or a dedicated adrenaline junkie in search of your next thrill, you'll have a great choice of outdoor pursuits on your doorstep.

- **Boating** - Island scattered waters, calm bays and dramatic coastline coupled with the River Shannon and inland lakes, all make the West of Ireland the perfect location for all types of boating and water sports.
- **Scuba Diving** - Water clarity and an abundance of sea life attract divers from all over to this area. The main dive locations are to be found around the offshore islands and include everything from the easier beginners dives to the more advanced wreck diving.
- **Surfing & Wind Surfing** - The West coast experiences the awesome power of the Atlantic winds and so is an ideal location for all forms of surfing. The best waves are in April and May and again in September and October, but even at the busiest times the surfing beaches are rarely crowded.
- **Walking & Cycling** - We're not short of experienced and entertaining guides who provide a wide range of services, from day trips to more extended walking and cycling packages.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/adventure



Achill Island, Co Mayo

Adventure & Water Sports

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
Mayo		
Achill Outdoor Educational Centre, Cashel, Bunacurry, Achill Island.	098 47253 www.achilloutdoor.com	Adventure activities for youth and adult groups
Achill Surf & Kayak, Keel, Achill Island	095 34667 www.achillsurf.ie	Surfing lessons, surfing courses, kayaking lessons
Adventure West, Westport	087 362 7828 www.adventurewest.ie	Coasteering, Zorbing, Snorkelling, Abseiling & Zipwire
Blackfield Surf School, Achill Island	098 43590 www.blackfield.com	Surfing lessons
Broadhaven Marine Training, Belmullet	086 2422567 www.marinetraining.ie	Powerboat and Jet Ski activities for all ages and abilities
Clew Bay Kayaking, Westport	098 24818 www.clewbaybikehire.ie	Sea kayaking courses & bike hire
Dive West Ireland, Surgeview, Blacksod, Belmullet	086 8365983 www.divewestireland.com	Scuba diving in West Ireland
Dúlra Nature Tours Elly, Clogher, Belmullet	087 6656114 www.dulra.ie	Walking tours Marine & Wildlife tours Boat trips
Elements Kite Surfing, Blacksod,	086 2463358 www.elementskitesurfing.com	Kite surfing
Ireland West Sea Kayaking/Saoirse na Mara, Westport	086 1733610 www.irelandwestseakayaking.com	Sea kayaking courses and guided trips
Paddle & Pedal Ballina,	087 6808955 www.paddleandpedal.ie	kayaking tours coastal / inland waterways and guided cycling tours.

Pure Magic Achill, Slivemore Road, Dugort, Achill Island Surf Mayo, Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	085 2439782 www.puremagic.ie 087 6212508 www.surfmayo.com	kite surfing or SUP (Stand Up Paddling) Surf lessons
The Adventure Islands, Westport	098 26907 www.theadventureislands.com	Adventure activities
Tomas McLochlainn, Achill Sound, Achill Island	098 45085 siul@eircom.net	Surfing, mountaineering and adventure courses in Achill Island
UISCE Gaeltacht & Adventure Centre, Cuan Eili, Belmullet Wavesweeper Sea Adventure	097 82111 www.uisce.com 087 2312989 www.wavesweeperadventures.com	Activity based Gaeltacht adventure centre Island trips, thrill rides, Tope Angling, Wildlife tours
West Coast Climbing, Louisburgh	087 7630400 www.westclimbadventure.ie	Adventure Activities
Westport House, Westport	098 27766 www.westporthouse.ie	Adventure Activity Centre including zorbing, canoeing, archery & clay pigeon shooting

Galway

Bees Nees Yacht Charter, Carraroe	087 1378390	Day, half-day & evening trips on Galway Bay
Bow Waves, Galway City	091 560560 www.bowwaves.com	Water sports training & excursions
Comhar Chuigéal Kayaking School, Lettermullen	091 551553 www.realconnemara.com	Sea kayaking tours around the coast of Lettermullen
Connemara Adventure Tours, Leenane	095 42276 www.connemaraadventuretours.com	Self-guided & guided cycling, walking, horse riding and family adventure tours
Connemara Safaris, c/o Abbey Glen Hotel, Sky Road, Clifden	1850 777200 www.walkingconnemara.com	Specialists in Island Hopping
Connemara Sea Safaris, Carna	087 7204488 www.connemaraseasafaris.com	Rib tours of Connemara's shore & islands
Connemara Wild Escapes, Letterfrack	095 49052 www.connemarawildescapes.ie	Activity safaris in Connemara
Delphi Adventure Resort, Delphi, Leenane	095 42208 www.delphimountainresort.com	Adventure & activity centre with a variety of ocean, forest & mountain based activities for adults & children
Eile Mental, Furbo, Spiddal	083 199 33 33 www.eilemental.com	ECombat, Paintball, Zorbing, Archery etc.
Galway Bay Sailing Club, Rinville, Oranmore	091 794527 www.gbasc.ie	Sailing of dinghies, cruisers and multihulls
Galway City Karting, Tuam Rd., Galway City	091 440136 www.galwaycitykarting.ie	Galway City indoor karting
Give It A Go, Galway Bay, Galway City	087 1914911 www.giveitago.ie	Kayaking tours and lessons
Kayakmor-Galway Seakayak Tours, Galway City & Lough Corrib	093 36097 www.kayakmor.com	Kayak tours along Galway's coast
Killary Adventure Company, Leenane	095 43411 www.killaryadventure.ie	One of Ireland's longest running adventure providers
Killary Fjord Boat Tours, Nancy's Point, Leenane, Connemara	091 566736 www.killaryfjord.com	Cruise with views of spectacular scenery
Outdoors Ireland, The Docks, Galway City	086 8604563 www.outdoorsireland.com	Mountain skills, hill walking, rock climbing and Kayaking
Paddle on the Prom, Salthill, Galway	086 0245588 www.paddleontheprom.com	Stand up paddle boarding on Salthill Promenade
Pallas Karting, Tynagh, Loughrea	090 9745147 www.pallaskarting.com	Karting, Paintballing, Zorbing



Windsurfing near Louisburgh, Co Mayo



Zorbing in Westport, Co Mayo

Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, Clonbur	094 9546483 www.petersburg.ie	Adventure sports & challenging expeditions for all ages
Pure Skill, Knocknacarra, Galway City	091 515510 www.pureskill.ie	Indoor Sports and Leisure Arena
Real Adventures, Connemara	085 1462526 www.realadventures.ie	Outdoor activities such as coasteering, kayaking, surfing etc.
Rusheen Bay Windsurfing, Barna Road, Salthill	087 2605702 www.rusheenbay.com	One of Ireland's leading windsurfing schools.
Sail Galway Bay, Galway Harbour, Galway City	087 2807028 www.sailgalwaybay.com	Various sailing options on Galway Bay
Scubadive West, Renvyle	095 43922 www.scubadivewest.com	Scubadive centre and dive school
The Galway Dive School, Salthill	085 2626957 www.divegalway.com	PADI certified scuba and snorkelling
Upriver, Ballinasloe	085 860 7825 www.upriver.ie	Outdoor pursuits on the River Suck
West Galway School of Navigation, Ballyconneely	095 23569 www.seriousailing.com	Practical sailing courses
Wild Atlantic Adventures, Furbo	087 3818989 www.wildatlanticadventures.com	Walking & Sailing in Galway
WILD, Letterfrack	087 6151931 www.wildfullstop.com	Camping expeditions in Connemara

Clare

Adventure Kayaking Tours, Doolin	085 1195489 www.northclareseakayaking.com	Experience the secret treasures along the coast. All equipment provided.
Aloha Surf School, Fanore	087 2133996 www.surfschool.tv	Surfing lessons & sea kayaking for all age groups.
Atlantic Air Adventure, Shannon	061 363687 www.atlanticairventure.com	The ultimate thrill for flight enthusiasts.
Atlantic Diving School, Ennis	086 0570544 atlanticdivingschool@gmail.com	Discover the magical waters of West Clare
Ben's Surf Clinic & Rock Climbing, Lahinch / The Burren	086 8448622 www.benssurfclinic.com www.bensrockclimbingclinic.com	Learn to surf the waves at Lahinch or climb & abseil in the heart of the Burren
Born 2 Ride Kite surfing School, Lahinch	087 2060177 www.lahinchkitesurfschool.com	Discover the excitement of Kite surfing in a safe environment
Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Turlough, Bellharbour	065 7078066 www.burrenoec.com	Caving, canoeing, sailing, orienteering, rock climbing, hill walking and much more
Clare Kayak Hire	085 148 5856 www.clarekayakhire.com	Hire, lessons, tours, stand up paddle boards
Clare Surf Safari	087 634 5469 www.claresurfsafari.com	Mobile surf school, free transport & equipment
Dolphin Discovery, Kilrush	065 9051327 www.discoverdolphins.ie	Discover the magic of the Shannon Dolphins
Dolphinwatch, Carrigaholt	065 9058156 www.dolphinwatch.ie	Watch and learn about resident dolphins, seabirds, seals and more
Doolin2Aran Ferries, Doolin Pier	065 7075949 www.doolin2aranferries.com	Daily sailings to Aran Islands & Cliffs of Moher Cruises
Dromoland Clay Pigeon Shooting, Newmarket on Fergus	061 368212 donald.walsh@gmail.com	Clay Pigeon shooting year-round
GoGaelic, various locations	087 6032425 www.gogaelic.ie	Experience Ireland's unique sports of Gaelic Football & Hurling
Green Room Surf School & Shop, Lahinch	0657082771 www.greenroomlahinch.com	Surf lessons and all equipment supplied



Paddle Boarding in Kilkee, Co Clare



Swimming alongside King John's Castle, Limerick

Holy Island Tour, Mountshannon	086 8749710 www.eastclareheritage.com	Enjoy a boat trip and guided tour
Killaloe River Cruises, Killaloe	086 8140559 www.killaloerivercruises.com	Boat cruises of River Shannon & Lough Derg
Kilrush Marina, Kilrush	065 9052072 www.kilrushcreekmarina.ie	Offering a unique blend of facilities and attractions
Lahinch Surf School, Lahinch	087 9609667 www.lahinchsurfschool.com	Learn to surf with Irish Surfing Champion John McCarthy's Lahinch Surf School
Lakeside Holiday Park, Mountshannon	061 927225 www.lakesideireland.com	A range of activities and water sports
Nevsail Water sports, The Promenade, Kilkee	086 3308236 www.nevsailwatersports.com	Courses in various water sport activities
O'Callaghan Angling & Cruising, Liscannor	065 6821374	Anglers, cruisers, divers, surf riders etc.
Ocean Scene Surf School, Lahinch	086 8120400 www.oceanscene.ie	One-off lessons or three or five day courses
Rural Irish Holidays	087 6367382 www.ruralirishholidays.com	All in guided holiday in rural East Clare
Scattery Island Ferries, Kilrush	065 9051327 www.discoverdolphins.ie	Trips to Scattery Island
Shannon Castle Line, Williamstown Harbour, Whitegate	061 927042 www.shannoncruisers.com	Modern 2-8 berth cruisers for hire
The Doolin Ferry Company, The Pier, Doolin	065 7075555 www.doolinferry.com	Daily Sailings to Aran Islands & Cliffs of Moher Cruises
The O'Brien Line, The Pier, Doolin	065 7075618 www.obrienline.com	Daily Sailings to Aran Islands & Cliffs of Moher Cruises
University Of Limerick Activity Centre, Killaloe	061 376622 www.ulac.ie	Safe, fun and educational activity sessions

Limerick

Athlunkard Boat Club, Limerick City	www.athlunkard.blogspot.com	Full calendar of events
Ballyhoura Orienteering, Main Street, Kilfinane	063 91300 www.ballyhouracountry.com	Go quad biking, abseiling, windsurfing, rock climbing, walking or bird-watching
Castleconnell Boat Club, Castleconnell	www.castleconnellbc.ie	Full calendar of events
Combat Zone, Shanagolden	061 302031 www.combatzone.ie	Paintballing in over 20 acres of natural woodland
Delta Karting, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick	061 603603 www.delta-karting.com	Unforgettable Kart Racing Experience
Kilcornan Karting, Kilcornan	061 393733 www.limerickkarting.com	The ultimate karting experience
Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre, Kilfinane	063 91161 www.kilfinaneoe.ie	Canoeing, surfing, hill-walking, rock climbing, mountain biking, abseiling, indoor climbing wall, team challenges and more
Lazy Dog Clay Bird Shooting, Kilfinane	062 53563 www.lazydogshooting.ie	All weather clay bird shooting ground
National Kart Centre Limerick, Corbally	061 340161 www.nationalkartcentre.ie	The largest indoor karting track in the world
Nevsail Indoor Rock Climbing, Presentation School, Sexton St, Limerick	086 3308236 www.nevsailwatersports.com	Indoor rock climbing, Kayaking tours of Limerick City
Shannon Rowing Club, Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick City	061 415150 www.shannonrowingclub.com	Affiliated to the Irish Amateur Rowing Union
University Arena, University of Limerick, Castletroy	061 213555 www.universityarena.com	For the basic beginner to the Olympic champion. Exceptional outdoor and indoor facilities

ANGLING



Angling

Pristine waters, a wealth of fish and thousands of kilometres of coastline, riverbank and lakeshore, it's a dream holiday for devotees of rod and line! The West is home to some of the finest game, coarse and sea angling the country has to offer.

- **Trout Fishing** - The Western Lakes are recognised as some of the greatest wild brown trout fisheries in the world and regularly produce specimen fish. Lough Corrib is the most famous. Lough Mask and Lough Conn are exceptional trout fisheries, while the Moy Estuary is the ideal location for sea trout.
- **Salmon Fishing** - The River Moy is one of the most prolific salmon rivers in Europe. The famous Ridge Pool draws thousands of anglers each year. Castleconnell Salmon Fishery on the River Shannon is another renowned fishery. There are dozens more rivers to choose from in the West also offering superb salmon fishing, all in spectacular countryside.
- **Coarse Fishing** - Anglers favouring coarse fishing should head for the inland rivers and lakes of Galway East and Clare. Numerous rivers and streams flow into the River Shannon offering some of the best pike and coarse fish stocks in Ireland.
- **Sea Fishing** - The waters off the west coast are warmed by the Gulf Stream, ensuring a longer season and an unusual variety of warm water fish. There are plenty of Sea Angling operators who will take you out to some of the best waters. There is also excellent shore fishing to be had at numerous locations along the coast.

The following pages gives just a short sample of the more well known angling locations around the West, as well as a list of some angling operators and guides, and some general tips on angling regulations in Ireland. However, it is strongly advised to consult more in depth sources before undertaking any angling activities.

Angling in Ireland is regulated by Inland Fisheries Ireland and their website (www.fishinginireland.info) should provide answers to most queries.

Angling in Mayo

Lough Conn & Cullin, Crossmolina, Foxford, Ballina

These lakes form part of the Moy system and are noted for their top quality wild brown trout fishing (particularly during Mayfly season). They also produce salmon. There is a big network of boat hire and angling guides available at all centres around the lake. The fishing is free and there is a 12-inch (30.48 cm) size limit for brown trout. The season runs from 15th of February until the 30th of September with the best period during the months of May, June and September. All legitimate angling methods allowed.

Lough Mask, Ballinrobe & Tourmakeady (Co Mayo) and Clonbur (Co Galway)

Lough Mask is the jewel in the crown of Mayo trout lakes, a large limestone lough of 21,000 acres and along with Lough Corrib, is one of the best-known brown trout fisheries in Ireland. The lough produces good catches to wet fly from around mid-April. Fishing is free, but there's also a big network of boat hire and angling guides available at all centres on the lake. Anglers on their first visit should hire an angling guide or boatman, as this lake can be dangerous with lots of hidden rocks and reefs. An updated weather report should be sought before venturing out on the lake. The famous World Cup competition takes place in August. Open season runs from 15th February until 30th September.

River Moy, Ballina, Foxford and Swinford

The Moy is Ireland's most prolific salmon fishery with a catchment area of 2080 sq km from the Ox Mountains in the east, to Castlebar in the south. The Moy offers a variety of fishing to suit all tastes and budgets. Permits are available from all fisheries and tackle shops in the area. The premier salmon angling stretch is the Moy Fishery in Ballina town, the Salmon Capital of Ireland, which includes the world famous 'Ridge Pool' and 'Cathedral Beat'. Other excellent fisheries include Mount Falcon, Foxford and Swinford. The season runs from the 1st February to September 30th.

For more information on angling in Mayo, visit:
www.discoverireland.ie/angling OR www.fishinginireland.info

Angling in Galway

Lough Corrib, Galway City, Headford, Oughterard, Moycullen

Ireland's second largest lake, stretching 33 miles from Galway City to Maum, is renowned for wild brown trout and salmon. The season runs as follows: Brown Trout (15th Feb - 30th Sep), Sea Trout (1st Jun - 30th Sep), Salmon (1st Feb - 30th Sep). Brown trout fishing is usually good from the first day of the season and the salmon fishing for grilse is best from around the end of May. Angling on Lough Corrib is free, whilst there are boats for hire at several locations around the lough, and boatmen are also available at most boat stations.

Moycullen Lakes, Ross Lake & Ballyquirke Lake, Moycullen

Spring and early summer provide some of the best catches on these smaller lakes, including excellent pike, roach and bream fishing. The lakes offer good banks with easy access.

Portumna Angling Centre, River Shannon & Upper Lough Derg

Good general coarse fishing with a number of competition stretches and festivals held annually. Spring fishing can be brilliant as shoals of Roach and Hybrids leave the vast waters of Lough Derg and move upstream into the river around Portumna.

River Clare, Tuam, Claregalway, Galway City

Flowing from the north of Co Galway, the river flows into the southern part of Lough Corrib near Galway City. Decent trout fishing can be experienced throughout the season with good hatches of various olives, spinners and sedges. A permit is required to fish all stretches. The season runs from 1st of March until 30th of September, but the best period is generally April until June and September.

For more information on angling in Galway, visit:
www.discoverireland.ie/angling OR www.fishingireland.info

Angling in Clare

Lough Derg, Killaloe, Scarriff & Mountshannon

Lower Lough Derg, towards **Killaloe** is usually better for brown trout fishing. All legitimate angling methods are allowed, with a 14 inch size limit in force. There are plenty of boat hire and guide services available locally, along with a number of marinas and slipways. **Mountshannon** is also a good base for anglers with excellent Pike fishing around the shores and is within easy access of the East Clare Lakes. **Scarriff** is also an ideal base for Pike fishing on Lough Derg or coarse fishing locally on the Scarriff River, which can provide excellent fishing around April / May. Flowing into Lough Derg, the mouth of the Scarriff River regularly produces decent catches of Bream, Hybrids, Trout, Pike and Roach.

River Fergus, Corofin, Ruan & Ennis

The river rises a few kilometres west of Corofin and makes its way southwards through numerous lakes and the town of Ennis, before entering the Shannon Estuary. Just outside **Corofin** is **Lough Inchiquin**, a trout fishery that is quite deep and so best fishing is from the shore, particularly from March to May and again in September. To the South East of **Ruan**, lie the **Dromore Lakes** (including **Black Lake** and **Ballyline Lake**). This system has about 400 acres of water, with a small stock of Trout in addition to Rudd, Tench, Pike and Perch. Best fishing is by boat as access for shore fishing is limited. Just north of **Ennis** is **Ballyalla Lake**, approx. 60 acres in size and is primarily a Pike fishery but also has Trout and Salmon in season.

River Shannon, O'Briensbridge & Killaloe

At the southern end of Lough Derg is **Killaloe**, a well-established Pike and Coarse angling centre with plenty of support services. The shores offer excellent bream and hybrid fishing. However, the shore line can be very rocky in places, so caution is advised and always check the weather in advance. Best time to fish is June, July and into August. Further south, **O'Briensbridge** is also an excellent coarse and pike angling centre. The upper section here is from 6 to 8 meters deep with a strong current where the banks are high but fishable all year round. The lower section is used as a match venue for the local clubs, with depths ranging from 3 to 8 meters. Both sections include species such as Roach, hybrids, Perch and Bream.

For more information on angling in Clare, visit:
www.discoverireland.ie/angling OR www.fishinginireland.info

Angling in Limerick

River Maigue, Adare

This river flows into the Shannon Estuary and is tidal as far as **Adare**. It gets a good run of spring salmon and grilse, but the system is primarily a trout fishery. The spring fish normally run from mid-March to mid-May and the grilse from early June to the end of July. The stretch from the bridge in Adare downriver for about 1½ kms is open water but a State licence is required to fish for salmon.

River Mulcair, Annacotty

Joining the Shannon to the east of Limerick City near **Annacotty**, this river is an excellent Salmon fishery that is controlled by the ESB (Electricity Supply Board), from whom you must attain a permit. The lower stretches are best for the early spring run (March and April), but as the season progresses the upper stretches become more popular as the salmon and grilse disperse. There is also decent stocks of small brown trout on the upper stretches.

River Shannon, Annacotty, Plassey & Castleconnell

Plassey is an area in the east of Limerick City that sits alongside the University. Angling from a boat is prohibited in this area of the Lower River Shannon from 1st March to 30th September and access to the shoreline is also difficult, which means this section is very often under-fished resulting in excellent fishing for those that make the effort! Extending for about 1km upstream from the confluence of the Mulcair River, the **Annacotty 'Pumphouse'** stretch is a popular Pike fishery that can be fished all year round. About 10kms north east of the City is **Castleconnell**, a scenic village that is well known as a Salmon fishery. However, it also has two stretches (Woralls End and Clare Ville Waterworks) that are popular for Pike fishing.

For more information on angling in Limerick, visit:
www.discoverireland.ie/angling OR www.fishinginireland.info

Regulations

Ireland has developed effective conservation measures on all types of fishing, which ultimately contributes to more sustained and healthy fish stocks. Below are just some examples, please check with Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fishinginireland.info) for more detailed information.

Licences & Permits

Licences - In the Republic of Ireland, you do not need a license to fish for pike, trout or coarse species, but a rod licence is required in Northern Ireland. If you intend to fish for salmon or sea trout, you must have a State Fishing Licence (available as a National Licence or a District Licence), which can be bought from most fishing tackle shops, the regional fisheries offices or on the website of Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fishinginireland.info).

Permits - whether a licence is required or not, a permit is often required to fish most waters. They can be bought directly from the fishery owner and can usually cost from €20 - €50 per day.

Fines

On the spot fines of €150 can sometimes be issued for a range of offences prohibited under Irish Angling regulations, such as fishing in a closed season, taking more fish than a bag limit allows etc.

General Freshwater Regulations

- The only legal method to catch freshwater fish is by rod and line
- A person may fish with not more than two rods at any time
- It is illegal to have or to use live fish as bait
- It is illegal to transfer live roach from one water to any other waters
- Killing and possession of foul hooked fish is prohibited

Foul Hooking

The killing and possession of foul hooked fish (i.e. fish not hooked in the mouth) in any fishery district in any year is prohibited.

Coarse Fishing

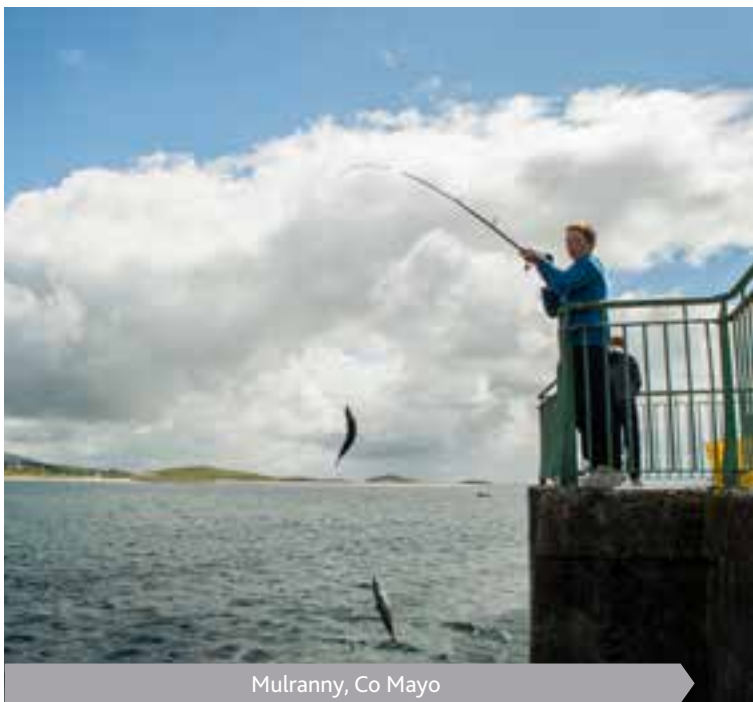
- No more than 4 coarse fish can be taken and killed on any one day
- Any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length cannot be taken and killed

Pike Fishing

- It is prohibited to kill more than 1 pike in any one day
- It is prohibited to kill any pike greater than 50 cm in length



Angling in Ballynahinch, Co Galway



Mulranny, Co Mayo

Angling Operators & Guides

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
Mayo		
A Shore Thing, 3 The Quay, Westport	098 28447	Operators & Guides
Achill Sea Angling, Cashel Achill Island	098 47257	Sea Angling
Aisling Patrick, Ballyglass, Belmullet	097 88982	Sea Angling
Angling Adventures, Barnacouge, Swinford	087 4123235	Angling Tuition
Bayview Angling Centre, Cross, Cong	094 9546385 www.bayviewangling.com	Operators & Guides
Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Belmullet	097 20600 www.broadhavenbay.com	Sea Angling
Brú Chlann Lir Boat Charters, Clogher, Belmullet	097 85741 www.bruchlannlir.com	Sea Angling
Clew Bay Sea Angling, Derradda, Newport	098 41562 www.clewbayangling.com	Sea Angling
Clewbay Charters, Sandymount, Newport	086 388425 www.clewbaycharters.com	Sea Angling
Dive West Ireland, Blacksod Belmullet	086 8365983 www.divewestireland.com	Sea Angling
Harry Feeney, Pontoon Road, Foxford	094 9257777 www.thefoxfordlodge.ie	Game Angling
Inishmac Outdoors, Inishmacatreeer, Cross	094 9546677 www.inishmac.com	Game Angling
Ireland Fishing Adventures Ltd, Shraugh, Louisburgh	068 3573209	Operators & Guides
Judd Ruane - Sea Trout Specialist, Ballina	096 22183 www.fishingireland.ie	Game Angling
Killala Angling Charter, Killala	096 36644 www.dkennedyangling.net	Sea Angling
Lady Helen Sea Angling, Rosmoney, Westport	098 26514	Sea Angling
Malcolm McPherson, Ballysokeery, Ballina	096 32667 www.killalaseatrountangling.com	Game Angling
Mayo Angling, Ballybrinogue, Ballina	086 8846920 www.mayoangling.com	Game Angling
The Helm - Sea Angling & Boat Charter, Westport Harbour	098 26194 www.thehelm.ie	Sea Angling
Tiernan Brothers Angling Centre, Foxford	094 9256731 www.themoy.com	Game Angling
West of Ireland Angling, Lahardane, Ballina	096 51933 www.westofirelandangling.com	Game Angling

Galway

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel Fly Fishing Tuition, Recess	095 31006 www.ballynahinch-castle.com	Angling Tuition
Basil Shields, Ardnasillagh Lodge, Oughterard	091 552550	Game Angling
Blue Water Fishing, Streamstown, Clifden	095 21073 www.seafishingireland.net	Sea Angling
Brazen Hussy Charters, Derryinver, Letterfrack	086 2795118 www.brazenhussy.ie	Sea Angling
Camillaun Angling Centre, Eighterard, Oughterard	091 552678 www.camillaun.com	Game Angling
Connemara Wild Escapes, Oughterard	www.connemarawildescapes.ie	Game Angling

Corrib Anglers, Annakeen, Ower, Headford	093 36013 www.corribanglers.com	Game Angling
Corrib Angling Services, Glencorrib, Headford	093 35139 www.corribangling.com	Game Angling
Galway Bay Fishing, Spiddal	086 8547890 www.galwaybayfishing.com	Sea Angling
Galway Fishing, Spiddal	086 3234638 www.galwayfishing.ie	Sea Angling
Ireland West Angling, Aille, Inverin	091 505999 www.irelandwestangling.com	Sea Angling
Lakeland & Midsummer Lakehouse, Oughterard	091 552121 www.midsummerlakehouse.com	Angling Services
Mike Keady, Ballinahalla, Moycullen	091 556326	Game Angling
Murray's B&B & Angling Service Derryhiney, Portumna	090 9759596 www.murraysireland.com	Pike Angling
Oughterard Angling School, Station Road, Oughterard	091 552388 www.oughterardhostel.com	Angling Tuition
Peche en mer Irlande, Carraroe (An Cheathru Rua)	086 3234638 www.pecheenmerirlande.fr	Sea Angling
Rossaveal Harbour, Rossaveal	087 6452930 www.comefishinggalway.com	Sea Angling
Sea Fishing - Mr John Ryan, Sky Road, Clifden	095 21069	Sea Angling
Spiddal Angling School, Bothuna Spiddal	091 553510 www.spiddalanglingschool.com	Angling Tuition
Tom Sullivan, Dooras Corr Na Móna (Cornamona)	094 9548463 www.tomdoc.com	Game Angling
Western Kingfisher Sea Angling, Cleggan	095 44649 www.clegganseaangling.com	Sea Angling

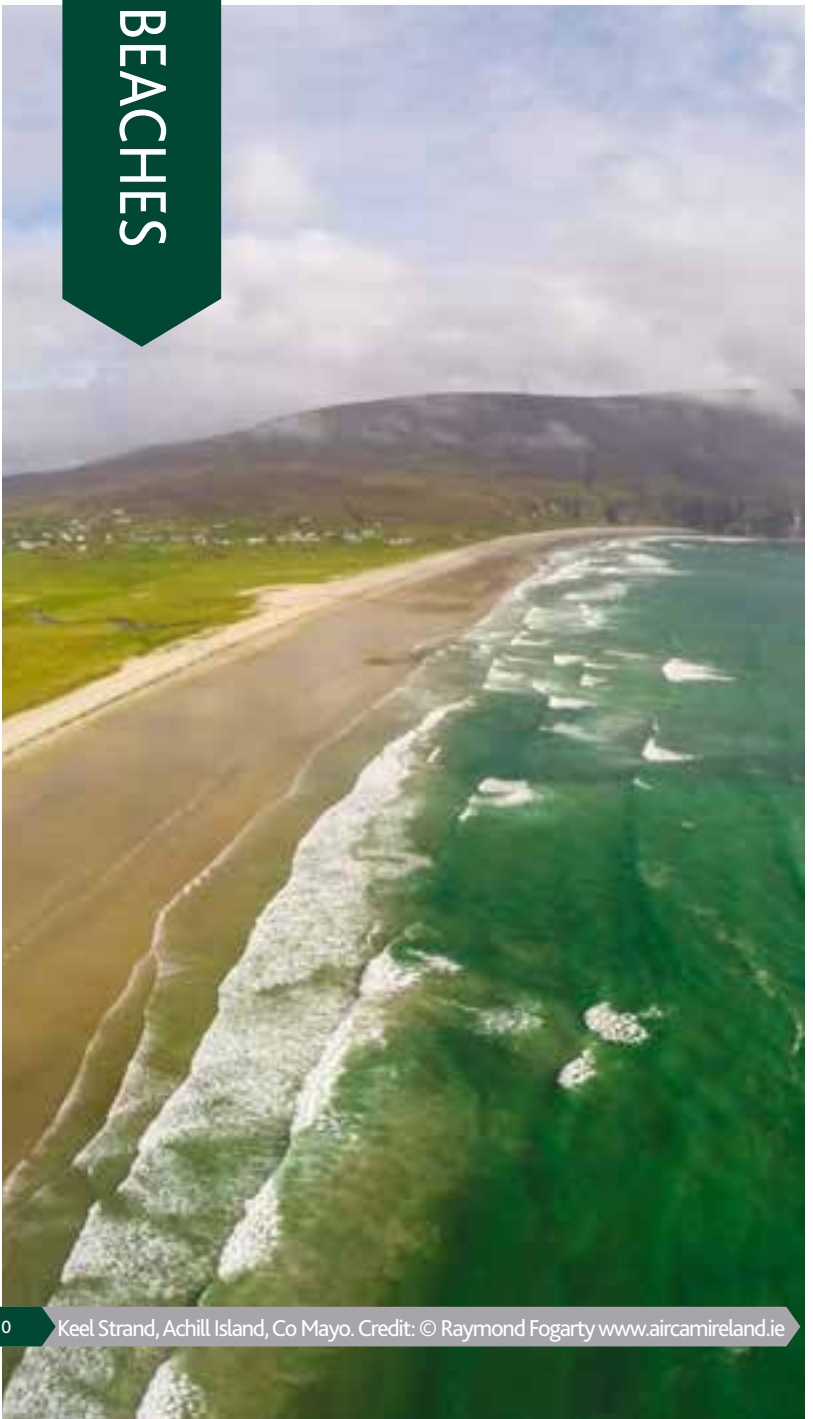
Clare

Angling West Coast, Toormore Killenora	086 883 8166 www.westcoastangling.ie	Angling Tuition
Carrigaholt Sea Angling Centre, Carrigaholt	065 9058209 www.fishandstay.com	Sea Angling
Doonbeg Adventures Doonbeg	083 1107613 www.doonbegadventures.com	Sea Angling
FisHerman, Main Street, Killaloe	061 374399 www.FisHerman.nl	Pike Angling
Fishing Adventures, Kilbaha & Carrigaholt	087 7508758	Operators & Guides
Fishing for Kids, Killaloe	086 7856633 www.fishingforkids.ie	Operators & Guides
Go Fishing, Kilbaha, Kilrush	065 9058174 www.gofishing.ie	Sea Angling
O'Callaghan Angling, Rosslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis	065 6821374 www.ocallaghanangling.com	Sea Angling
Peche Irlande, Ballygreen House, Killaloe	061 376798 www.pecheirlande.com	Game Angling
Shannon Lakeboat and Mini Cruiser Hire, Killaloe	086 7856633	Operators & Guides
The Great Pike Fishing Company, Castletroy	061 339629 www.greatpikefishing.com	Game Angling

Limerick

Celtic Angling, The Commons, Ballingarry	069 68202 www.celticangling.com	Game Angling
Irish Angling Guide, Clonoughter, Glin	087 9667803 www.irishanglingguide.ie	Angling Tuition
Jim Robinson Angling Centre, Saint Bridgets, Farranshone	061 453808	Angling Tuition

BEACHES



Beaches

We're lucky to have so many clean and sandy beaches dotted all along the coastline here for all to enjoy. Many have the prestigious Blue Flag Beach Award and numerous others have the Green Coast Award.

Blue Flag Beaches



The Blue Flag is an international, voluntary ecolabel for beaches and marinas and is awarded only to those that meet a specific set of criteria including:

- Environmental information & education
- Water quality
- Safety & services
- Environmental Management

Green Coast Award Beaches



Green Coast Awards are awarded to beaches for their natural beauty, clean environment and water quality. These beaches may not have the built infrastructure required for Blue Flag status, but

Green Coast Award beaches are wonderful places to visit and to enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity.

The International Blue Flag programme and Green Coast Award programme is operated in Ireland by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland. Please contact: T: 01 400 2210 | E: blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org | W: www.blueflagireland.org

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/beaches

Blue Flag Beaches

NAME	LOCATION
Mayo	
Carrowmore	Louisburgh
Doega	Achill Island
Dugort	Achill Island
Elly Bay	Belmullet
Golden Strand	Achill Island
Keel	Achill Island
Keem	Achill Island
Mullaghroe	Belmullet
Ross	Killala
The Harbour	Clare Island

Galway	
Cill Muirbhthe	Inis Mór, Aran Islands
Loughrea Lake	Loughrea
Salthill	Galway City
Silver Strand	Barna
Trá an Dóilin	Carraroe
Trá Mhór	Inverin
Traught	Kinvara

Clare	
Ballycuggeran	Killaloe
Cappa Pier	Kilrush
Doonbeg	Doonbeg
Fanore	Ballyvaughan
Kilkee	Kilkee
Lahinch	Lahinch
Mountshannon	Mountshannon

***Please Note:** The above refers to the 2014 listing only. The 2015 listing was not available at time of print.

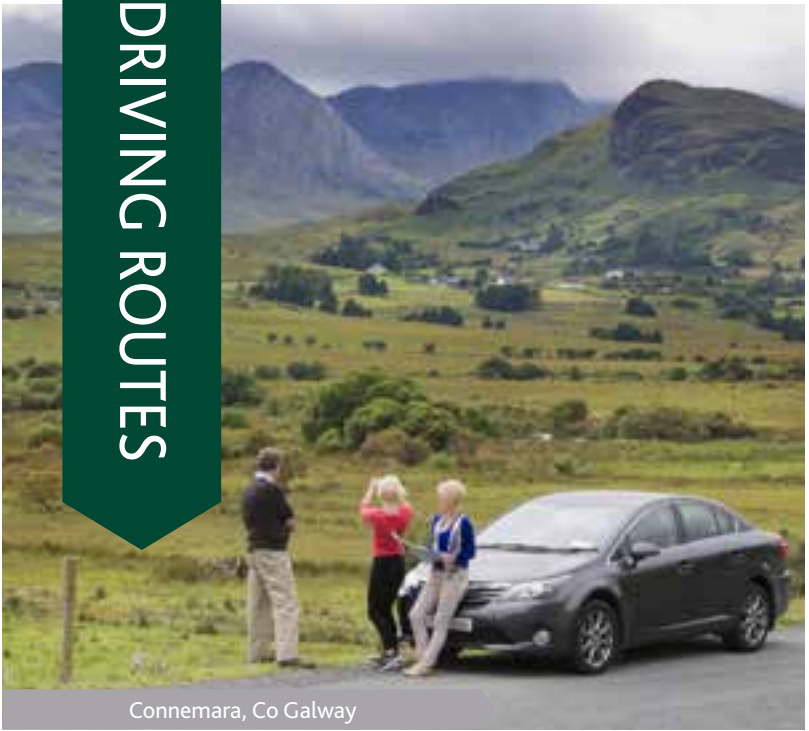
Green Coast Award Beaches

NAME	LOCATION
Galway	
Aillebrack	Ballyconneely
Dumhach	Inishbofin
East End	Inishbofin
Renvyle	Renvyle
Salthill	Galway City
Silverstrand	Barna
Trá gCarach Inis Oirr	Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
Trá Inis Oirr	Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
Mayo	
Ballycastle	Ballycastle
Carrowniskey	North Mayo
Cross	Louisburgh
Cross	Erris Peninsula
Portacloy	Belmullet
Silverstrand	Silverstrand
Srah	Doohoma
Termon	Aghleam
Whitestrand	Louisburgh

***Please Note:** The above refers to the 2014 listing only. The 2015 listing was not available at time of print.



Doughmore Beach, Doonbeg, Co Clare. Credit: Alan Soutar, www.soutarimages.com



Connemara, Co Galway

Coastal Driving Route...

The **Wild Atlantic Way** stretches for 2,500 km (1,500 miles) along Ireland's western seaboard, from Malin Head in Co. Donegal down to Kinsale in Co. Cork.

Highlights along the West include a Neolithic settlement at the Céide Fields in North Mayo, Achill Island and the island-strewn Clew Bay under the shadow of Croagh Patrick, and the haunting beauty of Connemara in West Galway. Feel the energy of Galway City ("City of the Tribes") before continuing your journey southwards to the unique Burren region, the towering Cliffs of Moher and Loop Head Lighthouse at the very southwest tip of County Clare.





Ordnance Survey
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of Ireland

Some Discovery Points along the Way!

Ballina Quay – world renowned in angling circles particularly for its salmon, Ballina is an area of recreation and leisure with many top class public houses and restaurants.

Downpatrick Head – an iconic Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way with the spectacular Dún Briste sea stack (50 metres high) just off shore.

Céide Fields – the geology, archaeology, botany and wildlife is interpreted at The Céide Fields Visitors Centre which showcases many historical treasures from the Neolithic period.

An Fál Mór – at the foot of the Erris Peninsula, consisting of sand dunes and fine beaches, this area would be considered one of the remotest areas in Ireland, characterized by its spectacular scenery.

Inis Bigil – nestled between the mainland and Achill Island, Inis Bigil maintains a traditional community where small farming and fishing are time-worn traditions.

Keem Bay – one of the most picturesque locations in Ireland, accessible by a winding cliff top road along the side of Croaghnaun mountain. Dolphins are frequent visitors to the area.



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 of Ireland

Some Discovery Points along the Way!

Keel Strand – a fine sandy horseshoe shaped beach stretching for 3km on Achill Island. Offering fantastic views of the Minuan Cliffs, the beach is popular with water sports enthusiasts and walkers.

Croagh Patrick View – St. Patrick like many an intrepid traveller choose this location for its outstanding natural beauty. Other highlights are Murrisk Abbey and The National Famine Monument and of course the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick.

Silver Strand – the natural beauty of Silver Strand epitomises everything that you want from the Wild Atlantic Way. On a clear day the islands of Inishturk and Inishbofin rise out of the Atlantic.

Doolough Valley – passing through the Sheeffry Hills and Mweelrea Mountain, the memorial reminds us of the people who died in the area during the Great Famine(1845-49).

Aasleagh Falls – a few KMs north of Leenane Village, this is a picturesque waterfall with excellent mountainous scenery all around, and is a much loved spot for photography enthusiasts. Parking facilities nearby.



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of Ireland

Some Discovery Points along the Way!

Killary Harbour – start out at the picturesque village of Leenane and travel westwards along the shores of the 16km Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord!

Sky Road – rising high above the Atlantic Ocean, this is an exhilarating and iconic part of the Wild Atlantic Way with spectacular views of both the Atlantic and surrounding Connemara countryside.

Port Na Feadóige – a pronged inlet with two bays at the crest, with views of Inis Laken Island. The picturesque Dogs Bay is only two minutes' walk away.

Droichead Charraig An Logáin – this man made causeway links the islands with the mainland by road, and is the perfect viewing point to take in rugged coastline, sea-shell strewn beaches and crystal waters.

Seanchéibh An Spidéil – a picturesque Gaeltacht village with a selection of local crafts, restaurants and traditional pubs. An iconic pier juts out into Galway Bay alongside a very pleasant beach.

Salthill Promenade – on a clear day from this famous seaside resort, you will have views of Galway City to your left, the Burren on the opposite side of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands to your right.

Rinville Park – Scattery Island

Distance: 257km (160 miles)



Some Discovery Points along the Way!

Rinville Park - a wonderful amenity, created around an ancient castle, a stately home and a fine estate demesne, which dates from the 16th Century.

Traught Beach - a rural beach in a Special Area of Conservation known as the Galway Bay Complex. It's a gently sloping sandy beach suitable for families with unique views of Galway Bay.

Murrooghtoohy - the most northerly point of Co. Clare! Marvel at your surroundings with the Wild Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Burren Limestone rock terrain on the other.

Cliffs of Moher - these world famous iconic cliffs stretch for 8 kilometres and rise to 214 metres over the Atlantic Ocean. They are home to one of Ireland's largest nesting seabird colony with over 30,000 nesting seabirds.

Kilkee Cliffs - stop off for a well-deserved rest in this seaside resort with its horseshoe shaped bay. Enjoy a circular walk along the cliff path.

Loop Head - the most westerly point of Co. Clare! Take in the panoramic views from the top of Loop Head Lighthouse and keep an eye out for the many dolphins playing off shore.

Scattery Island - home to St Senan in the 6th Century. Explore its round tower and churches which are now in ruin.

Inland Driving Routes...

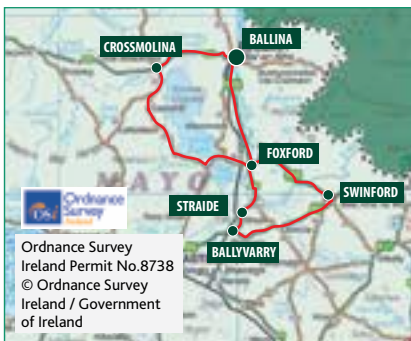
Mayo

North East Mayo Drive

Distance: 135km (84 miles)

Ballina » Crossmolina
» Foxford » Swinford »
Ballina

Mayo's 'Lake District' nestles in a valley between the Ox Mountains and Mayo's largest Mountain of Nephin. Lough Conn is to the north and Lough Cullin to the south. Learn about Mayo's political past in the **Michael Davitt Museum** (pg. 83) in Straide near Foxford and its working past in the **Foxford Woollen Mills** (pg. 79).

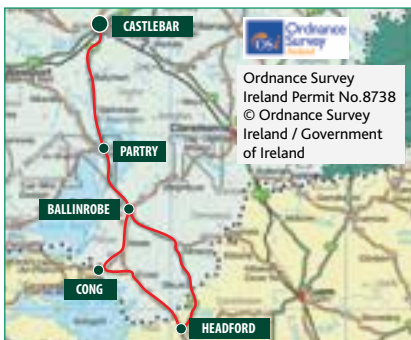


South Mayo Drive

Distance: 100km (62 miles)

Castlebar » Ballintubber
» Ballinrobe » Cong »
Headford » Castlebar

This southern 'lake district' route takes you to south Mayo passing between Lough Carra and Lough Mask. Along the way, visit **Ballintubber Abbey** (founded in 1216, pg. 76). In Cong village on the northern tip of Lough Corrib (famous for 'The Quiet Man' movie and Ashford Castle), you can explore the ruins of Cong Abbey and enjoy some lovely forest walks in the area.



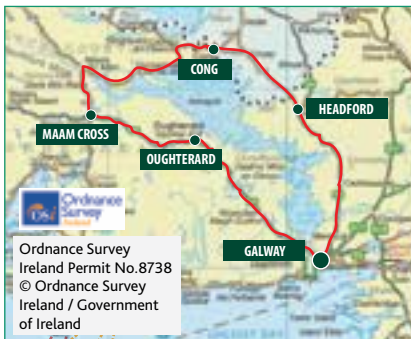
Galway

Joyce Country Tour

Distance: 106km (66 miles)

Galway » Oughterard »
Maam Cross » Cong »
Headford » Galway

With spectacular scenery along the way, this tour follows the shore around the mighty Lough Corrib. Some of the attractions include **Connemara Marble** and **Celtic Crystal** (Moycullen, pg. 37), **Bright's Garden** (Roscahill, pg. 36), **Aughnanure Castle** (Oughterard, pg. 36) and the **Quiet Man Museum** (Cong, pg. 84).



Inland Driving Routes...

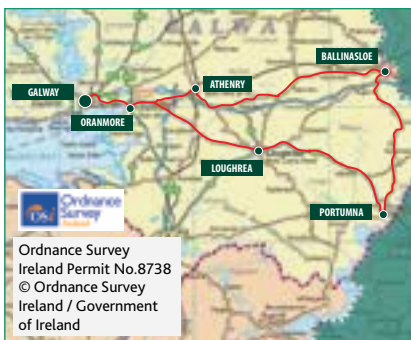
Galway

East Galway Drive

Distance: 150km (94 miles)

Galway » Oranmore »
Athenry » Ballinasloe »
Portumna » Galway

Highlights include **Oranmore Castle** (pg. 46), the medieval town of Athenry (including **Athenry Castle** and local **Heritage Centre**, pg. 52) and the popular cruising town of Portumna where you can see **Portumna Castle & Gardens** (pg. 54), Forest Park and Dominican Friary.

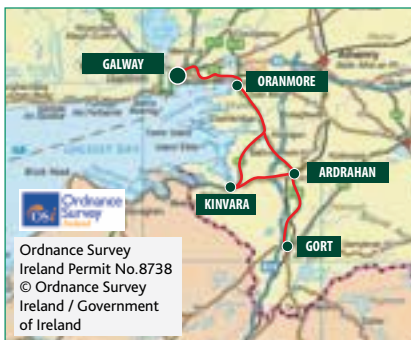


South Galway Drive

Distance: 80km (50 miles)

Galway » Kinvara »
Ardrahan » Gort » Galway

One of the main highlights is **Dunguaire Castle** (pg. 53) in Kinvara. Travel on to Ardrahan, where you can still see the gable ruins of a Norman Tower in the churchyard and head south to the town of Gort where there are many sites linked with the great Poet W.B. Yeats.



Clare

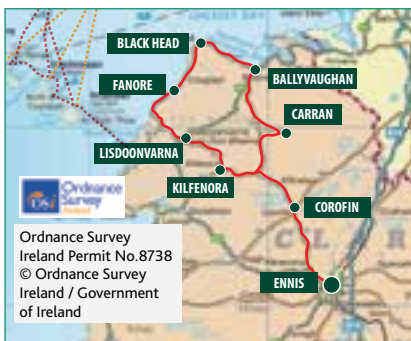
Burren Beauty Drive

Distance: 68km (42 Miles)

Kilfenora » Lisdoonvarna
» Fanore » Black Head »
Ballyvaughan » Carran »
Kilfenora

Encircle the world famous landscape of the Burren, a UNESCO Global & European Geopark. Visit **The Burren Centre** (pg. 17) in Kilfenora and take in some amazing

Atlantic views around Fanore and Black Head. Heading south of Ballyvaughan, visit the **Ailwee Cave** (pg. 14), stop off at the ancient monuments of Poul nabrone Dolmen and **Caherconnell Stone Fort** (pg. 15) or visit the **Burren Perfumery** (pg. 14) and **Michael Cusack Centre** (pg. 16) near Carran.



Lough Derg Drive

Distance: 125km (78 Miles)

Ballina/Killaloe

» **Ogonelloe** »

Mountshannon »

Portumna » **Terryglass** »

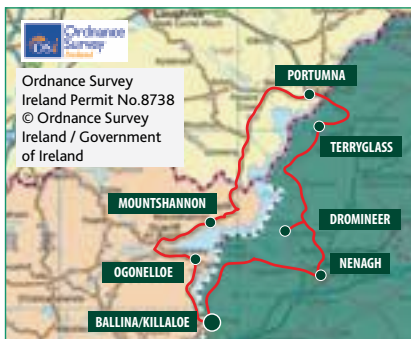
Dromineer » **Nenagh** »

Portroe » **Ballina/Killaloe**

An enchanting drive along the country roads that hug the shoreline of Lough Derg (the largest lake on the River Shannon!). Travelling north of Ballina on the Western

shore, excellent viewing points can be found at Ogonelloe and Mountshannon.

At the head of the lake is Portumna, a busy cruising town where you can visit the delightful Forest Park and the restored **Portumna Castle** (pg. 54). The eastern shore offers plenty of attractive marina villages including Terryglass and Dromineer, whilst you can also visit the busy market town of Nenagh.



Limerick

County Limerick Drive

Distance: 134km (83 miles)

Limerick City » **Adare**

» **Newcastle West** »

Dromcollogher » **Rath**

Luirc » **Kilmallock** »

Hospital » **Limerick City**

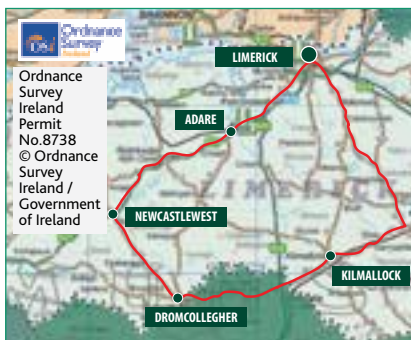
A circular route through the green and fertile countryside of Co Limerick. First stop is Adare village, famous for its Tudor style thatched cottages and **Adare Heritage Centre** (pg. 68). Nearby is **Coillte Forest Park**

Curragh Chase (pg. 68). The National Dairy Co-Op Museum is located in

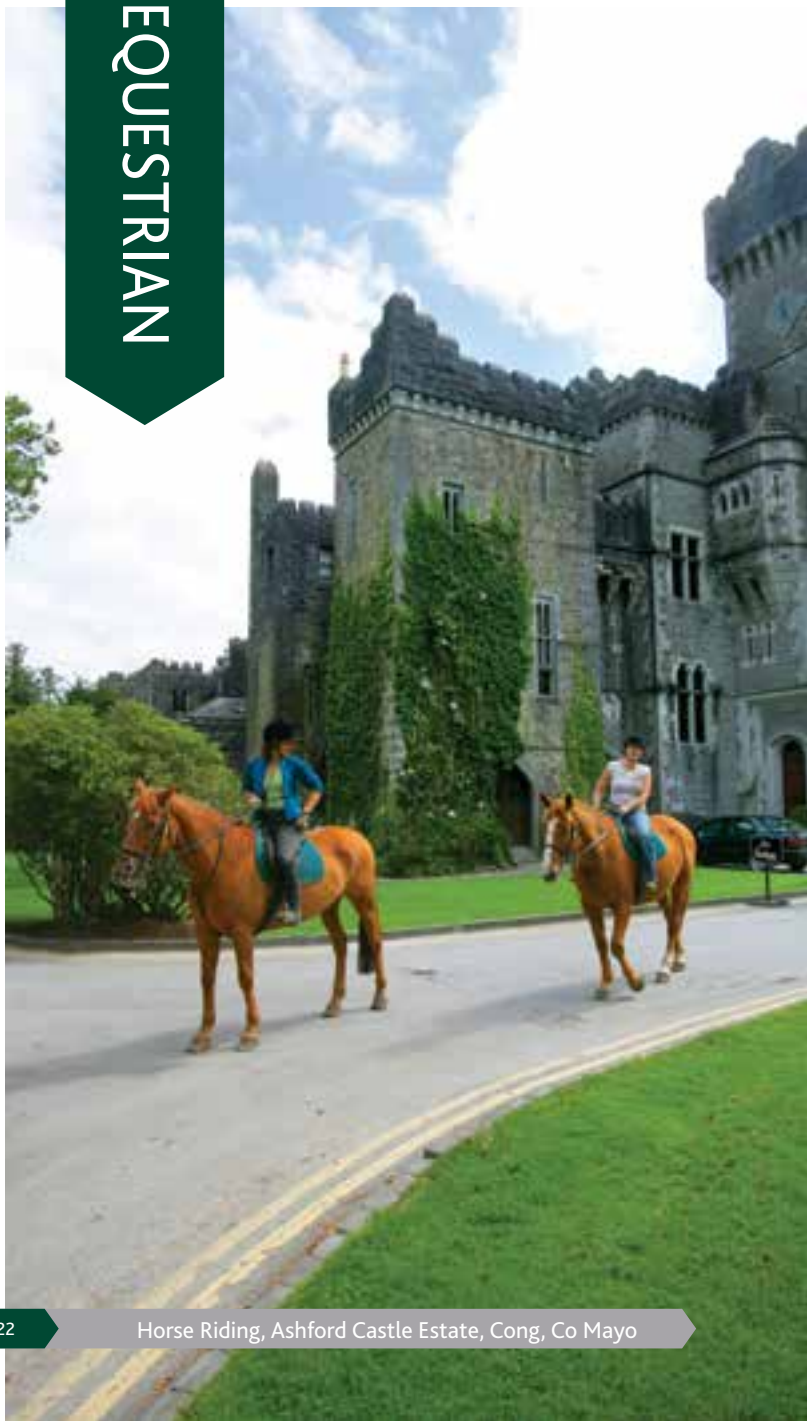
Dromcollogher, whilst Kilmallock is an ideal base to explore the Ballyhoura

Mountains. Stop off at **Lough Gur** (an important archaeological site, pg. 69)

on the way back to Limerick City.



EQUESTRIAN



Equestrian

The West's beautiful scenery lends itself so well to horse riding, so why not get out there and experience it for yourself on horseback?



Follow The Shamrock

Independently Assessed and Quality Assured by Fáilte Ireland, The National Tourism Development Authority. 'Whenever you see this symbol you can be assured this Equestrian Centre is visitor friendly and committed to delivering high quality services and facilities'.

Visit: www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian for current listings

These days, holidays close to home are definitely more popular. The West of Ireland has some of the best riding breaks you could wish for. Whether you are a proficient rider or an enthusiastic amateur, there are plenty of horse riding choices to suit you. Whichever you pick, one thing is for sure – you'll end the day on a fresh air high and with a smile on your face! Why not take the opportunity to explore the West coast of Ireland famous for its varied dramatic and beautiful scenery. And what better way to explore than on horseback?

There are many horse riding options available to you in Clare, Galway, Limerick and Mayo. Consequently if you are looking for an exhilarating gallop on a long sandy beach, a leisurely hack on a quiet country road or a challenging cross-country trail through some of Ireland's most beautiful countryside there is something here for everyone in the West of Ireland.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian OR www.aire.ie



Clifden Pony Show, Clifden, Co Galway



The Galway Races, Galway City

Equestrian

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Mayo	
Ashford Equestrian Centre, Cong	094 9546507 www.ashfordequestrian.com
Ballyjennings Stables, Ballinrobe	087 9404689 www.horsetrekkingireland.com
Barnfield House Equestrian Centre, Knockmore, Ballina	094 9258175 scottofbarnfield@yahoo.com
Calvey's Equestrian, Slievemore, Keel, Achill	087 9881093 www.calveysofachill.com
Carrowholly Stables, Carrowholly, Westport	098 27057 www.carrowholly-stables.com
Carrowmore Stables, Carrowmore, Newport	098 41192 www.carrowmorestable.com
Claremorris Saddlery & Equestrian Centre, Galway Rd., Claremorris	094 9362292 www.hanleyshorses.com
Coolcronan Equestrian Centre, Coolcronan, Foxford	094 9258110 daviddodd1@eircom.net
Drumindoo Stud, Knockranny, Westport	098 25616 www.drumindoo.com
Go Trekking! Westport Woods Hotel, Quay Road, Westport	087 2605672 www.gotrekking.ie
Iceford Stables, Iceford House, Ballina	096 70776 www.icefordstables.com
Upper Mace Equestrian Centre, Barnacarroll, Knock	087 839 5233 www.uppermaceequestrian.ie
Galway	
Claregalway Equestrian Centre, Rockwood, Claregalway	091 798289 www.duffysequestrian.com
Cleggan Beach Riding Centre, Cleggan, Connemara	095 44746 www.clegganridingcentre.com
Dartfield Horse Museum & Riding Centre, Kilrickle, Loughrea	091 843968 www.dartfield.com
Errislannan Riding Centre, Clifden	095 21134 www.errislannanmanor.com
Eve's Riding Centre, Cloonascragh, Tuam	086 8291238
Feeney's Riding Stables, Thonabrocky, Bushypark, Galway City	091 526553 www.feeneysridingstables.com
Galway Equestrian Centre, Peakroe, Athenry	091 844104 www.galwayequestriancentre.com
Knockillaree Riding Centre, Rusheeny, Oughterard	087 9604517 www.connemarahorseriding.com
Loughrea Equestrian Centre, Kilnadeema, Loughrea	091 847077
Moycullen Riding Centre, Poulnaclough, Moycullen	087 2043944 www.moycullenriding.com
Parkmore Stables, Parkmore, Creagh, Ballinasloe	090 9643994 www.parkmorestables.com
Rockmount Riding Centre, Claregalway	091 798147 www.rockmountridingcentre.com
Slieve Aughty Riding Centre, Kylebrack, Loughrea	0909 745246 www.riding-centre.com
The Point Pony Trekking & Horse Riding Centre, Keerhaunmore, Ballyconneely	095 23685 www.thepointponytrekkingcentre.com

Equestrian

NAME & LOCATION

CONTACT DETAILS

Clare

An Sabin Equestrian Centre, Derryoran East, Whitegate	061 927411 www.irishhorseriding.com
Banner Equestrian, Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis	065 6823487 www.bannerequestrian.com
Castlefergus Riding Stables, Castlefergus, Quin, Ennis	065 6825914 www.castlefergusequestrian.com
Clare Equestrian Centre, Doora, Ennis	086 2673690 www.clareequestrian.com
Clonlara Equestrian Centre, Clonlara	061 354172 www.clonlaraequestrian.com
Drumcliffe Equestrian, Drumcliffe, Ennis	065 6820272 www.drumcliffeequestrian.ie
West Clare Equestrian, Tullabrack, Kilrush	065 9059115 www.westclareequestrian.com

Limerick

Ballyhoura Horse Trails, Thomastown, Kilfinane	063 91151 / 087 2799935 www.ballyhourahorsetrails.com
Boskil Equestrian Centre, Caherconlish	085 7673468 wesleyryan9909@gmail.com
Clarina Equestrian Centre, Clarina House, Clarina	061 353087 / 087 2479965 www.clarinaequestriancentre.com
Clonshire Equestrian, Adare	061 396770 www.clonshire.com
Fitzgerald's Equestrian Centre, The Hill, Abbeyfeale	068 31217 / 086 4089322 www.fitzgeraldsfarmhouse.com
Hillcrest Equestrian Centre, Galbally	062 37915 hillcrestequestriancentre.com



Horses grazing in Co Mayo



Clifden Pony Show, Clifden, Co Galway

FAMILY FUN



Family Fun

In the West of Ireland, having fun comes naturally to all, due in part to the large variety of stimulating and educational things to do.

Many of the region's beaches (lakeside and seaside) have EU Blue Flag status ensuring that they are clean and safe - fantastic for swimming, exploring rock pools and all varieties of beach activities. We have masses of water-based activities on offer so whether it's sailing or surfing, the tuition is easily accessible.

There are also numerous leisure centres, visitor attractions and outdoor activity hubs that are worth exploring. A full list can be found in the Adventure & Water Sports section as well as the many Visitor Attractions listed within each County during the first half of this guide. Children always enjoy a visit to pet farms and we have a number for you to choose from. Well-equipped playgrounds are scattered around the region - ideal for burning off some of that excess energy! Festivals are run throughout most of the year here and while not all cater specifically for children, many have aspects that are especially tailored for them.

It may come as a surprise but the West of Ireland sometimes has inclement weather - the wind has been known to blow and the rain to fall! In spite of this your holiday fun shouldn't come to an end as there's plenty to do indoors too. From indoor sports and play areas, from aquaria and museums, the whole family can be entertained all day, whatever the weather!

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/familyfun



Limerick Riverfest, Limerick City



Westport Train Tour, Westport, Co Mayo. Credit: Westport House

Family Fun

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
Clare		
Atlantic Airventure, Shannon	061 363687 www.atlanticaairventure.com	The ultimate thrill for flight enthusiasts
Ballymorris Pottery, Cratloe	061 357118 www.ballymorrispottery.ie	Clay parties & events for all ages. Make & decorate your own piece.
Barneys Kidzclub, Gort Rd Business Park, Ennis	065 6821477 www.barneyskidzclub.com	Fun for kids, indoor soft play area, café on site
Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Bunratty	061 360788 www.ShannonHeritage.com	Step back in time and discover Ireland's fascinating past
Clare Leisure World, Ennis	065 6866777 www.leisureworld.ie	Fun for everyone, lots of activities
Craggaunowen - The Living Past, Quin	061 360788 www.ShannonHeritage.com	Discover the living past
Dennis's Den, Quin Rd Business Park, Ennis	065 6829648 www.dennisden.ie	Play, parties, fun and laughter
Dolphin Discovery, Kilrush	065 9051327 www.discoverdolphins.ie	Discover these amazing creatures
Dolphinwatch, Carrigaholt	065 9058156 www.dolphinwatch.ie	Dolphins and nature boat trips
Empire Movieplex, Ennis	065 6820181 / 065 6821742 www.empiremovieplex.ie	7 Screen Cinema with air conditioning
Ennis Swimming Pool, Ennis	065 6821604	Splashing fun for all
Fishing for Kids, Ballina/Killaloe	086 7856633 www.fishingforkids.ie	Teaching kids through fishing
Hazel Mountain Chocolate, Bellharbour	087 8779565 www.hazelmountainchocolate.com	Bespoke bean to bar chocolate factory with tours
Imecofarm, Clarecastle	087 4000393 / 065 6841552 www.imecofarm.com	Eco crafts, courses, renewable energy and wildlife
Kilkee Waterworld, Kilkee	065 9056855 www.kilkeewaterworld.ie	Guysers, gushers, bubbles, whirls, slides, lazy river ride
Lahinch Seaworld, Lahinch	065 7081900 www.lahinchseaworld.com	Discover a world of wonder in the Aquarium, swimming pool and gym
Lakeside Holiday Park Mounthshannon	061 927225 www.lakesideireland.com	Boats, Kayaks, Swimming, Fishing, football and tennis
Lee's Road Sports & Amenity Park, Ennis	065 6867176	Parkland, pitches, running track, playground, skateboard park
Moher Hill Open Farm, Liscannor	065 7081071 www.moherfarm.com	Learn about animals in a fun environment
Shannon Leisure Centre, Shannon	061 361841 www.shannonleisurecentre.ie	Swimming, gyms, playground, tennis, climbing wall.
The Farmyard, Corofin	087 7413618 / 065 6798030 www.thefarmyard.ie	Open working farm offering authentic experience for all
The West Clare Railway and Heritage Centre, Kilrush	065 9051284 www.westclarerailway.ie	Train Rides Available Steam Train operates Summer
Tim Smyth Park and Playground, Ennis		Playground (0-12yrs), Teen area, Adult exercise area.
Limerick		
Curraghchase Forest Park, Kilcornan	087 9955363 www.coillteoutdoors.ie	Discover the great outdoors
Delta Lazer & Adventure City, Delta Retail Park	061 423994 www.adventurecity.ie	Ireland's Biggest & Best Children's Activity Centre
Fun World, Ennis Road, Limerick City	061 325088 www.funworld.ie	Arcade games, pool, snooker and bowling
Kilcornan Karting, Kilcornan	061 393733 www.limerickkarting.com	The ultimate karting experience
Limerick Omniplex (Cinema), Dooradoyle	061 305020 www.omniplex.ie	Twelve-screen cinema complex
Odeon Cinema, Castletroy Shopping Centre	1520 880 000 www.odeoncinemas.ie	8 Screen Cinema Complex

Red Viking Bus Tour, Limerick	061 394033 www.redvikingtours.com	Guided bus tours of Limerick City and County
Rollerjam, Ballysimon Road, Limerick	061 422500 www.rollerjam.ie	Indoor skating rink
Ryans Honey Farm, Pallasgreen	062 57147	Discover how honey is made
Showtime Cinema, Ennis Rd, Limerick City	061 329 288 www.showtimecinemas.ie	Multi-Screen Cinema
Stonehall Visitor Farm, Curraghchase, Kilcornan	061 393940 www.stonehallvisitorfarm.ie	Experience the enjoyment & fun of a wide variety of animals
Tons of Fun, Eastway Business Park, Limerick City	061 431141 www.tonsoffun.ie	Indoor activity centre for kids

Mayo

Clay Café, Claremorris	094 9373370 www.claycafe.ie	Arts and Crafts
Clare Lake Loop, Claremorris	www.mayowalks.ie	'Land of Giants' walk for families with unusual large objects along the way
Foot Golf Mayo, Westport Country Lodge	087 1944787 www.footgolffmayo.ie	A new sport, combines golf and football
Funster Play Centre, Castlebar	094 90 38939 www.funster.ie	Indoor Play Area
Eddie Joe's Open Farm, Carracastle	086 0585858 www.eddiejoesopenfarm.com	Pet Farm and guided tours of traditional farm
Graune Pet Farm and Play Centre, Ballyhaunis	094 9633980 www.graunepetfarmandplaycentre.ie	Pet Farm and Play Centre
Kiltimagh Pet Farm & Wild Life Park, Kiltimagh	087 7618630 www.kiltimaghpetfarm.com	Pet Farm
Mayo Leisure Point, Castlebar	094 9025473 www.mayoleisurepoint.ie	Indoor Activities
Tumble Jungle, Ballina	098 76637 www.tumblejungle.ie	Indoor Play Area
Westport House & Pirate Adventure Park, Westport	098 27766 www.westporthouse.ie	Museum and Play Area
Wild West, Westport	089 4801105 www.thewildwest.ie	Indoor Play Village

Galway

Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry	091 844661 www.athenryheritagecentre.com	Arts and Heritage Centre
Atlantaquaria, Salthill	091 585100 www.nationalaquarium.ie	National Aquarium
Brigit's Garden, Oughterard	091 550905 www.brigitsgarden.ie	Family friendly with kids trail & natural play. School tours.
Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvara	091 637444 www.bns.ie	Adventure play, farm animals etc.
City Limits, Oranmore	091 388100 www.citylimits.ie	Bowling, Indoor Fun Area
Dartfield Horse Museum & Riding Centre, Kilreekil, Loughrea	091 843968 www.dartfield.com	Horse museum with activities for children
Eile Mental, Furbo, Spiddal	083 199 33 33 www.eilemental.com	ECombat, Paintball, Zorbing, Archery etc.
Galway City Museum, Galway City	091 532460 www.galwaycitymuseum.ie	Museum with various educational exhibitions
Glengowla Mines, Oughterard	087 2529850 www.glengowlamines.ie	Educational mine tours & working pet farm
Hipkidz, Galway City East	091 381653 www.hipkidz.ie	Kids Gym/Sports Arena
Joyce Country Sheepdogs, Clonbur	094 95 48853 www.joycecountrysheepdogs.ie	Working farm with sheepdog demos
Kardio Kids, Athenry	091 875300 www.tranquillityleisureandspa.com	Indoor Play Area
Killary Sheep Farm, Bunowen, Leenane	087 298 8051 www.killarysheepfarm.com	Sheep dog trials, sheep shearing & turf cutting demos, bottle feeding orphan lambs

Letterfrack & Ballinakill Harbour Water Tours	095 43473 www.letterfrackwatertours.com	Sea Life nature tours in Connemara
Loughwell Farm Park, Moycullen	091 868631 www.loughwellfarmpark.ie	Pet Farm with barrel train for kids and go karts
Monkey Business, Galway City West	091 580956 www.facebook.com/MonkeyBusinessGalway	Indoor Soft Play Area
Pallas Karting, Paintball & Zorbing, Tynagh	090 97451477 www.pallaskarting.com	Karting, Paintballing and Zorbing
Perks Funworld, Salthill (High Season only)	091 521455	Funfair
Pure Skill, Galway City	091 515510 www.pureskill.ie	Indoor Sports and Leisure Arena
The Planet, Headford Rd, Galway City	091 562820 www.planetleisure.ie	10 pin bowling, Space Kids Adventure play area
Turoe Pet Farm, Loughrea	091 841580 www.turoepetfarm.com	Pet Farm & Indoor Play Area



Clifden Pony Show, Clifden, Co Galway

FOOD & CULINARY



Food & Culinary

From gourmet dining to great value meals, the West of Ireland has many tasty choices for all palates and pockets.

Its large coastline serves up a feast of seafood, with many restaurants serving signature dishes based on fresh 'catch of the day'. Smokehouses like Keem Bay Fish Products, Burren Smokehouse and Connemara Smokehouse welcome visitors to sample their products. The Rossaveal Fish Auctions allows fish enthusiasts to buy fish fresh off the boat, from Connemara fishermen, at one of Ireland's largest fishing ports.

Local artisan food products can be found across the West, from restaurants serving up locally sourced food; to farmers' markets bringing producers and food enthusiasts together. A full list of farmers' markets are on the next page.

Food trails like the Burren Food Trail, Co Clare and the Gourmet Greenway, Co Mayo are excellent ways to sample local produce with stunning scenery as your companion. These trails highlight the beef, lamb, honey, vegetables, cheese and other products that have been crafted from the unique and ancient farming traditions of the West.

Galway and Limerick cities offer a wonderful selection of international cuisine including Thai, Indian and Italian; alongside local delicacies like Galway Oysters and Connemara Lamb. Both cities have thriving markets with locally sourced food.

Galway Food Tours bring you on a tour around the finest foodie locations on the streets of Galway City, where you will meet artisanal producers and sample their products. Tel: 086 7332885

Cafes can be found dotted throughout every town and village in the West. A perfect daytime excuse for a refreshment stop, fill up on freshly-brewed tea or coffee; or treat yourself to freshly baked goodies straight from the oven.

For a full listing of restaurants & cafes, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/food

Useful Info...

- Watch out for Early Bird menus, usually served up until 7pm. These provide great value for money on 2 and 3 course meals.
- Awards and recommendations from organisations such as The Bridgestone Guide, Bord Bia, inclusion in The Michelin Guide and the Georgina Campbell Guide are marks of quality and prestige.
- Tipping in restaurants is usually between 10% - 15%.

Farmers' Markets

Take time to experience the atmosphere of our farmers' markets. Browse and sample the local and organic produce including farmhouse cheeses, salmon, meats and a wide range of organic fruit and vegetables.

County Clare

Kilrush Farmers' Market, The Square, Kilrush, Thursdays 9am – 2pm. (March - December)

Doolin Saturday Market and Craft Fair, Russell Community Centre, Doolin, Saturdays 10am to 4pm (June – August).

Ennis Farmers' Market, Upper Market St., Ennis, Fridays 8am to 2pm. Saturdays 10am - 1pm.

Ennistymon Farmers Market, The Square, Ennistymon, Saturdays 10am - 2pm.

Miltown Malbay Farmers' Market, Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay, Fridays 3pm - 6.30pm (March to September).

Mountshannon Farmers Market, Main Street, Saturdays 11am - 3pm.

Killaloe Farmers' Market, Killaloe, Sundays 11am – 3pm.

Ballyvaughan Farmers Market, Ballyvaughan, Saturdays 10am - 2pm (May to October)

Shannon Farmers Market, Shannon Town Centre, Fridays 10.30am – 5pm.

Kilkee Farmers Market, O'Curry St., Kilkee, Sundays 10am – 2pm (March to September)

County Galway

Ardrahan Farmers' Market, Joyce's Bar, Saturdays 10am - 2pm.

Athenry Farmers' Market, Market Cross, Fridays 9.30am – 4pm.

Ballinasloe Farmers' Market, Croffys Centre, Main Street, Fridays 9am – 2pm.

Clifden Market, Market Street, Fridays from 9am - 3pm.

Galway City Market, outside St. Nicholas Church, every Saturdays (and Bank Holiday) 8am - 6pm and Sunday from 12pm - 6pm.

Galway City Christmas Market runs at St. Nicholas Church 9am – 5pm (14th - 24th of December).

Headford Farmers' Market, Keady's car park, the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from 10am – 4pm

Kinvara Farmers' Market, The Square, Fridays, 10am – 2pm.

Loughrea Farmers' Market, Barrack St., Thursdays, 9am – 2pm.

Mountbellew Farmers' Market, The Square, Wednesdays, 11am – 5pm.

Moycullen Farmers' Market, opposite The Forge Bar, every Friday 1pm - 7pm.

Oranmore Farmers' Market, behind the Church, Thursdays, 1pm – 6pm.

Oughterard Village Market, Keoghs Yard, every Tuesday 10am-6pm.

Portumna Farmers' Market (Town Hall) takes place on Fridays from 8.30am – 12.30pm.

Roundstone Country Market, Sundays 11am – 4pm. (June Bank Holiday - September), bimonthly during winter.

Tuam Farmers' Market, N7teen Business Park (beside Westwing Restaurant) Saturdays, 9am – 4pm.

County Limerick

Limerick Milk Market, Cornmarket Row, Limerick City, Fridays 10am–3pm, Saturdays 8am-3pm & Sundays 11am -3pm

University of Limerick Farmers Market, Castleconnell, Limerick city, every Tuesday 12pm – 5pm.

Abbeyfeale Farmers Market, The Square, Abbeyfeale, every Friday 9.30am - 1 pm.

Kilmallock Farmers Market, Kilmallock, Fridays 9am - 1pm.

Newcastlewest Farmers Market, Red Door Market, The Square, Newcastlewest, Saturdays 10am – 3pm.

County Mayo

Ballina Farmers' Market, Market Square, Saturdays 9am – 2pm.

Erris Farmers Market, The Square, Belmullet, Saturdays 9am - 2pm.

Castlebar Farmers' Market, Town Hall, Fridays 10am – 2pm.

Claremorris Farmers' Market, Town Hall, every Friday 10am – 2pm.

Louisburgh Farmers' Market, Fridays 9am – 3pm.

Westport Country Market, James Street, every Thursday 8.30am to 1pm.

Westport Food & Craft Market, The Mall, Saturdays 9am – 5pm (March to October).

Charlestown Farmers Market, Londis car park, Fridays 10am – 2pm.

Foxford Woollen Mills Market, Woollen Mills, every Saturday 10am – 2pm.

Cookery Schools

County Clare

Berry Lodge Cookery School, Miltown Malbay. Charming Victorian family home offering superb accommodation, excellent food and cookery tuition. Tel: 065 7087022 Web: www.berrylodge.com

Inchiquin House Cookery School, Corofin. Combining the love of home cooking and living country life all in a period Georgian home. Web: www.inchiquinhouse.com

County Mayo

Marjorie's Cookery School & Guest Accommodation, Quay Road, Ballina. Come along to a lesson and learn how to cook a variety of foods, meet new friends, have fun and best of all, together taste all the tasty dishes you've prepared. Tel: 096 22609, Web: www.marjorieskitchen.net

County Limerick

Recipe4Success, Annacotty. Recipe4Success offers a great experience around all things cooking and baking in a fun environment. Contact: 087 9978413, Web: www.recipe4success.ie

County Galway

Galway Bay Seafood Cookery Class, Galway Docks. Irelands only dedicated Seafood Cookery School caters for all ability levels to inspire seafood confidence. Tel: 091 563011 Web: www.galwaybayseafoods.com

Aniar Boutique Cookery School, 53 Lower Dornick St, Galway City. Courses include demonstration and hands-on activity for students to learn confidence in the kitchen. Tel: 091 535947. Web: www.aniarrestaurant.ie



Burren Slow Food Festival, Co Clare

Food Festivals

Galway Food Festival, Galway City, 2nd - 6th April, 2015. Featuring five days of exceptional food and free events for all the family. Celebrating Galway as a good food destination, with a strong emphasis on artisan, seasonal and local produce.
Web: www.galwayfoodfestival.com

Burren Slow Food Festival takes place from 22nd - 24th May, 2015 in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. This is a three day celebration of local, artisan and organic food with cookery demos, farmers markets and lots more, all set in the beautiful Burren.
Web: www.slowfoodclare.com

Féile Bia na Mara takes place on Achill Island, Co Mayo from the 17th - 19th July, 2015 with a diverse programme of events and activities over the 3 days.
Web: www.feilenamara.com

Ennis Food Festival takes place in Ennis, Co. Clare from 24th - 27th September, 2015. This festival is a celebration of food from near and far, with fun for all ages and opportunities to pick up cookery tips and recipes from producers and guest chefs.
Web: www.ennisfoodfestival.com

Doonbeg Seafood Festival normally takes place at the end of July in Doonbeg, Co Clare. This two day festival features seafood cooking demonstrations, marine education, music and lots of family fun.
Web: www.doonbegseafoodfestival.com

Clarinbridge Oyster Festival 11th - 13th September, 2015 in Clarenbridge, Co. Galway, incorporating a traditional market day, golf outings, art exhibitions, yacht races, fine wine and gourmet evenings. This festival is not one to be missed.
Web: www.clarenbridge.com

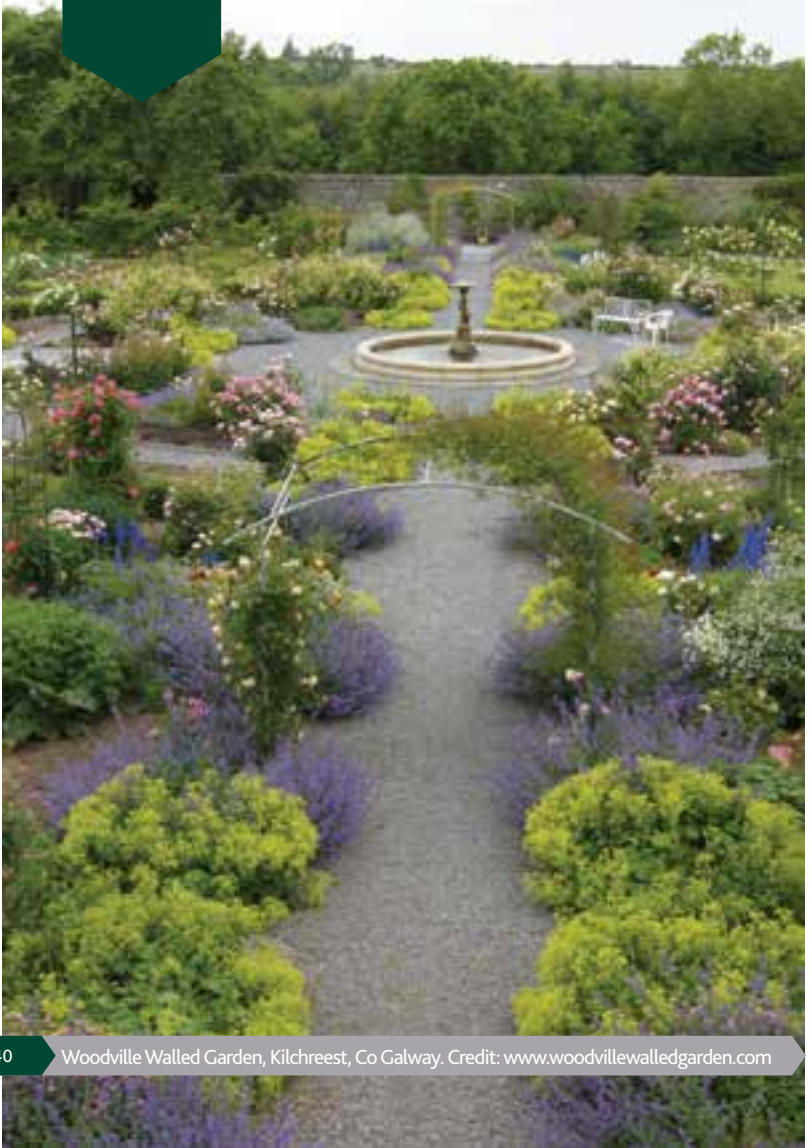
Galway International Oyster Festival, 24th - 27th September, 2015 has been voted one of the 12 greatest shows on earth! A weekend of non-stop entertainment featuring top-class national and international artists, cabaret and dancing, in Galway City.
Web: www.galwayoysterfest.com

Leenane Autumnal Festival takes place from 25th - 27th September, 2015 in this picturesque village at the head of Killary Harbour. The aim of the festival is to showcase the local produce which includes mutton, lamb, fish, seaweed, bread, cakes, jams, honey and vegetables.
Web: www.leenane-festival.com

Bia Bofinne-A Taste of Inishbofin takes place from 2nd - 4th October, 2015. This festival celebrates the best of Inishbofin, with a focus on traditional food, art and craft from this exceptionally beautiful island off the coast of Galway.
Web: www.inishbofin.com

Pick up your
FREE local Town or City map
in our Discover Ireland Centres!

GARDENS



Gardens

The gardens of the West of Ireland are well known for their beauty, variety and uniqueness. Rain, soft sunshine and the warmth of the Gulf Stream combine to make ideal conditions for the creation of magnificent and magical gardens.

The general landscape varies greatly throughout the region, from the stone walled farmlands to rolling hills and fresh waters of Lough Corrib and the River Shannon, to the wild mountains and valleys. Within this landscape lie garden treasures that have been laid out by a variety of local people.

The coastal location means that plants are adapted to a moist maritime climate, but the Gulf Stream ensures that the region does not suffer from the extremes of temperature experienced by many other countries on the same latitude. This proximity to the Atlantic can also cause problems as salt and storm can be a challenge to every plant and tree. The soil is acidic and shallow in many places and much needed nutrients must then be added to make it fertile. This is a challenging environment for gardeners, but they ensure that the flora and fauna follow the weather patterns of the West. Hydrangeas, rhododendrons and heather are common features in gardens here as are azaleas and camellias - and even the odd palm tree!

The gardens here range in size and style, from formal to wild. Many feature exotic plants which were imported at the turn of the 20th Century and others have concentrated on the discovery and preservation of gardens which are over 300 years old. Each garden has its own story which we hope you will explore and enjoy.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/gardens



Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre, Co Clare



Kylemore Abbey & Gardens, Co Galway

Gardens

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Mayo	
Achill Secret Garden, Atlantic Drive, Achill Island	098 47353 / 098 45103, www.achillsecretgarden.com
Enniscoe House & Gardens, Castlehill, Ballina	096 31809, www.enniscoe.com
National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Turlough Park House & Gardens, Castlebar	094 9031755, www.museum.ie
Westport House & Gardens, Westport	098 27766, www.westporthouse.ie

Galway

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel & Gardens, Ballinafad, Connemara	095 31006, www.ballynahinch-castle.com
Brigit's Garden, Roscahill	091 550905, www.brigitsgarden.ie
Cashel House Hotel & Gardens, Cashel	095 31001, www.cashel-house-hotel.com
Coole Park, Gort	091 631804, www.coolepark.ie
Errislannan Manor Gardens, Clifden	095 21134, www.errislannanmanor.com
Kylemore Abbey & Gardens, Connemara	095 52001, www.kylemoreabbey.com
Portumna Castle & Gardens, Portumna	090 9741658, www.heritageireland.ie
Renvyle House, Renvyle, Connemara	095 46100, www.renvyle.com
Rosleague Manor, Letterfrack, Connemara	095 41101, www.rosleague.com
Ross Castle, Roscahill near Oughterard	091 550183, www.rosscastle.com
Woodville House Walled Garden, Kilchreest	087 9069191, www.woodvillewalledgarden.com
Zetland Country House Hotel, Cashel, Connemara	095 31111, www.zetland.com

Clare

Ballyvoe Garden, Doolin	087 9147725, www.doolingarden.com
Bunratty Castle Gardens, Bunratty	061 360788, www.shannonheritage.com
Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre, Carron	065 7089102, www.burrenperfumery.com
Caher Bridge Garden, Fanore	065 7076225, Find us on Facebook!
Irish Seed Savers Association, Scariff	061 921866, www.irishseedsavers.ie
Knappogue Castle Gardens, Quin	061 360788, www.shannonheritage.com
Lough Derg Garden Trail, Lough Derg	086 8079763, www.loughderggardens.com
Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Kilrush	065 9051760, www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie

Limerick

Ballynacourty Gardens, Askeaton	061 396409
Boyce Gardens, Foynes	069 65302 www.boycesgardens.com
Knockpatrick Gardens, Foynes	069 65256 / 087 9485651
Terra Nova Gardens, Killmallock	063 90744 www.terranovagarden.com

GOLF



Golf

Golf is often a way of life here in the West of Ireland. A diverse range of links and parkland courses reflect all the great traditions of the game.

There are more than 40 courses to choose from in the West of Ireland, each one offering a unique experience. The temperate climate here means that golfers can enjoy their sport almost all year round. The main season runs from April to October, but the exhilaration of winter golf is a special experience.

Approved Golf Clubs



Whenever you see this symbol you can be assured this golf club is committed to delivering high quality services and facilities. Ireland is the first country to set up a nationwide approval scheme for golf courses. This scheme was launched by Failte Ireland in 2010 to navigate consumers towards an excellent Irish golfing experience.

Visit: www.discoverireland.ie/golf for current listings

You will discover that there is an engaging quirkiness about the way the game is played here. Golfers will be eager to engage you in their sense of the game. They will offer advice about their respective courses and will proffer guidance on the various other quality golf courses that the visitor can play and experience in the West of Ireland.

Go with it, relax and enjoy – in the West of Ireland, golf is both exciting and different and, in a word... SUPERB!

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/golf



Carne Golf Links, Belmullet, Co Mayo. Credit: www.carnegolflinks.com



Mulranny Golf Club, Co Mayo

Golf

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	HOLES
Mayo		
Achill Golf Club, Keel, Achill Island	098 43456 www.discoverireland.ie/golf	9
Ashford Castle Golf Club, Cong	094 9546003 www.ashford.ie	9
Balla Golf Club, Balla	094 9365470 www.ballagolf.com	18
Ballina Golf Club, Mossgrove	096 21050 www.ballina-golf.com	18
Ballinrobe Golf Club, Cloonacastle, Ballinrobe	094 9541118 www.ballinrobegolfclub.com	18
Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Coolnaha	089 4417060 www.ballyhaunisgolfclub.com	9
Carne Golf Links, Belmullet	097 82292 www.carnegolfinks.com	18
Castlebar Golf Club, Hawthorn Avenue, Rocklands	094 9021649 www.castlebargolfclub.ie	18
Claremorris Golf Club, Castlemacgarrett	094 9371527 www.claremorrisgolfclub.com	18
Mulranny Golf Club, Mulranny	098 36262 www.mulrannygolfclub.com	9
Swinford Golf Club, Brabazon Park, Swinford	094 9251378 www.swinfordgolf.com	9
Westport Golf Club, Carrowholly	098 28262 www.westportgolfclub.com	18
Galway		
Athenry Golf Club, Palmerstown, Oranmore	091 794466, www.athenrygolfclub.net	18
Ballinasloe Golf Club, Rossgloss, Ballinasloe	090 9642126, www.ballinasloegolfclub.ie	18
Bearna Golf & Country Club, Bearna	091 592677 www.bearnagolfclub.com	18
Connemara Championship Golf Links, Ballyconneely, Clifden	095 23502, www.connemaragolfinks.com	27
Connemara Isles, Annaghavane Island, Lettermore	091 572498	9
Cregmore Park Golf Club, Cregmore	091 799799, www.cregmorepark.com	18
Curra West, Kylebrack, Loughrea	090 9745121, www.currawest.com	18
Dunmore Demesne Golf Course, Dunmore	093 38709	9
Galway Bay Golf Resort, Oranmore	091 790711, www.galwaybaygolfresort.com	18
Galway Golf Club, Blackrock, Salthill	091 522033, www.galwaygolf.com	18
Glenlo Abbey Golf Club, Bushypark, Galway City	091 519600, www.glenlo.com	9
Gort Golf Club, Castlequarter, Gort	091 632244, www.gortgolf.com	18
Loughrea Golf Club, Graigue, Loughrea	091 841049, www.loughreagolfclub.com	18
Mountbellew Golf Club, Shankhill, Mountbellew	090 9679259 www.mountbellewgolfclub.com	18
Oldthort Golf Course, Tynagh Rd, Portumna	090 9741123, www.oldthortgolf.com	9
Oughterard Golf Club, Gortreevagh, Oughterard	091 552131	18
Portumna Golf Club, Ennis Road, Portumna	090 9741059, www.portumnagolfclub.ie	18
Tuam Golf Club, Barnacurragh, Tuam	093 28993 www.tuamgolfclub.com	18

Clare

Clonlara Golf & Leisure Club, Clonlara	061 354141 www.gui.com	12
Doonbeg Golf Club, Doonbeg	065 9055600 www.doonbeggolfclub.com	18
Dromoland Golf & Country Club, Newmarket-on-Fergus	061 368444 www.dromolandgolf.com	18
East Clare Golf Club, Bodyke	061 921322 www.eastclare.com	18
Ennis Golf Club, Drumbiggle	065 6824074 www.ennisgolfclub.com	18
Kilkee Golf Club, Kilkee	065 9056048 www.kilkeegolfclub.ie	18
Kilrush Golf Club, Parknamoney, Kilrush	065 9051138 www.kilrushgolfclub.com	18
Lahinch Golf Club Castle Course, Lahinch	065 7081003 www.lahinchgolf.com	18
Lahinch Golf Club Old Course, Lahinch	065 7081003 www.lahinchgolf.com	18
Shannon Golf Club, Shannon	061 471849 www.shannongolfclub.ie	18
Spanish Point Golf Club, Milltown Malbay	065 7084198 www.spanishpointgolfing.com	9
Woodstock Hotel Golf Course, Shanaway Road, Ennis	065 6829463 www.woodstockgolfclub.com	18

Limerick

Adare Manor Golf Club, Adare	061 605200 www.adaremanor.com	18
Castletroy Golf Club, Castletroy	061 335753 www.castletroygolfclub.ie	18
Limerick Golf Club, Ballyclough	061 415146 www.limerickgolfclub.ie	18
Newcastle West Golf Club, Newcastle West	069 76500 www.newcastlewestgolf.com	18
Rathbane Golf Club, Rathbane	061 313655 www.rathbanegolfclub.com	18



Doonbeg Golf Course, Co Clare



ISLANDS



Islands

Looking out over the Atlantic Ocean, tasting the salt on your lips and feeling the sea breeze on your face, nothing invigorates like a visit to the islands off the West coast of Ireland. These islands embody the soul of Ireland and this is predominately where the Irish language and culture is still vibrant.

Wild and beautiful, the islands have captured the imagination for thousands of years and provided stimulus for artists and writers such as J.M. Synge, Paul Henry, Heinrich Böll and Graham Greene. The perception that the islands were remote has changed dramatically in recent years and now almost all are easily accessible by boat, plane or by road as in the case of Achill Island.

Be sure to plan carefully for your visit to the islands - some are very busy in high season (especially July & August) and very few have ATM banking facilities.

We ask that you please leave the islands as you find them. Respect the environment and dispose of litter in bins or take it away with you. Take care; a visit to the islands is a unique experience but always be aware that these landscapes are exposed to the elements, island terrain is mainly rugged and the Atlantic Ocean can sometimes be wild and unpredictable.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands



County Galway

Oileáin Árann (Aran Islands)

The three Aran Islands Inis Mór (Inishmore), Inis Meáin (Inishmaan) and Inis Oírr (Inisheer) are situated in a north westerly, south easterly direction at the mouth of Galway Bay. These islands are famous for their geological formation, historical monuments and cultural heritage. Irish is the first language of the islanders and is still spoken in everyday life. The islands are rich with flora and fauna and have wonderful clean beaches.

Getting there by Air:

From Inverin, Co. Galway:

[Aer Arann Islands](#), Tel: 091 593034, www.aerarannislands.ie

In addition to regular daily services, Scenic Flights are also available which takes visitors over the Aran Islands, Cliffs of Moher and the Connemara coastline.

Getting there by Sea:

From Rossaveal, Co. Galway:

[Island Ferries Teo](#), Tel: 091 568903, www.aranislandferries.com

From Doolin, Co. Clare:

[Doolin2Aran Ferries](#), Tel: 065 7075949, www.doolin2aranferries.com

[The Doolin Ferry Company](#), Tel: 065 7075555, www.doolinferry.com

[The O'Brien Line](#), Tel: 065 707 5618, www.obrienline.com

For further information contact: Aran Tourist Office, Kilronan, Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co. Galway. Tel: 099 61263 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands

Inis Mór

Inis Mór is the biggest of the Aran Islands and one of Ireland's most popular tourist destinations. "Next parish Boston" one can truthfully say when gazing down on the sparkling clear Atlantic Ocean from the Dún Aonghasa cliff face (pg. 39). Also scattered throughout the island are the remnants of 12th Century high crosses and churches.

Here you can still see the Aran Jumper being knitted and experience other local crafts such as basket weaving.

The island is not all about history, it is quite common to stumble across a traditional music or dance session which have been known to continue into the early hours. While Kilmurvey is the island's Blue Flag Beach, there are many others to choose from where you can relax, stroll, swim, dive or surf.

Festivals include: St. John's Eve Bonfire; 23rd June 2015. Patrún Inis Mór; 26th – 28th June 2015. Halloween Night Masquerade; 31st October 2015.

Inis Meáin

Meaning 'middle island', is the least visited of the three Aran Islands and allows the visitor to immerse themselves in Irish culture and traditions. The unique and traditional Inis Meáin Knitwear is produced here and exported to the fashion capitals of the world. Inis Meáin too has many sites of historical interest, e.g. Church of the King's Seven Sons, a number of holy wells and the prehistoric stone fort of Dún Chonchúir which is very well preserved and from its high point you can enjoy breath taking panoramic views. While spending time here the famous writer, John Millington Synge got inspiration for his plays. Synge's Cottage is now a museum and is open during the tourist season.

Festivals include: Galway Bay Hooker & Currach Regatta; June 2015

Inis Oírr

You may not know it but you're probably already familiar with Inis Oírr! The opening credits of the Father Ted television series feature one of the island's shipwrecks – the cargo vessel 'Plassy'.

Inis Oírr, meaning "south island", is the smallest of the three islands and is a tranquil place, perfect for quiet contemplation and relaxed walks. The island is small enough to see entirely on foot.

Ancient monuments worth a visit include the ruins of Teampall Chaomhain (St. Kevin's Church), O'Brien's Castle - a 15th Century tower house which stands within a stone fort, St. Gobnait's Church and the Holy Well of St. Enda. At Áras Éanna Arts Centre, you can attend workshops, see exhibitions and learn about the island's traditional culture. As you'd expect there are superb beaches ideal for swimming or surfing, walking routes and magnificent views across to the mainland and Connemara.

Festivals include: Inis Oírr Currach Races; August 2015.



Inis Oírr, Aran Islands, Co Galway

Inishbofin Island

Is located off the west coast of Connemara and is renowned for its impromptu music sessions featuring wonderful local and visiting musicians. Visitors here are captivated by the island's allure and magnificent scenery. Inishbofin is an ecologist's joy with its array of flora and fauna and boasts excellent loop walks, two Green Coast beaches and crystal clear waters ideal for scuba diving enthusiasts. The island's stunning natural harbour makes it an ideal sailing base.

Festivals include: Environmental Summer School; 6th - 10th July, 2015

Getting there:

Ferries operate all year round from Cleggan, Connemara, Co. Galway.

Inishbofin Island Discovery: Tel: 095 45819 / 087 1718829
www.inishbofinislanddiscovery.com

For further information contact: Discover Ireland Centre, Áras Fáilte, Forster Street, Galway. Tel: 091 537700 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands

Ceantar na nOileán

A group of islands situated between Kilkerrin Bay and Greatmans Bay, 56km West of Galway City. The main islands are Eanach Mheain, Leitir Moir, Garumna and Leitir Meallain and access is by a chain of bridges and causeways. This scenic area of South Connemara is part of the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area).

For the
Personal Touch

visit our Discover Ireland Centres for
 free Tourist Information & advice!

County Mayo

Achill Island

Is Ireland's largest offshore island and one of the few to be accessible by road. Take the N59 from Westport to Mulranny and then the R319 to Achill. The views on the journey to and from the island are breath taking. The island boasts of spectacular sea cliffs, awesome scenery, stunning drives, walks and cycle routes and beautiful beaches (many of them Blue Flag Beaches) catering for all types of angling and water sports. Achill Island has the reputation of being an artist's retreat and has festivals and events to suit all. Sporting events and activities include half marathons, surfing, swimming, walking, cycling, scuba diving, climbing, angling and equestrian activities to mention but a few.

Festivals Include: Feile na Mara 17th - 19th July 2015.

For further information contact: Westport Tourist Office, Bridge Street, Westport, Co. Mayo. Tel: 098 25711 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands

Clare Island

Guards the entrance to Clew Bay and in former times was the home of the pirate queen Grace O'Malley (Granuaile). Now the people drawn to its shores are mainly anglers, scuba divers, naturalists, those in search of a quiet retreat and walkers. The island has a network of looped walks... climb to the peak of Knockmore, where you'll be enthralled by the panoramic views of Clew Bay and its islands, seabirds, the Blue Flag Harbour Beach and Croagh Patrick on the mainland.

Festivals include: Bard Summer School 1st - 5th July 2015 & the Clare Island Regatta. 12th July 2015

Getting there:

Daily Sailings from Roonagh Pier, near Louisburg, Co. Mayo.

Clare Island Ferry: Tel: 098 23737 or 086 8515003. www.clareislandferry.com

O'Malley Ferry Services: Tel: 098 25045 or 086 6000204. www.omalleyferries.com

For further information contact: Westport Tourist Office, Bridge Street, Westport, Co. Mayo. Tel: 098 25711 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands



Clare Island, Co Mayo

Inis Bigil (Inishbiggle)

Located between the Mayo mainland and Achill Island and accessible across the Bullmouth Channel, one of the strongest currents in Europe. Inis Bigil is a unique island which to this day has a traditional community where small farming and fishing are time-worn traditions. It has stunning panoramic views of west Mayo and is still totally unspoilt. Life here is lived at a different pace and the tranquil atmosphere, old world customs and glorious scenery are beloved of walkers. For day trippers this is an idyllic location for walking and exploration.

Festivals include: Inis Bigil Festival - August.

Getting there:

Sailing from Doran's Point, Ballycroy.

Leneghan Ferries, Tel: 098 45513/087 1269618

For further information contact: Westport Tourist Office, Bridge Street, Westport, Co. Mayo. Tel: 098 25711 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands

Inishturk Island

(Island of the Wild Boar) is a scenic little island off the west coast between Inishbofin and Clare Island. If you are looking to get away from the stresses and strains of modern life just hop on the short boat journey from Roonagh Pier to Inishturk, as you step off the ferry you'll immediately notice the difference. The island has an array of archaeological sites and is an environmentalist's paradise with wonderful bird life and unique flora.

Festivals include: Traditional Music Weekends - June to September

Getting there:

Daily Sailings from Roonagh Pier, near Louisburg, Co. Mayo.

Clare Island Ferry, Tel: 098 23737 or 086 8515003. www.clareislandferry.com

Inishturk Ferries, Tel: 098 45541 or 086 2029670. www.inishturkisland.com

O'Malley Ferry Services: Tel: 098 25045 or 086 6000204. www.omalleyferries.com

For further information contact: Westport Tourist Office, Bridge Street, Westport, Co. Mayo. Tel: 098 25711 or visit www.discoverireland.ie/islands

Pick up your
FREE local Town or City map
in our Discover Ireland Centres!

Ask our Travel Advisors for a
comprehensive listing of
"Whats On"
in the local area!



Achill Island, Co Mayo



Keel Strand, Achill Island, Co Mayo. Credit: © Raymond Fogarty www.aircamireland.ie

County Clare

Scattery Island

Scattery Island is a small uninhabited island at the mouth of the River Shannon near Kilrush, in south west Clare.

The island has a rich and unusual history associated with it, most of which centres around the life of St. Senan, the founder of the monastery on the island, in the sixth Century. Scattery Island was an ecclesiastical centre in early times.

St. Senan's monastery suffered severely as a consequence of the Viking raids of the ninth and tenth centuries, an attack from Brian Ború and later it was almost demolished in Tudor times during the reign of Queen Elizabeth when she suppressed all monasteries in Ireland. Scattery has also served as a place of safe harbour for the Spanish Armada and as a defence outpost for the English government, from which time the 18th Century battery built to defend against a French invasion dates.

Today the island contains the ruins of the old monastic site featuring a round tower damaged by lightning, a primitive stone cathedral, an oratory, Teampall Senain and St. Senan's Bed, and the church of Ard na nAingeal, where the Archangel Michael is said to have appeared to St. Senan. Along with these monastic ruins, the island is adorned with beautiful semi-natural grassland which is of great interest to ecologists who visit here.

Explore the Island

Guided Tours operate from Scattery Island Visitor Centre located on the island, which is open from late May to early September (Tel: 087 9958427). Tours can be arranged out of season by prior arrangement (Tel: 087 9199725 or padraig.oruairc@opw.ie). Tours subject to demand and tides.

Scattery Island Ferries sail from Kilrush Creek Marina (Tel: 065 9051327 or www.discoverdolphins.ie).



Scattery Island, Co Clare

Holy Island

Holy Island on Lough Derg and the river Shannon is one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland. Its many attractions include a well-preserved Round Tower, the ruins of six churches, a Holy Well, a unique graveyard with slabs dating from the eighth Century, Bullaun Stones, a cell like structure, which is one of the most extraordinary buildings in Ireland and a 'bargaining' stone where many a marriage was brokered. Their secluded position has enabled them to survive in a wonderful state of preservation.

The Island is chiefly associated with St. Caiman who died in 653 AD. In his time it was a great center of learning. Like all monasteries it suffered badly from Viking attacks, the first recorded being in 836 AD. Brian Ború rebuilt the monastery and his brother Marcan was abbot there.

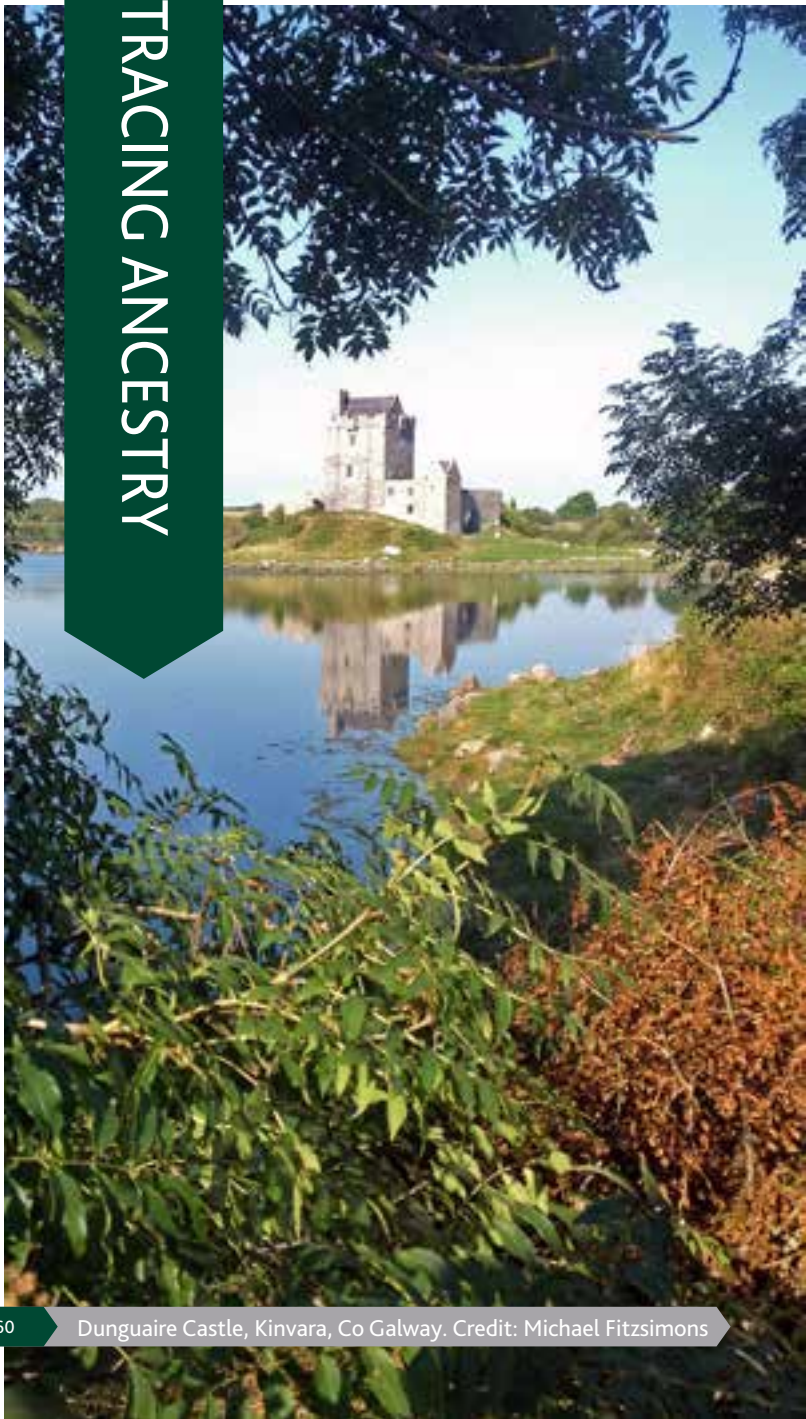
Explore the Island

A boat trip from the picturesque pier at Mountshannon and a guided tour of the Island is part of the service East Clare Heritage provides. Tel: 086 8749710. Web: www.holyisland.ie Adults €10. Children €5.



Holy Island, Co Clare

TRACING ANCESTRY



Tracing Ancestry

With around 80 million people around the world claiming Irish ancestry, why not take the opportunity to track down your own Irish heritage?

Perhaps you will discover Irish roots you never knew existed and you may even qualify for the Irish Government's Official Certificate of Irish Heritage!
www.heritagecertificate.com

National Resources

National Archives. Tel: 01 4072300 www.nationalarchives.ie

National Library of Ireland. Tel: 01 6030213 www.nli.ie

General Register Office. Tel: 090 6632900, www.groireland.ie

Local Resources

Clare

Clare County Library, The Manse, Harmony Row, Ennis, Co Clare.

Tel: 065 6846350, mailbox@clarelibrary.ie

Clare Heritage & Genealogical Research Centre, Church Street, Corofin, Co Clare.

Tel: 065 6837955, clareheritage@eircom.net

Galway

Galway County Library, Island House, Cathedral Square, Galway City.

Tel: 091 562471, info@galwaylibrary.ie

East Galway Family History Society Co. Ltd., Woodford Heritage Centre,

Woodford, Loughrea, Co Galway, Tel: 090 9749309, galwayroots@eircom.net /

galwayroots@gmail.com

Galway Family History Society West Ltd., St. Joseph's Community Centre, Ashe

Road, Shantalla, Galway City. Tel: 091 860464, galwayfshwest@eircom.net

Western Family History Association, www.wfha.info

Limerick

Limerick County Library, Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick City

Tel: 061 496526, tony.storan@limerickcoco.ie

Limerick Genealogy, Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Co Limerick. Tel: 061 496542,

research@limerickgenealogy.com

Mayo

Mayo Central Library, John Moore Road, Castlebar, Co Mayo. Tel: 094 9047922,

librarymayo@mayococo.ie

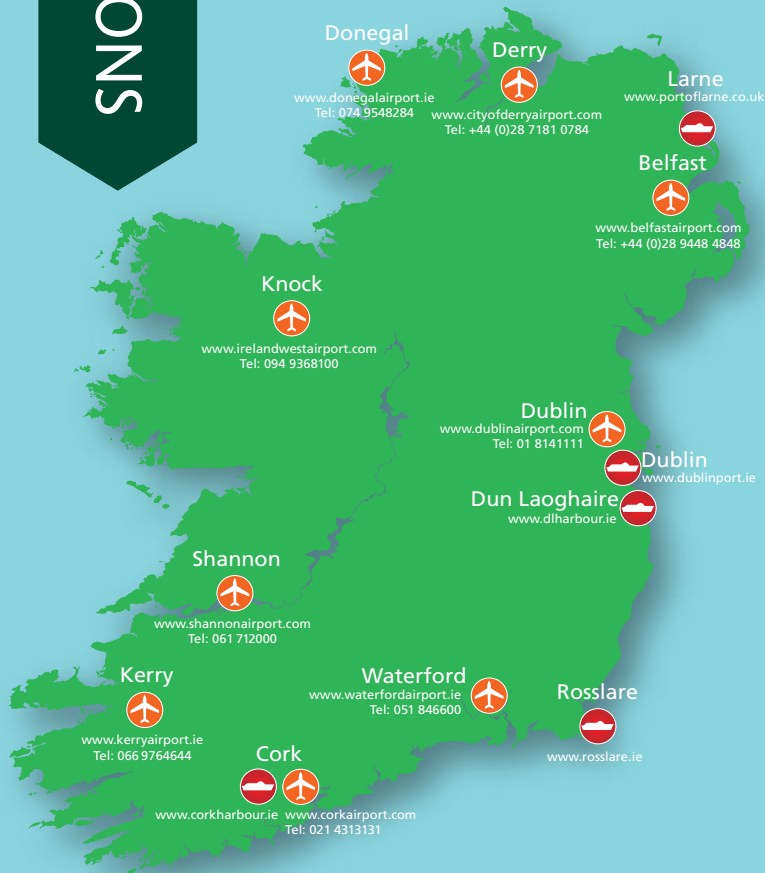
Mayo North Family History Research Centre, Enniscoe, Castlehill, Ballina,

Co Mayo. Tel: 096 31809, northmayo@gmail.com

Mayo South Family Research, Main St, Ballinrobe, Co Mayo. Tel: 094 9541214,

soumayo@iol.ie

TRAVEL OPTIONS





Atherry Train Station

Travel Options

It's now easier than ever to get to and explore the West with more transport links, better road infrastructure and an increased array of guided tours.

Rail - in addition to the Dublin rail services, the West of Ireland is now inter connected to the south of Ireland via a rail link from Limerick City to Galway City via Atherry.

Air - Shannon International Airport, Co. Clare and Ireland West Airport Knock, Co. Mayo both provide a great selection of flights to and from the West of Ireland.

Road - the M6 and the M7/M18 motorways (tolled), link Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Ennis and have greatly reduced travel times to and from the West.

Toll Roads: ten of Ireland's eleven toll roads have conventional barrier toll plazas. Unless your car has an electronic tag, you will need to stop at the cashier's booth and pay your toll in cash. Dublin's M50 is a barrier-free toll road, traffic passes beneath a camera gantry between Junction 6 and 7 which records vehicles' registration numbers. Drivers must pay their M50 toll before 20.00 the following day to avoid incurring a late-payment penalty. Payment methods include: (1) Online at www.eFlow.ie, (2) cash or card at any retail outlet that has the Payzone sign, (3) Lo-Call: 1890 50 10 50.

More details on Travel Options in the West can be found on the next page, whilst a comprehensive selection of Tours are detailed on pages 29, 48, 63 and 71 of this guide.

Rail

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail), Tel: 1850 366222, www.irishrail.ie See map of Irish Rail Network on opposite page.

From/To Dublin There are daily services from/to Westport, Castlebar, Galway and Limerick.

Galway/Limerick There are daily services between Galway City and Limerick City via Athenry and Ennis.

Rail

Bus Éireann (National Bus Company) Tel: 01 836 6111, www.buseireann.ie
Services to all main towns and cities throughout the region.

Bus Éireann also offers a 'hop-on / hop-off' open-road Tourist Travel Pass which allows unlimited travel on Bus Éireann services nationwide for a period of 3 days out of 6 consecutive days. It is possible to purchase extra days to extend the pass. For more information please contact Bus Éireann on 096 71800 or www.buseireann.ie

City Link operate services between Galway City and Dublin City & Airport, Limerick City, Cork City & Airport. In addition a regular Clifden/Connemara service operates, servicing Cleggan & Letterfrack. Visit www.citylink.ie or phone 091 564164 for timetables and fares.

GoBus Operates services between Galway City, Dublin City & Airport. Visit www.gobus.ie or phone 091 564600 for timetables and fares.

Other Bus Operators. A number of other private bus companies operate other routes throughout the West. Please check with your nearest Tourist Office for more information.

Taxis

These are widely available, particularly in larger towns. Phone directory enquiries on 11811 or 11850 for a list of operators. For details of taxis that provide a service to wheelchair users, visit www.wheelchairtaxi.ie

Car Hire

Most car hire companies have desks in the airports and in larger towns. Please contact your nearest Tourist Office (inside front cover) for a full list or visit www.carrentalcouncil.ie

Bicycle Hire

Coca Cola Zero Bikes is an exciting new addition to the cities of Galway and Limerick. Bike stations are located throughout the cities to provide a healthy and convenient means of transport. Visit www.bikeshare.ie for more info. A full list of **Bike Hire Operators** can be found on page 173 of this guide.

Getting To The Islands

Getting to the islands has become virtually hassle free with both ferry and flights to choose from on some routes. See pages 148 - 157 for more details.



Ask our Travel Advisors for a comprehensive listing of
"Whats On"
 in the local area!

WALKING & CYCLING



Walking & Cycling

Discover the scenery and solitude of the West of Ireland and you'll soon see why walking and cycling off the beaten track are such popular pastimes.

Signposted walks are found in and around larger towns and cities, while further afield there are longer waymarked trails which typically combine on and off-road walking. Hill walkers will find their mecca in Connemara, along cliff tops in Co Clare or on the mountains in Mayo and Achill Island.

Three national parks in these counties – the Burren National Park in Co Clare, the Connemara National Park in Co Galway and Ballycroy National Park in Co Mayo – offer a wide variety of suitable walks and trails.

Guided cycling tours and bicycle hire are other great options for exploring the West which also offers one of the most unique cycling routes - the Great Western Greenway. This world-class attraction is a 42 km traffic-free route which winds along the northern shore of Clew Bay and follows the route of the old Westport to Achill Island railway line which closed in 1937.

Another great option is The Ballyhoura Mountain Bike trails, which are nestled into the beautiful Ballyhoura mountains straddling the counties of Limerick and Cork. The trails were designed by Daffyd Davis and are run over 90km of the most wonderful undulating hills and forests that Ireland has to offer.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre / Tourist Office or visit www.discoverireland.ie/walking

Walking In Mayo

Mayo's beautiful unspoilt landscape offers all kinds of trails including Mountain, Coastal, Island, Rural and Urban Greenways, National Loop Trails and Ireland's most recent National Park.

Below are just a few examples. For a more complete list, please visit www.discoverireland.ie/walking or www.irishtrails.ie

Ballycroy National Park - 11,000 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and mountainous terrain, covering a vast uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness dominated by the Nephin Beg mountain range. Excellent visitor centre (seasonal) and lovely accessible boardwalk.

Colour coded trails include:

Green - easy, short 1 - 2hrs, suitable for all levels of fitness

Blue - moderate, 2 - 3hrs, suitable for medium levels of fitness

Red - hard, 3 - 5hrs, suitable for higher levels of fitness

Purple - difficult terrain, usually more high level

Coastal Walks - Black Ditch (13km) and **Children of Lir** (10km) loops form part of the **Ceathru Thaidhg Loop Walks** along the northern part of the Mayo coastline. The terrain consists of grassy tracks and bog roads whilst offering some unrivalled views of the coastal cliffs.

Foxford Way - Foxford is perfectly positioned for an excellent range of walks. The **Ox Mountain Spur** and **Larganmore Loop** are just two of the half a dozen well mapped out walking trails that make up the 86 km **Foxford Way**. Recreational trails criss-cross the valley and radiate high into the Ox Mountains.

Woodland Walks - Tourmakeady Forest is a beautiful and historic woodland filled with native hardwood species that is a treat for any walker. **Tourmakeady Loop** (5km) is a great walk that is suitable for all the family and the bonus has to be the waterfall. **Cong Nature Trail** (3km) gives an excellent overview of the village. The walks commence at Cong Abbey and the walker is given a deep insight into the history of Cong en-route through the local woodlands.

Pick up your
FREE local Town or City map
in our Discover Ireland Centres!

Walking In Galway

As Ireland's 2nd largest county, it's no surprise that Galway lends itself to so many excellent options for walking. From mountainous walks to unique Island walks, to inland forest park walks, there is something for everyone.

Below are just a few examples. For a more complete list, please visit www.discoverireland.ie/walking or www.irishtrails.ie

Connemara National Park - 2,957 hectares of scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Some of the Park's mountains, namely Benbaun, Bencullagh, Benbrack and Muckanaght, are part of the famous Twelve Bens mountain range. The 400 metre high Diamond Hill offers stunning scenery across Connemara, with 4 walking trails leading out from the excellent Visitor Centre located at its base. The trails include **Ellis Wood Nature Trail** (0.5km), **Sruffaunboy Walk** (1.5km), **Lower Diamond Hill Walk** (3km), **Upper Diamond Hill Walk** (3.7km).

Islands - the many islands along Galway's stretch of the Wild Atlantic Way offers several refreshing looped walks, all of which give spectacular views of the unique surroundings. The terrain includes roads, laneways, bog roads, grass roads & tracks.

Inis Mór – 3 walks (10km, 12km, 16km)

Inis Meáin – 3 walks (8km, 10km, 13km)

Inis Oírr – 2 walks (8km, 13km)

Inishbofin – 3 walks (5km, 5km, 8km)

Portumna Forest Park - set on the shores of the mighty Lough Derg just outside Portumna Town, this forest is dominated by coniferous woodland and also offers some excellent views of the lake from its 4 trails that are suitable for all types of walkers.

Bonaveen Walking Trail (10.5km) – forest tracks & open lakeshore. Moderate.

Forest Friendly Walking Trail (1.5km) – wide smooth forest road & boardwalk. Easy.

Rinmaher Walking Trail (10km) – mainly on single track (narrow). Moderate.

Woodland Walking Trail (2km) – gravel & tarred forest road & wide boardwalk. Easy.

Cooles Park - once the home of Lady Augusta Gregory, located 3km from Gort, this 1,000 acre park is closely linked with literary legends such as George Bernard Shaw, John Millington Synge and in particular W.B. Yeats, all of whom came to visit the park and carved their initials on the Autograph Tree, which can still be seen today. The park offers two trails: "The Family Trail" (1.75km) and the "Seven Woods Trail" (4.5km).

Walking In Clare

Walking in Clare is certainly unique! With such varied landscapes as Lough Derg, The Burren and the Cliffs of Moher, it is no wonder that the county is a walker's paradise.

Below are just a few examples. For a more complete list, please visit www.discoverireland.ie/walking or www.irishtrails.ie

Ballycuggaran Loop Walk

A fantastic 6km looped walk overlooking Lough Derg, the Annacarriga valley and the hills that stretch from Caherhurley to Ogonnelloe. The loop starts and finishes at Rinnaman Point (Two-mile Gate) and you should allow about 2 hours to complete it. It follows forest roads and tracks through dense forest and open hillside. The best views can be seen when walking the trail in an anti-clockwise direction.

Ballyvaughan - Black Head loop

Explore the north of the Burren with this fascinating 26km looped walk which starts and ends at Fanore on the north west coast of Clare. Experience the variety of the Burren's hill and coastal scenery, following green laneways, tracks, and mountain paths, whilst taking in the Caher Valley and part of Gleninagh Mountain.

Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk

A very challenging walk along some of the most outstanding landscape scenery in Ireland. From Liscannor and Hags Head in the South, along by the majestic Cliffs of Moher and to Doolin in the North, with views over Aill na Searrach, the Aran Islands, and Galway Bay. The trail consists of exposed cliff-top paths, steep ascents and descents, and narrow/steep flagstone steps. Safety must be exercised at all times.

Lough Avalla - Farm loop

This 6km looped walk starts out at Mullaghmore Crossroads in the heart of the Burren National Park. It takes you through an old Celtic farm, and along by the shores of the little lake called Lough Avalla. The terrain is mostly minor roads, farm tracks, laneways and open Burren ground.

O'Briensbridge - Parteen Weir

A 5km loop marked with green arrows that travels upstream along the Shannon to the Parteen Weir Hydro Dam before returning to the charming village of O'Briensbridge via the Headrace Canal. This is a level walk on grassy and riverside paths.

Walking In Limerick

From numerous forest walks to mountain and hillside trails, to a unique walking and cycling trail developed on a disused railway line, there is something for all types of walkers in Limerick.

Below are just a few examples. For a more complete list, please visit www.discoverireland.ie/walking or www.irishtrails.ie

Ballyhoura Walking Trails - undulating green pastures, woodlands, hills and mountains, this area which sits on the Cork/Limerick border is a well established outdoor recreation hub. Numerous looped walks in varying lengths include:

Blackrock Loop (11km) - minor roads & forest tracks. Hard. Trailhead: Greenwood Forest.

Darragh Hills Loop (10km) - forest roads & paths. Moderate. Trailhead: Darragh Bridge.

Canon Sheehan Loop (7km) - forest tracks, paths & riverbank. Easy. Trailhead: Glenanaar Forest.

Curraghchase Forest Park - situated about 22km south west of Limerick City, the park covers 313 hectares of mixed woodlands, parkland and lakes. There are 4 excellent walks:

Curragh Trail (2.4km) - multi-use walking and cycling trail for occasional walkers/cyclists

Arboretum Trail (1.1km) - stroll through the old arboretum of Curragh Chase

Glenisca Trail (3.6km) - see mature broadleaf and conifer forest, an old cave, and cliff walls

Lake Trail (1.1km) - smooth forest road, fully accessible for all

Great Southern Trail - following the route of the Limerick-Tralee railway line which closed in the mid-seventies, this trail has now been developed along a 37km stretch that is suitable for walkers and cyclists. There are numerous trailheads along the route, which include:

Rathkeale - Ardagh (9km)

Ardagh - Newcastle West (4km)

Newcastle West - Barnagh (10km)

Barnagh - Abbeyfeale (15km)

Clare Glens & Slieve Felim Mountains - situated about 18km east of Limerick City is the village of Murroe, which is a good base for accessing top quality walks in the nearby Clare Glens or Slieve Felim Mountains. The **Clare Glens** consists of a picturesque red sandstone gorge through which the Clare River flows and has numerous waterfalls. The 'Clare Glens Loop' (4km) and the 'Nature Loop' (2km) are both of an easy grade on woodland paths. The **Slieve Felim Mountains** include the 'Glenstal Woods Loop' (15km).

Way Marked Ways

NAME	START POINT	END POINT	LENGTH (KM)
Mayo			
Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail	Balla	Murrisk	61
Western Way (Mayo)	Leenaun (Co. Galway)	Ballycastle	124
Galway			
Hymany Way	Portumna Bridge	Ballygar	90
Western Way (Galway)	Oughterard	Leenaun	55
Clare			
Burren Way	Trailheads: Lahinch, Doolin, Lisdoonvarna, Ballyvaughan, Carran and Corofin,	Trailheads: Lahinch, Doolin, Lisdoonvarna, Ballyvaughan, Carran and Corofin	114
East Clare Way	Killaloe	Killaloe	180
Lough Derg Way	Limerick City	Dromineer	68
Mid Clare Way	Newmarket on Fergus	Newmarket on Fergus	148
Limerick			
Ballyhoura Way	St. John's Bridge	Limerick Junction	89
Lough Derg Way	Limerick City	Dromineer	69
Slieve Felim Way	Murroe	Silvermines	43



Killary Harbour, Co Galway

Walking Operators

Why not have a local guide show you the best sites and sights? From 90-minute historical walking tours of local towns and cities to full day excursions or walking holidays that guide you safely through rugged countryside, check to see if there is a walking tour or experienced guide available in your chosen area. Visit your nearest Tourist Office or the Discover Ireland Walking Site (see below).

Walkers' Check list

1. Have you checked today's weather forecast? Check www.met.ie
 2. Do you have suitable clothing for the expected weather? Wear walking boots or shoes suitable for use on rough ground. Have a map, hat, gloves and waterproofs.
 3. Do you have enough food and water for the day?
 4. Do you have a map or guide for the intended walk?
 5. Bring your mobile phone in case of emergency.
 6. Always inform someone of when and where you intend to go walking.
-

Leave No Trace – Seven Principles

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
 2. Be Considerate of Others
 3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
 4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
 5. Leave What You Find
 6. Dispose of Waste Properly
 7. Minimise the Effects of Fire
-

Useful Websites:

Discover Ireland: www.discoverireland.ie/walking

This website contains comprehensive information about walking routes, accompanied by orientation maps and starting points, listed by county. A more detailed route map shows the actual route of looped walks. Information on various walking operators and guides is also available on this useful website.

Irish Forestry Walks: www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Irish Trails: www.irishtrails.ie

National Parks & Wildlife Service: www.npws.ie

Slí na Sláinte (Health Walks): www.irisheart.ie

Cycling Routes

NAME	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
Mayo		
Achill Cycle Hub, Achill Sound	098 47353 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	Looped Cycles of Achill Island
Great Western Greenway, Westport	098 25711 www.greenway.ie	42km traffic-free route along the old Westport/Achill Island railway
Louisburgh Cycle Hub, Louisburgh	098 25711 www.irishtrails.ie	4 looped routes from Louisburgh village
Westport Cycle Hub, Westport	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	Linear route from Westport Town to Murrisk Abbey

Galway		
Clifden Cycle Hub, Clifden	095 21163 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	3 looped cycling routes around Clifden
Derroura Mountain Bike Trail, Derroura, Oughterard	www.coillteoutdoors.ie	Mountain Bike trail network over 16km in Connemara
Portumna Forest Park, Portumna	www.irishtrails.ie	Several grades of cycling routes through the forest

Clare		
Loop Head Cycleway, Loop Head	065 6828366 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	Two day tour along the fascinating Loop Head peninsula coastline

Limerick		
Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails, Kilmallock	www.visitballyhoura.com	98km of mountain bike trails - the largest trail network of its kind in Ireland
Curraghchase - Glenisca Family Cycling Trail	www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	3.6km cycling trail through woodland
Great Southern Trail, Newcastle West	069 62597 www.southerntrail.net	A unique 40km trail through countryside in West Limerick and North Kerry.
Kilmallock Cycle Hub, Kilmallock	www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	Cycle through farmland and forest
Mouth of the Shannon Cycling Tour, Limerick City	061 317522 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	A 211km route through the plains of north Kerry and Limerick



Cycling the Great Western Greenway, Co Mayo

Bike Hire Operators

NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Mayo	
Achill Bikes, Achill Island	098 43301, www.achillbikes.com
Bicycle Hire at Leim Siar, Belmullet	097 85004, www.leimsiar.com
Bike Hire at Broadhaven Hotel, Belmullet	097 20600, www.broadhavenbay.com
Bike Hire at Mulranny Park Hotel, Mulranny	098 36000, www.mulrannyparkhotel.ie
Clew Bay Bike Hire, Westport	098 37675, www.clewbayoutdoors.ie
Electric Escapes, Westport	087 7451155, www.electricescapes.ie
Mulranny Cycles, Mulranny	098 36127, www.discoverireland.ie
O'Malley's Island Sports, Achill Island	098 43125, www.discoverireland.ie
Sean Sammon Westport Cycle Hire, Westport	098 25471, www.discoverireland.ie
The Talbot Hotel Bike Rental, Belmullet	097 20484, www.thetalbothotel.ie
Westport Bike Shop, Westport	098 24966, www.westportbikeshop.ie
Westport Bikes 4 Hire, Westport	086 0880882, www.westportbikes4hire.com

Galway	
Aran Bike Hire, Inis Mór, Aran Islands	087 2470900, www.aranislandbikehire.com
Bike Electric at All Things Connemara, Clifden	095 22630, www.bikeelectric.ie
Bike Hire Ireland, Westside, Galway City	091 525007, www.bikehireireland.com
Bike the Bay, Salthill	086 2416199
Coca Cola Zero Bikes, Galway City	0818 444 477, www.bikeshare.ie
Connemara Adventure Tours, Leenane	095 42276, www.connemaraadventuretours.com
Inishbofin Cycle Hire, Inishbofin	095 45833, www.discoverireland.ie
Mannion Bike Hire, Clifden	095 21160, www.clifdenbikes.com
Murray's Cycle Hire, Portumna	090 9759596, www.murraysireland.com
On Yer Bike, Prospect Hill, Galway City	087 9425479, www.onyourbikecycles.com
Rothai Inis Oírr, Aran Islands	099 75049, www.rothai-inisoir.com
West Ireland Cycling, Earls Island, Galway City	091 588830, www.westirelandcycling.com

Clare	
Burren Bike, Ballyvaughan	086 3412875, www.discoverireland.ie
Doolin Rent A Bike, Doolin	087 6569837, www.doolinrentabike.com
Doonbeg Adventures, Doonbeg	083 1107613, www.doonbegadventures.com
e-whizz, Kilfenora	087 6277000, www.e-whizz.com
Gleasons Cycles Bike Hire, Kilrush	065 9051127, www.discoverireland.ie
Loop Head Adventures Ltd., Kilbaha	065 9058875, Find us on Facebook!
Tiermey Cycles, Ennis	065 6829433, www.clarebikehire.com
Williams Rent A Bike Hire, Kilkee	065 9056041, www.discoverireland.ie

Limerick	
Coca Cola Zero Bikes, Limerick City	0818 444 477, www.bikeshare.ie
Emerald Alpine, 21 Roches St. Limerick	061 416983 www.irelandrentbike.com
Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre, Kilfinane	063 91161, www.kilfinaneoeoc.com
Limerick Bike Hire, Newcastle West	087 2322088, www.johnmulcahy.com
Pedal Pursuits Bike Hire, Newcastle West	086 8134061 www.pedalpursuitsbikehire.com
Trailriders, Ballyhoura	087 2717330, www.trailriders.ie

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



Festivals and Events

The Irish certainly know how to celebrate and none more so than the people in the West of Ireland!

We invite you to join us for a spectacular line up of events happening throughout the year. Most towns and villages have at least one annual festival, sporting or cultural event, which provide the opportunity to see the Irish at play and join in the exuberance of a real Irish party.

Yeats2015 is a yearlong programme of cultural and artistic events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Irish Nobel prize-winning poet William Butler Yeats, who had a special affinity for South Galway in particular. For more information on events taking place, visit www.Yeats2015.com

National Heritage Week (22 - 30 August) takes place during the last week of August each Year, where many national and local community organisations participate by organising events throughout the country. Many of the events that take place during the week are free and the programme highlights the abundance of great work that is carried out in all communities in Ireland to preserve and promote our natural, built and cultural heritage. For more information, visit www.heritageweek.ie

Some highlights of other Festivals & Events in the West this year include:

- **The 9th Westport Folk & Bluegrass Festival** – Westport, Co. Mayo (12 - 14 June)
- **Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy** – Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare (4 – 12 July)
- **Galway International Arts Festival** – Galway City, (13 – 26 July)
- **Limerick Agricultural Show** – Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, (22 - 23 August)

A listing of Festivals and Events for the West of Ireland can be found on pages 176 – 191 of this guide. A full listing of festivals and events nationwide can be found on www.discoverireland.ie

Festivals and Events in the West

SYMBOLS



Family



Music



Sport



Heritage



Educational



Food



Arts



Garden



Agriculture



Miscellaneous

MAY 2015

Burren in Bloom

30 April – 18 May

The Burren, Co. Clare

www.burreninbloom.com

A festival featuring a series of illustrated talks & organised walks.



Connemara Mussel Festival

1 - 3 May

Renvyle, Co. Galway

www.connemaramusselfestival.com

A celebration of Killary mussels with mussel cooking demonstrations and competitions, music, fun, children's activities, heritage walks and country market.



Loop Head Walking, Biking & Heritage Festival

1 - 4 May

Loop Head, Co. Clare

www.loophead.ie

Enjoy stunning wild Atlantic scenery with experienced guides in one of Ireland's Eden Destinations of Excellence.



Féile Chois Cuain

1 - 4 May

Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

www.feilechoiscuain.com

A celebration of Irish traditional music, song and dance featuring many of our finest exponents from home and abroad in scenic and friendly West Mayo.



Riverfest 2015

1 - 4 May

Limerick City, Co. Limerick

www.riverfest.ie

Riverfest 2015 is Limerick's premier summer festival celebrating the city and features live music, a food & artisan craft fair, water sports, fireworks, theatre, a giant BBQ, fashion and the Great Limerick Run.



Fleadh na gCuach - The Cuckoo Festival

1 - 4 May

Kinvara, Co. Galway

www.kinvara.com

This annual event is a popular traditional Irish music and community arts festival attracting people from all over Ireland and beyond.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

Galway Theatre Festival

1 – 9 May

Galway City

www.galwaytheatrefestival.com

The Galway Theatre Festival is committed to providing a platform for aspiring theatre companies with particular emphasis on local, independent theatre.



Fleadh Cheoil Mhaigheo (Mayo County Fleadh Cheoil)

8 - 10 May

Swinford, Co. Mayo

www.comhaltas.ie

Traditional Irish music, song and dance competitions for performers from age 10 and up. Concerts and céilís, street sessions and pub sessions.



Ballyhoura International Walking Festival

2 - 3 May

Kilfinane & Ballyhoura Country, Co. Limerick

www.visitballyhoura.com

Festival of the breath-taking walks on the Ballyhoura and Galtee Mountains and any of the special interest walks in the local area. There are walks suitable for all ages and abilities.



Connemara Adventure Challenge

9 May

Killary Adventure Centre, Leenane, Connemara, Co. Galway

www.gaelforceevents.com

With 3 disciplines, trail/mountain running, kayaking and cycling, the Connemara Adventure Challenge sees competitors take on a 31km course across some of the most stunning parts of Ireland.



Great Limerick run

3 May

Limerick City, Co. Limerick

www.greatlimerickrun.com

A mass participation sporting event that offers everyone from competitive runners to joggers and walkers an opportunity to compete and achieve their personal best in either of three races held on the same day.



Fleadh Nua Festival

12 - 25 May

Ennis, Co. Clare

www.fleadhnua.com

A programme of more than 120 events, including concerts, céilís, lectures, CD launches, singing sessions, set dancing & sean-nós dancing competitions, pub sessions and a host of other activities.



Gospel Rising Music Festival

8 – 10 May

Ennis, Co Clare

www.gospelrising.com

A fun, energetic music festival, with a weekend full of workshops and gigs.



Galway Early Music Festival

14 – 17 May

Galway City

www.galwayearlymusicfestival.com

A festival celebrating Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music by international performers. Featuring concerts, workshops, street performances, dance and historical re-enactment.



Festivals and Events in the West

Galway County Fleadh

15 – 17 May

NUIG, Galway City

www.galwayfleadh.ie

This festival of Irish traditional music, song, dance and language attracts competitors of all ages from Co Galway.



Mayo International Choral Festival

20 – 24 May

Various venues in Co. Mayo

www.mayochothal.com

A choral festival at the end of May in Mayo, for competing and noncompeting choirs and music fans, allowing choirs to meet with other choirs, relax and enjoy a great weekend in the beautiful West of Ireland.



Féile na Máighe

22 – 24 May

Adare, Co. Limerick

www.limerick.ie/feilenaamaighe

Inspired by the great Féile na Máighe celebrations in Croom, Bruree and Adare during the seventies, a rich and engaging programme of events is planned for the festival weekend. The festival celebrates the unique culture, history and heritage of the area.



Inishbofin Island Walking Festival

22 – 24 May

Inishbofin Island, Co. Galway

www.inishbofin.com

A weekend of walks with enthusiastic, professional and local guides who share their vast knowledge of Inishbofin's Folklore, history, heritage and ecology.



Burren Slow Food Festival

23 – 24 May

Lisdoonvarna Pavillion Hall,

Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare

www.slowfoodclare.com

Showcasing the unique and excellent variety of local produce in the area. Cookery demos, farmers market, food talks and lots more.



Féile na Tuaithe 2015

23 – 24 May

Museum of Country Life, Castlebar,

Co. Mayo

www.museum.ie

Free family festival at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. Craft and food stands, craft demonstrations, music and lots more for the family to enjoy.



Lough Cutra Castle Triathlon

24 May

Lough Cutra Castle, Gort, Co. Galway

www.castletriathlonseries.co.uk

Triathlon races for adults (Olympic, mid distance and sprint), families, teams and children (8+) in glorious Castle grounds. Part of the Castle Triathlon Series (Ireland, England, France).



Doonbeg International Jazz Festival

29 May – 1 June

Doonbeg, Co. Clare

www.doonbegjazz.com

A jazz packed weekend of Jazz, Dixie, Swing featuring performers and bands from Ireland, the UK and Europe with a non-stop programme of performances. All performances free.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

Foynes Irish Coffee Festival

29 - 31 May

Foynes, Co. Limerick

www.irishcoffeefestival.com

Three days of free family entertainment with floats, food & craft fair, fireworks, regatta, pet farm, bands, carnival, children's forest party, ceili, historical walks and the Powers Irish Coffee Making Championship.



Connemara Four Seasons Summer Walking Festival

29 May - 1 June

Connemara, Co. Galway

www.connemara.ie

Explore Connemara with guides Michael Gibbons & Gerry McCluskey providing a unique insight into the rich cultural, archaeological and historic heritage of this most beautiful and wild part of the country.



JUNE 2015

Doolin Folk Festival

12 - 14 June

Doolin, Co. Clare

www.doolinfolkfestival.com

Some of the biggest names in the Irish music scene will play over the weekend. The festival will also feature food stalls and a farmers market and a traditional crafts fair.



The 9th Westport Folk & Bluegrass Festival

12 - 14 June

Westport, Co. Mayo

www.westportfolkandbluegrass.com

The best boutique roots-music festival in the west of Ireland, featuring traditional bluegrass,

Newgrass, old-time, Cajun, blues and folk, with artists from America, the UK, Europe, and, of course, Ireland.



Bruff Bloomsday Festival

16 June

Bruff, Co. Limerick

www.bloomsdayireland.com

The Bloomsday of the West of Ireland: A joyful celebration of the works of James Joyce in words, music drama and film. Aiming to make the work of Joyce accessible to a wider audience.



Galway Sessions 2015

Dates TBC

Various venues in Galway City

www.galwaysessions.com

A traditional & folk music festival featuring international, national & local acts performing in concerts, céilís, street entertainment & an extensive pub-session trail.



Spancilhill Fair & Show

23 June

Spancilhill, Co Clare

www.spancilhillfair.com

One of Ireland's oldest horse fairs, with showing classes and gift & food stands.



Inis Fest

26 - 28 June

Ennis, Co Clare

www.inisfest.com

A new music festival which will feature popular Irish & International acts.



Festivals and Events in the West

Limerick Sings Annual International Choral Festival 2015

26 – 29 June

Limerick City

www.limericksings.com

'Limerick Sings', an International Choral Festival, invites both National and International choirs to come and join them for a weekend of non-competitive music and song.



JULY 2015

Féile Brian Ború

1 – 5 July

Killaloe, Co. Clare

www.feilebrianboru.com

With a busy programme of events, this festival is a perfect fun-filled event for all the family. We hope you will come along and help us commemorate Brian Ború in style – fun and entertainment guaranteed.



Castlebar International Four Days Walking Festival

2 – 5 July

Castlebar, Co. Mayo

www.castlebar4dayswalks.com

Walk with the world in Castlebar during the summer of 2015 and join in the 48th Castlebar Walks. These walks are all about having fun and forging friendships that span the globe and last a lifetime.



Galway Cathedral recitals - Summer Concerts 2015

2 July – 6 August (Thursdays)

Galway Cathedral, Galway City

recitals.galwaycathedral.ie

A series of summer evening concerts, held in the inspirational setting of Galway's stone cathedral, featuring the very finest of international and Irish performers.



Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy

4 – 12 July

Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare

www.scoilsamhraidhwillieclancy.com

The Willie Clancy Summer School of Traditional Music is a week long programme of classes, workshops, lectures, recitals, and concerts devoted to the study and practice of Irish traditional music, song and dance.



Achill Half Marathon & 10K Run

4 July

Achill, Co. Mayo

www.achillmarathon.com

The annual Elverys Sports Achill Half Marathon is a challenging route through some of the most scenic locations on the west coast. This year an exciting 10k route is being introduced.



4th of July Limerick 2015

4 July

Limerick City Centre

www.4thjulylimerick.com

Family friendly festival celebrating American Independence Day and the magnificent ties between the US and the Limerick region.



Galway Garden Festival

4 – 5 July

Claregalway Castle, Claregalway,

Co Galway

www.galwaygardenfestival.com

Galway Garden Festival is a showcase for the very best of rare and special plant traders from all over Ireland and abroad. Over the past five years it has evolved into a unique and multi-faceted event.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

The Burren Garden Festival

6 – 12 July

Burren, Co. Clare

www.facebook.com/GardensintheBurren

Explore 8 unique & beautiful gardens in the Region, with guided tours & daily events.



Galway Film Fleadh

7 – 12 July

Galway City

www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

The 27th Galway Film Fleadh, is a six day international film festival bringing together audiences and filmmakers from around the world.



Ballina Salmon Festival

8 – 12 July

Ballina, Co. Mayo

www.ballinasalmonfestival.ie

Ballina Salmon Festival boasts a jam-packed calendar of events such as golf, competitions, fireworks, night time entrainment, kids' activities including art workshops and a puppet show and much, much more!



The Sounder Pig n Porter Festival

11 July

Old Crescent RFC, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick

www.pignporter.com

The world's largest tag rugby festival with 1800 fit male & female players aged 21-35 competing to find the Champion Team. And the party really kicks off in the 9000sq foot marquee when all the tagging has finished!



Galway International Arts Festival

13 – 26 July

Galway City

www.galwayartsfestival.com

Ireland's largest arts festival celebrates creative performance, music visual art and discussion. This exciting festival offers a wide range of experiences from world-class theatre to on street performances.



Sugar Beat Festival (22 - 23 August). Credit: www.johnnyryanphotography.ie

Festivals and Events in the West

Limerick Pride LGBTQ Festival

14 - 18 July

Limerick City, Co. Limerick

www.limerickpride.ie

A weeklong festival to recognize and celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer identity in Limerick City and the surrounding counties.



Féile Iorras 2015

15 - 19 July

Belmullet, Co. Mayo

www.arasinisgluaire.ie

Féile Iorras is an international folk arts festival hosting international groups and artists from around the world as well as providing a platform for the Irish language arts and local acts.



Féile Bia Na Mara 2015 - Achill Seafood Festival

17 - 19 July

Achill Island, Co. Mayo

www.feilebianamara.ie

Celebrating Achill Island's maritime culture and the harvest of its Atlantic waters. The event is a culinary celebration of Achill's rich heritage with the Atlantic Ocean.



Kilrush Traditional Music and Set Dancing Festival

22 - 26 July

Kilrush, Co. Clare

Includes three open air céilís in the town square with the Johnny Reidy Céilí Band, the Five Counties Band and The Star of Munster Band, set dancing classes, a singers club and numerous music sessions. There will also be a musical boat trip to Scatterry Island.



Scoil Acla Traditional Music & Cultural Summer School

25 July - 1 August

Achill Island, Co. Mayo

www.scoilaccla.com

A summer school which includes tuition in traditional music, song, dance, creative writing, Irish language classes, as well as concerts, recitals, walks, talks, poetry readings and much more.



Galway Races Summer Festival Meeting

27 July - 2 August

Ballybrit, Galway City

www.galwayraces.com

The Summer Festival Race Meeting in Galway is renowned worldwide for its electric atmosphere, excellent racing and infectious sense of fashion and fun.



The Beast of Ballyhoura

28 July - 3 August

Ballyhoura Country, Co. Cork,

Co. Limerick & Co. Tipperary

www.beastofballyhoura.com

A uniquely Irish 36 hour non-stop race across the ancient & magical surroundings of counties Cork, Limerick & Tipperary. Mixed teams of four mountain run, bike, kayak, abseil, orienteer & shoot. Are you tough enough?



Siamsa Sraide Festival

31 July - 5 August

Swinford, Co. Mayo

www.siamsa-sraide.com

Swinford street festival with music and entertainment for all the family.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

AUGUST 2015

Bonniconlon Show & Gymkhana

3 August

Bonniconlon, Co. Mayo

www.bonniconlonshow.ie

Entertainment for the whole family with music, song and dance, showing classes for horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, poultry, dogs, cats, domestic arts & photography and plenty of side attractions!



Omev Races

3 August

Omev, Co. Galway

Traditional Beach Racing on this beautiful tidal island near Clifden.

Promises a fantastic atmosphere and great fun.



Feakle Festival of Traditional Irish Music

5 – 10 August

Feakle, Co. Clare

www.feaklefestival.ie

Traditional music festival offering a vibrant programme of events, including concerts with internationally renowned acts, music workshops, poetry readings, singing and music sessions.



Macron Galway Cup

5 – 8 August

Galway City

www.galwaycup.com

An underage soccer tournament which attracts teams from all over Ireland and abroad to compete for the Macron Cup.



Geesala Festival

9 – 16 August

Geesala, Co. Mayo

www.errisbeo.ie

Family fun festival with events for all ages.



Belmullet Gala Arts Festival

9 - 17 August

Belmullet, Co. Mayo

www.belmulletgalaartsfestival.ie

A fun filled festival of events for all the family.



Cruinniu na mBad Kinvara

14 – 16 August

Kinvara, Co. Galway

www.kinvara.com

Celebrating the long tradition of sailing the beautiful Galway Hookers. This fabulous regatta hosts the legendary turf boats. The festival includes music sessions, sean-nós singing/dance, art exhibitions and children's activities.



Gaelforce West

15 August

Westport, Co. Mayo

www.gaelforceevents.com/west

Gaelforce West is the largest one day adventure race of its kind in the world. It is a multi-sport adventure race involving cycling, running, hiking and kayaking. The course is approximately 67km.



Festivals and Events in the West

Connemara Pony Festival

16 – 23 August
Clifden, Co. Galway
www.cpbs.ie

This festival celebrates the world renowned Connemara pony with enthusiasts and breeders from all over the world. Featuring showing classes, dressage and show jumping competitions. Also dog show, art competitions, Irish dancing and lots more.



Doolin Beer, Bluegrass & Roots Festival

21 - 23 August
Doolin, Co. Clare

A festival featuring Ireland's best Craft Beers from micro-breweries around the country. Great food & cracking live bands.



Dan Furey Weekend

21 – 23 August
Labasheeda, Co. Clare

A full weekend of set dancing to the best of Irish music from the Abbey Céilí Band, Michéal Sexton, Johnny Reidy Céilí Band and The Five Counties Céilí Band.



National Heritage Week

22 - 30 August
Countrywide
www.heritageweek.ie

The aim of Heritage Week is to build awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage.

There are lots of events taking place, so be sure to join in.



Sugar Beat Festival

22 – 23 August
Tuam Stadium, Co. Galway
www.sugarbeat.ie

Galway's fantastic outdoor music festival with 2 live music stages, 10 acts and a wide range of food and beverage offerings.



Limerick Agricultural Show

22 - 23 August
Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick
www.limerickshow.com

Largest agricultural show in Munster. Cattle, horses & ponies showing & jumping, sheep, goats, horticulture, crafts, dog show, trade stands & entertainment-value & entertainment for all.



The Crotty Galvin Traditional Music Festival Weekend

28 – 30 August
Moyasta, Kilrush, Co. Clare
www.nellgalvin.com

Traditional music, song and dance weekend honouring three fantastic musicians from the same little village that is Moyasta.



Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival

28 August – 4 October
Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare
www.matchmakerireland.com

This annual festival has evolved into Europe's largest singles festival.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.



National Heritage Week (22 - 30 August). Credit: Heritage Council

SEPTEMBER 2015

Westport Food Festival

4 – 6 September

The Octagon, Westport, Co. Mayo
www.westportfoodfestival.ie

A celebration of all things culinary from Westport and its surrounds with markets, foraging, mystery dining, food fest forum and more. A must for all foodies!



Oscar Wilde Festival

4 – 6 September

Galway City

www.oscarwildefestival.com

This event will showcase Oscar Wilde in a West of Ireland setting, a location he once described as majestic. Inviting the public to engage in the writer's life and work.



Galway Races September Meeting

7 – 9 September

Ballybrit, Galway City

www.galwayraces.com

Adrenalin-pumping action, heart stopping finishes and breath-taking fashion: you are at the Galway Races! Situated on the outskirts of Galway City, in the West of Ireland, the Galway Race Festivals are world renowned.



The Burren Peaks Walking Festival

11 – 13 September

Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare

www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com

This event promises you a real taste of the Burren and offers guided hill and lowland walks varying in distance and grade catering for all walkers.



Festivals and Events in the West

Westport Festival of Chamber Music

11 – 13 September
Westport House and Holy Trinity Church, Westport, Co. Mayo
www.classicallinks.ie
Violinist Catherine Leonard and pianist Hugh Tinney will be joined by a starry line-up of Irish and International musicians in duos, trios, quartets and quintets of unusual and offbeat works counterbalanced by acknowledged chamber masterworks.



Elemental Arts and Culture Festival

11 - 13 September
Limerick City
www.elementalfestival.com
Elemental Arts & Culture Festival 2015 is a three day event encompassing the arts in all guises. The title, Elemental, is inspired by the five elements of nature: Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Metal.



Clarinbridge Oyster Festival

11 - 13 September
Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
www.clarinbridge.com
Since 1954, the picturesque village has hosted the annual Clarinbridge Oyster Festival and is now one of the country's longest running festivals with gourmet food & superb entertainment.



Portumna Shorelines Arts Festival

17 – 20 September
Portumna, Co. Galway
www.shorelinesartsfestival.com
Incorporating a full spectrum of arts events drama, music, poetry, art, film and more. All packed into one exciting weekend.



Seafood In September

18 – 20 September
Carrigaholt, Co. Clare
www.loophead.ie
Artisan food and craft fair, guided walks, dolphin watch trips, cooking demos, baking competitions, seafood buffets, sea angling and lots and lots of local shellfish and seafood. Seafood special offers throughout the Loop Head Food Circle establishments throughout the week finishing on the weekend of the 25 - 27 September in Kilkee at The Che do Bheatha Festival.



Culture Night

18 September
Countrywide
www.culturenight.ie
Culture Night will take place across Ireland, offering the public a wide range of events and the opportunity to visit iconic cultural venues, buildings and spaces completely free of charge.



Clifden Arts Festival

19 – 27 September
Clifden, Co. Galway
www.clifdenartsweek.ie
Poets, writers, thespians, visual artists, classical musicians, playwrights and musical groups of every genre descend on the seaside town of Clifden for the annual Clifden Arts Festival, now in its 38th year.



Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival

24 – 27 September
Galway City
www.galwayoysterfest.com
Galway International Oyster Festival has been voted one of the 12 greatest shows on Earth. A weekend of nonstop entertainment featuring national and international artists.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

Limerick Jazz Festival

25 - 27 September

Various venues in Limerick City
Limerick

www.limerickjazzfestival.com

Limerick will host its 4th Jazz Festival in September 2015 in various venues around the city.



Westport Arts Festival

30 September – 4 October

Westport, Co. Mayo

www.westportartsfestival.com

Westport Arts Festival is a locally run event for the enjoyment of the thousands of tourists who visit the area annually.



OCTOBER 2015

Bruff Bluegrass Festival

TBC

Various venues in Bruff, Co. Limerick

www.bluegrass.blogspot.com

Showcasing the best bluegrass bands from all over the world. Events include the national horseshoe pitching contest; donkey races; a street barbeque; master classes & a 10K run.

Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival

3 - 11 October

Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com

This is a nine day extravaganza of all things equestrian with entertainment, great family fun and three days of traditional horse trading on the Fair Green.



Baboró International Arts Festival for Children

12 - 18 October

Galway City

www.baboro.ie

Baboró International Arts Festival is the biggest multi-art form, multi venue festival especially for children and families in Ireland. A feast of fun-filled, fantastic performances, workshops and events for the entire family.



Cuisle Limerick International Poetry Festival

TBC

Limerick City

www.limerick.ie/cuisle

This annual Festival will fill the city with verse this October. Events include evening performances, readings over lunch, screenings of poetry films, book launches, a varied programme for schools, the annual Poetry Slam Competition, and the Young Poet of the Year Award. There will also be open mic sessions, music, and socializing.

Connemara Sea Week

16 – 26 October

Letterfrack, Co. Galway

www.ceecc.org

A multi-disciplinary festival, in its 31st year, celebrating the wonderful marine heritage of Connemara. Fun packed festival with great music and fun for all the family.



Galway Comedy Festival

20 - 26 October

Galway City

www.galwaycomedyfestival.com

Annual International Comedy Festival with top award-winning comedy stars and up-and-coming talent from around the world.



Festivals and Events in the West

Willie Keane Memorial

23 - 26 October

Doonbeg, Co. Clare

www.williekeanememorialweekend.com

Held in the village of Doonbeg, this festival celebrates the life of Willie Keane, legendary sean nós dancer, with traditional music, song and dance.



Burren Food Fayre

25 October

Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare

www.burren.ie

Enjoy a range of local artisan food, cookery demonstrations, talks & settings.



Roola Boola Children's Arts Festival

23 - 26 October

Castlebar, Co. Mayo

www.linenhall.com

Roola Boola is the Linenhall Arts Centre's funky and fantastic arts festival for young people, with a packed programme of quality shows, events and workshops, for ages 2-16 years and their families.



Mayo International Choral Festival (20 - 24 May)

For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

NOVEMBER 2015

Ennis Trad 22 Festival

5 – 9 November

Ennis, Co Clare

www.ennistradfest.com

The 22nd Ennis Trad Festival presents the highest quality traditional music, song & dance performances.



Galway Science & Technology Festival

NUI Galway, Galway City

9 - 22 November

www.galwayscience.ie

The final day Exhibition on Sunday, 22 November is a fantastic family day out with shows, workshops and exhibits by local companies and educational authorities.



Killaloe Festival of Light

11 November

Killaloe, Co. Clare

www.killaloefestivaloflight.com

A multicultural light festival that draws inspiration from many traditional festivals around the world.



Winter Wonderland at Westport House

28 November – 24 December

Westport, Co. Mayo

www.westporthouse.ie

You will experience a blizzard of Christmas spirit as you step into the stunning 18th century house.



DECEMBER 2015

Christmas Experience @ The Farmyard

6 - 22 December

Corofin, Co. Clare

www.thefarmyard.ie

Come and join in our Christmas Experience where Jingle the Elf is your guide through a one and half hour rollercoaster of Christmas magic to include live nativity, tractor & trailer ride to Elf workshop, meet Mrs Clause as she prepares for Christmas, visit to Santa and much more.



Limerick Christmasfest

Throughout December

Limerick City

www.limerick.ie/christmas

Have a very merry Limerick Christmas! The city's Christmas stocking is packed full to the brim with a spectacular line up of free festive events, traditional food and craft markets at Limerick's Milk Market, an exciting entertainment line-up and an impressive display of Christmas lights.



Santa Clause @ Atlantic Air Venture

Saturdays & Sundays in December

Shannon, Co. Clare

www.atlanticairventure.com

See Santa at the flight deck and then take off from Lapland on a snowy Christmas flight to Santa's runway. You will need to follow the navigation instruments to locate and land on Santa's landing strip (flight simulator).



Christmas at the Castle

Various dates in December
(reservations necessary)
Bunratty Castle, Bunratty, Co. Clare
www.shannonheritage.com
Enjoy a fabulous evening which includes a mulled wine reception, tasty food and great entertainment.



Galway City Christmas Market

Church Lane, beside St. Nicholas' Church.
www.galwaymarket.com



Galway Continental Christmas

Market (Dates TBC)
Eyre Square, Galway City



Mayo Christmas Markets

(Dates TBC)
Christmas Markets held in different towns throughout county Mayo.



Limerick Christmas Horse racing Festival

26 - 29 December
Greenmount Park, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick
www.limerick.ie/christmas
A brilliant festive feast of racing and a great way to spend the holidays with friends and relations old and new. The feature races are the Greenmount Novice Chase and the Tim Duggan Memorial Handicap Chase.



Galway Arts Festival (13 - 26 July)

For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

COMING IN 2016

19
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20 16

'Ireland 2016' is a national government initiative to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916. This huge initiative will deliver a programme of activity and events to honour and remember those who fought and those who died in the 1916 Rising, and to reflect on the legacy of that period. A number of formal state events will be held over Easter weekend 2016, along with other events nationwide throughout the year.

For full details, including an outline of the programme of events, please visit www.ireland.ie

JANUARY

Music for Galway Midwinter Festival

Galway City

FEBRUARY

Russell Memorial Weekend

Doolin, Co Clare

Kate O'Brien Weekend

Limerick City

Safety Direct Galway International Rally

Galway City & County

Tedfest

Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co Galway

MARCH

Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail Festival

Westport Town, Co Mayo

The International Band Parade

Limerick City

St. Patrick's Day (17th March)

Nationwide

Ennis Book Club Festival

Ennis, Co Clare

Doolin Writers' Weekend

Doolin, Co Clare

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

Limerick

APRIL

Éigse Michael Hartnett

Newcastle West

Cúirt International Festival of Literature

Galway City.

Galway Food Festival

Galway City

Limerick Film Festival

Limerick Institute of Technology,
Limerick City

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SYMBOLS

- Tourist Information
- National Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Regional Roads
- Rivers
- Regional Border
- Wild Atlantic Way Driving Route

THINGS TO DO



The Claddagh, Galway City

PLACES TO SEE



Limerick's Milk Market

FAMILY FUN

EVENTS & MAPS

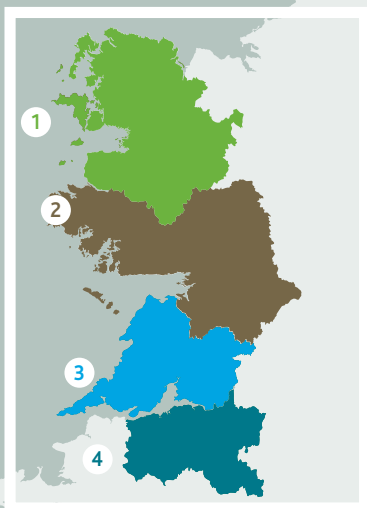
AND LOTS MORE...



Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare

West Region

- 1 MAYO
- 2 GALWAY
- 3 CLARE
- 4 LIMERICK



DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Visitors - we welcome your feedback on this guide!
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