

# Go Wild Magazine

FREE



## EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF 2020

EXCITING NEWS FOR LIMERICK CITY

## Go Wild in Miami

CHATTING WITH MARY ROGERS FONTAINBLEU

## Things to See and do

ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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## Publisher's Note

### Céad Míle Fáilte from all of the Go Wild Magazine team

*A hundred thousand welcomes - to Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way*

**T**his free publication aims to enhance your visitor experience by providing you with information on just some of the attractions and places of interest in each County, along the 2,500km Wild Atlantic Way route.

You will find lots of attractions, historic landmarks, places to put your head down, places to fill your belly, places to warm your heart and much more.

Variety and choice are the essence of a great holiday and the Wild Atlantic Way certainly offers you that and more by providing rugged scenery at every step, visitor experiences that create lifelong memories, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends with the people that you meet during your travels on the route.

The Go Wild magazine team hope that you make time to explore the rich heritage on offer to you and discover the delights that each Irish county has to offer, to make your adventure a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

"May the road rise before you and may the wind be always at your back"



*Bobby Power*

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For all the latest news, visit [www.gowildmagazine.com](http://www.gowildmagazine.com) - your official guide to the Wild Atlantic Way

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# Major boost for tourism as Fáilte Ireland announces €150million investment for attractions nationwide

Fáilte Ireland will invest €150million into developing major new visitor attractions of scale across the country.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross launched Fáilte Ireland's new Platforms for Growth initiative which will "transform the tourism landscape across the country" according to CEO Paul Kelly.

The programme of investment is Fáilte Ireland's largest yet, and forms part of its Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects which runs up to 2022.

Major new visitor attractions of scale will be developed and existing attractions greatly enhanced through Platforms for Growth, with Fáilte Ireland making individual grants available for large-scale visitor attractions of €2.5million upwards.

Platforms for Growth is funded under the Government's Project Ireland 2040 strategy with the aim of driving sustainable growth in the Irish tourism sector and higher revenue and job creation around Ireland.

It is unlike any previous investment announced by Fáilte Ireland, as it specifically targets 'platforms' or projects that have the greatest potential to grow tourism across Ireland, and fill gaps in the Irish tourism offering in order to meet changing visitor preferences.

Through this approach, Platforms for Growth will pave the way for large-scale and transformative attractions that will become key motivators to visit an area. In turn, this will step-change the economic value of tourism in the area through increased visitor numbers, revenue and job creation.

The first 'Platform' launched today will focus on developing Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions. Overseas visitors are increasingly seeking out more hands-on experiences which bring local culture and heritage to life, and this platform will invest in projects that deliver innovative and interactive experiences for the visitor to 'immerse' themselves in. Further platforms will be announced over the course of the programme.

Minister Shane Ross joined Fáilte Ireland CEO Paul Kelly at the site of the new Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in Dublin today to launch Platforms for Growth. MoLI, which is due to open later this year, is an example of a world-class attraction that has been developed with capital investment from Fáilte Ireland.

Announcing the new programme Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross T.D., said:

"Tourism has experienced significant growth in recent years and having world-class attractions has been fundamental in attracting visitors from around the globe to Ireland. Platforms for Growth will deliver on the Government's Project Ireland 2040 objectives and it will do exactly as the name suggests – provide a platform that will contribute significantly to a growth in visitor numbers and the development of tourism nationwide. I look forward to visiting the world-class attractions that will be developed through this major investment programme. This will put Ireland on an even stronger footing in the international marketplace."

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin T.D., said:

"Tourism is a vital source of employment in Ireland and a key economic driver. It is an industry that is unique in its ability to spur local job creation and sustain rural communities. Today's announcement demonstrates the Government's commitment to growing tourism and spreading the benefits regionally as well as ensuring that Ireland continues to have an incredibly strong and compelling offering for international visitors."

Fáilte Ireland's CEO Paul Kelly stated:

"Driving growth in the regions through tourism is a core focus of our work at Fáilte Ireland and having top-class visitor attractions and experiences is an integral part of this. At Fáilte Ireland, we are currently working on over 50 large capital projects throughout Ireland that will significantly enhance the Irish tourism offering as they open in the coming four years. Platforms for Growth builds on this work and takes a new approach to investment, as it will specifically seek out projects of scale that tap into exactly what overseas visitors are looking for. Creating a more regional spread of visitors is central to our capital investment strategy and through Platforms for Growth new attractions across the country will be developed and existing ones transformed."

There will be clear criteria governing investment under Platforms for Growth which are based on strategic importance, potential for economic growth and job creation in communities across the country, as well as driving innovation and sustainability in the sector.

The 'Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions' Platform is now open for applications, with a submission deadline of 17th July for expressions of interest. A series of workshops will be held around the country and all details will be available on [www.failteireland.ie/platformsforgrowth](http://www.failteireland.ie/platformsforgrowth). Platforms for Growth is part of Fáilte Ireland's wider capital investment programme, which has already allocated over €125million to tourism across the country since 2016.





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# *Interview with* **Mary Rogers General Manager Fontainebleau Miami Beach**

***Tell us about you...***

***Give us the background story on the Galway Girl finishing up in Miami Beach as GM of the Fontainebleau Miami Beach.***

After working in a Bed and Breakfast in Salthill, Galway for five summers, I decided to study hotel management in college. After graduating with a degree in Hotel and Catering Management from GMIT, I was recruited to join The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. I worked for Ritz-Carlton for ten years in five different locations – Washington D.C., Orlando, Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Las Vegas. In 2009 I received a phone call from a former colleague encouraging me to move to Miami Beach and join the opening team of the famed Fontainebleau Hotel. I have worked at Fontainebleau for ten years now and for the past two years I have led the operations team in my role as Vice President and General Manager; the first female General Manager since Fontainebleau opened in 1954. I maybe a resident of Miami now but I am, and always will be, a Galway Girl at heart.

***What's your favourite Wild Atlantic Way place to visit***

My favourite Wild Atlantic Way place to visit is Inis Mor on the Aran Islands. Inis Mor holds a very special place in my heart, as we used to go there every summer when I was a little girl with my father. We would catch the ferry from Rossaveel and spend our day playing on Kilmurvey Beach and bicycling around the island, while our father purchased cattle from the local farmers.

***What do you love about your home town of Galway?***

Galway has it all – city vibes, culture, arts, thriving tourism, excellent choice of restaurants, unique pubs, seaside beaches and of course gorgeous landscapes in Connemara. The people of Galway are super friendly, optimistic and very welcoming. I simply love my home town and I am so proud to be a Galway Girl.

***What do you miss most about Ireland?***

I miss the food, especially my mother's brown bread. I miss Irish humour and having the craic. But mostly, I miss my family. I have five sisters and two brothers and I have watched with great pride their families grow and grow over the years but missing birthdays, communions and special occasions always makes me home sick.

***Will you get the chance to visit Ireland this year?***

I have lived in America for twenty years and I am very thankful that I have travelled home every year to see my family. I was home this past February and plan on going home again in October to celebrate my mother's birthday.

***Future plans for your hotel***

Thanks to the vision of our owner Jeffrey Soffer, every year we invest in a different area of the hotel. Every decision and investment made is to improve the guest experience. This year, we are working on two very exciting

projects: renovating our lobby bar, Bleau Bar and renovating all rooms and public spaces in our Sorrento tower.

Bleau Bar is our iconic bar located right off the main lobby. The new design will blend sophistication and glamour to create a modern take on the hotel's iconic architecture. We are completely reconfiguring the entire space including brand new bar, floors, furniture, seating areas. We're also adding a series of decorative screens throughout a portion of the perimeter in order to create a bit more separation between the bar and the lobby.

Sorrento is one of our all suite towers – we'll be renovating all 275 rooms – including the penthouse and all the public spaces. This includes brand new furniture, carpeting, colour scheme, accessories, etc.

***What's your key advice or places to visit for Irish holiday makers visiting Miami Beach?***

Well, first I highly recommend that Irish holiday makers stay at Fontainebleau. It is an iconic, luxury, ocean-front hotel, with lots to do and see and the GM is Irish!

In addition, Miami Beach has wonderful beaches, great shopping, fun late night restaurants and lounges, world-class art museums and the best Cuban coffee.

And one last piece of advice... don't forget to pack sun screen. It gets very hot in Miami Beach!





# BALLYNAHINCH

## CASTLE

HOTEL & ESTATE

★ ★ ★ ★

*Ballynahinch Castle is set on a 700 acre estate in the heart of Connemara with 48 bedrooms & suites, all tastefully & individually decorated*

The hotel's restaurant is renowned for its excellence, which of course, serves locally-sourced produce and locally-caught fish. It might be the height of summer in Ireland, but a seat by a log fire in the cosy bar will always be welcome after a day's hiking or fishing on the hotel's own salmon river and lakes. Other activities at the castle include biking, hiking, walking trails, cycling, fly-fishing, and locally a boat trip from Roundstone to Inishlaken, a deserted island in Roundstone Bay. In fact, there's so much to do on the estate, lots of visitors never leave the grounds.



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

Tel + 353 95 31006 Email [info@ballynahinch-castle.com](mailto:info@ballynahinch-castle.com)

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel, Recess, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland





# SEVEN JAW-DROPPING

## WONDERS OF THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Get in gear for some of the most spellbinding destinations on the 1,500 mile/2,500 km wave-lashed, Wild Atlantic Way



### THE ISLANDS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Unique, friendly and steeped in traditional culture, Ireland's islands are full of exceptional landscapes, prehistoric forts, Irish-speaking communities and a real sense of escape. There are those that can be easily accessed, connected by bridges to the mainland at islands such as Achill, County Mayo, and Valentia, County Kerry, or abandoned gems such as Inishmurray off County Sligo and the Blasket Islands off County Kerry.

#### Which island should I visit?

There's an Irish island for every taste. Fancy a thrill? Take the cable car to West Cork's Dursey Island, where the resident population is said to be just three. Clear blue waters meet secluded beaches on Inishturk, County Mayo; culture vultures can try a few words of Irish on Tory, County Donegal; and Inis Mór in County Galway is perfect for families.

### THE CLIFFS OF MOHER COUNTY CLARE

Towering 702 ft/214 metres above the crashing Atlantic waves, County Clare's iconic cliffs offer incredible views out over the ocean. The cliffs are more than 300 million years old, and the walks they offer, the teeming birdlife and the interactive visitor centre make for an unforgettable few hours.

#### What is there to do nearby?

The Cliffs of Moher are close to the Burren National Park, a wonderland of karstic limestone formations. On your coastal drive, plan a stop in the lively music town of Doolin (where you can also catch a ferry to the Aran Islands) and, for a more remote Atlantic experience, take a car or bike around Loop Head, an awe-inspiring headland where you can spot dolphins and whales, as well as the Loop Head Lighthouse, which dates back to 1854.



### SKELLIG MICHAEL COUNTY KERRY

Skellig Michael lies over 11 km off the coast of Kerry's Iveragh Peninsula, a shard-like rock capped by a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a difference. Close to its peak sit several beehive-shaped huts in a monastic site that dates back to the 6th century, with sensational views of the Irish coast. As seen in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, history, myth and stunning scenery collide with monumental effect at this wilderness site – but come prepared with food and water (there are no facilities). Boats, both to the island and around the island, run from May to October, and are weather-dependent. There are also wonderful views of the islands to be had from the Kerry Cliffs.

#### What is there to do nearby?

The Ring of Kerry is Ireland's iconic touring loop around the Iveragh Peninsula, or try the Dingle Peninsula for seafood, the Sleat Head Drive and a celebrity dolphin called Fungie.





## DOWNPATRICK HEAD COUNTY MAYO

Downpatrick Head is one of the wildest, most glorious places on the island of Ireland. It may look modest on the map, but those who venture out from nearby Ballycastle, County Mayo, are rewarded with stunning views of the Dún Briste sea stack, rugged coastal scenery and wildlife. Dún Briste means “broken fort” in Irish, and this piece of rock is believed to have broken away from the mainland in 1393. St. Patrick is also said to have founded a church on a headland where you’ll find a holy well and stone cross perched above the mighty Atlantic Ocean.

### What is there to do nearby?

Visit the oldest known stone-walled farmlands in the world at Céide Fields; view the Staggs of Broadhaven – a set of five rocky islands off the shore of Mayo’s Benwee Head; take a walk around Sligo’s Mullaghmore Peninsula (in winter, watch the big wave surfers); or catch a wave yourself at Strandhill Beach.



## OLD HEAD OF KINSALE COUNTY CORK

Stretching nearly 3 km into the Atlantic off the coast of West Cork, this dramatic headland is one of Ireland’s most exceptional geographical formations. Although the tip of Old Head is now a private golf course, visitors can still take a stunning 4 mile/6.5 km walk around the base of the peninsula – or discover your adventurous side with a sea-kayaking tour. In 1915, German U-boats famously torpedoed the Lusitania offshore, and a 30-metre lighthouse guides ships to Kinsale Harbour.

### What is there to do nearby?

Explore the foodie town of Kinsale (bring an appetite), which is packed

with craft shops, pubs and seafood restaurants; take a tour of the star-shaped Charles Fort, dating from the late 17th century; or travel west for a mosey around Clonakilty. Its colourful shops, restaurants and nearby Inchydoney beach make this a firm favourite with visitors.

## KILLARY HARBOUR COUNTY GALWAY

Located within the wilderness of Connemara, Killary Harbour stretches 16 km inland from the Atlantic to its head below the Aasleagh Falls, and serves up some of the most dramatic views in Ireland. Cleaving the border between counties Galway and Mayo.

Activities in Killary range from sea kayaking to sightseeing boat tours. There’s a stunning 19th century road here too – the Green Road hugs the coastline tight above the waters of the fjord and is a leap into breathtaking scenery.

Take a Drive to Westport through the awe-inspiring Doolough Valley, set between the Connemara mountains; visit the charming villages and towns of Cleggan, Clifden, Letterfrack and Roundstone; and don’t miss Kylemore Abbey. This Benedictine Abbey, which casts a breathtaking reflection in its lake, is set on a 1,000-acre estate and is home to Ireland’s largest walled garden.



## MALIN HEAD COUNTY DONEGAL

Want the ends of the earth? Ireland’s most northerly point is every bit as elemental as you would expect, with rock formations, ancient ruins and some of Europe’s largest sand dunes. Crowning the Inishowen Peninsula, Malin Head’s natural wonders include basking sharks and exotic birdlife. You might even see the Northern Lights, which are known to make an appearance in the skies above the peninsula. Steeped in myth and history, the area also boasts Banba’s Crown, a clifftop tower dating from 1805, and the ominously titled Hell’s Hole, where the Atlantic waves dramatically crash against cliffs.

Content courtesy of Ireland.com.

Images courtesy of Fáilte Ireland



# Shannon Heritage announce plans for the eagerly awaited multi-million euro rejuvenation of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park

**Shannon Group's tourist experiences and attractions company, Shannon Heritage, has lodged a planning application with Clare County Council, which will see them undertake the single largest investment at the recently announced Irish tourist attraction of the year, since it first opened its doors in 1963. The multi-million euro investment to rejuvenate the Bunratty Castle and Folk Park visitor experience, subject to planning approval and funding from Fáilte Ireland, is one of the largest projects of its nature planned in Ireland.**

Outlining the project Niall O'Callaghan, Managing Director of Shannon Heritage said: "Over the past year we have set out an ambitious growth strategy, which has already begun to succeed with the addition of new attractions to the portfolio. This is a further step towards our goal to significantly increase visitors to our region and Ireland. It is a hugely exciting transformational project which will significantly enhance the storytelling, visitor interpretation and overall immersive experience of 800 years of history. Our staff and visitor feedback have been central to the vision of the 'new' Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and this, we believe, will create a major attraction of scale on the Wild Atlantic Way."

The most ground-breaking aspect of the project is that it will deliver Ireland's first ever 4-D 270 degree visitor experience. A new building, specially constructed for this purpose, will awaken the senses and transport visitors through the ages in an incredible sensory, immersive and historically accurate experience: a real 'wow factor', before they enter a rejuvenated Bunratty Folk Park.

All 25-houses in the 19th century Folk Park and the 15th century Castle, will get an uplift in interpretation, as well as improved landscaping and new creative play elements and navigation. All aspects of the project are being held to the highest principle of integrity of the existing Folk Park – both historically and aesthetically. Historical content is being sourced from both the National Folklore Archive in UCD and the Glucksman Library at the University of Limerick.

Additionally, in order to support the dispersion of visitors around the Folk Park and increase dwell times for tourists in Co. Clare, Ireland's largest Butterfly House is planned for the Regency Walled Garden, at the opposite end of the Park to the Castle. Prepare for your heart to flutter in the domain of the most colourful creatures on earth, a unique immersive experience for all the family.

Niall O'Callaghan added: "With just under 400,000 visitors a year, we are building on this success with the support of our sister company, Shannon Commercial Properties, with an ambition to reaffirm Bunratty Castle and Folk Park status as a 'must visit' destination. As early innovators with the launch of the world-famous medieval banquet at Bunratty in 1963, this project will again position Shannon Heritage as true innovators in Irish tourism. The investment will result in a significant increase in visitors and the various elements of the project will appeal to a mass audience from the culturally curious to great escapers with authenticity at its core." Subject to planning approval and funding approval from Fáilte Ireland, it is anticipated work will commence in early 2020 with a view to completion in early 2021.

Commenting on the project Mary Considine, Deputy CEO, Shannon Group said: "Since 2014 Shannon Group has been on a journey, one that has seen us invest almost €85 million across our Group companies at Shannon Airport, Shannon Commercial Properties and Shannon Heritage. We are committed to further investment and as our Shannon Heritage portfolio grows, we want to ensure that we continue to offer customers the best experience possible. The implementation of our masterplan for Bunratty Castle and Folk Park will ensure that we give tourists even more reasons to visit our region and fly Shannon."

Evening Entertainments: Shannon Heritage operate medieval banquets at Bunratty, Knappogue and Dunguaire Castles; a Traditional Irish Evening at Bunratty Folk Park.

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



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# Things to Do in Clare



## Cliffs Of Moher

One of Ireland's most visited natural attractions, at 702ft/ 219.5m above the crashing Atlantic swells, it's not hard to see why. With a superb visitor centre, an invigorating coastal walking route and beautiful birdlife, the Cliffs of Moher's hefty 8km breadth delivers at every turn.



## Poulnabrone Dolmen

One of the most memorable spots in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, sitting high on a limestone plateau you'll find the ancient Poulnabrone Dolmen. This portal tomb is one of Ireland's most recognisable archaeological sites and is the oldest megalithic monument in the country.

## The Burren

Ticking all the boxes as an historical, geomorphic, geological and archaeological wonder, the intriguing stony karst landscape of the Burren is a marvel to roam, cycle, spot unique flora and fauna on and even follow a food trail over. At its UNESCO-recognised geopark, discover the longest cave system in Ireland, the largest stalactite in Europe and plenty more.

## Scattery Island

A small monastic settlement a few kilometres from the Kilrush shore, Scattery Island boasts a still-functioning lighthouse, six ancient church ruins and one of the highest round towers (120ft/ 36.5m) in the country. An historic island, Scattery has seen its fair share of invasions and has plenty of far-fetched legends and tales to tell.

## Aillwee & Doolin Caves

At the Aillwee Cave, take a tour of this stony underworld of winding passages, chasms, strange rock formations and waterfalls. While at Doolin Cave with its famous Great Stalactite, head 200ft underground to go an astonishing 350 million years back in time.

## Loop Head & Lighthouse

On the Loop Head Peninsula, right on the very western edge of Clare, you'll find this pristine lighthouse, with views that unravel all the way to the Cliffs of Moher. Head to the top of the lighthouse to take it all in from a 90-metre height and keep an eye out for the 160+ dolphins that call these waters home.

## Bunratty Castle and Folk Park

Bunratty Castle was graciously restored in the 1960's and is furnished by Lord Gort's magnificent collection of medieval furnishings. The 19th Century Folk Park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village setting. Children love interacting with their farm animals and exploring the Fairy Trail. Experience their nightly Medieval Banquet with the World Famous Bunratty Singers. <https://www.bunrattycastle.ie/>

## Craggaunowen

Ireland's award winning Pre-historic Park. Explore the roots of the people, animals and artefacts of our Celtic ancestors of over 1,000 years ago. Experience Craggaunowen Castle, explore the 'Brendan Boat', the boat in which Tim Severin sailed from Ireland to the United States and see how Celts made their homes on a Crannóg. Open April to October. <https://www.craggaunowen.ie>







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# *Fáilte Ireland's Global Irish Festival Series returns to Limerick and Donegal this Autumn*

## **Festival series to harness diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism**

**M**inister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, has announced that Fáilte Ireland's Global Irish Festival Series, which aims to encourage our diaspora to return home to visit Ireland, will once again take place along the Wild Atlantic Way in Limerick and Donegal this year.

Announcing the 2019 Global Irish Festival Series, Minister Ross said: "It's great to see the Global Irish Festival Series return this year. The festival series enables local communities to further build upon diaspora networks and deepen connections around the world."

Speaking about the return of the festival series, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin, said: "Following the success of the initiative last year, the Global Irish Festival Series will take place again this year in Limerick and Donegal, to encourage those abroad to return home to enjoy these great festivals."

The festival series was launched as a pilot initiative in 2018. It provides funding and support, through the relevant local authorities, for events which tap into international diaspora networks to increase overseas visitors.

Speaking about the festival series, Fáilte Ireland's Head of Festivals, Ciara Sugrue, said: "The development of tourism festivals is part of Fáilte Ireland's strategy to encourage domestic and international visitors to visit areas outside of traditional tourism hotspots and outside of peak times, to spread the benefits of tourism to communities throughout Ireland. The Global Irish Festival Series aims to motivate diaspora, to reconnect by visiting their



home county and drive visitors to less visited tourism locations, creating new economic benefits for those local communities. As these events take place in the 'shoulder season', they will also help tourism operators to trade for longer."

In Limerick, the Global Irish Festival Series will support Global Limerick, featuring I.N.Y (Irish in New York), which runs from 12th to 20th October and explores the deep connection between Ireland and New York City and the Richard Harris International Film Festival, which takes place from 22nd to 28th October and marks the life and works of Limerick's most famous actor. Welcoming the festival series' return to Limerick, Pat Daly, Director of Services at Limerick City and County Council, said: "Limerick City and County Council is delighted to support the Global Irish Festival Series again in 2019. We look forward to working with Fáilte Ireland, I.N.Y, and the Richard Harris International Film Festival, to build the series into a must see/do event in Limerick this Autumn. The programmes being hosted are very exciting and will draw interest

from near and far, for what promises to be a great October in Limerick."

In Donegal, the initiative will support Donegal Connect, which runs from 27th September to 6th October and offers a rich itinerary of food, culture, music and heritage experiences, genealogy classes, sport, business and education, to entice the Irish Diaspora to explore the county.

Welcoming the festival series' return to Donegal, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development & Global Engagement at Donegal County Council, said: "We are delighted to see the Global Irish Festival Series return to Donegal this Autumn. With support from Fáilte Ireland, Donegal County Council has worked with key stakeholders and local communities to build a fantastic programme of events for Donegal Connect and we're hoping the festival will be even bigger and better this year. Donegal has so much to offer and our aim is to encourage our diaspora to come home and experience the county at its best."

To find out more about the Global Irish Festival Series, see: [www.wildatlanticway.com/globalirish](http://www.wildatlanticway.com/globalirish).





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# The Shannon Estuary Way

## *Big Skies and Sheltered Waters*



**The Shannon Estuary is a spectacular and unspoilt estuary located just off the Wild Atlantic Way, straddling Counties Clare and Limerick. It even briefly sneaks into County Kerry.**

This area of remarkable natural beauty is where Ireland's longest river – the mighty Shannon – flows into the azure water of the Atlantic Ocean. Along the Shannon Estuary Way, you will find delightful towns, pretty villages and world famous shore fishing sites.

The Shannon Estuary Way is a looped drive of c.297km (135 miles) that circumnavigates the mighty Shannon Estuary and incorporates the following locations: Ennis, Ballynacally, Killadysert, Labasheeda, Killimer, Tarbert, Foynes, Askeaton, Kilcornan, Limerick City, Bunratty and Clarecastle.

You can enjoy the route in any direction or from any starting point, whatever suits you best. For example, if you are in Ennis, you can either head south-east towards Shannon and Limerick or alternatively you could head south-west towards Killadysert and Killimer. If you are in Limerick, you can either head north-west towards Bunratty or head south-west towards Foynes and Tarbert.

Along the route, there are eleven new viewing points featuring stories and imagery from local communities under the concept of 'big skies and sheltered waters'.

The Shannon Estuary Way motif celebrates the traditional wooden fishing boats unique to the River Shannon – the gandelow. Keep an eye out for bottlenose dolphins as you cross the estuary on the

Shannon Ferry from Killimer to Tarbert. Enjoy lunch in one of the pretty villages enroute. Stop off at one of the many piers to recharge your batteries and dream big as you enjoy the big skies and sheltered waters of the Shannon Estuary Way.

### The viewing points are located at:

- Knock Pier
- Labasheeda Quay
- Killadysert Pier
- Crovraghan Pier
- Clarecastle Pier
- Tullyglass Point
- Ringmoylan Pier
- Ballysteen Pier
- Boland's Meadow
- Killeery Pier
- Glin Pier



# DREAM BIG

## - SHANNON ESTUARY WAY -



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# BURREN ECOTOURISM

## *Network accelerates climate change agenda in Clare*

### ***County Clare now a Leader in Sustainable Tourism Practice***

Climate Change and Sustainability have become hot topics over the last year. County Clare has been to the forefront of innovation and leadership in the area of sustainable tourism over the last decade. Clare County Council, for example, secured UNESCO Geopark status for the Burren & Cliffs of Moher region. The Geopark went on to lead a pilot European LIFE demonstration programme in the field of Tourism for Conservation between 2013 and 2018. In fact, this programme won the National Geographic World Legacy Award in 2016!

No less than three Clare destinations - Loop Head, the Burren Food Trail and Scatterry Island, were awarded the distinction of European Destination of Excellence for various aspects of sustainable tourism. It must be noted that it is unparalleled that three destinations in one county or region would be honoured with this accolade. These projects and awards mean that Co. Clare is now distinguished nationally and internationally as a leader in sustainable tourism practice.

### ***The Burren Ecotourism Network as a model for others***

The Burren Ecotourism Network is one group that has been to the fore of this development. Since its inception in 2011, the Burren Ecotourism Network has been a leading light in conservation. It has a tangible commitment to a code of sustainable tourism practices. The model has been copied and upheld throughout Ireland as an example for collaboration and destination development. The Burren Eco Tourism Network is comprised of up to 60 businesses right around North Clare.

### ***The Burren Ecotourism Network makes a step change and appoints new Board and CEO***

Now Burren Ecotourism Network is once again leading the charge in embracing tourism and tackling climate change, facing

the challenges head on and coming up with innovative solutions. To enable it to do this, it has taken the bold step of appointing a CEO, the first network of its kind to do so. It has also been incorporated as a company and set up a board of directors. "We are the first independent tourism network in Ireland to make this step-change", commented Brid Fahy, chair of the Burren Ecotourism Network. "We are excited about it, as it will enable us to roll out ambitious plans for the further enhancement of our destination and the development of high impact environmental programmes. Our next phase will prioritize expanding the membership base and embedding our sustainable tourism standards further in the destination."



### ***What's next for Burren Ecotourism Network?***

Jarlath O'Dwyer, the newly appointed CEO of the Burren Ecotourism Network commented 'I am delighted to be part of the next phase of this story. There is a new Board of Directors in place. Many members of the Board and the Network are themselves leading lights in tourism terms, not only in Clare but around the country. I see the members of the Burren Ecotourism Network as ambassadors for County Clare and role models for other destinations.'

O'Dwyer continued "What the new structure enables is expansion of network membership, greater adoption of sustainable tourism practices and further innovation in visitor experiences. It is envisaged that visitors will continue to enjoy world class experiences here in the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark, that are enhanced by the

knowledge that they too are travelling in an area where green, responsible tourism, is the policy of the local community."

While climate change is a very much a live topic right now, the Burren Ecotourism Network has been dedicated to this issue since they were first established, when the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark Office facilitated them coming together, to develop a model for sustainable tourism in the Burren region.

What is truly unique is that all businesses in the network have adopted the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism. "They've really walked the talk and do so much more than just pay lip service to sustainable principles. I am amazed by the commitment of time and resources that the businesses make to honouring the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism. I'm equally astounded by the demonstrated benefit in terms of marketing, networking and landscape conservation" O'Dwyer observes.

Brid Fahy adds, "As businesses, we've found that the Code is a comprehensive business management tool that enables us not only to reduce waste, save energy and water but at the same time to enhance the visitor experience and benefit from collaboration between businesses and communities in the area."

### ***About the CEO and the Board***

Jarlath O'Dwyer of The Tourism Space is a native of Kilshanny, a graduate from the University of Limerick and has had a long career in Hospitality, FMCG, Sales & Marketing. The Board of the Burren Eco Tourism Network includes Birgitta Hedin Curtin - Burren Smokehouse, Lisdoonvarna, Victor McSweeney - Hazelwood Lodge, Ballyvaughan, George Quinn - Hylands Burren Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Simon Haden - Gregans Castle Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Joan Hamilton - Garrihy's Doolin2Aran Ferries, Doolin, Karen Courtney - Stonecutters Kitchen, Doolin, Katherine Webster - Kittiwake Solutions, Lahinch, Brid Fahy - Café Linnalla Ice-Cream, New Quay and Orla Vaughan - Vaughan's Guest House Kilfenora.



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**L**ocated in the heart of the Burren In County Clare. Forty minutes from both Galway and Shannon. Perched high on its Burren terraced mountainside with what has to be one of the most spectacular views of Galway Bay. It is a must for all who find themselves in the area.

The Burren is a place full of wonder, beauty and discovery. Let the staff at AILLWEE welcome you to the dramatic underworld of this area. Expert guides will accompany and inform you during your leisurely tour. The tour consists of a 30-minute stroll through the beautiful caverns – over bridged chasms, under weird formations

and alongside the thunderous waterfall which sometimes gently sprays the unsuspecting visitor! Marvel at the frozen waterfall and explore the now extinct brown bears' bones (*ursos arctos*).

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**EAT** the appetizing food from our own kitchen, each prepared from the finest ingredients and each day serving a “Lunch Special”.

**DRINK** a glass of wine on the terrace and see the most breathtaking views in Ireland of Galway Bay.

**CLIMB** freely over the typical Burren Limestone pavement above the cave to see the spring gentian or mountain aven blooming in profusion.

**WATCH** cheese being made in the dairy and then sample the scrumptious homemade fudge and choose a selection of jams, chutneys and pickles all lovingly prepared in the Farm kitchen.



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# SCATTERY ISLAND

## THE JEWEL ON THE SHANNON ESTUARY

**S**eldom will you find a place that not only feeds the mind but also the soul. An experience that offers peace, tranquillity and an unrivalled dept of history than reaches right back to the early 5th Century.

Located just off Kilrush in Co. Clare, and now ranked on Trip Advisor at No. 2 on the Top Things to do in Co. Clare, Scattery Island has a wealth of historic sites, including five Churches, a Cathedral, a magnificent Round Tower, Napoleonic War Artillery Battery and a working Lighthouse. Today the island is uninhabited and visitors can explore its ancient historic sites and unspoilt natural beauty.

Scattery is an ideal location for anyone interested in Ireland's rich history or those seeking a great



family day out! Visitors will enjoy the natural beauty of the island with a guided walking tour around the monastic sites and learn about St. Senan, who established a monastery there in the 5th Century, the Viking invasions and Brian Boru – the High King of Ireland who defeated the Limerick Vikings in a great battle on Scattery. After the tour, there's ample time to enjoy a picnic or take a swim in the clear estuary waters. Loose yourself in a world gone by and take home the wonderful sense of tranquillity

that this unique island offers.

Tours to Scattery Island depart from Kilrush Marina with multiple sailings daily. Sailing time is approximately 30 minutes, which includes 15 minutes to exit through the lock gates at the marina and just a short 15 minutes sailing time. Guests have the option of 2.5 hours or 5 hours on the island.

Visit [www.scatteryislandtours.com](http://www.scatteryislandtours.com) for booking and further information.

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# BALLYMORRIS POTTERY

If it's beautiful pottery, handmade in Ireland that you are looking for, Ballymorris Pottery is the perfect place to visit, offering a beautiful selection of stoneware pottery. Ballymorris Pottery School offers "hands on" pottery parties for all ages. You can experience the fun of making your own piece of pottery.

Ballymorris Pottery workshops are open to the public, where work in progress can be seen, as well as their full range of beautiful pottery. Open Monday-Friday 10am - 5pm. Weekends by appointment.





# GLOBAL ACCOLADE FOR SHANNON'S PARK INN BY RADISSON HOTEL

**S**hannon's Park Inn by Radisson Hotel has been voted the best of 26 Park Inn by Radisson hotels in Ireland, the UK and Western Europe for guest satisfaction in 2018. The results were compiled from the reviews each hotel received from its customer base across all booking platforms covered by the global review index.

This amazing accolade has been welcomed by the hotel's management and staff where delivery of exceptional customer service is the operational mantra, and which has now been recognised and rewarded.

General Manager Louise O'Hara ecstatically welcomed the news,

stating: "To be voted best in the group for our commitment to customer service and guest satisfaction is way beyond our expectations, but now that we have achieved this status, we will be setting our goals even higher.

"To outscore 25 hotels in our group is a tremendous boost for this area, quite apart from staff, as it shows the level of hospitality that we have to offer here in the Shannon region. Our hotel is oftentimes the first and last impression a visitor gets when arriving and/or leaving Ireland and we go out of our way

to make that guest experience memorable and lasting."

Having recently completed a total refurbishment of its 114 rooms and all public areas, the hotel is now focused on winning new business from the leisure and business community to boost visitor numbers to the region.



*400 Years Of Fun - Waiting To Be Explored,  
There's always something happening at Nelly's*



Durty Nelly's can truly be described as one of Ireland's landmark pubs. Nestling in the shadow of the magnificent Bunratty Castle and the adjoining Folk Park, it is the first stopping off point for generations of visitors to Ireland arriving at nearby Shannon Airport. Whether you're just passing through on your way to explore the beautiful mid-west of Ireland or can spend a little longer with us, you'll find that a visit to Nelly's is an essential Irish experience – one that will provide a lasting memory of your visit to Ireland.

Bunratty, Co Clare, Ireland • Tel: +353 61 364 861 • [www.durtynellyys.ie](http://www.durtynellyys.ie)



## Focus

# Limerick's European Green Leaf for 2020

Limerick has been awarded the European Green Leaf for 2020. The announcement was made on the 20th June, 2019, following adjudication by a panel of international experts at an event in Oslo, Norway, who hold the European Green Capital title for 2019.

Limerick was awarded the title in conjunction with Mechelen in Belgium. Joint European Green Leaf 2020 winner, Limerick, was commended for its ongoing investments leading to improved air quality and noise levels in the city. Limerick is currently transforming itself into Ireland's first digital city, integrating several public services, creating smart homes and buildings, energy districts and smart neighbourhoods.

The city is effectively managing its air quality thanks to the acquisition of particle and gas monitors. Limerick also encourages people to leave their cars at home by providing better cycling, walking and public transport infrastructure with the aim of reducing transport emissions. Limerick was also recognised for its development of noise maps and action plans, updated every five years, continuously monitoring the acoustic environment, analysing trends, and assessing the effectiveness of the actions undertaken.



The European Green Leaf Award (EGLA) is open to towns and cities with between 20,000 and up to 100,000 inhabitants, to recognise and promote their efforts towards better environmental management and outcomes.

The jury assessed the shortlisted cities on the following criteria.

1. The city's overall commitment, strategy and enthusiasm, as conveyed by the presentation
2. The city's efforts to communicate to citizen's and the citizens' engagement in environmental activities
3. The city's potential to act as a 'green ambassador', promoting good practice and spreading the EGL concept further

Speaking following the announcement of the winners, Mayor of the City and



County of Limerick Cllr Michael Sheahan said: "We are so proud to be considered worthy of the European Green Leaf. We have already taken small steps in the area but after receiving this award, we are going to make giant steps to protect the future of our children. I want to live in a green, pollution-free atmosphere in Limerick. It's massive for Limerick. We have done great work. Out of that alone, we were considered worthy of the award. Now we have to put in place commitments we have given." Limerick City and County Council has been given a fund of €75,000 to deliver on its objectives for 2020.



# THE FALLS – A PERFECT BASE FOR EXPLORERS!

The Falls Hotel & Spa is nestled in a wooded vale beside the tumbling waters of the River Inagh in Ennistymon, at the gateway to the exhilarating Cliffs of Moher and Burren Geopark.

With beautiful beaches on its doorstep, along with hiking, kayaking and cycling – it is a wonderful base from which to explore this unique area. Their award-winning River Spa and Leisure Centre is also the perfect place to relax after a day of exploring.



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# Things to Do in Limerick



## King John's Castle

King John's 13th Century fortress on the banks of the Shannon River was recently renovated to better explain its history, which includes medieval battles, a siege and, naturally, a lot of inter-kingdom trade. With a self-led tour and lots of interactive displays to explore, it's also home to the best view of the stunning Shannon River you'll find.



## Thomond Park

Munster, the iconic rugby team representing Ireland's south province, plays the majority of its home games at this smart, modern stadium. Thomond Park also hosts the occasional gig and colourful storytelling tours for non-event days. Munster is at the very core of Limerick life, making this an essential stop-off.

## St Mary's Cathedral

One of two cathedrals in the city, St Mary's has been at the heart of Limerick's religious life since the 12th Century. As the oldest building in the city, much of Limerick has grown up around this spot, and you can touch a little of that history in the scratch marks around the west door where defenders of the city sharpened their swords during the city siege eight centuries ago.

## The Milk Market

Limerick's home to all the locally produced fresh food you could ask for (and a growing number of impressive foodie offerings based upon farm products, in particular), the iconic Milk Market is full of great finds; while its surroundings date back more than

a century and-a-half One of Ireland's most enticing markets, it can be quiet during the week but really comes to life on bustling Saturdays.

## Terra Nova Fairy Garden

The mythical side of Irish life is one of the great Irish experiences for many people. Terra Nova is a magical garden that contains an ancient fairy fort dating back thousands of years, though the addition of modern fairy statues and magical touches will probably entice most visitors. Atmospheric, to say the least.



## Adare

A picture-postcard 13th Century village set against a rural river bank, Adare is just gorgeous. The Heritage Centre, creamery, manor and abbey make it a very worthwhile way of spending a day and give a very different sense of what Limerick is, other than the city itself.

## The Hunt Museum

A locally themed, ever-changing museum displaying the largest private collection in Ireland, The Hunt Museum mixes art, antiques, early Irish history and the establishment of Christian institutions. There's a strong collection from Greece and Italy too, but it's the local history, covered in detail through eclectic items (ranging from tribal drinking horns to Celtic cross carvings), that's the must-see.

## Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum

This appealing mishmash of attractions hosts a full-size replica of a B314 flying boat, an exhibition on the history of Shannon River and a nearby 1940s style tearoom. There are also Irish coffees served in this spot that claims to have invented them. The exploration of 1930s and 1940s trans-Atlantic flights (the preserve of the uber-rich) is also a highlight.



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Hamptons Bar & Grill is a New York Style restaurant, located next door to the Savoy Hotel. At Hamptons they are proud to have custom designed their own wood fired Robata ovens and grills, unique to Limerick & Ireland. Built to ensure the maximum in flavour and succulence in all steaks, chicken and seafood. They use the best beech wood charcoal in all their cooking.

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### THE SAVOY RESTAURANT

### THE SAVOY

★★★★★

The Library at The Savoy Hotel is an intimate venue ideal for small gatherings. The book-lined walls and rich furnishings provide a cosy ambience unlike any other. The Library is also ideally placed for holding drinks receptions and informal get-togethers. Serving brunch, an all-day menu and sumptuous relaxing afternoon tea.

Tel: 061 448700 | Email: [events@savoylimerick.com](mailto:events@savoylimerick.com)



### Da Vincenzo

### THE GEORGE LIMERICK

At Da Vincenzo you will hear the word 'authentic' used a lot. This is because they are passionate as only Italians are about the importance of cooking the way our mothers would love! And who could ask for more? Italians are warm and friendly by nature and they want to bring you some of the great cuisine from beautiful Italy but also the wines - there are over 80 in stock and they also have, some of the finest choices of gins, whiskeys and cocktails in Limerick to keep coming back for more!

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# THE SAVOY

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Handsome, polished and perfectly placed, The Grill Room is right in the heart of vibrant downtown Limerick at Alex Findlaters Food & Wine Hall. Here you'll find great food and a fantastic selection of over 300 of wines and Champagne and most importantly, a peaceful and laid-back luxury space. The stylish venue is perfect for dining with friends, entertaining clients, enjoying after work drinks or a romantic date in one of the cosy booths. Step in from the bustling street and make your way down to a buzzing sophisticated club space with sounds of live piano, the clink of drinks and late night vibes.

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The Oyster and Seafood Bar offers an extensive range of seafood dishes, whether it's lobster, crab toes, prawns or mussels on the menu, you can be assured of the freshness as the fish is delivered daily direct from the sea, which is then selected by you and cooked to order. The Alex Findlaters Oyster & Seafood Bar serves tantalising dishes all day so many hours can be spent in blissful conversation over a chilled bottle of Chablis.

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# Things to Do in Galway

## Great Grub in Galway

Savour the tastes - from fabulous farmhouse cheeses at Sheridan's, to the irresistible McCambridge's food emporium – you'll find something to suit your taste in Galway.

Grab a window seat upstairs in McCambridge's and watch the world go by, while your taste buds are satisfied by a huge array of gastronomic offerings.

## Traditional Music on Quay St

A mecca of pubs restaurants and cafes, Quay St also has the best selection of live traditional music in bars such as the Quays, Tigh Neachtain and the Spanish Arch hotel.

## Visit The Spanish Arch

A true Galway icon, The Spanish Arch was built in 1584 and overlooks the River Corrib. The arches were used to access the quays from the town when Galway was a walled city and this is all that remains.



## Galway Crystal

Visit the stunning crystal factory located just outside Galway City. It's easy to pass a full day just staring at the amazing crystal creations. Galway Crystal was established in 1967 by a group of local business people from the Galway Chamber of Commerce. Through the years many well-known people have passed through the doors of Galway Crystal, from presidents to celebrities. Galway Crystal can be found in the most prestigious homes, including our own Áras an Uachtaráin, the residence of the Irish President.

## Festival capital

Galway is a Festival town and there appears to be a different festival every weekend. Check out the local Fáilte Ireland tourist office on Forster Street for up-to-the-minute information. It's great craic!

## Galway Cathedral

Galway Cathedral was constructed in the late 1950s, at a time when most similar buildings were using concrete. It is, therefore, the youngest of Europe's great stone cathedrals.

Dedicated to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas, it was designed by J.J. Robinson in a very eclectic style. It includes some Renaissance details mixed with the Romanesque and Gothic traditions.

The cathedral also boasts an impressive variety of art, including a statue of the Virgin by Imogen Stuart, a large Crucifixion mosaic by Patrick Pollen, rose windows by George Campbell and more.

## Galway Hooker boats

The Galway Hooker is a traditional fishing boat developed in the 18th Century. Many of the boats have been restored by Hooker enthusiasts and can be seen during a festival in Kinvara, Co. Galway, which is a village certainly worth a visit.



## Ballynahinch Castle

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel is one of Ireland's finest luxury castle hotels. Voted #1 in Ireland by the readers of Condé Nast magazine. Set in a private 700-acre estate of woodland, rivers and walks in the heart of Connemara, Co. Galway, this authentic and unpretentious Castle Hotel stands proudly overlooking its famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful 12 Bens Mountain range.

Relax in your beautifully appointed bedroom or suite with wonderful views and wake up to the sound of the river meandering past your window before enjoying breakfast in the elegant restaurant, which was voted the best in Ireland in April 2017 by Georgina Campbell.

## Dunguaire Castle

Dunguaire Castle lies at the heart of the Ireland's literary revival in the 20th century. Dunguaire became the venue for meetings of literary revivalists such as W.B. Yeats, his patron Lady Gregory plus, George Bernard Shaw. Experience the breath-taking views from the Castle Towers following a tour of Dunguaire Castle. Alternatively, join us for an exceptional medieval banquet. Open April to October. [www.dunguairecastle.com](http://www.dunguairecastle.com)



# CLADDAGH JEWELLERS

*The iconic symbol of love, loyalty and friendship, the Claddagh dates back hundreds of years and is intrinsically linked with Galway.*

Claddagh Jewellers are makers of the authentic Claddagh Ring whose origins date back over three hundred years. This family-run business invites you to a unique visitor centre experience where you can discover the history of the Claddagh Ring and the legend behind how it is worn. Visit stores in Galway and Dublin to browse the most extensive collection of fine Irish and Celtic jewellery, where you can choose your own authentic Claddagh Ring and become a part of the tradition. Check out their website [thecladdagh.com](http://thecladdagh.com) to click and collect your item before arrival or to browse their selection of Celtic & Claddagh Jewellery.

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A large, multi-story stone castle with multiple towers and battlements, situated on a hillside. The castle is surrounded by lush greenery and manicured gardens. In the foreground, there is a body of water that reflects the castle and the surrounding landscape. The text 'ICONIC KYLEMORE ABBEY' is written in large, white, serif capital letters, with 'Opens New Visitor Experience with €1.7m Fáilte Ireland Investment' in a smaller, white, italicized serif font below it. A blue rectangular frame highlights the text.

# ICONIC KYLEMORE ABBEY

*Opens New Visitor Experience  
with €1.7m Fáilte Ireland Investment*

**A**n exciting new element to the visitor experience at Kylemore Abbey and Gardens was officially opened on June 10th, 2019, by Shane Ross, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Entitled 'From Generation to Generation...The Story of Kylemore Abbey' was developed with an investment of €1.7 million under Fáilte Ireland's Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects 2016-2020.

The re-development of the Abbey's interior creates a visitor experience

that provides an engaging introduction to the Kylemore Abbey site.

Fáilte Ireland has worked with Kylemore Abbey and Gardens to develop this new aspect of the already well-known historic and cultural attraction. As part of this investment the iconic Abbey has been restored and adapted to allow visitors access to:

- A large new wing of four authentically refurbished rooms for visitors to discover. The team at Kylemore from architects to historians, have gone to great lengths to bring history to life and huge attention to detail has been given to everything

from wallpaper to cutlery and 3d models to hidden audio devices.

- A new multimedia presentation will take visitors on a journey through history, connecting wonderful tales of romance, innovation, politics, tragedy and spirituality that make Kylemore Abbey truly unique. This presentation includes stirring historical footage, archive photographs and artefacts, state of the art speaking portraits and beautifully updated period rooms with intriguing details throughout.

- The landscape surrounding the Abbey has also been reconditioned to match the grandeur of the interior and to ensure access for



those with reduced mobility.

Speaking ahead of the official opening in Connemara, Minister Ross said –

“Connemara, with its beautiful natural landscape, provides an inspiring backdrop to the development that has taken place at this already iconic and much-loved attraction - allowing visitors to experience a taste of life in early 20th century west of Ireland.”

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin emphasised – “Kylemore Abbey and its Victorian Walled Garden has been the home of the Benedictine nuns since 1920. The iconic tourist attraction welcomed 300,000 visitors last year and this new development will not just consolidate those numbers but also raise awareness of Ireland as a destination.”

Orla Carroll, Head of Product Development for Fáilte Ireland said – “In Fáilte Ireland our focus is on developing brilliant visitor experiences. Investing in this brand-new experience, which uses state of the art multimedia storytelling to bring the story of Kylemore Abbey to life; ‘From Generation to Generation...The story of Kylemore Abbey’ is a perfect example of how attractions steeped in history and Irish culture can use new technology to provide a truly immersive experience of Ireland for visitors that will leave them with lasting memories of Ireland that will last long after they return home.” Visitors can now also enjoy the restored and landscaped Abbey exterior and the beautifully restored Victorian interiors.

Sr Maire Hickey OSB, Mother Abbess of the Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey further stated – “For 100 years of the 150 year history of Kylemore Castle, the Benedictine Community has been living in and caring for the house with its Castle, Gardens and Estate. We are deeply grateful to Fáilte Ireland for their commitment to Kylemore. They have enabled us to present the public



with this new Visitor Experience that embraces the contribution of the Benedictines to the survival of Kylemore as it exists today, and allows us to share our beautiful home with all who come to visit.” Conor Coyne, Executive Director, The Kylemore Trust said - “Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Gardens is a historic and internationally admired attraction. The Estate is an

established focal point for tourism in Connemara and the Western Region. The new Visitor Experience, at Kylemore, will bring the fascinating history of the estate to life and further enrich the experience of visitors to the Wild Atlantic Way. The Benedictine Community will celebrate its centenary in Kylemore next year and this new development is a fitting milestone at the end of their first 100 years.”



# Leadable

## Chatting with Barry Moroney

**Staring at a futuristic cityscape through the 40° celsius haze, Dubai based businessman, Barry Moroney, often thinks about how different his environment is now in comparison to the country he was born and raised in.**

Having left Ireland in 2013, Barry and his wife, Nicole, settled into life in the Middle East very quickly and think nothing of the seven hour “commute” home to Ireland to see family and friends a couple of times every year.

Earlier this year, Barry became the Founder & CEO of the global sales development agency, Leadaable, and is very bullish about the growth plans for the company.

During his time as Head of Middle East operations at TINT, the American technology firm, and Head of Business Development for Maison Privee, the highly-funded Irish-owned hospitality start-up, Barry noticed a major problem facing sales teams that he wanted to solve. SME’s and growing companies don’t typically hire an in-house Sales Development function, as it is too costly and difficult to scale

and, as a result, outbound sales usually falls out of focus.

“As a sales person myself, I know that it is almost impossible to consistently do cold outbound sales whilst trying to get contracts signed for opportunities that are closer to the finish line at the same time. More often than not, sales people will give most of their attention to the latter because there isn’t enough time in the day for both.”

Barry founded Leadaable to solve this problem and help start-ups and SME’s to not only grow quicker, but to grow in a more predictable fashion, so that they can scale up the rest of their operations accordingly. The company acts as an outsourced sales development team and uses a combination of technology and human specialist skills to build a scalable and repeatable lead generation engine for its clients existing sales teams.

“When companies rely on inbound sales only, they get whatever clients they can get. However, when they are proactive with outbound sales, they get the clients that they want - the ones who can really



move their business forward.”

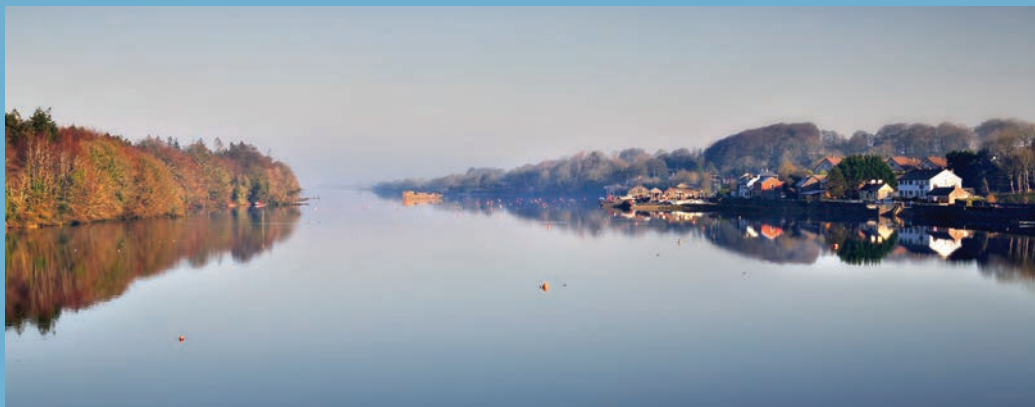
Though he is based in Dubai, Barry is operating Leadaable as a 100% remote company and has his team spread across four countries. With a number of Irish and other international clients, the idea is to operate the business remotely with the aid of technology to allow for full flexibility on where to live in the future - Ireland, Dubai or perhaps further afield.

For more information on Leadaable visit:

[www.leadable.io](http://www.leadable.io)  
[hello@leadable.io](mailto:hello@leadable.io)



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# FLYING HIGH:

## CORK AIRPORT WINS ACI EUROPE BEST AIRPORT AWARD



Cork Airport, Ireland's fastest growing and most punctual airport, was named Best Airport in Europe serving under five million passengers, at the 29th ACI EUROPE Annual Assembly & Congress. The event took place in Limassol, Cyprus on 26th June and was attended by over 400 aviation chief executives and industry leaders. This is the second win for Cork Airport at the ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards, having also won its category in 2017. The Awards recognise excellence and achievement across a variety of airport disciplines relating to airport operations.

Speaking after the ceremony, Managing Director Niall MacCarthy said: "I am really thrilled that Cork Airport has been named ACI EUROPE Best Airport of 2019, in front of an audience of hundreds of our airport peers, here at our annual industry event in Cyprus. "Anyone who uses our Airport at Cork knows we pride ourselves on the smoothness and friendliness of the passenger journey. This is all

down to the staff based at Cork, who work round the clock 365 days of the year, through good weather and bad, to make that journey friendly and easy. This year we are Ireland's most punctual and fastest growing Airport, with eight new routes and 10% passenger growth year to date. Our excellent team at Cork will continue to work really hard to deliver a great Airport experience and grow connectivity further for the benefit of business and tourism in the South of Ireland."

The shortlisted Airports (Torino Airport, Aberdeen International, Tallinn Airport, Limak Kosovo and London City Airport) were assessed by a panel of aviation expert judges and key institutional stakeholders. Cork Airport was announced as part of the proceedings of the Gala Dinner which was held at the Park Lane Resort & Spa, Limassol, Cyprus.

Cork Airport's win was accredited to its support to passengers with disabilities, its strong community

engagement and safety and security indicators, including its drone awareness campaign. The judges also highlighted the Airport's €4-million investment in Food and Beverage offerings, promoting local products; its recent route network expansion; and its status of the most punctual airport in Ireland last year.

Cork Airport is in its fourth consecutive year of growth and has an expanding route network of over 50 direct routes to the UK and Continental Europe along with daily long-haul connectivity through major European hub airports for passengers from the South of Ireland. In total, 2.6 million will use Cork Airport this year.

The ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards are presented to Airports for excellence and achievement across a whole range of disciplines including: Retail: Community Relations: Facilities: Customer Service/Passenger & Airlines: Security: Environmental Awareness and Operations.



# WEST CORK LUXURY HOTEL

**I**nchydoney Island Lodge and Spa combines a stunning location, contemporary accommodation, unique seawater therapies and sumptuous dining, to create a most special getaway. Walk hand in hand along the beach or simply enjoy the view from your ocean view balcony or terrace. Inchydoney Beach was voted Ireland's Best Beach for the last three years by Tripadvisor and what could be better than to enjoy the fabulous view from your room as you wake up to the sound of the sea.

Our hotel is a wonderful escape

from the hustle and bustle and whether you are staying with a loved one, children or friends, our aim is to help you create wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. Couples and those travelling with friends can enjoy our wonderful Lounge on the third floor, with views over the ocean. Unwind with a glass of wine and a book or catch up with friends over a game of Chess. Families staying with smaller guests, will enjoy our Childrens Lounge, which is adjacent to the Lounge.

Children can enjoy our Giant Connect 4 game, the Xbox and a host of boardgames, books and puzzles. Older Children will enjoy

our Netflix Room, where they can spend an evening with friends watching the latest movies. The Snooker Room on the second floor is very popular with young and old alike.

Guests who wish to spend some time in the outdoors, won't be disappointed either. We have a selection of kites, buckets and spades, beach games and balls available to borrow from Reception. Our outdoor Amphitheatre is the perfect place to spend some time in the fresh air with a book or maybe a picnic. The views from this outside space are simply not to be missed during your visit.



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# Things to Do in Cork



## The English Market

In the heart of Cork City and with an eye-catching fountain at its centre, this quirky roofed food market has been trading since 1788. Under the possession of the Cork City Council, it's one of the world's oldest municipal markets. Artisan breads, fruit, and freshly caught seafood are just some of the specialities on offer. In recent years, the market gained worldwide fame when Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain dropped by on her first-ever state visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011.

## St Patrick's Street

This has remained Cork's main shopping hub. An easy couple-of-minutes' stroll from The English Market and known locally as "Pana" the broad, curving street boasts many fine shops. Various architectural styles reflect change over the past 200 years or so.

## Cork City Gaol

Another of Cork city's must-dos is the atmospheric and historic City Gaol, which opened in 1824 and closed in 1923. Originally the prison housed both male and female prisoners who committed crimes within the city borders. In 1878, the City Gaol became an all-female prison, which it remained until men opposed to the 1920 Anglo-Irish Treaty were incarcerated there in 1922-1923. The complex then deteriorated until its restoration and re-opening to the public as a tourist attraction in 1993.

## Crawford Art Gallery

A two-minute walk from St Patrick's Street, art-lovers may like to take in this regional museum dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The gallery receives in excess of 200,000 visitors per annum and hosts a range of permanent exhibitions including 18th Century European and Irish sculpture, a collection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts, and contemporary video installations.

## St Finbarre's Cathedral

A leisurely 10-minute walk from St Patrick's Street takes visitors to this Anglican Cathedral. If preferred, a bus journey (No's 214, 208, 203) will shave a couple of minutes off the journey time. The eye-catching structure in French Early Gothic style was designed by William Burges and consecrated in 1870. It's situated on a site where Christian worship has been taking place since the 7th Century. By its completion, in excess of £100,000 was spent on the building, an enormous amount of money at the time.

## Farmgate Cafe

An unmissable experience at the heart of the English Market, the Farmgate is perched on a balcony overlooking the food stalls below, the source of all that fresh local produce on your plate – everything from crab and oysters, to the lamb in your Irish stew. Go up the stairs and turn left for table service, or right for counter service.



## Cork Opera House

Given a modern makeover in the 1990s, this leading venue has been entertaining the city for more than 150 years with everything from opera and ballet to stand-up comedy, pop concerts and puppet shows. Around the back, the Half Moon Theatre presents contemporary theatre, dance, art and occasional club nights.

## Franciscan Well Brewery

The copper vats gleaming behind the bar give the game away, the Franciscan Well brews its own beer. The best place to enjoy it is in the enormous beer garden at the back. The pub holds regular beer festivals together with other small independent Irish breweries.

## Triskel Arts Centre

A fantastic cultural centre housed partly in a renovated church building – expect a varied programme of live music, installation art, photography and theatre at this intimate venue. There's also a cinema (from 6.30pm) and a great cafe.



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## WEST CORK MODEL VILLAGE

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Walking into the Model Village you step back in time and see life as it was in the 1940's. See the old West Cork railway line portrayed in delightful miniature serving the towns. The models and figurines are handmade at the Model Village to a scale of 1:24.

Depicting busy market days, this is a joyful discovery for young and old alike. Relax and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea in our cafe or visit our Gift Shop in an authentic train carriage. Take a tour of Clonakilty town aboard the Choo Choo Road Train.



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### Opening Times

#### Summer Opening Times

(May to September)  
Tues - Sat: 10am to 5pm  
Sunday: 12pm to 5pm  
(last admission 4pm)

#### Winter Opening Times

Wed - Sat: 10am to 5pm  
(October to April)



Cork  
County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



# COBH NAMED ONE OF THE 25 MOST BEAUTIFUL SMALL TOWNS IN EUROPE

*Cobh Tourism welcomes positive review from travel magnate Condé Nast*

**T**he town of Cobh has been hailed as one of the 25 most beautiful small towns in Europe by the prestigious travel publisher Conde Nast. In an article written on June 12th by travel writer Caitlin Morton, praise is heaped upon the charm of Cobh, shining a spotlight on “its rows of candy-coloured homes along the water and towering cathedral standing sentry over the harbour”.

The travel review also references the growing popularity of Cobh as a port of call for Cruise liners and highlights the historical Titanic connection, for which the town is famed.

Welcoming the favourable review, Chairman of Cobh Tourism Jack Walsh said “We are always championing Cobh as a visitor destination, so to see our beautiful small town featured in a prestigious publication like Condé Nast Traveler Magazine, is a fantastic endorsement. Condé Nast is globally recognised as one of

the most discerning, up-to-the-minute voices in all things travel and its recommendations are known to be very influential.”

The scenic and historic coastal town of Cobh in East Cork, is indeed an ideal location for a ‘staycation’ or day out. Easily accessible by road, rail or boat, Cobh has a unique appeal for visitors due to its scenic waterside location, attractive and well maintained townscape, fascinating history and high density of appealing visitor attractions. These include; St. Colman’s Cathedral and Carillon, Cobh Heritage Centre, Cobh Pastimes, Titanic Experience Cobh, Escapade Cobh, Ocean Escapes, Cork Harbour Boat Tours, The Sirius Art Centre, Cobh Museum, Christy’s Gift Store, Kilkenny Design, and Spike Island. Travelling by train from Cork City (25 mins) is always a really popular option for kids, as the train also stops at the nearby Fota Wildlife Park, which is just 10 minutes from Cobh. For more information see [visitcobh.com](http://visitcobh.com).



# EMIGRATION & MARITIME STORIES

## At Cobh Heritage Centre

No trip to Cork would be complete without a trip to the Cobh Heritage Centre, Co. Cork, one of the key destinations of Ireland's Ancient East.

Whether you are interested in tracing your ancestors, learning more about the ill-fated Titanic and the Lusitania, or immersing yourself in our naval and military history, Cobh Heritage Centre has it all and lots more.

Located in Cobh's beautifully restored Victorian railway station, the Heritage Centre has plenty to offer for tourists, families and

maritime history enthusiasts.

Learn about Irish emigration and the mass exodus during The Famine:

An informative and emotive story of Irish emigration and our legacy all over the world is dramatically recalled at Cobh Heritage Centre's Queenstown Story exhibition.

Explore life on board a coffin ship and convict ship:

See a replica of life on board a coffin ship, which many emigrants travelled on in search of a new life in a land of opportunity.

See a message in a bottle sent

from The Titanic & a replica of the ill-fated ship:

Cobh was the last port of call for The Titanic, which departed on 11 April 1912 with 1,308 passengers and 898 crew members. Cobh Heritage Centre's colourful and informative displays will take you back in time to learn more about the ill-fated ship.

For more information:see

[www.cobhheritagecentre.com](http://www.cobhheritagecentre.com) call 021 481 3591 or email [info@cobhheritage.com](mailto:info@cobhheritage.com).



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*An informative and emotive story of Irish emigration.*

*Learn about Cobh's connection with Titanic and the Lusitania.*

*Cobh Heritage Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork, Ireland.*

*Open 7 days 9.30 – 5.30  
(Sundays 11am)*

Tel 353 (21) 4 813591

Find Cobh the Queenstown Story on Facebook

Email: [info@cobhheritage.com](mailto:info@cobhheritage.com)

Web: [www.cobhheritage.com](http://www.cobhheritage.com)



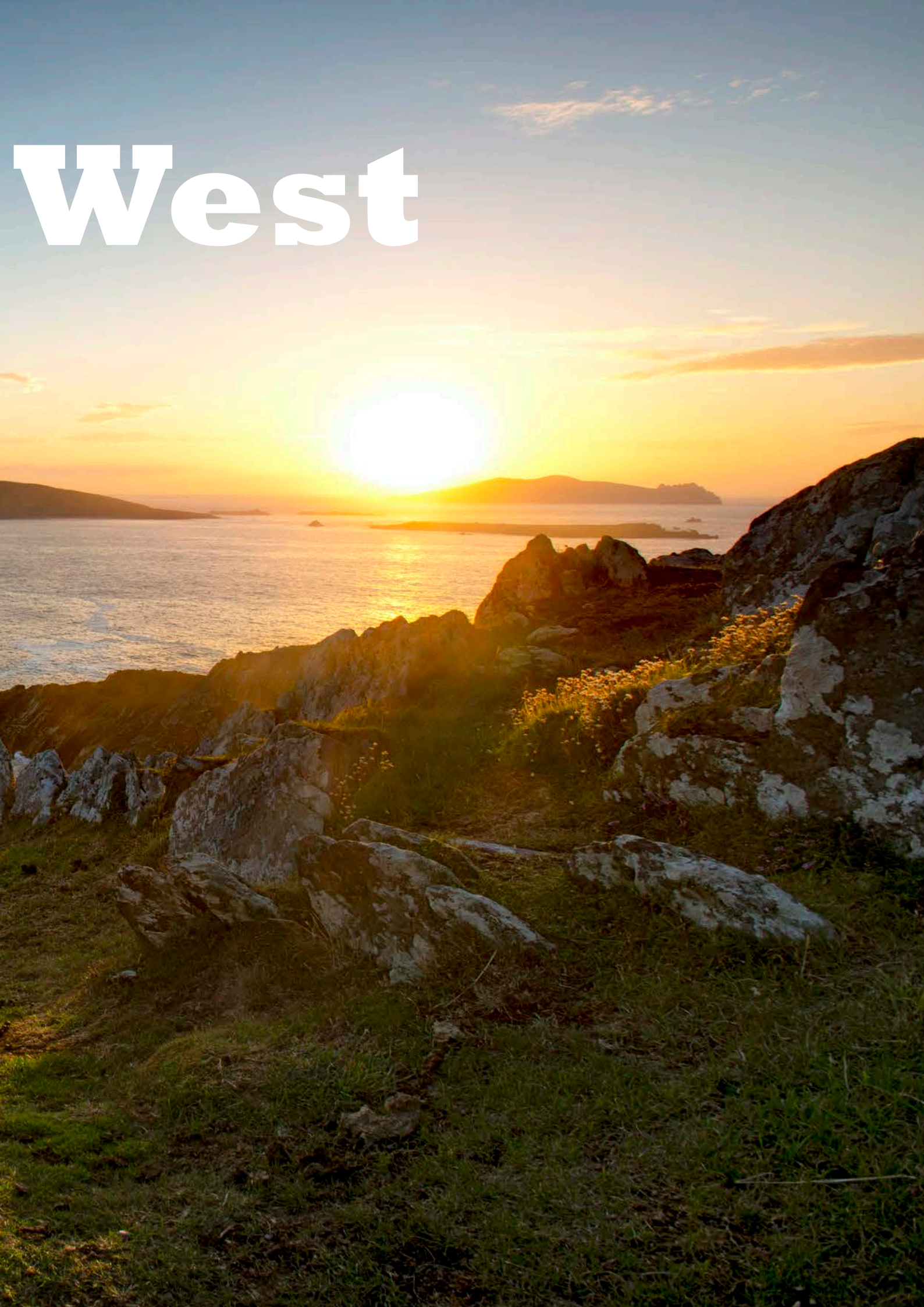
# The South

From the unbeatable classic green beauty of West Cork  
to the mountains and lakes of the Ring of Kerry,  
an unforgettable treat of culture, heritage  
and lifetime memories await.





# West





# Things to Do in Kerry



## Muckcross House

At Muckcross House, you'll get a glimpse into a luxurious 18th Century life at this fantastic, manicured throwback. It's a rural estate that's home to horse-pulled jaunting cars, fantastic gardens, lake views and craft stores.



## Skellig Michael

A jagged, difficult-to-access island off the Kerry shoreline, Skellig Michael was once an isolated hermitage and is now almost as well-known for its core role in two Star Wars movies. To get there, you'll need good summer weather and your climbing legs, but toiling amid the puffins is well worth it for the rustic housing and glorious views.

## Fungie the dolphin

Resident in the harbour of gorgeous Dingle, Fungie has long been Ireland's most famous non-human and he plays to the crowds. Heading out on a boat to meet – or better still, to swim with – this playful mammal is a Kerry essential. Better still, if you don't find him, you don't pay.

## Carrauntoohil

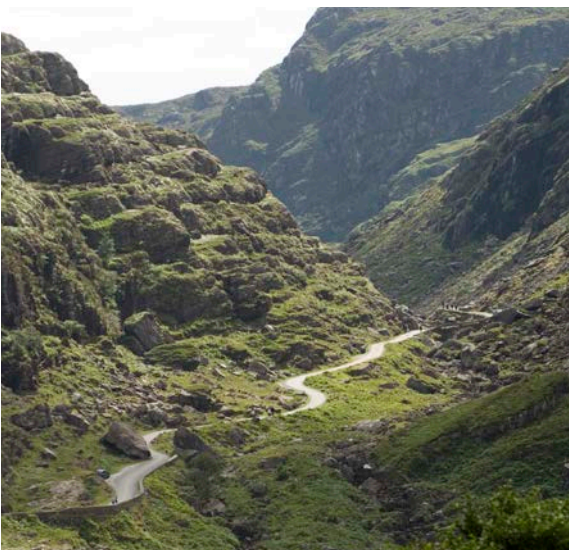
The highest peak of the McGillicuddy Reeks mountain range, Carrauntoohil is a challenging climb for intermediate-level hikers. It rises to just over 1,000 metres via the dramatic, slippery 'Devil's Ladder'. At its peak, you'll find a huge iron cross and spectacular views across the Kerry countryside. A selfie-nut's dream location!

## The Ring of Kerry

Not so much a single site as an entire circuit of rugged, rural beauty, this is the one tour you must do while in Kerry. It's so worth it. The 'ring' takes you around the Iveragh Peninsula, past a host of gorgeous Atlantic views, quaint towns and tiny, enticing beaches. Around every corner is a photo, so go under your own steam, if possible.

## The Blasket Islands

The Blasket Islands once had a thriving Irish-speaking population, but were evacuated due to harsh Atlantic conditions in the 1950s. Jokingly called 'next parish America', this spot is as 'battered west coast' as you can hope to see. There's a stunning beauty in that.



## Gap of Dunloe

A fantastic drive into the Kerry Hills, the Gap of Dunloe is a narrow mountain pass through the McGillicuddy Reeks, a tough trail by car, but easily passable in the popular horse-pulled jaunting cars that are abundant in Killarney National Park. It's popular to hike or bike the route, with Kate Kearney's Cottage – a 150-year-old pub-craft-shop – a popular launching spot.

## Kerry Cliffs, Portmagee

The Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, are Ireland's most famous cliffs, but Portmagee's cliffs offer incredible walks, dramatic drops and views out to Skellig Michael. Why are they less popular than Moher, yet 85 metres higher? Because buses can't get here. In other words, they're a lesser-known treat. Avoid in strong winds.





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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Waterville-Golf-Links/233756093323196>

## Waterville House & Golf Links

The Georgian Manor is an 18th-century manor house that sits on a narrow isthmus facing the wild Atlantic with beautiful Lough Currane on its eastern perimeter. The Currane River bisects the 50-acre estate as it flows into Ballinskelligs Bay. The Manor was built by the Butler family in 1790, and the estate was called "Waterville".

Aside from its comfort and charm, the four-star residence has 12 bedrooms, and a private Fazio designed practice facility. Guests enjoy preferential tee times and access to fishing the famous Butler's Pool and private rivers and lakes. The ancient Weir of Butler's Pool is listed in the book, Iveragh Peninsula Archaeology, and is part of Ireland's Salmon Research program, supplying critical spawning migration data.



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# Fáilte Ireland highlights importance of lucrative golf tourism market as the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open tees off in Lahinch, County Clare

Fáilte Ireland will help showcase Ireland as a top golfing destination through its support of the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open which was played in Lahinch, County Clare, in early July.

Outlining the project Niall O'Callaghan, Managing Director of DiGolf tourism is a hugely lucrative sector for Ireland and one that Fáilte Ireland, as the National Tourism Development Authority, is working to grow across key markets.

Fáilte Ireland figures show that annually more than 200,000 overseas visitors play golf which contributes almost €270 million to the Irish economy and accounts for over 1.7 million bed nights.

Speaking about the importance of golf tourism and hosting events like this, Head of Commercial Development at Fáilte Ireland, Paul Mockler said:

"This is a very lucrative sector as golf visitors typically spend three times more than the average tourist, with most of their spend going directly into local economies. Vitally, the spread of golf courses around the country offers a significant opportunity to drive tourism growth outside of the better-known tourist hotspots – a key focus of our work at Fáilte Ireland.

"At Fáilte Ireland we work extensively with the Irish golf industry supported by our colleagues in Tourism Ireland to grow the country's share of international visitors in this space. We're delighted to support the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open which provides unrivalled promotion of Lahinch as both a golf and visitor destination. To make sure we leverage the international



profile this event commands, we are hosting the US Golf Channel team in Lahinch and at other key golf locations and courses along the Wild Atlantic Way, particularly in the area north of Galway. Through this coverage, millions of golf fans in the USA - which is a huge market for golf tourism - will see a showcase of Ireland's golf offering and local areas. Fáilte Ireland is also providing a platform for over 30 golf businesses from every corner of the country to directly engage with the 100,000 overseas and domestic visitors at the event."

This year's event is the first time the US Golf Channel will set up a live studio at the Irish Open and broadcast promotional packages featuring a number of golf courses and locations along the Wild Atlantic Way and north of Galway.

Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland's Head of North America, added:

"We're delighted that the NBC Golf Channel has broadcasted from the Irish Open at Lahinch and along the Wild Atlantic Way, bringing our message about the world-class golf on offer here to a huge audience of potential American golf holidaymakers. Tourism Ireland has an extensive programme of promotions under way this year, to encourage more Americans to consider a golfing vacation on the island of Ireland. Our message is that the island of Ireland offers American golfers the complete package – with some of the very best golf in the world, stunning scenery and the warmest of welcomes."

The Dubai Duty Free Irish Open event at Lahinch attracted up to 100,000 golf enthusiasts from around Ireland and overseas.



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**IRISH OPEN**

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# *DC Cahalane* *Republic of Work*

**I**t's two years since Cork's first co-working space and innovation hub, Republic of Work, opened on South Mall in the city, bringing businesses as diverse as architects, healthcare services, social media influencers and artificial intelligence companies together, under the one roof.

The unusual blend of entrepreneurs found sharing the building, has led to a variety of interesting business collaborations and the creation of more than 125 new jobs, by the 43 companies and 200 individual members now based in ROW.

ROW co-founder and CEO, DC Cahalane, said that he wanted to develop an innovation hub that would encourage creativity and collaboration rather than just act as a shared working space for start-ups. "We started out with mainly start-ups using the space but our focus is on creating the right environment to help develop business ideas. The members we have using the space work in really varied fields and the idea is that you put them all in the one building, with the opportunity to interact with one another, exchange ideas and learn from each other."

The business entrepreneur, originally from Cork, who has a background in marketing, events and tech companies, says he had thought about opening a space like ROW almost a decade before it came to fruition - but timing is everything. "I had seen co-working spaces like this in London and the U.S and I thought I'd love to do

something like this in Cork. But 10-years ago, it wouldn't have worked here. The recession hit Ireland really hard, fiscally and mentally. It's taken a few years to recover but we're in a perfect era now with Cork on the rise and there's a lot of positivity and innovation in the city."

DC added: "People are taking risks again in business, travel, tourism and events and a large portion of our business comes from our meetings and events space. We also have a new broadcasting studio based in ROW and every week, two or three national radio shows are broadcast from here. We're providing the facilities that help drive business development and innovation in the city but the great thing about Cork is that there's a strong sense of support within the business community."

DC says entrepreneurs and visitors alike are attracted to Cork due to this sense of community and the city's friendly nature. Quality of life is another big draw for new businesses. "We have a number of international companies based here in ROW and they all love the fact that they can walk out the door and visit the English Market, which is an absolute gem for locally produced food, or to experience top quality cuisine in any of the city's restaurants and cafes, or go out to a random pub any night of the week and come out of it with a few new friends. Cork is definitely a city on the up and we're proud to be at the heart of it in Republic of Work."

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



# TASTE THE ISLAND

## at Muckross Park Hotel

At Muckross Park Hotel and Spa, we believe in good food. We work with trusted local suppliers, sourcing the best quality meat, vegetables and fish while taking inspiration from all corners of the Island of Ireland.

We aim to create delicious and innovative dishes that are prepared from the finest ingredients, which will experiment with people's tastes and culinary perspectives.

Executive Head Chef Alan McArdle, has taken the opportunity to develop his own culinary style to fuse Irish favourites with exciting dishes to create a delicious Taste the Island



menu. Sourcing the finest fresh local ingredients, diners taste the best of Kerry & Ireland, with menu highlights such as Kerry Spring Lamb & Castletownbere Black Sole on the Bone.

Fancy something a little different? Add a splash of colour and bubbles in the stylish surroundings of Monk's Lounge with the all new Veuve Clicquot Champagne

Sunday Brunch Menu, which has just been launched at Muckross Park Hotel.

No summer would be complete without a little indulgence.

For more information or to reserve your table, please call the hotel directly on +353 (0)64 662 3400 or alternatively please email [info@muckrosspark.com](mailto:info@muckrosspark.com)



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# INTERNATIONAL BUGATTI MEETING

## *At the Dunloe Hotel & Gardens*

Last month, The Dunloe Hotel & Gardens played host to the International Bugatti Meeting's week-long driving tour of the Kerry and Cork countryside. The hotel welcomed over 100 Bugattis and 200 guests, from all over the world.



Last month, The Dunloe Hotel & Gardens played host to the International Bugatti Meeting's week-long driving tour of the Kerry and Cork countryside. The hotel welcomed over 100 Bugattis and 200 guests, from all over the world.

The exciting week-long event saw guests take in the stunning sights and atmosphere of the Kerry and Cork countryside. The Dunloe Hotel & Gardens, is set in beautiful Killarney and overlooks the iconic landmark; The Gap of Dunloe and was thus perfectly located for this special occasion.

Speaking about the event, organiser, Mike Preston, said "The International Bugatti Meeting was thoroughly researched before we concluded Ireland and the South West could cope with an influx of some 100 historic Bugatti cars. The roads, people, scenery were all we needed. After careful consideration of the time of year, we then selected the Dunloe Hotel & Gardens as the central single accommodation."

"One of the attractions was the private location where we could concentrate on the ethos of this year's event: 'By

Friends, For Friends, With Friends'. We were able to secure the whole hotel for our exclusive use. This gave every participant the ability to feel "At Home". When participants asked me Can I do this....? Can we do that?..... I simply said "It's your home for the week". The hotel and staff enabled this to happen. The whole atmosphere from start to finish was that of friendship. With so many countries being represented, we were able to facilitate any requirements throughout the whole week. I cannot thank the staff and management at the Dunloe enough for helping organise and execute such a prestigious event."





Speaking about the event, Jason Clifford, General Manager at The Dunloe Hotel & Gardens said, "It was an absolute pleasure to be the host venue for the International Bugatti Meeting 2019. The exclusive use of the hotel for this seven-day programme was four years in the making between The Dunloe Sales Team and organisers Mike Preston and Rupert Marks. It was a stunning sight to see so many vintage Bugatti cars parked at The Dunloe, some of which were built in the 1920s." "The Bugatti guests made great use of our 64 acres of listed gardens and held a BBQ by the thatched cottage

in the gardens, enjoyed tours of the 12th century Dunloe Castle and watched falconry demonstrations on the lawn. We hope to be able to welcome many more similar groups in the future and thank Mike Preston and his team for placing his trust in The Dunloe Hotel & Gardens to deliver such an amazing event"



# Things to Do in Mayo



## Croagh Patrick

Croagh Patrick is a well-known mountain and an important site of pilgrimage in County Mayo. You can find it 8km from Westport, above the villages of Murrisk and Lecanvey. It is the third highest mountain in County Mayo after Mweelrea and Nephin. If you visit, you will be joined by pilgrims who make the journey which Saint Patrick himself once did.

## Achill Island

Achill Island is the largest island off the coast of Ireland, and is situated off the west coast. It has a small population of 2,700 and is attached to the mainland by Michael Davitt Bridge. Achill Island occupies an area of some 57sq miles but its actual coastline – including all the inlets and spars – measures over 80 miles. Two particular stretches of road have been designated as Achill's Atlantic Drive; a spectacular journey with breathtaking views which can be completed in a vehicle, by bicycle, or on foot.

## Moyne Abbey

Moyne Abbey has to be one of most impressive ecclesiastical ruins in Mayo and is recognised as a national monument. It was built by the Burke family, consecrated in 1462 and is located north of Ballina on the west side of Killala Bay. The friary was built in the late Irish Gothic style and has extensive ruins, consisting of a church and domestic buildings situated around a central cloister.

## The Coffin Ship

This piece of art by John Behan is an impressive monument showing a ship full of skeletons – a symbol to remember all the people who died on the ships to America when they wanted to escape Ireland's potato famine in the 19th Century. The monument was unveiled in 1997 to mark the 150th anniversary of the famine.



## Keel Beach

Keel Beach is a beautiful beach, one of Mayo's finest. It is quite popular with tourists and locals as a surfing location. If you are not into surfing, you can still enjoy the beautiful sand and excellent views.

## Clew Bay

Want to see an amazing island formation without having to travel to the Caribbean? Then go to Clew Bay. Clew Bay is a natural ocean bay in County Mayo which contains Ireland's best example of sunken drumlins.

## Downpatrick Head

Just a few miles north of Ballycastle village in County Mayo is the windswept outcrop of Downpatrick Head. This is the perfect place to park up and stretch your legs with an invigorating coastal walk. The name Downpatrick is derived from a time when St Patrick himself founded a church here. You can still see the ruins of the church building, a stone cross and holy well here today.



## Keem Bay

Keem Bay is a heavenly secluded valley at the very western tip of Achill Island. It is extremely popular during warmer months when the strand is a magnet for beach-goers and those interested in scenic walks. This bay was formerly the site of a basking shark fishery and a British army lookout post.



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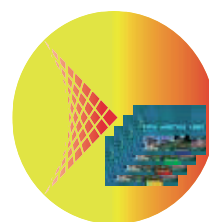
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# *An American Perspective*

# *John Driscoll*

## *of Frazer Capital and Frazer Ferries*

**B**OSTON based businessman, John Driscoll, has travelled to Ireland 150 times to date for both business and leisure and jokingly describes himself as a ‘plastic Paddy’.

Regularly catching a 9.30pm Aer Lingus flight from Boston to Dublin, the businessman who travels to Ireland up to 15 times per year - 60% of the time for work - says he prefers to fly by night, arriving in Dublin around 8.30 am the next morning, so he can travel on to Limerick or wherever his meetings may be by midday.

The co-owner and director of multi-million dollar U.S private equity company, Frazer Capital, now also owns three car ferry services around Ireland with his business partner, Paul O’Sullivan, run and operated by their Limerick based company, Frazer Ferries.

It was a chance encounter at Doonbeg resort 13 years ago that brought the two businessmen together when a causal conversation revealed a shared interest in commercial real estate. The pair launched a small private equity company together in 2016, which has grown exponentially since then, and have been making waves in the car ferry business since founding Frazer

Ferries together in 2010.

The foray into the ferry industry was a natural move for Paul, whose father Donal O’Sullivan was one of the founding members of Shannon Ferries, but having business interests in Ireland is something that John, whose grandparents hailed from County Cork, is immensely proud of.

“I’m a plastic Paddy!” John laughs out loud. “Both sets of my grandparents are from Ireland. The O’Driscolls, on my father’s side are from Skibbereen and my cousins the Murrays, on my mother’s side, are farmers in Macroom.

“Ireland has always been extremely important to me. It’s the land of my father’s father and it’s important to me that my three kids and my eight grandsons know their cousins and understand where their great, great, grandfather was born.”

For the Irish-American businessman, it’s not just the idea of doing business in Ireland that keeps him motivated. It’s the concept of what his businesses can do for the communities they’re based in that makes him proud. Two of the three Frazer Ferries owned services – the Scenic Lough Foyle Ferry and the Carlingford Ferry – are cross-border services and this is something he views as hugely significant. The third facility, the Passage East Ferry, also links



communities in Wexford and Waterford together.

“The cross-border ferries not only cut commuter times and improve travel but they bring people from both sides of the community together to interact with one another and find new meaning to the word peace. That’s something that I think is very important in today’s society – enhancing the relationship between the Republic and the north of Ireland.

“The ferry journeys are also all absolutely stunning. There’s beautiful scenery wherever you go in Ireland and I think the country has so much to offer visitors. It has a rich past and present and a bright future ahead and I’m proud to be part of it,” he says.

**For more details on Frazer Ferries services visit: [www.passageferry.ie](http://www.passageferry.ie) [www.carlingfordferry.com](http://www.carlingfordferry.com) [www.loughfoyleferry.com](http://www.loughfoyleferry.com)**





# LOUGH FOYLE FERRY

**The Scenic Lough Foyle Ferry operates across Lough Foyle connecting the Wild Atlantic Way to the Causeway Coastal Route. We sail everyday in June, July and August from Magilligan Point in Northern Ireland to Greencastle in County Donegal.**

First sail at 9am from Greencastle with our constant shuttle service until last sail from Magilligan at 8:15pm. Our shuttle service means less waiting at our terminals and with only a 15 minute crossing you'll be on your way to your next adventure in no time. Whichever direction your going, you'll be wowed by the stunning scenery from the middle of Lough Foyle. Martello Tower and Benevenagh Mountain can be viewed on the Northern side while Northburgh Castle and the Harbour can be viewed on the Southern side. A short car journey can bring you to the Giant's Causeway, Whiterocks Beach, Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge and Kinbane Castle along the Causeway Coast. Or visit the site of the filming of Star Wars in Malin Head, Kinnego Bay and Culdaff village on the Inishowen Peninsula.

**Timetable:**

**First Sail from Greencastle at 9am**

**Last Sail from Magilligan Point at 8:15pm**

**[www.loughfoyleferry.com](http://www.loughfoyleferry.com)**

**Facebook - @scenicloughfoyleferry | Twitter - @foyleferry | @scenicloughfoyleferry**





# Wild Atlantic Way Top Beaches

01.

IMAGE: RAYMOND FOGARTY



02.

IMAGE: RAYMOND FOGARTY

***With bracing Atlantic winds, breathtaking vistas and miles and miles of undisturbed beaches, the Wild Atlantic way is a beach-lover's paradise.***

## 01. Barleycove, Co Cork

One of West Cork's most beautiful beaches, Barleycove is the ideal spot for families, with its many sand dunes providing hours of fun for kids. Officially declared a Special Area of Conservation by the EU, this is the perfect spot to enjoy the stunning views and discover the natural wildlife of the area.

## 02. Dogs Bay, Roundstone, Co Galway

With its crystal clear waters and over a mile of white sandy beach, the crescent shaped Dog's Bay (beside Gurteen Bay), is one of Galway's best beaches. Ideal for windsurfing and kitesurfing.

## 03. Fanore Beach, Co Clare

Stunning views, golden sand and with a certain wildness about it, Fanore beach is great for surfing, body boarding and swimmers. It's also a botanist's haven, with its proximity to the Burren.

## 04. Inch Beach, Co Kerry

Breathtaking scenery and with over four miles of beach, Inch is an ideal spot for walkers. Made famous for its scenes in Ryan's Daughter, Inch Beach is popular with surfers, anglers and swimmers.



03.

IMAGE: RAYMOND FOGARTY



04.

IMAGE: RAYMOND FOGARTY



### *05. Inchydoney Beach, Clonakilty, Co Cork*

With its blue flag status, Inchydoney Beach is the ideal spot for swimming in the calm, and surfing when the wind is up. Inchydoney is yet another of Ireland's most stunning beaches, with miles of sandy beach to walk or jog along and take in the breathtaking views.



### *06. Keel Beach, Achill, Co Mayo*

Surrounded by stunning vistas of the Minnaun cliffs, green fields and the Atlantic, this 4km beach, also known as Trawmore Strand, is a haven for watersports enthusiasts. Expect lots of windsurfers, bodyboarders and surfers living it up on this Blue Flag beach



### *07. Ballymastocker, Co Donegal*

Voted the second most beautiful beach in the world by readers of the Observer Magazine, Ballymastocker, on the shores of Lough Swilly, is a spectacular mile-long beach of beautiful sand and stunning views. Never over-crowded, this Blue Flag beach is one of Ireland's top gems.



### *08. Silver Strand, Malinbeg, Co Donegal*

This horseshoe-shaped secluded beach is an ideal spot to relax and take stock. Stunning views and protected from winds, Silver Strand is a beach lover's paradise with its golden sands and peaceful ambiance.





# Surfing in Ireland

Known to surfers as a “cold paradise”, there’s no better place to take to the water than Ireland’s surf capital – Bundoran, County Donegal.

It’s June and on shore in Bundoran, the sky hangs bruised to purple as if swelling up with the makings of a good night’s rain. Into that sky flies a spinning BMX, attached to it someone else who knows a thing or two about bruises. Around the stage, hands are in the air, paper cups are held aloft and surfboards stick out of the sand like an informal sculpture.

This is Donegal; this is the Sea Sessions Music Festival – one of the coolest and quirkiest festivals on the calendar. Surfing in Bundoran, and in Ireland, is hot!

Where surfing gets real

Heat is not something usually associated with the slice of Atlantic Ocean that makes up Ireland’s Wild Atlantic Way. But that’s what makes Bundoran so appealing: this place is for real surfers. Here, breaks, peaks and waves take priority over the perfect tan.

“If you come here in February, you’re going to get pelted by hailstorms, and the only chick you’re going to see is a seagull”

-RICHIE FITZGERALD, ISA TEAM COACH

Having surfed and lived here for almost all his life, local man and Irish Surfing Association Team Coach, Richie Fitzgerald, knows this shoreline, and its benefits as a surf destination, better than most. As he told the New York

Times, posturing is not part of the pleasure: “We don’t have that surf-bum, hang-around culture.”

The big breaks

The most popular surf spot in Bundoran – and one of the most favoured in Ireland – is known as The Peak. This is the wave that defines the surf here, the one break that makes surfers load kit

and caboodle on planes, boats and buses to get to Bundoran and take on Mother Nature. A reef break, this is one for more experienced surfers – so if you count yourself in that category, you’re in for a treat.

“It was just like a little party out on the water”

-KELLY SLATER, WORLD CHAMPION SURFER, WAVERIDERS

For the rest of us mere mortals, the Bundoran Surf Co offers lessons in waist-high water – and you can stay in this surf shop slash B&B, too, as it comes complete with access to an all-night communal chill-out room. There are also much-loved beach breaks and surf experts at Rossnowlagh, Mullaghmore, Tullan Strand and Streedagh. And if you don’t fancy experiencing those surfing thrills for yourself, you can always just stay on shore and watch! Everyone’s welcome around here.

Information provided by [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com)





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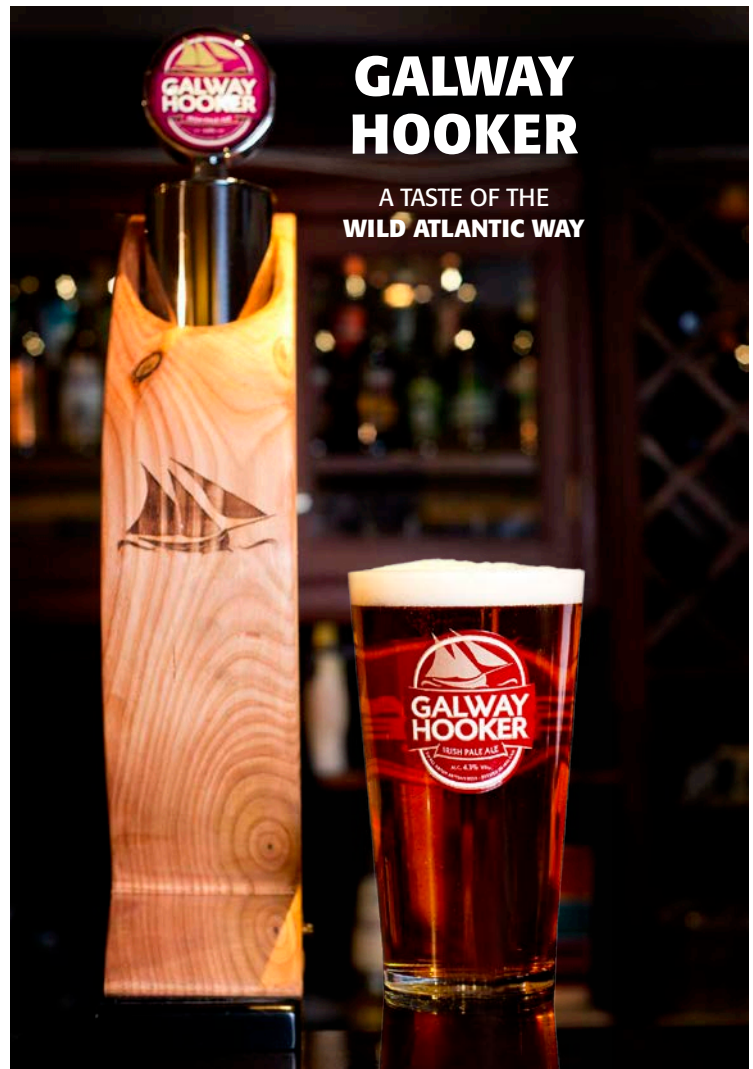
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# Things to Do in Donegal



## Glenveagh National Park

Glenveagh National Park is one of the six beautiful national parks in Ireland. Situated in the Northwest of Co. Donegal, Glenveagh encompasses some 16,000 hectares in the heart of the Derryveagh Mountains.

Such a great wilderness is the haunt of many interesting plants and animals. These lands were managed as a private deer forest before becoming a national park in 1975. With the completion of public facilities, Glenveagh National Park was officially opened to the public in 1986.

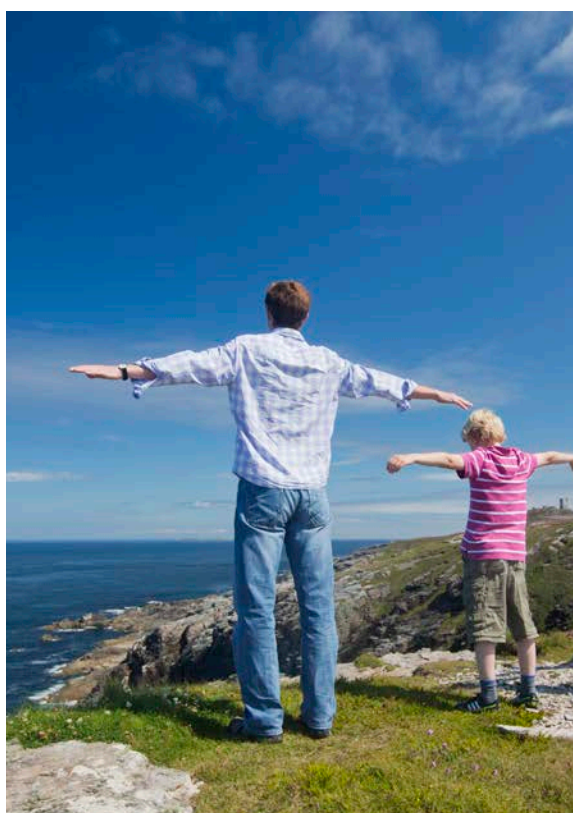


## Glenevin Waterfall (Clonmany)

This amazing waterfall is located at the top of a short 2km hike through the woods in Clonmany. There are picnic areas on the way to the waterfall which blend in beautifully with the natural landscape. Footbridges towards the waterfall are dotted along the track as visitors criss-cross the stream using the stepping stones.

## Malin Head

Malin Head is located on the Inishowen Peninsula, County Donegal. Here you will find the most northern point of the whole island of Ireland. The northernmost tip is the headland named Dúnalderagh (Banba's Crown). The views in this area is spectacular and it is a place that any tourist must visit when they come to Donegal.



## Mount Errigal

Mount Errigal is a beautiful mountain near Gweedore in County Donegal. It is both the tallest peak of the Derryveagh Mountains and of all the peaks in County Donegal. Errigal is also the most southern, steepest and highest of the mountain chain, called the "Seven Sisters" by locals. The mountain is beautiful in both Summer and Winter and is a must-see

## Narin & Portnoo Beach

One of Ireland's finest beaches! This beach has everything: beautiful sand, peninsulas and hills in the background. It is an absolute gem and should not be under-estimated. Anyone who has been there will know what we are talking about!



## They call it the Central Hotel

As one of the longest established hotels in the North West, renowned for its unique setting in the centre of the historic Donegal Town, with idyllic views of Donegal Bay in the background, the hotel is perfectly located to enjoy the beautiful County of Donegal. Within minutes of stunning coastal drives, beaches and signature discovery points of the famous Wild Atlantic Way, The Central Hotel Donegal Town is the perfect location for you to stay.

The Central Hotel Donegal Town is a premier venue for live music events including country & western weekends, comedy shows and live bands to name but a few; with lively traditional Irish Folk Music in the popular Upper Deck Bar as a regular occurrence.

Specialising in weddings and civil ceremonies for between 50-250 guests, the Central Hotel Donegal Town is the perfect venue for your special day, and our experienced Wedding Co-ordinators are here to ensure you have a day to remember. We have a range of superbly appointed bedrooms including family rooms, suites, inter-connecting rooms and enabled access rooms, with complimentary access to our leisure facilities.

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# MAJOR IRISH WIN

## at the Gourmand World Cookery Book awards in Macau

Donegal chef Brian McDermott has won the 'World's Best Cookery Book written by a Chef' at the Gourmand World Cookery Book Awards in Macau. Mr. McDermott won the award for his book 'Brian McDermott's Donegal Table'.

Mr. McDermott, the owner of the Foyle Hotel and Bistro in Moville, was in China for the award ceremony and said "it was an absolute honour to see "Donegal Table" recognised on the global stage". He added: "As a chef, all my inspiration comes from Donegal, from its traditions, its produce, and its people, and this award is above



all, a testament to them." The book was one of nine shortlisted in the global category and beat titles from Argentina, Spain, South Africa and Singapore to take the award.

The Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, which took place as part of the Macao International Book Fair, recognise global excellence in food writing.



# PUT VIENNA WOODS HOTEL CORK ON YOUR 'BUCKET' LIST

**You bring the kids - Vienna Woods has the bucket and spade!**

One Cork hotel is going the extra mile to ensure it is top of the bucket list for families this summer. Cork's 4-star Vienna Woods is offering a free bucket and spade for children under 12, with any of their family breaks this summer.

The country house hotel, which is located on 22-acres, enjoys a great location on the outskirts of Cork City. It is ideally positioned for those who want to enjoy its proximity to the city or easy access to the many family friendly attractions and destinations in the area. These include Fota Wildlife Park, Trabolgan, Blackrock Castle



Observatory, Cobh Town, Kinsale and the beaches of East Cork.

For more information on



Vienna Woods Cork see: [www.viennawoodshotel.com](http://www.viennawoodshotel.com) and for more on things to see and do in Cork, visit: [www.purecork.ie](http://www.purecork.ie).

## WILL YOUR FAMILY CONQUER THE CROKE PARK BUCKET LIST CHALLENGE?

The GAA Museum is challenging fun-loving families to conquer the Croke Park Bucket List Challenge this summer by partaking in some of the most memorable visitor experiences at the iconic home of the GAA. Croke Park is Ireland's largest sporting arena, one of Dublin's top visitor attractions and offers the perfect school holiday activity. The famous stadium features a trio of award-winning visitor experiences - the Croke Park Stadium Tour, the Ericsson Skyline Tour and the GAA Museum.

Here are the top visitor attractions that you must experience on your visit to the GAA Museum & Tours this summer...

1) Find local clubs on the Club Wall



2) Complete the Junior passport challenge in the GAA Museum

3) Run through the Players' Tunnel to the sounds of roaring crowds

4) Hold the All-Ireland Final cups

5) Get a pitch-side selfie wearing

6) Visit the team dressing rooms

7) Guess how many balls are in the Players Lounge chandelier

8) Experience life as a GAA commentator

9) Test your hurling and football skills!

10) Get a tour of Dublin from 17 stories high!

For more information on tours times and booking, visit [www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum](http://www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum).



# Scattery Island

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# Sweet smell of success

## *as Bernice's business takes off*

**By Liz O'Brien**

Bernice Moran de Neve is a pilot, an entrepreneur and mother to three children under the age of 10. She flies planes for Virgin Atlantic and runs a novelty confectionery business - The Be Sweet Company - with her sister, Linda. She adores her job; all three of them in fact!

Her Dutch husband, Rick, is based in Hong Kong; Bernice, in London, but their home is in Howth, County Dublin; where their children - Elizabeth (9), Zara (6) and Alexander (4) - have "the most magical of upbringings". How does she juggle it all? Hard work. But that's a trait she says the Irish are known for.

"I spend a lot of time in Shanghai and Hong Kong, and the Irish consulate general - who I'd have a lot of contact with - tells me the success stories of the Irish people. It makes me very proud. "One Irish girl - who is a very good

friend of mine - is a manager of a hotel in Shanghai; it's one of the most famous hotels in China.

"In Hong Kong, you meet a lot of Irish people doing well and everywhere I go - LA San Francisco, Seattle, Barbados, wherever - everybody loves the Irish."

"We're thought so well of, because we're hard workers and because we have a compassion in us."

Bernice's family has always been obsessed with all things sweet. She first started thinking about building a confectionary brand while on maternity leave from Virgin Atlantic.

With no idea how to start a business, she decided to email her boss Richard Branson, who is also the boss of her 79,999 colleagues! He responded, they met, hit it off and she started The Be Sweet Company - a novelty confectionery company that's 100% Irish and exports overseas.

That was almost a decade ago and last year she opened the Be Sweet Cafe in Baldoyle, Dublin.

"That's open a year now; it's a success. I was making sandwiches this morning and I had just landed from LA last night.

"I'm such a control freak and have such attention to detail. They call me Harry Potter because as soon as I go in to the cafe everything is moved and bows are put on everything."

Her brand is about making people happy.

"We wanted to extend the kindness of our brand to people every day, so we have things like unicorn hot chocolates and mermaid candy-shakes.

"And, when people come into our cafe they get a kiss! I designed a coffee cup with a lid for your nose and lips, so when people are drinking it is like they're getting a kiss."







# Things to do and to see in Sligo

County Sligo boasts one of the most appealing stretches of coast on the Wild Atlantic Way. From its delightfully surfable waves crashing on broad golden shores, to the rolling green hills and misty mountaintops of the affectionately dubbed 'Yeats country', this is a county that attracts a distinct breed of adventure-loving traveller.

## MULLAGHMORE HEAD

Meaning 'the great summit', the surf haven of Mullaghmore is one of the most popular places to visit in Sligo. Backed by rocky cliffs, its 2km sandy beach and pretty stone harbour beckon to walkers, while Mullaghmore Head offers stunning views out to Inishmurray Island.

## STREEDAGH

From the Spanish Armada shipwreck site, to the fascinating fossils embedded in the rocks, a visit to the golden strand at Streedagh is one of the best things to do in Sligo for children. With easy walking along its 3km stretch, it's one of the most tranquil spots in the west.

## SURFING

From the big wave thrills at Mullaghmore and Strandhill's consistent breaks, to the family-friendly swell at Enniscrone, no trip to Sligo is complete without a go on a surfboard. Surf schools can help newbies paddle out with confidence, while pros can hunt for secret spots.

## SLIGO FOOD TRAIL

Delighting palates and surpassing expectations is what the Sligo Food Trail is famous for. Map your own route with the help of experts to choose the cuisine that you love best and enjoy fresh, nourishing local food that will make you think you've arrived in foodie heaven.

## CONEY ISLAND

The original and best, Sligo's Coney Island is the largest and most popular of the islands in Sligo Bay. Boasting 400 acres of beaches and green fields crisscrossed by old stone walls and populated by an abundance of rabbits, it's a great place to spend a relaxed afternoon.

## SLIGO ABBEY

Looking for something to do in Sligo this weekend? The medieval Dominican abbey in Sligo Town offers a peek into an intriguing past, with artefacts, lore and a rich history dating back to 1252. It's also one of the best places to see Gothic and Renaissance tomb sculptures.

## SLIGO TOWN

Discover Yeats country from the ideal base in Sligo Town, second only to Galway in size and boasting a compelling blend of past and present - from Hargadon Bros, the Michelin Guide-listed pub and eatery; to the stone bridges linking both sides of the River Garavogue.

## GRAVE OF WB YEATS

Spend some time in the northeast of the county in pretty Drumcliffe, where you'll find the grave of beloved Irish poet and Nobel Prize-winner WB Yeats. Tucked away in a churchyard, it's a serene spot and the nearby round tower, scripture cross, church and gift shop are must-sees.

## CARROWKEEL

The Neolithic cemetery complex at Carrowkeel is one of the finest examples of a passage tomb in Ireland, consisting of 14 cairns dotted across the beautiful hills of the Bricklieve mountain range in the south of County Sligo, near the County Roscommon border.

## BEN BULBEN

In the northwest of the county, the distinctive 320 million-year-old rock formation known as Ben Bulben cuts a striking figure above the landscape near Cashelgarran. Part of the Dartry mountains, it's a popular destination.

While the Sligo Tourism Office do not recommend climbing Benbulben, there is a looped walk around Benbulben and Sligo Tourism Office can give you details of this.



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# *The best pubs and restaurants* **in Ireland for 2019** *have been revealed*

**E**very year the Restaurant Association of Ireland decide on the best of the best and wherever you may travel in Ireland this list will allow you to opportunity to discover and enjoy a visit to any of the winners below and experience the best that Ireland has to offer.

Loam Restaurant in Galway was named the best restaurant in Ireland. Other winners included Graham Neville of Dax in Dublin, who was named Best Chef, and Everett's restaurant in Waterford, which was named Best Newcomer. Dax Restaurant, Eastern Seaboard Bar & Grill, Wild Honey Inn, and OX also won respective awards in the restaurant category.

The Pub of the Year award went to Doheny and Nesbitt in Dublin.

*Here are the main winners.*

## **Best Restaurants**

*All-Ireland:* Loam Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Dax Restaurant  
*Connacht:* Loam Restaurant  
*Leinster:* Eastern Seaboard Bar & Grill  
*Munster:* Wild Honey Inn  
*Ulster:* OX

## **Best Chef**

*All-Ireland:* Graham Neville of Dax Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Graham Neville of Dax Restaurant  
*Connacht:* Barry Ralph of House of Plates  
*Leinster:* Deirdre Adamson of The Fatted Calf  
*Munster:* Peter Everett of Everett's Restaurant  
*Ulster:* Chris McGowan of Wine and Brine

## **Best Restaurant Manager**

*All-Ireland:* Eva Ivanova of Sage Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Denise McBrien of The Old Spot  
*Connacht:* Eva Ivanova of Sage Restaurant  
*Leinster:* Edwina Hynes of La Côte Seafood Restaurant  
*Munster:* John Edward Joyce of The Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge  
*Ulster:* Saul McConnell of Noble.

## **Pub of the Year**

*All-Ireland:* Doheny and Nesbitt  
*Dublin:* Doheny and Nesbitt  
*Connacht:* J Doherty's  
*Leinster:* Hamilton's Pub  
*Munster:* Levis Corner House  
*Ulster:* Coach House & Olde Bar





## Best Hotel and Guesthouse Restaurant

*All-Ireland:* Gregans Castle Hotel  
*Dublin:* The Saddle Room at The Shelbourne Hotel  
*Connacht:* West Restaurant at the Twelve Hotel  
*Leinster:* Brabazon Restaurant at Tankardstown House  
*Munster:* Gregans Castle Hotel  
*Ulster:* Newforge House

## Best Newcomer

*All-Ireland:* Everett's Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Uno Mas  
*Connacht:* Passione by the Slice  
*Leinster:* Lily's On Church Street  
*Munster:* Everett's Restaurant  
*Ulster:* Hara

## Best Gastro Pub

*All-Ireland:* The Old Spot  
*Dublin:* The Old Spot  
*Connacht:* Bar One  
*Leinster:* The Ballymore Inn  
*Munster:* Mikey Ryan's Bar and Kitchen  
*Ulster:* Clenaghans

## Best Customer Service

*All-Ireland:* The Muddlers Club  
*Dublin:* Luna  
*Connacht:* Park House Hotel  
*Leinster:* Lennon's @ Visual  
*Munster:* Ballyvolane House  
*Ulster:* The Muddlers Club

## Best Casual Dining

*All-Ireland:* 777  
*Dublin:* 777  
*Connacht:* Hooked Sligo  
*Leinster:* Truffles Restaurant and Wine Bar

*Munster:* Bodega  
*Ulster:* The Olde Glen Bar, Restaurant and Tea Room

## Best Wine Experience

*All-Ireland:* Green Man Wines  
*Dublin:* Green Man Wines  
*Connacht:* Le Petit Pois  
*Leinster:* Barrows Keep  
*Munster:* The Black Pig  
*Ulster:* OX

## Best Kids Size Me

*All-Ireland:* Old Street Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Old Street Restaurant  
*Connacht:* Shells Seaside Bakery and Café  
*Leinster:* Tiffin by Sunil  
*Munster:* 9 Café  
*Ulster:* Oak Room Restaurant

## Best World Cuisine

*All-Ireland:* 3 Leaves  
*Dublin:* 3 Leaves  
*Connacht:* Spice India  
*Leinster:* Pink Salt Indian Restaurant  
*Munster:* Iyer's  
*Ulster:* Tuk Tuk Asian Bistro

## Best Café

*All-Ireland:* Connemara Greenway Café & Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Two Pups  
*Connacht:* Connemara Greenway Café & Restaurant  
*Leinster:* Knockdrinna Farm Shop & Artisan Café  
*Munster:* Good Day Deli  
*Ulster:* Dinkin's Home Bakery & Café

## Best Free From

*All-Ireland:* Grow HQ  
*Dublin:* Urbanity  
*Connacht:* Drumanilra Farm Kitchen  
*Leinster:* Zucchini's Restaurant  
*Munster:* Grow HQ  
*Ulster:* The Olde Post Inn

## Local Food Hero

*All-Ireland:* Seán Hussey of Hussey & Sons Fruit & Veg

## Best Emerging Irish Cuisine

*All-Ireland:* 35 Restaurant  
*Dublin:* Forest & Marcy  
*Connacht:* An Port Mór Restaurant  
*Leinster:* Thyme Restaurant  
*Munster:* 35 Restaurant  
*Ulster:* Wine and Brine

## Best Digital Marketing

*All-Ireland:* Michael's Mount Merrion

## Best Cookery School

*All-Ireland:* The Neven Maguire Cookery School

## Best Private Dining & Club Restaurant

*All-Ireland:* Stephens Green Hibernian Club

## Best Seafood Experience

*All-Ireland:* Fish Shop, Benburb Street

## Best Cocktail Experience

*All-Ireland:* The Tack Room st Adare Manor



# Grace

## A LOVE STORY



*The love story of Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford is one of the most moving and memorable in Irish history, which has captured imaginations the world over.*

It tells a tale of two star-crossed lovers who married just hours before Plunkett was executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising.

Grace Gifford was born to a Catholic father and a fiercely Protestant mother in 1888, and was raised Church of Ireland. A talented artist and cartoonist, she contributed to various republication publications and was passionate about Ireland's independence from the United Kingdom.

She met and fell in love with Joseph Plunkett, who was the editor of the Irish Review, in September 1915. He too was born into wealth; his father, Count Plunkett, was the director of the National Museum. Joseph himself was a poet, nationalist and was committed to armed revolution. He was one of the military strategists of the 1916, Easter Rising.

Though Grace's parents did not approve of the union, the pair became engaged in December 1915 and intended to marry, however, history would intervene in their plans.

By the end of Easter week 1916, the Irish rebels had surrendered and were placed in Kilmainham jail, the fate of its leaders decided. The fifteen men, including Joseph Plunkett, were to be executed by firing squad.

When he discovered that he would die, Joseph requested permission to be married to his sweetheart, Grace. On the night of May 3rd 1916, just hours before he was to be executed, she was brought to the jail. In 1949 she recalled that evening, saying: "When I saw him... he was so unselfish, he never thought of himself. He was not frightened, not in the slightest."

The couple were married before a priest and two witnesses in the jail's chapel. The following day, Joseph Plunkett was executed. Before facing the firing squad, he said: "I am very happy I am dying for the glory of God and the honour of Ireland."

In his will, Joseph left everything to his widow, but his parents refused to honour it. She remained resolutely nationalist after her husband's death and was imprisoned in Kilmainham jail for three months in 1923. She never remarried and outlived her husband by 39 years. Grace Gifford died on December 13, 1955, and was buried with full military honours in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The tragic tale of their love was immortalised in song in 1985 by Frank and Sean O'Meara. It tells the sad story of their doomed relationship. The lyrics include poignant lines that reference



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the couple's last moments together.  
"Oh, Grace, just hold me in your arms  
and let this moment linger,  
They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.  
With all my love, I place this wedding  
ring upon your finger,  
There won't be time to share our love  
for we must say good-bye."

The song has been recorded by many musicians including The Wolfe Tones and The Dubliners and has proved to be very popular across the world. Most recently it left global superstar Rod Stewart bewitched, describing the ballad as "one of the greatest love songs ever written." He recorded a version of the track for his latest album 'Blood Red Roses'.

The legendary singer first came across the song when supporters of Celtic Football Club gave a rendition of it at a match and he became interested in discovering more about its origins.

Speaking to Ryan Tubridy, host of RTE's Late Late Show, in March of this year, he said: "I first heard the song when I went to the Scottish cup final four years ago, the fans were singing it and I couldn't get it out of my mind."

So captivated was he by the song and story that he decided to visit the chapel in the Kilmainham where Grace and Joseph wed. Talking about the experience, he explained: "I visited the jail and went into the chapel where it all happened. So, it means a lot to me, that one, it really does. There was no furniture in the jail apart from the jail bed, no table, no bed, no chair, nothing." Rod revealed that

he also visited Grace Gifford's grave in Glasnevin Cemetery in March of this year (pictured).

Rod's appearance on the Late Late Show became a celebration of the legendary love of Grace and Joseph and the beautiful, poignant ballad that was inspired by their story.

Ryan Tubridy presented the singer with a first edition collection of poetry by Joseph Plunkett which included a signature by Grace. Rod was moved to tears by the gesture and was taken aback by the generous gift. On the night Rod was also introduced to Frank and Sean O'Meara, the songsmiths who penned Grace.

One hundred years later, the love story of Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett continues to captivate the hearts and minds of both superstars and civilians alike.





As we gather in the chapel here in old Kilmainham Gaol,  
I think about these past few days, oh, will they say we've failed?  
From our school days, they have told us we must yearn for liberty,  
Yet, all I want in this dark place is to have you here with me.

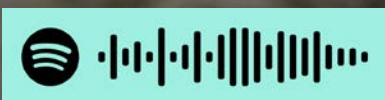
Oh, Grace, just hold me in your arms and let this moment linger,  
They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.  
With all my love, I place this wedding ring upon your finger,  
There won't be time to share our love for we must say good-bye.

Now, I know it's hard for you, my love, to ever understand,  
The love I bear for these brave men, my love for this dear land,  
But when Pádhraic called me to his side down in the G.P.O.,  
I had to leave my own sick bed, to him I had to go.

Now, as the dawn is breaking, my heart is breaking, too,  
On this May morn, as I walk out, my thoughts will be of you,  
And I'll write some words upon the wall so everyone will know,  
I love so much that I could see his blood upon the rose.

Songwriters: Sean O'Meara / Frank O'Meara

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# Key Sites To Visit During Your Trip along the Wild Atlantic Way

## Malin Head

Looking out over the North Atlantic from the mainland, Ireland's most northerly point at Malin Head feels a bit like reaching the end of the world, with little separating you from the Arctic other than ocean – you can even see the Northern Lights from here if you time it right.

## Fanad Lighthouse

The crowning point of County Donegal's Fanad Peninsula, is a lighthouse dating back to 1818. Fanad Head Lighthouse is one of 12 that make up Great Lighthouses of Ireland – an initiative allowing visitors the chance to visit or stay in an Irish lighthouse.

## Letterkenny

Donegal's largest town Letterkenny is known as the Cathedral Town, for having Donegal's only Roman Catholic cathedral. It is also home to the Donegal Museum, set in a former famine workhouse and officially recognised by the Irish government as the best of Ireland's county museums.

## Sliabh Liag

Sliabh Liag's cliffs aren't as well-known as the Cliffs of Moher, but they are nearly three times taller. Europe's highest sea cliffs at 601 metres, seeing them is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## Inis Meáin, Aran Islands

The smallest of Galway Bay's Aran Islands in terms of population, Inis Meáin is described as 'one of the most important strongholds of traditional Irish culture'. An extension of The Burren's karst landscape, this beautifully remote area is a must-visit for any tourist on the route.

## Strandhill

Strandhill, a surfer's paradise, is the biggest coastal village in County Sligo and one of its most scenic, nestled at the base of Knocknarea hill and looking out across the Atlantic.

## Kylemore Abbey

A Benedictine monastery based in a 19th Century castle on a picturesque lakeshore, Kylemore Abbey in Connemara is well worth visiting. As well as exploring the abbey itself, visitors can tour the entire 1,000 acre estate, including six acres of Victorian walled gardens.

## Galway City

Welcoming and colourful, the harbour city of Galway has everything you could possibly want from an Irish city, it is even set to be European Capital of Culture in 2020.

## Doolin Cave

Inside the Doolin Cave in County Clare, you will find the longest free-hanging stalactite in the entire Northern Hemisphere. A staggering 7.3 metre (23 feet) structure hanging from the ceiling, it was formed from calcium deposits from a single drop of water, dripping over thousands of years.

## The Cliffs Of Moher

As one of Ireland's most visited sites, the majestic Cliffs of Moher on the Clare coast need no introduction. Providing views of the Aran Islands, the Maumturks and Twelve Pins mountain ranges, and Loop Head peninsula, these spectacular cliffs are a natural national treasure.

## Bunratty Castle

Clare's 15th-Century tower house known as Bunratty Castle has become another major tourist attraction, famous for its long history (the site was originally a Viking trading camp in 970) and its medieval-style banquets – a tradition that has survived since 1963.

## Slea Head Drive

Taking in some of Ireland's most striking vistas, Dingle's circular Slea Head driving route has so many fabulous stopping points that it's impossible to pick just one. Travellers are advised to set aside at least a half-day to get the most out of this breathtaking journey.

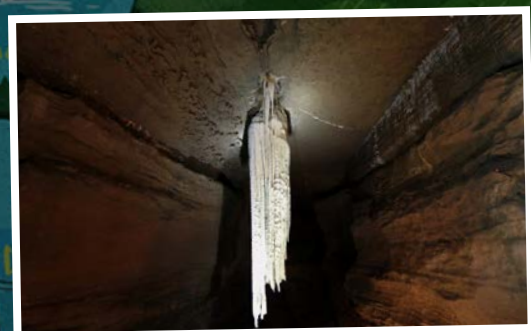
## Skellig Micheal

The site of a former monastery and featured in the recent Star Wars films, the larger of County Kerry's two Skellig islands is as arresting in person as it looks on film.

## Mizen Head Signal Station

The southerly equivalent of Malin Head, the cliffs at Mizen Head have their own visitor centre, where the brave can cross a startlingly high bridge and watch for seals, whales and dolphins in the waves below.

*Courtesy of Kate Phelan @ the culture trip*





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# The Green, Green Wild Atlantic Way

*10 great shots that show just how amazingly  
'green' the Wild Atlantic Way is*

Instagram has become firmly established as the place to post your favourite photographs. It's the photo-sharing site where you can be the envy of all your friends. And it's the repository to store those stunning reminders of a great holiday or mini-break.

With Instagram's emphasis on the beautiful and spectacular, it's no surprise that the Wild Atlantic Way features prominently. Instagram users have posted more than half a million photos using the tag #wildatlanticway since the launch of the Wild Atlantic Way.

All six regions along the 2,500km route have been captured and the vast collection of photographs is a treasure trove capturing the sheer variety of the Wild Atlantic Way in all the seasons.

Anyone who searches for #wildatlanticway images will be struck by how green is the predominant colour of so many. It's not just the mountain sides and the valleys that look resplendent in green, but - on occasion - the Atlantic too. It's a reminder that there's a perfectly good reason why Ireland and the colour green are forever entwined.



**1. Murder Hole Beach, Co Donegal**  
photographed by Tom Archer

Donegal is justly famed for its brilliant beaches, but this intriguingly named one is perfect for those seeking somewhere completely off the beaten track. It's not the most accessible beach on the Wild Atlantic Way and local knowledge is usually required - but you'll feel as though you have the place to yourself.



**2. Emery Celtic Cross, Killea, Co Donegal** - photographed by Gareth Wray

Named after its creator, the late Liam Emery, this spectacular sight visible to those flying overhead, is created by the planting of two different species of pine trees. The outer trees are evergreen but the ones that form the shape of the 100m Celtic cross drop their needles in winter and turn this striking gold colour.



**3. Benbulbin, Co Sligo** -  
photographed by Ian Mitchinson

It's arguably Ireland's most distinctively shaped mountain and an icon of Yeats county. The poet himself was drawn to this special place and he immortalised it in the line "under bare Ben Bulbin's head". He is buried in its shadow and today many poetry lovers make the pilgrimage to Drumcliffe cemetery to see his final resting place.



**4. Mullaghmore Head, Co Sligo**  
- photographed by Conor Flanagan

Yeats County is on the itinerary of surfers everywhere and



the waves are especially huge off this rugged headland. It's no surprise that some of the biggest names in surfing have brought their boards here - the waves have been known to rise to 15 metres. It's a perfect area to explore on foot, too, and the gothic edifice of Classiebawn is a key part of the scenery.



## 5. Downpatrick Head, Co Mayo - photographed by Iain Miller

The sea-stacks that lie off the Connemara coast have long intrigued visitors, and Dún Briste is especially famed. They evoke the great passage of time and the sense that the Atlantic has hewn the coastline here for millions of years. For daredevil adventurers, climbing rocky towers like these put all their skill and fearlessness to the test. It's little wonder lovers of the Great Outdoors feel so drawn to the Wild Atlantic Way.



## 6. Clifden, Co Galway - photographed by Ferghus Foyle

"Even the ocean is green in Ireland!" reads the caption on this sumptuous photograph and it's true that from certain angles and at specific times of the year, the Atlantic takes on a spectacular greenish hue. Clifden is the 'capital' of Connemara and the perfect place from which to explore the undulating landscape of this beloved national park.



## 7. Loop Head, Co Clare - photographed by Jordan Drennan

The giant letters that spell out Ireland as Gaeilge date from the early decades of aviation. Together with an identifying number, they were a pre-GPS navigational aid. The location of this one - at the tip of Loop Head - offers a reminder that you're in the very extremity of Ireland. Next stop, America.



## 8. Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare - photographed by Bernard Geraghty

The most storied cliffs in the entire country are usually photographed from above and at a distance, but this worm's eye view captures the sheer size of these much adored natural wonders. Seamus Heaney loved this part of the Wild Atlantic Way and a line from his Clare-set poem, Postscript, seems apt: "Catch the heart off guard and blow it open."



## 9. Skellig Michael, Co Kerry - photographed by Valerie O'Sullivan

The otherworldly sight of this fabled mountain has captivated viewers for generations - including the monks from the early centuries of Christianity to those who chose to live there. In recent years, Skellig Michael has become a global icon thanks to being featured extensively in the latest Star Wars movies. The film-makers were looking for somewhere out of this world - and they got their wish.



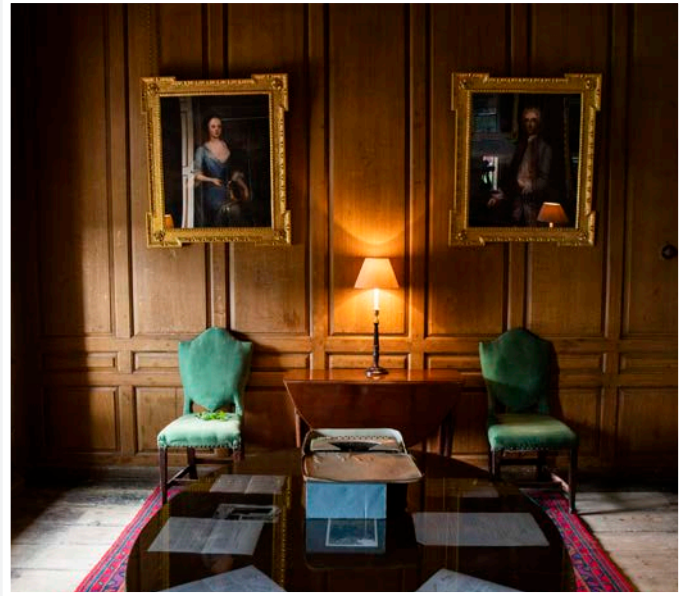
## 10. Allihies, Co Cork - photographed by Chris Hill

The last village at the end of the picturesque Beara Peninsula lies between mountains and the jagged Atlantic coast. It used to be celebrated for copper-mining and remnants of that industry still dot the hillside here. The Allihies Copper Mine Museum commemorates the area's mining heritage - one that can be traced back to the Bronze Age.



# Doneraile Court Opens To The Public

## *For The First Time In A Generation*



**Minister Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran  
Officially Opens National  
Historic Property  
€1.6 Million Restoration by  
Office of Public Works of  
Historic Cork Property**

**D**oneraile Court, the stunning centrepiece of one of Ireland’s most beautiful estates, has opened its doors to the public, for the first time in a generation. This was following a €1.6-million restoration by the Office of Public Works (OPW). Minister for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief Kevin Boxer Moran, officially opened the historic house at an event attended by the local community.

Doneraile Court was built in the 1700’s by the St. Leger family, who remained in residence for 13 generations, until 1969. It has been in the stewardship of the Office of Public Works (OPW) since 1994. The Project included investment of €350,000 from the

Department of Culture Heritage and Gaeltacht. The house now takes its place as one of Ireland’s most important historic properties.

The restoration works carried out under the Capital Works Project involved the total refurbishment of the ground floor, including the main staircase, giving public access to a visitor reception and an interpretive exhibition area in the three main reception rooms of the house. As most of the original contents were removed when the house was sold in 1969, the OPW conservation team carefully restored the house, bringing together artefacts and pieces of work that speak volumes about the rich and long history of the house.

As part of the opening, eleven important works from Crawford Art Gallery’s collection have been loaned to Doneraile Court. The paintings, dating from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, will add further context to this historic house.

Officially opening the property,

Minister Moran said: “Today is a hugely significant day for Cork. This house has long left a large imprint in the history of the county, with its presence felt for centuries. Preserving and restoring historic properties is crucial to retaining our nation’s heritage and history and plays an important cultural role in cultivating pride of our heritage and past making us unique in the world. In the past 18-months the OPW has restored the ground floor to an impeccable standard and in doing so has opened a new chapter in Doneraile Court’s life.” Doneraile Parklands and Gardens are already one of Ireland’s most significant tourist attractions, welcoming 490,000 people in 2018. The house is surrounded by four hundred acres of parklands laid out in the style popularised by legendary landscape designed Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. The park has extensive waterways and water features, while herds of Sika, fallow and red deer can be found around the parklands.





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# Welcome to the 65th Galway Oyster & Seafood Festival

Each year, on the last weekend of September, Galway City celebrates the Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival, the most internationally recognised Irish festival after St Patrick's Day and the world's longest running Oyster Festival.

Throughout the Irish food festival, there will be lots of tantalising events for all to enjoy; seafood trails, oyster opening (shucking) championships including the Oyster 'Olympics' or World Oyster Opening Championship, foodie talks & tasting events in some of Galway's best restaurants, The Festival Marquee, a Mardi Gras style Gala Event along with family activities, live music, cooking demonstrations and more.

Established in 1954, The Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival has welcomed over half a million visitors, consumed more than 3 million oysters – washed down with champagne and stout whilst listening to some of the best musicians in Ireland.

## Friday Night

**Date: 27th September 2019**

**Time: 19.00**

**Venue: Festival Marquee, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City Centre**

Live music, sensational seafood, mouth watering dining and the National Oyster Opening Championship will kick start

the weekend's celebrations. Beginning with the opening ceremony.

## Saturday Night

**The World Oyster opening Championship**

**Date: 28th September 2019**

**Time: 14.00 – 19.00**

**Venue: Festival Marquee, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City Centre**

A non-stop afternoon of entertainment and festival fun awaits; The World Oyster Opening Championship, the festival food village and live music.

**Date: Saturday 28th September 2019**

**Time: 8pm till late**

The Oyster & Seafood Festival Masquerade 'Mardi Gras' style event is where fine fare and fabulous finery come together as a carnival of masked revellers.

## Sunday Night

**Féile Bia Na Mara – WILD ATLANTIC TASTES Sunday September 29th 2019**

**Date: Sunday 29th September 2019**

**Venue: Festival Marquee, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City Centre**

**Time: 12.00 – 19.00**

**Free Event**

Seafood showcase with national chef demonstrations and family fun.

**DISCOVER A "TASTE THE ATLANTIC A SEAFOOD JOURNEY"**

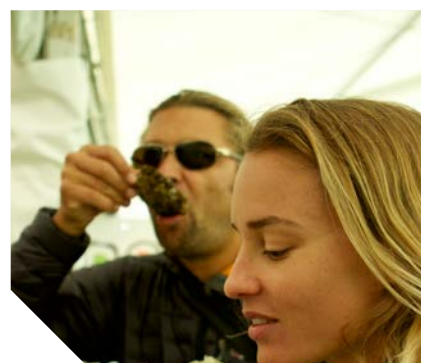
**Imagine a trail you can take, and taste.**

The Bay Coast Seafood Trail is exactly that. Stretching south from Erris Co. Mayo to Connemara and on to Galway Bay, passing some of Ireland's





# September 27th to 29th 2019



most breathtaking seascapes and landmarks, it's a whole new way to experience the Wild Atlantic Way.

This is a living, breathing coastal route. Dotted among the natural wonders are renowned producers including the Connemara Smokehouse, Croagh Patrick Seafoods, Killary Fjord Shellfish, Keem Bay Fish, Marty's Mussels,

Kelly's Oysters and New Quay lobster fisherman Gerry Sweeney. These are family businesses with ocean in their blood, coastal communities with salt on their lips. They harvest top quality oysters, mussels, salmon and catch lobster and crab from pristine Atlantic waters. They process their catch with modern nous and time-honoured

tradition. They turn the draw of the sea into deliciousness. So when you are exploring Bay Coast, make sure you visit one of the recommended seafood restaurants to enjoy a taste of the Atlantic and meet one of our local seafood producers to truly experience this seafood journey as pure a taste of place on a plate as you'll find in Western Europe.



# From the Greenway to the Milky Way



County Mayo is now a leading destination for stargazing, following the accreditation of Ballycroy National Park/ Wild Nephin as a gold tier International Dark Sky Park in 2016. Dark Sky Tourism, known as Astro-tourism offers visitors a variety of unique experiences to enjoy after dark.

Based in Newport, Georgia MacMillan and Ged Dowling have combined their expertise as mountain leaders and tour guides with their passion for the night skies; and created 'Terra Firma Ireland', offering experiences 'from the Greenway to the Milky Way'. "After several years of research into the benefits of dark sky preservation, we realised stargazing was a natural fit for our business model" says Ged Dowling.

Terra Firma's 'Magic, Myth and Moonlight' tour has become a signature experience and whisks visitors away on board the "Starlight Express" for a laser pointer tour of the night sky constellations followed by some enchanting storytelling and close up magic from local seanchaí Dan O'Donoghue. "Re-

connecting people with the night sky is a cultural experience and we are generating considerable interest from groups in Australia, China and the USA, as well as the UK and domestic market. These visitors typically live under heavily polluted skies so when they come here and experience the beauty of The Milky Way, they are blown away," says Georgia.

Terra Firma isn't just active after dark; their daytime tours feature sacred sites, fairy forts and castles as well as wilderness experiences in the remote Nephin Beg mountain range. Visitors looking for a cultural immersion can avail of one of their multi day tours along Mayo's Wild Atlantic Way coastline, staying with unique local accommodation providers ranging from luxurious period houses to farmhouse B&Bs.

For more information [www.TerraFirmaIreland.com](http://www.TerraFirmaIreland.com)

**Go Wild**  
Magazine





## Welcome to The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre

This visitor attraction was developed by Cork Kerry Tourism in 1991-1992 to make the four treasures of the off shore Skellig Islands more easily understood by all. The exhibition building is a purpose built visitor centre opened in 1992, designed to be rugged in feeling and finishes, to reflect the experience which will be undertaken by visitors. The use of concrete vaults with grass topping is designed to echo the wild quality of the south west of Ireland and to blend in with the surrounding hills.

The exhibition has four themes. The history and archaeology of Skellig Michael's Early Christian monastery. The Sea Birds, their habitat, their world wide travels. The Lighthouses, which have given 161 years of service to mariners. The Underwater Skellig, which has colour and magic equal to any sea in the world.

The Exhibition Centre has an 80-seat auditorium where a 14-minute film presentation 'An Island On The Edge Of The World' takes visitors to the magical place Skellig Michael.



## Galway Crystal


Galway Crystal was established in 1967 by a group of local business people from the Galway Chamber of Commerce. In 1993, Galway joined the Belleek Group and both companies have performed particularly well. Aynsley China has since become part of the group. This meeting of three prestigious brands has further enhanced the position of Galway Crystal in the Global market.

Throughout the years, many well-known people have passed through the doors of Galway Crystal, from Royalty to Presidents to Celebrities. Galway Crystal can be found in some of the most Prestigious homes, from our own Arás an Uachtarain to the White House and the Vatican.

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## Hospitality at its finest at Carrygerry Country House

Carrygerry Country House & Restaurant is a charming, old-world country house built in 1793. Located just outside Newmarket-on-Fergus in scenic County Clare, the charming hotel is family-owned by Niall and Gillian Ennis for the last 15 years and they have built it into a 'must-visit' destination for lovers of great food and amazing hospitality.

It comprises 11 stunningly appointed bedrooms, a beautiful conservatory restaurant, and a function room to cater for weddings or corporate events. Niall's homemade jams and seafood chowder have regularly won national food awards so make sure that you grab some before you leave. You won't regret it!

As Carrygerry is only 10 minutes from Shannon Airport, it is an ideal location to explore the local attractions such as Cliffs of Moher, Aillwee Caves, Ennis, Galway, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, King John's Castle, Limerick and Adare - to name but a few.

The intimacy, the great food and the warm welcome that you receive in Carrygerry Country house will leave you refreshed and reinvigorated for the next stage of your Irish journey.  
Tel: +353-61-360500





# Norman Heritage Park

*Fáilte Ireland invests in new state-of-the-art visitor attraction for Longford*

***Minister of State for the OPW and Flood Relief, Kevin 'Boxer' Moran T.D., welcomed Fáilte Ireland funding of €640,000 for the 'Norman Heritage Park', a major new visitor attraction in Granard, Co. Longford.***

The state-of-the-art visitor attraction will be a “huge asset for Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands” according to Minister Boxer Moran, as it will become “Ireland’s only authentically recreated Norman village that brings the story of Ireland under the Normans to life.”

The village will provide an immersive experience for visitors that will transport them back 800-years to experience how the people of that era lived, worked and played – all delivered through live acting, innovative displays and activities, as well as augmented and virtual reality.

Key features of the attraction will also include a fully accessible recreated Norman ship, a ‘treasure tunnel’ and buildings across the park ranging from a banqueting hall to a typical family home.

The Fáilte Ireland investment of €640,000 in the Norman Heritage Park, comes under its Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects 2016-2020. This adds to the investment of almost €3-million announced for the project by the Department of Rural and Community Development earlier this year, through its Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The project has been driven by Granard Motte Community Enterprise CLG (GMCE) and Longford County Council, with support from the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Minister of State for the OPW and Flood Relief, Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran and local T.D. for Longford and Westmeath said:

“I’m delighted that Fáilte Ireland has invested in this major and unique new visitor attraction for Longford, adding to the significant investment the project received through the Rural

Regeneration and Development Fund earlier this year. There is no doubt that the Norman Heritage Park at Granard will be a key attraction in Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and the team at Fáilte Ireland has helped to shape the project along with key partners. This idea, from conception to securing funding, has been a great example of the public sector and communities coming together to create a brilliant attraction for visitors and locals alike.”

Head of Attractions at Fáilte Ireland, Mary Stack, said:

“At Fáilte Ireland, we actively look for every opportunity to support and create new experiences across Ireland. The Norman Heritage Park is an example of an unique attraction that has the capacity to be a game-changer for Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and which will stand out in the international marketplace. Projects like this, and many others in our capital investment programme, are vital not only for regional growth but for reinforcing Ireland’s reputation as a high-quality visitor destination. I want to commend Granard Motte Community Enterprise CLG for their vision and commitment to this project.”

Fr. Simon Cadam, Chair of Granard Motte Community Enterprise CLG (GMCE) said:

“We’re delighted that Fáilte Ireland has seen the major potential in our idea for the Norman Heritage Park from the outset and provided this investment as well as its support and insights, which will help us to develop a brilliant visitor experience. This is a community driven project which will bring to life one of the finest examples of an Anglo-Norman fortification in Ireland. Granard is home to the highest Norman motte in Ireland, commanding spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and this new attraction will transform the visitor experience here. Vitally, it will help to create jobs in our local area and that has been a key driver for us in the Granard Motte Community Enterprise.”

Faile Ireland’s Grant Scheme for Large Tourism Projects is funded under the Government’s Project Ireland 2040 strategy with the aim of driving sustainable growth in the Irish tourism sector and higher revenue and job creation around Ireland.



## Shannon Ferries

From early morning, as the mist descends the Shannon Estuary to the Wild Atlantic Sea, to the setting of the sun in the late of the evening, Shannon Ferry will take you and your vehicle on this memorable 20 minute journey across the estuary; linking the iconic tourist destinations of the Banner County of Clare to the Kingdom of Kerry.

This is a lovely experience for visitors who would like a short break in their journey to relax as they sail across the majestic Shannon Estuary. And if you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of the dolphins, which in the summer, can sometimes swim so near the ferry, as if just to entertain you.

As the only vehicle ferry trip on the main spine of the Wild Atlantic Way, this invigorating journey allows you experience the rugged nature of land and sea as you breathe in the fresh salty sea air that encapsulates Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

Now it's even easier and much better value with our online booking.



## Padraicins Galway

While you are travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way and the ol' tummy starts to rumble, then a quick stop in to the beautiful Padraicins restaurant in Furbo Co. Galway is the answer to your prayers.

Offering some of the best seafood dishes, an extensive all-day restaurant menu and honest pub grub fayre using local food produce - all whilst overlooking Galway Bay - this is a little piece of heaven to enjoy on your Wild Atlantic Way journey. Located just 10 minutes from Galway City on the coast road to Connemara. Pop in and get a genuine Irish welcome from the Padraicins team.

## Eagles Flying/Irish Raptor Centre

Nestled in the green hills of south Sligo, Ireland's largest sanctuary for raptors and owls, the Irish Raptor Research Centre / Eagles Flying is situated on more than 27 acres of mature parklands near Ballymote. Currently it is the home of more than 100 eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and vultures. Altogether there are more than 450 birds and animals, encompassing nearly 100 different species, in the centre.

The Irish Raptor Research Centre was established in 1999 as an institution for research on birds of prey and in 2003, parts of the area were opened to the public. Now Eagles Flying is one of the major tourist attractions in the northern part of Ireland, attracting tens of thousands of visitors annually to see the spectacular bird shows with eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures and owls.

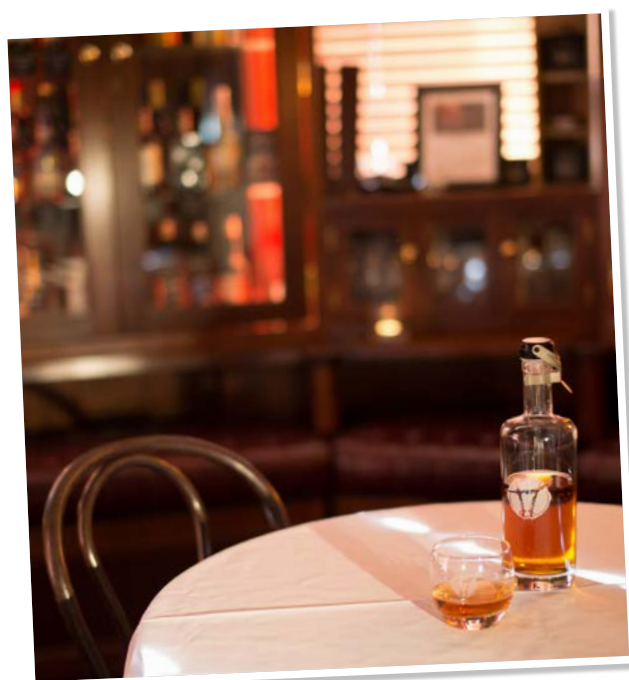
## Fabulous dining at Flanagan's Townhouse

Flanagan's Townhouse, located on Thomas Street in Limerick, is a must-visit for the hungry tourist in Limerick city centre.

Always popular with locals and tourists alike, the newly-renovated Georgian townhouse has been lovingly restored to make this a fabulous dining experience.

Flanagan's is a sister business to Flanagan's on the Lake in Killaloe and they offer a delicious menu to suit all palettes and also boast a full bar to complement the thriving restaurant.

Flanagan's always provides a real Irish welcome, so pop in and say hello!







# You can't stop the music

**I**rish traditional music is legendary throughout the world for good reason – from the infectious beats of fast-paced tunes to the haunting beauty of sean-nós (unaccompanied) ballads, this is music with a very emotional heart. The two places you're most likely to experience traditional music in Ireland are at a seisiún and a céilí – and there's a difference between the two.

A seisiún (trad music session) can be best described as an informal gathering of musicians. Often, it'll kick off with just one or two instruments but before long, you've a whole group of fiddlers, flautists, banjos and bodhráns (drum) playing together to create a phenomenal sound. You'll find a seisiún in every village, town and city on the island, especially at weekends, and usually in a pub.

A céilí (dance), meanwhile is all about dancing to the music and there's a huge emphasis on joining in with the locals, so prepare to get on your feet. Céilís can take place at Irish cultural centres or at pubs with larger dancing spaces, such as Vaughan's in Kilfenora, County Clare. To get to grips with the steps, pop into the Céilí by the Lee at Crane Lane in Cork every Monday night, where you'll be guided through the basics. It's great fun.

## Places to find

**Tig Cólí Galway**  
It may have a city location but this lively pub in Galway city's Latin Quarter has a real country atmosphere. Local and visiting musicians mean there are 14 sessions a week, all year round.

**McGann's Doolin, County Clare**  
The softly worn wooden interior of this lovely pub in the music hub of Doolin, County Clare, makes the perfect backdrop for impromptu music sessions.

## Discover The Bodhran

Listen out for possibly the most famous of all Ireland's instruments, the bodhrán is a one-sided frame drum, played with a cipín (wooden stick). At a seisiún, you're also likely to notice a tin whistle (a simple wind instrument) and the fiddle (basically a violin played in a different way). Keep your eyes out, too, for the uilleann pipes, often regarded as the most melodic pipes in the world.

Courtesy of Ireland.com



# Shay Hunston

My name is Shay Hunston, I'm a freelance photographer following the 2,500km route of the Wild Atlantic Way from Kinsale to Donegal, taking black & white portrait photographs of the people living in the towns, villages and remote locations amongst the stunning beauty of this diverse and ancient landscape set against the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean.

In towns and villages along the route, I'm staging exhibitions of the photographs plus people's thoughts, experiences and sense of place. Upon completion of the project, I will produce a book of photographs and all the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the RNLI.

I'm overwhelmed by the positive response I've received so far, everybody loves the project. Ireland is indeed a stunning beautiful country but its the people that are the real gems, their kindness and generosity of spirit has been amazing. I'm constantly receiving offers of help, encouragement and support along the way.

The project is a celebration of these wonderful people living on the west coast of Ireland, an open minded, independent, welcoming, tolerant people - a people free in spirit and wild at heart, living on the edge of the world.

The opportunity to travel the route from Cork to Donegal and to put together a collection of their photographs inspired the project.

The Wild Atlantic Way is a massive success story for the west coast of Ireland. Tourism figures are increasing year after year and are exceeding projections. Locals are starting to establish small businesses to cater for the increased number of tourists.



*Rachel Dare - Bantry, West Cork.*



*Mick O'Callaghan - Schull, West Cork.*



*Noel McCarthy  
- Sheep's Head, West Cork.*



*Caroline O'Donnell - Ballydeob, West Cork.*



# Giants of Jazz

TO HEADLINE 2019 GUINNESS CORK JAZZ FESTIVAL



**G**UINNESS have announced exciting headline acts for the 42nd Guinness Cork Jazz Festival, which takes place over the October Bank Holiday Weekend from Thursday, 24th to Monday, 28th October.

Giants of Jazz will join globally renowned artists, pushing the boundaries of the musical genre today. The line-up features legendary artists including: Grammy Hall of Famer Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, listed among Rolling Stone magazine's "100 Immortal Artists"; Kurt Elling with 'Kurt Elling sings A Century of Heroes', declared "the standout male vocalist of our time" by The New York Times, plus four-time Grammy nominee and 2018 Jazz Pianist of the Year, Fred Hersch.

There will also be headline performances from American Jazz fusion band Spyro Gyra, whose 30 albums have sold over 10 million copies over four decades, Northern Ireland's famous Dr. Linley Hamilton Quintet, who has performed with Paul Brady, Van Morrison and Foy Vance; and British soul queen MICA PARIS, who has toured with Michael Bolton and Boyz II Men.

Tickets for the headline acts are on sale now at [www.GuinnessJazzFestival.com](http://www.GuinnessJazzFestival.com) with further artists to be announced over the summer.

Every nook and cranny of Cork City will come alive to the sounds of over 1,000 music and creative artists from more than 20 countries as this year's festival will host free gigs and entertainment in over 70 city venues from pubs, hotels and restaurants to galleries and public spaces. There will also be an exciting fringe element to the festival, details of which will be announced over the summer.

Fiona Collins, Chairperson of the Guinness Cork Jazz

Committee commented, "The festival committee is delighted to work in partnership with Diageo Ireland, Cork City Council, Cork Business Association and businesses all over the city, to create another fantastic weekend programme to be proud of. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase the city and its welcoming vibe, to thousands of Irish and overseas visitors."

Councillor John Sheehan, Lord Mayor of Cork, welcomes the continued support of local businesses in 2019, "The Guinness Cork Jazz Festival attracts more than 40,000 people to Cork annually and is estimated to be worth around €35 million to the local economy every year. Its continued success is a testament to the fantastic team ethos that has evolved over the years between Guinness, the festival committee, local government and the local business community and I wish it every success in 2019."

Michael Lyons, On-Trade Sales Manager Diageo Ireland, is calling all music lovers to experience the welcoming and party vibe in Cork for this year's festival. "The festival has always boasted a line-up of music for the soul and we are thrilled to welcome some of the greatest musicians from the Jazz, RnB, Soul and Motown genres again, this year. Those looking for a unique party atmosphere emanating from every part of the city, have lots to look forward to with free gigs and fringe events for every palette."

The legendary Festival Club at The Metropole Hotel, will be the central hub while the Everyman Theatre, Cork City Hall, Triskel Arts Centre, Cork Opera House and Firkin Crane, will also play host to jazz headliners.

Further headline artist line-up, details of the free music and entertainment programme and Fringe events, will all be announced over the summer. For updates and tickets please visit [www.guinnessjazzfestival.com](http://www.guinnessjazzfestival.com).



## Discover Cape Clear And Fastnet Ferries today

Cape Clear Island, Baltimore, West Cork. Ireland  
Cape Clear Island is situated off the coast of West Cork on the Wild Atlantic Way. The Island is 8 miles by ferry from the mainland and is the nearest inhabited area to the famous Fastnet Rock Lighthouse. It is three and a half miles long by one and a half miles wide and has a permanent Irish speaking population of 130 which increases significantly during the summer months.

Also called Costa De Cape, due to being located that few miles further south from the mainland, the weather here can be at total contrast from that on the mainland and often you think you are in the Mediterranean Sea.

Cape Clear is rich in archaeology history with ancient standing stone, Bronze Age monuments and amazing stone walls. There is a Napoleonic signal tower, a 5000 year old passage grave, a 12th century church, a 14th century castle, a historic lighthouse and one of the few remaining, actually standing, marriage stone left in the country.



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## Céad Míle Fáilte @ Durty Nelly's

If you wanted to define a quintessential Irish pub, you'll find it hard to unearth a better example of it than Durty Nelly's in Bunratty, Co. Clare.

It's been part of the landscape at Bunratty for almost 400 years and today it continues to be the favourite 'watering hole' of both locals and visitors alike.

Famous for our food and famous for our drink, but most of all, famous for the warmth of our welcome and the sense of fun and conviviality that's such a part of our make-up. Come and see for yourself!



## Hamptons on Henry Street

Hamptons Bar & Grill is a New York-style restaurant, located next door to the Savoy Hotel. At Hamptons they are proud to have custom designed their own wood-fired Robata ovens and grills, unique to Limerick and Ireland. Built to ensure the maximum in flavour and succulence in all steaks, chicken and seafood, they use the best beech wood charcoal which imparts its unique signature in a slow release formula. All meats are marinated overnight in their secret recipe rubs and dressings before being grilled or roasted for your delectation.



## Spring is in the air at Belleek Pottery

We are shaking off the winter blues at Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre and getting ready for a busy Spring and Summer season. Our tour guides are waiting patiently to take guests on the 30-minute guided tour of the pottery where visitors have an opportunity to see first hand how handcrafted pieces are carefully created by the crafts men and women that work at Belleek.

From design to completion, visitors get a real sense of the intricate work that takes place at Irelands oldest working pottery. For younger visitors, The Bloomfield Trail is the perfect way to enjoy a tour. A map detailing points of interest along the tour keeps children occupied and interested.

Once you have completed your tour, there is ample opportunity to browse the Belleek Collection in the museum. Our audio visual theatre tells the extended story of Belleek and its history. ONE SIXTY a photographic exhibition which was launched in 2017 tells a very special social history story and is a favourite with visitors and especially with those who have a connection to the pottery. Before leaving, take a little time to relax in the elegant surroundings of our restaurant where you can enjoy freshly baked scones or a light lunch. For that all-important gift, you will find something in our showroom which is stocked with a wide selection of home and giftware, including some visitor centre exclusives that can only be purchased at Belleek Pottery.

Check our website [www.belleekpottery.ie](http://www.belleekpottery.ie) for tour times or call Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre on + 44 (0)28 6865 9300. You can also keep up-to-date with other events at Belleek Pottery by checking out Belleek Pottery on Facebook.

## Romance and a warm welcome at Inchydoney

Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa is Irish-owned and operated with kindness since 1998.

It is located just outside the colourful heritage town of Clonakilty in West Cork, a region blessed with some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and a Blue Flag beach, the resort has long been appreciated for its romantic and picturesque location.

A warm welcome awaits you in one of Ireland's most exclusive and tranquil retreats, a true destination for people who value time together.





## The Burren Smokehouse

If you've ever wondered how the royals eat, look no further than The Burren Smokehouse where fresh Celtic flavours are blended with Nordic know-how to create sublime smoked salmon, rainbow trout and mackerel. Birgitta Hedin-Curtin and her husband Peter set up the operation almost 30 years ago, and it now supplies some of Ireland's top restaurants, while also attracting the attention and custom of Fortnum & Masons, Selfridges and Harrods.

Their success can be tied to their focus on securing the very best local, organic and sustainably fished fish at the precise times of year when they are at their prime and full of rich, natural flavours. Most people are familiar with the unique texture and flavour of cold-smoked salmon, but the Burren Smokehouse also hot smoke theirs to create a rich, flaky fish that bursts with smokey salmony taste and offers a deliciously versatile alternative to the traditional variety.

In addition to the shop, which also stocks honeys, local cheeses, chocolates, teas, wines, chutneys and jams, you'll find a visitor centre where you can discover more about the smoking process and savour different kinds of smoked fish as you go.

## The Buttery, Bedford Row, Limerick

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Great fun and good times; we're quirky and passionate about fantastic food and service which'll put a smile on your face. All our produce is carefully sourced locally, when possible, and we are always trying to lessen our impact on the planet.

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# Just having the Craic!

By Liz O'Brien



**W**e Irish are a funny lot. Full to the brim with tall tales and odd phrases, we're never short of something to say – we even have an Irish twist on the English language! In the land of Saints and Scholars there are plenty of sayings, customs and words that you don't have to be a saint, or a scholar to know...but they are fun.

## Sayings:

*Having the craic* - having fun

*Mug of scald* - cup of tea

*Up to my oxters* - I am very busy!

*He's on fire* - he's doing really well

*She's not a patch on you* - she's not as good as you

*That's a different kettle of fish* - when comparing one situation to another

*Made a bags of it* - made a mistake

*I will yea* – this means “I definitely won't.” We're big into our sarcasm here!

*A whale of a time* - usually used after a night out.

*Happy out* – just means happy.

*Jammy beggar* - someone who has got lucky

## Words:

**The jacks:** If you ask someone for the restroom, you'll confuse the natives. It's either called “the toilet,” or even

more commonly “the jacks.” In pubs, the genders are often written in Irish on toilet doors. So you have the “fir jacks” (men) and the “ban jacks” (women). Not to be confused with “banjaxed,” which means something is broken.

**Quare:** An odd pronunciation of “queer,” used as a replacement for “very.”

**The press:** A press is a cupboard in Ireland. However, the “hotpress” is the airing cupboard.

**Wrecked:** If you're very tired. Normally used after a big night out.

**The boot:** The trunk of in a car.

**Minerals:** This is what we call soft drinks.

**Chips:** In Ireland, chips are crisps and French fries are chips.

**A jumper:** Sweaters, or pullovers, are called jumpers in Ireland.

**The messages:** The messages are what some Irish people call the groceries.

**Ossified:** Very drunk.

## Did you know?

### Ireland's national emblem is the harp

The harp is the only musical instrument used as a national emblem in the world. The world's oldest known harp dates back to the 1300s and it's on display in Trinity College, Dublin. The harp is also the symbol for Guinness.





### St Patrick is Ireland's male patron saint

Saint Patrick is not only the patron saint of Ireland, but he is also the patron saint of Australia, Nigeria, and Montserrat, which gives him a universal recognition in the Church and in the world.

According to a legend, Saint Patrick used the shamrock to try to explain how there can be three divine persons in one God, because there are three leaves in one stem on the shamrock.

Patrick is also the one who left us with the Celtic Cross. When he began to evangelise, he found that many of the pagans had worshiped the sun and so he incorporated the sun into the Latin Cross.

Likewise, when he met the Druids, who worshiped a sacred standing stone that was marked with a circle which was symbolic of the moon goddess, he incorporated that also. The Celtic Cross is now world famous and almost every country celebrates their Irish links on March 17 every year.

### St Brigid is Ireland's female patron saint

Her feast day takes place on February 1st, the first day of spring in ancient Ireland. While converting a dying chieftain to Christianity on his deathbed, St Brigid is said to have made a cross from wild reeds, to explain to him the story of Christ's crucifixion.

This became known as Saint Brigid's Cross - even though it is more likely to have originated before Christianity even came to Ireland. It was believed the cross would protect a house from fire. St Brigid's crosses are a still common sight in Irish homes today.

### Stop the clocks

According to folklore, when someone died at home the clocks would be stopped and mirrors covered. Some people believe that stopping the clock was to mark the exact time the loved one had died. The clock would be set to go again, after the funeral.

### Shrove/Pancake Tuesday

Before Pancake Tuesday got its name, it was called Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday marks the final day of eating well before the feast of Lent.

According to folklore, the time between the Epiphany and Lent was the most traditional time for marriage. So, any eligible, unmarried men and women were traditionally ridiculed and stigmatised on Shrove Tuesday, just for being single!



## Hotel city chic at The Ice House

Perched on the banks of the Moy, with stunning views across the river and out to the Wild Atlantic Way, The Ice House whisks all stress away.

A world away from the city, it feels like a happening hotspot in a bubble that's all your own. Think eclectic style, laid-back buzz and brilliant flavour in a place of unhurried peace and easy natural beauty. A visit to the Ice House is an escape to the extraordinary.

<https://www.icehousehotel.ie/>

## The Savoy Hotel: Beyond Your Expectation

Perfectly placed and set within vibrant shopping and theatre district of Limerick City, The Savoy is Limerick's most celebrated and glamorous 5\* luxury hotel.

It boasts 92 lavishly appointed rooms and suites which feature luxurious marble bathrooms and all the little extras one could hope for. For relaxation or exercise, indulgent spa treatments, gym, and a private pool are also available.

The Savoy is a destination for food lovers and drink connoisseurs alike: a choice of five stylish restaurants and bars offer something to suit all tastes. Dine informally in the New York Style Hamptons Bar and Grill, where an imaginative extensive menu of sustainable, fresh fare is on offer from lunchtime until night.

The Savoy Restaurant on the first floor with its distinct relaxed atmosphere and elegant, airy décor, is just perfect to enjoy dinner with friends and family, or have a tasty working lunch with colleagues.

Surrounded by some of Ireland's most scenic landscapes, The Savoy provides the perfect location from which to discover, and be a part of, life in Limerick. Explore many famous Irish landmarks, theatrical and sporting events, only a short walk or taxi-ride away from your base at The Savoy.



## Explore Connemara from Ballynahinch base

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel & Estate is set on 700 acres in the heart of Connemara, with 48 bedrooms and suites. Enjoy lunch in the Fisherman's Pub, dinner in the elegant Owenmore Restaurant or, at the weekend, treat yourself to afternoon tea. On-site activities include walking trails, cycling, fly-fishing and more. We are also the perfect base for exploring the Wild Atlantic Way & Galway.

Tel: + 353 95 31006 | Email: [info@ballynahinch-castle.com](mailto:info@ballynahinch-castle.com) | [www.ballynahinch-castle.com](http://www.ballynahinch-castle.com)



## Dromoland Castle is the pinnacle of excellence

Arriving at Dromoland Castle, guests are greeted by a handsome baronial façade resplendent with turret and towers; a powerful reminder that this iconic hotel holds a significant place in Ireland's history.

It is the ancestral home of the O'Brien's of Dromoland, whose lineage dates back 1,000 years to Brian Boru, one of the last High Kings of Ireland. The pinnacle of excellence, they've been welcoming guests to Dromoland Castle since 1963.

The imposing baronial façade wraps around a startling interior that seamlessly marries historic opulence with five-star finesse. The multi-million-dollar refurbishment has seen them revamp every space in the castle, from the fabulous Gallery and Library Bar, to the outstanding bedrooms and suites, which have been tricked out in a soothing contemporary palette.

The 16th Century stronghold sits in a 450-acre estate that offers guests the perfect opportunity to enjoy Irish country life.





## Michael Collins House

Michael Collins House, Clonakilty is a museum dedicated to Michael Collins and the story of Irish independence; offering an insight into the life of 'The Big Fella' and much more. History is brought to life through guided tours, interactive displays, audio visuals, original artefacts and much more. An affordable, educational and entertaining experience that is suitable for all ages. For more information contact 023-8858676, email [info@michaelcollinshouse.ie](mailto:info@michaelcollinshouse.ie) or visit [www.michaelcollinshouse.ie](http://www.michaelcollinshouse.ie)



## The Aqua Dome

The Aqua Dome is one of Ireland's largest indoor waterworlds and premier tourist attractions, located on the Wild Atlantic Way. The Aqua Dome offers tropical temperatures all year round and is a great day out for all the family whatever the weather. It is brimming with exciting features that captures the imagination of both child and adult alike. The Aqua Dome is fun for swimmers & non-swimmers. Located alongside the Aqua Dome is the Aqua Golf which is an 18-hole miniature golf course, which is great fun to play. Just Let Yourself Go.....



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# THE TEXAS STEAKOUT

## GOOD HONEST HEARTY FOOD SINCE 1989

Back in 1989, when the idea of the Steakout was conceived, there were very few restaurants in Limerick City. It was a gamble to open a restaurant with a Western theme and located in a basement was also a huge gamble. Thankfully, it was exactly what the Limerick people were looking for and, they responded accordingly. Back then their Waiting Staff were attired in full Cowboy/Cowgirl regalia, complete with Stetsons, Guns and Holsters! This caused quite a stir and was a great talking point in Limerick at that time. Kids were especially fascinated and spent more time playing with the Staff than eating their food! Today, not much has changed



except they've grown in size, so pop in to visit them on 116 O'Connell Street, Limerick, and

discover for yourself the great food and excellent hospitality that awaits.

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