

FREE

Go Wild On the Lakes

A VOYAGE OF
DISCOVERY

IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

THINGS TO
SEE AND DO

ON IRELAND'S LAKELANDS

WESTMEATH

LINKING IRELAND'S WEST & EAST



Image: wAthlone Castle



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Publisher's Note

Welcome to our new magazine 'Go Wild On the Lakes and Hidden Heartland's which, showcases all of the amazing things to do and places to see, in the heart of Ireland.

The beautiful Lakelands is one area that is, perhaps, less well-known to visitors- but hopefully this magazine will give you a greater insight into the delights that await you- from Fermanagh to Killaloe - on Ireland's waterways.

Combining the Lakelands and Fáilte Ireland's new tourism initiative, the Hidden Heartlands has provided our team with a beautiful challenge; one each member has enjoyed fulfilling with exciting editorials and magical discoveries. We hope that the information contained within this title will enhance your stay in Ireland.

To download all of our Go Wild Tourism, Go Wild Dublin , Go Ancient East, Go Wild On The Lakes, and Go Wild Food Experience magazines titles directly to your device, please visit [http://www. Gowildmagazine.com](http://www.Gowildmagazine.com)

Have a wonderful holiday and a fabulous lakeland's experience

Céad Míle Fáilte,

Bobby Power

Publisher

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To download all of our Go Wild Tourism, Go Ancient East, Go Wild On The Lakes, and two Go Wild Food Experience magazines titles directly to your device, please visit <http://www.issuu.com/gowildmagazine>



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For all the latest news, visit www.gowildmagazine.com – your official guide to the Wild Atlantic Way

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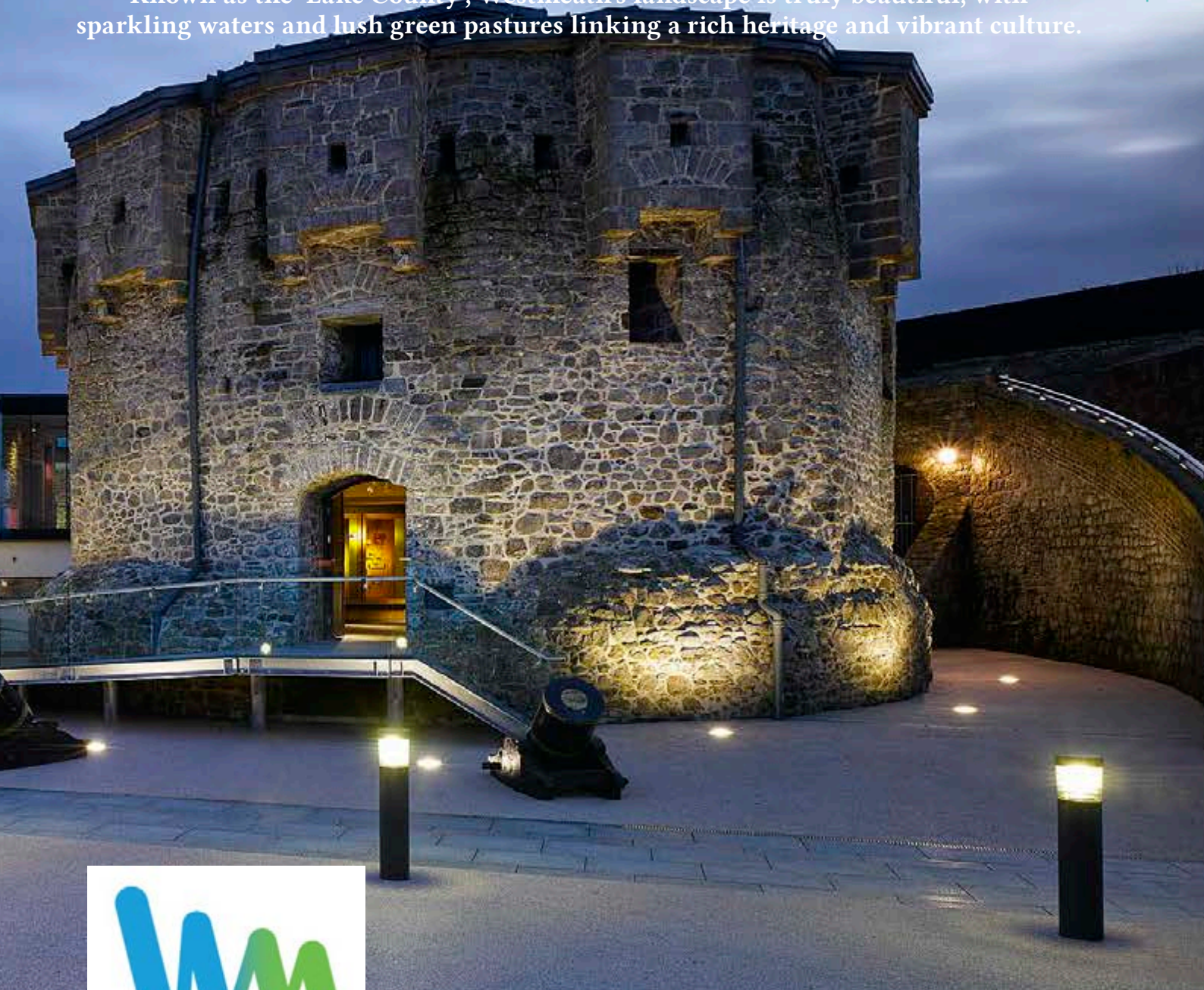




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**Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS**



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For walkers and cyclists, Westmeath is a haven. Choose from two great greenways, or looped walking trails through ancient lands, native woodlands and scenic lakeshores. Or immerse yourself in nature and enjoy our native wildlife from the water itself. Where the mighty river Shannon flows into Lough Ree, Athlone offers leisurely cruises, watersports, bird watching, angling and the legendary Viking Boat Tour. On the Shannon

Banks, in this lively cultural town, you'll find award-winning restaurants and cafes, Athlone Castle with its interactive exhibits and panoramic views and the Luan Gallery, featuring visual artists from home and abroad. Lough Ennell and Lough Owel are also popular spots for watersports and angling and the Royal Canal Greenway links these majestic lakes with the bustling town of Mullingar. Belvedere House Gardens and Park on the shores

of Lough Ennell is a must-visit, with its beautifully restored Georgian Villa, Victorian Walled Garden and woodland walking trails. Lough Derravaragh is integral to Irish mythology, as the lake where the legendary tale of the Children of Lir took place. Close by this mystical lake, you will find Tullynally Castle and Gardens, Castlepollard, an ornate estate with gardens and tea rooms that you won't want to leave.

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IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS IS 'YOURS TO UNCOVER' THIS SUMMER

Domestic Campaign shines a light on Ireland's central heartlands

Fáilte Ireland's Summer advertising campaign for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands highlights the region as the perfect place to take a short break. The multi-media brand awareness campaign, worth €550,000, will run on TV, outdoor, radio and digital channels, showcasing how Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is 'Yours to Uncover'.

Over the coming weeks, audiences across Ireland will see some of the unique experiences, natural beauty and treasures Ireland's Hidden Heartlands has to offer. The campaign features the Shannon and its Lakes, the Beara Breifne Way, Lough Oughter, Lough Key, as well as the many woodlands and bogs throughout the region

The campaign will run through to 21st July, culminating in a two-week partnership with RTE Radio 1's The Ray D'Arcy Show which will see Ray broadcast from Clare, Longford, Leitrim, Cavan and Offaly from 8th – 12th July.

Paddy Mathews, Fáilte Ireland's Head of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, said: "Our Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand has been incredibly well received by the industry and resonated strongly during research in our target markets. It is tapping into a growing tourism trend for soft activities by encouraging visitors to be 'active in nature' and to explore the region by going off the beaten track. The brand's appeal also very much lies in its offer for visitors to get away from the stresses and pressures of modern life and to experience the tranquillity of rural Ireland.



"Over the coming weeks, through our domestic brand awareness campaign, we will be reinforcing Ireland's Hidden Heartlands as a key part of a brand in the Irish tourism offering that presents Irish consumers with compelling reasons to consider the region for their future travel plans."

The Irish domestic holiday market is a very important component of the tourism sector providing year around activity worth over €1.1bn. Fáilte Ireland's marketing division invested over €8-million in developing and delivering creative and effective media content to bolster the home holiday market in 2018 delivering 15 bespoke fully integrated campaigns promoting the four experience brands, (Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Dublin and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands), festivals and activities.

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is the newest regional experience brand for Ireland and was unveiled

in April 2018. The brand aim is to bring to life the Midlands rich natural assets including its many lakes, walkways and blueways.

Mr. Mathews continued:

"While this brand will need to evolve over time to realise its full potential, the area has some strong assets and Fáilte Ireland is working closely with key partners and communities across the region to begin developing the top-class visitor experiences that will be key to unlocking the success of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands."

The two central spines of the region are the River Shannon and the Beara Breifne Way, and Fáilte Ireland is focusing on how those two major assets can be developed to bring visitor experiences of scale to the region. This will involve identifying the range of products and experiences with strong potential along the routes as well as areas where there is a lack of product on the ground, and how this can be addressed.

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	Killimer to Tarbert		Tarbert to Killimer
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● ● ●	09:00	-	09:30
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● ● ●	*21:00	-	*21:30

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Experience the Lough Derg Blueway

With summer here, it's time to plan the next few weeks of fun and activities. Whether you're a family, a couple, or travel independently, Lough Derg will provide you with more than enough adventure to keep you going! With its blissful, blue, clear water and beautiful, dramatic surrounding countryside, the **Lough Derg Blueway** stretches across three Irish counties - Clare, Tipperary and Galway - each with its own list of activities, trails and loops to explore.

Best of all, you can do it your way - by canoe, paddle board, under sail, cruising, by bicycle or by foot. North, south, east and west, we simply can't choose a favourite, so you'll have an exciting and fulfilling holiday no matter where you go!

If you really can't decide, here are Go Wild's highlights along the **Lough Derg Blueway**.

Northern Highlights: Portumna, Terryglass and Lorrha

The northern part of the lake has plenty to offer, from walking to kayaking, driving to horse-riding. There are plenty of ways to enjoy this part of Lough Derg and more activities than you can fit into a weekend.

If you're looking for a good hike, there's no shortage of beautiful trails in **Portumna Forest Park**, with a range of

different hike lengths so you can find one suited to your family or group, and many are bike trails also.

Don't pass up the chance to watch beautiful white-tailed eagles from a bird hide in the forest - if you're lucky enough to see them, it's an inspiring experience.

Visit **Portumna Castle** to bring you back in time to the 17th Century and why not recharge in the tea rooms while enjoying some delicious treats in the historical surroundings on the castle grounds?

There's plenty in the way of accommodation up this side of the lake too, but if you're looking for something a little bit different, check out the 'glamping' facilities at Podumna. The little wooden pods offer a unique experience, with all the fun and feel of a woodland setting in a convenient town central location and bikes for rent too.

Don't miss the opportunity to try kayaking in Terryglass with **Lough Derg Water Sports**. Learn from the experts as you tour around the beautiful harbour and lake at your own pace. The harbour also offers an excellent playground and the country village is home to two welcoming bars with restaurants.

Lorrha Monastic Village is just a short spin from the lake and is home to awe inspiring ecclesiastical ruins, well worth a visit and try to catch a local tour while you are there to hear the ancient tales of the area, or sit back and take in the pace of life with a cup of tea at the community cafe.

Eastern promise: Garrykennedy, Nenagh and Dromineer

Dromineer is a beautiful place to gaze across Lough Derg, listening to the water lapping and the clinking of the dinghies in the small harbour. Stroll beside the boats, let the



children loose in the playground, or at nearby **Aquasplash** in Dromineer, an inflatable water park operating in the summer months; or relax at a nearby café, bar and restaurant. **Brocka on the Water** provides a unique dining experience and there are lovely walks in the vicinity of the restaurant.

There is a wonderful sense of heritage at Garrykennedy; the castle frames the scenic harbour and reminds the visitor that the lake has been a strategic place for many centuries. This area is perfect for casual strolling close to the water in the woods, or along the harbour, watching the yachts and cruisers come and go. There are two lovely traditional Irish pubs in the idyllic village, and **Larkin's** serves some top-notch food. Visit on a Sunday if you can as they have great traditional music in the evenings and additionally on Wednesdays in summer. If you fancy a cycle, then follow the North Tipperary Cycle Routes that take in Nenagh, Terryglass, Garrykennedy, Cloughjordan and Borrisokane. Don't miss the chance to climb the 101 steps to the top of the majestic **Nenagh Castle**; while surveying your surroundings, and you'll see Lough Derg and beyond in the distance.

The Lough Derg area has a rightly deserved reputation for gastronomy - options for fine dining or grazing at a farmer's market are equally catered for through **A Taste of Lough Derg** in September (www.discoverloughderg.ie). If you've only time for one walk in this part of the lake then make it the **Arra Mountain Loop** (six hours). Travelling over tarmac, bog roads, farm tracks, gravel paths and fields, it winds past the northern edge of the SlieveArra. It is a strenuous walk with some climbing, so it's not for the faint of heart! There are wooden steps up most of Laghtea Hill but stick with it and you will be rewarded with spectacular views of Lough Derg.

Our top destination picks around Lough Derg

- Holy Island
- Castletough
- Nenagh Castle
- Lookout at Portroe
- Portumna Forest Park
- Portumna Castle
- Two-Mile-Gate
- Aistear Park
- Tountinna
- Saint Cronan's Church, Tuamgraney
- St Flannan's Cathedral

For your holiday photo, stop off at **The Lookout** in Portroe offering panoramic views of Lough Derg and take a trip down to Castletough for a swim in the lake, or stroll in the woods, where fairy doors adorn the trees. All of that is before you even consider the kayaking, horse-riding, stand-up paddling, cycling and variety of other activities on offer around Lough Derg!

Southern Sights: Ballycuggeran, Killaloe/Ballina

In Killaloe/Ballina, Lough Derg is in the centre of everything; it bustles with sailing boats and cruisers and echoes with the clink of halyards on masts. If you want to unwind and relax then experience the area from the water in the comfort of **Killaloe River Cruises**. Enjoy a different perspective of Killaloe from the water by contacting **Soulkite Stand Up Paddling** to arrange a trip



Joe McGrath, Chief Executive,
Lough Derg Marketing Group

The award-winning Lough Derg Marketing Group develops and promotes the beautiful inland destination of Lough Derg through a collaborative process which includes local authorities and local representatives from counties Clare, Galway and Tipperary as well as key national and regional agencies. The group has been responsible for steering a number of innovative projects in the region and successfully launched the Lough Derg Blueway in 2018 with a series of activity maps and promotions to highlight the many tourism providers around the lake. The 2019 season is well and truly underway with a great buzz of activity in the region and we

look forward to supporting the inaugural Quest Lough Derg Adventure Race in September. We are particularly looking forward to 'A Taste of Lough Derg', which will also take place in September, the series of events is an annual celebration of the rich culture of food and drink on the lakeshore. Excitement is also building with Lough Derg being identified as a key hub in the new Fáilte Ireland proposition 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands', which focuses on the natural assets in the area and the wide range of opportunities to get 'active in nature'. We welcome you to discover this unique part of our island.

along the Shannon and the picturesque paddle out in a canoe with **My Next Adventure**.

There are significant architectural and heritage sites close to Killaloe/Ballina. You can undertake a self-guided tour of this historic area, or be guided by a local if you'd like to hear all the unusual stories. The tour includes the 13th Century **St Flannan's Cathedral** with its Ogham stone carvings, Romanesque doorway and the tomb of Muirheartaigh, the last O'Brien to be High King of Ireland. Killaloe is also home to two oratories – named after St. Flannan and St. Lua.

The twin towns are home to elegant boutiques, bakeries, artisan shops and galleries - making it the perfect location to explore the old and the new. There is a beautiful riverside park and seasonal outdoor swimming pool, plenty of moorings for cruisers, and the jetty offers a platform to fish from.

There are many enticing eateries dotted around the twin towns, making it difficult to choose, but The **Wooden Spoon, Goosers, Tuscany and Flanagan's** are hard to pass by!

With the beautiful newly renovated rooms at The Lakeside Hotel; its well worth treating yourself to a night in this well appointed accommodation if you can

Wonderful West: Two-Mile-Gate, Scarriff, Mountshannon

Who says you need to go to the coast to visit the beach? Lough Derg has three Blue Flags, and one of these is at Two-Mile-Gate, a little lakeside beach where you can dip your toe or go for a swim. Here, you can stop off to enjoy a picnic on the boats and just across the road is Ballycuggeran Woods, impressive oak wood with looped walks and panoramic views of Lough Derg from its highest point. Scarriff and Tuamgraney are beautiful historical villages with a marvellous woollen mill and chocolate factory - just two of the hidden gems you might find. Trips out on the lake are offered at Scarriff Harbour with **Derg Boat Trips**.

If you head for Mountshannon, there's another Blue Flag beach here, but this time, travel out across the lake to **Holy Island** with local guide Gerard Madden of Holy Island Tours. You can spend a half day here walking amongst its six ruined churches and round tower while keeping a lookout for the local white-tailed sea eagles, which were reintroduced to the area in 2012. This is a breathtaking experience, but bring wellies - it's mucky in places! Across from the harbour, you can go for a walk through

the quirky and beautiful **Aistear** park in Mountshannon. Run through the maze and along the paths overlooking the lake, or travel along the labyrinth. The wildness and beauty of this area have attracted many skilled artists and provides a diverse range of crafts, paintings, bog oak sculptures and mosaics for gifts and take-home memories. Some of these artists offer workshops as well, so you might even pick up a skill!

For an alternative view, try discovering the great outdoors and beautiful nature of Lough Derg on horseback with a guided tour with **An Sibin Riding Centre** in Whitegate. Enjoy a combination of visiting the ancient Irish castles, and monastic ruins with a lovely guided trail ride through Irish bogs, fields and local farmland.

A Taste of Lough Derg:

The lakeside towns of Lough Derg are renowned for their impressive array of award-winning restaurants, cafes, pubs and speciality food shops, all offering a famously warm, Irish welcome. Catch one of the many food events that take place around the lake with A Taste of Lough Derg. A month long series of events will take place in September to celebrate the food producers and tourism providers of the region. A Taste of Lough Derg will have everything from special events in local restaurants to gin cruises to chocolate tasting workshops!

For a chance to meet some of the area's food gurus, look no further than the many farmer and country markets that take place throughout the year in Killaloe, Scarriff, Mountshannon, Nenagh, Portumna and Terryglass, with a special lakeside harvest market taking place in Ballinderry in September; following the Lakeshore Community Markets Summer series.

Help planning your next trip:

For some inspiration and to help you plan your trip to Lough Derg in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, visit www.discoverloughderg.ie, where you'll find details of accommodation and activity providers and some special offers too.



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THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN ATHLONE

The bustling town of Athlone sits on the boundaries of two counties - Westmeath and Roscommon - and is very popular as a destination for touring holidays.

With a wide range of attractions, high quality accommodation and modern restaurants, Athlone has a character and local vibrancy all of its own.

Known as a 'Gateway to the West', Athlone's location on the River Shannon makes it a popular stop for pleasure boats and cruises. An ideal place for adventure-based holidays, this busy and prosperous town has activities that cater for all the family.

The town's riverside location (opening onto nearby Lough Ree) is the cornerstone of its attraction and the source of its natural beauty. Athlone is proud to be the centre of Shannon Cruising and its hire boats are available for day trips and longer tours. Other activities in the area include walking, angling, cycling and golfing.

Athlone's theatrical scene is varied: There are three theatres - the Dean Crowe Theatre & Arts Centre, the Little Theatre and Passionfruit Theatre have interesting programmes for all ages.

The RTÉ All-Ireland Drama Festival takes place annually in the town, bringing together amateur drama groups from across Ireland. Street theatre, art exhibitions, workshops, and events for young people are all part of the festival, making it an exciting time to visit Athlone.

The Athlone Literary Festival is an annual event, which began in 1999, originally as a weekend celebration of the life and works of John Broderick, but which now features a great variety of speakers and debaters.

With exciting festivals, excellent shopping facilities and great access to water sports and adventures, Athlone is a fantastic town and the perfect base for your holiday in Ireland this year.

VISITOR FARMS

Glendeer Pet Farm, in County Westmeath, is an interactive experience where people can see, feed and pet animals. Animals include deer, pot belly pigs, llamas, emu, ostrich, goats, donkeys, sheep, monkeys, wallabies and tortoises.

LOUGH REE YACHT CLUB

Lough Ree Yacht Club in Athlone, County Westmeath is the second oldest sailing club in the world.

THE PALACE BAR

Open every Thursday to Sunday, with late bars every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Palace Bar has become known as Athlone's live music venue.

BAYSPORTS

Baysports is a water adventure centre on the shores of the majestic Lough Ree.

ATHLONE CASTLE VISITOR CENTRE

Athlone Castle in Westmeath is a 12th Century castle and family-friendly attraction in the heart of Ireland. See Athlone's history, people, castle and battles explored and brought to life at Athlone Castle Visitor Centre with modern exhibitions.

GERTIE BROWNE'S BAR

Gertie Browne's is famous in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. It has a live music session on Monday nights and is always full to the brim.

MULLINGAR - ATHLONE - OLD RAIL TRAIL GREENWAY

The Old Rail Trail is a rural route through the heart of the Irish midlands connecting the bustling town of Athlone with the market town of Mullingar, passing through the town of Moate.

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IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ireland has unveiled 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' as its latest new tourism brand - designed to boost tourism and drive visitor growth across the Midlands region

1 - It's all about getting active in nature

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands has been developed to offer a distinctive flavour of Ireland, complementing Fáilte Ireland's other three brands – Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin.

It will leverage a growing tourism trend for soft activities (outdoor activities combined with nature or cultural element) by encouraging visitors to be 'active in nature' and to explore the region through a range of activities including walking, food, cycling, fishing, and boating routes.

2 - There's a lot more to do and see in the Midlands than you might imagine

We know there is a growing tourism trend for soft activities and the Midlands has an excellent basis to provide this. It has abundant natural assets including its many lakes, walkways and blueways.

Whether it's cruising the Shannon, walking Beara Breifne Way, exploring Lough Key Forest, or taking an electric bike trail in Leitrim, there is something for everyone. Not to mention the vast amount of activities like boating and fishing offered by the region's many lakes - including Lough Derg and Lough Allen.

Complementing these activities is a wealth of culture to explore, from the Arigna Mines or Strokestown Park House in Roscommon, as well as the Castles at Athlone and Birr and the sacred site of Clonmacnoise. With a vast range of accommodation and restaurants in the locality, the Midlands has excellent potential to become the ideal location for a holiday to get away from it all.

3 - If the Wild Atlantic Way is 'primitive landscapes' and Ireland's Ancient East is 'history', Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is 'a gentle exploration in nature'

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is all about being active in nature. This gives the area its distinctive aspect of Ireland's tourism offering compared to the other regional destination brands.

The assets in the area deliver an authentic experience that allows visitors to get off the beaten track and explore unique waterways, roads and trails at a gentle pace – a chance to relax and recalibrate with friends and loved ones.



TAKE THAT! STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING, WITH SOULKITE, AT KILLALOE, CO. CLARE



AN EMERALD STAR SHANNON CRUISE, PORTUMNA, CO. GALWAY

“ Whether it’s cruising the Shannon, walking Beara Breifne Way, exploring Lough Key Forest, or taking an electric bike trail in Leitrim - there is something for everyone.”

4 - The investment in the new brand starts today

Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands will now become a tourism development zone with Fáilte Ireland allocating significant investment and resources across the region. The first round of investment will help to develop visitor experiences and the development of infrastructure, tourism products, services and marketing. Over the next few years, significant investment will be required to create new (and boost existing) attractions in the region to unleash the brand’s full potential.

5 - You will see the first advertising for the new brand this summer

Fáilte Ireland plans to launch the new regional experience brand to a domestic audience this summer. This comprehensive through-the-line campaign will build awareness of the area as a visitor destination amongst Irish and Northern Irish consumers while showcasing some of the many attractions and experiences available to visitors.



FAMILY FUN AT ZIPIT, LOUGH KEY FOREST AND ACTIVITY PARK, BOYLE, CO. ROSCOMMON



CYCLISTS ENJOYING A SPECTACULAR VIEW OVERLOOKING LOUGH DERG

ROSCOMMON CASTLE, CO. ROSCOMMON

Roscommon Castle, to the north of the town, was built by the Normans in 1269 and four years later was captured by the Irish and raised to the ground, to be rebuilt in 1280.



LEGENDS OF LOUGH DERG

Lough Derg, 'the lake of the bloody eye' is the southern-most lake on the River Shannon - it spans 32,000 acres and is a fully navigable waterway.

Why the 'bloody eye'? Poets held huge power in ancient Ireland and were sometimes merciless.

A king living near the lake, Eochy Mac Luchta, had only one eye - having lost his other one in battle. A famous poet, Aithirne, visited him but on leaving, asked for the remaining eye. People were frightened and superstitious of poets and their power so the king immediately, without question, plucked it out and gave it to Aithirne.

As he washed the blood from his face, the lake turned red. The king proclaimed that the lake be called 'Loch Dergdheirc', the 'lake of the bloody eye' as it is still known today.

The lake is surrounded by woods, rocky beaches and filled with wooded isles, giving it a feeling of enchantment. There are picturesque towns and villages situated along the banks of the lakes, which are steeped in history.

Killaloe was founded by St Molua, an Irish priest from the 6th Century, who had been trained in the same monastery at Bangor, Co. Down, as Columba and Gall. His original oratory stands in the grounds of St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe.

The lower part of the lake is flanked by Ballycuggaran and Tountinna. Ballycuggaran, or Baile Ni Chogairain, was named after the O'Cuggarans who were an important family in the court of Brian Boru. It is situated on Crag Hill overlooking Lough Derg.

There is a fort - the reputed home of the O'Briens and birthplace of St Flannan - on the southern side of Crag which dates back to the early Christian period.

At the highest point of Ballycuggaran is Aoibheal's Rock, which is the mythical home of Aoibheal the fairy queen of the O'Briens. Great oak woods originally covered these hills but they were cut down to fire iron furnaces in East Clare and for shipbuilding.

Tountinna can be translated as the 'Hill of the Waves' and according to legend, when the great floods came, the only survivors were the people



living on this hill. On this side of this mountain are the remains of a megalithic tomb which is thought to date from no later than the Bronze Age.

Legend has it that a high status Leinster king was killed here with a small group of his men early in the 11th Century. There are differing accounts of what happened. One is that the Leinster men were in Kincora to pay Brian Boru tribute, but become involved in a dispute over a chess game. After they departed, they were caught by Brian Boru's men and following a skirmish - were killed.

The other story is that the king was ambushed, with his men, on his way to marry Brian Boru's daughter by a group sent by Brian Boru's wife Cormfhlaith, who didn't approve of the match.

However, in reality this grave was created 3,000 years before the birth of Brian Boru and very little is known of those who built it.

Inis Cealtra, Holy Island, is situated off the western shore of Lough Derg. It was once a monastic settlement founded by St Colum in 520CE, but is uninhabited today. A second monastery was founded by St Caimin and became a famous school of learning.

In 836, Vikings - led by Turgesius - visited the island and killed many of the monks. In 922, another Viking attack took place under the leadership of Tomran. Brian Boru's brother Marcan was Bishop-Abbot of Tuamgreaney and Inis Cealtra until his death in 1003.

There is an Irish Round Tower and the ruins of some small churches, four high crosses and a holy well also to be found on the island. The island, having been part of County Clare, was transferred to County Galway in 1849 as part of Griffith's Valuations. However, it was transferred back to Clare in 1899 under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.



There are several ecclesiastical ruins on the island:

- The Pilgrim's Path is a low curved ironwork that lies between St Michael's and St Caimin's Church.
- The Baptism Church is a small Romanesque church enclosed by a stone wall. This church was blown down in 1839 and rebuilt as a house and iron works.
- The only roofed building on the island is St Caimin's Church, which dates back to the 10th Century. Inside the church are monuments, crosses, a sundial and gravestones.
- St Mary's Church ruins contain graves and an O'Brien tomb and dates from the 13th Century.
- The ruins of a small building, which has the appearance of a church, is known as St Michael's Church. It was marked as 'Garaigh Mhicheail' (Michael's Garden) on old Ordnance Survey maps and was most probably a burial ground for unbaptised children, a cilin.
- Dr Liam de Paor surveyed The Round Tower

and it was restored between 1970 and 1980.

During this restoration work, the tower's cone cap wasn't found - which implied that the tower had never been finished. This fits with the local legend that a beautiful witch had entranced and distracted the stonemason.

- The Saints' Graveyard can be accessed through the 19th Century graveyard. The inscriptions on these 11th Century markers are in Irish.

Bushy Island is situated off the coast of Mountshannon on the west shores of Lough Derg. It is home to a breeding pair of white-tailed sea eagles, Saoirse and Caimin. They created history in 2013, becoming the first pair in 110 years to successfully rear chicks and teach them to fly from their nest. There is a viewing point in Mountshannon by the busy harbour where these magnificent birds can be observed.

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An American Perspective *John Driscoll* *of Frazer Capital* *and Frazer Ferries*



BOSTON 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 casual 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 O'Driscoll's 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.carlingfordferry.com
www.loughfoyleferry.com
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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.

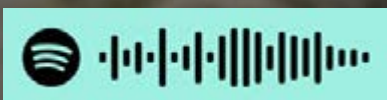
Oh, Grace, just hold me in your arms and let this moment linger,
They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.
With all my love, I place this wedding ring upon your finger,
There won't be time to share our love for we must say good-bye.

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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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

Minister 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.NY (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.NY, 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.



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THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN MULLINGAR

Mullingar has a lot to offer visitors to Ireland—as a thriving town it has great options for shopping and dining, while its theatre scene and sports calendar is always exciting. Its location in County Westmeath makes it an ideal base for exploring the beautiful neighbouring lakes of Lough Owel, Lough Ennell and Lough Derravaragh, which attract many anglers. The town's most notable building is the Cathedral of Christ the King. The cathedral was dedicated on the day World War II broke out and now houses a museum that exhibits vestments worn by St Oliver Plunkett and a ring belonging to Marie Antoinette—the mosaic murals inside the cathedral are the work of famed Russian artist Boris Anrep.

The Stables is Mullingar's most well-known music venue, running since the '80s. The club hosts a wide variety of music and has featured well-known performers over the years. Mullingar's theatre scene is also vibrant: the annual pantomime books out early every year and several drama groups operate locally. The town has several hotels: the Greville Arms has a historical connection with James Joyce that is commemorated on the premises. Visit its rooftop garden to view a large granite monument which formerly stood at Dominick Street. For golf enthusiasts, Mullingar Golf Club hosts the Mullingar Scratch Cup every August bank holiday weekend. As a leading amateur golf competition, it's been won by Rory McIlroy, Hughie Myres, Des Smyth, Pádraig Harrington and Darren Clarke, amongst others. Further afield, Belvedere House and Gardens outside Mullingar is famous for its architectural beauty and well designed gardens—perfect for a family picnic in summer months. For visitors looking for a modern base from which to explore the surrounding countryside, Mullingar has it all—from sporting facilities to quality hotels, restaurants to nightlife, you'll certainly find the ingredients for a great holiday in Ireland.

MULLINGAR TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Meet the staff who are experts in offering advice on having the best experiences in Ireland. A one stop shop for information on local and national activities, attractions, events and tours with a selection of free guides and maps available.

ÁRAS AN MHUILINN REGIONAL COMHALTAS CENTRE

Áras an Mhuilinn, situated at the bottom of Mount Street in Mullingar, is a state of the art cultural facility in which traditional music, dance and Irish language classes are run on a weekly basis.

BELVEDERE HOUSE GARDENS AND PARK

Belvedere House and Gardens in County Westmeath is a restored country estate with 160 acres of parkland. Built in 1740 as a hunting lodge for the Earl of Belvedere, it boasts Ireland's largest folly, the Jealous Wall, a stunning Gothic ruin.

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CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING

The Cathedral of Christ the King is found in the heart of Mullingar, County Westmeath. The beautiful cathedral was designed in a modernised Renaissance style and opened in 1936. The building includes a museum with interesting historical artefacts.

MOLLIE MOO'S PET FARM

Mollie Moo's Pet Farm is a fantastic day out for families, groups and school tours. It's a great opportunity to interact with both farm animals and exotic animals such as alpacas. Children are provided with a bag of food to feed the animals.

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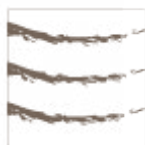


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The Olde Post Inn



The Olde Post Inn, originally the local Post Office in the beautiful village of Cloverhill, in Co Cavan, is now a multi award winning restaurant and guesthouse.

Husband and Wife team Gearoid and Tara Lynch, proprietors of the award winning restaurant since 2002 have lovingly maintained the original stone walls, wooden beams, parquet flooring and open fireplaces while adding tasteful additional features over the years such as the Hampton Conservatories. Still the distinctive façade of the

original property shines through.

Just a few minutes off the main N3. Located in the Heartlands of Cavan, surrounded by beautiful countryside, picturesque lakes, walking trails, some of the best golf courses in the country and historic sites such as Clough Oughter and Castle Saunderson.

Overlooking the local church and the old railway bridges, it offers views from both the dining room as well as from the 6 beautifully appointed en-suite rooms which were once the old Postmasters residence.

Sourcing the best produce available from around Ireland is key to designing menus at the Olde Post Inn. Chef Gearoid Lynch - Author of "My

Gluten Free Kitchen", Euro-Toques commissioner & Failte Ireland Food Ambassador maintains a consistently excellent quality of fine food on the menu, focusing on seasonal food. Local game featuring in the winter months with dishes such as "Herb Crusted loin of Venison with Valrhona & Berry Jus"

A carefully chosen selection of exceptional wines both old world and new world are available from the wine list to accompany your meal, and expertise is always on hand to help you make your selection.

The charm and character of the building adds to the warm and friendly greeting that guests receive when they arrive along with blazing turf fires and



conservatory area to enjoy a pre-dinner drink before you dine. Each element of service from guest's arrival to when the guest leaves is genuine, and attention to all the finer elements is at the core of the award winning service.

With a capacity for 120 people, The Olde Post Inn can be hired exclusively to host any event from corporate dinners, family events and wedding receptions.

Open from Wednesday to Sunday each week, an Early Dinner menu is available on Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday from 6pm - 7pm. A five

course Dinner menu is available each evening from 6pm - 9pm. An eight course surprise tasting menu is available each evening, with a menu designed on the evening with seasonal produce and Lunch is served each Sunday from 12.30pm - 2.30pm

The Olde Post Inn has been recommended by the Michelin Guide in 2019, also mentioned in the Sunday Times 100 Best Restaurants in Ireland 2019, in addition to being recommended by Georgina Campbell and The McKenna Guide, the Olde Post Inn truly is a must when visiting

Ireland and with so much to offer in area to calm a busy mind.

For more information visit www.theoldepostinn.com email or call the team on info@theoldepostinn.com or +353 47 55555

Always a warm welcome at The Olde Post Inn

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN BANAGHER

Banagher sits on the bank of the River Shannon. It has its own marina and is a perfect point for hiring a pleasure cruiser. River buses glide along the water, taking visitors on their way to Clonmacnoise and other towns bounded by the river. The town provided a wealth of inspiration for author Anthony Trollope who wrote his first novels here.

JJ HOUGH'S SINGING PUB

Rivalling the river as Banagher's most appealing feature, Hough's is a 250-year-old vine-clad pub, renowned for its music sessions. You'll find someone playing here most nights in summer and at weekends in winter. People sing nightly, led by the owner Michael. You can also seek solitude in the lovely beer garden.

CLONONY CASTLE

This 16th-Century castle is enclosed by an overgrown castellated wall. Tales that Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was born here, are unlikely to be true but her cousins Elizabeth and Mary Boleyn are buried beside the ruins. Restoration is sporadic and you may find the gates locked; but if you see someone around, stop for a fascinating tour.



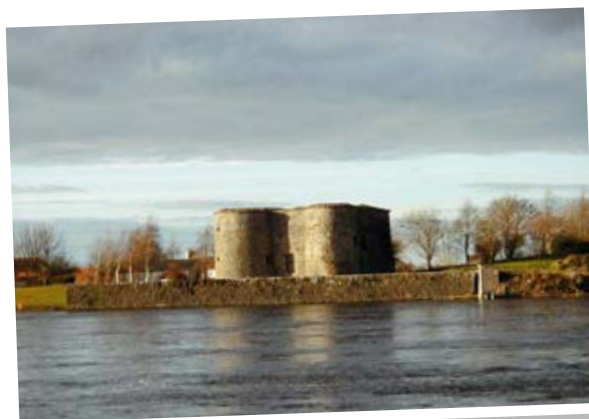
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

St. Paul's Church, at the far south end of Main Street, contains a resplendent stained-glass window, originally intended for Westminster Abbey.



CROMWELL'S CASTLE

Defending Banagher Bridge, this small castle dates to the 1650s and was modified during the Napoleonic Wars.



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THE SAVOY RESTAURANT



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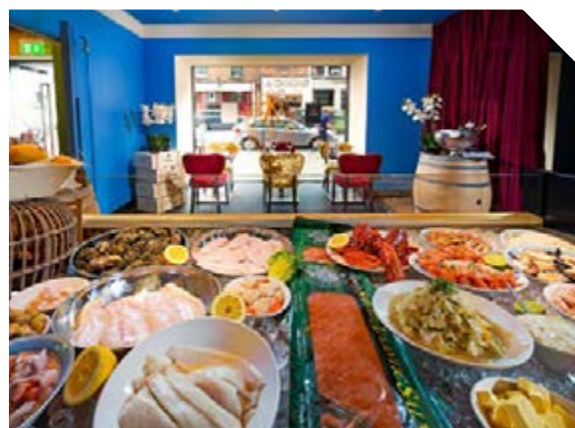


ALEX FINDLATER — & COMPANY LTD —

SEAFOOD BAR

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.

Tel: 061-516450 | Email: info@alexfindlaterandco.ie



CARRICK-ON-SHANNON IN FULL BLOOM



Granted its royal charter in 1607, Carrick-on-Shannon has blossomed in recent years into a bustling hub for cruising on the River Shannon. The town won a gold medal in the 2010 Entente Florale Awards and attractions range from the Leitrim Design Centre, to the fascinating audiovisual displays at St George's Heritage & Visitor Centre.

Carrick's heritage trail kicks off on the quays, proceeding past the old barrel store (now housing the tourist office) before crossing a fine arched bridge to skirt around an area known as The Liberty. This was where Catholics were permitted to live during the 17th Century, when Carrick was a well-to-do Protestant enclave.

Carrick's sombre-looking courthouse dates from 1821, but it has recently been restored for a much merrier use as The Dock - a gallery, studio and recital space that anchors the scores of artists and craftspeople working in various media throughout County Leitrim.

Another highlight is Costello Chapel on Bridge Street, reckoned to be one of the smallest in the world. This tiny monument has a big heart, however – it was erected by local merchant Edward Costello after the premature death of his wife in 1877. Husband and wife now rest here, under a single stained glass window, in an enduring testament to love.

Costello Chapel is right next to Carrick's Market Yard, which dates from 1839 but has also been restored – this time to house a restaurant, shops and farmers' market. From here, you can continue along Bridge Street to the birthplace of Susan Mitchell, the poet and so-called 'red-headed rebel' who became a biographer of George Moore.

Carrick has some sweet examples of 19th Century architecture, including St George's Terrace and elsewhere on the trail, you'll find a town clock dating from 1839. In Summerhill, the site of a fever hospital, there is a restored workhouse attic (where the deaths of 1,896 people were recorded) and a Famine graveyard memorial.



DAY TOURS

Cliffs of Moher / Wild Atlantic Way / Galway City day tour:

Enjoy a two-hour visit at the Cliffs of Moher. Your ticket includes admittance to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre: A scenic drive along the Wild Atlantic Way Coast: A visit to Galway City, the bohemian and cultural capital of Ireland. Your two-hour visit includes a free walking tour of the City provided by the Tour Guide.

Giants Causeway / Belfast Titanic Museum / Belfast City Black Taxi Political Tour / Carrick Rede Rope Bridge:

All attraction costs included in ticket to include admittance access the Giant's Causeway Heritage Centre & a guided walk with the Park Ranger.

Kilkenny City / Wicklow Mountains & Glendalough / Irish Sheep Dog Trials day tour:

Includes walking tours of Kilkenny City & Glendalough Monastic site. A visit to a working sheep farm with sheep dog trials and the opportunity with the farmer to handle the lambs (bred for us all year round). Photographic stop at the top of the Wicklow Mountains. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Medieval Kilkenny City with your Tour Guide is also included in the ticket price. 2 hours at Glendalough and 2 hours + 30 mins Kilkenny City

Game of Thrones & Giant's Causeway: Visiting the Antrim coast and caves, Ballintoy Harbour and the Dark Hedges. The Giant's Causeway and Dunluce Castle.

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Tourist Office Dublin | 33 Bachelors Walk (corner O'Connell Bridge) | Dublin 1 | Temple Bar Tourist Office | Market Square

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN PORTUMNA

Portumna is a market town in the south-east of County Galway, Ireland, on the border with County Tipperary. The town is located to the west of the point where the River Shannon enters Lough Derg. This historic crossing point over the River Shannon between counties Tipperary and Galway has a long history of bridges and ferry crossings. On the west side of the town is Portumna Castle and its forest park.

IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE

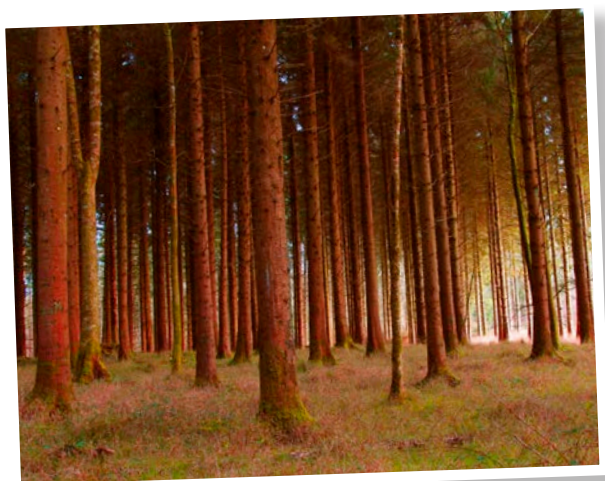
The Irish Workhouse Experience - A real story in a real workhouse. The average length of a visit is about one hour.

The tour begins in the only fancy room in the house, the Boardroom, where the board of guardians, responsible for running the workhouse, held their meetings.

The Irish Workhouse Centre is a conservation and redevelopment work in progress. Visitors interested in this aspect can see work first hand and find out more about restoring and re-using old stone buildings. Questions and comments from visitors are welcomed at all times. Information leaflets are available in French, German & Polish.

PORTUMNA FOREST PARK

Many precious memories have been made walking magical forests trails with family and friends. Today our forests offer far more than walking. You can whiz down challenging biking trails, canopy climb through trees and sneak unforgettable birds-eye views, camp under the starry sky, or explore the rich plant and animal life.



PORTUMNA CASTLE AND GARDENS

Portumna Castle and Demesne occupy a magnificent location on the shores of Lough Derg on the River Shannon. Although gutted by fire in 1826, the Castle is still an imposing example of Irish architecture of the early 17th Century. Built before 1618 by Richard de Burgo, 4th Earl of Clanricarde, the castle became the main seat of the de Burgo family for over 200 years.

the original 17th century setting. The ground floor of the castle is open to the public and houses an exhibition on the history and restoration of the building and the de Burgo family. The virtual reality DVD presentation adds to the exhibition, bringing the story to life.

Portumna Castle is surrounded by the towns' local attractions – Lough Derg, the River Shannon and Portumna Forest Park. Activities include golfing, hiking, go-karting, various heritage stes and more, which makes Portumna and its surrounds a really worthwhile area to visit.



WOODFORD HERITAGE CENTRE

The Society has an experienced team of researchers who offer free consultations, advice and undertake free searches of the centre's in-house bespoke databases. Based on the searches undertaken and corresponding results, researchers can provide copies of individual records or compile in-depth family history reports to suit the client's needs at extremely competitive rates.

Ireland's and Europe's only hands-on privately owned Military Museum

Welcome to Ireland's and Europe's only hands-on privately owned Military Museum with Family Park, Playground and State of the Art Conference facilities (Camping Site opening soon).

Housing US Convoy Military Vehicles with extensive displays on WWI 1916, WWII, Irish Independence, Vietnam War and First Gulf War. Visit our full-scale indoor Trench Cafe and experience Trench life first hand. Enjoy our delicious coffee, food, snacks and treats, while surrounded by authentic Military artefacts in the unique Trench setting of our very own Sergeant Sullys Café.

Re-enactments, Family Fun Days, BBQs, Halloween and Christmas Events are ongoing all through the year! Why not have your birthday celebrations on site or take a Tank Spin in our Tank or even learn to drive it? So why not join us at one of Ireland's best-kept secrets today?



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ADMISSION

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Taste the Island

A celebration of Ireland's food and drink

“We know that our food and drink experiences are world class, now, we want everyone else to know too.”

Fáilte Ireland is inviting businesses and individuals interested in providing tourists with a food or drink experience to attend workshops in their local area and find out how they can get involved in their new initiative – ‘Taste the Island – a celebration of Ireland’s food and drink’, which takes place this Autumn.

The new initiative has been developed in response to the growing global interest in food and drink by Fáilte Ireland, in collaboration with Tourism Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and a range of stakeholders.

Taste the Island will showcase Ireland’s world-class food and drink culture across the island of Ireland, from September to November, to provide visitors with access to authentic food and drink experiences, high quality local ingredients and world class Irish food and drink produce. The extensive programme, running over three-months, will seek to create an awareness and renewed appreciation at home and abroad, of the strength and richness of Ireland’s cuisine today.

Workshops are currently being rolled out throughout the country, from Donegal to Limerick and from Athlone to Dingle, to inform the local food and drink industry about this exciting initiative for food and drink providers. The workshops have been organised for the industry to learn more and provide them with the opportunity to shape the development of a programme of events and experiences for 2019.

Martina Kerr Bromley, Fáilte Ireland’s Head of Enterprise Development, said: “We are urging people in the food and drink industry throughout Ireland to get involved and participate in our upcoming workshops in your area (see workshop schedule below). The programme of events for ‘Taste the Island’, will include visits to food producers, distillers and brewers; food trails, food festivals, participation in traditional skills, opportunities to forage, traditional pubs, small-town cafés, restaurants, city bistros and Michelin-starred experiences.

This initiative supports Fáilte Ireland’s strategic imperative to address seasonality and grow revenue by driving increasing bed nights outside of the summer season, while also driving visitors to explore lesser-known locations across the country and will, in the long term, enhance Ireland’s international food and drink reputation, before they get here.

Commenting on the initiative Tracey Coughlan, Fáilte Ireland’s Food Strategy Manager, noted: “We’ve done the research and know that in order to respond to the rapid growth in travel today and increasing visitor expectations around food and drink, an initiative of scale is required to maximise our full potential in all areas. The international competition is intense, if we want to ensure that the tourism industry capitalises fully, this initiative will have to grow on a sustained annual basis.”



The unrivalled location and luxury of Waterfront House in Enniscrone provides an oasis of comfort and calm, from the moment guests arrive, there is a sense of being welcomed into a home from home.



But is it the warmth of welcome that is most vivid – a tangible service ethos that sets the seal on a haven of quality.

Oozing style and comfort, our 16 boutique-style rooms offer uninterrupted views overlooking Enniscrone beach and the Wild Atlantic Ocean. All our rooms offer complimentary Wi-Fi along with all the other little extras you would expect to make your stay as comfortable and as enjoyable as we possibly can, then sink into a super comfy king size bed, piled with crisp cotton sheets, plush pillows and a fluffy duvet whilst listening to the ocean as you fall asleep. Guaranteed to meet the needs of even the most discerning traveller.

Waterfront Restaurant's vision is to provide creative cooking using locally sourced seasonal produce, our kitchen team is led by award winning head chef Yvonne Kathrein who has created some delicious menus using local artisan suppliers on our doorstep, as well as serving creative dishes we want to educate our guests about of the quality of the local ingredients and produce we use in our dishes promoting all the West coast has to offer.

To match our exquisite food offerings we have matched some fantastic wines, each with its own story to tell, also we offer a range of artisanal cocktails, craft beers and rare spirits.

For reservations or information on our menu options and offers regarding group dining and special occasions,
Please contact us directly by calling +3539637120 or email relax@waterfronthouse.ie

RESTAURANT OPENING TIMES

Breakfast: 08:00am-10:30am Daily | **Bar Lunch:** 13:00pm-17:30pm Daily
Dinner: 18.00pm-21.30pm Daily | **Sunday Lunch:** 13:00pm-15:00pm

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN KILLALOE

Killaloe is a beautiful Shannon-side village right on the eastern fringes of County Clare, and is the busiest boating and fishing centre in the Clare region. With its easy access point to the waterway, Killaloe offers you the chance to immerse yourself in the riverside lifestyle while enjoying the beautiful setting and rich history of this little village. Origin of Name: Killaloe is derived from the Irish name 'Cill Dalua' which means 'Lua's Church'.

Killaloe is the starting point of the Shannon Cruise and from here you can sail all the way to Sligo. During the summer, Killaloe is full with mooring barges and holidaymakers giving the village a unique and charming atmosphere. There are plenty of water activities and sports available – while you can also hire boats for personal use. Short cruises around the River Shannon and Lough Derg are also available. The village itself is a pretty network of narrow streets surrounded by old houses and shops. The town also comes alive during the famous Féile Brian Ború – an annual festival that celebrates the life and legacy of Brian Ború – the great High King of Ireland who was born in Killaloe and from where he ruled the country from 1002 to 1014.

KILLALOE CATHEDRAL

Built by the O'Brien family on top of a 6th-century church, Killaloe Cathedral dates from the early 13th century. Astonishing carvings decorate the Romanesque southern doorway (on your right as you enter). Nearby is the c AD 1000 Thorgrim's Stone, a shaft of a stone cross unusually inscribed with both the old Scandinavian runic and Irish Ogham scripts. Other highlights include a 13th-century font. Call ahead to reserve a tour of the panoramic tower, reached by 89 steps.

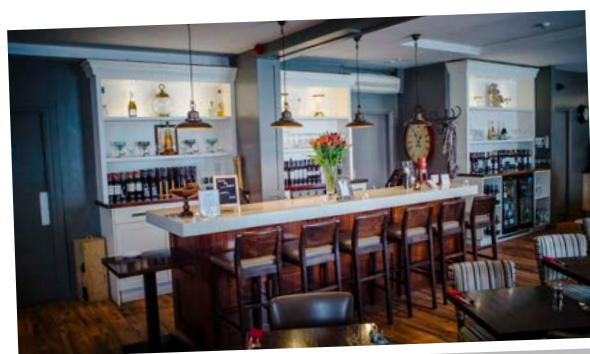


BRIAN BORÚ HERITAGE CENTRE

Inside the former lock keeper's cottage on the little islet Between the Waters, the Brian Ború Heritage Centre celebrates the local boy made good as the king who, according to the political spinmeisters of his time, both unified Ireland and freed it from the Vikings. Displays also illustrate the nautical heritage of the surrounding patchwork of lakes and rivers.

TUSCANY BISTRO BALLINA

Small and stylish, with striped chairs and gleaming timber floors, this Italian bistro has an extensive list of pastas, pizzas and expertly cooked mains such as veal with lemon sauce, along with a reasonable wine list. A good kids' menu and high chairs make it a great choice for families.



GOOSERS

On Ballina's main street, this thatched pub has stone floors, peat fires and picnic tables on the street out front for an alfresco pint with views across the river to Killaloe.

FLANAGAN'S ON THE LAKE

Flanagan's is situated on the beautiful shores of Lough Derg Lakelands Ballina Killaloe, Tipperary. You can enjoy a meal from our extensive menu and a drink from our full bar as you take in the spectacular views of Ballina Killaloe. Menus are catered to meet everyone's needs from vegetarian to gluten-free options. There is outside seating for the lazy summer days on Lough Derg. On-site there's a whiskey tower where exclusive whiskey tasting sessions take place. This is a unique offering in the Lough Derg Lakelands and a great experience.

Corlea Trackway

One of County Longford's most fascinating historical attractions is the Corlea Trackway, an Iron Age bog road, constructed from oak planks in 148 BC. Inside the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, near the town of Keenagh, an 18-metre stretch of preserved road is on permanent display in a specially designed hall with humidifiers to prevent the ancient wood from cracking in the heat.

The oak road is the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe. Visit the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre to discover exhibitions and audio-visual presentations on Iron Age trackways, archaeology and bog culture, as well as interpretive panels and related artefacts. Full details www.heritageireland.ie



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THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN CAVAN



TASTE OF CAVAN, 10-11TH AUGUST

The Taste of Cavan will take place at Cavan Equestrian Centre this year, and promises to be even bigger and better than before. The event showcases extraordinary and diverse local food producers, chefs and restaurants in County Cavan and gives visitors an opportunity to sample and purchase the finest of Cavan fare, from award-winning cheeses, handmade chocolate, ice cream and organic sausages to boxty, breads, muffins, mushrooms, liqueurs, honey, meats and local jams. Enjoy food demonstrations on both days by the best chefs in the country, while the kids will be entertained with a wide array of fun family activities and entertainment. www.facebook.com/tasteofcavan

TAKE A WALK

Cavan has plenty of Fáilte Ireland looped walks to enjoy. Try gently rolling drumlins and upland blanket bogs. Enjoy the tranquillity of forest walks in Kingscourt, Cavan, Virginia and Bailieborough. Visit the Marble Arch Caves Geopark – accredited by UNESCO – spanning the uplands of Cavan and Fermanagh, neolithic Ireland reveals itself quietly as you stroll along. Or walk the Cavan Way from Dowra to Blacklion past the Shannon Pot – the source of the Shannon – a place of rich folklore. Cavan Walking Festival also takes place every May with guided walks taking place over a week throughout the county.

CAVAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Visit Cavan County Museum to discover the unique heritage and culture of County Cavan. Located in Ballyjamesduff, its galleries feature fascinating artefacts dating from the Stone Age right up to the 20th century, with material spanning over 6,000 years of occupation in Cavan. The Killycluggin Stone, the Ralaghan figure and the three-faced Corleck Head are three of its star exhibits and some of the most recognisable examples of Celtic spirituality in the country. The Cavan County Museum is also home to the World War One Trench Experience and the most extensive outdoor replica trench open to the public in Ireland and the UK.

CAVAN CATHEDRAL

In 1938, construction of Cavan cathedral began and was completed in 1942 under Bishop Patrick Lyons. The plan layout is quite unorthodox for Irish churches. The nave is lined with columns which extend down both sides and unusually turn to form what could appear to be the beginning of a rood screen. The church is beautifully built in white granite. Externally the cathedral is dominated by a classical portico surmounted by a tower. The cathedral was dedicated to Saint Patrick and Saint Felim in 1942. Six stained glass windows from the studios of Harry Clarke were added to the cathedral in 1994.





An interview with

Archer Rogan Cunningham

Archer Rogan Cunningham, is a 15-year old, up and coming young archer from Virginia, Co. Cavan. Just two and a half years ago, Rogan went to a 'Have a Go' evening at the local Cavan Archery Club. He truly had a flair for it and within 6-months of shooting his first arrow, he was selected onto the Irish Archery Squad. There are two types of bow used in archery: the traditional 'Robin Hood style' plus the Recurve or a Compound bow, which is a more technical, high powered bow. Rogan decided that the Compound bow was for him.

In his first season he won both the National Indoor and Outdoor Championships plus the Irish Open Gold Medal. He has quite the collection already from national events; 13 medals in total, 11 of which are gold. He is now in his second year of being in the Irish Archery squad, where he recently retained his National Indoor Champion title and he is hoping to do the double once again, later this year. In March, he broke two National Indoor Records and now has his sights on the outdoor records.

Rogan is completely dedicated to archery. He trains for two hours, twice



a day, at a shooting cabin built at his home. Here, he has full target distance available to shoot at. The cabin allows him to train, rain or shine. Archery is a year-round sport. The Indoor season lasts from October to March and archers shoot at a 40cm 'face' from a distance of 18-metres. During the Outdoor season, Rogan shoots at the same 40cm 'face', but this time from a distance of 50-metres, which most people can't even see, let alone shoot a perfect score.

Rogan recently acquired a professional

compound bow, which gives him more power and accuracy. He trains with the National Coach in Dublin every Friday evening and once a month with the whole squad in Kildare. In July, he is travelling to the UK with the Irish Team to compete in an international event. He also hopes to travel to Nimes in France for his first international indoor event this year. The boy in the Beanie is on target to break all current under-17 records. He's come a long way in a short space of time: who knows where he will be this time next year!

Ogham: Ireland's Ancient Alphabet



Dotted around Ireland's Ancient East, and in some rare cases, in the westernmost parts of Britain where ancient Irish raiders had invaded and set up communities, are the Ogham Stones – standing stones which are marked along their edges with mysterious sequences of notches and slashes, writes Lorcan Mac Muiris

These markings, called 'feda,' are the ogham alphabet, said to have been given to the ancient Irish by Ogmios, the god of art, creativity and writing. Another story claims that it was the first alphabet developed after the fall of the Tower of Babel, and was brought to Ireland by a Scythian king who headed west after that biblical calamity. In reality, ogham was most likely a simple cypher based on the Latin alphabet, which would have been familiar to Irish merchants in the 1st century AD.

Each succession of characters is based on groups of different types of feda, beginning with one rightward slash for "B", two for "L", three for "V" or "F", four for "S" and five for "N". This has led to an alternate name for the ogham alphabet: the bethluisven, from the sounds of the first five letters. Other marks are leftward slashes, notches, and slashes which span from right to left. Some stones also have more complicated characters which represent diphthongs like "ae" or "oa" but it's thought that these fedas were added long after the rest of the alphabet had been developed.

Ogham gives us our earliest glimpse of the Irish language, with the language of the very oldest inscriptions classified as Primitive Irish. The vast majority of what's written on the ogham stones is little more than the names of leaders or landowners, and it's likely they were a form of ancient signpost, letting travelers, invaders and guests know whose land they were on.

Some of the best examples are to be seen in the Stone Corridor at University College Cork, and others can be seen at St Declan's Cathedral in Ardmore, County Waterford, where you'll also see one of the country's best examples of a round tower and some exceptional early Christian stone carvings. In some cases, ogham stones were later incorporated into churches, and some even survived with a new lease of life as lintels or doorposts in ancient buildings.

*University College Cork houses an
impressive collection of Ogham stones*



Léamh an Oghaim



Fanciful writers in the Middle Ages came up with imaginary uses for ogham among the ancient Irish, including a method of signaling in battle by spelling out, with your fingers, ogham messages on one's arm (lámhoghaim) or nose (srónoghaim)...a sort of mythical version of ancient text messaging!

Nearly all ogham inscriptions lack a feda for the letter "P" because the "p" sound had disappeared from the Primitive Irish language spoken by the ancient Celtic people who carved them.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN FERMANAGH

ENJOY AN UNDERGROUND BOAT TRIP

Take a subterranean boat trip through the watery show caves of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark. Taste the deliciously cool damp air as you are guided through underground rivers, secret winding passages and lofty chambers. This truly spectacular natural wonder is best experienced on hot sunny days from March to September.

SEE FLORENCE COURT IN THE AUTUMN

The joys of Florence Court are obvious at any time, but in early autumn they are awesome. Enjoy kicking crisp leaves and searching for horse chestnuts, and if the rose bushes are still in bloom, you will catch their gentle perfume. Tour the mansion, or explore the walled garden and pleasure grounds - and don't miss the famous Florence Court yew tree.

EXPLORE ENNISKILLEN CASTLE

Set on the edge of the River Erne, Enniskillen Castle dominates its home town. The visitor experience brings to life the castle's 600-year history, first as the Maguire family stronghold and on through to Fermanagh's important role in World War II. There are two museums to explore, the Inniskillings Museum and Enniskillen Castle Museums.

SLEEP BENEATH THE STARS

The roof of a Finn Lough bubble dome is a 360-degree window to the night sky. Dazzling in the summer and so cosy in the longer autumnal nights, this is a magical stargazing experience. If you manage to leave the pod, the Finn Lough site includes a great restaurant, plus fishing, boats, tennis, walking trails and an indoor play area for children.

TAKE THE BELLEEK POTTERY TEA TEST

It's a fact: Tea tastes better when it's served in Belleek cups. Take the 30-minute tour of the historic factory and witness the ongoing production of the delicate pottery. Follow that with some excellent Belleek shopping and then it will be time to see if your tea tastes better.

FISH ON LOUGH ERNE

With such a vast expanse of water so perfectly suited to fishing, every day on Lough Erne can be a different adventure. You never know what you might hook next, but with trout and salmon among the top targets and superb coarse fishing in some of the best boat and bank fishing grounds in Europe, all types of angler can succeed here.

SNOOP AROUND A MAGNIFICENT MANSION

Castle Coole is the other big house in Fermanagh. Dating back to 1798, it is an opulent display of the era. Take in the stately 'upstairs' grandeur, then visit the huge basement where an army of servants worked downstairs and exit via their underground tunnel. Take a long walk on the estate, enjoy a picnic, or drop into the tea shop for a treat.

PADDLE THE LAKES

Roaming on a canoe or kayak is a serene way to traverse Fermanagh's lakelands. All you'll hear is the soft slap of the water on your hull, and the cry of the curlew or lapwing. Upper Lough Erne has sheltered bays for beginners, while Lower Lough Erne's windier waters provide waves for experienced paddlers.

LIVE LIKE A PRESIDENT AT LOUGH ERNE

Stay in Lough Erne Resort's lakeside lodges where G8 world leaders laid their heads - it's best to sleep with the curtains open and witness the morning light trickling across the lough. David Cameron went swimming in the lough and Barack Obama went to the gym. You can do the same or enjoy the deep relaxation of the spa, exquisite food, and golf on the Nick Faldo-designed course.

GO ISLAND HOPPING

Hire a cruiser for some island-hopping on the lakelands and you won't regret it. Devenish Island, White Island, Boa Island and Inish Corkish, home to Fermanagh's Black Bacon, and another 150 islands can be all your own for a few hours - or even overnight alone with nature. Or, let someone else steer - hop on board the Erne Water Taxi.

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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 a 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. Vitrally, 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."

Faillte 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.



TUSCANY
Bistro

*All that
jazz...*





The Guinness Cork Jazz Festival is an iconic festival on the Irish cultural calendar, sending crowds flocking to the city every October bank holiday weekend.

The festival is Ireland's biggest jazz event and attracts hundreds of musicians and thousands of music fans each year. The first festival began on Friday October 27, 1978 and has been held every year since. In 2019, The Guinness Cork Jazz Festival will take place from Thursday October 24 to Monday, October 28.

An average of €300 an hour was spent by the 50,000 fans who visited in 2018, as the Cork festival continued to rival landmark jazz events in Montreal and New Orleans. The festival offers a €35m boost to the Cork economy every year and more than 95% of the music sessions in 60 Cork pubs, hotels and clubs are free to the public.

Jim Mountjoy founded the festival in October 1978. Mountjoy was a marketing manager of the Metropole Hotel in the city at the time and he received a visit in from the organisers of a bridge event who had booked the premises for the new October holiday weekend that had only been introduced the year before, in 1977. The bridge club had decided to cancel.

He found himself with an upcoming bank holiday and a lot of empty rooms. Then came the lightbulb moment. The regular sessions at the hotel with Cork jazz stalwart Harry Connolly and other musicians had been doing quite well. What if they could be extended into a mini-festival?

Mountjoy bounced his plan off various other people and the idea soon snowballed into something much bigger. Others in the Metropole's hierarchy saw how it might make sense and cigarette brand John Player agreed to put up £7,000 to become the festival's sponsor. Guinness (and parent company Diageo) became the major sponsor in the 1980s.

It was a steep learning curve for all concerned, but for an inaugural event, they still managed to put together an impressive line-up that included three English jazz legends: Ronnie Scott, George Melly and Kenny Ball.

Mountjoy later recalled that Friday, October 27, 1978, was a red-letter day for Cork. "At around eight o'clock, in the evening, a dark, thin Londoner called Ronnie Scott sauntered on stage in the ballroom of the Metropole Hotel and told an audience of 300 people that it was the first time he'd seen dead people smoke." Scott then picked up his saxophone and blew the first notes of Cork's first ever jazz festival.



As festival director between 1978 and 1986, Mr Mountjoy also introduced a Pub Trail, a Jazz Boat (from the UK) and a Jazz Train (from Dublin) to expand the festival. He also travelled to the UK, mainland Europe, Canada and the United States to promote the festival.

To date, over one million jazz fans have visited Cork to hear noted jazz musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, George Shearing, Oscar Peterson, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Buddy Rich, the Blind Boys of Alabama and The Maria Schneider Orchestra.

Non-jazz artists have also played at the festival over its long tenure – for example the 2015 line-up included Gary Numan, The Boomtown Rats and The Coronas. These acts, while always popular, did prompt claims that the festival was being watered down.

However, in 2018, a new festival director was appointed and Sinead Dunphy has kicked off what she calls “a renaissance of Cork jazz” with the focus very much being on bringing the biggest names in the business to the festival in 2019 and beyond.

“Jazz offers a myriad of options in terms of its contemporary offerings of playing and composition, and

although it’s hard to fit in every genre and style, a festival is the best place in the world to be able to platform the established and legendary, side by side with the new and contemporary,” she said.

“We all know that Jazz isn’t something we love through just listening to recordings, it’s in our veins, and it pulses as a live art form through so many media, including films and television, dance and art.

“Jazz has so many synergies with so many of these different art forms and that’s why the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival is hoping to take things to new heights. Whether that’s with gigs, flash mobs, exhibitions, a Jazz Ball, Jazz DJ’s, Swing classes, major concerts, theatre shows or interactive street performances, jazz is about to find its way into the hearts of so many more people around the world.

“We’re on an upward trajectory of jazz, adrenalin-fuelled by the best vocalists, bassists, trumpeters, drummers, pianists, saxophonists and everyone in between!” She said.

See guinnessjazzfestival.com for more.



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TULLAMORE IS A CHARMING TOWN IN CO. OFFALY WITH A RICH HISTORY AND INVITING CULTURAL CALENDAR

The picturesque Grand Canal runs through the town. Today, the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre is situated on its banks, a venue dedicated to the famous distilling heritage of the town, as well as its urban history.

One of the town's most famous exports is Tullamore Dew, established in 1829. The Tullamore name became world-famous following the success of Tullamore Dew whiskey, and its offspring, Irish Mist liqueur.

By Irish standards, Tullamore is a very new town, having been little more than a village until well into the 18th Century. Prosperity came in the form of the Grand Canal, a link from the port of Dublin in 1798.

Planned in the classical style, Tullamore's 19th Century district is contained mostly between the canal to the north and the railway to the south. The 20th Century saw great expansion into spacious suburbs, thanks to the introduction of many new industries.

Tullamore today is a vibrant hub, with excellent food and accommodation and a great variety of leisure activities such as boating, fishing, golfing, walking and riding.

One of Ireland's most splendid Gothic buildings, Charleville Castle, stands in a parkland setting outside Tullamore, which contains the King Oak, one of the biggest and oldest oak trees in the country. The oak woodland is botanically an important survivor of primeval stock.

Numerous high profile events take place in Tullamore every year, including the Tullamore Show, the Queen of the Land Festival and the Tullamore Phoenix Festival. Visit Tullamore for the perfect slice of life in the Irish midlands.

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Annaharvey Farm Equestrian Centre is situated just outside Tullamore, County Offaly, in the heart of Ireland. It is also a guesthouse offering full board or bed & breakfast, making it an ideal place for equestrian holidays.

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TULLAMORE DEW VISITOR CENTRE

Tullamore Dew is an Irish whiskey, which was produced by William Grant & Sons in Co. Offaly before moving production to Midleton, Co. Cork in the 1950s. Today, the visitor centre guides visitors around a new distillery located once again in Offaly.

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OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Offaly Historical Society is operated by the Offaly Heritage Centre in Tullamore. It provides services for those wishing to trace their ancestors in County Laois and Offaly.

Telephone: +353 (0)57 9321421

CHARLEVILLE CASTLE

Completed in the early 1800s, Charleville Castle is a splendid Gothic revival building set in oak woods just outside Tullamore, County Offaly. The castle is available for weddings, concerts and other special events.

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TAKE A TOUR OF TULLAMORE

TULLAMORE IS A CHARMING TOWN IN CO. OFFALY WITH
A RICH HISTORY AND INVITING CULTURAL CALENDAR

Boyle in County Roscommon, Ireland, is a small, pleasant, hilly Irish country town, full of old-fashioned country shops and pubs, with a history that goes back to the foundation of the Cistercian monastery in 1161.

The town has a famous annual arts festival, which runs for a week, starting the last weekend in July. The town also makes a good base for exploring the surrounding area such as counties Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo, on day trips. There is a tourist office right outside the gate of King House, which is a good place to visit for orientation. Recently, the town has come to international attention because actor Chris O'Dowd, who is from the town wrote a TV show that features the town, Moon Boy.

ARIGNA MINING EXPERIENCE

Ireland's first and last coal mine (1600s to 1990) is remembered at the Arigna Mining Experience, set in the hills above Lough Allen. The highlight is the 50-minute underground tour, which takes you 400-metres down to the coal face and includes a simulated mini-explosion. Tours are led by ex-miners who really bring home the gruelling working conditions and dangers. Wear warm clothing and sturdy shoes, as it can be cold and muddy. It's 23-km northeast of Boyle.

BOYLE ARTS FESTIVAL

If you're in Boyle at the end of July, you can catch the lively and usually excellent, Boyle Arts Festival, which features music, theatre, storytelling and contemporary Irish art exhibitions.

LOUGH KEY FOREST PARK

Sprinkled with small islands, Lough Key Forest Park has long been popular for its picturesque ruins, including a 12th-Century abbey on tiny Trinity Island and a 19th-Century castle on Castle Island. It's also

a time-honoured favourite with families for its wishing chair, bog gardens, fairy bridge and viewing tower. There are plenty of marked walking trails through the park. Lough Key is 4-km east of Boyle.

KING HOUSE HISTORIC & CULTURAL CENTRE

Sinister-looking dummies tell the turbulent history of the Connaught kings, the town of Boyle and the King family, including a grim tale of tenant eviction during the Famine. Kids can try on replica Irish cloaks, breeches and leather shoes, write with a quill and build a vaulted ceiling from specially designed blocks. One room is devoted to Maureen O'Sullivan, the Hollywood star who was born nearby on Main Street.

BOYLE ABBEY

Gracing the River Boyle is the finely preserved (and reputedly haunted) Boyle Abbey. Founded in 1161 by monks from Mellifont in County Louth, the abbey captures the transition from Romanesque to Gothic style.

DRUMANONE DOLMEN

This astonishing portal dolmen, one of the largest in Ireland, measures 4.5-metres by 3.3-metres and was constructed before 2000 BC. It can be tricky to find: follow Patrick Street West and then the R294 out of town for 5-km, until you pass under a railway arch. Keep going for around 500-metres and you'll see a small abandoned building on your right; stop the car here and climb up the hill and over the railway line (take care and shut the gates).



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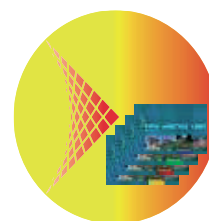
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INTERNATIONAL BUGATTI MEETING

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"



The World Pairs Angling Championship

Ireland's most prestigious coarse angling event, the World Pairs Angling Championships, is open for entry. The event attracts anglers worldwide to fish the natural wild angling available in the prolific angling destinations in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Fermanagh Lakelands. This area is renowned for its extensive waterways is based on the Erne system, the Shannon-erne Waterway and the majestic Shannon Navigation. A haven of calm, this region is an ideal host for the event but also offers all kinds of water sports and cruising.

Waterways Ireland and DAIWA Sports Ltd continue to sponsor the World Pairs, which has been prominent in its contribution to highlighting Ireland's magnificent coarse angling and increasing the number of anglers fishing in Ireland in recent years. The partnership provides for €7,500 towards the top pairs prize of €10,000 and £6,500 in tackle vouchers for the Top ten DAIWA Cup winners. Additional funding for a guaranteed Pairs prize pot of €20,650 is assisted by additional funding from

local partners and the event organisers.

Sharon Lavin, Head of Marketing and Communications, Waterways Ireland - "Waterways Ireland are delighted to support the World Pairs Angling Championships 2019. For Waterways Ireland, this championship is an ideal opportunity to showcase the areas of outstanding natural beauty on the inland waterways of Fermanagh, Cavan & Leitrim, while promoting coarse angling tourism in Ireland. We hope that this expertly managed event will attract significant numbers of participants who will get the opportunity to experience a thriving angling community of hosts and the convivial hospitality that they offer. This event is a wonderful example of all that is wild and wonderful about fishing in Ireland."

There are no qualifiers – entry is open to anyone – just find a partner and get ready for some fabulous fishing. To attract those of all abilities, the event incorporates the DAIWA Cup, an individual entry competition running inside the Pairs with a full entry pay-out providing

cash for five peg sections, daily by county and a top ten overall topped up by a massive £6,500 in tackle vouchers from DAIWA Sports Ltd.

Stephen McCaveny, Marketing Manager, Daiwa UK - "Daiwa are pleased to confirm their on-going support for The Daiwa Cup, in conjunction with The World Pairs Angling Championship. As an event it is the perfect way for an angler to experience that unique mix of wild fishing, tremendous hospitality and those incredible natural waters that make a trip to Ireland so unforgettable. Since the first event, the reputation of The Pairs has continued to stretch its reach internationally, establishing itself as a premium event. It has now become a pilgrimage for many and a much-anticipated date in the Daiwa calendar."

The venues for this year's event will include some proven favourites and hopefully some new stretches on known waters. DAERA Inland Fisheries and Inland Fisheries IFI will once again support the organisers with their professional services.



World Pairs Angling Championships

Ireland is renowned worldwide for its full calendar of angling festivals and magnificent natural wild fishing. Nothing beats the Irish experience; great angling, beautiful countryside, hospitality and the craic'.

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No Qualifiers

Guaranteed Prize Funds

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DAIWA CUP: £6,500 in tackle & vouchers on top of a 100% payout on entry.

County Sections - Five Days, Five Hours and Five Different Venues.

Featuring a range of wild angling

venues in this area renowned for its coarse angling and scenic beauty. Convenience and access are also top of the list, whilst the aim is to show just a sample of the natural wild angling on offer in the region. With no more than a 30-minute drive between the draw hubs, based in the lively Lakelands towns of Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim and Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, draw locations at each of these make for short onward drives for your day's fishing. Route maps and GPS locations will be provided in order to help you plan your journey.

How it works

Anglers will be asked to draw their county section at the Opening night on Sunday 1st September, allowing them to head in their pairs for the daily regional draw, closer to the

venues for the five-hour matches. At the Opening Night, anglers will draw Monday's county section and the others will follow in sequence i.e. 23451, 45123. Each county section will have A and B venues to ensure paired anglers do not draw the same venue. Anglers will draw their A or B section daily.

The Sections

The table below shows the sections that were in use for the 2018 event, which will give you an idea of how it works. All venues are subject to confirmation and may change at any time particularly due to current weather conditions. Fresh bait will be on-sale at the draw locations in Ballinamore and Enniskillen. The bait farm is close to Ballyconnell and bait may be collected there.



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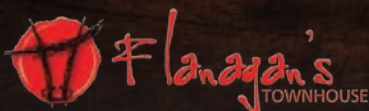
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