DISCOVER MAYO
THE WILD BEAUTY OF THE WEST

BEST THINGS TO SEE AND DO
CORK TO DONEGAL

MID-WEST TOURISM
INTERVIEW WITH RONAN BRANNIGAN

WILD ATLANTIC WAY FOOD
A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

View of Nephin wilderness, Mayo

Voted Best tourism/food magazine in the World
Go Wild Tourism Magazine, Summer Edition 2018
Go Wild magazine flies the Irish flag with a ‘Best in Food Tourism Magazine’ Award at the Gourmand World food finals in China

Ireland’s Go Wild Magazine has been named Best Food Tourism Magazine in the World at the finals of the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in China recently.

Go Wild MD, Robert Power, says they are delighted with the win and are thrilled to have had the chance to represent Ireland.

The Gourmand World Awards are run over four days and cater for up to 1,200 delegates. The event includes a world food forum, as well as a range of Food awards and cultural tours.

“This is a major achievement for a company as young as ours,” says Bobby Power. “We’re proud to have the honour of receiving the award and also having Darina Allen carry the Irish flag for our team at this world gathering of foodies, after just three years in operation.”
Editor’s Welcome

Welcome friends, to the Summer 2018 edition of Go Wild Tourism magazine, part of the world award-winning stable of Go Wild titles - all aiming to enhance and enrich your visit to our island.

I was born and bred – as we say in Ireland – in a town right on the Wild Atlantic Way and visitors often remind us locals that we don’t realise how lucky we are.

Oh, but we do. We know full well what a privilege it is to live in such a beautiful place and we are proud to be part of the world-famous Wild Atlantic Way. Around every corner, there is another secret to uncover, a different view to take your breath away and no shortage of friendly faces to greet you. It is truly a ‘bucket list’ journey for anyone looking for history, culture, world class golf, scenery from the movies, wild waves and the finest food.

This edition comes packed full of suggestions to make the most of your trip along the Wild Atlantic Way. We stop off to chat to well-known tourism leaders, writers, business people and chefs along the way – to see what they think is so special about this magnificent trail.

We have also included a mouth-watering new section devoted to all things food. We explore the rise and rise of the gastropub and examine how the use of seasonal and fresh local produce has boosted the reputation of Irish food internationally. We ask those in-the-know where the best places to eat and drink are – and suggest a few of our own.

We invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy your time here in Ireland. We hope that we can guide you and help make your trip an unforgettable experience.

Wendy

Editor

Go Wild Magazine titles

To download all of our Go Wild Tourism, Go Ancient East, Go Wild On The Lakes, and 2 Go Wild Food Experience magazines titles directly to your device, please visit http://issuu.com/gowildmagazine

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

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Contents

6: All Go Wild Titles
8-9: Focus on Mayo
10: Key sites to visit
14-15: Interview with Ronan Brannigan
  Savoy Limerick
16: Things to do in Limerick
18: Kerry the ideal getaway
20: Louis Mulcahy
22: Things to do and see in Clare
24: Things to do and see in Cork
26: Eight reasons to visit Ireland
28: Galway Connemara waiting to be discovered
30: Great Lighthouses
32: Things to see and do in Mayo
36-37: Interview with Vistatec CCO Pat Kelly
38: Scattery Island
42: Visit West Cork
44: Things to see and do in Sligo
46: Aillwee caves
48: Inua Hospitality Brenda Murphy
50: Destinations Abroad
54-55: Suzanne Murphy Travel writer
56: Things to do in Donegal
58: East Cork
60: Things to do in Leitrim
62-63: Best of Wild Atlantic Way food
66-68: A Taste of joy- food writer Nicky Sullivan
72-73: Gillian Nelles - My Wild Atlantic Way favourites
78: Best Limerick Restaurants
82: RAI President Liam Edwards
84-85: The rise of the gastropub
88: Pub Grub on the tourism menu
96: Art on the Wild Atlantic Way

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We have Irish Tourism Covered
Distinctive pieces made with skill and passion by the team in our Workshop near Clogher Strand, Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry

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Welcome to County Mayo, the third largest county in Ireland offering the longest coastline, highest sea cliffs and the largest island. For visitors and locals alike, Mayo is home to a host of attractions and activities to enjoy. What better way to discover Mayo’s charm than by taking to the great outdoors!

Right at the heart of Ireland’s Wild Atlantic Way, Mayo embraces the Atlantic Ocean with many of the county’s unforgettable landmarks dotted along its coastline - majestic Croagh Patrick, Clew Bay, Achill’s unmistakable cliffs, the Stags of Broadhaven and the sea stack Don Briste.

Mayo’s Atlantic coastline is a playground for those with an adventurous spirit, offering world class deep-sea fishing, surfing, coasteering, kayaking and kitesurfing. For those who enjoy going off the beaten track, you can’t beat North Mayo or Erris – a region voted best place to go wild in Ireland! (The Irish Times) This area is a haven for walkers, anglers and golfers alike, with Ballina’s Ridge Pool on the River Moy renowned worldwide for its salmon angling, the Foxford Way walking trail and a championship course at the exceptional Carne Golf Links.

The Great Western Greenway, connecting two of Mayo’s premier tourist locations (Westport and Achill Island), offers an award-winning family-friendly biking and walking trail, with stunning scenery, historic villages, ancient ruins, arts & crafts, the Gourmet Greenway and Mulranny’s famous goats to discover along the way.

The rich heritage of Mayo means there’s plenty for the culturally curious to explore too. The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life located in Turlough (near Castlebar) tells the story of rural life in Ireland through the years, while the Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina shares one man’s incredible collection of Irish historical material.

Mayo’s religious heritage reminds us that the County was once a place of spiritual reflection for the religious, among them St Patrick, Ireland’s national saint. A tour of Westport House, one of Ireland’s best-loved attractions and once home to Grace O’Malley, the renowned 16th century Pirate Queen, offers a fascinating insight into history.

County Mayo has its own International Airport known as Ireland West Airport Knock. A true gateway to the west of Ireland, the airport serves more than 25 scheduled and charter destinations across Ireland, Europe, the UK and further afield.

For further details and information on County Mayo please check out our website at www.mayo.ie

Mayo - Things to see and do!

Climb Croagh Patrick

Croagh Patrick, Ireland’s most famous Holy Mountain stands at 764m (2.507ft) and is best known for its association with Saint Patrick, who is said to have fasted for 40 days at the summit. In its entirety, the route is a 7km long round-trip but there are viewing points along the route that allow the less active to enjoy stunning views of Clew Bay without the strenuous climb.

Cycle the Great Western Greenway from Westport to Achill

Escape the bustle of urban life on one of Ireland’s longest off road cycling & walking trails. The old Westport to Achill railway line, which closed in 1957, is 42km long and almost entirely traffic-free. Ideal for a spin on the bike and for a day of family fun.

Visit Westport House & Adventure Park

There has been a ‘big house’ on this site since the 1500s, when Grace O’Malley, the famous Pirate Queen, built one of her many castles here. The current house, built in 1730, has an abundance of artefacts, artwork and treasures that will fascinate all culture-vultures! The Pirate Adventure Park – perfectly suited to children under 12 - will leave the kids screaming for more with rides, slides, boats and trains. And the more adventurous can enjoy everything from archery to zorbing!

Visit Ireland’s largest Island – Achill Island

Achill is one of Ireland’s most spectacular and unique places. Its rugged landscape features dramatic cliffs, soaring mountains, remote lakes and secluded beaches. Explore one of the Wild Atlantic Way signature discovery points at Keem and try out some water-based activities at our newly-established Blueway location.
Experience some coastal walking at Ceathrú Thaidhg – located in Erris, on the North Mayo Coast

Enjoy one of the many spectacular walks in the Ceathrú Thaidhg area, providing an exhilarating escape into the wilderness of this remote region. The Lonely Planet Walking in Ireland guide describes it as “the finest sustained coastal walk with a profusion of cliffs, crags, caves, chasms and islands along the remote north Mayo coast.”

Visit Ballycroy National Park

Ballycroy National Park is Ireland’s sixth National Park and is located in north-west Mayo. It comprises 11,000 hectares of Atlantic bog and mountainous terrain, covering a vast uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness dominated by the Nephin Bog Mountain range. The views are suitably captivating, offering stunning views over the landscape of Co. Mayo.

Visit Downpatrick Head and the Céide Fields

Older than Egypt’s pyramids, the Céide Fields are the oldest known field systems in the world. The remnants of the ancient settlements and megalithic tombs have been preserved thanks to a protective bog environment. Here you can indulge yourself in a vast prehistoric landscape, a natural wild ecology of blanket bog, dramatic cliffs and coastline and of course the majestic Downpatrick Head, one of the signature points on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Take a boat trip along the famous River Moy

Renowned as Ireland’s premier salmon river, and experience the Monasteries of the Moy

Step into the past with a visit to Rosserk Abbey and Moyne Abbey, the beautifully preserved religious sites of North Mayo, witnessing one of the finest preserved Franciscan friaries in Ireland - Rosserk. Follow the River Moy to its estuary and you’ll find Moyne Abbey, founded in 1460 for the Franciscans. The extensive ruin includes a cruciform church, chapel, tower and cloisters. Visitors can also explore the sacristy, chapter house, kitchen and refectory.

Visit the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

Visit the Museum of Country Life situated in the stunning grounds of Turlough Park, near Castlebar. The museum comprises the estate’s original house, which has been fully restored, as well as a purpose built exhibition gallery. The innovative exhibits on show at the museum tell the story of Irish country life between 1850 and 1950.

Visit to Knock – Ireland’s Holy Shrine

Visit Knock Shrine, the site of an apparition of Our Lady, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist, in 1879. Knock is one of the nine Marian apparition sites worldwide and is described as the “spiritual heart” of the Roman Catholic Church. Knock Shrine is revered by Catholics around the world as a special place of prayer and pilgrimage, healing and hope. In 1979, St John Paul II described Knock Shrine as “the goal of my journey to Ireland”.

Cong

The village of Cong is nestled along Mayo’s border with County Galway and commands great respect with historians throughout Ireland. The world famous Ashford Castle lies on the shores of Lough Corrib and attracts a large number of visitors annually. The Ashford Estate was founded in the early 1700’s but Ashford Castle dates back to the 12th Century, when it was built by the De Burgo family.
Key Sites To Visit During Your Trip along the Wild Atlantic Way

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bunratty Castle
Clare’s 13th-Century tower house known as Bunratty Castle has become another major tourist attraction, famous for its long history (the site was originally a Viking trading camp in 970) and its medieval-style banquets – a tradition that has survived since 1963.

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

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

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

Courtesy of Kate Phelan @ the culture trip
The Marshall Doran Collection
Belleek Castle, Ballina, Mayo

The Belleek Castle Tour includes an explanation of the origins of the Castle and the history of its former owners, the Knox-Gore family, the Earls of Arran. You will see private dining rooms, decorated in opulent romantic style, as well as the Medieval Banquet Hall, the Spanish Armada Bar and the Tween Deck. The highlight of the tour will be The Marshall Doran Collection, which is one of the finest collections of arms and armour, fossils and antiques in Ireland. You will also see the Grace O’Malley room and the last wolf shot in Connaught.

Tour times
11am, 2pm & 4pm every day
other times by appointment only

Admission
Adults €10.00, Children €7.50, Families €30
(Group discounts available)

belleekcastle.com
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Niall O’Callaghan has taken up the role as MD of Shannon Heritage with a passion for improving the customer experience across all seven Shannon Heritage sites, whilst fulfilling a civic responsibly to maintain Ireland’s rich heritage. Niall comes with vast public and private sector experience, as a former Regional Manager at IDA Ireland, and Commercial Business Operations Manager at Unilever Ireland. Niall is a graduate of UL, a postgraduate of UCC with a Masters in Marketing and a keen sportsman - having represented Ireland in athletics.

Favourite Wild Atlantic Way destination
Dungaire Castle, Kinvara, Co. Galway.

A picturesque location on the shores of Galway Bay, the castle interior is immaculately restored. The castle is set against a stunning backdrop, making it the most photographed castle in Ireland!

What do you love most about the Wild Atlantic Way?
Its rugged, unspoilt natural beauty. It is dotted with fantastic places to visit, eat at and explore that you cannot find anywhere in the world.

Favourite County and why?
Hard and all as it is to say as a Limerick man, it has to be Clare! No other county has such a breadth of attractions from the Burren to Doolin, the Cliffs to Loop Head.

Your favourite get away from it all pub & why?

Your favourite get away from it all restaurant & your favourite dish
It has to be VL Restaurant at Vaughan Lodge, Lahinch. Great location, great service and staff and the fresh Hake is second to none!

Biggest opportunity to drive Tourism on the Wild Atlantic Way?
For me, it has to be leveraging all the great tourist assets that Co. Clare has to offer by all stakeholders working together to build an unmissable value proposition. Taking advantage of the already 1.5M visitors to Clare each year, by encouraging them to stay overnight and extend their visits to the likes of Bunratty Castle & Folk Park – is sure to have a huge commercial impact for the local economy.
BUNRATTY CASTLE - IRELAND’S MOST FAMOUS CASTLE

JUST 1 HOUR FROM THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

CASTLE / MEDIEVAL BANQUET / FOLK PARK / IRISH NIGHT

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Renowned in Limerick for their exceptional customer service and hospitality skills, the Limerick Savoy collection operates four properties – the five-star Savoy Hotel, the iconic Hamptons Bar & Grill, Da Vincenzo and the George Boutique Hotel.

Named ‘Best Boutique Hotel of the Year in Ireland’ at the 2018 Irish Hotel Awards, The George Boutique Hotel celebrated 10 years in business last year.

Handsome, polished and perfectly placed, The Savoy is right in the heart of the Savoy Group and vibrant downtown Limerick. It is also the city’s only 5-star hotel.

The Savoy is a name that has been associated with culture and sophistication in Limerick since the 1930s, when the original cinema, theatre and restaurant opened its doors on this site.

The Savoy Hotel is built where the old Savoy once stood, and the hotel continues the long tradition of style, sparkle and hospitality associated with this name in this historic city centre location. Sleekly modern but resolutely old-school in terms of impeccable levels of service and classic touches, The Savoy is a luxurious city centre option for business or pleasure.

Each of the excellent selection of bars and restaurants on site makes The Savoy a destination for locals as well as guests; including the stylish Savoy Bar, the eclectic and cozy Library, the airy and elegant Savoy Restaurant and the always-buzzing Hamptons Bar & Grill.

It has been a busy 18 months for The Limerick Savoy Collection, who introduced Savoy Space in late 2017; eight new hi-tech offices in its bustling business centre, catering to the burgeoning tech sector in the city. They have invested close to €500,000 in the Savoy Space project.

The new suite of offices, designed by Italian design group Studio Arredo/Think Green, is located on the second floor of the city centre Limerick hotel, The Savoy. The design team, led by Maurilio Citterio, worked closely with The Savoy Hotel project team – basing the specifications for the Savoy Space offices on similar operations in Silicon Valley, New York and London.

A collaborative environment in a city centre location with private, quiet and secure spaces, inspiring contemporary design and 24/7 access and security, the Savoy Space offices at The Savoy Hotel provide all the tools needed to maximise the workspace experience for any business.

At Savoy Space, all utility costs are included; from complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi over secure networks, to complimentary local and national calls and in-house administrative support. There is also a wide range of additional services, plus the added bonus of access to all the exceptional 5-star facilities at The Savoy, ideal for the solo professional, the new business, the temporary user, or the off-site business meeting.

Following the opening of Savoy Space, the Limerick Savoy collection joined forces with Findlater & Co. – the general grocers and wine merchants brand with a rich and storied heritage dating back to 1823 – to create the vibrant new Alex Findlater & Co. Food & Wine Hall, an impressive 18,000 square foot emporium on the city’s main street, O’Connell Street.
Located on the ground floor of The George Hotel, in the heart of the city’s shopping and restaurant quarter, it is an original and inspirational new resource for food and wine lovers.

The first of its kind in the city – and the first in what the partnership hopes will be a strong new Irish retail presence, with potential other sites being looked at around the country – the substantial Food & Wine Hall opened in March 2018 and includes a lavish Oyster & Seafood Bar, an upmarket food area, an elegant Bollinger Jazz & Supper Club, and a fantastic selection of over 300 wines from across the globe, showcased at the handsome purpose-built wine theatre.

There will also be a flagship Warbler & Wren Coffee House, as well as in-house coffee from Lavazza and Robert Roberts and a full premium food retail experience. This makes the Alex Findlater & Co. Food & Wine Hall the new go-to destination in Limerick for food and drink shopping, all-day dining and meeting with friends over exceptional coffee, great wines and Champagnes; as well as delicious dishes from a wide variety of carefully curated menus.

Findlater & Co. have provided their professionalism and breadth of offering on coffee and wine to The Limerick Savoy Collection for many years, and this new business venture is a brilliant blend of two companies at the top of their game.

Bringing a lush new layer of luxury and creating a stylish new drinking and dining destination in the city centre, the Alex Findlater & Co. Food & Wine Hall will add buzz and excitement to Limerick’s vibrant shopping and restaurant quarter.

With plans to roll out the concept to a wider audience in other Irish cities and possibly in the UK, for now it is the lucky food and wine lovers of Limerick who will be the first to sample its delights.

Behind the continued developments, partnerships and achievements is Managing Director Ronan Branigan, who has been at the helm of the Savoy Group 10 years.

Exciting times are set to continue in 2019 and beyond with planning permission granted in June which will see The Savoy extend into the neighbouring Mill building at the Henry Street and Shannon Street junction, creating many construction jobs in the process and a multi-million euro investment from The Limerick Savoy Collection.

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**Things to do and to see in Limerick**

**King John’s Castle**

King John’s Castle is situated in the heart of medieval Limerick city. The stunning new exhibition at King John’s Castle brings to life over 800 years of dramatic local history. This 13th Century Castle reopened in June 2013 following a multi-million euro investment. Explore the new visitor centre with state-of-the-art interpretive activities and exhibitions. Relax afterwards in the café – the perfect place to unwind while enjoying terrific views onto the castle courtyard and the Shannon River.

**Thomond Park**

Thomond Park is the home ground of Munster Rugby, one of the most successful and best supported rugby clubs in the world. The famous venue, renowned internationally for its unique history and atmosphere, has been redeveloped and now boasts an increased capacity of 25,600.

**The Hunt Museum**

Exhibiting one of Ireland’s greatest private collections of art and antiquities, dating from the Neolithic to the 20th Century, including works by Renoir, Picasso and Yeats – the Hunt Museum is an all-round cultural experience. It reflects the diverse tastes and interests of the two people who formed it, John and Gertrude Hunt.

**New Food Hall for the City**

Limerick has got a retail boost with a new boutique food hall after opening in the heart of O’Connell Street. The first Alex Findlater and Co food and wine hall is open at 109 O’Connell Street, in a unit once occupied by the restaurant Chocolat. The 18,000 square foot development includes an oyster and seafood bar, an upmarket food area, and an elegant Bollinger jazz and supper club, complete with 300 wines from across the world.

There is a Warbler & Wren coffee house as well as in-house coffee from Lavazza and Robert Roberts, and a full premium food retail experience, making the Alex Findlater and Co food and wine hall the new go-to destination in Limerick for food and drink shopping, all-day dining and meeting with friends over exceptional coffee, great wines, and delicious dishes from a wide variety of carefully curated menus. It is operated by The Savoy Group, which also runs the five-star Savoy Hotel, the George Boutique Hotel, the Hampton’s Bar and Grill, plus Da Vincenzo, the Italian restaurant.

Dr James Ring, the chief executive of the Limerick Chamber has welcomed the development. He said: “It’s important. We have a good mix in the city, but I think one thing which is lacking is the high-end offering. We cater well for the fast food type stuff, as well as the mid-range stuff. But I feel our options at the high-end are somewhat limited. This will be a great addition to the city.”
Stay at the 4* George Hotel Limerick from only €89.00

Discover your route to the Wild Atlantic Way
Kerry is the ideal getaway for the first-timer who wants to dip a toe into a world of adventure, or for the seasoned thrill-seeker looking for the ultimate adrenaline rush.

Kerry has the landscape, the people and a host of activities that make for an unforgettable and exceptional adventure experience.

Stunning scenery and diverse local attractions compete for your attention as you explore Kerry’s cycle and walking trails and paths. The Kerry Way, The North Kerry Way, The Dingle Way and The Beara Way are some of Ireland’s longest signposted walking trails, and traverse through a variety of different landscapes and experiences. A stroll in Killarney National Park is a gem and you might encounter the famous Red Deer.

Bike rental is available in most of the towns and some operators provide guided cycling holidays and mountain biking. Horse riding treks and lessons are available throughout the county from the many equestrian centres, with many offering riders the opportunity to gallop along one of the beautiful beaches, or take lesser-known trails and tracks.

Kerry’s diverse coastline provides many surfing hot-spots from beach to reef point and offers a range of surfing experiences, from gentle beach breaks for the novice to world class breaks for experienced surfers in search of the big one.

To enjoy Kerry from the air, experience the thrill of paragliding or see the stunning county from the comfort of a helicopter tour. Or feel like you’re on top of the world as you take in the amazing vistas while resting weary limbs after climbing Ireland’s highest peaks, Carrauntoohil and Mount Brandon.

**The Skellig Experience**
At The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre you can experience many aspects of those offshore Skellig islands while remaining on the dry land, in a custom-built, stone-clad, grass-roofed, prize-winning building located right on the waterfront beside the Valentia Island bridge at Valentia, County Kerry! Here, through recreations and models, you can study the works and lives of the Skellig monks of the early Christian period, their activities, their endurance and their dedication in gaining a foothold on a tiny, inhospitable, offshore island and creating a community there that survived for some 600 years. In The Skellig Experience’s 80-seat auditorium, through a 14-minute film presentation, you can follow the footsteps of those Skellig monks, and wonder at the legacy of architecture that they left behind. The Skellig Experience Centre also offers - again through artefacts and realistic recreations - an experience of Skellig lighthouse - its history, its lightkeepers, and its service to mariners since the 1820’s.

**Mizen Head Visitor Centre**
An award-winning Maritime Museum and Heritage Attraction, this authentic all-weather experience is a must-see with its spectacular location on high cliffs with swirling Atlantic Ocean tides. From the car park and visitor centre, the Signal Station is a ten minute walk along the path, down the 99 steps and across the Arched bridge. Mizen Head is famous for its wildflowers and sightings of wildlife, dolphins, whales, seals, gannets, kittiwakes, goughs - the bird migration north-south flight path is just a mile offshore.

South. The Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, Ireland’s Teardrop, was the last landfall seen by many emigrants to America and one of Marconi’s first telegraph stations.

Indulging in your passion for adventure is easy in Kerry and limited only by your imagination.
Discover Paradise - Discover Parknasilla

enjoy · relax · explore

Parknasilla is only a short drive along the Wild Atlantic Way from the vibrant town of Kenmare. But what really counts is our immediate location set within a "Tropical Paradise" of islands, inlets & hidden beaches. Come stay with us and wake up to our beautiful sea views, indulge in spa pampering, explore one of our many coastline walking trails, enjoy a guided sea kayaking tour, play golf and in the evening come dine with us in The Pygmalion Restaurant where exemplary cooking, good wine and great service will impress.

www.parknasillaresort.com
Parknasilla Resort & Spa, Sneem, Co. Kerry, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)64 6675600 Email: info@parknasillaresort.com
listed as a ‘must-see’ attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way, Louis Mulcahy Pottery is a hive of activity where Ireland’s pre-eminent potter and well-known poet has established a showroom, café, pottery experience and workshop – offering tours and hands-on experience during the Summer season.

The thousands of exquisite pieces in the showroom, designed by Louis, are an artistic reflection of his picturesque surroundings. Inspired by the blue of the sea, the browns of the hillside, speckled with the purple heather and the roaring red sunsets. Louis’ large vases, urns, bowls, lamps, masks and druid figures are a must-have for the discerning buyer.

Louis’ business, nestled at the foot of a mountain and overlooking the wild Atlantic of Clogher strand, has been built up over 40 years and is renowned worldwide.

The workshop, showroom and café are open seven days a week throughout the year. The café, which started off as a twelve-seater space, has expanded yearly to meet demand and has won a reputation for serving local, beautifully presented food in inspiring surroundings.

Dingle crabmeat, Dingle Peninsula cheese, and local spiced beef are all feature on the menu and daily specials include savoury tarts, mackerel paté and a chilli-crab sandwich. Café favourites include Raspberry and dark chocolate Brownies, Kerry Apple Cake, and freshly baked scones and brown bread. Gluten-free options are always on the menu. The café is recommended by Georgina Campbell and McKenna’s Guides.

All this has contributed greatly to making a complete experience for visitors to this centre of excellence half way along the Slea Head drive of the Wild Atlantic Way.
See Exquisite Pieces of Crystal manufactured before your eyes

Waterford Crystal Factory and Brand Experience

The House of Waterford Crystal brings a visit to Waterford to a whole new level, as visitors can witness the creation of crystal masterpieces right before their very eyes. The factory tour is a unique and captivating experience that allows people to go behind the scenes for over an hour and see exactly how Waterford Crystal pieces are made and they can witness every stage of production, from the initial design stage right up to the final engraving of the piece.

Guided Factory Tours daily
Waterford Brand & Visitor Experience
Open Daily

Book online at www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com and receive a 10% discount on adult tickets
Things to do and to see in Clare

THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

The Cliffs of Moher are Ireland’s most visited site – with good reason. They are not just beautiful and majestic, they are awe-inspiring. They are good for the soul. Time stands still in their presence. The new visitor centre built in to the side of a hill is magnificent.

DOOLIN

A few miles north of the Cliffs of Moher lies the scattered village of Doolin. One long extended street flanked by countless B&Bs, guesthouses and hostels, Doolin doesn’t sound very inviting, but it is. What Doolin has that no other town or village in Ireland has is three great pubs with quality traditional Irish music sessions seven nights a week, 365 days a year.

SCATTERTY ISLAND

Located approximately one mile off Kilrush, Scattery Island is home to a monastic settlement founded in the early 6th Century by St. Senan who was born locally.

An exhibition of the history of the island is housed in the visitor reception building, which is situated near the pier, a 2.5km boat trip from Kilrush Marina.

www.scatteryislandtours.com

EXPLORE THE BURREN

The Burren is a tough one to describe. It’s basically a barren limestone area in the northwest corner of Clare. It was formed some 350m years ago while still under water. The rock twists and swirls and occasionally whips itself into conical hills.

MICHELIN STAR PUB IN CO. CLARE

The Wild Honey Inn with Aidan and Kate McGrath

A Co. Clare pub has become the first ever pub in Ireland to win a Michelin star, following the unveiling of the Michelin Guide to Great Britain and Ireland 2018 in London this year. The Wild Honey Inn in Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare is run by chef Aidan McGrath and his wife, Kate. McGrath has been running the pub for nine years. The Michelin judges say McGrath’s cooking “has a classical French base that delivers on flavour”. McGrath said at the ceremony that the win was down to his classical training while also “fine-tuning things over the years”.

In The Irish Times’ 100 best places to eat 2017, Irish Times restaurant critic Catherine Cleary’s wrote of the Wild Honey Inn: “The Wild Honey Inn is that great combination of a pub full of character and a kitchen that cares about putting the food of the Burren onto plates.”

The inclusion of Wild Honey Inn brings to 13 the number of Michelin starred restaurants and pubs on the island of Ireland, two in the north and 11 in the south.

VISIT THE ARAN ISLANDS

Located just 10km off the coast from Doolin, the Aran Islands are like a microcosm of Ireland through the ages. From the Bronze Age stone forts of Dun Aengus and Dun Ducaithoir (to name just two), to the monastic settlement of Teampall Bheanain, to the Irish-speaking fishermen and farmers of today, the Aran Islands will transport you to another Ireland, one obviously ancient and yet most definitely living and thriving in the 21st Century.
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Things to do and to see in Cork

**THE ENGLISH MARKET**

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

**ST FINBARRE’S CATHEDRAL**

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

**ST PATRICK’S ST**

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

**FARMGATE CAFE**

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

**CORK CITY GAOL**

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

**CORK OPERA HOUSE**

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

**FRANCISCAN WELL BREWERY**

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

**CRAWFORD ART GALLERY**

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

**TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE**

A fantastic cultural centre housed partly in a renovated church building – expect a varied programmed of live music, installation art, photography and theatre at this intimate venue. There’s also a cinema (from 6.30pm) and a great café.
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EIGHT REASONS TO SEE IRELAND AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME

With its scene-stealing natural beauty and multitude of things to see and do, Ireland is a dream tourist destination. But just in case you need any further convincing, here are eight reasons why everyone should explore the land of saints and scholars at least once.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS
Global experts on culture and travel recognise the many facets of the Wild Atlantic Way appeal - Donegal was officially named “the coolest place in the world” for 2017 by National Geographic and Ireland was recently nominated as Europe’s Leading Destination for this year in the 2017 World Travel Awards.

WORLD’S LONGEST DEFINED COASTAL DRIVING ROUTE
Ireland knows how to play to its strength and has worked hard to bolster the profile of tourist trails like the Wild Atlantic Way, a 2,600-kilometre (1,600-mile) stretch along the west coast (plus parts of the north and south) that is the world’s longest defined coastal driving route.

WORLD-CLASS ACCOMMODATION
There are some truly amazing places to stay in Ireland: from amazing world-renowned Bed & Breakfasts, to Ashford Castle, voted the Best Hotel in the World.

ITS MORE RECENT TROUBLED HISTORY
Ireland’s long history is both fascinating and tragic, particularly in regards to the many rebellions against British rule, which ultimately resulted in independence for the south of Ireland through the formation of the Irish Republic.

SPIKE ISLAND
Also known as Ireland’s Alcatraz, it has become major historic attraction. Spike Island recently won the European Leading Tourist Attraction 2017 in the highly respected World Travel Awards.

ONE OF THE WORLD’S OLDEST LANGUAGES
The Irish language is one of the ten oldest languages still spoken today, said to date back to before AD 3–4, when primitive Irish was first inscribed on Ogham stones. Although you’ll probably have to seek out a Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) community to hear it spoken fluently, it’s worth the effort to hear the ancient language still in day-to-day use.

GUINNESS
As one of the best-selling beers in the world, Guinness is Ireland’s most instantly recognisable export, and a huge amount of people want to see where it’s made - the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin was Ireland’s most visited paid tourist attraction in 2016, bringing in close to 1.5 million visitors. But no need to go to the brewery - the Guinness in Ireland is often said to taste significantly better than elsewhere (even Barack Obama says so).

SUPERB OUTDOOR AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
Expert hikers adore Ireland, and outdoor adventurers even named the summit climb of Croagh Patrick as one of the 15 best hikes in the world. There’s also Croagh Patrick Mountain on Achill Island – which at 688 metres (2,257 feet) is the site of the third highest sea cliffs in Europe – and Carrauntoohil, Ireland’s tallest peak.

Another plus for adventure junkies - Ireland offers some of the best surfing in the entire planet: Bundoran was chosen as one of the world’s top 20 surf towns by National Geographic, and big wave surfing in County Sligo attracts professionals from across the globe.
Ballynahinch Castle is set on a 700 acre estate in the heart of Connemara with 48 bedrooms & suites, all tastefully & individually decorated.

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

www.ballynahinchcastle.com
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A fun day out with the kids
Why not visit the Connemara Pony Festival at the Showgrounds in Clifden August 16–18

GREAT GRUB IN GALWAY
Savour the tastes - from fabulous farmhouse cheeses at Sheridan’s, to the irresistible McCambridge’s food emporium – you’ll find something to your taste in Galway.

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

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

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

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

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

GALWAY CATHEDRAL
One of Galway’s most iconic sights and a must visit for every tourist to the city.

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

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

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

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel is the perfect destination for an activity break or simply relaxing by one of our six open log fires. Expert guides are available to assist in every activity - on the sea, the mountains, rivers and trails or in the library exploring the rich culture of this spectacular region.
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For hundreds of years, lighthouses have helped seafarers find their way. Now they shine their light on the truly unique experience around the stunning coastline of Ireland.

Featuring 12 lighthouses in breathtaking coastal locations, Great Lighthouses of Ireland offers visitors from home and abroad the chance to visit or stay in a lighthouse.

The May Bank Holiday weekend (4th - 7th May) kicks starts the summer and Great Lighthouses of Ireland will celebrate this by inviting one and all for a weekend of family fun at Fanad, Loop and Valentia Lighthouses.

It is a weekend to embrace the Wild Atlantic Way and discover the stories of the lighthouses and their communities; to experience the wonders of life shaped by the sea and to meet with the people who are passionate about these unique places.

Many wonderful lighthouses are dotted along the Wild Atlantic Way, offering opportunities to visit a spectacular place and experience the romance, history, tradition and heritage of these wonderful buildings.

Many of the lighthouses along the coast offer guided tours led by Great Lighthouses of Ireland Guides and Storykeepers. A number of these guides are former lighthouse keepers who have a wealth of knowledge and great maritime tales and stories of life in a lighthouse.

Lighthouses

Fanan Lighthouse, Co. Donegal
Fanan Head Lighthouse in County Donegal was voted one of the most beautiful lighthouses in the world and is in an area regularly visited by whales, porpoises and dolphins. Sometimes you might even see the Northern Lights.

St John’s Point, Co. Donegal
Located at the end of one of the longest peninsulas in Ireland, near where ships from the Spanish Armada were wrecked by violent storms in 1588. This area is recognised for its excellent diving and sea-angling.

Clare Island Lighthouse, Co. Mayo
The family of legendary pirate queen, Grace O’Malley, owned Clare Island during the middle ages and the ruins of a tower house by the island’s harbour is known locally as Grace O’Malley’s Castle. Clare Island Lighthouse and its buildings have been beautifully restored and the island offers plenty of opportunities to explore the remains of an ancient Cistercian Abbey, where many of the O’Malley clan are buried.

Loop Head Lighthouse, Co. Clare
There has been a lighthouse at Loop Head since 1670. Originally, it was a coal burning brazier on a platform on the roof of the cottage lighthouse where the light keeper lived. You can still see part of the old cottage on the site. Now a much-loved visitor attraction, Loop Head entertained over 27,000 visitors in 2017. From here, it is possible to spot whales, dolphins and seals and the rock ledges and caves of the dramatic cliffs are home to many seabirds.

Valentia Island Lighthouse, Co. Kerry
Situated on beautiful Valentia Island and looking out across some of the most spectacular sights along the Wild Atlantic Way, the lighthouse sits on the site of the 17th century Cromwell Fleetwood Fort, which guarded against the threat of invaders right up to the 19th Century - cannon can still be seen overlooking the harbour. The island is steeped in history and 300 million-year-old fossilised footprints of a dinosaur are visible from the lighthouse.

Galley Head Lighthouse, Co. Cork
Built in 1875, during the heyday of lighthouse building, Galley Head Lighthouse was the most powerful lighthouse light in the world at that time. The lighthouse keepers at Galley Head would have witnessed the loss of Lusitania in 1915 and sighted many British and German vessels during World War I and II.

Ballycotton Lighthouse, Co. Cork
This is one of the few black-painted lighthouses in the world and was built after Sirius - the first vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean - was shipwrecked here in dense fog in 1647. Today the island lighthouse is only accessible by boat, which makes a tour to this wonderful place very special.

Lighthouse Keepers make fantastic storytellers
"It wasn’t a job - it was a way of life," according to Gerald Butler, who was a former lighthouse keeper and is the current lighthouse attendant at Galley Head Lighthouse. Lighthouse-keeping was a way of life for many families for well over 100 years. However, in the 1980s, advances in technology meant that lighthouses could be automated and there was no longer a need for permanent lighthouse keepers to be stationed on site. The last lighthouse was automated in 2012, but the stories of the lightkeepers need to be kept alive.

Many of the lighthouses mentioned above offer tours and even accommodation. For more information, visit www.greatlighthouses.com.
Kylemore Abbey

Looking for the perfect day out in the West of Ireland? Well in that case look no further than Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden, one of Ireland’s best-loved and most iconic tourist attractions and home to the Benedictine nuns since 1920. At Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden, there is so much for all the family to enjoy. Visit the restored rooms of the Abbey and learn about its history of tragedy, romance, education, innovation and spirituality.

Explore the 6-acre Victorian Walled Garden with its delightfully restored garden buildings. Discover woodland and lakeshore walks that will take you on a beautiful journey through our 1,000-acre estate. The beautiful Gothic Church is a short walk from the Abbey, nestled nearby is the Mausoleum where Mitchell and Margaret Henry are buried side by side. Children will enjoy making a wish at the Giant’s Ironing Stone.

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Things to do and to see in Mayo

ICE HOUSE HOTEL, CO MAYO

Chill out at the Chill Spa, where everything is designed to take advantage of the views out over the River Moy. Rest your eyes on it while making the most of its thermal garden, outdoor barrel sauna and outdoor hot tubs. Forget the weather, and all your aches and pains, while up to your neck in bubbly – the hot tub kind, the other can come later. Inside, there are light and dark relaxation rooms and Voya treatments on tap.

CROAGH PATRICK

Croagh Patrick, which overlooks Clew Bay in County Mayo, is considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. Each year, The Reek, as it is colloquially known, attracts about one million pilgrims. On ‘Reek Sunday’, the last Sunday in July, over 25,000 pilgrims visit the Reek. At the top, there is a modern chapel where Mass is celebrated and confessions are heard. Individuals and groups come from all over the world and include pilgrims, hill climbers, historians, archaeologists and nature lovers.

THE ATLANTIC DRIVE ON ACHILL ISLAND

Achill Island occupies an area of some 57 sq miles but its actual coastline – including all the inlets and spurs – measures over 80 miles. In some places, the roads follow (generally) the shoreline and two particular stretches of road have been designated as Achill’s Atlantic Drive.

KEEM BAY

Described as the last beach that you see before New York. The drive from Achill Sound to Keem Bay is absolutely spectacular as you drive along the side of a cliff for what seems forever but the jaw-dropping view of Keem bay when it appears in your eyeliner is simply amazing.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

The award-winning National Museum of Ireland – Country Life is home to the National Folk life Collection and is a leading visitor experience in the west of Ireland. Set in the spectacular grounds of Turlough Park House, this award-winning museum provides a fascinating insight into the lives of our rural ancestors from the 1850s to the 1950s. The main exhibitions are spread across four floors of modern galleries in an purpose-built architecturally interesting building.
Discover the Great Western Greenway!

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and Achill
Co Mayo, Ireland
Things to do and to see in Sligo

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

**SLIGO ABBEY**

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

**MULLAGHMORE HEAD**

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

**SLIGO TOWN**

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

**STREEDAGH**

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

**GRAVE OF WB YEATS**

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

**SURFING**

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

**CARROWKEEL**

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

**SLIGO FOOD TRAIL**

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

**BEN BULBEN**

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

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

**CONEY ISLAND**

The original and best, Sligo’s Coney Island is the largest and most popular of the islands in Sligo Bay. Boasting 400 acres of beaches and green fields crisscrossed by old stone walls and populated by an abundance of rabbits, it’s a great place to spend a relaxed afternoon.
Here in North Mayo, we're right on the 'Wild Atlantic Way.' But summer breaks at the Ice House couldn't be more calm. Enjoy slick, stylish rooms, amazing local food, effortless service, mouthwatering cocktails and a tipple for every taste. Then treat yourself to soothing spa treatments that'll leave you rested and ready for more.

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Business focus:  

Going global means connecting at a local level

Pat Kelly is a co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer at Vistatec, a global content solutions company. Pat is responsible for the commercial viability of the company’s business solutions. Vistatec has its global headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, and offices in Mountain View, California.

Vistatec recently celebrated its milestone 20-year anniversary of helping the world’s most recognisable brands reach their global commercial potential.

Whether a company wants to enter a new market, or expand their existing product range, Vistatec is there to help with the internationalisation, localisation, creation and translation of a brand’s content and products.

Pat credits the continued success of the now-global organisation to putting the client at the heart of everything they do. Pat works with the internal teams to help tailor bespoke solutions for the global client base, ensuring that the specific client needs are met at every stage of the process. As a director of the company, he can be found working closely with the sales team to support and help their efforts.

Vistatec are constantly evolving in terms of the way they want to approach new clients and verticals and Pat observes the commercial elements, while providing that support.

The company has grown over the past 20 years and has evolved in terms of structure, types of clients, types of work and the technologies utilised. When Vistatec initially set out, it grew quickly and there was a sense that localisation was quickly becoming a key facet of the client’s development cycles.

This was an exciting time for Vistatec, but also a pivotal moment in the sense that quality had to be of the highest standard, delivery had to be timely to complement the client’s development cycles and cost had to be competitive. Those three touchpoints are key to what Vistatec still does today and many clients from those early days remain. In fact, Vistatec have been working with seven of its top 10 clients for more than 10 years.
As well as providing excellent client service, Pat emphasises how important it was to stay at the forefront of technology and remain agile. Software and translation tools are constantly evolving.

At Vistatec, Chief Technology Officer Phil Ritchie, who has been part of the company since its inception, is a board member of several European agencies who develop the latest technologies which are built into client solutions.

Technology became a complementary factor when delivering quality, the translations had to be culturally aligned with the audience so that their brand’s message could be delivered in an effective and engaging way.

For the quality to remain at a top-notch level, Vistatec spends time sourcing the best language partners, contacts built up over many years. This allows Vistatec to provide a superior language service. Vistatec and its clients were evolving simultaneously. With those technology advancements, process automation was developed to build solutions around evolving client requirements. Despite all this automation, Pat states how it was still important to keep the human element when connecting with the client.

Working with mostly Fortune 500 companies, Pat states that the reasoning for targeting this type of clientele is that Vistatec maintains a sustainable business model.

By working with a client who has ongoing and evolving business requirements, Vistatec builds long-term relationships and by working closely with them, can identify what their pain points might be and resolve them in the most efficient way possible. For example, creating a workflow system that minimises human touchpoints and puts automated processes in place which speeds up time to market.

Originally starting off with a focus on the IT industry vertical, Vistatec has expanded its client base across the Retail & eCommerce, Life Sciences, Manufacturing and Travel & Hospitality verticals.

While Vistatec services a range of industry verticals, the requirement for global content solutions across these organisations have one thing in common - to connect with their intended audience on a local level. This is the essence of going global.

In the digital age, everything has become instantaneous, companies must be able to keep their content relevant and of a high standard to maintain brand integrity. One mistake could prove costly.

In the initial years, Vistatec used to work on large applications that were localised over several months. But now, agility is everything and continuous localisation is the norm. That is the difference between Vistatec now versus 21 years ago and Vistatec has risen to the challenge. Here's to the next 20 years!
Less than an hour from Limerick city, and located where the waters of the mighty Shannon meet the Wild Atlantic Way, lies Scattery Island - one of the least-known but most impressive visitor attractions anywhere in Ireland.

Last year, Scattery Island was selected as Ireland’s European Destination of Excellence for 2017 (EDEN award) and the award ceremony took place in Brussels in March 2018. This was a significant win for the little-known island, and it now joins the ranks of other top tourism EDEN winners such as the Burren/Cliffs of Moher and Loop Head. Last year saw visitor numbers to the island grow by 300% as word spreads about the beauty of this little island located off the west coast of Co. Clare.

Although many tourist sites market themselves as being a ‘hidden gem’ a trip to Scattery is a unique visitor experience and one not to be missed on your Wild Atlantic Way journey.

Scattery Island, also known as ‘Inis Cathaigh’ has a fascinating history and was once the home of legendary monsters, medieval saints, Irish chieftains, Vikings, adventurers’ raiders and traders. Today, the island is uninhabited and visitors can explore its ancient historic sites and experience its unspoilt natural beauty in peace and tranquillity without battling their way through gift shops and large busloads of tourists. Unlike some other

heritage sites which have suffered from overdevelopment and commercialisation, visitors to Scattery are offered free entry to the island’s new heritage centre and free walking tours by friendly and professional tour guides from OPW Heritage Services.

The free guided tours are very popular with younger visitors who can hear the legend of “An Cáthach” the monster who once ruled the island and learn about Brian Boru – the High King of Ireland who defeated the Limerick Vikings in a great battle on Scattery. Older visitors can discover the daily life and struggles of the local community who lived in this beautiful but isolated location until the 1970s.

Visitors can explore the cathedral and churches of the ancient celtic monastery founded by Saint Senan in the sixth Century and marvel at the island’s round tower, one of the tallest and best surviving examples in Ireland, which has withstood Atlantic storms for over 1,000 years. More adventurous day-trippers can also explore the abandoned ruins of the artillery fort on the south of the island which was built by the British army over 200 years ago to prevent Napoleon’s armies sailing up the Shannon towards Limerick.

As well as these historic sites the island also has a lighthouse, the deserted village where the islanders once lived and beautiful semi-natural grassland which is home to an array of wild bird, animal and plant life which is of great interest to ecologists and bird watchers who visit.

A seasonal ferry service operates between May and September offering regular, fast and comfortable ferry sailings to Scattery from Kilrush. This daily service departs Kilrush Marina and the full schedule of sailing times and further information on the service can be found on their website www.scatteryislandtours.com. The site also includes information on local accommodation and other tourism attractions in the area.

Scattery Island offers tourists amazing panoramic views of the Shannon Estuary and in good weather is the ideal spot for a picnic. Packed lunch options are available as part of your booking to the island and full details can be found on the website.

There are a range of short and long stay options available ensuring you can plan the perfect day out or you can also avail of the bespoke River Cruise and Island Visit day trips, custom designed to suit your requirements.

To book your trip to Scattery Island and enjoy the experiences of one of the Shannon region’s real hidden treasures, phone Scattery Island Tours on (085) 2805512 or email info@scatteryislandtours.com
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GPO Witness History Visitor Centre

The award-winning GPO Witness History Visitor Centre is located in the iconic GPO (General Post Office) building on O'Connell Street, Dublin. This experience is a must-see on your visit to Dublin.

Explore the fascinating story of modern Irish history and the 1916 Easter Rising in this spectacular setting. The history of modern Ireland is brought to life through electronic touch screens, video, audio visual booths, sound and authentic artefacts.

The visitor centre also features the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation Exhibition - the first ever permanent exhibition on the Irish Flag to commemorate the 170th anniversary of the first flying of the Irish Tricolour in 1848.

The GPO was the communications hub of Ireland and headquarters of the men and women who took part in the 1916 Easter Rising. The Easter Rising set in motion an unstoppable chain of events which would ultimately lead to the creation of the Irish Republic.

Relax afterwards in the courtyard café and browse the gift shop, both of which are open to the public. This iconic venue is also available for private functions, events and is open year round.

The GPO Witness History Visitor Centre has won numerous awards, including the Micheletti Award at the 2017 European Museum Academy Awards.

For further information and bookings, visit www.gpowitnesshistory.ie or email info@gpowitnesshistory.ie

Indulge yourself at Inchydoney Lodge & Spa

Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa is situated just outside the colourful heritage town of Clonakilty in West Cork, a region blessed with some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery.

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Blue Flag Beach, the resort has long been appreciated for its romantic and picturesque location.

Winner of many awards and accolades - from Ireland's Leading Spa Resort at the World Travel Awards and Ireland's Leading Resort at the Irish Hospitality Awards, to Best Four Star Hotel at the Hotel & Catering Review Gold Medal Awards - Inchydoney is a true West Cork hideaway. A warm welcome awaits you in one of Ireland's most exclusive and tranquil retreats, a true destination for people who value time together. www.inchydoneyisland.com
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www.michaelcollinshouse.ie

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

Winter Opening Times
Wed - Sat: 10am to 5pm
(October to April)
Things to do and to see in West Cork

**ORIENTAL BEAUTY AT GARNISH ISLAND**

Expect the unexpected at these oriental gardens just off the West Cork coast! Check out a horticultural oasis on an island within Glengarriff Harbour and see the Gulf Stream in full effect. Garnish Island blooms with astounding oriental and southern hemisphere plant life in these beautifully-designed and uniquely-placed gardens.

**DURSEY ISLAND**

Accessible by Ireland’s only cable car, a breezy 250m above the sea, Dursey Island is the most westerly of Cork’s inhabited. Ideal for a real off-grid day trip, you’ll find three small villages, a beautiful walking trail, ancient church ruins and not a pub, or shop, in sight.

**INCHYDONEY BEACH**

Stretching for miles of picture perfect white sands, secluded dunes and the rhythm of lapping waves, Inchydoney is on just about every beach-lover’s to-do list. Only a few miles from Clonakilty, you can indulge in great grub after your day by Blue Flag the sea shore. Even the twisty road to get there is an adventure!

**LOUGH HYNE**

Between the West Cork towns of Skibbereen and Baltimore sits Ireland’s very first designated Marine Nature Reserve, its only salt water lake and arguably the world’s most studied body of water, mesmerising Lough Hyne. Investigated by marine biologists for centuries, its unique eco-system runs on warm oxygenated seawater, making this marine marvel home to over 70 fish species.

**MIZEN HEAD**

With a vertiginous suspension bridge to give you the wobbles, a historic signal station, wildlife on tap and lighthouse views to boot, Mizen Head is Ireland’s most south-westerly point and a fine way to experience the county’s exceptional windswept scenery.

**CHARLES FORT**

One of the largest military forts in the country and probably one of the most picturesque with its elevation above the sea, Kinsale’s Charles Fort has seen its share of history from the 17th century right up to the Irish Civil War in 1922. Stroll its lush green star shaped fortifications and get a real feel for its place in the history books. Don’t forget to stop off at the tea rooms!

**OLD HEAD OF KINSALE**

Yes, it’s home to a world-class golf course and an eye-catching lighthouse but the Old Head of Kinsale also offers an incredible vantage point over the crashing Atlantic that is an Instagram-lover’s dream. A headland that juts some 3km out to sea, you can even take a boat cruise around it and be wowed by its majesty from below.

**BEARA PENINSULA**

Following this weather-beaten stretch of land you’ll take in scenic towns and villages like Glengarriff, Adrigole, Castletownbere, Allihies and more, all while drinking in Atlantic views, mountain vistas and endless photographic pit-stops. At some stage, you’ll return to reality but just... not yet!

**BANTRY HOUSE & GARDENS**

This 17th Century residence gives an amazing glimpse into the life and travels of the 2nd Earl of Bantry, Richard White. Having collected art and treasures from all over the world, today’s visitors can view his vast collection in his stunning ancestral mansion. With seven leafy Italian-style terraces, the gardens are just as impressive as the house.

**WHALE WATCHING**

A great coastal area for spotting our fin and flippered friends, enjoy your pick of whale watching tours and cruises in County Cork. Get your splash-proof cameras ready as you’ve good chances of seeing Humpback, Fin, Minke and Killer Whales in all their majesty, not to mention dolphins, porpoises and seals too.
Escape to the unspoilt beauty of West Cork and the Wild Atlantic Way

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Here at the gateway to the Beara Peninsula on the Wild Atlantic Way, with panoramic views over Bantry Bay, you have a wealth of local attractions right on your doorstep. A ferry to Garinish Island, sea kayaking, blue pool, bike hire, walks & hiking trails, or a stroll in the village... there’s something here for everyone

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Things to do and to see in Sligo

**Drive to an Island**

Coney Island is a little island off the coast of Sligo between Standhill and Sligo town. Drive across the sand at low tide and explore this almost-deserted island. Beautiful Carrystown strand is an amazing place for a walk or a picnic. Sit in St Patrick’s chair and make a wish with your hand in the imprint of St Patrick’s hand.

**Inishmurray Island**

Off the coast of Sligo, Inishmurray Island is one of Ireland’s oldest monastic settlements dating back to the 6th Century. Now deserted, this is a day trip by sea charter. On the way, you might be lucky enough to see whales, dolphins and sharks as well as a host of seabirds with views back across to the mountains of Sligo. The old monastic remains of beehive huts and churches remain, as well as the last houses of islanders who left for the mainland in the 1940s.

**Benbulben & The Gleniff Horseshoe Drive**

There’s an amazing drive up under the large rock formation known as Benbulben. You can see Diarmuid & Gráinne’s cave, ruined houses and dramatic mountainside scenery. There is also a ‘magic road’ where you can get your car to roll uphill. Leave the car on and in gear and you’ll roll uphill without using the accelerator...or do you?

**Glenar Waterfall**

Particularly impressive after heavy rain, this wonderfully romantic waterfall forms part of the beautiful Glenar valley. It is easily accessible and there are a number of short wooded walks and viewing platforms, making it a perfect stop off point on route to north Sligo, Donegal and Fermanagh.

**Tough Gill**

The landscape that inspired Yeats is a half day’s tour with loads of interesting stopping off points.

Tobarnauld holy well is a curious mix of Catholicism and paganism where the trees are draped with ribbons and the well is said to have healing properties. Stop on the lakeshore and have a tour of Parkes Castle, a 17th Century plantation house and take a Yeats-themed boat tour out to the Lake Isle of Innisfree. There are beautiful lakeside walks at Slish Wood and Dooney Rock.

**Beautiful Beaches**

Sligo has some of the most breath-taking beaches on the Atlantic coast and, what’s more, the most beautiful are also usually deserted. Try Streedagh beach, near Grange in north Sligo and Dunmore Strand on the way west to Mayo for a secluded, but spectacular walk. Or, try the beaches at Strandhill and Mullaghmore for a great walk with a pint, or a cup of coffee, in one of these little seaside towns afterwards.

**Knocknarea Mountain**

Climb up Knocknarea on the Strandhill peninsula. A half hour’s hike brings you up to spectacular views over the surrounding countryside, across the Atlantic Ocean and Sligo Bay to Benbulben Mountain beyond. Legend has it that the warrior queen Maeve is buried under the neolithic cairn at the top.

**Sligo Abbey**

A mid-13th Century Dominican Friary, Sligo Abbey is fantastically preserved and contains a wealth of gothic and renaissance tomb carvings and the only carved 16th Century altar to survive in an Irish church. Tours are conducted daily.

**Carrowmore Megalithic Tombs**

This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. It is also among the country’s oldest, with monuments ranging from 5500–6500 years old, pre-dating the pyramids of Egypt. Archaeologists have recorded over 60 tombs, of which 30 are visible.
A visit to Eagles Flying is fun for all the family. The highly entertaining and interactive shows at Ireland's largest Bird of Prey Centre mean excitement, photo opportunities and the chance to get close up with birds of prey.

Experience Eagles, Hawks and Vultures flying right over your head or landing beside you. You have never been that close to such a bird. There are more than 100 birds of prey – some with a wingspan of more than 3 metres. If you are lucky, you can fly or touch one of them during the show. If you like more cuddly creatures you can stroke the animals in our large Pet-Zoo.

To Find Us: Drive from Ballymote towards Temple House / Ballinacrow or from the N17 towards Temple House / Ballymote. Our GPS co-ordinates: N 54°06.207' W 8°34.053'

| Bird Shows daily at 11am & 3pm (60 min. each approximately) |
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This summer, to experience what a visitor called “a fantastic, forever-remembered day” booking online will give you the best value for all of what Aillwee Cave and Bird of Prey Centre has to offer.

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For more details, check out www.aillweecave.ie
The iNUA Collection are delighted to announce the appointment of Brenda Murphy as Group Director of Sales & Marketing.

A Cork native, Brenda joins iNUA Hospitality plc with over 20 years’ experience working in the hospitality industry, joining the iNUA Hospitality team from the 5-star Castlemartyr Resort in East Cork, where she held the role of Director of Sales & Marketing since 2014.

Brenda began her career in hospitality in 1990 as a Trainee Manager with the Radisson Edwardian Hotels, London where she gained a wealth of experience working across a variety of roles.

Brenda later returned home to Ireland, where she took up the position of Events Sales Manager at The Burlington Hotel, Dublin and spent eight years as part of the Radisson Blu Ireland’s Management team, as Asst. Director of Sales & Marketing for Radisson Blu St Helen’s Hotel, Dublin and Director of Sales & Marketing for the Galway Radisson Hotel & Spa.

Throughout her career to-date, Brenda has developed an impressive skillset and key professional strengths that include strategic marketing and sales, event management, business development, budgeting, market research, customer relationship management, corporate brand development, social media and trade show management. She has received numerous awards from the Hospitality, Sales & Marketing Association (HSMA) including winner of the ‘Best Sales & Marketing Strategy’ Ireland 2005.

Commenting on her recent appointment, Sean O’Driscoll, Chief Operating Officer of iNUA Hospitality plc said: “We are delighted to announce Brenda as an addition to the new management team. We are committed to investing in the best talent and expertise in the hospitality sector to support our growing hotel portfolio.”

Ms Murphy said: “I am delighted to be joining iNUA Hospitality plc as Group Director of Sales & Marketing. I’m looking forward to embracing the new challenges the role will bring, as well as working with the extended team across the country. I’m excited to apply my skillset and knowledge to the many exciting projects planned with the group.”
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Destinations Abroad

The Orihuela Costa Spain

There is a gorgeous place, less than a three-hour flight from any Irish airport, with everything you could wish for in a holiday. This place is called Orihuela Costa and until recently, was one of Spain’s best-kept secrets.

Only 30,000 registered residents live in this little paradise during the milder ‘winter’ months but these figures swell to over 200,000 holidaymakers each week in the high summer season. So, is it the white sandy beaches that makes this area so popular? It is true that all the beaches are beautiful and well-kept; but there is much more to it than that.

In Orihuela Costa, English is the most spoken language. The weather is fantastic, the temperature and the hours of sunshine in the winter are better than summer in Ireland. There are well over 300 days of sunshine each year.

Orihuela Costa boasts blue skies almost every day of the year, so even those who don’t lie out in the sun will love the brightness and be able to enjoy lots of outdoor activities as part of this no-pressure lifestyle.

Eating out in Orihuela Costa is a delight and not expensive, there are many buffets that cost only €10. Most holidaymakers can afford to eat out every night and there are hundreds of excellent restaurants to choose from. There is a vibrant nightlife to be found and the price of alcohol is a fraction of what you pay at home.

You can buy a trolley of groceries in any supermarket in Orihuela Costa for what you pay for a basket-full in Ireland. Zenia Boulevard is one of the busiest shopping centres in all of Spain and boasts well in excess of 12 million customers per annum with 2,000 staff and over 5,000 parking spaces. This is a shopper’s paradise.

Sofía Alvarez, pictured: Councillor for Tourism and full-time resident of Orihuela Costa said: “We have a truly multi-cultural society here where 100 different nationalities live, work and holiday together. Tourism is vital to the Spanish economy, but this is a unique tourist destination. There are only four hotels in the area and tourists often use holiday homes of family and friends.

“This is a low-rise area with 11 beautiful Blue Flag beaches, two marinas, 32 Irish bars, hundreds of restaurants and a dozen or so supermarkets. Orihuela Costa is not so much a holiday resort, as it is a home away from home.”
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In January 2018, I left Ireland to pursue my dream of seeing the world. I quit my job in marketing, drained my savings account and booked a one-way flight to Brazil.

Since then, I have dressed up as a mermaid at Carnival in Rio de Janeiro; I have basked in the magnificence of Iguazu Falls and spent hours wine-tasting in Mendoza, Argentina’s wine capital.

For three days, I travelled in a 4x4 through the Bolivian desert to reach the salt flats of Uyuni before taking a terrifying flight into the Amazon rainforest.

On St Patrick’s Day, I was in La Paz (Bolivia) in an Irish hostel, draped in an Irish flag standing on the bar counter screaming the national anthem and spilling pints on unsuspecting backpackers below.

In Ecuador, I spent several days in the surf town of Montañita, trying to catch waves by day and sipping on cheap, fruity cocktails by night.

I hiked to Machu Picchu, a true wonder of the world in every sense. I went to a salsa club in Cali, Colombia, before spending two weeks lounging in coffee shops and pretty squares in Medellin.

One of my favourite cities has been Lima, Peru’s modern metropolis; bustling with restaurants, parks and plazas. I spent days here sitting in pretty coffee shops drinking mocha-chinos and jugos (fresh fruit juices).

As an emerging food capital, I tried everything from Nikkei cuisine (Japanese-Peruvian fusion) to street food tours - because in Lima, you eat. I took long walks along the coastline and watched sunset over the Pacific every evening.

I have only met a handful of Irish people on my travels and so I find myself repeatedly describing my country to people from Australia, the Netherlands, Canada and everywhere in between. I spend so much time talking about everything I love about Ireland, that I begin to miss it.

As I sit on ten-hour bus journeys
through the Andes, or along the Peruvian coastline, I realise that not only do I miss home but I will inevitably settle and spend the rest of my life there. And I am content with that.

And when I think about it, all the Irish people I have met during my travels, including myself, had one thing in common. Though the date was not always certain, one things was: We were all eventually going to go back to Ireland.

Even after spending months working in surf hostels in Ecuador, trekking through the Andean countryside, or paragliding over tropical mountains in Colombia, in the end, it seems that no place is as enticing as home.

Bio: Suzanne Murphy is a travel writer, content creator and online marketer hailing from Dublin, Ireland.

She is currently backpacking Latin America and when she is not busy exploring or spending all of her money in markets, you will find her sitting in pretty cafes, drinking endless cappuccinos and writing and freelancing online. Suzanne runs her own travel & lifestyle blog, Seeking Suzanne, and you can follow her journey on Instagram.

Website: https://www.seekingsuzanne.com

Instagram: @seekingsuzanne
Things to do and to see in Donegal

HIKE ONE MAN’S PASS

Hike the trail along the ridge topping the cliffs, just beyond the viewing platform at the Granite cliffs of Slabhair Liag. Not for those who are afraid of heights.

GLENCOLMCILLE FOLK VILLAGE

Take a week of classes covering Irish Gaelic language, Irish harp or whistle, archaeology, and more. At Glencolmcille Folk Village, thatched cottages reveal country life during different centuries.

ATTEND A BALLYSHANNON FESTIVAL

For decades, the Ballyshannon Folk and Traditional Music Festival has attracted top musicians and bands during the August bank holiday weekend at the beginning of the month.

The Wild Atlantic Craft Beer and Whiskey Festival, based at Dicky Reilly’s Bar, is on the same weekend and features tastings, brewer sessions, and tours of the on-site Donegal Brewing Company that produces seven craft beers.

SURF’S UP

Competing with both counties Clare and Sligo for the mantle of Ireland’s surf capital, Donegal is home to some of Ireland’s best surf spots. If you haven’t surfed before, check out any of the surf schools in Bundoran, Rosnowlagh or Dunfanaghy; they’ll get you on a wave in no time. Richie Fitzgerald, one of Ireland’s most famous big wave surfers, is a proud Donegal man.

SEE IMPOSITIVE LATE NEOLITHIC DOLMENS

The Dolmen Centre near Portnoo features two stone portal tombs dating back more than 4,000 years. Camera junkies - Driving from Glencolmcille to Ardara, pull off at the top of Glengesh Pass for a view of the road looping downward into what appears to be a Hobbit-like world below.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Fancy a glimpse of the jaw-droppingly beautiful Northern Lights? Well Donegal definitely offers your best chance. Some of the best sightings of the Northern Lights have been in Inishowen, close to the most northerly tip of Donegal, with Malin Head, Dunree, Mamore Gap and Dunaff all suggested as some of the best spots to get a view of them.

CATCH A WAVE

Rosnowlagh hosted the European Surfing Championships back in 1985, and the reliable curls here make it an excellent destination for beginner and experienced surfers. You can watch big-wave surfing from the headlands at Mullaghmore in winter; the nearby Prowlers surf break can sometimes throw up waves reaching 55 feet high, attracting the world’s most extreme surfers.
Carrygerry Country House was built around 1793 and was originally part of the Dromoland Estate, near Shannon, in the scenic County Clare in the West of Ireland. Due to the nature and location of our property overlooking the Shannon Estuary, we are unique to any other hotel in the area, as we can offer you the House completely private to you for your special day. We only cater for one wedding on any particular day, to ensure personal service and individual attention is at it best throughout your special day.

Awards – Recommended By:

- Good Food Ireland
- Georgina Campbell Ireland
- Good Food Ireland Country House of the Year
- Tripadvisor: Certificate of Excellence 2012-2015
- Country House Honours for Breakfast
- Blas na hEireann National Irish Food Awards:
  - Best in Clare 2016
  - Silver for Chicken Liver Pate 2012, Gold 2013 & Silver 2015
- Bronze for Field Mushroom & Walnut Pate 2013 & Silver 2014 & 2015
- Raspberry Jam Gold 2014 & Bronze 2015
- Three Fruit Marmalade Silver 2014
- “Business Diversification Award”
- 2015 Great Taste Gold Star for both our Chicken Liver Pate and our Field Mushroom & Walnut Pate
- 2016 Great Taste Gold Star for Chicken Liver Pate
East Cork is an exciting, attractive and vibrant region within Ireland’s Ancient East. The area includes the historic towns of Youghal, Midleton and Cobh as well as beautiful villages, Blue Flag beaches, stunning cliff walks, award-winning tourist attractions and internationally applauded food producers, eateries and traditional pubs.

As the gateway to both of Fáilte Ireland’s international tourism initiatives, the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Ancient East, East Cork is ideally located and offers an extensive and limitless range of fantastic attractions to not only attract visitors, but to keep them holidaying in the area and keen to return.

In East Cork, you can immerse yourself in local culture and history in many unique and interactive ways.

In Youghal, the former home of Sir Walter Raleigh, you can travel 700 years back in time, floor by floor of the Youghal Clock Gate Tower. It boasts four miles of sandy beaches running south-west of the Front Strand and overlooking Youghal Bay, including Clancastle, Redbarn and Pilmore. If the kids aren’t entertained enough by the beautiful sandy beaches, then take them to Perk’s Entertainment Centre where they will have hours of fun. Historically, Youghal has much to see such as the medieval town walls, St Mary’s Collegiate Church, Water Gate, Alms Houses, Tyntes Castle and more.

In the ancient market town of Midleton – the birthplace of Jameson Whiskey - experience the bustle of the Saturday morning farmers’ market in the original marketplace, meet local producers, hear their stories and taste their extraordinary produce.

The market was originally started by Darina Allen at the nearby Ballymaloe Cookery School. Visit the Jameson Experience and the world’s largest copper pot still at the Old Midleton Distillery and try the Jameson Distillery tour and tasting.

Or, in the nearby fishing village of Ballycotton, take a short boat trip to Ballycotton lighthouse and experience the life of an offshore lighthouse keeper in one of Ireland’s Great Lighthouses.

Travelling west towards Cobh, visit Fota Wildlife Park for plenty of family fun. Once in Cobh, you can visit the Titanic Experience, the Heritage Centre, or join a historic walking tour of the quaint and colourful coastal town. Take a boat from Cobh and visit the fortress at Spike Island, which was voted Europe’s leading tourist attraction in 2017.

East Cork has something for everyone - from the culturally curious and family fun seekers, to canoëing couples and silver surfers. However long you choose to stay in the area, or however you enjoy spending your free time, East Cork has something for you. Along the way, there’s plenty of incredible restaurants and pubs offering the very best Ireland has to offer in refreshments, hospitality and entertainment.

Visit www.eastcork.ie to plan your visit - where you can also get the T-shirt and download a copy of the East Cork Visitors Guide and/or follow East Cork on social media via Facebook @ DestinationEastCork Twitter @ EastCorkIE Instagram @east_cork
Golf in the company of champions

“I can guarantee you’ll have an unforgettable golfing experience…” – Des Smyth, PGA champion

Ireland has almost half the world’s links golf courses and has eight courses in the current ‘Golf Digest World Top 100’. For a small country, we are seriously punching above our weight and this is the reason why golf tourists flock to our shores from all over the world.

At G Golf Ireland, we believe a holiday of a lifetime deserves to be completely enjoyed from start to finish. That’s what golfing in Ireland is - a holiday of a lifetime. For many, it’s a bucket-list item, so it should be relaxing and not a chore.

It’s worth having an expert team manage the full itinerary and transport. It takes all the pressure off any individual and immerses the group fully in the entire experience.

Timing is everything in Ireland. There’s a fine art in balancing the geography of Ireland to maximise leisure time. Knowing in advance that your entire trip has been put together by a team with decades of experience brings real peace of mind. Everyone can relax and enjoy the golf.

Our dedicated G Golf Ambassadors are a team of elite amateur golfers who act as your personal guide on and off the course. Having someone with you who knows the courses like our ambassadors, is priceless. For everything you need, we’re here. You’re truly in the company of champions.

Our attention to detail gives us the edge. From castles to choppers, each trip is unique and we’ll take care of it all. With experience hosting tournaments, corporate golf events, VIP excursions and so much more, you only have to ask!

“Once again you have made our visit to Ireland a terrific one. We cannot thank you enough for your golf guidance as a swing coach, caddie and Bob Rotella! You are a true zen master of the game with all your golf knowledge, etc. We are most appreciative of your kindness and friendship. It has been a terrific week. Thank you again.” Greg & Kelly

“You’ll be in excellent hands with Golf G Ireland” – Paul McGinley, Ryder Cup Captain

Visit our website today: www.ggolfireland.org or email: golf@ggolfireland.org
Things to do and to see in Leitrim

Shannon Blueway

With so many ways to enjoy the Shannon Blueway, it’s a fun and novel way to explore the Leitrim’s sights and delights. It was Ireland’s first Blueway, which includes Ireland’s only floating boardwalk. Experience the route from the water with canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding; while walkers and cyclists can follow the Blueway’s trails and take in the scenery on land. Travelling along the Shannon Blueway, you paddle under the bridges, alongside the riverbanks and through sunlit tree arches, as it winds its way from Drumshanbo to Carrick-on-Shannon.

St George’s Heritage Centre

St. George’s Church, built in 1827, has been a place of Church of Ireland worship for nearly 200 years. In 2005, the church was restored and refurbished and is now home to a number of exhibits, including important ecclesiastical silver, books, medals and trophies and the original rare Telford Pipe Organ (1847), one of two still functioning pipe organs of this period. There is also an interactive banner presentation. The banners rise and fall to the music of Bach and Telemann, excerpts from a concert given by Professor Gerard Gillen at St George’s in the 1980s. Leitrim has a rich musical and literary tradition; quotations from local writers John McGahern, Canon William Slator and Susan Mitchell adorn the wall.

Sean Mac Diarmada homestead

Seán Mac Diarmada played a pivotal role in planning the Easter Rising of 1916. He was one of the seven signatories that signed the Proclamation of Irish Independence. Following his arrest after the Rising, he was court-martialled and executed by firing squad on 12th of May 1916 in the Stone-Breaker’s Yard in Kilmainham Gaol. This traditional homestead is in the townland of Corranmore, just a few kilometres outside the village of Killucan. It consists of a three-room thatched cottage with some thatched out-buildings and has a fine view over Upper Lough MacNean. The homestead is maintained in its original condition as a National Monument by the OPW. Visitors have the choice of simply viewing the house; or having a full guided tour.

Manorhamilton Castle

The massive ruins of this 17th Century stronghold dominate the picturesque town of Manorhamilton. The castle, around which the town grew, has a dramatic and colourful history – stories of which live on in the town to this day. All this and more can be experienced at the Castle Heritage Centre, which features a permanent exhibition and provides guided tours of the castle grounds.

Glenview Folk Museum

The Glenview Folk Museum is located just outside Ballinamore in Co. Leitrim and is owned and run by the Kennedy Family. The museum was set up in the year 2000 as the Kennedys recognised the importance of preserving the past for the future. The museum consists of many different attractions; from old household and farm items, to vehicles and a full street scene which has been fully reconstructed to really give you a feel for 1930s Ireland.

Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre

Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre provides audio-visual displays about the Arigna and the Sliabh an Iarainn mountains area, in Drumshanbo County Leitrim, with special emphasis on the railway, the canal, lakes, iron and coal mining. The audio-visual show, lasting 12 minutes, takes visitors through the sights and scenes of lakes, mountains and towns, highlighting the beauty of this land of legend and wonder. The centre also has a display depicting miners at work and a reconstruction of a sweat house which was used in olden times as a cue for aches and pains. The Cavan and Leitrim railway era is recalled through the recreation of a typical waiting room, railway ticket and many fine pictures of the railway.

Moon River Cruise

Since its launch in 1995, Moon River has carried over 50,000 passengers each year, many of whom return again and again to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the River Shannon. Moon River seats 110 passengers and a full bar is provided; along with coffee, tea and snacks, ensuring you are fully relaxed to revel in the beauty of Ireland’s finest river. All trips depart quay side Carrick-On-Shannon, one of Ireland’s premier beauty spots.
My name is Shay Hunston. I’m a freelance photographer following the 2,500km route of the Wild Atlantic Way from Kinsale to Donegal, taking black & white portrait photographs of the people living in the towns, villages and remote locations amongst the stunning beauty of this diverse and ancient landscape set against the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean.

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

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

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

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

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

On the Wild Atlantic Way
THE ROADSIDE TAVERN

Inside the brick-red facade of The Roadside Tavern, you’ll find nothing less than the full Clare experience, complete with terrific food, excellent drink — especially their own beers — and serious trad sessions.

A family-owned business, the Curtins have run The Tavern since the 1890s and, in the good old-fashioned Irish tradition, the atmosphere is as easy-going and full of character as they come. But alongside that, Peter and Birgitta Curtin’s open embrace of excellence and innovation has seen the prizes and nominations pile up, including selection as Clare Pub of the Year and Best Gastropub in County Clare.

Inside, Kieran O’Halloran runs Kieran’s Kitchen, where he turns out exquisitely prepared traditional dishes that burst with fresh, local flavour. Favourites are, of course, smoked salmon from the Burren Smokehouse, but diners can also tuck into a selection of salads, small plates and hearty mains such as Gleninagh Irish Stew, Burren Black Stout Angus Steak Pie, or bacon and cabbage. There’s even an Irish tapas board, loaded with pâté and Irish cheese and charcuterie.

Within a stone’s throw of the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, Doonín, Ballyvaughan and Lahinch, The Roadside Tavern is the perfect staging post for enjoying the best of local flavours to give you a taste of all that Clare has to share.

THE BURREN BREWERY

The smallest brewery in Ireland, the Burren Brewery nonetheless harbours grand ambitions, which are already being realised if you consider their selection — among three Irish brewers — as one of Lonely Planet’s craft beer top spots for the Lonely Planet Global Beer Tour, released last year.

Just seven years old, the bijou brewery is attached to the Roadside Tavern and produces Burren Gold, a deliciously easy lager, Burren Black, a creamy stout with a nutty edge, Burren Blonde, the gateway to greatness for curious commercial lager drinkers, and Burren Red Ale, whose malty flavours are perfectly offset by Peter’s Curtin’s forays into nature to bring back wild yeast and fresh local fruits for flavouring his beers. Things are done the traditional way and you ‘ll find heavy, hoppy flavours here.

And while it may still be the most micro of Ireland’s crop of microbreweries, it certainly hasn’t escaped international attention. Burren Brewery’s beers have been appreciated by writers in The Guardian, The Huffington Post and the Chicago Tribune, among others.

But if you want to savour a jar of local flavours, you’ll have to head to The Roadside Tavern or the Burren Smokehouse next door, which are, so far, the exclusive purveyor of Burren’s Brewery’s bevy of creations.

THE BURREN STOREHOUSE

When you strip things down to the bare essentials, you start to see what really counts. And at The Burren Storehouse, it’s clear that the things that really count are great food, great beer, great music, a great atmosphere and great craic. Opened in 2015, the bar is already picking up awards — Most Innovative Pub in Ireland, 2015, for example — thanks to its pared-down approach and clear focus on what makes people tick.

As a result, The Burren Storehouse is now The place to go in Lisdoonvarna for live music, TV sports — on a six-metre wide screen — superb food and a healthy dose of fun. A daily changing menu reflects all the flavours of the seasons. Delicious craft pizzas pop piping hot out of a wood-fired oven, while local meats, fish and shellfish are flame on a charcoal grill.

The setting is quite unique for Ireland. A wide-open almost industrial space offers a bare pine bar and bench-tables, exposed metal and concrete flooring. But the atmosphere is anything but factory-made, fuelled by friendly service, lively gigs, that fabulous food, and the sound of happy customers. Don’t forget to check out the events listing while you’re there to see what’s coming up.

Naturally, the Storehouse serves Burren Brewery beers, as well as an exceptionally well-thought-out wine list.

THE BURREN SMOKEHOUSE

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

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

In addition to the shop, which also stocks honeys, local cheeses, chocolates, teas, wines, charcuteries and jams, you’ll find a visitor centre where you can discover more about the smoking process and savour different kinds of smoked fish as you go.
A taste of joy on the Wild Atlantic Way

There has never been a more exciting, or delicious, time to dine out in Ireland. Over the last decade, the nation and its chefs have awoken to the vast potential that lies beneath, graze upon or sprout out of those famous green fields so well-watered by Ireland’s legendary weather.

Something good had to come out of it – aside from the odd song – and the results have been stunning. Nowhere more so than along the Wild Atlantic Way, whose route is more than liberally seasoned with some of the country’s brightest culinary hotspots.

It’s fair to say that this has not always been the case though and Ireland is still working to shed its reputation for serving up endless plates of boiled bacon, defeated vegetables and an acre’s worth of potatoes (done three different ways if the chef is feeling fancy).

But traditional food done well, using carefully sourced local ingredients, can be the most sublime joy too. Boiled bacon done right is a sweet, crumbly joy for which all notions of a diet should be abandoned, especially if you have a boatful of parsley sauce to hand.

Cork’s speciality, corned beef, is worth starting multi-generational family feuds over if anyone were to attempt to slide a slice off your plate.

Colcannon: Potatoes, spring onions, kale and butter, crisped at the edges, soft as goo on the inside. Need we say more? And Irish stew represents the kind of divine culinary alchemy that is probably single-handedly responsible for Ireland’s traditional belief in fairies.

You can still find all of these things up and down the Wild Atlantic Way in old-style restaurants and new. Some are adorned with a little more flair, some are served just as they always were, but the principal difference is that Irish chefs and restaurateurs have started to take tremendous care over finding local ingredients.

And Irish produce, without wishing to brag here, is frankly among the best in the world. All that rain you see...

Even the Guide du Routard, the French version of Lonely Planet, has noted the difference, saying in 2011 that “the Irish dining experience is now as good, if not better than, anywhere in the world”. And who are we to argue with that? But how did it happen?

As Ireland has transformed itself into a modern, vibrant, outward-looking economy, it has also ignited a surge of confidence and creativity among the country’s chefs that has become a (delicious) delight to explore.

These hardworking men and women have been travelling the world, winning coveted international prizes and bringing a wealth of knowledge home to a luxuriantly stocked local larder, packed full of variety, flavour and glorious potentials. But what exactly is Irish cuisine now? The answer has not yet been completely resolved.

JP McMahon, the Michelin-starred owner/chef of Aniar in Galway, who has long championed Irish cuisine, says: “What we try to do is to use local ingredients and we are very influenced by global trends. There’s no reason why we can’t borrow and learn because at some stage everybody borrows and
Dining at the Castle

Dining at Ashford Castle is a wonderful and unique experience, offering a variety of gastronomic experiences for guests to enjoy within the historic surrounds of this spectacular castle.

Menus are created using fresh, seasonal ingredients, many of which are sourced locally and from the Castle estate. A series of signature dishes have been created with a nod to the tastes of South Africa that reflect the heritage of the Castle owners, The Tollman family, for an eclectic offering. The award-winning Chef Philippe Farineau brings his French culinary techniques to the celebrated George V Dining, for a menu of opulent, haute cuisine. The sumptuous George V dining room, steeped in antiquity, is the perfect location for guests to create their own memories as part of the Ashford experience.

The Castle’s Dungeon has been transformed into a bistro-style restaurant that will impress the most serious steak aficionados with steaks (cooked over South African Mopani charcoal) for a distinctive ‘Braai’ flavour.

Cullen’s at the Cottage opens in late Spring to late Autumn and offers an international menu and Al Fresco dining with spectacular views of the Ashford Estate. Ashford Castle’s famous Afternoon Tea has been served in the Castle since 1888 and is served daily in the Connaught Room.

Whether a formal celebration or a relaxed gathering, dine like royalty in Ashford Castle.

Celebrating 800 years of History & Hospitality

FINE IRISH CUISINE AT ASHFORD CASTLE

The award-winning George V Dining Room is named after the Prince of Wales who later became George V who stayed at Ashford in 1905 when the castle was in the ownership of the Guinness family.

Under the direction of Executive Chef Philippe Farineau, Ashford Castle is renowned for delicious dining, inspired by fresh ingredients from the West of Ireland and the Ashford Estate itself.
learns. From the Spanish, it’s that transforming the mundane to the magical; from the Nordics, it’s that wild purity of their ingredients and from the Japanese, it’s how they treat seafood and seaweed to create the most amazing umami rich dishes.”

They (well) have also benefited from a revival of many of Ireland’s cottage industries, from cheesemaking — Ireland’s cheeses brought home 15 trophies at last year’s International Cheese Awards — to salmon smoking, jam making, beekeeping, baking and organic farming.

Traditional breeds of cattle, such as the Dexter cow, are being reintroduced; while Ireland’s oceans continue to produce fabulous, fresh seafood which can be enjoyed the very day they’re landed.

Meanwhile, producers are successfully exploring exotic new fields such as snail-farming too. To top that off, a host of brewers and distillers are producing top-notch beers, ciders, gins, whiskeys and even mead to help you wash down your dinner. Sadly, we don’t have the weather for wine.

One such eaterie that’s making the most of its Wild Atlantic Way view and local produce is The Boathouse in Redcastle, Co. Donegal.

When it comes to food, the Boathouse’s philosophy is simple: Quality, fresh ingredients. When in season, these, transformed into a tasty meal, are one of life’s great pleasures.

Head Chef Emmett Dean explains: “Here at The Boathouse, we have something that every eatery in the world desires — a view to die for! Our restaurant sits right on the edge of the waters of Lough Foyle, the starting point for many journeys along the Wild Atlantic Way. The ever-changing picture that the view presents, is the inspiration behind many of the dishes produced by our kitchen,” he said.

The Boathouse is enjoying growing success, and to rave reviews. It is ideally situated on the border with Derry, and is attracting much cross-border custom, as well as locals and tourists.

So, as you trail along the Wild Atlantic Way, you’ll find that towns such as Kinsale, Kenmare, Dingle, Lisdoonvarna, Westport, Galway, Sligo and Donegal are culinary beacons on a well-lit path of wild, fresh and vibrant flavours, colour and culinary imagination. Your job is simply to be comfortably seated and savour the fruits of this renaissance.
Dining at The Lodge at Ashford Castle

Situated on the outskirts of the charming village of Cong, The Lodge at Ashford Castle is the ideal destination for those seeking a cosy hideaway retreat with award-winning dining options.

Wilde’s at The Lodge has a reputation for inventive cuisine by Head Chef Jonathan Keane, an interesting and authentic experience showcasing the very finest local produce.

Originally from Kylemore in Connemara, Jonathan has been referred to as “one of the country’s most exciting chefs”, and his innovative dishes stem from his passion for using the wonderful local ingredients available to him. Wilde’s at The Lodge spans the entire first floor of the original house and has been thoughtfully restored to create a collection of intimate spaces for guests to enjoy the delights of fine food and wine by candlelight.

Downstairs, the warm, welcoming surroundings of the Quay Bar and Brasserie at The Lodge at Ashford is the perfect place to enjoy a hearty meal and a drink or two, while spending time with family and friends. With stunning views of Lisloughrey Pier as the backdrop, diners can choose from a carefully selected menu created by Head Chef Jonathan Keane including: Guinness slow cooked Castlemine short rib of Beef, Galway goat’s cheese spring rolls, Burren smoked salmon, Achill Island oysters and a selection of decadent desserts.

WILDE’S RESTAURANT THE LODGE AT ASHFORD CASTLE

Wilde’s Restaurant, Irish Hotel Awards’ Hotel Restaurant of the Year 2018, serves exceptional Irish cuisine against the dramatic backdrop of Lough Corrib.

Set in the 350-acre Ashford Estate, and under the inspirational direction of Jonathan Keane, Best Chef in Connaught 2018, Wilde’s is known for fresh, local seasonal ingredients created into elegant dishes.
Library Restaurant at Belleek Castle

The Library Restaurant is the perfect place to experience the Castle’s elaborate 2AA Rosette cuisine.

The philosophy of the kitchen team is to use classic and imaginative cooking with local, seasonal ingredients from our land, sea and air combining a depth of flavor with the traditions of the castle. Head chef, David O’Donnell leads the kitchen team and he works closely with local producers and to source more quality local produce for our dishes.

The Library Restaurant is open daily from 5.30pm. The signature dish is the Drunken Bullock which is spiced fillet beef flambeed on a sword in local whiskey, and is famous worldwide. The Casual Afternoon Menu is available in the Spanish Armada Bar from 2.30pm with light bites and Traditional Afternoon Tea available. For bookings, contact Belleek Castle by email on info@belleekcastle.eu or by phone on 096 22400.

All for the love of chocolate...

Green’s Cottage chocolate is a quintessential Irish Cottage business, constantly evolving to product better and more quality chocolate products. At the heart of it all is the love of chocolate, and the desire to produce chocolate items that our customers love to eat.

The cottage is situated on the N68 road, approx 10km east of Killrush Town, Co. Clare. Many a tourist who stop, out of curiosity, are astonished to find a chocolate shop, in what they consider to be the middle of nowhere!

I first started making chocolate truffles a number of years ago, for my husband, who is German, and loves a bit of decent chocolate, and it was he who encouraged me to make a business out of it.

I am passionate about what is in the food I eat, therefore the chocolate products reflect this philosophy, I use no artificial colourings or flavourings and all the chocolate is gluten free. I currently have a Germany sugar free chocolate and a Belgian dairy free chocolate, 70% dark and a variety of milk and white chocolates.

My first love is chocolate truffles, I made a variety, vanilla truffles, flavoured with Madagascan vanilla powder, an expensive ingredient, but worth every penny, really intensive vanilla flavour. Fresh Irish cream is essential for a chocolate truffle, it give a melt-in-the-mouth feel. Alcohol and chocolate are a marriage made in heaven, my Irish whiskey truffles and Guinness truffles are great sellers, and of course pistachio, hazelnuts are also a favourite.

Recently I have branched into making marzipan, mint creams, fudge and home made ice cream.

The future is Irish chocolate, I am currently experiment with recipes to make my own chocolate from scratch, which I hope to be selling in the next few months.
The Quay Cottage

“Simply great food in a stunning location”

For reservations call The Quay Cottage Clifden, County Galway | Tel: + 353 95 21369

The Restaurant at The Ice House

Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, overlooking the River Moy and the woodlands beyond, the Ice House is an escape from the ordinary with a bounty of beauty, adventure and history right on its doorstep.

Riverview Restaurant at The Ice House is surrounded by glass to allow diners to take in the wild woodland and river scenes at breakfast, lunch and dinner. The impressive surroundings are echoed in Chef Anthony Holland’s menus which highlight locally sourced seasonal produce and fine Irish ingredients. Lunch is served daily from 1pm and dinner from 6 to 9.30pm with Sunday lunch served from 1 to 3pm.

To book call 096 23500 or email chill@theicehouse.ie
As a committed townie, I never saw myself as someone who longed to eschew the city and make a break for the coast. But there are places along the Wild Atlantic Way that have made me question that.

In Strandhill, a village in Sligo famed for its surfing, is the seaside cafe of my dreams. Shells is itself the product of a dream - owners Jane and Myles Lamberth, she from Dublin and he from South Africa, wanted to run a food business somewhere where they could also spend plenty of time in the surf, and settled in Strandhill in 2010.

Shells serves breakfast and lunch, coffee, baked goods and snacks, and while the emphasis is on healthy and nutritious food, eating here is no sacrifice. Expect the best eggs and avocado you'll ever eat (a drizzle of homemade pesto is divine), gorgeous salads, great coffee and - for the days when the weather isn't great - warming soups.

Further down the coast in Kerry,
on the three kilometre sandy spit to the north of the Dingle peninsula known as The Maharees, is Spillane’s, a long-established pub which has been serving food since 1975. This long history is evident from the minute you cross the threshold, with generations of families, locals and visitors alike, packing the place out.

The food is simple, local and delicious. Crab claws fresh from the nearby pier served with a Marie Rose sauce; perfectly-cooked calamari with zingy pickled cucumber on the side; generous portions of scampi, and a fish curry for colder days.

Desserts change regularly and might include rhubarb crumble, chocolate brownies with Guinness and hazelnuts, or strawberries and cream. Too full for any of that? The fantastic, friendly staff can send you off with a 99.

In the heart of The Burren, Gregan’s Castle offers a place to stay and eat that will have even the most stressed-out among you as relaxed as a sleeping baby. Set in beautiful gardens, this small, family-run hotel counts JRR Tolkien, Seamus Heaney and Sean Scully among its previous guests, and its restaurant is a special place to experience a true Irish fine dining experience.

Chef Robbie McCaulley’s menus use ingredients like locally-caught rabbit, crab from Doonbeg, Wexford strawberries, and the finest Irish cheeses. Wild boar pudding, smoked salmon from The Burren Smokehouse, and sausages from Fingal Ferguson in Cork are all on the breakfast menu and are guaranteed to send you home happy.

Gillian Nelis is managing editor of The Sunday Business Post (businesspost.ie) and edits the newspaper’s food coverage.
Hooked

The Hooked ethos is to purchase local and purchase Irish, where possible. We believe in using artisan and Irish producers with the aim of supporting the local and Irish economy. Our beef is sourced locally and is from grass-fed cattle from Sherlock’s of Tubbercurry, Sligo. Our local suppliers call to us daily with fresh produce. We work closely with L.E.T.S Organic Centre, Sligo and forage when in season. We support the local farmers markets and change our menu with seasons. We believe in using all the finest, freshest produce County Sligo has to offer. We provide an all-day dining experience of an informal and easy nature. It’s just good honest Irish food, so leave your diet at the door!

Shells Café

At Shells, we love food, we love café culture and we love to be a bit different. Join us for brekkie, lunch, din din, homemade cakes, or a chilled glass of wine overlooking the sea. You’ll find us right in front of the sea at Strandhill, Co. Sligo.

The Glasshouse

The Glasshouse is Sligo’s only 4-star city centre hotel. Towering dramatically over the Garavogue River, it offers the discerning traveller chic interiors, great city views and proximity to all downtown Sligo has to offer. Shaped like a ship in dock, the hotel’s glass exterior can be seen from afar. Inside, the quirky interiors are equally as impressive. 2017 was a very exciting year for The Glasshouse as the hotel won a number of very prestigious awards.

Hargadon Bros

Great pubs and fine whiskey mature over the years. Established in 1868, Hargadon Bros is a distillation of panelled snug, stone floors, clay jugs and bottled alcoves. Flawlessly preserved in a honeyed afternoon light, Hargadon Bros is a local institution, as constant as our name for the perfect pint of Guinness, our reputation for good conversation and great locally produced and sourced food.
A warm Sligo welcome awaits you through our doors.

The Draft House

Don’t let the summer go by without trying the two top tasting boards at The Draft House, at Strandhill. Choose from ‘Draft Craft Taste’ with three cracking craft beers or ‘Ball of Malt’ with three distinctive whiskies. Priced at just €6 and €8 respectively, they won’t break the bank either. Both come with comprehensive tasting notes and are available every day on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Eala Bhán

Eala Bhán is located in the heart of Sligo Town on a beautiful stretch of the Garavogue River. The décor here has a cool urban brasserie bistro feel with dark wood floors, subtle lighting, well-spaced tables, and it is a place in which there is always a buzz. The food is classic with a contemporary twist and offers everything you could possibly want. All of the local seafood is hand-selected and artistically prepared to perfection. All of the steak cuts stand tall with the superb flavour of aged beef that is cooked to your liking. Produce is organic whenever possible, sourced from local suppliers and direct from local producers.
The picturesque coastal village of Mullaghmore County Sligo, is a signatory destination point of The Wild Atlantic Way. With golden sands and Classiebawn Castle glimmering in the distance in the shadow of the glorious Benbulben, it’s impossible to miss Eithna’s By The Sea seafood restaurant with its dramatically painted sea mural overlooking the harbour. Built on years of experience, Eithna creates and serves her own tasty dishes using only the very best, locally sourced fish and organic vegetables.

What dish are you best known for at Eithna’s By The Sea?
We are famed for our outstanding seafood and shellfish dishes, including our seafood platters, tasting plates and cracked crab claws. Our lobsters are sourced from the nearby Mullaghmore Sea Farm and fished sustainably by small inshore fishing boats from Donegal and Sligo coastline. Lobster Thermidor is one of our most popular, signature dishes. Our Wild Atlantic oysters are also farmed locally at Lissadell and Coney Island.

What is the special ingredient that has put your restaurant on the international map?
My passion for locally sourced seafood and innovative flavour has been the driving force behind the restaurant since the very beginning. The food on offer is unpretentious and casual in an outstanding location. And it’s not just the seafood lovers and culinary adventurers who adore Eithna’s as there is plenty to offer in the non-seafood, vegetarian and gluten-free varieties.
Dining at Loam Restaurant

Founded by Erda McEvoy and his wife Sinéad in 2014 in a disused building on Fairgreen Rd, Loam has since gone on to achieve great success, winning numerous accolades including a Michelin star after only 10 months in business.

Loam is a large spacious premises which offers a small a la carte menu and a 7 or 9 course tasting menu. There is also a small wine bar where you can pop in for a glass of wine with cheese or charcuterie.

Loam has a focus on modern ambitious cooking, rooted in tradition. Seasonally driven, the kitchen works very closely with local farmers and producers, like Leaf and Root farm in Longsuea who supply most of the fresh vegetables and Castlemine Farm, which supplies all the meat for the restaurant.

Sustainability is very important; Loam is the first restaurant in Ireland to be awarded three stars from the Sustainable Restaurant Association in 2017. This is achieved through reducing food waste by using the whole animal/plant and using solely locally grown produce. According to McEvoy, using this challenge “you force yourself to be more creative and with that, you force yourself to find different flavours and different textures when creating a dish” and because of this the menu is constantly evolving.

Paired with a wine list which includes organic, biodynamic and natural wines from all over Europe - sourced by small, independent importers who share a similar ethos - Loam is the perfect place to spend an evening.

Opening times are Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm, with dinner service from 6pm.

www.loamgalway.com
091569727

Be happy at 56 Central in Galway

56 Central was created with one thing in mind - happiness!

This stylish world above the streets has, over the years, been a place of joy, content and positive vibes, hence the tagline #ourhappyplace. Fun and laughter radiates through the walls of 56 Central. It is a place for everyone - families, friends and old acquaintances - to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

Don't forget that happiness is contagious, so spread the joy! Upon arriving in the restaurant, you are immediately greeted with a big smile, the sound of laughter and a friendly “hello”. From open to close, the restaurant is always full of old friends catching up over a glass of bubbles, children busy colouring and general good vibes.

The key to happiness is connection, living life mindfully and being a part of something bigger. The crew aim to make sure that everyone leaves with a smile and from day one, the crew are taught the value of making a difference to the lives of others. The crew are known for their kind hearts and their love for helping others.

Everyone at 56 Central realise that day-to-day life is full of ups and downs but if they manage to make your day even 1% better, they are content they have done something worthwhile.
The Restaurant at Owenmore

Restaurant Ballynahinch Castle

The Owenmore restaurant at Ballynahinch Castle is a gorgeous, classic series of rooms overlooking the river, serving the most authentic ingredients the area provides.

This is old-school country house dining from a creative and confident kitchen, using the finest Connemara ingredients, prepared with a lot of love and imagination and a complete absence of pretention.

This is a special occasion room, with a collection of some extraordinary and important Irish art on the walls and more wonderful art on the plate.

From Dooncastle oysters to locally caught fish, Connemara lamb to wild rabbit, cheeses made locally to fine Galway charcuterie and Friendly Farmer chicken, menus in The Owenmore showcase Ballynahinch Castle’s friends in food, along with a little local foraging, wild game and fresh, delicious garden salads, vegetables and herbs from Ballynahinch’s own walled gardens.

www.ballynahinchcastle.com

Perfect Donegal mooring

at The Boathouse

When it comes to food, the Boathouse’s philosophy is simple: Quality, fresh ingredients. When in season, these, transformed into a tasty meal, are one of life’s great pleasures.

The Boathouse staff want their customers to celebrate the joys of eating and sharing good food in a relaxed, laid-back surrounding. Head Chef Emmett Dean explains: “I aim to present a menu of dishes that is both signature to the area, with extensive use of local produce, whilst also being kind to our customer’s pocket!

“This at The Boathouse, we have something that every eatery in the world desires – a view to die for! Our restaurant sits right on the edge of the waters of Lough Foyle, the starting point for many journeys along the Wild Atlantic Way. The ever-changing picture that the view presents, is the inspiration behind many of the dishes produced by our kitchen,” he said.

The Boathouse is enjoying growing success, and to rave reviews. It is ideally situated on the border with Derry, and is attracting much cross-border custom, as well as locals and tourists.

The Boathouse, Redcastle, Moville, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 9385455
www.theboathouseredcastle.ie
The Best Limerick Restaurants

Tuscany Bistro at the Granary

Tuscany was born in 2003 in Castletroy, Co Limerick by Sabrina Amodeo. Food has always been a visceral part of Sabrina’s life, with two passionate Italian parents who loved to cook and experiment with different styles of food, but particularly Italian and Mediterranean dishes. With passion, drive, vision and a massive desire to cook delicious food in a beautiful environment, join them and be welcomed by the Tuscany team at any of their delicious Italian Restaurants.

The Texas Steakout

Good, honest, hearty food – this sums up what the Texas Steakout is about. From the very start, we wanted to make the restaurant homely and comfortable, so the use of recipes from your Grandmother’s kitchen was a better option than food that people – at that time – were unfamiliar with.

The Texas Steakout Restaurant was established almost 29 years ago and since its opening, has remained one of the top favourites on the Limerick dining scene. Located in the very heart of town, the ‘Steakout’ is a meeting place for people from all walks of life.

At the ‘Steakout’ we cater for all varied tastes...not just for meat lovers. We offer an excellent choice of chicken, vegetarian and fish dishes. And then there is our Mexican Menu – the likes of which you would have to travel to Central America to get anything better!

The Savoy Hotel

Perfectly placed and set within the vibrant shopping and theatre district, The Savoy is Limerick’s most celebrated and glamorous 5-star luxury hotel.

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

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

Our renowned chefs have developed an a la carte dinner menu that combines classical cuisine with contemporary taste. They also specialise in seafood, appealing to all tastes.

The Savoy provides the perfect location from which to discover, and be a part of, life in Limerick. Explore many famous Irish landmarks, theatrical and sporting events, only a short walk or taxi ride away from your base at The Savoy.

Da Vincenzo’s

You’ve experienced hotel restaurants and bars before – now experience Da Vincenzo’s Food & Wine Hall at The George, in Limerick.

The Italians are warm and friendly by nature and Vincenzo and his team wanted to bring you some of the great cuisine from beautiful Italy but also their wines – there are over 200 in stock. So, sit back, relax and savour the flavours and tastes we have collected from all over Italy for you to enjoy.

Papa’z Bistro

Pop in and discover the amazing gastronomic talents of owner and proprietor Gill (a long-time great friend of Go Wild publisher Bobby Power) who we like to call ‘The Gordon Ramsey of Limerick’!

The selection of dishes on offer at Papa’z Bistro is simply mouth-watering, with each dish lovingly created and developed by the man himself.

The bistro is also a superb choice for breakfast or lunch, so matter what time of the day you find yourself on Denman Street, make sure to call in and treat yourself.

Alex Findlater’s New Seafood and Oyster Bar

Limerick city centre has a new dining and gourmet food shopping venue with the opening of the Alex Findlater & Co Food & Wine Hall at 1, O’Connell Street. The food hall, which is on the ground floor of the building that houses the George boutique hotel, is a joint venture between the grocery and wine merchants and the Savoy hospitality group.

The 18,000 sq ft space has an oyster and seafood bar, a Bollinger jazz and supper club and a “wine theatre” stocked with 300 labels.

Highly Recommended

Other highly recommended restaurants are The Cornstore, Coqbull and The Curragower seafood bar overlooking King John’s Castle.

Also, make sure to check out Bella Italia on Thomas Street and the Buttery Café on Bedford Row, where Hazel Murphy will ensure that you will definitely not go hungry. Tell her Bob said “Hi!”
ALEX FINDLATER & COMPANY LTD

OYSTER & SEAFOOD BAR

Offering a wide selection of Seafood from the Wild Atlantic Way

Open daily from noon

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Sunday - Thurs all evening
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Saturday 3pm to 6.30pm

3 Course Lunch Menu
Monday-Saturday 12-3pm
from €18.50

HENRY STREET, LIMERICK CITY | T: 061 609325 | www.hamptonsgrill.ie
Croí Restaurant Tralee

The ethos of Croí is simply local, wild and artisan, locally reared animals, foraged herbs leaves and seaweed, and local vegetables, some from our own garden. We don’t just sell food, we tell its story; the story of our people and our land, the flavours of a place. We offer a cásad mile failte like it should be, the people who produce the food aren’t our suppliers, they are our friends.

Croi restaurant, 9 Dominick St, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland
+353 66 718 5583

The Chart House Dingle

Jim McCarthy’s’ Chart House Restaurant in Dingle has always delivered the warmest of Irish welcomes.
The exterior is a cozy stone cottage style with a plethora of flowering window pots. Once inside, the attention to detail and good taste in interior decor is evident. The artwork is to be admired here but people make the atmosphere, and there is seldom a vacant table in this restaurant.

Since local chef Rachel Boyle took charge of the kitchen, she has raised the standards to new heights, adding technical sheen to homely Irish bistro-style cooking. Familiar favourites such as Anascaul Black Pudding with Rosti Potatoes, Seared Scallops with Hollandaise, and Roast Rack of Lamb with onion marmalade were always good - but now flirt with perfection.

www.thecharthousedingle.com

SMUGGLERS INN

ACCOMMODATION | RESTAURANT | BEACH BAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1980

Serving gourmet food amidst panoramic views of Ballinskelligs Bay the beautifully restored 180 years old Smugglers Inn offers a unique and authentic Irish experience. Huggin 2km of unspoilt sandy beaches and next to the world class Waterville Golf Links. Come for the food and stay for the craic.

WWW.SMUGGLERSINN.IE
There's something special about Gaby's in Killarney. Originally founded by Gabrielle and Ireen Maes from Belgium, the restaurant was taken over by their son, Gert, who is quite the character and has an accent that would fool anyone into thinking he was originally from the depths of county Kerry. And, with 42 years as a chef under his belt, he's certainly got a story to tell...

"I'm originally Flemish. I came to Ireland in 1966 with my parents and grew up in Dingle. I had to learn to speak Irish and English. The only reason I got involved in the fish business is my father came over to manage a fish farm.

"At the moment, the issues we're facing are trying to get produce. All our fish is being exported. But we're lucky in Kerry and I have a couple of suppliers who are superb and they do their best to get the best of quality for me. But trying to keep up my standards is the hardest thing to do. That's a challenge every day. If the quality isn't there, I'm not going to serve it.

"I did a lot of culinary competitions throughout the world with the World Master Chef Society. They were great days. I did 12 years of touring the world with competition work, four different weeks of the year. I learned a lot and made a lot of friends and, believe it or not, it's a great education to get. It shows you how to make sure everything is 100% perfect, because it can be very, very strict.

"The biggest highlight in my culinary career was winning a gold medal in London Olympia. That was a very hard one to get. It took me eight years to get it. That was the highlight of my career.

"We have some great chefs in this country and we're very lucky. I personally think we're the culinary capital of Europe. Everybody tries, and there's no such thing as getting a bad meal anymore. Those days are gone and we can be very proud of that in this country.

"I have a tip for young chefs: work hard. I'm still doing 80 or 90 hours a week when it's necessary. And I'm a good age now. I'm nearly 60 years of age. But I still have to put in the hours. I still have to put in the effort.

"I'll probably be hanging up my boots fairly soon now - or my apron, should I say? You never know what might be around the corner. I'm looking at going into lecturing and stuff like that. Because I'm still a hands-on chef, you see. I'm the old stock. I'd love to pass on some of my knowledge - more so in the fish side of it.

"Because I've learned a lot over the years. And I'm still learning, believe you me..."

Address: 27 High Street, Killarney
Contact: 064 663 2519
info@gabys.ie
Liam, tell us a little about yourself:

I was born into this trade and like many other restaurateurs during the 1970s, we would have lived on the premises, Jim Edwards Restaurant in Kinsale, Co. Cork.

I have two sisters and two brothers and worked in the restaurant from an early age. I did my training, travelled the world and have been back running the restaurant for the last 20 years. We celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary this year and have three wonderful boys.

For the last five years, I have been the Chairman of the Kinsale Good Food Circle, which celebrated its 40th Gourmet Festival in 2017 and I’m now it my second year as president of the Restaurants Association of Ireland (RAI). Time flies!

Food has always been in your blood; tell us about the family business:

Being reared on the premises gives you an insight in the culinary world from an early age – I think I was four when I had my first rare fillet!

My memory of my father is that he always had a knife in his hand. If he wasn’t cutting steaks, he was filleting the local catch – seeing a whole monkfish while you are having your breakfast was not out of the ordinary.

But it was this understanding of ‘farm to fork’ and ‘tide to table’ that has stood to me today and this is still the ethos in our restaurant. High quality local produce, cook it simply and let the food speak for itself.

How did you become involved in the RAI?

We host a chowder festival every year in Kinsale, where we invite restaurants from around the country to take part. I got talking to my now good friend Mike Ryan in The Cornstore and he told me that there was a restaurateur from Cork leaving the National Council and would I be interested? I said I would try it for a year – that was six years ago.

You are over a year into your term – your thoughts on the food scene in Ireland at the moment?

The food scene has never been in a better position. The quality and the use of local produce around the country has come to the fore in restaurants – whether you’re in Dublin, West Cork or the Midlands. What does annoy me is the preconception of our food scene abroad, tourists are regularly surprised at the quality of the food scene and this is something we have to work on.

Some highlights/lows from your term so far:

My role is split in two, you have the culinary aspect and the politics.

Most of my highlights come from the first. One of my most enjoyable days was heading down to Tralee IT to see the final of the Young Apprentice Chef 2018 and to see the passion and quality of the food that was produced that day – and also the passion shown by the mentors, which was truly great.

I think when we deal with politics and the Government, you get frustrated and with this industry, it is no different. We are burdened with red tape and the cost of doing business – and get little or no help.

Your own business is located on the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW). How has that impacted your restaurant and others involved in food along the route?

The WAW has opened up new markets to us – not only abroad, but we have discovered many Irish who want to travel along the route. With the food scene, we have seen the emergence of food trails and tours, with tourists being given the opportunity to visit food and drink producers along the route. This all improves the food experience in this country.

What do you love about the Wild Atlantic Way?

What’s not to love about it? We knew it was there, but this gives us a reason to travel more on it and we have seen great improvements along the route. The signature tower overlooking the Old Head of Kinsale is one of the most spectacular views you will see anywhere in the world.

Some of your favourite restaurants and gastro pubs along the Wild Atlantic Way?

There are so many but if I have to choose just a few: I’d have lunch in The Glendore Inn on a sunny day, seafood from O’Grady’s on the Pier in Galway and dinner in Eala Bhan in Sligo town.
The Restaurant at Garnish
Eccles Hotel Glengarriff

Eccles Hotel is situated in the quaint village of Glengarriff on the Wild Atlantic Way, offering unrivalled views across Bantry Bay. Diners can enjoy the stunning setting at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Overseeing the hotel restaurant is renowned chef Eddie Attwell, who has twice represented Northern Ireland on BBC 2’s Great British Menu. He is extremely passionate about sourcing the best of local produce, ensuring Eccles’ tradition of using the finest ingredients from West Cork carries on.

The bistro menu is served daily from 12 to 9pm. In addition, Sunday Carvery Lunch is served from 12:30 to 4pm.

To book call 027 63003 or email reservations@eccleshotel.com
www.eccleshotel.com

Visit the Café at Nash 19

Established in 1892 and now a Cork institution, Nash 19 is located at the heart of the city, a stone’s throw from The English Market.

At 6:30am, on a lonely Princes Street, the smell of buttermilk scones baking, bacon sizzling and fresh coffee kicks off the day. Doors open at 7:30am with true Irish hospitality.

Opening Hours:
Mon - Fri: 07:30 - 16:00
Sat: 08:30 - 16:00

PRIVATE DINING
Book a private dining table in our Sternview Gallery.
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Or hire the entire room for parties up to 50. Call Claire or Mairead on 021 4270880.

Contact Us:
021 4270880
info@nash19.com
The rise of the Gastropubs

The classic Irish combination of a drink and a bit of craic has been winning fans since humans learned how to beat a rhythm.

And sure, if you were feeling peckish along the way, you could always tuck into a packet of crisps or a penitential toasted cheese sandwich, before heading back to the shindig. But those days are over.

Not because there’s no more craic, but because Ireland’s pubs have turned to food and made it a thing. Gastropubs have sprung up all over the country, serving delicious food that is worth celebrating in its own right and giving fine dining restaurants a run for their money.

Ireland’s pubs are genuinely unique. The atmosphere, character and characters you’ll find in them simply can’t be bottled and reproduced in any way, anywhere else in the world. They stand for centuries of tradition, but in today’s fast-changing world, they also embrace dynamism and innovation.

The bare stone walls and warm fires that have sheltered the Irish for hundreds of years as they tell tall tales, talk of rebellions and make the air ring with their song, sorrow and laughter; now house comfortable, stylish bars that are as welcoming to a solo female traveller as they are to a happy-go-lucky group. But nowhere are the recent changes more evident than on their menus.

Even the Michelin Guide has noticed. This year, the global foodie bible listed 30 Irish pubs in its selection.

From Toddy’s at The Balman in Kinsale, to Hardagans in Sligo, you’ll find half of Michelin’s pub selections sprinkled along the Wild Atlantic Way, or certainly within a short detour of it. They offer a cosy respite from your journey while serving up all the flavour, and less of the fuss, of ‘smarter’ establishments.

One of them — the Wild Honey Inn in
Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare — has even won the most highly coveted prize of all, a Michelin star.

But Michelin is not the only standard. Ireland has a huge number of gastropubs that are turning out inspired food mixing fresh, modern takes on high-end cuisine with traditional pub fare such as scampi — don’t miss this at Clonakilty’s An Sugán — smoked Irish salmon served with rich soda bread, crab claws, juicy Irish beef burgers, hearty sandwiches and chowders that are the subject of fiercely fought national competitions.

The beef & Guinness pie at Flanagan’s Townhouse, or Mike’s baked fish pie at John Benny’s in Dingle are surely not to be missed and you’ll even find a prawn cocktail at Moran’s on the Weir in Galway. You can’t get more classic than that.

Some take a creative spin on traditional dishes, such as the Mad Fish Soup at the award-winning Cronin’s in Crosshaven — a Mediterranean style soup of house-made shellfish stock and a mix of market-fresh fish enriched with brandy and cream — or the organic spiced salmon with couscous, cucumber, radish and a lemon dressing at The Glasshouse in Sligo.

Meanwhile, others blend tradition with a fresh new level of creativity. Tune in to Deasy’s in Clonakilty for a taste of salt ling with celeriac and caper salad; tuck into a pigeon and Parma ham salad at Cronin’s Shebeen in Co. Clare, or drop by The Derg Inn on Lough Derg, Tipperary, where you can enjoy a monk tail scampi in kataifi pastry with garlic mayonnaise and chilli jam.

This is but a small taster of the delights that lie in store along the Wild Atlantic Way. It would take a book to describe the world of delicious possibility waiting for you out there.
The Glasshouse

Meet the team

Introducing Head Chef Niall Davitt

I’ve been a professional chef for over 25 years, but I have been cooking for as long as I can remember. I sold my first chocolate cake at the age of eight and I was hooked. I trained at the Northern Ireland Hotel and Catering College and upon graduating, went to work in the Harbour Bar and Restaurant in Portrush. From there, I moved to the Tullamore Court Hotel.

In May 2000, I moved to Sligo and started working in The Loft Restaurant. This role gave me my first taste of what it was like to run a busy kitchen. I moved from the Loft to the Landmark Hotel in Leitrim, as a Chef de Partie.

Then I worked with the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa Sligo; firstly as a Chef de Partie, before being promoted to Sous Chef under Executive Head Chef Falk Garbe, and then Executive Head Chef Joe Shannon. From the Radisson Blu, I went to The Glasshouse Hotel, where I moved from Junior Sous Chef to Sous Chef and finally to Head Chef.

While at The Glasshouse, I attained my first AA Rosette. After that, I worked in a number of smaller restaurants and used this time to study new styles of cooking. I applied my new knowledge to the role of Sous Chef in Castle Dargan Hotel.

Back at The Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, I worked closely with Head Chef Michael Thomas, who had lead the team to their first AA Rosette. Once Michael left, I became Head Chef and under my leadership, the team maintained the 1 AA Rosette for six years.

When an opportunity arose for me to not only reunite with Executive Chef Alan Fitzmaurice, but to return to The Glasshouse Hotel as Head Chef, I jumped at the chance. Together, we have retained the AA Rosette by being passionate about using the finest local produce and having a responsible and sustainable approach to food.

Introducing Operations Manager Kara Dumlao - O’Connell

Kara moved to Ireland from the Philippines 19 years ago and started work in the Lake Hotel Killarney where she had 13 very happy years.

During her time in Killarney she graduated from IT Tralee in 2012 in Hotel Operations and with her knowledge, first-hand experience and team work within the Lake Hotel, they achieved an additional star for the hotel. This was a highlight moment in her starting career which she is very proud of.

After 13 incredible years with Lake Hotel Killarney, the family decided to steer their journey towards Co. Sligo to advance their careers in the hotel industry.

Kara joined The Glasshouse team in 2013 as Hotel Supervisor under the guidance of General Manager Mario Puchowski and Executive Chef Alan Fitzmaurice who allowed her advance and flourish in her career. After some time, she was offered the role as Operations Manager, a position within The Glasshouse which she is extremely honoured and privileged to have today.

“If I was asked what my favourite part of my job is, I would have to say it’s a two-part answer. The staff I work with are some of the most wonderful people I have meet in my life and without them, The Glasshouse would not be the award-winning hotel it is today. The other would have to be the guests we welcome at The Glasshouse. They are amazing and make every day in memorable and enjoyable. It’s the guests that have christened me “The Lady of The Glasshouse”.

Go Wild Magazine - Summer Edition 2018

- 86 -
We are delighted with the last 12 months as we were awarded 16 times and that we want to thank all our guests for all the support and our staff and management for their hard work and dedication.

- Chef of the Year 2018 – Overall winner – Alan Fitzmaurice – Irish Hotel Awards 2018
- A Rising Star of the Year 2018 – Paulina Mecik – Irish Hotel Awards 2018
- YesChef - Chef of the Year 2018 for Connacht - Alan Fitzmaurice
- YesChef - Restaurant of The Year 2018 in Ireland - The Kitchen @ The Glasshouse
- YesChef - Hotel Restaurant of The Year 2018 for Connacht - The Kitchen @ The Glasshouse
- YesChef - Hotel Restaurant of The Year 2018 Overall Winner - The Kitchen @ The Glasshouse
- YesChef - Front of House Team of The Year 2018 for Connacht - The Glasshouse
- Gold Standard Award 2017 - Accommodation Services at IASL - One AA Rosette 2017
- Hotel Restaurant of the year 2017 - The Glasshouse - Connacht - Irish Hotel Awards & Overall winner - Irish Hotel Awards
- Housekeeper of the year 2017 - The Glasshouse - Connacht - Irish Hotel Awards
- Receptionist of the year 2017 - The Glasshouse - Connacht - Irish Hotel Awards
- 100 Best Places to Stay and Eat 2017 - McKenna Guide 2017
- Lucinda O’Sullivan 2018 - Recommended by Georgina Campbell 2018
Pub grub on the tourism menu

The range and quality of pub food across the country is set to be improved, thanks to a joint training initiative organised by Fáilte Ireland and the Vintners’ Federation of Ireland (VFI).

Launched in June 2018 by the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin TD in Kilkenny, the ‘Grow your Food Reputation’ programme aims to show publicans the benefits of providing great Irish food and drink experiences in pubs across the country - with a focus on innovation, locally sourced produce and value for money.

Minister Griffin said: “We know that tourist and traveller expectations around food and drink are changing, with over half of all visitors indicating that food and drink is more important now than it was five years ago. “The launch of the ‘Grow your Food Reputation’ programme is a perfect example of how Fáilte Ireland and industry work together to provide even greater quality, value and experiences to our food offerings.”

Paul Keeley, Director of Commercial Development at Fáilte Ireland, said that Ireland’s food and drink offering has a significant role to play in contributing to the value of Irish tourism. He said: “High quality local experiences are a major contributor to a visitor’s holiday satisfaction - creating positive memories and return visits – and Ireland’s food and drink offering has a leading role to play in delivering these great experiences. "The programme is designed to help publicans with practical advice and assistance on how to develop their food offering, including the benefits of sourcing local produce and the creation of a food ‘story’, as well as the know-how and tools to optimise profits whilst offering a high quality food and drink experience.”

Padraig Cribben, VFI Chief Executive, said: “Tourists visit our pubs for their unique atmosphere and character, and over the past decade they increasingly have come for the quality of food. The ‘Grow your Food Reputation’ programme will bring that food offering to a new level.”
Durty Nelly’s can truly be described as one of Ireland’s landmark pubs. Nestling in the shadow of the magnificent Bunratty Castle and the adjoining Folk Park, it is the first stopping off point for generations of visitors to Ireland arriving at nearby Shannon Airport. Whether you’re just passing through on your way to explore the beautiful mid-west of Ireland or can spend a little longer with us, you’ll find that a visit to Nelly’s is an essential Irish experience – one that will provide a lasting memory of your visit to Ireland.

Bunratty, Co Clare, Ireland • Tel: +353 61 364 861 • www.durtynellys.ie

O’Neill’s The Point is a family-run bar and has been in the O’Neill family since the 1800’s. It has evolved from a small hotel and then pub, catering to sailors and fishermen at the pier at Renard Point, to the seafood bar it is today. With a spectacular location overlooking Valentia Harbour on Ireland’s Wild Atlantic Way, we serve super fresh, locally sourced seafood from March to November.

TELEPHONE: 066 9472165 | EMAIL: INFO@ONEILLSTHEPOINT.IE
ADDRESS: RENARD POINT, CAHERSIVEEN, CO KERRY, V23HK06
The team at Flanagan’s townhouse in Limerick are delighted to announce that they are now open for business and will afford you a great welcome when you choose to visit.

A sister restaurant of Flanagan’s on the Lake in Ballina co Clare, Flanagan’s townhouse promises to replicate the success of what they have achieved in Ballina and will offer the same high standards in food and drink to make this a really welcome addition to Limerick City.

Discover Flanagan’s Townhouse today for yourself, you won’t be disappointed.
A Taste of Donegal Food Festival would like to remind all our foodie friends that it is our 10th Anniversary.

This must-attend foodie event is a three day celebration of great food and drink located in a beautiful tented village on the pier in Donegal Town. It takes place from Friday 24th - Sunday 26th August 2018.

It is absolutely worth making the journey North to visit “The Coolest Place on the Planet 2017” according to National Geographic and “The most beautiful County in Ireland” by the popular website ‘Ireland Before You Die’ situated along the starting point of the Wild Atlantic Way. It has the best of everything that Ireland has to offer - first class hospitality in award-winning hotels, unspoilt wild and wonderful scenery, outdoor attractions and pursuits, warm welcomes and craic!

Discover the biggest hidden gem along the way when you visit our 10th Anniversary of A Taste of Donegal 2018. Your taste-buds will be tantalised as you can taste and purchase some of the finest food and drink available from 120 food exhibitors from all over Ireland and the UK.

There will be cookery demonstrations by celebrity chefs, Neven Maguire, Kevin Dundon, Catherine Fulvio, Edward Hayden, Shane Smyth, Gary O’Hanlon, Brian McDermott, Joe Shannon and Donegal’s own local celebrity chefs.

There will be gin, beer and cocktail masterclasses, music, and street entertainment for all and much more.

You will be thrilled by our fantastic fireworks display over Donegal Bay.

So put us on your to-do list for August 2018 and come along and Discover, Dine and Delight in Donegal Town.

For more information please visit www.atasteofdonegal.com or our Facebook page.
Celtic Whiskey Bar – a must-visit experience

Celtic Whiskey Bar & Larder is a premier venue for Irish and International whiskey in Killarney, Co. Kerry. For the non-whiskey drinker, we offer Irish gin, craft beer, an extensive wine list and a creative cocktail menu. Fresh, locally sourced food is served daily until 9:45pm.

At the rear of the bar is the Irish Whiskey Experience, which educates our customers about the history of Irish whiskey, the distilling process and the different Irish distilleries. Voted Visitor Attraction of the Year by Icons of Whiskey International 2017. www.celticwhiskeybar.com

Shannon Ferries

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

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

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

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

Kilronan – a world class authentic castle experience

Kilronan Castle Estate & Spa has 85 superbly appointed bedrooms, with luxurious and decadent furnishings capturing the original ambience of the castle. Choose from Classic King to Family rooms, and for that extra special occasion, you can upgrade to a Lake View room, or a four-poster Authentic Castle Suite.

Our World Class Spa & Thermal Suite creates an oasis of calm for you to relax and unwind, with luxurious individual treatments and retreats carried out by our highly qualified therapists.

Our Leisure Club boasts facilities such as 18m pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi – as well as gym and fitness studio.

The Falls – a perfect base for explorers!

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

With beautiful beaches on its doorstep, along with hiking, kayaking and cycling – it is a wonderful base from which to explore this unique area.

Their award-winning River Spa and Leisure Centre is also the perfect place to relax after a day of exploring.
A piece of paradise at Parknasilla Resort

Parknasilla Resort is a luxury hotel and spa overlooking the calm waters of Kenmare Bay on the Ring of Kerry and the Wild Atlantic way. Set within a 300-acre tropical paradise of islands, inlets and hidden beaches, it is truly a destination resort. Come stay with us and wake up to our beautiful sea views, indulge in spa pampering, explore one of our many coastal walking trails, enjoy a guided sea-kayaking tour, play golf and in the evening come dine with us - where exemplary cooking, good wine and great service will impress.

Eccles Hotel Glengarriff, your gateway to West Cork’s Wild Atlantic Way

Steeped in over 250 years of history and heritage, Eccles Hotel in Glengarriff offers an idyllic taste of West Cork.

Located directly on the Wild Atlantic Way, one look at the sparkling sea views that stretch out across Bantry Bay and Garnish Island to the Atlantic beyond and you’ll know why it was an inspiring retreat for distinguished guests like WB Yeats, Maureen O’Hara and Pippa Middleton.

Relax in a charming setting that’s beyond compare. Explore all the amazing things to do in the surrounding area. Taste a menu that celebrates the finest local artisan producers and enjoy the warmest of West Cork welcomes with live entertainment every week.

For best rates and great offers, visit www.eccleshotel.com

The George Hotel

The George Hotel is a luxury hotel located on O’Connell Street - right in the heart of Limerick city centre, close to shopping, entertainment and the commercial district.

A luxury hotel that will not disappoint, we boast an eclectic mix of contemporary style and comfort in a premier central location. Our guests experience the perfect match of a cutting-edge cosmpolitan boutique hotel, style along with an unparalleled standard of service. Our accommodation is sure to impress even the most discerning traveller.

If you are visiting Limerick on business, or looking to hold a meeting in Limerick city, we offer competitive business rates. If you are looking for great value Limerick hotel deals, we feature great value midweek and weekend hotel breaks.

If what you want is some girly glamour in the heart of Limerick city, our boutique hotel offers great value Hen Party Packages – the perfect choice for a great night in Limerick. Our downtown location is also ideal for you to enjoy the post-match fun if you are visiting the home of rugby to watch Munster play in Thomond Park.
Get your hands dirty at Louis Mulcahy Pottery!

Listed as a ‘must-see’ attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way, Louis Mulcahy Pottery is a hive of activity where Ireland’s pre-eminent potter and well-known poet has established a showroom, café, pottery experience and workshop – offering tours and hands-on experience.

The thousands of exquisite pieces in the showroom, designed by Louis, are an artistic reflection of his picturesque surroundings. Inspired by the blue of the sea, the browns of the hillside, speckled with the purple heather and the roaring red sunsets. Louis’ large vases, urns, bowls, lamps, masks and druid figures are a must-have for the discerning buyer.

Louis’ business, nestled at the foot of a mountain and overlooking the wild Atlantic of Clogher Strand, has been built up over 40 years and is renowned worldwide.

The workshop, showroom and café are open seven days a week throughout the year.

The café, which started off as a 12-seater space, has expanded yearly to meet demand and has won a reputation for serving local, beautifully presented food in inspiring surroundings. Dingle crabmeat, Dingle Peninsula cheese, and local spiced beef all feature on the menu and daily specials include savoury tarts, mackerel paté and a chilli-crab sandwich.

Café favourites include Raspberry and Dark Chocolate Brownies, Kerry Apple Cake, and freshly baked scones and brown bread. Gluten free options are always on the menu. The café is recommended by Georgina Campbell and McKenna’s Guides.

All this has contributed greatly to making a complete experience for visitors to this centre of excellence half-way along the Slea Head drive of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Céad Míle Fáilte @ Durty Nelly’s

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

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

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

Come and see for yourself!

Michael Collins House

Michael Collins House in Clonakilty is a museum dedicated to Michael Collins and the story of Irish independence; offering an insight into the life of ‘The Big Fella’ and much more.

History is brought to life through guided tours, interactive displays, audio visuals, original artefacts and much more.

An affordable, educational and entertaining experience that is suitable for all ages. For more information contact 023-8858676, email info@michaelcollinshouse.ie or visit www.michaelcollinshouse.ie

Clew Bay lobster every day at The Tavern

Nothing shouts “Summer!” louder than fresh succulent lobster at The Tavern near Westport - it literally couldn’t be fresher.

Fresh fish is always on the menu, including Clew Bay lobster straight from the tank, oysters from Kilmore and local mussels. Chief Myles enjoys cooking with fish and adding the fruits of foraging expeditions where possible. No wonder they’re getting nominated for multiple awards this year!

The Tavern serves food from 12.30pm every day, where Croagh Patrick meets the Wild Atlantic Way. www.tavernmurrisk.ie
Art on the West

Elemental Inspiration: Artists Of The West

With scenery that inspires, a culture that innately fosters the artist and an array of ground-breaking galleries that dot the landscape, the artists who have been captivated by the Wild Atlantic Way’s rugged charm are as diverse as they are renowned.

Two of Ireland’s best-known painters are forever associated with images of Ireland’s west: Paul Henry and Jack B Yeats. Since the early 1900s, their paintings have greatly influenced perceptions of life along this coast, both at home and overseas.

Today, as sure as the waves lap these shores, this landscape remains a continual influence on artists. So much so that many of the country’s foremost creators have made their homes here, at their inspiration’s very source. Not only are these artists inspired by the landscape, but they use it in every tangible way. Its stories and history, its raw materials and living creatures all feature, breaking away from the conventions of traditional art.

Maria Simonds-Gooding

Enjoying a quiet life on the Dingle Peninsula, overlooking the magnificent Blasket Islands, Maria Simonds-Gooding is fascinated by remote locations. Having travelled extensively through Britain, India, Greece, Mali and Egypt, it is places where people have maintained close relationships with the land that draw her artistic attention.

Simonds-Gooding’s works in plaster depict the marks that humans have left on the natural landscape and are reminiscent of cave drawings and man’s very earliest paintings.

Her simple abstract lines and irregular shapes also depict the boundaries of fields and ancient human settlements.

Charles Tyrrell

At the extreme south-western tip of the Beara Peninsula in County Cork lives preeminent painter Charles Tyrrell, who works in a studio overlooking the changeable Atlantic. While his work remains resolutely abstract, the recognizable colours of the West Cork landscape are very much present.

Tyrrell uses opaque pastels and acrylics on paper, and his work is often done by lamplight. His recent work has been inspired by his travels, but it is still very much a reflection of his surroundings.

Melita Denaro

Dividing her time between Donegal and London, Melita Denaro and her paintings explore her ongoing connection with the dramatic landscape of the West Coast near the northernmost tip of County Donegal.

Inspired by the peacefull countryside and the beauty of her surroundings, she paints with great attention to detail, creating works that capture the essence of the place.

Dorothy Cross

A County Cork native, sculptor, photographer and visual artist, Dorothy Cross now lives and works in a rural Cotswold setting. Incredibly interested in people’s relationships with the natural world, Cross often uses themes found on the shoreline near her studio to construct formal, finely-balanced sculptural works. Boats, dead birds and the skins and shells of sea animals have all featured prominently, while sharks have become a recurring motif that acts as a powerful symbol relating to themes of history, memory and identity.

Her work is a product of place, reclaimed and harvested from nature’s bounty, and it speaks of man’s deep connection to the spaces in which he finds himself.

Atlantic island of Hy Brasil, which first appeared on sailing charts between 1285 and 1530 but had disappeared by 1802.

His penchant for the absurd is uniquely Irish, as his project ‘DeLorean: Progress Report’ shows – it traces the tools used to make the cars made famous by the ‘Back to the Future’ films, from a defunct factory in Belfast to the bottom of the sea in Galway Bay, where they reside with a host of robins, crabs and other aquatic creatures.

Alice Maher

Another Irish artist whose work interrogates mythic and folkloric narratives is County Mayo-based Alice Maher. She works across a wide range of disciplines – sculpture, drawing, print, animation, photography, painting and installation – and has been longlisted for a number of prizes, with her work represented in some of the Irish artists’ most famous collections.

Naturals often provides both the subject and material, although Maher is also interested in exploring materials that lie outside the traditions of fine art. Barries, thorns, nettles and bee’s wax are just some of her best-known pieces, alongside powerful depictions of women with extraordinary long hair.

Melita Denaro

Dividing her time between Donegal and London, Melita Denaro and her paintings explore her ongoing connection with the dramatic landscape of the West Coast near the northernmost tip of County Donegal.

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Skane McSweeney

Since moving to the west of Ireland in the 1980s, the Sligo coastline has become central to Skane McSweeney’s work, which is firmly rooted in the tradition of Irish landscape painting that stretches back to the 1930s.

He returns frequently to the same subjects and is consistently drawn to the small bays, calm waters and flat shorelines close to his home, painting them in different lights and at different times of the year. He frequently plays with perspective, with boats reduced to simple rectangles and the coastline represented by horizontal bands depicting land, sea and sky.

Recent work has seen McSweeney focus on the waters and changing moods and movements of the North Atlantic.

Sean Lynch

County Kerry’s Sean Lynch was Ireland’s 2015 representative at the prestigious Venice Biennale. Many of Lynch’s projects relate to specific places along the Wild Atlantic Way.

A Preliminary Sketch for the Disappearance of Hy Brasil” looks at the disappearance of the phantom
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