WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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TOURIST OFFICES:

Letterkenny,
Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal, F92 E796
T: 1850 230 330,
E: letterkenny@failteireland.ie

Donegal,
The Quay, Donegal Town,
Co. Donegal, F94 PX52
T: 1850 230 330,
E: donegal@failteireland.ie

Sligo,
Old Bank Building, O’Connell Street, Sligo Town,
Co. Sligo, F91 VAK2
T: 1850 230 330,
E: northwestinfo@failteireland.ie

Kiernan’s Homemade Chocolates

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All website & email links are live.

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this visitor guide to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for printed errors or omissions, or alterations occurring after the guidebook has been published.
The Wild Atlantic Way, the longest defined coastal touring route in the world stretching 2,500km from Inishowen in Donegal to Kinsale in West Cork, leads you through one of the world’s most dramatic landscapes.

A frontier on the very edge of Europe, the Wild Atlantic Way is a place like no other, which in turn has given its people a unique outlook on life. Here you can immerse yourself in a different way of living. Here you can let your freer, spontaneous side breathe. Here you can embrace the Wild Atlantic Way of Life.

The most memorable holidays always have a touch of wildness about them, and the Wild Atlantic Way will not disappoint. With opportunities to view the raw, rugged beauty of the highest sea cliffs in Europe; experience Northern lights dancing in winter skies; journey by boat to many of the wonderful islands off our island; experience the coast by horseback; or take a splash and enjoy the many water sports available. Stop often at the many small settlements and towns along the route. Every few miles there are places to stretch your legs and have a bite to eat, so be sure to allow enough time to take it all in.

For the foodies, you can indulge in some seaweed foraging with a local guide with a culinary experience so you can taste the fruits of your labours. As night falls enjoy the craic at traditional music sessions and even try a few steps of an Irish jig! It’s out on these western extremities – drawn in by the constant rhythm of the ocean’s roar and the consistent warmth of the people – which you’ll find the Ireland you have always imagined.

Start your journey on: www.wildatlanticway.com

For additional information:
- waw@failteireland.ie
- facebook.com/irelandswaw
- youtube.com/wildatlanticway
- instagram.com/thewildatlanticway
- @wildatlanticway
- #wildatlanticway

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- instagram.com/thewildatlanticway
- @wildatlanticway
- #wildatlanticway
NORTHERN HEADLANDS: JOURNEYS BEGIN

Expand your mind, body and soul in Donegal

Untouched, off-radar and crying out for exploration, this rugged and remote region marks the northwestern contour of the Wild Atlantic Way. Nature is spectacular and bracing here, from the sheer granite walls of some of Europe’s highest sea cliffs at Slieve League, to Northern Lights dancing in clear winter skies, to millions of seabirds gathering in great estuaries.

There’s a vibrant sense of community in this sparsely populated region: Ireland’s wildest shores are home to its largest Gaeltacht – where Irish is still the mother tongue and traditional culture thrives. In Donegal, a brilliant festival or night out could be followed by the rare sight of a basking shark... it’s that kind of place.

Out on Ireland’s northernmost headlands, eleven lighthouses shine across the sea, and journeys – physical and spiritual – begin. The sea air revives, minds and horizons expand, stories are told, adventures are shared, and spirits lift.

NORTHERN HEADLANDS: EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY

**Cycle to Ireland’s most Northerly Point!**

*Cycle Inishowen, 8 Chapel Street, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal*
*Tel: 087 9722532 info@cycleinishowen.com*
*www.cycleinishowen.com GPS N 55.2506524 -7.2618412*

The best way to experience Malin Head is by bike! With breathtaking sea views at every turn, challenging climbs and exhilarating descents this is one experience guaranteed to blow away the cobwebs. Following country roads the landscape opens up the further north you go and the Atlantic Ocean will dominate the horizon as you come to the very top of the Inishowen Peninsula to reach Ireland’s most northerly point at Malin Head.

**SELF-GUIDED:** 4-6 hours on average depending on experience.

**Sea Safari and Maritime Heritage Tours**

*Dive Arranmore Charters, Ballard, Arranmore Island, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*
*Tel: 086 3300516 jimmuldowney3@gmail.com*
*www.divearranmore.com GPS N 54.982241 W 08.517058*

Experience the Wild Atlantic Way from sea level on a tour of marine history dating from 1781. The 18th century herring fishing station is a key attraction and your skipper Jim will outline its history while you cruise the islands’ channels and observe its landmarks. Hear the cry of the gulls as you cruise past cliffs and caves while the beauty of deserted islands, the ruggedness of the landscape and the energy of the ocean will stay with you long after your exhilarating trip!

**DURATION:** 2hrs 30mins

**Glenveagh, hauntingly beautiful...**

*National Park, Castle & Gardens, Churchill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*
*Tel: 076 100 2551 glenveaghbookings@ahg.gov.ie; tres.conaghan@ahg.gov.ie www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie GPS N 55.016667 -8.05*

Glenveagh National Park is a remote and hauntingly beautiful wilderness of rugged mountains, pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls and enchanted native oak woodland in the heart of the Derryveagh Mountains in northwest Donegal. At the centre of the Park on the edge of Lough Veagh is Glenveagh Castle. Enjoy a guided tour of the Castle and Gardens (by prior arrangement). Audio visual tour on the park’s history and castle also available.

**DURATION:** 2hrs

All website & email links are live.
NORTHERN HEADLANDS:
EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY

See the Light at Fanad Lighthouse
Fanad Lighthouse, Cionn Fhánada, Eara Thíre na Bínne, Port an tSláinín, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal
Tel: 083 8091199 info@fanadlighthouse.com
www.fanadlighthouse.com GPS 55.275617 -7.634941

Fanad Lighthouse stands at the point where the deep Lough Swilly fjord meets the Atlantic Ocean. Daily guided tours allow visitors to experience the life of the lightkeeper, to hear about the history of the lighthouse, some of the tragedies in the surrounding sea, view the spectacular scenery and to learn about the new technology that watches our coastline today. Somewhat weather dependent.

DURATION: 1hr 20mins - 2hrs.

Donegal Knitting and Weaving Experience
John Molloy Woollen Mills, Ardara, Co Donegal
Tel: 087 229 9440 or 087 6484748
info@johnmolloy.com www.johnmolloy.com
GPS N 54.45.25.182, W 8.25.7.318

Immerse yourself in the century’s old traditions of knitting and Donegal hand-woven tweeds at John Molloy Woollen Mills, nestled in the hills of Donegal. The Molloy’s have five generations of experience to draw on and are delighted to demonstrate the evolution of this cottage industry in Ardara, the home of Donegal tweed. Enjoy a guided tour (English only) showcasing production methods, changes in practices and the link between local farmers and the finished garment to this day.

DURATION: 20 – 30 mins.

Step Back in Time
Glencolmcille Folk Village, Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 9730017 folkvillage@eircom.net
www.glencolmcille.com GPS 54.707168, -8.738368

Step back in time at Glencolmcille Folk Village and explore several thatched cottages, getting a feel for what life was like in Ireland spanning hundreds of years. Visit the fisherman’s cottage, crammed full of fishing-related artefacts and stories. Hear the story of Father James McDyer – who came to this isolated valley in 1951 and helped to establish running water, electricity and industry and sample the delights at the Village’s tearoom and craft shop. Guided and self-guided tours available.

DURATION: 1hr 30mins.

Sliabh Liag Pilgrim Path FREE
Sliabh Liag Pilgrim Path, Bluestack Centre, Drimarane, Letterbarrow, Co Donegal
Tel: 087 931 8077 ibock@dldc.org
www.irishtrails.ie GPS 54.641697, -8.66561

Used since ancient times, the Pilgrim Path offers a different perspective of the spectacular Sliabh Liag (Slieve League) sea cliffs which are among the highest in Europe. Get a glimpse into the history of this mystical location, past rock ruins and a holy well on the eastern summit of Sliabh Liag. A moderate walking route, just 2.8km long each way, with views of the villages of Teelin and Carrick in the valley below where you can enjoy local food and drink after your walk.

DURATION: Allow approx. 1hr 30mins each way.

Meet the Local Artists FREE
Donegal Craft Village, Lurganboy, Ballyshannon Rd., Donegal Town, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 9735928 elaine.mcgonigle@yahoo.co.uk
www.donegalcraftvillage.com GPS 55.275617 -7.634941

Meet the artists in their workshops and maybe treat yourself to some of the many items on offer, or to bring home as a gift. Donegal Craft Village is a showcase for contemporary arts and crafts in Ireland while the award winning restaurant is renowned for its freshly ground coffee, delicious homemade cakes and gourmet lunches. Enjoy the beautifully landscaped grounds with picnic area and charming courtyard.

DURATION: Allow 1-3 hours given the number of craft units.

For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see www.wildatlanticway.com or download the Wild Atlantic Way app

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All website & email links are live.
®
NORTHERN HEADLANDS:
VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Malin Head 🌇
Inishowen, Co. Donegal
www.visitinishowen.com

Malin Head, Ireland’s most northerly point known locally as Banba’s Crown is an area of great scenic beauty and of historical, scientific and ecological importance. The circuit of the Head will take you past the Radio Station, built in 1910, and round the coast to Banba’s Crown the most northern tip of Ireland. Here a tall derelict building known locally as “The Tower” was built in 1908 by the Admiralty, and later used as a Lloyds Signal Station. During the Second World War, the small huts were built and used by our defence forces to keep a lookout and protect our neutrality.

Doagh Famine Village 🏜️
Isle of Doagh, Inishowen, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 937 8078 www.doaghfaminevillage.com

Doagh Famine Village tells the story of a family/community living on the edge of Donegal and surviving from Famine times right up to the present day. It also explains the road to peace in Northern Ireland, Ireland in the ‘Celtic Tiger’ years and through the current economic collapse.

OPEN: Every day (10.00-17.00) ADMISSION: €8 for guided tour & tea/coffee.

Fort Dunree 🏰
Dunree, Linsfort, Buncrana, Co. Donegal F93 C424
Tel: 074 936 1817 www.dunree.pro.ie

Fort Dunree is a stunning tourist attraction on the Inishowen Peninsula, it houses a Museum, Scenic Walks, Wildlife Discovery Room, and Waterfront Coffee Shop, a great day out for all the family.

OPEN: May-Sep, Mon-Sat (10.30-18.00), Sun (13.00-18.00) Oct-Apr, Mon-Fri (10.30-16.30), Sat & Sun (13.00-18.00)

ADMISSION: Adult €7, Children over 7 / Seniors €5
NORTHERN HEADLANDS:
VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

**Grianán of Aileach**
Burt, Co. Donegal
Situated near Burt in Donegal, this very fine stone-built hilltop fort or cashel is situated 800 feet above sea level on Grianán Mountain and commands superb views of the Foyle, Lough Swilly and the surrounding countryside. Nearby is the Old Church Visitor Centre which tells the story of the Legends of the Mythical Tuatha Dé Danann Race.

**Tropical World @ Alcorn’s**
Loughnagin, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 912 1655 www.tropicalworld.ie
Be astounded by Donegal’s not so mini zoo! Experience your own Slice of the Amazon, see amazing tropical butterflies in free flight, be serenaded by lorikeets, turacos, macaws and birds from around the world in our exotic aviaries, visit lemurs, tamarin monkeys, meerkats, raccoons, tortoise and newly arrived squirrel monkeys. A great experience is enhanced this year with a replica dinosaur in our Jurassic land plus the amazing world of insects.
OPEN: 1st Apr – 30th Sept Mon-Sat (10.00-17.30), Sun (13.00-17.30), Last admission 16.30
ADMISSION: Adults €8.50, Children €7, Under 3’s free.
Family (2 adults & 2 children) €28

**Newmills Corn & Flax Mills**
Churchill Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 912 5115 newmills@opw.ie
The oldest surviving building here is said to be 400 years old. The visitor to Newmills can experience the pleasure of seeing one of the largest waterwheels in Ireland in action as it drives the machinery of the corn mill.
OPEN: 25th May – 27th Sep, Daily (10.00-18.00)
ADMISSION: Free of charge

**Glenveagh National Park & Castle**
Churchill Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 913 7071 glebegallery@opw.ie
Regency House, dated 1828, set in woodland gardens, decorated with William Morris textiles, Islamic and Japanese art. The Derek Hill Collection is in the adjoining gallery. Access to ground floor of the gallery for people with disabilities.
OPEN: Jun & Sep, Sat – Thu (11.00 – 18.30) Jul & Aug, Daily (11.00-18.30)
ADMISSION: To House: Adult €5, Sen/Group €4, Child/Student €3, Family €13
TO GALLERY: Free of charge
OFFER: Free admission on First Wednesday of each month

**Glebe House**
Churchill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 913 7011 glebegallery@opw.ie
Regency House, dated 1828, set in woodland gardens, decorated with William Morris textiles, Islamic and Japanese art. The Derek Hill Collection is in the adjoining gallery. Access to ground floor of the gallery for people with disabilities.
OPEN: Jun & Sep, Sat – Thu (11.00 – 18.30) Jul & Aug, Daily (11.00-18.30)
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TO GALLERY: Free of charge
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**Ards Forest Park**
Creeslough, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 912 1139 www.coillteoutdoors.ie
Forest and beach walks, parking, picnic tables, children adventure playground, toilets with wheelchair access, wheelchair accessible paths and sand dune boardwalk.
OPEN: All Year, 08.00 – 1700 (or 20.00 Apr – Sep)
ADMISSION: Car €5, Annual Pass €35 available online.

**Signature Point**
Wild Atlantic Way

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NORTHERN HEADLANDS: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Cionn Fháinada (Fanad Head)
Fanad Peninsula, Co. Donegal

Fanad Head lies on the north coast of County Donegal between Lough Swilly and Mulroy Bay. Its claims to fame include one of the world’s most beautiful lighthouses and the famous Flight of the Earls, which took place here in 1607. To reach the headland, travel along Knockalla Coast Road, a route with some seriously stunning panoramas. If a visit to the lighthouse is on your agenda, don’t forget to make some time for a leisurely stroll along the adjacent headland, where you’ll see awe-inspiring waves and the Wild Atlantic Way’s most rugged stretch of coastline. This is one place where you’ll certainly want to have your camera ready.

OFFER: free admission on First Wednesday of each month

The Dunfanaghy Workhouse
Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 913 6540 www.dunfanaghyworkhouse.ie

Famine & Donegal History exhibition with craft & coffee shop and Pirates Playground.

OPEN: Jun & Sep (Daily, 10.00-17.00); Jul, Aug & school holidays (10.00-17.30) For up to date information please check our Facebook page.

ADMISSION: Adult €4.50, Child / OAP / Student €3.50, Family ticket €12.50

Groups (more than 8) €3 each

Offer: 20% discount on presentation of this guide.

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Glencolmcille Folk Village Museum
Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 973 0017 www.glenfolkvillage.com

Thatched Cottage Museum, with original artefacts dating back to the 1700’s. Facilities include eight cottages, beaches, archaeology hub, tea house, craft demonstrations, historical walk with stunning sea cliff views. Local crafts available in the village shop.

OPEN: 26th Mar - 30th Sep, Mon-Sat (10.00-18.00), Sun (11.00-18.00) 1st - 31st Oct, Mon-Sat (11.00-16.30), Sun (12noon-16.00)

Open on request out of season.

ADMISSION: Adults €5, Seniors / Group over 11 people / Student €4.50, Children under 6 free, 7-12yrs €2.50, Family (2 Adults & 2 children) €13.

Offer: 25c off per ticket when you present the North West Pocket Guide.

Daniel O’Donnell Visitor Centre
Main St. Dungloe, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 952 2334 www.danieldonnellyvisitorcentre.com

The story of Daniel O’Donnell’s life through displays, videos and exclusive memorabilia.

OPEN: Seven days a week. Ring to book your tour.

ADMISSION: Adults €5 Children u12 free.

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Sliabh Liag (Sieve League)
Fanad Peninsula, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 953 1699 www.dunleweycentre.com

Visitor centre with restaurant and tea room, guided tours of the Weaver’s Cottage and boat trips on Dunlewey Lake. Children’s adventure play-area and small petting farm. Traditional music every Sunday lunchtime.

OPEN: Easter to November

ADMISSION: Family ticket €22, Different rates available.

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NORTHERN HEADLANDS:
VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

**Donegal Castle**

Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 972 2405 www.heritageireland.ie

Built by the O’Donnell chieftain in the 15th century, beside the River Eske, the castle has extensive 17th century additions by Sir Basil Brooke. The castle is furnished throughout and includes Persian rugs and French tapestries. Information panels chronicle the history of the castle owners from the O’Donnell chieftains to the Brooke family.

**OPEN:** Easter - Mid Sep, Daily (10.00-18.00), Mid Sep – Easter, Thu-Mon (09.30 - 16.30) Last admission 45 minutes before closing.

**ADMISSION:** Adult €5, Child / Student €3, Seniors / Group €4, Family €13.

**OFFER:** Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

**Lough Derg Pilgrimage Island**

Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co. Donegal F94 PC60
Tel: 071 986 1518 www.loughderg.org

is very much a living part of Irish Christian Heritage. A unique island, rich in prayer and faith, an island which has been calling pilgrims for over a thousand years. 

**OPEN:** May – End of Sep (visits on request at other times).

**ADMISSION:** Three day pilgrimage €70, student discount 15%, concessions for seniors/groups. One day retreat €40. Boat tours from €15 by arrangement.

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MORE TO EXPERIENCE

ARTS, CRAFTS & CULTURE

AN GRIANAN THEATRE, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 0777 www.angrianan.com

ABBEY ARTS CENTRE, BALLYSHANNON
Tel: 071 985 1375 www.abbeycastleofculture.ie

BALOR ARTS THEATRE, BALLYBOFÉY
Tel: 074 913 1840 www.balortheatre.com

SLEIVE LEAGUE CULTURAL CENTRE, CARRICK
Tel: 074 933 9077 www.sliobhileague.ie
Workshop, conference room, tourist information centre.

AN CRANNÓG, DERRYBEG
Tel: 074 953 2208
An Irish language centre with classes for adults who wish to learn Irish.

REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 9186 www.regionalculturalcentre.com

TRIONA DESIGN, ARDARA
Tel: 074 954 1142 www.trionadesign.com
A family run shop specialising in Donegal Tweed.

CELTIC WEAVE CHINA, BALLYSHANNON
Tel: 071 985 1844 www.celticweavechina.com
Renowned for their china baskets and flowered ware.

STUDIO DONEGAL, KILCAR
Tel: 074 973 8194 www.studiodoregal.ie
Home to Donegal tweeds and hand knits. See authentic hand-weaving on a daily basis.

EDDIE DOHERTY, ARDARA
Tel: 074 954 1304 www.handwoventweed.com
Specialises in hand-woven tweed.

DONEGAL CRAFT VILLAGE, DONEGAL TOWN
Tel: 074 972 2225 or 074 972 2222 www.donegalcraftvillage.com
Reputedly the best collection of contemporary art, craft and design in Ireland.

MAGEES OF DONEGAL, DONEGAL TOWN
Tel: 074 972 2660 www.magee1866.com
World famous for their hand-woven heritage, they stock a range of beautiful tailored garments. Watch a traditional hand-weaver at work.

MCALIFFIE’S CRAFT SHOP, DUNFANAGHY
Tel: 074 913 6125
Holds a vast range of Irish fashions, knitwear, handcrafts, jewellery, books and music.

OIDEAS GAEIL GLEANN CHOLM CILLE
Tel: 074 973 0248 www.oideas-gaeil.com
Adult Irish language and Cultural Courses.

DONEGAL DESIGN MAKERS, ARDARA
Tel: 087 102 3100 www.donegaldesignmakers.com
Selection of work by 25 makers from across the county of Donegal.

EDEL MACBRIDE, CONVOY
Tel: 085 703 2764 www.edelmacbride.com
Visit the workshop and outlet of award-winning fashion knitwear designer Edel MacBríde.

MORE TO EXPERIENCE

ARTS, CRAFTS & CULTURE

MCNUTT’S DONEGAL WOOLLEN MILL, DOWNINGS
Tel: 074 915 5662 www.donegalwoollenmill.com
Famous the world over for their own tweeds and linens.

GLENDOwen CRAFT SHOP & STUDIO, MEENTAGH GLEN, CLONMANNY
Tel: 074 937 6265 www.glenadowen.com
Specialising in unique tweed garments and accessories by Ann McGonigle.

MOURNE ANTIQUES, 38 UPPER MAIN ST., LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 6457 www.mourneantiques.com
From past to present, unique beauty and quality.

ROSSAN KNIT WEAR LIMITED, GLENCOLMCILLE.
Tel: 074 973 0070 www.rossanknitwear.ie
Hand loomed knitwear in both modern and traditional Irish designs.

CYNDI GRAHAM HAND WEAVING, ST JOHN’S POINT
Tel: 086 401 9307
Hand-woven hats, scarves, waistcoats, cushions and throws.

MOUNTCHARLES POTTERY, MOUNTCHARLES
Tel: 087 643 0037
Handmade pottery, jewellery and Fine Art Gallery.

LETTERKENNY CRAFT & DESIGN STUDIO, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 5454
A studio to promote the best arts, crafts and produce that Donegal has to offer.

THE CURLEW CAFE & CRAFTS, KERRYKEEL
Tel: 074 915 0998 www.thecurlewcafeandcrafts.com
Wonderful selection of local crafts and gifts.

KENNEDY OF ARDARA, ARDARA
Tel: 074 954 1106 www.kennedyirishsweaters.com
Manufacturers of World Famous Hillwalking Sweaters.

TRIONA DESIGN, ARDARA
Tel: 074 913 0998 www.thecurlewcafeandcrafts.com
A family run shop specialising in Donegal Tweed.

NOTES

All website & email links are live.

1. NORTHERN HEADLANDS
2. SURF COAST
3. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
4. FAMILY FUN
5. FOOD
6. WHAT’S ON
7. ITINERARIES
8. GETTING AROUND
MORE TO EXPERIENCE
ARTS, CRAFTS & CULTURE

HANNA HATS, DONEGAL TOWN
Tel: 074 972 1084 www.hannahats.com
Unique tweed design of hats and caps.

FISHERMAN’S OUT OF IRELAND, KILCAR
Tel: 074 973 8233 www.fishermanoutofireland.com
A small knitting company based in South West Donegal.

GALLERIES

ROSS FINE ART, RAMELTON
Tel: 074 915 0926 www.rossfineart.ie

THE GALLERY, DUNFANAGHY
Tel: 074 938 1652 www.thegallerydunfanaghy.com

STRAID GALLERY, GLENMMLIE
Tel: 074 973 0128 www.straigallery.com

STEPHEN BENNETT STUDIO GALLERY, ARDARA
Tel: 074 954 1944 www.visitsbfgs.com

SILVER BIRCH GALLERY & STUDIO, CARNDONAGH
Tel: 074 937 3082 www.sharonmcdaid.com

STEPHEN DIGGIN AGHILLY, BUNCRANA
Tel: 086 214 4965 www.stephendigginart.com

AN CLACHAN, AN CHUIRT HOTEL, GWEEDORE
Tel: 074 956 0091

THROATLAKE FINE ART, PORTNABLAGH
Tel: 074 913 8791 www.throatlake.com

CAYACGALL GALLERY BALLINDRAIT, LIFFORD
Tel: 074 914 1143 www.cavanacorgallery.ie

HERITAGE CENTRES & MUSEUMS

SEAT OF POWER VISITOR CENTRE, LIFORD
Tel: 074 914 1733 www.lifordoldcourthouse.com
This historic mid 16th Century courthouse has been converted into a heritage centre.

INISHOWEN MARITIME MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM, GREENCASL
Tel: 074 938 1363 www.inishowennmarine.com
Attractions include nautical exhibits, memorabilia, modern and ancient maritime equipment and Irish boats.

DONEGAL RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE, DONEGAL TOWN
Tel: 074 972 2655 www.countydonegalrailway.com
Find out just what it was like to travel on the narrow gauge railways.

ST. COLMCILLE HERITAGE CENTRE, CHURCHILL
Tel: 074 913 7306 www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie
Devoted to the life and times of St. Colmcille with displays of illuminated manuscripts.

MORE TO EXPERIENCE
HERITAGE CENTRES & MUSEUMS

ARDARA HERITAGE CENTRE, ARDARA
Tel: 087 342 4590 www.ardara.ie
Based in the quoinned, cut-stone former Market House, the centre outlines the history of tweed production in the Ardara area.

CAIRN VISITOR CENTRE, GREENCASTLE
Tel: 074 938 1104 www.theclairecentre.com
Tours of the days gone by, photographic exhibitions, stories, craft shop and theatre.

KILLYBEYG INTERNATIONAL CARPET MAKING AND FISHING CENTRE, KILLYBEYG
Tel: 074 974 1944 www.visitsbfgs.com
Offers a fascinating audio visual insight into the history of the fishing and the famous hand-knotted carpets, also home to the longest loom in the world.

AN TSEAN BHEAIRIC, FALCARRAGH
Tel: 074 918 0655 www.antraen.com

FINTOWN RAILWAY, FINTOWN
Tel: 074 954 6280 www.antraen.com
Donegal’s only operational narrow gauge railway. The unique journey is a three mile return trip along the shores of Lough Finn.

DOE CASTLE, CREESLOUGH
Tel: 074 913 8445
A four-storey tower, standing in a square turreted bawn built early in the 16th century on Sheep Haven Bay. Tours Jun – Aug, limited access at other times.

DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 4613 Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie
The museum houses both temporary and permanent exhibitions which chart the history of Donegal from the Stone Age to the twentieth century.

COUNTY DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, BALLYSHANNON
Tel: 071 985 1726 www.donegalhistory.com
The objective of the society is to preserve and record the history of the county.

ST. CONNELL’S MUSEUM, GLENTIES
Tel: 074 955 1766 or 087 630 3496
glenladiescommunitycarefas@gmail.com
The museum includes the prison cells of the late 19th century courthouse and has many artefacts pertaining to the famine in South West Donegal.

BALLYSHANNON & DISTRICT MUSEUMSLEVINS DEPT. STORE, BALLYSHANNON
Tel: 087 193 7166  The museum has artefacts and memorabilia stretching back from the recent past to 10,000 BC.

TRACING ANCESTRY

DONEGAL CENTRAL LIBRARY OLIVER PLUNKET ST., LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 4950 centraldonegalibrary.ie

DONEGAL ANCESTRY MILLBROOK, RATHMULLAN
Tel: 074 915 8285 info@donegalancestry.com www.donegalancestry.com

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Experiences to Enjoy
Visitor Attractions
More to Experience

2. SURF COAST
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Visitor Attractions
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3. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Adventure & Watersports
Walking & Cycling
Angling
Equestrian
Golf
Gardens

4. FAMILY FUN

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MAP

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ARAINN MHÓR - ARRANMORE ISLAND

Looking out over the Atlantic Ocean, tasting the salt on your tongue and the sea breeze brushing your face, there is nothing similar to a visit to the islands of Donegal to reinvigorate you. This is predominately where the Irish language and culture is still vibrant. Wild and beautiful the islands have captured the imagination for thousands of years and provided stimulus for artists and writers.

The perception that the islands of Donegal were remote has altered dramatically in recent years. Now they are easily accessible by boat. Plan your visit to the islands, some very busy in high season (July and August especially). Very few of the islands have ATM banking facilities. Please leave the islands as you find them. When visiting the islands take care; a visit to the islands is a unique occurrence but remain vigilant as they are exposed to the elements. The island terrain is mainly rugged and the Atlantic Ocean can sometimes be wild.

TÓRAIGH - TÓRY ISLAND

Standing staunchly against the storms of the Atlantic Ocean, Tory has been inhabited for 4,000 years. The resilient and independent residents of this Gaeltacht Island have their own music, songs, stories and dances and are expressions of a distinctive Irish culture and tradition preserved by remoteness. Historical sites include a round tower, a ruined church, the Tau Cross (one of only two found in Ireland).

Tory has a unique wildlife particularly the globally threatened Corncrake and important colonies of cliff-nesting seabirds. Visitors can enjoy diving, fishing, rock climbing, whale or dolphin watching or walk a portion of the Donegal Way with beautiful scenery as a backdrop. Tory is also famous for its school of artists, who were encouraged by the late English painter Derek Hill, whose work has been exhibited all over the world.

Tel: 074 953 1320 / 074 913 5061 www.toryislandferry.com

FESTIVALS: Fèile Solís Thoráin (July) celebrating Tory’s musical and cultural traditions.

GETTING THERE: Turasmore Tea sails from Bunbeg and Magheroarty all year round.

INIS FRAOICH - INNISFREE ISLAND

Inisfree Island, approximately one square mile of sandy beaches and beautiful scenery, the island was home to thirty-six families in a tightly-knit, caring community. Subsequently deserted, the island has been re-inhabited recently and Inis Fraoich’s new residents are eager to help visitors benefit from the spiritual atmosphere that seems to pervade this unique place. Cultural courses are organised on the island at specific times and cover topics such as music, dancing, arts, crafts, poetry, nature and heritage.

GETTING THERE: Innisfree Charters sails from Alt an Chorráin, seasonal by booking, max. ten passengers.

Tel: 074 955 1533 – 087 925 3534

GABHLA - GOLA ISLAND

The island is approximately one mile from the mainland at Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore). Evidence of past life remains in the form of stone houses, the homes of families, who have long since moved to the mainland. A number of houses have been restored by former residents and their families. The launching of a regular ferry service and the growing interest in ecology and cliff climbing is bringing back new life. Gabhla can be explored in a few hours over easy walking terrain. It is difficult to comprehend that you are just two miles removed from mainland Donegal.

FESTIVALS: Fèile Gola (June).


MORE TO EXPERIENCE

DONEGAL TOURS

SLIABH LIAG BOAT TRIPS ON THE NUALA STAR, TELLEIN
Tel: 074 973 9365 or 087 628 4688 www.sliabhleagubootrrips.com

MANGAN TOURS
Tel: 074 913 5460 www.manganours.ie

DONEGAL WILD ATLANTIC WAY TOUR
Tel: 086 605 9220 www.walkingireland.ie

DONEGAL BAY WATERBUS, THE PIER, DONEGAL TOWN
Tel: 074 972 3666 www.donegabaywaterbus.com

ISLANDS AND THE GAELTACHT (IRISH SPEAKING) AREAS OF DONEGAL

Looking out over the Atlantic Ocean, tasting the salt on your tongue and the sea breeze brushing your face, there is nothing similar to a visit to the islands of Donegal to reinvigorate you. This is predominately where the Irish language and culture is still vibrant. Wild and beautiful the islands have captured the imagination for thousands of years and provided stimulus for artists and writers.

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ÁRAINN MHÓR - ARRANMORE ISLAND

Probably the most accessible of all the Gaeltacht islands, Aarrin Mhor has a resident population of approximately 600 people. From the island’s rolling hills, observe views of the Rosses region (Na Ros), the islands and the Donegal Mountains as a backdrop or visit two of the islands lovely beaches, at Aphort or Leabh Gharbh. A place to get away from it all and yet mainland Donegal is just a 15 minute boat journey. Festivals: Family Fun Day (August).

Subsequently deserted, the island has been re-inhabited recently and Inis Fraoich’s new residents are eager to help visitors benefit from the spiritual atmosphere that seems to pervade this unique place. Cultural courses are organised on the island at specific times and cover topics such as music, dancing, arts, crafts, poetry, nature and heritage.


ARRANMORE ISLAND FAST FERRY
Tel: 087 3171810 www.arranmorefastferry.com

TORAIGH - TORY ISLAND

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Tel: 074 953 1320 / 074 913 5061 www.toryislandferry.com

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GETTING THERE: Ferries sail seasonally from Magheraorty

THE GAELTACHT

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BEACHES

Many beaches have been awarded Blue Flag or Green Coast awards attesting to their water quality, safety and environmental status. Donegal’s Northern Headlands offers some of the most spectacular beaches which include:

Blue Flag

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MORE TO EXPERIENCE

LIGHTHOUSES

Donegal’s rugged coastline has 11 lighthouses guiding seafarers to safety on the Wild Atlantic ocean. While many provide the visitor with a great photo opportunity, two offer a particular Wild Atlantic Way experience. These include:

Fanad Lighthouse

www.greatlighthouses.com

Standing between idyllic Lough Swilly and sandy Mulroy Bay Fanad Head Lighthouse has been voted one of the most beautiful lighthouses in the world.

St. John’s Point

www.greatlighthouses.com

It’s quite a thrill driving down to St. John’s Point Lighthouse, to see it looming at the end of one of the longest peninsulas in Ireland.

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The waters and the wild, from Bundoran to Erris “I would that we were, my beloved, white birds on the foam of the sea!” So wrote W.B. Yeats, in The White Birds. Little wonder... This stretch of the Wild Atlantic Way, leading from Bundoran through Sligo to far-flung Erris, was the famous poet’s ‘Land of Heart’s Desire’ - the countryside in which he grew up and which inspired him well into old age. It’s just as poetic today: Coastal hubs like Bundoran, Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Strandhill are renowned for their surf – throwing up both beginner-friendly ripples and monster slabs that attract some of the world’s top wave riders. But that’s only the beginning. Ben Bulben, the Lake Isle of Innisfree and Glencar Waterfall are all landscape highlights, towns like Sligo, Ballina and Belmullet are vibrant hubs, seaside cafes will slake any explorer’s appetite, and you can enjoy a deep, oily soak in a hot seaweed bath (Ireland’s only native spa therapy).

There’s a cultural richness along the Surf Coast too, from the Neolithic Céide Fields – a Stone Age monument of stone-walled fields, houses and tombs – to a lively festival scene. Who knows, it may inspire a poem of your own!

**Catch a Wave on the Wild Atlantic Way**
Bundoran Surf Company, Main St, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
Tel: 071 9841968 info@bundoransurfco.com
www.bundoransurfco.com GPS 54.481411 -8.272169

If you’ve ever dreamed of surfing in the Atlantic then take a lesson with Bundoran Surf Company at one of Donegal’s unspoilt and rugged beaches with their endless rolling waves. The friendly instructors will supply the equipment and transport and all are highly qualified. Beginner surf lessons take place in waist deep water ensuring a completely safe and fun experience.

DURATION: 3hrs.

**Home of Heritage**
Lissadell House, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo
Tel: 011 9163150 info@lissadellhouse.com
www.lissadellhouse.com GPS Latitude 54.346936 Longitude -8.580878

Lissadell’s historic and literary associations and its settings and its wild dramatic settings and natural beauty makes this a must visit heritage attraction. Follow in the footsteps of poet W.B. Yeats in this beautifully restored estate; childhood home of Constance and Eva Gore-Booth, built by Sir Robert Gore-Booth in 1830 and designed by Francis Goodwin. Learn about Victorian life both upstairs for the gentry and downstairs for the servants. Open daily for guided tours.

DURATION: 2hrs. Charge applies for shuttle bus & castle tour (see website).

**Relive Ireland’s Earliest Takeaway: A sea trail with Shellfish & Sea Shells by the Shore**
Business Innovation Centre, Sligo IT, Ash Lane, Sligo
Tel: 087 2405971 info@seatrails.ie www.sligofoodtrail.ie
www.seatrails.ie GPS 54.270090 -8.609690

Explore Standhill peninsula and the fruits of the Atlantic Ocean with an experienced maritime archaeologist to guide you along golden sand dunes and the stunning Culleenamore Strand. At one of the prehistoric midden sites, with the long discarded remains of shellfish meals, you can enjoy fresh mussels cooked on the rocks by a local expert chef. You can quite literally dine as your ancestors did!

SEASONAL. DURATION: approx. 3hrs.
DOWNPATRICK HEAD: DÚN BRISTE (BROKEN FORT)

FREE!

Downpatrick Head, Knockaun, Co Mayo
GPS 54.323611 -9.343888

Downpatrick Head rises almost 40m above the waves with unparalleled views out to the Atlantic. Just offshore is Dún Briste (broken fort), with its myriad layers of rock and nesting sea birds. Legend has it that when a pagan chieftain refused to convert to Christianity, St Patrick struck the ground with his crozier, splitting a chunk of the headland off into the ocean, with the chieftain on top! Downpatrick Head also has the ruins of a church, holy well and stone cross, marking the site of an earlier church founded by St Patrick.

DURATION: 1hr.

WAVESWEEPER SEA ADVENTURES, BELMULLET, Co. MAYO
Tel: 087 2312989 info@wavesweeperseaadventures.com
www.wavesweeperseaadventures.com
GPS 54.224042 -9.985237

An exhilarating guided coasteering experience on Broadhaven Bay, just off the wild Erris Head. Experience adventure swimming, climbing, caving, coasteering and walking along the intertidal zone. Get up close with the local marine biology whilst taking in views of Erris Head, Kid Island and The Stags of Broadhaven.

DURATION: 1hr 30mins - 2hrs 30mins.

BROADHAVEN BAY: KILLASPUGBRONE LOOP WALK FREE!

northwestadventuretours@gmail.com
www.northwestadventuretours.ie GPS 54.271323 -8.467592

This trip starts at the Riverside Hotel where you collect your bikes and start your adventure on the banks of the Garavogue River. As you make your way, with the Dartry Mountain as your backdrop, you’ll pass quaint fishing boats, fly fishermen, a range of wildlife and natural woodland. On your return, the hotel’s expert bartender, Seán, can provide an Irish coffee masterclass.

DURATION: cycle - 1 hour. Irish Coffee class - 1 hour.

YEATS EXPERIENCE, TOBERNALT, HOLY WELL LANE, AUGHAMORE, NEAR CARROAR, CO. SLIGO
Tel: 087 2320820 yeatsiligo@gmail.com
www.yeatsiligoland.com GPS 54.241506, -8.445482

It’s no secret that Irish poet William Butler Yeats was inspired by Sligo’s landscape where he spent childhood holidays, and set such famous poems as The Lake Isle of Innisfree. Learn about his poetry over an intimate lunch or dinner in Broc House with views from the terrace taking in several locations featured in Yeat’s work. Enjoy homemade, seasonal delights while hearing the inspiring story of a visionary writer and his beloved Land of Heart’s Desire.

DURATION: lunch - 2 hours, dinner - 3 hours.

RIVERSIDE CYCLE AND IRISH COFFEE MAKING CLASS
Northwest Adventure Tours 2, Riverside Hotel, Millbrook House, John F Kennedy Parade, Abbeyquarter North, Sligo
Tel: 087 1259 594 northwestadventuretours@gmail.com
www.northwestadventuretours.ie GPS 54.271323 -8.467592

This trip starts at the Riverside Hotel where you collect your bikes and start your adventure on the banks of the Garavogue River. As you make your way, with the Dartry Mountain as your backdrop, you’ll pass quaint fishing boats, fly fishermen, a range of wildlife and natural woodland. On your return, the hotel’s expert bartender, Seán, can provide an Irish coffee masterclass.

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Northwest Adventure Tours 2, Riverside Hotel, Millbrook House, John F Kennedy Parade, Abbeyquarter North, Sligo
Tel: 087 1259 594 northwestadventuretours@gmail.com
www.northwestadventuretours.ie GPS 54.271323 -8.467592

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DURATION: cycle - 1 hour. Irish Coffee class - 1 hour.
Mullaghmore is a small fishing village that should be on any outdoor enthusiast’s itinerary. The sandy beach here stretches as far as the eye can see and is ideal for a spot of swimming or windsurfing. You can also venture out into the Atlantic for an excursion to Inishmurray Island or a sea angling trip. If you’re more of a landlubber, there’s plenty here for you too. Go for a leisurely stroll and take in panoramic views of Slieve League or watch the waves crash under Classiebawn Castle. You can also enjoy surfing as a spectator sport, watch top international surfers ride some of Europe’s best waves. Many come for Prowlers – a famous spot where waves can reach up to 30m.

Atlantic Sheepdogs gives visitors the opportunity to see some of the world’s smartest working sheepdogs in action, while also learning about life on this Irish sheep farm. 

OPEN: Demonstrations daily Monday - Saturday. Pre-booking essential.  
ADMISSION: Adult €8, U-16 €3, Groups of 10+ €5

The Organic Centre

Rossinver, Co. Leitrim

Tel: 071 985 4338 www.theorganiccentre.ie

Get educated where your food comes from, visit our gardens, polytunnels and orchard. Book onto a course and learn how to grow your own, come on a “Food Adventure” tour, visit our shop and cafe.

OPEN: 20th Feb – 6th Nov, Tue – Sun (10.00-17.00)
ADMISSION: Entrance to the gardens €4, Concessions €2, Children and members free.

OFFER: Get your free local visitors pass, if you live within a 50km radius.
SURF COAST: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Lissadell House & Gardens
Lissadell, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 916 3150 www.lissadellhouse.com
Lissadell House home of the Gore-Booth family and of Revolutionary Countess, Constance de Markievicz, is open daily with house tours on the hour. The tour gives a fascinating look at life below stairs. A new Exhibition “The March of a Nation” is located in the restored Courtyard complex alongside the new CaféTea tearooms which offer a wide range of freshly prepared dishes and afternoon tea. The Alpine garden perched above the Atlantic is also a must see.
OPEN: March - Sept (10.00 - 18.00). House tours 11.00-17.00 Pre-booked tours by arrangement.
ADMISSION: Adults €14, Child €6 (under 5’s free) Family (2&2) €36

W.B. Yeats Grave & Drumcliffe Church
Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 914 4956 or 071 914 0273 www.drumcliffchurch.ie
Drumcliffe, final resting place of W.B.Yeats and site of a 6th century Columbian monastery with a High Cross and Round Tower from the 10th century. This beautiful site which nestles under Benbulben Mountain has an exciting range of activities for the visitor. Tea House and Craft Shop.

Glencar Waterfall
Glencar, Co. Leitrim
Glencar Waterfall is 50ft high and is situated in Glencar Lough, 11km west of Manorhamilton and served as an inspiration to William Butler Yeats. It is very impressive after rain and can be viewed from a lovely wooded walk. There are more waterfalls visible from the road although none are quite as romantic as this one. Picnic facilities, the TeaShed and information kiosk is onsite.

Manorhamilton Castle & Visitor Centre
Cluain, Manorhamilton
Tel: 086 250 2593 www.manorhamiltoncastle.ie
Take a personal tour with the owner of the 17th century plantation castle formerly an O’Rourke stronghold, situated in the town of Manorhamilton. The recently restored castle & grounds include children’s play area and visitor centre.
OPEN: By appointment only Tel: 086 2502593 or manorhamiltoncastle@gmail.com
ADMISSION: Adult €5 Children €2

Parkes Castle
Lough Gill, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 916 4149 www.heritageireland.ie
The splendour of Parkes Castle is immediately evident as you drive around the lake. Once an important stronghold of the local O’Rourke family, rulers of Breffni, Parkes Castle has been recently restored to its original 17th style. A guided tour of the castle is given every hour. There is also an individual slide show entitled “Stone by Stone” in four languages. In the castle there is a traditional blacksmith forge of 17th century style.
OPEN: 6th Apr – 4th Oct (10.00 - 18.00)
OFFER: Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

Rose of Innisfree Tour Boat
Lough Gill, Kilmore Five Mile Bourne, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 916 4266 / 087 259 8869 www.rosofinnisfree.com
This pleasure cruiser operates on the picturesque Lough Gill which straddles counties Sligo and Leitrim. The area is best known as the inspiration for much of W.B. Yeats’ poetry ‘The Lake Isle of Innisfree’. An interesting and insightful commentary is provided by Captain George on this one hour trip. Full bar services, tea/coffee and home baking available.
ADMISSION: Adults €15, Children €7.50, Seniors/Groups €13, Students €10 Or why not take the Bus & Boat Tour- Yeats Spectacular tour €30 per person.

For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see www.wildatlanticway.com or download the Wild Atlantic Way app

Signature Point Wild Atlantic Way

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SURF COAST: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Ard Nahoo
Mullagh, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 913 4939 www.ardnahoo.com
An award-winning eco retreat centre offering residential detox and yoga retreats in eco cabins, natural healthcare treatments, day packages and yoga teacher training. Come for the day or stay for a while in our peaceful haven.
OPEN: Office open Tues - Fri (10.00-14.00)
ADMISSION: Treatments start at €45.
OFFER: 10% discount mid-week on presentation of this guide.

Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre
Acres Lake, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 964 1851
Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre, located on Acres Lake, Drumshanbo, provides audio visual displays and interactive information on the industrial history of the Sliabh an Iarainn, Argina and North Leitrim area. There is also information on both the landscape and the geology of Leitrim and a special display area featuring the musical heritage of the area.
OPEN: Mar - Nov Daily (10.00 - 17.00)

Leitrim Genealogy Centre
Main Street, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 964 4012 www.leitrimroots.com
Leitrim Genealogy Centre is the official genealogy service provider for Co. Leitrim. It provides a genealogical research service for those people wishing to trace their Co. Leitrim ancestry. Online research site now available on www.leitrimroots.com
OPEN: Mon – Fri (09.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.00) Closed on public holidays

Glenview Museum
Aghoo, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 964 4157 www.glenviewmuseum.ie
The Glenview Museum is a private collection of over 7000 historical, antique and novel items from pre-famine times to the recent past. Items include farm yard equipment, a collection of horse drawn agricultural machinery and a threshing machine. A fully restored travelling shop, a street scene with reconstructed shops stocked with items from the past complete the experience. Guided tours by arrangement.
OPEN: Easter – Oct, Mon- Sat (10.00-18.00) & Sun (14.00-18.00) Other times by appointment.

Lough Rynn Castle Estate & Gardens
Mohill, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 963 2700 www.loughynn.ie
Lough Rynn Castle, former home to the Earls of Leitrim, situated on a 300 acre estate, hosts the North West’s largest original Victorian walled garden. The gardens are open all year round. Lough Rynn Castle offers splendid walkways through its Victorian Walled Gardens and meandering corridors.
OPEN: All Year, Daily
ADMISSION: Free.

Cavan & Leitrim Railway
Station Road, Dromod, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 964 4012 www.cavanandleitrim.com
Narrow gauge railway with museum of trains, buses, aeroplanes, fire engines, artillery, original station from 1887 with engine shed and water tower.
OPEN: Easter – 30th Sept. Sat & Mon (10.00 - 17.00) Sun (13.00 - 17.00)
ADMISSION: Adult €8, Child/Student €5, Family €18, Senior Citizen €5.

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SURF COAST: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

Leitrim Design House
The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 965 0550 www.leitrimdesighouse.ie

The Leitrim Design House, Ireland’s premier craft gallery is housed in The Dock, a beautiful 19th century courthouse building, located in the heart of Carrick-on-Shannon overlooking the majestic River Shannon. Representing over 250 makers and artists working in a wide range of disciplines, the Leitrim Design House highlights the wealth of innovation and design talent and offers its visitors the very best in contemporary craft. Shortlisted by The Irish Times as one of the top gift & design shops in Ireland this unique shopping experience caters for those who appreciate the best, who want something authentic while at the same time seeking value and quality. A real gem!

OPEN: All Year, Mon – Fri (10.00 - 18.00) Sat (10.00 - 17.00)

 Admission: Free to view art galleries.

 OFFER: 10% discount on purchases on presentation of this Pocket Guide.

Moon River Pleasure Cruiser
Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 962 1777 www.moonriver.ie

Come for a relaxing trip with us on the Moon River pleasure cruiser. All trips depart quay side, Carrick-on-Shannon. With its luxury saloon, full bar service, entertainment and dedicated crew, Moon River is the ideal choice for Shannon River sightseeing and entertainment.

OPEN: Feb-Dec, schedule varies.

 Admission: Adult €15, Children 2-12 years €5, Senior Citizen €12, Family 2 adults & 4 children €40.

St. George’s Heritage & Visitor Centre
Church Lane, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 962 1757 www.carrickheritage.com

St. Georges Heritage and Visitors Centre has many attractions including a file showing 400 years of history in Co Leitrim, the smallest church in Europe, Costello Chapel, The Famine Workhouse & Graveyard and a Sensory Garden.

OPEN: Apr - Oct, Mon – Sat (10.00-17.00). Nov – Mar, Mon-Fri (10.00-17.00)

 Admission: Prices available on request.

SURF COAST: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

The Dock
St. George’s Terrace, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Tel: 071 965 0828 www.thedock.ie

The Dock is Leitrim’s foremost centre for the arts with a year round programme of contemporary art exhibitions, performance space and workshops for all ages and a cafe bar.

OPEN: Mon – Fri (10.00 – 17.30), Sat (10.00-17.00)

 Admission: Free admission to galleries.

 Sligo Abbey
Abbey Street, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 914 6406 www.heritageireland.ie

Founded in the mid 13th century by Maurice Fitzgerald, this Dominican Friary contains a great wealth of carvings including Gothic and Renaissance tomb sculpture, well preserved cloister and the only sculptured 15th century high altar in any Irish monastic church. This enigmatic friary will inspire and enlighten its visitors.

OPEN: 6th Apr – 18th Oct, Daily (10.00-18.00, last admission 17.15)


 OFFER: Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

 Sligo County Museum
Stephan Street, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 911 1679 www.sligomuseum.ie

Sligo County Museum displays a variety of memorabilia which depicts the life and works of William Butler Yeats and Countess Markievicz. The archaeological and social history of Sligo is documented through the exhibition of artefacts from the Neolithic period to the present day.

OPEN: May-Sep, Tue-Sat (09.30-12.30 & 14.00-16.50) Oct-Apr, Tue- Sat (09.30-12.30)

 Admission: Free

OFFER: 10% discount on purchases on presentation of this Pocket Guide.
The Model (Home of the Niland Collection)

The Model, Sligo, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 914 1405 www.themodel.ie

The Model, home of The Niland Collection, is one of Ireland’s leading contemporary arts centres. This award-winning building is home to the impressive Niland Collection of art, one of the most notable collections in Ireland.

OPEN: Tue – Sat (10.00-17.00), Sun (10.30-17.00)
ADMISSION: Free with a €4 donation welcomed. Charges apply to Cinema, Music and Comedy events.

Yeats Memorial Building

Douglas Hyde Bridge, Sligo, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 914 2693 www.yeats-sligo.com

The Yeats Memorial Building houses a permanent exhibition on the life and works of W.B. Yeats, an exhibition of Jack Yeats prints and shows DVDs and videos, as well as offering talks and guided tours. Tours on request. Selection of Yeats themed books for sale. Lily and Lolly’s cafe, offers tea/coffee, snacks and light meals, while on the first floor; the Yeats Art Gallery presents changing exhibitions of art, sculpture, crafts etc.

OPEN: Tues – Sat (10.00-17.00)
ADMISSION: Adults €4

Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery

Carrowmore, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 916 1534 www.heritageireland.ie

This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland, with monuments ranging from 5500 to 6500 years old. Archaeologists have recorded over 60 tombs of which 30 are visible. A restored cottage houses an exhibition relating to the site. Visitors are advised to wear shoes suitable for walking on uneven terrain.

OPEN: 6th Apr– 1st Nov, Daily (10.00-18.00, last admission at 17.00)
ADMISSION: Adult €5, Child/Student €3, Seniors/Group €4, Family €13
OFFER: Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

Sligo Folk Park

Millview House, Riverstown, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 916 5001 www.sligofolkpark.com

Experience rural Irish Heritage and culture from times gone by deep in the heart of County Sligo.

OPEN: Jun-Aug, Mon-Sat (10.00-17.30)&Sun (12.30-17.00)
Oct-May, Mon-Fri (10.00-17.00)
ADMISSION: Adults €5, Family rate from €15.
OFFER: 10% discount mid-week on presentation of this guide.

Eagles Flying

Ballymote, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071 918 9310 www.eaglesflying.com
GPS Latitude/Longitude 54.1040 -8.5680

Get up-close and personal with the masters of the sky! Visit Ireland’s largest and multi-award winning Bird-of-Prey Sanctuary. Home to 350 birds and animals. Our shows are highly interactive, informative and entertaining. You have never been that close to Eagles, Hawks, Owls and Vultures. Get touched by their wings, have them landing on your arm. Watch the bird whisperers at work. There is also a large Petting Zoo, where you can interact with our furry friends. Shows can be presented indoors or outdoors. Eagles Flying – great fun for all the family.

OPEN: 1st Apr–7th Nov, Daily (10.30-12.30 & 14.30-16.30) Show starts at 11.00 and 15.00 (Lasting 1hr approx.)
ADMISSION: Adults €11.90, Child €5.90, Family and group rates available.

Coleman Music Visitor Centre

Gurteen, Co. Sligo F56 TF88
Tel: 071 918 2599 www.colemanirishmusic.com

The Centre is one of the best equipped and dedicated centres of traditional Irish music in Ireland. The visitor can be ‘transported’ back in time through audio-visual and touch screen facilities to enjoy the best of traditional music as presented by the old masters and the younger musicians of today. The Coleman School of Music offers one to one or group tuition to visitors, available all year round but must be booked in advance. For traditional music concerts and other events – see website.

OPEN: All year, Mon-Sat (10.00-17.30)
ADMISSION: Adult €5, Family €10, Students/Seniors €4
OFFER: Discount mid-week on presentation of this guide.
SURF COAST: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

**Hennigan’s Heritage Centre**
Rubble, Killasser, Co. Mayo
Tel: 087 249 1402 www.hennigansheritage.com

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

OPEN: Daily (12.00 - 18.00), Guided Tour at 14.00 (Booking Required)
ADMISSION: Adults/Senior Citizen’s €12, Family €25
OFFER: 10% discount on 14.00 Tour mid-week, on presentation of this guide.

**Foxford Woollen Mills**
Foxford, Co. Mayo
Tel: 094 925 6104 www.foxfordwoollenmills.com

A story still being woven since 1892 - Foxford Woollen Mills is an historic mill nestled along the River Moy in Co Mayo, the story continues. Visitors are taken through the history of the mill since its establishment in 1892 right through to the working mill as it is run today, where master craftspeople are at work on the pieces that Foxford are proud to deliver to excited customers all over the world. See first-hand the mastery of tradition, design and craftsmanship that goes into every single Irish made Foxford product, techniques which have been passed down though generations used to create contemporary designs.

OPEN: Mon-Sat (10.00-18.00), Sun (12.00-18.00)
OFFER: 10% discount on presentation of this guide.

**Fr. Patrick Peyton Memorial Centre**
Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo F25 X884
Tel: 096 45374 www.fatherpeytoncentre.ie

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

OPEN: 1st Apr - End Oct (Daily), End Oct - 1st Apr (Mon-Fri), 09.30 - 17.30.
ADMISSION: Adult €4, OAP €2.50

**The Jackie Clarke Collection**
Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 A368
Tel: 096 73508 www.clarkecollection.ie

The Jackie Clarke Collection is home to the largest collection of 1916 material outside of Dublin. The Collection comprises of 100,000 items – spanning 400 years of Irish History collected by one man – Jackie Clarke. Located in a restored 19th century bank in the centre of Ballina with a newly designed walled garden. Special features of the attraction include a memory booth where you can record your own memories and interactive touch-screens throughout. Suitable for all ages.

OPEN: Tue - Sat (10.00 - 17.00)
ADMISSION: Free

**Downpatrick Head**

Downpatrick Head is a majestic heritage site found about 5km north of Ballycastle village. Jutting out into the ocean and rising almost 40m above the waves, it provides unparalleled views of the Atlantic, including the unique collection of islands known as the Staggs of Broadhaven. You can also spot the nearby Dún Briste sea stack, with its different coloured layers of rock and nesting sea birds.

In addition to the natural scenery and wildlife, Downpatrick Head is home to the ruins of a church, holy well and stone cross, which together mark the site of an earlier church founded by St Patrick. Ireland’s patron saint is also honoured with a statue that was built in the early 1980s. Given its religious associations, Downpatrick Head was once a popular destination for pilgrims, who came here each year on the last Sunday of July, known as ‘Garland Sunday’. Today that tradition lives on, and mass is still celebrated at Downpatrick Head on that same day.
Céide Fields Visitor Centre
Ballycastle, Co. Mayo
Tel: 096 43325 www.heritageireland.ie
Preserved beneath the unspoilt blanket bog the Céide fields are the most extensive Stone Age and oldest known field systems in the world. Guided walking tours allow the visitor to probe for a wall unseen for millennia. The multi award winning Visitor Centre is spectacularly located beside the North Mayo cliffs and provides exhibitions, film and tearooms.
OPEN: 6th Apr – 1st Nov, Daily. Available for bookings in winter. Jun – Sep, 10.00 – 18.00. Other months 10.00 – 17.00
ADMISSION: Adult €5, Group/Senior €4, Student / Child €3, Family €13.
OFFER: Free admission on First Wednesday of each month.

Gairdín Cuimhneacháin – Blacksod Memorial Garden
An Fód Dubh (Blacksod), Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Co. Mayo
Tel: 097 85728 www.BlacksodBayEmigration.ie
In 1883-84, 3,300 people emigrated from North West Mayo, from Blacksod Bay bound for Boston & Quebec. The memorial garden consists of a granite boat sculpture, divided into fifteen sections, with the names of the passengers who left. Visit Ionad Deirbhile to receive the booklet regarding this special period in time.
OPEN: All Year, Daily
ADMISSION: Free
OFFER: Visit Ionad Deirbhile and receive a Free Information Booklet.

Éionad Deirbhile – Eachléim Heritage Centre
Ionad Deirbhile houses a valuable insight into local folklore & lifestyle. A 10ft. high stained glass window illustrates the story of St. Deirbhile. Several interesting historical artefacts and a wealth of information relating to archaeology, genealogy, the Holy Well, Children of Lir and life on the Inis Geidh Islands.
OPEN: All Year, Daily (10.00 - 15.00)
ADMISSION: Adult €3, Family ticket €8
OFFER: Complimentary Tea or Coffee & Wi-Fi for all visitors.

Ballycroy National Park and Visitor Centre
Ballycroy Village, Westport, Co. Mayo F28 RX77
Tel: 098 49888 www.ballycroynationalpark.ie
Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre is located in Ballycroy village along the main NS9 road between Mulranny and Bangor-Erris. The Visitor Centre has an interactive exhibition about the Park, its landscapes and wildlife. There are regular guided walks and special events. The Ginger and Wild Cafe serve delicious homemade food and has breath-taking panoramic views. Free Wi-Fi is available. A 2km nature trail allows visitors to enjoy views of the surrounding mountain, bog and coastal landscapes.
OPEN: Mar – Oct, Daily, 10.00 – 17.30
NOTE: Opening details are subject to change, please check website.
ADMISSION: Free
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SLIGO’S CRAFT TRAIL  
www.madeinsligo.ie  
Experience at first hand the inspiration and skill involved in creating these wonderful crafts. Craft trail maps are available in the tourist office or from the website. The craft trail is signposted throughout the county by fingerpost signs directing you to the craft producers.  

THE YEATS TRAIL IN SLIGO  
William Butler Yeats, (1865 – 1939) Nobel Prize winner, poet, dramatist, critic and senator was born in Dublin. Yeats is regarded as one of the greatest English language poets of the 20th Century and co-founder with Lady Gregory and Edward Martyn of the Abbey Theatre. Yeats is buried in Drumcliffe Graveyard Under Bare Benbulben’s Head in Sligo.  
HIGHLIGHTS IN SLIGO AREA:  
Yeats Grave, Drumcliffe Church, Yeats Memorial Building, Hyde Bridge, The Model, The Mall, Sligo County Museum, Stephen St.,  

THE YEATS TRAIL (OTHER LOCATIONS)  
GALWAY Lady Gregory Yeats Trail incorporates historical sites between Gort and Loughrea. These sites include Kilmacduagh, Killiney Graveyard, Killmacduagh, Knockrobin Gate, Woodville Walled Gardens and St. Brendan’s Cathedral.  
COOLE PARK, Gort, Co. Galway. Tel: 091 631 804, www.coolpark.ie Coole Park & Visitor Centre, now a nature reserve, was the home of Lady Augusta Gregory.  
KILTARTAN GREGORY MUSEUM, Galway, Tel: 091 632 346/631 069. Award-winning museum housing the works of Lady Gregory, local history, artefacts, photos, manuscripts and an early 20th Century classroom. Visit www.ladygregoryyeatstrail.com for more information.  
DUBLIN The Dublin Writers Museum, 18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 872 2077  
Yeats, Swift and Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde, Joyce and Beckett are among those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items. Situated in a magnificent 18th century mansion in the north city centre, the collection features the lives and works of Dublin’s literary celebrities over the past 300 years.  

THEATRE & ARTS  

THE FACTORY, LR. QUAY STREET, SLIGO TOWN.  
Tel: 071 917 0431 www.blueraincoat.com  
HAWK’S WELL THEATRE, TEMPLE STREET, SLIGO TOWN.  
Tel: 071 916 1518 www.hawkswell.com.  
THE MODEL, THE MALL, SLIGO TOWN.  
Tel: 071 914 1405 www.themodel.ie  
TEACH BÁN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS GALLERY  
DRUMCLIFFE, CO. SLIGO.  
Tel: 087 754 9760 www.teachban-artgallery.com  
HAMILTON GALLERY, 4 CASTLE STREET, SLIGO TOWN  
Tel: 071 914 3377 www.hamiltongallery.ie  

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Glencar Waterfall, Co. Leitrim
MORE TO EXPERIENCE

THEATRE & ARTS

HYDE BRIDGE GALLERY, DOUGLAS HYDE BRIDGE, SLIGO TOWN
Tel: 071 914 2693 www.yeatssociety.com

THE DOVECOTE, TULLY, CLOGHEREVAGH, SLIGO
Tel: 071 914 7007 www.dovecotesligo.com

RAINBOW BALLROOM OF ROMANCE, BROCKAGH, GLENFARNE, CO. LEITRIM
Tel: 071 985 6831 www.therainbowballroomofromance.com

SOLAS ART GALLERY, MAIN STREET, BALLINAMORE, CO. LEITRIM
Tel: 071 964 4210 www.solasart.ie

THE CORN MILL THEATRE, CARRIGALLEN, CO. LEITRIM
Tel: 049 433 9612 www.commilltheatre.com

THE GLENS CENTRE, NEW LINE, MANORHAMILTON, CO. LEITRIM
Tel: 071 985 5833 www.theglenscentre.com

BALLINA ARTS CENTRE, BARRETT ST., BALLINA, CO. MAYO
Tel: 096 73593 www.ballinaartscentre.com

ÁRAS INIS GLUAIRE, BELMULLET, CO. MAYO
Tel: 097 81079 www.arasinisgluaire.ie

ARTS, CRAFT & CULTURE

DOLLY'S COTTAGE STRANDHILL
Tel: 071 916 8079.
Dolly's Cottage is a 200-year-old traditional thatched cottage, the only one of its kind in the area, which is open to the public in the summer months.

MAEVE'S CAIRN STRANDHILL, KNOCKNAAREA MOUNTAIN, STRANDHILL
Overlooking Carrowmore megalithic cemetery on the summit of Knocknarea Mountain is the huge flat-topped cairn called ‘Miosgan Meadhbha’ (Maeve’s Cairn). Folklore suggests it was built for the mythical Maeve, the Iron Age Queen of Connaught. Walkers can access from both sides via a track from base to summit.

DRUMCLIFFE ROUND TOWER AND HIGH CROSS DRUMCLIFFE
Monastic settlement dates from 574AD. The principle visible remains are of a round tower, a high cross and a fragment of a plain high cross.

TITANIC MEMORIAL GARDEN, LAHERDANE, ADDERGOOLE
www.mayo-titanic.com
A memorial to 14 neighbours and friends, of Addergoole, 11 of whom perished with that “Ship of Dreams”.

ENNISCOE HOUSE & GARDENS, CASTLEHILL, BALLINA
www.enniscoecom
Hidden among the woods at the foot of Mount Nephin is Enniscoe House, “the last Great House of North Mayo”. The Enniscoe Estate has been in the family since the 1650’s and the house dates from the 1790’s.

MORE TO EXPERIENCE

TRACING ANCESTRY

SLIGO REFERENCE & LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY, BRIDGE ST., SLIGO TOWN
Tel: 071 911 1858 sligolib@sligococo.ie

SLIGO HERITAGE & GENEALOGY CENTRE, ARAS REDDAN, TEMPLE ST., SLIGO TOWN
Tel: 071 914 3728 www.sligoroots.com

LEITRIM COUNTY LIBRARY, MAIN ST., BALLINAMORE
Tel: 071 964 5582 leitrimlibrary@leitrimcoco.ie

LEITRIM GENEALOGY CENTRE, BALLINAMORE
Tel: 071 964 4012 www.leitrimroots.com

MAYO CENTRAL LIBRARY, JOHN MOORE ROAD, CASTLEBAR
Tel: 094 904 7922 librarymayo@mayococo.ie

MAYO NORTH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE, ENNISCOE, CASTLEHILL, BALLINA
Tel: 096 31809 northmayo@gmail.com

MAYO SOUTH FAMILY RESEARCH, MAIN ST., BALLINROBE
Tel: 094 954 1214 soumayo@iol.ie

Céide Fields, Co. Mayo Credit: Alison Crummy
MORE TO EXPERIENCE

CASTLES, ABBEYS & CHURCHES

BALLYMOTE CASTLE, BALLYMOTE
Richard de Burgo, the “Red Earl” of Ulster, built this Anglo-Norman castle in AD 1300, and it was the strongest fortress in Connaught.

CREEVYLEA FRIARY
Located on the edge of the town of Dromahair. This was one of the last abbeys founded in Ireland before King Henry VIII dissolved all the monasteries throughout Ireland and England.

COSTELLO CHAPEL, BRIDGE STREET, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON
The smallest chapel in Europe and the 2nd smallest chapel in the world. It was built in the 19th century by Edward Costello, a rich merchant, as a memorial and burial vault for his wife, Josephine who died two years previously.

FENAGH ABBEY, FENAGH
Located about 3km from Ballinamore lies a ruined medieval church built on the site of an early Christian monastery. Fenagh Abbey is one of the oldest monastic sites in Ireland. The Abbey also had a monastic school which was mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters.

OLD TOWN GATE & MEDIEVAL FRIARY, JAMESTOWN, CO. LEITRIM
This gate is all that is left of the fortified town walls which were erected when the town was founded by Sir Charles Coote in 1625. It was significant enough to receive a Royal Charter from James I. A stone cross over a small gate, on the right of the gate leads to the ruin of a Franciscan friary of the convent of the Friars’ Minor.

PARKES CASTLE (SEE PAGE 31)

AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY
Located in beside St Muredachs Cathedral in Ballina this abbey dates back to 1427.

ROSSERK FRIARY
Located along the River Moy, Rosserk Abbey is a compact friary of the Third Order Franciscans, founded around 1440 by a member of the Joyce family. It is just 4km from Killala, Co. Mayo.

MOYNE ABBEY
Situated just 3.5km from Killala. Built in 1460 the impressive ruin includes a cruciform church, chapel, tower and cloisters. Visitors can also explore the sacristy, chapter house, kitchen and refectory, under which a stream flows.

KILLALA ROUND TOWER
This 12th century standing 22.5 metres high. It is one of the best examples in the area.

For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see www.wildatlanticway.com or download the Wild Atlantic Way app

Parkes Castle Co. Leitrim Credit: Alison Crummy

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BOAT & BUS TRIPS

ROSE OF INNISFREE
Tel: 087 259 8869 www.roseofinnisfree.com
Departs from Parkes Castle, visits the area of outstanding natural beauty on Lough Gill.

KEITH CLARKE – “MV FIONA TEE”, MULLAGMORE
Tel: 071 914 2738 www.fishinginireland.info/charterboats/sligo.htm
Tours to Inishmurray Island from Mullagmore Harbour.

DARYL EWING – “SARAH MARIE”, ROSES POINT
Tel: 086 891 3618 www.sligoboatcharters.com
Boat trips to Inishmurray Island from Rosses Point.

SPECTACULAR YEATS TOUR
Tel: 087 259 8869 www.roseofinnisfree.com
Taking in Yeats Grave, Glencar Waterfall and Parkes Castle. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from May – September.

ZERO CABS TOURS
Tel: 071 915 4555 or 087 983 1731
Explore the Yeats country with tours tailor made to suit your desires.

BENBULBEN MINIBUS TOURS
Tel: 071 911 4752 or 083 411 1165 www.sligotours.ie
Flexible tours of Sligo to suit the needs of your group.

FREE GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF SLIGO TOWN
A free guided walking tour of Sligo Town departing from the tourist office at 11am Mon-Sat from June – Sept. For more details call into the tourist office.

GHOST BUS TOURS
Tel: 085 888 8181 www.GhostTours.ie
Explore the History, Ghosts, Myths and Legends of Spooky Sligo.

WILD ATLANTIC WAYS
Tel: 085 888 8181 www.wildatlanticways.ie
Explore the wild side of Sligo on this three hour minibus tour.

MOON RIVER, CARRICK ON SHANNON
Tel: 071 962 1777 www.moonriver.ie
Cruise along the River Shannon on this pleasure cruiser.

MORE TO EXPERIENCE

ISLANDS

INISHMURRAY
A small uninhabited island, Inishmurray is a nationally important bird sanctuary. The well preserved remains of monastic buildings and the island’s village can be seen, including mysterious cursing stones, altars and beehive cells. Boat trips can be taken from Mullagmore or from Rosses Point.

CONEY ISLAND
Accessible by land at low tide from the Strandhill Road R292. It is believed locally that it’s more famous namesake in New York was named after the Irish island by a Sligo sea captain. The mud flats provide water feeding grounds for the Brent goose, as well as wild duck and waders.

OYSTER ISLAND
With its freestanding two-stage lighthouse built in 1932, it is home to the Irish hare and the very rare corncrake. This island is uninhabited.

INISHKEA ISLANDS
Situated off the coast of the Mullet peninsula in North Mayo coast. There are two main islands - Inishkea North and Inishkea South. The islands are uninhabited since 1934/35 and are steeped in history, the scenery is unspoilt and there is a wealth of archaeological remains to be found there relating to the Early Christian Period, St. Colmcille and St. Brendan. It is also a popular island for sea birds and grey seals.
MORE TO EXPERIENCE

BEACHES

Many beaches have been awarded Blue Flag or Green Coast awards attesting to their water quality, safety and environmental status. The Surf Coast offers some spectacular beaches which include:

Blue Flag
- Bundoran
- Rosses Point
- Elly Bay
- Mullaghroe

Green Coast
- Mullaghmore
- Dunmore Strand
- Ternon
- Stradbeg
- Portsalon
- Rosses Point
- Cross, Belmullet
- Srah

This listing refers to 2016. The 2017 listing was not published at time of going to print. The Blue Flag beaches are indicated on the fold out map at the back of this guide.

For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see www.wildatlanticway.com or download the Wild Atlantic Way app.
Surf's up for outdoor lovers

When National Geographic was compiling its list of the world's greatest surfing towns, there was one place it just couldn't ignore: Bundoran. They have been coming with their surf boards to this Donegal seaside resort since the 1960s - and they keep coming back thanks to the wonderful waves and the warmth and friendliness of the locals.

The Northern Headlands and aptly named Surf Coast are a real surfer's mecca with serious wave riders attracted to the waters off Inishowen, Fanad Head and Dunfanaghy, while beginners can up their game on the 'white horses' that wash up on the stunning expanse of Rosswnowlagh Strand.

In Sligo, Eskevy and Strandhill are must-visit destinations for fans of the sport while the big waves at Mullaghone are world-renowned.

There is a large selection of surf schools in Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo to help everyone - from young children onwards - learn the basics of catching a wave.

And yet, popular as surfing is, it's just one of many water-based activities that pull them to these parts - everything from stand-up paddling to coasteering is on offer. And it's not just to the Atlantic: beautiful Lough Gill is renowned among open water swimming enthusiasts and the annual 10km swim here is justly famous.

Those who prefer to stick to land are spoiled for choice. There's the incredible vastness of Ballycroy National Park in North Mayo, a fantastic playground for hillwalkers and the perfect place to switch off and take in the breathtaking natural beauty all around you. Explore the spiritual heart of Yeats' county with a guided walking tour of one of the country's most distinctively shaped mountains, Ben Bulben in Sligo. And daredevils with a head for heights are spoiled for choice too: climbing Europe's highest sea stacks, off the Donegal coast, or negotiating the steepest of rock-climbing ascents in Sligo. All in a day's work for those with a yearning for adventure.

ADVENTURE & WATERSPORTS

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

ADVENTURE ONE SURF SCHOOL, FANAD
Tel: 087 628 5565
www.adventureone.net Surfing/Surf School

AURA LEISURE COMPLEX, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 910 6422
www.aura.leisure.ie/letterkenny Swimming Pool, Gym, Aerobics & running track

BALLYSHANNON LEISURE CENTRE, BALLYSHANNON
Tel: 071 985 2818
www.ballyshannonleisurecentre.ie Swimming Pool, Gym

BUNCRAOTA LEISURE CENTRE, BUNCRAOA
Tel: 074 936 1000
www.visitinishows.com Swimming Pool, Gym

BUNDORAN SURF COMPANY, BUNDORAN
Tel: 071 984 1968
www.bundoranacufo.com Surfing/Surf School

CASTLEFIN X-TREME KARTING, CASTLEFIN
Tel: 086 888 8041
www.castlefinkarting.com Go-Karting and Archery

SEA SAFARI & MARINE HERITAGE BOAT TRIPS, ARANNMORE ISLAND
Tel: 086 330 0516 www.divearranmore.com Scuba Diving, Whale & Dolphin watching, Sea Angling

DIVE TORY, TORY ISLAND
Tel: 074 913 5920 www.hoteltory.com/diving Diving

DONEGAL SEA KAYAKING, FANAD PENINSULA, FANAD
Tel: 086 313 0523
www.donegalseakayaking.com Sea Kayaking

FIN MCCOOL SURF SCHOOL, ROSSNOWLAGH
Tel: 071 985 9020 / 086 804 9909
www.finmccoolsurf.com Surfing/Surf School

GARTAN OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE, CHURCHILL, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 913 7032 www.gartan.com Surfing, Kayaking, Archery, Power Boating, Hill walking etc.

GLEN VALLEY ADVENTURE CENTRE, CARRIGART
Tel: 087 220 3331
www.glenvalleyadventurecentre.com Off road jeep driving, Clay Pigeon shooting, Blind fold driving

INISHOWEN QUAD SAFARI, BUNCRAOA
Tel: 087 664 6346 www.inishowenquad SAFARI.ie Quad Biking, Teks and Laser Wars

INISHOWEN SURF SCHOOL, BUNCRAOA
Tel: 087 777 3323
www.inishowensurfschool.com Surfing/Surf School

INISH ADVENTURE, MOVILLE
Tel: 087 220 2577 www justo.kayak.ie Kayaking, Canoeing, Sailing, Hillwalking and Extreme Sports.

JAWS WATER SPORTS, DUNFANAGHY AND DOOWINGS
Tel: 086 173 5109 / 086 277 1152 www.jawsworthsports.ie Surfing, Sea Kayaking, Sailing, Windsurfing, Paddle Boarding and Kids Beach Club.

LETTERKENNY ACTIVITY CENTRE, LETTERKENNY
Tel: 074 912 9077

MEVAGH DIVE CENTRE, CARRIGART
Tel: 074 915 4708
www.mevaghdiving.com Diving

MULROY CLAY PIGEON CLUB, MILFORD
Tel: 074 915 3230
mulroy.1@eircom.net Clay Pigeon Shooting

All website & email links are live.
ADVENTURE & WATERSPORTS

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

- **NAROSA LIFE, DUNFANAGHY**
  Tel: 086 883 1090 www.narosalife.com
  Surfing/Surf School

- **NATURE NORTH WEST, RAMELTON**
  Tel: 086 812 3019 www.naturenorthwest.ie
  Nature education provider for the North West

- **RAPID KAYAKING, CARRICKFINN**
  Tel: 086 151 0979 www.rapidkayaking.com
  Kayaking / open canoeing

- **RATHMULLAN SAILING & WATER SPORTS SCHOOL, RATHMULLAN**
  Tel: 086 812 3019 www.rathmullanboating.com Sailing, Kayaking, Wind Surfing & Sailing

- **SELKIE SAILING, GWEEDORE**
  Tel: 086 222 3238 / 074 953 2707 www.selkiesailing.com Sailing, Kayaking, Raft Building, Wind Surfing and Camping trips.

- **THE LAKESIDE CENTRE, BALLYSHANNON**
  Tel: 071 985 2822 lakesidesports@eircom.net Surfing, Sailing, Kayaking, Archery, Canoeing

- **THE OLD FOUNDRY PAINTBALL GAMES LTD, LETTERKENNY**
  Tel: 086 383 1188 www.letterkennypaintball.ie Paintball

SURF COAST

- **SURF WORLD, BUNDORAN**
  Tel: 071 984 1223 www.surfworld.ie Surfing/Surf School

- **TURF N SURF, BUNDORAN**
  Tel: 071 984 1091 www.turfnurf.ie Surfing / Blo-karting / Yoga

- **WATERWORLD, BUNDORAN**
  Tel: 071 984 1172 www.waterworldbundoran.com Aqua adventure playground ideal for children of all ages

- **DONEGAL ADVENTURE CENTRE, BUNDORAN**
  Tel: 071 984 2418 www.donegaladventurecentre.net Surfing, Kayaking, Archery etc.

- **ADVENTURE GENTLY, DROMHAIR**
  Tel: 085 182 1547 www.adventuregently.com Guided Canadian canoe trips.

- **AURA LEITRIM LEISURE CENTRE, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
  Tel: 071 967 1771 www.auralairisure.ie/leitrim Swimming, Gym

- **BATTLEBRIDGE PAINTBALL, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
  Tel: 086 166 4959 www.battlebridgepaintball.ie 4 Purpose Built Gaming Areas

- **CARRICK INDOOR SHOOTING & ARCHERY, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
  Tel: 086 828 8747 www.carrickindoorschooling.com Airsoft Shooting & Archery

- **CARRICK SURF COMPANY, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
  Tel: 086 349 4013 www.carricksurfing.com SUP & Surfing

- **LOUGH ALLEN ADVENTURE CENTRE, BALLINAGLERA**
  Tel: 071 964 3292 www.lowallahenadventure.com Windsurfing, Kayaking, Hill Walking, Surfing Skills

- **RIVERMANIA ADVENTURES, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
  Tel: 089 490 8786 www.facebook.com/RiverManiaAdventures Kayaking

- **WILD ATLANTIC CRUSADES, KINLOUGH**
  Tel: 083 811 8500 www.wildatlanticcruses.com 4x4 Blindfold Driving

**ADVENTURE & WATERSPORTS**

**SURF COAST**

- **CARRAIG CLIMBING, SLIGO**
  Tel: 087 664 7285 www.carraigclimbing.com
  Rock climbing

- **FREE DIVING, SLIGO**
  Tel: 086 809 9898 www.freediveireland.com
  Hold your breath, dive down and swim around underwater

- **HARBOUR SUP N SAIL, ENNISCRONE**
  Tel: 086 031 5737 www.harboursupnail Stand Up Paddle

- **ISURF IRELAND, STRANDHILL**
  Tel: 087 652 3351 www.isurfireland.com Surfing

- **MULLAGHMORE SAILING CLUB, MULLAGHMORE**
  Tel: 087 135 5565 www.mullaghmoreseascot.org Dinghy Sailing & Mooring Available

- **NORTH WEST ADVENTURE CENTRE, BALLINAFAD**
  Tel: 086 195 2663 www.northwestadventure.ie White Water Rafting, Wilderness Camping & Abseiling

- **NORTH WEST ADVENTURE TOURS, SLIGO TOWN**
  Tel: 087 125 9934 www.northwestadventuretours.ie Sup, Hiking & Bike hire.

- **NORTH WEST COASTEERING, MULLAGHMORE**
  Tel: 087 995 9181 www.northwestadventure.ie Coasteering.

- **SEATRAILS, SLIGO TOWN**
  Tel: 087 240 5071 www.seatrails.ie
  Guided heritage tours and special trekking experiences.

- **SLIGO AERO CLUB, STRANDHILL AIRPORT**
  Tel: 087 293 2884 www.sligoairclub.ie Flying Lesson

- **SLIGO EXTREME PAINTBALL, HAZELWOOD, SLIGO**
  Tel: 087 240 5714 www.facebook.com/sligoextremepaintball Paintball, Archery shooting range

- **SLIGO KAYAK TOURS, SLIGO**
  Tel: 086 199 9015 www.sligokayaktours.com
  Guided tours with small groups.

- **SLIGO YACHT CLUB, ROSESSE POINT**
  Tel: 071 917 7168 www.sligoyachtclub.ie
  Dinghy & Cruiser Sailing

- **STRANDHILL SURF SCHOOL, STRANDHILL AIRPORT**
  Tel: 071 916 8483 / 087 948 7383 www.strandhilssurfschool.com Surfing/Surf School

- **SUP DUDE, MULLAGHMORE**
  Tel: 085 705 1188 www.supsup.org Stand Up Paddle lessons & courses.

- **WEST COAST KAYAKING, MULLAGHMORE**
  Tel: 083 437 0893 www.westcoastkayaking.ie Sea, River & Lake trips.

- **WEST COAST WINDSPORTS ENNISCRONE**
  Tel: 089 427 5356 www.westcoastwindsports.ie Blo Karting

- **WILD ATLANTIC OUTDOORS SLIGO**
  Tel: 083 446 7772 www.wildatlanticoutdoors.com Kayaking, Hill Walking, Coasteering, Scuba Diving & rock climbing

- **WILD WET ADVENTURES, TIBBURY CURRY**
  Tel: 086 722 2750 www.wildwetasadventures.ie Kayaking, SUP & Guided Walks

- **WATER POINT, ENNISCRONE**
  Tel: 071 984 2418 www.waterpoint.ie
  Kayaking, SUP & Guided Walks

All website & email links are live.
With so many ways to enjoy the Shannon Blueway, it’s a fun and novel way to explore the county’s sights and delights.

Experience the route from the water with canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding; 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.

For more details visit http://www.bluewaysireland.org/
WALKING & CYCLING
– NORTHERN HEADLANDS

WALKING

BLUESTACK WAY – a 65km route through a true wilderness area of south Donegal

BURTONPORT OLD RAILWAY WALK – is a series of four walks of varying lengths centred on the old Letterkenny & Burtonport Extension Railway track bed.

GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK – choose from several walks of varying length, grades and terrain.

INISHOWEN HEAD LOOP – a wonderful coastal route in the most northerly part of Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL APPALACHIAN TRAIL (IAT) – a long distance international hiking trail extending from the east coast of the USA & Canada, through the North Atlantic, Scandinavia, Ireland, Britain and Western Europe. There are two sections of the route in Co Donegal.

BUNGLAS TO GLENTIES (68KMS) – the first section of the route in Ireland, covering the area around Slieve League and Glencolmcille.

ARDS FOREST PARK – with nine different routes to choose from 1km to 5km.

CYCLING

BALLYSHANNON Cycle Hub – 2 routes (39km & 36km) around the towns of Ballyshannon and Bundoran in Co. Donegal, linking in with the larger North West Trail.

DONEGAL CYCLE ROUTE – starting in Donegal Town, this lengthy route of 200km travels around the North West of Co. Donegal and finishes in Newtowncunningham to the East of Letterkenny.

NORTH WEST TRAIL – a spectacular 326km route through counties Donegal, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Sligo.

INIS EOGHAIN CYCLEWAY – a 55km route in the southern part of the Inis Eoghain peninsula, taking in views of the Foyle Valley, An Grianan Aileach and Lough Swilly.

For more information, please check with your nearest Tourist Office or visit www.wildatlanticway.com, www.sligowalks.ie or www.irishtrails.ie
ANGLING – NORTHERN HEADLANDS

GAME

Donegal, traditionally one of the best kept secrets, consistently produces the first Irish salmon of the season from The Drowes River. The county also has many salmon and sea trout spate rivers.

COARSE

Donegal has two prime locations to target coarse species:

PETTIGO has numerous lakes like Drumgun or Bannus Lake. A permit is required and can be bought at Pettigo post office or Britton’s Bar.

ASSAROE LAKE is a man-made lake created by the Cathleen Falls and Cliff Hydro schemes located just east of Ballyshannon. Permits are required and are available from the ESB Generating Station at Cathleen’s Falls or O’Neill’s Newsagents in Ballyshannon.

SEA

The Wild Atlantic Ocean gives Donegal some of the best fishing waters in Ireland. Killybegs in Co. Donegal is Ireland’s premier fishing port and a wonderful spot to visit to watch the catch being landed or taste some of the freshest fish ‘n’ chips. Sea fishing can take on three different forms:

DEEP SEA ANGLING – Charter boats are based at Bundoran, Killybegs, Teelin, Burtonport, Bunbeg, Rathmullan and Culdaff. Blue fin tuna have been caught in Donegal Bay. Other species caught frequently are pollack, ling, coalfish, spurdog, gurnard etc.

SHORE ANGLING – on rocky shores, beaches, quays and harbours there are many species like ray, flounders and dogfish.

INSHORE BOAT ANGLING – is a great way to explore small coves that are inaccessible to the bigger boats. The main season is May to September with many festival and events taking place.

TACKLE SHOPS

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

Buncrana Anglers Assoc., Angling Centre, Castle Lane Tel: 074 936 3733
Barrett’s Tackle Shop, Main Street, Bundoran Tel: 071 984 2266
Gerry O’Neill, Main Street, Dunkineely Tel: 074 973 7209,
The Tackle Hut (Ireland), Burt Tel: 074 938 6667
Mevagh Dive Centre, Tackle Shop, Carrigart, Letterkenny Tel: 074 915 4708
Charles Bonner, The Bridge, Dungloe Tel: 074 952 1163
Charlie Doherty, Main St, Donegal Town Tel: 074 972 1119

WALKING & CYCLING – SURF COAST

LEITRIM

MINERS WAY & HISTORICAL TRAIL – is a 118km route that meanders through the coal mining territory of Arigna.

GLENCAR WATERFALL, STRUTH IN AGHAIDH AN AIRD & BOG ROAD WALK – Trails from 600m to 10km.

• SLIABH AN IARAINN – is a beautiful rugged mountain, ascending 585metres from the eastern shore of Lough Allen.

SLIGO

AUGHRIS AND DUNMORAN STRAND

4km coastal walk from Dunmoran Strand to Aughris.

BEN BULBEN FOREST WALK

a 4km forest walk along the northern face of the iconic Ben Bulben.

HAZELWOOD SCULPTURE TRAIL – Half Moon Bay curls around the northern shore with a 3km forested trail.

KNOCKNAREA QUEEN MAEVE TRAIL – where at the summit a huge cairn marks the grave of Queen Maeve dating back to 3,400 BC accessible from both sides.

KESHCORRAN HILL TRAIL – this 3km trail is capped by a large boulder with 17 caves on its western side.

THE SLIGO WAY – a signposted 74km route that traverses County Sligo.

MAYO

BELLEEK WOODS NATURE TRAIL – located 2km north of Ballina this beautiful 4km forest walk is suitable for all the family.

BALLYCROY NATIONAL PARK – various walk for all levels of fitness from easy to difficult.

COASTAL WALKS – Black Ditch (13km) and Children of Lir (10km) loops form part of the Ceathru Thaidhg Loop.

FOXFORD WAY – The Ox Mountain Spur and Larganmore Loop are just two of the half a dozen well mapped out walking trails that make up the 86km Foxford Way.

KENNAGH LOOP WALK – this 12km challenging walk offers variety and changing terrain.

CYCLING

LOUGH GILL CYCLE LOOP – a 40km cycle loop around this beautiful lake that features in some of W.B. Yeats’ poetry.

TOUR DE HUMBERT – follows the route of General Humbert, who in 1798 led a French invasion of Ireland. Route takes in counties Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Longford.

For more information, please check with your nearest Tourist Office or visit www.wildatlanticway.com, www.mayotrails.ie, www.sligowalks.ie or www.irishtrails.ie
ANGLING – SURF COAST

GAME

Leitrim has the Drowes River and River Bonet which offer good game angling, whilst Lough Melvin is famous for the diversity and number of salmonids that inhabit it.

Sligo boats wonderful spots like Ballisodare Falls, Eastly Lough & River and Lough Talt to name but a few.

North Mayo offers you some of the best salmon angling in Europe. The Moy Fishery in Ballina Town, the Salmon Capital of Ireland, includes the world famous ‘Ridge Pool’ and ‘Cathedral Beat’. Further west the Oxenmore, Owendouff and Glenamoy Rivers offer excellent opportunities for the salmon and sea trout anglers.

COARSE

Leitrim is an angler’s paradise and hosts many international competitions. The unpolluted lakes and rivers are home to a huge population of wild fish. Some of the best locations include, Ballinamore, Carriggallen, Glenfarne & Keshcarrigan.

Sligo’s main coarse angling centre is in Ballymote with lakes like Ballinacarrow, Templehouse, Louh Na Leibe, Andrea and the Owenmore River. The main species of fish are pike, perch, bream and rudd. Contact www.ballymoteangling.com.

SEA

Sligo has excellent waters for some sea angling with charter boats based at Rosses Point and Mullaghmore.

The waters off the North Mayo coast are warmed by the Gulf Stream and have possibly the widest range of marine species to be found anywhere in the country, where there are plenty of sea angling operators who will take you out for the day. Excellent shore fishing can be experienced at numerous locations, with an extremely varied coastline comprising of everything from shallow surf beaches to deep water piers and rocky headlands.

TACKLE SHOPS

SURF COAST

Tooman Angling & Leisure, Carrick on Shannon Tel: 071 962 1872

The Forge, Ballinamore Tel: 071 964 4051

The Waterfront Bait and Tackle, Carrick on Shannon Tel: 071 964 1599

S G Gillmore, Dromahair Tel: 071 916 4118

Drowes Fishery Office, Kinlough Tel: 071 984 1055

Barton Smith, Sligo Town Tel: 071 914 2156

House of Value, Sligo Town Tel: 071 917 1900

John Walkin’s Fishing Tackle Shop Market Square, Ballina Tel: 096 22442 or 087 2952225

Ridge Pool Tackle Shop, Cathedral Road, Ballina Tel: 096 72656

Ballina Angling Centre, Unit 55, Ridge Pool Road, Ballina Tel: 096 21850

ANGLING

OPERATORS & GUIDES

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

Carl’s Land & Sea, Bundoran Tel: 086 390 3655 www.landandseasports.ie

Deep Blue Watersports, Portsalon Tel: 087 997 4255 www.seafishingdonegal.com

Donegal Bay Charters, Donegal Town Tel: 086 609 6035 www.donegalbaycharters.com

Inishowen Boating Company, Culdaff Tel: 086 252 2685 www.inishowencingharters.ie

Killybegs Angling Charters, Killybegs Tel: 087 220 0982 www.killybegsangling.com

Patrick Doherty, Bundoran Tel: 087 419 8323 info@bundoranstar.ie

Paul Ricketts, Donegal Town Tel: 086 609 6035 www.donegalcharters.com

Rathmullan Charters, Rathmullan Tel: 087 050 7464 www.rathmullanchartercas.com

Rosguill Boat Charters, Downings Tel: 074 915 5080 www.rosguill.com/charterboat

Saoire Mara Charters, Kincasslagh Tel: 087 987 0266 www.saoiremara.com

Tor Mór Charter Boat, Portnoo Tel: 087 245 8514 www.tormorcharterboats.com

SURF COAST

Donal Kennedy, Enniscrone Tel: 086 817 4509 www.dkennedyangling.net

Ewings Sea Angling & Boat Charters, Rosses Point Tel: 086 891 3618 www.sligobatcharters.com

Peter Power Deep Sea Angling, Clifffoney Tel: 087 257 6268 www.bayangling.freeservers.com

Tommy McCallion, Rosses Point Tel: 087 239 7789

North West Angling Services, Dromahair Tel: 087 214 9960 www.pagionline.org

Angling Services Ireland, Boyle Tel: 086 601 1878 www.anglingservicesireland.com

Broadhaven Bay Hotel, Belmullet Tel 097 20600 www.broadhavenbay.com

Brú Chlann Lír Boat Charters, Clogher, Belmullet Tel 097 85741 www.bruchlannlir.com

Dive West Ireland, Blacksod, Belmullet Tel 086 8365983 www.divewestireland.com

Judd Ruane - Sea Trout Specialist, Ballina Tel 096 22183 www.fishingireland.ie

Killala Angling Charter, Killala Tel 096 36644, www.dkennedyangling.net

Malcolm McPherson, Ballysokeery, Ballina Tel 096 32667 www.killalaseatroutangling.com

Mayo Angling, Ballybrinogue, Ballina Tel 086 8846920 www.moyaangling.com

Tiernan Brothers Angling Centre, Foxford 094 9256731 www.themoy.com

West of Ireland Angling, Lahardane, Ballina 096 51933 www.westofirelandangling.com

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All website & email links are live.
GARDENS

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

Backleas, Stranorlar Tel: 074 913 1107 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Beltany View Garden, Raphoe Tel: 074 914 4974 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Bruckless House, Bruckless Tel: 074 973 7071 www.bruckless.com
Carrablahg House, Portsalon Tel: 074 915 9113 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Cille Garden, Kilcar Tel: 086 671 2341 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Cluain na d’Or Nursery Gardens, Falcarragh Tel: 074 913 5640 / 087 6267599 www.seasideplants.net
Dunmore Garden, Carrigans Tel: 074 914 0120 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Foxrock, Greencastle Tel: 074 932 5699 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Glenalla House, Milford Tel: 086 606 4409 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Glenveagh National Park & Gardens, Lettermenny Tel: 076 100 2692 www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie
Greenfort, Kerrykeel Tel: 087 757 4823 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Lower Cranney Garden, Inver Tel: 087 989 5099 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Mrs Jessie Mahaffy’s Garden, Lifford Tel: 086 175 9162 / 074 914 1216 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Nora’s Rose Garden, Ballybofey Tel: 087 790 0490 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Oakfield Park, Raphoe Tel: 074 914 1216 / 086 175 9162 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Rathmullan House, Rathmullan Tel: 074 915 8188 www.donegalgardentrail.com
New Park, Ballymote Tel: 086 337 5741 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Ros na Run, Skreen Tel: 087 414 9716 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Salthill Gardens, Mountcharles Tel: 087 657 4792 www.donegalgardentrail.com
St Columba’s Garden at Glebe House, Churchill Tel: 074 913 7071 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Summy Garden, Portnoo Tel: 074 954 5242 www.donegalgardentrail.com
The White House Garden, Castlefinn Tel: 074 914 3976 www.donegalgardentrail.com

SURF COAST

Annaghcor, Castlebaldwin, Sligo Tel: 085 870 8097 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
Carrigeen, Ballinfull Tel: 086 833 5997 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
Cloghereagh, near Lough Colgagh Tel: 087 236 5055 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
New Park, Ballymote Tel: 086 337 5741 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Ros na Run, Skreen Tel: 087 414 9716 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
Sallie Daane, Cleveragh Drive, Sligo Town Tel: 087 657 4792 www.donegalgardentrail.com
Two Mile Hill, Calry Tel: 087 766 0082 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
Yeats’ Secret Garden, The Model, The Mall, Sligo Tel: 071 914 1405 www.secretgardensofsligo.com
Lissadell House & Gardens, Ballinfull Tel: 071 916 3150 www.lissadellhouse.com
Enniscoe House & Gardens, Castlehill, Ballina Tel: 096 31 819 www.enniscoe.com

GARDENS

SURF COAST

Lissadell House and Gardens Co. Sligo

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®
Reconnect with family and friends

It is known as 'The Secret Kingdom' - and with good reason. Windswept, rugged and 12km off the Donegal coast, Tory Island has, for years, drawn people keen to experience a different pace of life - and this singular place even has its own 'King', as elected by the islanders. It's just one of many special places for families to fall in love with on the Northern Headlands and Surf Coast - and this region of marvellous, elemental beauty is a perfect refuge to reconnect with those people that mean most to you. Family fun is synonymous with sea and sand and there is an abundance of glorious beaches to make your own, including Ballymastocker in Donegal, which was once chosen by the Observer as the second most beautiful beach in the world, and secluded Mullaghroe at Belmullet, Co. Mayo - one of the county’s numerous Blue Flag beaches.

The Wild Atlantic Way is a magnet for families keen to experience all the great outdoors has to offer. There are water sports schools dotted along the coast that provide tuition for all the family and adventure centres to help you get the pulse racing whether it’s on land or ocean.

There’s plenty of fun to be had on two wheels too: the Sligo-Strandhill loop incorporates lively Sligo town and the vibrant seaside surf village of Strandhill, while the Lough Gill Loop circumnavigates this gorgeously evocative lake - be prepared to dismount every now and again: you’ll want to take photo after photo.

And those families after a break with a difference? Lovely Leitrim is just the spot to begin an exploration of Ireland’s longest, most fabled river, the Shannon and, in Carrick-on-Shannon, you’ll find pleasure cruise providers to help whet that appetite.

FAMILY FUN

NORTHERN HEADLANDS

An Club Beag, Dungloe
Tel: 074 952 2649 www.anclubbeag.ie
Indoor activity centre for toddlers & children

Arena 7, Letterkenny
Tel: 074 912 8853 www.arena7.ie
Bowling, Soft Play, Laser Quest, Arcades, Go Karts, Astro, Restaurant & Bar.

Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny
Tel: 074 910 6422 www.auraleisure.ie/letterkenny
Family Leisure Centre

Ballyshannon Leisure Centre, Ballyshannon
Tel: 071 985 2818
www.ballyshannonleisurecentre.ie Public Leisure Centre.

Buncrana Leisure Centre, Buncrana
Tel: 074 936 1000
Public Leisure Centre.

Castle Adventure Open Farm, Ballyshannon
Tel: 071 985 2688 www.openfarm.ie
Open farm with indoor activities.

Century Cinema, Letterkenny
074 912 1976 www.centurycinemas.ie 8 screen cinema

Century Play, Letterkenny
Tel: 074 912 1976 www.centurycinemas.ie Indoor play area for babies, toddlers and juniors.

Dizzy Rascals, Letterkenny
Tel: 074 917 7731 www.dizzyrascals.town.ie
Indoor activity centre open for children up to the age of 12.

Eclipse Cinema, Lifford
Tel: 074 914 1963 www.liffordstrabane.com 7 screen cinema

Glenveagh National Park, Letterkenny
Tel: 076 100 2537 www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie
Play area, scenic walks, Educational Centre, Castle.

Ionad Cois Locha, Dunlewey
Tel: 074 953 1699 www.dunleweycentre.com
Adventure play area with a boat trip around the lake. Craft shop, weaving & tea room.

Irene’s Fun World, Donegal Town
Tel: 074 972 5454 irenesfunworld@gmail.com
Children’s indoor play centre.

Kidz Kingdom, Dungloe
Tel: 074 915 5586 Indoor play centre.

Leisureland, Redcastle, Inishowen
Tel: 074 938 2306 www.leisurelandredcastle.ie
One of Ireland’s leading indoor heated fun parks, catering for children of all ages.

Lurgybrack Open Farm, Letterkenny
Tel: 074 912 2683 www.lurgybrackopenfarm.town.ie
A special place where all the family can spend the day seeing the animals and having fun.

Marinas, An Chuiire Hotel, Gweedore
Tel: 074 953 2900 www.gweedorecourthotel.com
Indoor Soft Play Area.

Rockhill Holiday Park, Kerrykeel
Tel: 074 915 0012 www.rockhill.ie
Little kids indoor & outdoor play area, Archery and Zorbing.

Sandfield Pitch & Putt, Ardara
Tel: 074 954 1344 18 hole pitch & putt.

Tropical World at Alcorns, Letterkenny
074 912 1541 www.tropicalworld.town.ie
Tropical Butterfly House and Mini Zoo.

Wains World, Buncrana
Tel: 074 932 2450 Indoor activity centre for children.
**FAMILY FUN**

**SURF COAST**

Bundoran Adventure Park, Bundoran
Tel: 087 994 1608
www.bundoranadventurepark.com Fun for all the family, with theme rides.

Bundoran Cineplex, Bundoran
Tel: 071 982 9999
www.bundorancineplex.com & screen cinema.

Bundoran Bowling, Bundoran
Tel: 071 984 2111
Indoor bowling alley.

Dizzy’s Den, Bundoran
Tel: 071 983 3688 Children’s Indoor Play Area.

Waterworld, Bundoran
Tel: 071 984 1172 www.waterworldbundoran.com
Aqua adventure playground ideal for children of all ages.

Aura Leitrim Leisure, Carrick-on-Shannon
Tel: 071 967 1771
www.auraleisure.ie/leitrim Family Leisure Centre.

Carrick Cineplex, Carrick-on-Shannon
Tel: 071 967 2000
www.carrickcineplex.ie 4 screen cinema.

Cavan & Leitrim Railway, Dromod
Tel: 071 963 8599 www.cavanandleitrim.com
Narrow gauge railway & collection of vintage buses, planes etc.

Fenagh Heritage Centre & Monk’s Play Den, Fenagh
Tel: 071 964 5590
www.fenagh.com Includes soft play area.

Glenview Folk Museum, Ballinamore
Tel: 071 964 4157 www.glenview-house.com
A private collection of more than 7,000 antique, historical and novel items.

Kidz Kingdom, Carrick-On-Shannon
Tel: 071 962 1605
www.kidzkingdomandbowling.com Ten pin bowling & children’s play area.

Lough Key Forest & Activity Park, Boyle
Tel: 071 967 3122 www.loughkey.ie
Adventure Play Kingdom Zip-It, Tree canopy Walk and lots more.

Tumble Jungle, Ballina
Tel: 098 76637 www.tumblejungle.ie
Indoor play area.

**Gilligan’s World, Achonry**
Tel: 071 913 0286
www.gilligansworld.ie A real Irish Fairyland.

**Grange Playground, Grange**

**Happy Days Centre, Cleveragh, Sligo town**
Tel: 071 913 5115 www.happydayssligo.ie
Indoor Play Centre.

**Mitchell Curley Park, Ballydoogan, Sligo town**
Playground and track and outdoor gym.

**Queen Medb’s Activity Farm, Ransboro**
Tel: 071 912 8337 www.queenmedbs.com
Medb’s Farm, archery & driving range.

**Strandhill Playground, Strandhill**

**Skreen Playground, Skreen**

**Tubberbetty Pitch & Putt, Tubbercurry**
Tel: 071 918 5916 18 hole Pitch & Putt.

**Waterpoint, Enniscrone**
Tel: 096 36 999 www.waterpoint.ie
Indoor Swimming Pool, Flume waterslide, health suite and sports centre.

**Tobacco House, Carrick-on-Shannon**
Tel: 071 962 1605
www.tobaccohouse.ie
A rest for donkeys and ponies.

**Doorly Park, Riverside**
Playground & Outdoor Gym.

**Eagles Flying, Ballymote**
Tel: 071 918 9310 www.eaglesflying.com
Irish Raptor Centre, Flying demonstrations and Pet Zoo.

**Enniscrone Pitch & Putt, Enniscrone**
Tel: 096 36788 18 hole Pitch & Putt.

**Five Star Fun, Grange**
Tel: 087 256 6526 www.fivestarfun.ie
Play and Party centre with exciting activities for children.

**Funny Bones, Collooney**
Tel: 071 913 3281 www.funnybones.ie
Indoor Adventure Centre and Climbing Walls.
Get an appetite for sensational seafood

It’s little surprise that the Wild Atlantic Way is so synonymous with seafood - its great expanse of coastline boasts several fishing villages where the region's stunning supply of fantastic food is brought to shore. And it’s Killybegs, Co. Donegal, where the superb diversity of the daily catch can be best appreciated - the country’s largest fishing port is the perfect place to get your hands on the freshest fish and there are innumerable places along the county’s lengthy, rugged coast where you can enjoy the finest fish.

Even a humble meal of fish ‘n’ chips tastes particularly great when you’re eating al fresco, close to shore and with the rolling Atlantic waves providing the soundtrack.

They have been savouring the rich produce of the Atlantic since earliest times - and proof of that can be gleaned along the Surf Coast at Culleenamore Strand, Co. Sligo, where ancient mussel shells and fish bones - the discarded remnants of what’s playfully dubbed ‘Ireland’s Earliest Takeaway’ - can be found among the rocks.

There is ample opportunity to forage for great food in North Mayo and Sligo. The latter is famous for its seaweed baths, but this marvelous sea vegetable is a culinary star in its own right too and there’s no shortage of foraging experts and cookery schools in the region to show you how best to collect - and cook - this most nutritious of ingredients.

The Sligo Food Trail encompasses some of the fantastic local, artisan food experiences all over the county. From pizza-making workshops to whiskey tastings, from bread-making and fermentation classes to seaweed foraging, discover an exciting range of culinary experiences.

The Northern Headlands and Surf Coast boast several destination restaurants and welcoming pubs that are epicurean champions in their own right, but there are some great culinary festivals too, like ‘A Taste of Donegal Food’, that demonstrate the tantalisingly tasty produce that comes from sea and land and give visitors an opportunity to meet the artisanal producers who deliver the great food and drink that has helped make the Wild Atlantic Way a true foodie destination.
WHAT’S ON

JUNE

RODY GALLAGHER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
1 – 4 June Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
www.roygallagherfestival.com

MELTING POT
2 – 5 June Ardara, Co. Donegal
www.facebook.com/ardarameltingpot

DONEGAL INTERNATIONAL RALLY
17 – 19 June Letterkenny & Donegal County
www.donegalmotorclub.com

EXTREME NORTH – ROCK N ROLLIN’ ULTRA MARATHON
24 – 25 June Moville, Co. Donegal
www.extremenorthevents.com

DONEGAL TOWN SUMMER FESTIVAL
30 June – 2 July Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
www.donegalgathering.com

JULY

EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL
4 – 23 July Letterkenny & Co. Donegal
www.eaf.ie

CEOL NA COILLE SUMMER SCHOOL
10 – 14 July Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
www.ceolnacoille.ie

MAGILL SUMMER SCHOOL & ARTS WEEK
16 – 21 July Glenties, Co. Donegal
www.magillsummerschool.com

SWELL MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL
21 – 23 July Fanadmore Island, Co. Donegal

LETTERKENNY ARTISAN FOOD FAIR
29 July Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
christinolloy@me.com

BURRENPORT FESTIVAL
21 – 29 July Burtonport, Co. Donegal
www.therosses.ie/burrenport-festival.html

AUGUST

BALLYSHANNON FOLK FESTIVAL
3 – 6 August Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com

50TH CLONMANY FESTIVAL
6 – 13 August Clonmany, Co. Donegal
www.clonmanyfestival.com

FLEADH CHEOIL CHILL CHARTHA
7 – 13 August Kilcar, Co. Donegal
www.kilcarfestivals.com

LUGHNASHA INTERNATIONAL FRIEL FESTIVAL
14 – 20 August Letterkenny
www.angrianan.com

ALL IRELAND COASTAL ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017
18 – 20 August Ballyshannon
www.donegalbayrowingclub.com

A TASTE OF DONEGAL FOOD FESTIVAL
25 – 27 August Donegal Town
www.atasteofdonegal.com

SEPTEMBER

GLENTIES FAIR DAY
12 September Glenties,
www.facebook.com/Genties/

JOHNNY DOHERTY MUSIC & DANCING FESTIVAL
22 – 24 September Ardara
www.johnnydohertyfestival.com

OCTOBER

CRANAFEST
21 – 22 October Buncrana
www.cranafest.ie
WHAT’S ON

NOVEMBER
ARDARA MATCH MAKING FESTIVAL
10 – 12 November Ardara
www.ardara.ie

DONEGAL LAPLAND
24 Nov – 22 December Doagh Island
IrishWww. www.dooaghlinen village.com

SCOLI GHEANRIIDH
27 November – 1 December Greendore
www.scoliheanridh.com

DECEMBER
CELTIC FEAST
10 December Burt
www.angriananh tel.com

THE SANTA EXPRESS
23 – 25 June
www.angriananhotel.com

SURF COAST
JUNE
SLIGO COUNTY FLEADH
1 – 4 June Sligo Town
https://comhaltas.ie/events/details/sligo_ county_fleadh_2017/

COWBOYS AND HEROES
2 – 5 June Drumcorka, Ballina, Co. Sligo
www. www.cowboysandheroes.ie

CARRICK CARNIVAL
2 – 11 June Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
www.facebook.com/carrickcarnival

RIVERSTOWN ANNUAL VINTAGE DAY
3 June Sligo York Park, Riverstown
www.sligolokpark.com

SLIGO TAPAS TRAIL
8 – 10 June Sligo Town
www.sligotrail.ie

FOXFO RD WALKING FESTIVAL
9 – 10 June Forford, Co Mayo
www.forkfordwalkingfestival.com

SEAN MacDARMADA SUMMER SCHOOL
9 – 11 June Kilteelygher, Co. Leitrim
www.seanmacdarmada.ie

JOHN MC KENNA TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
9 – 11 June Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim
www.johnmckenna.ie

LILY LOLLY CRAFTFEST
10-24 June Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
www.yeatsday.com

YEATS DAY
13 June Sligo Town
www.yeatsociety.com

WILD ATLANTIC SHANTY FESTIVAL
16 – 18 June Rosses Point, Co. Sligo
www.wildatlanticshanty.ie

2017 SLIGO ULTRA WAY
17 June Lough Talt, Sligo
www.facebook.com/TheSlovakwayultra

GLOHEALTH MULLAGHMORE SPRINT TRIATHLON
17 June Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo
www.triathlonireland.com

SLIGO RACES SLIGO RACECOURSE
20 June Sligo Town
www.countysligoraces.com

SLIGO RACES – FAMILY DAY SLIGO RACECOURSE
16 July Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
www.countysligoraces.com

TREAD SOFTLY
17 – 30 July Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
www.treads softly.ie

YEATS INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
20 – 29 July Sligo Town
www.yeatsinternational.ie

BALLYNA SALMON FESTIVAL
9 – 15 July Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo
www.sssschool.org

BALLINA CAMINO
9 – 16 July Ballina, Co. Mayo
www.ballinacamino.ie

CAIRDE SUMMER FESTIVAL
9 – 15 July Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
www.ca irdefestival.com

SLIGO STAGES RALLY
9 July Sligo Park Hotel
www.constructionmotorclub.com

CARRICK WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL
12 – 16 July Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
www.carrickwatermusicfestival.com

A COUNTRY UNDER WAVE
13 – 30 July Sligo
www.bluefincoast.ie

FÉILE IORRAS
13 – 16 July Inish Gluaise, Belmullet
http://seasongsbelmullet.ie/

JOE MOONEY SUMMER SCHOOL
15 – 22 July Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
www.joemooneysummerschool.com

SLIGO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SHOW
15 July Riverstown, Co. Sligo
Tel: 087 242 2160

SLIGO RACES – FAMILY DAY SLIGO RACECOURSE
16 July Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
www.countysligoraces.com

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Experiences to Enjoy
Visitor Attractions
More to Experience

2. SURF COAST
Experiences to Enjoy Visitor Attractions
More to Experience

3. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
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Walking & Cycling
Angling
Equestrian
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All website & email links are live.
WHAT’S ON

‘GRUB ON THE GARAVOGUE’ 5 – 6 August Stephen St., Car Park, Sligo Town, www.sligofoodtrail.com

TUBERCURRY OLD FAIR DAY FESTIVAL 5 – 9 August Tubercurry, Co. Sligo www.tubercurryoldfair.ie

GIRO DE BAILE 6 August Balliboy, Co. Mayo www.girodebaile.com

CLOONE AGRICULTURAL SHOW 7 August Cloone, Co. Leitrim www.cloone-show.com


WILD WORDS CHILDREN’S BOOK FESTIVAL 11 – 13 August Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim www.wildwords.ie

INVER FESTIVAL 11 – 13 August Inver, Co. Mayo www.facebook.com/inverfestivalcomayo

LOUGH GILL NORTHWEST HOSPICE 10KM 12 August Swim & Relay Parkes Castle, Co. Leitrim www.outdoorfitnesssligo.com

BELMULLET FESTIVAL 12 – 22 August Belmullet, Co. Mayo www.belmulletheritageday.com/events.html

BALLYNAORE 51ST FAMILY FESTIVAL 13 – 20 August Ballina, Co. Mayo www.facebook.com/ballina51st

THE TASTE OF LEITRIM 13 August Organic Centre, Rossinver, Co. Leitrim 071 985 4338

GEESALA FESTIVAL 13 – 20 August Geesala, Co. Mayo

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 19 – 27 August Various Venues around Ireland, www.heritageweek.ie

90TH MOHILL AGRICULTURAL SHOW 20 August Mohill, Co. Leitrim www.mohillagriculturalshow.com

SLIGO RACES 22 August Sligo Town, Co. Sligo www.countyssligosligo.com

FOOD FLEADH 26 – 27 August Ballina www.northmayo.ie/food-fleadh-ballina

THE 33RD ANNUAL WARRIOR RUN 26 August Strandhill, Co. Sligo www.warriorrun.com

SEPTEMBER

23RD LOUGH RYNN HARVEST FESTIVAL & VINTAGE DAY 3 September Lough Rynn, Co. Leitrim www.loughrynnvintagefestival.ie

WORLD PAIRS ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 4 – 8 September Ballina, Co. Mayo, www.worldpairsangling.com


FÉILE AN FHÓMAIR ÁRAS INIS GLUAIRE 22 – 24 September http://arasinisgluaire.ie/main/

CULTURE NIGHT 22 September Sligo Town and County, www.culturenight.ie

SLIGO COAST TO COAST 10 MILE RUN/WALK/ROLL CHALLENGE 24 September Strandhill/Rosses Point www.facebook.com/sligocoasttocoast

WHAT’S ON

SLIGO RACES 27 September Sligo Town, Co. Sligo www.countysligoraces.com

FRANK FINN TRADITIONAL SINGING WEEKEND 29 Sept – 1 Oct Yeats Country Hotel, Rosses Point, Sligo www.sligotradsingers.ie

SLIGO FESTIVAL OF BAROQUE MUSIC 6 – 8 October The Model, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo www.sligobaroquefestival.com

IRON MOUNTAIN LITERARY FESTIVAL 6 – 7 October Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim www.promountainfestival.ie

CONEY TO CONEY ISLAND RUN 14 October Sligo Rugby Club, Strandhill, Co. Sligo www.coneijingchallenge.net

SLIGO LIVE 24 – 29 October Sligo Town, Co. Sligo www.sligolive.ie


FIDDLER OF DOONEY 28 – 29 October Sligo Town www.sligoac.ie

MOHILL HORSE FAIR 29 October Mohill, Co. Leitrim www.mohillhorsefair.com

NOVEMBER

INTERNATIONAL IRISH FASHION & FOOD SUMMIT 2017 2 – 4 November Sligo, www.iiffs.ie

ALLINGHAM ARTS FESTIVAL 9 – 12 November Bundoran, www.allinghamfestival.com

29TH SLIGO INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 17 – 19 November Sligo Town, Co. Sligo www.sligochoralfest.com

DECEMBER

VOLUNTEER IRELAND NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY & CLOSING CEREMONIES 1 – 2 December Radisson Hotel, Sligo www.volunteersligo.ie

BELMULLET CHRISTMAS MARKET 2 December Belmullet http://www.errischamber.com/

SANTA TOWN SLIGO FOLK PARK 3 December Riverstown, Co. Sligo www.sligofolkpark.com

RIVERSTOWN CHRISTMAS MARKET 5 December Riverstown, Co. Sligo www.riverstownchristmas.ie

ANNUAL ST STEPHEN’S DAY 5KM RUN South Sligo www.southsligoac.net

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5 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1

INISHOWEN PENINSULA – MALIN HEAD – BUNCRANA

STAGE 1: INISHOWEN PENINSULA (63.4KM VIA R241 AND R238)

The first leg of this extensive five-day itinerary will be spent exploring the wild and unspoilt Inishowen Peninsula (1hr 34mins). The country’s most northerly headland stretches out into the Atlantic, and as well as offering fantastic views, is home to a host of local artists, continuously inspired by the area’s raw beauty. See some of this art for yourself at Moville Pottery, a gallery that’s been manufacturing fine handthrown stoneware for over 38 years.

From Moville, be sure to stop at Inishowen Head Discovery Point for a photo, while the Inishowen Maritime Centre and Planetarium houses an extensive collection of artefacts, exhibitions and memorabilia. Continue to wind your way right up to the tip of the peninsula where you’ll find Malin Head. A walk around Banba’s Crown (named after a legendary Irish queen), is simply thrilling. Wild and windswept, it’s an area of both incredible scenery and ecological importance.

STAGE 2: MALIN TO BUNCRANA (39.3KM VIA R238)

When you’ve finished exploring this untamed corner of the world, make your way back towards Buncrana via the coast road. There’s lots to see on the way – Fort Dunree Military Museum is just one highlight; from its scenic setting on the peninsula, this museum offers a glimpse into the region’s rich military history.

You’ll also be particularly struck by Gríanán of Áileach. Rising 250m above sea level, this impressive monument is thought to date back to the Iron Age, and from its top you’ll be afforded unbelievable views of the entire peninsula. Finally, continue into Buncrana, an idyllic seaside resort always bustling with activity. Settle down for a tasty dinner, enjoy the town’s friendly pubs, and finally bed down for the night in a local hotel or B&B.
5 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 2

BUNCRAANA – FANAD HEAD – DOWNINGS

STAGE 1: BUNCRAANA TO FANAD (99.7KM VIA N13)
Next morning, set off towards another delightful Donegal headland, Fanad. A ferry runs daily during summer months between Buncrana to Rathmullan, taking you across Lough Swilly onto the Fanad Peninsula. As you breathe in the fresh sea air, you’ll be afforded fantastic views of both headlands, as well as the untamed North Atlantic. Alternatively follow the coast road (R238 to Letterkenny, then R245 and R247). Just outside Rathmullan is the Kinnegar Brewing Company – during a fun tour, you’ll learn how the team make their finely-crafted beers, and maybe even sample some for yourself!

Continue north towards the top of the peninsula, where you’ll find the famous Fanad Head lighthouse. If you’re feeling adventurous, you can rent a bike from Grassroutes (they’ll deliver it to wherever you are in Donegal) and enjoy a leisurely cycle around this incredibly tranquil place. At the lighthouse, you can opt for a guided tour, where you’ll step back in time to find out about the area’s rich maritime history.

STAGE 2: FANAD TO DOWNINGS (18.2KM VIA R248)
Continue your journey to Downings (20mins) across the impressive Harry Blaney Bridge, which links the Fanad and Rosguill peninsulas, and offers incredible views of Mulroy Bay. There’s a range of thrilling watersports on offer with the Adventure One team on Ballyhiernan Bay, while a stroll across gorgeous Tra na Rossan beach is guaranteed to soothe the soul. Enjoy some well-earned rest at one of Downings’ accommodation options.

DAY 3

DOWNINGS – SLIABH LIAG – DONEGAL

STAGE 1: DOWNSINGS TO Sliabh Liag (172KM VIA N56)
Day three is all about an incredible drive (a little under four hours from start to finish!) with plenty of memorable highlights along the way. Stop off at the 16th century-era Doe Castle, before heading on to Ards Forest Park. Sitting between Creeslough and Dunfanaghy, the park is a true evergreen treat, boasting a rich abundance of plant and wildlife. As you continue on your drive, you’ll encounter some of the Wild Atlantic Way’s most impressive Discovery Points, including Horn Head, Cnoc Fola, Narin/Portnoo Strand and Glengesh Pass, all of which offer amazing sights.

The brightest gem of the day is found at Sliabh Liag, however. Stand tall some 600m high and enjoy terrific views of Donegal Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and the Sligo Mountains. There’s plenty to discover at the dedicated visitor centre too, where you’ll get a feel for the local food, culture and charming sense of humour.

STAGE 2: Sliabh LIAG TO DONEGAL TOWN (48.7KM VIA R263 AND N56)
Next, an hour’s drive takes you to lively Donegal Town where you’ll meet the people who bring real Irish conviction and tradition to the region. Donegal Craft Village is an excellent showcase of Irish contemporary art, and a thriving environment where artists craft their work with glass, bronze, textiles, wood and precious metals. Bed down for the night in one of the town’s many accommodation options before gearing up for day four…
5 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 4

DONEGAL – MULLAGHMORE – DRUMCLIFFE – SLIGO

STAGE 1: DONEGAL TOWN TO MULLAGHMORE HEAD (53.4KM VIA N15)

As you travel south on a 52-minute drive, take a break at Rossnowlagh Beach and marvel at the wonderful sea views before moving on to Ballyshannon, believed to be the oldest town in all of Ireland. The surfing mecca of Bundoran, meanwhile, is home to the so-called ‘Fairy Bridges’ – blowholes created by the area’s rock formations once said to be haunted by mystical fairies! Next, discover the majesty of Mullaghmore Head, a legendary surfing spot that attracts adventurous souls from all around the globe. Affectionately known as the ‘Big One’, its impressive waves have been known to reach up to 30 metres! Finally, enjoy a well-earned rest locally.

STAGE 2: MULLAGHMORE HEAD TO DRUMCLIFFE (26.3K VIA N15)

Moving through the Dartry mountain range, drive to the Benwisken Centre and onwards to the Gleniff Horseshoe; a 10-kilometre loop along quiet roads that serves up spectacular views of the mountains. Back on the N15, the nearby Streedagh Beach marks a unique historical site – three Spanish Armada ships were wrecked here in 1588. Drumcliffe, a significant monastic site, meanwhile, hosts individual beauty all its own, including the final resting place of legendary writer WB Yeats and the remnants of a 10th century high cross and round tower. You’ll find another inspirational source for Yeats at the nearby Glencar Waterfall, which features in his haunting poem, ‘The Stolen Child’. If peckish after all that exploring, get a bite to eat amidst friendly atmosphere at the Drumcliffe Tea House and Craft Shop or the TeaShed, Glencar.

STAGE 3: DRUMCLIFFE TO SLIGO (9.2KM VIA R286)

Onto the city of Sligo next, with the stunning Benbulben mountain for company along the 12-minute journey. Drive around Lough Gill, home to Yeats’ Lake Isle of Innisfree, and enjoy a stroll through the Hazelwood Sculpture Trail. Sligo is a bustling cosmopolitan haunt with an old-world feel, its mix of friendly nightlife and ancient wonder the perfect blend of Irish culture. Foodies will be instantly enamoured by the town once they discover the delicious Sligo Food Trail! Hikers meanwhile can avail of great looped walks in the area, while history buffs will feel right at home among its 5,000+ archaeological sites, and revellers in search of a festival vibe won’t have to look too far. Get a good night’s sleep before you set off on the final leg of your tour…

5 DAY ITINERARY

DAY 5

SLIGO – STRANDHILL – EASKEY PIER – BALLINA

STAGE 1: SLIGO TO EASKEY PIER (53.6KM VIA R292 AND N59)

It’s just shy of an hour from Sligo to lovely Easkey Pier. First though, stop off at Strandhill, a fantastic spot for surfing, and home to a number of revitalising walks, from Strandhill beach to Culleenamore Strand and Killaspugbrone. Stay on the coast road in order to reach Easkey, where you’ll find O’Dowd’s Castle, built in 1207 and another grand location to stretch the legs. There are some gentle cycle routes around this charming area too, with bike hire available in the village. You can even throw your own pot at friendly Rosie’s Pottery!

STAGE 2: EASKEY PIER TO BALLINA (27.2KM VIA R297)

On your final stage of this epic journey, head to the seaside splendour of Enniscrone, where five kilometres of sandy beach, a 27-hole golf links course and world-renowned seaweed baths make up this enchanting playground. Don’t miss the ‘Black Pig’ statue and its accompanying tale of a wild boar said to have magical powers! And then it’s on to Ballina, home of the famous River Moy and Ridge Pool. Finish this fantastic tour with a visit to the ruins of Moyne Abbey and Rosserk Friary, which date back to the 15th century, as well as St. Muredach’s Cathedral and the storied Belleek Woods.

That’s just one of our many Wild Atlantic Way itineraries; you’ll find more on www.wildatlanticway.com or on the FREE app covering all six zones with lots of diverse activities and interests.

For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see www.wildatlanticway.com or download the Wild Atlantic Way app
GETTING AROUND

BUS

BUS EIREANN - HOP ON / HOP OFF VISITOR BUS PASS

This open-road Tourist Bus Pass which allows unlimited travel on its services nationwide for a period of 3 days out of 6 consecutive days. For more information please contact Bus Eireann.

Tel: 01 836 6111 www.buseireann.ie or Sligo Office Tel: 071 9160066.
Bus Eireann offers local, regional and national services throughout Ireland.

PRIVATE BUS COMPANIES:

Thebus.ie
Tel: 071 9163092, www.thebus.ie Service between Sligo & Dublin on Fridays & Sundays.

Bus Feda Tel: 074 9548114, www.feda.ie
2 daily services between Crolly, Co. Donegal and Galway City (3 services on Fridays and Sundays). Bus service from Donegal to Glasgow four days a week all year round. Private coach hire available.

John McGinley
Tel: 074 9135201, www.johnmcginley.com
West Donegal / Inishowen to Dublin daily and Donegal to Glasgow (Scotland).

Paddy Gallagher Coaches Tel: 074 9531107 www.gallaghercoaches.com.
Donegal to Derry/Belfast.

McGeenah Coaches Tel: 074 9546150 www.mcgeenahcoaches.com.
Donegal to Dublin.

Mangan Bus Tours Tel: 074 9128410, www.mangantours.ie.
Daily services West Donegal to Letterkenny. Operates May to September with tours seven days per week www.mangantours.ie

RAIL

IARNRÓD ÉIREANN IRISH RAIL NETWORK

Tel: 1850 366222 www.irishrail.ie
Sligo Office Tel: 071 9169888.

FROM/TO DUBLIN

There are daily services from/to Dublin:
Sligo serving, Drumm, Carrick-on-Shannon, Boyle, Ballymote, Collooney, Westport & Castlebar.

BIKE HIRE

CO. DONEGAL

Cope Cycles, Dungloe, Tel: 074 9526641 www.thecope.ie
Grassroutes, Letterkenny, Tel: 087 6655599 www.grassroutes.ie
Cycle Inishowen, Carndonagh, Tel: 074 9374856 www.cycleinishowen.com
Ireland By Bike, Carrick, Tel: 087 2118638, www.irelandbybike.com

CO. LEITRIM

Electric Bike Trails, Leitrim Village, Tel: 071 9623609 www.electricbiketrails.com

CO. SLIGO

Wild Atlantic Ways, Sligo Town, Tel: 085 8888181 www.wildatlanticoceans.ie
Northwest Adventure Tours, Riverside Hotel, Sligo Town, Tel: 087 125 9594, www.northwestadventuretours.ie

CO. MAYO

Bicycle Hire at Leim Siar, Belmullet 097 85004 www.leimsiar.com
Bike Hire at Broadhaven Hotel, Belmullet 097 20600 www.broadhavenhotel.com
The Talbot Hotel Bike Rental, Belmullet 097 20484 www.thetalbothotel.ie

Top Tip: A good option when looking to co-ordinate public transport in Ireland is www.transportforireland.ie
The Transport for Ireland Journey Planner is a useful tool that shows the services that are available. You can use the Journey Planner online, or download the app for android or iphone.

All website & email links are live.
