



Galway

There's nowhere quite like County Galway. Contained within this bulbous peninsula jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean is some of Ireland's most dramatic scenery, easily explored from its namesake city, a colourful splash of urban exuberance famed for its music and nightlife.

The only city on the Wild Atlantic Way is many a visitor's favourite in Ireland, and it's not difficult to see why. Its cobblestoned streets are a theatre of music and culture, with performers of every kind putting on a show for passers-by; spend a sunny afternoon in the shadow of the medieval **Spanish Arch** and you might get a free show of drummers, singers and dancers.

Fanning out from central **Eyre Square** are some of the most enchanting streets in Ireland, lined with shops, restaurants and bars, all brimming with activity. These often extend their hours during the summer months, when the city is a parade of festivals, with food, literature, cinema, theatre and the noble sport of horse racing all bringing thousands of revellers to what seems like a non-stop summer party.

For this is a city that knows how to celebrate the finer things in life, from fine dining in its wonderful collection of restaurants to music – whether it be a traditional session in an old-fashioned pub to the latest sounds in one of the city's fabbed venues.

Beyond the city limits lie some of Ireland's most breathtaking landscapes, such as Connemara, its jagged coastline a necklace of stunning views, hidden beaches and fishing hamlets and traditional living. Turn inland at Irish-speaking **Spiddle** and you'll discover the spectacular interior, with its shimmering lakes, brooding bogs and isolated valleys sitting in the shadows of the lonely **Maumturk Mountains** and **Twelve Bens**. This is ideal hiking and biking country, your only disturbance the odd flock of sheep grazing along the stone-wall-lined roads.

Offshore, the **Aran Islands** offer up an even more remote and traditional way of life, from the musical heritage of **Inisheer** to the prehistoric stone fort of **Dun Aengus** on **Inishmore** – each a glimpse into a distant past that seems unaffected by the passing of time.

East of Galway City and the shores of **Lough Corrib** is a different kind of landscape, a rich farming land that is dotted with handsome market towns and a fine collection of medieval monuments, like the 16th-century Norman tower of **Thoor Ballylee** outside Gort and the magnificent castle in **Atheny** – monuments to a powerful past.



EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY CITY

Galway

Visitor Map

FREE



FISHERY WATCHTOWER MUSEUM, GALWAY CITY

Visitor Attractions

01 St. Nicholas Collegiate Church

www.stnicholas.ie
 The oldest Medieval Church in Ireland with a rich history, has been in continuous use. Built by the Tribes of Galway on the ruins of an earlier Christian Church circa 1320.

02 Red Earl's Hall

www.galwaycitymuseum.ie
 A fascinating medieval archaeological site dating back to the 13th century. This original town hall is the oldest building excavated within the walls of medieval Galway.

03 Galway City Museum

www.galwaycitymuseum.ie
 A spacious, modern building, situated in the heart of Galway City, it houses a variety of permanent and touring exhibitions representing Galway's rich archaeology, heritage and history.

04 Fishery Watchtower Museum

www.galwaycitymuseum.ie
 Galway's smallest museum features treasured architectural features together with a wonderful collection of fisheries memorabilia. Climb to the top for spectacular views over the River Corrib and Galway Bay.

05 Claddagh Cottage Museum, Art Centre

www.claddaghartscentre.com
 Katie's Cottage Museum is a restored authentic "Claddagh" traditional dwelling, art and heritage centre in the heart of Galway City's "Claddagh" a former 5th century fishing village.

06 Galway Cathedral

www.galwaycathedral.ie
 Completed in 1965 this is the most recently built of Europe's great stone

cathedrals. Featuring its distinctive green dome, the interior contains Galway marble, mosaics and stained glass.

07 National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG)

www.nuigalway.ie
 Founded in 1845, The Quadrangle, a famous landmark building built in local limestone in Tudor Gothic architectural style. The university is now among the Top 1% in the world with many historical buildings and museums on campus.

08 Galway Atlantaquaria

www.nationalaquarium.ie
 The National Aquarium of Ireland is home to the country's largest display of native marine animals. Over 60 exhibits provide an educational insight into native marine and freshwater habitats.

09 Conamara Gaeltacht Experience

www.cnocsuain.com
 A four hour cultural excursion from Galway to Cnoc Suain hill-village and Spiddal in the Conamara Gaeltacht. International award-winning experiences in gaelic culture, nature and heritage. Informative, participatory and fun.

10 Dún Aonghasa

www.heritageireland.ie
 The largest prehistoric stone forts on the Aran Islands. Perched on a spectacular cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the semi-circular fort is enclosed by three massive stone walls.

11 Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh Conamara

www.heritageireland.ie
 Writer, educator and revolutionary Patrick Pearse built a cottage here.

The new state-of-the-art visitor centre invites visitors to explore how land, sea, language and culture intertwine.

12 Connemara Smokehouse and Visitor Centre

www.smokehouse.ie
 High quality hand prepared traditional Irish smoked and marinated seafood. Emphasis on freshness, seasonality and sustainability. Multi-Award Winning since 1979.

13 Dan O'Hara Homestead

www.connemaraheritage.com
 Learn about broken-hearted farmer Dan O'Hara and Connemara's Colourful Past. Visit Dan's hillside cottage with spectacular views. Audio-visual, history display, crannog, ringfort and clochaun.

14 Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden

www.kylemoreabbey.com
 Discover stunning Victorian Walled Garden, beautiful Gothic Church, restored Abbey rooms, woodland walks, guided tours, musical performances.

15 Killary Sheep Farm

www.killarysheepfarm.com
 A traditional working Connemara Farm overlooking Killary Harbour. Working sheepdog trials, sheep shearing, turf cutting and bottle-feeding orphan lambs. Advance booking essential.

16 Sheep and Wool Centre

www.sheepandwoolcentre.com
 Unique in Ireland for its focus on the history of sheep and wool handicrafts with daily demonstrations in carding, spinning and weaving.

17 Joyce Country Sheepdogs

www.joycecountrysheepdogs.ie
 Demonstrations of working sheepdogs against the dramatic lakeshore backdrop of the Connemara Mountains. Sheep shearing demonstrations and an insight into hill sheep farming.

18 Glengowla Mines and Working Farm

www.glengowlamines.ie
 Explore the 19th century silver and lead mine. Guided underground tours, gold panning station, farm walks.

19 Aughanure Castle

www.heritageireland.ie
 Built by the O'Flaherty's 15th century Aughanure Castle lies in picturesque surroundings close to the shores of Lough Corrib, a well-preserved example of an Irish Tower House.

20 Brigit's Garden

www.brigitsgarden.ie
 Unique Celtic-themed gardens offer a magical experience. Explore the four seasonal gardens, discover the sun trail, stone chamber and other features.

21 Claregalway Castle

www.claregalwaycastle.com
 A 15th Century architectural gem, one of the chief Clanrickarde Burke castles. Guided tours, view award-winning restoration project. Home to festival, music, cultural and fun events.

22 Oranmore Castle

www.oranmorecastle.com
 A medieval tower house on the shores of Galway Bay. An exciting experience, which brings the mystery of the old alive and an eccentricity into the new.

23 Atheny Castle

www.athenyireland.ie
 The oldest part is the hall – keep, a large rectangular building originally containing a first floor hall and storerooms on ground floor.

24 Atheny Heritage Centre

www.athenyheritagecentre.com
 Enjoy a Medieval Experience, dress up in medieval costume, test your skill with Have-A-Go-Archery, interactive exhibits and guided tours.

25 Dartfield

www.dartfield.com
 Dartfield Horse Museum is set in 350 acres of parkland and visitors are welcome to explore our walking trails, see the farm animals and take part in the many activities available.

26 Portumna Castle and Museum

www.woodvilliewalledgarden.com
 Colourful herbaceous borders, espaliered fruit trees, rose garden, water fountain, original Dovecote home, museum artefacts from Perse family. View castle, gardens and 17th Century walled kitchen garden.

27 The Irish Workhouse Centre

www.yeatsthoorballylee.org
 A Real Story in a Real Workhouse. A last resort for destitute people from the 1840s to 1920s.

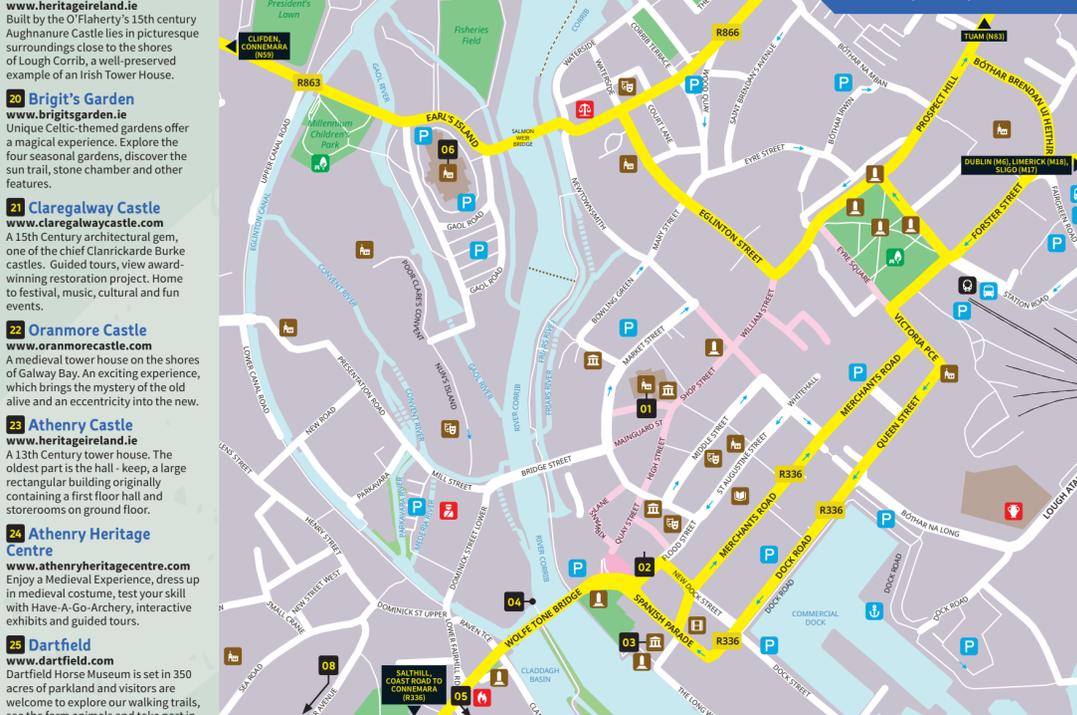
28 Woodville Walled Garden and Museum

www.woodvilliewalledgarden.com
 Colourful herbaceous borders, espaliered fruit trees, rose garden, water fountain, original Dovecote home, museum artefacts from Perse family and Lady Gregory.

29 Thoor Ballylee

www.yeatsthoorballylee.org
 A 16th Century Norman tower house, summer home of the world famous poet, dramatist and critic William

Galway City Centre



Clifden Town Centre



Activities & Adventure

Boat Trips

Yacht Charter Galway
www.yachtchartergalway.com
 Variety of yachts available. Galway City.

Bus Tours

City Sightseeing Galway
www.lallytours.com
 Hop On - Hop Off Tour. Galway City.

Land & Water Based Activities

Wild Atlantic Way Day Tours
www.wildatlanticwaydaytours.com
 Tours to Burren and Connemara. Galway City.

Great Escape Rooms

www.greatescaperooms.ie
 Indoor interactive challenge. Galway City.

Into the West Adventures

www.intothewestadventures.com
 Hill walking. Galway City.

Islands West Diving

www.wildatlanticway.com
 Scuba diving. Inishbuirín, County Galway.

Kayakmor

www.kayakmor.ie
 Kayaking. Headford, County Galway.

Killary Adventure Centre

www.killaryadventure.com
 Water sports, cycling, mountaineering, paintball. Leenane, County Galway.

Loughwell Farm Park

www.loughwellfarmpark.ie
 Pet farm with family activities. Moycullen, County Galway.

Outdoors Ireland

www.outdoorsireland.com
 Kayaking, adventure and bushcraft. Killocolgan, County Galway.

Pallas Karting and Paintball

www.pallaskarting.com
 Tynagh, County Galway.

Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre

www.petersburg.ie
 Windsurfing, sailing, orienteering, rock climbing, kayaking. Clonbur, County Galway.

Pure Skill

www.pureskill.ie
 Indoor sports activities. Galway City

Real Adventures

www.realadventures.ie
 Cave kayaking, coasteering, hill walking. Clifden, County Galway.

Rush Kitesurfing Galway

www.rushkitesurfing.com
 Learn to kite surf. Silverstrand, County Galway.

Scubadive West

www.scubadivewest.com
 Renvyle, County Galway.

Slieve Aughty Experience

www.slieveaughtycentre.com
 Walking, cycling, horse trekking. Loughrea, County Galway.

The Ecology Centre

www.theecologycentre.ie
 Ecotours of seashore and bogs. Letterfrack, County Galway.

The Galway Dive School

www.divegalway.com
 Learn to scubadive. Galway City.

Turoe Farm and Leisure Park

www.turoepetfarm.com
 Pet farm with family activities. Loughrea, County Galway.

WaveRides

www.waverides.com
 Learn to sail. Rossaveal, County Galway.

WILD

www.wildfullstop.com
 Wild camping, hill walking, mountain skills. Letterfrack, County Galway.

Wild Atlantic Adventures

www.wildatlanticadventures.com
 Sailing experiences on traditional boats. Furbo, County Galway.

Walking Tours Galway City

www.walkingtours.com
 Roundstone, County Galway.

Hillwalk Tours

www.hillwalktours.com
 Galway City.

Kinvara Walks

www.kinvarawalks.com
 Kinvara, County Galway.

Michael Gibbons Walking Ireland

www.walkingireland.com
 Clifden, County Galway.

Trekking TruTime

www.trekkingtrutime.com
 Killocolgan, County Galway.

Walk Connemara

www.walkconnemara.com
 Moyard, County Galway.

For a full listing of all there is to see and do in the area including angling, cycling, equestrian, gardens, golf, walking and more – please visit

www.WildAtlanticWay.com



Festivals

Galway has gained the reputation of being the festival capital of Ireland. It has a wonderful cultural heritage with something to suit all tastes and genres.

Some of the more well know festivals include the Galway International Arts Festival (July) and The Galway Races (July / August), but there are numerous festivals that take place across the City and County throughout the year, relating to the Irish language, music, food, literature, maritime culture, film, the arts, horseracing, comedy, science & technology and lots more.



For a full listing of all there is to see and do in the area: including angling, cycling, equestrian, gardens, golf, festivals and events, suggested itineraries, walking and more – please visit:

www.WildAtlanticWay.com

For personalised advice and information visit our Tourist Information Centres



Key for Town/City Centre and County Regional Maps

- Wild Atlantic Way**
 - Wild Atlantic Way Route
 - Wild Atlantic Way Signature
 - Discovery Point
 - Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point
 - Wild Atlantic Way Start/Finish Point
- Points of interest**
 - Fáilte Ireland Tourist Information Centres
 - Community Tourist Information Centres
 - Museum
 - Theatre
 - Cinema
 - Historic Monument
 - Library Services
 - Church/Cathedral
 - Heritage Site
 - Mountain
 - Historic Ruins
 - Lighthouse
 - Lighthouse with visitor facilities
 - Park
- Services**
 - Hospital
 - Fire Station
 - Garda Station
 - Court House
 - Cemetery
 - Town/City Hall
 - Public Toilets
- Transport**
 - Airport
 - Ferry - Foot Passengers
 - Ferry - Vehicles on Deck
 - Ferry - Vehicles below Deck
 - Bus/Coach
 - Car Parking
 - Taxi Rank
 - Pier
 - Greenway Cycling and Walking Route
 - Beara Breifne Way Cycling and Walking Route
 - Railway Station
 - Railway Line
 - Toll Road
 - 01 Motorway Junction Number
 - Motorways
 - National Roads
 - Regional Roads
 - Local Roads
 - Minor Roads
 - Pedestrian Streets

Don't forget to pick up your Wild Atlantic Way Passport and collect your Discovery Point Stamps along the route!

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Practical Information

- Rail**
 - Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann) www.irishrail.ie
 - National Rail Service
- Bus**
 - Bus Éireann** www.buseireann.ie
 - National Bus Service
 - Local Link** www.localink.ie
 - Rural community bus service
- Private Bus Operators**
 - Please ask in your local Tourist Office for details on numerous private bus services nationwide.
- Driving**
 - Driving is on the left hand side of the road and safety belts must be worn at all times. The M50 motorway around Dublin is a barrier-free toll road, tolls can be paid on www.eFlow.ie or at any outlet with a Payzone sign.
- National Transport**
 - Driving: www.rsa.ie
 - Transport: www.transportforireland.ie
- National Activity Organisations**
 - Cycling: www.cyclingireland.ie
 - Equestrian: www.aire.ie
 - Fishing: www.fishingireland.info
 - Golf: www.golf.discoverireland.ie
 - Walking: www.irishtrails.ie
- Irish Tourist Assistance Service**
 - www.itas.ie
 - Safety and assistance service for Tourists
- Emergency Services**
 - In an emergency the "blue light" services - An Garda Síochána, Ambulance, Fire and Irish Coast Guard - can be contacted by dialling 112 or 999.
- Tourist Information Centres**
 - Aran Islands Tourist Information Centre**
 - Kilronan, Inis Mór, County Galway, H91 R26E.
 - Clifden Tourist Information Centre**
 - Galway Road, Clifden, County Galway, H71 P659.
 - Galway Tourist Information Centre**
 - Galway City Centre (New location for 2019, call 1850 230 330)
- *Seasonal Office**
 - Visit us at: www.WildAtlanticWay.com

Galway County Map



Aran Islands

Explore County Galway

Galway Islands Aran Islands (Oileáin Árann)
The three Aran Islands, Inis Mór (Inishmore), Inis Meán (Inishmaan) and Inis Oírr (Inisheer) are located just outside Galway Bay. The Islands are famous for their geological formation, flora and fauna, historical monuments, culture and heritage.

Getting there (by air):
Aer Arann Islands, Inverin, County Galway. www.aerannislands.ie

Getting there (by boat):
Aran Island Ferries, Rossaveal, County Galway. www.aranislandferries.com

Cliffs of Moher Cruises
Doolin, County Clare. www.cliffsofmohercruises.ie

Doolin Aran Ferries
Doolin, County Clare. www.doolinZanferries.com

Doolin Ferry Company with Bill O'Brien
Doolin, County Clare. www.doolinferry.com

Inishbofin Island
Inishbofin Island is located off the west coast of Connemara and is renowned for its music, festivals, looped walks, excellent beaches, flora and fauna, scuba diving and magnificent scenery.

Getting there (by boat):
Inishbofin Ferry, Cleggan, Co. Galway. www.inishbofinislandsdiscovery.com

Ceantar na nOileán
A group of islands situated west of Galway City between Kilkerrin Bay and Greatmans Bay. The main islands are Eanách Mheán, Leitir Mhoir, Garumna and Leitir Meallain. This scenic area is part of the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area).

Getting there: driveable access by a series of bridges and causeways.

Connemara National Park
2,957 hectares of scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Diamond Hill has various marked walking trails. Other facilities include a Visitor Centre with exhibitions on Connemara's landscape, audio-visual display, tearoom, playground, indoor and outdoor picnic areas and Connemara ponies. www.connemaranationalpark.ie

Cooler-Garryland Nature Reserve
400 hectares of woodland and wetland on the former estate of Lady Gregory. Marked trails, visitor centre, tearooms, picnic area and walled garden. www.coolerpark.ie

Portumna Forest Park
450 hectares on the shores of Lough Derg, this forest is dominated by coniferous woodland and offers excellent views of the lake from its four trails which are suitable for all walkers. www.coillte.ie

Blueways
An inviting network of water trails along the west coast of Ireland. Stretching from north west Mayo to south Galway, these beautiful trails offer a host of activities like kayaking and snorkelling. www.wildatlanticway.com

The Western Way
A long distance walking trail that begins in Oughterard and takes you through Maum and the spectacular mountainous scenery of the Inagh Valley, before reaching Leenane and the beautiful Killary Fjord. www.thewesternway.ie

Lady Gregory Yeats Trail
A magnificent driving route that incorporates historical sites in the Gort/Loughrea area including Kilmacduagh, Coole Park, Kiltartan Gregory Museum, Thoor Ballylee, Killinane Graveyard, Roxborough Gates, Woodville Walled Gardens and St. Brendan's Cathedral. www.ladygregoryyeatstrail.com

Wild Atlantic Way Signature Points

Iconic must-see sights

Killary Harbour
Located in the heart of Connemara, Killary Harbour ('An Caoláire Rua' in Irish) is a fjord that forms a natural border between counties Galway and Mayo. Here, you will find some of the most dramatic scenery in Ireland. From the northern shore of the harbour rises Mweelrea, the highest mountain in Connacht at 814m. To the south you can see the Maumturk Mountains and the Twelve Bens.

Derrigimlagh
Located 4km south of Clifden, this impressive blanket bog is a stunning mosaic of tiny lakes and peat, where you can stop and view two sites of international historical significance. First, you'll pass the scattered remnants of the world's first permanent transatlantic radio station, built more than a century ago by Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi and transmitted the first transatlantic radio signal in 1907. Nearby you'll also come across a white memorial in the shape of an aeroplane wing, which pays tribute to John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown. In 1919, they were the first pilots to fly non-stop across the Atlantic, before crash-landing (safely) in Derrigimlagh Bog.

