

# Go Wild Magazine

NEW IHF  
PRESIDENT

DENYSE CAMPBELL

Dublin

THE INSIDE TRACK

Things to do

HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

EAST COAST

EXTREME SPORTS



Poole Beg Lighthouse @myviewofireland

Go Wild Staycations, Summer Edition 2022  
Featuring Dublin, The Hidden Heartlands & The Ancient East

Go Wild  
Magazine





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# Publisher's Statement



## Welcome to our Go Wild Tourism East Coast issue for 2022

The last few months have been filled full of anticipation and all of our Go Wild Magazine readers are planning and booking new Staycation trips for the rest of 2022, so the summer is looking good.

In this issue, which highlights Dublin, The Hidden Heartland and The Ancient East, we look forward to offering you a whole host of staycation and tourism experiences to discover, along with ideas to explore and encounter new holiday/staycation destinations.

We continue to put people and trusted relationships at the heart of what we do. While technology will virtually bring us closer together, we still believe that meeting new people and making new friends on a staycation break in Ireland, cannot be replicated.

I hope that you enjoy this East Coast Tourism issue, which covers a broad range of tourism and staycation interests. It is made possible solely by the support of our featured advertising partners, so please support each of them, as they support us.

From your fully Irish Go Wild team and all our advertisers, explore Ireland your way and Go Wild!

*Bobby Power*

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## Coming soon to you in 2022

**July 14th**

**Go Wild Staycation Ireland**

**September 20th**

**NEW - Go Wild Irish Spirits**

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**Go Wild Christmas**



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

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# TEAM SPIRIT

*Meet Brian Bowler, Regional Operations Manager at The iNUA Collection*

**A**t the start of 2022, Brian Bowler took on a whole new challenge – one he’s been preparing for over the last 25-years. The new Regional Operations Manager at The iNUA Collection, part of Cliste Hospitality, is drawing on his two-and-a-half decades working in hotel management to provide support to the teams across the group’s ten properties in Ireland. These include: Muckross Park Hotel in Killarney, Kilkenny Hibernian, Dublin One plus the Radisson Blu in Cork, Sligo, Limerick and Athlone.

So far, he’s relishing the change of pace. “It’s exciting. I’m enjoying getting out to so many different properties in different parts of the country,” he says. “It’s a strange transition. When you’re a general manager (GM), you’re so focused on one property and involved in every aspect of the running of the business; you need to know what’s going on in all areas of the hotel. Whereas, when you’re working in a group role, you have good GMs and teams in place, so you don’t need to get into that level of detail. It’s more about getting across the overall

strategy for the company and making sure everybody’s on track, offering guidance, assistance and support.”

Born and raised in Kerry, Brian has firm roots in hospitality. “I grew up in Ballyferriter on the Dingle Peninsula – one of the most beautiful places in the country. My mother had a guesthouse and I worked in local pubs and restaurants from an early age. When I was 18, I went to college to study computers and quickly realised it wasn’t for me, that hospitality was where my passion was.” He took part in a trainee manager programme and landed a job at the Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney. And so began his career in hotel management. Roles in the Clarion in Limerick and Cork plus Carton House in Maynooth followed, before he took on his first GM role at The Brehon in Killarney. His next was in The Montenotte in Cork, where he remained for five-years before accepting this new role at iNUA. “I’m proud of all the properties I’ve worked in, alongside excellent GMs, inspirational owners and operators. Every day has been a learning day.”

Brian is also the current President of the Irish Hospitality Institute, where he’s tasked with driving the promotion of careers within the industry. “The biggest challenge we have at the moment



is the retention and recruitment of talent. The pandemic had a detrimental impact on hospitality workers and created this perception that it’s not a secure sector in which to build a career, when in fact it was the country’s largest indigenous employer before the pandemic. It’s an industry that’s heavily reliant on its people. They’re at the core of our business.” To address this challenge at iNUA, Brian has focused on training and development and enhancing employee benefits.

With 2022 seeing positive bookings and a huge expansion on the horizon, Brian is excited about the Collection’s bright future. “We want to grow the business through the continuous investment in our products and our people. We’re also working hard on our sustainability programme with the goal of becoming carbon neutral in ten-years. Cliste Hospitality’s ambition is to double its portfolio to about 20-properties over the next two-and-a-half years.” So what does Brian consider the key attributes one needs to work in the industry? “A positive personality, strong work ethic, resilience, attention to detail and collaborative spirit to work as part of a team.” Clearly, skills he’s honed to lead the next generation.





# Summer

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# Things to Do in The East

## Malahide

### Malahide Castle

Malahide Castle, set on 250-acres of park land, was both a fortress and a private home for nearly 800-years and is an interesting mix of architectural styles. The Talbot family lived here from 1185 to 1973, when the last Talbot died. The house is furnished with beautiful period furniture, together with an extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings, mainly from the National Gallery.



### Malahide Marina

Sitting just inside the sheltered broad-meadow estuary, Malahide Marina is the ideal location from which to enjoy sailing the waters of the Irish Sea. This seaside village is the jewel in the crown of this scenic stretch of Ireland's magnificent eastern coastline. There are 350 fully serviced berths in the Marina, located in a well-protected inlet, and vessels of up to 75-metres can be accommodated.

## Kildare

### The Irish National Stud and Gardens

The Irish National Stud and Gardens is the home of equine royalty, immaculately-bred stallions, protective mares, frolicking foals and athletic yearlings. It is the only stud farm in Ireland open to the public and offering daily tours..

### Donadea Forest Park

Donadea Forest Park is situated in northwest Kildare and comprises of approximately 243 hectares of mixed woodland. There are many different walks through the forest, including the 5km Aylmer loop, the lake walk (wheelchair accessible) and a nature trail with stops.

### Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park

Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park is a family day out attraction set in the heart of Ireland's largest bog land, The Bog of Allen in Kildare. There is a great mix of fun, leisure and education activity to

ensure that there is something to interest visitors of all ages.

### Newbridge Silverware

Originally set up as a cutlery manufacturing company in 1934, Newbridge Silverware today offers a unique tourism experience at its visitor centre. With one of the world's greatest collections of authentic couture style, Hollywood glamour, music memorabilia and other artefacts, the Museum of Style Icons is a treasure that has to be seen to be believed.

## Wicklow

### Glendalough Visitor Centre

Go back in time to the golden age of Irish history, to the Ireland of scholars and saints. Here you can follow in the footsteps of St. Kevin, founder of Glendalough. The audio-visual show is available in many languages as well as guided tours of the permanent exhibition. Glendalough is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Wicklow and indeed the island. Unsurprising given the stunning landscape, historic ruins and beautiful walks on offer at this unique location.



### Greennan Maze

Set amidst the beautiful Wicklow hills on a pretty countryside farm, Greennan Maze has plenty of fun for all ages. It has two mazes, three museums, nature walks, woodlands, ponds, wildlife, farm animals, play areas, treasure hunt and fairy tree walk. Families enjoy spending the day at this heritage hotspot that's been described as 'an antidote to urban living within easy reach of Dublin.

### Mount Usher Gardens

Described by Monty Don as one of his favourite gardens ever, Mount Usher is one of only three Irish gardens with a top rating from the UK's The Good Gardens Guide. Mount Usher is also a world-





class example of a so-called Robinsonian garden, with its relaxed informality and natural layout.

### Shekina Sculpture Garden

People first began visiting these gardens over 30 years ago as part of the Co. Wicklow Gardens Festival. This modern sacred space is a one-acre garden that includes a stream, two ponds on different levels, a patio, gazebo, seating areas, shrub beds and undulating lawns. From the joyful sound of birds singing to the calming trickle of water, you can enjoy a host of Modern Irish sculptures

## Things to see and do in Dublin

If you fancy taking in a tour of the capital city, perhaps some of the following places will be right up your street?

### Temple Bar

Temple Bar is located in the secluded area between Dame Street and the River Liffey. Take a tour off the beaten path and don't be disappointed. Temple Bar is one of the oldest areas in the city and home to one of Europe's oldest built theatres (Smock Alley Theatre). This area of the city is now a hive of activity for those who are looking for an atmosphere of street art, craic and comedy.

### The Ha'penny Bridge

The Ha'penny Bridge, known for a time as the Penny Ha'penny Bridge, and officially the Liffey Bridge, is a pedestrian bridge built in May 1816 over the River Liffey. Made of cast iron, the bridge was cast in Shropshire, England. Originally called the Wellington Bridge (after the Dublin-born Duke of Wellington), the name of the bridge changed to Liffey Bridge (Irish: Droichead na Life) and remains the bridge's official name to this day. Take time for a photo on the capital's most iconic bridge.

### Trinity College

Spend an entire day going through the beauty and majesty that is one of the most famous buildings in Dublin. Trinity College is the earliest building to date to Georgian times. Pay a visit to its magnificent Long Room, which measures nearly 65m and houses in excess of 200,000 books. A must for any visitor is the Book of Kells, which is displayed on the ground floor of the Old Library building and is one of the most beautifully illuminated manuscripts in the world.

### Guinness Store House & The Gravity Bar

Located at St. James' Gate and one of the most popular attractions for tourists, this is an important part of the Guinness family empire. The production of Guinness and the family's fortunes have been

central to the development of Dublin since 1759 and the brewery has played a major part in employment – 2009 marked 250 years of Guinness production. The Gravity Bar not only offers you great Guinness but also a wow factor 360 degree view of Dublin

### Epic Museum

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, located in Dublin's Docklands, covers the history of the Irish diaspora and emigration to other countries. It was designed by the London-based design firm Event Communications, and was voted as "Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction" at the 2019, 2020 and 2021 World Travel Awards.



### The National Library of Ireland (NLI)

Highlights at the main library buildings on Kildare Street are the award-winning Yeats exhibition, and moving World War Ireland exhibition. All locations are free to visit and within a short walking distance of the Grafton Street shopping area and St. Stephen's Green.

### Ducketts Grove Carlow

Duckett's Grove is a ruined 19th-century great house and former estate in County Carlow, Ireland. Belonging to the Duckett family, the house was formerly the focal point of a 12,000-acre estate, and dominated the local landscape of the area for more than two centuries.

### Carlow County Museum

is located in Carlow's Cultural Quarter. Admission is free and is entered through the tourist office. Spanning four galleries, the museum has a wide collection of items and artefacts from Carlow county including the original gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol & the 6m carved pulpit from Carlow Cathedral.

### Paddle Your Own Canoe The Hub, Graigueenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny

PYOC offers you the opportunity to rent canoes with associated gear and camping gear and take a multi day adventure along the beautiful Barrow river trail, south east Ireland. It is possible to paddle from 1 to 6 days between Monasterevin & New Ross, (shorter trips on a more southerly part of the river) and you may stop and set up camp anywhere you desire along the way on the bank.



# Leading the way

*President of the Irish Hotels Federation, Denyse Campbell, shares her thoughts on the current tourism landscape and why hospitality is a sector that opens many doors.*



**I**n March, Denyse Campbell was named the 39th president of the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF). With a career in hotel management going back more than two decades, she balances this role with her general manager position at the Maldron Hotel Dublin Airport. She admits the last couple of months have been busy, but she's loving every minute. "I feel very privileged and am really looking forward to the next few years."

As IHF president, what are her goals for the year ahead? "At the moment, it's all about rebuilding the tourism sector. We've had a trying time over the last two years. While 2021 was the year of the staycation, there were 9 million bed nights lost that year. It's about getting international tourists back. That will be a key focus for me, as well as supporting and representing the industry."

What challenges does she feel lie ahead for the sector? "Like every other business, we're faced with spiralling cost increases, so we're working with our members on that. A big factor at the moment would be trying to maintain the VAT at 9%. We need to sell Ireland as an attractive destination. Back in 2019, one in every ten jobs was tourism-related, 70% of which were outside

of Dublin – tourism affects every town and county in Ireland, so it's important that we remain competitive. And if as a country we have a higher VAT rate than the majority of other European countries, we will no longer be an attractive proposition."

As a GM, Denyse is very focused on her staff at the Maldron. "My job is to make sure my team are happy and have everything they need so they can provide the best service to the customer, and we continue to give that 'Ireland of the Welcomes' message to everyone that comes in the door. I'd also be focused on upskilling and providing a good career progression for staff – they're the managers of the future. It's a wonderful industry with great opportunities, and I'd like to highlight that during my presidency."

Denyse first caught what she calls "the hospitality bug" when she began waitressing in Clifden in fifth year. She went on to study hotel management, doing work placements at Sheen Falls Lodge in Kenmare and Ballymaloe House in Cork, and worked her way up in all aspects of the business. After receiving her qualification, she travelled to the States to work in Texas, then onto the UK to work in Jurys, where she remained for two years before returning home to Ireland, where she worked in hotels

in Dublin and Wexford before taking on her first general manager role 16 years ago. "You nearly have a passport to travel anywhere, and if you have languages, then all the other European destinations are available to you. The possibilities are endless, and we need to shout about that. If you're willing to learn and travel, and like people, it's a great career. Once you get to general manager level, you need to be patient and understanding. If your team know you're genuinely there to support them and help them do their job, then everything else falls into place and you create a positive work environment for everyone to thrive."

And who's supported Denyse during her own career journey? "I've had several mentors along the way, from my parents to the people I've met as I progressed within the industry – ones I'd call on when I need advice. You create great friendships in hospitality. We stay in touch and are there to help each other. Mentors are really important because they can see things you can't when you're trying to make decisions."

So with two busy roles, how does Denyse spend her downtime? "I'm from Strokestown in Co Roscommon and try to get home whenever I can. The Irish Heritage Trust is developing Strokestown Park House, which is a Famine museum that's going to be a fantastic tourist attraction for the town, and I can't wait to visit. I live at the foot of the Dublin Mountains with my husband and 13-year-old daughter and we enjoy walking our dog together. And I love to travel as much as I can. I was recently in Belfast, and as I was driving up from Dublin, I thought, 'I need to come back here and spend time on this route and in all the counties in between.' So I'll get back there when I can."





# Lough Key

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Whilst here you can allow yourself to be taken back in time on the 'Lough Key Experience' as you are guided through the old 19th century servant tunnels that once belonged to Rockingham House. You will be blown away by the views from the Moylurg Viewing Tower and experience Ireland's only Tree Canopy Walk as it gently rises above the forest floor. This is a self-guided tour which allows you to get lost in time and a tour that can be enjoyed at your own pace.

There is fun and adventure, solving challenges and conquering quests in the weather independent Boda Borg where you can spend fun filled hours. This is a totally unique activity to Ireland, suitable for adults and children over 7 years! Pre-Booking recommended!!

You can climb high through the tree's with Zipit Forest Adventures – an aerial obstacle course linked

together with Zip Lines.

You can walk the numerous trails or bring your bike or hire one on site and explore the 8kms of off-road cycling trails within the park or experience the fabulous cycleway recently opened linking the park and the historical town of Boyle.

Appreciate the beautiful vista of castle Island and Lough Key from our Terrace area whilst enjoying some homemade produce from our Lakeside Café or Take away items from our Food Truck where you can relish Puro Fairtrade coffee with homemade hot and cold savoury snacks finished with mouth wateringly good sweet treats.

Picnic benches with BBQ tops are available for your take away options or bring your own picnic and lie on the manicured 'Great Lawn' engrossed in the view of water and land-based activities.

Stay on site in our Caravan and Campsite which offers secluded woodland sites as well as a few open tenting spaces. You can also hire a cruiser and moor your boat on our 50-berth marina.

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# A Whistlestop Dee-Tour

**T**here's nothing I like better than a road trip. Getting into the car and travelling around Ireland, allowing food to guide you on a journey of delicious discoveries. You could definitely write a guidebook on the good food in the east coast region but instead let me take you on a quick trip to some of my favourite must-visit stops.

Starting in the south, I always have to drop into The English Market in Cork when I'm in the city. I'm jealous that I don't have it on my doorstep to visit regularly. Just the variety and calibre of food and the buzz of the market. From Hederman's SmokeHouse to the spices in Mr. Bells, and grab takeaway from My Goodness for that tasty, fermented hit your gut needs.

Waterford City is such a cool place where the diversity of its population is reflected in its food offering. You'll find everything from a Mediterranean deli in The Stable Yard to an African-Caribbean food truck in The Phoenix Yard Market. Tucked away in the Cultural Quarter is The Old Couch Café, a tiny restaurant serving what I think is some of the most exciting food in Ireland right now, with Polish and Croatian influences.

Driving through Kilkenny will leave you spoilt for choice on stops but two to mention are Arán Bakery & Bistro in the city, where your dreams will come true in the form of baked treats and real bread, and as you travel cross country,

the Mountainview Market (weekends) is such a fantastic location for a wander.

You can't travel the east coast without passing through the premier county, Tipperary, my home county, and in the south Mikey's Ryan's Bar is a classic gastropub that never disappoints.

A newer and most-welcome addition to the Irish food landscape is The Fermentary in Borris, Co. Carlow. A close neighbour of Arán in Kilkenny, the real bread trail continues here and with a strong emphasis on everything fermented, not just the bread.

Skipping across to the garden county now to a hidden gem in the village of Grangecon, Co. Wicklow. Well, probably not hidden to those locally, but if you haven't heard of Grangecon Kitchen, it's a must-visit on your journey. It's a bakery, café, deli and takeaway with a focus on homemade, fresh products. They've adapted the garden adjacent to the building, covered with a stretch marquee, into an outdoor dining area with festival vibes.

Before heading further north in the region, stop by Roundwood House



*Grangecon Kitchen*

in Mountrath, Co. Laois, especially if you need an overnight stay. This beautiful historic house in the midlands is family-run and is wonderfully intimate and personal and the dining is excellent. Waking up here is a dream!

Onwards through Kildare, my home at the moment, and it seems difficult to narrow it down, but for food-to-go and artisan products, Firecastle in Kildare Town is an incredible food emporium and if you happen to find yourself in Sallins on the weekend, book a table in the Bib Gourmand awarded Two Cooks, overlooking the Grand Canal, for a great value, memorable tasting menu.

It wouldn't be a road trip in Ireland without visiting a distillery and one of the most exciting ones for me is the Slane Castle Distillery, Co. Meath. Apart from a tour and tasting, you can also enjoy a fantastic food experience here and look out glamping and events in Rock Farm to complete your visit there.

Lastly, I had a memorable trip with friends to Carlingford in County Louth a few years ago, and we visited Ruby Ellen's Tea Rooms. Such a pretty café with gorgeous food to boot. It's the ultimate afternoon tea experience.

*The Old Couch Café*



*Arán Bakery & Bistro*

*Grangecon Kitchen*





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# How to spend a memorable **48** hours in West Cork

## Admire the golden sands of Inchydoney Beach.

The magic of West Cork is that there's always something more to see and do along its spectacular coastline. The glorious seascape between Kinsale and Skibbereen is peppered with dramatic forts, lighthouses and arresting views around every bend.

With tales of invasion and shipwreck, this historic part of Ireland holds many stories for visitors to uncover as they wind their way along its stunning coast. You can cover a lot of ground in a couple of days or stay in the one place and explore.

## Explore historic Kinsale

Get your West Cork stay off to a great start in Kinsale.

On a calm day, the harbour in Kinsale reflects colourful shopfronts and historic buildings like a picture-perfect postcard. Kinsale is the first (or last) stop on the Wild Atlantic Way and is an unmissable haven for foodies, with plenty of history and interesting walks to help build up your appetite.

### Charles Fort

As you wander along the harbour watch out for the signposted Scilly Walk which takes you along a coastal trail to picturesque Summercove. Stop at the Bulman Restaurant and take in the views with a coffee, before heading up the road to Charles Fort, a star-shaped military fortress that was constructed in the 1600s.

## Kinsale Harbour Cruise

You also discover spectacular views of Charles Fort aboard 'The Spirit of Kinsale', as you finish off your evening with a harbour cruise. Of course, you cannot leave Kinsale without trying one or two (or let's be honest, three or more) of its famous restaurants. On Market Street, Bastion is an intimate wine bistro that like most Kinsale restaurants makes the most of superb local seafood to earn itself a Michelin Star.

## The Old Head Kinsale & Signal Tower

If you continue on your journey from Kinsale to Clonakilty, make sure to take the road south along the coast to Old Head of Kinsale, a stunning peninsula jutting over three-kilometres into the Atlantic Ocean, with a sense of history to match its spectacular setting.

## Time to visit Clonakilty

Clonakilty, shortened to 'Clon' by locals, is a vibrant and colourful town and a real must-see on your trip. True to another West Cork tradition – great food with a distinctly local flavour - 'Clon' also enjoys a special place in Irish history as the birthplace of Michael Collins.

## Inchydoney Beach

If you're visiting Clonakilty on a Friday don't miss the Farmer's Market where you can assemble a 'locally-grown' picnic before heading to the stunning white strand of Inchydoney, just ten-minutes away. A true highlight of the region, you could easily spend an afternoon wandering the beach or trying your hand at surfing, kayaking or stand up paddleboarding.

## Skibbereen

Skibbereen, as you've probably guessed, is "Skib" to the locals, whose easy-going attitude to life has no time for multi-syllable names. 'Skib' is the acknowledged capital of West Cork with colourful streetscapes and a buzz that's palpable in the air.

## Farmer's Market

This part of West Cork is all about the food, so you won't want to miss some of the best local produce at Skib's famous Saturday Farmers Market. Mingle with the locals, sample craft foods and find all you need for a picnic on Tralispean's sandy beach just ten-minutes along the road.

## Lough Hyne

Experience stunning Lough Hyne. Lough Hyne, the only salt-water lake in Europe, is a ten-minute drive (or a 40-minute cycle) from Skibbereen and a scenic haven of kayaking, snorkelling and generally exploring the wonderful marine life of the region.







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A portrait of Brian O'Flynn, a man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is standing outdoors, leaning on a metal railing, with a blurred background of what appears to be a harbor or waterfront.

# EASTERN PROMISE

*Brian O'Flynn, head of Ireland's Ancient East for Fáilte Ireland, on the latest developments in the region and where he'd like to explore this summer.*

**A**s head of Ireland's Ancient East for Fáilte Ireland, Brian O'Flynn is tasked with ensuring people know just what the region has to offer, while overseeing plans for future development. He took on the role in March 2020 – a challenging time for the industry, but that didn't dampen his spirits. "It was an incredibly challenging time for the tourism industry but what struck me most was the resilience of the people who work in tourism, their love for what they do and their passion for creating really memorable experiences for visitors, both international and domestic. We have a fantastic tourism product in Ireland, in terms of places to see and things to do, but what makes it really special is the wonderful people we have working on the frontline of our industry."

Brian and his team quickly adapted to the changing landscape. "For a development agency, in a crisis like Covid, survival trumps any long-term agenda. Our day-to-day was suddenly switched to trying to help businesses survive. However, things are now looking good and we're hoping to bounce back very strongly this year. Destination development is key. We're finalising our regional tourism strategies across all four regions – our strategic objectives or development priorities for the next five-years. During the pandemic, we set up local destination recovery task forces, so we were well-networked at every destination throughout the region, working together to ensure all stakeholders are on the same journey to build a successful destination."

So what's on the cards at the moment? "We're developing what we call destination experience development plans – these are localised plans where all of our regional work comes together. Last year, we launched two (with five more currently in development) – one sets out a project aimed at delivering the world's best Thoroughbred Destination by 2026, initially centred around Kildare and Tipperary. We're aiming to give the visitor that behind-the-scenes

access to that region's world-class Thoroughbred Heritage."

Originally from Cork City and currently based in Dublin, Brian began his career with the Irish Dairy Board (now Ornuia) before he went into tourism and leisure management for a company in Australia. "I feel lucky to have combined those two very different experiences, which gave me a love of working in travel but also an interest in development. The tourism sector is a lovely industry to be a part of. It has economic benefits for every community in the country and reaches into the hearts of every community like no other sector in Ireland. In Fáilte Ireland, we don't own, operate or manage any physical assets, but we help the sector to maximise their own potential, which is a lovely space to be in."

So what are Brian's favourite spots to visit? "As a Cork man, I'd have to say Cork holds a big place in my heart but there is so much diversity across Ireland's Ancient East. We have 5,000 years of history here. You might not even go into a castle while you're here but you can uncover that history by walking Wicklow National Park. My wife is from Kilkenny, so I spend a lot of time there and in Waterford and Wexford. We're excited to be launching the redevelopment of Mount Congreve House and Gardens in Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford, which is a world-class experience right on the Waterford Greenway. In Kilkenny, there's the redevelopment of the Medieval Mile Museum and Abbey Quarter development, which would encourage people to slow down and walk around a world-class medieval city."

So what will Brian explore himself this summer? "I'll probably head to Wexford and Carlingford. I'd like to see the region from a visitor's perspective. I love hiking and getting outdoors – even if that means putting on a raincoat. Like everybody else, I like to experience the good food that any destination offers, and live events – really just soaking up the taste of a destination, that's what it's all about."



# Keep Discovering



*Waterford Greenway*

**DiscoverIreland.ie**



# 48 hours in Lough Derg

The pretty town of Killaloe is a treasure chest of superb cafés, so deciding where to enjoy a caffeine shot to kickstart a tourism day, can be a tough call. However, the early morning laid-back boho vibes of Ponte Vecchio, is hard to resist. Grab a book, sink into a squishy sofa and take it easy over a smooth coffee and soft, fluffy scones. It's just a short walk from here to the Brian Boru Heritage Centre, on the edge of the town's 18th century arched bridge.

After all that walking, you might be hungry, so make your next stop, Flanagan's on the Lake. Flanagan's is situated on the beautiful shores of Lough Derg, where you can enjoy a meal from their extensive menu and a drink from their full bar, as you take in the spectacular views of Ballina Killaloe. On-site, there's a whiskey tower, where exclusive whiskey tasting sessions take place. This is a unique offering in the Lough Derg Lakelands and a great experience. After lunch, it's time to splash about out on the water.

If you're a keen paddleboarder, then a guided tour with Soul SUP, along the glassy canal at Killaloe and into the waters of Lough Derg, is a must.

Back in town, head to Tuscany Bistro over in Ballina – it serves excellent Italian cuisine with a hefty dose of Irish hospitality. Finish the day by enjoying a nightcap in the traditional Washerwoman Pub, where it is rumoured



to have a fantastic pint of Guinness.

Day 2: Heading northeast out of Killaloe/Ballina, it's not long before the astonishing scenery of Lough Derg surrounds you. Pause for a while at the viewing point at Portroe, and enjoy the landscape of blues and greens that unfolds before you.

From Portroe, the next stop is the tiny village of Terryglass. Drop into the Derg Inn for lunch – it's a relaxed local favourite and does a good line in soups, stews, sandwiches and daily specials.

Next up is Portumna – you could spend a whole weekend in this lively town and not run out of things to do but for an afternoon's visit, you'll have to make some choices. The Irish Workhouse Centre is one place not to miss out on, where enthusiastic local guides will open your eyes to the horrors of what was described as "the most feared and hated institution ever established in Ireland". It would be a real shame to

come to Portumna and not see the town's incredible 17th-century castle. The exterior has been painstakingly restored by the Office of Public Works (OPW) and boasts Jacobean-style architecture, towers and exquisite gardens. A short stroll from the castle, Portumna Forest is prime territory for nature-lovers thanks to its excellent walking trails, bouncy wild deer and lough views.

From Portumna in Co. Galway, you can return to Killaloe through beautiful villages such as the 18th Century village of Mountshannon and Ogonnellloe in Co. Clare.

In Mountshannon, you can visit the 6th-Century monastic island of Inis Cealtra or Holy Island. The island was a popular place with pilgrims up to the 19th Century and has a fascinating story, including Viking raids during the 9th and 10th Centuries and a church built by Brian Boru himself. You can relax and ponder the experience afterwards with a laid-back dinner of tapas, salad or pizza at The Snug in the village. There is nothing to beat the drive from Killaloe to the 18th Century village of Mountshannon. On route, you will pass through the town of Ogonnellloe. To your left are some of the most majestic vistas you will see on Lough Derg. Then it's onwards, towards home and back to Killaloe for some authentic Irish food and hospitality.





## THE RING OF LOUGH DERG





# Down by the water

*Sharon Lavin, head of marketing and communications at Waterways Ireland, shares her top spots for getting out and about along Ireland's waterways this summer.*



## **Where to explore this season**

As IHF president, what are her goals Waterways Ireland

has over 1,000km of unexplored outdoors, and there are so many opportunities to cruise, walk, paddle, cycle or fish in numerous locations. One of our most recently added outdoor adventure attractions is the Royal Canal Greenway – it is 130km of level towpath, which is ideal for walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages and stages, including families with small children. It begins in Maynooth and follows the 200-year-old canal right through to Cloondara in County Longford.

You'll find cafés and attractions all along the route as well as bike hire operators. It's a former towpath, so the history and heritage associated with this Greenway is fascinating. It was originally for horse-drawn barges and features 90 bridges (some with the year they were built visibly etched into the stonework), 33 operational locks, 17 beautiful harbours, and four aqueducts. Visitors can either complete the full 130km or take one of the 14 shorter routes ranging from 6km to 15km.

Some of the attractions along the way include Carton House in Maynooth; the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre in Longford, one of the largest prehistoric roads in Europe; and the National Famine Way, which is a self-guided trail where 1,490 emigrants once walked from Roscommon to Dublin at the peak of the famine in 1847. Another fantastic attraction for this year is the 160km Lough Derg Blueway, which offers 21 paddling trails where the visitor can explore Lough Derg – the largest lake

in the River Shannon, bringing the three counties of Clare, Tipperary and Galway together. Along the Blueway, you have the opportunity to kayak, visit Portumna Castle and Gardens, check out the birthplace of Brian Ború in Killaloe, take a boat trip to Inis Cealtra (Holy Island), or simply walk or cycle along the trails, including the 64km Lough Derg Way walking route. The Blueway is all about encouraging the novice paddler in a safe way – it's signposted, waymarked, and there are activity providers that can bring the visitor out.

## **Where I'll personally be going this summer**

My favourite spot to visit is Lough Key Forest Park, which is quite close to me in Boyle, County Roscommon. My three young children love it. There is so much to do within the park, from ziplining to kayaking or cycling, or simply just walking. There's a lovely coffee shop there as well for when you need to refuel. Another place I always recommend is the Acres Lake Boardwalk in Drumshanbo – what I like to call "the snake in the lake". It's a lovely walk at the foothills of the Sliabh an Iarainn mountains along the Shannon Blueway.

Somewhere I'm really looking forward to exploring this year is Lough Erne in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, where I'd like to have a go at the hydrobikes and take one of the "Wee Red Boats" to Devenish Island for a picnic. I also really want to do the Stairway to Heaven (Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail) and visit the Marble Arch Caves when I'm there. We bought a caravan during the pandemic, so I'm really looking forward to travelling around a bit this summer and enjoying many adventures with my family.

## **Who we are**

Waterways Ireland is a crossbody organisation. We're one of the largest of the six north/south implementation bodies established under the British-Irish Agreement in 1998. Our primary function is to manage, maintain, develop and restore the seven inland navigations under our control for recreation purposes. A lot of the work that's carried out by us is protecting and managing historic assets. Part of our remit will be to provide a safe and high-quality recreational environment for customers, but also preserving and maintaining these heritage assets for future generations.

## **What the future holds**

We're currently working on the Grand Canal Greenway, running from Dublin through to Shannon Harbour in County Offaly. We're also working with our colleagues on the Barrow Blueway running through Kildare and some of County Laois. The Shannon Greenway between Limerick and Scariff is currently going out for public consultation. And we're also working on the Ulster Canal. In March 2021, we launched the Shannon Tourism Masterplan – this is a significant opportunity for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands region. It covers the landscape all the way from Cavan right the way down to Limerick. There will be a €70 million investment injected into the Shannon region by 2030.





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[royalcanalgreenway.org](http://royalcanalgreenway.org)





John McDonagh



Catherine Marti



- World's first official accreditation for Blueways in Meath, Clare, Galway and Tipperary
- Blueways to drive activity tourism, with over 73% of domestic tourists participating in walking, cycling, kayaking or swimming
- Blueways to encourage locals and visitors to get active in nature and keep discovering rural Ireland
- Cross-border partnership between Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland.

# *Ireland leads the way with world's first accredited Blueways*

**B**lueways are a brand-new outdoor recreation offering currently unique to Ireland. They encourage the use of lakes, canals, rivers and coastal environments for walking, cycling, swimming, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding while engaging with nature and heritage.

The first three Blueways were developed by Waterways Ireland and Local Authorities, in line with the accreditation criteria and are now considered 'best-in-class destinations' for water-based and water-side activities.

Commenting on the launch, Minister for

Tourism Catherine Martin said 'Under the Programme for Government, we committed to investing in and promoting Blueways and recreational trails for the benefit of local communities and tourists alike. The Blueways partnership is an important cross-border initiative that will drive Blueway development and help position the island of Ireland as a world-class activities tourism destination for visitors.'

John McDonagh, CEO of Waterways Ireland said "Waterways Ireland welcomes the accreditation and launch of the Boyne, Suir and Lough Derg Blueways. Blueways positively change the relationship between local communities and their waterscape by creating active engagement and participation, as well as business opportunities, which local communities and tourists can all enjoy. The continued investment and collaboration between Waterways Ireland and our

stakeholders across Government, local authorities, recreational bodies, local communities and others is delivering Blueways across Ireland and Northern Ireland, that are benefiting all."

George Lucas, Chair Sport NI added: "During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people rediscovered their local areas, reconnecting with nature and the outdoors and the wide range of outdoor recreation activities available on their doorsteps, from outdoor swimming and kayaking to walking and cycling. At Sport NI we believe in the power of sport to change lives and we are committed to encouraging more people to take part in sport and physical activity. We are delighted to link up with our partners in sport and tourism, both north and south of the border, for this Blueway initiative, ensuring the provision of safe and sustainable access to water and land-based trails."

John West, Board Member of Tourism NI commented: "It is clear that there is a need for more outdoor-focused products across the Island of Ireland and Tourism NI will continue to focus on maximising the potential of our key outdoor assets, which will contribute towards achieving our goal of creating sustainable, world-class experiences that meet the current needs and demands of the market. We are delighted to be a part of the Blueways Partnership and look forward to having accredited Blueways in Northern Ireland, which will help to reinforce our visitor-offer as an outstanding activities tourism destination."







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## Howth Cliff Walk











# DUBLIN

With new attractions, activities, eateries, bars and cafés appearing all the time, the Irish capital is a city that never stands still.

## the best of what's new in 2022



**P**erfectly positioned with the sea, mountains and wilderness all close to the city, the variety of things to see and do in Dublin is changing all the time.

The centre of Dublin mixes big city chic with small town character, creating a vivid, vibrant buzz that draws people back again and again. Further out in the suburbs and beyond to the coast and the mountains, there's just as much variety.

Stick with the main attractions, do something energetic, something more tranquil, or try something new and really different with the likes of Alternative Dublin City, a collection of larger-than-life artists, musicians, promoters and photographers, who will show you Dublin life through a different lens.

Offbeat tours, parties and events that the locals love, are all on the 'Alternative Agenda'. So, whether you want to take a city crime tour, indulge in a pop-up social paint party or experience a magic show while on the move, all this – and more – is ready to go.

Why not look at the city through the fresh-eyes of Dublin Decoded

Walking Tours, who prefer to keep tours small, intimate and without a script. Looking at art, architecture and history, the expert guides will introduce the lesser-known stories behind the city's most iconic locations, buildings and art. Tours explore Dublin's many dimensions, ranging from its Viking and medieval origins, through the Georgian and Victorian eras and into modern times.

Dublin's massive Georgian mansions once housed the cream of Irish society and three centuries ago Henrietta Street was the city's most exclusive address. Over time, the pendulum swung in the opposite direction and the street became a tenement with dozens of families living in each building. 14 Henrietta Street tells this long and sometimes heart-breaking story through tours, both of the house itself and the immediate area. It's a story well worth hearing.

Beyond the city centre, let Rafting.ie show you the River Liffey like you've never seen it before. With the help of a guide, you will do some easy paddling and navigate rapids and four weirs – no training or experience needed. The 2.5-hour

trip meanders through the tree-lined Liffey Valley, somewhere that herons, kingfishers, swans, dragonflies, otters and more call home.

You can also find really special music gigs on the water – underneath a Dublin bridge. City Kayaking will help you kayak under one of Dublin's iconic bridges to join an audience of other kayakers out to enjoy great live music, enhanced by the incredible acoustics of the location. No kayaking experience needed, just bring your ears and willingness to experience a venue like no other.

Dublin's legendary Windmill Lane Recording Studios is synonymous with U2, Rod Stewart, Kate Bush, Ed Sheeran and many more. A studio tour offers an unprecedented opportunity to understand the creation and production of some of the most iconic albums and songs of the past 40-years. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see where and how the magic is captured.

And do make sure you see and experience as much of Dublin as you can. If you can't do everything in one hit, it's a great excuse to plan your return.





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# Destination Dublin

*Looking to avoid tourist traps? Niamh Wade has the inside track on where to go in the Capital City.*

Despite the buzzy atmosphere, zen zones are possible. Noteworthy is The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge, boasting stone structures, sunken rose gardens and a tow path dotted with rowing clubs. If thirsty after, slip into the snug at The Old Royal Oak. Nearby, the grounds of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, also home to IMMA (the Irish Museum of Modern Art), are worth a wander. Take time in the gardens at Dublin Castle or download the Dublin City Heritage Park app and explore art intertwined with leafy loveliness in Merrion Square Park. Around the corner in Fitzwilliam Square Park, outdoor yoga and film screenings are not uncommon. For a fresh air fix by the sea, the Great South Wall Walk is recommended or saddle up on a Dublin Bike and meander along the banks of the Grand Canal. On sunny evenings lingering at the lock



outside The Barge pub and Portobello is tempting. There on a Thursday? The Irish Village Markets at Mespil Road will satisfy hungry tummies. For fabulous food overlooking canal life, board La Paniche, look to Locks or sit into Southbank or Grove Road for the best brunch. No seats? Cross over to South Circular Road - the 'posh' eggs home to half a dozen excellent eateries including neighbourhood champion Bastible. Perpendicular is Clanbrassil Street, now known for its coffee and global gastro offerings.

Sushi fans are spoilt on Capel Street with Parnell Street also providing Asian cuisine. Put the Italian Quarter, north of Millennium Bridge on the list too. Need an evening caffeine fix? Head to Accents on Meath Street or Il Fornaio Enoteca Caffetteria on Liffey Street, for some Cannolo and possible canoodling given the cosy, Italian vibe. Or chill out with an array of herbal teas, shisha and board games a few steps down at The Tea Garden on Ormond Quay. Areas guaranteeing good times day or night on the southside include Camden Street, Baggot Street, South William Street, Fade Street, George's Street, Dame Lane and The Liberties with nineties themed bar,



Jackie's. Go left or right off Grafton Street for great Guinness, shimmy to Dawson Street for glamour galore and late-night shenanigans are no stranger on Harcourt Street or Leeson Street. Noteworthy northside haunts include Stoneybatter and Smithfield or hop on the Red Line Luas to watering holes in the CHQ. Floating fun can also be found quayside on former tender ship the MV Cill Airne. For a unique theatrical experience book The Crypt Theatre below Dublin Castle while gigs galore happen in Whelan's, The Button Factory, the Sugar Club, Sin É and The Academy. Memorable movie moments occur in the Lighthouse Cinema and the Irish Film Institute, and for shopping sprees in stunning surrounds visit Powerscourt Townhouse Centre. Drury Street, Wicklow Street and Cows Lane have plenty to ponder too. Antique collectors should pop to Francis Street or browse the abundance of charity shops on Capel Street. Or, escape the metropolis madness and jump on the DART or a Dublin Bay Cruise for coastal treats.



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*Who has the best job in the world? According to Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, he has – getting to promote Ireland abroad! From budget breaks to creative coffee carts, Niamh Wade caught up with the leading Irish Influencer.*

**What do you love about Ireland as a holiday destination?**

People, pubs, food and fun.

**Do you have any favourite places to holiday in Ireland?**

My family are originally from the West of Ireland, so Mayo and Galway were always on the map growing up. In more recent years, our family have enjoyed many holidays on the East coast.

**Are there places you have yet to visit?**

Too many to mention. There is so much variety in Ireland; there is always something new to see and do. I really enjoyed a short break we took last year to Portmagee in Co. Kerry, to visit some friends. Our trip to The Skelligs during our time there, was absolutely amazing.

**Do you prefer to stay in a hotel or self-catering accommodation when holidaying in Ireland?**

It depends on what the occasion is. When the family were younger, self-catering was the way to go. The quality and variety have improved immensely in recent years. Hotel quality here is really good, especially when compared with hotels abroad.

**What it is the appeal for overseas visitors about holidaying in Ireland?**

The three compelling things they keep on telling us are culture, scenery and, above all, the people. It's all about the curiosity, banter, humour and capacity to be humble and generous.

**Do you have any tips for holidaying in Ireland without breaking the bank?**

There is amazing value off-peak. Also, there is a great variety of outdoor activities that don't require a

budget. Walking, swimming and cycling are all free. And remember to slow down, you don't need to do it all in one day.

**Where is the best place to be when the weather is not so good and why?**

In an Irish pub, with a bowl of chowder and a pint of Guinness, is generally good.

**Where would you recommend to overseas visitors for a romantic break?**

I'll be in trouble if I name just one – there are definitely too many to mention. It's all about creating memories and Ireland is a good destination for that. I met a couple from the United States this week who got married in Galway a few years ago. They have no family connection – they just love Ireland.

**Are there any new attractions in the pipeline for this year, which will appeal to our overseas visitors?**

I'm just back from the new Game of Thrones Studio Tour in the Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge. World-class!

**COVID-19 saw the growth in popularity of food trucks and coffee carts. Do you have any favourites?**

I love the creativity in the names. I had a cuppa from a truck last week called 'Bean around the Block'.

**Did you try any new activities last year, during lockdown, that you continue to enjoy?**

Genealogy – I pursued some very poor lines of enquiry but got to find out about my two great-aunts, who left Mayo and arrived in Ellis Island in 1910, aged 27 and 17. I found my 'new' second cousins in New Jersey. Maybe we will meet in 2022. I also reconnected with golf ... my report card would definitely read "room for improvement"!

**And finally, what is the best thing about your job?**

It's the best job in the world – promoting Ireland abroad.







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### **Blue skies up ahead**

Malahide is picturesque Dublin at its best. Just half an hour's drive from the city centre, take a stroll along this scenic stretch of sandy beach and enjoy the coastal trail all the way to Portmarnock. The village itself has a Medieval history and plenty of charm that just invites you in. The Green in Malahide, a plaza, lawn and seaview esplanade just off the main street, has also recently been opened after some major redevelopment so grab a picnic, take a seat and watch the world go by.

*Photography: Brian Morrison/Tourism Ireland*







# At the Home of the black stuff

*From boosting domestic visitor numbers from 7% to 35%, to creative collaborations, Covid-19 provided some positive outcomes for Ireland's leading tourist attraction, The Guinness Storehouse. What is it about the home of the black stuff that has attracted 1.8 million visitors? Níamh Wade caught up with Catherine Toolan, who literally landed her dream role as Managing Director, Diageo Irish Brand Homes, a month before the pandemic hit.*



Having lived internationally for almost fifteen years, Catherine always found that embracing a pint of Guinness, while sitting in Beijing or Rio or wherever, really helped to place her back home. So as daunting as it was to take over from her predecessor of twenty years, Paul Carty, Catherine thinks it is “just incredible to work for a brand that means so much,” and thrilled with the opportunity to get to work for the “pinnacle of brand experiences around the world”.

Never in her wildest dreams did she imagine that she would have the start that she did, but given the positive attitude that Catherine exudes, it is not surprising that she considered the closure a “chance to really get to know the business and to think a little differently about our future and about our future role as a brand experience.”

## The Main Draw to the Guinness Storehouse

Catherine considers coming to the Guinness Storehouse is not just for the visitor experience but also “that sense of coming for occasions or coming for music or culture.” And, “what’s so

incredibly exciting for an international visitor coming to the Storehouse, is that Guinness is probably one of the strongest global brands in terms of recognition, and coming here brings it to life in a way that nowhere else does in the world.

We immerse people for a minimum of forty five minutes and up to two hours of an experience bringing to life the amazing culture and the sense of place that’s here at St. James’s Gate. This is where we had a very vibrant and innovative Arthur Guinness, signing a 9,000-year lease, because he was so passionate about the success of Guinness. How unique Guinness is, and we are only 263-years into that 9,000-year lease, so the best is yet to come!

Arthur Guinness was one of the first people to create social housing in this area and to make the lives of the people who work for Guinness better, so those stories are really interesting.”

She goes on. “We have an incredible archive with thousands of employee records. International visitors love to come back, connect and understand if there is a

family connection here.”

**The Gravity Bar**, which symbolises the top of the pint, is also proving to be a

popular date destination because it has “the best views of the city.” And thanks to an incredible 20-million-euro investment into a second Gravity Bar, there is now a figure of eight at the top.

## Future Plans

“The important thing for us in the future is to become a culturally vibrant hub that showcases the magnetic and inclusive soul of Guinness and its role in modern Irish sociability and that we appeal to locals and internationals alike, as both of them are really important. That’s our new vision and we are really excited to bring that to life.”

Improving brand experiences by using digital technology is a key focus for Catherine and her team. She thinks “that sense of augmented reality and user experience and how that is going to come to life for experiences is really exciting and we are only scratching the surface so we’d love to be playing a lead role in how that transforms the experiences but always keeping that personal perspective and that sense of the people because one of the things that’s most important to us here is the stories and the people and how we bring that to life.”

It is obviously an exciting time for the Guinness Storehouse and with smaller brand homes opening in London and Chicago next year, Catherine firmly believes “the best is yet to come!”







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# The Garden of Ireland

*Visit County Wicklow, a place with endless natural beauty and captivating history. See one of our most important monastic sites in Glendalough and learn about St. Kevin, who lived and worked here. Follow in his footsteps as you walk the trails and see panoramic views of Glendalough's Lakes.*



## Powerscourt Waterfall

Powerscourt Waterfall is one of Ireland's unique places. You can watch water cascade down the rocky outcrop of Ireland's biggest waterfall at any time of year. It's a must-see when in County Wicklow.

## Some great Family options

### Seaside Fun in Bray

There are lots of beautiful beaches all along the scenic coast of Wicklow but there's something special about Bray and its Victorian promenade. Start your visit to Wicklow in the lively town centre, parallel to the Blue Flag beach and boardwalk.

### Zipline at Killruddery House

With its historic house, beautifully manicured gardens, and a pretty tearoom, you could easily spend a morning or afternoon in this 800-acre estate.

Take a quiet walk through the Walled Garden and Beech Circle, or let the



kids run free in the Squirrel's Scramble Adventure Tree Park with 50 different challenges and a dozen zip lines.

### Blessington Lakes

Just over the border with Dublin, the glassy water and dense woodland of Blessington Lakes feels like a world away from the buzz of Ireland's capital. Pack a picnic and enjoy some quality downtime by the lake or check out kayaking, zip-lining, archery and more at The Avon.

### Ireland's Biggest Water Slide at Clara Lara

Just ten minutes from Glendalough, the assault courses, boating lakes, tree houses and woodland playgrounds of Clara Lara have formed magical memories for Irish children for decades. This is home to Ireland's biggest water slide. Still, if you prefer a more relaxing experience, there are riverside picnic areas, barbecues and miles of hill walking with spectacular countryside views.

### Brittas Bay's White Sand Dunes

Drive along the coast halfway between

Wicklow Town and Arklow and you'll find Brittas Bay, one of the best beaches in Wicklow. With over 5km of white sand dunes, this Blue Flag beach is a perfect spot for a warm sunny day, so don't forget your bucket and spade. Kids can learn to surf or stand-up paddleboarding at Brittas Bay Surf School.

Tour Wicklow on a fat bike with a trip along the Avonmore River with Fatbikes Adventure Cycling. The 12km Avonmore Way Forest Trail is a good option for anyone new to off-road cycling and families with older children.



### Find your way out of Greenan Maze

A working hill farm that includes two mazes, Greenan Maze is a great place to bring a family of all ages. The full-sized Celtic hedge maze is a puzzle well worth solving, while the solstice maze is a more contemplative and relaxing experience. There are three museums on-site showcasing what farm life has been like for more than 200 years.





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# *The stars love to get married in Ireland*



Victoria and David Beckham (1999) -  
Luttrellstown Castle, County Dublin

*What do Victoria Beckham, Pierce Brosnan, and Tony Hawk have in common?*

*They all got married in Ireland!*

*Take a look at some of the STUNNING A-list venues across the island where celebrities said "I do."*



Tony Hawk and Cathy Goodman  
(2015) - Adare Manor, County Limerick



Gabriel Byrne and Hannah Beth King  
(2014) - Ballymaloe House, County Cork



Def Leppard's Joe and Kristine Elliot  
(2004) - Kinnitty Castle, County Offaly



Pierce Brosnan and Keely Shaye-Smith  
(2001) - Ashford Castle, County Mayo



Brian O'Driscoll and Amy Huberman  
(2010) - Lough Rynn Castle, County Leitrim



# *Join us for the perfect winter destination*

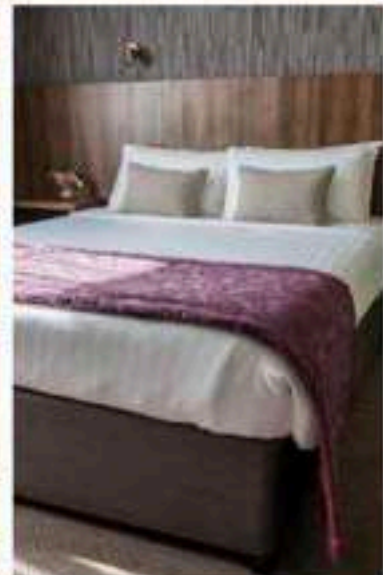
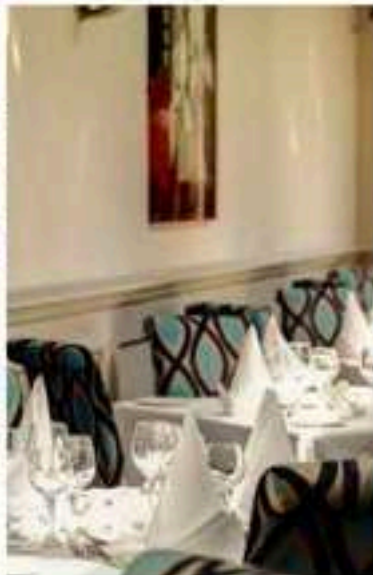
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# Looking for somewhere to visit on your Staycation?

## County Antrim

Make a stop at the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, which is connected to the cliffs above the Atlantic Ocean and test your nerves by crossing the bridge yourself.



## County Armagh

The Saint Patrick's Way is a trail that connects key sites relating to Saint Patrick and Christian Heritage, taking you through some of Northern Ireland's most spectacular scenic landmarks.

## County Carlow

Kayak, Paddle or Row down the River Burrow, the second-longest river in Ireland, and take it easy as you listen to the birds.



## County Cavan

A visit to the Cavan Burren Park, a spectacular megalithic landscape, is a must. After the free entry, you'll find a visitor centre and four marked picturesque trails.



## County Clare

The incredible views of the Cliffs of Moher are not to be missed during a visit to County Clare along the Wild Atlantic Way. You can even take a guided walk along the sea cliffs from Doolin to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre.

## County Donegal

Glenveagh National Park is a haven for wildlife and visitors should keep an eye out for its large herd of red deer and 19th-century castle.



## County Down

Hillsborough Castle in County Down is the official residence of the Royal Family when they visit Northern Ireland.

## County Dublin

A dart ride from Dublin to Malahide and discover the magnificent Malahide Castle.



## County Fermanagh

The Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail (also nicknamed the Stairway to Heaven Walk) will amaze you with its breathtaking views.



## County Galway

Travel to the Aran Islands off the coast of Galway and experience the native Irish language and heritage that is kept alive by the community.



## County Kerry

The Ring of Kerry road trip along the Wild Atlantic Way is not to be missed when you visit the county fondly known as "The Kingdom".

## County Kildare

Have a fun day out Newbridge House & Gardens.



## County Kilkenny

Go back in time and visit Kilkenny Castle, restored and set in 1830's splendor and extensive parklands.



## County Laois

Hike The Slieve Bloom Mountains, which along with the Massif Central in France, are the oldest mountains in Europe.



## County Leitrim

In Leitrim discover Glencar Waterfall and enjoy spending quality time in the great outdoors.



# 30 things for you to do (in alphabetical order):

## County Limerick

History enthusiasts will love exploring medieval Limerick with a visit to the stunning King John's Castle.



## County Longford

Sailing by boat through The Royal Canal is a unique way to see the Emerald Isle and the diverse route navigates from the heart of the capital city to the heart of Ireland.



## County Louth

Discover the myths and legends of the iconic Carlingford Lough and explore the scenic route between Dublin and Belfast with a journey onboard Carlingford Lough Ferry.



## County Mayo

Discover Downpatrick Head in County Mayo and on an exhilarating coastal trek see the site of a former church founded by St. Patrick.



## County Meath

You can't go to Meath without visiting Newgrange. The Stone Age passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley has fascinated people for centuries.

## County Monaghan

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Monaghan preserves, interprets, and celebrates the life and works of the beloved Irish poet.

## County Offaly

Pay a visit to Leap Castle, believed to be Ireland's most haunted castle!



## County Roscommon

Visit the award-winning Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum and enjoy over 4,000 items encompassing history, heritage, and folk culture.



## County Sligo

If you're interested in Irish literature, then the William Butler Yeats exhibition in the heart of Sligo town should be top of your list

## County Tipperary

The Rock of Cashel in Tipperary, one of the most spectacular and iconic landmarks in Ireland, is a sight to behold.



## County Tyrone

The magnificent Sperrins Mountain range is home to an official Dark Skies location - one of the world's best places for stargazing.



## County Waterford

Take a road trip along the Copper Coast, a UNESCO Global Geopark that is described as an outdoor museum of geological records.



## County Westmeath

Get off the beaten track and onto an ancient path by visiting the Hill of Uisneach, a sacred Celtic heritage site.

## County Wexford

Visit Hook Lighthouse explore the oldest operational lighthouse in the world.



## County Wicklow

For thousands of years, people have been drawn to Glendalough in Wicklow for its spectacular scenery, rich history, archaeology, and abundant wildlife.





## Family Fun

# AROUND CARRICK-ON-SHANNON AND NORTH SHANNON

Create memories to treasure with some great family-favourites around Carrick-on-Shannon and North Shannon

Scamper through wild meadows, cycle along waterside trails, paddleboard down glassy canals – there's an amazing array of adventures to embark on with your family around Carrick-on-Shannon. But if you're looking for family-specific activities, this area has you covered too. Spend the day exploring the 350-acres of natural beauty at Lough Key Forest Park and Activity Centre, walk the immersive Acres Lake Floating Boardwalk surrounded by water, lily pads and butterflies or try a horseback ride at the Moorlands Equestrian Centre.

### LOUGH KEY FOREST & ACTIVITY PARK

You could spend the whole day at Lough Key Forest Park and STILL not get to see all of it. This is somewhere to come back to again and again, with a range of outdoor adventures that will make kids almost forget that the digital world even exists. Amp up the excitement with adrenaline-pumping ziplines, take to the trees on Ireland's only tree-canopy walk, race around the vast meadows and head off on two-wheels on a Segway tour through the woodland.

### CARRICK INDOOR KARTING

The roar of engines, the smell of oil and rubber, the thrill of the race – go karting is in a league of its own when it comes to fun, and this great go karting centre certainly delivers. Specially designed Cadet Karts for the kids aged over eight, mean that families can enjoy a session around a track that is thought to be one of Ireland's fastest. Perfect rainy-day fun...

### MOORLANDS EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Brilliant for riders of all standards, from beginners to experienced, the scenic treks offered by Moorlands will bring you into the heart of the beautiful scenery around Curraghill, with a stop at the waters of Lough Allen. If you don't fancy a trek, lessons for both adults and kids, ride-outs and pony camps are on offer at the centre, which is just beside Lough Allen Hotel and Spa.

### CARRICK CAMPING

With a lovely location at the edge of the River Shannon, Carrick Camping is a rural idyll packed with great things to keep your family entertained. It's all about on-the-water fun here with a Chinese Dragonboat, powerboats, rowing boats and stand-up paddleboards all available for rent, while for rainy days kids can head indoors and try out the Cube Challenge in a competition against other families.

### ELECTRIC BIKES

Electric Bikes in Leitrim Village is ideal if you want to have a day out on two-wheels. They can meet you with bicycles at Acres Lake, but also boast two bases – one in Leitrim Village and one in Lough Key Forest Park. There are both regular and electric bikes, tandem bikes and child carts, meaning that you can go whatever way suits you.





# Huntington Castle

Clonegal, Co. Carlow



One of Ireland's historical gems, this amazing Castle is still lived in by descendants of the original builders. The guided tour (approx 35 mins) features the world famous Temple of Isis in the dungeons as well as Castle rooms and ghost stories. With formal gardens, an adventure playground, tearooms and giftshop, Huntington Castle is the perfect place for a day out.



## Visiting



### Contact

Huntington Castle  
Clonegal, Co. Carlow  
Tel: 053-937 7160  
info@huntingtoncastle.com  
www.huntingtoncastle.com



**SatNav: Latitude/Longitude**  
52.6905, -6.6492



### Opening Times

Castle, Gardens and  
Tearooms are all open daily  
May - September



### Admission Rates

Gardens only Adults €6, Child (U12) €3  
Castle Tour & Gardens  
Adults €9.95 Child (U12) €5  
Usual concessions apply



### Parking

Ample free parking (including Coaches)  
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# Discover 23

# family things to do in Ireland's

## 1 Discover Cavan's geological and archaeological wonders

With five marked trails countless geological, archaeological, mythological, and cultural features, Cavan Burren Park is bound to excite adventurous children.

## 2 Learn about the Legend of the Shannon

While in Cavan, visit the source of the majestic River Shannon, The Shannon Pot. The longest river in Ireland, kids love hearing about the story of this magical place, which dates to ancient Irish mythological times.

## 3 Build a cuddly teddy bear

Continue your Cavan holiday and make your way to Bear Essentials where your little ones get the chance to create their own unique teddy bear.



## 4 Enjoy oodles of water-based fun with the family

Travel to Cavan Adventure Centre for a jam-packed day out on the water. Led by local instructors, play canoe water polo, glide across the water in kayaks or plan an adventure to Erne Island Waterpark.



## 5 Cycle across water

Hop onto a Hydrobike and feel the water rush beneath you as you cycle across the Carafin Activity Park in Cavan. Enjoy a great day with the kids on bikes or put your pedal power to use on the Hybrid Pedal Boats.



## 6 Cool as a Canoeist

Canoe with Adventure Gently in Leitrim as you journey down Ireland's wonderful waterways. Suitable for all ages and abilities, see the northwest's most beautiful landscapes from the comfort of your canoe.

## 7 Survive and thrive as a budding bushcrafter

Bring your kids out into the wild and discover the art of bushcraft and survival at Leitrim's Organic Centre.

## 8 Step onto Ireland's first floating boardwalk

For a peaceful walk with the kids in Leitrim, take the 600m of floating boardwalk at Acres Lake which has stunning natural scenery as its background.



## 9 Surf and SUP on an Irish safari

Head to Leitrim Surf and SUP Company and paddle across the glistening waters of the Shannon Blueway.



## 10 See the world from the treetops

Swing like Tarzan and fly down zip lines at the Zipit Lough Key Ltd in Roscommon. Let your mini

adventurers cross rope bridges, climb giant walls and more on this family-friendly experience.

## 11 The best of Irish folk culture

With a 25-year-old collection of restored antiques and artefacts, the Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum in Roscommon is like stepping into a marvellous time capsule.



## 12 Step inside the heart of a mountain

Pop on your miner's hat in Roscommon and take a trip into the mountainside with Arigna Mining Experience, one of Ireland's few coal mines. Go on an underground tour with a former coal miner and listen to vivid storytelling and real-life experiences.



## 13 Discover the origins of Halloween

The Rathcroghan Visitor Centre in Roscommon is part of the archaeological landscape of Cruachan Aí, the oldest and largest unexcavated royal site in Ireland, described as Ireland's 'gate to hell'.



## 14 See a dramatic Norman castle

Bring the kids to Roscommon Castle, a ruined 13th-century Norman castle that





Explore magical fairy trails, take a family bike ride across the water, and spend quality time with the kids slipping on mudslides and strolling through the woods. Here are 23 wonderful activities to check out on a family trip to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

# Hidden Heartlands



was once in the hands of the King of Connacht, Hugh O'Connor. The Castle can be explored adjacent to Loughnaneane Park and Playground.

## 15 Make a splash in the great outdoors

Go island hopping, fire off arrows, and cruise in kayaks at the Shannon River Adventure Centre in Roscommon. Getting down and dirty with the mudslides is a family favourite activity as is the exhilarating pier jump into the water.

## 16 Go back to the Iron Age

Relive epic Iron Age history at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre in Longford. Marvel at the ancient trackway, the largest ever excavated in Europe, that was used thousands of years ago. Learn how people of times gone by lived through murals, displays and artefacts from that period and see the 18-metre stretch of the preserved trackway.



## 17 Find your inner warrior

Take a trip to Longford's Knights and Conquests Exhibition Centre and enjoy an interactive journey through time. Discover if you and your family were Gaels or Normans, get to grips with armour and try your hand at weapon training.

## 18 Where ancient history and biodiversity meet

Spend a fun-filled day out at Lough Boora Discovery Park in Offaly. Explore the park by bike, take a looped walk, go birdwatching and see the fascinating Sculpture Park. Kids can discover why the fairies came here on the magical fairy trail.



## 19 Explore the grounds of a historic castle

Spread over 50-hectares, the gardens at Birr Castle Demesne are a haven for nature lovers, with plenty of wildlife, the tallest box hedges, a waterfall, and a collection of plants and flowers from all over the world.

## 20 Have soul-stirring outdoor adventures

Experience the serene beauty of the River Shannon and breathtaking mountain scenery at the Mid Ireland Adventure



& Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre in Offaly. Enjoy lively outdoor adventures with the kids including SUP safaris, hiking and bike trips in Ireland's largest state-owned nature reserve.



## 21 Take a peaceful stroll in the woods

Make your way to Galway's Portumna Forest Park and head out with the kids on the Woodland Walking Trail.



## 22 Savour a moment of pure sweetness

Feast your eyes and taste buds on delicious artisan chocolate at Wilde Irish Chocolates in Clare. On the shores of Lough Derg, let your mini chocolate lovers pick their favourite flavours from tasty chocolate bars and caramel slices to mouth-watering fudge and rocky road.



## 23 Thrilling experiences on Lough Derg

Head to the UL Sport Adventure Centre in Clare for exhilarating sessions including powerboating, windsurfing and group sailing.





SWIMMING IN MOUNTSHANNON



CASTLE ISLAND, LOUGH KEY



STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING, KILLALOE

# The unforgettable waterways OF IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

**T**he key to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is the River Shannon. The gentle shrug of water across the surface of Lough Derg makes you want to put down anchor and just float for a few hours. Lap up the quiet, cast out a line, or tuck into your picnic basket for a lazy lunch.

Cruise along the waterways of the mighty Shannon and explore the quaint towns of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

## 1: RENTING A BOAT ON THE SHANNON

Carrickcraft, Emerald Star and Silverline Cruisers have a great range of rental options from 2-10 berths. The staff are happy to share tips on things to do, from a leisurely cruise to Banagher to a tour of Athlone and Hodson Bay. Most of the rental companies along the Shannon allow you to bring your pet along on your cruising adventure. Stay every night in a town or village or escape to the wilderness on remote jetties where you can cook and eat on board in the well-equipped onboard kitchen.

## 2: CHINESE DRAGON BOATING, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

Canoe boats with ferocious dragon heads on either end, roar down the clear waters of Carrick-on-Shannon. These Chinese Dragon Boats can be spotted on the river with a helmsman from Leitrim Surf Company steering the course, while the crew rows in unison to the rhythm of the onboard drummer. This is definitely one of the most unique ways to explore the waterways of Carrick-on-Shannon.

## 3: STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING (SUP), KILLALOE

Strap on a life jacket and set off

on an adventure aboard your paddleboard. Stand-up paddleboarding is a memorable and surprisingly simple way to witness the indigenous beauty of the Shannon. Set off from the still waters of Killaloe and float under old bridges and into the wilds of the countryside.

## 4: CASTLE ISLAND, LOUGH KEY

The calm waters of Lough Key are dotted with small, lush islands and none are more intriguing than Castle Island. The abandoned, striking McDermott's Castle stands solely on this uninhabited island surrounded by mature trees and stone walls. Nearby Lough Key Forest and Activity Park is the place to go for anyone looking to learn more about the legend of Úna Bhán and makes a great base for a couple of days by the water.

## 5: BAYSPOrts, LOUGH REE

For something equally adventurous in Westmeath head to Baysports, just outside Athlone. It's an exciting place that's perfect for families of all ages with an inflatable water park, kayak tours and pedalos. Kids, and adventurous adults, will love playing on the largest floating slide in the country. Watch the sunset and pastel sky as you stroll along the Floating Boardwalk at Acres Lake just outside Drumshanbo. It's a truly magical and memorable way to end your day.

## 6: ENJOY ONE OF THE GREAT SHANNON CRUISES

Rent a boat with friends and cruise the Shannon.

Experience Ireland's longest river on a fantastic cruise of the River Shannon. Set sail from any of the hubs along the

route and enjoy unbeatable craic in Carrick-on-Shannon, gorgeous views as you sail from Athlone and tasty lakeside meals in Banagher and Killaloe.

## 7: WALK THE FLOATING BOARDWALK ON ACRES LAKE, DRUMSHANBO

Head to the Shannon Blueway, just outside of Drumshanbo, and experience one of the most unique walks in Ireland. Making up part of a longer 6.5km walk, is a wonderful 600m long stretch, where you stroll on a floating boardwalk across Acres Lake. Listen to the water gently lapping against the boardwalk and birds singing in the sky, this relaxing walk is ideal for your next trip to Leitrim.

## 8: PLAN A DAY FISHING ON LOUGH DERG

Pack your rod and visit Lough Derg for a great fishing holiday. Base yourself in Portumna at the north of Lough Derg or stay in Killaloe and Ballina to the south. The waters here are well stocked with salmon and bream, but as every serious angler knows, it's the brown trout and pike that attract people from all over the country. Rent a fishing boat from Shannon Boat Hire and cast your line in every nook and cranny of this gorgeous lake.

## 9: GO SWIMMING IN MOUNTSHANNON

Visit a stunning award winning beach in Clare and go swimming in Lough Derg. The chilly and clear waters of Mountshannon Beach are perfect for an early morning swim with friends, and afterwards, warm up a coffee and treat at the nearby bakery. Remember to be safe when you swim, never go alone and make sure to always swim within your ability.



FISHING ON LOUGH DERG



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# 48 HOURS IN ATHLONE

*From boating to bars, Niamh Wade takes time in one of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands top towns.*

Arriving into the heart of the midlands in County Westmeath, on the border of County Roscommon, by boat or otherwise, is a welcoming sight. Prestigiously placed on the banks of the River Shannon, just downstream from the wide expanse of Lough Ree, Athlone oozes charm.

Culture comes in all forms and a car is not necessary to explore it all. On the west-bank is Athlone Castle and Visitor Centre. Learn lots about life in this 13th Century Norman castle via the interactive exhibition, with cameras at the ready for panoramic views from the upper battlements. Across the road is the Luan Gallery, showcasing local and national modern art, or admire six stunning stained-glass windows designed by Harry Clarke in St. Peter & Paul's Church.

Theatrical entertainment can be found at the Dean Crowe or Athlone Little Theatre and toe-tapping traditional Irish music can be heard in many spots.



Nightlife is not in short supply with ambient pubs and lively beer gardens including Europe's oldest one - Sean's Bar. Dead Centre Brewing, with its riverside hub, has a more modern vibe, with late night venues such as The Piano Bar, spanning three-floors, open to suit all tastes and ages.

Foodie fans will be in their element with great gourmet hotspots nestled in the narrow streets. In Glasson, just a ten-minute jaunt away, the award-winning Wineport Lodge hotel is a dining delight.

Naturally, various water-based activities are available. Baysports, an inflatable waterpark, proves popular with all ages looking for a splash of wetsuit-wearing fun. History buffs should book a trip on a longboat with Viking Mike or be educated about the wildlife and folklore of the area with River Run Cruises. Navigating the waterways independently with a private hire for the day is also possible. Or bring swimwear and your own drinks for a ninety-minute unique experience of the most relaxing and scenic kind, on board The Hot Tub Boat, departing from Coosan Point.

None aquatic suggestions include stretching the legs on a river bank walk or pedal powering along the old Midlands Great Western Railway,

which eventually ends up in Mullingar, 42-kilometres later. Or swing into one of the two golf courses close by.

If packing a picnic for spending your time surrounded by furry friends of the animal kind is more your thing, head to Glendeer Pet Farm. Boasting indoor and outdoor play areas, zip lining, a maze, a fairy trail and new Hobbit Village it won't disappoint. Perhaps ancient farming tools and sporting memorabilia sparks curiosity? Award-winning Derryglad Folk and Heritage Museum, a short hop out of town, should tick the box with over 7,500 old objects to ogle.

Whatever gets you giddy, it is likely found in this central hub. Have fun!







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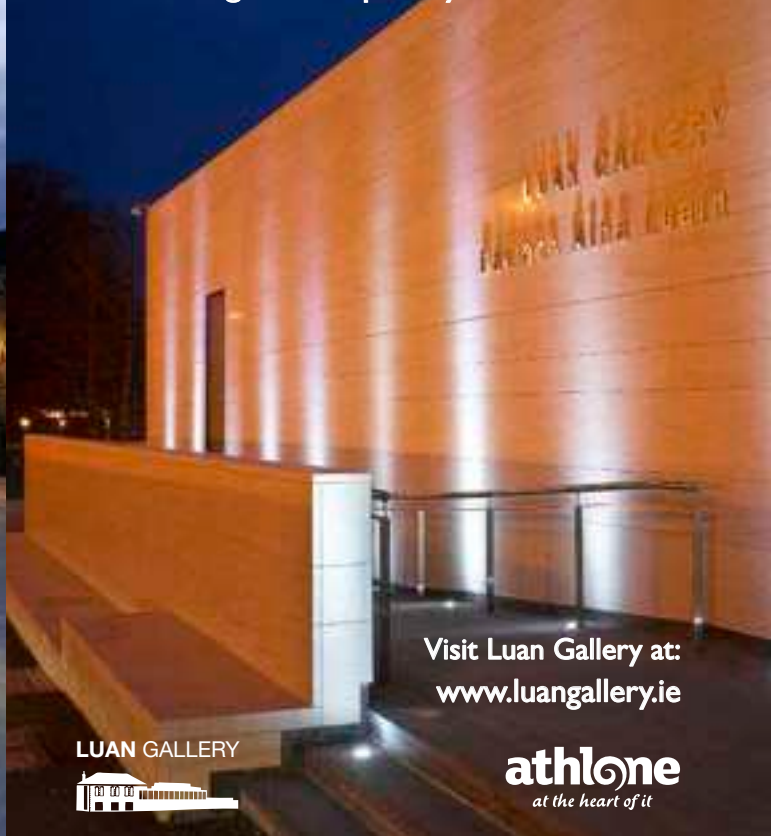
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# INTERVIEW WITH **Judith Owens**

**A**s they prepare to celebrate its 10th birthday, Judith Owens, Chief Executive of Titanic Belfast, who was recently awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for services to Tourism, speaks passionately about her beloved Belfast and why it should be on everyone's 'must visit' list.

## **What is the best thing about Belfast?**

As a Belfast native, I am incredibly proud of the vibrant city it has become over the years and I think a large part of that is down to the giant spirit of those who live and work here - you won't find a friendlier bunch than the people of Belfast City!

## **Do you think history and the troubles still play a factor in people's decision to visit?**

Yes, I think this, like any other significant event in history, is all part of Northern Ireland's story and there are some wonderful local tours that enable visitors to Belfast to delve deeper into the topic and learn more.



As we mark the 110th anniversary of RMS Titanic's tragic sinking in April, having welcomed over 6-million guests from 145 countries worldwide, you can see how history and heritage play an important role in our tourism offering and certainly provide a reason to visit.

## **Where would you tell people to visit in the city?**

There's so much to see and do but it's always good to start at Belfast City Hall – from here it's easy to orientate yourself and the city's compact size means you can get around easily. If you're visiting at a weekend, I love St. George's market for a walk around the local food and craft stalls or from a Thursday to Sunday, the common market, which is a brand new (dog friendly) street food market in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter. Of course, and not to sound biased, but top of the list should be a visit to Titanic Belfast.

## **Have you noticed a lot more locals being tourists in their own city?**

Yes, I think the pandemic really reignited a sense of civic pride in locals. It's been a joy to see so many families enjoying spending quality time together with us and enjoying the superb experiences on their doorstep. We have been fortunate that the staycation boom has allowed us to continue welcoming so many guests over the last two years, albeit at lower levels, as pre-pandemic, over 88% of our visitors came from outside of NI.

## **Are there any new tourist attractions to keep an eye out for?**

A Titanic Distillery is due to open in June this year, just down from us at Thompson Dry Dock and a new Game of Thrones Studio Tour has also just opened in Banbridge.



## **Would the city be lost without Titanic Belfast?**

I think it would certainly be a very different place. Titanic Belfast opened in March 2012 with the vision of commemorating the centenary of the sinking of Titanic; to launch a world class visitor attraction and bring the story of Titanic back home to Belfast, where it belongs, celebrating the city's maritime and industrial heritage, and showing the spirit that built Titanic remains today. In our first seven years we contributed £319 million to the wider economy and inspired £60-million, of wider heritage preservation across Titanic Quarter. Not to be overlooked, over the years our building has come to represent the giant spirit of the people of Northern Ireland; most recently having been featured in the opening sequence of Kenneth Branagh's Oscar nominated film, 'Belfast' – an attest to just how iconic Titanic Belfast has become as a beacon for the city. Tourism in Belfast is something I am incredibly passionate about and as I look back at how much positive change there has been in the industry as we celebrate our 10th birthday at Titanic Belfast, I am immensely proud to have played a part in this. **To find out more, visit [titanicbelfast.com](http://titanicbelfast.com)**



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# Go Wild GIN & TOUR

Join us on the Go Wild Gin & Tour and find out for yourself what wonderful cocktails await you.



## 1 DINGLE ORIGINAL GIN

Co. Kerry | [www.DingleDistillery.ie](http://www.DingleDistillery.ie)

Dingle Original Gin is the product of a considerable amount of research, both technical and historical, and experimentation. Their aim was to create a totally unique gin, one which worked within the great tradition of gin distilling but which also came with a degree of innovation. In terms of its broad style, this is what is categorised as a London Dry Gin but the unique character and flavour come from their painstaking and original choice of botanicals.

Director & Founder Peter Mosley sums up DOG's unique character in a few words: "The uniquely Irish botanicals give a fabulously fresh, floral character that perfectly balances the traditional juniper. But, to be honest, you really have to taste it for yourself."

Dingle Original Gin is a totally unique gin, in the style of London Dry Gin. Dingle Original Gin is best served with large cubes of ice, a wedge of fresh orange and a sprinkling of juniper berries.



a quest to fuse oriental botanicals with the local Irish ones. As it turned out, they got on very well indeed. The result of this passionate exploration is Drumshanbo. Gunpowder Irish Gin – unique, extraordinary and as remarkable as the elusive creature PJ has occasionally glimpsed in the fields, the Drumshanbo Jackalope

## 4 RUNWAY 28 GIN

Co. Donegal | [www.Runway28Gin.com](http://www.Runway28Gin.com)

If life gives you Juniper berries, make Gin!"

Take one Irish Aviation company, with two aviation professionals, then add a turbulent pandemic to the mixture, what do you get? Well in Kilbarron Aviation's case, a brand-new Aviation themed premium Irish Gin, with a just a hint of pepper.

Co-director Marie Ann McLoughlin Dwyer, with a background in both aviation and product development, and wife to one of Ireland's many grounded commercial airline pilots, researched, studied and blended in collaboration with master distiller & recipe experts at Listoke Distillery in Co. Louth, to craft and create Runway28 Premium Irish Gin.



## 2 TRIBE GIN

Co. Galway | [www.TribeGin.ie](http://www.TribeGin.ie)

Tribe Gin is a small batch craft Irish Gin. It's a premium spirit who's recipe was inspired by ingredients local to the west of Ireland along with a blend of citrus and spice to give Tribe Gin its unique flavour. It has all natural ingredients with no added sugars, flavours or preservatives. Some of the ingredients include: Lemon, Heather, Cassia, Cardamon and Connemara Seaweed.



## 3 DRUMSHANBO GUNPOWDER IRISH GIN

Co. Leitrim | [www.TheShedDistillery.com](http://www.TheShedDistillery.com)

It was during the solar transit of the Winter Solstice sun in 2014, that saw the revered tradition of distilling Irish Whiskey, return to the Western province of Connacht. PJ and Denise Rigney, along with their dedicated team of distillers, laid down the first whiskey in Connacht in over 101 years.

He created The Shed Distillery of PJ Rigney, with its medieval copper pot stills, and began



## 5 LISTOKE 1777

Co. Louth | [www.ListokeDistillery.ie](http://www.ListokeDistillery.ie)

Listoke 1777 Original Gin has received several awards, including; Best Irish Gin and Best Gin in Europe. As the largest Gin Distillery in Ireland, they work with many other smaller distillers, which





## 8 GRAHAM NORTON GIN

Co. Cork | [Facebook.com/GrahamNortonsOwnUK](https://www.facebook.com/GrahamNortonsOwnUK)

Following on from the success of Graham's award-winning GN Wine range, which includes Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz, Rosé and Prosecco, the renowned TV presenter has launched his own Irish gin which celebrates the beauty and unique flavours of West Cork.

Partnering with an Irish distillery was very important to Graham and an extensive search led to a distillery near Graham's West Cork home. West Cork Distillers have worked with Graham and the team to create the great tasting gin. Distilled and produced using 100% Irish grain Graham Norton's Own Irish Gin draws its flavour from a combination of 12 botanicals including angelica, fuchsia flowers, orris roots, rose hip, basil and liquorice root – all of which contribute to a Gin which is as unique as the man himself!



has helped them perfect their brand. It has subtle Orange and Spice flavours that lead to a robust, refreshing gin that can be served neat with ice or with a peel of orange and a good quality tonic water! This Gin is the perfect gift - for a loved one or yourself!! Pairs deliciously with Poachers Wild Tonic and Poachers Light Tonic

Looking for a little kick: Listoke Sloe Gin is soaked in Sloe Berries for one year before being diluted with Irish Honey, which gives it its beautiful natural colour.

## 6 KELLS GIN

Co. Meath | [www.HeadFortArms.ie](http://www.HeadFortArms.ie)

The Kells Gin brand bears reference to the Victorian era (the first era of Gin houses) when Kells Lace manufactory thrived adjacent to the Headfort Arms Hotel.

This was an era when handmade crafted items were created by the women of Kells - in much the same way that this gin has been handcrafted using unique botanicals alongside grains of paradise, elderflower, sumac and cubeb - all complemented by citrus orange notes.

Enjoy a Kells Gin with a premium tonic on ice - plus a slice of orange and a hint of orange zest in order to amplify the citrus flavor.



## 9 THE PERFECT MIX

Tonic Waters - Poachers Drinks  
| [www.PoachersDrinks.com/](http://www.PoachersDrinks.com/)

The inspiration for the Poachers range of premium natural mixers was found in the ingredients grown on a centuries-old family farm by the sea in County Wexford, Ireland.

Their range of drinks embraces the best of natural Irish ingredients. They are lower in sugar with natural herbal finishes that delicately enhance and never overwhelm premium spirits. Made to be mixed with best of Irish and International spirits they can also be enjoyed on their own as no alcohol alternative. We hope you have fun mixing with them!



## 7 DUBLIN CITY GIN

Co. Dublin | [www.DublinCitySpirits.com](http://www.DublinCitySpirits.com)  
& [www.IrishMalts.com](http://www.IrishMalts.com)



Although they're a young company to this new world of distilling in Ireland, they have striven to produce the best premium Irish product available.

Their first distributor challenged

them to get one gold medal to help with sales introductions. Today, Dublin City Gin has been acclaimed for quality and taste as a multiple award winning gin with over 16-GOLD medals to their credit.

## 10 LOUGH DERG GIN CRUISE

Co. Tipperary | [www.flanagansonthelake.ie](http://www.flanagansonthelake.ie)

They are delighted to be partnered with Schweppes Ireland for our 2022 gin cruises.

Join them on board to explore the Schweppes signature collection and discover the perfect twist for your gin.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Listoke Distillery & Gin School

Now open for distillery tours as well as being the only gin School in Ireland, Listoke 1777 has become one of Ireland's most sought after visitor experience. Visit the school for a history of gin, gin tasting and an introduction to all that is gin.



# Things to Do in The Midlands & Lakelands

## Tipperary



### The Lough Derg Blueway

Imagine the scene - 13,000 hectares of clear water surrounded by beautiful and dramatic countryside in three Irish counties (Clare, Tipperary, and Galway), and traversed by a series of trails, on the water and on land, that provide the opportunity for exhilarating activities and wonderful adventures.

### Cahir Castle

Cahir's awesome castle enjoys a river-island site with moat, massive walls, turrets and keep, mullioned windows, vast fireplaces and dungeons. Founded by Conor O'Brien in 1142, and passed to the Butler family in 1375, it's one of Ireland's largest castles.



### The Rock of Cashel

The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most spectacular historic sites: a prominent green hill, banded with limestone outcrops, rising from a grassy plain and bristling with ancient fortifications. It's

a five-minute stroll from the town centre up to the Rock, from where fantastic views range over the Tipperary countryside.

### The Swiss Cottage

A 30-minute walk along a riverside path from Cahir Castle car park leads to this thatched cottage, surrounded by roses, lavender and honeysuckle. A lavish example of Regency Picturesque, the cottage was built in 1810 as a retreat for Richard Butler, 12th Baron Caher, and his wife, and was designed by London architect John Nash, creator of the Royal Pavilion at Brighton.

## Laois

### Emo Court

Emo Court is a country villa designed by architect James Gandon (1743-1823), best known for his great public buildings, including the Custom House and the Four Courts in Dublin. The house is a magnificent example of the neo-Classical style, reflecting the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland, which were first laid out in the 18th century and contain formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks, with many very fine trees and shrubs.



## Longford

### Center Parcs

Center Parcs first resort in Ireland offers everything you would expect from a quality, family break. Surrounded by up to 400 acres of trees, wildlife and natural landscapes, there's plenty of space to be explored.

### Corlea Trackway

Don't miss the magnificent Corlea Trackway, an Iron Age bog road built in 148 BC. An 18m stretch of the historic oak track, like a pavement, has been preserved in a humidified hall at the site's visitor centre. Tours detail the bog's unique flora and fauna, and explain how the track was discovered and methods used to preserve it.



## Westmeath

### Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum

A Personalized Tour Of Our Rural Past. Experience life in rural Ireland back in the nineteenth century, as you visit their folk museum. At the award-winning Derryglad Folk and Heritage Museum you can explore their collection of 7,500+ objects. Their guided tours take you back in time, through the village shops, the school room and kitchen as you learn the stories and traditions of long ago. Examine the butter churns and other Artifacts in the diary, see the old ploughs tractor and other farm machinery.



Discover the traditional self-sufficient culture of rural Ireland in days gone by. Enjoy their collection of sporting memorabilia, including historic items from Croke Park. Bring back memories from your childhood or introduce the next generation to the way we used to live.

### Athlone Castle

Now home to a museum, coffee shop and tourist centre, Athlone Castle was originally built in the 13th century. Take a tour to find out more about the local flora and fauna, world famous tenor John McCormack and the siege of 1691.



### Tullyally Castle and Gardens

Westmeath's Tullyally Castle and Gardens are located on hills overlooking Lough Derravaragh, the legendary lake of the Children of Lir, who were turned into swans. The estate has a long history that's calling out to be explored. The present owner, Thomas Pakenham, inherited the estate in 1961 and is a

passionate gardener bringing back seeds for the Forest Walk from plant hunting trips to China, Tibet and Northern India.

## Roscommon

### Boyle to Lough Key Cycle Way

Visitors can walk or cycle this scenic route from Boyle Marina along the banks of the Boyle Canal. Expect to see some amazing woodland before you reach the spectacular Lough Key. Along the way there's the opportunity to explore Boyle Abbey to learn about the town and its people, in King House.

### Elphin Windmill

Who doesn't love a windmill and the Elphin Windmill is the only fully restored windmill in the west of Ireland. Originally used for grinding corn and other grains, it has a spectacular thatched organic rye revolving roof and is now home to a visitor centre where you can learn more about the workings of the windmill. The on-site agricultural museum is home to a threshing machine, winnower and other grain harvesting machinery.

### Lough Key Forest Park

Steeped in history, Lough Key Forest Park is a vast mix of woodland and islands. It was once called Moylurg, where the McDermotts reigned until the 17th Century from their official residence on The Rock, now called Castle Island. Rockingham House was designed by the architect John Nash in 1809/10, while



landscaper John Sutherland laid out the park. Today the estate is home to an activity park for all the family to enjoy.

### River Shannon Cruise

Ireland's longest river is a true waterway beauty and its longest stretch flows through Co. Roscommon. Relax on the river and take in a number of the spectacular viewing points along the way. These include Boyle Harbour, which is nestled at the foot of the Curlew Mountains and can accommodate up to 28 boats. The Boyle River flows under Knockvicar Bridge where the village is home to Tara Marina. Roosky is a popular tourist village along the Shannon, famous for its angling. Cootehall, at the foot of the old 'Bawn' also has a 50-berth marina with amazing views. Tarmonbarry, Lanesborough, Ballyleague and Lecarrow are also among the many other villages worth exploring.

## Offaly

### Lough Borra Discovery Park

Transformed from its previous incarnation as a commercial bog where peat was harvested to heat homes around the country, today Lough Boora Discovery Park is home to countless species of birds and wildlife, fish-filled lakes and a permanent exhibition of huge outdoor sculptures. These sculptures give the park an other-worldly feel, created using the old industrial materials of the bog such as locomotives, rail-line and timber, all crafted into magnificent works of art.

## Meath

### Loughcrew Gardens

If you're looking for the perfect mix of history, beauty and fantasy Loughcrew Estate & Gardens in Oldcastle

is a magical experience that will be right up your street. The gardens themselves are a breath-taking spectacle of 17th and 19th Century landscaping and pleasure gardens.



### Hill of Tara

Explore Ireland's ancient spiritual and political capital at the Hill of Tara. For well over 2,000 years, royalty occupied Tara and the Five Ancient Roads of Ireland converged here, linking Crúachan, Rathcroghan in Co. Roscommon, Eamain Macha, Navan Fort in Co. Armagh and Dún Ailinne. The views of the surrounding countryside and rich pastureland are stunning. The hill is located 15 minutes from Navan off the N3.

### Rock Farm Slane

Rock Farm is an activity enthusiast's dream. Take a spin out by bike, explore by foot or hit the river by kayak, it's a great way to take in the beauty of the Boyne Valley and get a healthy dose of fresh air too. Rock Farm Slane Electric Bikes are also part of the Electric Escapes network. Or you can take part in guided walking tours of the Slane Castle Estate and Demense Woods.



# *Fáilte Ireland's Thoroughbred Country Experience Plan gets underway at The Curragh Racecourse*

**T**he Curragh Racecourse was the setting for a special thoroughbred industry workshop hosted by Fáilte Ireland to kick-start the Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP).

Members of the tourism and thoroughbred industries in Kildare and Tipperary including trainers' yards, stud farms and jockey schools gathered to commence the implementation of the Plan. This marked the first in a series of workshops and events to drive the plan throughout 2022.

The Thoroughbred Country DEDP, launched in partnership with Kildare and Tipperary County Councils, is a new 5-year development experience plan for the region that will bring to life the extraordinary thoroughbred horse tradition, the world-renowned horse people, their crafts and the breeding heritage that is synonymous with Ireland. The aim is to develop new tourism experiences within existing thoroughbred businesses in the region.

The visitor experiences, which will include attractions such as behind-the-scenes tours, will be developed by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with industry stakeholders over 8-months. Industry members will be offered mentorship to develop saleable tourism experiences for their businesses, driving

visitor numbers and enhancing the unique thoroughbred tourism offering in the area.

Brian O'Flynn, Head of Ireland's Ancient East at Fáilte Ireland, said:

"It is great to kick-off the implementation of the Thoroughbred Country DEDP with this workshop, attended by many key stakeholders from the tourism and thoroughbred industries in Tipperary and Kildare. The heritage and legacy of the thoroughbred is a hugely significant part of the tourism offering for Kildare and Tipperary and the country as a whole. We look forward to working with industry in the region to develop a suite of unique and exciting tourism products that will increase visitor numbers, dwell time and visitor revenue to Kildare and Tipperary."

Speaking at the event, Laura Magee, Thoroughbred Country Coordinator, said:

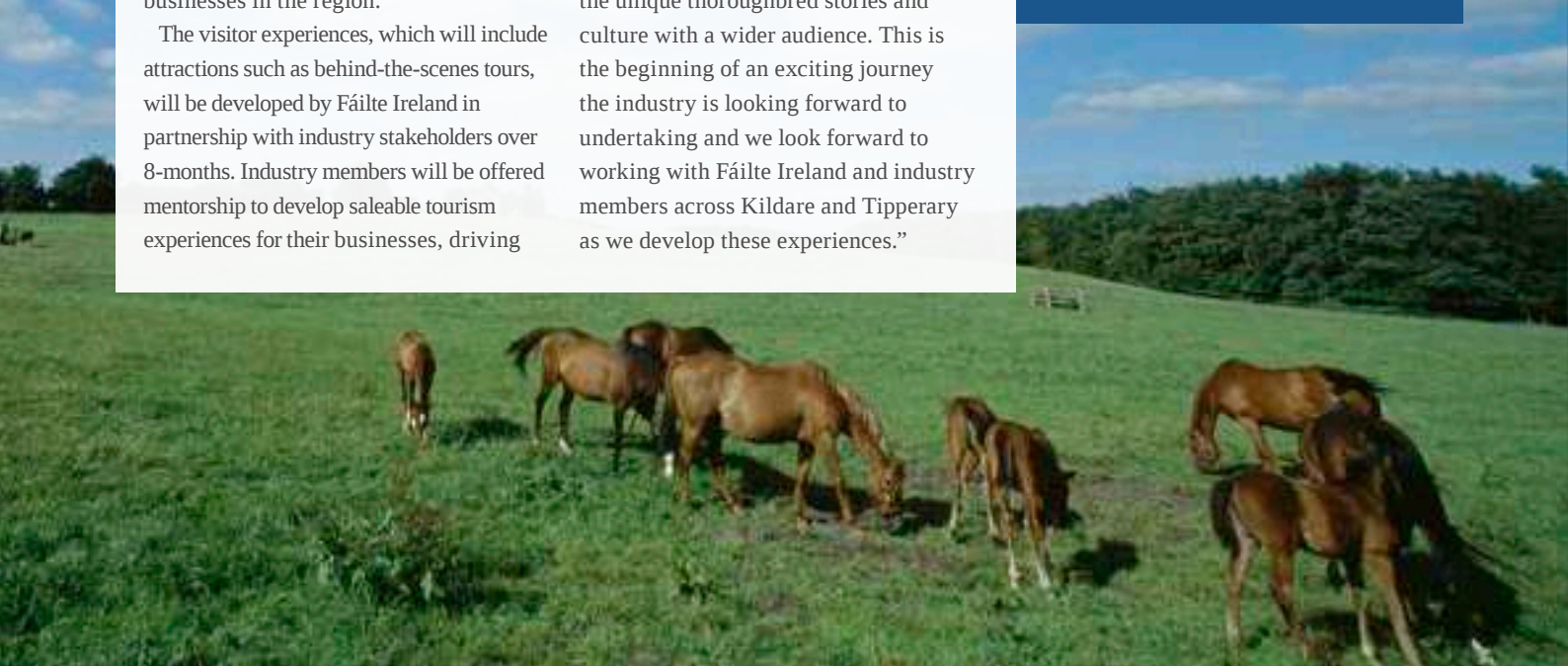
"This workshop is a great opportunity for the thoroughbred industry to collaborate with tourism colleagues and create experiences that will share the unique thoroughbred stories and culture with a wider audience. This is the beginning of an exciting journey the industry is looking forward to undertaking and we look forward to working with Fáilte Ireland and industry members across Kildare and Tipperary as we develop these experiences."



The Plan includes a number of innovative and ambitious initiatives to be developed in the region over the course of the plan including:

- The new International Thoroughbred Trail
- The Irish National Stud Experience
- Coolmore Experience
- Mingle with the Stars Stallion Trail
- The Curragh Behind the Scenes Tour
- Trainers' Yards Visits

The diversity and range of attractions and unique experiences across the counties will be highlighted and the plan will also develop a range of behind-the-scenes exclusive activities for tourists and visitors to the region.





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## **Q1 How does your normal day begin?**

6.30am alarm call, RTE Radio 1, Rising Tide followed by Morning Ireland first 15-minutes news and what's in the papers, then onto Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show. I'm a big Gift Grub Fan and Ireland AM is always on the TV in the background.



## **Q2 What are your biggest daily challenges?**

Creativity and Innovation, as I work with my team in this new and challenging environment to ensure our business survives and thrives into the future.

## **Q3 What do you love most about your job?**

No two days are the same. The role requires a high level of multitasking and that's something that I thrive on.

## **Q4 What do you do to relax?**

I sing and play guitar in the oldest boy band in town: "The Nomads". We are on a never-ending world tour. I love to cycle on the roads around my home and the Waterford Greenway, I have a special handcycle that I attach to my wheelchair and I also enjoy TV and

Films plus spending time with my wife Lourde, our dog Coco and my many friends.

## **Q5 Favourite staycation destination in Ireland and why?**

Achill Island. The natural beauty is unsurpassed..

## **Q6 Favourite holiday destination worldwide?**

Italy. The Amalfi Coast and city-break to Paris.

## **Q7 Favourite Business motto?**

Never Give Up Never Give In!

## **Q8 Advice for young businesses entering the tourism industry**

Be brave, be resilient and be creative. It's a dynamic industry and ever changing.

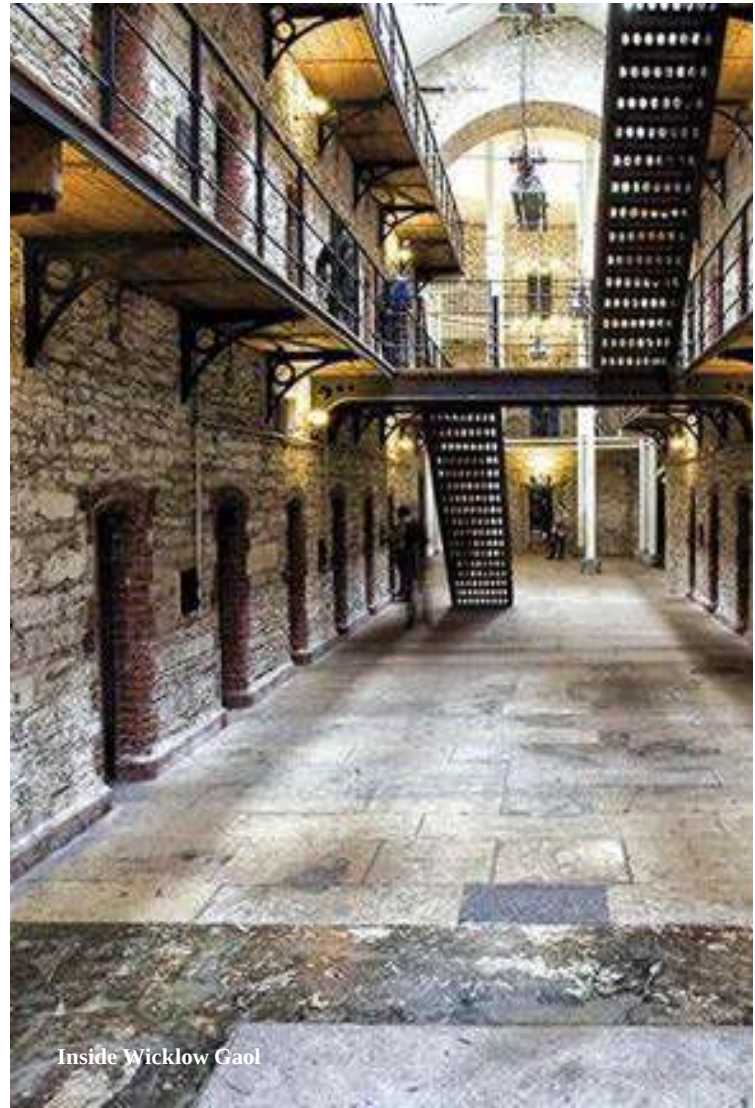


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# Things to Do in The South East

## Wexford

### Irish National Heritage Park

Located on the banks of the picturesque River Slaney, The Irish National Heritage Park truly is the cornerstone of Ireland's Ancient East. A not-for-profit outdoor museum, depicting 9,000 years of re-created Irish history, is situated within natural forestry and wet woodlands. Take an unforgettable journey through Ireland's past and experience stories, sights and sounds that shaped our country. So, what are you waiting for?



### Johnstown Castle & Gardens

The spectacular ornamental grounds and gardens surrounding the 19th Century castle were designed by Daniel Robertson, who is famed for the gardens at Powerscourt in Co. Wicklow. Stroll through the grounds with over 200 varieties of trees and shrubs. Relax by the castle lakeside with its Gothic towers, waterfalls and statues. Enjoy a picnic in the sunken Italian garden or museum courtyard. Watch the peacocks strut by and display their finery. View the ruins of Rathlannon Castle.



### Enniscorthy Castle

Enniscorthy Castle, in the heart of Enniscorthy town, was originally built in the 13th century, and has been 'home' to Norman knights, English armies, Irish rebels and prisoners, plus local merchant families. Why not visit the dungeon to see the rare medieval wall art - The Swordsman, or the battlements



at the top of the castle, to marvel at the amazing views of Vinegar Hill Battlefield, Enniscorthy town, and the sights, flora and fauna of the surrounding countryside.

### Wells House & Gardens

Wells House and Gardens is a Victorian-Tudor gothic country house museum, located around 7km outside of Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford. It was designed by Daniel Robertson in the 1830s.



### Waterford Crystal

Go behind the scenes and gain a better understanding of the time and work that goes into crystal making on a one-hour tour of the House of Waterford Crystal factory. Your guide explains the step-by-step process of crystal making, as you wander the rooms where different techniques are used along the way. Meet a few of the high-end crystal makers, and visit the retail store where you can explore one of the world's largest displays of Waterford Crystals.



### Waterford Greenway

Waterford Greenway is a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway line which runs between Waterford and Dungarvan. From the Viking City alongside





the River Suir, out by Mount Congreve Gardens, through Kilmacthomas, across 11 bridges, over three impressive viaducts and through a 400m long tunnel, with wonderful views of the Comeragh Mountains and Dungarvan Bay.

### Epic tour of the Viking Triangle

Step back in time and explore Irish history from the Viking to the Victorian era on this one hour Viking Triangle tour in Waterford. Follow your guide through this ancient Irish city and visit six national monuments including Reginald's Tower, Greyfriars Friary, Choristers' Hall, the Mayor's Wine Vault and the Bishop's Palace. Gain insight into Ireland's colourful past and learn of the invasions, battles and victories which shaped the country we know today. Admire archaeological treasures from centuries passed and trace Ireland's architecture through the generations.



### Comeragh Drive

The Comeragh trail takes you out on to the N25 from Waterford. Head towards Dungarvan and at the village of Leamybrien, follow the signs for the Comeragh Drive and Mahon Falls. The Comeragh Mountains are awe-inspiringly beautiful with changing terrain, fabulous views and sheep are grazing everywhere. Mahon Falls are on the way up and cascade down the mountainside to the base. Clouds sit on the mountaintops and add to the picturesque beauty of the place.



## Kilkenny

### Rothe House and Garden

Rothe House and Garden is a bit of a hidden gem in Killarney. From the street, it just looks like a beautiful old building; which it is. But while Rothe House is a stunning building, and the only one of its kind remaining in Ireland, it also is a museum and has a lovely garden in the back. Rothe House dates back to the early 1600s and is actually made up of three houses. The museum inside contains historical artefacts, both found in the Kilkenny area and donated

by residents. Tours are self-guided, with the gardens in the back being a highlight for many.



### St. Mary's Cathedral

Located on the highest point of Kilkenny, St. Mary's Cathedral is easy to spot. This impressive Cathedral is created from cut limestone, all of which was sourced locally when it was built in the 1800s. It's free to visit and definitely worth a walk around and a visit inside to examine the beautiful architecture.



### National Craft Gallery And Kilkenny Design Centre

Kilkenny may be known as Ireland's Medieval City but it's also known for its local artisans and craft shops. Established in 2000, the National Craft Gallery is located in what was once the stable yard of Kilkenny Castle. The exhibitions here feature local and international artists who work with a variety of materials and techniques



### Kilkenny Way Hurling Experience

Fun fact: Hurling in Ireland means something completely different than it does in North America. It's a sport, and no, there's no excessive drinking or being sick involved. The sport of Hurling is 3,000 years old and you can delve into that history at the Kilkenny Hurling Way Experience. Packages here include a museum visit, introduction video to the sport, learning some skills, and then watching a game over lunch at the bar.







# for the THRILL OF IT!

Be it on land or water, for newbies or novices, heart pounding is guaranteed with an abundance of extreme sports available, as Niamh Wade explores.

Looking to test the water with some kitesurfing? In Dublin, Puremagic or Kitesurfing Dublin will kit you out. Southbound suggestions include Hooked Kitesurfing in Duncannon, Co. Wexford and 360Kitesurfing who offer rentals and lessons in various locations in Dublin, Wexford and Waterford. Own your own gear? County Louth proves popular with shallow, choppy waters. Another wild wetsuit-wearing activity is windsurfing, with suitable spots dotted from Cooley Point, Co. Louth to Cobh, Co. Cork.

If you would rather not be reliant on wind, let a speedboat or cable pull you along wearing skis or a board. Strap into a wakeboard in the heart of Dublin City at Grand Canal Dock with Wakedock, pop to Wake 'n' Ski in Summerhill Co. Meath or give it a whirl at Stillwaters Waterski and Wakeboard Centre in Co. Kildare. Or if the 1994 movie 'The River Wild' inspired you to brave gushing rapids, white-water rafting can be found close to the capital in Palmerstown on the River Liffey with Rafting.ie. In Kilkenny, Go With The Flow River Adventures offers a similar experience but in Canadian canoes. Or pop to County Meath for fresh water fun with Boyne Valley Activities.

Perhaps jumping off cliffs from various heights into water is more your thing? If so, head to Hook Head in County Wexford for coasteering with The Irish Experience or continue south and take a leap of faith with Ardmore Adventures in Co. Waterford. If in search of underwater

life, suggested scuba diving destinations include counties Galway, Clare and Dublin.

For a slightly drier adrenaline buzz, whizz through forests on muddy mountain biking trails in stunning surrounds on two wheels. Popular places for rentals include Ticknock Hill in County Dublin with biking, ie, GAP (Glencullen Adventure Park) in Co. Wicklow and Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails in Co. Limerick. And in Belmont Demesne, Co. Wicklow, practice pedalling on a pump track with Fat Bike Adventures.

Or, get to grips with some bouldering, rock climbing or abseiling, in either indoor or outdoor settings. Book an instructor and learn the ropes in Dalkey Quarry, Co. Dublin or rock your skills in Carlingford Adventure Centre, Co. Louth. For wet weather days in Dublin, hang out at Awesome Walls, Gravity, The Wall or The Dublin Climbing Centre.

If high speed and loud engines gets you going, sit behind the wheel of a Formula One car and blast around the track at Mondello

Park in Co. Kildare. Soar over magical landscapes of Wicklow or Galway with Paragliding Ireland or, for the ultimate high, jump out of a plane with the Irish Parachute Club in Co. Offaly or the Irish Skydiving Club in Co. Kilkenny. Whatever ignites the senses, embrace it – life is for living.



Dalkey Quarry  
Courtesy Nomos Production

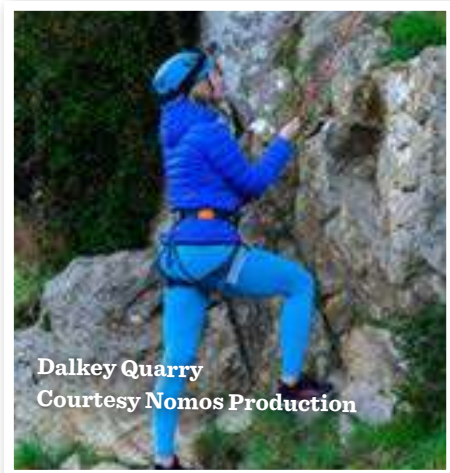


Rafting.ie





**The Gap, Glencullen  
Adventure Park**



**Dalkey Quarry  
Courtesy Nomos Production**



**Kitesurfing  
Credit Patrick Murtagh**



**Kitesurfing  
Credit Patrick Murtagh**



**The Gap, Glencullen  
Adventure Park**



**Dalkey Quarry  
Courtesy Nomos Production**



**Kitesurfing  
Credit Patrick Murtagh**



**The Gap, Glencullen  
Adventure Park**



# Wexford

The Sunny Southeast for Families



*How to spend two great family days in Wexford*

There are few places in Ireland where you can stay in a ringfort, feed an alpaca and jump in a sea kayak - but the family fun never stops in Wexford.

Escape to the County Wexford coast and discover the beaches in Curracloe and Tramore or head south to Kilmore Quay and use it as a launchpad to explore the Saltee Islands - one of the best places in Ireland to see puffins in the wild.

Plan your trip now and see why people love all the great places to visit in Wexford.

## **Curracloe Beach**

Just 20-minutes up the road, the white sands of the epic Curracloe Beach stretch from Raven Point to Blackwater. If you're braving a dip, this is a Blue Flag beach, but exploring the nature trail and running through the enormous dunes is enough to keep everyone entertained.

## **The Irish National Heritage Park**

Just ten minutes from Wexford Town, at The Irish National Heritage Park, you can bed down in an authentic wooden Viking House on the shore of the River Slaney. Keep an eye out for invaders, cook on an open fire and live like a Norseman within this wattle-walled, thatched-roof dwelling.

## **Enniscorthy Castle**

Dress up as knights at Enniscorthy Castle. The costume area will entertain the kids as they take the self-guided tour. Head up to the roof to take in stunning views as far as the battleground at Vinegar Hill and see authentic bullet holes - sure to impress the kids.



## **The Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience**

Another half-hour inland, board the replica 1840s emigrant boat at The Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience in New Ross. Immerse yourself in life below deck as costumed performers guide you through the fateful journey that was taken by far too many,

## **Fethard-On -Sea, Ireland's 'sunniest corner' what to do, eat and where to stay**

Located on the Hook Peninsula in Ireland's 'sunniest corner', Fethard-on-Sea is a small and beautiful coastal village on the Hook Peninsula. The village has some lovely pubs and restaurants serving fresh seafood; some incredible family activities and magnificent beaches. This is a special village that will take you back in time and its endless charm will stay with visitors forever.

## **Hook Lighthouse**

Continue south to Hook Head Peninsula, at Wexford's southern-most tip. The iconic striped Hook Lighthouse is the main draw, with daily tours and epic sea views.

## **Take the Ferry to Dunmore East**

The Passage East Ferry will take the whole family, car and all, across the water to Dunmore East in Waterford. See who gets knocked out first at Wibit Wipeout, the country's most significant inflatable obstacle course on water, at Dunmore Adventure.





**T**he Strand Cahore is a long-held dream realised by proprietors Aileen and Patrick Hanley. This stunning eatery sits atop a hill facing out towards the great Irish Sea, just outside the quiet seaside village of Ballygarrett, Co. Wexford and 1 hour from Dublin.

With years of extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Aileen & Patrick spent five years looking for the perfect location to realise their dream of opening their establishment. Constant searches kept bringing their attention back to a pub located on Cahore Pier with much potential. Thus, The Strand Cahore came to be.

Aileen and Patrick's experience in the food and hospitality industry makes the dining experience at The Strand Cahore exceptional. Putting their hotelier stamp on the place, visitors are greeted with a warm and personable welcome. The decor and ambience of The Strand Cahore are influenced by that of a traditional Irish Pub, inviting locals or passers-by to sit back and relax in comfort with a good pint or glass of wine. At the same time,



# The Strand Cahore

they enjoy a meal of delicious local fayre.

So, what can visitors expect from a meal at The Strand Cahore? Aileen and Patrick are dedicated to bringing the best flavours to the plate and so have scoured the country for great tasting ingredients. These include a tremendous herb-crusted Rack of Kerry Lamb. Kerry Lamb grazes on heather and grasses, giving an irresistible flavour, resulting in a simple yet carefully constructed dish

that goes back to basics and treats diners.

While they have created a recipe for success with their seaside venture, they're not resting on their laurels. They finally purchased this iconic property in June of 2021, and now that they have it lovingly in their hands, Whatever the future may hold, it's clear that a knack for hospitality and a passion for good food is a winning combination when it comes to The Strand Cahore.



*The Strand Cahore, a residential award winning licensed bar and restaurant with a history spanning more than 80 years and now owned by the Hanley family.*

*In a unique position overlooking the safe swimming beach and pier at Cahore Point with sweeping views over the sea to Wicklow Head. A destination which holds a special place in the hearts of many generations and only one hour from Dublin.*

*A stunning venue for your wedding or special event that will live long in the memory thanks to our breath taking location as well as our friendly and professional service.*

*Our passion for food has been recognised by the Good Food Ireland network thanks to our focus on the freshness, flavours and local produce.*



The Strand Cahore  
Cahore Pier, Gorey  
Co. Wexford, Y25 K063

Ph: 053 94 27486  
Email: [bookings@thestrandcahore.ie](mailto:bookings@thestrandcahore.ie)

[www.thestrandcahore.ie](http://www.thestrandcahore.ie)



# 9 things everyone should experience in

# County Kilkenny

*Wander the charming streets of Kilkenny and discover its secrets. Cobbled streets filled with medieval charm, ancient caves, an abundance of local craft and plenty of craic – it's easy to see why a visit to Kilkenny makes for a brilliant break. Here's our pick of must-visit activities in the Marble City and beyond.*

## 1: Kilkenny Castle, Park and Gardens

Although you'll find Kilkenny Castle right in the heart of the city, once you're inside its walls you'll feel like you've travelled back in time. Originally built by the Normans in 1195, Kilkenny Castle, with its magnificent gardens, woodland paths and a man-made lake, all added in the 19th century, is the perfect place to forget about the real world.

## 2: St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower

The Round Tower of St. Canice's Cathedral, is the oldest standing structure in Kilkenny and, weather permitting, you can climb to the top of its 30-metres for



incredible views of the city and nearby countryside. The religious roots of the site go back centuries, evident in the tombstones and round-headed stained-glass windows.

## 3: Kilkenny's Medieval Mile and Medieval Mile Museum

Running through the centre of Kilkenny City, The Medieval Mile is a discovery trail linking St. Canice's Cathedral, the Anglo-Norman Castle and much more in between. The Medieval Mile Pass gives you access to everything on the trail, as well as discounts for various cafes and restaurants and is the best value way to see the attractions along the route.

## 4: Butler Gallery

Experience the incredible exhibitions at the Butler Gallery, just steps from the edge of the River Nore in the centre of Kilkenny City. Admire art by Irish and international artists spanning contemporary works, 18th-century pieces and a magnificent collection of prints, sculptures and photos.

## 5: Jerpoint Glass Studio

Take a 20-minute spin to pretty Thomastown to check out a business where playing with fire is actively encouraged. Here you'll find Jerpoint Glass Studio, run by the four siblings whose parents established the internationally-renowned business in 1979. Every piece is made by hand and you'll be able to watch skilled glassblowers manipulate the red-hot molten glass.

## 6: Jerpoint Abbey and Jerpoint Park

While you're there, nearby Jerpoint Abbey is wonderfully preserved from its 1158 origins. It offers a fascinating glimpse into the life of the Cistercian monks who once lived there. Afterwards, take a walk, or a drive to Jerpoint Park where you can see the remains of a deserted medieval town.

## 7: Dunmore Caves

Fancy visiting one of the darkest places in Ireland? A place where Viking history and myths come to life before your eyes? At Dunmore Caves, voyage deep into chilly chambers formed over millions of years, discovering stories of archaeological finds from 928 AD.



## 8: Castlecomer Discovery Park

Put the phones down and let nature take over at Castlecomer Discovery Park where treetop walks, climbing walls, ziplines, canoeing and orienteering are just some of the activities you can enjoy with the family.



## 9: Highbank Organic Orchards

The Calder-Potts family produce delicious apple juices, ciders and their cult product, Highbank Organic Orchard Syrup at Highbank Organic Orchards in Cuffesgrange, just ten minutes outside Kilkenny City.





# *Visitors* **WELCOME**



## **CONTACT OUR GOLF TEAM**

**Killarney Golf & Fishing Club**

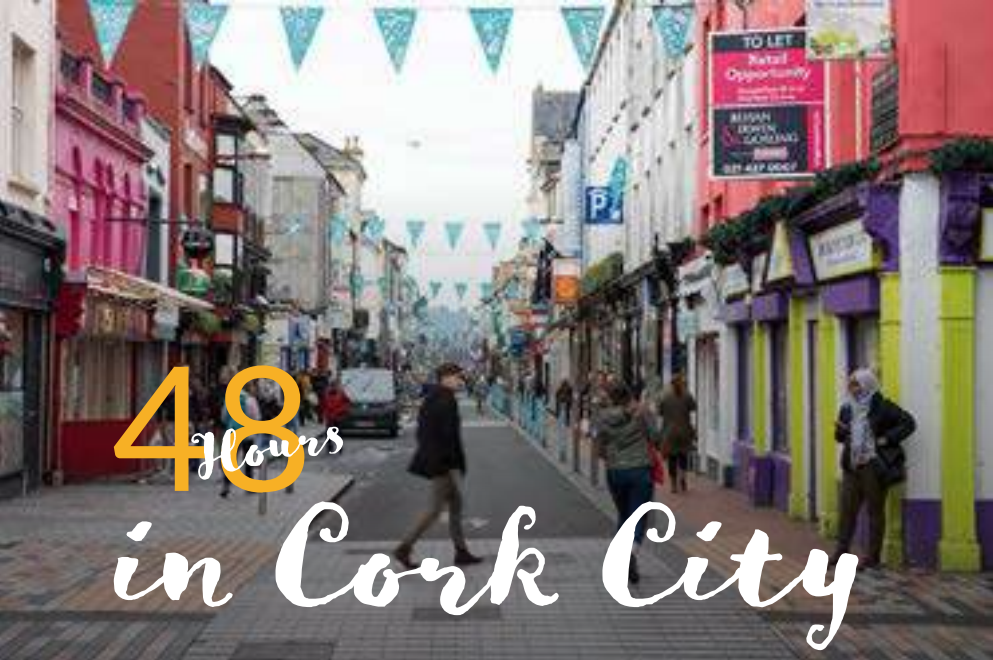
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SET IN KILLARNEY'S NATIONAL PARK  5 MINUTES FROM TOWN CENTRE





### Indulge in a theatrical night out

Take in a show or performance in one of Cork's local arts venues. The Triskel Arts Centre hosts astonishing exhibitions and is a regular event space in the old Christchurch building.

For a more luxurious night out, The Cork Opera House is a national cultural institution with a world-class programme of events. Or, head along to The Everyman, a much-adored intimate Victorian theatre with a vibrant programme and stunning décor.

### Shandon, just across the River Lee

Just across the River Lee, the Shandon area of the city is a maze of winding streets just waiting to be explored.

### Take a food and drink break

Don't miss the locally roasted coffee at Cork Coffee Roasters in Bridge Street, before choosing the perfect spot for lunch in the area. The Liberty Grill on Washington Street, Idaho Café on Caroline Street or the Quay Co-Op, a vegetarian restaurant on Sullivan's Quay, are some of the local's favourites.

### Cork City Walking Tour

After lunch, take a walking tour to hear about Cork's intriguing merchant and maritime past. Go explore the 7th century Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, just a five-minute walk from the Grand Parade. Step into the warmth of the Mutton Lane Inn or the Long Valley Bar for its poetry and open mic sessions. Kick back and chat with the locals, which is the perfect finish to an action-packed short break in Cork City.

**Explore cosmopolitan Cork City with its 17th-century alleys and revitalised stretches of waterfront.**

**Check out the Cork Opera House and indulge in local food, drinks and retail therapy in the pubs, shops, cafés and restaurants on the charming narrow streets.**

**Here's the best way to spend a getaway to Cork City.**

### The heart of Cork City

The best way to get an overview of Cork is from the top of one of the open-top tour buses. These frequent bus tours give you the lay of the land from the start of your trip, so you can plan your stay and decide on which of the many attractions to visit.

### Cork City Gaol

This is a great choice for a first stop. See what 19th and early 20th century life was like in Cork, both inside and outside of historic prison walls when you visit the Cork City Gaol

### Lewis Glucksman Gallery

Follow up your trip to the Gaol with a coffee

at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery in University College Cork (UCC). This gallery places education at the heart of its activities with screenings, workshops and tours exploring art in greater depth.

### Crawford Gallery

Visit The Crawford Gallery, Munster's regional art museum and much loved cultural institution. Admission to the Gallery and exhibitions is free.

### The English Market

For food lovers, a visit to this fascinating market with origins that trace back to the times of King James I in 1610. A mix of traditional Cork fare and exciting new foods from afar feature in this wonderful market with long-standing family-run stalls contributing to its unique atmosphere.





# Where Art and Ideas meet across the centuries...

Crawford Art Gallery is a national cultural institution located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary.

The gallery's collection comprises of over 3,000 works, ranging from eighteenth-century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations.

Crawford Art Gallery's historic building provides an oasis of calm and tranquillity in the heart of Cork city. Welcoming local, national and international audiences the gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's custom house, the Gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to the city of Cork two centuries ago. Well-known and

loved works by 20th century Irish artists such as Seán Keating, Harry Clarke, Norah McGuinness, Mainie Jellett and Jack B. Yeats feature in the gallery's historic collection, while the modern collection features work by contemporary artists such as Eilis O'Connell, Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Maud Cotter and Hughie O'Donoghue

The Gallery is free to enter and no booking is required.

Free Guided Tours every Sunday and Bank holiday at 2:00pm

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Thursday until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays

11.00 am–4.00pm

Please see our website for current exhibitions:

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/exhibitions/>



## Crawford Art Gallery

### Three centuries of Art in the Heart of Cork City

**Open Daily | Free Entry**

**No booking required**

**Award Winning Café**

**Tours**

**Sunday & Bank Holiday 2pm**

**Free | No booking | First come basis**

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Thursday until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays Gallery: 11.00 am–4.00pm

Image: venividiphot





# Exciting family fun ON A SHORT BREAK IN WATERFORD

Award winning beaches, Ireland's longest Greenway and an exhilarating amusement park are perfect for active families. There're so many things to do in Waterford with kids – start planning your short break now.

## UNCOVER THE VIKING PAST OF WATERFORD CITY

Begin your trip to Waterford City by taking a step back in time to the age of the Vikings. First settled by the ferocious Vikings in the 800s, experience what life was like in Ireland's oldest city at King of the Vikings, the world's first Viking-based virtual reality experience.

Just around the corner from King of the Vikings, is Waterford Medieval Museum, where you can keep your little ones busy for an afternoon.

## SURROUND YOURSELF IN NATURE ON THE WATERFORD GREENWAY

Make your way back into the city and bring the family on an adventure along the Waterford Greenway, Ireland's longest Greenway. The 46km trail starts just a few minutes-walk from the train station and winds its way along the banks of the River Suir and along the stunning coast to the harbourside town of Dungarvan.

Teenagers may want to cycle the entire route, stopping off at the trailside attractions like the mysterious Durrow Tunnels and the historic Suir Valley Railway.

## HAVE A PERFECT SEASIDE DAY IN TRAMORE

No family trip to sunny Waterford is complete without spending some time in lively Tramore's just a 20-minute drive from Waterford City. Make some memories with the little ones on its immaculate Blue Flag Tramore Beach.

Adventurous families can head to Oceanics Surf School or Tramore Surf School and get a surf lesson from one of the qualified coaches.

Amusements have long been a seaside favourite for the whole family so spend some time at Tramore Amusement Park on the promenade for some exciting fairground rides.

## WHILE YOU'RE IN WATERFORD DISCOVER DUNMORE EAST

There's no shortage of stunning beaches in Waterford that are perfect for a family day out but if you have the time it's well worth making the short drive to the fishing village of Dunmore East, just 20km southeast of Waterford City.

For an action-packed day bring the whole family to Dunmore Adventure for a day of fun on the water. See if you can master the giant stand-up paddleboard or try your hand at completing Wibit Wipeout, an inflatable obstacle course on the water.

## IF YOU HAVE THE TIME IN WATERFORD EXPLORE THE COPPER COAST

Take the family on a self-guided tour from Tramore to Dungarvan along The Copper Coast and you'll discover the deserted coves and rugged cliffs of this UNESCO Geopark. Pick your way along the coastline and stop off at viewpoints to snap some unbeatable family-photos.





# Passage East Ferry

We provide an efficient service for both commuters and tourists. With easy access to Waterford City, Dunmore East, Waterford Greenway in Waterford and New Ross, Duncannon, the Hook Peninsula and Wexford town in Wexford, there is an abundance of things to see and do.

Board the ferry at either Passage East or Ballyhack and begin an unforgettable voyage of discovery across the historic River Suir. Savour the view down towards the mouth of the Waterford estuary and pick out the world's oldest operational lighthouse in the distance. Enjoy the views from our viewing deck and make sure to bring your camera to create a memory of the many sights worth capturing.

- We run a continuous shuttle service roughly every 15 mins from each side, just show up whenever you need to cross.
- You do not need to prebook, tickets are available to purchase online or onboard with cash and card payments accepted.
- For further information contact us at 051-382480, [info@passageferry.ie](mailto:info@passageferry.ie).



**PASSAGE  
EAST FERRY**

## Welcome to the Sunny South East.

The Passage East Ferry is a continuous shuttle service across the historic river Suir, joining the small fishing villages of Passage East, Co. Waterford and Ballyhack, Co. Wexford. Situated just 15 mins from Waterford City you're a stone's throw from glorious beaches in Duncannon, the outstanding Hook Peninsula where you will find the world's oldest operational lighthouse Hook Lighthouse, the Waterford Greenway, Waterford City with the Viking Triangle and there's also plenty to see and do in New Ross and Dunmore East. Take the scenic route and save time and money on your adventure.

***Tickets can be purchased on board or online.***



## Sailing Times:

**First Sailing:** Weekdays-07:00 (all year),  
Sundays & Public Holidays 09:30 (all year)  
**Last Sailing:** 1st Sep-31st May 20:00,  
1st June-31st Aug 21:00

## Contact:

**Address:** Barracks St, Passage East, Co. Waterford  
**Tel:** 051382480  
**Email:** [info@passageferry.ie](mailto:info@passageferry.ie)  
**Web:** [www.passageferry.ie](http://www.passageferry.ie)



# Things to Do in The North East

## Lough



### Carlingford Ferry

Discover the myths and legends of the iconic Carlingford Lough and explore the scenic route between Dublin and Belfast with a journey onboard Carlingford Lough Ferry.

Located midway between Dublin and Belfast, Carlingford Lough Ferry connects the dramatic Cooley Peninsula at the beginning of Ireland's Ancient East in the Republic of Ireland with the majestic Mountains of Mourne, the gateway to Northern Ireland.

Board the ferry at Greenore or Greencastle Terminal and begin an unforgettable voyage of discovery across one of Ireland's most scenic & legendary Loughs. Experience unparalleled views of the majestic Mourne Mountains sweeping down to Carlingford Lough and the dramatic Cooley Peninsula and enjoy unique 360-degree panoramic views from the visitor viewing deck. And if you're lucky, you'll get to see Finn, the Lough's resident dolphin, as you're crossing.

General Information: The ferry carries all categories of vehicles including: cars, coaches, caravans, campervans & motorbikes. They offer School Tour Packages that include a visit to the Greenore Museum and a guided tour of the Lough and surrounding area. Their Wedding Transfer Packages include free travel for the bride and groom and complimentary bubbles. They offer discounted Group rates for special interest Clubs such as Cycling, Motorbike and Classic Cars For further information on any of their packages please email: [info@carlingfordferry.com](mailto:info@carlingfordferry.com)



### Carlingford to Omeath Greenway

The Greenway is open for walkers allowing stunning views of Carlingford Lough and Slieve Foye, The Greenway takes the walker and cyclist along the shoreline and travels from Omeath to Carlingford. It uses the old railway line between Omeath and Carlingford, offering spectacular views of the Cooley Peninsula and Carlingford Lough. It certainly has proved quite popular for tourists and locals alike.

The locals are tremendously proud of the new facility and if you're wondering where to enter it do not hesitate in getting in touch with [visitcarlingford.com](http://visitcarlingford.com) or asking the locals.. It is really a fantastic ponder along the shore of Carlingford Lough and is already proving extremely popular with cyclists and walkers.

### Old Mellifont Abbey

In its Anglo-Norman prime, this abbey, 1.5km off the main Drogheda - Collon Road (R168), was the Cistercians' first and most magnificent centre in Ireland. Highly evocative and well worth exploring, the ruins still reflect the site's former splendour. Mellifont's most recognisable building and one of the country's finest examples of Cistercian architecture is the 13th-century lavabo, the monks' octagonal washing room.



### Sonairte

At this inspiring, not-for-profit ecology centre, 10km southeast of Drogheda in Laytown, on an 18th-century former farm, you can wander through a walled organic garden, visit a beekeeping museum and take a biodiverse nature trail and river walk that incorporates wetlands, woodlands and grasslands. Recharge at its organic cafe or browse its home and garden shops.



## Cavan & Leitrim

### Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark



The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark inhabits the rugged mountainous uplands and the gentle rolling lowlands of counties Cavan and Fermanagh. Taking in the world-famous Marble Arch



Showcave, and the Cavan Burren Park, the park showcases some of the finest natural landscapes in Ireland and offers a window into the area's 650-million year past. A must for fans of geology, archaeology, history, folklore, wildlife and activities such as cycling and walking.



### Spend a morning kayaking around the fairytale-like Clough Oughter Castle

Clough Oughter Castle is located on a small island on Lough Oughter, which is a complex maze of waterways, islands and ninety small lakes along the course of the River Erne. Lough Oughter itself is home to a huge variety of birds that include mallard, tufted duck and in the winter months, wigeon and pochard.

This site is perfect for the historian, adventurer and nature enthusiast in all of us.

### Glencar Waterfall Leitrim

A magical experience, Glencar Waterfall is famous for being an inspiration to Ireland's greatest poet William Butler Yeats and features in his poem The Stolen Child. The waterfall reaches 50ft high and is situated at Glencar Lough. A short, picturesque wooded walk offers varied

viewing platforms to enjoy the waterfall. Entry is free. There's also a car park, picnic area and children's playground at this wheelchair friendly location.

### Shannon Blueway

Ireland's blueways are a network of stunning trails along idyllic lakes, canals and rivers that you can escape into the great outdoors by canoe, bike or on foot. A series of on-water and land-based trails run from Leitrim, through Roscommon and into Co. Longford. The walking and cycling trails start on Ireland's first floating boardwalk at Acres Lake in Drumshanbo.



### Belturbet Heritage Railway

Trainspotters and lovers of the old railways will be right at home at Belturbet Heritage Railway, which was once the Northern Terminus for the Cavan - Leitrim Railway Line. You'll find it on the banks of the River Erne in the village of Belturbet. Guided tours are available but booking is essential.

### Lough Muckno Leisure Park

Lough Muckno Leisure Park is situated close to the centre of the mid Monaghan town of Castleblayney. The lake itself is the largest and most beautiful of Monaghan's lakes with spectacular views of the surrounding area. The park is set on 900 acres of wooded terrain. The Park is open all year, seven days-a-week.



### Monaghan County Museum

Monaghan County Museum has been serving the people of Monaghan for over 40-years, during which, it has diversified to match the needs of a changing community. This award-winning museum has a professional commitment to excellence in caring for and displaying its collection, as well as making that collection as accessible as possible both intellectually and physically.

The museum has a number of outreach exhibitions throughout the county. The museum displays have been recently updated with new accessible exhibits and the museum website and Facebook page both have up to date information on collections and events.

### Brú na Bóinne – Newgrange.

The Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre is the starting point for all visits to the monuments of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Brú na Bóinne, notably the passage graves of Newgrange and Knowth. It is located eight kilometres west of Drogheda in County Meath, Ireland.



### Trim Castle

Trim Castle is a castle on the south bank of the River Boyne in Trim, County Meath, Ireland, with an area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Over a period of 30 years, it was built by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter as the caput of the Lordship of Meath.





## 60 seconds Q&A with... GABE SAGLIE



**G**abe Saglie is senior editor for Travelzoo, a global travel media company. Based in Los Angeles, he is Travelzoo's primary media liaison and works with various news outlets and destinations, on a variety of projects, to keep consumers abreast of the evolving travel landscape and to promote travel. He is also a long-time wine writer and lives with his wife, Renee, their three children and their Golden Retriever.

### **Q1** *How does your normal day begin?*

Throughout the pandemic, mornings have been all about information overload. A lot of reading and consumption of news updates at the beginning of each day, better allows me to understand changing industry rules, evolving consumer sentiment and how it all affects travel both in the U.S. and abroad.

### **Q2** *What are your biggest daily challenges?*

A big part of my job is communicating with travellers through media and various Travelzoo initiatives and to encourage them to travel. Keeping current with requirements that differ from state to state and country to country, and to creatively push travel, amidst varying individual comfort levels, is fun but challenging.

### **Q3** *What do you love most about your job?*

I've been lucky – travel has always been part of my life (a big thank you to my Chilean globe-trotting parents). Now, I spend most of my days analysing travel trends and producing various consumer-friendly content around travel. And I get to walk the walk – to travel to destinations both near and far, I love it!

### **Q4** *What do you do to relax?*

Among the wonders of living in Southern California, is the weather – the outdoors offers plenty of ways to relax. Throughout the pandemic, biking and hiking trails in my local Santa Monica Mountains, as well as swimming laps at my local gym, have become effective and fun ways to unplug and recharge.

### **Q5** *Favourite staycation destination in Ireland and why?*

I love every corner of the island. But, I have special places in my heart for the Wild Atlantic Way and the Boyne Valley. In part, these are places where I've developed wonderful friendships over the years. They are also epicentres for gorgeous landscapes, fascinating history and amazing food.

### **Q6** *Favourite holiday destination worldwide?*

Hawaii holds a special place in my heart because it's become my family's tried and true vacation destination. We've

been blessed with the opportunity to travel once a year to islands like Maui and the Big Island and it's become the one dependable place where the five of us can detach from reality and reconnect with each other.

### **Q7** *Favourite Business motto?*

"Take the bite now, worry about chewing it later." My late dad said this to me when I was young – his way of encouraging me to never turn down opportunities that come my way. Life and the universe, he'd tell me, will find a way to make it all the pieces fit. It's advice that rings true for me to this day – I feel best when I'm juggling multiple things at once.

### **Q8** *Advice for young business entrepreneurs*

Don't think of your career as a job, but as a lifestyle. Loving what you do – even when it gets tough, even when you stumble – goes hand in hand with happiness, and it makes it easier to balance life when your to-do list – both professionally and personally – gets long.





## Hire a bike and explore **THE HIDDEN HEARTLANDS**

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# the 8 BEST THINGS TO DO IN COUNTY LAOIS

A county peppered with fascinating historical sites, set amongst beautiful scenery and some of Ireland's most impressive gardens, Laois is the perfect spot to visit for your next adventure. Here are eight things you can't miss while you're in Laois.

## 1: Heywood Gardens

With over 50-acres of stunning gardens, lakes and woodland, Heywood Gardens near Ballinakill, is a fascinating place to get out and explore. Frederick Trench created the romantic park in the late 1700s, inspired by a tour of Europe. These were followed by the creation of formal gardens in the 1900s by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.

## 2: Timahoe Round Tower

Discover one of Ireland's most elegant examples of existing 12th-century stonework at Timahoe Round Tower, just outside Portlaoise, with its Romanesque doorway and carved heads decorating the entrance. Cross the footbridge over the Bauteogue River to admire the Tower's 30m height and enjoy a family picnic in the surrounding parklands.

## 3: Rock of Dunamase

You might recognise the Rock of Dunamase from the film 'Leap Year' but the crumbling, Celtic fortress not far from Portlaoise is even more impressive in real life. Roam the ruins and imagine their former grandiosity before it was destroyed in the Cromwellian invasion in 1650. It stands atop a steep rock, so head to the highest point and soak in the spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

## 4: Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum

Step back in time to the evocative Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum, built during the 1850s, to hear the story of the families who lived and died within its walls in famine times.

## 5: Take a narrowboat on the Grand Canal

Hop on a narrowboat from Barrowline Cruisers on the Grand Canal, which flows through County Laois, to explore the waterways and unspoilt beauty of the Barrow Valley. You don't need to be a seasoned captain to give it a go. Relax and enjoy the passing countryside along the canal

## 6: Emo Court House

There's a long and colourful history to be uncovered at Emo Court House near Portarlinton, if you can pull yourself inside from its beautiful gardens. Designed by noted architect James Gandon, the neo-classical mansion has been restored to its former glory and guided tours are available hourly. While you wait, explore the formal gardens that were initially laid out in the 18th century.

## 7: Slieve Bloom Mountains

Take a walk in the stunning Slieve Bloom mountains and discover various landscapes, from blanket bogs and forestry paths to wooded valleys and mountain streams. Enjoy some of the best walks in Laois; there are 16 looped trails to choose from with something to suit all ages and levels. The Glenbarrow Eco walk will teach you about the environment as you enjoy the ten-stop trek.

## 8: Glamping in Laois

Experience an unforgettable night under the stars and enjoy a boutique-style camping adventure at the foot of Cullenagh Mountain, at the family-owned Glamping Under the Stars campsite. Take in the idyllic countryside views surrounding the site and roast marshmallows over the campfire.



6



4



2



3



8



1





# *Escape to Carrygerry Country House for a Relaxing Getaway with Someone Special*



## *Carrygerry Country House,*

Near Newmarket-on-Fergus and just minutes away from Shannon, is a 200 year old Manor tastefully restored to its former glory, set in a idyllic mature country setting. On arrival, you will experience a relaxed and unique country house atmosphere with open fires and antique furniture. There are 11 bedrooms, all individually styled in keeping with the house.



Our Conservatory Restaurant is open Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings for dinner from 5.00pm-8.30pm. Sunday Lunch served from 1pm-3.30pm. Our dishes offers fresh, locally sourced produce and a complete well balanced menu

**Set Dinner Menu for €42 (3 courses plus Tea/Coffee) is served**







Cloughoughter Castle









Paul Kelly Fáilte Ireland

# Minister Catherine Martin TD appoints Mr. Paul Carty as Chairperson of Fáilte Ireland

In February, Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media announced the appointment of Mr. Paul Carty to the position of Chairperson of Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

Minister Martin said:

“I am delighted to appoint Mr. Paul Carty as Chairperson of the Board of the National Tourism Development Authority (Fáilte Ireland). Paul has led Fáilte Ireland as Interim Chairperson over the past 18-months in what was a most difficult time for the tourism industry. Through Paul’s leadership, Fáilte Ireland played a pivotal role in supporting many of Ireland’s tourism businesses to survive the pandemic. Paul brings a wealth of experience to the role and will play a pivotal part in leading Fáilte Ireland through the next crucial period for the industry. The focus now for Paul and Fáilte Ireland is to drive sustainable recovery and growth and to sustain businesses and employment numbers.”

CEO of Fáilte Ireland Paul Kelly welcomed the appointment of Mr. Paul Carty.

“I warmly welcome the appointment of Paul Carty to the position of Chairperson of Fáilte Ireland by Minister Martin. Paul has a world-renowned track record of strong leadership and expertise in

the tourism industry over many years and he has brought this experience to bear as a Member of the Fáilte Ireland Authority since 2017 and most recently as Interim Chairperson. I look forward to continuing working closely with Paul and the entire Authority of Fáilte Ireland as we support the tourism industry to recover and grow following the devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to the sector.”

## About Paul Carty

For almost 20-years, Paul Carty held the role of Managing Director at the Guinness Storehouse, Ireland’s most popular paid visitor attraction and one of the world’s leading brand experiences, until his retirement in 2020.

Under Paul’s leadership, visitor numbers increased six-fold from under 300,000 to almost 1.8 million in 2019.

Paul spent many years working abroad before his tenure at Guinness Storehouse, holding senior positions with the Forte Group and Le Meridien in Dublin, London, Bahrain, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia.

He is a former Chair of ITIC (Irish Tourism Industry Confederation) and founder and former Chair of AVEA (Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions) which now has over 105-members throughout the island of Ireland.

Paul is a fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute and received the prestigious Irish Hotels Federation 2016 Presidents Award for his contribution to Irish tourism.

Paul was the first recipient of the inaugural Eileen O’Mara Walsh Tourism Industry Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

After completing his formal education, Paul trained as a chef at Rockwell Hotel School and continued his studies at Shannon College of Hotel Management. Paul was chosen by the college as class patron of the 2014 Graduation Class. Paul is a past student of Cornell University New York.

Paul has been a Member of the Fáilte Ireland Authority since 2017 and was selected unanimously by his colleagues on the Authority to serve as Interim Chair commencing on 18th August 2020.





# New Knowth visitor experience opens at Brú na Bóinne following €1.8m investment

- New visitor experience will generate additional tourism revenue of €1.6million over 5 years
- 266 additional jobs in the region to be supported
- Experience to attract 14,000 additional visitors per year to the Boyne Valley region by Year 5 of opening

***“The new visitor experience at Knowth will support 266 additional jobs in the Meath area and generate €1.6million in additional tourism revenue over 5 years.” - Paul Kelly, CEO, Fáilte Ireland.***

A new visitor experience at Knowth, Co. Meath, which will drive job creation and tourism recovery in the Ireland’s Ancient East region, has been officially opened by Patrick O’Donovan TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media Catherine Martin TD and Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW). Fáilte Ireland has invested almost €1.4million into the new tourist attraction. Through the partnership with the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works which manages Knowth as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne, visitors to Knowth will be welcomed for a greatly extended season for the first time.

The enhanced experience includes improved interpretation to tell the story of the history of the 50-year archaeological excavation of the site by Professor George Eogan, the significance of the site’s Megalithic art and its importance in national and international terms.

Fáilte Ireland estimates the development of the visitor experience at Knowth will support 266 additional jobs in the Meath area and generate €1.6million in additional tourism revenue over five-years.

Commenting at the launch, Minister Catherine Martin said: “Knowth is one of the most culturally significant sites in Ireland, and indeed Europe. The new visitor experience will allow domestic and international visitors to step back in time and immerse themselves in our rich Megalithic culture. This attraction will add another unique element to the tourism offering at Brú na Bóinne, encouraging more people to visit Meath and the surrounding region, and generating significant economic impact for the area.”

Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland, added: “For tourism to recover we must have stand out attractions to entice visitors, domestic and international, to explore

Ireland. I am pleased to be here at the opening of this significant new attraction for Meath and the wider Ireland’s Ancient East region, developed in collaboration with our strategic partners in the OPW. The new visitor experience at Knowth will attract more visitors to the region, support new jobs and has been executed in a sustainable way to ensure this historically important site is preserved for generations to come. We predict Knowth will support 266 additional jobs in the Meath area and generate €1.6million in additional tourism revenue over five-years. It will also relieve some of the existing pressure at Newgrange by offering visitors an additional experience, as well as extending visitor dwell time in the Boyne Valley.”

Knowth, which makes up part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property of Brú na Bóinne, is a major repository of megalithic art, containing more than half of the known megalithic art in Europe in one single location.







# CAHIR CASTLE

## *named as top film-making location in Europe*

**O**ne of the country's most famous national monuments has won movie glory after being named as the top location in Europe for film-making.

Cahir Castle was named the winner at the European Film Market, part of the prestigious Berlin Film Festival, after hosting much of the shooting when *The Green Knight* was being made by director David Lowery along with cast and crew. Set in Arthurian times, the film tells the tale of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight while Cahir Castle plays the "role" of Camelot.

It's not the first time that the 13th-century structure, on the River Suir, has filled this part. It also filled in as Camelot in the 1981 John Boorman classic, *Excalibur*.

"We had *The Tudors* [filmed here] as well and many more like that," said tour guide Hazel Kinahan. "The castle is just unbelievable. It's one of the best-preserved castles you're going to see in the country."

*The Green Knight* stars Dev Patel and Alicia Vikander and was released in cinemas in America and Europe

last summer and autumn, as well as on some streaming services.

To receive this location award, Cahir Castle was nominated by Screen Ireland and then won a public vote against locations such as in Spain for 'The Crown', Germany for 'The Queen's Gambit' and Norway for 'Dune'.

"We're just so delighted to have it," Hazel Kinahan said, following confirmation of the award.

"It's such a major achievement. Best European location for Cahir Castle and for the OPW as a heritage site. We're just delighted to say 'bring on the summer and bring on tourism'. We want to see more people coming in

and this will give it a major boost."

Staff member James Concannon said it's "an honour" to work on such a site and it was "a great experience" to be present when the castle was transformed into a film set.

"We seem to be getting a bit of a reputation as a good site to come and work for, with the facilities and the buildings we have here, it makes it attractive for film-makers to come here. People come and look at the site and go 'yes'. So, we're reaping the rewards here today with this award, we're after winning."

Cahir Castle is one of a number of historic sites managed by the OPW, which are available for filming.







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# Dublin's Best Beaches

Dublin is a swimmer's paradise and there are many excellent idyllic and safe places to take a dip. Dublin also boasts Blue Flag Beaches at Portmarnock, Seapoint, Portrane and Killiney.

## **Dollymount Strand**

Take a stroll along this wonderful stretch of sand – a favourite haunt of walkers, cyclists and runners. The Strand also takes in amazing views of Dublin Bay. It hosts a nature reserve and also allows for a bit of kitesurfing.

## **Bull Island**

A sandbar island, which is within a short reach of any city centre location. This beach is also a dream for anyone who loves water sports.

## **Forty Foot - Sandycove**

An exciting promontory on the southern tip of Dublin Bay at Sandycove. It's one of the county's most popular bathing spots with a 250-year tradition among swimmers. There are plenty of handrails to help swimmers have a safe and easy access to the emerald sea. This Dublin institution was male-only and used to be popular with nudists.

## **Tower Bay, Portrane**

Near the Forty Foot, you can view the Tower Bay, which is also near to Lambay Island. Overlooking this idyllic nook is one of the many Martello towers dotted around the coastline.

## **The Great South Wall**

A haven for swimmers near Ringsend and the Grand Canal Dock. Close to the famous Poolbeg towers and you can also take in the chance to view the busy workings of Dublin Port.

## **Killiney - White Rock**

This is a cool hideaway at low tide. The beach can be stony but between the White Rock Beach and the beautiful Vico Baths, this area is popular. The water depth is good and the views are spectacular as far as the Sugarloaf Mountain.

## **Bullock Harbour**

If you wish to jump from high viewpoints, then this is the place for you. Near the Forty Foot, it is a haven for thrill-seekers. The harbour is also home to a wonderful scuba diving school.

## **Skerries**

A Blue Flag beach on the northside, peppered with picturesque villages.

## **Burrow Beach**

Also known as the 'Hole In The Wall' in Sutton and a good stretch of about 1.3km in one of the country's most scenic area.

## **The Velvet Strand**

This Portmarnock flat sands beach has been kissed by fame when in 1930, aviator Charles Kindgford Smith used the sand as a runway. This brave man's flight to Newfoundland began in a calm Irish azure setting.

## **Flying the Blue Flag**

Four of the beaches along the coast are of Blue Flag quality.

1. Seapoint – Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown
2. Portmarnock/Velvet Strand
3. Bray South Promenade
4. Greystones

These beaches have achieved the Blue Flag standard – which is an international award of the highest accolade. It recognises outstanding compliance with bathing water quality.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and inland bathing waters around the world.

The beaches and marinas that have achieved this accolade have complied with strict criteria relating to water quality, safety, facilities for visitors, beach management, environmental education and the provision of information.





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***“Domestic tourism is the foundation stone of Ireland’s tourism sector, and it will be critical to its recovery. Fáilte Ireland’s strategic sponsorship of RTÉ Weather will enable our central message of holidaying at home to reach hundreds of thousands of viewers every week.”***

**Paul Kelly, CEO Fáilte Ireland**

**To help accelerate the recovery of Ireland’s tourism sector, Fáilte Ireland is now sponsoring RTÉ Weather, which attracts an average daily audience of 400,000.**

The 3-year sponsorship is part of Fáilte Ireland’s Keep Discovering campaign and commenced on January 1st, 2022. The Keep Discovering message will be watched daily in hundreds of thousands of living rooms across the country and will inspire people to Keep Discovering Ireland’s huge range of incredible destinations and experiences. It will encourage more people to choose a domestic holiday and in doing so support local businesses, local jobs and communities throughout the country.

Since January of this year, the weather bulletins following RTÉ’s main news programmes (One, Six & Nine) on RTÉ One and RTÉ One +1 have reached 84% of all viewers. That is equivalent to over 3.7 million people having seen the weather forecast at least once since January. The average daily audience for the weather bulletins after the Six One and Nine O’

Clock news is 400,000 Individuals.

Announcing the sponsorship, CEO of Fáilte Ireland Paul Kelly said:

“Our research shows Irish people enjoy taking long and short breaks at home all year round while international visitors tend to travel predominantly during the summer season. With international travel not expected to return to pre-Covid levels until at least 2025 our investment in the sponsorship of RTÉ Weather will allow us to maximise the opportunity that domestic tourism offers as we focus on accelerating the recovery of our tourism industry.

Domestic tourism generated €2.5billion for the Irish economy in 2019 and represented one-third of all tourism revenue. Due to the enormous weekly viewership of RTÉ Weather, we expect our strategic sponsorship to significantly help boost domestic tourism year-round and drive revenue for businesses while sustaining and creating thousands of jobs in a sector that has been devastated by Covid19. Our message will be watched daily in hundreds of thousands of living rooms across the country and will inspire people to ‘Keep Discovering’ Ireland’s huge range of incredible destinations and experiences. It will encourage more people to choose a domestic holiday and in doing so support local businesses, local jobs and communities throughout the country.”



**The three-year deal will be part of the tourism promotion agency’s Keep Discovering campaign**

Commercial Director for RTÉ, Geraldine O’Leary commented:

“We are thrilled that Fáilte Ireland will sponsor Weather on RTÉ television and online from January 2022. This is an exciting new partnership, and we love how Fáilte Ireland has embraced the opportunity and worked closely with us to ensure that the sponsorship will resonate with the RTÉ audience, while highlighting the opportunities that abound to explore, experience and keep discovering our beautiful country.”

Niall Tracey, Director of Marketing at Fáilte Ireland adds:

“Fáilte Ireland’s investment in RTÉ Weather will be central to the execution of our domestic marketing strategy. Our objective is to inspire more people to explore more areas of the country and experience the joy and simplicity of discovery with constant and compelling reminders of the wonders a home holiday can bring. Through world class creative, the weather sponsorship provides a powerful platform to constantly promote motivating reasons to travel to specific destinations, counties and events at specific times of the year.”







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# Family Fun AROUND BALLYCONNELL

Stretch your legs on island walks, uncover some bear necessities or go underground on a boat trip to remember. The family fun starts here.

If you're seeking a family-friendly, back-to-nature break, the Shannon-Erne Waterway is just the ticket. Think, long days on the water and evenings spent enjoying relaxed dinners in lakeside restaurants. Imagine hours spent exploring rolling green fields, riverside trails and hedgerow-lined lanes. Discover tales of battles and betrayals in romantic castles, kayak over rippling waters and head underground for some subterranean adventure. Take off on a canoeing adventure in the company of curious swans or visit deserted islands that belie a turbulent past. Enjoy walks along one of the Shannon-Erne Blueway Trails next to inky blue waters and past stony locks; or spend the day getting outdoors and dirty with non-stop action that takes in everything from 'spacehoppers' to archery. This is a carefree part of the island, where you can do as much or as little as you want – and it's all yours to enjoy.

## BEAR ESSENTIALS

Located in Bawnboy – a small village at the base of Slieve Rushen – Bear Essentials and its Silver Bear Centre is perfect for both the young and the young at heart. With workshops, events and crafts, a showcase of old and new teddy bears and even a teddy bear hospital, this is a great little spot that celebrates all things furry.

## MOTTE AND BAILEY, BELTURBET

Children may learn about motte and bailey structures in school but seeing one for real is an excellent way to bring history to life. It casts the mind back to a time when Belturbet had real strategic importance. Walk over to Turbet Island and you can see the grassy remains of this 13th century defensive fortification, which sat at an important river crossing. Turbet Island also ripples with fascinating archaeological heritage – the first ever woolly mammoth remains in Europe were found right here and are now housed in the National Museum in Dublin.

## MARBLE ARCH CAVES GLOBAL GEOPARK

What's the coolest thing about the underground wonderland that is Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark? It's got to be the boat journey along the underground river. This place has a major 'wow factor' for kids: there are rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and huge chambers filled with magical stalagmites and stalactites. The tour lasts about 75-minutes and is suitable for all ages, although bear in mind that it finishes with a climb up 154 continuous steps to the exit.

## OUT-DOORS AND DIRTY

At the aptly named Out-Doors and Dirty, young ones can rev up the action with "Dominator Buggies", archery and combat laser games. Let off steam, take in that fresh air and head to a place that will never define itself as "bog standard" entertainment. Space hoppers and hovercrafts, anyone?

## CLOUGH OUGHTER CASTLE

Jump on a boat tour with the Cavan Adventure Centre and you'll be whisked across the waters to Clough Oughter Castle. This picturesque castle sits on a small island in the middle of Lough Oughter and was once part of the historic kingdom of Breifne. It has a fascinating past that involves clashes between rival Gaelic clans and, more fascinatingly, its use as an island fortress. Harsh conditions, brutal

cold and isolation would have made it a fearsome place to be locked up, despite the peaceful nature of the island today.







# FANTASTIC IRISH FOOD AND DRINK EXPERIENCES on Ireland's East Coast

## 1: HAVE A TIPPLE AT ROE & CO WHISKEY DISTILLERY, DUBLIN

Right in Dublin 8's Liberties, Roe & Co Whiskey Distillery is a top-notch urban distillery and whiskey attraction. Step into this iconic former Guinness Power Station for an immersive journey from conception to creation.

Discover the secrets of Roe's unique blend in Room 106 and learn about the pillars of flavour to see where your ideal taste profile lies. This is an intimate and personal tour allowing you to get up close to see modern whiskey at its finest.

## 2: VISIT Highbank Organic Orchards, Kilkenny

From 'pip to sip', enjoy a glass of cider or apple crystal gin at Highbank Organic Orchards in Kilkenny. These orchards were originally built by the Calder-Potts family in the 17th Century.

You'll find refreshing apple juice, cider and mulled apple juice here as well as their very own orchard syrup which many adore. Part of the Taste of Kilkenny Food Trail, these orchards and organic farm shop are well worth a visit.

## 3: EXPERIENCE FRANCISCAN WELL BREWERY, CORK

Learn about the mysterious art of brewing at the award-winning Franciscan Well Brewery in Cork City. Founded in 1998, this brewery is built on the site of an old Franciscan monastery dating back to 1219. Today the brewery has combined modern technology with old-age tradition to create tasty flavoursome beers including lager, ale, stout and wheat beers.

## 4: GO FORAGING WITH BLACKSTAIRS ECO TRAILS, CARLOW

Spend a day foraging for wild foods and exploring wildlife in the hedgerows with Blackstairs Eco Trails in Carlow. Discover the abundance of wild edibles of the Blackstairs Mountains with a fully guided walk to suit all ages. Saunter through lovely lanes, lowlands and bogs as you enjoy a rural day in the countryside.



## 5: ENJOY GOATSBRIDGE'S THRIVING TROUT FARM, KILKENNY

Established in 1961, Goatsbridge Trout Farm is a local family business. See the fish up close

as you take a farm tour and watch the trout at the various stages of their life from ova in the hatchery until they reach maturity at 20-months in the earthen pond. Taste their fresh, smoked, barbecued fish, as well as their astonishing trout caviar during your visit.

## 6: ENJOY A DAY OUT ON THE CARLOW FOOD TRAIL

With their GAA teams known as The Scallion Eaters, it's no surprise that people in Carlow love their food and there's no better place to experience this than on the Carlow Food Trail. Set off on this self-guided adventure of Irish cuisine through picturesque towns and villages.

## 7: GO FOR A COFFEE AND A SWIM AT THE HAPPY PEAR, COUNTY WICKLOW

You can't miss this brightly coloured wholefood store and restaurant as you drive along the Church Road in Greystones, Wicklow. With its eye-catching shopfront, The Happy Pear has become a landmark place to visit in this quaint Wicklow town beside the sea.

Open seven days a week with a variety of hot and cold vegetarian food being served alongside speciality coffee, you can choose to enjoy a delicious meal in the restaurant upstairs, at one of the outdoor tables on the street below or get it to takeaway.

Join owners, Dave and Steve, for a "swimrise" - that's a swim at sunrise - at Greystones Beach for the full Happy Pear experience, before refuelling with a hearty breakfast and mouth-watering coffee back at the café.





# TITANIC BELFAST

## *set to celebrate ten terrific years*

***Voted the World's Leading Tourist Attraction and recognised as one of Northern Ireland's most iconic landmarks, Titanic Belfast is getting ready to mark its tenth birthday.***

To mark its 10th anniversary on 31 March, the world-leading attraction is inviting people to share their favourite 'Titanic Memories' from over the last decade for the chance to be included in a special show-reel.

Perhaps you popped the question to your partner, enjoyed a special trip away with family, celebrated a big birthday or bumped into your favourite celebrity – if you have a Titanic Memory then Titanic Belfast wants to hear from you.

If you are one of the over six-million people from around the world who have enjoyed a trip to Titanic Belfast since it opened, joining VIP guests such as Her Majesty The Queen, Titanic director James Cameron or celebrities including Adele, Sir Rod Stewart, The Backstreet Boys and Michael Bublé, then don't miss the chance to be part of the milestone anniversary.

You can share your Titanic Memories by emailing your photograph and a short blurb telling the story to: [digital@titanicbelfast.com](mailto:digital@titanicbelfast.com).

The best movie-magic moments will be selected to star in a 10th birthday show-reel, alongside some of Titanic Belfast's staff's favourite

moments. The short film will be premiered during the birthday celebrations and will also be available online for people to watch around the world.

First opened on 31 March, 2012, the spectacular Titanic Belfast building sits on the water's edge beside the original Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices, the Hamilton Graving Dock and the Titanic Slipways – the very spot where the mighty RMS Titanic was designed, built and launched.

Over six floors and nine interactive galleries, the stunning attraction tells the story of the legendary liner from her conception, through her construction and launch into Belfast Lough, to her fateful maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

There is no bigger story and no better place to discover it than in Titanic Belfast, which has not just captivated millions in the last ten years but has also spawned a plethora of maritime heritage attractions in the surrounding urban waterfront.

Titanic Belfast is the centrepiece of the Titanic Quarter, a bustling destination within the city's Maritime Mile. Everywhere around this iconic waterfront, you can feel and connect to the spirit of Titanic, Belfast's rich maritime and industrial history, plus a

huge range of excellent experiences.

Board SS Nomadic, the world's last remaining White Star vessel and Titanic's original tender ship. She is now restored to her original glory and back home in Belfast's Hamilton Graving Dock.

Check out the vast Thompson Dry Dock, the 'footprint' of the Titanic and the place she last sat on dry land, or take the Glass of Thrones Trail, a series of six stained-glass installations that celebrate Northern Ireland as the home of Game of Thrones®.

Relax over a cocktail or afternoon tea in Titanic's remarkable drawing offices, once the nerve centre of the largest shipyard in the world and now the luxury Titanic Hotel.

But make sure to start – or cap – it all off with a visit to the shimmering Titanic Belfast, the biggest and best experience of the most famous ship in the world.

The self-guided Titanic Experience inside Titanic Belfast will uncover the sights, sounds, smells and stories of the ship, as well as the people and city that made her, while the outdoor Discovery Tour will reveal the hidden symbolism of the iconic building as you walk in the footsteps of the designers and shipbuilders who brought the 'ship of dreams' to life.





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Visit [drinkaware.ie](http://drinkaware.ie)



### *Hugh Lane Gallery*

Located in Dublin's City Centre, Hugh Lane Gallery houses one of Ireland's most exciting collections of modern and contemporary Irish and international art. It is also the home of Francis Bacon's Studio. See Impressionist paintings by Manet, Monet, Degas, Pissarro and Morisot and a wide-ranging collection of Irish art.



### *Lough Key Forest and Activity Park*

Experience a cluster of activities and attractions for all ages and interests, you can do as much or as little as you like in a historical forest setting surrounded by woodland and water. Immerse yourself in old servant tunnels, glide amongst the trees on a Tree Canopy trail. Enjoy family/team bonding in Boda Borg conquering quests. Appreciate the lake views from the Café and outdoor terrace. Enjoy boat trips, Zipit, Bike Hire, Kayaking and off-road trails.



### *DoDublin Hop-on Hop-off Tour*

Have you ever really done Dublin? Have you been inside Christ Church Cathedral, visited The Little Museum or MoLI? Discovered hidden gems, like the Chester Beatty or Marsh's Library? and have you done the big tourist favourites like the Guinness Storehouse and EPIC? You'll see the best of Dublin with entertaining live commentary from Dublin's best tour guides on the DoDublin Hop-on Hop-off tour! Book a tour now at [www.dodublin.ie](http://www.dodublin.ie) for a great day out for all the family.



### *The Paddle Shack*

Here at the Paddle Shack, we are proud to be part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. A folksy piece of the beautiful Irish landscape, where you control the pace.



Whether it be slow and restful like a trek in the forest, or adventurous and exciting like a day on one of our Kayaks. Whichever you choose, you'll take in the sights, smells and sounds of Ireland's peaceful rural communities and idyllic countryside. There is a treasure trove of unspoiled and sublime countryside surrounding the town, waiting for you to explore!

### *Weddings at Carrygerry Country House*

Are you looking for the perfect place for your upcoming nuptials? Are you looking for the perfect place for your upcoming nuptials? Then look no further than Carrygerry Country House. Set in



the peaceful, idyllic countryside of County Clare, located just minutes from Shannon International Airport, Carrygerry Country House offers you a warm, elegant, classic setting for your perfect wedding day. 061 360500

### *Athlone Castle*

Stay a while and explore the charming town that has grown around the Castle walls.

Athlone, in the Heart of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, is the perfect base for your next break. You can wander through charming streets, with delightful shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. Explore the many heritage and cultural experiences and riverside walks. Choose from a variety of accommodation options.





### *GPO Museum, Dublin City*

The GPO Museum is a must-see award-winning experience located within the historic GPO (General Post Office) in the heart of Dublin City. Explore the fascinating story of the 1916 Easter Rising and modern Irish History in an interactive and immersive setting. For bookings and further information visit [www.gpowitnesshistory.ie](http://www.gpowitnesshistory.ie).



### *Waterways Ireland*

The Royal Canal Greenway, winner of the 2022 European Cycle Route of the Year. 130km of level towpath, which is divided into 13 individual routes. It links the villages and towns from Maynooth to Cloondara, along the beautiful and historic Royal Canal with cafés, attractions and accommodation along the way.



### *Flanagan's on the Lake*

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



### *The Castle at Johnstown*

The Castle at Johnstown is a gem of gothic revival architecture. It is surrounded by spectacular ornamental grounds designed by Daniel Robertson. The gardens offer a range of beautiful sculptured walks, lake walks and a Victorian walled garden are all currently open for visitors to enjoy. The Irish Agricultural Museum is housed in the former estate's farm buildings and displays one of the most comprehensive displays of farming and rural life in Ireland.



### *The iNUA Collection*

Summer starts here with The iNUA Collection. We understand that short breaks can be as rewarding as long ones. That's why, at The iNUA Collection, we've handpicked the finest places to stay so you can get away and relax in style.

Our dream destinations span from 25,000 acres of tranquillity at Muckross Park Hotel in the heart of Killarney National Park, to boutique charm on medieval cobbled streets at the Kilkenny Hibernian Hotel.

Be pleasantly surprised by what the magical Midlands have to offer at the Tullamore Court Hotel or Hillgrove Hotel & Spa. Before heading to the hidden gem that is Louth's coastline, where the most stylish Fairways Hotel Dundalk is to be found.

Take a tour of our beautiful Radisson Blu Hotels.

Awake to waterfront vistas in Athlone, roam endless acres of private woodlands in Limerick, indulge in pure relaxation at The Spa at Radisson Blu Cork, or have it all in Sligo, where our breath-taking views stretch from Benbulbin to the sweeping coastline of Sligo Bay.

Or how about our newest hotel, DUBLIN ONE. Designed for creative minds and social spirits, DUBLIN ONE offers unique, stimulating stays for guests who are hungry for more. Cosy rooms, great coffee, and a courtyard to soak up some culture in the heart of one of Dublin's most creative neighbourhoods.

With amazing midweek offers, come at stay at the iNUA Collection this summer.

The iNUA Collection Hotels  
- where the only thing missing is you.

Book at [www.iNUA.ie](http://www.iNUA.ie) today for the best rate guaranteed.

THE  
iNUA  
COLLECTION



## National Museum of Ireland



The National Museum of Ireland is home to the world's greatest collection of objects related to Irish history and heritage. The collection spans from prehistoric times to the present day and is on display across four museums in Dublin (Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Archaeology, Kildare Street, Natural History, Merrion Street-closed for renovations - and Mayo (Country Life). Exhibitions

explore a diverse range of themes from Bronze Age gold and extinct Irish mammals to 20th-Century revolution and contemporary design. The main aim of the NMI is to preserve, share, explore and celebrate Ireland's history and culture and its place in the wider world. The museum offers a year-round programme of workshops, talks and tours for all ages and a changing programme of temporary exhibitions on historical and contemporary themes.

For further information and what's on please see;

Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumofIreland>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NMIreland>

Instagram: @nationalmuseumofireland

Admission Free

## EPIC

You won't find leprechauns or pots of gold here, but you'll discover what it means to be Irish. EPIC expands beyond Ireland through the stories of emigrants who became scientists, artists and even outlaws. Discover Ireland from the outside in and learn why saying "I'm Irish" is a classic conversation starter.



## Ballymahon Greenway Cycles

Locally owned and located on the Mostrim Road, Ballymahon Greenway Cycles specialise in bike sales, repairs and bike hire for the entire family. Choose from our wide range of hire bikes for cycling around Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

## The Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club

Nestled in the heart of The Glen of the Downs, The Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club has seventy-one guest rooms, with a selection of restaurants offering both formal and casual dining for lunch, dinner, and afternoon tea. It is in a fabulous location in 'The Garden of Ireland' and perfect to explore the local area or relax in the hotel surroundings.



## Carlingford Lough

Carlingford Lough is an area of outstanding natural beauty and your destination for a range of unforgettable evening cruise experiences on Carlingford Lough.

Carlingford Lough Cruises offer a range of cruise options that include Sunset or Lighthouse Cruises, Summer Jazz or Blues on the Bay Cruises and the popular Gin Tasting Cruise, all to the backdrop of the majestic Mourne Mountains and Cooley Peninsula, as you cruise Carlingford lough. While onboard, enjoy live music, dancing and audio tour. These two-hour evening cruises take place throughout the summer months. Passengers can board at the Carlingford Lough Ferry Terminals at Greenore, Co. Louth (just 3km from Carlingford Town) or Greencastle Co. Down. Book online at [carlingfordloughcruises.com](http://carlingfordloughcruises.com)





### *Spike Island*

Ireland's historic Island has launched a new 'Old Cork in Colour' exhibition, showcasing over thirty images of old Cork expertly restored and colorised by the authors of the 'Old Ireland in Colour' books, Professor John Breslin and Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley. The images are from all over the city and county of Cork and bring its historic past to life.



### *Texas Steakout*

GOOD HONEST HEARTY  
FOOD SINCE 1989

The Texas Steakout located in the basement at 116 O Connell street Limerick, is without doubt one of the most established and appreciated restaurants in Limerick, with original stone brickwork giving that warm homely feel, accompanied by an age-old fireplace and friendly staff that make you feel most welcome. You can sense the character of the setting the second you walk through the doors. Although the inviting atmosphere and the mouth-watering menu selections are indeed something you come to expect from the Texas Steakout, a lot of work has gone into making the Texas Steakout what it is today.

"What was different about the Steakout was that obviously, we had a big theme. We were serving hearty American style dinners, so at the time there was nothing like it. Along with the Texan themed menu options, we made sure we paid great attention to the theme incorporating it into the décor. Once the theme was decided the hunt for memorabilia commenced and all the charming Texan figures and ornaments that are in the restaurant today have adorned the walls since we opened in 1989."



### *Wicklow Gaol*

Wicklow's Historic Gaol, the virtual reality experience 'THE GATES OF HELL', will invite visitors to journey through over 200-years of life in the Gaol and experience the 1798

Rebellion, the famine era and the War of Independence, through the eyes of Gaol inmates and meet many an imposing character along the way. A must-see attraction in Ireland's Ancient East.

### *Established in 1913 - Three generations of quality!*

For three generations Beshoffs have been serving Dublin with the finest fish & chips. Well known for both the taste and quality of our offer, it is quite simply a taste of Dublin not to be missed.

We specialise in freshly prepared fish, which is cooked to order, coated in our secret recipe batter. Simply Divine!



### *Your Castlemartyr - Experience Natural Elegance*

Nestled amid East Cork's woodlands, the luxury 5-Star Castlemartyr Resort is a destination richly steeped in Irish history and tradition. Situated on 220 acres, Castlemartyr Resort consists of a grand 17th century country manor house that sits adjacent to the ruins of an 800-year-old-castle. With a storied history that includes Strongbow, Walter Raleigh, the Knight's Templar and more, the Castlemartyr Resort was officially opened for guests in 2008. While ensuring the grounds and buildings have been tastefully updated, they have been magnificently restored and elegantly enhanced to offer 108 guest rooms and suites, along with 47 luxury self-catering lodges.



### *Birr Castle*

The Award-Winning Gardens of Birr Castle Demesne in Ireland are rich in astonishing feats of science and engineering, rare trees and flowers, incredible wildlife, and walks along peaceful rivers and the lake. Created over generations, it is an environmental and scientific time capsule and a truly must see.





### Fishers

Fishers is a must-visit on any trip to County Wicklow, where a warm welcome awaits. Located in the heart of Newtownmountkennedy, this boutique department store has something for everyone! Stocking gorgeous clothing collections from Irish and European brands, homewares and gifts for every occasion. Their award-winning café offers mouth-watering brunch, lunch and treats indoors or on their sheltered patios.



### Ttd Travel Department

TD active Holidays is a collection of adventure holidays full of amazing activities. Irish Owned and Operated, their holidays range from walking, yoga and photography to their Explore range of exciting small group tours. They take all the stress out of planning your adventure, taking care of everything from flights, transfers, accommodation to providing expertly guided excursions. Every holiday is accompanied by a passionate local guide.



### Huntington Castle & Gardens



Clonegal, County Carlow, Ireland. The Castle is presently lived in by three generations of the Durdin Robertson family and the current owners Alexander and Clare Durdin Robertson are very much hands on with the business and can frequently be found giving tours, working in the gardens or making tea in the tearooms.

### Jeanie Johnston

The Jeanie Johnston tells the story of the thousands of Irish people who fled the Famine and embarked on a treacherous voyage in the hope of a better life in North America. Step on board and you will be transported back in time to join them on their grueling journey.



### Malahide Castle & Gardens

Malahide Castle was home to the Talbot family for nearly 800 years and with a history dating back to 1185, there are plenty of stories to be told. Enjoy a guided tour of Dublin's most loved medieval castle, just 10-minutes from Dublin Airport and 13km from Dublin City centre. See the splendour of Lord Milo Talbot's walled botanical garden, The Butterfly House and West Lawn. Take a break and breath of fresh air on Avoca's café terrace overlooking the walled garden or engage in some retail therapy in the Museum Shop in the visitor centre.

For more visit [www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie](http://www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie)



### Newbridge House & Farm

Newbridge House & Farm is an 18th Century hidden gem located in Donabate, North

County Dublin, just 10-minutes from Dublin Airport. Nestled on 350 acres, Newbridge House was built back in 1736 by the Archbishop of Dublin, Charles Cobbe, as his country residence. Knowledgeable and passionate tour guides are on hand to bring the story of the Cobbe family to life for visitors, showcasing some of the finest examples of Georgian period architecture. The house and the 30-acre working farm are open daily for tours. For more information visit [www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com](http://www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com)







# HUGH LANE GALLERY

*“An oasis of calm in a bustling City”*

## OPENING HOURS

Closed Mondays

Tuesday to Thursday:  
9.45am – 6pm

Friday:  
9.45am – 5pm

Saturday:  
10am – 5pm

Sunday:  
11am – 5pm

**Hugh Lane Gallery,  
Charlemont House,  
Parnell Square North,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 F2X9  
Ireland**



# Texas Steakout

RESTAURANT



The perfect steak is no longer rare.

Texas Steakout - Getting it right every time



Located in the heart of Limerick City

116 O Connell Street | LIMERICK

[Texassteakout.ie](http://Texassteakout.ie)