

**DISCOVER  
IRELAND.IE**



**CALENDAR OF  
FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2012**



*The Fun Starts Here*

# IF YOU LIKE ...



## THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

Enjoy champagne and beautiful surrounds at Taste of Dublin. Hear magical music at the Lismore Music Festival, Loughcrew Festival Opera and Music in Great Irish Houses. Stunning showgardens are featured at Bloom in the Phoenix Park. For all things equine combined with gorgeous glamour don't miss the Dublin Horse Show. Have a truly special experience at Wexford Festival Opera or round off the year with festive delights at the National Craft & Design Fair.



## CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hear special sounds at the Cork International Choral Festival and the West Cork Chamber Music Festival. Head south west for Kinsale Arts Week and the Cork Midsummer Festival. In the west the Galway Arts festival brings the city alive for two full weeks. The Kilkenny Arts Festival sees arts and beautiful music in historic venues. As autumn sets in get to Dublin Festival Season for a feast of contemporary arts and culture.



## FAMILY FUN

St. Patrick's Day in March brings thrills and spills of parades and spectacle all around the country. See madcap antics and high jinks at the Street Performance World Championships. The return of the Tall Ships to Dublin brings colour and excitement to the city docklands and there are plenty of family festivals to choose from during the summer including Killarney Summerfest, Clonmel Junction and Spraoi. In August uncover the best of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage during Heritage Week.



## COMEDY AND CRAIC

Side splitting laughs come to Kilkenny for the Cat Laughs Comedy Festival. Enjoy plenty of craic at the Galway Races which takes over Galway for seven days and nights. The Tullamore Show and the National Ploughing Championships showcase the best of everything associated with country living, including the people. Meet plenty of locals for chat and witty conversation at the Winter Music Weekend, Listowel Writer's Week and the Puck Fair.



## FOOD

Gourmet goodies abound at Irish food festivals which serve up the best of local produce, artisan food, cookery demonstrations and food trails. Bloom brings gorgeous gardens and tasty treats to Dublin's Phoenix Park. Don't miss Waterford Festival of Food, Dublin Bay Prawn Festival, Só Sligo, Waterford Harvest Festival, Dingle Peninsula Food & Wine Festival and Savour Kilkenny for a simply delicious festival experience. You'll also find farmers markets and food stalls at festivals and fairs right around the country.



## STELLAR SOUNDS

For the biggest names in music today follow the crowds to Oxegen. For a more intimate festival experience head to Electric Picnic or Independence. The Body and Soul Festival and Castlepalooza are set in the stunning surrounds of historic castles. If you like a comfy bed with your festival experience check out Smithwick's Kilkenny Rhythm and Roots, Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival and Sligo Live. The Guinness Jazz Festival sees stars and fans of the jazz world flock to Cork.



# January 2012

## Temple Bar Trad Fest

TEMPLE BAR, DUBLIN CITY CENTRE

25-29 January

Taking place on the cobblestone streets of Temple Bar in the heart of Dublin city TradFest showcases the finest of traditional music and culture. From festival concerts with internationally renowned artists to sessions, film screenings, drama and plenty of free events there is something for everyone.

[www.templebartrad.com](http://www.templebartrad.com)



Temple Bar TradFest  
25-29 January



## Winter Music Weekend

SIXMILEBRIDGE &  
BUNRATTY, CO. CLARE

12-15 January

70 events in over 17 venues including Bunratty Folk Park showcase acts of all hues including Irish, bluegrass, blues, country, gypsy and classical. A variety of music, a close link between musicians and audiences and the welcome from locals make this a unique music festival.

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

## Great Outdoors Art O'Neill Challenge

DUBLIN CASTLE TO GLENMALURE,  
CO. WICKLOW

13 January

Retrace the historic escape route that Art O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell took when escaping from Dublin Castle back in January 1592. This is a challenging 55km night time hike finishing up in Glenmalure Valley deep in the heart of the Wicklow mountains.

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

## A Breath of Fresh Air

Blow away the cobwebs at these events which offer great reasons to get out and about in January.

RNLI New Years Day Swim

DUGORT, ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO

1 January

[www.achilltourism.com](http://www.achilltourism.com)

Munster Rugby at Thomond Park

LIMERICK CITY

7 and 13-15 January

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

Limerick Racecourse National Hunt Racing

LIMERICK RACECOURSE

25 January

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

Glen of Aherlow Winter Walking Festival

CO. TIPPERARY

27-29 January

[www.aherlow.com](http://www.aherlow.com)

Hell and Back

KILLRUDDERY ESTATE, CO. WICKLOW

29 January

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



## Yeats Winter School

SLIGO

20-23 January

An opportunity to learn about W.B. Yeats and his family against the backdrop of the places which inspired them including Benbulbin and Knocknarea. Read and explore Yeats poetry and the artistic works of his brother Jack in the special surrounds of Co. Sligo.

[www.yeats-sligo.com](http://www.yeats-sligo.com)



Glen of Aherlow  
Winter Walking Festival  
27-29 January



Chinese New Year Festival  
20 January – 3 February

## Chinese New Year Festival Dublin

DUBLIN CITY

20 January – 3 February

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with many events including Chinese film festival, carnival, opera, Dragon and Lion Dancing, a children's arts programme, a lecture series, Sino-Irish business seminar, sports and lots of family fun to celebrate the Spring festival on January 23rd.

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



## Ardara Country & Western Festival

ARDARA, CO. DONEGAL

27-29 January

A dancing weekend for those who fancy a spot of jiving or line dancing to the melodies of Ireland's top country bands in this friendly and scenic Donegal town.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 New Year's Day	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# February 2012

## Jameson Dublin International Film Festival

DUBLIN CITY

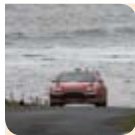
16-26 February

Presenting eleven days of movie magic, star studded premieres, gala screenings, big name interviews and the chance to meet filmmakers. With a programme of over 110 films from at least 30 countries worldwide there's a film for everyone from the delightful to the diverse to the downright daring.

[www.jdiff.com](http://www.jdiff.com)



Jameson Dublin International Film Festival  
16-26 February



## Safety Direct Galway International Rally

GALWAY CITY & COUNTY

3-5 February

An exciting and fast paced motor rally attracting visitors and competitors from around the world. Guaranteed to wow the crowds!

[www.galwayinternationalrally.com](http://www.galwayinternationalrally.com)

## Tipperariana Book Fair

FETHARD, CO. TIPPERARY

12 February

One of the largest book fairs in Ireland which sees book lovers from all parts of Ireland descend on Fethard to seek out that special book. A huge variety of books available from cheap and cheerful paperbacks to antique collector items. Find that special book or bring your own along to get them valued – you might be the owner of a treasure!

[www.fethard.com](http://www.fethard.com)



## Dingle Walking Festival

DINGLE, CO. KERRY

18-19 February

The Dingle Peninsula is the stunning setting for this walking festival. Located on the most westerly point of Kerry the walks take place in an area of spectacular landscapes, breathtaking scenery and historical interest.

[www.dinglewalkingfestival.com](http://www.dinglewalkingfestival.com)



## Tedfest

ARAN ISLANDS, GALWAY AND GALWAY CITY

23-26 February

Father Ted fanatics gather on Inis Mor to recreate Craggy Island. Father Dougals, Jacks and Mrs Doyles spend the weekend enjoying many events including The Lovely Girls Contest and The Craggy Cup while Galway City hosts the midweek Trip to the Mainland.

[www.tedfest.org](http://www.tedfest.org)



Ride and Tide Challenge Event  
24-25 February

## Ride and Tide Challenge Event

WESTPORT, CO. MAYO

24-25 February (provisional)

A fun, exciting and exhilarating riding experience for both horse and teams of two riders. Travel over mountain, wild terrain and sandy beaches by horse and mountain bike and island hop the wild Atlantic shoreline by horseback and kayak.

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



### Treats for Trad Lovers

During the cold days of winter lift the spirits with the warmth and passion of traditional Irish music and dance. See the best of trad in Kerry at Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh (15-19 Feb) and The Gathering (22-26 Feb) or head to Co. Clare for the Corofin Trad Festival (27 Feb – 4 March) and the Russell Memorial Weekend (24-26 Feb).

[www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

### Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'

ON TOUR AROUND THE COUNTRY

26 January – 18 February

Mozart's final masterpiece is a lyrical love story set against an atmospheric backdrop of fantasy and mischief. This profound but lighthearted tale will delight audiences combining moments of high comedy with high drama. Sung in English.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14 St. Valentines Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# March 2012

## St. Patrick's Festival

DUBLIN CITY

16-19 March

Celebrate Ireland's national holiday – the day when everybody is a little bit Irish! In addition to the legendary festival parade which immerses the city centre in a carnival atmosphere, the festival is bursting at the seams with music, dance, culture family fun and more!

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



St. Patrick's Festival  
16-19 March



St. Patrick's Festival  
16-19 March

## Ennis Book Club Festival

ENNIS, CO. CLARE

2-4 March

A unique literary and social gathering for book clubs and book lovers everywhere. Share reading passions, meet favourite writers and enjoy the varied programme featuring readings from renowned authors, lectures, workshops, tips on approaching new reading material and more.

[www.ennisbookclubfestival.com](http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com)



## Runamuck

JOHNSTOWN BRIDGE,  
CO. KILDARE

3 March

Get ready to get mucky!

A cross country running event over a wet and muddy course with various manmade and natural obstacles designed to test your mental and physical strength, and to leave you with a super sense of achievement and a big grin on your face.

[www.runamuckchallenge.com](http://www.runamuckchallenge.com)



## Cork French Film Festival

CORK CITY

4-11 March

The red carpet is rolled out for a feast of French cinema. Feature films, documentaries and shorts along with Irish premieres, ciné-concerts and installations. The programme will mirror the audience: curious, open-minded, diverse and interested in engaging with film through masterclasses, workshops and Q&As.

[www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com](http://www.corkfrenchfilmfestival.com)

## St. Patrick's Week around Ireland

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated at festivals and parades in almost every town and village throughout Ireland. For plenty of parades, activities and fun things to do visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Seachtain na Gaeilge, Nationwide

5-17 March [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie)

Dingle International Film Festival

15-18 March [www.dinglefilmfestival.com](http://www.dinglefilmfestival.com)

Cork St. Patrick's Festival

16-18 March [www.corkstpatricksfestival.ie](http://www.corkstpatricksfestival.ie)

St. Patrick's Day Pipe Band Parade, Achill Island

17 March [www.achilltourism.com](http://www.achilltourism.com)

Limerick International Band

Parade & Competition

18 March [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail

Walking Festival, Westport

23-25 March

[www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com](http://www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com)



## Connemara Four Seasons Walking Festival

CONNEMARA, CO. GALWAY

16-18 March

Explore the Connemara landscape with great walking and great guides who provide a fantastic insight into the unique cultural, archaeological and historic heritage of the area. The walking route is specially designed and chosen to suit the particular time of year to showcase the beauty of the surrounding scenery.

[www.discoverireland.ie/connemara](http://www.discoverireland.ie/connemara)

## Fresh Film Festival

LIMERICK CITY

26-30 March

A special film festival encouraging young people to get involved with film and offering a platform to showcase their work. Entrants produce short films with the chance of seeing it on the big screen in front of an audience following heats and the selection of the winners.

[www.freshfilmfestival.net](http://www.freshfilmfestival.net)



## Dublin Book Festival

DUBLIN CITY

Exact dates tbc

The best of contemporary Irish publishing and writing in a warm and welcome environment. Showcasing Irish writers and publishers in an entertaining and accessible environment that reflects the creativity and personality of the Irish book scene.

[www.dublinbookfestival.com](http://www.dublinbookfestival.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# April 2012

## Remembering Titanic

100 years on, commemorate the legendary Titanic story at many events around Ireland.

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

## Titanic 100 Cobh 2012

COBH, CO. CORK

### 9-15 April and all year long

In April a festival will commemorate Titanic and the 132 passengers who boarded at Cobh, the ships last port of call with a remembrance service, flagship concerts and a tribute featuring the Irish Navy, Air Corps and the Irish Coast Guard. Many more events during the year including lecture series, concerts on Spike Island, and Peoples Regatta.

[www.titanic100.ie](http://www.titanic100.ie)

## Mayo Titanic Cultural Week

LAHARDANE, BALLINA, CO. MAYO

### 8-15 April

Each year a commemorative ceremony is held in memory of all the emigrants from the west of Ireland who perished. 2012 sees a number of events take place to commemorate the story of the ship and the connection with Ireland.

[www.mayo-titanic.com](http://www.mayo-titanic.com)



## Connemarathon

CONNEMARA, CO. GALWAY

### 1 April

Described as "the most scenic half marathon" in the world. The event encompasses an Ultra (39.3), Full (26.2), and Half (13.1) distance. Walkers and runners are welcome.

[www.connemarathon.com](http://www.connemarathon.com)



## North Leitrim Glens Walking Festival

MANORHAMILTON,  
CO. LEITRIM

### 7-8 April

A two day walking festival featuring a long (5-6 hour) and a medium (4-5 hour) guided hill walk on both days. For those who prefer flatter terrain take part in a short guided ramble around local places of interest. Meet up and enjoy the company of other walkers at a meal and get-together on Saturday evening.

[sites.google.com/site/hshillwalkers](http://sites.google.com/site/hshillwalkers)



## Waterford Festival of Food

DUNGARVAN,  
CO. WATERFORD

### 12-15 April

A meeting point for Michelin star chefs, artisan food producers and visitors of all ages. Seaweed seminars, food foraging trails, baking courses, restaurant trails, cookery demonstrations, picnics, 'Bus Bia' tours, BBQs and much more including a Farmers' Market Extravaganza.

[www.waterfordfestivaloffood.com](http://www.waterfordfestivaloffood.com)



## Cúirt International Festival of Literature

GALWAY CITY

### 24-29 April

Galway's long running festival of literature brings writers and readers together to celebrate the power of the written word. Keeping true to its original roots the festival celebrates the perfection of poetry, accompanied by prose readings, discussion and debate, music, theatre and more.

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



## Dublin Bay Prawn Festival

HOWTH, CO. DUBLIN

### 27-29 April

A food festival packed with food stalls, tasting sessions, top quality seafood, local restaurants, artisan food, cookery demonstrations, wine-tasting and prawn shelling competitions. Soak up the atmosphere with street entertainment, walks, talks and enjoy Howth's pubs and restaurants after the sun goes down.

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



### Top Class Horse Racing

Two cracking festivals bring a fusion of sport, entertainment, and fashion to massive crowds. Fairyhouse Easter Festival (8-10 April) features the Powers Gold Cup, the Ladbrokes Irish Grand National and the Novice Hurdle while the Punchestown National Racing Festival (24-28 April) features 11 Grade 1 Races.  
[www.fairyhouseracecourse.ie](http://www.fairyhouseracecourse.ie)  
[www.punchestown.com](http://www.punchestown.com)



### Save the Date! Bray Jazz Festival

BRAY, CO. WICKLOW

4-6 May

A contemporary showcase for international and Irish musicians at the cutting edge of jazz and improvised music. Described as 'the connoisseur's jazz festival' (The Irish Times), the festival has hosted many of the leading names in jazz from the United States and Europe, South America, Asia and Africa.  
[www.brayjazz.com](http://www.brayjazz.com)



### Save the Date! EVA International Exhibition

LIMERICK CITY

Starts 19 May and runs until 12 August

A biennial festival of visual art. The guest curator, Annie Fletcher (Van Abbemuseum, the Netherlands) will select artwork from a wide range of submissions and place them within gallery and non-gallery spaces alongside a series of associated events including talks and workshops exploring the themes of the exhibition.  
[www.eva.ie](http://www.eva.ie)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06 Good Friday	07
08 Easter Sunday	09 Easter Monday	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# May 2012

## Wonderful Walking

It's time for walkers to dust off their boots! From mountain to valley, coast to countryside there are walking festivals galore in May. With options for serious enthusiasts, first timers and everyone in between its time to get out there. Find your perfect walking festival at

[www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)



Wonderful Walking Festivals around the country



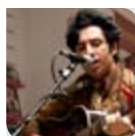
## Cork International Choral Festival

CORK CITY & COUNTY

2-6 May

The best of vocal music with a programme of Gala Concerts, a diverse Fringe programme and Choral Trail where voices spill out from public spaces across the city. Top choirs compete in Cork City Hall with the prestigious Fleischmann International Trophy Competition providing a thrilling climax to five days of song.

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



## Smithwicks Kilkenny Rhythm and Roots Festival

KILKENNY CITY

4-7 May

Showcasing all forms of Americana. From midday to midnight audiences sample the huge range of music in over 30 venues. Acts from Ireland, USA, Canada and UK, free pub gig trail and all styles featured from swing to bluegrass, rockabilly to cajun, folk and blues.

[www.kilkennyroots.com](http://www.kilkennyroots.com)

## Limerick Riverfest

LIMERICK CITY

4-7 May

A festival with something for everyone. Live music, street performance, entertainment, fashion shows and the Great Limerick Run. Additional highlights include the lively International Street market and the Great Limerick International BBQ where professionals and amateurs showcase their best barbecuing skills!

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



## RTÉ All Ireland Drama Festival

ATHLONE, CO. WESTMEATH

4-12 May

Celebrating 60 years of top class competitive drama. Showcasing Irish amateur theatre, nine groups will battle for the coveted Festival Champions Trophy along with awards for best acting and technical skills. Supported by a lively Fringe programme of workshops, exhibitions, and theatrical performances.

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

## Só Sligo Food Festival

SLIGO

18-20 May

A packed weekend of activity. Visit the food village for demonstrations, wine, cheese and beer tastings. Sample delicious tasting menus, food trails, foraging walks and workshops. Don't miss The World Irish Stew Championship which see all types of chefs compete for the title. And of course Sligo is also famous for it's music, poetry, literature and art and there will be plenty of that too!

[www.sosligo.com](http://www.sosligo.com)



## Celebrating Clifden 200

CLIFDEN, CO. GALWAY

25 May – 4 June

A festival to celebrate the history and heritage of Clifden and its founding father John D'Arcy. A lively programme of activities including talks, walks, documentaries, dramas, exhibitions, traditional boats regatta, street market, street theatre and street parties.

[www.clifden2012.org/](http://www.clifden2012.org/) [www.clifdenchamber.ie](http://www.clifdenchamber.ie)



## Writer's Week

LISTOWEL, CO. KERRY

30 May – 3 June

A lively and inclusive literary festival. Writer's Week aims to guide, direct and enthuse emerging and established writers and to provide a practical platform for their artistic output. This is achieved through workshops, readings, lectures, literary competitions, book launches, seminars and plenty of chat.

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



## Cat Laughs Comedy Festival

KILKENNY CITY

31 May – 4 June

An acclaimed comedy festival in the atmospheric setting of a charming and intimate medieval city. Top Irish and international talent and globally renowned comic stars as well as newcomers and break-through acts.

[www.thecatlaughs.com](http://www.thecatlaughs.com)



## Bloom

PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN

31 May – 4 June

Ireland's much loved gardening, food and family festival. Spectacular show gardens, floral displays, Bord Bia Food Village and five days of live entertainment for all ages.

[www.bloominthepark.com](http://www.bloominthepark.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07 May Day	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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# June 2012

## Street Performance World Championships

FITZGERALD PARK, CORK &  
MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN

**9-10 June (Cork) and 14-17 June (Dublin)**

The best contortionists, magicians, breakdancers, comedians and all-round jesters in the world come to Ireland to battle it out in front of huge crowds for the most coveted title in street performance, the "Street Performance World Champion".  
[www.spwc.ie](http://www.spwc.ie)

Street Performance  
World Championships  
9-10 June (Cork)  
14-17 June (Dublin)



## Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival

BALLYSHANNON, CO. DONEGAL

**31 May – 3 June**

Honouring Ireland's much loved Rock n' Blues guitarist the late Rory Gallagher who was born in Ballyshannon in 1948. Open air street gigs, workshops, exhibitions, theatre, concerts and pub sessions celebrate the best of rock and blues music.

[www.goingto-myhometown.com](http://www.goingto-myhometown.com)

## Sunshine for the Mind

Culture lovers are spoiled for choice with the finest theatre, music, drama, art and literature.

Lismore Music Festival

LISMORE, CO. WATERFORD  
**2-3 June**

[www.lismoremusicfestival.com](http://www.lismoremusicfestival.com)

Immrama Festival of Travel Writing

LISMORE, CO. WATERFORD  
**7-10 June**

[www.lismoreimmrama.com](http://www.lismoreimmrama.com)

ÉIGSE Carlow Arts Festival

CARLOW

**8-17 June**

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

Music in Great Irish Houses

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**13-17 June**

[www.musicgreatirishhouses.com](http://www.musicgreatirishhouses.com)

West Cork Chamber Music Festival

BANTRY, CO. CORK

**29 June – 7 July**

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

Loughcrew Festival Opera

OLDCASTLE, CO. MEATH

**Exact dates tbc**

[www.loughcrew.com](http://www.loughcrew.com)

Swift Satire Festival

TRIM, CO. MEATH

**5-8 July (provisional)**

[www.swiftsatirefestival.com](http://www.swiftsatirefestival.com)

## Ocean to City – An Rás Mór

CORK CITY & COUNTY

**1-9 June**

A lively maritime festival featuring exhibitions, music, guided tours, children's activities and craic for all the family onshore. On 2 June the spectacular 15 mile rowing race featuring a huge variety of kayaks, currachs and rowing boats begins at Crosshaven and finishes up at Lapps Quay in Cork City.  
[www.oceantocity.com](http://www.oceantocity.com)



## Dingle Adventure Race

DINGLE, CO. KERRY

**9 June**

A multi-activity adventure race consisting of bike, hike, run and kayak. The 30 mile course takes you to some of the gems of the Dingle Peninsula. Biking over the Conor Pass, Ireland's highest mountain pass, climbing Ireland's second highest mountain range Mt. Brandon, running country roads and kayaking across Dingle Harbour.  
[www.dingleadventurerace.com](http://www.dingleadventurerace.com)



## Cork Midsummer Festival

CORK CITY

**21 June – 1 July**

Transforming Cork each June with a summer solstice celebration of contemporary arts and culture. Expect extraordinary theatre and performance, music, street art, family and free events.  
[www.corkmidsummer.com](http://www.corkmidsummer.com)





## The Irish Open Golf Tournament

LOCATION TBC

**28 June – 1 July**

Top names in Irish and International golf, including golfing heroes Padraig Harrington and Rory McIlroy battle it out to take the title of Irish Open Champion 2012.

[www.discoverireland.ie/golf](http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf)



## Super Cool Summer Festivals

Hot days of summer cool down as boutique festivals open their doors. Get to Body and Soul Festival (16-17 June), Sea Sessions Surf & Music Festival (29 June – 1 July), Flat Lake Literary & Arts Festival (dates tbc), Cork X Southwest (dates tbc) or Castlepalooza (3-5 Aug) for a super cool festival experience.

[www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)



## Castlebar International Four Days Walks Festival

CO. MAYO

**28 June – 1 July**

Join walkers from more than 21 countries to walk, talk, discover and share the bogs, rivers, mountains and unspoilt beauty of the west of Ireland. A wide choice of routes to suit all levels of fitness. Each day has a 10km, 20km and 40km road walk and a guided cross-country 'Ramble' that takes approximately six hours to complete.

[www.castlebar4dayswalks.com](http://www.castlebar4dayswalks.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01	02
03	04 Bank Holiday	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# July 2012

## Galway Festival Season

Galway becomes a hive of thrills and excitement for locals and visitors alike. With great places to stay and stunning countryside on the doorstep it's an amazing time to come west.

### Volvo Ocean Race

6-8 July

This final leg of the exhilarating and exciting ocean race returns once again to Galway. [www.volvoceanrace.com](http://www.volvoceanrace.com)

### Galway Film Fleadh

10-15 July

Screenings, masterclasses, debates, interviews and retrospectives. [www.galwayfilmfleadh.com](http://www.galwayfilmfleadh.com)

### Galway Arts Festival

16-29 July

Large-scale street spectacle, ground breaking theatre and dance, visual arts, headline gigs, visual arts and late night revels. [www.galwayartsfestival.com](http://www.galwayartsfestival.com)

### Galway Summer Races

30 July – 5 August

Good craic, great horseracing and seven days of super socialising. [www.galwayraces.com](http://www.galwayraces.com)

### Galway Arts Festival

16-29 July



### Achill Half Marathon

ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO

7 July

Beautiful and scenic Achill Island hosts its 7th annual half marathon in 2012 along a challenging and spectacular route. The race is the centrepiece of a full weekend of events and entertainment on the island. [www.achillmarathon.com](http://www.achillmarathon.com)

## Fun for Families

### Carrick on Shannon Water Music Festival

CARRICK ON SHANNON, CO. LEITRIM

3-8 July (provisional)

[www.carrickonshannonwatermusic.com](http://www.carrickonshannonwatermusic.com)

### Clonmel Junction

CLONMEL, CO. TIPPERARY

6-15 July

[www.junctionfestival.com](http://www.junctionfestival.com)

### Ballina Salmon Festival

BALLINA, CO. MAYO

8-15 July

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

### Killarney Summerfest

KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY

21-30 July (provisional)

[www.killarneysummerfest.com](http://www.killarneysummerfest.com)

### Bray Air Spectacular

BRAY, CO. WICKLOW

22 July

[www.brayairdisplay.com](http://www.brayairdisplay.com)

### Tullamore Show & AIB

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW

TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY

12 August

[www.tullamoreshow.com](http://www.tullamoreshow.com)

### National Heritage Week

NATIONWIDE

18-26 August

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



Volvo Ocean Race  
(David Branigan. [www.oceansport.ie](http://www.oceansport.ie))  
6-8 July



## Kinsale Arts Week

KINSALE, CO. CORK

7-15 July

Expect the extraordinary in one of Ireland's most beautiful seaside towns with drama, art, food, literature and special events. Add in free events, family happenings and some of Ireland and the world's leading artists, writers, thinkers and actors and you have the recipe for a superb arts festival.

[www.kinsaleartsweek.com](http://www.kinsaleartsweek.com)



## Earagail Arts Festival

VARIOUS LOCATIONS  
IN CO. DONEGAL

7-22 July

A bilingual, multi-disciplinary festival offering a national and international programme of music, theatre, visual arts, children's events, literature and outdoor events in various locations throughout the stunning county of Donegal.

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



## West Cork Literary Festival

BANTRY, CO. CORK

8-14 July

An extensive programme of five day workshops, tutored by leading writers, playwrights and journalists. Workshops include novel writing, writing for the stage, freelance journalism, crime writing, song writing and others. Accompanied by seminars, panel discussions, talks and readings.

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



## Oxegen

PUNCESTOWN  
RACECOURSE, NAAS,  
CO. KILDARE

During July

Grab your wellies – it's Ireland's biggest music festival! Combining a stellar line-up and unbeatable atmosphere, Oxegen has hosted the world's biggest acts including The Black Eyed Peas, Coldplay, Beyonce and 2012 is sure to be better than ever.

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

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More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# August 2012



The Tall Ships Race Dublin  
23-26 August

## The Tall Ships Race Dublin

DUBLIN CITY

**23-26 August**

Dublin hosts the return of the Tall Ships and brings the colour and excitement of up to 100 Tall Ships to the heart of the city. Visit the amazing ships, see the 3,000 strong crew parade and view the spectacular Parade of Sail. A festival for all the family with fun and activity the length and breadth of Dublin's Docklands.

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



## Spraoui

WATERFORD CITY

**2-5 August**

Three days of art, entertainment, street theatre and world music on the streets, squares and parks of Ireland's oldest city. A highlight of this colourful weekend is the Spraoui Parade which makes its way through the city offering excitement and fun for all.

[www.spraoui.com](http://www.spraoui.com)

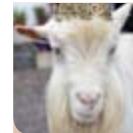
## Dublin Super Cup

AVIVA STADIUM, DUBLIN

**4-5 August**

A pre-season competition bringing the biggest names in world football to Ireland's Aviva stadium. 2011 saw the arrival of Celtic FC, Manchester City and Inter Milan along with the Airtricity XL, a team selected from the best players in Ireland's domestic league. Who will be coming to Dublin to battle it out for glory in 2012?

[www.thedublinsupercup.com](http://www.thedublinsupercup.com)



## Puck Fair

KILLORGLIN, CO. KERRY

**10-12 August**

A wild goat is crowned King Puck and presides over three days of free family entertainment including fireworks, workshops, storytelling, music night and day and the famous horse fair.

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



## Kilkenny Arts Festival

KILKENNY CITY

**10-19 August**

Indulge in a feast of artistic pursuits including classical music, theatre, dance, literature, visual art and craft. Many events take place in the historic venues of the lovely medieval city including Kilkenny Castle, St. Canice's Cathedral and the Black Abbey.

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



## Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

CAVAN TOWN

**10-20 August**

The biggest celebration of traditional music in Ireland. Attracting tens of thousands of visitors the Fleadh is an exciting week encompassing competitions, sessions, ceilí bands, concerts, pageants, marching bands, drama, and exhibitions all saluting the best of Irish traditional culture.

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



## Dublin Horse Show

RDS, DUBLIN

**15-19 August**

A celebration of Ireland's affinity with the horse. The finest show horses and the best international show jumpers compete for honours as well as a wide range of activities for everyone including Ladies Day, 300 trade stands, kids zone, live music and a wide range of food and drink.

[www.dublinhorseshow.com](http://www.dublinhorseshow.com)



## Rose of Tralee International Festival

TRALEE, CO. KERRY

**17-21 August**

One of Ireland's longest running festivals the heart of which is the selection of the winning Rose of Tralee. A week long festival including street entertainment, carnival, live concerts, theatre, circus, markets, funfair, fireworks and the much loved Rose Parade which features the 32 Irish and international Roses.

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

## Charlie Chaplin Comedy Film Festival

WATERVILLE, CO. KERRY

**21-26 August (provisional)**

Waterville, the Kerry seaside village that Charlie Chaplin loved, hosts this festival to honour the life and work of the master comedian and filmmaker. Enjoy classic films, documentaries, workshops, talks and masterclasses and other events all celebrating the joy of cinema.

[www.charliechaplincomedyfilmfestival.com](http://www.charliechaplincomedyfilmfestival.com)



## Treats for Thrill Seekers

Sign up for a challenge!  
Choose from the Beast of

Ballyhoura (3-6 Aug, prov), Gaelforce West (18 Aug), the Sean Kelly Tour of Waterford (25-26 Aug) or the Sky Ride Etape (26 Aug) for a real thrill. Find plenty more adventure challenges at

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

Sunday

Monday

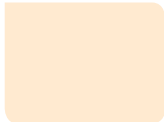
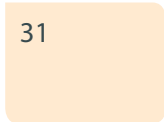
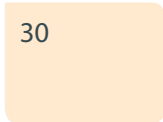
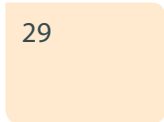
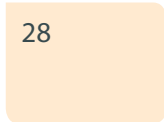
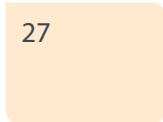
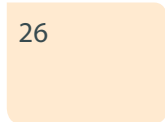
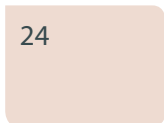
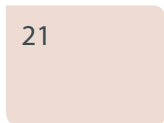
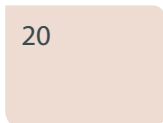
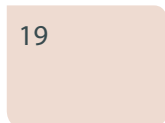
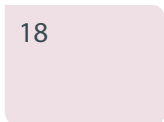
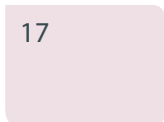
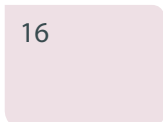
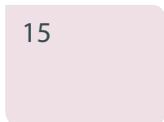
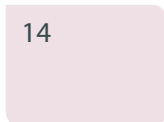
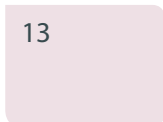
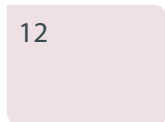
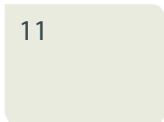
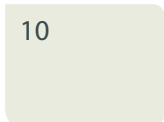
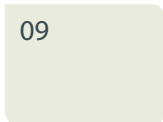
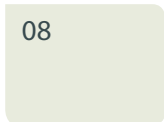
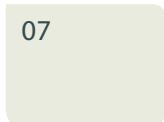
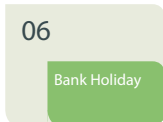
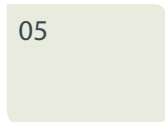
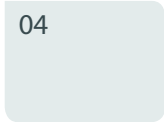
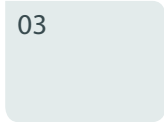
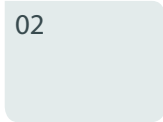
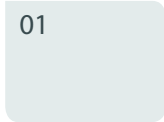
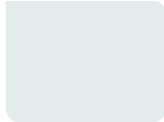
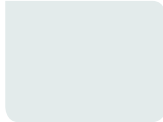
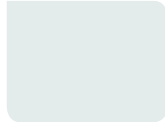
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More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# September 2012

## Dublin Festival Season

For thought-provoking theatre, incredible arts and all that the city has to offer, round up your pals and get to Dublin for a city break with a difference.

[www.dublinfestivalseason.com](http://www.dublinfestivalseason.com)

### ABSOLUT Fringe

**8-23 September**

Theatre, performance and music: The Fringe takes over more than 40 venues and celebrates the new and the next.

### Arthurs Day

**20 September**

Music and craic: headline concerts and intimate gigs, along with a couple of pints of the black stuff.

### Dublin Culture Night

**21 September**

Discover Culture: galleries, museums and cultural venues open their doors for free.

### Dublin Theatre Festival

**27 September – 14 October**

Superb theatre: An amazing array of Irish and International theatre productions.

### Open House Dublin

**5-7 October**

Explore Architecture: Buildings of all types and periods open their doors for free.

### And don't miss

Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival, Oktoberfest, Dublin Fashion Festival, Hard Working Class Heroes, Dublin Puppet Festival and Darklight Festival.

For tonnes more info on how to make the best of your days, and nights, at Dublin Festival Season visit

[www.dublinfestivalseason.com](http://www.dublinfestivalseason.com)



**DUBLIN  
FESTIVAL  
SEASON**

**CLAP LAUGH  
CHEER CRY**

**SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER**

**DUBLIN FESTIVAL SEASON.COM**



## Electric Picnic

STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS

**31 August – 2 September**

A unique music and arts festival set amid the rolling lawns of Stradbally Hall. World class music, arts, comedy, theatre and an amazing body and soul area make this an incredible boutique festival experience.

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

## A Feast of American Football: The Emerald Isle Classic

AVIVA STADIUM, DUBLIN

**1 September**

Sports fans are in for a treat as two legendary American football teams come together in a mighty clash in their first game of the season. See Notre Dame 'The Fighting Irish' take on Navy, cheered on by thousands of travelling fans and locals alike. Plenty of other games will bring excitement to Dublin in addition to a massive pep-rally, marching bands, concerts and parties.

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

## Eat Ireland

Food lovers are in for tempting treats with food festivals coming up. Enjoy cookery demonstrations, artisan food and local produce at the Waterford Harvest Festival (10-16 Sept), A Taste of West Cork (10-16 Sept), Midleton Food & Drink Festival (dates tbc) and the Galway and Clarenbridge Oyster Festivals (during September).

[www.discoverireland.ie/food](http://www.discoverireland.ie/food)



Waterford Harvest Festival  
10-16 September



## Dingle Tradfest - Féile Trad an Daingin

DINGLE, CO. KERRY

**6-9 September** A new and innovative trad-fusion music festival providing a platform for national and international artists to showcase musical talent in a unique way. Formal concerts, session trail, ceilis, parades, workshops and outdoor activities including a session at the summit of scenic Mount Brandon.  
[www.dingletradfest.com](http://www.dingletradfest.com)



## National Ploughing Championships

HEATHPARK, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD

**25-27 September**

A cross-section of everything associated with rural Ireland. With over 300 competitions and 900 exhibitors showcasing every aspect of country life in Ireland there is something for everyone at this major autumn event.  
[www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie)



## Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival

LONGFORD TOWN, CO. LONGFORD

**During September**

Longford comes to life with Irish traditional American bluegrass and folk music. A stellar line-up from award-winning international musicians of all three music traditions. Nightly concerts, outdoor music, workshops, sessions and jams in various locations and a late night festival club to keep the party going.  
[www.johnnykeenan.com](http://www.johnnykeenan.com)

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# October 2012

## Wexford Festival Opera

WEXFORD TOWN

**24 October – 4 November**

One of the world's most important opera festivals promising a special experience of rarely programmed and neglected opera in Wexford's stunning Opera House. Daytime concerts, recitals, lectures and a lively fringe festival as well as the chance to dress up in style for the stunning nighttime performances.

[www.wexfordopera.com](http://www.wexfordopera.com)

Wexford Festival Opera  
24 October – 4 November



## Ballinasloe October Fair

BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY

**29 September – 7 October**

One of Europe's oldest horse

fairs. Traditional horse trading, haggling and competitions take place over fair week. Also plenty of activities for all the family including vintage rally, singing pubs and busking competitions, Queen of the Fair gala selection night, international food market, fireworks and fun fair.

[www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com)



## Dingle Peninsula Food & Wine Festival

DINGLE, CO. KERRY

**5-7 October**

A packed weekend of taste trails, cookery demonstrations, workshops, wine and whiskey tastings, pop up restaurants, foraging walks, food awards, tasting menus, and a huge farmers market. A celebration of local foods and traditions throughout the atmospheric streets of Dingle town.

[www.dinglefood.com](http://www.dinglefood.com)



## Sligo Live

SLIGO

**24-29 October**

Enjoy folk, roots, and indie music with over

100 performances in a warm, relaxed and intimate environment. Past highlights include Elvis Costello, KT Tunstall, The Proclaimers and Josh Ritter. Music under every conceivable roof in Sligo as well as the renowned Fiddler of Dooney Competition. Most events free.

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



## Savour Kilkenny

KILKENNY CITY

**25-29 October**

Celebrating Kilkenny's food heritage against the

dramatic backdrop of Kilkenny Castle. Open-air markets on the Parade plaza showcase the best of local and regional produce, workshops and demonstrations from artisan producers. Street performers, musicians and plenty of family entertainment too.

[www.savourkilkenny.com](http://www.savourkilkenny.com)



## Guinness Cork Jazz Festival

CORK CITY

**26-29 October**

A superb programme of world class jazz in over 90 venues. Headline gigs, music trail and a buzzing festival club combine with street entertainment, workshops, lectures, a jazz choir and participative events to make Cork the place to be for stars and fans of the jazz world.

[www.guinnessjazzfestival.com](http://www.guinnessjazzfestival.com)



National Lottery  
Dublin Marathon  
29 October



### Children's Festivals

Arts festivals Baboró in Galway (15-21 Oct, provisional) and RoolaBoola in Mayo (27-29 Oct) inspire children and their families

through music dance, theatre, puppetry and participation. The heaviest pumpkin is the centrepiece of a unique Halloween weekend at the Virginia Pumpkin Festival (Oct Bank Hol). Or head for Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival (19 Oct – 5 Nov) to give kids the fright of their lives.

[www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)



Virginia Pumpkin Festival  
October Bank Holiday

### National Lottery Dublin Marathon

DUBLIN CITY

#### 29 October

The 33rd year of the marathon which runs through the historic Georgian streets of Dublin. Up to 14,000 runners take to the course which is largely flat and is a single lap. Conditions for marathon running are ideal with average temperatures around 12°-14°C (53°-57°F). Runners are cheered on by friendly crowds as they cross the finish line.

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

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More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# November 2012

## Corona Cork Film Festival

CORK CITY

4-11 November

The finest of cinema comes to Cork. An eclectic programme with features, documentaries, exhibitions, retrospectives and new Irish film. A highlight of the festival is the short film programme for which the festival has an international reputation. [www.corkfilmfest.org](http://www.corkfilmfest.org)

Corona Cork Film Festival  
4-11 November (provisional)



## Oireachtas na Samhna

LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL

30 October – 4 November

Showcasing the very best of Irish cultural heritage through an extensive programme of events, including sessions, concerts, seminars, workshops, lectures and visual arts. Top sean-nós singers, locals and visitors, young and old hone their musical skills to compete in sean-nós singing, sean-nós dancing, violin, uilleann pipes, harp, duets and much more. [www.antoireachtas.ie](http://www.antoireachtas.ie)



## Kilkenomics

KILKENNY CITY

14-18 November

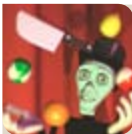
Don't worry if like most of us, you're finding economics complicated and frightening in equal measure right now. Put some world class economic thinkers together with some of the best comic and analytical minds available and see if they can't make the state of the nation easier to understand in an entertaining, informative and funny way. [www.kilkenomics.com](http://www.kilkenomics.com)

## Ardee Baroque Festival

ARDEE, CO. LOUTH

16-18 November

A welcoming baroque festival priding itself on quality music, evocative venues and a warm, friendly, festive atmosphere. A diverse range of performers feature and have previously included Opus Anglicanum, the New York Polyphony and Malcolm Proud and the 2012 programme is sure to be better than ever. [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie)



## Tralee Circus Festival

TRALEE, CO. KERRY

23-25 November  
(provisional)

Street performers, clowns and trapeze artists come to town for a fun-filled weekend featuring shows, workshops and parades and plenty of excitement. [www.traleecircusfestival.com](http://www.traleecircusfestival.com)



## Wexworlds Sci-Fi & Fantasy Fiction Festival

WEXFORD TOWN

23-25 November

Wexford town is invaded by science fiction and fantasy fiction authors and artists for this fiction festival showcasing readings, signings, panel talks and workshops and loads of activities for fans of this genre. [www.wexworlds.net](http://www.wexworlds.net)

Ardee Baroque Festival  
16-18 November





Sea 2 Summit  
During November

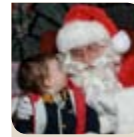
## Sea 2 Summit

WESTPORT, CO. MAYO

### During November

A unique adventure race based in Westport. The race will incorporate all the thrills that Westport has to offer including Croagh Patrick, Clew Bay, the Sheaffry Mountains and the new Greenway.

[www.westportsea2summit.ie](http://www.westportsea2summit.ie)



## Santa's Workshop at Aillwee Cave

AILLWEE CAVE,  
BALLYVAUGHAN,  
CO. CLARE

### 24 November – 22 December

Visit Santa and his elves in this very special location and enjoy a feast of family entertainment and fun. A lovely way to start off the seasonal festivities with a good time in store for everyone.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# December 2012

## 7Up Winter Wonderland

ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN CITY

### Throughout December

Ireland's biggest winter park featuring a host of festive attractions. A traditional Christmas market features exquisite crafts and gifts. Ice skating, Christmas circus, music and entertainment mean seasonal fun for everyone. And if you need some time out indulge in one of the cosy retreats serving seasonal Gluwein, hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts and other yuletide fair. [www.7upwinterwonderland.ie](http://www.7upwinterwonderland.ie)



7Up Winter Wonderland  
Throughout December



7Up Winter Wonderland  
Throughout December

## Walk Killarney

KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY

### 27 December

Fully guided walks through Ireland's oldest oakwoods, highest mountains, heritage and wildlife rich landscapes and dramatic Atlantic coastline. Experience the history hidden within the landscapes of Kerry in the company of knowledgeable and entertaining guides. [www.killarney.ie/walkkillarney](http://www.killarney.ie/walkkillarney)



Walk Killarney  
27 December

## Waterford Half Marathon

WATERFORD CITY

### During December

Run through the streets of one of Ireland's oldest cities. This is a race for fun runners and serious athletes as well. The race follows a mostly out-and-back loop course through the city. [www.waterfordac.com](http://www.waterfordac.com)

## A cracking Christmas

Find festive treats, gourmet goodies, seasonal entertainment and plenty of good cheer around the country in the run up to Christmas. [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Christmas in Waterford

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

A Christmas celebration on the Grand Parade

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

Christmas in Killarney

[www.christmasinkillarney.com](http://www.christmasinkillarney.com)

Galway Continental Christmas Market

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

Christmas at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

Duckets Grove Christmas Craft & Food Fair

[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

Christmas at Limerick Milk Market

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

National Craft & Design Fair

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



### Christmas Racing

Two racing festivals are firm favourites over the Christmas Season. Head for the Limerick Races (26-29 Dec) or Leopardstown Christmas Racing (26-29 Dec) for wonderful racing, food, entertainment and a festive atmosphere.

[www.limerickraces.ie](http://www.limerickraces.ie)  
[www.leopardstown.com](http://www.leopardstown.com)



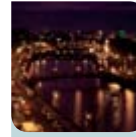
### Other Voices

DINGLE, CO. KERRY

#### During December

Other Voices has

become legendary in the music world. The beautiful town of Dingle provides the perfect backdrop for a diverse gathering of musical souls. Intimate concerts take place in St. James Church over consecutive winter nights at this incredibly special music festival.  
[www.othervoices.ie](http://www.othervoices.ie)



### Dublin at New Year

DUBLIN CITY

#### 30 December – 1 January

Get set to ring in the New Year in Dublin City. Concerts, music, outdoor markets and family entertainment pop up in the streets and squares of Dublin to create a special atmosphere in the countdown to 2013.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 New Year's Eve					01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 St. Stephen's Day	27	28	29

More festivals and events at [www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on](http://www.discoverireland.ie/whats-on)

# 2012 At a Glance

## JANUARY

1	RNLI NEW YEARS DAY SWIM
7 and 13-15	MUNSTER RUGBY AT THOMOND PARK
12-15	WINTER MUSIC WEEKEND
13	GREAT OUTDOORS ART O'NEILL CHALLENGE
20-23	YEATS WINTER SCHOOL
20 Jan – 3 Feb	CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL DUBLIN
25	RACING AT LIMERICK
25-29	TEMPLE BAR TRAD FEST
27-29	GLEN OF AHERLOW WALKING FESTIVAL
27-29	ARDARA COUNTRY & WESTERN WEEKEND
29	HELL AND BACK

## FEBRUARY

26 Jan – 18 Feb	MOZART THE MAGIC FLUTE
3-5	SAFETY DIRECT GALWAY INTERNATIONAL RALLY
12	TIPPERARIANA BOOK FAIR
15-19	SCOIL CHEOIL AN EARRAIGH
16-26	JAMESON DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
18-19	DINGLE WALKING FESTIVAL
22-26	THE GATHERING
23-26	TEDFEST
24-25	RIDE & TIDE CHALLENGE EVENT
24-27	RUSSELL MEMORIAL WEEKEND
27 Feb – 4 March	COROFIN TRAD FESTIVAL

## MARCH

2-4	ENNIS BOOK CLUB FESTIVAL
3	RUNAMUCK
4-11	CORK FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
5-17	SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE
15-18	DINGLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
16-18	ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL CORK
16-18	CONNEMARA FOUR SEASONS WALKING FESTIVAL
16-19	ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL DUBLIN
17	ST. PATRICKS DAY PIPE BAND PARADE ACHILL ISLAND
18	LIMERICK INTERNATIONAL BAND PARADE
23-25	CROAGH PATRICK HERITAGE TRAIL WALKING FESTIVAL
26-30	FRESH FILM FESTIVAL
Dates tbc	DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL

## APRIL

1	CONNEMARATHON
7-8	NORTH LEITRIM GLENS WALKING FESTIVAL
8-10	FAIRYHOUSE EASTER FESTIVAL
8-15	MAYO TITANIC CULTURAL WEEK
9-15	TITANIC 100 COBH 2012
12-15	WATERFORD FESTIVAL OF FOOD
24-28	PUNCHSTOWN NATIONAL RACING FESTIVAL
24-29	CÚIRT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE
27-29	DUBLIN BAY PRAWN FESTIVAL

## MAY

2-6	CORK INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
4-6	BRAY JAZZ FESTIVAL
4-7	LIMERICK RIVERFEST
4-7	SMITHWICK'S KILKENNY RHYTHM & ROOTS
4-12	RTÉ ALL IRELAND DRAMA FESTIVAL
18-20	SÓ SLIGO FOOD FESTIVAL
19 May – 12 August	EVA INTERNATIONAL
25 May – 4 June	CLIFDEN 200
30 May – 3 June	WRITER'S WEEK
31 May – 4 June	BLOOM
31 May – 4 June	CAT LAUGHS COMEDY FESTIVAL

## JUNE

31 May – 3 June	RORY GALLAGHER TRIBUTE FESTIVAL
1-9	OCEAN TO CITY – AN RÁS MÓR
2-3	LISMORE MUSIC FESTIVAL
7-10	IMMRAMA FESTIVAL OF TRAVEL WRITING
8-17	ÉIGSE CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL
9	DINGLE ADVENTURE RACE
9-10 and 14-17	STREET PERFORMANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
13-17	MUSIC IN GREAT IRISH HOUSES
16-17	BODY AND SOUL FESTIVAL
21 June – 1 July	CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
28 June – 1 July	CASTLEBAR FOUR DAY WALKS FESTIVAL
28 June – 1 July	IRISH OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT
29 June – 1 July	SEA SESSIONS SURF & MUSIC FESTIVAL
29 June – 7 July	WEST CORK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Dates tbc	FLAT LAKE LITERARY & ARTS FESTIVAL
Dates tbc	LOUGHCREW FESTIVAL OPERA
Dates tbc	CORK X SOUTHWEST

## JULY

During July	OXEGEN
3-8	CARRICK ON SHANNON WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL
5-8	SWIFT SATIRE FESTIVAL
6-8	VOLVO OCEAN RACE
6-15	CLONMEL JUNCTION
7	ACHILL HALF MARATHON
7-15	KINSALE ARTS WEEK
7-22	EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL
8-14	WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL
8-15	BALLINA SALMON FESTIVAL
10-15	GALWAY FILM FLEADH
16-29	GALWAY ARTS FESTIVAL
21-30	KILLARNEY SUMMERFEST
22	BRAY AIR SPECTACULAR
30 July – 5 August	GALWAY SUMMER RACES

## AUGUST

2-5	SPRAOI
3-5	CASTLEPALOOZA
3-6	BEAST OF BALLYHOURA
4-5	DUBLIN SUPER CUP
10-12	PUCK FAIR
10-19	KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL
10-20	FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN
12	TULLAMORE SHOW
15-19	DUBLIN HORSE SHOW
17-21	ROSE OF TRALEE
18	GAELFORCE WEST
18-26	NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEKS
21-26	CHARLIE CHAPLIN COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL
23-26	TALL SHIPS RACE DUBLIN
25-26	SEAN KELLY TOUR OF WATERFORD
26	SKY RIDE ÉTAPE
31 Aug – 2 Sept	ELECTRIC PICNIC

## SEPTEMBER

During September	JOHNNY KEENAN BANJO FESTIVAL
1	AMERICAN FOOTBALL: EMERALD ISLE CLASSIC
5-7	OPEN HOUSE
6-9	DINGLE TRADFEST
7-9	CLARENBRIDGE OYSTER FESTIVAL
8-23	ABSOLUT FRINGE
10-16	WATERFORD HARVEST FESTIVAL
10-16	A TASTE OF WEST CORK
20	ARTHURS DAY
21	DUBLIN CULTURE NIGHT
25-27	NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS
27 Sept – 14 Oct	DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL
28-30	GALWAY INTERNATIONAL OYSTER FESTIVAL
29 Sept – 7 Oct	BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR
Dates tbc	MIDLETON FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

## OCTOBER

5-7	DINGLE PENINSULA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL
15-21	BABORÓ
19 Oct – 5 Nov	SPIRITS OF MEATH HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
24-29	SLIGO LIVE
24 Oct – 4 Nov	WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA
25-29	SAVOUR KILKENNY
26-29	GUINNESS CORK JAZZ FESTIVAL
27-29	ROOLA BOOLA
29	NATIONAL LOTTERY DUBLIN MARATHON
30 Oct – 4 Nov	OIREACHTAS NA SAMHNA
Dates tbc	VIRGINIA PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

## NOVEMBER

4-11	CORONA CORK FILM FESTIVAL
14-18	KILKENNOMICS
16-18	ARDEE BAROQUE FESTIVAL
23-25	WEXWORLDS SCI-FI & FANTASY FICTION FESTIVAL
23-25	TRALEE CIRCUS FESTIVAL
24 Nov – 22 Dec	SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT AILLWEE CAVE
During November	SEA 2 SUMMIT

## DECEMBER

26-29	LIMERICK RACES
26-29	LEOPARDSTOWN RACES
27	WALK KILLARNEY
30 Dec – 1 Jan	DUBLIN AT NEW YEAR
During December	7UP WINTER WONDERLAND
During December	WATERFORD HALF MARATHON
During December	OTHER VOICES
During December	CHRISTMAS IN WATERFORD
During December	A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON THE GRAND PARADE
During December	CHRISTMAS IN KILLARNEY
During December	CHRISTMAS AT LIMERICK MILK MARKET
During December	DUCKETTS GROVE CHRISTMAS & CRAFT FAIR
During December	GALWAY CONTINENTAL CHRISTMAS MARKET
During December	CHRISTMAS AT BUNRATTY CASTLE & FOLK PARK
During December	NATIONAL CRAFT & DESIGN FAIR

Every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the completion of this brochure. Fáilte Ireland cannot however, accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly. Some sporting activities may be their nature be hazardous and involve risk. It is recommended in such cases to take out personal accident insurance. While most operators would have public liability insurance it is desirable to check with the establishment or with the operator concerned as to the level of cover carried. It is recommended that you pre-check the details of listed events before travelling.



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority