



# Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority



## Culture & Heritage Oct – Dec 2009 Events, News & Features



### Culture

During the months of October through December the Irish cultural calendar is absolutely jam-packed. For starters, the must-see Francis Bacon Centenary celebration at the Hugh Lane Gallery is getting underway shortly, as is the new Opera Ireland season at the Gaiety Theatre. And what better way to combat the longer, darker winter evenings than with a spot of theatre! And of course few things can rival being able to catch some quality traditional music, as you sit by a roaring fire as the night time chill closes in. So be sure not to miss the Ennis Trad Festival this November!

There is no shortage of festivals, exhibitions and cultural events to see you safely through to the New Year. Please keep reading for a taste of what's on offer in the coming months.

### Heritage

Beloved by both children and adults across the globe, the feast of Hallowe'en – Samhain - will shortly be upon us. The historic county of Meath can lay claim to being the original site of this spiritual celebration and is holding a range of events in the run up to the 31<sup>st</sup> October. And thrill seekers should head to Ballyhoura in County Limerick this Hallow'e'n for a different type of hair-raising experience! Visitors will be delighted to note several new and improved attractions opening in their doors over the approaching months such as the very exciting new and interactive Wax Museum Plus not to mention the newly developed Viking experience at Dublinia.

## Traditional Culture

**Tradfest 2010 is fast approaching – have your dancing shoes at the ready!**



Having been awarded the coveted title of Ireland's Best Traditional Festival in the 2009 Festival Awards, the 2010 Temple Bar Tradfest promises to be even better and will be animating the cobbled streets of Temple Bar from the 27 to the 31 January 2010. In addition to the many concerts on offer, the festival's family programme is bursting at the seams with parades, puppetry, drama, culture workshops, film screenings for the young and the not-so-young, and a whopping big Ceilí with the legendary Kilfenora Ceilí Band...This is sure to be one of 2010's unmissable events.

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

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## **What's On: October - December Traditional Culture**



### **Festivals & Events**

**23 - 26 October: Flute & Whistle playing at Oideas Gael,** Glencolumbcille, Co. Donegal. An 'Exploration of Irish Music' through the flute and whistle, presented by a leading traditional musician, offers tuition to both the learner and the improver. Workshops will also explain the development and progression of Irish music to modern times. [www.oideasgael.ie](http://www.oideasgael.ie)

**12 - 16 October: Slieve Bloom Storytelling Festival.** A week of tall tales, magic, myth and legend with local and international storytellers. [info@slievebloom.ie](mailto:info@slievebloom.ie)

**23- 26 October: Willie Keane Memorial Weekend,** Doonbeg, County Clare. A tribute to the legendary set dancer, who passed away in 1998. *Joe Hurley, local historian.* "... his entrance into a lounge bar made heads turn and brought a hush to the crowd now gripped with feelings of eager expectation." "Willie... drummed out his battering rhythms to the cheers and applause of all present." [www.williekeanememorialweekend.com](http://www.williekeanememorialweekend.com)

## Historic Ireland

### Hallowe'en Celebrations!

Halloween, referred to as "Samhain" in the Irish language, is one of the largest festivals in the Western World (second only to Christmas). It marks the turning of the Celtic Year and originated at Tlachtga (the Hill of Ward) just outside the town of Athboy in County Meath.



**23 - 31 October: "Spirits of Meath" festival,** various locations across Meath.

The historic lands of County Meath are celebrating the ancient festival of Hallowe'en with a range of events including a torchlight procession, a children's arts day, spooky dining experiences for all the family, astronomy sessions, spine-chilling guided tours not to mention grim and gory storytelling!

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

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**October 31:" Ballyhoura Spook" & "Ballyhoura Screamer",** County Limerick.

At the Ballyhoura Spook, children and their parents are being encouraged to get into the spirit of Hallowe'en and to arrive in fancy dress! Visitors will then be guided through the ghostly woods of Ballyhoura while encountering wicked witches, deadly ghouls and all sorts of things that go bump in the night. There promises to be endless eerie events, hair-raising face painting and oodles of tricks and treats. For those that survive there will be plenty of old style Hallowe'en fun and games, story telling and an array of ghostly grub on offer.

For mountain bikers the highlight of the event promises to be the "**Ballyhoura Screamer**" Ireland's first 2 stage, day and night, mountain bike race. The event will challenge bikers to a 30 km day stage followed by a 10 km night time trial.

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

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### **Heritage Island Launches [www.heritageisland.mobi](http://www.heritageisland.mobi)**

A new website is now available from Heritage Island which is bespoke for mobile-phone users. The website address is [www.heritageisland.mobi](http://www.heritageisland.mobi) and this can be viewed on any mobile phone with internet access. The mobile site is easily downloadable on any make of mobile phone, has information on all Heritage Island members and has a "search" and "what's on" facility. It is particularly useful for tourists on the move.

[helen@heritageisland.com](mailto:helen@heritageisland.com)

**23 – 26 October: Sligo Live,** Sligo Town. One of Ireland's most enjoyable roots music events will present concerts, sessions and free fun events designed to appeal to a whole range of music fans and their families. The line up this year includes acclaimed songstress Martha Wainwright, festival favourites the Saw Doctors, signer songwriter Josh Ritter and rockabilly queen Imelda May. [www.sliqolive.ie](http://www.sliqolive.ie)

**12 – 16 November: Ennis Trad Festival, County Clare.** A festival for those who love to hear and play Irish traditional music of the highest quality. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the festival includes ceilís, concerts, recitals, workshops, master classes, competitions and a trad themed table quiz!  
[contact@ennistradfestival.com](mailto:contact@ennistradfestival.com) / +353 (0)65-6839944  
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## Arts & Contemporary Culture

### **Francis Bacon Centenary Exhibition at the Hugh Lane Gallery**

**28 Oct – 7 March 2010: Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty**



The Hugh Lane Gallery are celebrating the centenary of Francis Bacon's birth in 63, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. This exhibition comprising paintings, drawings, photographs, unfinished works and slashed canvases will offer the viewer an astonishing new look at Francis Bacon, the great figurative painter of the 20th century. It will provide an opportunity to reappraise his oeuvre through the selected paintings, several of which haven't been on public exhibition for many years. The mastery of Francis Bacon is revealed through these works and will be fully supported by an extensive and previously unseen selection of items from Bacon's Studio. [www.hughlane.ie](http://www.hughlane.ie)

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## **What's On: October - December** **Arts & Contemporary Culture**

### **Theatre & Opera**

*\*\*Tickets can be booked via the theatre's own website Also available to purchase from 'Box Office' located in the Dublin Tourism Information Centre, Suffolk St, Dublin 2.*

**The Gate Theatre, Dublin:** [www.gate-theatre.ie](http://www.gate-theatre.ie)

**Until 14 Nov: *The Birds*** by Conor McPherson. Adapted from a Daphne Du Maurier story, immortalised by Alfred Hitchcock in his legendary film, now re-imagined in a chilling new adaptation by acclaimed Irish playwright Conor McPherson, *The Birds* is an unrelenting and spellbinding portrait of terror and alienation.

**Throughout December: *Charles's Dickens's A Christmas Carol***, adapted by John Mortimer. Back by popular demand, Dickens' timeless classic of what the true spirit of Christmas means is at the Gate this December.

**The Abbey Theatre, Dublin:** [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

**10 Nov – 5 Dec: *Terminus***, by Mark O'Rowe. Hold tight as the ordinary turns extraordinary in this vivid and exhilarating play by Mark O'Rowe, writer of *Boy A* and *Intermission*.

## **New Museum & Visitor Centre for Glasnevin Cemetery**



Glasnevin Cemetery - Dublin's Père Lachaise! An impressive list of notable names from the spheres of politics and the arts have been laid to rest within its walls. – including Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Brendan Behan and Gerard Manley Hopkins. A new museum and visitor attraction will open in spring 2010. Features will include a fully interactive exhibition highlighting the lives of those buried within the cemetery walls and some historical details of the workings of a Victorian Cemetery. It will also include a café and bookshop. Currently Glasnevin Trust runs daily tours of Glasnevin Cemetery (at 2.30 p.m.), giving an entertaining and insightful overview of the men and women who helped shape Ireland's past and present. [www.glasnevintrust.ie](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie)

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## **Jeanie Johnston Ship to Become a Museum!**



One of Ireland's best known historic tall ships, the Jeanie Johnston is currently berthed at Dublin City Moorings. It will open to the public as a museum in 2010. Please contact [press@dublindocklands.ie](mailto:press@dublindocklands.ie) for more information.

**13 – 28 Nov: *Ages of the Moon*.** Written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Sam Shepard, especially for leading Irish actors Seán McGinley and Stephen Rea, *Ages of the Moon* is a gruffly poignant and darkly funny play.

**4 Dec – 30 Jan 2010: *The Seafarer*,** by Conor McPherson. The Abbey is delighted to welcome back this latest play by Conor McPherson (*The Weir, Shining City*) following its triumphant runs in London, New York and Dublin.

**Opera Ireland at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin:**

**Opera Ireland's 2009 – 2010 Season Programme gets underway this November with:**

**Macbeth (Verdi) 14/16/18/20/22 November.**

Verdi's *Macbeth* features the age-old themes of the struggle for power, murder, corruption, revenge, ambition and guilt. Verdi's hauntingly beautiful music will have audiences captivated from the first notes.

**Das Rheingold (Wagner) 19/21 November**

(Concert Performances) Wagner's *Das Rheingold* tells the mythical story of the conflict between gods, giants and dwarfs over an enchanted treasure; a mystical golden ring that gives the wearer universal power but at the cost of forever renouncing love. [www.operaireland.ie](http://www.operaireland.ie)

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## Festivals & Events

**Until October 11: Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival,** various venues across Dublin.

The Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival is Europe's oldest specialist theatre festival and is also the only English-speaking contemporary theatre festival left in the world, celebrating its 52nd year in 2009.

With 26 shows from 12 countries in 16 venues all over Dublin, this year's programme will be sure to completely blow you away! [www.dublintheatrefestival.com](http://www.dublintheatrefestival.com)



**8 – 11 October: Open House Dublin – "Next Generation Architecture",** various venues across Dublin City.

A simple and powerful idea where over one weekend buildings selected for their architectural quality and interest open to the public. Explore the city's architecture with over 160 events; ranging from building, walking, boat and cycling tours to childrens workshops, architectural lectures and the ever popular Open Debate. All events FREE! [www.architecturefoundation.ie](http://www.architecturefoundation.ie)

**21 October – 1 November: Wexford Festival Opera,**



Wexford Opera House, Co. Wexford. Ireland's premier operatic event brings 18 days and nights of both rarely explored and popular repertoire to the picturesque town of Wexford. See their website for details on hotel packages for that extra special night at the opera. [www.wexfordopera.com](http://www.wexfordopera.com)

## Live like a Viking at Dublinia



Ever wanted to know what being a Viking would be like?! The brand new Viking World exhibition at Dublinia means that visitors can now find out what a typical day was like onboard a Viking warship! Discover why monasteries were looted and allow yourself be chained up as a slave! Experience the sights and sounds of a real Viking street and visit a Viking house. Investigate burial customs; explore the Viking legacy and much more! The visitor can also see what Medieval Dublin looked like with a fascinating scale model of the town. A new archaeology exhibition explains remnants of Dublin in times past through its thought-provoking artefacts, including those found at the famous Wood Quay Viking excavation. Visit an excavation site and delve into historical archives. Discover the Lab and test out the Time Detectives. Dublinia is also currently working on a replica Viking ship in their courtyard, where soon the visitor will be able to step back through the centuries simply by stepping onboard!

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

## Extended Opening Hours for the Casino, Marino, Dublin.

The Casino was designed by Sir William Chambers as a pleasure house for James Caulfield, 1st Earl of Charlemont. It is one of the finest 18th century neo-classical buildings in Europe The Casino, meaning "small house", surprisingly contains 16 finely decorated rooms, endlessly rich in subtlety and design. Their opening times for the rest of 2009 are: Until 1 November: Daily, 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. (last admission 4.15 p.m.). From 2 November until 25 November: Group bookings can be arranged by phoning the Casino.

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

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**23 – 26 October: Guinness Cork Jazz Festival**, Cork City.

One of the world's great Jazz Festivals, the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival attracts hordes of visitors to Cork each year. Pubs, cafés and live music venues across the city are packed to bursting point for the entire weekend with locals and visitors alike. An unmissable weekend for any self respecting music fan!

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

**1 – 8 November, Corona Cork Film Festival**, Cork City. An eclectic

mix of big-budget pictures, world cinema, independent films, documentaries and shorts from all over the globe as well as live cinema and new Irish film. [www.corkfilmfest.org](http://www.corkfilmfest.org)

**27 – 29 November: Annual Patrick Kavanagh Weekend**, Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen, County Monaghan.

An annual celebration of the life and works of one of Ireland's best loved poets in his native village of Inniskeen. [www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com](http://www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com)

**20 – 23 November: Bulmers Comedy Festival**, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. Heading in to its second year the festival has doubled in size with over 30 comedians performing over 4 nights in 1 great venue. Be prepared for an action packed, eclectic comedy extravaganza showcasing the crème de la crème of world comedy. [www.clonmelcomedy.com](http://www.clonmelcomedy.com)

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**For something a bit different....**

**23 - 26 October: Virginia Pumpkin Festival**, County Cavan. Not surprisingly, the pumpkin takes centre stage at the Virginia Pumpkin Festival, followed closely by well loved headline act BelX1. Pumpkin lover or not, this is bound to be a fun weekend. [www.pumpkinfestival.ie](http://www.pumpkinfestival.ie)

**25 October: The Irish Conker Championships**, Freshford, County Kilkenny. If you're bonkers for conkers (known as chestnuts to the rest of the world), come to Kilkenny to watch aficionados of this age old sport in action at this great family day out. Conker competitions for children and adults and a variety of fun events. [www.irishconkerchampionship.com](http://www.irishconkerchampionship.com)

**30 October: World Ghost Convention**, Cork City Gaol, County Cork. Where a ghoulish assortment of supernatural topics are explored and personal experiences of the supernatural are shared, all taking place in the atmospheric surrounds of Cork City Gaol. [www.worldghostconvention.com](http://www.worldghostconvention.com)

**13 – 15 November: Tralee Circus Festival**, County Kerry. Come to the Tralee Circus Festival to marvel at jugglers, acrobats and trapeze artists in. [www.traleecircusfestival.com](http://www.traleecircusfestival.com)

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**Summer is over – let's look forward to Christmas!**

**1 – 25 December: Kinsale Christmas**, Co. Cork. A packed programme of festive activities including markets, concerts, carol singing and fun events. [www.kinsalechristmas.com](http://www.kinsalechristmas.com)

**Natural Ireland**

**Cliffs Of Moher shortlisted for the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World!**



The New Seven Wonders selection committee announced at its headquarters in Switzerland last July, that County Clare's Cliffs of Moher has become one of the 28 Official Finalists in the race to become one of the new Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The final seven will be chosen in 2011

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

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**Walk Killarney & Kerry 2009**



From the 26 to the 31 December this year experience the history and heritage hidden within the stunning landscapes of County Kerry, in the company of knowledgeable and thoroughly entertaining guides.

[www.killarney.ie/walkkillarney](http://www.killarney.ie/walkkillarney)

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**12 – 23 December: Docklands 12 Days of Christmas Festival**, Dublin Docklands.



This charming yuletide event offers visitors a magical festive experience with over 80 festive stalls including Christmas gifts, seasonal food and stocking fillers.

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

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**Arts Festivals**

**12 – 18 October: Baboró International Arts Festival for Children**, Galway City & County.



The Baboró programme varies from year to year to bring a wide diversity of exposure to the arts especially created for young audiences and their chaperons! [www.baboro.ie](http://www.baboro.ie)

**22 – 31 October: Imagine Waterford Arts Festival**. Including theatre, music, literature, comedy, visual arts, dance and film. [www.imagineartsfestival.com](http://www.imagineartsfestival.com)

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**Museums & Galleries**

**The National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin:**  
**Running until 6 Dec: Edvard Munch: Prints.** From the Munch Museum, Oslo comes this exhibition dedicated to Edvard Munch (1863-1944), featuring 40 of the finest prints spanning his career that have been specially chosen to illustrate his development as a graphic artist. Edvard Munch is recognised as Norway's greatest artist and his work proved to be enormously influential internationally. [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie)

**Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin:**  
**25 Nov 09 – 7 Feb 2010:**  
**Picturing New York: Photographs from the Museum of Modern Art.** *Picturing New York* comprises 150 masterworks from the photographic collection of The Museum of Modern Art in New York, covering the period from the 1880s to the present day. It explores both New York and its inhabitants, highlighting associations – from the vast, overwhelming architecture and bright lights, to the diversity of people that lie at the soul of the city. [www.imma.ie](http://www.imma.ie)

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**Useful Links**  
[www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com)  
[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)  
[www.cnci.ie](http://www.cnci.ie)

**Glanteenassig – The Valley of the Waterfalls**



Glanteenassig is a 450 hectare area of woodland, mountain, lake and peatland nestling in a sheltered valley among the Slieve Mish mountains in County Kerry. Behind the woodlands the area is dotted with streams, lakes, waterfalls and dramatic cliffs which characterise this beautiful and untamed landscape. Glanteenassig is only about 6km from the sandy beaches at Castlegregory, and promises to be a paradise for nature enthusiasts.

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

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**Museum News!**

**National Wax Museum Plus opens on 5 October**



The National Wax Museum Plus is an outstanding and thoroughly original visitor attraction. It has been designed to deliver an interactive experience taking the visitor on a journey through Irish cultural heritage. It boasts an enchanting children's zone of discovery, Ireland's only dedicated tribute to our top scientific inventors, the WAX Factor video room, a fully functioning recording studio and all the exceptional life-like wax work characters one would expect to see at The National Wax Museum Plus! This redeveloped museum experience is guaranteed to be unlike any other you've ever had, so whether you are young or old, a culture vulture or fun seeker, you are sure to be amazed. [www.waxmuseumplus.ie](http://www.waxmuseumplus.ie)

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