

# YOUTH & ADVENTURE BUYERS' TRADE REFERENCE GUIDE



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## INTRODUCTION

This guide will act as a source of information on a range of youth and adventure experiences available across Ireland. It will provide you and your travel partners with practical information to support you in developing Youth and/or Adventure focused programmes to Ireland.

The experiences featured in the guide are presented according to Ireland's three distinctive yet complementary signature programmes; Dublin, Ireland's Ancient East, and Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

## ABOUT FÁILTE IRELAND

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority. Our role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination.

We provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services. We also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy. We promote Ireland as a holiday destination through our domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland. We work closely with our sister agency Tourism Ireland, who are responsible for marketing the Island of Ireland.





## Why Ireland is ready for youth and adventure visitors

Ireland is the ultimate youth and adventure destination. From pubs to passage tombs, heritage gems to hip cafés. From cosmopolitan Dublin to the Wild Atlantic Way and to Ireland's Ancient East, this is an island where visitors truly live like locals. With a superb spread of affordable accommodation, and a thriving festival scene, welcome to Europe's great adventure playground!

Are you ready for Ireland? It's ready for you. Youth numbers are growing, guides are topnotch and hostels are second to none. The Wild Atlantic Way is both an epic 2,500km touring route and a springboard to all kinds of hiking, biking, surfing and kayaking adventures. Great food, funky festivals and tumb-thumping traditional music abound. Ireland is a small country that's easy to get around, yet crammed with culture and home to a friendly population that makes doing business easy. Its capital, Dublin, is a thriving city cradled between mountains and sea. Whilst Ireland's Ancient East provides a wonderful opportunity for you to experience 5000 years of European history. Little wonder media are calling Ireland one of the hottest tickets in adventure tourism. What are you waiting for?



# SIGNATURE PROGRAMMES

Better a starter



## Dublin

Dublin is both a place and a state of mind. This is Ireland's vibrant capital, a bayside beauty as famous for its heritage as its thriving nightlife. It's a city where the Book of Kells, Trinity College and medieval city walls are a stone's throw from the home of Guinness. It's a hotbed of hip cafés, of sizzling restaurants, a place where you'll feel as comfortable sipping cutting-edge cocktails as cosying up in a centuries-old snug. It's a UNESCO City of Literature whose stories range from the pages of Ulysses to the songs of U2. Regularly voted one of the world's friendliest cities, crammed with quality accommodation and expert guides, it never fails to provide a warm welcome. Whether kayaking the river, kicking back at a festival, taking a Viking Splash tour or venturing into the undercroft of Dublin Castle, we guarantee a Facebook feed full of extraordinary days and happening nights.



## **Ireland's Ancient East**

Ireland's Ancient East is a unique touring region taking in an amazing 5,000 years of history. From passage tombs like Newgrange (older than the Egyptian pyramids) to Palladian Mansions like Powerscount and Castletown; from monastic sites to medieval castles and high crosses harking back to Early Christian Ireland, nowhere in Europe offers such a wealth of heritage in such an intimate geographical space. For youth and adventure travellers, this is the perfect opportunity to get hands-on with Irish history, to mix the pubs and festivals of Dublin and the raw adrenaline of the Wild Atlantic Way with a journey of discovery where fun, learning and meeting the locals blend seamlessly into one. How did our early Christian settlers live? Who were the invaders and early settlers to Ireland? How did the great rulers build and decorate their medieval castles? Who were the great British gentry who secured Irish lands, built our great houses and managed these great estates? What's it like to play the ancient sport of hurling? How does it feel to board a famine ship? With some of the best storytellers in the world, you will find the answers to these... and so much more.



## The Wild Atlantic Way

The Wild Atlantic Way is a stunning coastal touring route, stretching 2,500km from Donegal's Malin Head to Kinsale, Co Cork. It's strewn with soaring cliffs, hidden beaches, famous landscapes and film locations, as well as activities ranging from surfing to stand-up paddling, hiking to biking and rock-climbing to coasteering. Adventure operators here pride themselves on being the best in the business, and a network of hostels, hotels, B&Bs, holiday cottages and guesthouses ensures visitors get the most out of the coast. But it's not all about adrenaline and natural wonders – get ready for traditional music, Irish language and fantastic food adventures too. From Galway City to seaside towns like Strandhill, Lahinch, Kenmare and Skibbereen, the Wild Atlantic Way is home to some of Ireland's best festivals and most unforgettable nights out. Whether you do the full thing, or dip in and out, prepare for an injection of Ireland you'll cherish forever.

# ACCESS IRELAND



High season – 2,402 flights Low Season – 1,798 flights High season – 34 airlines Low Season – 25 airlines

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High season — 120 sailings Low season — 112 sailings



# DUBLIN

Dublin is the vibrant capital city, bursting with a variety of surprising experiences where city living thrives side by side with natural outdoors.

Dublin, a city for all seasons, has a very cosmopolitan feel, yet as a city of words, with a unique literary heritage, it offers a distinctly Irish cultural experience, no matter what season visitors choose to come. The city and its coastline will stimulate and excite different senses each time you visit, while its stories can be found on every street, in the places you visit and people you meet, just waiting to be uncovered and shared. Recently voted the friendliest city in Europe, it never fails to provide a warm welcome and lasting memories, whether seeking a relaxing or adrenalin filled European city break, taking in a study trip, or visiting as part of the Island of Ireland holiday experience.

48% of Dublin's population is under thirty five years of age, making it the youngest working city population in Europe per capita.

→B:

The prestigious "Oscar" statuette used at the Academy Awards was designed by MGM's art director Cedric Gibbons, who was born in Dublin in 1823

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## Cycling Tour of Dublin/Wicklow Mountains

#### **Business Contact Details**

Ballinastoe Mountain Bike Trail Centre, Ballinastoe Woods, Roundwood, County Wicklow. Ticknock Mountain Bike Trail Centre, Ticknock Rd, Dublin 18 GPS 53.107526,-6.217145 (Wicklow location) Tel +353 (0)87 7698775

Email info@biking.ie Web www.biking.ie Video https://vimeo.com/78977679

Business Contact Niall & Garreth Davis

#### **Experience Description**

Enjoy 3 hour cycling day tour bringing clients to the most beautiful parts of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains. With expert guides on hand to teach the fundamentals of mountain biking, the group can then choose an appropriate route, best suited to their level. Biking.ie staff have a wealth of local and cultural knowledge. Clients are truly immersed in the very best Ireland's natural landscape has to offer making for an unforgettable experience. Complimentary Tea and coffee are provided.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015** €70 for 2 pax: €55 for 3-5 pax; €45 for 6-10 pax. Advance booking required

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Niall or Garreth Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Year round, 7 days. Not available in extreme weather.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min. Age 11 years. Must be able to cycle & be reasonably fit. Private groups choose own pace. Public car park onsite. Suitable outdoor activity clothing & good grip shoes required. Drinks/light snacks available. Public restrooms onsite.

#### **Public Transport**

Co Dublin serviced by Dublin Bus www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm Wicklow serviced by Private bus www.glendaloughbus.com

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Roundwood, Dundrum or Dublin City

#### **Nearest Airport**

Dublin Airport www.aircoach.ie/timetables

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Glendalough (20 mins); Johnnie Fox's traditional pub with music (15 mins) & Dundrum Shopping Centre (8 mins)



## Chester Beatty Library – Unique Museum Experience for Youths

#### **Business Contact Details**

CBL, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2 Tel +353 (0)1 4070750 Email info@cbl.ie Web www.cbl.ie

Business Contact Derval O'Carroll

#### **Experience Description**

Winner of 'European Museum of the Year' and considered 'one of the best multi-cultural museums in Europe', the library's world renowned collection features artworks, manuscripts and rare books from around the world dated 2700BC to the present day. A guided tour is available for groups (prebooking essential). Allow 60 mins. A comprehensive public events programme is available throughout the calendar year. Educational programmes, workshops, film screenings, seminars, talks scheduled and available to book, alongside a dynamic teen's club (min age 12 years). A range of intercultural Learning Resources for schools/groups planning a visit, see www.cbl.ie/Education/Ways-of-Seeing-intercultural-Learning-Project-for-.aspx

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates

Standard Retail Price 2015 Private group guided tours available @€2.00 pp. www.cbl.ie/Plan-A-Visit/Guided-Tours.aspx

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

15 pax, larger groups accommodated with 2 guides.

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group Booking Contact

Mary Dowling Email mdowling@cbl.ie Tel +353 (0)1 4070759

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, Nov-Feb: Closed Mondays March-Oct. Mon-Fri. Weekdays 10:00-17:00. Sat 11:00-17:00 Sun 13:00-17:00 Closed 1st Jan, Good Friday + 24,25,26th Dec as well as Monday Public Holidays.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. Fully accessible, Braille resources available. Car and Coach parking available outside Castle Walls on Ship street. Restrooms onsite. Silk Road Café onsite serving food from around the world.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram) (5 mins), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) (12 mins) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Trinity College (5 mins walk); Christchurch Cathedral (5 mins walk); Marsh's Library (10 mins walk)





## **Christ Church Cathedral**

#### **Business Contact Details**

Christchurch Place, Dublin 8 GPS 53.343628, -6.271013 Tel +353 (0)1 6778099 Email welcome@christchurch.ie Web www.christchurchcathedral.ie

Business Contact Lydia Toal

#### **Experience Description**

Step into Dublin's oldest working structure dating back to the early 12th century – your guide will share the many uses of the largest crypt in Ireland with you and lead you up the 86 narrow stone steps to the Belfry which houses 19 bells rung in full circle, you can have a try at bell-ringing yourself. As you explore the stunning nave perhaps you'll hear some choral music – the cathedral choir is world famous and was founded in 1493! Allow 45 mins for the guided tour.

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates**

Standard Retail Price Guided Tour €10.00 Student €8.50

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates**

Advance booking required. Min. 15 pax for private tour. Max 24 pax in Belfry at a time (larger groups may be split over 2 tours). FITs may join scheduled tours

### FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Contact

Jessica Plunkett Email Jessica@christchurch.ie Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Year round except 26th Dec. April-Sept Mon-Sat 09:00-19:00, Sun 12:30-14:30, 16:30-19:00; Mar & Oct Mon-Sat 09:00-18:00, Sun 12:30-14:30, 16:30-18:00; Nov-Feb Mon-Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 12:30-14:30.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min age – Belfry 10 yrs. Full mobility required to Belfry (86 steps). Restrooms onsite. Coach drop – Winetavern Street Coach Parking – Castle Street (5 mins walk). Variety of Cafés, Restaurants and Bars (2 mins walk).

#### Public Transport

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram) (10 mins walk), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) (12 mins walk); Dublin Bus routes www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Dublin Castle (5 mins walk); Trinity College (10 mins walk); Teeling Distillery (10 mins walk)

The Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral was Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels.



## City Kayaking – Dublin

#### **Business Contact Details**

Dublin City Moorings, Custom House Quay, IFSC, Dublin 1 GPS 53.347834, -6.246097 Tel +353 (0)1 4428234/+353 (0)86 0680197 Email info@citykayaking.com Web www.citykayaking.com

Business Contact Donnchadh Mac Cobb

#### **Experience Description**

City Kayaking is a unique experience giving you the chance to see Dublin City from a completely different angle. Over a two hour trip, your guide will lead you under some of Dublin's most famous bridges and show you some of the city's most iconic landmarks. All relevant safety gear provided before stepping into your double seater kayak to paddle through the heart of Ireland's capital city.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €25.00

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered

Yes (For private group bookings min. nos 12, max. nos. 40)

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group Booking Contact

Donnchadh Mac Cobb Email groups@citykayaking.ie Tel +353 (0)86 3152389

#### **Opening Details**

Open March-October: 7 days. October-March: Fri-Sun. Private group bookings available year-round. Not subject to weather conditions, unless extreme weather deems trip unsafe.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min age 8 years. Average mobility required, No experience necessary. Suitable outdoor activity clothing required. Change of clothing, footwear & towel advised. Multi-story public coach park available at IFSC or Connolly Station (3 mins walk). Variety of cafés, restaurants, bars nearby. CHQ Food Court with restroom facilities – 2 mins walk.

#### Public Transport

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Dublin City Centre

#### Nearest Airport

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship (Adjacent, on same site); Irish Whiskey Museum (10 mins walk); Wakedock – wakeboarding (12 mins walk)





## Dublin Bay Wildlife and Seal Kayak Tour

#### **Business Contact Details**

Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co Dublin GPS 53.2856022; -6.107604 Tel +353 (0)86 1684755 Email info@kayaking.ie Web www.kayaking.ie

Business Contact Jenny Kilbride

#### **Experience Description**

Experience the UNESCO biosphere of Dublin Bay with a guided kayak tour at Dalkey, Co Dublin (20 mins from city centre) with our friendly Eco Guides. Immerse your group in nature and wildlife as they kayak from the shore to historic Dalkey Island. Get up close and personal with the famous seals and meet many species of sea bird and marine life. A walk on historic Dalkey Island is included to explore Mesolithic ruins, a 10th century church and a Martello Tower from 1805. The island boasts many other points of interest as well as plenty of rabbits and a herd of goats as well as spectacular views of Dublin Bay. Allow 3 hours for experience.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €49.00 (advance booking required)

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates**

Yes (min group size 4, max group size 18)

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Jenny Kilbride **Email** As above **Tel** As above

#### **Opening Details**

Available 1st March to 30th Oct – 7 days, Pre booking required.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min Age 13 years. Suitable outdoor activity clothing required. All Equipment and safety clothing provided.

#### Public Transport

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Located in Dublin City Centre

#### Nearest Airport

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Walk to Killiney Hill (15 mins walk); Joyce Tower Museum (5 mins walk); Rock Climbing in Dalkey Quarry (15 mins walk)



## Epic Ireland – The Journey of a People

#### **Business Contact Details**

Unit 1, The CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1 GPS 53.349040, -6.247870 Postcode D01WR86 Tel +353 1 5313688 Email info@epicirelandchq.com Web www.epicirelandchq.com

Business Contact Dervla O'Neill

#### **Experience Description**

Epic Ireland is the dramatic new 21st Century visitor experience that showcases the unique global journey of the Irish people. Epic Ireland is located in the beautiful vaults of the iconic CHQ building, which dates from 1820, and is situated on Custom House Quay in the centre of Dublin. This hightechnology interactive exhibition, tells the story of the Irish people's dispersal throughout the world over the ages. This is the world's first fully digital museum. The tour is self-guided and we have audio guides in French, Spanish, Italian and German. Each visitor gets a take way souvenir passport that they get stamped as they walk through the galleries.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** €16; groups over ten people should book in advance.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes; Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Bookings/Rates Contact**

Dervla O' Neill Email doneill@epicirelandchq.com Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round 7 days a week 9am – 7pm (6pm outside June – August). Duration of experience: 90 minutes.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

There is one dedicated drop off and pick up coach stop beside the entrance, on the same side of the road as the entrance, suitable for a 50 seater coach. There are a wide variety of eating options in The CHQ Building to suit all tastes and budgets from coffee shops to bistros all under one roof.

#### Public Transport

www.dublinbus.ie www.irishrail.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

Jurys Inn Hotel is 200 metres from the entrance to EPIC Ireland

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Trinity College and book of Kells (8 minute walk); GPO Museum (10 minute walk); Jeanie Johnston and famine memorial (1 minute walk)





## **Experience Gaelic Games**

#### **Business Contact Details**

32 Claude Road, Drumcondra Dublin 9 Tel +353 (0)1 2544292/+353 (0)87 2317794/+353 (0)86 8116809 Email info@experiencegaelicgames.com Web www.experiencegaelicgames.com

#### **Experience Locations**

Dublin

EGG, Na Fianna GAA Club, Saint Mobhí Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 GPS 53.37415, -6.26543

Galway EGG, Liam Mellows GAA Club, Renmore, Ballyloughane Road, Galway GPS 53.27101325014381, -9.02067661035403 Cork

EGG at Na Piarsiagh GAA Club, The Commons, Fairhill, Cork **GPS** 51.91912603569929, -8.494491574648464

#### Business Contact Georgina Caraher & Cormac O'Donnchú

#### **Experience Description**

Experience Gaelic Games offers a mix of cultural immersion, soft activity and serious interaction over 3-4 hours. Your group visits a local Gaelic (Irish) Club where the session starts with a personally delivered Audio/Visual presentation explaining the Irish obsession with our tribal national sports as an expression of our cultural identity. Then we unleash the groups inner warrior instincts as they learn how to play our native games. Add to this, some Gaelic Handball action and you have the perfect Irish 'team' experience.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €35 Adult; €25 Student & <18 years

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates**

Yes (Min group booking nos 8 pax. Max 300 pax)

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Georgina Caraher Email georgina@experiencegaelicgames.com Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Year round, 7 days. Indoor facilities available in inclement weather.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

All ages, all abilities. Wheelchair accessible. Public car park onsite or adjacent. Suitable outdoor activity clothing or tracksuit & runners advised. Restrooms and light snacks available. Water provided free of charge.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Public Transport

#### **Nearest Accommodation Hub**

Dublin city centre (10 mins) from Dublin Venue; Galway city centre (5 mins) from Galway venue; Cork city centre (10 mins) from Cork Venue

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

National Botanic Gardens (4 mins walk); Glasnevin Cemetery (6 mins walk via Botanic Gardens) Croke Park Stadium (12 mins walk)



## Extreme Adventure – Rockclimbing in Dublin

#### **Business Contact Details**

Extreme Ireland Guinness Enterprise Centre, Taylor's Lane, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 **Tel** +353 (0)1 4100700 **Email** *info@extremeireland.ie* **Web** *www.extremeireland.ie* 

Business Contacts Keith McDonnell & Stephen Power

#### **Experience Description**

Your group will be taken to Dalkey Quarry where they will experience rock climbing, in a unique location just a short 15 minute trip from Dublin city centre. Full tuition and use of essential safety equipment is provided by an expert. Rock Climbing is one of the most exciting and safest sports. With the qualified rock climbing instructor, the group will learn all the basics for successful climbing. This includes learning about the equipment used, how to use it correctly, climbing techniques and how to set up systems safely. Allow 6 hours for this experience + 30 mins travel time each way to and from the city.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €50.00 (Advance booking required)

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes (Minimum group size 4, max. group size 20)

#### FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group Booking Contact

Stephen Power Email stephen@extremeireland.ie Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Available year round, 7 days. Not available in bad or extreme weather conditions that would render the experience unsafe. Your group will be transported from the city to Dalkey Quarry and returned afterwards.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Fully mobility required and reasonable level of fitness but no previous experience necessary. Sturdy footwear essential. Killiney Hill Car Park (6 mins walk from Dalkey Quarry)

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Dublin City Centre (15 mins by public transport)

#### Nearest Airport

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Air coach from City) www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700-dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Dalkey Castle (11 mins walk); Killiney Hill Walk (6 mins walk); Boat trip to Dalkey Island from Coliemore Harbour (19 mins walk)





## Glasnevin Cemetery Guided Walking Tour & Museum

#### **Business Contact Details**

Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Finglas Road, Dublin 11 GPS N 53° 22.190 W 006°16.613 Tel +353 (0)1 8826500 Email booking@glasnevintrust.ie or akilcoyne@glasnevintrust.ie Web www.qlasnevintrust.ie

Business Contact Ann Kilcoyne

#### **Experience Description**

Recent winner of Tourism Industry awards 'Best Cultural Experience'; this engages visitors in a guided walking tour with highly experienced guide, through the cemetery. It offers a fascinating walk through time, visiting the graves of those who helped shape modern Ireland. Founded in 1832 by Daniel O'Connell, the tour includes a visit to his tomb, located beneath his 168ft iconic tower, along with many other famous historical figures buried there. With over 1.5 million Dubliners, there are plenty of stories to tell. The experience includes a dramatic re-enactment where an actor in period costume recites a famous speech. Allow 90 mins for tour + extra to visit Museum, shop and café.

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates**

**Standard Retail Price 2015**  $\in$  12.00 Includes 10% café discount &  $\in$  5.00 towards genealogy record search

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered

Yes (Min group numbers 10 pax. < 10 pax can join public tours)

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Aideen Stapleton Email astapleton@glasnevintrust.ie Tel +353 (0)1 8826500

**Opening Details** Open year round, 7 days. 10:00-17:00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. All areas except Daniel O Connell Crypt are wheelchair accessible. Comfortable outdoor clothing to suit weather advised. Coach park onsite. Café, shop and restrooms onsite.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Dublin Bus Nos 40, 140 from O Connell St. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm and Red City Sightseeing Bus (Blue route)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

The National Botanic Gardens (adjacent, 3 mins walk), Jameson Distillery & Guinness Storehouse (5km – 30-40 mins walk)



## **GPO Witness History**

#### **Business Contact Details**

O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1 **Postcode** D01 WR86 **Tel** +353 (0) 1 8169538 **Email** info@gpowitnesshistory.ie **Web** www.gpowitnesshistory.ie

Business Contact John Horgan

#### **Experience Description**

GPO Witness History is a brand new visitor experience opening March 29th 2016 in the historical GPO building, O'Connell Street, Dublin. This will be a highly interactive and immersive exhibition which will focus on the 1916 rising and also how Ireland has developed since. Self – guided audio headsets are available in various continental languages. The tour includes touch screens, real artefacts, videos, dress sets and memory walls which will further enhance the visitor experience. Visitors can relax afterwards in the café and retail store.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  10; groups over ten people should book in advance.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

#### FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group Bookings/Rates Contact

Carla Kelly Email As above Tel As above

#### Opening Details

Open year round 9am – 5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm), closed Dec 24th/25th/26th and Easter Sunday. Duration of experience; 1.5hrs to include café and retail experience.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

The attraction is wheelchair accessible. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Café and retail experience on site.

#### Public Transport

www.dublinbus.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

GPO Witness history is located on O'Connell Street in Dublin city centre with numerous hotels within walking distance.

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Guinness Storehouse (5-10 minute drive), Old Jameson Distillery (5-10 minute drive), Glasnevin Cemetery (10-15 minute drive)





## The Jeanie Johnston Tallship

#### **Business Contact Details**

City Moorings, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1 Tel +353 (0)1 4730111 Email info@jeaniejohnston.ie Web www.jeaniejohnston.ie

Business Contact Lydia Toal

#### **Experience Description**

A 50 minute guided tour, telling the story of what it was like for Irish emigrants having to leave their homeland in the mid-19th century. The tour retraces their steps as they boarded the ship for the difficult transatlantic voyage and an uncertain future. Below deck, the guides lead you through the dimly-lit quarters to show what life on board was like for passengers. Hear some inspiring stories of human determination to overcome adversity and make a better life.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** €9,00 Adult (>18); €8,00 student; €5.00 Child (<15)

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Contact

Laura or Paul **Email** As above **Tel** As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days. Tour times April to October: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00. Tour times November to March: 11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. No Wheelchair access available to Ship. Multi-story public Car Park opposite. No onsite refreshments/restrooms – variety of Cafés, Restaurants and Bars with restroom facilities within 2 mins walk.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Nearest Airport**

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Samuel Beckett Bridge (4 mins walk); Trinity College – Book of Kells (12 mins walk); Hugh Lane Gallery (15 mins walk)

Abraham "Bram" Stoker who wrote the famous novel Dracula, was born in 1847 in Clontarf.



## The Little Museum of Dublin

#### **Business Contact Details**

The Little Museum of Dublin, 15 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 D02 X336. GPS 53.3394115, -6.258540900000071 Tel +353 (0)1 6611000 Email Sarah@littlemuseum.ie Web www.littlemuseum.ie

Business Contact Sarah Costigan, Director of Development

#### **Experience Description**

The Little Museum experience, overlooking St Stephen's Green, covers the three floors of the beautiful Georgian townhouse and is centred on a guided tour of our main exhibitions. This tour covers the social and political history of Dublin in the 20th century and lasts approx. 40 mins. Your guide will explain many of the highlights of the museum's permanent collection. We also have a temporary exhibition schedule and some permanent exhibitions including one of Ireland's famous Rock Band U2. Allow 1 hour for visit.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €7.00, Family Rate €14

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates

Yes (min private group tour 10 pax. – Max 35)

#### FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Niamh Ní Riain Email bureau@littlemuseum.ie Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days: 9.30-17:00, late opening Thurs to 20:00. Closed: Early-Mid Jan. Public tours: April-Oct – hourly 10:00-16:00 except 13:00. Nov-March: hourly 11:00-15:00 except 13:00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Not wheelchair accessible: Multi-story public car park nearby Nassau St (5 mins walk). Restrooms onsite. Hatch and Sons Café (in basement of property) offer 10% discount to museum visitors.

#### Public Transport

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Located in City Centre

#### Nearest Airport

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

St. Stephen's Green Shopping (2 mins); National Museum of Ireland (Natural History), (7 mins walk). Trinity College (6 mins walk)





## St Patrick's Cathedral – 800 Years of Living History

#### **Business Contact Details**

St Patrick's Cathedral, Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8, D08 H6X3 GPS 53.3394° N, 6.2714° W Tel +353 (0)1 4539472 Email info@stpatrickscathedral.ie Web www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

Business Contact Amy Bunce

#### **Experience Description**

Saint Patrick's Cathedral provides a window into 800 years of Irish history, religion, art, architecture, music and literature. Enjoy a self-guided experience at your own pace, including a visit to the grave of Jonathan Swift. Use the Discovery Space to learn some of the wonderful stories this building has to offer through touch screen technologies; take time to do a brass rubbing, or build a model of the Cathedral. Allow 40-60 mins for the experience. Printed visitor information about the Cathedral history is available online in various languages and can be sent in advance to groups.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €6.00

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered

Yes (Advance booking required for groups of 10+)

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Amy Bunce Email tours@stpatrickscathedral.ie Tel +353 (0)1 4539472

#### **Opening Details**

Open Year Round. Mon-Fri 09.30-17.00; Sat 09.00-18.00 (09.00-17.00 Nov-Feb) Sunday: Please check website for access outside of worship times. Check website for availability of public guided tours.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Fully Accessible. On-street coach parking at Saint Patrick's Close, outside Cathedral. Restrooms onsite. Variety of cafés bars, restaurants nearby (5 mins walk).

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Nearest Accommodation Hub**

10 mins walk from Dublin City Centre

#### **Nearest Airport**

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach) www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Marsh's Library – 1 min walk; Dublinia – 10 mins walk; Dublin Castle – 15 mins walk



## Viking Splash – Experience Dublin by Land & Water

#### Business Contact Details

Viking Splash Tours – Dublin. Office: RGI House, 18 Mill Street, Dublin 8. **Tour Departures** St. Stephen's North, Dublin 2 **GPS** 53.347834,6.246097 **Tel** +353 (0)1 7076000 **Email** *info@vikingsplash.ie* **Web** *www.Vikingsplash.com* 

#### Business Contact Lynn Walsh

#### **Experience Description**

Viking Splash Tours offers a unique experience to see Dublin sights on both land and water! Climb on board an amphibious World War II open top vehicle and don the Viking helmet. Enjoy an interactive guided tour with a humorous driver-guide, while roaring at unsuspecting passers-by. All tours in English. Tour duration 1 hour 15 mins + 15 mins advance attendance to board.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 Adult €22; Child €12 (2-12 years)

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered

Yes (28 pax. max per vehicle)

#### FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Lynn Walsh Email info@vikingsplash.ie Tel +353 (0)1 7076000

#### **Opening Details**

Open Feb to Mid-Dec. March-Oct – 7 days; Feb, March, Nov, Dec – Fri-Mon. Contact office to check daily tour times (change by season) or to book private group tour.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min age. Average mobility required – 6 steps required to board vehicle. Appropriate clothing needed to suit weather. Multi-story public car park at Nassau Street (5 mins walk). Variety of cafés, restaurants, bars nearby. Shopping centre with restroom facilities – 2 mins walk.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm Taxi rank (2 mins)

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Located in Dublin City Centre - Stephen's Green

#### **Nearest Airport**

Dublin Airport (30 mins by Aircoach) www.aircoach.ie/timetables/route-700dublin-airport-dublin-city-centre)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

St Stephen's Green Public Park (1 min walk); St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre (2 mins walk); Little Museum of Dublin (2 mins walk)

Dublin is over 1,000 years old and was originally a Viking settlement.

UE







## Historic Dublin Parks & Georgian Squares

#### **Experience Description, Location & Opening Times**

**Phoenix Park:** The Phoenix Park is over 700 hectares (1752 acres) in area and is the largest enclosed public Park in any capital city in Europe. A large herd of fallow deer still remain to this day. The Park is also home to the Zoo, Áras an Uachtaráin where the Irish President lives and Victorian flower gardens. The Park facilities include a visitor centre, Victorian tearooms, bicycle hire and access to Dublin Zoo. Open year round, see website for opening times. See www.phoenixpark.ie. Allow 1-4 hours for visit.

**St Patrick's Park:** Situated beside St. Patrick's Cathedral, tradition has it that St. Patrick baptised the first Irish Christians there with water from the River Poddle which flows underground. The park provides an ideal setting for the cathedral and recent additions in 1988 include a Literary Parade highlighting the works of Swift, Mangan, Wilde, Shaw, Yeats, Synge, O'Casey, Joyce, Behan, Beckett, Clarke, Dillon and the Liberty Bell Sculpture. There is also a children's playground and a Victorian Café. *www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-recreation-culture/dublin-city-parks* Open year round, see website for opening times. Allow 30 mins-1 hour for visit.

**St Stephen's Green:** Georgian Square and Park Ireland's best known Victorian public park, in the heart of the City. Spanning 22 acres. Well maintained in the original Victorian layout. Over 3.5 km of pathways are accessible for all users. The waterfall and Pulham rock work on the western side of the green are worth a visit, likewise the ornamental lake which provides a home for waterfowl and a garden for the visually impaired. A number of sculptures are located throughout the green. Lunchtime concerts are performed during the summer months. Open year round, see website for opening times. Allow 30 mins-1 hour for visit *www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/ststephensgreen/* 

**Merrion Square:** Merrion Square, in the heart of Georgian Dublin has a fascinating history. Oscar Wilde lived as a child at No. 1 Merrion Square, where Bram Stoker also spent a lot of time attending Lady Wilde's salons, while W. B. Yeats lived at No 82, and Daniel O'Connell at No 58. The Square is well known for its Sunday Open Art Gallery and is home to diverse organisations including Irish Traditional Music Archive, Irish Architectural Archive, Irish Georgian Society, Society of Antiquarians, College of

Handel first publicly performed Messiah in Dublin on April 13th 1742 – in a music hall on Fishamble Street. Anaesthetists and Irish Red Cross. The beautiful park at the centre of the Square provides an appealing and relaxing atmosphere for locals and visitors with a mobile café situated near the East entrance. The Square is open year round, See website for opening times. *www.merrionsquare.ie*. Allow 30 mins-1 hour for visit. Note: The Irish Architectural Archive at No. 45 Merrion Square, is the largest house on Merrion Square, built in 1762 with an interesting history. A fine example of Georgian Architecture, it is open to the public FREE Tues-Fri 10:00-17:00 hrs. Group tours by appointment.

**Contact** Simon Lincoln **Email** *SLincoln@iarc.ie* **Tel** +353 (0)1 6633040

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. All parks are accessible. Public Restrooms & Coach parking are available in Phoenix Park. All other parks have restrooms, cafés and shops within 5 min walk and have public coach parking available within walking distance.

#### **Public Transport**

All parks are serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

**Phoenix Park:** Dublin Zoo (10-30 mins walk), depending on your entrance gate to the park. Zoo is closest to the Park Gate Street or North Circular entrance gates (10 mins).

**St Patrick's Park:** St Patrick's Cathedral (1 min walk); Christchurch Cathedral (10 mins walk); Guinness Storehouse (12 mins walk).

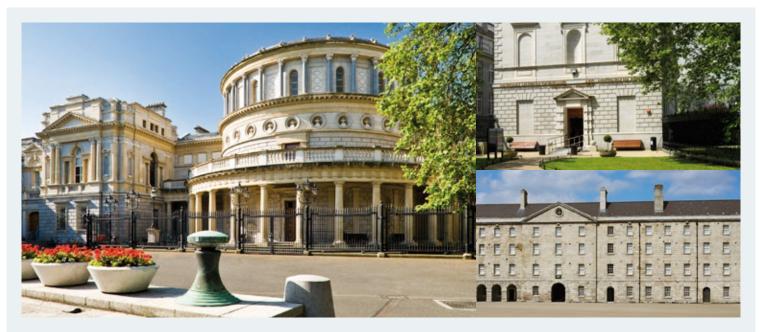
**St Stephen's Green:** Little Museum of Dublin (3 mins walk). Irish Whiskey Museum (10 mins walk).

Merrion Square: National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology (FREE); Museum of National History (FREE); National Gallery (FREE).

A smartphone multilingual guide is now available for the Oscar Wilde sculpture in Merrion Square. The guide provides audio, text and visual interpretation of the artwork and information on the sculptor Danny Osbourne. Smartphone users can link to the information via a Quick Response(QR) code or via website *www.DublinArtinParks.ie* This is a pilot scheme and it is hoped to expand art and parks interpretation in traditional and digital formats.

## FREE DUBLIN EXPERIENCES





## National Museums of Ireland (NMI)

#### All Museums Contact details

Tel +353 (0)1 6777444 Email bookings@museum.ie (Booking office open Mon-Fri 10:00 14:00hrs) Web www.museum.ie

Advance booking required to ensure accommodation of your group size (Min. 1 month advance booking advised). Min. 1 hour recommended for each museum visit.

International and Language Group visits are self-directed in each museum allowing your group take in the Museum's collections at their own pace to focus on the areas of particular interest. Knowledgeable attendants are on hand to answer questions. Note: For conservation purposes, no food or drink allowed in Museum spaces.

#### All Museum Opening Times

Open Year Round. Tues-Sat 10:00-17:00 hrs; Sunday 14:00-17:00 hrs. Closed: Mondays (including Bank Holidays), Christmas Day and Good Friday.

## Experience Description, Location & Opening Times

NMI – Decorative Arts, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7.

#### **GPS** 53.347868, -6.285242.

At the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History you will find Irish haute couture garments, furniture, silver, jewellery, ceramics, and exhibitions exploring Irish military history, including the 1916 Easter Rising. To help plan your visit a floor plan is available to download at: www. museum.ie/en/list/tours-floor-plans-guides-national-museum-irelanddecorative-arts-history.aspx

#### NMI – Archaeology, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

#### GPS 53.340617, -6.255244

The National Archaeology Museum carries artefacts dating from 7000BC to the 20th Century over seven galleries. Language Guides & Floorplans available to download at: www.museum.ie/en/info/other-language-visitors-national-museum-ireland-archaeology.aspx

### NMI – Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

#### GPS 53.339722, -6.252100

Also known as 'The Dead Zoo', the Museum carries 10,000 exhibits of the natural world showcasing (in decorative cabinets) a wide-ranging and comprehensive zoological collection. The Discovery Zone offers a unique chance to get to grips with a Badger and a Pilot Whale skull. This hands-on area has two mobile units with the themes: Life on Land and The Life Aquatic. To help plan your visit a floor plan is available to download at: www.museum.ie/en/info/tours-floor-plans-guides-national-museum-ireland-natural-history.aspx

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates N/A. FREE

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. Each museum is wheelchair accessible (although some floors have no lift access – please check website for details). Public Restrooms, including wheelchair accessible restrooms at each Museum. An onsite café (at NMI Archaeology) and variety of Cafés and shops all within 5 mins. walk of all Museums. Coach Parking available within walking distance. Public Coach parking available throughout the city, all within walking distance of each museum. For further information see www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-servicesroads-and-traffic-parking-dublin/coach-parking-dublin-city

#### **Public Transport**

All parks are serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Other Experiences Nearby

**NMI – Natural History:** NMI – Archaeology (8 mins Walk); National Gallery of Ireland (5 mins walk).

**NMI – Archaeology:** Little Museum of Dublin (5 mins Walk) St Stephen's Green (5 Mins Walk); Merrion Square (5 Mins Walk).

**NMI – Decorative Arts:** Phoenix Park (10 mins walk), Dublin Zoo (20 mins walk).

The remains of St. Valentine are contained in Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church, on Aungier Street in Dublin.

The lion who roars at the start of every MGM movie was born in Dublin Zoo in 1927.







## Science Gallery, Dublin

#### **Business Contact Details**

Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin, Pearse Street, Dublin 2 Tel +353 (0)1 8964091 Email info@dublin.sciencegallery.com Web www.dublin.sciencegallery.com

Business Contact Jessica Hilliard, Marketing and Communications Manager

#### **Experience Description**

Through a programme that ignites creativity and discovery where science and art collide, Science Gallery Dublin encourages young people to learn through their interests. There is an ever-changing programme of exhibitions and events. The focus is on providing programmes and experiences that allow visitors to participate and facilitate social connections, always providing an element of surprise. Visitors have the opportunity to engage with our mediator staff on the floor to answer questions and chat. They can get lunch in our café and pick up a memento or a gift in our shop.

#### **Group Booking Contact**

Ruth Chadwick **Email** tours@dublin.sciencegallery.com **Tel** +353 (0)1 8964091 Guided tours are available for pre-booked groups – on request

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round. Note: exhibition space closes for 2 weeks during exhibition installation with no programmes available during this time between shows. Please contact group bookings contact or see our website for updates on exhibition dates. Exhibition Hours: Tue-Fri: 12:00-20:00 & Sat-Sun: 12:00-18:00 Closed Mondays. Café and Shop Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 08:00-20:00 & Sat-Sun: 12:00-18:00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. Fully accessible. Restrooms, café and shop facilities onsite. Coach parking available in designated stops on College Green – 2 mins walk into the campus.

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Book of Kells (on same campus) (1 min walk); Dublin Gallery trail (Temple Bar) (5 mins walk); Hugh Lane Gallery (10 mins walk)

Dublin's Ha'Penny Bridge is thus called because pedestrians had to pay a half penny toll to walk over it.



### Bram Stoker Festival Bram Stoker – Creator of Dracula

Halloween Festival Celebration – Late October

See video www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vx--vJkm40

#### Contact Details

Tel +353 86 364 3334 Email tomlawlor@gmail.com Web www.bramstokerfestival.com

#### **Experience Description**

**Every October, Dublin City celebrates 4 Days of Living Stories & 4 Nights of Deadly Adventures.** Whether you're a resident vampire or visiting from further afield, Bram Stoker Festival – October (weekend nearest Halloween) will have something for everyone with its gothically inspired programme of events. There are a number of FREE events during the festival for visitors to enjoy.

Abraham 'Bram' Stoker was born on 8 November 1847 at 15 Marino Crescent, Clontarf in Dublin and educated at Trinity College from 1864-1870. He joined the Irish civil service and worked in Dublin Castle for 15 years. His love of theatre led him to become the unpaid drama critic. In 1878 he married Florence Balcombe, former girlfriend of Oscar Wilde, in St. Ann's Church in Dawson Street. Immediately following his marriage he moved to London to act as manager of the Lyceum Theatre He began writing novels while in London – the most famous of which is Dracula, published in 1897. The global importance of Stoker's novel is just one of the many reasons Dublin is internationally recognised as a UNESCO City of Literature.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Contact

Tom Lawlor Email tomlawlor@gmail.com Tel +353 86 364 3334

#### **Event Details**

End of October annually. Check festival website or *www.visitdublin.com* for festival dates each year.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No age restrictions for FREE Events. FREE events fully accessible. Please contact group bookings contact for Disabled Access and viewing to events. Age restrictions apply to some evening paid events. Some Free events are hosted outdoors, so appropriate comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear advised. Public Coach parking available throughout the city, however, parking and vehicle access restrictions may apply around the festival dates For further information about these restrictions close to event dates, see www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-roads-and-traffic-parking-dublin/ coach-parking-dublin-city

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Dublin city and county See www.discoverireland.ie/where-to-stay/

## FREE DUBLIN EXPERIENCES





## NYF Dublin 30th Dec-1st Jan (Annually)

NYF Dublin is a new and exciting 3 day city wide New Year's festival celebrating the best of contemporary Irish talent in Arts, Music, Culture and Live Entertainment.

#### **Contact Details**

Tel +353 1 4978988 Email Niamh@holohan.ie Web www.nyfdublin.com

#### **Experience Description**

Spanning the New Year period from December 30th-January 1st, NYF celebrates IRELAND NOW – DUBLIN LIVE.

A city wide animation, stretching beyond the boundaries of a traditional arts festival, showcasing the evolution of its shining talent in music, dance, design, art, spoken word and food. Offering a vibrant spectrum of events, many FREE, the festival promises an authentic expression of Ireland's textured identity, informed by its heritage but looking to the future.

The programme includes the headline event – NYF Countdown Concert; An NYF Food village; City wide Luminosity 3D Light projections (FREE); the Procession of Light (FREE) and elements of the Spoken Word Festival (Some free); NYF Art Trail (Some free); NYF Music Trail (Some free); Resolution Day (Some free) and Dublin Culture Trails (Some free). Please see programme details on Festival website for further information or contact group bookings below.

#### **Group Bookings/Tour Operator Contact**

Niamh Holohon Email Niamh@holohan.ie Tel +353 (0)1 4978988

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No age restrictions for FREE Events. FREE events fully accessible. Please contact group bookings contact for Disabled Access and viewing to events. Age restrictions apply to some evening paid events. Some Free events are hosted outdoors, so appropriate comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear advised. Public Coach parking available throughout the city, however, parking and vehicle access restrictions apply around the festival dates,. For further information about these restrictions close to event dates. See www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-roads-and-traffic-parking-dublin/ coach-parking-dublin-city

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No age restrictions for FREE Events. FREE events fully accessible. Please contact group bookings contact for Disabled Access and viewing to events. Age restrictions apply to some evening paid events. Some Free events are hosted outdoors, so appropriate comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear advised. Public Coach parking available throughout the city, however, parking and vehicle access restrictions apply around the festival dates. For further about these restrictions close to the event date see www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-roads-and-traffic-parking-dublin/coach-parking-dublin-city

#### **Public Transport**

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### **Nearest Accommodation Hub**

Dublin city and county See www.discoverireland.ie/where-to-stay/



## St Patrick's Day Festival – 4 Day Programme (Mid-March Annually)

A four day city wide festival celebrating St. Patrick, Irish Culture and Heritage over four days.

#### **Contact Details**

Tel +353 (0)1 6763205 Email info@stpatricksfestival.ie Web www.stpatricksfestival.ie

#### **Experience Description**

For many years, Irish people around the world have gathered on 17th March to honour the life and memory of Saint Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland. Today, this special day has become an annual global celebration of the island's unique heritage and culture. Dublin City hosts Ireland's biggest and most spectacular festival which runs over four days.

An invitation to join us in Dublin to experience the festival's entertainment, atmosphere and the unforgettable experience of being 'Irish in spirit' for a short time.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Contact

Edel Moss Email info@stpatricksfestival.ie Tel +353(0)1 6763205

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No age restrictions for FREE Events. FREE events fully accessible. Please contact group bookings contact for Disabled Access and viewing to events including Street Parade on 17th March. Age restrictions apply to some evening paid events. Some Free events are hosted outdoors, so appropriate comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear advised. Public Coach parking available throughout the city, however, parking and vehicle access restrictions apply around the festival dates, notably 17th March for public Street Parade. For further information about these restrictions close to event dates, see www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-roads-and-traffic-parking-dublin/coach-parking-dublin-city

#### **Event Details**

End of October Annually. Check festival website or *www.visitdublin.com* for festival dates each year.

#### Public Transport

Serviced by Luas (Roadtram), DART (Coastal Dublin Lightrail) and Dublin Bus routes. www.dublin.ie/transport/home.htm

#### Nearest Accommodation Hub

Dublin city and county See www.discoverireland.ie/where-to-stay/

The first chapter of Ulysses by James Joyce is set in the Martello Tower in Sandycove, now open to the public as the James Joyce Museum.

# IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Ireland's Ancient East offers a personal experience of 5000 years of Europe's history. Your journey of discovery in this relaxing, off the beaten track, lush beautiful landscape, that attracted warring settlers for millennia, will be made illuminating by stories from the best storytellers in the world.

Discover tombs older than the pyramids, from Pagan and Celtic Ireland. Be moved at monasteries, the masterworks of our Christian heritage. Explore a Viking settlement, walk a Medieval mile, brave a battleground. Discover the stories of a time of contrasts, the time of empire, rebellion, innovation and industry. Lonely Planet voted Ireland one of its hottest countries to visit in 2015, and ranked the Smithwick's Experience in Kilkenny as one of the year's hottest attractions.

Newgrange, a 5,000-year-old passage tomb was engineered 500 years before the Egyptian pyramids, and 1,000 years prior to Stonehenge!







## Challenge Yourself on a Zip Line Adventure in Carlingford

#### **Business Contact Details**

Carlingford Adventure Centre & SKYPARK, Tholsel Street, Carlingford, Co Louth GPS 54.039482, -6.184799 Postcode A91VW70 Tel +353 (0)42 9373100 Tel +447826899464 Email ciarac@carlingfordadventure.com Web www.carlingfordadventure.com

#### Business Contact Ciara Cunningham

#### **Experience Description**

Whizzzzz through the trees on a tree top ZIP TOUR, challenge yourself on SKYPARK an aerial adventure park or enjoy the amazing views of the Cooley & Mourne Mountains while canoeing on Carlingford Lough. This is a hands on adventure experience with breath taking scenery you will never forget.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  49 per person (Ages 18+); no max group size; min 6; individual bookings also taken.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Carmel Belton Email carmel@carlingfordadventure.com Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, closed 15th Dec-15th January. Duration of experience; 3-4 hours.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Activities are not accessible to wheelchairs. Some activities do have steep walks and uneven surfaces. You do not have to be physically fit. There are some restrictions for Zorbing, please refer to website. No specialist clothing required, Carlingford Adventure Centre provide wetsuits etc... No flip-flop or sandals allowed on land activities, tied shoes only. Free coach parking available. Refreshments/meals can be pre-booked if required. There are plenty of cafés and eating establishments in Carlingford village.

#### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

#### **Accommodation Hub**

Carlingford Adventure Centre offer hostel style accommodation (180 pax) onsite and 8x4\* Holiday Homes in the Village.

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

- 1. Walking Tour of The Medieval Village Right on our doorstep
- 2. Traditional Irish Pub Experience Right on our dooorstep
- 3. Visit *The Last Living Leprechauns* Cavern (2 minute walk)



## Castlecomer Discovery Park – Outdoor Adventure Activities

#### **Business Contact Details**

Castlecomer Discovery Park, The Estate Yard, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny, Ireland. GPS 52.8065903, -7.203715500000044 Postcode R95 HY7X Tel +353 (0)56 4440707 Email info@discoverypark.ie Web www.discoverypark.ie

Business Contact Liz Nolan

#### **Experience Description**

Set in the former grounds of the Wandesforde Estate, Castlecomer Discovery Park comprises of over 80 acres of woodland and two lakes. We are a multiactivity park with a range of outdoor activities. These include the exhilarating Tree-Top Adventure Walk, Climbing Wall and Leap-of-Faith. We also offer Boating activities on our picturesque Upper Lake. We have three woodland orienteering trails to explore along with a coal-mining museum, café and design craft workshops.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** Tree Top Walk €12.50pp; Climbing Wall and Leap of Faith €10pp; **Package Deal** Tree Top Walk, Leap of Faith and Climbing Wall €20pp. Boating, max. €15 per boat.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

Minimum group booking of 20 people. Advance booking required.

#### FIT Rate No Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates No

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Liz **Email** As above **Tel** As above

#### **Opening Details**

Weekdays May-August: 9.30am-5pm September-April: 9.30am-4pm

*Weekends* May-August: 10am-5pm September-April: 11am-4pm. Duration of experience; 90 mins.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. Tree-Top Adventure Walk; Climbing Wall and Leapof-Faith – min. 7 years and 1.2m height. Pedal Boating – min. age 4 years accompanied by adult, min. 14 years alone. Canadian Canoes – min. 12 years accompanied by adult, min. 16 years alone. Minimal fitness levels required. Secure footwear (no sandals or flip-flops). Refreshments available onsite.

 Public Transport
 Accommodation Hub

 www.buseireann.ie
 Kilkenny City (25 mins)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Dunmore Cave – 15 mins/10km drive Kilkenny Castle – 25 mins/23km drive Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny – 25 mins/20km drive





## Ireland's Ancient East Hurling Experience

#### **Business Contact Details**

Kilkenny Way Hurling Experience, 28/29 Rose Inn Street, Kilkenny Tel +353 (0)56 7721718 Email info@thekilkennyway.com Web www.thekilkennyway.com

#### Business Contact PJ Lanigan

#### **Experience Description**

Take a 2 hour trip down the ancient Irish sporting heritage of hurling. Unique sporting experience giving insights into the world's oldest (3,000 years) and fastest field game. Introductory video to the game of hurling and history of the GAA; tour of Kilkenny stadium where you will experience hands on the skills of the game. Enjoy a fresh bowl of Irish lamb stew at Legend's hurling museum whilst watching a game seeing the skills you have learnt on the pitch.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €25 including Bowl of Irish Stew (min. age 5yrs)

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

Tour Op. Rate: FIT

Yes >5 pax Ad-Hoc Group: Yes >5pax Tour Series: Yes >5 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

As above Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days, Tour times: Mon-Fri. 13.45; Sat-Sun. 12.00hrs.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min. age 5 years. Wheelchair access. Coffee shop onsite. Coach parking available close by, 50 bays.

#### **Public Transport**

Train to MacDonagh Junction; Expressway coaches.

#### **Accommodation Hub**

Kilkenny City.

Nearest Airport Dublin (1hr 30mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Kilkenny Castle; Smithwick's Brewery; Kilkenny Ghost Tours within walking distance

## US President John F. Kennedy's family hailed from Dunbrody, Co Wexford.



## **Kilkenny Cycling Tours**

#### **Business Contact Details**

Kilkenny Cycling Tours, Old Tea House, Bateman Quay, Kilkenny Tel +353 (0)868954961 Email info@kilkennycyclingtours.com Web www.kilkennycyclingtours.com

#### Business Contact Jason Morrissey

#### **Experience Description**

Enjoy a fun and easy paced two hour Guided Cycling Tour with Kilkenny Cycling Tours visiting historical and cultural sites around Kilkenny including Kilkenny Castle, The Kilkenny Design Centre, Shee Alms House, The Tholsel, St. Mary's Church, Rothe House & Gardens, The Courthouse (Grace's Castle), St. Francis' Abbey, The Black Abbey, St. Canice's Cathedral and some hidden gems along Ireland's Medieval Mile. We have bikes suitable for all ages and we use riverbank paths and backstreets to stay away from heavy traffic. Find out about Kilkenny's most famous characters like the Witch Dame Alice Kyteler and William Earl Marshal, the greatest Knight that ever lived.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  20 per person; max group size 60, min 2. For larger groups of 60 for example we go in 4 separate groups of 15.

### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Jason Morrissey Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open 7 days a week, 9am-7pm. Duration of experience 2 hours.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Must be able to cycle. The cycle is very easy going and we keep away from traffic. Bring comfortable footwear and rain coat. Two bus drop off bays and a public car park at site. Refreshments available in Kilkenny City.

#### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie www.irishrail.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

10 minute walk to The Hibernian, Club House, Pembroke, Kilford Arms, Rivercourt Hotel, Kilkenny Inn, Langtons, Ormond hotel.

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Go With The Flow River Adventures; Kilkenny Castle, Smithwicks Experience Kilkenny – within 5 mins walking distance





## The Smithwicks Experience

#### **Business Contact Details**

The Smithwicks Experience, 44 Parliament Street, Kilkenny GPS 52.655602N 7.254146 Tel +353 (0)56 7786377 Email info@smithwicksexperience.com Web www.smithwicksexperience.com

#### Business Contact Mark McGovern

#### **Experience Description**

Home to Ireland's most popular ale, the Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny® opened its doors in July 2014. Housed in a restored Victorian brewing building the multi-sensory experience takes visitors on a journey through the medieval origins of brewing on the site, to the arrival of John Smithwick's in the 1700's up to the present day. During the guided tour, the Smithwick's brewing process will be brought to life with visitors having the opportunity to experience the smells, tastes and textures of the raw materials involved in creating the perfect pint of ale.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  12 Adult;  $\in$  7 Student;  $\in$  28 Family (2 adults & 3 children). Groups over 25 people will be split into two groups and sent on tour 5 mins apart.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates No

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Keith O' Dwyer Email keith.odwyer@diageo.com Tel +353 (0)87 7173138

#### **Opening Details**

March-October 10am last Admissions 5pm; November-February 11am last Admissions 4pm Duration of experience – 1hr.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No parking onsite, parking available in vicinity, within 5 mins walk. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Experience is fully accessible. Restrooms and retail outlet onsite. Audio guides available in foreign languages.

**Public Transport** 

www.buseireann.ie www.irishrail.ie

#### Accommodation Hub Kilkenny City

Ritkening City

Nearest Airport Dublin airport (1hr 25 mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Kilkenny Castle; St Canices Cathedral; Rothe House - all within 10min walk



## Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience & Restaurant

#### Business Contact Details

Dunbrody Famine Ship & Restaurant, South Quay, New Ross, Co Wexford GPS N 52.39354, W 006.94770 Postcode Y34 A786 Tel +353 (0)51 425239 Email bookings@dunbrody.com Web www.dunbrody.com

#### Business Contact Sean Connick

#### **Experience Description**

Dunbrody Famine Ship is one of the premier tourist attractions in the South East of Ireland. Centred on an authentic reproduction of an 1840's emigrant vessel, it provides a world-class interpretation of the famine emigrant experience. Incorporating **guided tour**, **costumed performers and themed exhibitions** of the highest quality, 'The Dunbrody' provides a unique insight into the bravery and fortitude with which Irish people faced up to a desperate situation. As well as the Ship's Tour the Dunbrody Visitor Centre houses a charming river-view café and the Irish America Hall of Fame.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  8.50 – adult;  $\in$  7 – senior;  $\in$  5 – child/student. No minimum or maximum group size, advance booking preferable.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes

Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Carmel/Maura Email carmel@dunbrody.com / mauramurphy@dunbrody.com Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open 7 days a week 9am to 6pm. Experience is not weather dependent.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Fully accessible. Coach parking available – 12 dedicated Bus Parking Spaces across from Visitor Centre; 2 in Bus Bay at Visitor Centre. No minimum age requirements. Refreshments, restrooms and retail outlet available onsite.

#### Public Transport

#### www.buseireann.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

New Ross Town Waterford City (24kms/30 mins) Kilkenny City (52kms/44mins) Wexford Town (36kms/44mins)

#### Nearest Airport

Cork City (1hr 48 mins)

### Other Experiences Nearby

New Ross Tapestry (500 Metres/5 mins walk);The Kennedy Homestead (8Km/10mins);The John F Kennedy Memorial Park & Arboretum (12Km/15 mins)





## Experience 800 Years of Lighthouse Keeping at Hook Lighthouse – The Oldest Working Lighthouse in the World

#### **Business Contact Details**

Hook Lighthouse, Fethard on Sea, Hook Peninsula, New Ross, Co Wexford GPS N52.12.48.75 W6.93.06.15 Tel +353 (0)51 397054/5 Email info@hookheritage.ie Web www.hookheritage.ie

#### Business Contact Ann Waters

#### **Experience Description**

Fully guided 1hr tour takes you through the medieval lighthouse tower built by William Marshal, the Earl of Pembroke, the most famous knight of his time. Visit the modern watchtower with fascinating stories about lighthouse keeping and the lighthouse, still fully operational today. Enjoy spectacular views from the balconies. Relax by the sea and keep an eye out for seals, dolphins and even whales.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €6

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes <30 pax Tour Series Yes <30 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

Cathy Dowling/Elaine Wallace Email as above Tel as above

#### Opening Details

Open year round, 7 days. June-Aug. 09.30-18.00, tours every 30mins; Sept-May 09.30-17.00, tours every hour. Closed Monday before Christmas up to and including Christmas Day. Some areas may be restricted during extreme weather conditions.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Free car and coach parking (one coach and one minibus). Restaurant and Bakery onsite. Outdoor barbeque during summer months. Outdoor picnic areas. Not suitable for those with mobility challenges.

#### **Public Transport**

New Ross train station (40 mins)

#### Accommodation Hub

New Ross (40 mins); Wexford Town (50 mins); Waterford City via Passage East Ferry (1hr); Waterford City via New Ross (1hr15mins).

#### **Nearest Airports**

Dublin (2hr 45mins); Cork: (2hr 45mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Hooked Kitsurfing; Loftus Hall; Tintern Abbey/Colclough Walled Gardens; Dunbrody Abbey and Maze



## Irish National Heritage Park

#### **Business Contact Details**

Ferrycarrig, Co Wexford GPS 52.3482 – 6.5171 Tel +353 (0)53 9120733 Email info@inhp.com Web www.inhp.com

#### Business Contact Maura Bell

#### **Experience Description**

1.5hr guided tour. The world you enter is an authentic recreation of Ireland's heritage. From campsite to Ringfort; Mill to Fulacht Fiadh; Crannog to Viking site, every activity is an adventure into 9000 years of history. Children can experience fun activities such as panning for gold; wattle your own house. Includes two adventure playgrounds and an activity scramble. Stay a night or two in a replica of a 1,500 year old ringfort (Cert. of Tourist Accommodation, Approved by Fáilte Ireland). Restaurant, craft and gift shop.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015** €9.00 Adult (>18); €8.00 Senior/Student; €25 per family (2 adults and up to 3 children (<16)

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes >20 pax Tour Series Yes >20 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

As above Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days (except 24th, 25th/26th Dec). Opening times: May-Aug. 09.30-18.30 (last admission 17.00); Sept-April 09.30-17.30 (last admission 16.00).

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age but persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Wheelchair access. Park is outdoors so suitable clothing advisable. Car and coach parking available. Restaurant, restrooms and retail outlet onsite. Set menus for groups available on request.

#### **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie; www.irishrail.ie; taxi from Wexford train station (10mins)

#### Accommodation Hub

Wexford Town (5 mins)

Nearest Airport Dublin (2hrs)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Enniscorthy Castle & 1798 Rebellion Centre (18mins); Dunbrody Emigrant Ship, New Ross (34 mins); Wexford Wild Fowl Reserve (35 mins)





## Follow the Emigrant Trail – Retrace the fortunes of the most famous Irish America Family

#### **Business Contact Details**

The Kennedy Homestead, Dunganstown, New Ross, Co Wexford GPS N52.3486° / W 006.98099° Postcode: Y34 KW31 Tel +353 51 388264 Email info@kennedyhomestead.ie Web www.kennedyhomestead.ie Business Contact Sean Connick

#### **Experience Description**

Follow the journey from famine emigrant to President! The Kennedy Homestead, birthplace of President John F. Kennedy's great grandfather, celebrates the story of five generations of the Kennedy dynasty. Relive President Kennedy's iconic return visit in 1963. Experience a state of the art interpretive museum; housing an interactive exhibition, guiding visitors through the footsteps of the most famous Irish emigrant family. Witness a unique collection of film, photographs and exclusive memorabilia.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** Adult €7.50, senior €6.50, Student/ Child €5.00 (under 4yrs free), Family (2 adults & 3 children under 12) €22. No min or max group size, advance booking required for groups of 10 or more.

#### Group Bookings /Tour Operator Rates Offered Yes

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Sean Connick Email info@kennedyhomestead.ie Tel +353 51 388264

#### **Opening Details**

Open 7 days a week, 9.30am - 5.30pm (Last admission 5.00pm). Duration of experience – the visitor experience is largely self-guided which begins with a detailed personal introduction.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking onsite. Wheelchair accessible throughout. Refreshments available onsite.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie; Taxi from New Ross (10mins)

#### **Accommodation Hub**

New Ross – (8kms/10mins); Wexford Town – (42kms/40mins); Rosslare Harbour – (55kms/50 mins); Waterford City – (33kms/40 mins); Kilkenny City – (60kms/60 mins); Dublin – (160kms/2 hours)

#### **Nearest Airport**

Dublin airport (1hr 50 mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

The Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience (8km/10mins); The Kennedy Memorial Park & Arboretum (7Km/10mins); Hook Head Light House (29Km/35mins); House of Waterford Crystal (33Km/40mins)



## Bishop's Palace – Treasures of Georgian Waterford

#### **Business Contact Details**

Viking Triangle, Waterford City GPS 52.259712 – 7.107703 X91 E279 Tel +353 (0)51 849650 Email granaryrecep@waterfordcouncil.ie Web www.waterfordtreasures.com

Business Contact David Rodgers

#### **Experience Description**

A 45 minute guided tour. Experience authentic grand 18th century living in this beautiful Georgian building. Don't miss the oldest surviving piece of Waterford Crystal dating back to 1789 and Napoleon Bonaparte's Mourning Cross; the only one to survive of the original twelve that were made on his death. Take the multi-media handheld guide or enjoy a family friendly tour with a costumed performer.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015** €7.00 Adult (>18); €6,00 Senior/Student; FREE Child with paying adult (<15)

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes >10 pax Tour Series Yes >10 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

As above Email As above Tel As above plus 353 (0)87 4141794

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days (except 25th/26th Dec. & 1st Jan.).

#### **Opening times**

June-Aug. Mon.-Fri: 09.15-18.00; Sat. 09.30-18.00; Sun. 11.00-18.00 (last admission 17.20); May-Sept. Mon.-Fri. 09.15-17.00; Sat. 10.00-17.00; Sun. 11.00-17.00 (last admission 16.20). Opening outside of normal hours facilitated by prior arrangement.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. Wheelchair access. Coffee shop onsite. Bolton St Public Car Park less than 3 mins away. On street parking (pay by meter) on the Quays; the Mall,; Parnell St and City Square Shopping Centre all nearby. Free coach parking available outside the Bishops' Palace, all size coaches, 8 bays.

#### Public Transport

Irish Rail Expressway coaches; local buses from train station.

Accommodation Hub Waterford City

#### Nearest Airports Dublin 2hrs; Cork 1hr

Other Experiences Nearby Reginald's Tower; Waterford Crystal Visitor Experience





## Medieval Museum – Treasures of Medieval Waterford

#### **Business Contact Details**

Viking Triangle, Waterford GPS 52.259919, -7.106772 X91 K10E Tel +353 (0)51 849501 Email medievalreception@waterfordcouncil.ie Web www.waterfordtreasures.com

Business Contact David Rodgers

#### **Experience Description**

45min. tour, currently ranked #1 attraction in Waterford on Tripadvisor.com. Only museum in Europe built on National monuments, the 13th century Chorister's Hall and the 15th century Mayor's Wine Vault. Don't miss the Unique Cloth of Gold vestments, lost for centuries after they were hidden from Cromwell's army; the Great Charter Roll viewed by Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to Ireland and the only piece of clothing to survive King Henry VIII's reign, 'The Cap of Maintenance'. Take the multimedia handheld guide or enjoy a family friendly tour with a costumed performer.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015**  $\in$  7.00 Adult (>18);  $\in$  6.00 Senior/Student; under 14 free with paying adult.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes >10 <35 pax Tour Series Yes >10 <35 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

As above Email drodgers@waterfordcouncil.ie Tel +353 (0)51 849646/353 (0)87 4141794

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days (except 25th/26th Dec. and 1st Jan). Opening times: Mon-Fri 09.15-18.00; Sat. 09.30-18.00; Sun. & Bank Holidays 11.00-18.00. Last admission 17.20 (Sept-May 16.20). Opening outside of normal hours facilitated by prior arrangement.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age. Wheelchair access. Coffee shop. Free coach parking outside the Bishop's Palace, all size coaches, 8 bays. Metered parking on the Quays, the Mall, Parnell St.

Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie; www.irishrail.ie

## Accommodation Hub

Waterford City

Nearest Airports Cork (1hr); Dublin 2hrs

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Bishop's Palace; Reginald's Tower; House of Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre Experience – within 5 mins walking distance



## Surfing and Irish Language Experience

#### **Business Contact Details**

The Beach House, The Gap Riverstown, Tramore, Co Waterford GPS 52.16124928, -7.14096308 Tel + 353 51 386773 / 353 86 3914908 Email irish@freedomsurfschool.com Web www.freedomsurfschool.com

#### Business Contact Billy Butler

#### **Experience Description**

Enjoy learning to surf and experience the spoken Irish Language from our authentic 'Irish Cottage Surf School'. Freedom Surf School's unique surf lesson is about learning how to surf and learning Irish words and phrases at the same time. Instruction is given through English and Irish in waist deep water for maximum fun and enjoyment. Duration two hours. All equipment supplied (full wetsuits, booties, surf boards). Relax and enjoy a light refreshment at the cottage after your surf.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €35

### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes >4 pax < 50 pax Tour Series Yes >4 pax < 50 pax

#### Group bookings rates contact

Billy Butler Email info@freedomsurfschool.com Tel as above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round. May-Aug. 09.00-20.00; Sept & April 09.00-18.00; Oct-Mar. 09.00-17.00; Nov-Feb. 09.00-16.00

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Min. age 8yrs. Basic level of fitness and swimming ability. Bring towel and swimwear. Advance booking required. Facilities: Coffee Doc, indoor lecture room, shower room. Male and female changing rooms. Beach Art Gallery. Two beach restaurants located 3 min. walk from premises. Coach parking available, 2 bays, within 3 mins walk from premises.

#### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie; www.irishrail.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

Tramore Town (5 min. walk).

#### Nearest Airport

Dublin (2hrs 15mins)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Gardens (5mins); The Copper Coast Geopark (25mins); The Viking Triangle – Waterford City (20 mins)





## Whitewater Adventure – Guided Tour

#### **Business Contact Details**

Go with the Flow River Adventures, Golden Grove, Roscrea, Co Tipperary Tel +353 (0)87 2529700 Email info@gowiththeflow.ie Web www.gowiththeflow.ie

#### Business Contact Charlie Horan

#### **Experience Description**

With various departure points along the River Barrow in counties Kildare, Carlow or Kilkenny, enjoy a 2.5hr guided tour. Experience the incredibly beautiful Barrow River valley with qualified, enthusiastic guides. Take a ride in a Canadian canoe; experience going through a lock system; shooting through a weir; riding the waves on the rapids and wild swimming through a natural rock garden. The scenery is stunning. Fantastic fun levels; inspiring experiences. Highest safety standards apply. All equipment supplied. FREE photos for all after the event.

#### Pricing

Standard Retail Price 2015 €35

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Yes

Ad-Hoc Group Yes Tour Series Yes

#### Group bookings rates contact As above

Email As above Tel As above

**Opening Details** Year round. Opening times: 09.00-18.00hrs.

Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements Minimum age 6yrs. Parking for up to four large coaches onsite.

Public Transport Train to Bagenalstown; public bus from Kilkenny 20mins

Accommodation Hub Kilkenny City, 20mins

Nearest Airport Dublin 1hr 40.

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny; Kilkenny Castle; Kilkenny Cycling Tours

Mount Usher Gardens in Wicklow were voted Best to Visit in Ireland by BBC Gardeners' World Magazine.



## Horses & Horticulture

#### **Business Contact Details**

Irish National Stud, Tully, Kildare Town, Co Kildare Tel +353 (0)45 521617 Email dwardell@instourism.net Web www.irishnationalstud.ie

Business Contact David Wardell

#### **Experience Description**

From horses to horticulture the Irish National Stud & Gardens offers you a unique experience that may be enjoyed at your own leisure or as part of a guided tour. Daily guided tours of the Stud. Browse through the world famous Japanese Gardens. Visit the award winning Irish Garden – St. Fiachra's Garden and also our Horse Museum. Restaurant with home baking onsite.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  12.50 Adult;  $\in$  9.50 Senior/Student; children under 5 go free. No min or max group size, larger numbers divided into smaller groups. Pre booking is essential.

FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Marie/Siobhan/Caroline/Mary Email reservations@instourism.net Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

7 days a week from 9am-5pm between 1st February and 6th November. Duration of experience – minimum time 1.5 hours, recommended time to visit 3 hours.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available for 25 buses and car parking for over 200 cars. The Japanese Gardens are partially wheelchair accessible as they were designed in 1906. The remainder of the property e.g. Stud, Museum & St. Fiachra's Garden are wheelchair accessible. Comfortable walking shoes required. Advisable to bring a light raincoat and umbrella. Refreshments and restrooms available onsite.

#### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie www.dublincoach.ie www.irishrail.ie

#### Accommodation Hub

Newbridge (12 minutes drive)

Nearest City Dublin (50 mins)

Nearest Airport Dublin Airport (1hr)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Newbridge Silver and Museum of Style Icons (5 miles); Kildare retail Village (1 mile); Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park (10 miles)





## Wicklow Gaol Historic Tour

#### **Business Contact Details**

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow GPS 52.978909, -6.037345 Tel +353 (0)404 61599 Email info@wicklowshistoricgaol.com Web www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com

Business Contact Emeir O'Connell

#### **Experience Description**

1 hour tour. Take an interactive multimedia journey through Wicklow's Historic Gaol. Designed to engage all the senses, visitors will step back in time. Holographic projections of cruel prison guards, the sound of the defiant cries from the 1798 rebels and the transformation of three prison floors visually creates over 200 years of Irish history through the eyes of the inmates. The tour is partially guided. Audio guides also available.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015** €7.90 Adult (>18); €6.70 Student/Senior; €5.00 Child (<16); €20 Family

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Yes Ad-Hoc Group Yes Tour Series Yes

#### Group bookings rates contact

Marie Comerford Email as above Tel as above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round. Mon-Sat. 10.30-16.30; Sun. 11.00-16.00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min. age requirement. Wheel chair access ground floor only. Coffee shop. Free car parking (up to 2 hours) in public car park in front of Wicklow Gaol. Coach parking available, 2 bays.

#### **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie; www.irishrail.ie

Accommodation Hub Wicklow Town

## Nearest Airport

Dublin (50 mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Diamond Bowl and Kidzone (8 mins); Mount Usher Gardens (16 mins); Brittas Bay Beach (32mins)



## Day Tour of Wicklow with Activity Options

#### **Business Contact Details**

Hilltop Treks, 17 Dodder Lawn, Dodder Valley Park, Firhouse, Dublin, Dublin 24 Tel +353 (0)87 7849599 Email info@hilltoptreks.ie Web www.hilltoptreks.ie

#### Business Contact Terry Lambert

#### **Experience Description**

Fully guided day tour of Wicklow from Dublin, visiting Glendalough and the Powerscourt Gardens. Visitors will have the options of a guided walk (approx. 1.5hrs); horse riding (approx. 2hrs) or Powerscourt Gardens (approx. 1.5hrs). Tour starts in Dublin at Suffolk St at 09.30, then travels to Enniskerry, Co Wicklow for visit to Powerscourt or chosen activity. Lunch Enniskerry. Tour takes scenic route through Wicklow Mountains visiting Glencree, Sally Gap and on to Glendalough to visit the 6th century monastic site. Return to Dublin by 17.30.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price 2015** Tour only  $\in$  25 (does not include admission into Powerscourt  $\in$  6.50); Tour with guided walk  $\in$  35; Tour with horse riding  $\in$  75.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Yes

Ad-Hoc Group Yes Tour Series Yes >15 pax

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Terry Lambert/Dara Email bookings@hilltoptreks.ie Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days. Tour times 09.30-17.30.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No min/max age but min. age for horse riding is 8yrs. Lunch included. Average level of fitness required for guided walk and horse riding. Recommend walking boots or old trainers for walking; jeans for horse riding and some rain gear just in case!

#### Accommodation Hub

Dublin City

Brú na Bóinne the UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the largest concentration of stone art in Western Europe.



## FREE IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST EXPERIENCES



## A Stitch in Time

#### **Business Contact Details**

Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, Market Square, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan Tel +353 (0)42 9664176 Email info@carrickmacrosslace.ie Web www.carrickmacrosslace.ie

Business Contact Geraldine O'Reilly

#### **Experience Description**

30 min. tour. Visit Carrickmacross Lace Gallery to learn more of the history of Carrickmacross Lace which has a long and rich tradition, having originated in the early 1820's. Its style was inspired by examples of Italian lace of that era. At that time it became an important source of rural family income. It was 'made by the poor for the rich and famous'. Today it is still worked by a small group of people who are passionate about the beauty of fine, meticulously stitched needlecraft.

#### Group bookings contact

As above Email As above Tel As above

#### Opening Details Mon-Sat. 09.30-17.30.

Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements Group demos available, costs €50 per group <15 pax. Car park available across the road. Numerous cafés in the town.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie/ – to Carrickmacross

Accommodation Hub

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen 12km/15mins; Wildlife and Heritage Centre, Clontibret, Co Monaghan 33km/30mins; Rally School Ireland, Scotstown, Co Monaghan 50km/45mins



## An Undiscovered Landscape

#### **Business Contact Details**

Cavan Burren Park, Cavan County Council, Farnham Street, Cavan, Co Cavan Tel +353 (0)49 4378543 Email jhayes@cavancoco.ie Web www.thisiscavan.ie/fun/article/new-visitor-centre-for-heritage-site-atcavan-burren

Business Contact Joanne Hayes

#### **Experience Description**

1hr tour. Cavan Burren Park just outside Blacklion in West Cavan is one of the finest integrated prehistoric landscapes in Ireland with fine examples of megalithic tombs, stone walls, ancient rock art, glacial erratics and pre-bog walls. Visitors will enjoy exploring the visitor centre and four walking trails (inc. multi-access trail). Interpretation along the way will assist you in unravelling the intriguing layers of human history as you walk. Rich in archaeological and geological heritage, Cavan Burren Park affords spectacular views over Lough MacNean, Cavan and Fermanagh and the wider Global Geopark.

#### Group bookings contact

Joanne Hayes Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 09.00hrs to dusk.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Wheelchair accessible tracks on some of the walking tracks. Coach and car parking available.

#### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie to Blacklion

#### Accommodation Hub

Blacklion; Ballybawn; Glenfarne (10mins)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Marble Arch Caves, Co Fermanagh (8km/11mins); Manorhamilton Castle & Heritage Centre, Co Leitrim (22km/21mins); Out Doors and Dirty (ODD), Ballyconnell, Co Cavan (37km/35mins)

Arthur Guinness was born in Celbridge and ran his first brewery in Leixlip before trying his luck in Dublin. He is buried in Oughter Ard, Co Kildare.

## FREE IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST EXPERIENCES





## An Ancient Oak Road

#### **Business Contact Details**

Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, Kenagh, Co Longford Tel +353 (0)43 3322386 Email ctrackwayvisitorcentre@opw.ie Web www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/ CorleaTrackwayVisitorCentre/

Business Contact Mary Forbes

#### **Experience Description**

Discover an ancient transport route constructed in the Iron Age at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre. Located 3km from Kenagh village close to the River Shannon in Co Longford. The oak road is the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe. Inside the building an 18 metre stretch of preserved road is on permanent display in a specially designed hall with humidifiers to prevent the ancient wood from cracking in the heat.

#### Group bookings contact

As above Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open early April to end Sept. Daily 10.00-18.00, last tour is 17.00.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach and car parking available onsite. Wheelchair access. Max. group size 59 for the audio visual room.

#### **Public Transport**

www.irishrail.ie www.buseireann.ie Longford to Keenagh (16km/19mins)

#### **Accommodation Hub**

Longford Town (16km/19mins) Athlone, Co Westmeath (29km/35mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Newcastle Woods, Co Longford (8km/11mins); Hill of Uisneach, Co Westmeath (27km/30mins); Claypipe Visitor Centre, Co Roscommon (32km/30mins); Athlone Castle Visitor Centre, Co Westmeath (31km/38mins)



## Take a Walk in Paradise

#### **Business Contact Details**

Glen of Aherlow, Fáilte Society Ltd, Coach Road, Aherlow, Co Tipperary Tel +353 (0)62 56331 Email info@aherlow.com Web www.aherlow.com

#### Business Contact Helen Morrissey

#### **Experience Description**

The Glen of Aherlow is a quiet country valley, secluded but not isolated. It stretches from the N24, South of the heritage town of Tipperary, through sixteen miles of unspoilt countryside affording some of the most breathtaking scenery imaginable making it one of the most desirable holiday destinations in Ireland. There are opportunities for walking, rambling, horseriding, cycling and fishing. The Glen is renowned for the warmth of its welcome and the friendship of its people. Choose from eight looped walks ranging from 2-10kms and two linear mountain trails.

#### Group bookings contact

Helen Morrissey Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open seven days a week, 365 days a year, subject to severe weather conditions. Duration of experience – minimum 1hr.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available at Glen of Aherlow Fáilte office. There is no limitation on group sizes to undertake these walks. Adequate level of fitness required. Longer range walks are best suited to experienced walkers. Walking boots, raingear, liquids, snacks and mobile phone as appropriate to the type of walk. Refreshments available nearby at the village of Lisvernane 3kms/5mins, Bansha 10kms/13mins and the town of Tipperary 10kms/13mins.

#### **Public Transport**

*www.buseireann.ie* – to Cahir Taxi from Cahir to Glen of Aherlow – 20mins

#### Accommodation Hub

Glen of Aherlow Tipperary Junction 14kms/20mins Cahir 24kms/25mins

Nearest City Limerick (50 mins)

Nearest Airport Cork Airport (1hr)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Mitchelstown Cave 36kms/36mins; Cahir Castle 24kms/25mins; Rock of Cashel 28kms/35mins



## FREE IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST EXPERIENCES



## Lough Boora Discovery Park

#### **Business Contact Details**

Lough Boora Discovery Park Visitor Centre, Boora, Co Offaly GPS N 53°13'24.9" W 007°43'44.5" Tel +353 (0)57 9340010 Email Thomas.Egan@bnm.ie Web www.loughboora.com/

Business Contact Thomas Egan

#### **Experience Description**

Lough Boora Discovery Park is located in County Offaly and is open yearround. This amenity can be explored for its outdoor activities, nature and biodiversity, sculptures and historical Mesolithic Site. With access for all ages and abilities to experience our diverse amenities, activities, natural flora and wildlife species in a safe and inclusive environment. With 50km of trails, bike hire facilities, angling lakes, bird hides and a dedicated Sculpture Park, discover all that Lough Boora has to offer.

#### Group bookings contact

Thomas Egan Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open seven days a week, 365 days a year. The Visitor Centre, café, car park and toilet facilities: open weekdays from 9.00am-7.30pm. Check the website for open times during your planned visit.

Visitor Centre Café – Open daily from 9.30am-6pm until 31 October. Open weekends from 11am-4pm from 1 November. Duration of experience – minimum 1hr.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available at Visitor Centre. €2 car park fee applies. Refreshments available onsite. Access for all abilities.

#### Public Transport

*www.buseireann.ie* – to Birr Taxi from Birr – 20mins

#### Accommodation Hub

Birr, Co Offaly. 22kms/20mins Tullamore, Co Offaly. 22kms/22mins

Nearest City Kilkenny (1hr 32 mins)

Nearest Airport Dublin Airport (1hr 33 mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Birr Castle Demesne & Historic Science Centre 21kms/20mins; Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre 22kms/22mins; Clonmacnoise Monastic Settlement 30kms/30mins



## Walks in the Slieve Blooms Mountains

#### **Business Contact Details**

Slieve Bloom Mountains, Slieve Bloom Rural Development Co-operative Society, Community Centre, Kinnitty, Co Offaly GPS 53.097806, -7.718997 Tel +353 (0)86 2789147 Email info@slievebloom.ie Web www.slievebloom.ie

#### Business Contact Gerry Hanlon

#### **Experience Description**

Situated in both Offaly and Laois, in the heart of Ireland, the picturesque Slieve Bloom Mountains allow visitors to experience and to explore the largest continuous area of upland blanket bog and forestry in Ireland. It is said that you can see half the counties in Ireland from the top of the Slieve Blooms. There are 16 looped walks ranging from 5-16kms to choose from. Spend a while in the surrounding villages such as Kinnitty or Clonaslee, stepping back in time, to an era when life moved at a much slower pace. Walking Festival on May Bank Holiday Weekend. Eco Walking Festival in July.

#### Group bookings contact

Gerry Hanlon Email walks@slievebloom.ie Tel +353 (0)86 8210056

#### **Opening Details**

Open seven days a week, 365 days a year, subject to severe weather conditions.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available in Kinnitty. Adequate levels of fitness is required. Longer range walks are best suited to experienced walkers. Walking boots, raingear, liquids, snacks and mobile phone as appropriate to the type of walk. There is no limitation on group sizes to undertake these walks. Refreshments available in villages of Kinnitty, Cadamstown, Clonaslee, Rosenallis, Camross, Ballyfin.

### Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

#### **Accommodation Hub**

Accommodation is available in the nearby villages of Kinnitty and Ballyfin Birr – 14kms/15mins Roscrea – 18kms/20mins Tullamore – 27kms/30mins Portlaoise – 39kms/41mins

#### Nearest City

Kilkenny (1hr 15 mins) Nearest Airport

### Dublin Airport (1hr 32 mins)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Lough Boora Parklands 17kms/20mins; Birr Castle Demesne & Historic Science Centre 14kms/15mins; Roscrea Castle & Damer House18kms/20mins

Kytler's Inn in Killkenny is named after Dame Alice Kytler, born in 1280 and reputed to be Ireland's last witch. Kytler was widowed four times and accused of poisoning all of her husbands... though she escaped capture.



# WILD ATLANTIC WAY

The Wild Atlantic Way on Ireland's Western Coast off the Western Edge of Europe, captivates you with its wild landscape that continuously shapes its living history; and engages you with its vibrant & creative communities, whose stories and culture stimulates you, so you are freed up to relax, enjoy and leave feeling refreshed, renewed and uplifted.



For the top surfers around the globe who come here, the best Big Wave surf in Europe is in Mullaghmore, Easkey & Tullan.

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Kerry is one of only three locations worldwide designated as a Gold Tier Dark Sky Reserve, one of the best locations in the world for star gazing!







# Catch a Magical Kayak Trip

# **Business Contact Details**

Atlantic Sea Kayaking, Lough Hyne, Skibbereen, West Cork GPS 51.50625, -9.306274 Tel +353 (0)28 21058 Email info@atlanticseakayaking.com Web www.atlanticseakayaking.com

Business Contact Jim Kennedy

# **Experience Description**

Sign up to this three-way dream combination – get up close to nature, forage for some seaweed and take a magical moonlit guided kayaking trip with Atlantic Sea Kayaking in stunning Lough Hyne between Baltimore and Skibbereen in West Cork. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, kayak along the coastline dotted with deserted islands, ancient castles, sea caves, hidden coves and an abundance of marine life. Visit a seal colony and spot varied birdlife en route. Kayak under the moonlight and embrace the silence while bathed in the bioluminescence that surrounds you – Magical!

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price:** €50.00 per person (less 15% for trade); max group size 24, min 6.

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Jim Kennedy Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open year round, 7 days, weather permitting. Duration of experience; full day or an evening (2.5hrs).

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Moderate level of fitness required. Comfortable clothing/towel and suitable footwear required. Coach parking available. Refreshments not available onsite but in local towns depending on location of kayak trip i.e. Skibbereen, Baltimore or Union Hall.

Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

Accommodation Hub Skibbereen, Baltimore or Union Hall

Nearest City Cork (1hr 25 mins)

Nearest Airport Cork (1hr 15 mins)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Skibbereen Heritage Centre; Dún na Séad Castle; Drombeg Stone Circle



# West Cork Heritage & Food Trail

#### **Business Contact Details**

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co Cork, P85 WF86 Tel +353 (0)23 8848722 Email info@celticross.com Web www.celticrosshotel.com

# Business Contact Neil Grant

# **Experience Description**

Get a full flavour of West Cork in this fascinating experience that combines the historic legacy of the region with the culinary skills to be found there. You'll start at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre, where the knowledge and passion of the team will bring history alive, and help you find out about your heritage. Walk the Famine Walk and visit the Abbeystrewry Famine Graveyard. West Cork is known for its artisan food producers, and you can meet some of the people whose creations, such as Gubbeen, Durrus and the Woodcock Smokery, have put south-west Ireland on the world culinary map. Finally, you'll visit the home of Michael Collins and the Four Alls pub, and learn about his struggle for Irish independence.

# Pricing

Standard Retail Price: €59 low season, €69 high season (price pppn). Max group size 100, no min.

# Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates No

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Neil Grant Email As above Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

Open seven days a week. Duration of experience -2 or 3 nights. Pre booking required.

Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements Coach parking available. Refreshments available at hotel.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie

#### Accommodation Hub Celtic Ross Hotel

Nearest City

Cork (1hr 7 mins)

Nearest Airport Cork (1hr)

# Other Experiences Nearby

Owenahincha Blue Flag Beach – in the town; Drombeg Stone Circle – 11mins/7kms; West Cork Model Railway – 14km/13mins





# Wild West Cork Whale Watching

#### **Business Contact Details**

Manor House Hotels, 1 Sandyford Office Park, Foxrock, Dublin 19 **Postcode** D18 CC79 **Tel** +353 (0)1 2958900 **Email** david.cleary@manorhousehotels.com **Web** manorhousehotels.com / www.irishcountryhotels.com

Business Contact David Cleary

# **Experience Description**

Experience the wilds of West Cork with 2 nights Bed & Breakfast in Baltimore at Casey's of Baltimore Hotel. On one of the days, you will take a guided Whale Watching Tour from the nearby Baltimore harbour. This tour will take approx 4 hours and will give you the opportunity to see some stunning whales and dolphins in their natural habitat.

On your return, you will enjoy a dinner in Casey's Hotel overlooking the water and enjoy a pint in the adjacent bar.

### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price:** €190 per person for 2 nights B&B, 1 dinner and 4-hour boat trip. Max 12 per group for boat trip, can handle bigger groups but advance booking essential.

# Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Maria Martin Email reservations@manorhousehotels.com Tel As above

### **Opening Details**

Daily whale watching tours April-December at 9.30am and 2.15pm. During July & August there is an additional tour at 7pm. Duration of experience – 4 hrs.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. Easy boarding. Most mobility limitations can be overcome. No minimum age but please note that due to the nature of the boat tour, it is advised that children are kept under close supervision by parents. Dress in warm clothing. No refreshments available on board but are available in Baltimore.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

www.Duselleann.le

Accommodation Hub Casey's of Baltimore

Nearest City Cork (1hr 40 mins)

Nearest Airport Cork (1hr 30 mins)

#### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Traditional music session in a local pub; Baltimore Heritage Trail; walks – all within the town of Baltimore



# Cycle & Stroll Through History

# **Business Contact Details**

Ecotrek, Greenfields, Church Road, Ballybunion, Co Kerry GPS 52.51241, -9.6706859 Postcode V31 FC43 Tel +353 (0)87 3539613 Email dannyhoulihan@me.com dannypiper761@gmail.com

Business Contact Danny Houlihan

# **Experience Description**

Join local historian and piper Danny Houlihan on an adventure walking tour along the famous Cliff Walk in Ballybunion where myths and legends and wild life are interwoven into a rich tapestry with tales of its smuggling past and its famous piper Thomas Mc Carthy 1799-1904. Why not have a go on the pipes yourself? Experience the sound of the Irish pipes and have a lesson on the tour with Danny your guide along these Majestic cliffs and view the panorama of The Wild Atlantic Way.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price:** €12.50 per person. Max 10 per group, min 5, pre booking essential.

# Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates No

# Group bookings/rates contact

Danny Houlihan **Email** As above **Tel** As above

#### **Opening Details**

Only available when pre booked by phone/email. In winter subject to daily weather conditions. Duration of experience – allow 2hrs.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. Please bring waterproof clothing, good footwear, water. Minimum age is 7 due to historical content and safety. Cliff walk not suitable for wheelchair users. Moderate levels of fitness required. Refreshments available at the start and finish point of walk.

# Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

# Accommodation Hub

Ballybunion - cliff walk is in Ballybunion

Nearest City Limerick (1hr 20 mins)

Nearest Airport Shannon (1hr 25 mins)

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Bromore Cliffs Visitor Attraction; Ballybunion Seaweed Baths; Ballybunion Crazy Golf – all within 10 mins





# Indoor Rock-climbing & High Ropes

#### **Business Contact Details**

Play at Height, Ballinaboola, Dingle, Co Kerry Tel +353 (0)66 9152822 Email Info@playatheight.com Web www.playatheight.com

Business Contact Cian O'Driscoll

# **Experience Description**

Expect an adrenaline filled day in our base in Dingle Co Kerry. Our indoor rock-climbing wall is one of the biggest in Ireland and has routes and grades for individuals of all abilities.

We have two levels of High ropes 15ft and 35ft. The 15ft course is designed for groups. You can walk the tightrope, scale the cargo net and fly down our Zip line.

The 35ft course is the extreme course and has a minimum age limit of 16 years. This challenging course comprises of 10 elements. Clients can expect to tackle the Ariel surfboard, the swinging logs as well as two zip lines.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** Rock Climbing  $\in$  10, Rock Climbing & Low Ropes Course  $\in$  20

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes 10% discount on groups 10+

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Cian O'Driscoll Email Cian@playatheight.com Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

July 1st-September 1st, open 7 days a week 11am-6pm (Summer).

September 1st-July open Weekends 11am-6pm also open Wednesday nights 7pm-10pm (Winter).

Easter Break/Bank Holidays Open 11am-6pm Duration of experience; 1.5-3.5 hours.

### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Extensive car park which can facilitate small to large coaches as well as multiple cars.

We can tailor fit the experience to the individual where necessary.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

Accommodation Hub

Dingle (nearest hotel 3 mins)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Dingle Ocean World Aquarium; Irish Adventures Kayaking; Fungi Boat Trip-all located in Dingle town



# **Outdoor Adventure Activities**

#### **Business Contact Details**

Cappanalea OETC, Caragh Lake, Killorglin, Co Kerry GPS 52.04734, -9.85268 Tel +353 (0)66 9769244 Email info@cappanalea.ie Web www.cappanalea.ie

Business Contact Teresa Foley

# **Experience Description**

Cappanalea is an outdoor education centre offering a wide range of quality outdoor activity based experiences on the mountains, rivers and lakes of the beautiful southwest region of Ireland along the Wild Atlantic Way. Our guided activities (which include the provision of equipment and instruction) range from land based activities such as hillwalking and rock climbing to sea based activities including Kayaking and Windsurfing.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** Day Course Adults Non Residential €70/Day Course Youth Non Residential €35

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

Group bookings/rates contact Teresa Foley Email Teresa@cappanalea.ie Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Centre operates 24/7, Day Courses 10:00-17:00, Half Day 10:00 to 13:00 or 14:00 to 17:00.

Duration of experience; one day; an evening (3hrs - 2 week residential).

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Access suitable for coaches and car parking for up to fifty cars. We are an inclusive Centre and cater for people of all abilities. Activities pitched at a level to suit customer needs. Specialist clothing provided. List of personal clothing/ equipment requirements supplied to clients.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie

Nearest City Killarney (40 mins)

Nearest Airport Cork City (1hr 30 mins)

Other Experiences Nearby Gap of Dunloe/Rossbeigh Beach – Horse Riding

Killarney/Dooks/Killorglin – Golf Lakes of Killarney/Caragh Lake – Fishing/Angling





# **Burren Adventure**

# **Business Contact Details**

Atlantic Sea Kayaking, Adventure Burren, Poulacarran, Kilfenora, Co Clare Tel +353 (0)87 2244569 Email christy@adventureburren.com Web www.adventureburren.com

#### Business Contact Christy Sinclair

# **Experience Description**

This experience brings small groups onto the fantastic Burren to experience the Eco landscape and all the unique aspects of the area. Participants will experience something for all the senses. The experience may be tailored for intensity, learning or to concentrate on any particular aspect of the area. The Burren is famed for landscape, its flora and particularly extensive archaeology.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price:** Half day  $\in$  30 per person, Full day  $\in$  55 per person; Minimum of 4 for a group booking maximum of 8, multiples of this may be booked. Advanced booking is required, minimum one week in advance.

#### Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes

FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Christy Sinclair Email As above Tel As above

#### **Opening Details**

Open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm, some weather restrictions. Duration of experience – 6hr full day, 3hr half day.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking can be arranged nearby. Participants require a good level of mobility for the activity. Reasonable level of fitness is required. Waterproof/ warm clothing, good footwear required. Refreshments not available onsite, please bring with you. Minimum age is 16 years. Under 16 if there are proper adult supervision arrangements.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie/ www.irishrail.ie – to Ennis

#### Accommodation Hub Kilfenora

Lahinch - 20mins/13kms; Doolin - 21mins 14kms

Nearest City Limerick (1hr)

Nearest Airport Shannon (55 mins)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Cliffs of Moher – 25mins/18km; Doolin Cave – 21mins/14kms; Surfing in Lahinch – 21mins/14km



# Caves & Birds of Prey in the Burren

# Business Contact Details

Aillwee Cave and Birds of Prey Centre, The Burren, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare GPS 53.091838, -9.150317 Tel +353 (0)65 7077036 Email tracy@aillweecave.ie Web www.aillweecave.ie

# Business Contact Nuala Mulqueeney

# **Experience Description**

Our experience at Aillwee Cave includes a fully guided, informative 35 minute tour of the unique underworld of The Burren which includes explanations on limestone, cave and calcite formations. It also explains about temperature and life underground. Our Birds of Prey & Educational Centre is home to Eagles, Owls, Falcons, Vultures & Hawks. Audio Guides, hands on interactive Flying Displays and Information Boards are all included in the experience. Our Bird Handlers also highlight Irish & International Birds of Prey Conservation Programmes.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price:** Adult €15, Child €12. Min group size 15, no max.

# Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Tracy Lynch Email tracy@aillweecave.ie Tel +353 (0)65 7077036

#### **Opening Details**

Open seven days a week, 10am to 5.30pm, July & August 10am to 6.30pm. Duration of experience – allow 2hrs.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. Cave cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Suitable for normal fitness levels. Sensible shoes and jacket required. Minimum age: 5years. Children between 5years to 16years need to be accompanied; 1 adult per 15 children. Refreshments available onsite.

# Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

# Accommodation Hub

Ballyvaughan – 10 mins; Lisdoonvarna – 20 mins; Ennistymomn – 35 mins; Oranmore – 40 mins; Ennis – 45 mins

Nearest City Galway (1hr 5 mins)

Nearest Airport Shannon (1hr 5 mins)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Poulnabrone Dolmen – 6Kms; Caherconnell Ringfort – 6Kms; Burren Centre, Kilfenora – 16Kms





# The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience

# **Business Contact Details**

Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare GPS 52.9361° N, 9.4708° W Tel +353 (0)65 7086141 Email info@cliffsofmoher.ie Web www.cliffsofmoher.ie

Business Contact Katherine Webster/Geraldine Enright

# **Experience Description**

Standing 214m at their highest point they stretch for 8 kilometres along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland. From the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day one can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maam Turk mountains in Connemara, Loop Head to the south and the Dingle Peninsula and Blasket Islands in Kerry. A guided tour is a special way to learn more about the Cliffs of Moher and are most suitable for smaller groups who have special interest in nature, geology, history, geography and tourism. The guided nature walks are conducted by trained Cliffs of Moher rangers and customer service staff. Tours should be pre-booked to avoid disappointment.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** €6 per person. No max group size, min 10. Pre booking necessary.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Tara Griffin Email bookings@cliffsofmoher.ie Tel +353 (0)65 7086145

#### **Opening Details**

Open 363 days a year, closure in severe weather conditions. Duration of experience – allow 2hrs.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. Visitor centre is fully accessible. Walking shoes, light rain jacket and hat required. Refreshments/café and restrooms available onsite.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

Accommodation Hub Doolin – 11mins/9kms; Lahinch – 16mins/11kms

Nearest City Limerick (1hr 20 mins)

Nearest Airport Shannon (1hr 05 mins)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Doolin Cave – 18mins/12km; Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark; Surfing in Doolin – 11mins/9kms



# Wild Experiences on the Wild Atlantic Way

#### Business Contact Details

Killary Adventure Company, Leenane, Co Galway, H91 PY61 Locate code KBV-27-SDN Tel +353 (0)95 43411 Email shane@killary.com Web www.killaryadventure.com

Business Contact Shane Young

# **Experience Description**

This is an activity package where the group can engage in water or land activities. We have over 20 activities to choose, from bungee jumping to high ropes challenges and our unique Turf Warrior challenge to kayaking on the fjord. We cater for all levels. We have Accommodation and fully serviced kitchen onsite and can cater for groups from 4 up to 200. If you want to immerse yourself in the Wild Atlantic Way and truly get an in depth experience of the beauty of Ireland you need to stop here.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** varies please visit our website rates page; max group size 200, min 4. All activities must be pre-booked.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Shane Young Email As above Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

Open year round, activities from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. Duration of experience; from 1hr – 6days.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available. No previous experience necessary. Some mobility limitations. Please bring a towel and raingear, other equipment such as wetsuits and safety gear provided. Refreshments available onsite.

# Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie www.irishrail.ie – to Galway City

# Accommodation Hub

Accommodation onsite for 100 people. Westport and Clifden are both 40 mins away.

Nearest City Galway (1hr 29 mins)

Nearest Airport Knock Airport (1hr 45 mins)

# Other Experiences Nearby

Killary Cruises – 5 mins; Connemara National Park – 15 mins; Kylemore Abbey – 10 mins





# Wild Camping in Connemara

# **Business Contact Details**

Wild Full Stop, Connemara, Co Galway Tel +353 (0)87 6151931 Email info@wildfullstop.com Web www.wildfullstop.com

Business Contact Michelle Casey

# **Experience Description**

Enjoy a 2-day guided walking expedition with wild camping in the mountains of Connemara where you can watch the sun set and rise again across the Irish mountains. Improve your mountain skills, navigation and confidence while also learning wild camping skills. Experience the freedom of the hills and explore the mountains in confidence with a Mountain Leader. Meeting points and camping sites are flexible depending on numbers, routes, weather conditions.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**  $\in$  150.00 per person; max group size 12 split into two groups of 6, min 2. Suitable for 15 years of age and upwards.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes

Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates No

# Group bookings/rates contact

Michelle Casey Email As above Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

Open year round, weather permitting. Duration of experience; 2 days 1 night.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Parking for cars and smaller transport vehicles can be arranged close to the area of activity as required. Coach parking not available, though is available nearby in Clifden. Some mobility limitations due to the terrain. No experience necessary as instruction is provided. Reasonable level of fitness required. Sturdy boots and weatherproof clothing is essential. Camping equipment provided.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie www.irishrail.ie – to Galway City

# Accommodation Hub

Leenane, Letterfrack, Clifden. Travel time is dependent on what area of Connemara the activity/camping will take place.

# **Nearest City**

Galway (1hr 29 mins)

# Nearest Airport

Knock Airport (1hr 45 mins)

# Other Experiences Nearby

Kylemore Abbey & Gardens; Connemara National Park; Visit Inishbofin island – all less than an hour away



# Beach Horse Riding on the Wild Atlantic Way

# **Business Contact Details**

Connemara Wild Escapes, Bayview House, Letterfrack, Connemara, Co Galway Tel +353 (0)86 3771025 Email cathy@connemarawildescapes.ie Web www.connemarawildescapes.ie

# Business Contact Cathy Wolfe

# **Experience Description**

Explore Connemara's spectacular beaches on horseback on this one day guided tour. Experience beach horse riding on the wild Atlantic West coast of Ireland, punctuated by dramatic land and seascapes, historical sites, wild rugged landscapes and islands flung out to sea. Beautiful scenic rides along quiet country lanes, and moorland rides are also available. All treks are suitable for beginner to advanced riders, and include a short assessment before leaving with up to 2 guides. All beach rides are governed by the tide and subject to availability. We ride in the morning, have a break for lunch and then ride again in the afternoon.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** €158.00 per person; max group size 12, min 1.

Tour operator rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Cathy Wolfe Email As above Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

8am-6pm daily, all year around. Duration of experience; 4-5 hours: One ride is approx 1h 30 mins, second ride is approx 2h 30 mins.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available at Cleggan. Offer available March-October subject to availability and weather conditions. Minimum age 12 years old. Clients must be able to mount a horse. Low fitness/experience required. Warm/ weatherproof clothing required. Refreshments available to purchase in Cleggan.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie

# Accommodation Hub Clifden

Nearest City Galway (1hr 40 mins)

Nearest Airport Knock (2hr)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Connemara National Park 15 mins; Kylemore Abbey 20 mins; Clifden town is 15 mins





# **Connemara Island Adventures**

# **Business Contact Details**

Wild Atlantic Adventures Ltd, 4 An Gorlann Gno, Furbo, Co Galway Tel +353 87 3818989 Email info@wildatlanticadventures.com Web www.wildatlanticadventures.com

Business Contact Flan Kelly & Eoin Cox

# **Experience Description**

Bespoke tours for FIT visitors and small groups (up to 8 pax) to include visits to deserted offshore islands. Fully guided tours include walks to discover the islands history and culture, foraging and fishing. We use traditional currach boats, iconic to Connemara, to journey from island to island. Additional activities can be included on request. Picnic lunch provided.

# Pricing

Standard Retail Price Full day tour: 2 people, €195 per person; 4 people, €155 per person; 6+ people, €135 per person Half day tour: 2 people, €165 per person; 4 people, €125 per person; 6+ people, €95 per person. No minimum group size.

FIT Rate: Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

# Group bookings/rates contact

Flan Kelly & Eoin Cox Email info@wildatlanticadventures.com Tel +353 87 3818989

#### **Opening Details**

May-September. Available on request throughout season. Single island visit and tour: 2-3hrs; Multi island tour: minimum 6hrs. Tours may not be possible in poor weather conditions. Alternative experience will be provided on the mainland in the event of late cancellation due to weather.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Parking available for 1-2 small coaches. Not suitable for passengers with limited mobility. Lifejackets provided. No special clothing required. Appropriate dress and footwear taking into account weather conditions. Refreshments available locally before departure.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

# Accommodation Hub

Carna (20mins; 23km) Roundstone (30mins; 28km) Clifden (35mins; 38km)

Nearest city

Galway (1hr15mins; 75km)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Pearse's Cottage Rosmuc (15-20mins; 22km) Galway Hooker Sailings, Roundstone (30mins; 28km) Guided hill walking in the Twelve Bens and Maamturk Mountains (30mins; 25-30km)



# Follow the Spanish Armada Trail

# **Business Contact Details**

Seatrails, Innovation Centre, Sligo IT, Ash Lane, Co Sligo GPS 54.40181604965681, -8.564225043554643 Tel +353 (0)87 2405071 Email *info@seatrails.ie* Web *www.seatrails.ie* 

Business Contact Auriel Robinson

# Experience Description

A guided walk (approx. 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, led by a Maritime Archaeologist) of ancient archaeology, fossils and rare orchids in gorgeous sand dunes, with tales of the Spanish Armada. Lunch at a restaurant with locally sourced food, followed by horse-riding (approx. 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours) along a sandy beach.

# Pricing

Standard Retail Price  $\in$  110.00 per person (20% off for groups –  $\in$  88pp); max group size 15, min 4.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate No Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Auriel Robinson Email As above Tel As Above

# **Opening Details**

April-September (peak), off peak – until end of October based on 10 minimum number in off-peak, 7 days, weather permitting. Duration of experience; 6 hours/full day.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking available at the beach near the start of walk. Walkers can be dropped off at start point. There is some parking at Mullaghmore Harbour but no coach parking at the stables. Small coach only. Experience is not absolutely necessary for riding. Beginners are accepted. Some fitness is required. Would not suit under 8 years.

Public Transport

www.buseireann.ie

#### **Accommodation Hub**

Nearest Large Town: Sligo Town (25 min). Mullaghmore (20 min)

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Mullaghmore Beach and Pier Walk (30mins/36kms) – you'll enjoy excellent views of Slieve League, Benbulben and Benwiskin. Lissadell House: Visitor reception centre at Lissadell (21mins/15kms) with tea rooms, shop and exhibitions. Inishmurray Island Trips. experience the romance and mystery of Inishmurray Island just 7km off the coast of Sligo.





# Rock & Roam

# **Business Contact Details**

MNG, Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore), Clochaneely, Co Donegal GPS 55.049799, -8.228777 Tel 353 (0)83 1230529 Email moira@mng.ie Web www.mng.ie

Business Contact Moira Ní Gallachóir

# **Experience Description**

An adventure and cultural experience in the Gaeltacht (Irish Speaking) of Donegal. Locally guided rock climbing, sea kayaking, island hopping, hiking as well as traditional music and dancing sessions, language & craft workshops, inspirational talks. Immerse yourself in the landscape and culture, and feel inspired by nature and the adventure it provides. The providers are local native speakers as well as experts in their fields. The experience is suitable for all ages/experience levels. We can provide locally sourced food, refreshments, picnics or fine dining.

#### Pricing

**Standard Retail Price**: Varies depending on activity & no. of nights, contact Moira. Max group size 60, min 6 (15 ideal or 4 groups of 15 for larger numbers). Advance booking essential.

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

#### Group bookings/rates contact

Moira Ní Gallachóir Email As above Tel As above

**Opening Details** Open year round, not seasonal.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Parking available. Reasonable levels of fitness required. No minimum age. Suitable clothing and footwear required. Refreshments can be arranged.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

Accommodation Hub Gweedore

Nearest City Derry (1hr 15 mins)

Nearest Airport Derry (1hr 25 mins)

### Other Experiences Nearby

Glenveagh National Park – 20mins/20kms; Ionad Cois Locha – in Gweedore; Doe Castle – 30mins/29kms



# Go Coastal for Adventure

# **Business Contact Details**

Unique Ascent, Mill Road, Dungloe, Co Donegal GPS 54.951018, -8.363932 Tel +353 (0)87 7584810 Email uniqueascent@gmail.com Web www.uniqueascent.ie

Business Contact Iain Miller

# **Experience Description**

See the Wild Atlantic Way from a completely new perspective as our expert guides will take you on a tailor-made adventure that can include everything from rock climbing and coasteering to abseiling and wild camping. All levels of experience are catered for. With outdoor novices opting for more relaxed walking, hiking or climbing excursions, while out and out thrill seekers can sign up for a day of daring, including the ascent of a 120m high sea stack in one of Ireland's most remote locations.

# Pricing

**Standard Retail Price** €150 per person single for day (€80 per person for Couple). Min 1 Max 60

Group Bookings/Tour Operator Rates Yes FIT Rate Yes Ad Hoc Group Rate Rates Yes Tour Series Rates Yes

### Group bookings/rates contact

As Above Email As above Tel As above

# **Opening Details**

Year round, Open 7 days a week from 7am until 10pm. Duration of experience: Full day.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No parking available at location. All rock climbing courses are tailored to your experience, needs and ambitions. No previous rock climbing experience required.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie

Nearest City

# Letterkenny

# Other Experiences Nearby

Cruit Island – 7 mins; Gola Island – 15 mins; Mullaghderg Coastline – 10 mins



# FREE WILD ATLANTIC WAY EXPERIENCES



# Discover Blueways along the Wild Atlantic Way

# **Business Contact Details**

Blueway.ie (Mayo & Galway) Email info@blueway.ie Web www.blueway.ie

Business Contact Chris O'Neill

# **Experience Description**

Blueways are an invitation to stop and discover an inviting network of water trails on the Wild Atlantic Way. These beautiful trails offer kayaking and snorkelling in safe environments making them suitable even for beginners. Each Blueway site has an information board with trail maps, safety details and information on equipment hire and tuition locally. So whether you drop by just one of the locations or plan an exciting odyssey taking in all six, it's time to take the trip of a lifetime on Ireland's Blueway along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Mayo Blueways:

Dugort Strand, Achill Island – kayak trail Keem Strand, Achill Island – snorkel trail Old Head Beach, Louisburgh – kayak trail and snorkel trail

Galway Blueways: Inishbofin Island – kayak trail & snorkel trail Killary Fjord – kayak trail & snorkel trail Mannin Bay – kayak trail & snorkel trail

Opening Details

Year round; weather dependent.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

As the activity takes place on/in water there may be mobility limitations. A reasonable level of fitness is required. Activity is free if you bring your own equipment. Parking for cars and smaller vehicles is available in each location.



# The Jackie Clarke Collection – Immerse yourself in 400 years of Irish History

#### **Business Contact Details**

Mayo County Council's Jackie Clarke Collection, Pearse Street, Ballina, Co Mayo GPS 54.11472654100103, -9.153458084364274 Tel +353 (0)96 73508 Email clarkecollection@mayococo.ie Web www.clarkecollection.ie

Business Contact Austin Vaughan/Anne Marie Forbes

# **Experience Description**

A 2hr guided tour of Irish historical material, comprising over 100,000 items spanning 400 years. It includes artefacts associated with Theobald Wolfe Tone; letters from Michael Collins, Douglas Hyde, Michael Davitt and O'Donovan Rossa; rare books, proclamations, pamphlets, maps and personal items from Leaders of the 1916 Rising. Marking the centenary of the founding of the State, this repository of Irish historic material is worth a visit.

# Group bookings/rates contact

Anne Marie Forbes Email aforbes@mayococo.ie Tel +353 (0)87 4133752

#### **Opening Details**

Year round. Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm. All bookings must be made in advance.

#### Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach parking bay at the front of the building. Wheelchair accessible lifts to all levels.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie www.irishrail.ie

### Accommodation Hub Ballina

#### Other Experiences Nearby

Iceford Stables (5 mins) Paddle and Pedal Kayaking (2 mins) Belleek Woods Cycle (10 mins)



Alcock and Brown crash landed into Derrygimlagh Bog Co Galway in 1919 at the end of the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic

# FREE WILD ATLANTIC WAY EXPERIENCES





# Walk Sliabh Liag's Pilgrim Path

# **Business Contact Details**

Blue Stack Centre, Drimarone, Letterbarrow, Co Donegal GPS 54.641697, -8.666561 Tel 353 (0)87 9318077 Email *ibock@dldc.org* Web www.irishtrails.ie

# Business Contact Inga Bock

# **Experience Description**

A 1hr 30min walk. The Pilgrim Path at Sliabh Liag (Slieve League) offers a different way of experiencing these spectacular cliffs which are among the highest in Europe. This moderate walking route is only 2.8km long but features views of the villages of Teelin and Carrick and finishes up looking down upon the cliffs. On your excursion you will also get a glimpse into the ancient history of this mystical location, passing church ruins and a holy well on the eastern summit of Sliabh Liag.

#### **Opening Details**

All year round, subject to weather conditions as mountain path.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

No coach parking. Up to 3 car parking spaces available at trail head. No min. age but children need to be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable standard of fitness required. Suitable for the intermediate walker. Walking boots and relevant all weather clothing required. Packed lunches available from Slieve League Lodge, Carrick Village, 5 mins drive away.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie

# Accommodation Hub

Hostel accommodation in Carrick – 5 mins drive

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Glencolmcille Folk Village – 12km; Silver Strand, Malin Beg – 18km; Studio Donegal, Kilcar – 9km



# Rougey Walk along a Cliff Top

# **Business Contact Details**

Tourist Office, The Bridge, Bundoran, Co Donegal GPS 54.49007836374548, -8.2687099831129838 Tel +353 (0)71 98 41350 Email info@discoverbundoran.com Web www.discoverbundoran.com/coastal-walks

Business Contact Shane Smith

# **Experience Description**

A 1hr 30min. 4.5km non-guided circular walk taking in views of the Atlantic Ocean from Rougey and Bundoran's bustling main street. Along the path are cliff arches which have been carved by the Atlantic Ocean and the Wishing Chair which is Bundoran's answer to the Blarney Stone.

#### **Opening Details**

Year round. Caution required during high winds.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Coach and car parking at Tullan Strand. Street parking at Tourist Office. Moderate level of fitness required. Suitable clothing/footwear required for walking on finished surface.

# **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie to Bantry (47min, 34km)

# Accommodation Hub

Bundoran

# **Other Experiences Nearby**

Bundoran Surf Co (2 mins) The Donegal Brewing Company at Dicey Reilly's (9 mins) Mullaghmore Head (15 mins)

The Ceide Fields in Mayo and Carrowmore in Sligo are two of the most significant sites in terms of Ireland's prehistoric period.



# FREE WILD ATLANTIC WAY EXPERIENCES



# Seashore Nature Walk Derrynane Historic Park

# **Business Contact Details**

Derrynane House, Derrynane, Co Kerry GPS 51.7628668, -10.1305571 Tel 353 (0)66 9475113 Email Christopher.oneill@opw.ie Web www.heritageireland.ie/en/derrynanehouse/

Business Contact Chris O'Neill

#### **Experience Description**

2hr seashore Nature Walk at Derrynane Historic Park. This is a 1.2km looped coastal walk with great views of Derrynane Bay. Derrynane National Historic Park, plantations and garden walks were laid out in the 18th & 19th centuries, principally north and west of the house. Some features of the demesne are strongly associated with Daniel O'Connell, including the old summer house. The main gardens can be reached through a tunnel under the road. AV presentation and guided tours available on request. Guidebooks in English, Irish, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Dutch also available.

# **Opening Details**

5th March-13th Dec. 5th Mar-1st April: Wed-Sun. & Bank Holidays 10.00-17.00 2nd April-30th Sept: Daily 10.30-18.00 1st Oct-1st Nov: Wed-Sun. & Bank Holidays 10.00-17.00 2nd Nov-13th Dec. (weekends only) 10.00-16.00 Last admission 45mins before closing.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Not wheelchair accessible. Walking boots/all weather gear required. Seasonal coffee shop onsite.

Public Transport www.buseireann.ie to Waterville (20mins)

Accommodation Hub Waterville (20mins)

### **Other Experiences Nearby**

Derrynane House; Eagle Rock Equestrian Centre; Atlantic Irish Seaweed Walks



# Sheepshead Lighthouse Loop

# **Business Contact Details**

Lighthouse Walk, Sheepshead Peninsula, Co Cork Tel +353 (0)86 3030991 Email info@livingthesheepsheadway.com Web www.livingthesheepsheadway.com

Business Contact Siobhan Burke

# **Experience Description**

This 2hr looped walk circles the far tip of the Sheep's Head Peninsula, on tracks and paths which are sometimes steep and rocky, passing high cliffs. It touches on lovely little Lough Akeen and there is spectacular coastal scenery, including Mizen Head and the Beara Peninsula.

# **Opening Details**

Year round.

# Parking, Access/Ability & Special Requirements

Car parking at Wild Atlantic Way Sheepshead Discovery Point. Moderate level of mobility required. Suitable clothing and footwear required for walking on track/trail with uneven surface, i.e. walking boots and rainwear. Bernie's Café with resrtooms at car park.

#### **Public Transport**

www.buseireann.ie to Bantry (45min, 34km)

# Accommodation Hub

Bantry. B&B and self-catering operators on the Sheepshead Peninsula.

### Other Experiences Nearby

Heron Gallery, Ahakista (27mins, 17km) Carbry Sailing Cruises including Wild Atlantic Way and daily sails, Ahakista (27mins, 17km) Durrus Cheese, Coomkeen, Durrus (40mins, 27.6km) Bantry House (45mins, 33km)

You can view 350 Million Year old tetrapod footprints on Valentia Island, Co Kerry.



Donegal's Sliabh Liag cliffs are Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs.

# SAMPLE ADVENTURE ITINERARY

TO HELP YOU PROGRAMME AN ADVENTURE TOUR IN IRELAND, HERE IS A SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:



Kayaking



Wake Dock



Glendalough



**Treks Walking Guides** 

# DAY 1

# DUBLIN

Start your tour in Dublin with a Kayaking trip. **Kayaking.ie** offers a wide variety of kayaking classes and tours in the Dublin area, all of which are sure to satisfy your clients' appetite for adventure.

Or for adrenaline junkies, those who want to show off their good balance, there's no better way to spend a day than at Dublin's **Wake Dock**. Wakedock is Ireland's first cable wakeboard park, with speed and obstacles adjustable to suit all abilities and none.

Take time out with lunch in one of the many **cafés** in Dublin City Centre.

Continue your tour by experiencing a forest adventure on a zipwire. **Zipit** offers the raw thrill of the great outdoors with a harness or safety net to catch you should you fall. Recreate your own action hero stunt moments as you hurtle down a zipwire or BMX over a treetop bridge.

Finish off your day and play some 'hurling' or football like a native! **Experience Gaelic Games** offers the fast paced thrill of hurling and the sheer skill of football to groups as small as five people. Don't try and understand the rules just yet, it's all about teamwork and learning the basics as you wield your hurley and hand-pass the sliothar to the next person.

# Dinner & overnight in Dublin City Centre

# DAY 2 IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Depart Dublin early morning for Ireland's Ancient East.

Travel to **Glendalough** and explore the 6th century monastic ruins in Glendalough before taking a self-guided walk. There are nine waymarked walking trails in the valley of Glendalough. The walks vary from a short half hour stroll to a long four hour hill walk. Large maps of the walks are displayed at the visitor centre beside the monastic city and on the notice board at the Upper Lake car park. All the walks start at the National Park Information Office near the Upper Lake. Each trail is signposted with colour-coded arrows. The staff at the Information Office can help you choose a suitable route.

Alternatively why not hire your very own walking guide with **Hilltop Treks Walking Guides** who will take you around this magnificent area.

Spend the afternoon discovering the beautiful Blessington Lakes in a different way and on your very own personal transport with **Segway Tours.** They run daily tours along the lake front, visiting local historical attractions along the lake trails.

# Travel to and overnight in Kilkenny City

# DAY 3 IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Travel to Castlecomer just outside Kilkenny City. Over coffee in their award winning café, decide which activity you'd like to experience at **Castlecomer Discovery Park**. Set in a stunning 80 acre natural woodland, there are walking trails, lakes, boating, fishing and high-ropes adventure activities; activities which will help calm the mind and also could get the heart racing if you so wish.

Following your morning of activities travel to Kilkenny City and enjoy lunch in one of the many restaurants the city has to offer. Or why not try your hand at a Bodhran lesson over lunch or early evening meal in Kytlers Inn.

Explore by bike the wonderful Medieval city of Kilkenny with **Kilkenny Cycling Tours.** This fun and easy paced two hour guided cycling tour will not only help orientate you but also help discover the many slipways and side streets which are dotted throughout.

An essential part of the structural heritage in Kilkenny is **St Canice's Cathedral** and its Round Tower. This ecclesiastical site was founded in the 6th century and named after St Canice. Climb to the top of the tower – the oldest standing structure in Kilkenny City. It is also one of only two towers that people can climb in Ireland.

**Dinner & overnight in Waterford City** 

# DAY 4 IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Explore Ireland's oldest city on foot, either with **Epic Tours** or **Jack Burtchells' Walking Tour.** 

The Epic Tour of the Viking Triangle is a theatrical comedy whirlwind journey with props, costumes, singing, dancing and plenty of craic!

Experience the oldest intact operational lighthouse in the world, **Hook Lighthouse**. The present structure is about 800 years old and offers guided tours of the lighthouse tower all year round. Climb the 115 steps to the spectacular view from the balcony. The former lighthouse keeper's house now play host to the visitor facilities.

# **Overnight in Tramore**

# DAY 5

# IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Travel South West along the Copper Coast to Cork. Enjoy lunch at the the infamous English Market in Cork City before travelling onwards to West Cork.

Start your journey on the Wild Atlantic Way with **Atlantic Sea Kayaking.** Kayaking offers the visitor the opportunity to explore this landscape. Kayaking trips are available every day for people of all abilities. Or join a night trip in one of the many magical locations in West Cork. Other possible trips include coastal tours, seaweed forging trips whale and dolphin watching or experiencing white water rapids.

Travel to **Mizen Head Signal Station**, Ireland's most south-westerly point. The Mizen Peninsula is very beautiful with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean. Whales, Dolphins and Basking Sharks pass this coast and Mizen Head is a world class spot for whale and dolphin watching.

Continue along the Wild Atlantic Way and nine miles off Kerry's magnificent Iveragh Peninsula – where Ireland's highest mountain range sweeps down to the wild Atlantic coast – is one of the wonders of the world: **Skellig Michael**. 1300 years ago, early Christian monks built a remarkable hermitage at the top of this jagged ocean crag – then at the furthest limits of the known world. Steep steps are carved into the rock. Near the 700 ft summit is a collection of 'beehive' monastic cells: solitary places for contemplation and prayer, as far from the distractions of civilisation as it was possible to be.



Kilkenny <mark>cycling</mark>



St Canice's Cathedral



Hook Lighthouse



Kayaking Cork



Skellig islands



Kenmare Bay



Horse Riding on Rossbeigh Beach



Doolin Cliff Walk



Cliffs of Moher

# DAY 6 IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Start your day with Watersports at **Star Outdoors** one of the best fun experiences on offer in the South West. Why not try some of these activities: kayaking, canoeing, water trampoline and slide, pedal boats, sailing, banana boat rides, water-skiing and wakeboarding. For those that don't wish to get wet there is also a cruise vessel offering a tour of Kenmare Bay. See the Seabirds, Herons, and the flora and fauna of Kenmare Bay.

Horse Riding on Rossbeigh Beach, this is an experience not to be missed! Galloping on horseback along the 7 miles of Rossbeigh beach, close to the water's edge, with the spray from the Wild Atlantic Ocean in your face. This is an experience riders of all levels will never forget.

Travel on to Dingle and take some time to meander around the colourful streets of Dingle filled with artisan arts and crafts for that extra special gift to bring home! Why not participate yourself in an art or crafts class and meet with local crafts-makers to create your very own masterpiece on the Wild Atlantic Way with Holden Leather, Louis Mulcahy Pottery or Dingle Crystal! West Kerry Craft Trail.

**Overnight in Dingle** 

# DAY 7 IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Continue your journey by taking the Tarbert Ferry to Co Clare. Start your day in Lahinch and Doolin, both are excellent surf spots; particularly Lahinch is known worldwide as a premier venue for professional surfers. Doolin is a well-known location also for its nightly traditional Irish music sessions.

**Doolin Cliff Walk** provides a guided walk from Fisher street in Doolin Village of County Clare, along the sea cliffs leading to the Cliffs of Moher. Guided by local farmer, walking enthusiast and historian, Pat Sweeney, you will follow a trail route along the coast and above the Doolin cliffs. With the green fields of cows and sheep of the local farms on one side and the pounding waves of the Atlantic Ocean on the other, this is a unique way to experience the stunning views and breath-taking rural beauty of this part of Clare.

Enjoy a visit to **Doolin Cave**, with a local guide. The Great Stalactite is a world-class natural wonder at Doolin Cave, and is an important eco-tourist attraction. Measuring 7.3 metres (23 feet) in length, it is recognised as being the longest stalactite in the Northern hemisphere.

Visit the **Cliffs of Moher Interpretative Centre.** Standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point they stretch for 8 kilometres (5 miles) along the Wild Atlantic Way. From the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day one can see the **Aran Islands** and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maumturk mountains in Connemara, Loop Head to the south and the Dingle Pensinula and Blasket Islands in Kerry. O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years.

Continue your journey and overnight in Galway City

# DAY 8

# **IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY**

Explore Galway's coastline by Kayak, Windsurf or Stand up Paddle with **Rusheen Bay Watersports**.

After an action packed morning learn about the local flora/fauna and history of the Connemara landscape at **Cnoc Suain**. A selection of activities can be enjoyed here including, Irish music, song & story, the Gaelic language & poetry, learn a Céilí (Folk) dance!

Continue your journey on the Wild Atlantic Way with a walk up Diamond Hill with a local guide from **Connemara Wild Escapes**. Connemara is an Irish landscape at its most dramatic. With soaring mountains, scattered loughs and an intricate coastline, two mountain ranges dominate the area – the rugged Maumturks and the cluster of quartzite peaks known as the Twelve Bens. Between them, they offer up some of the most challenging and exciting hill walking in the country.

# Travel & overnight in Westport

# DAY 9 IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Clew Bay on the west coast of Ireland is home to 365 drumlin islands the largest off shore island is Clare Island. Clew Bay is the home to many different species of wildlife and its marine life is plentiful and varied too. Experience the beauty and scenery of Clewbay with **Clewbay Angling** on one of their Sightseeing tours.

Experience the Great Western Greenway by electric bike with **Electric Escapes.** 

The **Great Western Greenway** is the longest off-road cycling and walking trail in Ireland. Meandering along the old Westport/Achill railway line which closed in 1937 this is a 42km traffic-free route.

Travelling the greenway, you'll be surrounded by idyllic countryside. This is a chance to drink in the view of the spectacular Nephin Mountains and across Clew Bay to Croagh Patrick.

Westport House was the ancestral seat of the Marquises of Sligo up until July 2014. It was built by the Browne family in the 18th Century, on the site of an O'Malley castle which dungeons are still present today. Set in beautiful woods, lake and parkland grounds, Westport House is a must see.

Travel & overnight in Sligo

# **DAY 10**

# IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

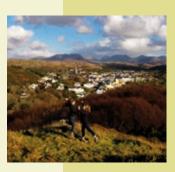
Travel to the seaside town of Strandhill and meet with **Seatrails**. Seatrails provides guided archaeological and historical walking tours within and close to the coastal zone of County Sligo. Both town, coast and county are steeped in history and archaeology.

Take some time out afterwards with a relaxing seaweed bath in Strandhill with **Voya Seaweed Baths.** Imagine relaxing back into a luxurious steaming bath of fresh seawater and wild, organic seaweed. Floating effortlessly in a soothing and tranquil state, your skin feels smooth and renewed. Breathe deeply and sense the tension, aches and pains simply slip away: an ideal way to unwind any time.

Travel to Slieve League in Donegal and enjoy the **Slieve League Experience.** Slieve League Cliffs are the highest cliffs in Europe at 900ft. The highest point on the cliffs is marked at 1,972ft. Boat hire can be arranged to experience these breath taking cliffs with **Sliabh Liag Boat Tours.** 

Partake in a variety of adventure experiences at **Donegal Adventure Centre.** Activities include Surf lessons, Kayak lessons, Climbing, Abseiling, Orienteering, Hillwalking, Archery, High Ropes Course, Cliff Jumping, Canoeing.

# Dinner & overnight in Donegal Town



Walking in Connemara



Greenway Cycling



Knocknarea



Seaweed Baths



Slieve League

# SAMPLE YOUTH ITINERARIES



Trinity College



Kilmainham Gaol



Glasnevin Museum



Dalkey Castle

# 7 DAY ITINERARY DUBLIN, IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST & WILD ATLANTIC WAY (CORK TO CLARE)

# Option A DAY 1 DUBLIN

Start your day in Dublin with a visit to **Trinity College** located in the heart of Dublin City centre, at the meeting place of the retail and cultural districts. Visit the renowned **Book of Kells** 'Turning Darkness into Light' exhibition and the Long Room. Take a tour of the wider campus and demystify the world of science in the **Science Gallery**.

Take the **Hop On/Hop Off** bus tour. Stop off at **Kilmainham Gaol**, former county gaol for Dublin. It offers profound and disturbing insights into modern Irish history and housed many political prisoners during the War of Independence. 14 of the leaders of the 1916 Rising were executed here.

Or,

continue to the **Phoenix Park** conceived as a Royal deer park in 1662 and still home to 500 fallow deer. Check out the home of the Irish President in Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin Zoo, Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Ashtown Castle.

Picnic lunch at the Victorian Tea Rooms. Phoenix Park.

Continue to Glasnevin and **Experience Gaelic Games**. Discover the history and learn to play hurling, the fastest field sport in the world and Gaelic football a mix of soccer, rugby basketball all rolled into one!

#### Or,

Head to **Glasnevin Museum**, the world's first cemetery museum. More than 1.5mn people have been interred there – rich and famous, paupers and politicians, artists, warriors and heroes. Discover the fascinating history of this hallowed place and learn about grave robbers, cholera epidemics and world wars!

Dinner in **Temple Bar**. Look out for Button Factory (Temple Lane South) and the Wall of Fame. Includes images of famous Irish musicians – U2, Sinead O'Connor, Luke Kelly, Christy Moore, the Undertones and more.

Overnight hostel Dublin city centre.

# DAY 2 DUBLIN

Explore Dublin's Living Bay. Hop on the DART (southwards) to the coastal town of **Dalkey**. Head to **Dalkey Castle** and take part in a living history tour – watch an archer shoot a longbow; a cook prepare a hedgehog pie and a barber surgeon offering hair cuts!

Take a **boat trip** to Dalkey Island or climb Dalkey Hill and watch out for famous locals – U2's Bono and The Edge as well as Enya and Van Morrison) who all live nearby.

Take time out in one of the many coffee shops in Dalkey. Return to the city.

Take a Le Cool Dublin Experience Tour with Michael McDermott (publisher of Le Cool) who always knows the latest scoop!

Walk around the **Creative Quarter** with its host of fashion boutiques and vintage clothing at Castle Market and George's Arcade.

### Or,

Interested in learning more history then head for the Museum Quarter. Visit the **National Museum of Ireland** and the **Natural History Museum**, affectionately known as the Dead Zoo and the **National Gallery** with 15,000 works of art. Admissions FREE.

Get spooked on an evening tour of Dublin with **Hidden Dublin** walks. Take a walking tour of the city's ghoulish ghettoes, cobblestoned streets – beware of the dark alleyways as they conjure up characters such as Darkey Kelley and regale the story of Dracula's creator, Bram Stoker.

Enjoy a fish and chip supper at **Leo Burdock's**, Werburgh St. Get there early because there's always a queue!

# **Overnight Dublin**

# DAY 3

# IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Depart Dublin early morning for Ireland's Ancient East.

Travel to **NUI Maynooth** for tour of the campus, the National Science Museum and Geraldine Castle.

Continue to the **Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens** with its medley of stables, paddocks and gardens. Take a guided tour of the stud farm where you will meet champion race horses, spot mares and, in season, bandy legged foals! Meander through the paths of life in the **Japanese Gardens**.

Head to the medieval city of **Kilkenny**. Walk the **Medieval Mile** and discover how people lived and paid their taxes during the Middle Ages!

Learn to beat an Irish drum and take a lunchtime or early evening bodhrán session with **Irish Beats** in Kyteler's Inn.

After a visit to the infamous Kilkenny Castle, try climb to the top of 6th century **St Canice's Round Tower**, 121 steps reached by a series of ladders with views of 5 counties, amazingly still standing even though it's off-plumb by 0.7m!

# Overnight B&B Kilkenny City

# DAY 4 IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Depart for Waterford city

Take the **Epic Tour** of the Viking Triangle – a theatrical comedy whirlwind comedy with props, costumes, singing, dancing and plenty of craic!

Lunch stop Waterford city

Continue to New Ross. Take the **New Ross Historical Walking Trail** – first stop **Dunbrody Famine Ship**, then follow the **Emigrant Trail** of President Kennedy whose Great Grandfather, Patrick Kennedy, left for the US in 1848.

Head for the Hook peninsula and Loftus Hall, the most haunted house in Ireland.

Hotel overnight in the harbour town of Dungarvan.



Depart early morning for Cork city.

Stop off at Cork City and visit the **campus** at University College Cork (UCC). Check out the award winning art and architecture at **Lewis Glucksman Gallery** and the **Crawford Observatory**, the only astronomical observatory in a university in Ireland.



Natural History Museum



Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens



Kilkenny <mark>City</mark>



Museum of Treasures



Dunbrody Famine Ship



English Market



Mizen Head Bridge



Skellig Michael



Cliffs of Moher

Visit to St Ann's Church and view the internal faces of the clock, affectionately called the 'Four Faced Liar' by Corkonians. Try your hand at ringing the **Shandon Bells**.

Lunch 'on the go' in the English Market.

Continue to Kinsale and take the **Kinsale Historic Stroll** through the colourful gourmet capital of Ireland.

Or,

Explore the coastline with **Atlantic Charters** – visit Oyster Haven, picnic lunch on board or hop off at any of the patchwork of harbour villages.

Continue to **Skibbereen**, explore marine life and Irish history and discover nearby **Lough Hyne** where the waters come alive with bioluminescence and you feel you're paddling through the stars!

Dinner and B&B overnight in Skibbereen.

# **DAY 6** WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Travel to **Mizen Head Signal Station**. Dare to cross the iconic bridge high above the gorge and experience the solitude of the keepers' lives.

Head to Bantry and take the ferry to nearby **Whiddy Island**. Walk or hire a bike and check out the two lakes on the island, the Witches Seat and Gallows Hill. Lunch on the **pier**.

Or, stay mainland and...

Visit 17th century **Bantry House and Gardens**. Find out about the archaeological findings of the medieval Gaelic village and a 17th century deserted English fishing settlement on the West lawn! Lunch in the tea room or picnic on the lawn.

Continue to Kenmare and discover Kenmare's rich **heritage trail**. Uncover the secrets of Kenmare Bay by **kayak** and don't miss the chance to sample the local smoked salmon beside the pier.

#### Dinner and guesthouse overnight Kenmare.

# DAY 7 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Depart for the Ring of Kerry.

Head to Valentia Island and 9 miles off the coast to **Skellig Michael**, a world UNESCO site. 1300 years ago Christian monks built a remarkable hermitage, a collection of 'beehive' monastic cells, solitary places for contemplation and prayer.

Continue to the Kerry Bog Village of Glenbeigh, the only one of its kind in Europe.

Lunch in Glenbeigh

Head to Foynes and the Flying Boat Museum, the only aviation museum in Ireland. Check out the original Terminal building, radio and weather room transmitters and full sized replica B314 Flying Boat.

Cross the **Tarbert-Killimer ferry** and head to Doolin the **traditional music capital** of Ireland.

Take the **Doolin Cliff Walk** and view the 241m high **Cliffs of Moher** from land and by sea. Look out for the movie locations – films including Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince (2009) were filmed here.

Overnight hostel in Doolin.

DAY 8 Depart for Shannon Airport.

# 7 DAY ITINERARY DUBLIN, IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST & WILD ATLANTIC WAY (CLARE TO GALWAY)

DAYS 1-3 DUBLIN & IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST (SEE OPTION A)

# **DAY 4** WILD ATLANTIC WAY

# WILD AILANTIC V

Depart for Limerick City.

Visit medieval **King John's Castle** – King John was the brother of Richard the Lionheart, associated with legends such as Robin Hood and the Knights of the Round Table. Check out the Hunt Museum.

Or,

Visit Limerick City Gallery. Admission free.

Take a look behind the scenes at **Thomond Park**, the home of Munster Rugby. Test your rugby skills in the interactive games zone. Tour includes visits pitch side and the Munster dugout.

Or,

Experience the atmosphere, the flutter and the 'craic' of the unique sport of greyhound racing at Limerick Greyhound Stadium.

Lunch at the Milk Market.

Head to Foynes and the Flying Boat Museum, the only aviation museum in Ireland. Check out the original Terminal building, radio and weather room transmitters and full sized replica B314 Flying Boat.

Continue to the Tarbert-Killimer ferry to Co Clare.

Head to Doolin the traditional music capital of Ireland. Take the **Doolin Cliff Walk** and view the 241m high **Cliffs of Moher** from land and by sea. Look out for the movie locations – films including Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince (2009) were filmed here.

Overnight hostel in Doolin.



King Johns Castle



Thomand Park



Burren



Trad music session



Inisheer



Bodhran

# DAY 5 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Travel to the **Burren Geopark** and explore the vast lunar like limestone landscape. Discover the **Aillwee Caves**, the longest cave system in Ireland with its underground chasms, waterfall and extinct brown bears bones (ursos artcos)!

Explore the Burren on the **Sky to Sea Mountain/Biking/Kayaking Tour**. Fun off-road cycling and a great paddle to top it off.

Lunch in Clarenbridge famous for its renowned Galway Bay oysters.

Continue to Galway city. Visit **NUI Galway** campus and **accommodation**. Take in the **highlights** by strolling around the thriving, bohemian, cultural city with its colourful Spanish heritage and Latin Quarter. Visit **Galway City Museum** – Admission free.

Enjoy renowned Celtic music and dance show at Trad on the Prom.

Hotel overnight Galway city.

# DAY 6 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Head to Rossaveal for **ferry transfer** to Gaelic speaking Inisheer, smallest of the Aran Islands.

Hire a bike and explore the medieval church half buried in the sand, the Plassy shipwreck, stone fort and the sandy beaches. Visit **Áras Eanna**, a multi-faceted arts and heritage centre housed in a renovated weaving factory where visitors can attend workshops and learn about traditional culture.

Lunch on Inisheer.

Return to Galway and travel to Clifden.

Dinner and overnight Clifden.

# DAY 7 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Trek Errislanan beach on a Connemara pony or try your hand at fishing at **Errislannan Manor**. Lunch in the Horsey Hut Shop.

Or,

Visit Malachy Kearns Musical Instruments in Roundstone. Malachy crafts and provides demonstrations on the bodhran (pronounced bow-rawn). Lunch stop Malachy Kearns coffee shop.

Return to Dublin.

# 6 DAY ITINERARY DUBLIN AND WILD ATLANTIC WAY (GALWAY TO DONEGAL)

DAYS 1-2 DUBLIN (SEE OPTION A)

# **DAY 3** WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Depart Dublin for Galway City. Visit **NUI Galway** campus and **accommodation**. Take in the **highlights** by strolling around the thriving, bohemian, cultural city with its colourful Spanish heritage and Latin Quarter.

Continue to Gaelic speaking Connemara and the village of Spiddal. Immerse yourself in traditional and contemporary Gaelic culture at **Cnoc Suain** – learn to céili dance, sing a Gaelic song, learn rushcraft and the rejuvenating effects of eating and bathing in seaweed!

# Lunch stop Moycullen

Head to Connemara and walk one of the 4 trails in the **Connemara National Park**, wildlife home to Connemara ponies and peregrine falcons.

Or,

Visit **Kylemore Abbey** and its Victorian walled garden. Learn about its history, tales of tragedy and romance.

Head to the mountains and **Delphi Adventure Resort** with its array of land and water activities.

Head to Westport. Dinner and hotel overnight Wesport town.

# DAY 4

# WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Take the Westport **looped walking trail** or take the new guided **train tour**.

Visit **Westport House**. Its owners, the Brownes', are direct descendants of the 16th century Pirate Queen, Grace O'Malley. Spend an action packed day visiting the house and taking part in the land and water activities. Lunch Downton Abbey style in the **Old Kitchens**.

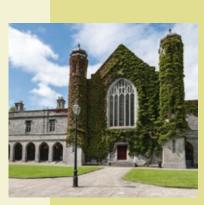
Or,

Follow the Greenway to the Seaway and cycle part of the **Western Greenway** by **electric bike**!

Depart Westport for **Achill Island**. Discover the eerie deserted village of **Sliabh Mor**.

Head for the furthest tip of the Mullet peninsula. Enjoy the guided Lighthouse Tour and stories of the Blackrock and Eagle Island lighthouses and tales of their keepers.

# Dinner and overnight Achill.



NUI Galw<mark>ay</mark>



Connemara National Park



Kylemore Abbey



Westport House



Greenway



Ceide Fields



Lisadell House



Glenveagh National Park

# DAY 5 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Return to mainland.

Head for the Neolithic site at the **Céide Fields** in Co Mayo. 6,000 years old and the oldest known field systems in the world. Remains of stone field walls, houses and megalithic tombs are preserved beneath a blanket of peat.

Continue to Strandhill and explore the beach, a mecca for **surfers**. Head to **Voya Seaweed Baths**. Relax back into a luxurious steaming bath of fresh seawater and wild, organic seaweed!

# Lunch in Strandhill

Travel Sligo and check out the story of WB Yeats at the Sligo County Museum

Continue to Lissadell House and Gardens, the childhood home of Constance Markievicz and her sister Eva Gore Booth. Constance was one of the leaders of the **1916 Rising** and a suffragist. WB Yeats was friendly with both sisters and immortalised Lissadell in his poetry.

Head for Donegal Town. Explore the coastline with the **Donegal Bay Waterbus** and enjoy the singalong on the return journey.

Dinner and B&B overnight Donegal Town.

# DAY 6 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Travel to the Donegal Gaeltacht. Learn about the Irish language and cultural activities in **Oideas Gael**.

Continue to **Sliabh Liag Cliffs** for a hiking experience with a difference, take an archaeological tour or kayak under the cliffs.

Lunch stop Sliabh Liag.

Travel to **Glenveagh National Park**. Its summits and crags resemble parts of the Arctic. Spot the red deer, falcons and recently reintroduced golden eagles.

Or,

Take the ferry to Gaelic speaking **Tory Island** and meet the King of Tory Island, artist and musician **Patsy Dan Rogers** who has no formal powers but welcomes people to the island!

# Dinner and hostel overnight Letterkenny.



Return to Dublin.



# ACCOMMODATION, LANGUAGE & OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

# APPROVED ACCOMMODATION LISTINGS

B&B Ireland – www.bandbireland.com Celtic Group Hostels – www.celticgrouphostels.com Discover Ireland – www.discoverireland.ie/where-to-stay/ Independent Holiday Hostels – www.hostels-ireland.com Irish Hotels Federation – www.ihf.ie An Oige (Youth Hostels) Ireland – www.anoige.ie

# **OPW SITES**

List of Office of Public Works attractions in Ireland - www.heritageireland.ie

# TRANSPORT

Coach Tourism and Transport Council of Ireland – www.cttc.ie Listing of all transport providers – www.discoverireland.ie/Info/Getting-Around

# APPROVED LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Accreditation and Co-Ordination of English Language Services – www.acels.ie

# UNIVERSITIES

Universities Ireland – universitiesireland.ie On Campus – www.oncampus.ie

APPROVED TOUR GUIDES Association of Approved Tour Guides of Ireland – www.tourguides.ie

# HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATIONS

**Homestay** – www.homestay.com/ireland

# YOUTH & ADVENTURE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Organisation	Telephone	Contact Name	Email & Website	Adventure Groups	Adventure FIT	Youth Group
Celtic Footsteps Tours	+353 91 591222	Kerry O'Sullivan	enquiries@celticfootstep.com www.celticfootstep.com	х	х	х
Connemara Wild Escapes	+353 954 9052	Cathy Wolfe	info@connemarawildescapes.ie www.connemarawildescapes.ie	х	х	х
Extreme Ireland	+353 1 410 0700	Keith McDonnell	keith@extremeireland.ie www.extremeireland.ie	Х	х	х
Hidden Ireland	+353 64 6644733	Con Moriarty	con@hiddenirelandtours.com www.hiddenirelandtours.com	х	х	х
IrelandWays.com	+353 1 525 2886	Jeremy Perrin	jeremy@greenlifetours.com www.irelandways.com	Х	х	х
Irish Experience Tours	+353 86 160 6604	Sean Power	info@irishexperiencetours.com www.irishexperiencetours.com	х	х	х
Wilderness Ireland	+ 353 91 457898	Holly Hunt	holly@wildernessscotland.com www.wildernessireland.com	х	х	



# IRISH TOUR OPERATORS & HANDLING AGENTS – MAKING BUSINESS EASY IN IRELAND

Irish Inbound Handling Agents and Tour Operators are experts on Ireland and its tourism product. The benefits of using the professional services of these specialists are that you and your clients have the very best experience when holidaying in Ireland. Their intimate knowledge of the product, people and place of Ireland, will ensure that they deliver creative packaged programs and itineraries that meet customer expectations and not just on budget but on experience. If you are looking for a one stop shop on the best of what Ireland delivers then a local Handling Agent or Tour Operator is the answer. Simply put we deliver by:

- Assisting overseas tour operating partner companies in developing brochure content, marketing programmes, training and familiarisation visits.
- Creatively packaging the Irish tourism product for groups, free independent travelers (FITs) and business tourism.
- Providing competitively priced land arrangements which in the majority of cases will be in the local tour operator's language.
- Full on-the-ground backup services to your client.

# MEMBERS OF THE INCOMING IRISH TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION - IRELAND

Specialising in Youth or Adventure Travel

Organisation	Telephone	Contact Name	Email & Website	Adventure Groups	Adventure FIT	Youth Group
Abbey Tours	+353 1 6846100	Teresa Gambino	<i>teresa@abbey.ie www.abbey.ie</i>	х	х	х
Alainn Tours	+353 71 9150345	Bernard Eucher- Lahon	bernard@alainntours.com www.alainntours.com	х		х
Celtic Horizon Tours	+353 1 6292000	Lisa Herron	lherron@celtichorizontours.com www.celtichorizontours.com	х	х	х
Custom Ireland	+353 1 6752248	Crothur Murphy	Crothur@customireland.com www.customireland.com	х	х	х
Eirebus DMC	+353 1 8242626	Nicola Hegarty	nhegarty@eirebus.ie www.eirebus.ie			х
Hello Ireland Tours (HIT)	+353 1 8788894	Sandra Curtin	sandra@helloireland.com www.helloireland.com	х		х
Irish Education Partners	+353 1 5499561	Debbie Furness	dfurness@iepartners.ie www.iepartners.ie			х
Limerick Travel	+353 61 204444	Louise Mulcahy	inbound@limericktravel.ie www.limericktravel.ie	х	х	х
Shamrocker Adventures	+353 1 672 7651	Peter Dean	peted@RadicalTravel.com www.shamrockeradventures.com	х		х
Specialized Travel Services	+353 1 2782677	Margaret Cronin	info@special-ireland.com www.special-ireland.com	х		х
Vagabond Adventure Tours	+353 1 6607399	Rob Rankin	info@vagabond.ie www.vagabondtoursofireland.ie	х	х	
Wallace Travel Group	+353 1 8361611	Mike O'Shaughnessy	info@wtg.ie www.wtg.ie	х		

# LISTING OF FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Suitable for Youth or Adventure

Name of festival	Contact Name	Email	Website	Month festival takes place	Programme
Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival	Helen Morrissey	info@aherlow.com	www.aherlow.com/festivals	January	Ireland's Ancient East
Trad Fest	Claudine Murray	claudine@templebar company.com	www.templebar trad.com/	January	Dublin
St Patrick's Day Festival	Edel Moss	edelle@stpatricksfestival.ie	www.stpatricks festival.ie	March	Dublin
Offset	Bren Byrne	bren@iloveoffset.com	www.iloveoffset.com/offset- dublin/	April	Dublin
Music Town	Dublin City Council	contact@musictown.ie	www.musictown.ie	April	Dublin
Cuirt International Literary Festival	Dani Gill	dani@galwayartscentre.ie	www.cuirt.ie	April	WAW
Killarney Adventure Race	Oliver Kirwan	info@eliteevents.ie	www.killarneyadventure race.com	April	WAW
Galway Food Festival	Pearse Doherty	pearsedoherty@gmail.com	www.galwayfoodfestival.com	April	WAW
Cork International Choral Festival	Sinead Madden	sinead@corkchoral.ie	www.corkchoral.ie	April/May	Ireland's Ancient East
Battle for the Bay	Catherine Etienne	catherine@puremagic.ie	www.battleforthebay.com	May	Dublin
The Sky Cat Laughs Comedy Festival	Jane Russell	jane@thecatlaughs.com	www.thecatlaughs.com	May	Ireland's Ancient East
The Tain March	Frances Taylor	info@carlingford.ie	www.tainmarch.net	May/June	Ireland's Ancient East
Bloomsday Festival	Mark Traynor	mark@JamesJoyce.ie	bloomsdayfestival.ie	June	Dublin
Cork Midsummer Festival	Lorraine Maye	lorraine@corkmidsummer.com	www.corkmidsummer.com	June	Ireland's Ancient East
Sea Sessions Music Festival	Daniel Browne	danielb@rivermedia.ie	www.seasessions.com	June	WAW
Listowel Writers Week	Eilish Wren	eilish@writersweek.ie	www.writersweek.ie	June	WAW
Erris Beo Festival	Rina Garrett	info@errisbeo.ie	www.errisbeo.ie	June	WAW
Laya City Spectacular	Shell Holden	shell@cityspectacular.com	www.cityspectacular.com/ dublin	July	Dublin
Festival of Curiousity	Vincent McCarthy	vince@festivalofcuriosity.ie	https://festivalofcuriosity.ie	July	Dublin
Feile Brian Boru	Arlene White	info@feilebrianboru.com	www.feilebrianboru.com	July	Ireland's Ancient East
Earagail Arts Festival	Paul Browne	info@eaf.ie	www.eaf.ie	July	WAW
Achill Half Marathon & 10k	Achill Tourism	manager@achilltourism.com	www.achilltourism.com	July	WAW
Galway Arts Festival	Elizabeth Duffy	admin@giaf.ie	www.giaf.ie	July	WAW
West Cork Chamber Music	Grace o'Mahony	gracewcm@eircom.net	www.westcorkmusic.ie	July	WAW
Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann	Comhaltas		www.fleadhcheoil.ie	August	WAW
Extreme North Sports Events	Harold McGuinness	harold@ extremenorthwestevent.ie	www.extremenorth events.com	August	WAW



Name of festival	Contact Name	Email	Website	Month festival takes place	Programme
Kilkenny Arts Festival	Eugene Downes	director@kilkennyarts.ie	www.kilkennyarts.ie	August	Ireland's Ancient East
A Taste of West Cork Food Festival	Helen Collins	helencollins@gmail.com	www.atasteofwest cork.com	September	WAW
Clifden Arts Festival	Noreen Darcy	noreen@darcymarketing andpr.ie	www.clifdenarts week.ie	September	WAW
Irish National Hot Air Ballooning Championships	Joe J Daly	joe@joedaly.com	www.irishballoon championships.com	September	Ireland's Ancient East
Culture Night	Aimee Van Wylick	aimee@culturenight.ie	www.culturenight.ie	September	Dublin
Fringe Festival	Amy	amy@fringefest.com	www.fringefest.com	September	Dublin
Cork Folk Festival	William Hammond	cfolkf@gmail.com	www.corkfolkfestival.com	October	Ireland's Ancient East
Guinness Cork Jazz Festival	Jack McGouran	jack@questcom.ie	www.guinnessjazzfestival.com	October	Ireland's Ancient East
Bram Stoker Festival	Tom Lawlor	tomlawlor@gmail.com	www.bramstoker festival.com	October	Dublin
Lingo Festival	Linda Devlin	lindevlin@gmail.com lingofestival@gmail.com	www.lingofestival.com	October	Dublin
Galway Comedy Festival	Kevin Healy	kevin@roisidubh.net	www.vodafonecomedy carnival.com	October	WAW
Westport Arts Festival	Cuala McGann	committee@westport artsfestival.com	www.westportartsfestival.com	October	WAW
Cork Film Festival	Eileen O'Shea	eileen@corkfilmfest.org	www.corkfilmfest.org	November	Ireland's Ancient East
Temple Bar Arts Week	Salla Paananen	salla@templebar company.com	www.viewtemplebar.com	November	Dublin
Waterford Winterval		info@winterval.ie	www.winterval.ie	December	Ireland's Ancient East
New Year's Eve Festival	Niamh Holohan	niamh@holohan.ie	www.nyfdublin.com	December	Dublin

WAW = Wild Atlantic Way



# Notes



# Notes



# Notes



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