

Calendar of Events

Please note the below events are a guide to events happening in and around Connemara. If planning a trip, please follow up with necessary arrangements as exact dates may change or be rescheduled from year to year.

February

Galway Astronomy Festival



February

Oscar Wilde reminds us that although we are all in the gutter, some of us are looking at the stars. The Galway Astronomy Festival now in its 10th year, has become one of the most popular events in Ireland of the Irish astronomical calendar, where amateurs and professionals meet, essential for exchanging information, successful stargazing and mutual progress. We look forward to seeing you, hopefully under clear skies.

more info: <http://galwayastronomyclub.ie>

Safety Direct Galway International Rally



February

Safety Direct, a leading supplier of safety and health products based in Galway, has long been the sponsor of the Galway International Rally. The rally has a notable place in Ireland's road racing history, as it was the 1st round of the Irish Tarmac Championship which was first held in 1978. Today, the rally serves as the season opener for the championship.

more info: www.galwayinternationalrally.com

Muscailt Arts Festival @ NUIG



February

Muscailt, meaning to celebrate and inspire is the title of the celebrated spring arts festival hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway. The 13th Muscailt Arts Festival at NUI Galway invites all students, staff, alumni and the public to enjoy a week of art, music and performance on campus. Muscailt has something for everyone in terms of music, Sculpture and photography, theatre.

more info: www.muscailt.nuigalway.ie

Tedfest - Fr. Ted Festival



February

The Fr. Ted Festival which is popularly known as Ted Fest, is a celebration of the life of comedian Dermot Morgan and his 1990's cult TV sitcom Father Ted created by Graham Linehan and Arthur Matthews. The event sees large numbers of fans take to the islands, most dressed as characters from the show. The event involves taking part in many themed events associated with the comedy series including fancy dress, five-a-side football (nuns against priests), toilet duck comedy awards, buckaroo speed dating, lovely girls contest and A Song For Europe.

more info: www.tedfest.org

Corofin Trad Festival



February - March

Traditional Music with various sessions in the local pubs and a Concert nightly in Teach Ceoil. For the programme of events see festival website.

more info: www.corofintradfest.com

March

Head of the River Rowing Regatta



March

This year the Head of the River will be organised by NUIG Boat Club and Tribesmen, and it takes place from the mouth of the lake to a little downstream from the Quincentennial Bridge in March. The boats race for fours and double sculls starts at 10.30am, the race for single sculls and pairs starts at 1.30pm, and the race for eights and quad sculls starts at 4pm. Hundreds of competitors will be involved, and the best viewing points are Dangan slip or on or near the Quincentennial Bridge.

more info: www.galwayheadoftheriver.ie

Players Tour Championship Grand Finals



March

Nine of the world's top ten ranked snooker stars are among the 32 competitors who have qualified to contest the Players Tour Championship Grand Finals in Galway in March. World number one and Masters champion Mark Selby, world number two Mark Williams, world champion John Higgins, potting sensation Judd Trump and Asia's top player Ding Junhui will join Ireland's Ken Doherty among the cast of star names appearing at the Bailey Allen Hall at NUI Galway.

more info: www.worldsnooker.com/tickets

St. Patricks Festival



March

St Patrick's Festival in Galway is a platform to showcase local artists and community groups. The event aims to celebrate Galway's diverse culture and talent through an inclusive programme of events.

more info: www.stpatricksfestivalgalway.com

April

Connemara International Marathon



April

Connemara Marathon: a celebration night will be held in both Galway and Clifden. Comprising of a Half Marathon, a Full Marathon and a 39.3 mile Ultra Marathon all taking place in April. Book early to avoid disappointment.

more info: www.connemaramarathon.com

Galway Food Festival



March - April

Celebrating Galway as a good food destination, the festival will promote good food and good food outlets in Galway, as well as showcasing food producers based in Galway and in the West. The festival takes place in April primarily as it is the time of year when some of the best local ingredients become available,

such as Connemara Spring Lamb, and trout and salmon caught locally.
more info: www.galwayfoodfestival.com

Lughnasa Festival at Craggaunowen



April

Come and experience Ireland's history and heriatge from Bronze Age to Medieval Times in Craggaunowen, Quin, Co. Clare. The Lughnasa event features a fantastic array of costumed re-enactors depicting life in Ireland from the Bronze Age to Medieval times. There will be lots to see and do including combat demonstrations, brehon law trials, ancient cooking demonstrations, artefacts and weapons display, ancient fun and games for the kids and much more!

more info: www.shannonheritage.com

Clifden Traditional Music Festival



April

Clifden Traditional Music Festival is a weekend of the very best of Irish music, song and dance with concerts, sessions, workshops and outdoor entertainment. The festival includes Music Workshops, Sean Nos Dance Workshops, Youth Sessions, Traditional Music Mass, Pub Sessions throughout the whole weekend, "Farewell Session" on Sunday.

more info: www.clifdentradfest.com

Cúirt International Festival of Literature



April

The Cúirt International Festival of Literature is Ireland's premier literary event. The festival annually brings approximately sixty authors of local, national and international repute to Galway for readings, workshops, discussions, book signings and much, much more.

more info: www.cuirt.ie

May

Connemara Mussel Festival



May

A celebration of Killary Mussels harvested from "One of the Forty Places to See Before you Die" takes place in May, on the glorious Renvyle Peninsula in North Connemara. This is the eighth year of the festival and promises that more mussels will be eaten here this weekend than in any other part of the country. Last year, over a ton of mussels were eaten and organisers are set to harvest three tonnes of Killary Mussels for this year's celebrations, which include music, fun, mussel cooking competitions, children's treasure hunts and set dancing, to name a few.

more info: www.connemaramusselfestival.com

Fleadh na gCuach Festival



May

Fleadh na gCuach (The Cuckoo Festival) takes place each year in the scenic fishing village of Kinvara, Co. Galway on the May Bank Holiday Weekend. It is a very popular Traditional Irish Music festival with over 50 music sessions in the villages' pubs over the weekend. In addition to the music, one can also find

Art & Crafts, Poetry, Drama during the festival.
more info: www.kinvara.com

Leenane Mountain Walking Festival



May

The Leenane Mountain Walking Festival includes a choice of high-level mountain walks or a low-level option, and enjoy a unique combination of mountain and sea along the way. There will be transport to and from the mountains, including a speedboat across Killary Harbour to Mweelrea Mountain.

more info: www.leenanevillage.com

An Tostal Salthill



May

An Tóstal is a celebration of local currach racing traditions and the Galway hooker racing and much more. Many boats are expected to participate in races including the average 33 - 44ft boat known locally as na báid mhóra to smaller boats such as the 28-33ft known as leathbháid and also the gleoiteoga. Rowing teams will travel from Co. Clare, Donegal, Conamara, Kerry, Limerick and Cork to participate in this year's currach racing activities on the day. As well as water activities such as sand castle competitions, tug of war and other games will take place on Trá na mBan in Salthill throughout the day. Everybody welcome to this wonderful day out!

more info: www.antostalsalthill.com

Connemara Adventure Challenge



May

The race has three disciplines: Trail / Mountain Running, Kayaking and Cycling. The course will be exceptional, the scenery spectacular, so now all that's needed is good weather. The Connemara Adventure Challenge is 31km in total and it is open to racers of all levels.

more info: www.gaelforceevents.com/connemara

Inishbofin Half-Marathon



May

The half marathon will take place on Saturday in mid May. The route, which will utilise the main road around the island, offers stunning views from every side of the island and will be challenging! Uniquely, due to the narrow roads, this 13.1 mile run or walk is offered as a time-trial with runners/ walkers starting in pairs at 15 second intervals. This adds to the excitement of the event, as the winner is announced based on time analysis, rather than first home!

more info: www.croi.ie/events/inishbofin-half-marathon-1

Galway Early Music Festival



May

The Galway Early Music Festival celebrates old world music and arts and features concerts, workshops, street performances of music, dance and historical re-enactment.

more info: www.galwayearlymusic.com

Galway County Fleadh



Mid May

The Galway County Fleadh will take place in Clifden in mid May. This will be the first round of competitions on the path to the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil in Cavan in August. Events will include competitions, music concert, music sessions and lots more.

more info: www.clifdencomhaltas.com

Burren Slow Food Festival



May

The annual Burren Slow Food Festival gives visitors the opportunity to sample local artisan foods, meet the producers and growers, mix with fellow foodies, see cookery demonstrations from well known chefs and get a true taste of Co. Clare culture in the beautiful setting of the Burren. The three day event showcases the best elements of food culture in Clare from the local growers, producers and traders that make Clare such a unique and dynamic food destination.

more info: www.slowfoodclare.com

Roundstone Bay 8K



May

The 3rd annual Roundstone Bay 8K takes place during mid May in the heart of Connemara. The course itself consists of a figure of eight loop, beginning and ending in Roundstone village, and taking in some spectacular coastal views along the way. Both runners and walkers are welcome and the organisers have endured to put on an event that will cater to all types of participant. Proceeds from the race will go towards the local RNLI Lifeboat service, a hugely worthwhile charity that relies entirely on donations and fundraising to ensure its viability.

more info: www.roundstonebay8k.com

Clare Burren Marathon



May

With a mini, half and full marathon this event with a starting point in Ballyvaughan, it is a great option for walkers, runners and have a go heroes!

more info: www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com

Tour de Conamara



May

Tour de Conamara is the Irish leg of a new international cycling sportive held in Clifden Connemara, with the option of 140km and 80km routes. A 14km Family cycle with free cycling tuition for kids will be hosted during the weekend making it a cycling weekend with something for everyone.

Galway African Film Festival



Late May

The Galway African Film Festival, now in its sixth year, will run from in May with the aim of presenting an African view on Africa through film and promoting the best up and coming new talent from the African continent.

more info: www.galwayafricanfilmfestival.org

Clifden Gardening Festival



Late May

The Clifden Gardening Festival will include a series of illustrated talks and coach trips to local gardens.

more info: www.clifdenchamber.ie

June

Connemara Rough Diamond Adventure



June

Connemara Rough Diamond adventure race involves a beach run, an assault course, a bike ride and a mountain race. There will be a sports and elite race. Sports race . Beach Steeplechase 1mile 4 furlong, 21km road cycle, 10 minute assault course, mountain run 7.5km.

more info: www.connemararoughdiamond.com

Galway Sea Festival



May - June

A new festival celebrating Galway's status as a maritime city is to take place this summer as part of tourism initiative The Gathering. The inaugural Galway Sea Festival will run over the June Bank Holiday Weekend with a focus on maritime activities and will feature family events, including seafood trails, music, dance and entertainment.

more info: www.galwayseafestival.com

Havana Cultura Festival



May - June

Cuban-inspired music, dance, street entertainment, art and cultural events feature in the busy programme of on-street and on-premise activity, creating a unique opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in a colorful Cuban atmosphere reminiscent of Havana itself. An eclectic and fun-filled Latin Street Party, its three-day programme of free events will bring the rhythms and sounds of Havana to the medieval streets of Galway.

more info: www.thelatinquarter.ie

Clifden Sky Road 10K Challenge



June

The Sky Road 10K Challenge takes place in Clifden on Sunday, 2nd June. It is run for a charity of your choice. Walkers are welcome.

more info: www.clifden.ie

Lough Cutra Castle Triathlon Festival



June

The first Markel Lough Cutra Castle Triathlon Festival takes place on Sunday, 02nd June, amidst the stunning surroundings of one of Ireland's hidden castle treasures overlooking Europe's largest privately-owned lake, just outside Gort, Co Galway. The race has a distance for all levels, whether first timers or elites.

more info: www.castletriathlonseries.co.uk

Galway Sessions



June

Traditional music sessions taking place in multiple venues in Galway City, including the Crane Bar, Róisín Dubh, Monroe's Tavern, The Quays, Tigh Neachtáin, Tigh Cóilí, Taffees, Massimo's, and Áras na Gael.

more info: www.galwaysessions.com

Galway Bike Festival



June

Galway Bike Week takes place in June with cycling events all over Galway county, organised the local authority, community groups, charities and cycling groups.

more info: www.galwaycycling.org

July

Roundstone Connemara Pony, Dog & Sheep Show



July

The 8th Annual Roundstone Connemara Pony, Dog & Sheep Show takes place in mid-July, at the Showground. The main event, the Connemara Pony Show, consists of 20 in-hand classes showcasing all ages and varieties of Connemara Pony. A Dog Show and Sheep Show are also included in the day's events. A great day out is assured for competitors and spectators alike. The deadline for entry is late June.

more info: www.roundstoneevents.com

Galway Film Fleadh



July

Film festival for feature films and shorts. 2013 marked the 25th Galway Film Fleadh, and the central goal of the festival remains unchanged: to bring together audiences and filmmakers within an intimate environment and share a common experience.

more info: www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

Galway Fringe Festival



July

Running in parallel with the Galway Arts Festival, the Galway Fringe Festival aims to provide a platform for local artists, writers, playwrights, poets, actors and musicians to perform and showcase new work.

more info: www.galwayfringe.ie

Galway Arts Festival



July

One of Europe most inventive, vibrant & colorful events. A truly international celebration of the performing and visual arts which takes place in and around Galway City each July.

more info: www.galwayartsfestival.com

Galway Garden Festival



July

Galway Garden Festival is held in the beautifully restored Claregalway Castle in mid July. Nursery suppliers from across Ireland will share a wealth of planting experience with all who browse the plant stalls' extensive range of plants, trees, seeds, and shrubs. Garden equipment, from hoes to glasshouses to woven willow baskets. Celebrated gardeners will provide advice and the work of organisations such as Bóthar, The Beekeepers Federation, and The Organic Centre, Co Leitrim, can be appreciated at the stands in the castle grounds.

more info: www.galwaygardenfestival.com

Omey Dash Triathlon



July

Starts at Acton's Eco Campsite Claddaghduff Clifden Connemara. All proceeds are in aid of the local Claddaghduff community Hall. This has extensive community support in obtaining funds to repay for the refurbishment of the hall.

more info: www.omeydash.com

Galway Races - Summer Festival Meeting



August

Galway Race course, Ballybrit, Galway. Ireland's premier horse racing festival. Adrenalin-pumping action, heart-stopping finishes and breath-taking fashion, you are at the Galway Races. Situated on the outskirts of Galway city, in the West of Ireland, the Galway Race Festivals are world renowned.

more info: www.galwayraces.com

August

Connemara Pony Show



August

Premier show for Connemara Ponies in Ireland for breeders and owners from home and overseas. The annual Connemara Pony Festival & Show in Clifden, Co Galway attracts visitors from all over the world. The highlight of the festival is on Thursday and Friday, when the biggest showcase of Connemara Ponies in the world takes place. Ponies compete in in-hand classes, ridden classes, working hunter classes, and a puiissance (or high jump) competition. For non-pony enthusiasts, there is a dog show, a domestic arts show and Irish Dancing.

more info: www.cpbs.ie

Streets of Galway 8k Road Race



August

Galway's most popular athletic event, the Streets of Galway 8k Road Race is in it's 28th year the event will include more than 2,000 runners. Starting from South Park in the Claddagh, the race takes in the city centre streets, following a course out to Salthill before finishing with a two kilometre final stretch along with prom.

more info: www.runireland.com/events/streets-galway

The Connemara 100



August

The Connemara 100 mile endurance run with 30 hour limit takes place in August. The course is simply fabulous, taking participants from Clifden through Letterfrack, Leitirgeish, the Inagh alley, Maam Cross, Leenane, Inagh Valley again, then on to Roundstone, Ballyconeely and back to Clifden to complete 100 miles.

more info: www.connemara100.com

Gaelforce West & Get Out There Adventure Festival



August

Gaelforce West is the largest one day adventure race of its kind in the world. It is a multi-sport adventure race involving cycling, running, hiking and kayaking. The course of approximately 67km stretches from the stunning Glassilaun beach to Westport. En route there are some significant obstacles to cross, including Killary Harbour and the famous holy mountain of Croagh Patrick. The event is designed for solo competitors, but you can run it with a buddy or training partner.

more info: www.gaelforceevents.com

Roundstone Summer Festival



August

A weekend where people can come and sample the beauty of the village of Roundstone and the warmth and friendliness of its inhabitants.

more info: www.roundstonesummerfest.com

Cruinniu na mBad Festival



August

Up to 100 unique Irish boats, the Galway Hookers, once the workhorses of the coast of Connemara and North Clare, will gather for a weekend of racing and celebration at Cruinniu na mBád (Gathering of the Boats) festival in Kinvara, Co. Galway, in August.

more info: www.kinvara.com/cruinniu/index.html

Galway Heritage Week



August

Galway's rich heritage is set to be celebrated in a range of events across the city and county as part of National Heritage Week. Over 100 different events are planned from Ballinasloe to Inishbofin and will take in everything from genealogy workshops to talks on the history of the Connemara pony.

more info: www.heritageweek.ie

September

Galway Races Autumn Meeting



September

Adrenalin-pumping action, heart-stopping finishes and breath-taking fashion; you are at the Galway Races. Situated on the outskirts of Galway city, in the West of Ireland, the Galway Race Festivals are world renowned.

more info: www.galwayraces.com

Clarenbridge Oyster Festival



September

Great food, great Guinness, great music and entertainment all in a splendid marquee on the banks of the Claren River which flows through the village of Clarenbridge on the edge of Galway Bay.

more info: www.clarenbridge.com

Galway Americana Festival



September

The title of this years festival is 'Go Wild In The West!' which involves a series of gigs and sessions in a variety of venues in the most happening part of Galway town; the West End! In general Ireland's appetite for Americana has grown in recent years, and has given rise to an increasing number of bands who are interested in exploring the musical relationship and mutual heritage of Ireland and America.

more info: www.galwayamericanafestival.com

Clifden Arts Week



September

The longest running community arts festival in Ireland, Clifden Community Arts Week, now in its 36th year yet again promises to have something to excite everyone in this years programme. Audiences can expect a very high quality artistic programme with a superb literary, musical and visual art content which again will have the community arts of Clifden and the surrounding hinterland as a central focus with creative writing, music, theatre, graphic design and film workshops and performances taking place in the local schools for the duration of the festival.

more info: www.clifdenartsweek.ie

Galway Culture Night



September

The event is now in its eighth year provides free access to museums, galleries, theatres and public buildings.

more info: www.galwayculturenight.com

Galway International Oyster Festival



September

On the last weekend of September each year, the picturesque town of Galway hosts the Galway International Oyster Festival, one of the biggest events in Ireland's social calendar. A feast of live entertainment, gourmet food, fine wine and of course Oysters and Guinness are enjoyed by some 10,000 people with guests and luminaries from all over the world.

more info: www.galwayoysterfest.com

Burren Peaks Walking Festival



September

Organised by The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club with a choice of Grade A, B & C Guided walks on both Saturday & Sunday. Enjoy walking in this wonderfully rich limestone pavement...the land of the fertile rock with its

precious and delicate terrain.

more info: www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com

Sea2Sky European Researchers' Night



September

Galway will celebrate European Researchers' Night in September (date to be confirmed) together with 320 cities around Europe with its latest Sea2Sky event. Sea2Sky, organised by NUI Galway in collaboration with the Marine Institute, Galway Atlantaquaria and its new partner CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory in Cork, will showcase science on the grandest of scales themed around marine science, atmospheric and astronomy. The main events will be held at the Galway Bay Hotel, Leisureland and Galway Atlantaquaria.

more info: www.sea2sky.ie

Ballinasloe International October Fair & Festival



September / October

A nine-day extravaganza of all things equestrian, with entertainment, music and great family fun, the 172nd Ballinasloe International October Fair & Festival is held in the town of Ballinasloe, County Galway. The equestrian days are Saturday, Sunday and Monday. On the Sunday and Monday, the Fairgreen is the place to be, with every breed of horse and pony on display from the beautiful Connemara Pony to trotting ponies and wonderful Irish draughts. With an assortment of fun events, street stalls, fireworks, tug-o-war, street & vintage parade, arts & crafts, music and children's events, there's a sense of community about the show, but with around 85,000 visitors a year the word has spread.

more info: www.ballinasloe.com

Guinness Live in Galway's Latin Quarter



September

Now in its 3rd year, Guinness Live in The Latin Quarter will be a four day music festival featuring an extensive line-up of national and local acts in a series of intimate gigs in venues and pubs throughout the city's Latin Quarter, with more than 50 live performances over four nights. Admission to all gigs will be free and on a first-come, first-served, basis.

more info: www.thelatinquarter.ie

October

Galway Theatre Festival



October

The Galway Theatre Festival, now in its sixth year, will take place throughout the city with the inclusion of more venues than before; the soon-to-be-reopened An Taibhdhearc will host two shows, as will Druid Lane Theatre, the Town Hall Theatre, and of course, the Nuns Island Theatre. Galway theatre companies feature heavily in the programme with Blue Teapot, Mephisto, Fregoli, Moonfish, and Vagabond all involved.

more info: www.galwaytheatrefestival.com

Galway Jazz Festival



October

The Galway Jazz Festival returns for its ninth year, with an expanded programme with shows to be held in An Taibhdhearc, Druid Theatre, The Black Cat in Salthill, the Meyrick Hotel, The Electric Garden, various schools in the city and county, as well as public spaces around the city.

more info: www.galwayjazzfest.com

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children



October

Ireland's premier international arts festival for children and families runs in Galway city and county in mid October, featuring Theatre, Dance, Literature, Music, Puppetry, Workshops and Visual Art for all ages. See the magic of well-known stories come to dazzling life on the stage. Special treats are also in store for everyone with beautiful exhibitions, readings and workshops. Come to Galway to experience this delightful Festival and explore this beautiful family-friendly city.

more info: www.baboro.ie

Galway Comedy Festival



October

The Galway Comedy Festival has grown since its beginning in 2005 to become a major event on the comedy circuit in Ireland, regularly attracting big international names to the city for the October Bank Holiday weekend. With several shows each day and night, with comedy show for children too, you are guaranteed to see well known comedians both Irish and international –and a decent number of 'faces from the telly' there.

more info: www.galwaycomedyfestival.com

Galway Races - October Racing Festival



October

The October Racing Festival takes place in Galway. So if you fancy some great racing and great fun, then this is the place to be. There will be great racing, free car parking, free entry for children under 14, free racecard draw each day, big screen, Tote, On course bookmakers, bar and restaurant facilities.

more info: www.galwayraces.com

Galway Aboo Halloween Festival



October

Something spooktacular is taking place in Galway's Latin Quarter this Halloween Weekend. The city's medieval streets will host the country's biggest Halloween Festival with many fun and free events planned for the weekend with high-spirits guaranteed.

more info: www.thelatinquarter.ie

November

Spirit Of Voice Festival



November

The Spirit Of Voice festival will return in November with concerts and events celebrating song, words, and the human voice.

more info: www.spiritofvoice.com

Tulca Festival of Visual Arts



November

The Tulca Festival of Visual Arts is an annual festival taking place in Galway each year. Running since 2002, Tulca features dynamic and exciting work from national and international visual art practitioners.

more info: www.tulca.ie

Galway Science & Technology Festival Exhibition



November

An exhibition of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to bridge the gap between students and industry by showcasing local schools, companies, third level institutes and government bodies. A great day out at NUI Galway.

more info: www.galwayscience.ie

Galway Christmas Market



November - December

The Galway Christmas Market will take up residence in Eyre Square in the centre of the city from the again this Christmas season. The market promises to be a highlight of the Christmas Season and will make for a wonderful attraction for visitors young and old. Sample Christmas treats from all from around Europe including a Santa's Grotto, a German bier keller, numerous gift and snack stalls and an entertainment area.

more info: www.galwaychristmasmarket.ie

What If, Why Not? Adventure Film Festival



November

The What If, Why Not? Adventure Film Festival is a celebration. A celebration of just how damned amazing this planet and the people on it are. Over two days we'll screen jaw dropping, award winning, adventure sport films. Films that will inspire you. And sometimes terrify you. Over two nights we'll be showcasing some of Ireland's freshest musical talent. Plus talks and workshops. Life's an adventure. Join us on ours.

more info: www.whatifwhynotfestival.com

December

Fields of Athenry 10km



December

The running of the Fields of Athenry 10km will take place on St. Stephen's day. Over the last number of years this has become one of the leading road races in the country, and this year it aims to raise the bar higher. The race returns to its now traditional route, finishing under the medieval arch in Athenry.

more info: www.athenryac.com/news/fields-athenry-10km