

Introduction

Dear Visitor,

We would like to welcome you on a journey of discovery, where you can explore and enjoy the rich heritage of County Galway.

Our 30 museums and heritage centres are located in various parts of the county and have something to offer for all interests and age groups.

We hope that you have a memorable experience and that you enjoy uncovering the many delights of this spectacular Cultural Heritage Trail.

With our best wishes,

Members of Galway County Museums and Heritage Centres Network.

Áras Éanna

Heritage Centre



Inis Oírr, Co. Galway

Áras Éanna is an arts, craft and heritage centre with resident artists throughout the year. The heritage centre is under development and at present displays island artefacts and archive material.

Opening Times

10 am - 5pm

Contact Information

Tel: 099 75150

Fax: 099 75152

Email: araseanna@eircom.net

Web: www.araseanna.ie



Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre



The Square, Athenry, Co. Galway

Visitor centre focusing on the medieval history of Athenry. Activities include dressing-up in medieval costume, traditional archery, games and puppet shows.

- Medieval fun and games
- Archery
- Corporate family days
- Guided heritage tours
- Birthday parties
- Seasonal events

Opening Times

Open April - September, and special events.
10am - 6pm: Monday to Sunday

Contact Information

Tel: 091 844661

Fax: 091 850674

Email: info@athenryheritagetown.com

Web: www.athenryheritagetown.com



Athenry Castle



Athenry, Co. Galway

Athenry is one of the most notable medieval walled towns surviving in Ireland, owing its foundation to Meiler de Bermingham who built his castle there c. 1250. The great three-storey tower, surrounded by defensive walls, is entered at first-floor level through an unusual decorated doorway. Recently re-roofed, the interior contains an audio visual room and exhibition. Access to ground floor of castle for visitors with disabilities.

Opening Times

April - May: daily 10am to 5pm

June - mid September: daily 10am to 6pm

Mid September - October: daily 10am to 5pm

Last admission 45 minutes before closing.

Contact Information

Tel: 091 844797

Fax: 091 845796

Email: athenrycastle@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Aughnanure Castle



Oughterard, Galway

Built by the O'Flahertys c. 1500, Aughnaneure Castle lies in picturesque surroundings close to the shores of Lough Corrib. Standing on what is virtually a rocky island, the castle is a particularly well-preserved example of an Irish tower house. In addition, visitors will find the remains of a banqueting hall, a watch tower, an unusual double bawn and bastions and a dry harbour. Restricted access to castle grounds for visitors with disabilities.

Opening Times

Easter weekend: 9.30am to 6pm

May - mid September: daily 9.30am - 6pm

Mid September - October:

Saturday & Sunday 9.30am to 6pm

Last admission 45 minutes before closing.

Contact Information

Tel: 091 552214

Fax: 091 557244

Email: aughnanurecastle@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Battle of Aughrim

Interpretative Centre



Aughrim Village, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The battle of Aughrim which took place on the 12th July 1691, was one of the bloodiest battles in Irish History. This decisive battle ended the three year power struggle between King James II and King William III . Forty five thousand soldiers fought here for a mere five hours at the end of which nine thousand soldiers lay slain. The centre is suitable for all ages and makes a fantastic living history lesson. Includes AV Presentation.

Opening Times

10am - 6pm, Monday to Saturday

2pm - 6pm, Sunday

Closed Mondays

Closed for lunch 1 - 2 daily.

Contact Information

Tel: 090 96 73939



Castleblakeney

Heritage Centre



Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Former Church of Ireland, built originally in 1711 on land given by Robert Blakeney, the local landlord. Contains the history of Castleblakeney from the Gallagher bogman of 500BC, the O'Kellys, the Blakeney, Mary Anne Taylor (an orphan of the famine sent to Australia in 1852), up to the present day. Also contains life-size figures of Mary Anne and the Blakeney.

Opening Times

Open May to September:

9.30am - 4pm Weekdays

3pm - 5pm: Sundays

Open October to April:

9.30am - 12.30pm Weekdays

Contact Information

Tel: 090 96 78238

Tel: 090 96 78101



Clonfert Diocesan *Museum*



St. Brendans Cathedral, Loughrea, Co. Galway

The museum houses a unique collection of chalices, carved wooden figures and vestments, as well as other items of ecclesiastical and artistic merit. It is also the home of the Dún Emer Guild banners. "A treasure of our past to be appreciated in the present".

Opening Times

Summer: 9.30am - 5.30pm

Winter: by request to the Parish Office

Contact Information

Tel: 091 841212

Fax: 091 847367



Connemara Heritage

& History Centre / Dan O Hara Homestead



Lettershea, Clifden, Co. Galway

Introducing Connemara's colourful past from pre-historic to present. Visit Dan O'Hara's pre-famine cottage and relive in 19th century Connemara. Other features include a crannog, clochan and Neolithic site. Guided tours for groups. Audio visual and history presentation. Turf cutting, sheep shearing and various demonstrations on request. Tearoom and craft shop.

Opening Times

9am - 5pm April to October

Contact Information

Tel: 095 21808 / 21246

Fax: 095 22098

Email: danohara@eircom.net

Web: www.connemaraheritage.com



Connemara

National Park



Letterfrack, Co. Galway

Situated near Letterfrack, the park covers some 2,000 hectares (4,942 acres) of scenic countryside, rich in wildlife on the slopes of the Twelve Bens. Attractions include exhibitions, nature trails and an audio-visual show. In addition there is a summer programme of walks and special events for younger visitors. Access to visitor centre for visitors with disabilities.

Opening Times

Mid March to end October:

daily 10am to 5.30pm

Grounds open all year round

Last admission 45 minutes before closing

Contact Information

Tel: 095 41054 / 41006

Fax: 095 41005

Email: sgeoghegan@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Connemara Pony

Breeders Society Heritage Centre



The Showground, Clifden, Co. Galway

The centre was opened in August 2000 and is located at the Society Showground in Clifden. The Showground hosts the world famous Connemara Pony Show which is held on the 3rd Thursday in August every year. The Heritage Centre highlights the history of the Connemara Pony and its contribution to the economic, social and environmental structure that is unique to Connemara. Also recorded is the work of the Society since its foundation in 1923. Coffee shop and souvenirs are available from the Society shop, and further information on the Connemara Pony is available from the staff.

Opening Times

10am - 5pm

Contact Information

Tel: 095 21863

Fax: 095 21005

Email: enquiries@cpbs.ie

Web: www.cpbs.ie



Coole Park

Visitor Centre



Gort, Co. Galway

Coole Park was once the home of Lady Augusta Gregory, dramatist and co-founder with Edward Martyn and W.B. Yeats of the Abbey Theatre. Attractions include exhibitions, tearooms, nature trails, walks, the famous "autograph tree", a lake and a turlough. There are two audio visual presentations "The Magic of Coole" and "Lady Gregory of Coole". The visitor centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities.

Opening Times

April - May: daily, 10am - 5pm

June - end August: daily, 10am - 6pm

September: daily, 10am-5pm

Closed 25th September for Autumn Gathering

October: open for group bookings

-advanced bookings only.

Last admission 1 hour before closing.

Park open all year round.

Contact Information

Tel: 091 631804 • Fax: 091 631653

Email: coolepark@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



C.S. Parnell

Heritage Centre



Creggs, Co. Galway

The Charles Stewart Parnell Heritage Centre, a restored cottage in Creggs village, contains an extensive collection of photographs and documents on Parnell and his last public speech made here on September 27th 1891. It also houses much material on life in this area down the ages. Family research a speciality.

Opening Times

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Contact Information

Tel: 090 66 21945

Email: kilbegnet@eircom.net

Web: www.creggs.net



Dartfield Horse

Museum & Park



Kilrickle, Loughrea, Co. Galway

A spacious purpose built museum which shows the use of the horse through history in the areas of transport, farming, sport and local traditions. Explore 350 acres of parkland on horseback or by horse drawn carriage. Indoor facilities include displays, exhibits, entertaining and educational videos, café and gift shop.

Opening Times

9am - 6pm daily
All year round

Contact Information

Tel: 091 843968
Fax: 091 843969
Email: info@dartfieldhorsemuseum.com
Web: www.dartfieldhorsemuseum.com



Dún Aonghasa

Visitor Centre



Kilmurvey, Inishmore, Aran Islands, Co. Galway

Perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic ocean, this is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran islands. It is enclosed by three massive dry stone walls and a "chevaux-de-frise" consisting of tall blocks of limestone set vertically into the ground to deter attackers. The fort is about 900m from the Visitor Centre and is approached over rising ground.

Access for visitors with disabilities to the Visitor Centre.

Opening Times

March - October: daily 10am to 6pm

November - February: daily 10am to 4pm

Contact Information

Tel: 099 61008

Fax: 099 61009

Email: dunaonghasa@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Dunguaire Castle



Kinvara, Co. Galway

The Castle, built in 1520, is situated in the picturesque village of Kinvara on the shores of Galway Bay. By day, explore the Castle and learn about the people who have lived there since the 16th Century. By night at the Medieval Banquets, enjoy a four course meal with flowing wine while the castle entertainers enthrall you with extracts from the great Irish literary writers such as Yeats and O'Casey.

Opening Times

Open Daily

Mid April - Mid October - 9.30 - 17.00

Last admission - 16.30

Medieval Banquets:

April - Oct, twice nightly at 17.30 & 20.45
(reservations necessary)

Contact Information

Tel: 353 61 360788

Fax: 353 61 361020

Email: reservations@shannondev.ie

Web: www.shannonheritage.com



Glengowla Mines



Oughterard, Connemara, Co. Galway

Glengowla silver and lead mine is a remarkable example of how part of our valuable industrial heritage has been reclaimed, restored and transformed into an outstanding visitor attraction offering guided tours every 20 minutes. An ideal experience for all the family. If underground is not for you, there is always our rock and gem shop offering many unique items, or our gold panning stream where you get to try your hand at panning for treasure, or just take a stroll around the mine site.

Opening Times

10am to 6pm

Contact Information

Tel: 091 552021

Fax: 091 552065

Email: glengowlamines@eircom.net



Gort Heritage Centre



Gort, Co. Galway

Join us at Gort Heritage Centre and learn about Guaire, the 7th century King of Connacht who lent his name to the town of Gort, St. Colman, the O'Shaughnessy Clan, and the Prendergast/Smyth/Vereker family. Learn about the effects of the famine on the town, and the part that Gort played in the Irish literary Renaissance. Finally, marvel at the rich flora and fauna of the nearby Burren. Includes audio vision presentation on the history of Gort.

Opening Times

Open June to September:

Wednesday to Monday, 11am - 5pm

Contact Information

Tel: 091 630237



Inishbofin

Heritage Museum



Inishbofin, Co. Galway

The museum contains:

- The set up of a traditional island cottage
- Farming and fishing implements
- Over 150 photographs
- History of the island

*"Good to remember the old days of the isle,
soon no one will know anything about it by
experience. Keep it well"*

"A truly spectacular experience"

Opening Times

Open June to September

12pm - 1pm

2.30pm - 5pm

Contact Information

Tel: 095 45950

Web: www.inishbofin.com



Ionad Arann

Aran Heritage



Cill Ronain, Inis Mor, Oilean Arann, Co. Galway

Feel a sense of Aran and begin your holiday of discovery in the Heritage Centre. The centre is a 3 minute walk from the village. Step into essential Arann, a window into the lives and times of a resilient people. The centre vividly reveals the art of Currach making, and displays show the bare limestone was literally bedrock on which they laid down layers of sand, seaweed and precious soil to nurture the tender crops.

Opening Times

April, May, September, October: 10am - 5pm
June, July, August: 10am - 7pm

Contact Information

Tel: 099 61355

Fax: 099 61454

Email: info@visitaranislands.com

Web: www.visitaranislands.com



Kiltartan

Gregory Museum



Kiltartan Cross, Gort, Co. Galway

"Could stay all day" and *"excellent guide"* are just some visitors comments on this award-winning museum. Holds a large collection of Abbey Theatre material. Unrivalled knowledge of local history. Has an old Irish classroom. Situated at Kiltartan Cross, immortalised in the poetry of WB Yeats.

Opening Times

June, July and August:

Daily 11.00 - 17.30

April, May, September and October:

Sundays 13.00 - 17.00

Contact Information

Tel: 091 632346 / 091 631069

Fax: 091 631482

Email: MI1892@eircom.net

Web: www.gortononline.com



Kylemore Abbey & Garden



Kylemore, Connemara, Co. Galway

Kylemore Abbey is one of the great baronial style castles remaining in Ireland. In 1920 the castle became an Abbey when it was purchased by the Irish Benedictine nuns. Visit three reception rooms in The Abbey. Visitors are also welcome to the recently restored neo-Gothic church (under restoration) circa 1871, Mausoleum, Museum, Craft Shop and Restaurant. Take a complimentary shuttle bus from the Abbey to visit the Victorian Walled Garden.

Opening Times

Abbey Craft Shop & Restaurant

March - November: 9.30am to 5.30pm

November - March: 10.30am to 4.00pm

(Closed Christmas week and Good Friday)

Garden

Open Easter to October: 10.30am to 4.30pm

Contact Information

Tel: 095 41146 • Fax: 095 41440

Email: info@kylemoreabbey.ie

Web: www.kylemoreabbey.com



Lackagh Museum & Heritage Centre



Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway

Restored thatched cottage. It contains old furniture like a dresser, wooden chairs, butter churn, settee bed, spinning wheel, and lots of old kitchen items for cooking in the old days. Outside it has old machinery. On site there is a centre displaying objects used in the Battle of Knockdoe which was fought in 1504.

Opening Times

Open by appointment -
call Mary on 091 797259 or
Bridie on 091 797620.



Mountbellew Forge

Museum & Heritage Centre



Demense, Mountbellew, Co. Galway

Converted old estate forge. Forge section in full working order. Artefacts include house and farming implements, manuscripts and a log boat dated 1001 A.D.

Opening Times

Sundays from June to September:

3pm to 5pm

Otherwise open by appointment

Contact Information

Tel: 09096 79534

Fax: 09096 79789



National Children's *Discovery Museum*



Ballybrit Industrial Estate Upper, Galway, Ireland

The National Children's Discovery Museum is the first museum of its kind in Ireland, especially designed for children 12 years and under. Using a hands-on interactive approach, children learn about themselves and their world. Imagination, creativity, curiosity and problem solving are stimulated through multi-sensory exhibits and activities in a rich and fun environment.

Opening Times

Summer opening times:

Mon - Wed from 10:00 to 17:00

Thurs - Fri from 10:00 to 19:00

Sat - Sun from 10:00 to 17:00

Valid until August 31st 2004

Open all year, opening times may vary.

Please call to confirm before visiting.

Contact Information

Tel: (091) 766829 • Fax: (091) 766830

Email: info@childrensdiscoverymuseum.ie

Web: www.childrensdiscoverymuseum.ie



Portumna Castle

& Gardens



Portumna, Co. Galway

The great semi-fortified house at Portumna was built before 1618 by Richard Burke or de Burgo, 4th Earl of Clanricarde. It was the main seat of the de Burgo family for over 200 years, until it was gutted by fire in 1826. The ground floor of the house is now open to the public. Exhibitions are in the castle and gate house. Other attractions include formal, geometrically laid out gardens and a recently restored 17th century walled kitchen garden. Limited access for visitors with disabilities to gardens and gate house.

Opening Times

1st April to October: daily 10am to 6pm

Last admission 45 minutes before closing

Works are ongoing at the site

Contact Information

Tel: 090 97 41658

Fax: 090 97 41889

Email: portumnacastle@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Regional Heritage

Centre and Museum



Harmony Hall, Vicar Street, Tuam, Co. Galway

We cover many aspects of rural and traveller ways of life, from the early 20th century up to the present. The rural aspect is shown as typical rooms in a farmers house. The travellers are shown with a full size caravan, tents and utensils of the traveller trade, both groups being joined by a common bond of a holy well.

Opening Times

9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday
(all year round)

Contact Information

Tel: 093 25456

Fax: 093 25307

Email: tteda@eircom.net



Station House

Museum



The Courtyard, Clifden, Co. Galway

The Station House Museum dedicates the ground floor to the history of the Connemara Pony. This is told on story boards supported by quality artefacts and memorabilia. The upper gallery portrays the birth of Clifden, the railway line (1895-1935), the Marconi Wireless Station, and the historic flight of Alcock and Brown.

Opening Times

1st May - 31st October

10am - 5pm: Monday to Saturday

12pm - 6pm: Sunday

Contact Information

Tel: 095 21494

Email: stationhousemuseum@eircom.net



Teac Synge

Synge's Cottage



Inishmaan, Aran Islands, Co. Galway

The 18th century thatched cottage in which the playwright J. M. Synge lived at various times between 1898-1902. The language and the stories that he heard were to form the basis for his major plays, including, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Riders to the Sea*, *Shadow of the Glen* and his famous journal *The Aran Islands*.

Opening Times

June - Sept, 11am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

Mon - Sat

Sat: 12pm-4pm

All other times by appointment.

Contact Information

Tel: 099 73036 and June - Sept 099 73121

Email: treasa@teachsynge.fsnet.co.uk

Oct-May



Teach an Phiarsaigh

Patrick Pearse's Cottage



Inbhear, near Rosmuc village, Co. Galway

A small restored cottage overlooking the breathtaking lakes and mountains of Connemara, used by Patrick Pearse (1879-1916) leader of the 1916 Rising, as a summer residence and summer school for his pupils from St. Endas, in Dublin. The interior, although burned during the War of Independence, has been reconstructed and contains an exhibition.

Restricted access for visitors with disabilities.

Opening Times

April 10th - 12th: 10am to 5pm

Early June - mid September:

daily 10am to 6pm

Mid September - end September:

Sat & Sun 10am to 6pm

Last admission 45 minutes before closing

Contact Information

Tel: 091 574292

Email: tanphiarsaigh@duchas.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



Thoor Ballylee

Yeats Tower



Gort, Co. Galway

Thoor Ballylee is a 16th century Norman tower house which was summer home of the world famous writer, William Butler Yeats, in the 1920's. The tower inspired two of his greatest books of poetry "The Tower" and "The Winding Stair". The adjoining cottages house a book/craft shop and interpretative centre with audio-visual in seven languages.

Opening Times

Open June - September

Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

Closed Sunday

Contact Information

Tel: 091 631436

Fax: 091 631436



Acknowledgments

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