

Listen to the story of Tuam Take an audio walking tour

The English language audio-narrative to accompany this tour can be downloaded from www.galwayeast.com/wayfinding. This audio tour narrated by Dr Peter Harbison describes in detail each of the sites featured in this tour and can be listened to on your PC, or on an MP3 player while walking the tour. There are 5 other Walking Tours in this series: Athenny Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Gort and Portumna.

See also our Ecclesiastical Driving Tour for a comprehensive tour of the main religious sites in Galway East. For more information on any of the places described in this brochure, or for general information on Galway East, contact Galway East Tourism www.galwayeast.com



Éist le scéal Thuama Gabh ar shiúlód fauime



Other Interests

1. Earwig Arts Festival

Earwig Tuam Arts Festival is an annual August festival. Earwig are a community organisation that provides Tuam and its surroundings with an outlet for its wealth of creative talent, using street theatre as an active approach to expanding community involvement in artistic activities. Alt-comers are welcome to attend and get involved in the festival. www.earwigart.com

2. Ross Errilly Friary

Standing in serene solitude on the South bank of the Black River, just four Kilometers West of Headford, the Ross Errilly Friary is recognised as the best preserved monastic ruin of its period in Ireland. It was founded in 1349 by the then Archbishop of Tuam Dr. Malachy MacHugh, who was a native of the Headford area.

3. Headford / Lough Corrib

Headford is a friendly village and is an ideal base for angling from the eastern shore of Lough Corrib. Greenfields, 6.5 km west of the town, is its boating harbour. Headford is also the centre of an area rich in archaeological monuments, including prehistoric burial cairns, Iron Age stone enclosures, early Norman and later castles and monastic sites.

4. Milltown - N17

A village on the banks of Clare River, Milltown's local community have worked hard to improve the amenities for the village, by providing a beautiful river walk (National Waterside award winner 2000), providing a SÍL na Sláinte rural walk, children's playground, tennis courts and picnic area. They have been awarded the tidiest town in the County seven times.

5. Baile an Mhuilinn - N17

Sráidbhaile ar bhrúacha Abhainn an Chláir, mar a bhfuil obair chrua déanta ag an bpobal áitiúil chun saoráidí an tsráidbhaile a feabhsú, le síulódáilanna cois abhainn (buaoitear gradam Náisiúnta Cois Uisce 2000), mar a bhfuil síulódú tusithe SÍL na Sláinte, clós imeachta do teanaí, cúirtéanna leadóige agus ionad picnic. Ghníomhaigh siad gradam an bhaile is slachtmhaire sa Chontae seacht n-uaire.



Nithe Spéisiúla eile

1. Féile Ealaín Earwigs

Féile bhliantúil is ea Féile Ealaín Earwigs a bhíonn ann i mí Lúnasa. Is eagraíodh phoball i Earwig a thugann deis do Thuaim agus do chomharsanacht a shaibheas cruthaitheach a chur in iúl, ag baint úsáide as amharclann sráide mar chur chuirgh gníomhaíoch agus ranannpháircacht an phobail i gníomhaíochtaí ealaíonacha a leithfhéid. Tugtar curiméadadh do chách a bheith i láthair agus pairt a ghluacadh san fhéile. www.earwigart.com

2. Mainistir Ros Oiriallaigh

Aithneoir Mainistir Ros Oiriallaigh, atá suite go hoaonarach ar bhrúach theas na hAbhann Dubhre, ceitíre chiliméadar siar ó Áth Cinn, mar cheann de na fothracha mainistreach is dea-chomhnaithe dí i Thréimhse atá in Éirinn. Bhunaigh an tArdeaspag Maelachlann Mac Aodha, ó cheantar Áth Cinn ó dhúchais, an mhanáistir sa bhliain 1349.

3. Áth Cinn / Loch Corrib

Baile cardúil is ea Áth Cinn a dhéanfadh bunád den scot don slatasraicteach ó bhrúacha theorai Loch Corrib. Tugtar Greenfields, 6.5 km siar ón mbáile, ar a chalaforb báidíreachtach. Tá Áth Cinn i láir cheantair ina bhfíil saibheas móir de shéad-chomharthai seandálaiochta, lena n-airtear cairn adhlachta, imfháilteach cloiche ón lárannais, caisteáin iúltha agus déanachá Normannach agus tábhreacá manachúla.

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Tuam Architectural Walking Tour Tuaim Turas Siúlóide Ailtireachta

Nithe Spéisiúla eile



Introduction

Tuam stands at the crossing-point of ancient roads which meet at the Market Square in the heart of the town. This key location has encouraged continual development over the centuries.

Tuam's origins stretch back nearly a thousand years. By the beginning of the 12th century it had become the political and ceremonial centre of Connacht; Ireland's western province.

Today, Tuam is a market town with about 6,000 people. It lies 32km north of Galway City on the N17.

With recent developments, Tuam is once again reaching the population levels it had in the 1830s, before the Great Famine and the emigration that followed in its wake. The Census of 1831 listed 6,883 inhabitants. This size and level of importance is reflected in the civic and commercial buildings we see around the Market Place and in Shop Street.



Réamhrá

Tá Tuam suite mar a thagann bóthre ársa le chéile ag Cearnóg an Mhargaidh i gcróin an bhaile. Mar gheall ar a ionad tábhachtach tá an baile ag forbairt go leanúnach leis na ciants.

Bunaíodh an baile beagnach mile bliain ó shin. Bhí sé ina láirionnáil polaitiúil agus deasghnáthach do Chúige Chonnacht in larthar na hÉireann faoi thús an 12ú haois.

Is baile margaidh é Tuam anois le timpseal 6,000 duine. Tá sé 32 km ó thuaidh ó Chathair na Gaillimhe ar an N17.

Mar gheall ar an bhforbairt a tharla le ganáid tá daonna Thuama beagnach chomh mó agus a bhí sna 1830, roimh an Ghorta Mór agus an imreac a lean é. D'áirigh Daonáireamh na bliana 1831 6,883 airtearbóir. Léirítear an mhéid agus an tábhacht a bhí ag an mbáile sna forgnimh shibhialta agus thráchtála atá le feiceáil sa Mhargadh agus i Sráid na Siopáil.

Tuam

1 In Market Square, the Town Hall is the grandest building of its type in the area. It incorporates an earlier building that was extended in 1883. It has a carriage arch, a limestone façade with cut stone dressings and it then rises at the corner of the site another three levels to give the clock-face stage, urns and cupola that surround it.

2 Along Bishop Street, on one side is the piazza; a classical 18th-century building which now contains within its walls a café. Known as The Palace, it is a seven-bay block of three floors

3 It is worth noting the four-sided block round a courtyard on the corner with Bishop Street. Is this block the remnants of some kind of service wing and stable block to the Palace itself? It would have needed a considerable number of back-up staff to administer ecclesiastical functions across the huge expanse of Ireland's largest diocese.

4 Enter the Cathedral grounds and the headquarters of the Catholic archdiocese. The first building is a classical house built in 1817;

5 Next to it stands the handsome Diocesan Seminary, originally built as a private house about 1800 but later "French's Bank" until the bank's collapse in 1814. Proceed along the French-style approach to the Cathedral of The Assumption itself. Begun in 1827, the work was completed by August 1836.

6 The single, central tower of the Cathedral leads into a version of a Gothic hall church interior. A hall church has side aisles that are tall in comparison with the height of the main vault of the nave. The complex rib pattern of the vaults follows the same inspiration.

7 Walking along Bishop Street to Market Square and observing fronts including some examples of Art Deco, pause to look down Shop Street to see more evidence of Tuam's commercial growth in the 19th century. This includes the imposing bulk of the Ulster Bank, a late Victorian building on three floors with rusticated limestone dressings.

8 In the 12th century, Tuam was virtually the capital of Ireland, because the country's High King Turlough O'Conor had his residence here.

9 The ruins of the church, including the east gable with interesting human heads and late Romanesque carving of around 1200, are believed to stand on a site associated with Tuam's first patron, Saint Jarlath, thought to have lived in the sixth century.

10 The final stop is the Church of Ireland Cathedral of Saint Mary at the end of the High Street. Access to the Church grounds through the gate which faces out onto the N17. Access to the Church can be gained by calling Jarlath Canney on 087 4121201. St Mary's is mainly a Neo-Gothic structure of 1878, but within it are the important remains of a Romanesque church of the 12th century. The chancel arch and east window of the old church are probably the best preserved examples of Romanesque carving in the country. With a span of 4.8 metres, it is the largest semi-circular arch of its type in the country, decorated with five orders of carving. After this stunning masterpiece, you should also see in the transept opposite the entrance the 12th-century High Cross, formerly in the Market Square and which consists of pieces of two separate stone crosses mounted one on top of the other.

11 You can walk down Vicar Street for about five minutes from Market Square and you will reach the old Railway Station. The railway first came here in 1860 and lines eventually stretched to all four points of the compass. Train services are due to be renewed from the station in the next few years. The Station building enjoys State protection.



Teachtaí isteach trí húr singile lárnach na hArdeaglaise isteach i 'séipéal halla' de chineál Gotach. Binn taobhphasáistí séipéal halla ard i gcomparáid le hairde phróimhbhoghta an choirp. Baineann an ionsparáid chéanna le patrún casta easnach na mboghtail.

5 Fill ar ais ar Shráid an Easpaig go Cearnóg an Mhargaidh ag breathnú ar na headáin mar a bhfuil samplaí den Art Deco, caith seal ag breathnú sios Sráid na Siopai mar a bhfuil fianaise d'fhasa na tráchtála i Tuam san 19ú haois. Seasan tort shuntasach Bhanc Uladh amach, foirgneamh Víctoriach déanach ar thri urlár le coiríthe garbhéadain.

D'héadfaí a rá go raibh Tuam ina priomhchathair ar Éirinn sa 12ú haois, mar go raibh conaí anseo ar an Ard-Rí Tóirdhealbhach Ó Conchubhair:

6 Siúl leat ar Shráid Ard, gabh ar chlé trí Lána na hÉaglaise is breátha sa cheantair. Tá foirgneamh níos sine a leathnáidh amach sa bhliain 1883 mar chuid de. Tá áirse carráistí agus éadan aolchoile le coiríthe de chloch gearrtha aige a éiríonn suas trí leibhéal eile ag an gcúine ina aghaidh chloig, agus siúthá agus cupola os a chionn.

7 Is Halla an Bhaile, i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh, an foirgneamh

clasaiceach ón 18ú haois ina bhfuil caife anois. Tugtar an Pálas

air, agus is bloc seachtaí mbá é ar thri urlár os cionn iosaigh, agus na tri bháinna ag gobadh amach beagán. Tá fráma dorais

cloiche aige le peidiméid os a chionn agus fuinneoga suntasa-

cha le saiseanna déchrochtára na fuinneoga sa stíl dhéanach

Sheoirseach. Tá ráilí iarrann mar ghabhára an isláoch. Toghdá

é sa bhliain 1723, agus bhí sé ina ait chónaithe ag ceann na hÉa-

glaise Protastúní, sa chéipe thíos go dtí an bhliain 1950.

Chuir an Irish Act 1869 deireadh le feidhmearna

riaracháin a bhi mar chúram ar altítheoirí an Pháiláis i Tuam

ó mbláin 1723 i leith.

8 Is fiú an bloc ceithrethabhbach tóigh timpeall ar chlúos

ar an gcúine le Shráid an Easpaig a thabhairt faoi deara. D'héadfaí

an bloc seo a bheith ina iarsma de scéithán seirbhísé nó stábháil

don Pháilás. Bheadh a lán cúnntóirí ag teastáil chun feidhmearna

eaglasta a riarradh i limistéar ollmhór na deoise ba mhí in Éirinn.

9 Gabh isteach i dtíllte na hArdeaglaise mar a bhfuil ceanncheath-

rú na hard-deoingí Caiticí. Is teach clasaiceach a tógaid sa

bhliain 1817 é an chéad foirgneamh; taobh leis tá Cíarscoil

ghalánta na Deoise, a tógaid ar dtús mar theach phróibháideach-

timpeall na bliana 1800, ach bhí banc ann (l'French's bank) go dtí

gur theip ar an mbanc i 1814. Ar aghaidh leat ar an gcásán sa

stíl Phrancach chug Ardeaglais na Deastóigála. Cúireadh tú leis

an obair i 1827 agus bhí an tóigát criofchraithe i mí Lúnasa 1836.

10 Toghadh an t-áit i gceann síos Sráid an Bhíocáire ar feadh

timpeall 1200, ar sonaíomh a bhaineann le céad

phatrún Thuama, Naomh Iarlaith, a mhíar am éigin sa séú

haois.

11 Creidtear go bhfuil fothraigh an tséipéil, lena bhinn thoir ar a

chfbul cluigne spéisícola daonna agus snolódóireacht dhéanach

Rómhánuil ó timpeall 1200, ar sonaíomh a bhaineann le

phatrún Thuama, Naomh Iarlaith, a mhíar am éigin sa séú

haois.

12 Is é Halla an Bhaile, i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh agus atá déanta de dhá chrois

éagsúla cloiche ar mhullach a chéile.

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hÉireann, Naomh Muire, ag ceann na Sráide Aird. Is féidir dul

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Chun dul isteach san Éaglais cuir glaoch ar Jarlath Canney

ag 087 4121201. Struchtúr Nua-Ghobach is mó atá in Éaglais

Mhuire a tógaid in 1878, ach tá lársmáit tábhactacha shéi-

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sniodóireachta Rómhánuil is dea-chomhthaithe sa tir. Le réise

4.8 méadar, is é seo an áisce leathchiorcalach is mó d'chineál

sa tir, agus é maithis le cùig osnáidóireachta. Ag dul ar

a ghaidh ón sársaothar seo, sa chór duit amharc freisin ar an

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Tuam

