

Cultural Attractions



Galway Town Hall Theatre

The building which houses the Town Hall Theatre was erected in the 1820's and served first as a Courthouse and later as a Town Hall. In the 1950's, the building was converted into a cinema until it fell into disrepair in the 1990's. Galway Corporation, with the assistance of a grant from the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, undertook a major refurbishment of the building between 1993 and 1995 and it re-opened as a state of the art, 393 seat Municipal Theatre in October, 1995. The Theatre is situated in the centre of Galway.

W: www.tht.ie

Kennys Bookshop and Art Gallery

Kennys was established in 1940 by Des & Maureen Kenny and was originally located on High Street but have since relocated to the Liosban Estate on the Tuam Road. Web folklore has it that Kennys Bookshop was the second bookshop in the world to have its own website. Only a sci-fi shop in San Francisco beat them to it. Kennys has a renowned stock of books on Irish history, culture, literature and language, as well as a comprehensive selection of non-Irish material that covers all aspects of the human experience.

W: www.kennys.ie

Theatres & Nightlife

Theatre plays a large role in Galway with three theatres; The Taibhearc, The Druid and The Town Hall Theatre. The Taibhearc, is mainly an Irish language theatre. The Druid has played host to some of the best theatrical productions in the country and the Town Hall is Galway's Municipal Theatre. The nightlife in Galway is lively and exciting. There are numerous pubs to suit different people. Quay Street is very good for those interested in traditional music and Galway also has a number of nightclubs to cater for the younger age group.

Galway City Museum

Galway City Museum reopened in April 2007 with the launch of its permanent exhibition. Among the highlights on show is a rare 17th century altar piece, the new location of the statue of Pádraig Ó'Conaire and the Galway City Hooker boat, named 'Máirtín Oliver' by the public. The museum houses three floors of exhibits and information panels, relating the story of Galway from medieval times to modern day.

Opening Hours: Tuesday- Saturday 10am – 5pm
091 567641

The Cathedral

The Cathedral in Galway was opened in 1965 and is situated on the site of the former county jail. The jail which closed in 1939 was renowned for its cruel treatment of prisoners. The Cathedral is the largest and most impressive building in the city. Most of the raw materials used in the building were supplied from the local area and it is a fine example of Irish workmanship. The style of the building is Hiberno-Romanesque which is unique eleventh century native Irish mode and pre-dates the Norman invasion.

Eyre Square

This park was officially presented to the city in 1710 by Mayor Edward Eyre, from whom it took its name. In 1965, the square was officially renamed "Kennedy Memorial Park" in honour of US President John F. Kennedy, who visited Galway shortly before his assassination in 1963. The fountain located in Eyre Square, is a great example of modern Irish art. The fountain represents the sails of the Galway Hooker which was a traditional fishing boat unique to Galway.

Cultural Attractions



Lynch's Castle

Lynch's Castle, which is located on the corner of Shop Street and Abbeygate Street, is a fine example of a town castle in the country. Town castles were popular homes for wealthy merchants in Ireland in the 15th and 16th centuries. The castle has been beautifully restored over the years. The castle contains beautiful stone carvings on the exterior along with a number of decorative windows. The building is now home to AIB Bank.

Nora Barnacle's House

Nora Barnacle, wife of James Joyce, was born in the Bowling Green area of Galway. It is said that she provided the inspiration for the character Molly Bloom in 'Ulysses'. James Joyce was a regular visitor to Galway and has written several poems and articles based in Galway including 'She Weeps Over Ragoon'. The house in which Nora Barnacle lived is now a small museum. It is open to the public during the summer with guides available to show you around this special piece of Irish history.

091 564743

The Spanish Arch

The Spanish Arch is located on the banks of the River Corrib where the river meets the sea. It was built in 1584 and was part of the city walls, built to protect merchant ships from looting. In the past it was known as The Blind Arch and is located on the site known as Ceann na Bhalla (The Head of the Wall). A wooden sculpture by Claire Sheridan who lived in the adjacent building during the 50s now adorns the Arch. The Spanish Arch is home nowadays to the Galway City Museum.

National University of Ireland, Galway

NUIG was established in 1845 as Queen's College Galway, and was formerly known as University College Galway. It is one of Ireland's foremost centres of academic excellence and houses over 15,000 students. The stone quadrangle is one of the city's most famous landmarks. The University which is merely a 5 minute drive from Galway Bay Hotel, plays an important role in the cultural life of Galway.

091 524411

Saturday Market

Takes place every Saturday beside St. Nicholas Church in Galway City between 8am and 6pm. The market provides a variety of goods for sale including fruit and vegetables, cheeses, olives, hot crepes, bread, jewellery, woollens and hand made items to name a few.

Kylemore Abbey, Connemara

Kylemore Abbey, located in Connemara, Co. Galway is one of the top tourist attractions in the country. Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden offers visitors scenic photographic opportunities as well as woodland walks, garden tours, fascinating history, beautiful architecture, ample shopping in the craft shop and tempting homemade delights in the restaurant and tea rooms.

The Burren & The Cliffs of Moher

The Burren is one of the largest Karst landscapes in Europe. The Burren is rich with historical and archaeological sites. There are more than 90 megalithic tombs in the area, portal dolmens, a celtic high cross in the village of Kilfenora and a number of ring forts. The Cliffs of Moher are a big tourist attraction which bring in close to a million visitors per year. The cliffs rise 120 meters above the Atlantic Ocean and can only be described as jaw droppingly beautiful.