



Festivals 2012

Galway Continental Christmas Market: Sunday 27th Nov – Sunday 18th December 2011

Seventy chalets will be retailing a variety of crafts, gifts, and stocking fillers such as wooden toys, scented candles, hand-made jewellery, ceramic mugs, hats, scarves, and Christmas ornaments. The market will also house the all important 'Santa's Grotto' for all the kids to visit. The spirit of Christmas will be evident in Galway this year making it the perfect destination for all your Shopping desires.

Cúirt International Festival of Literature: Tuesday 24th – Sunday 29th April 2012

An annual celebration of the very best of contemporary writing in poetry, fiction and memoir. Alongside readings in poetry and prose, the packed programme features a wide range of launches, expos, readings and special events in theatre and film.
W: www.cuirt.ie

An Tóstal Festival at Galway Bay Hotel Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th May 2012

"An Tóstal" was a concept dreamt up by Bórd Fáilte in 1953 to depict and showcase various aspects of Irish life and culture throughout the country, and in so doing, to extend the tourist season. Every town and village was encouraged to form committees and devise a programme of events during the last 2 weeks of April using the theme "Ireland at Home". It could be said that An Tóstal introduced the concept of festivals to Ireland. The "**An Tóstal**" Festival is a celebration of Irish Culture, Traditions and Music.

Galway Early Music Festival Thursday 17th – Sunday 20th May 2012

Based in the medieval City of Galway, it features medieval, renaissance and baroque music and dance. Concerts by internationally-recognised performers using historical instruments, workshops and street performance, coupled with the West of Ireland's unique welcome, make this the place to be in May.
W: www.galwayearlymusic.com

Little Havana Festival: Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd June 2012

This festival is a new, free and fun-filled festival taking place in the city's Latin Quarter. Cuban-inspired music, dance, street entertainment, art and cultural events feature in the programme of on-street and on-premise activity, creating a unique chance for visitors to immerse themselves in a colourful atmosphere reminiscent of Havana itself.
W: www.thelatinquarter.ie

The Galway Film Fleadh: Tuesday 10th – Sunday 15th July 2012

Ireland's leading film festival, is a six day international event, and welcomes a diversity of films from around the world. The Fleadh is very much a filmmaker's festival & attracts directors, actors, cinematographers & artists of all generations & backgrounds, who present their work before their peers. Celebrating its 24th year, the main aim of the Film Fleadh is to bring audiences & filmmakers together within an intimate setting, & share a common experience. The Fleadh's diverse audience is made up of the general cinema going public, film buff's student film makers, industry professionals & invited guests.
W: www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

Galway Arts Festival: Monday 16th – Sunday 29th July 2012

The Galway Arts Festival collaborates with artists and companies throughout the world to present an international programme of theatre, spectacle, dance, visual arts, music, literature & comedy involving hundreds of artists and performers. Galway Arts Festival is at the heart of all aspects of life in Galway City contributing immeasurably to the economic, social and cultural life of the west of Ireland. Over its 33-year history the Festival has become a vital showcase for Irish & international arts in Ireland and is now widely known as Ireland's leading arts festival.
W: www.galwayartsfestival.com



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Galway Races - Summer Festival: Monday 30th July – Sunday 5th August 2012

The great Irish playwright John B. Keane said that the "*Galway races are a state of mind*".

Whether or not you are a regular follower of horse racing, the only requirement for Galway race goers is to know how to have fun!

One of the high points of the summer holiday season in Galway, it has become one of the fastest growing festivals in the world and now has an attendance of approximately 200,000 people over the course of the 7 day festival. The excellent racing, oyster bars, champagne and beer tents, jazz bands, trade stands and the Best Dressed Lady Competition are but a few highlights of the festival. It is this exhilarating atmosphere that leaves one powerless to resist thus getting swept away by the thrill of it all.

W: www.galwayraces.com

Galway Oyster Festival: Friday 21st– Sunday 23rd September 2012

The first Oyster Festival in Galway took place in 1954. A local hotelier came up with the idea of celebrating the opening of the oyster season with a festival. With help from local businessmen and Guinness, the first festival took place the following September with 34 guests attending the first Oyster Festival Banquet and from such humble beginnings grew what is now regarded as one of the most celebrated and longest running festivals in the world. For the finest in gourmet seafood, live music and the best Guinness in town, it is well worth making the trip to the Galway Oyster Festival. For four days and nights on the last weekend in September, Galway City comes alive as thousands of people travel from the four corners of the world to enjoy a remarkable festival celebrating the oyster, a food known for its mysterious luxury and passion.

W: www.galwayoysterfestival.com

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children: October 2012 (Dates TBC)

Baboró is Ireland's Flagship International Arts Festival devoted exclusively to children and families. It provides a feast of fun, creativity and spellbinding performances for children of all ages. Showcasing some of the finest and most exciting theatre, dance, music, puppetry and visual art from Ireland and around the world.

W: www.baboro.ie

Galway Comedy Festival: October 2012 (Dates TBC)

The festival will entertain you with some of the most magical, hysterical and outright funny folk on the planet. There's a whole range of styles to suit every taste, and you will not be disappointed. Look out for surprise gigs not listed that will pop up here, there and everywhere over the weekend, and whatever else you do, remember it's only a joke!

W: www.galwaycomedyfestival.com

Volvo Ocean Race 2012: Friday 29th June – Sunday 8th July 2012

The Galway stopover for the 2008-2009 Volvo Ocean Race was a huge success for the city and for the race, and once again the Volvo Ocean Race will visit this ancient city on the west coast of Ireland, this time as the finish line of the 2011-2012 race. During the stop over in Galway, the race village hosts free live entertainment each evening from some of Ireland's most well known acts. In-Port racing will be taking place in Galway Bay which will draw tens of thousands to the City and Salthill's Promenade to watch the exciting finish of this worldwide event. In-port Racing takes place from 6th–8th July.

W: www.volvoceanrace.com