

DISCOVER Galway



1 Dún Aonghasa, Inis Mór

Dún Aonghasa is about 1km from the Visitor Centre and is approached over rising ground. Perilously perched on a sheer sea-cliff, Dún Aonghasa defiantly faces the Atlantic Ocean. It is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. The fort consists of three massive drystone defence walls. Dún Aonghasa is over 3,000 years old. Excavations have revealed significant evidence of prehistoric metalworking, as well as several houses and burials. The whole complex was refortified in AD 700–800. The visit involves a short hike over rising ground and rough, natural rock, so come prepared with boots or strong walking shoes. Be careful, too, when walking near the cliff – there is no fence or barrier at the edge of the 87-metre drop.

📍 H91YT20
🌐 [HeritageIreland.ie](https://www.heritageireland.ie)



2 Dunguaire Castle

Dunguaire Castle and its history lies at the heart of the Ireland's literary revival in the early 20th century. It was built in 1520 by the O'Hynes clan on the picturesque shores of Galway Bay. This restored 16th century tower house sits on a rocky outcrop on the shores of Galway Bay.

📍 H91W654 🌐 [DunguaireCastle.com](https://www.dunguairecastle.com)



3 Aughnacore Castle

The fearsome O'Flaherty family, whose motto was 'Fortune favours the strong', ruled west Connacht for 300 years from this fine six-storey tower on the shores of Lough Corrib. In 1546 the O'Flahertys joined forces with the Mayo O'Malleys when Donal an Chogaidh O'Flaherty married Grace O'Malley, later known as Granuaile, the formidable pirate queen. The O'Malley motto, 'Powerful by land and by sea,' showed the awe in which that family, too, was held. At Aughnacore today you can inspect the remains of a banqueting hall, a watch tower, an unusual double bawn and bastions and a dry harbour. Keep your eyes peeled for glimpses of the three species of bat that now live in the castle.

📍 H91PX20
🌐 [HeritageIreland.ie](https://www.heritageireland.ie)

4 Coole Park

At Coole Park Nature Reserve, we invite you to investigate for yourself the magic and serenity of this unique landscape. Although the house no longer stands, you can still appreciate the environment that drew so many here. You will experience the natural world that Yeats captured in his poetry. Discover its wildlife, as well as the Gregory family history and literary connections.

📍 H91HF5X
🌐 [CoolePark.ie](https://www.coolepark.ie)



5 Athenry Castle

Guarding a strategic ford on the Clarinbridge River is the monumental bulk of Athenry Castle. The imposing three-storey hall-keep survives from the mid-thirteenth century. It is solidly impressive from the outside, although the interior was simply built, containing only a hall at first-floor level and dark storerooms below. Despite the simplicity of the layout, fine carvings bear witness to the hall's eminence. The battlements, through whose tall arrow-loops the castle was defended against various attackers across the centuries, are original. Visitors come to Athenry Castle to soak up the authentic atmosphere of medieval power.

📍 H65WC93
🌐 [HeritageIreland.ie](https://www.heritageireland.ie)



6 Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh

Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh is located in Ros Muc, in the heart of the Connemara Gaeltacht. It was here that Patrick Pearse, leader of the 1916 rebellion against British rule, built a summer cottage for himself. In the state-of-the-art visitor centre you can explore the things that drew Pearse to Connemara – the area's unique landscape. The bog will take you to the cottage itself. You will find it just as it was when Pearse left for the last time in 1915.

📍 H91DW9A 🌐 [HeritageIreland.ie](https://www.heritageireland.ie)



7 Battle of Aughrim Centre

Travel back in time at the award winning Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre and Battlefield Trail. Re-live one of Europe's most historic battles that changed the course of not just Irish history but the History of Europe as well. Discover how three rival European Kings (William of Orange, James II and Louis XIV) took hold of Ireland in their struggle for power with over 35,000 soldiers gathering at Aughrim in 1691, in what proved to be the defining battle of the Williamite War in Ireland. Undertake the Battlefield Trail to uncover the dramatic story of one of Europe's bloodiest Battles still evident in today's peaceful landscape.

📍 H53KH51 🌐 [GalwayCommunityHeritage.ie](https://www.galwaycommunityheritage.ie)



8 Kylemore Abbey

Nestled in the heart of Connemara, on the Wild Atlantic Way, Kylemore Abbey is a haven of history, beauty and serenity. Home to a Benedictine order of Nuns for the past 100 years, Kylemore Abbey welcomes visitors from all over the world each year to embrace the magic of the magnificent 1,000-acre estate.

📍 H91VR90
🌐 [KylemoreAbbey.com](https://www.kylemoreabbey.com)



9 Portumna Castle

Built by the fourth earl of Clanricarde, Portumna Castle was the de Burgo family power base for centuries. The castle is a unique example of the transitional Irish architecture of the early 1600s. Its bold design combines elements of medieval and Renaissance style. The dramatic walk up to the building includes charming formal gardens, which create an enchanting sense of the original seventeenth-century setting. The castle enjoys a sensational view of Lough Derg. It is right beside the River Shannon and Portumna Forest Park, which makes it a great choice for a delightful day out.

📍 H53YK27
🌐 [HeritageIreland.ie](https://www.heritageireland.ie)



10 Connemara National Park

Situated in the West of Ireland in County Galway, Connemara National Park covers some 2,000 hectares of scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Some of the Park's mountains, namely Benbaun, Bencullagh, Benbrack and Muckanaght, are part of the famous Twelve Bens or Beanna Beola range. Connemara National Park was established and opened to the public in 1980. Much of the present Park lands formed part of the Kylemore Abbey Estate and the Letterfrack Industrial School, the remainder having been owned by private individuals. The southern part of the Park was at one time owned by Richard (Humanity Dick) Martin who helped to form the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals during the early 19th century. The Park lands are now wholly owned by the State and managed solely for National Park purpose.

📍 H91K2Y1
🌐 [ConnemaraNationalPark.ie](https://www.connemaranationalpark.ie)



Featured Attractions

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12. Galway Atlantaquaria.....H91T2FD
13. Galway City MuseumH91 CX5P

Beaches

14. East End Bay
15. Renvyle
16. Aillebrack/Silver Hill
17. An Trá Mhór
18. Trá an Dóilin
19. Spiddal
20. Silverstrand
21. An Trá Inis Oirr
22. Portumna Swimming Area
23. Salthill

Mountains & Lakes

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| 24. Tully Mountain | 30. Loughrea Lake |
| 25. Muckanaght | 31. Slieve Aughty |
| 26. Benglenisky | 32. Lough Derg |
| 27. Maumturks | |
| 28. Lackavrea | |
| 29. Lough Corrib | |
| 30. Knockauncoura | |

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County Galway



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