



## Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What’s on in March?

Springtime in the West of Ireland and the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend add up to a real feast of activities - let's take a look at the line-up in the Galway, Connemara and Southwest Mayo region.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Seachtain na Gaeilge Festival

This annual fortnight-long festival is a celebration of the Irish language, culture and heritage. It encapsulates the pride of the Irish language community and inspires further generations to immerse themselves in our native tongue. The festival has built up a huge momentum in recent years, becoming the largest celebration of the Irish language and culture held every year. Seachtain na Gaeilge has something for everyone; young and old, native and non-native, fluent and novice. All you need is a cúpla focal!

See: [www.arasnangael.ie](http://www.arasnangael.ie)

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Éigse an Spidéil

Éigse an Spidéil is an annual festival of traditional music, dance, sean-nós singing, art, and poetry which takes place in Spiddal, Co. Galway.

See: [www.eigseanspideil.ie](http://www.eigseanspideil.ie)

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Gaelforce Sky Run Mountain Challenge

A 22km Mountain run across three peaks of the Northern Maamturks in Connemara. This is a unique event and the only one of its kind on the west coast of Ireland. A 22km challenging race route involving steep ascents and descents, for experienced mountain runners only. Special access has been granted to this stunning route by local landowners making it an amazing opportunity for mountain runners.

See: <http://www.gaelforceevents.com/skyrun/en/skyrun.html>

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Wild-screen Film Festival

A weekend of national and international contemporary art film at Innagh Valley Hatchery in the Connemara countryside. Curated by Galway-based artists Louise Manifold and ÚNA Quigley, the programme will include films by Michael Craig-Martin, Dorothy Cross, Vivienne Dick, Werner Herzog, Derek Jarman, Maximilian Le Cain, Laida Lertxundi and Walker & Walker.

See: [www.wildscreenireland.com](http://www.wildscreenireland.com)

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **Mayo Stages Rally**

2016 sees Mayo host the opening round of the Triton Showers National Rally Championship, which will also be round one of the very popular Sligo Pallets Border Rally Championship, now in its 25th year. The Stage is firmly set for many top rally drivers and co-drivers to battle it out for honours in North Mayo.

See: [www.mayomotorsportclub.com](http://www.mayomotorsportclub.com)

## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Muscailt Arts Festival @ NUIG**

Mùscailt, meaning to celebrate and inspire is the title of the celebrated spring arts festival hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway. The 16th Mùscailt Arts Festival at NUI Galway invites all students, staff, alumni and the public to enjoy a week of art, music and performance on campus. Mùscailt has something for everyone in terms of music, Sculpture and photography, theatre.

See: [www.muscailt.nuigalway.ie](http://www.muscailt.nuigalway.ie)

## **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Aran Celtic Music Festival**

The Aran Celtic Music Festival takes place on the Aran Islands and showcases the best of Celtic music, song, dance and heritage and brings together prominent musicians and artists for a unique occasion in the beautiful setting of the Aran Islands.

See: [www.ceilteach.ie](http://www.ceilteach.ie)

## **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **Westport Gran Fondo**

Westport Gran Fondo is a one day cycling event and is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. There are 2 events; Gran Fondo at 122km and Medio Fondo at 70km.

See: [www.westportgranfondo.ie](http://www.westportgranfondo.ie)

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **St. Patrick's Day**

The most Irish of all feasts and festivals. There'll be a parade in almost every town in the locality – with Clifden, Louisburgh and Westport all putting their best floats forward.

A little farther away the Galway St. Patrick's Festival will take place, celebrating Galway's diverse culture and talent. See [www.stpatricksfestivalgalway.com](http://www.stpatricksfestivalgalway.com)

Take in one parade or take up the challenge to visit as many as possible on the day – not for the faint-hearted.

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Head of the River Rowing Regatta (Galway)**

This year the Head of the River will be organised by NUIG Boat Club and Tribesmen, and it takes place from the mouth of the lake to a little downstream from the Quincentennial Bridge. The boats race for fours and double sculls starts at 10.30am, the race for single sculls and pairs starts at 1.30pm, and the race for eights and quad sculls starts at 4pm. Hundreds of competitors will be involved, and the best viewing points are Dangan slip or on or near the Quincentennial Bridge.

See [www.galwayheadoftheriver.ie](http://www.galwayheadoftheriver.ie)

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Louisburgh Drama Group Presents J.B. Keane's "Moll" (Louisburgh Parochial Hall – 8 pm – tickets available at door)**

MOLL, first produced in July 1971 in Killarney, is a comedy originally set in a rural presbytery in Kerry – the newly appointed Moll is a priest's housekeeper who takes over a parish house with a "divide and conquer" strategy.

A real "knock-about" comedy performed with gusto, as always, by the Louisburgh Drama Group who are perfectly suited to such productions.

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail Walking Festival**

Walk in Mayo with the ancient mountain of Croagh Patrick as your destination. Come and walk the Croagh Patrick Heritage Walking Trail and experience unspoilt landscape and rich heritage in County Mayo on the west coast of Ireland. Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail is a 61 kilometre national way-marked walk which begins in the village of Balla in east Mayo and ends at the village of Murrisk at the foot of Croagh Patrick on the shores of Clew Bay.

See [www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com](http://www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com)

## **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup>**

### **Galway Food Festival**

Celebrating Galway as a good food destination, 2016 will be the 5th year of the Galway Food Festival and is sure to build on the success of the 2015 event. The festival will promote good food and good food outlets in Galway, as well as showcasing food producers based in Galway and in the West. The festival takes place in March primarily as it is the time of year when some of the best local ingredients become available, such as Connemara Spring Lamb, and trout and salmon caught locally.

See: [www.galwayfoodfestival.com](http://www.galwayfoodfestival.com)

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Westport 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Walking Festival Weekend**

Westport's 8th Easter Annual Walking Festival Weekend is a fantastic guided walking event in the Mayo and Connemara mountains. Let Gerry Greensmyth of Croagh Patrick Walking Tours guide you up Mweelrea Mountain - the highest peak in the province.

See: [www.walkingguideireland.com](http://www.walkingguideireland.com)

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Connacht Rugby v Leinster Rugby (Guinness Pro12)**

Connacht play host to Leinster at The Sportsground in the Guinness Pro12. Kick-off at 17.15.

See: [www.connachtrugby.ie](http://www.connachtrugby.ie)

**Cleasathon Inis Óirr**

Cleasathon consists of a 16km, 10km or 5km road runs on Inis Oirr, the smallest and arguably most beautiful of the 3 Aran Islands. One of the three events is a new 16km adventure route, run over very rough terrain of rocks and boulders. The second 10km hilly route provides a significant challenge while the 5km is a little more manageable with a downhill finish. All three running events showcase the amazing scenery of the island.

See: [www.cleasathon-inisoirr.info](http://www.cleasathon-inisoirr.info)

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Rás Chonamara**

Rás Chonamara is a cycling race that takes place every year during the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. It cuts right through the heart of Connemara and takes in great scenic beauty over the two days.

See: [www.raschonamara.ie](http://www.raschonamara.ie)

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Egg Hunt at Westport House**

Visit Westport House & Pirate Adventure Park for family fun, treasure hunt and frolics over Easter Weekend – and maybe win some great prizes too! Pinkie Rabbit returns to entertain children and parents alike.

See: [www.westporthouse.ie](http://www.westporthouse.ie)

## **More things to do in March...**

### **Walking**

With beautiful spring weather, March is a great time for walking in Connemara - for a list of scheduled walks go to: [www.walkconnemara.com](http://www.walkconnemara.com)

### **Clewboy Archaeological Trail**

Wonderful insights into the historic heritage of the area – can be split into manageable chunks, but should be experienced to some extent when here.

<http://www.clewboytrail.com/>

### **Craft Fairs**

For Craft and Food Galway's famous bustling market with hundreds of stalls selling fresh produce and locally produced crafts. Open Saturdays and Bank Holidays from 8am to 6pm and Sundays 12 noon to 6pm.

Westport also hosts an indoor market on Thursdays from 8.30 am till 1.00 pm – fantastic food and wonderful locally crafted goods. Get there early!

Or if you just want to have a look around the local craft shops, you can't go wrong with Westport, Louisburgh and Leenane.