



DELPHI LODGE
CONNEMARA · IRELAND

Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What’s on in April

Spring is in full swing and, as always at this time of year, there’s a lot to do in the Galway, Connemara and Southwest Mayo region. Let’s take a look.

Omey Island Walk

Approx. 5.6 km / 1 to 2 hours / Omey is a tidal island, accessible on foot 2 hours before low water to 2 hours before high water (check tides beforehand on sailing.ie).

Omey island is a magical place only 600 metres offshore, nestled beneath the projecting prow of the Aughrus peninsula and sheltered from the worst of the Atlantic swells by the islands of *An Cruach*, (Cruach), *Ard Oilean* (High Island) and *Oilean na mBráthar* (Friar Island).

<https://www.connemara.net/omey-island-walk/>

Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden

Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden Originally built as a Castle in 1867 as a romantic gift, Kylemore Abbey and the surrounding mountains and lakes are steeped in history. Learn of tales of tragedy, romance, engineering initiatives and royal visits. It became home to a community of Benedictine Nuns in 1920 and has been renowned as a place of spirituality and education.

One mile west of the main Abbey building are the 6-acre Victorian Walled Gardens, built by Mitchell Henry at the same time as the construction of Kylemore Castle between 1867 and 1871. This garden was one of the last walled gardens to be built during the Victorian period in Ireland and is the only garden in Ireland that is located in the middle of a bog. The garden was so advanced for the time that it was even compared with Kew Gardens in London.

<https://www.kylemoreabbey.com/>

Connemara National Park

The Connemara horizon is dominated by more than fifty magnificent mountains in four tightly packed ranges, the Twelve Bens, Maum Turks, Partry and Sheffrey. Diamond Hill in the Connemara National Park, with its wood and cut stone path, offers a very safe way to go hill-walking. 500 metres high, Diamond Hill rises above the small village of Letterfrack. This is one of the finest hikes in the country. It commands huge ocean, island and mountain views in all directions. From its sharp edge summit it looks down on Kylemore Abbey and deep into the Twelve Bens mountain range. On the slopes of the mountain are the remains of an abandoned 19th century farm and a megalithic tomb built by the first farmers of the area 5,000 years ago.

<http://www.connemaranationalpark.ie/>

Clifden Beach Road / Sky Road Walk

Depart Clifden by the Beach Road, descending towards the quay. Directly ahead on the hill opposite is a monument to John D'Arcy, the founder of Clifden and the man who built Clifden Castle. Just after the ball alley and childrens' playground you will arrive at Clifden Quay. Alexander Nimmo drew up the plans for the quay in 1822, and it was completed in 1831. The Owenglen River empties into the estuary here, and the sandy mud flats at low tide are the result of material carried by the river in spate. The walk continues along the estuary overlooking Faul peninsula on the far side and, as we continue, a fine vista opens over Clifden Bay. The mouth of the estuary has many hidden rocks, and the navigation channel is marked with stone beacons. After about 2km, the road widens into a parking area for Clifden Beach.....For further information

<https://www.connemara.net/clifden-beach-road-and-sky-road-walk/>

Beaches

Connemara's beaches are all individual, coming with their own different types of sand, rocks and an infinite variety of small shells. The Coral Strand in Ballyconneely is unusual for its golden coral sand. It's also easy to access, with plenty of space to park, and might be a slightly warmer swimming spot than other beaches! Shortly afterwards (turning right) you will find the beaches of Mannin Bay, a collection of white sandy beaches. Whatever the weather, a stroll in Mannin will leave you feeling refreshed and contented. Just off the Clifden to Roundstone road (a few kilometres before Roundstone), Dog's Bay and Gurteen are two dramatically beautiful beaches which lie back to back. Glassilaun, in Renvyle, where scenes of the movie Tristan and Isolde were filmed, is another glorious beach in North Connemara. From the village of Tully Cross, take the left turn by the church and follow the elevated coast road towards Little Killary Bay.