



DELPHI LODGE
CONNEMARA · IRELAND

Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What’s on in September 2018

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).

The walk starts either at the car park at Claddaghduff Church or on the edge of Omey Strand, where there is also a car park for visitors. Step out across the strand following, for the first 300 metres, the line of signposts in the sand – Connemara’s only sub-sea road. The island, one mile square, is stretched out in front of you. We will return on the road ahead of us, but for now will strike out to the right and head across 600 metres of sand towards the north-east edge of the island and the beautiful graveyard built on a former monastic site associated with Brendan the Navigator. The site serves as the last resting place for the people of Omey and the surrounding mainland.

Following the beach and keeping the low, black rocks on your left, you are heading now along the northern edge of the island. Don’t be tempted to venture inland as the rocky shoreline edged with sand cliffs is particularly beautiful. A series of eroding midden site, ancient rubbish heaps, cascade onto the beach as you go along. The most obvious sign to look for is groups of fine cracked stone at your feet. You pass a tiny stream and up onto a small but prominent round-topped hill called *Crocán na Mban*. The site was an early Christian period monastic site. The route westerly from here is a clear, huge panorama; westward to the cliff-bound High Island, where a relatively intact monastic site survives.

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).

Clifden Beach Road / Sky Road Walk

Leave 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. 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. For further details <https://www.connemara.net/clifden-beach-road-and-sky-road-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/>

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.

Westport Festival of Chamber Music

7th – 9th September 2018

The 2018 Westport Festival of Chamber Music will take place from Friday, September 7 to Sunday, September 9, 2018. Its six concerts will be presented in Westport House, Westport Town Hall Theatre and Holy Trinity Church – three wonderful venues, just perfect for the charm and finesse of chamber music.

This year's line up of musicians includes The Heath Quartet, violinist Giovanni Guzzo, violist Eivind Holtmark Ringstad, cellist Natalie Klein, tenor Tritschler and pianist Diana Ketler, Irish pianists Hugh Tinney and Michael McHale and flautist William Dowdall. Performances from solos to septet will include composers from Bach to Britten.

For more information go to: www.westportchambermusic.ie

Carna Walking Festival

Friday 7th September - Sunday 9th September

The year's Carna Walking Festival provides walking and hikers of all ages the opportunity to explore the wild and rugged coastline of southern Connemara. Organised walks include Feenish Island, MacDara's Island in a hooker, Moyros Loop (shore walk), Mynish (shore walk), Coillín Hill and Glynsk Hill.

For further information <https://facebook.com/carnawalkingfestival/>

Clifden Arts Festival

Wednesday 12th September - Sunday 23rd September

Clifden Community Arts Week, celebrating its 41st anniversary in 2018, features a wholesome feast of culture with a mix of poetry, music, theatre, dance and visual arts. A great celebration of the Arts, events include poetry readings, lectures, recitals, traditional music, concerts, and comedy – all enjoyed in a wonderful relaxed atmosphere in one of the most beautiful places on the West Coast. Take walks during the day, enjoy the lovely Autumn colours, eat in a great choice of restaurants, and then be inspired by Ireland's best artists as they mingle and talk with the local community and visitors alike. See website for the complete programme of events, and for times and venues of the various acts which will be available closer to the event start date.

For further information **Website:** <http://www.clifdenartsweek.ie/>

Inishbofin Autumn Walking Weekend

Friday 14th September - Sunday 16th September

The Inishbofin Island Walking Festival will take place from Friday September 14th to Sunday September 16th.

Enjoy a weekend of walking amid stunning Atlantic coast scenery, crystal clear waters, green coast award winning beaches surrounded by rich natural, built and cultural heritage in the company of expert guides.

For further information <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/inishbofin-island-autumn-walking-weekend-tickets-49334307241>

