



Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What's on in May

Mayo Choral Festival

22nd – 26th May

For more information go to:

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

The Mayo International Choral Festival, the brainchild of Edward (Eamonn) Horkan, was inspired by a concert for the Mayo Memorial Peace Park whereby several choirs performed in unison in the Royal Theatre. Eamonn, a member of the Mayo Male Voice Choir, attended many choral festivals worldwide and with this experience set about organizing the festival. The festival takes the form of several international male/female adult choirs travelling to Mayo in May each year to partake on a competitive and non-competitive basis. Their visit will include a number of evening and daily performances county-wide, tours of Mayo and finishes with a gala concert. The theme of the festival is to allow choirs to meet with other choirs, relax and enjoy a great weekend in the beautiful West of Ireland.

So whether you are one of the talented performers or appreciate good music this is the festival for you.

Ballinrobe Races

Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo

Tuesday 7th May

Monday 27th May

Tuesday 28th May

The Ballinrobe Races are a real family event. Entertaining families since 1921 at this racecourse, we pride ourselves on our racing heritage coupled with a tangible appreciation of the future. Ballinrobe has a rich tradition of horseracing. Records show that Ballinrobe hosted a steeplechase back in 1834 and there are records of meetings back as far as 1774. The Ballinrobe Races hosts the best in the business under the benign shadow of the Partry Mountains and the majestic strength of the old oak trees. At Ballinrobe, the races are an integral part of the community; the spirit is free and westerly, the air is fresh, the scenery is splendid, the people are the best. The bookies will entertain, the covered pavilion will comfort, and the sun will shine.

Find out more @ www.ballinroberacecourse.ie

Connemara Mussel Festival

Friday 3rd May – Sunday 5th May

The 2019 Connemara Mussel Festival offers a feast for the senses. Originally established to promote the excellence of the mussels from Killary Harbour, the festival has grown to

become a celebration of local people, food, culture and heritage and is recognised as the premier food event for Connemara attracting visitors from near and far. The hub of the festival is in Tullycross village where renowned professional chefs will demonstrate the cooking of mussels and other local produce. The amateur, children's and celebrity mussel cooking competitions are a major highlight. Other activities include guided walks in Connemara's majestic scenery; dramatic presentations and children's storytelling; talks on beekeeping, foraging, organic vegetable gardening, local archaeology and other topics of particular relevance to the cultural heritage of the area; a wine tasting evening; a country market offering the best of crafts and food and an art exhibition featuring work by local artists. There will also be activities for children.

In the evenings there will be a variety of music available in the local pubs. The Connemara National Park is close by as well as beautiful beaches and majestic mountains.

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

Connemara Mountain Walking Festival

Friday 3rd May – Sunday 5th May

Enjoy a unique combination of mountain and sea as Leenane is situated on the edge of Killary Harbour and surrounded by mountains in all directions. This May will be the 11th year of the Connemara Mountain Walking Festival (formally the Leenane Mountain Walking Festival) which has become a major event on the calendar for Connemara and the region. The 2019 event will take place over the May bank holiday weekend. The Connemara Mountain Walking Festival organisation team is made up from volunteers from all walks of life, united by their love of hill walking. Our guides are all mountain trained and certified, many belonging to mountain rescue teams in our area. The local landowners are also involved and help us offer access to certain ascents that would not normally be available to members of the hill walking community. Backed up by IT professionals and world class tea and scone makers, our team strive to make your weekend a magical one. This great festival has been designed to suit all levels of walkers from casual low level walks to the more experienced! Each day there is a choice of at least 3 walks from Strenuous to low level

Inishbofin Arts Festival

Friday 3rd May – Sunday 5th May

Set in the stunningly scenic and historic backdrop of Inishbofin, the Inishbofin Arts Festival is a colourful and eclectic mix of music, visual art, craft, heritage, dance and fun family activities. As usual the festival will showcase the best of Irish talent as well as island-based craftspeople and performers. Inishbofin is an ideal, intimate setting for live music and creative arts. With a limited supply of tickets, and to guarantee a memorable and unique weekend, book your tickets for Inishbofin Community Arts Festival now.

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

Feile Chois Cuain Louisburgh

When: 3rd – 7th May

Come and enjoy the music and the craic in Louisburgh for the Feile Chois Cuain.

Féile Chois Cuain is one of Ireland's premier festivals of Irish traditional music song and dance, held annually in Louisburgh, County Mayo.

This beautiful and remote village plays host to a vibrant music scene every May bank holiday

weekend as local and visiting performers electrify audiences with sessions, concerts and masterclass and workshops.

The festival events are suitable for all age groups. Improvers will be given the opportunity to perform with, and learn from, others who have achieved great proficiency in the traditional arts. The classes, which are given by tutors of the highest calibre, are open to all age groups and pub singing and music sessions give an opportunity to the willing and able to join in. Street sessions are encouraged to bring the festival activities to the attention of the wider population and add great atmosphere to the festival

For more information go to:

www.feilechoiscuain.com

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.