



Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What's on in August

Roundstone For Fun

The third annual Roundstone for Fun summer party will take place in the village of Roundstone on Saturday 10th August, 2019 at 8.00 p.m. You, the supporters, are the ones that keep charities going. After dinner there will be live music and dancing. There will be a bar, open from 8.00 p.m., serving beer and also serving two spirit drinks, along with Red & White Wine, all at a very reasonable cost.

The Connemara 100

The Connemara 100 on the West Coast of Ireland is run over a measured and certified course. Taking place during the weekend of August 10th 2019, the Connemara 100 is best described as a 100 mile tour of Connemara on foot. The course is simply fabulous, taking participants from Clifden through Letterfrack, Leitirgeish, the Inagh valley, Maam Cross, Leenane, Inagh Valley again, then on to Roundstone, Ballyconeely and back to Clifden to complete 100 miles. Starting in the centre of Clifden, the course travels north and east towards Letterfrack turning left to Tully Cross. Along the north west Connemara sea side the course travels through Lettergeish and then south towards the main Leenane to Clifden road. A few miles west brings participants onto the Inagh Valley to cover the Connemara Ultra course in reverse. A second trip through the Inagh Valley and this time turning westwards along the main Galway to Clifden road. Taking the early road to Ballynahinch, the final stretch passes through Roundstone and then Ballyconeely before returning once again to Clifden for a few quick laps of the town and under the finish.

Festival of the Connemara Pony

The Festival of the Connemara Pony is a celebration of the Connemara Pony breed with week-long activities. The Connemara Pony is a distinctive breed with excellent qualities: strong, intelligent and very hard working, perfect for the wild unforgiving landscape of Connemara, the Galway region that gave them their name. Their genial disposition makes them excellent pets while their powerful build makes them good jumpers and great show ponies. The annual Connemara Pony Festival & Show attracts visitors from all over the world. The highlight of the festival is on Thursday and Friday, when the biggest showcase of Connemara Ponies in the world takes place. Ponies compete in in-hand classes, ridden classes, working hunter classes, and in a puissance competition. Visitors are treated to the spectacle of seeing the ponies demonstrate their prowess in trials and competitions under the watchful eye experienced judges and a win is always a source of great pride for the pony's dedicated owner. For non-pony enthusiasts, there is a dog show, a domestic arts show and Irish Dancing.

Connemara Western Way Annual Walking Marathon and Half Marathon

Registration is now open to members and non-members for our Connemara Western Way Annual Walking Marathon and Half Marathon. Our Walking Marathon takes place in some of the most scenic places in Connemara! The meeting point for registration and bus collection is at Maam Community Centre and the route is from Killary to Maam Valley mostly along the Western Way. It is mainly a flat walk, the highest point being Maumean at

259 meters, and while about one-third of the walk is on the road the route is chiefly on green road or forest track. There are spectacular views of Killary Fjord, the Maumturks and the Twelve Bens along the route and the walk is a terrific way to experience this part of the country. All participants receive a well-earned meal in the Maam Community Centre on completion of their walk.

Oughterard Agricultural and Horticultural Show

Oughterard Agricultural & Horticultural Show is one of the leading shows held in the West of Ireland. It provides an ideal opportunity for both local people and visitors to see the best of Connemara and Performance ponies, livestock, pets, dogs, farm and garden produce and vintage displays as well as a vast variety of art and craft exhibits. Over the years the show has grown in popularity and now attracts entrants from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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.