



12 AUTUMN EXPERIENCES IN MAYO

2021



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SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

Name: Achill Experience Aquarium & Visitor Centre

Location: Keel, Achill Island

Description: The Achill Experience, Aquarium and Visitor Centre, Mayo's first and only aquarium!

Fun for everyone, the Achill Experience is an aquarium visit like no other. Discover our local and tropical fishy friends (including Nemo and Dory!) in our 16-tank aquarium.

Through our knowledgeable and passionate aquarium guides, you will meet all our exciting sea creatures including Smurfette, Sapphire, Rusty and Charlie the rare lobsters and Buddy the very friendly baby shark.

Discover Achill's rich and fascinating history in our Visitor Centre through our 18 history boards, replica Boley House (modelled after the Deserted Village houses), the recycled Basking Shark and our audiovisual room. Learn about the Kirkintilloch Tragedy, the history of the Greenway, the special relationship between Achill and American artist Robert Henri and lots more as you explore the stories of Achill's past.

Find the perfect souvenir to remind you of your time in Achill in our gift shop, now serving delicious cups of Cosmic Coffee.

Pre-book your tickets on our website: www.achillexperience.ie

Contact Name: Elaine Connaghan

Phone: 098 43292

Email: enjoy@achillexperience.ie

Website: www.achillexperience.ie

Opening Hours: All year round. Monday to Friday 10am – 4.45pm, Sat – Sun 10.45am – 4.45pm

Price: €7 per Adult, €4.50 per Child



Name: Blacksod Lighthouse

Location: Blacksod

Description: Whether you are visiting County Mayo on staycation, reconnecting with family after lockdown or looking for an interesting day trip, there is nowhere in Ireland quite like the Mullet Peninsula. And adding to the attractions and amenities already available, we are delighted to announce that Blacksod Lighthouse is open to visitors!

Step inside the lighthouse and immerse yourself in the history of this stout, castellated building. See how the lighthouse keepers of the past lived and worked when times were tougher and communications more challenging on this remote rocky outcrop. Lighthouse keeping was an arduous occupation with many tasks and responsibilities involved. Our attendants Fergus and Bill are on hand to answer your questions or regale you with tales of local maritime history. Learn about the other lighthouses of Erris, understand how the keepers of Blacksod Lighthouse changed the course of World War 2 and see the artifacts once used to keep the iconic light in sequence and the deep bay safe for all who navigated her. In the lantern room, observe the magnificent Fresnel lens which has been in operation for over 150 years.

Pre-book your tickets on our website: www.Visitblacksodlighthouse.ie

Contact Name: Evin Walker

Phone: 097 85797

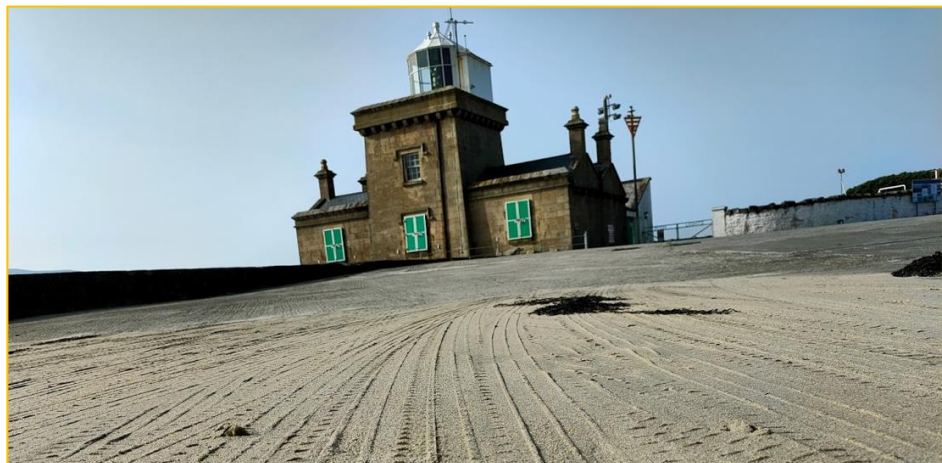
Email: evin@ionaddeirbhile.ie

Website: www.Visitblacksodlighthouse.ie

Opening Days & Hours:

- September: Tuesday-Sunday 11-5
- October: Saturday & Sunday 11-5, October 25th (Monday) 11-5
- November & December: Closed

Price: Adult €7, Child €4, Family €20



Name: Old Irish Goat Centre & Sanctuary

Location: Mulranny

Description: Visitors to the Old Irish Goat Visitor Centre can engage with the charismatic Old Irish Goat. Learn about the history of the breed, which dates to the Neolithic, and conservation efforts by the Old Irish Goat Society to save the enigmatic goat from extinction and meet the goats in our very own sanctuary. Visitors can also browse unique handmade gifts produced by Mayo crafters and artists, in the Gift of Hands craft shop.

A Christmas shop opens mid-November and runs until mid-December.

Contact Name: Helen Walker

Phone: 086 8270123

Email: 123helenwalker@gmail.com

Website: www.olderishgoat.ie

Opening Days & Hours: 7 days per week, 11am -5pm until mid-December

Price: Free entry. Donations accepted



Name: National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

Location: Turlough, near Castlebar

Description: Located just outside the town of Castlebar, the charming country estate of Turlough Park is home to the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life. A striking contemporary exhibition gallery juts out over an ornamental lake and formal Victorian style terrace lawns.

The award-winning museum houses Ireland's National Folklife Collection and takes visitors back in time to discover what country life was like between 1850 and 1950. Exhibits across four floors include original artefacts and displays, captivating archival video footage and interactive screens. Learn about the lives of our very recent ancestors with eye-catching displays including handcrafted harvest knots and baskets, spinning wheels and boats, traditional clothing, the hand operated machinery many grandparents used and even a life size blacksmith's forge. Set on 40 acres of stunning parkland, there's lots to discover with woodland trails, outdoor art, a Gothic revival mansion, an adventure playground, and a 10k greenway to nearby Castlebar.

There is also a café and gift shop on site. Best of all, admission is free.

Contact Name: Frances Toner

Phone: 094 90 31755

Email: countrylife@museum.ie

Website: www.museum.ie/country-life

Opening Days & Hours: Tue – Sat 10am – 5pm; Sun & Mon 1pm – 5pm

Price: Free entry



Name: Jackie Clarke Collection

Location: Ballina

Description: The Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina County Mayo displays a collection of historic material spanning 400 years of Irish history all collected by one man, Jackie Clarke (1927-2000). It comprises of many rare and important books, manuscripts, photographs, letters, newspapers, and more, with items relating to notable figures such as Theobald Wolfe Tone, P.H. Pearse, and Michael Collins. Housed in the magnificently refurbished Old Provincial Bank on Pearse Street in the heart of Ballina, the Jackie Clarke Collection and its heritage garden are a must see for any visitor interested in the story of Ireland. Admission is free and the collection is currently open Tuesday to Saturday from 12pm to 5pm.

Contact Name: Edel Healy / Anne Marie Forbes

Phone: 096 73508

Email: clarkecollection@mayococo.ie


Website: www.clarkecollection.ie


Opening Days & Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 12pm to 5pm all year round.

Price: Free admission



**1 MAN - 100,000 ITEMS -
400 YEARS OF IRISH HISTORY**





Bailiúchán
Sheáin
Uí Chléirigh

**The Jackie
Clarke
Collection**

Pearse St, Ballina, Co. Mayo
www.clarkecollection.ie
+353 (0)96 73508

Free Admission
Open Tue - Sat

Name: Knock Museum

Location: Knock Shrine

Description: Since the miraculous Apparition in August 1879, pilgrims and visitors have come here to explore this unique Shrine with its rich and engaging history. From the intimate atmosphere of the Apparition Chapel to the expansive theatre of the iconic Basilica, Knock Shrine is a place of sanctuary and sacredness. With its beautiful grounds and gardens, fascinating museum and a unique collection of artworks throughout, Knock Shrine is a must-see destination in the West of Ireland. Situated in the small village of Knock, the Shrine has been honoured with visits from Pope John Paul II in 1979, Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 1993 and Pope Francis in 2018. Approx. 1.5 million pilgrims and visitors make their way here every year.

Guided tours of the Shrine grounds and museum, led by experienced local guides who share their unique insights and stories, bring the visitor on an intriguing journey tracing the development of Knock from its humble origins in August 1879 up to the present day. There are also Audio Guides available.

Café Le Cheile, adjacent to Knock Museum, is the perfect vantage point for viewing the beautifully landscaped gardens and grounds of Knock Shrine. Serving a wide range of delicious food, sourced locally and cooked on the premises, Café Le Chéile is lovely place to relax and unwind and meet fellow pilgrims and tourists. Our guides love to chat further with visitors over a coffee after tours!

For groups who would like to stay overnight, Knock House Hotel is adjacent to the Shrine and is a comfortable and stylish hotel with excellent cuisine. In addition, the hotel has 6 wheelchair accessible rooms and is noted for its excellent facilities for those with mobility needs.

Contact Name: Grace Mulqueen

Phone: 0949375034

Email: museum@knockshrine.ie

Website: www.knockshrine.ie

Opening Days & Hours: Open daily from 10 – 6.

Price: Free



Name: Michael Davitt Museum

Location: Straide, near Foxford

Description: Michael Davitt is Ireland's greatest patriot and the most influential international Irishman of the 19th Century. The Michael Davitt Museum is dedicated to the life and legacy of this pre-eminent social activist and global reformer. The Museum collection is housed in the magnificently restored Pre-Penal Church in the picturesque village of Straide, County Mayo. The exhibition is enhanced by an audio-visual presentation and brought to life by the museum's award winning tour guides. The museum has developed a reputation as a centre of excellence and has attained full accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

The collection reflects the subject's diverse range of international interests and friendships, while his patronage of both the GAA and Celtic Football Club make it a 'Must See' for sports enthusiasts.

The Michael Davitt Museum is adjacent to Straide Friary. This 13th Century Norman structure contains some of the finest medieval sculpture available on the Island of Ireland.

The entire area forms part of a beautifully maintained spacious site. Ample parking is available and this tranquil location is ideal for picnics and leisurely walks.

Guided tours incorporating the Museum Collection, Michael Davitt's Grave and the adjoining Friary are available on request.

Contact Name: Yvonne Corcoran Loftus (Curator)

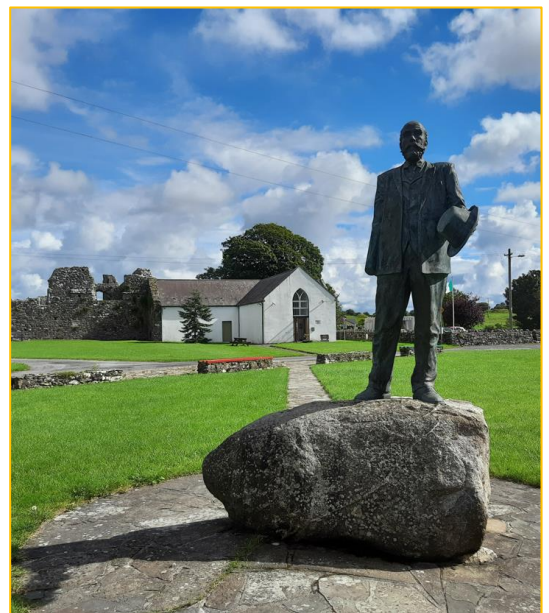
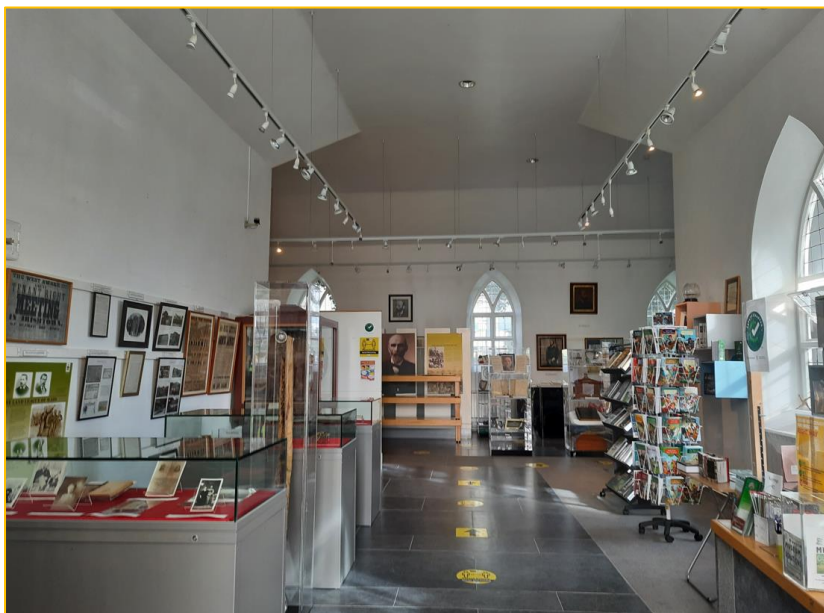
Phone: 094 9031942

Email: davittmuseum@gmail.com

Website: www.michaeldavittmuseum.ie

Opening Days & Hours: Monday to Saturday - 9.30am to 4.30pm

Price: Adults €5 Children €3



Name: Ballycroy Visitor Centre at Wild Nephin National Park

Location: Ballycroy

Description: Wild Nephin - a vast unspoilt wilderness of rugged mountains and Atlantic blanket bog.

Explore the cultural and natural heritage of this area in the interactive exhibition at our beautiful and modern Visitor Centre nestled into the landscape above Ballycroy Village. Embark on a short guided stroll with one of our Guides along the 2km Tóchar Dáithí Bán boardwalk and trail (pre-booking required). The panoramic views from the top of Cleary's Hill are spectacular with vistas of the Nephin Beg Mountain range including Slieve Carr, Ireland's most remote Mountain, Slieve Mór on Achill Island and the surrounding Wild Atlantic Way seascapes.

A short drive south of the Visitor Centre you will find the Claggan Mountain Coastal Trail. A second opportunity for a short stroll (2km) on a wooden boardwalk on the bog with a return journey along the seashore where you will find evidence of the ancient forests that once dominated the Irish landscape.

Let rainy days not put you off – guests can enjoy our lovely café on site which provides scrumptious lunches and delightful cakes which are all homemade or simply relax with a coffee looking out on Ireland's most remote and wild National Park.

Contact Name: Margaret Flaherty

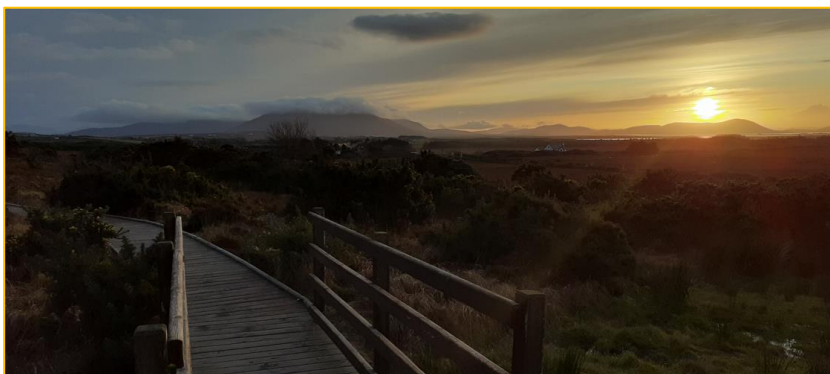
Phone: 098 49888

Email: ballycroyvisitorcentre@housing.gov.ie

Website: www.wildnephinnationalpark.ie

Opening Days & Hours: Daily from 10:00-17:30 until October 31st

Price: Free



Name: Croagh Patrick Seafoods Oyster Farm Tour

Location: Roslaher, near Newport

Description: Experience a real-life Oyster Farm when you visit Croagh Patrick Seafood Tours on the shores of Clew Bay, with Croagh Patrick in the distance. Only 5 minute cycle off the Greenway and a 15 minute drive from Westport and 10 minutes from Newport.

Croagh Patrick Seafoods is a family run business, incorporating daily harvesting from Grade A oyster beds ensuring freshness and a “shore to door” delivery.

The one-hour tour must be pre-booked and includes a tour of the farm and oyster tasting experience.

Contact Name: Padraic Gannon

Phone: 087 2497570

Email: info@croaghpattickseasfoods.ie

Website: <https://www.croaghpattickseasfoods.ie/>

Opening Days & Hours: Tours running Wednesday to Saturday until October 30th. Pre-booking essential.

Price: €25 Adult



Name: The Colony Tour

Location: Dugort, Achill Island

Description: A fascinating walk around the ruins of the 19th Century Achill Mission.

Achill's Number 1 Walking Tour. Open all year. Over 50 Five Star reviews on TripAdvisor!

In the Year of Our Lord 1831 a young Irish Prophet came into the West to save the heathen native Irish from the errors of Popery and found a new Protestant Zion in the most miserable wilderness of the Irish nation, Achill Island. The arrival of Edward Nangle on Achill would ignite a 50 year long religious war waged with guns, Bibles, famine and starvation and ultimately shape the entire destiny of the Irish nation. Join us for The Colony Tour, a fascinating two hour walk around the ruins of the Achill Mission, with BAFTA winning writer and Achill Islander Kevin Toolis. Cost 20 euros per person. Private Tours also an option.

Contact Name: Kevin Toolis

Phone: 0860713973

Email: bookings@thecolonytour.com

Website: www.thecolonytour.com

Opening Days & Hours: [11.AM](#) every Sunday until Christmas. Two hour walk. Terrain gentle to moderate. All outside in open air. Call to arrange a private Tour.

Price: €20



Name: The Ballinglen Museum of Art and Arts Foundation

Location: Ballycastle, north Mayo

Description: View and explore this stunning area through the work of artists who have spent time in North Mayo. See many recognisable scenes, showcasing the beauty of this mystical landscape and also abstract paintings to open the mind and encourage personal interpretation and discussion. Take in the expansive view at the rear of the Museum including Bunatrahir Bay, Downpatrick Head and St John's Church. A place of wonder and enlightenment, a jewel to find on the Wild Atlantic Way. Not just for art enthusiasts, the scope of work is broad and appeals to all ages and interests. The Ballinglen Gallery is located next door and exhibits work primarily created by Artists/Fellows of the Foundation. The exhibitions vary from solo shows to work from the Permanent Collection.

Like to enroll in an art class by leaders in Art Education? Members of the public and tourists alike can apply for one of the many workshops that run throughout the year. The museum offers stunning views of the small picturesque village of Ballycastle. All work by renowned Irish and International artists.

Contact Name: Úna Forde

Phone: 096 43184

Email: unaforde.baf@gmail.com

Website: www.ballinglenartsfoundation.org

Opening Days & Hours: All year round. 12 - 5 Monday - Saturday

Price: Free admission. Contact us for details & prices of workshops



Name: Terra Firma Ireland – After Dark Experiences

Location: Newport, Mulranny & Wild Nephin National Park

Description: From the Greenway to the Milky Way! Reach for the stars and discover your wild side in county Mayo's stunning wilderness and celestial night skies with one of our "after dark" experiences.

Our after dark tours and experiences are unique and ideal for group bookings and evenings out. Contact us to arrange a booking. Prices per person including transport. Choose from a range of after dark experiences:

- Stargazing Safari and Dark Sky Tour
- Gastronomy & Astronomy
- Myth, Magic & Moonlight
- Full Moon Walk

Contact Name: Ged Dowling

Phone: 089 2409015

Email: info@terrafirmaireland.com

Website: <https://terrafirmaireland.com/>

Opening Days & Hours: Contact Ged for tour details, dates & times from October through to December.

Price: Tours start from €25

