

Heritage Week 2025

Galway City August 16-24



Programme



11am - 12pm Merlin Park Castle Guided Tour

11am - 12pm Guided Walk Ragoon

SATURDAY 16th

12pm - 12:45pm Heritage Week Tour: The Claddagh Ring

SUNDAY 17th

11am - 12pm The Way of the Witch - Slí na Cailleach - Guided Tour

MONDAY 18th

11am - 12pm Forthill Cemetery Guided Tour

2pm - 3pm Roscam Graveyard, Church and Round Tower Guided Tour

11:00am - 12:00am Forthill Cemetery Guided Tour

12pm - 12:45pm Heritage Week Tour: The Statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire

TUESDAY 19th

2pm - 3pm Roscam Graveyard, Church and Round Tower Guided Tour

6:30pm - 8pm Galway's Places and Spaces by Bike

7:30pm - 8:30pm Talk on the History of Mechanics Institute

WEDNESDAY 20th	12pm - 12:45pm	Heritage Week Tour: The Galway Shawl
	1pm to 2pm	Heritage Matters: Women in Public Life in Galway
	7pm - 8pm	Vernacular Heritage Survey Walking Tour / Ballindooley
THURSDAY 21st	12pm - 12:45pm	Heritage Week Tour: The Great Mace of Galway
	12pm - 1:pm 3pm - 4pm	Talk on Recent Conservation & Archaeological Works at St Nicholas Collegiate Church
	11am - 12pm	Talk on Conservation, Flora and Fauna of Menlo Castle
FRIDAY 22nd	12pm - 12:45pm	Heritage Week Tour: The Galway Hooker
SATURDAY 23rd	11:00am - 12:30pm	Menlo Castle Walking Tour
	10am - 5pm	The Story of Living by the Sea – A Coastal Heritage Journey
Online	Galway City Council Social Media	The Gaillimh na Rún series

All events are FREE of charge. However, for some events booking is required. Please refer to the event details for more information.

SATURDAY 16th

Merlin Park Castle Guided Tour

11am - 12pm

Meeting point

Community Garden, Merlin Park

No booking required.

Event not wheelchair accessible

Merlin Park is rich in archaeology and history with monuments dating to prehistoric times. Join Martin Fitzpatrick, Archaeologist of Through Time Ltd, to discover the archaeology and history of the site and find out more about his archaeological discoveries during excavations.

Guided Walk Ragoon

11am - 12pm

Meeting point

Millers Lane, Pitch, Ragoon Road, Galway

Booking required.

Event accessible.

Join local history enthusiast John Connolly, TD, for a heritage walk through some of Ragoon's most significant sites. The tour begins at Miller's Lane, continues to Old Ragoon Cemetery, then on to the New Cemetery to visit notable graves, and finishes at Ragoon House.

Heritage Week Tour: The Claddagh Ring

12pm - 12:45pm

Meeting point

**Galway City
Museum**

Booking required: 091 532460 or
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and
young people aged 10+

The Galway City Museum houses the oldest known Claddagh Ring, crafted around 1700 by Richard Joyce, a slave-turned-silversmith from Galway. Having been made and worn in Galway for over 300 years, the Claddagh Ring symbolises the city and Irish identity worldwide, especially among the Irish Diaspora.



SUNDAY 17th

The Way of the Witch – Slí na Cailleach - Guided Tour

11am - 12pm

Meeting point
Community Garden, Merlin Park

No booking required. Suitable for children and adults. Please wear suitable footwear.

One of the smallest sheela na gigs in Ireland is to be found at Doughiska Castle, Merlin Park. Fiona Rooney and Tina De Burca of Through Time Ltd will explore the folklore plans and archaeology of the area in the context of wise women and sheela na gigs.



MONDAY 18th

Forthill Cemetery: Guided Tour

11am - 12pm

Meeting point
Inside front gate at Mortuary
Chapel, Forthill Cemetery,
Loughatalia Rd.

Booking required:
www.galwaycity.ie/heritageweek
Not accessible. Please wear suitable footwear

Cemeteries are a rich source of history, genealogy and archaeology. To walk through this place is to review the history of western Ireland, starting with the Armada, passing through the Great Famine in the 19th century and political unrest in the 20th, to the present day. Join Jacinta Kiely for a walk and talk on the family plots of the Tribes of Galway, history of Augustinians, architecture and genealogy of the site of the Forthill fort and cemetery



Roscam Graveyard, Church and Round Tower Guided Tour

2pm to 3pm

Meeting point

**Roscam, end of road to shore,
assemble in front of entrance gate
on your right; round tower visible on
your right.**

Booking required:

www.galwaycity.ie/heritageweek

Not accessible. Please wear suitable
footwear

A hidden treasure on the edge of the Bay, Roscam graveyard boasts a church, round tower, bullaun stones, and other features. Join us for a guided tour of the history, archaeology, folklore and maritime heritage of this important site and vicinity.



TUESDAY 19th

Forthill Cemetery: Guided Tour

11am - 12pm

Meeting point

**Inside front gate at Mortuary
Chapel, Forthill Cemetery,
Loughatalia Rd.**

Booking required:

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Heritage Week Tour: The Statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire

12pm - 12:45pm

Meeting point
Galway City Museum.

Booking required: 091 532460 /
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and
young people aged 10+

Born by the docks in Galway in 1882, Patrick Joseph Conroy (Pádraic Ó Conaire) became the most important Irish-language writer of his generation. When he died in 1928, the Gaelic League commissioned Dublin sculptor Albert Power to create a memorial statue. Unveiled in Eyre Square in 1935, it quickly became a Galway landmark. The statue was beheaded in 1999 and afterwards moved into Galway City Museum for safekeeping. A bronze replica now sits in its place in Eyre Square.

Roscam Graveyard, Church and Round Tower Guided Tour

2pm - 3pm

Meeting point
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assemble in front of entrance gate
on your right; round tower visible on
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Booking required:
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Galway's Places and Spaces by Bike

6:30pm - 8pm

Meeting point
Spanish Arch

Length of route: Approx 9km.
Booking required, visit
www.galwaycity.ie/heritageweek



Join Galway City Council's Architectural Conservation Officer, in partnership with the Galway Cycling Campaign, for a cycle through Galway City's past. The meandering route will take in the places and spaces that have developed and defined Galway from the post-medieval period. From past industrial prowess, the rise of Galway as a student town, to social changes in the Claddagh. The evolution of Galway is borne out in the architecture and structures of the city, and all have a story to tell.

Talk on the History of Mechanics Institute

7:30pm - 8:30pm

Meeting point
Galway Mechanics Institute, Middle St, Galway

Not accessible. No booking required



There has been a Mechanics' Institute in Galway for almost 200 years. Since the 1840s, it has occupied its present headquarters in Middle Street. In this talk for Heritage Week, Dr John Cunningham of the University of Galway will discuss the local importance of the Institute, and trace its changing priorities over the decades: from artisan education and local improvement to workers' rights; from moral reform to sociability and sport

WEDNESDAY 20th

Heritage Week Tour: The Galway Shawl

12pm - 12:45pm

Meeting point
Galway City Museum

Booking required: 091 532460 /
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and
young people aged 10+

Shawls, once common in women's wardrobes for both fashion and warmth, came in many styles. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a Scottish-made shawl became so popular in western Ireland that it became known as the 'Galway Shawl.'



Heritage Matters: Women in Public Life in Galway

1pm to 2pm

Meeting point
Galway City Council, Council
Chamber, City Hall, College Road

Event accessible.
No booking required

This talk delivered by Historian Mary Clancy of University of Galway will consider how women of Galway shaped multiple strands of its public heritage. The historical visibility of women in social and political life is remarkable yet much is forgotten or overlooked. The talk will trace the participation of women in local political councils from the late 19th century to more recent times. In recalling contexts and personalities, the talk aims to strengthen narratives of public life in Galway.



Vernacular Heritage Survey Walking Tour: Ballindooley / Baile an Dúlaigh

7pm to 8pm

Meeting point
Fahy's Farm, Ballindooley,
Contact heritage@galwaycity.ie for directions.

Length of walk: Approx 1km.
No booking required.



THURSDAY 21st

Heritage Week Tour: The Great Mace of Galway

12pm - 12:45pm

Meeting point
Galway City Museum

Booking required: 091 532460 /
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and young people aged 10+

Galway City Council is currently undertaking a vernacular heritage survey of Ballindooley. Join us for a walking tour of Ballindooley / Baile an Dúlaigh to meet the project consultants, discover the unique aspects of vernacular heritage, learn about how the survey is being carried out, and how you can research your own area or building. The Galway City Council Biodiversity Officer will also be there to discuss how vernacular buildings and landscapes supports our flora and fauna.



Made around 1710 and presented to Galway by Mayor Edward Eyre, the Great Mace is an ornate silver piece decorated with the insignia of England, France, Scotland, Ireland, as well as the arms of Galway and the British royal family. Owned by US newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst from the 1930s to 1950s, it was returned to Galway in 1961.

Conservation & Archaeological Works at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church

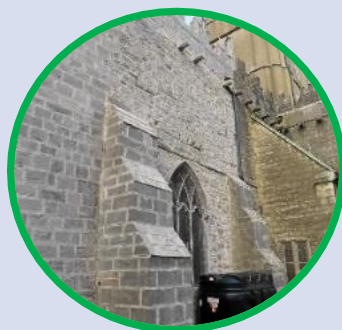
**12pm - 1pm
3pm - 4pm**

Meeting point
South porch, St Nicholas' Collegiate Church

Event accessible
Booking required, visit
www.galwaycity.ie/heritageweek

Recent conservation work has revealed that this church is older than previously believed. Join archaeologist Frank Coyne, for a fascinating talk as we journey back in time to explore the discoveries made during recent conservation and archaeological work.

Learn how the church is being carefully conserved and restored to remain at the heart of Galway for generations to come.



FRIDAY 22nd

Talk on Conservation, Flora and Fauna of Menlo Castle

11am - 12pm

Meeting point:
At the entrance gate to Menlo Castle

Not accessible.
No booking required.

When human activity recede, nature takes over. This is evident at Menlo Castle which is no longer home to a tribe or a landlord but indigenous species of birds and bats. Join Vincent Carragher, Conservation Ranger of National Parks & Wildlife Service as he explores the joys on natural heritage surrounding Menlo Castle.

Heritage Week Tour: The Galway Hooker

12pm - 12:45pm

Meeting point
Galway City Museum

Booking required: 091 532460 /
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and
young people aged 10+

Learn more about Galway Hookers, traditional boats from Galway Bay with black hulls and rust-red sails. They have a single mast with a mainsail and two foresails, and were used for fishing and carrying cargo like turf, seaweed, limestone, and livestock, these sturdy boats are iconic symbols of Galway's maritime heritage.



Saturday 23rd

The Story of Living by the Sea – A Coastal Heritage Journey

10am - 5pm

Meeting point
Galway Famine Ship Memorial,
Grattan Road

Booking required: 091 532460 /
museum@galwaycity.ie

Event accessible. Suitable for adults and
young people aged 10+

Join Galway City Museum and Galway Atlantaquaria for a special event at Grattan Beach, Salthill. Celebrate this year's theme, "Exploring Our Foundations," with seaside storytelling, fossil hunting, and shoreline discovery. Open to all ages, this event offers a unique chance to connect with our natural heritage and uncover stories from the coast.

Menlo Castle Walking Tour

11am - 12:30pm

Meeting point

**At the gate to avenue leading to Menlo Castle, Galway
No booking required**



Standing majestically on the banks of the river Corrib, Menlo Castle echoes a sense of timeless mystery and asks us to question how people might have lived here. Join Archaeologist, Martin Fitzpatrick from Through Time Ltd for a walking tour with discussion of the Menlo castle, the families who lived there, and the ongoing conservation work, as well as a discussion of the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Corrib and its waterways.

Gaillimh na Rún

Online throughout Heritage Week

View:

Galway City Council Social Media



Discover hidden secrets of Galway City, where the streets reveal a contemporary identity informed by our history and language. This social media video series highlights the history of different places across the city Galway as Gaeilge

National Heritage Week is an annual celebration of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage...

...inviting us to foster a deeper appreciation for the heritage that shapes our identities and communities, ensuring its preservation for future generations

The programme for Galway City is brought to you by the Heritage Office of Galway City Council

For more information visit:
www.galwaycity.ie/heritageweek



National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage