Galway City Practical Information

Galway is well known for its relaxed social scene, lively atmosphere and colourful culture. Everything is ideally situated close together, so you can see a lot by simply walking around and observing. Eyre Square is a great place to start, as it is the main hub, from where you can wander to the Latin Quarter, where you'll find colourful streets, cafés, independent shops and plenty of street music. A walk along the River Corrib towards the Spanish Arch is a nice way to discover Galway's maritime past, and the nearby Galway City Museum is free and easy to pop into if you have an hour to spare.

Galway is renowned for its music and art scene, and visitors will often encounter live traditional music spilling out of pubs or being played informally on the streets.

Evenings provide an opportunity to relax in one of the city's many pubs, many of which prioritise conversation, local music, and a warm sense of welcome rather than late-night crowds.

Visiting Galway offers a wonderful mix of culture and tradition, and two must-see stops are the Town Hall Theatre and the Claddagh Jewellers. The Town Hall Theatre, located near the River Corrib, is the city's cultural heart, hosting a vibrant programme of plays, music, comedy, and festivals throughout the year, giving visitors a true taste of Galway's creative spirit. Just a short walk away, Claddagh Jewellers celebrate one of Ireland's most famous symbols of love and friendship: the Claddagh ring. Here you can learn about the ring's origins in the old fishing village of Claddagh and browse beautifully crafted pieces that make a meaningful souvenir of your time in Galway.

For those seeking fresh air or a scenic walk, Galway offers easy access to nature as it is ideally situated on the Wild Atlantic Way, a 2,500 km tourism route along one of the world's most dramatic coastal landscapes – from thrilling seascapes, cliffs, marine life, mountains, glens, loughs, trails and pathways. A short walk or bus ride (on the 401 bus) brings visitors to Salthill Promenade, where views of Galway Bay stretch out toward the Atlantic and the Aran Islands beyond. The promenade is ideal for a leisurely stroll, and it is customary for locals to "kick the wall" at the far end of the walk; a small ritual that visitors are welcome to join! From the Prom, you can also see the iconic Blackrock diving tower and take a refreshing dip if you can brave the cold water! Salthill also offers Galway Atlantaquaria - Ireland's largest aquarium.

For people that like longer walks, a great place to start is the aptly named Long Walk, which continues down to Nimmo's pier, and from there, extends all the way to Mutton Island. This is a gorgeous spot to watch a sunset, take some photos, or simply enjoy the Galway wind!

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Mutton Island

Food and coffee are also part of the Galway experience. There's no shortage of relaxed cafés for a good cup of coffee or a light lunch, and plenty of restaurants offering fresh, local produce and seafood. The city is very walkable, so it's easy to dip in and out of places without planning too far ahead. McDonagh's Fish & Chip Bar is a famous spot to experience a traditional, family-run, Irish restaurant. The Galway Market is also a popular spot for local food, crafts, and people-watching.

We have complied a list of restaurants in Galway for your convenience.
Due to the busy summer period, we advise you to book ahead if you want to eat at a restaurant.

Park House Restaurant +353 (091) 564 924 reservations@parkhousehotel.ie	Aniar +353 (091) 535 947 food@aniarrestaurant.ie	Milano +353 (091) 568 488
Dela +353 (091) 449 252 Letseat@dela.ie	Cava Bodega (091) 539 884 bookings@cavarestaurant.ie	Rouge +353 (0)87 960 0157 rougerestaurantgalway@hotmail.com
McSwiggan's +353 (091) 568 917 reservations@mcswiggans.ie	Oscars Bistro +353 (091) 582 180 oscarsbistro@gmail.com	Hooked Seafood Restaurant +353 (091) 581 752
KAI Restaurant +353 (091) 526 003 hello@kaigalway.com	McDonagh's Fish and Chips +353 (091) 565 001 fish@mcdonaghs.net	Asian Tea House +353 (091) 563 749 info@asianteahouse.ie
Ard Bia +353 (091) 561 114 info@ardbia.com	Brasserie on the Corner +353 (091) 530 333 info@brasseriegalway.com	Il Vicolo Café & Wine Bar +353 (091) 530 515 bookings@ilvicolo.ie