

WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER

Week 1 (30th June – 6th July)

1st – 6th July

Connaught Fleadh Cheoil, Westport, Co. Mayo

Festival of traditional Irish music, song, dance and storytelling, celebrating the traditional Ireland.

www.westportce.ie

2nd – 6th July

Féile Brian Ború, Killaloe, Co. Clare

An annual five-day festival to commemorate Brian Ború. Most events are free of charge.

www.feilebrianboru.killaloe.ie

2nd – 6th July

Kells Summer Festival, Kells, Co. Meath

The Festival programme has music, comedy, family carnivals, street arts and workshops.

www.kellsfestivals.com

2nd – 12th July

Cairde Summer Festival, Sligo Town, Sligo

Cairde is a festival that celebrates diversity and invites participation from all members of the local community. Calendar of events includes theatre, dance, music, exhibition and workshop.

www.cairdefestival.com

4th – 6th July

Blackstairs Opera in the Gardens, Monksgrange, Rathnure, Co. Wexford

Opera and traditional music in surrounds and gardens of heritage houses. Two nights of opera at Borris House on Fri 4th and Sat 5th, Proms and Prams on Sun 6th.

www.blackstairsopera.com

4th – 6th July

Rosslare Harbour Festival, Rosslare, Co. Wexford

www.rosslareharbour.ie

4th – 6th July

All Ireland Open Dancing Championship, Gort, Co. Galway

20th Annual All-Ireland Open Festival of Dancing which includes waltzing, country jiving, rock and roll, tango, fox trot, etc.

www.allirelanddancing.ie

5th – 13th July

Clonmel Junction Festival, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Nine days and nights of theatre, music, dance and street entertainment.

www.junctionfestival.com

6th – 13th July

TriFest - Athlone's Summer Festival, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

This week-long festival offers a wide range of activities and events from Youth Aquathon through concerts to Vintage car rally.

www.trifest.ie

Week 2 (7th July – 13th July)

2nd – 12th July

Cairde Summer Festival, Sligo Town, Sligo

Cairde is a festival that celebrates diversity and invites participation from all members of the local community. Calendar of events includes theatre, dance, music, exhibition and workshop.

www.cairdefestival.com

5th – 12th July

Douglas Hyde 13th Annual Summer School of Traditional Irish Music, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

The summer school provides a perfect opportunity to learn or to polish up your traditional musical skills in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

www.douglashyde.com

5th – 13th July

Clonmel Junction Festival, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Nine days and nights of theatre, music, dance and street entertainment.

www.junctionfestival.com

6th – 12th July

West Cork Literary Festival, Bantry Town, Co. Cork

A literary festival that brings the best authors and the best tuition. Events for all ages.

www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie

6th – 13th July

TriFest - Athlone's Summer Festival, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

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www.trifest.ie

8th – 13th July

Galway Film Fleadh, Galway City, Co. Galway

A six-day event screening the best in Irish and world cinema.

www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

9th – 13th July

MBNA Shannon International Music Festival, Limerick

There is a carnival flavour to this year's festival as salsa, tango, trad and jazz are added to the orchestral and chamber music mix.

www.irishchamberorchestra.com

10th – 13th July

Lough Ree Environmental Summer School and Arts Festival, Lanesborough, Co. Longford

Embracing an innovative approach to education, this popular summer school escapes the confines of the classroom and takes participants on interactive lessons out in the environment.

www.loughree.com

10th – 20th July

Earagail Arts Festival, Co. Donegal

This festival offers exciting, high-quality, bi-lingual programme of arts activities across North Donegal.

www.eaf.ie

10th – 20th July

Killarney Summerfest, Killarney. Co. Kerry

One of Ireland's premier family festivals mixing large outdoor concerts with an eclectic range of activities to appeal to all ages.

www.killarneysummerfest.com

11th – 20th July

Ballina Salmon Festival, Ballina Town, Co. Mayo

Annual family orientated festival with a packed calendar for all.

www.ballinastreetfestival.ie

12th July

Pig 'N' Porter Tag Rugby Festival, Limerick, Co. Limerick

<http://pignporter.com/>

12th – 20th July

Kinsale Arts Week, Kinsale, Co. Cork

A multi-disciplinary arts festival featuring visual art, theatre, music, literature, film, dance, architecture and family entertainment.

www.kinsaleartsweek.com

Week 3 (14th July – 20th July)

10th – 20th July

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www.killarneysummerfest.com

12th – 20th July

Kinsale Arts Week, Kinsale, Co. Cork

A multi-disciplinary arts festival featuring visual art, theatre, music, literature, film, dance, architecture and family entertainment.

www.kinsaleartsweek.com

14th – 19th July

Encore – 2nd International Summer School, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Learn classical and traditional Irish music from visiting tutors from Vienna, Melbourne and Dublin.

www.encoremusic.ie

14th – 27th July

Galway Arts Festival, Galway City, Co. Galway

Ireland's exciting and imaginative explosion of the contemporary arts.

www.galwayartsfestival.com

15th July – 31st August

Theatre by the lake, Gougane Barra, Macroom, Co. Cork

www.gouganebarrahotel.com

17th – 20th July

Phoenix Festival, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Extreme arts and cultural celebration.

www.phoenixfestival.ie

18th – 20th July

JFK Dunbrody Festival, New Ross, Co. Wexford

Free open-air concerts, crafts, sports and street entertainment for all ages. Activities on Dunbrody famine ship.

www.jfkunbrodyfestival.org

18th – 20th July

Kingspan Muckno Mania, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

A fun-filled family festival held in Castleblayney each July.

18th – 27th July

Feile Iorras, Belmullet and Erris, North Mayo

Arts festival featuring top Irish and international folk arts performances and workshops.

www.feileiorras.org

19th – 20th July

Roundstone Regatta, Connemara, Co. Galway

One of the oldest traditional sea festivals in Ireland, incorporating the sailing of traditional vessels and rowing competitions in canvas Currachs.

www.roundstoneregatta.com

19th – 25th July

21st Gerald Manley Hopkins Festival, various venues in Co. Kildare

Celebrating the writer's links with Kildare and his interests: poetry, painting, music and the arts.

www.gerardmanleyhopkins.org

Week 4 (21st July – 27th July)

14th – 27th July

Galway Arts Festival, Galway City, Co. Galway

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www.gerardmanleyhopkins.org

21st July – 16th August

Summer Music on the Shannon, Limerick City, Co. Limerick

A classical summer music school and festival for all instrumentalists and young opera singers, with no barriers to admission based on age, level of ability or financial disadvantage.

www.summermusicontheshannon.com

23rd – 27th July

Cork International Folk Dance Festival, Cork City and County

Selection of top international folk dance groups performing in venues throughout Cork City and County.

www.corkfolkdancefest.com

24th – 27th July

Coolaney Summer Festival, Coolaney, Co. Sligo

An annual fundraising event organised by Coolaney Development Company. Events include arts, music, sports and a celebration of Coolaney's rural heritage.

www.coolaneydevco.ie

25th July – 4th August

Irish Parachute Club Boogie, Clonbullogue, Co. Offaly

www.skydive.ie

25th July – 1st August

Boyle Arts Festival, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The festival combines the contemporary with the traditional and features visual art, music, family events and workshops.

www.boylearts.com

19th – 20th July

ISPCA Annual Festival, Keenagh, Co. Longford

The weekend begins with an Equine Awareness Day on Saturday with Positive Horsemanship, Equine Touch, Donkey Care, Equine Psychology, Farrier and Equine Dentist Demonstrations and continues with traditional Family Day which will be packed with many exciting activities.

www.ispca.ie

26th July – 8th August

Yeats International Summer School, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

One of the oldest summer schools in Europe, focusing on the life and works of W.B. Yeats.

www.yeats-sligo.com

27th July – 4th August

Belturbet Festival of the Erne, Belturbet, Co. Cavan

Ten-day angling and family festival with outdoor music, various water events on River Erne, late night entertainment and fireworks.

www.ernefestival.com

Week 5 (28th July – 3rd August)

25th July – 4th August

Irish Parachute Club Boogie, Clonbullogue, Co. Offaly

www.skydive.ie

26th July – 8th August

Yeats International Summer School, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

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www.ernefestival.com

27th July – 4th August

O'Carolan International Harp & Traditional Music Festival, Keadue, Co. Roscommon

Summer school of traditional music, song, set dancing, sean nós dancing, lectures, music sessions and céilís.

www.ocarolanharpfestival.ie

28th July – 1st August

SprOg – Annual Children's Festival, Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford

Theatre, art, dance, puppetry, music. Festival for children aged five and over.

www.garterlane.ie

29th July – 3rd August

Cahersiveen Festival of Music and the Arts, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry

The Festival will have loads of events for all the family including traditional concerts, sessions, workshops, set dancing, busking competitions, street entertainment, pipe band, deep sea angling competition and much much more.

www.celticmusicfestival.com

30th July – 5th August

Castletownshend Maritime Week, Castletownshend, Co. Cork

Events include children's fancy dress parade, vintage tractors, annual maritime masses, an evening of classical music at St. Barrahanes Church and a lecture on local history.

31st July – 4th August

The World Fleadh, Portlaoise, Co. Laoise

This weeklong festival comprises live concerts from international acts, master classes, world title competitions, Ireland's biggest session trail, ceilis and fringe events.

www.theworldfleadh.com

31st July – 4th August

39th Glenfarne Gala Festival, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim

www.glenfarne.com

1st – 3rd August

Spraoui Festival, Waterford City, Co. Waterford

An annual riot of colour, energy and excitement. And it's all free!

www.spraoui.com

1st – 3rd August

Ballyshannon Folk & Traditional Music Festival, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

A weekend of Irish traditional and folk music including nightly concerts, street concerts, busking competition, workshops and pub entertainment programme.

www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com

1st – 3rd August

James Morrison Traditional Festival, Riverstown, Co. Sligo

This years festival will honour the life and times of Sonny Flynn, John Walsh, Mark Ryan, Brendan McCabe, Ned Morrison and Pat & Ellie Osbourne.

www.morrison.ie

1st – 3rd August

The Beast of Ballyhoura Adventure Race and the Blitz, Ballyhoura, Co. Limerick

The Beast of Ballyhoura is 28+ hour adventure race designed to challenge the top adventure racers in Ireland. The Blitz will last between 5 to 7 hours and consists of hill-running and mountain biking over marked trails.

www.ballyhourabeast.com

1st – 4th August

Sean McCarthy Memorial Weekend, Listowel, Co. Kerry

The programme features a ballad competition, storytelling, dancing, children's art and a bog walk.

www.finugeweekend.com

2nd – 4th August

Castle Palooza Music and Arts Festival, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Ireland's most intimate, exclusive 2-day boutique music festival! Set in the breathtaking surrounds of Charleville Castle.

www.castlepalooza.com

2nd – 10th August

Carlow Floral Festival Trial, Gardens around Co. Carlow

Flower and garden lovers simply cannot afford to miss Carlow's Floral Festival Trail. A flower and garden extravaganza with informative lectures and demonstrations.

www.carlowfloralfestival.com

3rd – 4th August

Stradbally Steam Rally, Stradbally, Co. Laois

This is considered by many to be the premier event in the calendar of steam and vintage shows throughout Ireland.

Week 6 (4th August – 10th August)

26th July – 8th August

Yeats International Summer School, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

One of the oldest summer schools in Europe, focusing on the life and works of W.B. Yeats.

www.yeats-sligo.com

3rd – 4th August

Eco Lunasa – Celtic Environmental Festival, Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly

Ireland's first carbon neutral festival will feature world music and dance, an organic food fair, renewable energy displays and workshops, vendors, exhibitors, inspiring events and speakers.

www.ecolunasa.com

3rd – 10th August

41st Clonmany Festival, Clonmany, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

One of Donegal's oldest festivals with eleven of Ireland's top bands playing open-air nightly.

www.clonmany.com

5th – 10th August

The Sliabh Luachra Summer School, Rockchapel, Co. Cork

Summer school promoting traditional music, song and dance of the Sliabh Luachra area.

www.sliabhluachra.com

6th – 10th August

Fáilte Ireland Horse Show, RDS, Dublin

A celebration of Ireland's affinity with the horse, from show horses to show jumpers.

www.dublinhorseshow.com

6th – 12th August

Feakle International Traditional Music Festival, Feakle, Co. Clare

Seven days of music, song and dance with concerts, ceilis, sessions, street theatre and entertainment.

www.feaklefestival.ie

8th – 10th August

Irish Green Gathering, Woodbrook House, Enniscorthy

A family festival with only the best local and organic food and drink, loads of interesting eco discussions, stalls and films, a lovely woodland healing area with therapists, dancers and a chai tent, and a music line-up.

www.irishgreengathering.com

8th – 17th August

Carrick Water Music Festival, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

5-day music festival of Opera, Jazz, Classical and Trad music with fringe events.

www.carrickwatermusic.com

8th – 17th August

Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny City and County

Annual international multi-arts festival in the medieval city of Kilkenny. Includes an extensive programme for young people.

www.kilkennyarts.ie

9th – 10th August

Annagassan Viking Festival, Annagassan, Co. Louth

2 days of family events & attractions of Viking & Irish culture, on land & sea. And it's all free.

www.annagassanvikingfestival.com

10th August

Tullamore Show, Charleville Estate, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The Ultimate Country Lifestyle Showcase. Enjoy the exhibits, savour the showings, crave the carriage driving, delight in the dancing or simply be in awe of the atmosphere.

www.tullamoreshow.com

10th – 12th August

Puck Fair, Killorglin, Co. Kerry

One of Ireland's oldest festivals, 12 hours of free entertainment, horse fair, cattle fair and fireworks display.

www.puckfair.ie

[Week 7 \(11th August – 17th August\)](#)

8th – 17th August

Carrick Water Music Festival, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

5-day music festival of Opera, Jazz, Classical and Trad music with fringe events.

www.carrickwatermusic.com

8th – 17th August

Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny City and County

Annual international multi-arts festival in the medieval city of Kilkenny. Includes an extensive programme for young people.

www.kilkennyarts.ie

10th – 12th August

Puck Fair, Killorglin, Co. Kerry

One of Ireland's oldest festivals, 12 hours of free entertainment, horse fair, cattle fair and fireworks display.

www.puckfair.ie

13th – 17th August

Eigse Mrs Crotty Festival of Concertina Music, Kilrush, West Clare

A celebration of the music of Elizabeth Crotty. The festival's broad musical programme of events appeals to both veterans of the concertina and newcomers to the craft alike.

www.eigsemrscrotty.com

13th – 17th August

Masters of Tradition, Bantry, Co. Cork

A celebration of traditional music in its purest form.

www.westcorkmusic.ie

15th – 17th August

Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Dance Festival, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

An International Street Dance Festival with parades, street dancing of all types, workshops, competitions & dances. A parade & fireworks display on Vinegar Hill will provide a closing spectacle for the weekend.

15th – 22nd August

40th Annual Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival, Birr, Co. Offaly

A celebration of Birr's history, heritage and contemporary culture with a dynamic range of vintage and modern events.

www.birrvintageweek.com

16th – 23th August

ESB Beo Celtic Music Festival, National Concert Hall, Dublin

The National Concert Hall showcases the best in traditional music with lunchtime concerts, evening concerts, workshops and much more.

www.nch.ie

17th – 22nd August

Connemara Pony Show, Claddaghduff, Connemara, Co. Galway

Local show with in hand and ridden classes for Connemara ponies and cattle, sheep and dogs. Family entertainment provided.

17th – 24th August

Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The largest festival of Irish music, song and dance ever, with over 200,000 people gathering from all over the world, during this week long cultural celebration.

www.fleadh2008.com

Week 8 (18th August – 24th August)

17th – 24th August

Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The largest festival of Irish music, song and dance ever, with over 200,000 people gathering from all over the world, during this week long cultural celebration.

www.fleadh2008.com

20th – 24th August

Terryglass Arts Festival (10th Anniversary), Terryglass, Co. Tipperary

A family focused festival that brings a diverse range of artistic events and experiences to a broad range of people.

www.terryglassartsfestival.ie

21st – 24th August

Bluegrass Festival, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford

Ireland's largest free music festival with a line up of International and Irish Bluegrass acts.

www.waterford-dunmore.com

22nd – 24th August

Festival of World Cultures, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Annual International Arts Festival, celebrating artistic traditions from around the world through concerts, club nights, theatre, dance, circus, markets and exhibitions.

www.festivalofworldcultures.com

22nd – 24th August

Kilmallock Medieval Festival, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

A three day event featuring concerts, medieval market, medieval re-enactment and a medieval fun day.

www.kilmallockmedievalfestival.com

22nd – 26th August

Rose of Tralee, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Celebrating 49 years in 2008, the festival celebrates Irish culture and heritage among its citizens and diaspora.

www.roseoftralee.ie

15th – 24th August

Earwig Tuam Arts Festival, Tuam, Co. Galway

A mix of local, national and international spectacle, theatre, music, comedy literature, visual arts and family events.

23rd – 24th August

The Flat Lake Literary and Arts Festival, Hilton Park, Clones, Co. Monaghan

The Flat Lake Literary & Arts Festival is where 'High Art' meets 'Popular Culture' and says... "have you seen Brendan Bowyer's King Lear in the Butty Barn?.. it's seminal".

www.theflatlakefestival.com

24th August

Irish Walled Towns' Day, Nationwide

Irish Walled Towns' Day 2008 will be held in historic walled towns throughout the island of Ireland

www.heritageweek.ie

Week 9 (25th August – 31st August)

30th – 31st August

Irish Game & Country Fair, Birr Castle, Co. Offaly

This Fair is not only designed to appeal to hunting, shooting and fishing enthusiasts but all those who live, work or play in the Irish Countryside.

www.irishgameandcountryfair.com