

TOP ATTRACTIONS

Wells House offer a variety of fun adventure activities including Clay Pigeon Shooting. Clay Pigeon Shooting for novice and experienced shooting, Archery, Falconry and an adventure playground for young adventurers!

Hook Head Lighthouse – voted the world's most 'Flashiest' Lighthouses by The Lonely Planet. The Visitor Centre at Hook Lighthouse is at the tip of the Hook Peninsula. The centre offers guided tours of the lighthouse tower, one of the oldest operational lighthouses in the world.

A visit to the **Irish National Heritage Park** is like no other you can imagine. Surprises await around every turn from campsite to Ringfort, from mill to Fulacht Fiadh, from Crannog to Viking house, every activity is an unexpected adventure delving into 9,000 years of history.

The harmony between great Victorian revival castles and their surrounding ornamental grounds is rarely seen to such perfection as at **Johnstown Castle**. **The Irish Agricultural Museum** is a premier cultural site also located at Johnstown Castle.

Recently renovated and refurbished, **Enniscorthy Castle** explores the development of the castle and town from its earliest 12th Century Anglo-Norman origins, through the 16th century. The exhibitions also explore the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy and the work of Irish furniture designer and architect Eileen Gray born in 1878 just outside Enniscorthy.

The Dunbrody was a 19th Century three-masted sailing ship that brought many emigrants from Ireland to North America during and after the Great Famine. An exact replica of this 176ft long 19th century ship was constructed and completed in 2001. Today she rests at the New Ross quay beside a fascinating state-of-the-art visitor centre and The Irish American Hall of Fame.

The beautiful **Kilmore Quay** a small fishing village and is noted for its white washed thatched cottages and relaxed and friendly atmosphere. A favourite with anglers, wildlife lovers and families, fishing boats ferry day trippers out to the famous Saltees Islands from the quay.

The National 1798 Visitor Centre in the shadow of Vinegar Hill in Enniscorthy tells the epic and heroic tale of the 1798 Rebellion and its aftermath using the latest multi-media and interactive exhibits.

Dedicated to the memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States from 1960 to 1963, **The JFK Arboretum** is a plant collection of international standing. The Memorial Park includes woodland walks, playground, tree houses, lake with ducks and fish to feed. A miniature train and a pony and trap operate during high season. Six different counties can be seen from the spectacular viewing points on Slieve Coilte.

Wexford Harbour and its Slobbs are natural havens for birds and **Wexford Wildfowl Reserve** is a haven for birdwatchers and enthusiasts.

Ferns Castle was built in the 13th century, possibly by William, Earl Marshall. Originally, the castle formed a square, with large corner towers. Now, only half of the castle now remains. The most complete tower contains a fine circular chapel, with carved ornaments.

The National Opera House is Ireland's first custom-built, multi-purpose opera house. The stunning landmark building is nestled in the heart of the beautiful Harbour town of Wexford and offers two diverse performance spaces.

VISIT WEXFORD

The heart of the Sunny South East of Ireland, County Wexford has it all. From undulating countryside to rolling waves, to pretty coastal villages and vibrant Wexford town to the rolling rich green fields of peaceful rural Wexford to the golden sands of over 200 kilometres of Wexford coastline.

Family fun is never short on offer in Wexford. The county's towns and villages are fun filled centres where food, crafts, gardens, history and cultural activities are everyday events.

Wexford is an exciting place to holiday with children, offering miles of clean sandy beaches, forest walks and the Irish National Heritage Park to name but a few. Whether the weather demands an ice cream or umbrella there is always something to do!

For more information on holidaying in Wexford see

www.visitwexford.ie

www.facebook.com/visitwexford

Twitter @visitwexford



design: www.fleurcreative.ie

WEXFORD FESTIVAL GUIDE 2015



WEXFORD
SO OLD, SO NEW
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MARCH

17th: St. Patrick's Day

Wexford Town's St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the oldest parades in the country - it started back in 1917 and continued until the outbreak of World War II and in 1946 the tradition was continued. Come along and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Wexford Town in many of the other towns and villages this year.

Location: Wexford Town and County-wide

APRIL

4th – 6th: Gorey 3 Day

The 49th Gorey 3 Day Cycling race takes place over the Easter Weekend. The popular race has hosted many cycling greats over the years.

Location: Gorey

10th-18th: 63rd All-Ireland Confined Drama Final 2015

Experience nine nights of great drama as nine of the best drama groups in Ireland compete in the All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals in Kilmuckridge having qualified from preliminary festivals all over Ireland over the past few months.

Location: Kilmuckridge



MAY

30th April-4th May: Jest Fest

Enjoy a variety of comedy in Wexford Town's local bars, restaurants and hotel venues, street theatre and family fun for all.

Location: Wexford Town

1st-4th: Hook Lighthouse Maritime Matters Festival

On the grounds of Hook Lighthouse, this festival showcases the rescue services, fun for all the family, local crafts, live music, childrens workshops, lovely food and much more.

Location: Hook Head Peninsula

2nd-4th: Zorrofest

This festival for the whole family celebrates all things Mexican and related to the life of the Irish Zorro, William Lamport. This year the festival celebrates the 40th anniversary of William Lamport and also the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Ireland. In addition to this weekend of family fun and activities, on the 8th of May there will be a day of lectures where Fabio Troncarelli, the Italian historian who claims Lamport's story was the inspiration for that of Zorro, will be amongst the panel. As will Dra. Andrea Martínez, who was here at Zorrofest in 2013.

Location: Wexford Town

22nd-24th: Aims Choral Festival

A weekend of choral competitions for youth choirs, soloists and adults and related activities such as workshops and a gala concert.

Location: New Ross

21st-24th: Wexford Food and Wine Festival

The Wexford Food and Wine Festival is having its 7th Birthday, and following the huge success of the last six festivals, the festival has established itself as a must attend premier food and drink event.

Location: Wexford Town

30th-31st: Duncannon Fort Military Vehicle Re-enactment

Re-enactors from the Middle Ages through to the present times will be putting on performances, as well as a great array of Military vehicles from a number of different armies and eras. This year the festival welcomes a contingent from Enniscorthy, re-enacting the 1798 battle. There will be a medieval fair in the moat, WWI and WW2 battles, weaponry and archery. Don't forget to visit the museum, art gallery and café while you are there.

Location: Duncannon

JUNE

6th & 7th: Street Rhythms Dance Festival

A great family festival, which brings drum beats, dance and fun to the streets of Enniscorthy. A return of the old favourites - baby bop, magician, fairy tales in the castle, international dance acts and the old craft stalls. Keep an eye out for the Disney parade and some more amazing acts.

Location: Enniscorthy

20th-21st: Wexford Maritime Festival

Free, fun family festival with visiting boats, aircraft, emergency services, model boats, children's activities, artisan food and live entertainment - all overlooking Wexford Harbour.

Location: Wexford Town

21st: Dragon Sportive

A 130km and 75km cycle open to cyclists of all abilities run as part of the SKODA Cycle series.

Location: Enniscorthy

24th-28th: Strawberry Food Festival

The 48th Strawberry Food Festival Ireland with the two day All-Ireland Farmers Market Competition, is the place in Ireland to buy the BEST of food from Farmers Markets within. Events will have family fun such as the Teddy Bears Picnic, Fairytales in the Castle, A Taste of Wexford Strawberries Competition, Strawberry Queen Competition, and Nevin Maguire Cookery Demos. The night time is jammed with music with the new Roots Pub Trail and much more...

Location: Enniscorthy

26th-27th: Focal - Wexford Literary Festival

Literary festival with book launches, readings, inspirational talks, workshops, an open mic night and guest appearances from Irish and international authors.

Location: Enniscorthy

26th-28th: Byrne/Perry Summer School

The 21st Byrne/ Perry Summer School Summer School brings a very distinguished line of speakers from the academic world and politics to Gorey to address key historical events, trends and personalities. Participants have come from all parts of Ireland as well as regular attendees from the U.S. and U.K. The papers delivered at successive Schools have been published in four books. This year's programme will be available and bookings taken at Gorey Tourist Office.

Location: Gorey Library/Adult Learning Centre

JULY

3rd-5th: JFK Dunbrody Festival

A celebration of Irish American Relationships, celebrating music, culture and historical ties, while showcasing many local national and international artists.

Location: New Ross

3rd-7th: Irish America Day

An action packed programme of events for all the family throughout New Ross for Ireland's official July 4 celebrations, Irish America Day. Events include American Tea Parties, Music on the Quay, South Street Alfresco, Dunbrody Strongman Competition, All Ireland Piper Band Championship, Busker Sunday, Declaration of Independence and finished off with a Spectacular Fireworks Display

Location: New Ross

9th-12th: Kilmore Quay Seafood Festival

The 30th annual Seafood festival celebrates the very best of Seafood, Music, Street Theatre, Stalls, Exhibitions and the famous Seafood Platter.

Location: Kilmore Quay

12th: Sea Sunday

This one day festival has a little something for everyone. Taking place in Courtown Harbour, come along to take part or watch the raft racing, water sports and family fun.

Location: Courtown Harbour

12th-14th: Craanford Vintage Rally and Field Day

Craanford Vintage Rally and Field Day celebrates all the fun of the traditional Irish field day as well as showcasing vintage cars, trucks and tractors. Don't forget to bring your wellies!

Location: Craanford, Gorey

17th-19th: Rock'N'Roll & Food Festival

A weekend of celebration of the best of Irish and International R'n'R Bands together with "A Taste of Enniscorthy" Food Experience. The weekend will include Rock'N'Roll gig trails, a great variety of local food available in the open air in gazebo stalls, open air dancing, real craft fair, classic cars and child based family fun.

Location: Enniscorthy

27th-3rd August: Art in the Open Festival

Art in the Open 2015 is Ireland's annual international plein air painting festival. This unique festival offers the opportunity to take part in 'Painting outdoors; those who prefer to watch can enjoy observing artists creating paintings on the streets in unique settings throughout Wexford culminating in a wonderful exhibition.

Location: Wexford Town

AUGUST

30th July – 2nd August: Gorey Market House Festival

A family based festival featuring music, children activities, local food and arts and crafts exhibitions, this festival offers the very best in music, fashion and family fun.

Most activities are free and there is something for all the family to enjoy. North Wexford's premier open air Festival.

Location: Gorey

July 30th-August 3rd: Eileen Aroon Festival

This carnival and festival offers much fun and entertainment from in-pub entertainment including the annual Festival Queen and Best Escort competitions, Car Treasure Hunt, Walking History Tour of Bunclody, Walking Treasure Hunt for Children, Dog Show, Clay Pigeon Shoot, Pub Talent Competition, Pub Quiz Competition, Pub Theatre.

Location: Bunclody

3rd-4th: Vinegar Hill Battle Re-enactment

The Battle re-enactment explains the course of the most significant battle that took place during the 1798 Rebellion in Wexford. The event recalls the 30,000 men, women and children (20,000 rebels and 10,000 of the crown forces) who were on Vinegar Hill on that day in 1798.

Location: Vinegar Hill

7th-9th: The Duncannon Sandsculpting Festival

This festival is action packed with fun events on beautiful Duncannon beach, fantastic fireworks, beach party, magic and puppet shows, beach games, street theatre and sand sculpting and sandcastle building competitions.

Location: Duncannon Beach

16th: Tagoat Steam & Vintage Rally Vintage and Agricultural

The Tagoat Steam & Vintage Rally is a great day out for the entire family to enjoy with steam engine threshing, vintage tractors & cars, funfair & carnival, traditional crafts, live music, stalls & traders, a dog show and much more!

Location: Tagoat

22nd-23rd: Hooked Kitefest

The 6th Annual Hooked Kitefest offers an array of activities for young and old alike. The festival has evolved into a colourful music and kite extravaganza, this is the 3rd leg of the Irish Kitesurfing championship tour where some of Ireland's and Europe's best kitesurfers for junior, mens and womens course racing events.

Location: Duncannon Beach

SEPTEMBER

10th-12th: Kennedy Summer School

A festival of Irish and American history, politics and culture

Location: New Ross

11th-13th: Blackstairs Blues Festival

Blackstairs Blues Celebrates its 21st Festival in 2015. It is the longest running Blues Festival on this island. This year, Enniscorthy will enjoy the cream of local, Natinal and International Blues Artists & Bands over 3 days and nights up to 30 gigs, including 3 midnight gigs. All gigs are free to the public. The Balckstairs Blues also hosts Blues Workshops and brings Blues artists to our local schools.

Location: Enniscorthy

12th-13th: Motor Sport Weekend

A weekend jam packed with events for all motor sport enthusiasts to include the Wexford Rally

Location: Countywide

24th-27th: New Ross Piano Festival

A weekend focussed on the piano, pianists, and the immense piano repertoire. Several international pianists, the RTE Concert Orchestra and a piano trio have been engaged for the 10th edition of this exciting festival.

Location: New Ross

25th-27th: The Ebony & Irony Fringe Fest

This festival has been established in support of the Annual New Ross Piano festival to bring all thing keyboards and black and white to a wider audience. The festival is happening at the Brandon House Hotel, and other participating venues in New Ross, Co. Wexford. There will be a selection of Black and White themed events to honour the theme.

Location: New Ross

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

16th October-1st November: Wexford Fringe Festival

The 63rd Wexford Fringe will open in Wexford town to announce 17 days of fantastic fringe events. Running alongside the famous Wexford Festival Opera and Wexford Spiegeltent Festival.

Location: Wexford Town

15th-25th: Wexford Spiegeltent Festival

A festival of marvels and wonders, the best in music, comedy, opera, theatre, film and kids shows. Built around the magnificent 1920s Spiegeltent, The Wexford Spiegeltent Festival will turn Wexford Quay into a playground for the people and will offer a stupendous spectacle of events for everyone. This is just the tip of the very wonderful iceberg. Explore it all and dive into the wonderful world of Wexford Spiegeltent Festival.

Location: Wexford Town

21st October-1st November:

64th Wexford Festival Opera

Wexford Festival Opera, one of the top three opera festivals in the World, presents rarely performed and unjustly neglected operas to a world-class standard in the unique and intimate atmosphere of Wexford Town. The festival will open with a giant fireworks display.

Location: Wexford Town

Halloween in Wexford

Haunting Happenings take place all across Wexford for Halloween Festivals from schools of witches and wizards to ghost tours to fancy dress parties broom making and a 'Gorey' Halloween festival there is something for the brave and the not so brave. Halloween Weekend sees Gorey town host a 'Gorey Halloween Festival' with scary events on offer for all the family including Scary Storytelling, Fancy Dress.

Location: Countywide

Date TBC: Wexford Walking Festival

Taking place over three days throughout Wexford. Wexford Walking Festival events include guided walks along some of Ireland's most scenic spots.

DECEMBER

Wexford Winterland

An extravaganza Of Festivities And Events This Christmas In Wexford - Ice-Skating on the Quay, Christmas Family Movies "Selskar Under The Stars" and much, much more. Christmas Activities take place in various locations countywide.

ADVENTURE IN WEXFORD

From Surfing to Sailing and Fishing to Quad Biking and Archery there is a fun challenge for all enthusiasts in Wexford. The professional providers of these adventure sports will only be too happy to assist you and your family to plan a fun filled day out!

At **Loftus Hall** enjoy a cycle on the Hook Peninsula with bike hire available. Try some outdoor adventure sports and chill out at the Café afterwards.

Sailing Ireland offer Yacht Charter and Sailing Training, sight seeing trips to the magnificent Saltee Islands, Family group sailing holidays and Radio and navigation courses.

Enjoy a spot of Trout fishing at the tranquil **Loch Mahon Lakes**, Adamstown offering a variety of three spring fed lakes, with two lakes are dedicated to fly-fishing.

Take a trip to the seas with **Kilmore Angling**, enjoy a 6 hour trip, evening trip, a short evening fishing trip or a boat trips around the Saltee Islands spotting whales and dolphins.

Off the Hook with Martin Colfer offer brilliant Whale watching tours aboard the Rebecca C off the Southeast coast. When the whales have left our shores Angling trips are on offer aboard the vessel.

Try out some Kitesurfing or Stand up paddle boarding in Duncannon with **Hooked Kitesurfing**. Year round the KiteSurfing Centre offers lessons in the safe and shallow waters of Duncannon Beach.

Rosslare Activity Centre is a fun filled destination with a tower and ropes course, assault course, a cross country course, kayaking, snorkelling, golf, activity games and team building and the latest craze of foot golf.

Saltee Cruises offer wonderful sightseeing trips around the famous islands; enjoy birdwatching and nature watching.



Looking for an adrenalin rush, then head to **Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre**, Ramsgrange to enjoy some Outdoor Education, Rock Climbing, High Ropes, Caving, Coastering, Surfing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Archery, Team Building, Orienteering and Hillwalking.

The **Irish National Heritage Park** have a fun filled activity list on offer, try your hand at archery, spear throwing, coracle boats, viking shield making, guided tours, stayover in ringfort or pan for some gold!

Quad Attack, Clonroche offer an all weather adventurous cross country driving course plus an indoor activity crazy corral, sumo wrestling in bouncy castle, bungee run and a rodeo bull.

At **Leisure Max**, Wexford try out some bowling, zorbing, bungee run, sumo, table tennis, climbing wall, gladiator, foot ball pitch, play centre and pillow basher.

Head to Fethard-On-Sea with **Freedom Surf School** to take in the waves; with lessons and board hire on offer.

Your extreme adventure high ropes course starts at **Courtown Adventure & Leisure Centre**, take to the heights of the Gravity Forest Park and zip through the treetops. Also enjoy Laser Tag, Archery and a Swimming Pool with 65 Meter Giant Water Slide.

New Ross Coarse Angling at Oaklands Lake is a magnificent 4.5-acre man-made lake situated just outside the town of New Ross in the beautiful County Wexford. It is stocked with Carp, 14lb plus, Tench, Rudd and Bream.

Rosslare Watersports Centre at Rosslare Strand offers group and individual lessons in Windsurfing, Kayaking and Sailing plus a variety of summer camps.

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2015 WEXFORD RACE MEETS

Get to the racetrack at Wexford for a day at the races. Horse Racing in Wexford is always a good family day out in an informal atmosphere. The 2015 Wexford Racetrack fixtures are as follows:
March 17th - Tuesday afternoon NH
April 10th - Friday evening NH
May 9th - Saturday afternoon F
June 17th - Wednesday evening NH
July 3rd - Friday evening NH
July 24th - Friday evening NH
July 25th - Saturday afternoon F
August 29th - Saturday afternoon F
October 24th - Saturday afternoon NH
October 26th - Monday afternoon NH
November 17th - Tuesday afternoon NH