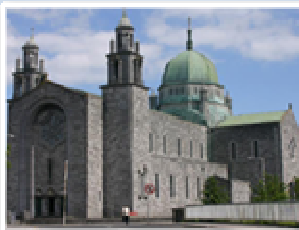


GALWAY

Galway (Irish: Gaillimh) is the fastest growing and the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland and the only city in the province of Connacht in Ireland. The city is located on the west coast of Ireland. In Irish, Galway is also called Cathair na Gaillimhe: "**City of Galway**".

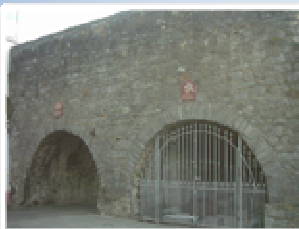
The city takes its name from the **Gaillimh river** (River Corrib) that formed the western boundary of the earliest settlement, which was called Dún Bhun na Gaillimhe, or the fort at the bottom of the Gaillimh. The word Gaillimh means "stony" as in "stony river".



The Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas (Irish Gaelic: Ard-Eaglais Mhaighdean na Deastógála agus San Nioclás), commonly known as Galway Cathedral is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Galway, Ireland and is one of the largest and most impressive buildings in the city. The cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora. Construction began in 1958 on the site of the old city jail, and in 1965 was finally dedicated by Cardinal Richard Cushing to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven (Mary, mother of Jesus) and St Nicholas.



Eyre Square (Irish: An Fhaiche Mhór) is an inner-city public park in Galway, Ireland. The park is within the city centre, adjoining the nearby shopping area of Williams Street and Shop Street. The park is rectangular, surrounded on by streets that form the major traffic arteries into Galway city centre although the West side of the Square was pedestrianised in 2006.



The Spanish Arch (Irish: An Póirse Spáinneach) was originally an extension of the town wall from Martin's Tower to the bank of the Corrib, as a measure to protect the town's quays, which were located in the area once known as the Fish Market (now Spanish Parade). It was constructed during the mayoralty of Wylliam Martyn in 1519-1520, been called ceann an bhalla (the head of the wall).



The Galway City Museum (Irish: Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe) is a museum in Galway City, County Galway, Ireland. It was founded on 29 July 2006, and is located beside the Spanish Arch.

The Galway International Oyster Festival is a food festival held annually in Galway during September, the first month of the oyster season. Inaugurated in 1954, it was begun by Great Southern Hotel manager, Brian Collins, and in 2000 was described by the Sunday Times as "one of the 12 greatest shows on earth" and was listed in the 1987 AA Travel Guide one of Europe's Seven Best Festivals.



The Galway Races is a weeklong Irish horse-racing festival that starts the last Monday of July every year. The races are held at Ballybrit race course in Galway, Ireland and are the only seven-day race meeting in Ireland (or the United Kingdom). The busiest days of the festival are Wednesday, when the Galway Plate is held, and Thursday, when the Galway Hurdle and Ladies' Day take place.

INFORMATION

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