



Go Visit Inishowen Donegal.Ireland **WILD IRELAND**



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Inishowen Tourist Office representatives attended the much anticipated Wild Ireland Launch at Burnfoot. This was the first day the resident animals were introduced to the general public and what a treat for those fortunate enough to tread the inaugural path of this innovative conservation venture. 'Wild Ireland' is the latest visitor experience to attract people from all regions to the North West of Ireland. Congratulations to Killian Mc Laughlin and his "Wild Ireland Crew" for creating a space as close to their natural environment as possible. Visit the variety of animals; wolves, bears, lynx, deer, otters, owls and more. Family friendly play areas with picnic benches are situated on site with a café and shop offering delicious tray bakes and mementos to purchase.

FÁILTE IRELAND LOCAL EXPERTS PROGRAMME

The Inishowen Tourism Team attended the Fáilte Ireland 'Know Donegal' Local Experts Workshop in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny recently. Attendees were given an insight on what's on offer for the potential tourist to the area; visitor attractions and experiences available throughout the Donegal region. It also provided a networking opportunity for the participants to engage with local stakeholders in the industry.

PHOTOS FROM IRELAND & ELENA SHUMILOVA PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

This tour was like no other; Brendan Diver provided an entertaining, interesting and scenic tour where he showed international and local photographers on the tour the most spectacular backdrops. We visited the Wild Alpaca Way, Carrickabraghy Castle, Lagacurry beach and many other beautiful sights in Inishowen. We stopped to refuel in the most beautiful cafe's and restaurants; Malin Townhouse, Farrens Bar and Seaview Tavern.

SLIABH SNEACHT HERITAGE TRAIL LAUNCH

Gabriel Doherty, manager of the Sliabh Sneacht Heritage Centre launched his Heritage Trail in conjunction with an event based on a medieval style banquet. It included traditional Irish Music and Irish Dancing with play performances from the Drumfries Young Singers Group. The play was excellent; the food was fantastic with young culinary enthusiasts serving with a smile. Music and dance accompanied the whole evening. Well done to all involved at the Sliabh Sneacht Centre. Gabriel's Heritage Trail at the centre has a timely introduction as the Inishowen Tourist Office has been working on a new campaign preparing trail guides for 2020 visitor season; Walking Trails, Beach Trails, an Arts & Crafts Trail and The Coastal Seafood Trail. Gabriel has collaborated on the Inishowen Heritage Trail with the team at the tourist office and this will be promoted as part of the Explore Inishowen Trails campaign for 2020. Heidi Doherty stated "As we are both Pobal supported organisations, it is hugely advantageous to work cohesively for community shared goals".



MALIN HEAD DEVELOPMENT/VISITOR EXPERIENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

Working together to inform the development of this unique and special place



Invitation to a Public Consultation Workshop

Currently awaiting updates from Fáilte Ireland regarding next stage in consultation process.

DONEGAL MARINE TOURISM CONFERENCE



Explore Inishowen attended a stand alongside Donegal Tourism CLG during The Donegal Marine Tourism Conference, which took place on 5th & 6th September at the Redcastle Hotel & Spa. The theme of this conference was 'Connecting our Coastline - A Transnational Approach to Sustainable Marine and Coastal Tourism'. Leas Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Cllr. Niamh Kennedy provided a welcoming address to the conference on the first day. Seamus Neely chief executive in Donegal County Council and chair of Donegal Tourism CLG, opened the conference reflecting on the county's progress over the last 10 years and stated "One of our unique advantages in Donegal is our strong culture of collaboration and this has been born out of a compelling need to work together and to overcome challenges to make sure that we are getting maximum value out of the resources we invest".

Speakers on the day provided an interesting range of thought provoking topics. Joan Crawford and Mark Rowlette delivered an insight into the work of Fáilte Ireland referencing the Wild Atlantic Way statistics and Ireland's Tourism Industry. William McElhinney gave us an insight into his business 'Wild Strands Caife' and how the idea of his business developed. Dr. Peter Bolan, Senior Tourism Lecturer, from University of Ulster spoke about effective marketing and cross-border promotional opportunities. He highlighted 'Film/Screen Tourism' as one such promotional opportunity – examples including Star Wars and Game of Thrones. On the final day Dr. Margaret Rae from Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA) talked about the Go Atlantic Blue Initiative with the key motive of celebrating our Atlantic Ocean and our connections to it.

IDP TOURISM WORKSHOP

The Inishowen Development Partnership hosted a Tourism Workshop on Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana and on Thursday 10th October at 7pm in the Foyle Hotel, Moville. The workshops formed part of a range of tourism supports related to the future Inishowen Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP). At the workshops, a range of topics were covered including; Assessment of the 2019 tourism season and LEADER funded training programmes designed to support the Inishowen VEDP. There was also an opportunity to network with other tourism businesses & festival organisers. The workshops were run in partnership with Donegal LCDC, Inishowen Development Partnership, Fáilte Ireland and Kittiwake Solutions.

POBAL WORKSHOP

On 10th October 2019 our Inishowen Tourism Team met with other CSP funded bodies in the North Leitrim Glens Development Company, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. Liam McKeever, Development Co-ordinator, Pobal talked about CSP in 2019: Overview and Key Expectations. Bernard Bolger, Development Co-ordinator, Pobal spoke about Traded Income and the CSP. Nora Mullen Finance Co-ordinator, Pobal provided a CSP Finance Overview. Networking and a Question and Answer Session was the final part of the day which concluded a very positive and informative *meeting*.

LAURENTIC CONFERENCE

The Larentic Commemoration and Forum, now in its 11th year was set up to remember the lives lost and the survivors of the sinking of the HMS Laarentic in 1917 with the loss of 354 lives. The Conference opened with a welcome address by the Mayor of Donegal Nicholas Crossan followed by an opening address from Helen Nolan, the chairperson of the Inishowen Development Partnership. There were a number of speakers over the 2 day conference including Garry Martin from the Donegal County Council, Tim Stampton, Traolach Ó Fionnáin and our manager Heidi Doherty. The theme of the conference was 'Sustaining Coastal Communities' and a booklet which accompanied the conference provided articles about Malin Head, HMCS Sackville, HMS Terror, the Inishowen peninsula and Fort Dunree.

CRANA FEST

If it's adventure you're after look no further. Spectators lined the riverside of the Crana River to get a glimpse of some of the talented kayakers Inishowen has ever seen. Crana Fest celebrated its tenth year this year and what an event it was. An event for all ages with even some night time action providing great entertainment.

DONEGAL CONNECT- #LOVEDONEGAL DAY

This was a hugely successful campaign in connection with Donegal Connect. The ‘Go Visit Inishowen’ Team tweeted throughout the day and were part of the core team supporting the campaign. Photos of Inishowen appeared across all social media channels and success of the campaign was evident in the results below. This Donegal Connect closing event offered a feast for all the senses with rich outdoor spectacle from LUXE – Donegal’s internationally renowned landscape theatre company, and featuring the music of the famously gifted Inishowen sisters, The Henry Girls. LUXE presented the Donegal Connect 2019 closing spectacle on Dunree Head. As the sun setted over the mountains to the West, they honoured the journeys that have been made from the safe deep waters of Lough Swilly. LUXE will take the audience on a soul journey: an “Imramh”, a tale from the Irish Mythologies told by our ancestors that mix stories of sea travel with the journeying of the soul.

Go Visit Donegal – The Inishowen 100 was the third of four tourism trips taking place as part of Donegal Connect on October 2nd with Tour Guide Henry Doohan. The tour started at the historic Grianán of Aileach ring fort, followed by Dunree Fort, Malin Head, Greencastle and even some kayaking with Inish Adventures!

#loveDonegal Twitter Day

THE RESULTS



TRAIL GUIDES UPDATE

We are finalising our promotional brochures for 2020. New editions to the Inishowen Trail Guides are set to launch with the visitor guide for 2020. The Coastal Seafood Trail, The Beach Trail are part of a series; The Walking Trail, The Arts & Crafts Trail and The Heritage Trail. These guides will be available from the Inishowen Tourist Office from January 2020. In addition to launching new print material in January, the team are excited to offer online promotion for tourism businesses from 2020 on their new website www.govisitinishowen.com .

Trail Guides: - front covers. Not to be displayed on the Newsletter. These they are not finalised for print as yet. They can be launched with the invites to Visitor Guide presentation in January Newsletter.

Next Trade update will be in the January 2020. If you have any events you would like us to promote please contact marketing@govisitinishowen.com



**Photo credit of Tullagh Bay (above): Paddy Doherty (PVD photography)
Next update will be in the Winter.**

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