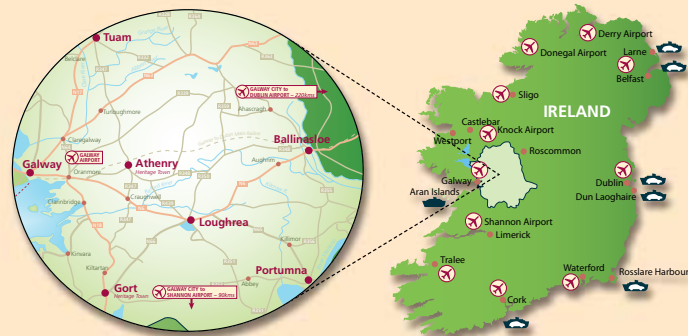


Listen to the story of Ballinasloe Take an audio walking tour

The English language audio-narrative to accompany this tour can be downloaded from www.galwayeast.com/wayfinding. This audio tour narrated by Dr Peter Harbison describes in detail each of the sites featured in this tour and can be listened to on your PC, or on an MP3 player while walking the tour. There are 5 other Walking Tours in this series: Athenry, Loughrea, Gort, Tuam and Portumna.

See also our Ecclesiastical Driving Tour for a comprehensive tour of the main religious sites in Galway East. For more information on any of the places described in this brochure, or for general information on Galway East, contact Galway East Tourism www.galwayeast.com



Éist le scéal Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe Gabh ar shiúlóid fuaimne

Is féidir an tráchtairacht fuaimne Béarla don turas seo a íoslódáil ó www.galwayeast.com/wayfinding. Tugann an turas fuaimne seo le tráchtairacht ón Dr. Peter Harbison mionchuntas faoi gach suíomh atá luaithe sa turas seo agus is féidir leat éisteacht leis ar do ríomhaire nó ar sheinnteor MP3 agus an siúlóid á dhéanamh agat. Tá 5 Shiúlóid eile sa tsraith seo: Baile Átha an Rí, Baile Locha Riach, An Gort, Tuaim agus Port Omna.

Féach freisin ar ár dTuras Tiomána Eaglasta do thuras cuimsitheach ar phríomhionaid chreidimh in Oirthear na Gaillimhe. Tá breis eolais faoi aon cheann de na háiteanna atá luaithe sa bhróisiúr seo, chomh maith le heolas ginearálta faoi Oirthear na Gaillimhe, ar fáil ó Thurasóireacht Oirthear na Gaillimhe ag www.galwayeast.com.



This tour was developed by Galway County Council, with Galway East tourism and funding from Fáilte Ireland.



Other Interests

1. Ballinasloe Horse Fair

The Ballinasloe Fair is one of Europe's oldest Horse Fairs. It is held in East Galway's principal town on the first week of October each year. It is estimated that the fair & festival is worth in excess of €8.5 million to the local economy and the multi nationalists that attend as well as our local community accumulate a total audience of approx. 85,000.

2. Aughrim Visitor Centre

Visitors can discover the original Twelfth of July and the roots of Ireland's turbulent history at this award-winning centre. The Battle of Aughrim - heard by the citizens of Galway over 35 miles away - was the final battle of the War of the Two kings James II and William of Orange. Tel: 09096 73939

3. Ballinasloe Farmers Market

This is a well established farmers market in Croffy's Yard, Main Street, which specialises in locally produced quality food. The market features fresh organic fruits and vegetables, organic meat and on Fridays fresh, locally caught fish.

4. River Suck - Course / Pike Angling

The River Suck is deep and slow, renowned as one of Ireland's most productive coarse fishing rivers. Shoals of bream are plentiful and throughout the summer, bags in excess of 100lbs are common. The stretch south of the town near Coreen Ford has an excellent stock of Tench and Rudd and Bream, Roach, Eels, Pike and Perch are also found on the river.



Nithe Spéisiúla eile

1. Aonach Capall Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe

Tá Aonach Capall Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe ar cheann de na hAonaigh Capall is sine san Eoraip. Tionóltar é i bpríomhbhaile Oirthear na Gaillimhe ar an gcéad sheachtain de Dheireadh Fómhair gach bliain. Meastar gur fiú an t-aonach agus an fhéile níos mó ná €8.5 milliún don eacnamaíocht áitiúil agus go mbíonn suas le 85,000 duine i láthair idir chuairteoirí ón iasacht agus mhuintir na háite.

2. Ionad Cuairteoirí Eachroma

Is féidir le cuairteoirí eolas a fháil faoin Dara Lá Déag d'Iúil agus faoi fhréamhacha corraithe stair na hÉireann san ionad seo a bhfuil gradaim buaite aige. Ba é Cath Eachroma - a chuala saoránaigh na Gaillimhe os cionn 35 míle ón láthair - an cath deireanach de Chogadh an Dá Rí, Séamus II agus Liam Oráiste. Teil: 09096 73939

3. Aonach Feirmeoirí Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe

Aonach seanbhunaithe feirmeoirí é seo i gClós Croffy, an Phríomhshráid, a dhíríonn ar bhia ar ardchaighdeán áitiúil. Tá torthaí agus glasraí úra orgánacha, feoil orgánach, agus ar an Aoine, iasc a gabhadh go háitiúil, ar fáil san aonach.

4. Abhainn na Suca - Garbhascaireacht agus Iascach Liúis

Abhainn dhomhainn mhall í Abhainn na Suca agus cáil uirthi mar cheann de na haibhneacha garbhascaireachta is táirgiúla in Éirinn. Bíonn scoileanna líonmhara brain ann agus is minic a ghabhtar málaí d'os cionn 100 punt meáchain. Tá stoc breá Cúramán agus Ruán agus Bran, Róistí, Eascainn, Liúis agus Péirse ar fáil san abhainn freisin taobh ó dheas den bhaile in aice le hÁth Coirín.

Ballinasloe

Architectural Walking Tour

Béal Átha na Sluaighe

Turas Siúlóide Ailtireachta



Introduction

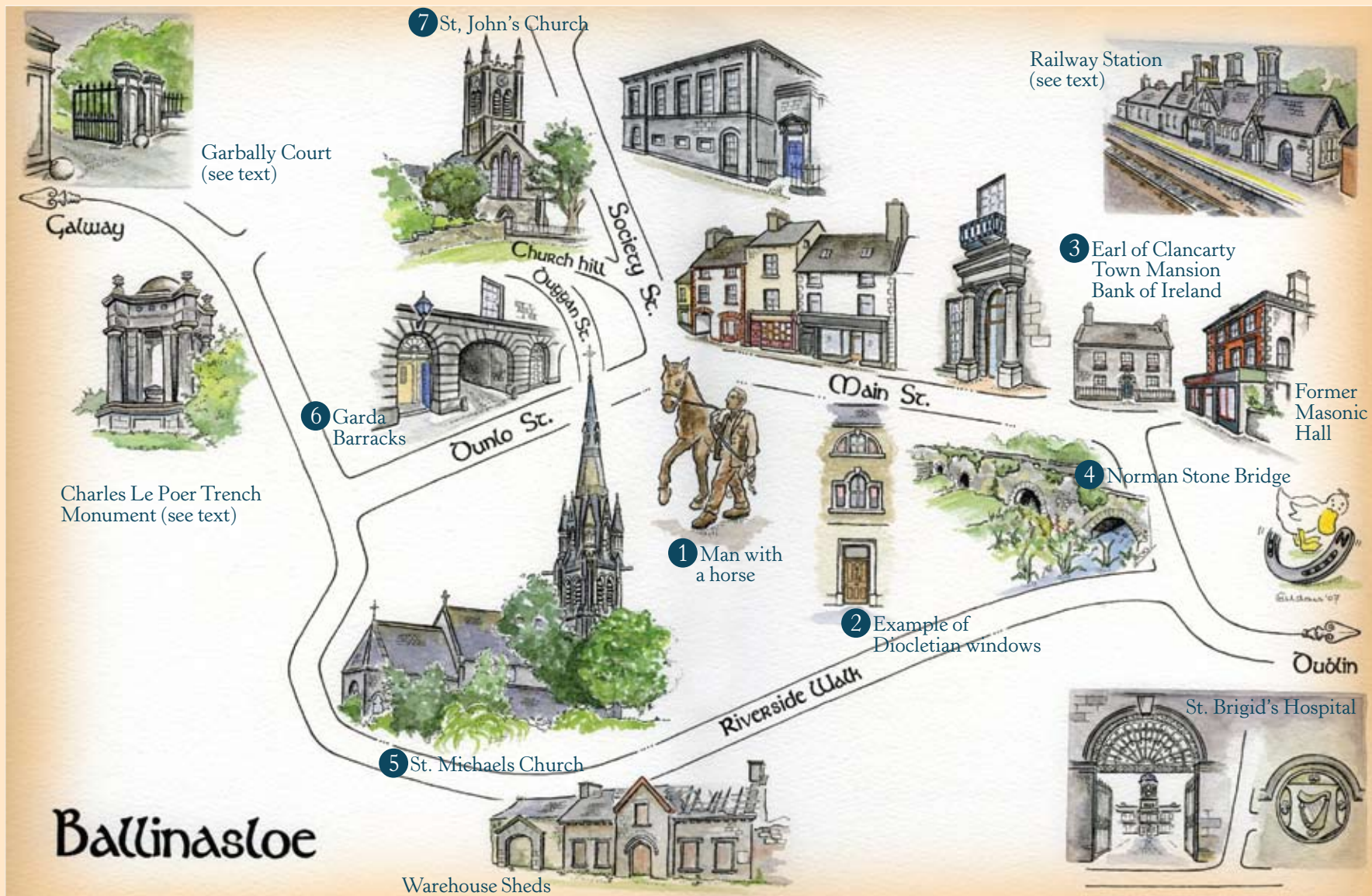
Ballinasloe is a fine market town. East Galway's most important urban centre, administered by its own Town Council, it achieved its eminence and prosperity through being an important transport hub; a feature which determined its expansion, particularly in the early 19th century. In 1824, Ballinasloe was linked by a canal to the River Shannon and, by extension, to the Grand Canal which provided cheap transport to Dublin. In the medieval period, it was the centerpiece of the old Irish territory known as Uí Maine, or Hy-Many, with the O'Kellys as its chieftains. In more recent centuries it has been synonymous with Ireland's most famous horse and livestock fair, The Ballinasloe Horse Fair.

The tour which follows will touch on the main points of interest and will suggest a few short excursions to the outskirts of the town.

Réamhrá

Is baile breá margaidh é Béal Átha na Sluaighe. Is é an t-ionad uirbeach is tábhachtaí in Oirthear na Gaillimhe é, lena Chomhairle Baile féin, agus d'eascair a thábhacht agus a shaibhreas as a bheith ina mhol tábhachtach iompair, gné a stiúraigh a fhás go háirithe go luath san 19ú haois. Nascadh Béal Átha na Sluaighe le hAbhainn na Sionainne le canál i 1824, agus dá réir sin, leis an Mhórchanáil a chur iompar saor ar fáil go Baile Átha Cliath. Sna meánaoiseanna bhí sé suite i lár seanchríche Éireannaigh darbh ainm Uí Maine, agus clann Uí Cheallaigh ina dtaoisigh uirthi. Le roinnt céadta bliain anuas samhláítear an baile leis an aonach capall agus beostoic is cáil-iúla in Éirinn, Aonach Capall Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe.

Díreoidh an turas seo a leanas ar na príomhphointí spéise agus molfar cúpla turas gearr go himill an bhaile freisin.



4 At the end of Main Street, head along Bridge Street, then turn to the right to the pathway which runs to the riverscape where you can see channels flowing through the several arches of the long stone bridge over the river Suck, one of the town's most precious monuments. The Bridge has been in continuous use since the 16th century and its extension in 1754 prepared it structurally to carry even the heaviest juggernauts of today.

5 Walk through to the far end of the park; you will approach St Michael's Church (1852-58) that stands in a commanding position over the Square. Its architect was J.J. McCarthy, a follower of Augustus Pugin (famed for other Neo-Gothic churches in Ireland) - and the design is said to have been revised by Pugin himself. Inside are many fine stained glass windows. Of particular quality are those of St. Patrick and St. Rose of Lima, of 1925, by the renowned Dublin stained glass artist, Harry Clarke and The Raising of the daughter of Jairus by Patrick Pollen, inserted in 1958.

6 From St. Michael's Church now walk up St. Michael's Square back towards the Man with the Horse Statue. Take a left into Dunlo Street, an important street in the history of the town, which contains, together with other buildings of about the same date, the late-Georgian Garda Barracks. The Barracks are towards the far end of the street, on the right hand side. Also on this street, over Dolan's Electrical Shop, you can see another fine example of Diocletian windows.

7 Halfway up Dunlo Street, turn right up Duggan Street, which will take you to St. John's Church (Church of Ireland - 1843). It dominates the vast Fair Green which becomes a hive of activity during one week every year when up to 100,000 people throng to the October fair. Look out over the Fair Green and admire one of the grandest freestanding classical monuments in the region. Dedicated to Charles Le Poer Trench, it was designed in the Neo-Greek style by the English architect George Papworth (1781-1855).

A mile past this monument on the main Galway road, South West of the town, the Earl of Clancarty's former country house is situated, where imposing gates mark the entrance to Garbally Court. It has been a school since 1923.

8 Walk down Church Hill onto Society Street and turn left, arriving at the Courthouse on the right. Society Street, like Main Street, was the 19th century location for the professional classes. As well as The Courthouse, it contains the former Bridewell (or gaol) from the 1840's.

Further along this street (about 10 minutes walk), Ballinasloe Railway Station is a must. Constructed in 1851, it is a neo-Gothic limestone tour-de-force and a fine example of the quality of rural Irish railway architecture in the mid-19th century.



1 Tosaigh ag an dealbh ar a dtugar An Fear leis an gCapall, mar a mbualann an Phríomhshráid le Cearnóg Mhíchíl. Trasnaigh in aice leis an dealbh, agus lean ort ar dheis isteach sa Phríomhshráid.

Is féidir saibhreas Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe sa tréimhse Seoirseach a fheiceáil i scála agus i stíl chlasaiceach na bhfoirgneamh anseo. Seasann grúpa breá de cheithre éadan trasna ón dealbh den Fhear leis an gCapall. Bíonn siopaí agus tábhairní ar an urlár talamh de ghnáth, agus roinnt urláir eile os a gcionn ar na háitribh seo sa Phríomhshráid.

2 Ag siúl leat ar an bPríomhshráid ardaigh do shúile chun ceann de na radhairc ar chuid de thréithe an bhaile é a fheiceáil os cionn na n-éadan. Is iad seo na fuinneoga Díocléiteacha grástúla ar éadain áirithe. Cuireadh iad seo isteach sna blianta tar éis 1805 nuair a bhí an dara hIarla i gceannas. Cruthaítear fuinneog mar seo faoi áirse leathchiorclach le dhá roinn ingearacha a roinneann an oscailt uile i trí chuid.

3 Agus tú i do sheasamh mar a dtagann Sráid an Droichid agus an Phríomhshráid le chéile feicfidh tú éadan Victeoiriach áitrebh tráchtála, mar a raibh Halla na Másún tráth. Taobh leis tá teach cloiche álainn clasaiceach dea-snoite ó thús an 19ú haois, atá ina teach lóistín faoi láthair. Tá teach mór le héadan clasaiceach cloiche taobh leis sin, mar a bhfuil Banc na hÉireann. Ba é seo an teach baile a bhí tráth ag Tiarna Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, Iarla Chlann Cárthaigh. Cara leis an rí Seoirse IV a bhí ann agus é gníomhach sa troid in aghaidh Napoleon. D'fhéadfaí a rá gurbh é siúd ba mhó is cúis leis an leagan amach, an fás agus an carachtar atá ag Béal Átha na Sluaighe anois.

4 Ag ceann na Príomhshráide, lean ort ar Shráid an Droichid, gabh ar dheis chuig an gcasán a théann chun na habhann mar a mbeidh na cainéil a ritheann trí na háirsí faoi dhroichead fada cloiche thar abhainn na Suca, ceann de na séadchomharthaí is luachmhair sa bhaile. Tá úsáid á bhaint go leanúnach as an droichead ón 16ú haois i leith agus d'ullmhaigh an síneadh a cuireadh air i 1775 é chun fiú na trucail is troime atá ann inniu a iompar.

5 Siúl leat go deireadh na páirce; beidh tú ag druidim le Séipéal Mhíchíl (1852-58) a sheasann go ceannasach os cionn na Cearnóige. Ba é JJ Mc Carthy, duine de lucht leanúna Augustus Pugin (a bhfuil cáil ar a sheipéil Nua-Ghotacha in Éirinn), an t-ailtire - agus tá sé ráite go ndearna Pugin é féin leasú ar an dearadh. Tá a lán fuinneoga breátha daite laistigh. Baineann ardchaighdeán go háirithe le fuinneoga Naomh Pádraig agus Naomh Rós Lime, ón mbliain 1925, leis an ealaíontóir clúiteach gloine dhaite, Harry Clark, agus Tógáil Iníon Jairus le Patrick Pollen, a cuireadh isteach sa bhliain 1958.

6 Ar aghaidh leat ó Sheipéal Mhíchíl suas Cearnóg Mhíchíl ar ais chuig Dealbh an Fhir leis an gCapall. Cas ar chlé isteach i Sráid Dunlo, sráid thábhachtach i stair an bhaile, mar a bhfuil Beairic na nGardaí agus foirgnimh eile ón tréimhse déanach Seoirseach. Tá an Bheairic ag druidim le ceann an bhóthair ar thaobh na láimhe deise. Tá samplaí breátha d'fhuinneoga Díocléiteacha ar fáil os cionn Siopa Leictreach Dolan ar an sráid seo.

7 Leathbhealaigh suas Sráid Dunlo, cas ar dheis suas Sráid Uí Dhúgáin, agus sroicfidh tú Séipéal Naomh Eoin (Eaglais na hÉireann - 1843). Seasann sé os cionn Faiche ollmhór an Aonaigh mar a mbíonn na sluaite bailithe ar feadh seachtaine amháin gach bliain nuair a thagann beagnach 100,000 duine chuig aonach Dheireadh Fómhair. Breathnaigh amach thar Fhaiche an Aonaigh agus bain taitneamh as ceann de na séadchomharthaí saorsheasaimh clasaiceacha is breátha sa dúiche. Tá sé tiomnaithe do Charles le Poer Trench, agus rinne an t-ailtire Sasanach George Papworth (1781-1855) é a dhearadh.

Míle níos faide ná an séadchomhartha seo ar an bpríomhbhóthar go Gaillimh siar ó dheas ón mbaile tá an teach tuaithe a bhí ag Iarla Chlann Cárthaigh suite, agus a gheataí réimíla ag oscailt go Cúirt Ghearrbhaile. Is scoil atá ann ó 1923 i leith.

8 Siúl leat síos Cnoc na hEaglaise go Sráid na gCumann agus cas ar chlé, agus beidh Teach na Cúirte ar do dheis. Bhí Sráid na Sochaí ina ionad do na haicmí gairmíúla sa 19ú haois, ar nós na Príomhshráide. Tá an seanphríosún, nó an Bridewell ann ó na 1840í chomh maith le Teach na Cúirte.

Níos faide síos na sráide seo (siúlóid 10 nóiméad), tá Stáisiún Traenach Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, agus ní mór é a fheiceáil. Is sárshampla d'fhoirgneamh Nua-Ghotach clochaoil é a tógadh sa bhliain 1851 a léiríonn caighdeán na hailtireachta a bhí i stáisiún thuithe traenach na hÉireann sa 19ú haois.

1 Start at the statue known as The Man with the Horse, where Main Street joins St. Michael's Square. From the crossing near the statue, continue by turning right onto Main Street.

The prosperity of Ballinasloe in Georgian times can be seen in the scale and classical style of the buildings here. A fine group of four frontages stand across from the statue of The Man with the Horse. With shops and pubs on the ground floor for the most part, these Main Street premises have several floors above.

2 Walking along Main Street, lift your eyes above the shop frontages for one of the town's characteristic sights. These are the Diocletian windows that grace several façades. They are from the years after 1805 when the 2nd Earl was in charge. A window of this sort is formed under a semi-circular arch with two upright divisions so that the whole opening is divided into three parts.

3 As you stand at the meeting point of Bridge Street and Main Street, you will see the Victorian frontage of a commercial premises, originally the Masonic Hall. Next to it stands a classical-

looking, beautifully-crafted, early 19th century stone house, currently a guest house. Beside these is a tall, fine stone-fronted classical mansion, which is now the Bank of Ireland. It was originally the town mansion of the Lord of all of Ballinasloe, the Earl of Clancarty. A friend of king George IV, the Earl was one of the architects of the resistance to the emperor Napoleon. It could be said that he was the person to whom most credit is due for the layout, growth and architectural character of Ballinasloe as we see it today.