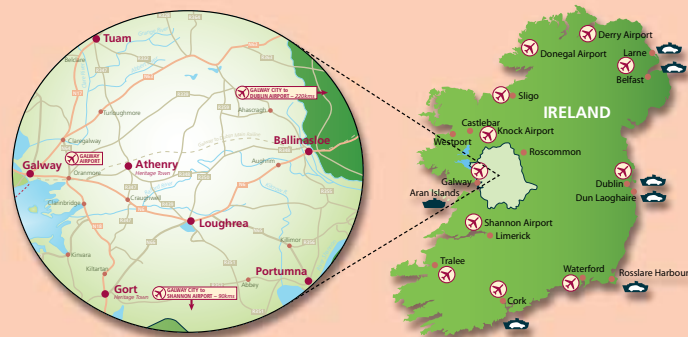


Listen to the story of Gort Take an audio walking tour

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, Ballinasloe, Loughrea, 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 An Ghoirt 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 sheinnteoír MP3 agus an siúlóid á dhéanamh agat. Tá 5 Shiúlóid eile sa tsraith seo: Baile Átha an Rí, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Baile Locha Riach, 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. Coole Park

Coole Park, once home of Lady Augusta Gregory, dramatist and co-founder of the Abbey Theatre, is part of a stunning nature reserve of approximately 1000 acres. The seven woods celebrated by W.B. Yeats are part of trails taking in river, turlough and Coole Lake. Deer, swans and an abundance of wildlife make the Park their home.

2. Kiltartan Gregory Museum

This award winning museum is located in the old school house at historic Kiltartan Cross. It houses a collection of memorabilia associated with Lady Augusta Gregory and also displays items of interest from the Celtic Revival period. Picnic park on site.

3. Thoor Ballylee

Former home of W.B. Yeats, who purchased and restored it in 1916, Ballylee Castle is a fine 14th Century Irish Tower House. The Castle is open to the public every summer and features audio visual presentations, a partially restored 17th century mill and picnic area.

4. Kilmacduagh

Founded in the 7th Century, this monastery is famous for its 100 foot high Round Tower, which leans two feet from the perpendicular. Centuries older than its famous counterpart in Pisa, it is the tallest and best preserved of its kind in Ireland. It overlooks the ruins of a 12th century cathedral.

5. Kinvara

Kinvara is a stunning coastal village on the edge of The Burren. It is welcoming to visitors all year round and the locals provide a welcoming, laid-back atmosphere. On the entrance to the village from the Galway side sits 16th Century Dunguaire Castle.



Nithe Spéisiúla eile

1. Páirc na Cúile

Is cuid de thearmann iontach dúlra de timpeall 1000 acra í Páirc na Cúile, áit a raibh cónaí tráth ar an Bhean uasal Augusta Gregory, drámadóir agus comhbhunaitheoir Amharclann na Mainistreach. Is cuid iad na seacht gcoill atá ceiliúrtha ag W.B. Yeats de na conairí timpeall ar abhainn, tuarloch agus Loch na Cúile. Tá fianna, ealaí agus fiadhúlra flúirseach eile ag cur fúthu sa Pháirc.

2. Músaem Gregory Chill Tartan

Tá an músaem seo, a bhfuil gradaim buaite aige, suite sa seanteach scoile ag Crosbhóthar stairiúil Chill Tartan. Tá cuimhneacháin ann a bhaineann le Augusta Gregory agus taispeántas de nithe spéisiúla ó thréimhse na hAthbheochana Ceiltigh. Tá páirc phicnic ar an láthair.

3. Túr Bhaile Uí Laoi

Is Túrtheach breá ón 14ú haois é Caisleán Bhaile Uí Laoi a cheannaigh W. B. Yeats i 1916 agus a d'athchóirigh sé. Bíonn an Caisleán ar oscailt don phobal gach samhradh agus tá taispeántais chlosamhairc, muileann ón 17ú haois a bhfuil cuid de athchóirithe agus ionad picnic ann.

4. Cill Mhic Dhuach

Tá cáil ar Chloigtheach 100 troigh na mainistreach seo a tógadh sa 7ú haois, mar go bhfuil sé claonta dhá thriog ón ingear. Tá sé na céadta bliain níos sine ná túr cáiliúil Pisa, agus is é an ceann is airde agus is dea-chaomhnaithe dá chineál sa tír é. Breathnaíonn sé amach thar fhothrach ardeaglaise ón 12 haois.

5. Cinn Mhara

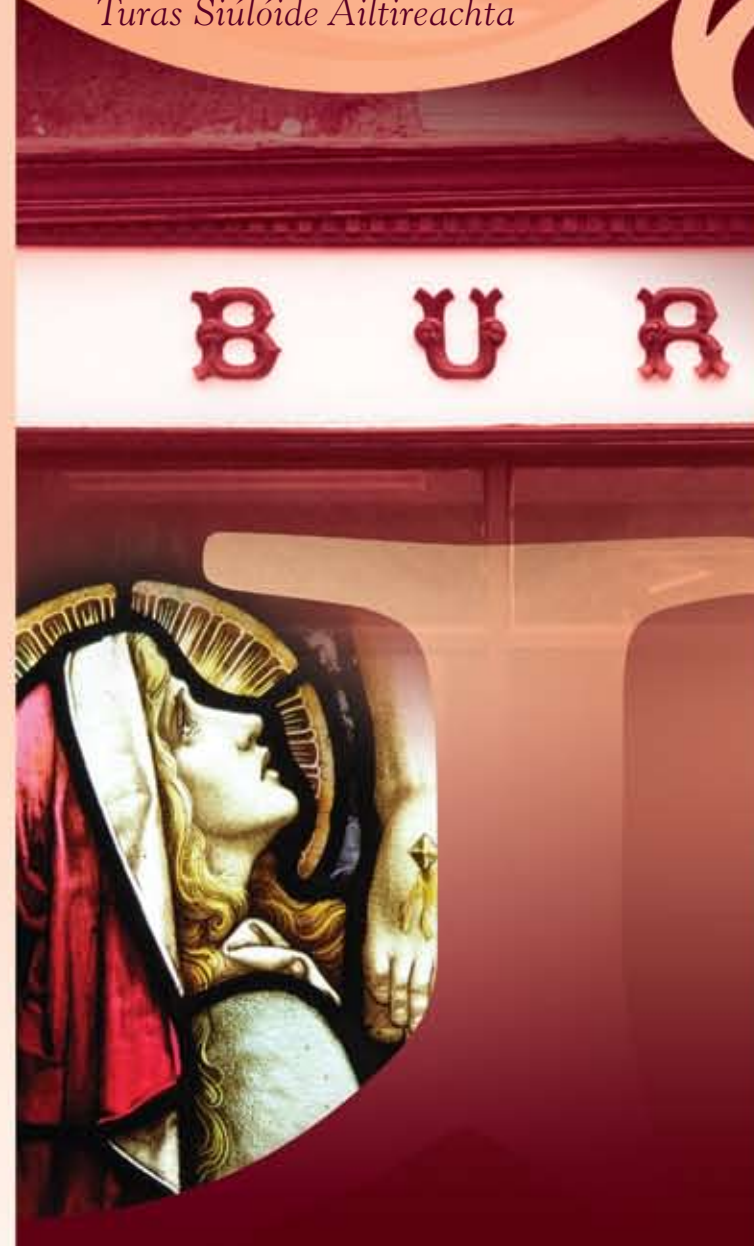
Sráidbhaile taibhsiúil is ea Cinn Mhara ar an gcósta ar imeall na Boirne. Cuirtear fáilte roimh chuirteoirí ann i rith na bliana go léir agus is daoine fáilteacha réidhchúiseacha iad muintir na háite. Tá Caisleán Dhún Guaire, ón 16ú haois, ar an mbealach isteach sa sráidbhaile ar thaobh na Gaillimhe.

Gort

Architectural Walking Tour

An Gort

Turas Siúlóide Ailtireachta



Introduction

Gort is a noted heritage town whose Irish name, Gort Inse Guaire, means 'The Field of the Island of Guaire,' is an 18th-century provincial town whose origins lie as far back as the 13th century if not earlier. Today it is a small market town, strategically located between Galway and Shannon.

It was once a military post and, after 1869, a railway town. All of these functions are still clearly on view in the splendid layout of the town. If you find a photo of Gort from 100 years ago, you will see the vast Market Square thronged with livestock, produce, buyers and sellers. The market was held each Saturday and there were four seasonal fairs, in March, May, August and November.

Gort has a sizeable Brazilian population that has settled here in recent years, attracted by work opportunities. The town holds an annual multicultural festival around the Market Square.

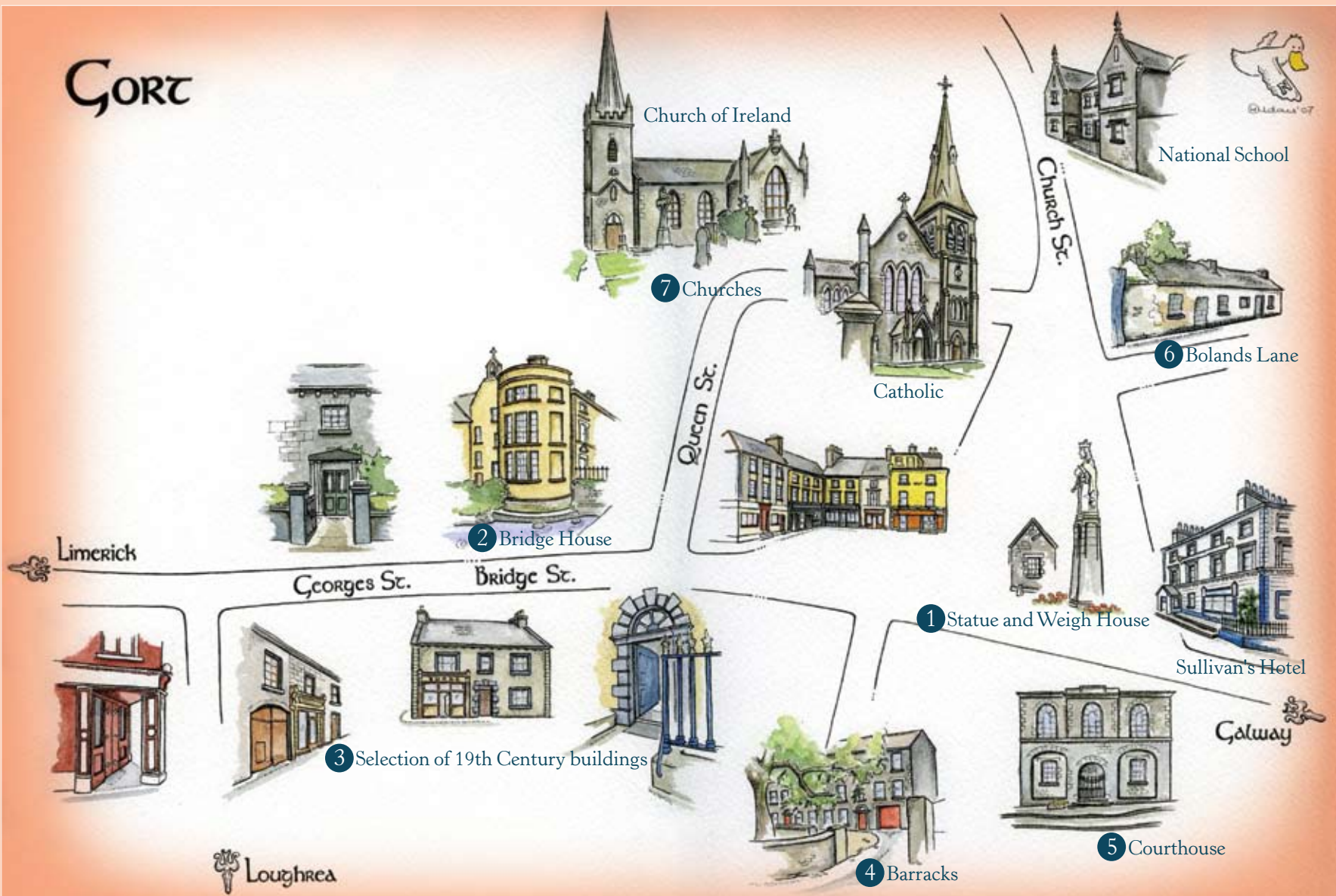
Réamhrá

Baile clúiteach oidhreachta é an Gort, nó Gort Inse Guaire, baile cúigeach ón 18ú haois a dtéann a fhréamhacha siar go dtí an 13ú haois nó níos luaithe. Baile beag margaidh atá ann anois agus é suite go straitéiseach idir Gaillimh agus an tSionainn.

Post míleata a bhí ann tráth, agus baile iarnróid ina dhiaidh sin. Tá na feidhmeanna sin go léir le feiceáil go soiléir go fóill i leagan amach an bhaile. Má fhéachann tú ar ghrianghraf den Ghort céad bliain ó shin, feicfidh tú Cearnóg ollmhór an Mhargaidh plódaithe le beostoc, barraí, ceannaitheoirí agus díoltóirí. Bhíodh an margadh ann gach Satharn agus ceithre aonach séasúrach i mí Márta, mí Bhealtaine, mí Lúnasa agus mí na Samhna.

Tá daonra mór Brasaíleach sa Ghort a mealladh chun na háite mar gheall ar dheiseanna oibre le blianta beaga anuas. Bíonn féile ilchultúrtha bhliantúil sa bhaile timpeall ar Cearnóg an Mhargaidh.

GORT



classical house on the right, once a Police House.
Return to the town centre toward Market Square, examining the right-hand side of the street. After the River crossing, the first two buildings are both high quality structures that help explain why Gort enjoys its special heritage status within the County.

- Turning right off Bridge Street close to Market Square, enter Barrack Street which has remained the military focal-point of Gort and is still the district Garda headquarters. The 17th century barracks were built on the site of Gort Castle, which was destroyed by Cromwellian forces c.1650, but repaired in 1752. Towns of strategic importance like Gort were garrisoned and during the 1798 Rising 76,000 British troops were deployed. The barracks is now a furniture store.
- Returning up Barrack Street, turn right and approach the Courthouse in its dominant position on the Square. It dates from about 1815, making it one of the earliest local examples of this class of official building. The modelling of the lower floor arches and upper windows is light and elegant, with coursed masonry in a simplified version of the 'Adam' style; the Gort courthouse is architecturally very appealing. Note the way in which the early 19th century buildings stand on plinths, or platforms of stone steps. The number of steps increases as the land drops. This device was contrived by Lord Gort to avoid stepping the buildings, so as to give the group a level base and present a grand composition, with consistent floor levels, window and roof lines.
- Continuing along the Square, away from the Hotel, onto Church Street. On your right is Boland's Lane. This Lane contains groups of single-storey cottages, mainly now roofless and uninhabited, that serve to remind us of how most of Gort probably looked before the grand, 19th century re-building of the town center. Returning along Boland's Lane, turn right once more onto Church Street, where you will approach the former National School of 1846. This is the twin-gabled building which is now a Heritage Centre.
- The tour finished with the two main churches. Lord Gort gave the plot on which the Catholic church stands, at the meeting of Church Street and Church Road. Originally of 1825, it was later enlarged after two ancient parishes had been united to form a single new parish of Gort in 1854. The present church dates from this period and, beyond its most impressive entrance steps and gates, it is a good example of large, Irish churches in the mid-century Gothic Revival style. Continuing along Church Road, past the Catholic church, you will arrive at the former Church of Ireland building, now in use as the Library. Constructed by James Paine, who was also working on Lord Gort's country house at the same time in 1811, it was enlarged in 1877. The spire provides a prominent landmark.



- Tosaigh ag Cearnóg an Mhargaidh in aice le dealbh Chríost Rí (1930) agus an Teach Meá ón 18ú haois atá taobh leis. Bhí na scálaí móra á n-úsáid ón uair a raibh rath ar an margadh. Bhí an ceantar ina dhaingean ag clann Uí Sheachnasaigh ar feadh os cionn 500 bliain agus ba iad a bhunaigh an margadh. Glacadh seilbh ar a gcuid tailte i 1697 agus deonadh do chlann Prendergast iad. Ba é John Prendergast-Smyth (1741-1817), a ndearnadh Bíocunta an Ghoirte de sa bhliain 1816, a bhí i mbun forbartha an bhaile margaidh. Féach na héadain thráchtála agus tábhairne O'Grady ina measc. Is gnáthfhoirgnimh ón 19ú haois iad agus iad suite ar Shráid an Droichid. Tá fuinneoga de dhéanamh clasaiceach acu agus na codanna is airde díobh ar an urlár os cionn éadan an tsiopa nó na tabhairne. Féach in airde ar na simléirí dea-chaomhnaite.
- Siúl suas Sráid an Droichid, an príomhsráid tríd an Gort. Rachaidh tú thar aghaidheanna Seoirseacha déanacha ar an taobh dheis, agus tiocfaidh tú go Teach an Droichid tar éis Bhanc na hÉireann. Ba é Tiarna an Ghoirt a thóg é ag deireadh an 18ú haois, agus ba ann a bhí Clochar na Trócaire ón mbliain 1857 agus is teach cónaithe do Shiúracha na Trócaire anois é. Tá aghaidh stáidúil chlasaiceach ag Teach an Droichid le trí hurlár, a chuid saoirseachta rindireáilte agus frámaí na bhfuinneog pioctha amach i rilíf.
- Lean ar aghaidh thar an droichead agus beidh tú i Sráid Sheoirse agus féach na foirgnimh lastall den áirse traenach. Sráid fhothailteach is ea Sráid Sheoirse le foirgnimh dea-thaispeánta dhá urlár ón 19ú haois. Tá dearadh clasaiceach orthu le háirsí carráiste agus éadain mhaith ar chuid acu. Tá teach dian clasaiceach de chloch liath anseo freisin mar a raibh na Póilíní tráth. Gabh ar ais go lár an bhaile i dtreo Cearnóg an Mhargaidh, agus féach ar thaobh dheis na sráide. Lastall den Abhainn, tá dhá fhoirgneamh de struchtúr ardchaighdeáin a mhíonann an stádas speisialta oidhreachta atá ag an nGort sa Chontae.

- Cas ar dheis as Sráid an Droichid in aice le Cearnóg an Mhargaidh agus isteach i Sráid na Bearrice, atá fós ina phointe fócais míleata don Ghort agus ina cheanncheathrú dúthaigh ag na Gardaí. Tógadh an bheairic sa 17ú haois ar láthair Chaisleán an Ghoirt, a scrios fórsaí Chromail timpeall 1650, ach deisíodh é i 1752. Cuireadh garastúin i mbailte tábhachtacha straitéiseacha ar nós an Ghoirt agus bhí 76,000 saighdiúir Briotanach imscartha le linn Éirí Amach 1798. Is siopa troscáin í an bheairic anois.
- Ag filleadh duit ar ais trí Shráid na Bearrice, cas ar dheis agus ar aghaidh leat chuig Teach na Cúirte ina ionad ceannasach sa Cearnóg. Tógadh é timpeall na bliana 1815, agus tá sé ar cheann de na samplaí áitiúla is túisce den chineál seo foirgnimh oifigiúla. Tá múnú éadrom grástúil ar áirsí an urláir íochtaraigh agus ar na fuinneoga uachtair, le saoirseacht chúrsáilte i leagan simplithe de stíl 'Adam', tá teach cúirte an Ghoirt an-tarraingteach ó thaobh na hailitireachta. Tabhair faoi deara mar a sheasanna na foirgnimh ó thús an 19ú haois ar phlontaí, nó ar sheastáin de chéimeanna cloiche. Méadaíonn líon na gcéimeanna de réir mar a thiteann an talamh. Chum Tiarna an Ghoirt an fearas seo ionas nach mbeadh na foirgnimh i gcéimeanna, chun go mbeadh bonn leibhéalta ag an grúpa agus go gcuirfeadh siad comhdhéanamh mór comhleanúnach i láthair ó thaobh leibhéil urláir, fuinneoga agus díonta.
- Lean ort sa Cearnóg ar aghaidh ón Óstán go Sráid na hEaglaise. Tá Lána Boland ar do dheis. Tá grúpaí de theaichíní aonstóir sa Lána seo, a bhformhór gan díon anois agus gan chónaí, a thugann leid dúinn faoin gcuma a bhí ar an nGort sular tógadh lár galánta an bhaile sa 19ú haois. Ag teacht ar ais ó Lána Boland, cas ar dheis arís isteach i Sráid na hEaglaise, mar a bhfuil an tseanbhunscoil a tógadh in 1846. Tá an foirgneamh débheannach seo ina Ionad Oidhreachta anois.
- Críochnaíonn an turas ag an dá phríomheaglais. Ba é Tiarna an Ghoirt a bhronn an súiomh ar a bhfuil an Eaglais Chaitliceach anois, mar a dtagann Sráid na hEaglaise agus Bóthar na hEaglaise le chéile. Tógadh ar dtús é in 1825, agus méadaíodh é nuair a cuireadh dhá sheanpharóiste le chéile chun paróiste nua an Ghoirt a dhéanamh in 1854. Baineann an eaglais atá anois ann leis an tréimhse sin, agus seachas na céimeanna agus na geataí taibhseacha, is sampla maith é de na heaglaisí móra a tógadh sa stíl Athbheochana Gotach i lár an chéid. Lean ort ar Bhóthar na hEaglaise, thar an eaglais Chaitliceach chuig an bhfoirgneamh ina raibh Eaglais na hÉireann tráth, atá in úsáid anois mar Leabharlann. Thóg James Paine, a bhí ag obair ar theach tuaithe Thiarna an Ghoirt ag an am in 1811, í agus méadaíodh í sa bhliain 1877. Is séadchomhartha suntasach í an túr.

1 Begin in Market Square, by the statue of Christ the King (1930) and the 18th century Weigh House next to it. The impressive scales were in use from a time when the market place flourished. For over 500 years the area was a stronghold of the O'Shaughnessy's, who established the market. Their properties were confiscated in 1697 and granted to the Prendergast family. John Prendergast-Smyth (1741-1817), created Viscount Gort in 1816, personally oversaw the development of the market town. Look at the group of commercial frontages that includes

O'Grady's pub. These are typical of the 19th century buildings that run right along Bridge Street. They have classical-style windows with the tallest proportions on the floor above the shop or pub fronts. Look up to see the well-preserved chimney clusters.

2 Walk up Bridge Street, the main road which runs through Gort. You will pass fine late-Georgian façades on the right and, after the Bank of Ireland, reach Bridge House. Built by Lord Gort at the end of the 18th century, it has been the Convent of Mercy

since 1857 and is now home to the Sisters of Mercy. Bridge House has a stately classical front of three floors with its masonry rendered and the window frames picked out in relief.

3 Continuing over the bridge, where Bridge Street becomes Georges Street, view the buildings beyond the railway arch. Georges Street is a suburban street of well-presented, early 19th century 2-floor buildings. They have classical designs with carriage arches and some good frontages. Also here is the austere but fine grey stone