

Listen to the story of Tuam 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, Gort 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 Thuama 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, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Baile Locha Riach, An Gort 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 Thurasoireacht Oirthear na Gaillimhe ag www.galwayeast.com.



Other Interests

1. Earwig Arts Festival

Earwig Tuam Arts Festival is an annual August festival. Earwig are a community organisation that provides Tuam and its surroundings with an outlet for its wealth of creative talent, using street theatre as an active approach to expanding community involvement in artistic activities. All-comers are welcome to attend and get involved in the festival. www.earwigart.com

2. Ross Errilly Friary

Standing in serene solitude on the South bank of the Black River, just four Kilometers West of Headford, the Ross Errilly Friary is recognised as the best preserved monastic ruin of its period in Ireland. It was founded in 1349 by the then Archbishop of Tuam Dr. Malachy MacHugh, who was a native of the Headford area.

3. Headford / Lough Corrib

Headford is a friendly village and is an ideal base for angling from the eastern shore of Lough Corrib. Greenfields, 6.5 km west of the town, is its boating harbour. Headford is also the centre of an area rich in archaeological monuments, including prehistoric burial cairns, Iron Age stone enclosures, early Norman and later castles and monastic sites

4. Milltown - N17

A village on the banks of Clare River, Milltown's local community have worked hard to improve the amenities for the village, by providing a beautiful river walk (National Waterside award winner 2000), providing a Slí na Sláinte rural walk, children's playground, tennis courts and picnic area. They have been awarded the tidiest town in the County seven times.



Nithe Spéisiúla eile

1. Féile Ealaíon Earwigs.

Féile bhliantúil is ea Féile Ealaíon Earwigs a bhíonn ann i mí Lúnasa. Is eagraíocht phobail í Earwig a thugann deis do Thuaim agus don chomharsanacht a shaibhreas cruthaitheach a chur in iúl, ag baint úsáide as amharclann sráide mar chur chuige gníomhach ar son rannpháirtíocht an phobail i ngníomhaíochtaí ealaíonta a leathnú. Tugtar cuireadh do chách a bheith i láthair agus páirt a ghlacadh san fhéile. www.earwigart.com.

2. Mainistir Ros Oirialaigh

Aithnítear Mainistir Ros Oirialaigh, atá suite go haonarach ar bhruach theas na hAbhann Duibhre, ceithre chiliméadar siar ó Áth Cinn, mar cheann de na fothracha mainistreach is dea-chaomhnaithe dá thréimhse atá in Éirinn. Bhunaigh an tArdeaspag Maolachlann Mac Aodha, ó cheantar Áth Cinn ó dhúchas, an mhainistir sa bhliain 1349.

3. Áth Cinn / Loch Coirib

Baile cairdiúil is ea Áth Cinn a dhéanfadh bunáit den scoth don slatiascaireacht ó bhruacha thoir Loch Coirib. Tugtar Greenfields, 6.5 km siar ón mbaile, ar a chalafoirt bádóireachta. Tá Áth Cinn i lár cheantair ina bhfuil saibhreas mór de shéadchomharthaí seandálaíochta, lena n-áirítear cairn adhlactha, imfhálaithe cloiche ón Iarannaois, caisleáin luatha agus déanacha Normannacha agus láithreacha manachúla.

4. Baile an Mhuilinn – N17

Sráidbhaile ar bhruacha Abhainn an Chláir, mar a bhfuil obair chrua déanta ag an bpobal áitiúil chun saoráidí an tsráidbhaile a fheabhsú, le siúlóid álainn cois abhann (buaiteoir gradam Náisiúnta Cois Uisce 2000), mar a bhfuil siúlóid tuaithe Slí na Sláinte, clós imeartha do leanaí, cúirteanna leadóige agus ionad picnic. Ghnóthaigh siad gradam an bhaile is slachtmhaire sa Chontae seacht n-uair.

Tuam

Architectural Walking Tour

Tuaim

Turas Siúlóide Ailtireachta



Introduction

Tuam stands at the crossing-point of ancient roads which meet at the Market Square in the heart of the town. This key location has encouraged continual development over the centuries.

Tuam's origins stretch back nearly a thousand years. By the beginning of the 12th century it had become the political and ceremonial centre of Connacht; Ireland's western province.

Today, Tuam is a market town with about 6,000 people. It lies 32km north of Galway City on the N17.

With recent developments, Tuam is once again reaching the population levels it had in the 1830s, before the Great Famine and the emigration that followed in its wake. The Census of 1831 listed 6,883 inhabitants. This size and level of importance is reflected in the civic and commercial buildings we see around the Market Place and in Shop Street.

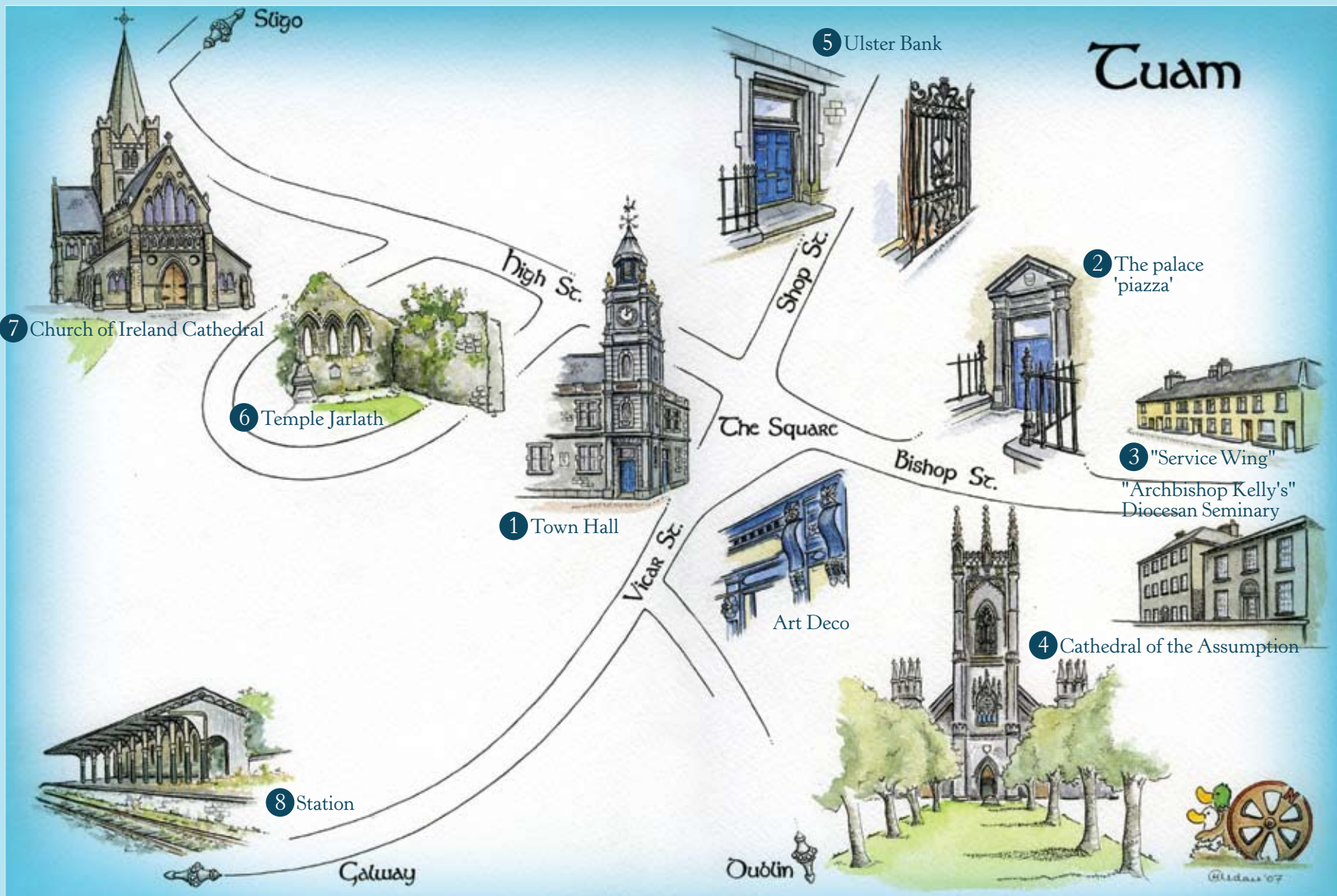
Réamhrá

Tá Tuaim suite mar a thagann bóithre ársa le chéile ag Cearnóg an Mhargaidh i gcoirí an bhaile. Mar gheall ar a ionad tábhachtach tá an baile ag forbairt go leanúnach leis na cianta.

Bunaíodh an baile beagnach míle bliain ó shin. Bhí sé ina lárionad polaitiúil agus deasghnáthach do Chúige Chonnacht in Iarthar na hÉireann faoi thús an 12ú haois.

Is baile margaidh é Tuaim anois le timpeall 6,000 duine. Tá sé 32 km ó thuaidh ó Chathair na Gaillimhe ar an N17.

Mar gheall ar an bhforbairt a tharla le gairid tá daonra Thuama beagnach chomh mór agus a bhí sna 1830í, roimh an Ghorta Mór agus an imirce a lean é. D'áirigh Daonáireamh na bliana 1831 6,883 áitreabhóir. Léirítear an mhéid agus an tábhacht a bhí ag an mbaile sna foirgnimh shibhialta agus thráchtála atá le feiceáil sa Mhargadh agus i Sráid na Siopaí.



Tuam

next to it stands the handsome Diocesan Seminary, originally built as a private house about 1800 but later "French's Bank" until the bank's collapse in 1814. Proceed along the French-style approach to the Cathedral of The Assumption itself. Begun in 1827, the work was completed by August 1836.

The single, central tower of the Cathedral leads into a version of a Gothic 'hall church' interior. A hall church has side aisles that are tall in comparison with the height of the main vault of the nave. The complex rib pattern of the vaults follows the same inspiration.

5 Returning along Bishop Street to Market Square and observing fronts including some examples of Art Deco, pause to look down Shop Street to see more evidence of Tuam's commercial growth in the 19th century. This includes the imposing bulk of the Ulster Bank, a late Victorian building on three floors with rusticated limestone dressings.

In the 12th century, Tuam was virtually the capital of Ireland, because the country's High King Turlough O'Connor had his residence here.

6 Walking along High Street, take the first left along Church Lane to Temple Jarlath, in the gardens and former graveyard above the level of the street. Temple Jarlath is open to the public daily in the summer. When closed, visits are by appointment with the local caretaker John Mannion by phoning 087-6244436

The ruins of the church, including the east gable with interesting human heads and late Romanesque carving of around 1200, are believed to stand on a site associated with Tuam's first patron, Saint Jarlath, thought to have lived in the sixth century.

7 The final stop is the Church of Ireland Cathedral of Saint Mary at the far end of the High Street. Access the Church grounds through the gate which faces out onto the N17. Access to the Church can be gained by calling Jarlath Canney on 087 4121201. St Mary's is mainly a Neo-Gothic structure of 1878, but within it are the important remains of a Romanesque church of the 12th century. The chancel arch and east window of the old church are probably the best preserved examples of Romanesque carving in the country. With a span of 4.8 metres, it is the largest semi-circular arch of its type in the country, decorated with five orders of carving. After this stunning masterpiece, you should also see in the transept opposite the entrance the 12th-century High Cross, formerly in the Market Square and which consists of pieces of two separate stone crosses mounted one on top of the other.

8 You can walk down Vicar Street for about five minutes from Market Square and you will reach the old Railway Station. The railway first came here in 1860 and lines eventually stretched to all four points of the compass. Train services are due to be renewed from the station in the next few years. The Station building enjoys State protection.



1 Is é Halla an Bhaile, i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh, an foirgneamh is breátha sa cheantar. Tá foirgneamh níos sine a leathnaíodh amach sa bhliain 1883 mar chuid de. Tá áirse carráiste agus éadan aolchloiche le cóirithe de chloch gearrtha aige a éiríonn suas trí leibhéal eile ag an gcúinne ina aghaidh chloig, agus síothla agus cupola os a chionn.

2 Ar thaobh amháin de Shráid an Easpaig tá an piazza; foirgneamh clasaiceach ón 18ú haois ina bhfuil caifé anois. Tugtar an Pálás air, agus is bloc seacht mbá é ar thrí urlár os cionn íoslaigh, agus na trí bhánna ag gobadh amach beagán. Tá fráma dorais cloiche aige le peidiméid os a chionn agus fuinneoga suntasacha le saiseanna déchrochta ar na fuinneoga sa stíl dhéanach Sheoirseach. Tá ráillí iarann mar gharda ar an íoslach. Tógadh é sa bhliain 1723, agus bhí sé ina áit chónaithe ag ceann na hEaglaise Protastúnaí sa chúige thiar go dtí an bhliain 1950. Chuir an Irish Church Act 1869 deireadh le feidhmeanna riaracháin a bhí mar chúram ar áitritheoirí an Pháláis i dTuaim ón mbliain 1723 i leith.

3 Is fiú an bloc ceithrethaoibhach tógtha timpeall ar chlós ar an gcúinne le Sráid an Easpaig a thabhairt faoi deara. D'fhéadfadh an bloc seo a bheith ina iarsma de sciathán seirbhíse nó stáblaí don Phálás. Bheadh a lán cúntóirí ag teastáil chun feidhmeanna eaglasta a riaradh i limistéar ollmhór na deoise ba mhó in Éirinn.

4 Gabh isteach i dtailte na hArdeaglaise mar a bhfuil ceanncheathrú na hard-deoise Caitlicí. Is teach clasaiceach a tógadh sa bhliain 1817 é an chéad foirgneamh; taobh leis tá Cliarscoil ghalánta na Deoise, a tógadh ar dtús mar theach príobháideach-timpeall na bliana 1800, ach bhí banc ann (Ffrench's bank) go dtí gur theip ar an mbanc i 1814. Ar aghaidh leat ar an gcasán sa stíl Fhrancach chuig Ardeaglais na Deastógála. Cuireadh tús leis an obair i 1827 agus bhí an tógáil críochnaithe i mí Lúnasa 1836.

Tréoraítear isteach trí thúr singilte lárnach na hArdeaglaise isteach i 'séipéal halla' de chineál Gotach. Bíonn taobhphasáistí séipéal halla ard i gcomparáid le hairde phríomhbhoghta an choirp. Baineann an ionsparáid chéanna le patrún casta easnach na mboghtaí.

5 Fill ar ais ar Shráid an Easpaig go Cearnóg an Mhargaidh ag breathnú ar na héadain mar a bhfuil samplaí den Art Deco, caith seal ag breathnú síos Sráid na Siopaí mar a bhfuil fianaise d'fhás na tráchtála i dTuaim san 19ú haois. Seasann toirt shuntasach Bhanc Uladh amach, foirgneamh Victéoriach déanach ar thrí urlár le cóirithe garbhéadain. D'fhéadfaí a rá go raibh Tuaim ina príomhchathair ar Éirinn sa 12ú haois, mar go raibh cónaí anseo ar an Ard-Rí Toirdhealbhach Ó Conchubhair.

6 Siúl leat ar an Sráid Ard, gabh ar chlé trí Lána na hEaglaise go Teampall Iarfhlaith, sna gáirdíní agus sa seanreilig os cionn leibhéal na sráide. Bíonn Teampall Iarfhlaith ar oscailt don phobal i rith an tsamhraidh. Nuair a bhíonn sé dúnta, déantar coinne leis an bhfeighlí áitiúil John Mannion trí ghlaoch air ag 087-6244436 chun cuairt a thabhairt air. Creidtear go bhfuil fothraigh an tséipéil, lena bhinn thoir ar a bhfuil cloigne spéisiúla daonna agus snoíodóireacht dhéanach Rómhánúil ó timpeall 1200, ar shuíomh a bhaineann le céad phatrún Thuama, Naomh Iarfhlaith, a mhair am éigin sa séú haois.

7 Stopfaidh tú den uair dheireanach ag Ardeaglais Eaglais na hÉireann, Naomh Muire, ag ceann na Sráide Aird. Is féidir dul isteach i dtailte na hEaglaise trí gheata atá ar aghaidh an N17. Chun dul isteach san Eaglais cuir glaoch ar Jarlath Canney ag 087 4121201. Struchtúr Nua-ghotach is mó atá in Eaglais Mhuire a tógadh in 1878, ach tá iarsmaí tábhachtacha shéipéil Rómhánúil ón 12ú haois laistigh di. Is dócha gurb iad an áirse seangail agus fuinneog thoir na seaneaglaise na samplaí snoíodóireachta Rómhánúla is dea-chaomhnaithe sa tír. Le réise 4.8 méadar, is é seo an áirse leathchiorcalach is mó dá chineál sa tír, agus é maisithe le cúig ord snoíodóireachta. Ag dul ar aghaidh ón sárshaothar seo, ba chóir duit amharc freisin ar an Ardchrois ón 12ú haois sa chroslann os comhair an dorais, a bhí tráth i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh agus atá déanta de dhá chrois éagsúla cloiche ar mhullach a chéile.

8 Tig leat siúl síos Sráid an Bhicóaire ar feadh timpeall cúig nóiméad ó Chearnóg an Mhargaidh agus beidh tú ag an Seanstáisiún Traenach. Tháinig an t-iarnród anseo ar dtús in 1860 agus bhí na línte ag síneadh go ceithre hairde an chompáis faoi dheireadh. Tá seirbhísí traenach le hathnuachan ón stáisiún i gceann cúpla bliain. Faigheann foirgneamh an Stáisiúin cosaint an Stáit.

1 In Market Square, the Town Hall is the grandest building of its type in the area. It incorporates an earlier building that was extended in 1883. It has a carriage arch, a limestone façade with cut stone dressings and it then rises at the corner of the site another three levels to give the clock-face stage, urns and cupola that surmount it.

2 Along Bishop Street, on one side is the piazza; a classical 18th-century building which now contains within its walls a café. Known as The Palace, it is a seven-bay block of three floors

over a basement, the central three bays being slightly stepped forward. It has a stone door-frame with a pediment over it and a most impressive set of double-hung, sliding-sash windows in the late-Georgian style. Iron railings guard the basement. Built in 1723, it was the official residence of the head of the Protestant Church for the western province until 1950.

The Irish Church Act of 1869 took away the administrative functions that had helped to keep the inhabitants of the Palace in Tuam busy since 1723.

3 It is worth noting the four-sided block built round a courtyard on the corner with Bishop Street. Is this block the remnants of some kind of service wing and stable block to the Palace itself? It would have needed a considerable number of back-up staff to administer ecclesiastical functions across the huge expanse of Ireland's largest diocese.

4 Enter the Cathedral grounds and the headquarters of the Catholic archdiocese. The first building is a classical house built in 1817;