

Things to do at the Carlton Shearwater Hotel Galway

Things to do in the Rain

1. **Dean Crowe Theatre and Arts Centre:** This is a long established theatre with modern facilities, located in the Left Bank area of Athlone. The theatre provides an entertaining and varied programme of events throughout the year including drama, comedy, musicals, opera, dance, art exhibitions, children's events and much more.
2. **Shannonbridge Potteries Ireland:** The pottery has become a demanded product with sales around the globe. With an extensive unique range of table and giftware this shop is well worth a visit.
3. **Athlone Castle:** The Castle is a focal point for tourism and visitors and it features exhibitions and audio visual presentations.
4. **Kilconnell Abbey:** Approx 6 miles outside Ballinasloe is the ruins of the Franciscan Friary of Kilconnell founded in 1353.
5. **The Bog Rail:** For a unique learning experience, take a ride aboard the Clonmacnoise & West Offaly Railway through the Offaly bogs. This guided tour journeys through a raised bog with its unusual flora and fauna and its 6,000 year old bog oaks. Special train trips, nature trail, Santa trains at Christmas.
6. **Dartfield:** A spacious purpose built museum which shows the use of the horse through history in the areas of transport, farming, sport, and local traditions. Indoor facilities include displays, exhibits, entertaining and educational videos, cafe and gift shop.
7. **Ballymore Castle:** This was originally a Madden Tower House of the 15th Century, to which a house was added in 1620 and much altered since.
8. **Leap Castle:** Ireland's most haunted castle is open to visitors on request. Small groups catered for.
9. **An Dún Transport & Heritage Museum:** This museum houses an excellent exhibition of vintage and classic cars and trucks, along with a marvellous display of restored farm machinery and rural utensils. Relax in the quaint, comfortable coffee shop. Facilities on site include a souvenir shop.

Things to do with Children

1. **Glendeer Pet Farm:** 6 acre award winning Open Pet Farm Over 50 species of animals and birds. Restored 1950's cottage. Nature walk, picnic and play area. Coffee/Tuck shop. Souvenir shop.
2. **Pallas Karting:** Situated in Tynagh, Loughrea. Europe's largest karting centre. 1.5km tarmac track, 11 meters wide. Also a separate 500m beginners/family track.
3. **Turoe Pet Farm & Leisure Park:** Situated in Bullaun, Loughrea. This farm has over 150 cross bred ewes and over 50 cattle. A variety of domestic and rare birds and animals can be enjoyed on the trail.
4. **IMC Cinema Athlone:** Situated at the Golden Island Shopping Centre. This six screen cinema has something to suit all the family.
5. **Athlone Leisure world:** This has a lot to offer for any age child. For young children there is the Kiddies Adventureland which has slides, rope bridges, ball pools, bouncy castles and much more. For older children there is a choice of Quasar 2000, Ten Pin Bowling, Snooker, Air Hockey and Astroturf Pitch.
6. **Pitch and Putt Ballinasloe:** Situated in Creagh on the outskirts of town a fun filled afternoon for all the family.
7. **Horse Riding:** Creagh Equestrian Centre, Newtown.
8. **Animal Crackers:** Situated on Sarsfield Road, Ballinasloe, has a range of slides, ball pools and rope bridges. There is also a coffee shop for parents to relax as their child plays happily.
9. **Garbally Park:** Now known as St. Joseph's College and is the seminary for the Diocese of Clonfert. This Mansion was built around 1824 by the Earl of Clancarty. Renowned for its beautiful gardens. Why not go for a nice stroll around or enjoy a family game of football.
10. **Up River** Three hour kayaking adventure. Challenge yourself and experience the solo thrill of kayaking down the river Suck. Explore the untouched areas of the Shannon waterway with highly qualified instructors who will guide you through a variety of grade one, two and three water features. Once you are paddling comfortably you are guided through the heart of Ballinasloe through two nature reserves. €30pp for three hours.

Things to do without a Car

1. **Angling:** The River Suck which surrounds Ballinasloe is famous as a coarse fish venue. The marina in the town produces good catches of roach and is productive during the winter months. A permit is required which can be bought on line.
2. **Famine Memorial Park:** This memorial park was opened in 1997 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine. It was the burial ground of the Famine victims for the Ballinasloe District.
3. **The Marina:** A 25 Berth Marina has been completed by Duchas at Sli na hAbhainn beside the hotel. So why not stroll down and feed the ducks and soak up the atmosphere.
4. **Library:** Why not stroll down to the library and relax while reading a book.
5. **The Town Hall:** Where pantomimes and plays often take place.
6. **Farmers Market:** Situated just off Main Street and takes place each Friday from 10 am to 3 pm and sells all local produce.
7. **Shopping on your doorstep:** There are a variety of shops situated around Ballinasloe. You can find anything you may be looking for from gifts to clothing to shoes.
8. **Funworld:** Situated on Main Street. If you fancy a game of snooker or air hockey this is the place to go.
9. **Nightlife:** For those who like clubbing there are three nightclubs to choose from in Ballinasloe. The Planet, Zodiac and East.
10. **Relaxation:** Why not enjoy a nice relaxing bay by availing of our swimming pool, Jacuzzi and C spa.

Things to do with a Car

1. **Claypipe Visitors Centre:** Located in Knockcroghery Co. Roscommon. For over 250 years the village was famous for the production of the tobacco clay pipe, or duidin.
2. **Derryglad folk museum:** Situated in Curraghboy, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. Derryglad Folk Museum also incorporates an old style thatched bar and grocery and an old style garage. The museum itself is situated in a rural setting where you can enjoy a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.
3. **Larry's Old Time Village:** This beautiful crafted model village depicts Ireland from the early 1900's up to 1950. Scenes include the eviction of a family from their cottage, a windmill, a landlord's house.
4. **Portumna Castle:** The great semi-fortified house at Portumna was built before 1618 by Richard Burke or de Burgo, 4th Earl of Clanricarde.
5. **Elphin Windmill:** In 1992, the derelict tower was acquired by Elphin Area Community Enterprise Ltd. and restored under a FAS Community Youth Training Scheme.
6. **Portumna Forest Park:** The Lake fringed Forest Park and Wildlife sanctuary is home to a variety of species of birds and deer.
7. **Roscommon Museum:** This museum houses several original artifacts including a 9th century inscribed slab as well as Dominican Priory and Old Jail Histories.
8. **Kinnitty:** The monastery at Kinnitty was on the site of the Church of Ireland parish church.
9. **Clontuskert Abbey:** The first monastery founded here by St. Baeten in the late 7th century no longer exists. The current ruins date from the late 12th century onwards.
10. **Galway Aquarium:** Atlantaquaria is Ireland's national aquarium and is home to 170 species of fresh water and marine life. It is situated on the famous Salthill Promenade since 1999. Designed over two floors the exhibits follow an interpretation of the Irish aquatic landscape from the glacial mountains, streams of Connemara, down through the river Corrib and out into the Atlantic Ocean via Galway Bay.

Things to do in the Sunshine

1. **Viking Tours:** Relax and cruise the River Shannon on a replica Viking boat while the children dress up and become Vikings. Experience some of the 300 years of Viking history on a voyage into Lough Ree or down river to the monastic settlement and round tower of Clonmacnoise.
2. **Birr Castle and Gardens:** Birr Castle is the private home of the Parsons family. The Demesne has become world famous for its exotic tree and plant collections, rivers and lake, formal gardens, terraces and wildflower meadows exuding an atmosphere of intimacy as well as grandeur.
3. **Salthill Promenade:** Take a stroll along the 2km beach situated just outside Galway city and is well worth a visit when the sun shines.
4. **Clonfert Cathedral:** St. Manchan's Shrine was treasured here for centuries before being removed to the parish church in Boher for safe keeping. There are ruined buildings on the site and the well still attracts pilgrims.
5. **Clonmacnoise monastic settlement:** In the sixth century, St. Ciaran chose this site at Clonmacnoise for his monastery. It became a famous place of learning in medieval times and the burial place of kings.
6. **Roscommon Castle:** Now in ruins this dramatic and imposing 13th Century Norman Castle later to pass into the hands of Hugh O' Connor, King of Connaught is quadrangular in plan with rounded bastions at the corners and a double-towered entrance gate.
7. **Orienteering Adventure:** Experience the best of the midlands adventure with an invigorating Esker challenge and forest trails of garbally demesne with renowned world record holder Cathal Cregg.
8. **Ballinasloe Golf Club:** The course is an 18 hole, Par 72, championship parkland course, renowned for its excellent greens and with water features on four holes.
9. **Fishing** - The River Suck is deep and slow, renowned as one of Ireland's most productive coarse fishing rivers.
10. **Terryglass** - The ruins of a Norman Castle built in the ninth century are signposted. The monastery here was famous in the eighth century for its involvement in the asceticism of the Culdee movement