



DONEGAL

govisitdonegal.com

IRELAND





There's something about

Donegal

Why Visit Donegal? There are a million reasons to visit this wild and wonderful county, from the rich cultural heritage to the breathtaking adventures everyone can enjoy. Steeped in culture and mythology and home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, it's no surprise that Donegal was named 'the coolest place on the planet' by National Geographic. From Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs to wild moorland, charming villages to walking trails and outdoor adventures. Find peace on one of our islands where you will experience Gaeltacht heritage and an opportunity to island hop if you so wish! Enjoy browsing our website for inspiration and experience an unforgettable holiday in Donegal!

Contents

4 Activate the Adrenaline - Land & Water Based Activities	24 Culture and Heritage
6 Walking and Hiking	25 Donegal Crafts
7 Cycling	26 Islands and the Gaeltacht
8 Golf	30 Wild Atlantic Way
9 An Angler's Paradise	31 Accommodation
10 Surfing	32 Caravan and Camping
11 Family Fun	34 Donegal.ie
12 Beaches	36 Rest, Relax, and Revive
14 Equestrian	37 Donegal's Night-time Economy
16 Festivals	38 Donegal Pubs
18 Touring Routes	40 Donegal Food Coast
19 Donegal Gardens	42 Find Your Roots/Film Locations
22 Map of Donegal	43 Planning Your Visit



 **SCAN ME**
FOR MORE INFO



ADRENALINE JUNKIES WELCOME,
THRILL SEEKERS INVITED,
**GOOD TIMES
GUARANTEED!**

Whether it's kayaking, deep-sea diving, or rock climbing, there are plenty of packages and accredited providers offering great rates for everyone, from beginner to expert.

So come along and experience Donegal, where there is something for all!



 **SCAN ME**
FOR WALKING ROUTES



TAKE A WALK ON DONEGAL'S WILD SIDE AND DISCOVER OUR

HIDDEN GEMS

Whether you come for serious mountain hiking, or a gentle traffic-free stroll along the shore, you will not be disappointed. Get some fresh air and discover the incredible landscape of the towering peaks, the natural beauty of the coast with stunning peninsulas, rugged coastlines, and a host of golden beaches.

YOU'LL NEVER 'TYRE' OF DONEGAL'S CAPTIVATING COASTLINES AND STUNNING SIGHTS!

Bike hire is available locally and you can cycle one of the short routes that lace their way through the tranquil countryside. You can also opt for longer routes, such as the Donegal Cycle Route, starting in Donegal Town, or the North West Cycle Trail. Further North, the Inis Eoghain Cycleway, a 55km circular cycle route, connects Lough Swilly with the River Foyle.



 **SCAN ME**
FOR CYCLE ROUTES!





SCAN ME
FOR GOLF COURSES



'PUTT' DONEGAL

AT THE TOP OF YOUR GOLFING DESTINATION LIST!

Tee-off at one of the numerous Championship Links and Parkland courses all over the county, from Ballyliffin to Bundoran. The challenging terrain makes playing golf in Donegal memorable. Not only is the golf great, but this part of the North West of Ireland has the best scenery to go with its greenery!



Ballyliffin Golf Course

 AN ANGLER'S PARADISE

SCAN ME



FOR MORE INFO



Anglers at Killybegs Harbour

ONE VISIT TO DONEGAL'S WATERWAYS AND WE GUARANTEE

YOU'LL BE 'HOOKED'!

Clean rivers, famous for their prolific runs of salmon, numerous sea trout and wild game fisheries entice anglers from many parts of the world. The Atlantic Coast offers shore angling while deep sea fishing is also available. With wild and plentiful fish stocks, fully equipped sea angling licensed charter boats, and a huge choice of stunning locations, Donegal is the ideal place for that Catch of a Lifetime.

ONCE YOU SURF DONEGAL'S WORLD-FAMOUS BREAKS,

YOU WILL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE!



You can take a surfing holiday in Donegal at any time of the year. Donegal's beaches have excellent waves and breaks from summer to winter. Our accredited surf schools offer quality accommodation, fun surf lessons, and competitive board hire packages.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY - **NOT JUST THE KIDS!**



You will experience all kinds of weather on your holiday in Donegal. With its excellent leisure centres, cinemas, and indoor plays areas, the county is well equipped to keep the kids and parents entertained - even on a day when the sun doesn't shine. Donegal's great parks, open farms, and adventure playgrounds, mean you will never be stuck for a fun-filled time!



A COUNTY OF BLUE FLAG BEACHES FROM TOP TO TOE!

In the county that boasts the highest number of Blue Flag beaches and the longest coastline in the country, you're never too far from a beach. Whether your preference is the panoramic type, or the small inlet cove, there are literally hundreds to explore.



Horse-riding in Inishowen



Horse-Riding on Rossnowlagh Beach

SADDLE UP

AND TAKE IN OUR BREATHTAKING BEACHES AND MORE!

What better way to start your day than a canter along a gorgeous beach, or a trek on horseback around quiet country roads. From the saddle of your horse enjoy a different perspective on the landscape. Listen to the sounds of nature, the crashing of the waves, delight in the colours of the wildflowers, and enjoy an exhilarating equestrian experience, which will leave you wondering why you never tried it before.

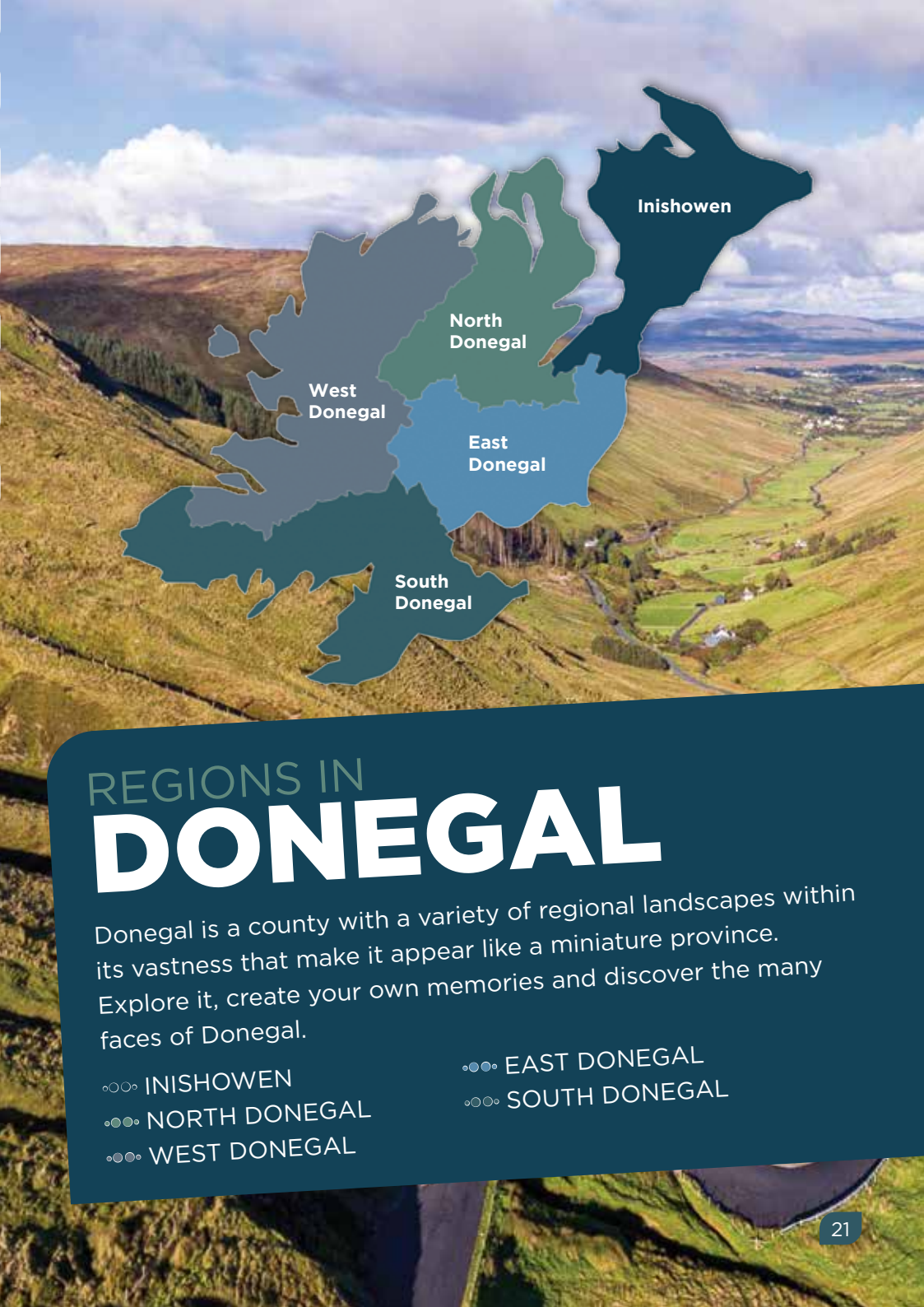
WHATEVER YOUR INTEREST, THERE IS A

FESTIVAL FOR YOU!

Sea Sessions, Bundoran



Donegal boasts a year-round programme of unique and exciting festivals and events with something to suit every taste.



REGIONS IN **DONEGAL**

Donegal is a county with a variety of regional landscapes within its vastness that make it appear like a miniature province. Explore it, create your own memories and discover the many faces of Donegal.

- INISHOWEN
- NORTH DONEGAL
- WEST DONEGAL

- EAST DONEGAL
- SOUTH DONEGAL



Key

- The Gaeltacht - Irish Speaking Area
- Glenveagh National Park
- Beaches
- Tourist Information Centre
- Golf Course
- Picnic Area
- Primary Route
- Blue Flag Beach / Marina
- Ferry
- Airport
- Mooring Buoy
- Wild Atlantic Way
- W.A.W. Signature Points
- W.A.W. Discovery Points
- Causeway Coastal Route



 **SCAN ME**
TO LEARN MORE

A TREASURE TROVE OF EXPRESSION, THOUGHT, AND HISTORY!

Culture is a part of who we are in Donegal. Through our culture we express and celebrate who we are as a diverse, traditional, and modern people. Donegal culture strikes a unique beat, which can be heard across the mountains and lakes of Donegal, Ireland, and the world.



 **SCAN ME**



DONEGAL LANDSCAPE REFLECTED THROUGH THE

HANDS OF THE PEOPLE

Crafts people have taken inspiration from the landscape of Donegal for centuries. From Donegal tweed, to sculptures made of bog oak, the land has literally made its way into the crafts of Donegal. But that's not all that Donegal crafts have to offer. Experience them for yourself in all their inspirational beauty.



Cnoc Fola



Bád Eddie Boat



Tory Island view

SOAK UP OUR FASCINATING IRISH HERITAGE AND EXPLORE OUR

INTRIGUING ISLANDS

The Donegal Gaeltacht is an area in Donegal where, many claim, one of the purest forms of the Irish language has survived and where the traditions of Irish song, dance, and folklore prevail. The largest geographical Gaeltacht in the country, and part of the Wild Atlantic Way, spreads from the Kilcar region of the South, up along the West Coast, and through Donegal's Gaeltacht Láir (central) region of the Derryveagh range and the scenic Poisoned Glen; and north through the Rosses, Gaoth Dobhair, Cloich Cheann Fhaola, and on to Fanad Head. Donegal's islands, sitting proudly in the Atlantic Ocean, are the jewels of Donegal's Gaeltacht, where visitors can experience a vibrancy to the Irish Culture, that is both inspiring and engaging. The wild and beautiful islands have captured the imagination for thousands of years, and provided stimulus for artists and writers alike.

SCAN ME
FOR MORE INFO



TRY A FEW WORDS

Dia dhuit -
Hello

Céad míle fáilte -
A hundred thousand welcomes

Caidé mar atá tú? -
How are you?

Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat -
I'm fine, thanks.

Agus tú féin? -
And you?

Maidin mhaith -
Good morning

Oíche mhaith -
Good night

Cad is ainm duit? -
What is your name?

Cá bhfuil an oifig fáilte? -
Where is the tourist office?

Go raibh maith agat -
Thank you

Más é do thoil é -
Please

Slán, Slán go fóill -
Goodbye

EMBRACE THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY OF LIFE!

Strolling along the sandy splendour of the Blue Flag beach of Ballymastocker. Glimpsing the wondrous beauty of the northern lights from the Inishowen Peninsula. Hiking through the rugged majesty of Glenveagh National Park. Donegal is perfect for a change of pace and the chance to reconnect with those who really matter. Listed as the coolest place on the planet by National Geographic Traveller magazine, this great county encapsulates everything that's magical about the Wild Atlantic Way.

And that's especially the case when you catch sight of the rugged sea cliffs of Sliabh Liag for the first time. Standing over 600m, they are among the highest in Europe. The venerable Pilgrim's Path is the ideal place for walkers to get a sense of the scale of these cliffs. And for those who truly want to appreciate just exactly that, a boat trip will leave unforgettable memories.

Memories to last a lifetime are also in order at Fanad Head Lighthouse, one of Donegal's proud beacons that can be found on the peninsula of the same name. The newly renovated lighthouse has kept ships safe since 1818. Its windswept, panoramic location is truly wild and wonderful and no visit is complete without taking in the breath-taking Lough Swilly and picturesque Mulroy Bay. This nature haven is home to whales, porpoises and dolphins.

These fine creatures are also to be found off Malin Head, the most northerly peninsula in Ireland. Its remoteness is perfect for making you feel as though you're getting away from it all. You will find the country's most northerly tip here - Banba's Crown. This place is named after one of our mythical queens and its outstanding beauty features in the latest Star Wars film.

It's out on these western extremities along the Wild Atlantic Way that you'll become enveloped by the rugged beauty of the landscape, echoed by the ocean's roar.

SCAN ME
WAW WEBSITE



Don't forget to pick up your Wild Atlantic Way Passport and collect your Discovery Point Stamps along the route!

Portnoo Beach

DISCOVER THE DIVERSE RANGE OF QUALITY TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Donegal has an established, diverse range of quality tourist accommodation, including hotels, guesthouses, rental cottages, bed and breakfasts, and camping and caravanning sites.

SCAN ME



HOTELS

Hotels in County Donegal come in all shapes, sizes, and locations. From budget to luxury, there are over 55 hotels to choose from around the county. Hotel accommodation provides a range of facilities which will generally include restaurants/cafés, bars, gyms, spas and leisure centres. Donegal hotels are of a consistently high standard. All our hotels are Fáilte Ireland registered.

BED & BREAKFAST

Bed & Breakfast accommodation is great for the little personal touches. A chat with your hosts has the added benefit of arming you with local knowledge. Bed & Breakfasts are a wonderfully eclectic mix of all types of hosts and houses, and this is part of the attraction. By opening their homes and their hearts to travellers who need a comfortable bed for a night or two, B&B hosts are like instant friends you meet along the way.

SELF CATERING

Holiday home accommodation is a fantastic option if you're travelling as a group, or value having your own space and self-catering facilities. Renting a privately-owned holiday home is a great way to be self-sufficient. No two homes are the same, and they range from simple cottages in the Donegal Gaeltacht, to luxury houses on our wonderful coast.

CAMPING & CARAVAN PARKS

Donegal's Camping & Caravan Parks are equipped to please a wide range of people for a minimal cost and most have attractive landscaped settings, often beside a beach or lake. Caravan Parks provide sites for tents, caravans, and campervans.

Grianan of Aileach

 **SCAN ME**
FOR MORE INFO



Donegal's Camping and Caravan Parks are equipped to please a wide range of people for a minimal cost and most have attractive landscaped settings, often beside a beach or lake. Caravan Parks provide sites for tents, caravans and campervans.

Donegal is a hugely popular location for camping, caravans, campervans, and motorhomes touring the rugged Donegal Coast along the Wild Atlantic Way. In order to get the best out of your visit we recommend that you immerse yourself in our community, stay in our local campsites and spend time to explore the offering of our small towns and villages.

Welcoming Campers, Caravans, Campervans and Motorhomes to Donegal

Donegal is a hugely popular location for those camping or with caravans, campervans or motorhomes and to ensure the best possible experience for those visiting the county, we ask all visitors to:

1. PLAN AHEAD



2. BOOK AHEAD



3. FOLLOW OUR SIMPLE GUIDELINES



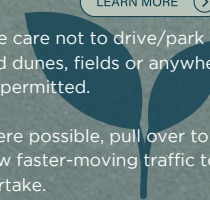
LOCAL FACILITIES

- Spend time and immerse yourself in the community – Visit shops, bars, restaurants and service providers to enjoy the local offerings.
- Park only where authorised, ensuring that you don't outstay your welcome.
- Please reduce noise to a minimum in the evening, when on and offsite.



ENVIRONMENT

- Leave no trace and take all rubbish with you – Use Bring Banks and recycling facilities.
- Use on-site disposal systems at your campsite or Aire de Service stops for wastewater and grey water – Don't use public toilets, waterways and beaches for emptying wastewater.
- Unless in a location where clearly permitted, please avoid lighting fires/barbeques – Instead enjoy Donegal's indoor and outdoor dining offerings.
- Take care not to drive/park on sand dunes, fields or anywhere not permitted.
- Where possible, pull over to allow faster-moving traffic to overtake.



LAND OWNERS

- Avoid entering private land unless permission has been granted.
- Close gates to protect livestock and keep any dogs on leads.
- Enjoy viewing farmyards, machinery, and animals from a distance.
- Give way to animals wandering our country roads.





Bring Home a Piece of Donegal

Visit BuyDonegal.com



Showcase your purchases using the #BuyDonegal

SCAN HERE



Donegal, a fantastic place to

LIVE

donegal.ie/relocate

Home to a young, diverse and growing population. It also boasts Ireland's longest county coastline, affordable cost of living and unparalleled work/life balance.



donegal.ie/work

WORK

Donegal has an electric and thriving mix of employment sectors including tech, food, marine and craft. With remote working hubs and excellent connectivity across the county, you can work almost anywhere in Donegal.

INVEST

contact.info@donegal.ie

With a committed infrastructure investment of €500 million over the next 5 years and a range of development opportunities, there has never been a better time to invest in Donegal.



donegal.ie/study

STUDY

Home to Ireland's newest university, Atlantic Technological University provides a broad range of learning programmes and industry focused courses enabling strong graduate employment opportunities.



Get Donegal Ready!

Check out our new **Donegal - Ireland's DNA** Clothing Range available in retailers across the county

Visit donegal.ie/Clothing



 REST RELAX AND REVIVE



INDULGE

YOURSELF IN TRANQUILITY AND HOSPITALITY

In our time-starved world, everyone needs to switch off and unwind. Sign up for an indulging spa treatment, revitalising treatment, or seaweed bath at one of the many centres throughout the county.

 DONEGAL'S NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

AFTER-DARK IN DONEGAL

Enjoy an eclectic, vibrant night-time culture with lively bars, friendly locals, restaurants to suit all tastes, fantastic live music venues and theatres offering something for everyone.

Polestar Roundabout,
Letterkenny

NORTHERN LIGHTS



Experience the spectacular multicoloured display of the Northern Lights dancing in the night skies above Donegal... In real life it's much better. Is this on your bucket list?

Shrove Lighthouse

DONEGAL PUBS

A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE

We call them the 'local', which is our friendly code word for the local pub. Rest assured, it doesn't matter whether you've travelled from New York or Berlin, you're guaranteed a warm welcome in whichever Donegal pub you choose as your local.

Our pubs are Ireland's number one tourist attraction for a reason and no trip to our most northerly county is complete without taking time out in one of our legendary pubs. You'll find a warm welcome, great conversation, the legendary 'craic' and friendly publicans more than eager to make you feel at home.

Donegal pubs are the real Ireland, a place to meet the locals, have a chat and a pint, unwind after a day in our majestic outdoors or enjoy some delicious locally sourced food. Our pubs have been around for centuries, they're part of our culture and tradition, a meeting place for the local community where strangers are given the warmest of welcomes.



38

Biddy O'Barnes

The Singing Pub

Each one of the two hundred pubs in Donegal has a story to tell. You could stumble upon a music session in an out-of-the-way pub miles from nowhere or find a dance in full swing that all the locals love to attend.

Enjoy our famous stouts and lagers, local brews, gins and Irish whiskies. There's a drink to suit every taste!

Most locals will tell you conversation is one of the unique ingredients of a good pub. A friendly publican will be interested in you and will wish to make your visit even more special, so be sure to ask their advice on where to go and what to do. Donegal pubs are a mini-tourist office in their own right!

There is a pub for everyone – old pubs, new pubs, sports pubs, music pubs – just like our drinks, where we have a wide selection to choose from, so you won't be disappointed.

In a world more connected, faster, always on, there is a need to be able to switch off. Here in Donegal we're also connected but our pubs have retained an old-world charm that makes them so special. Come and enjoy the atmosphere and relax for a while.

Immerse yourself in our fantastic pub culture. Food and drink, laughter and conversation in equal measure.

We love our local – you will too!



Food Coast Donegal - Making Donegal Famous For Food

Donegal is a place where you'll find everything you could ever want from the Wild Atlantic Way; a sweeping and dramatic coastline, rugged mountains, secluded bays, beautiful beaches, and parklands and forests offering world class wilderness.

The growth of the food sector in Donegal, together with the interest created by the Wild Atlantic Way, has given food businesses in the county the opportunity to work collaboratively to make a statement about the culinary experience Donegal offers to locals and visitors alike.



Food tourism is a global trend and Donegal is well placed to entice even more tourists to the northwest. There is an exciting 'Donegal Food Movement' underway and it's gaining momentum as the industry, agencies and public work together to embrace the development of a foodie culture across Donegal.



The Food Coast Donegal initiative was developed by the Local Enterprise Office to support the development, growth and awareness of Donegal's food sector and acts as a central platform for establishing Donegal as a "Food County" – a place with a vibrant food culture and food economy.

Food Coast Donegal drives awareness of the provenance of Donegal food among visitors and locals alike; the initiative celebrates local eateries recognising them for the focus they place on local Donegal producers and seasonal cooking.

From the outset, Food Coast Donegal has aimed to encourage and facilitate the establishment of new food opportunities in the county, while at the same time increasing the capability of existing food enterprises and food promoters within Donegal.

Food Coast Donegal continues to champion food producers, chefs, restaurants, cafes, hotels and accommodation providers across the county, celebrating the individuals and businesses that play a key role in enhancing the food reputation of the region and making Donegal famous for food.

From distilleries to dairy produce, Donegal has it all with a host of food producers and visitor attractions throughout the county. Donegal is also known for its amazing seafood and succulent and tender lamb and you'll find it featured on the menus of the county's best restaurants. See www.donegalfoodcoast.ie for more information and plan your visit at www.govisitdonegal.com

Savour the sights, smells and tastes of spectacular local produce in the hills of Donegal

Food Coast Donegal invites you to eat and drink your way around Donegal to discover unique flavours and the freshest food made from locally sourced ingredients. Donegal has an exceptionally high standard of natural ingredients and foods due to its unspoilt environment, climate, and richly diverse landscape. The passion and pride of Donegal producers and chefs, paired with a wealth of local ingredients ensures that the Donegal food sector continues to punch above its weight. The county offers culinary delights from local chefs and Donegal food producers who are growing in numbers and starting to make a name for themselves, winning awards at national events including Blas Na hEireann, the Irish Food Awards.



Donegal is known for its wild rugged beauty and its extensive coastline forms a key part of the Wild Atlantic Way. With more than 1,235 kilometres of coastline, it's no wonder Donegal is home to some of the best seafood in the world. Food Coast Donegal champions products made in Donegal and the chefs and retailers that are actively working with local producers to bring you the best of Donegal on a plate.

Donegal is home to both the largest (Killybegs) and the smallest (Bunbeg) fishing ports in Ireland making it an ideal place to sample an array of seafood caught fresh from the Atlantic. Chefs from the county have also proven popular in the All-Ireland Chowder Cook Off, taking home the title of All Ireland Chowder Champions twice in recent years.



As well as delicious Donegal food, you'll experience stunning surroundings. National Geographic crowned Donegal "The Coolest Place on the Planet" and Donegal Airport was awarded "Most Scenic Landing in the World" three years in a row.



For the 2023 season, Food Coast Donegal is planning a calendar of events which illustrate the spirit of Donegal food and its champions. These unique experiences will see some of the county's most brilliant chefs create a feast of Donegal food in unique locations across the northwest. Each event is hosted by a Donegal food business and will create a memorable culinary experience celebrating Donegal food. Previous locations have included a celebration of Donegal food at one of the county's most iconic locations, A Feast at the Foot of Errigal, the county's highest peak. These events will run across the county so keep an eye on the Food Coast Donegal's social channels for more details. See www.donegalfoodcoast.ie

FIND YOUR ROOTS / FILM LOCATIONS

FIND YOUR ROOTS

FAMILY HISTORY STORIES TO AMAZE AND INSPIRE.

In a county that boasts a Diaspora that has reached around the world and back again, you might find you are descended from an ancient Donegal king or a world-famous Gaelic poet. Either way, why not come and explore your family story by meeting your ancestors, visiting the place where it all began and learning a little bit more about your Donegal history.

Central Library, Oliver Plunkett Rd., Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Tel: +353 (0)74 912 4950
www.donegallibrary.ie
Find us on Facebook @DonegalCountyLibrary
Follow us on Twitter: @DonegalLibrary

Donegal County Archives Service Donegal County Council, Three Rivers Centre, Lifford, Co. Donegal Tel: +353 (0)74 917 2490

Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Tel: +353 (0)74 912 4613
Find us on Facebook @Donegalcomuseum
Follow us on Twitter @Donegalcomuseum



SCAN ME
FOR MORE INFORMATION

A PERFECT PLACE

TO SHOOT YOUR FILM

The Film Office acts as the main resource for filmmakers in Donegal and those who wish to film in Donegal from all over the world. The Film Office helps filmmakers to find locations, cast and crew, technical services and local service providers.



DONEGAL OFFICE

The Office has extensive experience with visual production and we are more than happy to deal with your enquiry, however big or small the production is. When you contact the Donegal Film Office we will respond quickly, creatively and correctly to your enquiry.

Tel: +353 (0)74 937 3718

E: filmoffice@donegalcoco.ie W: www.donegalfilmoffice.ie



PLANNING YOUR VISIT (GETTING HERE)

Whether you travel by car, bus, ferry or fly – getting here has never been easier.



SCAN ME
TO GET HERE

**Photography
supplied by**

Brian Morrison
Emer O'Shea
Vintners Association of
Ireland
Economic Development,
Donegal County Council
Donegal Local Enterprise
Office
Gareth Wray
Chris Hill

Donegal Tourism
Tourism Ireland
Oakfield Park
Donegal Airport
Sea Sessions
Paul Lindsay
Sliabh Liag Camping

Editorial supplied by

Donegal County Council
Donegal Tourism CLG

Front Page Image

Fairy Bridges, Bundoran -
Gareth Wray

Back Page Image

Twilight Surfer -
Emer O'Shea

Copyrights

© all rights reserved
Tourism Unit, Donegal
County Council / Donegal
Tourism CLG

Graphics

Audrey Kavanagh Design



govisitdonegal.com