GALWAY

Galway City is located on the west coast of Ireland situated on the massive Galway Bay. It was built in the mid-13th century as an important castle town and port by the Anglo-Normans. In 1473, Galway was almost destroyed by a fire. This, however, allowed the wealthy citizens to build lavish homes (like Lynch's Castle) and rebuild the city in a planned fashion. In 1477, Christopher Columbus visited Galway and is believed to have visited St. Nicholas's church, which can still be visited today.

Today, Galway is the third largest city in Ireland. It is a lively city thanks to its university and pubs. Most nights the pubs are open late and the live music starts by 5pm. Two of the best-known pubs are Taaffe's and Ti Neachtain, located on the main pedestrian drag between Eyre Square and the river.

Downtown Galway City

At the Four Corners, where William Street becomes Shop Street, you'll find Lynch's Castle. This castle was formerly owned by one of the fourteen tribes which ruled the city centuries ago, and is now home to Allied Irish Bank. The inside is still impressive, with coats of arms, stone fireplaces and a separate exhibition room. In 1493, Mayor James Lynch Fitzstephen actually pronounced his own son guilty of the murder of a Spanish sailor who became involved with a female family member. Lynch hanged his son Walter himself, when everyone else refused to participate.

St. Nicholas' Church is the largest medieval parish church in Ireland in continuous use as a place of worship. The earliest sections of the church date back as early as 1320. Tradition tells us that the church was built on top of the ruins of an older structure. The church is open all day, everyday, and visitors are always welcome.

Galway Cathedral is located on Nun's Island, near Salmon Weir Bridge. Construction of the Cathedral, which is built on the old city jail site, was started in 1958 and completed in 1965. One of its most striking features is the 145-foot tall Renaissance-styled dome.

Galway's famous Spanish Arch was built in the 16th century as an addition to the city wall. It was constructed to help protect merchant ships. The Spanish Arch is across the street from the Jury's Inn hotel.

• The population of Galway city is 75,414 (2011) • Approximately 78% of the population of Galway is White Irish, descended from native Gaelic peoples and Norman settlers. • A further 5% are foreign-born Irish. • Following an influx of immigrants to Galway during the 2000s, approximately 9% of the population is non-Irish, mostly white Eastern Europeans from Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania. • The small remainder are Asian and African descendants.

Eyer Square, originally the medieval open space in front of the town gate, is now a park at the center of the city. In 1631 the area was officially turned into a park and enclosed by a wooden fence. In the 1960s a full-scale reconstruction started and in 1965 the park reopened with a new name, John F. Kennedy Memorial Park. The park was renamed after the United States President who visited Galway shortly before his assassination in 1963. In recent years, the square has undergone another renovation and was updated with modern spaces and, when working, a free wifi zone.

FREE Wi Fi

Pedestrian-Friendly Shopping Stroll- The best of Galway lies between Eyer Square and the river. From the square, Williams Gate winds through the old medieval town down to the river, harbor, and Jury's Inn. This mostly pedestrian street changes names several times, but you'll have no problem following the locals and tourists alike enjoying the city.

Jury's Inn   Harbour Hotel

Places of Interest
1. Galway Cathedral
2. St. Nicholas' Church
3. Town Hall Theatre
4. The Black Box
5. Omniplex Cinema
6. Galway City Museum
7. Spanish Arch
8. City Hall
9. County Buildings
10. Lynch's Castle
11. The Claddagh
12. Ceannt Station
   (Bus and Rail)
13. Galway Tourist Office
14. Post Office
15. Greyhound Stadium

Scan for landmark details