

Local Attractions – Pontoon Bridge Hotel

Knock Pilgrimages

Pontoon Bridge Hotel Mayo is the perfect place to stay when visiting Knock. Since the Apparition at Knock on 21st August 1879, Our Lady's Shrine has been a unique place for Pilgrimage and Prayer. It is a sacred place – a place of peace. Knock is an oasis that calls people amidst the noise, din and stress of modern life and attracts thousands of visitors every year. .

Lough Conn Drive – The Lake Drive

This is a looped drive that starts on our door step and will bring you around the majestic Lough Conn through Lahardaun, Crossmolina, Ballina, Knockmore and Pontoon. Enjoy the spectacular beauty of County Mayo while staying at Pontoon Bridge Hotel.

Other great scenic drives include Achill Island, The Mullet Peninsula, Ballycastle, Killala Bay, Clew Bay, Louisbergh and Killary Harbour.

Museum of Country Life – Castlebar

The Museum of Country Life is located just 15 minute's drive from our wonderful Pontoon Bridge Hotel Mayo. Here you can immerse yourself in the lives of our rural ancestors from the mid - 19th to the mid - 20th centuries. Lifestyles which were established for several hundred years came to an end well into living memory and here amidst furniture and fittings, the tools they used to work the land and the clothes and textiles they wore, you can reach out and touch those vanished lives.

Turlough Park is the site of the first de Burgo castle and the impressive High Victorian Gothic style house was built in 1865 by the Fitzgeralds, who farmed the surrounding land. Today the museum offers guided tours, an audio – visual exhibition, lectures, workshops, special events, family days, a museum shop & café- a perfect choice when looking for attractions in Mayo.

Croagh Patrick

The pilgrimage mountain of Croagh Patrick is located just outside of Westport town and under an hour's drive from our Hotel in Mayo a must visit destination during you stay at Pontoon Bridge Hotel.

In 441 AD St. Patrick reached the summit of Croagh Patrick and fasted for 40 day. St. Patrick is also noted for banishing the snakes from Ireland.

A wonderful experience and challenge on a fine day and once you reach the top; the views of Clew Bay and County Mayo are spectacular.

Hennigan's Farm

Hennigan's Farm is situated only about 15 minute's drive from the Pontoon Bridge Hotel. Hennigan's Heritage is a new and unique development in the county. Here you can see and hear how this family survived on less than 10 acres of land for nearly 200 years. You can experience how people lived in a frugal, self-sufficient community when work was hard and luxuries few. A revelation for younger generations. An authentic experience of life and traditions in rural Ireland. The friendly and professional tour guides will join you in this classic Mayo experience, something all the family will enjoy.

One visitor describes it: "My family and I visited Hennigan's Heritage farm which is situated just outside Swinford. Although a bit off the beaten track we had a brilliant time - Tom Hennigan tells the story of life in County Mayo - he uses plenty of anecdotes and tools/equipment/clothing that would have been used. The visit finished in Tom's family cottage which he left in 1970 - we all really enjoyed it!! My kids (8 and 5) were entranced and Tom made sure they were involved. Tom got his son to bring the kids into the farm yard where he spent time explaining to them how they looked after the geese, pigs, etc. We ended up in the coffee shop with fresh scones and yummy coffee. I especially liked it because it wasn't "touristy" just a genuine person telling a real story.

Fr. Peyton Centre

The famous Rosary Priest hailed from the little village of Attymass, just fifteen minutes drive from Pontoon Bridge Hotel Mayo. He was known the world over for his great charitable work and for the motto "The family that prays together, stays together."

On tour you can experience the spectacular presentation of Fr. Peyton's life story, the photographic exhibition of the prayer crusades, take time-out to pray in the oratory where a recording of Fr. Peyton praying the Rosary is inspiring. Something truly different.

Ceide Fields, Neolithic Site

The Ceide Fields Neolithic Site is located in Ballycastle, Co. Mayo (approximately 30 miles from Pontoon). Beneath the wild boglands of North Mayo lie the Ceide Fields, the most extensive stone age monument in the world with field systems, dwelling areas and megalithic tombs dating from 5,000 years ago.

In addition, the wild flora of the bog is of international importance and is bounded by some of the most spectacular rock formations and cliffs in Ireland. The Visitor Centre houses displays and exhibitions in English and Irish

Michael Davitt Museum

The Michael Davitt Museum and the adjoining community centre were opened at Straide on 23 April 1984 to honour its native son, 'the father of the Land League' and one of Ireland's greatest patriots.

Michael Davitt (1846-1906) was the founder, chief organiser and inspiring genius of the Land League, the biggest mass movement in modern Irish history which transformed tenant-farmers into owner-occupiers by constitutional means. The museum at Straide is only about 15 minute's drive from Pontoon Bridge Hotel Mayo.

Foxford Woollen Mills

The Foxford Woollen Mills Visitor Centre is recognised as one of the leading attractions in Ireland. At the core of this unique facility is the tour of the Working Woollen Mills which allows the visitor to experience the fascinating success of the Foxford Woollen Mills.

The Olde Mill Restaurant is situated on the first floor the atmosphere is welcoming, bright and traditional seating up to 110 people at any given time. It offers a selection of fresh home-made food, from a cup of tea or coffee, a light snack to full meal. The Mill Shop is located on the ground floor the Mill shop stocks a wide range of Irish made giftware as well as the Foxford rugs, blankets and tweeds. Pontoon Bridge Hotel Mayo is the ideal base when visiting Foxford Woollen Mills in Ireland.

Ballintubber Abbey

This 13th century abbey is unique – not only is it the only church in Ireland still in use which was founded by an Irish King but it is also the one Irish church where mass has been offered for over 781 years without a break.

Its story is graphically told in a video documentary on show at the abbey. Founded in 1216 by the last King of Connaught, Cathal Croidhearg O'Connor, for the Canons Regular of St. Augustine order, the Abbey had large tracts of land in the district until the dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VII.

Retreats, pilgrimages and tours are available today. The Celtic Furrow Visitors Centre provides guided tours of the region, tracing 5,000 years of Irish culture.