

1756
BALLYNAHINCH
CASTLE
HOTEL & ESTATE

Built in 1756 by the Martin Family, Ballynahinch Castle was the Manor House for one of the largest estates in Ireland & the British Isles at the time. Encompassing over 200,000 acres, its boundaries stretched from Oughterard in the east, the 12 Bens to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and west.

The area, previously ruled by the O'Flaherty Clan in the 16th century, and home of the infamous pirate queen, Grace O'Malley (Grainnuale) is steeped in history and legend. The original O'Flaherty Castle stronghold can be seen on Castle Island, located on Ballynahinch Lake. The wide variety of woodland walks throughout the estate allow you to escape into this magical, timeless place where relics of the estate's past, and more recent additions welcome you at almost every turn.

The flora and fauna, much of it unique to this region, thrives at Ballynahinch, a veritable oasis, hidden from the wilds of Connemara. Peregrine falcons, pine martins, atlantic salmon and red deer are a few of the protected species which share this habitat with us. Great efforts are undertaken to protect these species and also to remove invasive alien species ensuring the estate is protected for many generations to come.

Guided walks, giving you a much greater insight into the estate's history and ecology, are available year round from the hotel.

All enquiries should be made to the reception desk.



ESTATE WALKS

- Riverside Walk 1km, 30 minutes
- Lakeside Walk 1.5km, 1 hour
- Railway Walk 2km, 45 minutes
- Killeen Lake Walk 2km, 45 minutes
- The Old Manor Walk 1km, 30 minutes

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|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 The Old Manor | 6 Railway Bridge | 11 Crannóg |
| 2 O'Flaherty Island | 7 Station House | 12 Lettery Lodge |
| 3 Turbine | 8 Footbridge | --- Connemara Greenway Cycle |
| 4 Back Gate Lodge | 9 Boathouse | Estate Greenway Loop 6.5km |
| 5 Walled Garden | 10 Clay Shooting | |

1 kilometre

Fly Fishing

Ballynahinch offers Atlantic Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout fishing on 3 kilometres of the pristine Owenmore River.

The estate adheres to a strict fly fishing only policy, however for those who have never fly fished before, or perhaps those who are looking to improve their fishing skills, our hugely popular comprehensive fly fishing tutorial is a must.

Guides and equipment are available through the estate upon request and the minimum age is 12. The season runs from 1st February – 30th September with larger runs arriving in the summer months.

Included in the price is a one-day fishing licence, equipment & flies and wellington boots.

The minimum age for fishing is 12 years old.
Advance bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.
Please contact reception.

All fishing is strictly a catch and release policy.



Walled Garden Picnic

Enjoy the menus of Ballynahinch Castle in the great outdoors, a picnic can be prepared for a day exploring Connemara or for something more relaxing, find a scenic spot on the estate or in the gardens. We have a selection of picnics available from our Wine & Cheese Hamper to the Exploration Picnic, as well as the Walled Garden Picnic, or why not indulge yourself with The Perfect Picnic setup on the terrace, under gazebo, overlooking Ben Lettery.

All picnics include a picnic blanket, bluetooth speaker and playing cards.

Caters to all dietary needs.

For more information, please contact reception.



Shooting Masterclass

For both ladies and gentlemen, the Connemara Shooting School at Ballynahinch Castle Hotel will take you through every aspect of safety, gun handling and the methods for breaking all your targets. We offer tuition for all levels of shooter including the novice who has never touched a gun, someone who would like to improve their ability or a competitor who would like to reach the dizzy heights of Olympic glory!

Our chief instructor Shane Bisgood was trained by the renowned Holland & Holland Shooting School in West London. All guns, ammunition and accessories are provided as part of the packages and we have a range of guns available that are suitable for all sizes and abilities including over/under, side-by-side and semi-automatic.

The minimum age for shooting is 12 years old.
Advance bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.
Please contact reception.

Guided Walks

Our 2-hour guided walk of the estate is a signature Ballynahinch experience. Our professional walking guides will take you on a fascinating journey through the history, archaeology, geology, and flora and fauna of Ballynahinch estate and this remarkable landscape. This walk caters for all levels of fitness. Guided half and full day hikes of the 12 Bens Mountains and on other breath-taking routes throughout Connemara are also offered. For more information, please contact Reception.

Cycling in Connemara

We are fortunate to have the first section of the Connemara Greenway passing the estate, a dedicated 8km stretch, as well as the Estate Greenway Loop which is 6.5km situated within the grounds, ideal for those who wish for an easy route away from the main road. Those looking for a longer route to soak up the scenery on the Wild Atlantic Way, can cycle from the hotel towards Roundstone.

Please ask at reception.



Walled Garden

The Walled Garden in Ballynahinch Castle is approximately one hectare in size. It undertook a complete restoration, which started in February 2017. The walls which were damaged from ivy growth, were meticulously knocked and rebuilt using the original stone by a team of local stonemasons. The garden was designed by Rachel Lamb and the planting took place in 2018.

Within the Walled Garden we have our kitchen garden which provides fruit and vegetables to our Owenmore Restaurant and Fisherman's Pub. All the vegetables are grown from seed in our beautiful Victorian style greenhouse. We have added a large wildflower meadow to encourage our pollinators and this has become a haven for bees, birds and other wildlife.



Island and Lobster Boat Trip

Take a 3-hour guided boat trip of Roundstone Bay on board the Nancy Lee with our experienced skipper, John O'Sullivan. This trip is our most popular guest activity and is ideal for couples and family groups of all ages.

Explore the deserted and hauntingly beautiful island of Inishlacken, and experience part of Connemara's historic maritime culture by trying your hand at a spot of mackerel fishing, dolphin and seal spotting or checking John's lobster pots.

This trip is wholly unique and has been the highlight of many people's visits to Ireland. The Nancy Lee departs from Roundstone Pier just 10 minutes from the Hotel and is licensed for 7 passengers.



ESTATE ACTIVITIES & WALKING MAP

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel

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