



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 (Grainneuil) 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. Red squirrels, pine martins, peregrine falcons, 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.



- 1 The Old Manor
- 2 Castle Island
- 3 Turbine
- 4 Back Gate Lodge
- 5 The Stables
- 6 Walled Garden
- 7 Railway Bridge
- 8 Station House
- 9 Front Gate Lodge
- 10 Footbridge
- 11 Boathouse
- 12 Clay Shooting

ESTATE WALKS

- Riverside Walk 1km, 30 minutes
- Lakeside Walk 3.5km, 1 hour
- Railway Walk 2km, 45 minutes
- Killleen Lake Walk 3km, 55 minutes

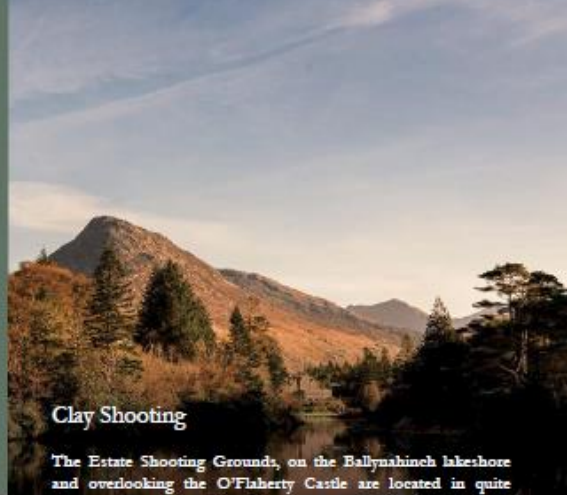
1 kilometre

Fly Fishing

Ballynahinch offers Atlantic Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout fishing on 3 kilometres of the pristine Owenmore River. The seven salmon beats and three trout beats are world renowned for both their sport and their setting.

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, the Estate offers a comprehensive Fly Fishing tutorial. Guides and equipment are available through the Estate upon request.

The season runs from 1st February – 30th September with larger runs arriving in the summer months.



Clay Shooting

The Estate Shooting Grounds, on the Ballynahinch lakeshore and overlooking the O'Flaherty Castle are located in quite the most exquisite setting. Shane, our professional Holland & Holland shooting instructor is on hand to take you through every aspect of shotgun safety, gun handling and the skills needed to hit all your targets.

This activity is open to both ladies and gentlemen with both novices and experts all catered for. We have four automatic traps and a 20 metre tower that will challenge the best shots amongst us.

All equipment is provided by the Hotel.



Guided Walks

Our 2-hour guided walk of the Estate and short boat trip to the O'Flaherty Castle 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.



WALKING MAP & ESTATE ACTIVITIES



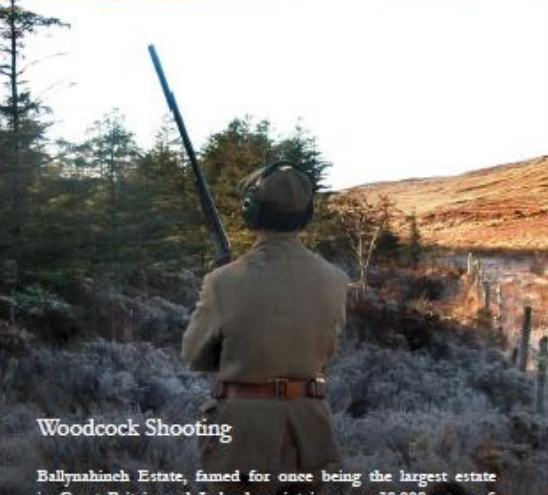
BALLYNAHINCH
CASTLE
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Woodcock Shooting

Ballynahinch Estate, famed for once being the largest estate in Great Britain and Ireland, maintains over 30,000 acres of unspoilt, wild woodcock shooting.

Parties first arrive after the full moon in November and shoot until the end of January. The ground on the Estate is only shot twice in any season to ensure minimum disturbance to the woodcock and maximum opportunity for the guns.

Driven & walked-up shooting are both offered. For more information, please contact the Estate Manager through Reception.



Kayaking

Take a trip with our fully licensed kayak and paddleboard guide, Shane. We offer 3-hour trips from Roundstone Pier out to neighbouring islands or on the Ballynahinch Lake where you can get up close to the O'Flaherty Castle. All equipment is provided and prebooking is essential.

Cycling

Connemara offers wonderful coastline cycling and stunning countryside cycling routes, which allows you to experience all the beauty of this remarkable landscape. Whether you simply want a leisurely, gentle cycle tour or, as an experienced cyclist, are looking for a more challenging cycling experience, we can help you to plan your cycling trip to suit. For those travelling with their own bikes we have a secure lock up and a work stand for your use. Bicycle hire is available through Reception.



Island and Lobster Excursion

Take a 3-hour guided boat trip of Roundstone Bay on board the Nancy Lee with our experienced skipper, John O'Sullivan. Explore the deserted and hauntingly beautiful island of Inishblacken, and experience part of Connemara's historic maritime culture by trying your hand at a spot of mackerel fishing and checking John's lobster pots.

This trip is wholly unique and has been the highlight of many people's visits to Ireland. It is ideal for couples and larger groups alike. The Nancy Lee departs from Roundstone Pier just 10 minutes from the Hotel and is licensed for 8 passengers.



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