

EASTER ATHLONE 2018 FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Sheraton
ATHLONE HOTEL

HODSON
BAY HOTEL

Easter marks the start of spring and the clocks go forward 1 hour on 25th March. So, we can look forward to longer brighter days, freshly cut grass and beautiful morning choruses from our native Irish birds.

Here are 15 fantastic things you can do, see and sample this Easter around Athlone.



ATHLONE GOLF CLUB'S EASTER FESTIVAL OF GOLF

Enjoy a weekend of great golfing with our Easter Festival of Golf at Athlone Golf Club from Friday March 30th - Monday April 2nd. The beauty of Athlone Golf Course is its smooth wavelike fairways; you could play 100 times with a new experience every time.

Online Booking from March 15th.
Book online at www.athlonegolfclub.ie



SECRET GARDEN EASTER TRAIL

Celebrate Easter in an idyllic setting of the walled gardens of Strokestown House, Roscommon from 1-2.45pm, Easter Sunday. Find clues in the nooks and crannies of the garden to receive chocolatey egg treasure. Enjoy a special Custard Pie Puppet Show @ 2pm & visit the spring lambs before the parade in Strokestown village @ 3pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult over 16 years of age. €7 per child +€2.50 booking fee. €10 on the day. Adults go free.



GLENDEER PET FARM ATHLONE

This Easter take a trip to Glendeer's 6 acres of animals, nature walks, & fun for all the family. Children can feed the animals, do the Easter Egg Hunt, climb the obstacle course, make their way through the maze & hang out on the slide, swings, seesaws, and glider swing. Little tots (under 4 years) enjoy their own chocolate egg hunt for children, ball pool and tots play area. And everyone enjoys fresh coffee/tea with delicious home-made treats.



EASTER CYCLE

Why not hop on your bike this Easter to take in the awesome sights and sounds along Athlone Old Rail Cycle Track. It is away from traffic, so it is perfect for kids of all ages to take off on a cycling adventure. For bicycle rental and parking head to DB Cycles at Garrycastle Spar.

'NÄLKÄ' EXHIBITION

'Nälkä' is the Finnish word for 'Hunger'. This exhibition is one of very few commemorative events relating to the Great Finnish Famine anywhere in the world. It examines the causes and consequences with a fascinating insight into the harsh life of 19th century Finland.

National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park, Roscommon runs to the end of April 2018. FREE event.



SHERATON ATHLONE HOTEL EASTER LUNCH & EGG HUNT

A great spot for lunch in Athlone Town is the Sheraton Bar. Try their succulent delicious Balti Chicken Curry and awesome Sharing Platters. And with it been Easter, their Kids Camp Leaders have created an Egg Hunt for the kids at 11am; perfect timing for everyone to build up an appetite for their taste fantastic Easter Lunch.



ATHLONE GAA EASTER CAMP

This Easter if you're kid(s) are interested in GAA skill development in a positive playing environment, Athlone GAA is the place to be. This 2-day Easter Camp gives kids maximum enjoyment from playing Gaelic Games. March 28th & 29th 10am - 2pm. Places are limited. Bookings close at 11am Monday, March 26th. Cost €15.00 per child

FOR INFO & BOOKING:
Contact James Heffernan 085 - 7139924



DUN NA SÍ AMENITY & HERITAGE PARK

What is great about the Athlone's Old Rail cycle track is when you make it to Moate you and the gang can explore the beautiful park of Dun na Sí. There is loads to do, see and learn. It is a Midlands treasure worth visiting.



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HODSON BAY HOTEL EASTER LUNCH

If you're in Athlone on Easter Sunday and looking for somewhere to eat, relax and let the kids off to enjoy yet another awesome Easter Egg Hunt then head to Hodson Bay Hotel. It's only 10 mins drive from Athlone Town and you can indulge in their delicious 3-course Easter Sunday Lunch in their newly refurbished L'Escale Restaurant.

VIKING CRUISE

Another great thing to do in Athlone is the cruise with Viking Mike on the Shannon. You can hop on after your Easter lunch in Hodson Bay heading to Athlone Castle or leave from Athlone Castle to head deeper into history with a journey to Clonmacnoise early Christian site. Check www.vikingtoursireland.ie for times & fares



CLONMACNOISE

Clonmacnoise is an ancient monastic site. Walk amongst the peaceful stone ruins to conjure images of the saints and scholars of Ireland's renowned Golden Age of learning. Explore the preserved structures of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, Temple Doolin, Temple Hurpan & Temple Melaghlin.

For a deeper experience, visit the interpretive visitor centre for displays of cross slabs and the 9th century Cross of the Scriptures.

ATHLONE CASTLE

During your mid-term break in Athlone why not experience an immersive journey through 5,000 years of history at Athlone Castle Visitor Centre located on the banks of the River Shannon in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East.

And afterwards, you can sample a pint or a drop of whiskey in Ireland's oldest pub – Sean's Bar.



Photo by: Ross Kavanagh



SHANNON BANKS WALKS

If you are looking to create your own experiences, then the Shannon Banks Walk is the way to go. This nature trail walk starts at the rear of Athlone Castle. It is approx 5kms looped bi-directional walk taking you along the banks of the River Shannon and the old Athlone Canal.

There are four information boards along the trail detailing flora, fauna, wildlife and fish.

FAMILY KITE DAY

'Let's go fly a kite!' Visit the parklands in front of Strokestown Park House, get yourself a kite and make some memories in the beautiful setting of Strokestown Park. Family fun guaranteed!

Price: Free of charge (Kites provided)
Location: Strokestown Park parklands
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Date: 25th March



LOUGH BOORA DISCOVERY PARK

Lough Boora Discovery Park is the ultimate park adventure with something for everyone. From walking, cycling, angling & fishing, birdwatching to the wonderfully mysterious fairy trail and fantastic sculptures raising from the landscape. Lough Boora is a uniquely different experience. Plus, great coffee/tea and mouth-watering goodness in Catoca Café. A great day out for everyone!

FUN FACT

THE FIRST EASTER EGGS

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century. They were bitter and hard. But as chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs were created like the ones we have today.

THE STORY OF THE EASTER BUNNY

In the 19th Century legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides eggs as they are also a symbol of new life. But the Easter Bunny doesn't do all the work alone; in Switzerland, Easter eggs are delivered by a cuckoo, and by the fox in parts of Germany.