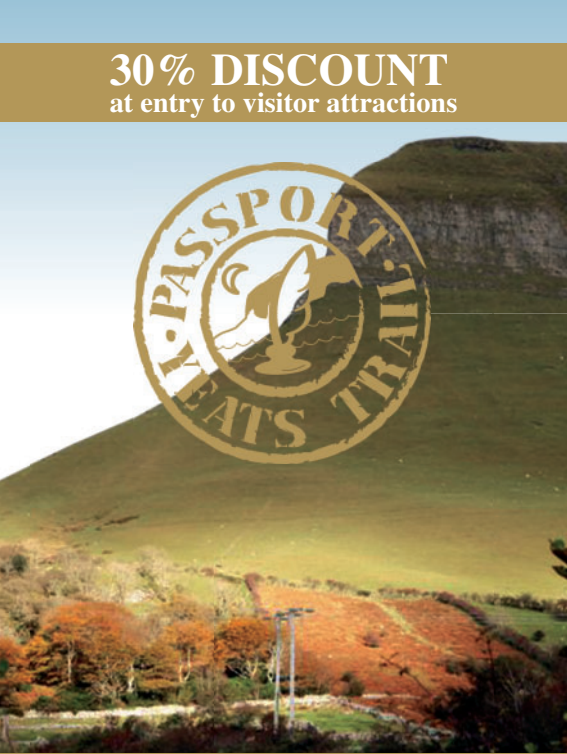



30% DISCOUNT
at entry to visitor attractions



*The Stolen Child,
William Butler Yeats 1886*

THE
YEATS
TRAIL

Those of us who love grand old houses, magnificent scenery, a fine flavour of Irish culture and great stories, simply should not miss this tour.

Trail includes: The Dublin Writers Museum and sites in Sligo and Galway. **Where you choose to start the Yeats Trail is up to you, but access is easy via Dublin, Shannon, Knock, (Ireland West) Galway or Sligo Airports.**

At the first destination, present your Yeats Trail Passport where it will be stamped. **You are now eligible for a 30% Discount to all paid attractions included in the tour.**

Those of us who love grand old houses, magnificent scenery, a fine flavour of Irish culture and great stories, simply should not miss this tour.

Trail includes: The Dublin Writers Museum and sites in Sligo and Galway. **Where you choose to start the Yeats Trail is up to you, but access is easy via Dublin, Shannon, Knock, (Ireland West) Galway or Sligo Airports.**

At the first destination, present your Yeats Trail Passport where it will be stamped. **You are now eligible for a 30% Discount to all paid attractions included in the tour.**

Those of us who love grand old houses, magnificent scenery, a fine flavour of Irish culture and great stories, simply should not miss this tour.

Trail includes: The Dublin Writers Museum and sites in Sligo and Galway. **Where you choose to start the Yeats Trail is up to you, but access is easy via Dublin, Shannon, Knock, (Ireland West) Galway or Sligo Airports.**

At the first destination, present your Yeats Trail Passport where it will be stamped. **You are now eligible for a 30% Discount to all paid attractions included in the tour.**

The maps indicate the visitor attractions where your Yeats Trail passport can be stamped. Having visited at least five of the locations detach and return the stamped Passport page to receive your personalised Yeats Trail Certificate, or simply scan and email to northwestinfo@failteireland.ie



- The Land Of Heart's Desire

Departing from Sligo City, this is an opportunity to revisit the sights and scenes that inspired some of the most beautiful poetry and paintings of the 20th century. The route follows quiet country roads in a diverse variety of scenery stretching along the wild Atlantic coast and around gentle lapping lakes.

Stage 1: (Approx. 19 km)
Strandhill Peninsula

*"The old brown thorn-trees break in two high over
Cummen strand, Under a bitter black wind that
blows from the left hand."*

Departing from Sligo City, the circuit includes Cumeen Strand, Knocknaree Mountain and Carramore Megalithic site and leads back into the town. If you are fit, a walk to the top of Knocknaree and the mythological burial cairn of Queen Maeve is comparatively easy and the whole of the Yeatsian landscape is displayed below you.

Stage 2: (Approx. 37 km)

The Circuit of Lough Gill

*"When I play my fiddle in Dooney,
Folk dance like a wave of the sea."*

Departing from Sligo City the loop passes Tobermalt Holy Well; Dooney Rock, with magnificent viewing points across the lake. This was a favourite spot for dancing and romancing and Yeats would have seen a blind fiddler who regularly played here on Sundays.

"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree.."

Continue on past, or detour to take the narrow road down to Innisfree, immortalised in Yeats' poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree.' Next stop is the village of Dromahair, shortly after which you will come upon Parkes's Castle, a restored 17th century Manor House on the shore of the lake. The castle has a very interesting audio visual presentation on the entire heritage of the region and is well worth a visit. The circuit concludes in Sligo City.

Stage 3: (Approx. 29 km)

Glencar

*"Where the wandering water gushes
From the hills above Glenear,
In pools among the rushes
That scarce could bathe a star,
We seek for slumbering trout
And whispering in their ears
Give them unquiet dreams."*

Follow the mix of lakes and mountains, including the magnificent Ben Bulbin, and many waterfalls. Follow the road signs for the majestic Glencar Waterfall. Then continue to the tip of the lake and veer right to return to the town.

Stage 4: (Approx. 32 km)

Rosses Point

Departing from Sligo City, take the sign posted left off the Donegal road (N15) for Rosses Point, a village nestling on the coast. Oyster Island is parallel to the village and the larger Coney Island (*which gave its name to the more famous one off New York*) can be accessed by a causeway from the Strandhill road during low tide.

Drumcliffe

Returning to the Donegal road, turn left and continue on to Drumcliffe Church and Grave-yard, where Yeats is buried. St Columba founded a monastery here in the 6th century. Today a magnificent 11th Century High Cross and the remains of a Round Tower still stand. Yeats' great grandfather was Rector here and a memorial to the left of the pulpit commemorates him.

Lissadell

Follow the road, taking the first left after the Yeats County Tavern. Follow the signs for Lissadell House, where the tour concludes.

Lissadell House was owned by the Gore Booth family from 1834 until it passed to new owners in 2003. Yeats as a young man knew Eva and Constance, the daughters of the house and creatives in their own right; Eva was also a poet while Constance (*later Countess Markievicz*) was a leader in the 1916 Rising and became an icon of revolutionary Ireland.

There are daily guided tours of this grand house and gardens, which are open all year.

Sligo City, Yeats Country

Take time to look at the locations associated with the illustrious Yeats brothers. This is an opportunity to explore the history, architecture, culture and hospitality of Sligo and its people. For further information visit www.discoverireland.ie/yeatsrail or email Sligo Tourist Information Office northwestinfo@faipteirland.ie or call in person to Temple Street Sligo.

Yeats would still recognise much of today's Sligo City. Ships continue to unload at the docks to this day. The great mansion to which Grandfather William Pollexfen retired still looks out over the quay (Markievicz House, formerly Charlemont House). Merville, where he formerly lived, is now Nazareth House for the Elderly. The following are 'not to be missed' Yeats related attractions in Sligo City:



Stephen Street: Ulster Bank Building which was remembered by WB Yeats when collecting his Nobel prize for literature in 1923. The windows of the Swedish Royal Palace impressed him and reminded him of the 1863 classic Renaissance building in Sligo. Directly in front of the Ulster Bank is a **bronze statue** of the poet “wrapt in his own words” by artist Rowan Gillespie erected in 1989. Also in Stephen Street is **Sligo County Museum** which has the original Nobel medal awarded to the poet amongst a collection of unpublished letters by Yeats.

Wine Street: At the corner of Adelaide Street and Wine Street stands an impressive building now the premises of McCanny Solicitors and once under ownership of the Pollexfens. On the roof can be seen **the turret** from which William Pollexfen trained a telescope on his ships going in and out of Sligo port.

John Street: The Church of Ireland Cathedral of St John the Baptist designed in 1730 by German architect Cassels who also designed Leinster House in Dublin. It is here that Yeats' mother Susan Pollexfen married young barrister John Yeats in 1863. Yeats' grandfather supervised the building of his own grave in the adjoining churchyard.

AFFIX
POSTAGE
STAMP
HERE

**Fáilte Ireland North West
Temple Street
Sligo**





Passport Stamps

Get your Passport stamped with at least five stamps. To received your personalised **Yeats Trail Certificate** cut off this page, fill in your name and address below, affix a stamp and post.

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

STAMP
HERE

Name:

Address:



1865-1939 YEATS HISTORY

W.B. Yeats

was born in 1865 in Dublin. His life was devoted to writing and to raising the

consciousness of the Irish nation through his art. His father, John Butler Yeats, wishing to train as an artist, moved the family to London, where Jack Yeats was born. Both brothers, however, spent a lot of their childhood years in Sligo with their Pollexfen grandparents and discovered there a haven that allowed space for childhood innocence.

The Sligo landscape in all its variety flooded their minds. The table-topped mountain Ben Bulbin evoked grandeur of epic proportions; horse races on the beach at Rosses Point were heart-thumping moments; the legends were alive and the people they met contained a savage mix of utter self-containment and open heartedness.

One brother turned to poetry, the other to painting, attacking his canvases with explosions of colour. It was the poet, however, who entered the public consciousness and achieved fame in his life-time. The success of W.B. Yeats inspired a dramatic retreat. He believed that the live of an artist was one that was destined to be set apart from the ebb and flow of gentle humanity. In his later years he pursued this ideal when he lovingly restored the ancient Norman Tower of Thoor Ballylee, and lived there with his family. Here, near Gort, he wrote some of his finest works.

The South County Galway area encompassing Thoor Ballylee and Coole Park became a refuge to the increasingly well known and self-fashioned National Bard. He spent much of his time at Coole Park, the gracious home of Lady Gregory, his patron and friend. W.B. Yeats died on 28 January 1939. According to his wishes he was buried at Drumcliffe Churchyard near Sligo, under his beloved Ben Bulbin mountain. His epitaph reads:

*Cast a cold eye
On Life, On Death.
Horseman, pass by!*



DUBLIN WRITERS MUSEUM

18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
T: 01 872 2077 F: 01 872 2231

Situated in a magnificent 18th century mansion in the city centre, the Museum was opened in 1991. The collection features Dublin's much loved literary celebrities over the past 300 years. The lives of Swift and Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett are amongst those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items. The Writers Entertain performance is a one man show which takes place at the Dublin Writers Museum, daily in the summer, weekends in the winter, please check for dates in advance.

Opening Hours: January – December inclusive
Mon – Sat: 10:00 - 17:00
Sun/Public Holidays: 11:00 - 17:00
Late Opening:
June/July/August, Mon – Fri: 10:00 - 18:00



SLIGO LISSADELL HOUSE

When Robert Gore Booth built the house at Lissadell in the 1830s, Yeats' great grandfather, John Butler Yeats, was Rector of Drumcliffe (1811 to 1846).

As children the boys visited Lissadell for cricket matches and horse racing; and as a young man the poet made friends with the Gore-Booth sisters Constance and Eva, and stayed at Lissadell during the years 1894 and 1895.

Lissadell House is a fine but austere example of Greek-Revival architecture; it is full of many artifacts associated with succeeding generations of the family.

Looking back on his youth, W.B. Yeats remembered the happy times when he 'wandered by the sands of Lissadell' in the celebrated verse:

*"Many a time I think to seek
One or the other out and speak
Of that old Georgian mansion, mix
Pictures of the mind, recall
That table and the talk of youth,
Two girls in silk kimonos, both
Beautiful, one a gazelle."*

Lissadell House and Gardens
Balinfull, North Sligo (turn left off N15) after Drumcliffe
T: 071 9163150 E: info@lissadellhouse.com
www.lissadellhouse.com



HOUSE TOURS every day from 10:30 - 18:00.
Last tour of the House begins at 17:00.
Tours begin on the hour every hour.



SLIGO: DRUMCLIFFE

The church and graveyard of Drumcliffe lie under the shadow of Sligo's most famous mountain, Ben Bulbin. It is here that Yeats' great grandfather was rector and here Yeats instructed that he himself be buried. W.B. Yeats' Grave, the restored Church, 11th Century High Cross, Coach Parking and Drumcliffe Tea house & Craft Shop are located on site.

This charming Tea House and Craft Shop offers good wholesome food together with mouth-watering home-made cakes and desserts. There is a selection of Yeats and Irish Interest Books to browse through, complimented by a distinctive selection of original quality Crafts. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and cheerful service with hassle free parking. Open daily all year round. Accessible to all. Licensed to sell wine.

Opening Hours: Daily 09:00 - 18:00

Just 7km North of Sligo on the N15
Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo T: 914 4956 Fax 071-9148971
Email drumcliffeteahouse@eircom.net

SLIGO THE MODEL ARTS & NILAND GALLERY

The Model Arts and Niland Gallery is one of the leading contemporary arts centres in Ireland and houses The Niland Collection of Art, which includes one of the most significant collections of **Jack B. Yeats** work. Numbering almost 50 works it includes a wide variety from the earliest watercolours and pencil drawings to his later period abstract oils. The Model Niland also holds pieces from John Yeats and other Yeats' family members. The collection displays rotate several times a year so please see website for info on which works are on display at any given period.

Opening Hours: Tue – Sat 10:00 - 17:30
12:00 - 16:00 Sundays
Admission to Galleries is free of charge
The Mall, Sligo T: 071 914 1405
info@modelart.ie www.modelart.ie

SLIGO COUNTY MUSEUM

Sligo County Museum was established in 1955 to celebrate the life and work of the Yeats' family and their contribution to the social, political and cultural history of Ireland.

Sligo County Museum is a must see destination for Yeatsian visitors and scholars alike with an exhibition of many artefacts, photographs and memorabilia associated with the Yeats family on permanent display.

Pride of place in the Museum is given over to the display of the Nobel Prize medal and Citation awarded to William Butler Yeats, in 1923.



Opening Hours: May to September
Tue – Sat: 09:30 - 12:30, 14:00 - 16:45
October to April: Tue – Sat: 09:30 - 12:30
Admission is Free. Wheelchair accessible.
Stephen St., Sligo T: 071 911 1850 or 071 911 1679
F: 071 914 6798 E: sligolib@sligococo.ie

SLIGO YEATS MEMORIAL BUILDING

The Yeats Memorial Building is the Headquarters of the Yeats Society, Sligo, and the administrative hub of the Yeats International Summer School. It houses a permanent Yeats Exhibition, a specialist Library and Reading Room, a Café and the Sligo Art Gallery. It is a central reference point for information about W.B. Yeats and his talented family, and lectures, guided tours of the Yeats Country, walking tours of Sligo, videos, DVDs, etc. are all available here on request.

Opening Hours:
10:00 - 17:00 Mon – Fri, throughout the year.
Contact: The Yeats Society, Hyde Bridge, Sligo.
Tel.: +(0)71 91 42693 Fax: +(0)71 91 42780
E-mail: info@yeats-sligo.com www.yeats-sligo.com



GALWAY-GORT

Bring the history of Gort town to life with the award-winning **Architectural Walking Tour**. Take yourself on a tour of the town with the map, brochure and audio narration available to download free at: www.galwayeast.com/wayfinding

Learn about Gort's 13th century beginnings, its unique Market Square, the 17th century army barracks and the listed buildings where Yeats shopped while living at Thoor Ballylee.

GALWAY-KILTARTAN GREGORY MUSEUM

The Kiltartan Gregory Museum and Millennium Park is located two miles outside Gort on the main Galway road at the historic spot "**Kiltartan Cross**" where the blind poet Rafferty met and fell in love with the "**Beauty of Ballylee**" Máire ní hEidhie and often played music for local dances.

This award-winning museum, formerly a schoolhouse, (built in 1892) has strong links with nearby Coole Park and Thoor Ballylee. Guided tours covering photographs, rare manuscripts, memorabilia of Lady Gregory and the Irish Literary Revival and maps of the Coole Estate. A rare treat is the old Irish Schoolroom which attracts several school tours each year.

*"... we have all bent low and low and kissed the
quiet feet Of Gathleen, the daughter of Houlihan."*

Kiltartan Cross: Situated on N18, 3 km north-east of Gort.
T: 091 632346 (June-September) 091 631069 (out of season)
E: mlf1892@eircom.net www.gortononline.com

**Opening Hours - Daily: 11:00 - 17:00,
Sundays: May – September: 13:00 - 17:00**



Lady Gregory



GALWAY: THOOR BALLYLEE

This fine Norman Tower and adjacent cottage was the home of W.B. Yeats for almost 12 years. Attractions include an audio-visual show on the poet's life, a visit to the Tower, and a book shop focusing on Anglo Irish literature and including a children's book section. The grounds of the Tower have a beautiful riverside walk.

Opening Hours

June - Sept, Mon - Sat: 09:30 - 17:00

Gort. Situated 1 km off the Galway/Limerick Road (N18).
091 631436 June-Sept or 091 537700 Oct-May
Email: thoorballylee@failteireland.ie

COOLE PARK

*"...Dim Inchy wood, that hides badger and fox
And marten-cat, and borders that old wood
Wise Biddy Early called the wicked wood:
Seven odours, seven murrours, seven woods"*

Coole Park, now a nature reserve, was the home of Lady Gregory, dramatist and co-founder with Edward Martyn and W.B. Yeats of the Abbey Theatre. Yeats spent over 30 summers amongst the woods, lake and garden. The house no longer stands but the magic remains. Attractions include an audio-visual exhibition, tea-rooms, nature trails and the famous "**Autograph Tree**".

Opening Hours (Park open all year round) :
Visitor Centre: April, May and September Daily:
10:00 - 17:00

June - August, Daily: 10:00 - 18:00
Visitor Centre closed last weekend in September
for annual Autumn Gathering

Coole Park and Visitor Centre: 3 km north of Gort on N18
Tel: 091 631804 Fax: 091 631653
Email: info@coolepark.ie Website: www.coolepark.ie