



Your guide to

# Galway



## **Overview:**

Galway City is known as the City of Tribes and is renowned for its music and pubs, with vibrant nightlife and upbeat atmosphere. Brightly painted pubs heave with live music on any given night. Cafés spill out onto winding cobblestone streets filled with a frenzy of fiddles, banjos, bagpipes, harps, tin whistles, guitars and bodhráns. Jugglers, painters, poets, puppeteers and magicians in outlandish masks enchant passers-by.

Galway's famous streets are steeped in history, yet have a contemporary vibe. The large NUIG campus means that Galway is very much a student town! Bridges arc over the salmon-filled River Corrib, and a long promenade leads to the seaside suburb of Salthill, where at night the moon's glow illuminates Galway Bay, where the area's famous oysters are produced.



## **Banks:**

**Bank of Ireland:** On Campus NUIG, Galway  
**AIB:** Distillery Road, Galway  
**Ulster Bank:** Newcastle Road, Galway

## **Laundry:**

**Gort na Coiribe** – Self-service token operated laundrette.

**Menlo Park** – There are washer/dryers in each apartment.

## **Medical Care:**

The on **Campus Student Health Centre** is located in Áras Na Mac Léinn and operates a walk-in triage service, encompassing a GP service, women's health, travel advice and vaccinations, weekly psychiatric referrals, physio and hospital/consultant referrals. They do not take but appointments but if you need to call 091-492604. Mon – Fri 9.15 – 12.30 and 2.30 – 4.30pm.

**University College Hospital Galway** on the Newcastle Road is the closest to you. 091 524 222

**Out of Hours Services:** Mon-Thurs 6pm onwards: Dr Curtis 091 582600 and Dr O'Beirne 091-583266

Weekends and Bank Holidays are covered by **CitiDoc** at the **Bon Secours Hospital** 091 758008 or out of hours on the weekends are on the **GP Rota** 087 7744430

**Pharmacies:** The nearest one to the University is beside the Tesco Express on Newcastle Road and the closest one to your accommodation – McMoughlins, is in the Terryland (Dunnes) Shopping Centre on the Headford Rd.

## Groceries:

**Tesco:** [www.tesco.ie](http://www.tesco.ie) Headford Rd, Galway Shopping Centre

**Dunnes Stores:** Terryland SC Headford Rd

**Lidl** and **Aldi:** also on the Headford Rd in opposite Shopping Centres.

## Shopping:

If you're on a tight budget, but still want to indulge your fashionista side, try **Penny's** in the Corbett Court SC and beside Tesco on the Headford Rd SC. Huge stores with cheap versions of high street fashion. But beware; you get what you pay for. If you've a bit of money, hit Shop Street and its surrounding side streets.

## **Bookshops:**

The University Bookshop is currently homeless but is in temporary accommodation in the **Arts Millenium Building**. The Students' Union also operate a year-round online second-hand bookshop on their website.

**Easons:** This is a larger bookshop located on Shop Street.

**Charlie Byrnes** is great for second hand books and is found in the Cornstore Mall.

**Kenny's Bookshop** was part of the Kenny Gallery, famous in Galway city but is now most easily accessed online at [www.kennys.ie](http://www.kennys.ie)



## **Bedding and Household:**

**Dunnes Stores, Tesco and Pennys** in the Terryland Shopping Centre is a good place to find reasonably priced bedding and basic crockery and kitchen ware. They often sell a complete bedding pack with everything together. For electrical goods, try **Argos** in The Plaza Development, Headford Road.

## **Phone shops:**

**Vodafone, O2, Meteor and Carphone Warehouse** all have branches on Shop St. Students should shop around and find the best deal for a 'pay as you go' option. Bear in mind that networks often provide free calls to other people on the same network, so students should try and get phones on one network. It is free to receive all calls.

## Transport:

Galway is very self-contained and you shouldn't need to use public transport. It is only a 15/20 minute walk to campus and 10/15 min to the city centre.

**Bike Hire/Purchasing:** West Ireland Cycling, 11 Upper Dominick Street hire bikes out and is located in the city. Go to their website [www.westirelandcycling.com](http://www.westirelandcycling.com) or call them on 091 58 88 30. Kearney Cycles is a large bike store on the Headford Road. Finally West Side Cycles on the Seamus Quirke Rd behind the hospital rents bikes for four months for €99.  
[www.westsidecyclesireland.com](http://www.westsidecyclesireland.com)

### **City Buses:**

Visit the Bus Eireann website for the Galway City bus services. The website is <http://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=247#Galway>

### **Coaches:**

**Gobus** runs express services from Galway to Dublin and Dublin Airport from €10 one way. Visit their website [www.gobus.ie](http://www.gobus.ie).  
**Citylink** also runs express services to Dublin but also to Cork, Limerick and Clifden. Prices can be as low as €1 and €5 but you have to be quick! Their website is [www.citylink.ie](http://www.citylink.ie). Both Gobus and Citylink go from the new Coach Station just off Eyre Square on the Fairgreen Road.

Local and Commuter Services:

[www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=58#galway](http://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=58#galway)

Expressway Services:

[www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=57](http://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=57)

### **Trains:**

The train station in Galway city is called **Ceannt Station** and is located off Eyre Square beside the Hotel Meyrick. There are regular train services from Galway. It is far cheaper to book online at [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie) and use your student card for a discount.

### **Airport:**

Galway Airport is located 8km outside the city. There are regular flights to Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Lorient, Manchester and Waterford. For more international flights Dublin Airport is most convenient.

### **Day Trips:**

**Cliffs of Moher** tour with Healy Tours. They run daily tours. Visit their website [www.healytours.ie](http://www.healytours.ie). Healy Tours also do a day trip out to **Connemara**. See some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery.



**Aran Island Ferries** are happy to offer IFSA students a rate of €17pp for a return ferry and €6pp on the shuttle bus from Galway to the port, so €23 in total (normal rate is €26). Bookings must be made in advance under the name Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University.  
[www.aranislandferries.com](http://www.aranislandferries.com)



Also there are cruises on the **River Corrib** if you feel like exploring local waterways! From April to October the price for students is a tiny €13! Check out <http://www.corribprincess.ie/>

## **Going Out!**

Galway is full of pubs and clubs. Below is a list of some of the most popular in the city...

-  **The Quays**
-  **Front Door**
-  **Tigh Neachtain**
-  **O'Connells on Eyre Sq.**
-  **Kings Head**
-  **Kelly's**

And some of the best night clubs are:

-  **Karma**
-  **Halo**
-  **Club K**

## **Cinema:**

**Omniplex** – Main cinema in Galway, showing all the latest releases; Galway Retail Park

**Eye** – Arthouse Cinema

## **Theatre:**

Galway is home to many brilliant theatres and theatre companies, here are the two most central to get you started:

**The Druid Theatre** on Druid Lane is the most famous in Galway with internationally acclaimed protégé Gary Hynes and Martin McDonagh <http://druid.ie/>



**An Taibhdhearc** is an Irish language theatre company in the heart of the city on Middle Street. The Website can be translated from Irish to reveal the schedule!

<http://antaibhdhearc.com/>

## **Local Press:**

Always a great way to get deals and find out when shows and events are on:

[www.galwayindependent.com](http://www.galwayindependent.com)  
[www.advertiser.ie/galway](http://www.advertiser.ie/galway)

Don't forget **SIN** the Student Newspaper which is free on campus!

Also check out **Galway Bay FM** the local radio station for local events and competitions!

## Festivals and Events:

**Galway Arts Festival** – The streets of Galway come alive every year for 2 weeks in July. An amazing time to be in the city.  
[www.galwayartsfestival.com](http://www.galwayartsfestival.com)

**Galway Oyster Festival** – Held in late September every year, this is a celebration of the better things in life (Guinness and Oysters if you had to ask!)  
[www.galwayoysterfest.com](http://www.galwayoysterfest.com)

**Galway Comedy Festival** – 6 days of comedy all over the city in late October.  
[www.galwaycomedyfestival.com](http://www.galwaycomedyfestival.com)

**Ted Fest** - A celebration of all things Father Ted in February. [www.tedfest.org](http://www.tedfest.org)

## Sports:

**Connacht Rugby** matches are held at the Sports Grounds and you can find schedules and tickets at  
<http://www.connachtrugby.ie/>

**Galway Races** host a huge festival every year in late July but consult  
<http://www.galwayraces.com/> for meets held at the track in Ballybrit from September onwards!

**Galway Dog Track** is always good craic and a fun evening's entertainment!  
<http://www.igb.ie/galway/>

And it's so close to you that you will see the lights of late matches from your accommodation: **Galway United Soccer Club** host matches at Terryland Park, try  
[www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie)

**Hurling** and **Gaelic Football** are a religion in Galway. Check out the Galway GAA website for fixtures.

<http://www.galwaygaa.ie/index.php/en/football-fixtures-results2>



Here at IFSA Dublin, we really hope you have a wonderful experience in Galway, don't hesitate to get in contact if you need any help!