

Discover Galway's Rich Whiskey Heritage through it's finest whiskey bars on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Welcome to The Galway Whiskey Trail where we invite you to discover Galway's Rich Whiskey Heritage through it's finest whiskey bars and outlets, each of which is waiting to share their story with you. You can see the remains of the old Perse Distillery on Nun's Island from a vantage point on O'Brien's bridge.

On Eyre Square you'll find historic O'Connell's and Garvey's, you can visit An Púcán, located on the city's old medieval jousting ground, tuck up beside the fire at The Dáil Bar, raise a toast to Galway hero Sonny Molloy, find out about The King's Head and how he lost it, hear the story of 15th Century Mayor of Galway at Blake's, discover the rarest Irish Whiskeys at Garavan's in a building dating to 1650,



Galway Whiskey Trail

DISCOVER GALWAY'S RICH WHISKEY HERITAGE THROUGH THE FINEST WHISKEY BARS ON IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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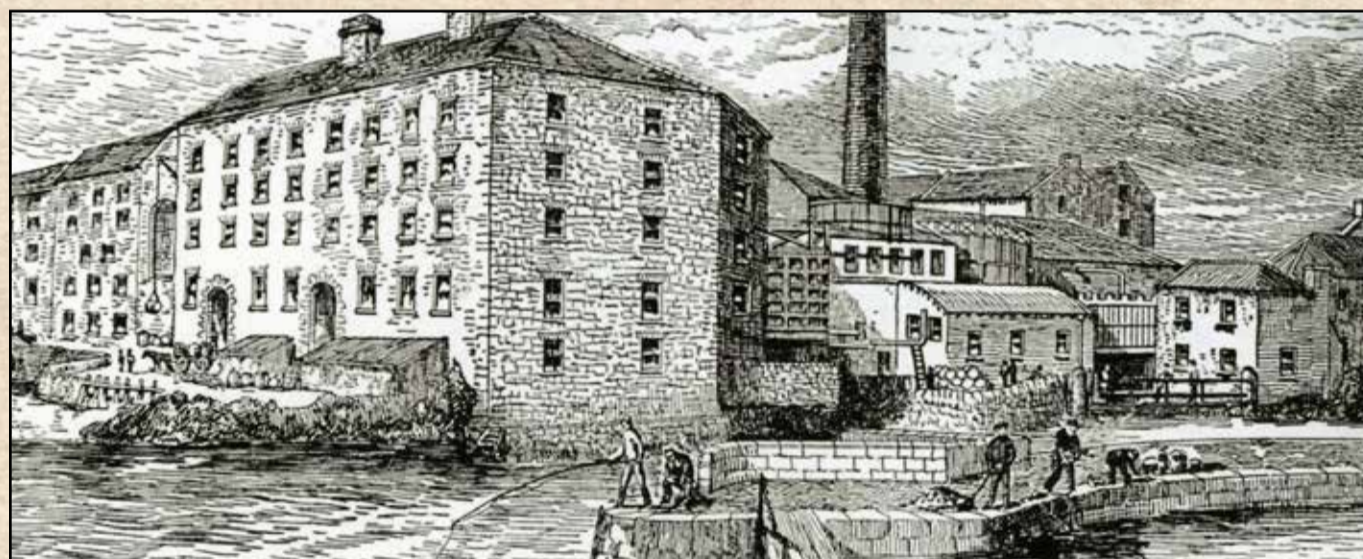
Fáilte Ireland National Tourism Development Authority

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settle in at Tigh Neachtain and take your favourite bottle home with you after a visit to McCambridge's or Freeney's.

Galway is the capital of the West of Ireland and is renowned the world over for its tremendous welcome and soft weather.

The city is home to a tremendous population of artists, writers, musicians, actors, film-makers and craftspeople as well as a population of those who participate in and value these pursuits. The Galway calendar is jam-packed with cultural activity year-round and there is an ever growing range of entertainment for visitors. The whiskey bars of Galway are where you'll find any and all of the creators and audience, before shows open in moments of inspiration, after witnessing shows sharing moments of wonder.



It was once declared that 'God invented whiskey to keep the Irish from ruling the world!'

Witty as it is, this claim overlooks the fact that it was the Irish themselves who created this version of the 'Water of Life' or Uisce Beatha as it is known in the native tongue. Indeed it is widely held that it was our travelling monks, who, inspired by the liqueurs and brandies being produced by their European counterparts, began the distillation of barley in Ireland around 1000AD. As distillation methods improved over the following centuries,

whiskey production and consumption (both legal and illegal!) peaked in the 18th and 19th centuries. At this time, Galway city and environs, just like many localities across the length and breadth of Ireland, was home to a thriving distilling industry. Today, the remnants of this industry are visible in the derelict remains of the Perse Galway Whiskey Distillery along the banks of the River Corrib, as well as in local place names and pub memorabilia.

As local whiskey distilling undergoes something of a resurgence however, it is worth reflecting on an enterprise which in its day was Galway's largest employer and which carried the Galway name with pride and distinction around the world. The Perse Galway Whiskey Distillery was established in 1815 in Newcastle, Galway by Henry Stratford Perse, a member of the dynasty (into which Lady Augusta Gregory

was also born). Henry Stratford was undoubtedly a compassionate figure who believed there was an obligation on his Ascendancy class to provide entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in order to lift Ireland out of poverty. This idealism may well have driven Henry to open his distillery at a time when the industry had been rocked by a number of government taxes. These ill-judged levies had led to the closure of eleven distilleries in Galway alone between the end of the 18th century and 1807. Henry's wishes to stimulate the local economy



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appear to have been rewarded when, in 1824, it was recorded that local markets 'are well supplied with grain, chiefly wheat and oats and when the distilleries are at work with a considerable quantity of barley'.

At the peak of the Ireland's Great Famine, the distillery moved from its original home to nearby Nun's Island where it tapped into the power of the River Corrib. Under Henry's nephew, Burton de Burgh Perse, the distillery would reach new heights whilst also managing

to stave off stiff competition from the ever present Connemara poitin makers! Perse Galway Whiskey was marketed internationally and with the slogan 'favourite in the House of Commons' it sold particularly well in English colonies. By the end of the 19th century the distillery directly employed over 100 people and its output of 400,000 gallons was equal to that of the famous Bushmills distillery. As scotch began to steal a march on Irish whiskey's international dominance, Perse Galway Whiskey began to feel the pinch.

This pinch became a squeeze when 3 of Dublin's largest distillers amalgamated, and, aided by improved rail in the early 20th century, began to

eat into local Perse markets. Despite a rearguard action, the distillery finally succumbed to the inevitable and closed its doors for the last time in 1908. Over 100 years on and with the renaissance of local Irish distillers however, there never has been a more apt time to raise a glass to Henry Stratford Perse and the current crop of whiskey distillers that he and his kind have helped to influence!





SONNY MOLLOY'S IRISH WHISKEY BAR

Just a brief stroll down High Street will bring you to the door of Sonny Molloy's Irish Whiskey Bar.

Sonny was a man of considerable achievement, though very modest, he was a larger than life character. The building itself was part of a Medieval property built in the 1600's, some of which formed part of the old Galway city walls.

High Street, Latin Quarter, Galway
091 563757 :: www.sonnymolloysbar.com



THE KING'S HEAD

The Kings Head is a Pub, Restaurant & Live Venue over 3 floors and is located in the heart of the Latin Quarter.

The 400 year old Fireplace, medieval windows and walls give it a unique atmosphere and make it a true piece of living history.

History aside, this family run Pub, is renowned for its entertainment.

High Street, Latin Quarter, Galway
091 566630 :: www.thekingshead.ie



BLAKE'S CORNER BAR

Set on a corner plot named after a founding family of the Tribes of Galway and one of Galway city's first mayors.

John Blake, 1487 - 1488.

The award winning Blake's Corner Bar is positioned at the historical Blake's Corner where Eglinton St and Mary St meet. The area has a proud association with Persse's Whiskey distillery that was located by the Salmon Weir Bridge.

Eglinton Street, Galway
091 530333 :: blakesbargalway.com



O'CONNELL'S

O'Connell's was once a grocery and a small bar but has been solely a pub since the 1970's.

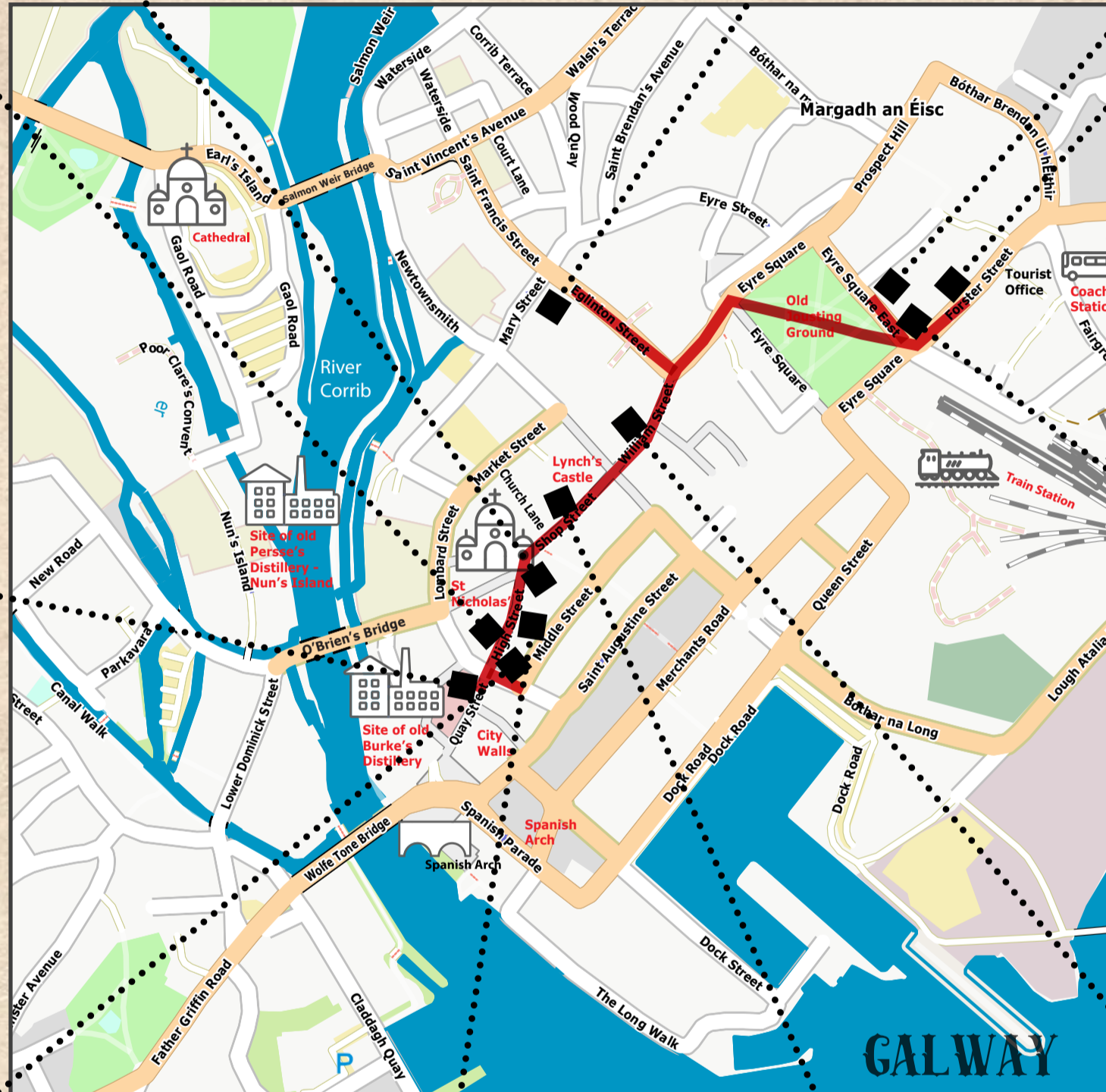
Our décor is truly stunning, with all original features including tiled floors, antique lighting, stained glass windows, solid wood seating and an amazing pressed tin ornate ceiling in the main bar. Historic photos line the walls. The long bar also displays a wide range of whiskeys.

Eyre Square, East Village, Galway
091 563634 :: www.oconnellsbargalway.com



LOOK OUT FOR THE CREST!

Official venues on the trail have a stone engraving at their entrance - now you're on the right trail.



TIGH NEACHTAIN

Tigh Neachtain is located on the corner of Cross Street and Quay Street in the heart of Galway City.

Since 1894, the former home of prominent animal rights activist Richard Martin has been a meeting place since it first opened its doors. Whether you are looking for a seat by the fire on a chilly winter's day or to soak up the atmosphere of Galway city, Tigh Neachtain's door is always open.

091 568820 :: www.tighneachtain.com

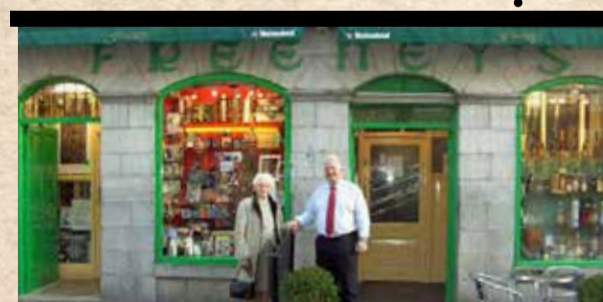


THE DAIL BAR

The Dail Bar, located at the junction of Cross Street and Middle Street is a focal point for the locals and tourists of Galway to gather over a drink and discuss the day's events, hence the literal meaning of 'The Dail... a meeting place'.

Over the years, the building has been a family home, a toy shop and is now a licensed premise. The Dail Bar is just around the corner from some of Galway's real treasures.

Cross Street, Latin Quarter, Galway
091 563777 :: www.thedailbar.com



FRENEY'S

Situated right in the Heart of Galway City on High Street, Freney's is a great place to get away from the crowds. Stocking a wide range of Whiskey Freney's is one of the original Galway Whiskey Bars.

From the outside some people don't even realise it's a pub at all due to its display of Swiss army knives and Zippo lighters in its window.

High Street, Galway
091 562609



MCCAMBRIDGE'S

Located in the middle of a busy pedestrianised area on Shop Street and celebrating 90 years in business this year, McCambridge's has been providing high quality retail artisan food and wine for over 4 generations.

It is a wonderful mix of select grocery, coffee shop, deli, off-licence and restaurant. The take-away sandwich bar is a busy hub of activity, where sandwiches are custom made to order.

38 / 39 Shop Street, Galway
091 562259 :: www.mccambridges.com



GARVEY'S

Situated on the corner of Eyre Square, in the heart of Galway, Garveys Inn is within a 2 minute walk of the Bus & Train station.

Pop into Garvey's Bar for one of the best pints of Guinness in the West or relax and enjoy a fulfilling meal in our restaurant. Tasty snacks, sandwiches, teas and coffees, as well as the full menu, can also be enjoyed in the bar.

Eyre Square, East Village, Galway
091 562224 :: www.garveysinn.com



GARAVAN'S

Nestled in the heart of Galway City's main shopping thoroughfare, stands the historic building that is Garavan's Bar. An architectural treasure, its current physical footprint dates back to the fortified Galway of 1650.

Embedded as this building is into the very fabric of Galway city, it is little surprise that it has been home to three generations of Garavan's, one of the oldest trading families on William Street.

46 William Street, Galway
091 562537 :: www.garavans.com