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WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS MONTH?

THINGS TO DO IN JUNE

Summer is getting into full swing and there is so much to see and do all over Ireland this June. Here is a taste of some great events happening on our doorstep. For full details go to www.discoverireland.ie.

HAVE A K-FEST IN KILLORGLIN!

Head to the artistic heart of Kerry for K-fest, (May 30th – June 2nd), a music and arts festival held in beautiful Killorglin. The town's vacant buildings will be transformed into pop up galleries exhibiting works of local national and international artists - and don't miss the Family Corner with kids cinema and the K-kids Gallery.

DIRECT YOURSELF TO DUBLIN

Mix with the stars of screen who will come to Dublin for The John Ford Ireland Film Symposium, (June 5th – 8th), celebrating the life of the man who still holds the record for most Oscar wins for a film director. Special guests include Scott Eyman, author of the acclaimed biography John Wayne: The Life and Legend and there will be free outdoor screenings.

ROCK THE BURREN!

Go underground for The Burren Rocks Festival at Doolin Cave in Co. Clare, (June 5th – 9th). Celebrating the ancient and recent past of the Burren region be educated and entertained. A highlight is the Geosite 'Selfie' cycle – where you cycle to one of the 9 Geosites in the Burren and upload a 'Selfie' to the Doolin Cave Facebook.

FIND YOUR RHYTHM IN WEXFORD

Get into the groove at the Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Dance Festival in Co. Wexford, (June 6th – 8th), with a colourful parade of dancers, concerts in Market Square, and a Baby Bop (with Barney, Mickey Mouse and friends) for the tiny tots.

HAVE AN ART ATTACK IN CARLOW!

A stunning programme of events has been put together for the Carlow Arts Festival, (June 6th – 15th), with large-scale visual art, a street carnival, a strong literary and historical strand, and a riveting music and theatre programme. See Jack L live and a performance of The Good Thief by leading Irish playwright Conor McPherson.

GET ON YOUR SOAP BOX IN CLONES

Ready, steady, go to The annual Clones Canal Festival and Soap Box Race in Co. Monaghan, (June 6th – 8th), for lots of hearty fun. There will be the biggest gathering of classic mini cars in Ireland, the Loud & Proud Charity Truck Show, and a daring soap box race with contestants from all over Ireland.

BE A DAREDEVIL IN DINGLE!

Bike over the spectacular Conor Pass, climb Ireland's second highest Mountain range Mount Brandon, run over country roads and kayak in the harbour during the Dingle Adventure Race, (DAR), in Co. Kerry, (June 7th). You can sign up to the full-on DAR Sport – or be kinder to yourself and try the DAR Mini!

HUNT HISTORY IN CARLOW

The third History Festival of Ireland, (June 7th and 8th) will be held in the jaw-dropping beauty of Huntington Castle in Clonegal, County Carlow, with over fifty leading historians from Ireland and abroad contributing to dazzling debates, discussions, readings and interviews. Guest speakers including actor Stephen Rea, renowned author Eoin Colfer, and broadcaster Myles Dungan.

ENJOY SUMPTUOUS SLIGO

Have your fill at the Só Sligo Food and Culture Festival, (June 11th – 15th), and explore food heritage through food trails and demonstrations. Enter the Create a Dinner Fit For A Poet competition and do a Wild Food Trail with medical herbalist Joerg Mueller.

GO WILD IN MAYO

Savour island nature and enjoy an action-packed day with walking and wildlife tours, creative writing workshops, and water sports at Erris Beo Festival in the Erris region of Co. Mayo, (June 12th).

COME TASTE DUBLIN!

You are guaranteed a recipe for a capital break at Taste of Dublin in the Inveigh Gardens, (June 12th – 15th). 20 of the city's hottest restaurants will be dishing up their finest in an unbeatable alfresco gourmet feast, while 100 producers will provide a bounty of the best food and beverages.

DIG THE FOLK IN DOOLIN!

Some of the biggest names in the Irish music scene will descend on Co. Clare for the Doolin Folk Festival, (June 13th – 15th), with Solas, Damien Dempsey and Kia heading the bill!

RAISE THE ROOF IN KILKENNY

Find your soul at The 3rd International Gospel Choir Festival in Kilkenny, (June 13th – 15th), a celebration of gospel music and singing with workshops, concerts, city singing tours and worship experiences. This festival brings the best gospel choirs and musicians from all over the world to Ireland.

LIFT ANCHOR IN ROSSES POINT

Add some salt to your taste in music and head to the Rosses Point Shanty Festival in Co. Sligo, (June 13th – 15th), with shanty singers from Scotland, the Shetland Islands, France, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the Canary Islands. The programme also features workshops, arts, literature and various water events including boat races.

FEEL THE BLUES IN MAYO

You won't be down and out at The 8th Westport Folk and Bluegrass Festival in Co. Mayo, (June 13th – 15th), a three day feast of the national and international folk and bluegrass music. Hear great acts including The Corn Potato String Band and The Sullivan Brothers and sign up to workshops from the experts!

BLOOM IN DUBLIN

Christ Church Cathedral will be transformed into a stunning colourful arcadia with contemporary and classic flower arrangements designed by Ireland's most talented floral artists at the Dublin Garden Festival, (June 13th – 15th). Ireland's top gardening experts Diarmuid Gavin, Dermot O'Neill and Helen Dillon will share their gardening secrets.

BASK IN BEAUTIFUL BORRIS

The ancestral home of the High Kings of Leinster on the banks of the River Barrow will host the Borris House Festival of Writing and Ideas, (June 14th – 15th), in Co. Carlow. Novelists, journalists, film-makers, poets, theatre directors, war correspondents, biographers, artists and political commentators will take part in stimulating debate including Roy Foster, Lisa Hannigan, Sebastian Barry, Hugo Hamilton and John Boorman.

GIVE IT A GO IN ACHILL!

Stunning Achill Island in Co. Mayo is opening up its activities for an exciting week of adventure and fun with Give It a Go! Achill, (June 14th and 15th). Try surfing, horse riding, kayaking, snorkelling, land kiting, SUP board, outdoor relaxation sessions, cycling and dip into some of the Blueway marine trails.

STEP IT OUT IN GALWAY

There will be lots of high jinks and high reels at The Galway Sessions, (June 16th – 23rd) a week long traditional and folk music event featuring local, national and international acts. See contemporary composers Charlie Lennon, Johnny Og Connolly, Marcus HERNON and local songwriter Don Stiffe.

BE A STRAWBERRY QUEEN

Don't miss Strawberry Fest in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, (June 17th – 29th), a weeklong summer party not to be missed!. Celebrating the county's famous strawberry there will be drama, music, art, food, a funfair, pub talent and of course the selection of The festival 'Queen'.

TEE IT UP FOR THE OPEN

Pitch in and mingle with some of the world's classiest golf players, (including our own Rory McIlroy), – and rub shoulders with the glamorous and famous – at the Irish Open Golf in stunning Fota Island Resort in East Cork, (June 19th – 22nd).

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF IN DALKEY

Be inspired and meet some of the world's bestselling writers at the Dalkey Book Festival, (June 19th-22nd). The line-up of famous authors includes Amos Oz, Sebastian Barry, John Banville, Joseph O'Connor and Salman Rushdie.

REV IT UP IN DONEGAL

Get into top gear at the Donegal International Rally, (June 20th – 22nd), with top guns from the exciting motorsport whizzing around the roads of the north west. The event, based in Letterkenny, has stages taking place around Fanad, Downings and Ballybofey area.

LIVE IT UP IN LIMERICK

Immerse yourself in midsummer at the Lough Gur Summer Solstice Festival, (June 20th – 23rd), in a stunning location near Bruff, Co. Limerick. The kids will love the circus skills workshop, the pet farm and bouncy castles - while mum and dad can join in the ceilis and pub quizzes.

ENJOY A SUMMER SOLSTICE SWIM

Celebrate the summer and take part in the Lough Key Summer Solstice Lake Swim, in Lough Key Forest Park near Boyle in Co. Roscommon, (June 21st). This is an open water swimming event with a choice of two distances - 750m or 1.5km - and suitable for everyone from the seasoned open water swimmer to the first-timer wanting to take the plunge in a safe environment.

STEP BACK IN TIME IN MAYO

Step back in time for a thrilling re-enactment of Napoleonic events at In Humbert's Footsteps in Ballina, Co. Mayo, (June 25th – 29th). French, British and United Irishmen will set up camp in the town's old Military Barracks, the actual site of army camps in 1798 and the public will have access.

GALLOP TO THE CURRAGH!

Feeling racy? Experience the thrills and spills of the turf at the ultimate sporting and social event of the Irish summer, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival, (June 27th – 29th), in the Curragh, Co. Kildare. Savour top quality racing and glamour with the who's who from the world of fashion, entertainment and sport out for a flutter.

HAVE A SESSION IN DONEGAL

Don't miss the beach party weekend of the year at the Sea Sessions Surf and Music Festival in Bundoran, Co. Donegal, (June 27th – 29th). Combine great surfing and beach sports with an international line-up of musicians including American soul singer, Kelis.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN DONEGAL

Seek adventure in Donegal with Gael Force, (June 28th) a race over a spectacular and challenging course taking in deep valleys of Glenveagh, forestry tracks, white sand beaches and vast open spaces. There are two distances - a 45k sprint and the 64km full course, which both involve cycling, running/hill running and kayaking.

DON'T MISS CHARLEVILLE SHOW!

Get back to your roots with a fun two days at Charleville Agricultural Show in Co. Cork, (June 28th and 29th) with cattle and horses, a baby show new inventions, trade stands and a vintage display.

TASTE THE FLAVOURS OF FINGAL!

Join in family fun and whet your appetite with mouth-watering locally produced food, at Flavours of Fingal in the rustic setting of Newbridge House and Farm in north county Dublin (June 28th and 29th). This is jam packed with doggie shows, livestock competitions, arts and crafts activities, cooking exhibitions and cake bake offs.

LOITER WITH THE LITERATI IN LISMORE!

Discover the secrets of great travel writing at Immrama, the Lismore Festival of Travel Writing, in Co. Waterford (June 12th - 15th). Join in a travel writing workshop with writer and broadcaster Manchán Magan and hear journalist Charlie Bird talk about his North Pole adventures.

FIND MIDSUMMER MAGIC IN CORK

Enjoy a feast of theatre, dance, music and visual arts at the Cork Midsummer Festival, (June 19th - 23rd), with ground-breaking new work by artists across all art forms. Be inspired as you discover art in unusual and surprising locations, as well as in the city's many well-appointed arts venues.

BE A BIA LOVER IN GALWAY!

Tickle your taste buds and celebrate all that is great about Irish food from chocolate to cheese, beer to bread and sea-food at Bia Lover in Athenry, Co Galway, (June 20th - 22nd). One of the delicious highlights is a market where up to 70 artisan producers will showcase and sell their goods in the centre of this historic town with the beautifully restored Athenry Castle as a backdrop.

FORAGE FOR FOOD IN WATERFORD

Enjoy foraging walks along the stunning Co. Waterford coastline at the Dunmore East Festival of Food, Fish & Fun, (June 20th - 22nd), with food and live entertainment and a large market in the harbour. Learn more about the local fishing industry and see the air corps and RNLI demonstrate some of their breath-taking skills both in the air and in the sea.

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS IN WEST CORK

Hit the high notes at The West Cork Chamber Music Festival in Bantry in West Cork, (June 27th – July 5th), and hear almost one hundred international musicians perform thirty six concerts in beautiful Bantry House and St. Brendan's Church, in The Square, Bantry. Morning talks, a violin making exhibition and young musician master classes run throughout the week.

EXPERIENCE MARITIME MAGIC IN WEXFORD

Celebrate Wexford's rich maritime heritage at the Wexford Maritime Festival, (June 27th – 29th), with traditional boats racing along Wexford harbour, fun raft races and water obstacle courses. Explore the visiting boats or be amazed at the fly-boarder soaring through the air.

DANCE IN DROGHEDA!

Spectacular colour, energy and excitement are promised at the Drogheda Samba Festival in Co. Louth, (June 27th – 29th), when the streets come alive with Brazilian, Latin and African music and dance. The highlight is the carnival parade with five hours of non-stop samba music and dance in the main street.

ENJOY A FOOD AND MUSIC VIBE IN WESTPORT

Celebrate cool music and gorgeous food in a stunning 400 acre setting at the Westport Festival of Food and Music, (June 28th – 29th), in magnificent Westport House in Co. Mayo. Hear top international acts including Bryan Adams, David Gray and Little Green Cars - and have your fill in the delicious food markets.

TICKLE THE TASTE BUDS IN MEATH

Gorge yourself on the best of locally produced food from the magnificent Boyne Valley at Taste of Meath, (June 28th – 29th). Taking place in Oldbridge Estate there will be cookery demonstrations from top chefs, a buzzing food market, and children's garden games.

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