

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO IN WEXFORD

Hook Lighthouse

FETHARD-ON-SEA CO. WEXFORD. TEL:051-397055 SAT NAV. 52.124649, -6.929026

Hook head has recently been voted NO1 lighthouse in the world by lonely planet and is so deserving of this title. This enormous lighthouse is over 800 years old and the oldest operational lighthouse in the world. There are few places in Ireland that would rival hook head for location and culture. Wexford isn't called the sunny southeast for nothing and hook head benefiting as it does from this more than any other part of the country. Hook head offers a wide variety of fun things to do for all the family: from sign posted walking, driving and cycling tours and a world class golf course and equestrianism. Visitors can relax and enjoy their time fishing or get active doing adventure sports. If feeling brave you can opt to climb the 115 steps to the balcony and enjoy the spectacular views over the south east of Ireland. During the summer months there are an array of festivals and entertainment for those of you looking for a little more excitement. This former lighthouse keepers house now plays host to nautical gift shops, a visitors centre and a café serving fine Irish homemade food, experience the strong tapestry of Irish history while visiting this magical part of Ireland

Leisure Max

DRINAGH, CO. WEXFORD. Tel:053-9122900 SAT NAV 52.303828, -6.461484

Wexford's new family entertainment centre located in Drinagh in Wexford only a short 5 minute drive from Whitford House Hotel. The Entertainment centre has fun and games for all the family. Go head to head in an exciting game of ten pin bowling or indoor soccer on the 5 aside football pitch. Leisure max in Wexford is a haven for kids especially during the showery weather that Ireland predicts. The colorful play centre and indoor adventure playground are favorites for the young ones... and don't forget the purple and gold pet centre for all the animal lovers!

Johnstown Castle gardens and agricultural museum-

JOHNSTOWN CASTLE ESTATE, CO. WEXFORD TEL:053-9171247 SAT NAV 52.303828, - 6.502033

Johnstown Castle Garden has fifty acres of attractive grounds. The famous architect Daniel Robertson designed both Johnstown Castle gardens and Powerscourt gardens. The beautiful 19th century Johnstown Castle is located within fifty acres of attractive grounds and only a 15 minute drive from Whitford House hotel. Take a Stroll through the wooded grounds with over two hundred different kinds of trees and shrubs or relax by the castle lakeside with Gothic towers and waterfalls. Wander along the Castle lake terrace that's lined with statues by the shimmering Garden Lake. Both lakes are home to a wide range of waterfowl - mute swans, water hens, little grebes and heron. It hosts an old world former farmyard that is now the widespread and well laid out Irish Agricultural Museum. In July and August a small café here provides teas coffees and snacks for visitors. If you pass through the Devil's Gateway into the walled ornamental gardens and hothouses a hidden heaven provides a stunning, vibrant array of blossoming plant life. The hollow Italian Garden contains a sheltered picnic area where an individual can sit and watch the colorful peacocks strut by. Another appeal is the ruin of a medieval tower house called Rathlannon Castle. Visitors please note that unfortunately Johnstown Castle itself is not open to the public but the grounds on their own are definitely an experience...

Shelmaliers riding stables

FORTH MOUNTAIN, TRINITY, TAGHMON, CO WEXFORD TEL:053-9139251 SAT NAV 52.299396, -6.604988

Shelmaliers Riding stables are Wexford's longest established Riding Centre and are located is only 7km from Whitford House hotel. The stables are staffed by passionate, highly skilled, qualified people. A large selection of well trained horses and ponies, all with a friendly nature are available and excellent facilities including both indoor and outdoor arenas, cross-country and show jumping courses. Riders of all levels are welcomed and encouraged; each person is helped to progress at their own pace in a relaxed and friendly environment. Shelmaliers riding stables offers picturesque woodland rides through 3000 acres of forest for riders of all abilities. Daytime, evening weekend lessons are available as well as non residential camps for children. The stables are open all year round by appointment. Booking is essential so be sure to phone and book your place. The minimum age for children attending the riding stables is 5 years.

Wexford Opera House

HIGH STREET, WEXFORD TEL:053-9122400 SAT NAV 52.337909, -6.462402

Wexford's Opera House is the main attraction of the Wexford Opera festival and fireworks display that is held yearly in Wexford town, 2km from Whitford house Hotel. Situated on the same site as the theatre royal the Opera house has an area 10% bigger than the FIFA football pitch With Two large bars and three smaller ones the foyer space is capable of accommodating up to 780 guests in total. The 2011 Festival will mark 60 years since the first Festival took place in Wexford in October 1951, which opened with a production of The Rose of Castile by one-time Wexford resident, Michael William Balfe. Since that humble beginning Wexford Festival Opera has grown to be one of the premier cultural events in Ireland, with a firm fixture on the international Opera Festival calendar. The 60th Wexford Festival Opera, which will feature artists from 11 different countries, will span 16 days, opening on Friday, October 21st and running until Saturday, November 5th 2011 .Wexford town also hosts a vibrant fringe festival coinciding

with the Opera Festival that includes art exhibitions, drama, music, historical tours and of course the famous singing and swinging pubs competition!

Kilmore Quay Fishing Port and Leisure Marina

KILMORE QUAY, CO. WEXFORD. TEL:053-9129955 SAT NAV 52.172899, -6.589056

Kilmore Quay is a small fishing village and is located in the South East corner of Ireland. It is famous for its legendary whitewashed thatched cottages. The harbor has undergone major development recently and now has a remarkable new marina making it a must for both leisure and commercial boating. Kilmore Quay is easily one of Irelands premier fishing and leisure harbors there are onshore facilities for all mariners and the area also has many attractions to offer visitors. Boats are available for hire and also trips to the Saltee Islands and Bird sanctuary. For the fishing lovers activities such as angling, scuba diving and off shore fishing are on hand. Not to forget the seafood festival during the month of July.

Curacloe beach Raven point

RAVEN POINT CENTRE, WEXFORD HARBOR, WEXFORD TEL:086-8608328 SAT NAV 52.388723, -6.365408

The beautiful Sunny Curracloe Beach is only a fifteen minute drive from Whitford House Hotel and is a regular holder of the Blue Flag Beach status. Curracloe is one of the cleanest beaches on the Irish coast, the dunes are the subject of an active conservation policy by Wexford County Council ensuring that this spectacular amenity and the plant and wildlife it contains, will be preserved for generations. A nature trail runs through the dunes and continues for 5 km to Raven Point, passing through the beautiful peninsula which constitutes Raven Nature Reserve. Any visit to Wexford is not complete without a stroll along this sunny south east coastline

Pirates Cove

COURTOWN HARBOR, GOREY, CO WEXFORD. TEL:053-9425555 SAT NAV 52.643568, -6.231458

Pirates cove is located in Courtown Harbour is a unique family entertainment centre complex and has something fun for all the family from adventure golf to bungee trampoline, a soft play area for the little kiddie's, not to mention the adventure golf for the young and young at heart. There are 18 carpeted greens 35 - 40 ft long. Some are in full sized caves, one under a waterfall and another in a full sized shipwreck. It's a delight to walk through the sub tropical gardens with the sound of the waterfall cascading down 35ft in to a large man-made lake. It's an adventure filled day not to be missed and a great day out for all

Quad Attack & Crazy Coral Adventure Centre

KILLEGNEY, CLONROCHE, CO WEXFORD. TEL:053-9425555 SAT NAV 52.443416, -6.761591

Located in Clonroche Co Wexford is the exciting and exhilarating Quad attack & crazy coral adventure centre. This well established biking facility is well known to be one of the best in the country. The stimulating course is spread over 80 acres under the surroundings of the Blackstairs Mountains. This is a place where once you pop you can't stop and many Visitors return again and again seeking a thrilling cross country driving adventure. And now they have extended the fun by introducing the Crazy Coral adventure centre where you can choose to test your stamina on the Rodeo Bull, beat the Bungee or Burst or wrestle your opponent to the floor in a huge sumo suit, all in the name of good fun. Your session can be a gentle trek or a thrilling adventure, but regardless of where you start or finish, it promises to be an experience you'll never forget

Dunbrody Famine Ship

NEW ROSS, CO WEXFORD TEL:053-425239 SAT NAV 52.393699, -6.947372

Located alongside the New Ross docks only 30 minutes drive from Whitford House Hotel, the Dunbrody Famine Ship is a full scale replica of the original ship built in 1845 which transported emigrants to North America. Visitors board the ship as did thousands of Irish Famine emigrants on their journey of hope across the Atlantic Ocean, they are admitted by means of an 1840's ticket and meet actors in costume and character, who tell of the situation endured on board and in Ireland during the famine. A computer database provides details of over two million individual passenger records, supported by audiovisual and interactive displays. Dunbrody Famine Ship - is a full-scale reconstruction of a 19th Century Famine ship, it full of Irish heritage and an exciting and educational must see for any visitors of Wexford.