

JANUARY

Alice out of Wonderland

Saturday 13th – Sunday 28th January 2018 (each weekend)

Help!!! Alice has left wonderland and can't find her way back. Hop on board the Rathwood Express Train with Alice, find the Mad-hatter and avoid the grumpy Queen of Hearts, who is so mad at Alice for leaving Wonderland. Visit Goose Island and feed Rathwood's famous geese. Each child will enjoy a yummy tea party, with a selection of sandwiches and delicious bite size desserts.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

FEBRUARY

Snowdrop Gala & Other Spring Treasures at Ballykealey Manor Hotel

Saturday 3rd February 2018

An enjoyable day exploring the first flower of spring with speakers Graham Gough '*Spring Bedfellows*' and Jim Almond '*Snowdrops in the Green*'. Programme includes full guided tour of Altamont Gardens with Paul Cutler, Head Gardener and Specialist Plant Sale with snowdrops and other spring plants.

Location: Ballykealey Manor Hotel, Ballon, Co. Carlow and Altamont Plant Sales, Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 087-9822135

e: sales@altamontplants.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

GPS: 52.735129, -6.720966

Snowdrop Month at Burtown House

From Saturday 3rd February – Wednesday 28th February 2018 (Wednesday – Sunday weekly)

Snowdrops, aconites, hellebores and early bulbs signal the first signs of spring. The Gallery exhibition hosts "February Flowers" – an exhibition of mainly snowdrop paintings by different botanical artists. The Green Barn Restaurant, serves hearty brunches and lunches using produce from their organic kitchen garden. Booking for lunch and dinner (Friday and Saturday) recommended.

Location: Burtown House, Ballytore, Athy, Co. Kildare

t: 059-8623865

e: james@burtownhouse.ie

w: www.burtownhouse.ie

GPS: 52.996672, -6.870744

Snowdrop Weekend at Shankill Castle

Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th February 2018

Enjoy the spectacular early spring bulbs and carpet of snowdrops on February 10th & 11th at Shankill Castle. Castle tours are available by appointment.

Location: Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny

t: 059-9726145

e: info@shankillcastle.com

w: www.shankillcastle.com

GPS: 52.686529, -7.021772

Gingerbread Man

Saturday 10th – Friday 16th February 2018

Join in the chase to catch Gingly, the ginger bread man. Hop on board the Rathwood Express Train, meet the gingerbread man and friends and watch out for the clever fox and other characters on your trip. Visit Goose Island and feed Rathwood's famous geese. Decorate your very own Gingerbread Man to bring home. Each child will receive an ice cold glass of milk to enjoy with their freshly baked treats in the restaurant.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

Snowdrop Week at Altamont Gardens

Monday 12th – Sunday 18th February 2018

A great opportunity to view this unique collection, first started by Corona North, former owner of the gardens, and now amongst the largest in Ireland, with over 100 named varieties. Daily guided tours at 2 p.m. (admission €3) with Head Gardener, Paul Cutler. Gardens are open, free admission 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. for general viewing. Advance booking of group tours requested.

Location: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059- 915 9444

e: altamontgardens@opw.ie

w: www.heritageireland.ie or www.carlowgardentrail.com

GPS: 52.735129, -6.720966

Snowdrop Weekend at Huntington Castle

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th February 2018

An original 17th century garden, the wilderness and parterre areas have undergone extensive restoration in recent years. Highlights include the 500 year old yew walk and a number of champion trees. Within this setting are some charming woodland walks with snowdrop and spring bulb plantings. Open 11 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

t: 053-937 7160

e: info@huntingtoncastle.com

w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

GPS: 52.690404, -6.649131

Sean O'Brien Challenge

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th February 2018

Are you able for the Sean O'Brien Challenge featuring one of Ireland's greatest rugby heroes? The Sean O'Brien Challenge is a fitness event for families and individuals between the ages of eight and 80 years old. It consists of a five kilometre run/walk in the beautiful surroundings of Rath Wood with six challenges along the way. Rath Wood Forest contains a great variety of tree species and is a superb location for outdoor activities of this kind. This event is run by Tullow Rugby Club in conjunction with Rathwood. In addition to the challenge, there will also be events throughout the day which are sure to keep all the family entertained.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com or www.baby-and-child.com/seanobrien

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

MARCH

Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Festival

Thursday 1st – Saturday 17th March 2018

Join us in Carlow throughout the month of March for a feast of music, dance, drama, fun and entertainment to celebrate all aspects of Irish language and culture as part of St. Patrick's National Festival. Highlights include the Pan Celtic National Song Contest and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Location: Venues throughout Carlow Town

t: 087-2857048 or 085-1340047

e: emma@glorcheatharlach.ie

w: www.glorcheatharlach.ie

Pan Celtic National Song Contest

Saturday 10th March 2018

Newly composed songs 'as Gaeilge' from across the country will go head to head in this prestigious national song contest, to find Ireland's entry for the Pan Celtic International Song Contest 2018. The composer of the winning song will receive a cash prize of €1,000 and go forward to represent Ireland at the Pan Celtic International Song Contest.

Location: The Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow

t: 059-9158105 or 085-1340047

e: pancelticcarlow@gmail.com

w: www.panceltic.ie

GPS: 52.841036, -6.92937

Easter Fun Train at Rathwood

Saturday 17th March – Sunday 8th April 2018

The Easter Train leaves the Rathwood Courtyard daily and heads to the woods where the Easter Bunny has a secret mission: to deliver a basket of Easter eggs to a very special person. But the Bunny's mission might not be as easy to accomplish as originally planned, as Freddy Fox has been spotted in the forest acting suspiciously in recent days.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

St. Patricks Day Parade – Carlow Town

Saturday 17th March 2018

Ireland's national feast day is celebrated throughout County Carlow with a series of parades in honour of St. Patrick, the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Parade will start at 3.30 p.m. from the Old Perry's Cash and Carry, Kennedy Street and will finish with a family fun day at the Potato Market, in the centre of Carlow Town.

t: 083-1899991/087-2857048/085-1340047

<https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksdayparadecarlow/>

Daffodil Weekend at the Delta Sensory Gardens

Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th March 2018

Visit one of the most extensive collections of daffodils in the country with 10,000 flowers and numerous varieties on show. Delicious selection of refreshments, pastries, snacks, cakes and lunches available throughout the day. Voted the number one thing to do in Carlow by Tripadvisor, Delta Sensory Gardens are set on a 2.5 acre site with 16 interconnecting gardens located on the outskirts of Carlow Town. The gardens have so much to offer the visitor during all seasons, from the bright and beautiful daffodils and tulips in spring to the breath-taking colours of the autumnal foliage.

Location: Delta Sensory Gardens, Delta Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow

t: 059- 9143527

e: info@deltacentre.org

w: www.deltasensorygardens.com

GPS: 52.844988, -6.924546

Easter Extravaganza at Delta Sensory Gardens

Saturday 31st March 2018

Join Mr Hop – the Easter Bunny and his friends for some egg-citing family fun this Easter Saturday from 12 – 5 p.m. Online booking essential for this very special event with the Delta team pulling out all stops. Lunches, tea/coffee and snacks available. Voted the number one thing to do in Carlow by Tripadvisor, Delta Sensory Gardens are set on a 2.5 acre site with 16 interconnecting gardens located on the outskirts of Carlow Town. The gardens have so much to offer the visitor during all seasons, from the bright and beautiful daffodils and tulips in spring to the breath-taking colours of the autumnal foliage.

Location: Delta Sensory Gardens, Delta Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow

t: 353 (0) 59 9143527

e: info@deltacentre.org

w: www.deltasensorygardens.com

GPS: 52.844988, -6.924546

Easter at Huntington Castle

Saturday 31st March – Monday 2nd April 2018

The perfect location for an Easter Egg and Bunny Rabbit Treasure Hunt. Each child receives a basket and a set of clues... they then have to find the golden nuggets and win a chocolate surprise at the end! There will also be an opportunity to meet some of the new little lambs and enjoy the adventure playground.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

t: 053-937 7160

e: info@huntingtoncastle.com

w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

GPS: 52.690404, 6.649131

APRIL

Dawn Mass at Mount Leinster

Sunday 1st April 2018

The ninth annual Easter Dawn Mass at the summit of Mount Leinster on the Blackstairs Mountains, in south County Carlow. Taking place at 6 a.m., this mass invites visitors to join the many attendees for a special spiritual ceremony, set against a stunning natural landscape.

Location: Mount Leinster, Blackstairs Mountains

t: 087-6684299

w: www.bagenalstownparish.ie

Dawn Mass at Oisín Park

Sunday 1st April 2018

This is the ninth year the Easter dawn mass takes place at Oisín Park, Rossmore, Killeslin, near Carlow Town. Starting at 6.15 a.m., this special mass invites visitors to join the many attendees for a spiritual ceremony.

Location: Oisín Park, Rossmore, Killeslin, Co. Carlow
t: 059-9141833

Cinderella

Saturday April 14th – Saturday May 12th 2018 (each weekend)

Help Cinderella find her shoe in time for the tea party at Rathwood. Together with Cinderella, visitors will hop aboard the Rathwood Express Train down to the woodland where they will meet the fairy godmother and feed her geese. During the slipper decorating workshop each child will be able to design their own slipper to bring home. There will also be an afternoon tea party fit for a princess, with Rathwood home-baked treats, a selection of finger sandwiches and yummy hot chocolate.

t: 059- 915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

MAY

Carlow's 6th International Bridge Congress

Friday 4th May – Sunday 6th May 2018

The programme features a formal welcome reception, open, mixed, novice and congress pair competitions together with a gala night of entertainment, guided tours of Carlow Town and discounted shopping.

Location: Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow Town

t: 086-838 1762

e: sheilagallagher1@eircom.net

GPS: 52.813953, -6.951482

Carlow Vintage and Classic Motor Club Vintage Car Display

Sunday 13th May 2018

A great opportunity for all the family to enjoy a marvellous display of vintage and classic cars and tractors from pre-war to the 1980s. Various activities for all family members, young and old including craft stalls, auto jumble, dog show, birds of prey, fun fair and a tour of the gardens at Duckett's Grove. Takes place from 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, 13th May 2018. Preview Saturday evening 12th May.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Carlow

t: 087-6722972

w: www.carlowvintageandclassicmotorclub.com

GPS: 52.858748, -6.812787

Sensational Kids Fairy and Elf Festival
Wednesday 16th - Thursday 17th May 2018

All children receive a craft activity to take home, a train ride trail with lots of surprises and characters along the way, admission into The Maze of Ireland and a free hot chocolate voucher for the on-site restaurant.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com w: www.rathwood.com **GPS:** 52.796597, -6.660739

Carlow Stages Rally & Mark II Challenge
Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th May 2018

A significant event in rallying showcasing the Mark 2, a now unique car in motoring history. The only event in Ireland with a separate rally for Mark 2 cars. Also features the third round of the Triton Shower National Rally.

Location: To be confirmed

T: 086-8141317

e: secretary@carlowcarclub.ie

Enduro Challenge 2018 Mount Leinster
Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th May 2018

The 2018 Gravity Enduro Series will see competitors battle it out over five events in some of Ireland's most spectacular mountain scenery to be crowned winner as the best all round rider in the country. This weekend sees riders take to the beautiful natural landscape of Mount Leinster with some tough challenges along the way.

Location: Mount Leinster, County Carlow

e: info@gravityenduro.ie

w: www.gravityenduro.ie

“Tri795” Carlow Sprint Triathlon 2018
Sunday 20th May 2018

Starting from Carlow Rowing Club, this very popular triathlon features a 750m swim, a 20km bike ride and a 5km run finishing in the Town Park. The swim is an out and back course, the first 250 metres will be upstream, with the last 500m downstream. The run is an out-and-back along the banks of the River Barrow. Early booking advised! Opens January 27th 2018.

Location: Carlow Town Park, Carlow Town

w: www.racing795.com

GPS: 52.8394711, -6.9354739

Teddy Bears Picnic at Rathwood
Saturday 26th May – Saturday 25th August 2018

It's back and bigger than ever! Join us on the Teddy bear picnic for a day you won't forget. Go on an adventure with Goldilocks and the three bears and visit the teddy bear factory where you will create your very own bear with Goldilocks and her friends. Hop on board the Rathwood Express Train with the three bears and your new teddy bear friend. The Rathwood Express Train takes you down to the woodland to feed the ducks and geese. After the train journey, children enjoy a picnic with their new friends. Plenty of surprises and fun along the way. In the event of bad weather, the picnic will take place inside the teddy bear's castle.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

JUNE

Carlow Golf Club Open Week

Friday 1st June - Saturday 9th June 2018

One of the most enjoyable things about the start of summer is the Carlow Golf Club Open Week which features plenty of prizes, team spirit and a friendly welcome.

Location: Carlow Golf Club, Deerpark, Carlow Town

t: 059-913 1695

w: www.carlowgolfclub.com

GPS: 52.852381, -6.894832

Carlow Regatta 2018

Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd June 2018

One of the oldest rowing festivals in the country celebrating its 159th year in 2018. Eights, quads and scull racing from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Location: Rowing Club, Barrow Track, Carlow Town

Contact: Brian Lyons

t: 059-913 1665

e: bylons@dooleymotors.com

GPS: 52.837434, -6.935805

Carlow Arts Festival

Wednesday 6th June – Sunday 10th June 2018

Five days of extraordinary and innovative exhibitions, theatre performances, comedy shows and live music. The festival displays a vibrant programme of events featuring a dynamic range of entertainment and arts and transforms Carlow into a cultural hub.

Location: The Grounds of Carlow College, College Street, Carlow Town

t: 059-9173381

w: www.carlowartsfestival.com

GPS: 52.8374599, -6.92905429

Borris House Festival of Writing and Ideas

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th June 2018

The Festival of Writing and Ideas will mark its seventh year in 2018, bringing you a weekend of stimulating dialogue and discourse, gathering together intriguing international minds – historians, novelists, journalists, film-makers, poets, theatre directors, war correspondents, biographers, artists and political commentators – and inviting them to Borris Village for a few days.

Location: Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow

e: info@festivalofwritingandideas.com

w: www.festivalofwritingandideas.com

GPS: 52.598644, -6.926618

Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta

Sunday 10th June

Come along and enjoy or participate in the unique spectacle of dragon boating as the Irish Dragon Boat Association brings one of its dynamic and colourful events to the River Barrow, Carlow Town. No previous experience required.

Location: River Barrow, Carlow Town Park

Contact: 059-916 1685

w: www.dragonboat.ie

GPS: 52.8394711, -6.9354739

One Armed World Golf Challenge

Tuesday 19th June – Saturday 23rd June 2018

Location: Carlow Golf Club, Deerpark, Dublin Road, Carlow

t: 059-913 1695

e: info@carlowgolfclub.com

w: www.carlowgolfclub.com

GPS: 52.852381, -6.894832

“Sense & Sensibility” at Lisnavagh House

Thursday 21st June 2018

A fabulous venue in which to celebrate and enjoy one of Jane Austen’s most loved works “Sense and Sensibility”. Performed by Chapterhouse Theatre this is an event not to be missed. Bring a rug, picnic etc. In the event of wet weather an indoor space will be available. Hail, rain or snow the show will go on! Refreshments available for purchase through the coffee shop. Gates open at 6.30 p.m., show commences at 7.30 p.m.

Location: The Lawns @ Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co Carlow.

t: 059-91 61473

e: events@lisnavagh.com; niamhbrennan@lisnavagh.com

w: www.lisnavagh.com

JULY

Blackstairs Vintage Club Annual Rally

Sunday 1st July 2018

The 12th annual vintage rally features vintage steam engines, oil engines, tractors and cars, music and songs, crafts, stalls and exhibits. Family fun day.

Location: Myshall Village, Co. Carlow

t: 087-625 6028

GPS: 52.6858791, -6.7804051

Bare in the Woods

Friday 6th - Saturday 7th July 2018

Bare 2018 takes place in the magical Borris House Estate with the Blackstairs Mountains as a backdrop and the River Barrow flowing beside it’s beautiful woodland and gardens. BARE features an eclectic mix of Irish and international acts, from electronic to reggae, indie, folk, comedy and beyond. BARE organisers have been busy designing a festival site that will set new standards for Irish festivals and blend into the amazing surroundings provided in Borris House.

Location: Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow

t: 086-3179000

e: info@barefestival.com

w: www.barefestival.com

Summerfest

Saturday 21st – Sunday 22nd July 2018

“Summerfest Carlow”, Carlow’s first country music festival weekend will see two nights of live entertainment and dance to Ireland’s top country stars, inside one of Ireland’s largest marquees. Headlining the weekend will be Ireland’s top entertainers Nathan Carter and Derek Ryan, with supporting artists “Female Vocalist of the Year” Cliona Hagan, and the most popular newcomer to the country music scene, Barry Kirwan.

Venue: County Carlow Football Grounds, Oak Park, Carlow

W: www.summerfestvarlow.com

Carlow Garden Festival 2018

Friday 27th July - Monday 6th August 2018

This year the Carlow Garden Festival continues over 11 days and promises a busy programme offering a variety of gardening workshops and talks set to inspire every level of gardener. The 2018 programme features an appealing mix of world-class UK gardeners including Chris Beardshaw, Carol Klein and Fergus Garrett combined with the very best of Irish garden broadcasters, writers and new trailblazers in Irish horticulture.

Location: Throughout County Carlow

t: 059-91 30411

e: info@carlowtourism.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

AUGUST

Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch Regatta & Rowing Festival

Sunday 5th - Monday 6th August 2018

Two days of rowing, swimming, diving, cot racing (traditional fishing boat), and novelty events i.e. rope across river, diving for plates, children's activities and live music in the local pubs.

Location: River Barrow at Graiguenamanagh

t: 087-262 8121

Carlow Vintage and Classic Motor Club Vintage Car Display

Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th August 2018

A great opportunity for all the family to enjoy a marvellous display of vintage and classic cars and tractors from pre-war to the 1980s. Various activities for all family members, young and old including craft stalls, auto jumble and fun fair. Large parade featuring all participating vintage and classic cars leaving Cental, O' Brien Road at 4.30 p.m. passing through Carlow town and Graiguecullen. Cars can be parked overnight – 24 hour security available.

Location: On the grounds of the Cental Factory, (formerly L'apple) O'Brien Road, Carlow

Contact: 087-6722972

w: www.carlowvintageandclassicmotorclub.com

"Sinbad the Sailor" Open Air Theatre @ Lisnavagh House

Thursday 16th August 2018

Outdoor performance by Chapterhouse Theatre Company featuring the fantastic adventures of Sinbad as he travels to magical places. Bring a rug, picnic etc. In the event of wet weather an indoor space will be available. Hail, rain or snow the show will go on! Refreshments available for purchase through the coffee shop.

Location: The Lawns @ Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co Carlow.

t: 059-9161473

e: events@lisnavagh.com; niamhbrennan@lisnavagh.com

w: www.lisnavagh.com

Admission: Adult €19 / Child €14 / Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) €56. 10% discount for parties of 10 or more

GPS: 52.858367, -6.681741

Tullow Agricultural Show
Sunday 19th August 2018

One of the most established agricultural shows in the country, Tullow Show has something to interest both rural and urban visitors and young and old. Features food and craft halls, trade stands, competitions in horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, art and much more.

Location: Coppengh, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 086-834 6931

e: tullowagrishow@eircom.net

GPS: 52.822019, -6.728131

Heritage Week

Saturday 18th - Sunday 26th August 2018

Week of indoor and outdoor events celebrating the rich heritage the county has to offer and promoting awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage. Activities range from fairs, night time bat walks, wildlife tours and lectures to music recitals, historical re-enactments and outdoor activities.

Location: Throughout the county

t: 059-9129705

e: jshortall@carlowcoco.ie

w: www.heritageweek.ie

SEPTEMBER

County Carlow Golf Classic 2018

Monday 3rd - Wednesday 5th September 2018

Carlow Tourism hosts its annual golf classic featuring three top quality courses - Carlow, Mount Wolseley Golf Resort and Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club. Rate €169 per person including three rounds of golf, three meal vouchers, one gala dinner, nightly entertainment and a fantastic prize fund of up to €7,000. Special accommodation rates on-site and nearby.

t: 059-913 0411

e: afitzharris@carlowtourism.com

w: www.carlowtourism.com/golfclassic

Rosdillig Vintage Rally and Steam Threshings

Sunday 16th September 2018

The 31st Rosdillig Vintage Rally displays working machinery, including steam engines, vintage tractors and steam threshings. Host of the All-Ireland Vintage Society Rally.

Location: Rosdillig, Borris, Co. Carlow

t: 087-775 1895

OCTOBER

Féile an Fhomhair 2018

Thursday 4th October - Thursday 11th October 2018

Féile an Fhomhair, Carlow's popular Autumn bi-lingual festival features events organised in various locations throughout Carlow town creating a great festival atmosphere. Events are organised for every age group with drama, literature, art, music, storytelling, cinema, comedy and entertainment of every kind on offer.

Location: Various locations throughout Carlow town

t: 085-1340047/087-2857048

e: eolas@glorcheatharlach.ie

w: www.glorcheatharlach.ie

Follow Me Up To Carlow Set Dancing Weekend

Friday 5th October - Sunday 7th October 2018

Set dancing enthusiasts from across the country gather to enjoy a veritable feast of dance workshops or to experience some of the country's top céilí bands. Beginners as well as seasoned dancers are welcome to attend an individual workshop for €5, a céilí for €10 or the entire event for the special weekend ticket of just €35.

Location: Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow

t: 087-6389520/086-8146842

w: www.carlowtourism.com

GPS: 52.841036, -6.92937

Carlow Autumn Walking Festival

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October 2018

Carlow's majestic Blackstairs Mountains and River Barrow together with the charming villages of Myshall and Borris feature in this year's Carlow Autumn Walking Festival. The festival caters to all levels of walkers, from very experienced hill walkers out to enjoy an invigorating mountain trek to novices seeking some peace and tranquillity along more leisurely routes. This well-organised event aims to make the great outdoors accessible to everyone with knowledgeable local guides from Tullow Mountaineering Club and Blackstairs Ramblers guiding visitors through the Carlow countryside. There is a choice of over 15 different walks plus family activities including canoeing safari trails with Go-With-the-Flow River Adventures, Pure Adventure and Paddle Your Own Canoe and bike and hike options with Waterside Bike & Hike in Graiguenamanagh along the River Barrow. The walks have been organised according to experience – A for very experienced walkers, B for experienced walkers and C for leisure/regular walkers.

Location: Mount Leinster/Blackstairs Mountains/River Barrow/Rathwood

t: 059-9130411

e: info@carlowtourism.com

w: www.carlowtourism.com

Carlow's 14th International Karate Competition

Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th October 2018

Karate based competition with all disciplines included. Welcoming visitors from the Czech Republic, England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Germany and Spain.

Location: Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow Town

t: 086-105 7071

e: carlowkarateclub@gmail.com

GPS: 52.813953, -6.951482

Halloween at Huntington Castle

Saturday 27th - Wednesday 31st October 2018

A Halloween Spookfest at a genuine haunted castle! Features a ghostly guided tour with ghosts, ghouls and screams. Family tours suitable for under 12's are available as well as over 12's / adult tours only. Advance booking required. Bring your own torch and wear a costume!.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

t: 053-937 7160

e: info@huntingtoncastle.com

w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

GPS: 52.690404, -6.649131

Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven November and December 2018

For a complete festive day out this Christmas, head to Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven where you can explore the Christmas shop and savour the delights of the stunning in-store Christmas décor. Browse beautiful gifts, festive lights, striking decorations and Christmas trees of all sizes. Plus enjoy the fun interactive in-store Christmas characters including a Dancing Penguin Band. This five star garden and lifestyle centre has a whole host of family events for the Christmas period including an exclusive breakfast with Santa and free viewing of Santa's two real reindeer Donner and Blitzen daily from mid-November.

Location: Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

t: 059-972 1558

e: info@arboretum.ie

w: www.arboretum.ie

GPS: 52.742832, -6.975890

Rathwood Christmas Santa Train Dates TBC

Ireland's most popular Santa Experience. Many generations, from young to old, have enjoyed this magical visit to Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves over the years. A fun filled hour of entertainment, storytelling, train ride, magical forest walk and presents for the children. Booking necessary on www.rathwood.com from September 1st at twelve noon.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: 059-915 6285

e: info@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

Christmas at Huntington Castle Dates TBC

Come and visit beautiful Huntington Castle this Christmas. The castle is full of Christmas cheer with wonderful decorations, miniature railways, a vintage Italian nativity scene and of course the big man himself. On arrival visitors are met by Santa's elf who will bring you into the old kitchen to help write your letter to Santa. The tour continues through to the dining room and a magical winter model railway. Here you can also view the extensive vintage Italian nativity scene. Once Santa is ready everyone is invited into the tapestry room where Santa is sitting beside his nice roaring fire and giant Christmas tree. All children receive a special present from Santa. Free chocolate for each child.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

t: 053-937 7160

e: info@huntingtoncastle.com

w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

gps: 52.690404, -6.649131

Delta Centre, Christmas Craft Fair Dates TBC

Delta hosts its very popular Christmas Wonderland. Enjoy a huge range of traditional gifts, decorations, folk craft and much more..... A colourful display of outdoor lights will be on display in the sensory gardens with festive face painting, 12 days of Christmas and more... Light lunches, tea, coffee and cakes served each day. On line bookings will be available for Santa and Elves workshop on weekends in this period.

Location: Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow Town

t: 059-914 3527

e: info@deltacentre.org
w: www.deltasensorygardens.com
GPS: 52.844988, -6.924546

The Christmas Fair @ Lisnavagh
Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th December 2018.

A very special Christmas fair in the Garden Wing of Lisnavagh House featuring artisan foods, a wide variety of handmade goods and giftware including wood crafts, jewellery, art, greeting cards, soaps, candles and textiles. The Lisnavagh Christmas Fair is the perfect opportunity to don your Christmas jumper, pick up your Christmas tree, stocking fillers and a glass (or two) of mulled wine.

Location: The Garden Wing, Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co Carlow.

t: 059-9161473

e: events@lisnavagh.com; niamhbrennan@lisnavagh.com

w: www.lisnavagh.com

GPS: 52.858367, -6.681741