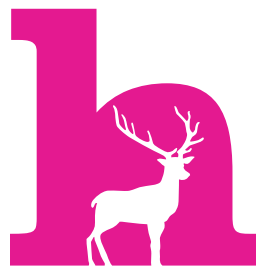


NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK 2017
19-27 AUG



IT'S IN
YOUR NATURE

HERITAGEWEEK.IE

#HERITAGEWEEK



100
EVENT IDEAS



IT'S IN
YOUR NATURE

National Heritage Week 2017 will take place from 19-27 August and we're making this the year we help more people learn about and enjoy Ireland's nature.

From urban wildlife tours to foraging walks to building bee hotels, Heritage Week 2017 is all about being active, having fun and getting involved with our natural heritage.

Coordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is Ireland's most popular cultural event and this year over **450,000 people** are expected to participate in over **2,000 heritage events**. National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days which promote Europe's common cultural heritage.

National Heritage Week will shine a spotlight on the challenges to our natural environment but also highlight the small changes that we can all make towards conserving it. During National Heritage Week everyone is encouraged to get involved and make a difference.

Want to get involved as an event organiser? It's as easy as 1,2,3.

- 1 Choose your event from this list or think of your own event idea!
- 2 Visit heritageweek.ie to learn about planning and promoting your event
- 3 Register your event at heritageweek.ie from 2 May 2017

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council




Fáilte Ireland



FOR EXPLORERS

- 1 Plan an urban wildlife tour. Look at seagulls, foxes, pigeons, and even rats in a new light!
- 2 **Take a spin on a cycling tour. Use a city bike scheme if available to encourage people who do not own bicycles.** 
- 3 Plan a guided walk or cycle along one of Ireland's beautiful greenways.
- 4 Bring a group on a guided hiking tour of a **national park**.
- 5 Visit a **Nature Reserve** or **Special Area of Conservation** near you.
- 6 Create a selfie scavenger hunt. Prepare a list of photos participants must take e.g. with an oak tree, with a snail etc.
- 7 Organise a group trip to a (safe) wild swimming location at the sea, river or lake.
- 8 **Early risers can organise a sunrise walk to hear the dawn chorus.** 
- 9 Discover bats, owls, moths, stargazing etc. on a night walk.
- 10 Create a 'Secrets of...' tour. Focus on little known facts and places.

- 11 Bring a group for a guided running tour. See how many birds you can spot along the way!
- 12 Follow a river or canal from one town to another exploring history and nature along the way.
- 13 **Explore our coast and visit one of the hundreds of islands around Ireland or on a boat tour.** 
- 14 Plan a day out in **the bog**. There are nearly 150 protected raised and blanket bogs in Ireland.
- 15 Organise a canoe, kayak or SUP tour on the sea, rivers or canals.
- 16 **Take a walking coastal tour. Explore rock pools and sand dunes.** 

- 17 Plan an astronomy night.
- 18 See how many **wildflowers** you can find and identify on a wildflower walk.
- 19 Explore what's in the hedgerows on a hedgerow walk.
- 20 **Plan a bumblebee hunt. Did you know there are 20 species of bumblebee in Ireland?** 

21 **Build bird boxes or bat boxes at a workshop.** 

22 Create a **butterfly garden** in your community. Have a weekend of volunteering to dig, plant and decorate the garden.

23 Get a knitting workshop together to learn skills and knit a local wildlife scene.

24 Paint a biodiversity mural in your town. Speak with your local council, schools or businesses to find a suitable wall.

25 Have a clean-up day for your area around a local monument, a section of the river etc.

26 Take part in the **Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme**. Record bumblebees along a 1-2km fixed route walk of your own choosing once a month from March until October. Aim to have record numbers of people at the Heritage Week walk. 

27 **Build a bee hotel or bug hotel.**

28 Make a patchwork quilt. Ask people in the community to make one square each based on a different animal. Get different groups involved e.g. schools, Scouts, ICA etc.

29 Organise a beekeeping demonstration with your **local beekeeping group**.

30 **Bioblitz**. Use maps and species check sheets to survey how many species of plants, insects, birds and animals can be found in your area.

31 Plan a nature photography workshop followed by a photography walk.

32 Organise craft demonstrations and workshops e.g. thatching, **hedgerow laying, mud wall building**. 

33 **Bring a heritage expert and artist together to host a sketching tour.**

34 Plan a Dark Skies night in your town or village and educate people about **light pollution**.

35 Organise a workshop on collecting and storing **wildflower seeds**.

36 **Identify as many trees** as you can within a certain area within 30 minutes.

37 Plan a geology trip to one of Ireland's many interesting **geological sites**.

38 **Run a Forest School. Learn survival skills, woodcraft and how to identify plants and animals.** 

39 Create a self-guided nature trail on paper or record it as a podcast.

40 Organise a foraging walk followed by a cookery workshop. Be sure to have an expert involved for identification!

FOR DOERS





FOR THINKERS

41 Bring together a panel of historians, scientists, philosophers, and ecologists to discuss the value of nature.



42 Plan a talk on Ireland's relationship with nature throughout history.

43 Host a seminar on the identification of birds, plants, insects etc.

44 Ask local ecologists, historians or academics from the nearest university to give a talk.

45 Explore the history of trees in Ireland and their significance in religion and folklore.

46 Explore lesser known Irish animals e.g. dormice or lizards in a talk or exhibition.



47 Host a discussion panel on biodiversity and farming.

48 Talk about creating more biodiversity in your garden.

49 Run a wildlife quiz based on the wildlife of your local area.

50 Listen to nature. Create a sound exhibition of wildlife calls.

51 Create a pop-up exhibition about local wildlife.

52 Organise an evening looking at how nature has inspired writers of poetry and prose.

53 Invite your local radio station to record a special Heritage Week show with speakers, music and chat at a heritage venue.

54 Organise a Heritage Week talk in your workplace. Can you make your business more pollinator-friendly?

55 Talk about how individuals can improve biodiversity when living in an apartment.



56 Approach your local library or heritage site to co-host your event.

57 Organise a talk in an unusual location. A castle, a lighthouse, or even a cave!

58 Explore the links between Irish nature and folklore through a talk or exhibition.

59 Run a photography or art competition on the theme of Nature. Ask the public to submit their artwork in advance. Ask your local paper to print the winning entries.

60 Organise a meeting of local businesses and groups to see what you can do as a community to support nature e.g. GAA club, golf club, businesses, etc.

61 Create a nature hunt using a page of local flora and fauna and the children can tick a box as they find them. Or let them try **this quiz**.

62 Go wild in the woods and learn about wildlife on a family campout.



63 Organise a scooter tour. Encourage children to bring their scooters so you can cover longer distances.

64 Create shoebox **wildlife dioramas** with leaves, moss and other natural finds.

65 Encourage children to become nature detectives. They have to solve clues together on their visit to a wood, beach etc.

66 Bring children pond dipping – provide nets and buckets and identify the finds.



67 Plan a leaf hunt. See how many different leaves children can find and create leaf rubbings.

68 Work with an artist to run a wildlife drawing workshop.

69 Plan simple nature craft workshops e.g. make a **pop up landscape** or a birdhouse.



Wednesday 23rd August is Wild Child Day and is dedicated to wild children everywhere... plan some special events for young people on this day!

70 Ask your local library to do a display of Nature books and have a storytelling morning.



71 Organise a Lego building competition. Build a native Irish animal.

72 Run an art competition for children culminating in an exhibition during Heritage Week.

73 Build a play garden, a special space just for children to dig and plant in.

74 Print out a colouring competition for younger children.

75 Create a fairy door trail or use an existing one as the route for a woodland walk.

76 Host a fancy-dress competition with prizes for the best wildlife costume.

77 Listen to nature. Encourage children to identify **wildlife sounds** on a nature walk.

78 Host a teddy bear's picnic in a park or woodland.



79 Bring magnifying glasses and identification sheets for a **mini-beast hunt**.

80 Plan a scavenger hunt. Prepare a list of items e.g. oak leaf, dandelion etc.

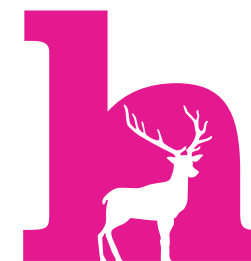
FOR FAMILIES



FOR EVERYONE



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81 Heritage Week is part of **European Heritage Days**. Connect with heritage groups in other countries and see if there is scope to work together on projects from shared migratory birds to a history of trading together.

82 Plan a **Dark Skies** night in your town or village. Encourage everyone to turn off their lights and go stargazing!

83 Make your community pollinator-friendly. Take the **10 pollinator challenges**.

84 Make everyone welcome with wheelchair, sign language, or **autism-friendly** events.

85 Ask language students to give your tour in different languages.

86 Plan lunchtime events so that office workers can come along.

87 Reach out to new audiences with interesting connections e.g. **surfers and marine conservation, builders and bat conservation, golfers and sand dunes.**



88 Bring Heritage Week to those who cannot come to it e.g. events in retirement homes.

89 Ask local businesses to sponsor events, give access to their archives or allow special tours of their buildings or lands.

90 Celebrate one aspect of nature important to your community e.g. the river or an old tree.

91 Create a nature trail around your local area.

92 Where possible try to make your event wheelchair accessible.

93 Organise a festival celebrating nature in your local area.

94 Plan a shopfront trail. Ask local shopkeepers to explore the history of their business with a window display e.g. a chemist could display old bottles, ledgers and advertisements.

95 Organise a community picnic in the park.



96 Encourage people to bring along unwanted plants to a plant-swap.

97 Find other event organisers in your area and work together e.g. Tidy Towns or Mens Sheds.

98 Create a new online resource with the help of your community e.g. online database of local wildlife, fieldnames or photos.

99 Write a play and involve local community groups in producing it.

100 Work together with a neighbouring town to organise a nature walk between your two towns. Even better, choose a town on the other side of a hill or woodland, make it a challenge!



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