

## PARTNER GARDENS IN THE WEST

Perhaps you are heading west to Galway and Connemara. If so, **Woodville Walled Garden** is close to Loughrea just off the M6. This is a restored romantic garden complete with herbaceous borders, roses, a dovecote and a reconstructed archway with its original 1750 keystone. Then right in the depths of Connemara near Letterfrack is **Kylemore Abbey Victorian Walled Garden**. This 6 acre garden is set on a sheltered south facing slope - an oasis of fertility and cultivation within a wilder landscape. Half is laid out as a typical Victorian pleasure garden and half is planted with an enormous variety of vegetables, herbs and fruits which supply the excellent abbey cafe.

An hour's drive on up along the west shore of Lough Mask will bring you to Tormakeady and the beautiful **Drimbawn House Garden**. The garden, gently sloping down to the lough, is divided into several different areas. The most developed is the restored walled garden with beautiful planting complimented by gravel paths and sweeping lawns against a background of 19th century and later trees. A paved terrace overlooks this whole area with views through the trees of the lake.

Alternatively if you are heading to north Mayo along the N5 you can stop at the beautifully restored 6 acre **Strokestown Walled Gardens** and woodlands in Co Roscommon. Within the grounds your visit can also include the National Famine Museum or the restored Strokestown House,

From Galway city it is just an hour's drive deep into the Burren where you'll find the breathtakingly original **Caher Bridge Garden**. A perfect example of how to inch a garden seamlessly into the surrounding countryside and how to incorporate the huge volume of local rock cleverly into terraces, walls, raised beds and even a moon window.

If you are in the south west and heading to north Kerry, you could divert 15 mins off the N21 south of Limerick City at Patrickswell to **Coolwater Garden** at Fedamore. This small half acre garden is distinctly different without lawns or borders! A stunning Water Garden with superb aquatic wildlife, multiple alpine troughs, rare and exotic trees and shrubs making it a very well structured space. Or if you are in south Kerry in the Kenmare area, seeking a wonderful contemporary garden experience, a trip to **Dawros Gallery & Garden** is the answer. The 4 acre garden by the Dromoughty River waterfall blends extensive use of grasses and drifts of perennial planting into the beautiful surrounding native woodland.

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