

# Galway named in top 10 destination list



Galway's non-stop festivals make it one of the top ten places in the world to visit in 2007.

**BY MARTINA NEE**

[mnee@galwayfirst.ie](mailto:mnee@galwayfirst.ie)

Planning on travelling to Bahamas, Thailand, South America, or a whirl-wind trip around the world? Well don't bother, stay right where you are because all we Galwegians have everything we want right on our own doorsteps. Believe it or not, Galway has been named as one of the top 10 places to visit in 2007 by the UK MSN website, I kid you not.

Isn't it funny that when you live in a place you want to be somewhere, anywhere, else in the world? It seems my suspicions have been confirmed, we are absolutely spoilt rotten here and everyone from around the globe wants a piece of the action.

The MSN website praises Galway's many, if not never-ending, festivals. Some would debate whether or not Galway can still claim to be the artistic, musical, and bohemian heaven it used to be but according to MSN this reputation is well deserved.

The Ciurt International Festival of Literature (April 24-29), the Film Fleadh (July 10-15) and the Arts Festival (July 16-29), are just three of the annual events that never fail to attract the crowds. Another reason for visiting our

glorious city is the chic and sophisticated g hotel, designed by Philip Treacy, which has also been listed as one of the absolutely FABULOUS places to spend loads of dosh.

Galway has as much to offer as the exotic and far-flung get-away activities listed in the top 10. These include World Cup cricket in Antigua (not that anyone in Ireland would be remotely interested in the so-called sport, you'd know it was a UK website); Oman (to be honest I never heard of it before but it's an up and coming destination in the Middle East); elephant polo in Thailand, yes, you read correctly. The polo takes place each September in the royal Hua Hin on the Gulf Coast of Thailand; Northern Ireland has been named as a destination for wildlife and nightlife (take this to mean anything you like, I did). Other destinations include yoga retreat in Marrakech, beach volleyball in Gstaad, Diwali in Mauritius (takes place in the Hindu month of Karthika in October/November and honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good fortune and consort of Vishnu).

So, when you find yourself complaining about life in Galway, remember that it rubs elbows with this exotic lot and there are plenty of people out there currently planning to come here for their holidays, so the least you can do is smile and be proud of our city when you meet them.