



Ó Domhnaill Abú!

Cumann Clann Dálaigh - The O'Donnell Clan Association

Founded at Easter 1954 and registered with Clans of Ireland

Anniversaries: 70th & Donegal Castle & Abbey: 550th

O'Donnell Clan Association 70th Anniversary Reunion, 8-9 June 2024

LOGISTICS BRIEF

Travel/transport

Donegal Airport (yes, there is one!): <https://donegalairport.ie/>

Useful link: Bus Éireann: <https://www.buseireann.ie/> enter your route, see schedule, book, pay, enjoy!

There is a regular bus service between Dublin City and Donegal Town, departing Dublin Busáras approx. every 90 minutes. The journey takes 4 hours. One can also go direct from Dublin Airport, for a journey of 3 hours 40 minutes. If you wish to book a car and drive yourself, do book in advance online at any of the usual car rental agencies. The journey by private car is quicker, especially if you travel directly through Enniskillen in Northern Ireland (make sure your travel documents are in order for the UK). There is no physical border, but you will notice a difference in road surfaces, markings, and speed limits are in miles (UK) and kilometres (Republic of Ireland).

Accommodation

We may have an event programme for 8 June 2024 in/around Donegal Castle (lectures) and will upload once details are firmed-up. Try to visit the Castle – it is a functioning museum, operated by the OPW/Heritage Ireland. The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held in the Lough Eske Castle Hotel on 9 June 2024. It is fully booked for 8 June, but may have availability for guest accommodation for 9 and 10 June-plus. Anyone booking Lough Eske Castle Hotel for night of 9 June+ should book directly through the hotel website, NOT a third party agent, mentioning "O'Donnell Clan Reunion", to avail of these discounted rates, which we have negotiated:

- €270 per room per night bed and breakfast per single room
- €290 twin/double per night bed and breakfast.

Contact:

Sinéad McGowan

SALES & EVENTS MANAGER

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Other accommodation may be still available elsewhere in Donegal Town, either in some hotels, or guesthouses, or on AirBnB. If you have your own transport or rent a car, there is good availability still within a 20km radius, e.g. Dorrians Imperial Hotel in Ballyshannon, and many quiet B&B houses by the sea or up the valleys and hills. **Lough Eske Castle Hotel is 6km from Donegal Castle, on Lough Eske Road, 8km if driving on the N15 road. NB: participation is self-funded; and upon application or personal invitation to register.**

Places of O'Donnell historical interest

- Donegal Castle and Abbey (both built in 1474 by King Red Hugh O'Donnell the First, in his new capital)
- Rossnowlagh Friary (where the Franciscan friars continue to this day)
- Ballyshannon (earlier O'Donnell capital)
- Lifford (O'Donnell seat of power at certain periods)
- Conwall Graveyard (King Godfrey O'Donnell's grave)
- Raphoe Cathedral (where Donal Oge O'Donnell was made King of Tyrconnell, in 1258)
- Doon Rock (Inauguration site of the Chiefs of the O'Donnell Clan under Brehon Law's tanistry)
- Kilmacrenan Abbey (Religious inauguration ceremony)
- Ramelton (site of one of the O'Donnells' twenty castles & fortresses)
- Rathmullan (from whence the Flight of the Earls in 1607 departed)

The current ad hoc Interim Council will stand down after the EGM on 9 June 2024, and be replaced by the newly elected Council. The current Interim Council Members are: Maria Angeles O'Donnell-Olson (Spain & USA); Frank Hannigan (Ireland); J. Hugh O'Donnell (Canada); Mary Louise O'Donnell (Ireland); John McCaffery (New Zealand); Seán O'Donnell (Ireland); Francis M. O'Donnell (Ireland; Chair)