

ATHLONE RIVER FESTIVAL

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July 31st, 1st and 2nd August 2026

Where the River Flows and History Comes Alive

FRIDAY, 31 JULY

STREET THEATRE PARADE

7:30 p.m.

Join us for a spectacular Street Theatre Procession celebrating the transition from the Year of the Snake (2025) to the Year of the Horse (2026).

Featuring: Fire breathers, Stilt walkers, Giant street puppets, Dance performances

Now in its third year, this popular event returns bigger and better than ever.

Sensory Route: Burgess Park to the junction at Dunnes Stores Performance Route: Sean Costello Street, Church Street and Connaught Street

Special guests: The Vikings

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT

8:30 p.m.

Location: Behind Athlone Castle

Enjoy a free outdoor concert featuring Luain, with special guest Jack Tiernan.

SATURDAY, 1 AUGUST

RIVER FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Viking Tours Ireland River Cruises Main Festival Sponsor supported by Spectrum Signs. Scheduled public cruises operate throughout the day. Tickets available onboard or online

ATHLONE WOOLLEN MILLS MARKET

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Athlone Castle & St. Bernard's Quay

Featuring: Local artisan and craft stalls Barony of Eplaheimr - Society for Creative Anachronism

Athlone Pop-Up Gaeltacht

Traditional Irish music by Féile na Sionainne

Athlone Community Live Broadcast (sponsored by Spice India)

ATHLONE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Youth Music Jam: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

THE VIKING VILLAGE

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Under the White Railway Bridge

Experience Viking life through interactive displays, demonstrations and family-friendly activities.

MADCAPS NATIONAL COURSE ANGLING COMPETITION

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Big Meadow

Hosted by Mad Caps Course Angling Club.

DRAGON BOAT & KAYAK RACING

12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Athlone Boat Club

Sponsored and hosted by Bay Sports.

Enjoy exciting dragon boat and kayak racing on the River Shannon, with a live DJ and special guests.

LUAN GALLERY

Open during normal gallery hours.

Explore the latest contemporary art exhibitions.

FUN & EVENTS CARNIVAL

Location: Golden Island

Family fun and entertainment throughout the day.

BIODIVERSITY & NATURE WALK

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Hosted by Athlone Family Resource Centre with Paula Sharkey.

Departure from the Woollen Mills Market.

SUNDAY, 2 AUGUST

FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Viking Tours Ireland River Cruises

Main Festival Sponsor (supported by Spectrum Signs)

Scheduled public cruises operate throughout the day. Tickets available onboard or online

ATHLONE WOOLLEN MILLS MARKET

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Athlone Castle & St. Bernard's Quay

Featuring:

Local artisan and craft stalls

Barony of Eplaheimr - Society for Creative

Anachronism

Athlone Pop-Up Gaeltacht

Traditional Irish music by Féile na Sionainne

Athlone Community Live Broadcast (sponsored by Spice India)

ATHLONE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Youth Music Jam:

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Athlone Family Resource Centre Activities

Family Yoga: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Circus Skills Workshops: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MADCAPS NATIONAL COURSE ANGLING COMPETITION

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Big Meadow

Hosted by Mad Caps Course Angling Club.

THE VIKING VILLAGE

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Under the White Railway Bridge. A final opportunity to experience Viking life and culture.

NATIONAL AQUATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 & RIVER FEST TRY-A-TRI

10:00 a.m. Start

Location: Athlone Boat Club

Hosted by Athlone Triathlon Club.

National Championships: 750m Swim

5km Run

Try-A-Tri:

250m Swim

5km Run

RIVER SAFETY DEMONSTRATION

3:00 p.m.

Location: Behind Athlone Castle

Presented by the RNLI in partnership with Athlone River Safety Awareness and Athlone Sub Aqua Club. Na Fianna Martial Arts

A family-focused martial arts event hosted by Martin Ward's Na Fianna Martial Arts, supported by Athlone Family Resource Centre.

Location: Athlone Family Resource Centre Tent.

LUAN GALLERY

Open during normal gallery hours.

Fun & Events Carnival

Location: Golden Island

Family entertainment and fairground attractions throughout the day.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY,

3 AUGUST MOTHS OF CORNAFULLA & BOG TIME MACHINE

11:00 a.m.

Location: N37 FF10

BOG + BOG TIME MACHINE.

The Bog Bothy is a small temporary structure within the bog. Visitors can sit, shelter, have a cup of tea, and take part in a relaxed morning of moths, peat, and bog stories.



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