



Markree Castle
Collooney, Co.sligo



MARKREE CASTLE

COLLOONEY,

CO. SLIGO

FOR SALE AS A GOING CONCERN OR AS A PRIVATE ESTATE

On c. 90.8 Hectares/ 225.6 Acres

Renowned & Historic Castle Hotel located on the banks of the Arrow or Unshin River.

Vestibule • Staircase Hall • Gallery/Inner Hall • Dining Room • Drawing Room • Ante Room • Bar • Chapel • 30 Ensuite Guest Bedrooms
Commercial Kitchens • Staff Accommodation • Extensive Lower Ground Floor & Basement Levels
• Gate Lodge • Paddocks & Woodlands • Landscaped Lawns & Gardens

Visit Markree Castle Hotel Website: www.markreecastle.ie

*Collooney 1.5km * Sligo Town 12km * Knock Airport 46km * Shannon International Airport 200km
* Dublin International Airport 200km * Dublin City 198km*



For 350 years the Cooper family have been living at Markree Castle. Edward Cooper was serving under Cromwell when his army defeated the O'Brien Clan. O'Brien himself lost his life in this battle and Edward married his widow Máire Rua (Red Mary). With her and her two sons he went to live at Luimneach Castle in Limerick. Cromwell gifted Markree Castle and the surrounding grounds to Edward Cooper as payment. Until then, Markree had been a fortified outpost of the McDonagh Clan, protected on three sides by the river Unshin. Times remained turbulent and during an attempt by the English King James to regain the throne, Markree Castle was occupied by the Catholic army and the Coopers fled. After the battle of the Boyne in 1690, they returned and have been resident

here ever since except for a brief period during the Civil War in the 1920s Markree was again occupied, this time by the Free State army.

In 1989, the current owner, having worked in the hotel business all his life, bought Markree from his older brother, renovated the castle and now runs it as a hotel. Each generation left its mark on the estate, but the castle as we can see it today, dates from 1802 with some changes made, mainly to the interior, in 1896. Walking around the outside of the Castle you can see dates of completion carved in stone on the walls. The stained glass window in the hall traces the Cooper family tree from Victorian times back to the time of King John.



DESCRIPTION

Markree Castle is a magnificent and imposing residence and country house hotel. The current castle was built in the 18th Century and stands as a 3storey block with 5 bay front with a 3 bay break front, and garden front with a single bay on either side of a curved bow. In 1802 Francis Johnston was commissioned to enlarge the house and transform the structure into a castle. The front was extended to almost twice its original length to form the new garden façade. Towers and crenulations were a particular aspect of this renovation. In 1866 the Castle was further enlarged with the addition of a battlemented and machicolated square tower, a new entrance with a porte-cochre at the end of a two-story wing with Gothic windows, and a chapel.

The ground floor contains the vestibule with stone staircase, and gothic vaulted ceiling over, leads to the outer hall. At the landing there is a door that leads to the Chapel, currently licensed for civil wedding ceremonies. The upper hall leads to the main staircase hall with impressive Victorian Oak staircase with stained glass window depicting the Cooper family tree. To the right is the inner hall with glazed roof with wooden Gothic style supports and adornments. Off the hall is the bar with large mullioned window overlooking the river. To the end of the hall is the large drawing room, which incorporates "Ionic Pillars" and views over the grounds. Across the garden front there are three reception rooms, the ante room, main dining room and small dining room. These are gloriously decorated with gold leaf and painted plasterwork in the Louis Quatorze style. The commercial kitchens are easily accessed from the dining rooms.

There are 30 ensuite guest rooms located in the wing on the hall level, first floor and second floor. Each bedroom is decorated and furnished to a particular theme and high standard.

The lower ground floor extends throughout the footprint of the main castle. Here there are numerous storerooms, cold rooms, pantries and staff rooms, as well as the original castle kitchens & cellars. There are three staff bedrooms with associated staff sitting room and staff kitchen. Planning permission has recently been obtained for the conversion of the lower ground floor into separate function room / restaurant facilities.









OUTSIDE

To the south of the castle are the formal gardens with terrace, interconnecting gravel paths, central fish pond, lawns, herbaceous borders, Victorian rockery and river frontage. The gardens are laid out with formality and are noted for their specimen trees and plants. There is a landing place at the river's edge in front of the castle and the remains of a Victorian boathouse. The remainder of the immediate gardens are mature mixed woodland through which there are pathways.

LOCATION

Sligo with its renowned natural beauty of the surrounding countryside and its literary and cultural associations, lies on the west coast of Ireland. The castle lies just 1.5km from the village of Collooney and 12km from Sligo Town. This charming historic castle is set in the heart of stunning Sligo countryside which inspired the famous poet W.B. Yeats.





DIRECTIONS

The Castle is located just off the main Sligo to Dublin Road (the N4), near the village of Collooney. From Dublin / Galway: At the 'Collooney Roundabout', take the third exit. Follow the R290 for 700m / ½ mile at the top of the hill on the right, take the turn for Markree Castle.

From Sligo / Donegal - At the 'Collooney Roundabout', take the first exit. Follow the R290 for 700m / ½ mile at the top of the hill on the right, take the turn for Markree Castle.

SERVICES

- OFCH/Electric
- Gas Water Heating
- Mains Water
- Septic Tank System
- Broadband

BER DETAILS

BER Exempt (Listed Building)



FISHING & WATER PURSUITS

Sligo offers a wide choice of activities from boating and deep sea fishing, there is easy access to Carrick on Shannon which has the second oldest rowing club in Ireland. The Shannon Waterway is now the largest non-commercial inland waterway system in Europe stretching to approximately 400 miles of navigable water. There is trout fishing at Lough Arrow 10 minutes away and salmon fishing in Ballisodare 7km away.

GOLF

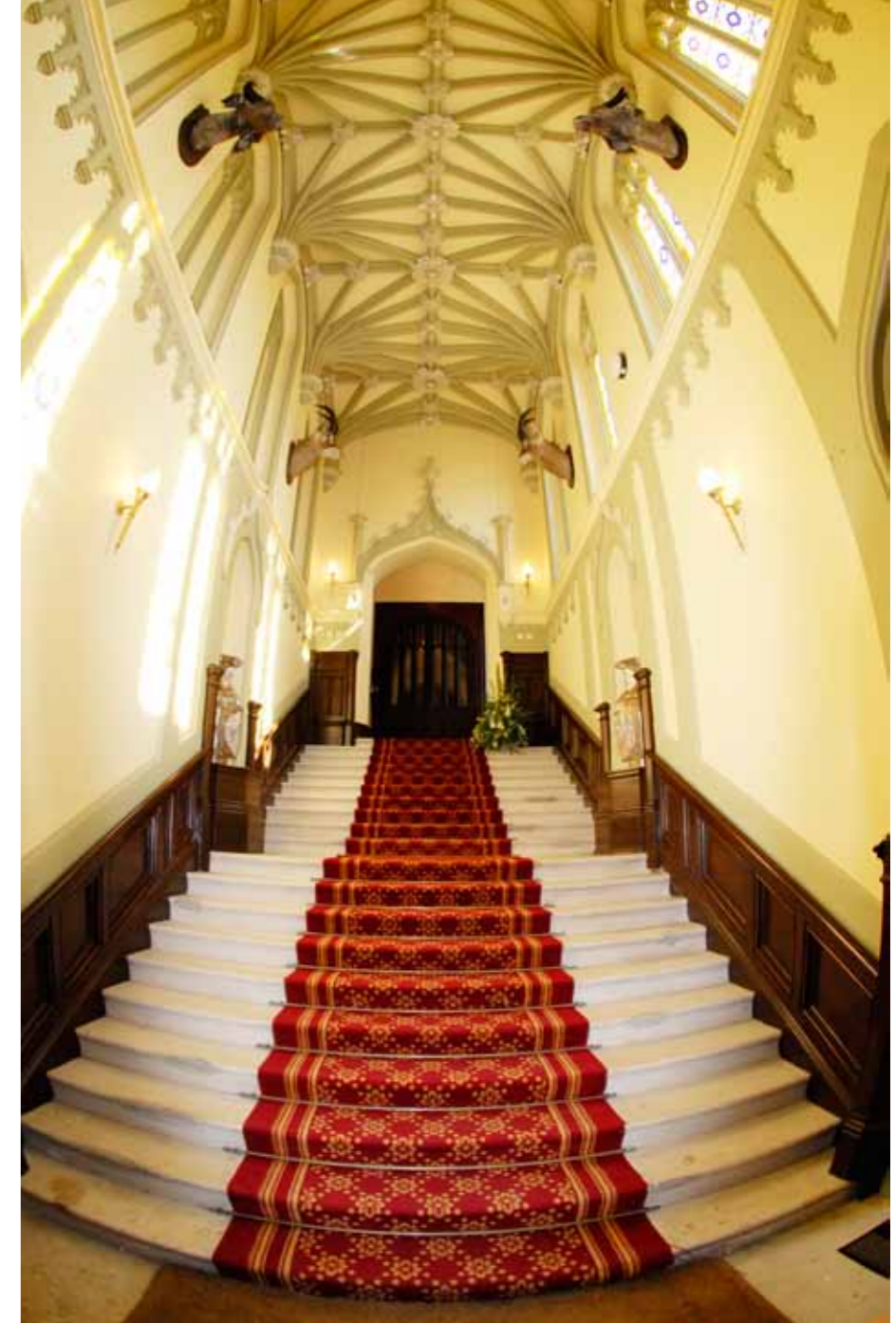
There are top quality golf courses in Sligo, The Co Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point was founded in 1894 and is a Championship course, other golf clubs include Enniscrone and Strandhill.

HUNTING & SHOOTING

The main hunt of the area is the Sligo Harriers who meet regularly during the season and is within easy boxing distance. There is an option to purchase a gun in the Markree's prestigious shoot syndicate which has shooting rights over 1000 acres of some of the best woodcock country in Ireland. Other excellent woodcock and snipe shooting is available locally.

SHOPPING

The local village of Collooney provides all the normal requirements of everyday living. Sligo is a thriving market town and is only 12 km away.





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