

THE
GARRYVOE

It's better.
by the sea.



HOMEWAR BOUND

Weddings at The Garryvoe

DEDICATED SERVICES FOR VIRTUAL
WEDDING PLANNING





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Introduction



Whether you're an expat planning your wedding back home from abroad, a globe-trotting digital nomad couple seeking a destination wedding in Ireland or in these global pandemic times, simply seeking to minimise face to face contact, then look no further... 'Homeward Bound' from the Garryvoe Hotel is here to help you create the stunning wedding you deserve!

Planning a wedding is no mean feat; even more so when you're on the other side of the world, unable to travel or self-isolating. Trying to organise meetings and arrange in-person viewings can prove to be seriously frustrating and not the best use of your precious time. Virtual wedding planning brings its own unique challenges but we've got the perfect answer!

'Homeward Bound' is custom-built to address all those long distance wedding planning problems head-on. By merging our online resources we can make your wedding as hassle-free an experience as possible. With regular Zoom/Skype or Teams calls and meetings, Whatsapp groups, virtual walkthroughs, email reminders and updates as and how you want them; we will keep you in effortless control of your big day! Homeward Bound has an address book full of local contacts to deliver those truly personal touches that will make your day truly yours... we can advise on everything from churches to florists, photographers to musicians, cakemakers to sweet stalls... even dress designers!

We are here to help in any and every way possible, to make your wedding at Garryvoe the memorable and unique one you have always dreamed of... after all, Weddings really are Better by the Sea.

Stephen Belton
Managing Director

Aidan Cotter
General Manager

Ben Sharkey
Weddings Co-ordinator

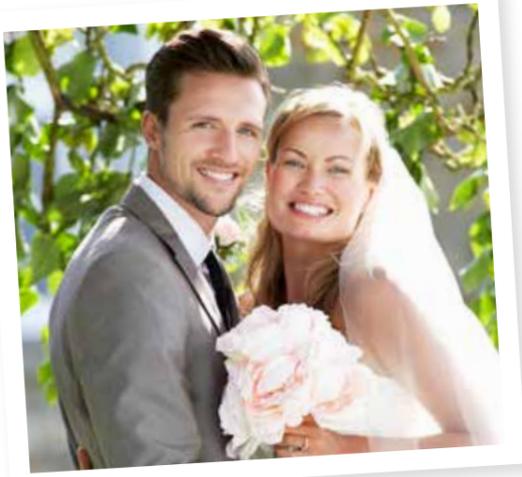
What Garryvoe Hotel's Homeward Bound complimentary service can offer you - virtually planning your big day at home from near or far . . .

- ✓ Regular Zoom/Skype/Teams calls and meetings as and when suit you
- ✓ Email updates and reminders of meetings and important deadlines, taking into consideration different time-zones
- ✓ An online, cloud-hosted project management tool to host and handle all communications in one place, accessible from any digital device - (not compulsory at all, at all but techies love it!)
- ✓ Virtual walk throughs in real-time - FaceTime/Zoom VideoChat with your Wedding Manager showing areas, amenities, decor and rooms inside and outside
- ✓ Menu options and images delivered digitally; real-life plating calls with Chef
- ✓ Templates for seating plans
- ✓ Shared Pinterest board to incorporate design styles, themes and ideas
- ✓ Info on local airports and best transport links from there, including VIP options
- ✓ Contact details and good working relationships with an extensive database of local florists, jewellers, dress makers, hairdressers, make-up artists, babysitters, pet kennels, photographers, videographers, musicians and more!
- ✓ Details of bands and DJs of varying genres. Example playlists available via Spotify
- ✓ Recommended accommodation options for family and guests
- ✓ Concierge service for day-trips and local tourist attractions for first time visitors
- ✓ Easy online Payment options from abroad
- ✓ Guidance when picking dates for your seasonal wedding
- ✓ Tidal timetables for beach photography and videography!
- ✓ Advice on Irish legal requirements
- ✓ Countdown and reminders of important jobs prior to wedding and week of wedding.

Top ten tips for virtually planning your big day at home from near or far. And remember, it's Better by the Sea.

1. Visit us at least once before the big day. This is very important, and will help you streamline a potentially tricky process. At a minimum you should visit us at the Garryvoe, your church or civil ceremony hosting options, alternative accommodation for guests prior to the big day and potential photography locations. Your Wedding Coordinator will help compile a list of things to do 'now', over the intervening period and the 'week of the wedding.
2. Keep it local. There is an awful lot to be said to keeping vendors local. It cuts down on postage or extra baggage fees when travelling. Also, God forbid any last minute mishaps were to happen, you have your dressmaker, florist or photographer on hand (or close by) to help.
3. Get all those legal loose-ends tied up as soon as possible. This ensures that any documentation for different nationalities or different faith ceremonies can be ticked off the list sooner rather than later. There is no saying what kind of delays could lay ahead, we don't want to tempt Murphy's Law! This also leaves you much more time to debate the fun stuff.
4. For all those travelling from abroad, have some research done in advance regards transport options from the airport and any possible pandemic-related restrictions. There will be plenty of choices, car rentals, taxi services, mini bus etc. Although it may seem quite obvious to you, it's a good idea to have some ideas available and communicated.
5. Have a range of touristy options predetermined for those overseas guests who may have never visited the Emerald Isle - it's your big day, and you don't want the added headache of organising day trips for pals, colleagues, future in-laws, second cousins and everyone in-between.
6. Have one point of contact such as a friend or family member to meet with us as further peace of mind. Although we will be here to help you every step of the way, there's no better judgement than a close friend, mum, dad or auntie.
7. Use Pinterest as a shared moodboard between you and your Wedding Coordinator. This is an incredibly easy way to create a style for your big day. You can pin ideas for flowers, dresses, food, decor and then share with your key suppliers. By gathering all the elements that inspire you in one place, this helps us create the dream wedding you deserve.
8. Utilise Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Whatsapp etc for virtual walkthroughs. This will give you a chance to look around the Garryvoe, our facilities, amenities and our beautiful beach in real-time. It will help make our venue real in your imagination and make detailed planning a whole lot easier.
9. Arrive at least a week before the big day itself. 'Homeward Bound' provides a 'final countdown' checklist of all those last minute jobs that need to be sorted out. This eliminates any mad panic and gets things done calmly, mindfully and efficiently.
10. And, finally! Relax! It's your big day, your way and everyone is there to celebrate just that. By choosing Garryvoe's Homeward Bound we will make this as easy and stress-free a process as possible, ultimately giving you that unique wedding at home that you both dream of.

Eoghan & Rosie - Home is where the Heart is



Eoghan and Rosie have lived in Canada for four years, they met while studying in UCC. After graduating they both found it challenging to find the right roles in their fields at home, so they decided to take this dilemma and turn it into an opportunity to go explore the world. After six months of travelling, they decided to settle in Toronto. There was a great Irish community, plenty job opportunities and not a million miles away from home - well a direct flight anyway!

Rosie now works as a midwife and Eoghan as a civil engineer. During the summer Eoghan brought Rosie to New York to celebrate their six-year anniversary. Much to Rosie's surprise and mortification Eoghan got down on one knee at the top of the Empire State Building and proposed. Of course she accepted and then ensued the excitement and challenges of long distance wedding planning.

Despite their deep cultural differences (Rosie a Cork woman and Eoghan a west-Waterford man), they could agree on one thing - a wedding at home in Ireland and if at all possible, by the sea.

'It's always been so important to me to get married at home. Although I don't live in Ireland any more, my heart is still there, as cheesy as that sounds! I have a huge family, all of whom are so important to me, so there was never really a doubt in my mind that we wouldn't get married here.'

Rosie

'Family is very important to me, and no matter where my base is in the world, I would always want such an important, milestone occasion to happen at home. Plus my mother would never speak to me again if I didn't!'

Eoghan

Garryvoe's 'Homeward Bound' initiative was created with the global traveller and digital nomad generation in mind. For Eoghan and Rosie this gave them the peace of mind they desperately needed when planning their dream wedding from abroad.

Homeward Bound really came into its own with the global pandemic; when travel restrictions and new behaviours regarding reduced social contact advice became daily considerations to which we all had to adapt.



'Honestly, it was made for us! I had Zoom calls with Ben regularly and he showed us around the different parts of the hotel we'd be using from the ballroom to the bridal suite to the post-wedding private dinner; even down to the beach! I could see table settings, the lighting design, menu options and more which was so great because I felt way more in control! I was happy to leave all these things in their capable hands. Thank god for that, no one likes a Bridezilla! Especially not an anxious one over the phone!' laughs Rosie.

'I'd absolutely recommend the Garryvoe to all those trying to virtually sort out their own weddings from abroad or even down the road! It's not an easy thing and to surrender all control... my worst nightmare. I have so many Irish friends who want to get married at home in the future. My advice? Get organised! Also have someone that you trust one hundred per cent! Ben, he's really patient and so on top of things!'

And Eoghan's thoughts? 'Oh god yeah, it was great! I could go online and look over the stuff when I had time commuting from work. The best thing though was the Garryvoe team put Rosie's mind at ease, and that meant we could enjoy the whole process together, without any unnecessary headaches. It was a great day, everything we could have wished and we're looking forward to waking up in that amazing bridal suite again on our first anniversary!'



Magic can really happen . . .

THE
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The Bridal Suite Upper Floor



The Bridal Suite



The Grand Ballroom

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