

MARITIME & HERITAGE CENTRE - KILLYBEGS  
FINTRA ROAD, KILLYBEGS, CO. DONEGAL, IRELAND  
Tel: 00353 9741944 Email: info@visitkillybegs.com  
www.visitkillybegs.com



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## Facilities

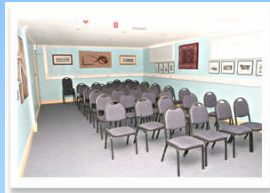
### Refreshments

The Centre offers light refreshments and the opportunity to purchase souvenirs and crafts. Where possible our staff are happy to facilitate requests. Please contact them via telephone or email to arrange and/or book a tour.



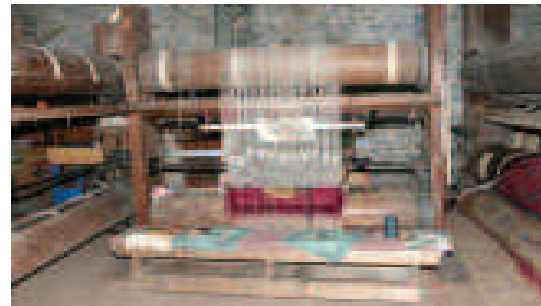
### Room Hire

Room Hire @ the Killybegs Heritage Centre 40-seater audio-visual room available for meetings, bookings. For further information contact the Centre where our staff will be happy to help with your requests.



### Crafts

There is a variety of local craftwork on display at the Centre, for example glass, jewellery, art-work and organic seaweed products. Visitors are welcome to view and browse at their leisure.



Please contact us at:

Address:

Old Carpet Factory  
Fintra Road  
Killybegs  
Co Donegal

Phone:

00353 749741944

Email:

info@visitkillybegs.com

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# Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre



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## Introduction

The Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre offers an unique experience for visitors who venture to this picturesque town situated on the Donegal Bay.

The looms here are original to the carpet  
*Killybegs Carpet Factory*



factory and date back to 1898. The longest hand-knotting loom in the world may be seen here at the Killybegs Heritage Centre. It's made of Canadian pitch pine and is one solid piece of timber, weighting four tons.

### **Did you know?**

- The longest hand- knotting loom in the world weighs 4 tons and is 42 ft wide.
- It was a Scottish businessman who set up the Donegal Carpets in 1898 - Alexander Morton
- The first carpet was made in Killybegs in 1901.
- Donegal Carpets cover the floors in Aras an Uachtarain, Dublin.

## Fishing Industry



Enjoy a fascinating insight into the history of one of the largest fishing fleets in Ireland, and take a journey into the past by listening to the experiences of some of the Killybegs fishermen who give their own personal account of life in bygone days.

### **Did you know?**

- The first training academy to train fishermen in the art of net making, boat building, seamanship and fishing was set up 1896.
- The first boat was built in Killybegs in 1899
- There were 28 boats centred at Killybegs in 1963
- From that time Killybegs grew to be the largest fishing port in Ireland
- The Atlantic Dawn was the largest fishing trawler ever to join the Irish fleet.

On display in the Centre there is a history in photographs of this industry and the people who helped shape it in Killybegs.



## Visual & Inter-Active Displays

### **History of Ulster**

Wall displays highlighting the history of the Ulster area, with particular interest in the plantation of Ulster and the Flight of the Earls.

### **Donegal Carpets**

On display are original patterns, orders and invoices, a demonstration of how the knots are made and how the looms work.



The setting up and development of the Donegal Carpets industry, including a demonstration of hand-knotting which made the Donegal Carpets world famous. A hands-on demonstration on the looms still in use, one of which is the longest in the world.

### **Boat Wheelhouse**

Visitors can enjoy a walk through an actual model of a wheelhouse with audio visual aids in explaining the equipment and why it is all necessary.



The Centre also provides educational benefits for students through making heritage more accessible and relevant.