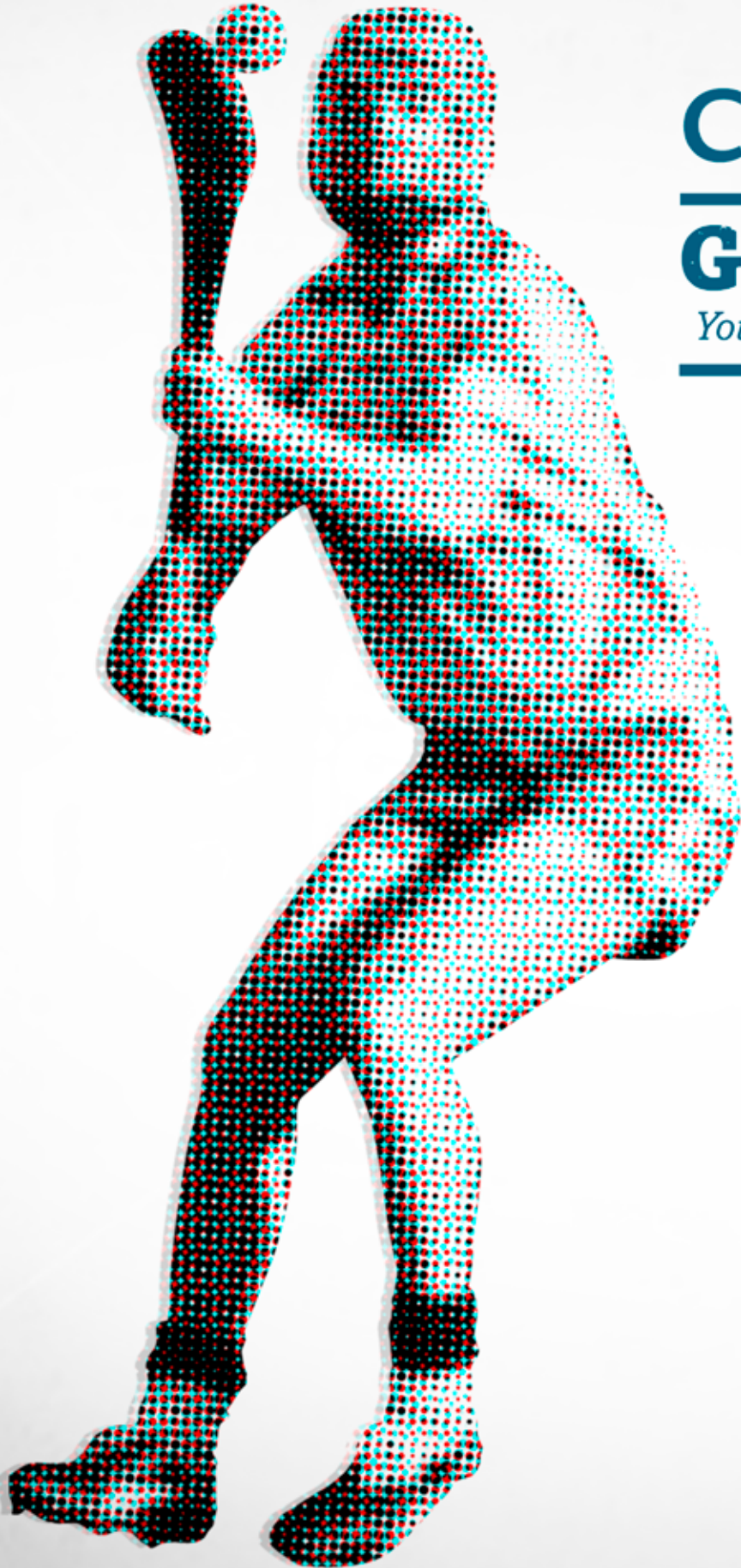




CROKE PARK

GAME GUIDE

Your Guide to an unforgettable day



82,300 IRISH WELCOMES

No trip to Ireland would be complete without a visit to **Croke Park**

Where the Irish come out to play

Croke Park, named after the GAA's first patron, Archbishop Thomas Croke, has been at the heart of Irish sporting life for over a hundred years. Redeveloped between 1993 - 2003, it boasts a capacity for 82,300 people and is the third largest stadium in Europe. Croke Park is the home of Gaelic Games and the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).



DID YOU KNOW...

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Croke Park on 18th May 2011 as part of their first state visit to Ireland

Hurling is the fastest field sport in the world

A hurling ball (Sliotar) travels at speed of up to 150km per hour!

Helmets only became compulsory in 2009. Previously, most players wore no face guard or protection (ouch!)

The Nally/Dineen Hill 16 terrace houses the biggest outdoor screen in Europe

The pitch size is over twice the size of a standard football (soccer) pitch

You can test your own skills during the interactive museum tours

The first finals played at Croke Park took place in March 1896

Croke Park holds the world record for largest attendance at a club rugby union match of over 81,000.

Hill 16 was created in 1917 using the rubble from O'Connell Street from the 1916 Rising

**“Sean Óg Ó hAilpín....
His father's from Fermanagh,
his mother's from Fiji -
neither a hurling stronghold”**

Mícheál Ó Muirheartaigh, GAA Commentator

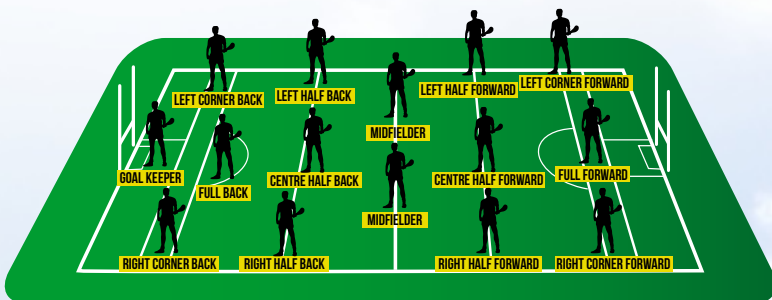


Become an expert in 60 seconds



HURLING

Hurling is an outdoor team sport of ancient Gaelic origin. The game has prehistoric origins, has been played for at least 3,000 years, and is thought to be the world's fastest field team sport in terms of game play. The object of the game is for players to use a wooden stick called a hurley to hit a small leather ball called a sliotar (pronounced slit-her) between the opponents' goalposts - over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar into a net for one goal, equivalent to three points. The sliotar can be caught in the hand and carried for no more than four steps, struck in the air, or struck on the ground with the hurley. To carry the ball for more than three steps a player has to bounce or balance the sliotar on the end of the stick and the ball can only be handled twice while in his possession.



"I love Cork so much that if I caught one of their hurlers in bed with my missus, I'd tiptoe downstairs and make him a cup of tea."

- Joe Lynch, Actor

GAELIC FOOTBALL



Gaelic football, commonly referred to as "football" or "Gaelic" by the Irish, is, together with hurling, one of the two most popular spectator sports in Ireland. Gaelic football is played by teams of 15. The primary object is to score by kicking or striking the ball with the hand and getting it through the goals. The team with the highest score at the end of the match wins. Players advance the ball up the field with a combination of carrying, soloing (dropping and then toe-kicking the ball upward into the hands), kicking and hand-passing to team-mates.

THE GAA

The Gaelic Athletic Association is a 32 county sporting and cultural organisation that has a presence on all five continents. Teams from both London and New York compete in the annual All-Ireland Senior Football Championship, the highest level of the game. The Association's has over 2,300 clubs in Ireland and overseas and over 800,000 members.

It is a volunteer led, community based organisation that promotes the indigenous games of hurling and Gaelic football and also promotes ladies football, camogie, handball and rounders. The Association has its headquarters at Croke Park where it has been based on a full time basis since 1908. The stadium has a capacity of 82,300 and hosts some of the highest profile events in the Irish sporting calendar.

"The men of Ireland were hurling when the gods of Greece were young."

PJ Devlin (c.1924)

SPORTING SEASON AT CROKE PARK

The GAA Championship season at Croke Park starts on the first Sunday in June and continues almost every Sunday thereafter through to September. Action starts with the Leinster quarter and semi finals and continues with the GAA All Ireland quarter, semi and All Ireland finals. Some Sundays offer fantastic value with double and triple headers - two games (or more) for the price of one! Every Sunday offers a unique Irish experience.

For more information and great visitor packages to Croke Park visit us online at www.crokeparktickets.ie

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Join us on **Facebook** and **twitter** and tell us about your day and experience in Croke Park. We'd love to hear from you. Include a photo and you'll automatically be entered into our regular competitions for lots of fun prizes.

