

The Salmon Weir Bridge



By
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The Salmon Weir Bridge

It was built in 1818. The **salmon weir bridge** is the oldest surviving **bridge** over the River Corrib. It was built to link the courthouse with the jail on Nun's Island. The jail was only about 200 yards away! The jail used to be where the Galway Cathedral is now. It used to be known as the Jail Bridge. It was also to provide a connection with the main road to Connemara

The river was first drained between 1845 and 1849 and a Weir was built.

Between 1952 and 1959, the Corrib was again drained and the present regulating weir was built. **This is the largest and most impressive weir in the country with a water flow of 4 million gallons per second at full flood, and 100,000 gallons per second at low flood.** The tremendous rush of water through the weir is absolutely breathtaking at full flood, and the bridge is regularly lined with locals and tourists alike, absorbed by the spectacle.



What is a weir?

A **weir** is a barrier built across a [river](#) which changes the flow of the river. Depending on the design, some pose a problems for [fish](#), as the fish cannot get across the weir.

A **weir** can trap marine fish in the intertidal zone as the tide recedes, fish such as **salmon** as they attempt to swim upstream to breed in a river, or eels as they migrate downstream. Alternatively, fish **weirs** can be used to channel fish to a particular location, such as to a fish ladder.



