

Croke Park

In the middle of Dublin City you will find Croke Park. Croke Park is Ireland's biggest stadium and it is the third largest stadium in Europe. It can hold 82,300 people; this is the capacity of Croke Park.

History

Croke Park has been used by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) since 1884. The GAA bought the grounds in 1913 for £3,500. It was named after Archbishop Croke.

In 1924, a new stand was built in Croke Park, to honour a player called Michael Hogan, who was killed by soldiers during a match in Croke Park. The Hogan Stand is still standing in Croke Park today.

During the 1980s, the GAA decided to make Croke Park's capacity bigger. They designed a new stadium and built it in four phases. The building lasted for fourteen years and was finished in 2003.

What Is Croke Park Used For?

Today, Croke Park is used for many different things. The GAA uses it for Gaelic and Hurling matches. Each year in September, the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals take place in a sold-out Croke Park. The largest ever crowd recorded in Croke Park was at the Offaly-Down Senior Football final in 1961, with a crowd size of 90,556!

Many famous singers and bands have played concerts in Croke Park. Beyoncé, U2, Cold Play, Ed Sheeran and One Direction are only some of these famous names.

While the Aviva Stadium was being built, Croke Park also became the home for International Rugby and Soccer games. These games would be the first non-GAA games held in Croke Park.

Croke Park is known today as one of the best football pitches in the world. It is also one of the busiest stadiums in the world, hosting almost 90 games each year, as well as music concerts.



Questions

1. Where is Croke Park located?

2. What is the official capacity of Croke Park?

3. Why is the stadium named Croke Park?

4. Who is the Hogan Stand named after?

5. What is played in Croke Park each September?

6. When was the largest crowd recorded in Croke Park?

7. Name four famous artists that have played in Croke Park.

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2.

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8. How many games are played in Croke Park each year?

Answers

1. Where is Croke Park located?
Croke Park is located in Dublin City.
2. What is the official capacity of Croke Park?
The official capacity of Croke Park is 82,300.
3. Why is the stadium named Croke Park?
Croke Park is named after Archbishop Croke.
4. Who is the Hogan Stand named after?
The Hogan Stand is named after Michael Hogan.
5. What is played in Croke Park each September?
Each September, the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals take place in Croke Park.
6. When was the largest crowd recorded in Croke Park?
The largest ever crowd was recorded during the Offaly-Down All Ireland Final in Croke Park in 1961.
7. Name four famous artists that have played in Croke Park.
Accept four of the following: Ed Sheeran; Beyoncé; Cold Play; U2; One Direction.
8. How many games are played in Croke Park each year?
Over 90 games are played in Croke Park every year.

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History

Croke Park has been used by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) since 1884. The GAA bought the grounds in 1913 for £3,500. It was named after Archbishop Croke who was an early supporter of the GAA.

On Sunday 21st November 1921, during the War of Independence, a match between Dublin and Tipperary ended in tragedy. During the match, soldiers opened fire on the crowd. Fourteen people were killed, including a Tipperary player called Michael Hogan. The tragedy became known as Bloody Sunday.

In 1924, a new stand was built in Croke Park, and named in his honour. Hogan Stand is still standing in Croke Park today.

During the 1980s, the GAA decided to make Croke Park's capacity bigger. They designed a new stadium and built it in four phases. The building work went on for fourteen years and was finished in 2003.

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Today, Croke Park is used for many different kinds of events. The GAA uses it for Gaelic and Hurling matches. Each year in September, the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals take place in a sold-out Croke Park. The largest ever crowd recorded in Croke Park was at the Offaly-Down Senior Football final in 1961, with a crowd size of 90,556!

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While the Aviva Stadium was being built, Croke Park also became the home for International Rugby and Soccer games. These games would be the first non-GAA games held in Croke Park.

On 24th February 2007, a rugby



match between Ireland and England made history, as the English national anthem was sung in Croke Park. Players and fans were emotional as this moment showed the peace that now exists in Ireland today.

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6. How long did it take to build the current Croke Park stadium?

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9. Why was the rugby match between Ireland and England on February 24th 2007 so important?

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On Bloody Sunday, during the War of Independence, a match between Dublin and Tipperary ended in tragedy. During the match soldiers opened fire on the crowd.
5. Why is there a stand named the Hogan Stand?
The Hogan Stand is named after Michael Hogan, a Tipperary hurler who was killed during the attack on the match on Bloody Sunday.
6. How long did it take to build the current Croke Park stadium?
It took fourteen years to build the current stadium.
7. When was the largest crowd recorded in Croke Park?
The largest crowd was recorded in Croke Park during the 1961 Senior Football Final.
8. Name four famous artists that have played in Croke Park.
Accept four of the following: Ed Sheeran; Beyoncé; Cold Play; U2; One Direction.
9. Why was the rugby match between Ireland and England on February 24th 2007 so important?
The match between England and Ireland was very important because it was a display of the peace that now exists between England and Ireland today.

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In 1924, a new stand was built in Croke Park, and named in his honour. Hogan stand is still standing in Croke Park today.

During the 1980s, the GAA decided to transform Croke Park into a high capacity stadium. They designed a new stadium and built it in four phases. The building work went on for fourteen years and was finished in 2003.

What Is Croke Park Used For?

Today, Croke Park is used for many different kinds of events. The GAA uses it for Gaelic and Hurling matches. Each year in September the All-Ireland Hurling and Football finals take place in a sold-out Croke Park. The largest ever crowd recorded in Croke Park was at the Offaly-Down Senior Football final in 1961, with a crowd size of 90,556!

Croke Park has acted as a venue for many famous artists and bands such as U2, One Direction, Ed Sheeran, Beyoncé and Coldplay.

While the Aviva Stadium was being built, Croke Park also became the home for International Rugby and Soccer games. These games would be the first non-GAA games held in Croke Park.

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England made history, as the English national anthem was sung in Croke Park. Players and fans were emotional as this moment was a display of the peace that now exists in Ireland today.

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