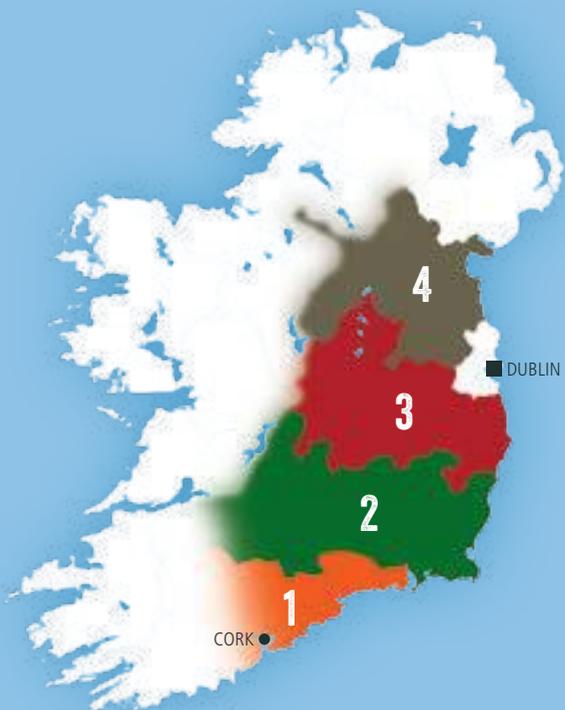


# IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

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- 2 Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford
- 3 Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Kildare and Wicklow
- 4 Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath



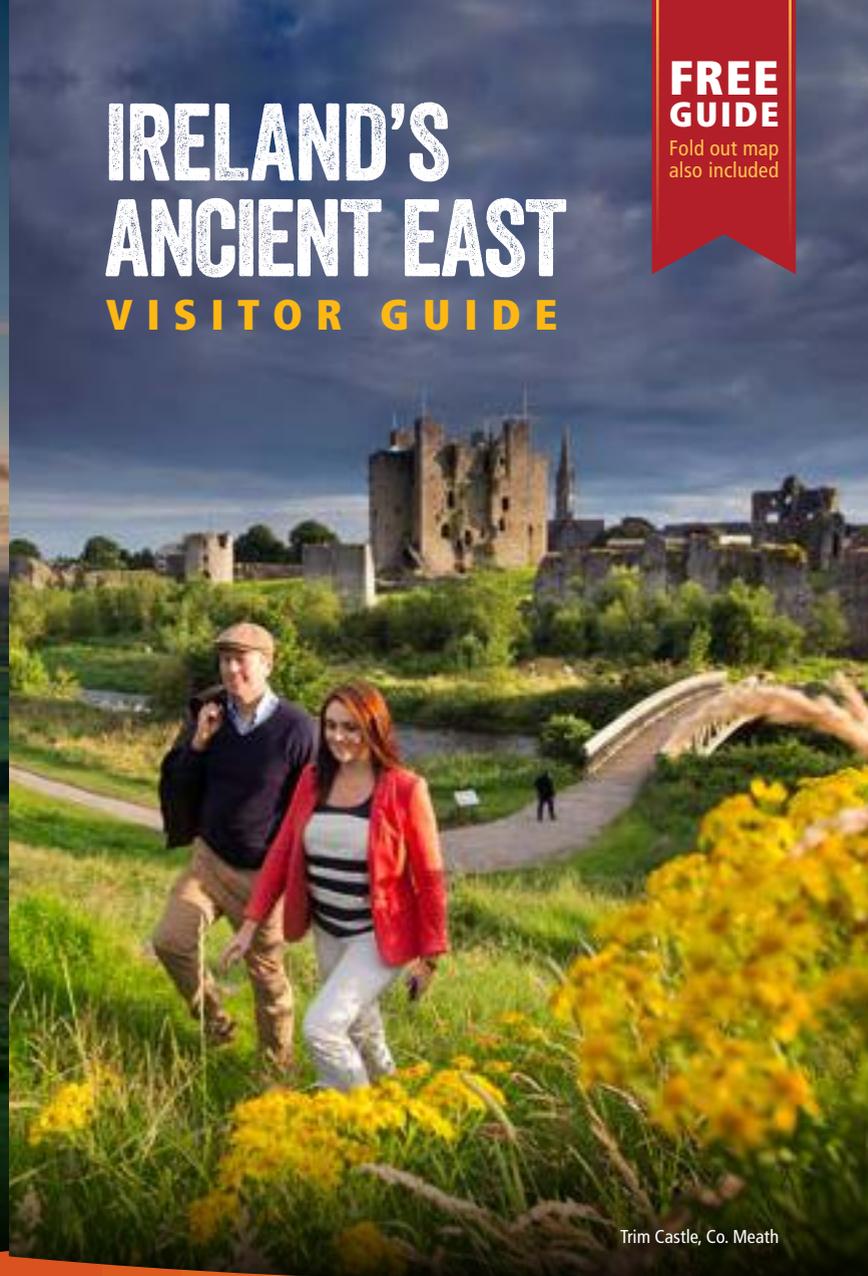
Visitors: we welcome your feedback on this guide!  
✉ [pocketguides@failteireland.ie](mailto:pocketguides@failteireland.ie)



Loughcrew Cairns, Co. Meath

# IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST VISITOR GUIDE

**FREE  
GUIDE**  
Fold out map  
also included



Trim Castle, Co. Meath



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### IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST MAP



**PICK UP FREE, MORE DETAILED  
MAPS IN OUR TOURIST OFFICES!**  
See contents page for details



FI-80732-IAE-0617



[IrelandsAncientEast.com](http://IrelandsAncientEast.com)  
[#IrelandsAncientEast](https://www.instagram.com/IrelandsAncientEast)

All website & email links are live.

# CONTINUE EXPLORING IRELAND WITH OUR FULL RANGE OF VISITOR GUIDES...



Every care has been taken in the compilation of this visitor guide to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for printed errors or omissions, or alterations occurring after the guidebook has been published.

Brownshill Dolmen,  
Co. Carlow

## IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST



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### TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES:

**\*Athlone**, Athlone Castle, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 EA32  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: athlone@failteireland.ie

**\*Cahir**, Castle Car Park, Cahir, Co Tipperary, E21 K336  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: cahir@failteireland.ie

**\*Cavan**, 1st Floor, Johnston Central Library, Farnham St., Cavan Town, Co Cavan, H12 A3T1  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: cavan@failteireland.ie

**Cork**, Grand Parade, Cork City, T12 CK0Y  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: corkkerryinfo@failteireland.ie

**Kilkenny**, Shee Alms House, Rose Inn Street, Kilkenny City, R95 XF53  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: kilkenny@failteireland.ie

**Mullingar**, Market Square, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 PW95  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: mullingar@failteireland.ie

**Waterford**, 120 Parade Quay, Waterford City, X91 KC3V  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: waterford@failteireland.ie

**Wexford**, The Quay Front, Wexford Town, Co Wexford, Y35 YV25  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: wexford@failteireland.ie

**Wicklow**, Rialto House, Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow, A67 YK82  
T: 1850 230 330  
E: wicklow@failteireland.ie

*\*Seasonal Office*



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# WELCOME TO IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Fadó Fadó. Long long ago. That's how all the best stories start around here. And this part of Ireland – as you'll soon discover – is full of stories.

On your travels you will enjoy over 5,000 years of history, buried within the verdant meadows, bustling towns and rugged stone monuments of Ireland's Ancient East.

Learn the stories of a place and you'll come to understand the soul of its people. Whether you're out enjoying the view from windswept hills, ambling by small green fields, or simply at a bend in the road – stories are never far away. They're written on the land and echo in the voices of the locals – some of the best storytellers in the world.

Indulge your curiosity, exploring monuments built one thousand years before the pyramids and discover how people here built the tallest building in the world to align precisely with the sun's rays. Catapult yourself back fifteen hundred years ago, when Europe's pilgrims crossed mountains, heath and bog to Ireland's first University.

Or follow the journeys of the legendary High Kings, visiting the sites where they made human sacrifices to the gods of nature, where they knelt before the cross and where they battled Vikings.

Prepare to wander through time like you never have before. Through invasions and rebellions. Alliances and betrayals. Welcome and unwelcome arrivals. Life-changing departures. The twists and turns of Ireland's tumultuous history have been played out in these lush green landscapes.

Now it's your turn to relive this legacy and admire the region's contemporary charm across vibrant towns, cities and stunning scenery. One thing that hasn't changed, is our reputation for hospitality.

We bid you welcome to Ireland's Ancient East.

With the maps as your guide and the following itineraries as your inspiration, explore this land's rich culture and enjoy your journey through this mystical place...



Jerpoint Park, Co. Kilkenny



The Rock of Cashel



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# STORIES OF IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

From ancient kings to modern day poets, saints and scholars to ramblers and fishermen, Ireland's Ancient East pulsates with legendary tales.

To help you understand and immerse yourself in the places you visit, we have crafted nine stories that weave in and out of Irish history, identity and culture. You will find these stories and their symbols pop up through out this guide – putting you on track to pursue whatever interests brought you here.

Pick one or more and peel back the centuries as you begin your exciting journey through the mysteries of Ireland's Ancient East.



## ANCIENT IRELAND

Mysterious dolmens, standing-stones and ritual sites all offer tantalising glimpses into our ancient past. Explore feats of engineering that are older than the pyramids. Whether stopping at a heritage centre, windswept hillside or bend in a road – ancient history will never be far away for you to explore.



## LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY

Feel the layers of history underfoot as you stand at a quayside where emigrants caught their last view of Ireland. Walk along famine roads or up grand manor house lanes, tracing the twists and the turns of Ireland's tumultuous history as you follow this story.



## CASTLES & CONQUESTS

All of the best swashbuckling stories need dramatic locations, they need brave heroes and ardent heroines too. Climb rocky outcrops and medieval walls to follow this dramatic story through Ireland's Ancient East.



## HIGH KINGS & HEROES

Pagan rituals, roaring bonfires and sacrifices to the sun gods - these are the stories of Ireland's legendary yet pragmatic High Kings. Find out how our High Kings and heroes fought with and against the Vikings and came to kneel before the Celtic cross.



## IRELAND'S MYSTICAL WATERWAYS

A depth of myth and legends. Track the mighty Shannon through the heart of Ireland. On her shores many monastic sites were founded where ancient roads met her waters. Today you can float downstream aboard a cruiser or follow the riverbank, taking in sights and tales as you go.



## MARITIME GATEWAY

The story of comings and goings, of light and shade, of welcome and unwelcome arrivals and of life-changing departures. Experience the seaside charm of our laid-back South East coast and explore its many villages and cities with far off ports in their souls.



## SACRED IRELAND

Do you know why they call Ireland the Land of Saints and Scholars? Follow the pilgrims' routes across Ireland's Ancient East and early Christian history is revealed. Here you can climb round towers, visit monastic sites and feel the presence of those early Saints and Scholars at every turn.



## THE SPORT OF KINGS

Thundering hooves, glistening coats, steaming breath in frosty air... They've been running horses across these plains from the times of early kings. Whether it's attending a race meeting, a point to point or watching the early morning gallops at the Curragh – our love of the horse will provide boundless excitement.



## VIKINGS

A terrifying new power came racing across the seas from the north. At times they were raiders, then traders and settlers. You can still find traces and tales of the Vikings in the Ancient East – in its people, its towns and rugged coasts. This story will point you to where to look!



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## ENGAGE WITH OUR LANDSCAPE

From low-lying bog lands to coastal caves and craggy cliffs; from gentle rolling hills to pristine beaches, we invite you to get out there and enjoy! The lush green landscape of Ireland's Ancient East is a paradise for those who like the outdoors. In many locations there are guided options available – a great way to engage with people and get the local stories!

### WALKING

Meander through the ways and byways most scenic spots – to find hidden gems and delightful distractions, all you need is your feet and a good pair of shoes. Ireland's Ancient East is a walker's paradise with a wide variety of trails for all levels and abilities. There are winding forest tracks, breath-taking mountain roads, canal-side greenways and tranquil lake shore paths all within easy reach.

### HORSE RIDING

Hop on horseback and channel the fierce Celtic warriors that once galloped bare-back across the wide open plains. Ireland's Ancient East offers some of the best riding breaks you could wish for – from galloping on an empty strand, point to point treks exploring the finest local scenery or cross-country routes that will challenge your skills.

### ANGLING

Get your waders on, head for the shores and seek out the challenge, joy and bounty to be found in Ireland's foaming waves and sparkling fresh waters. Ireland's Ancient East offers sea anglers a fantastic variety of quality fishing whether in shore, charter or rock fishing. We have rich pike stocks in our lakes and coarse fishing abounds in our rivers and canals. For the best experience source a ghillie or fishing guide and enjoy!

### GOLF

Follow the trail of golfing legends and tackle the most challenging greens this island has to offer - or take the contemplative route and perfect your drive in the amidst scenic splendour. Ireland's Ancient East is a popular golf destination – in the surrounds of beautiful countryside, ancient landscapes and historical treasures – you are never far from a world-class golf course.

### ADVENTURE AND WATER SPORTS

Strike out for adventure and get your adrenaline fix in the wildest and most unspoiled corners of this green land. From challenging mountain biking tracks to kayaking along our coastline, our landscape will be your playground! Let your spirit of adventure fly free in Ireland's Ancient East.



Call into the tourist office and find a way to engage with our landscape on your journey today!

## ENGAGE WITH OUR PEOPLE

Here, you can shake the hand that feeds you, hear tall stories and folklore mixed with fact, sing songs centuries old by an open fire and celebrate our ancient gods through myths as old as Ireland itself.

Our destination of stories comes to life when you engage with our people. Renowned as great storytellers, imbued with wit and gravity in equal measure, our people have a natural warmth and want to share their stories with you.

### FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Let your taste buds guide you at one of the many world-class Irish food festivals or enjoy the thrill of music in the great outdoors or within the storied halls of historic houses or celebrate our history at gripping re-enactments. Festivals and events abound in Ireland's Ancient East - from garden parties to opera - there's fun to be had and memories to be made. Choose one, or even a few, that suit you!

### RACING

We have a jam packed calendar for racing fans and curious novices. Check the odds and take a punt but be sure to ask for tips! Nothing compares to a day at the races in Ireland – you never know who you might meet and whether you back a winner or not, it's long odds-on that you will have a day to remember!



Lullymore Heritage Park, Co. Kildare



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IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST MAP

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## WELCOME TO CORK AND WATERFORD

For thousands of years, this spectacular coastline has played host to all manner of new arrivals; fierce Viking raiders, Norman conquerors and medieval merchants in treasure laden ships. Yet as the last port of call before the Irish Sea and the treacherous Atlantic expanse, its deep-water harbours have also witnessed many a poignant farewell...

At the southern end of Ireland's Ancient East, the coastal counties of Cork and Waterford share a Maritime Gateway. Whether you want to explore by land or by sea, join the centuries of travellers that came before you and experience the legendary craic, beauty and charm this region has to offer.

From the winding lanes of Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, to the contemporary culture and excitement of Cork, this area offers some of Ireland's most beloved destinations for tourists and locals alike.

Trail the coast, indulging in some of the finest seafood the country has to offer, or take a spin through the Blackwater Valley and uncover the hidden gems of this area's fertile countryside. Wander in awe among remains of pagan days and relish the region's renowned hospitality. It seems no matter where you turn, wonders await, hidden among mysterious islands, secluded coves and weather-worn mountain tops. Wherever the road takes you, there's no shortage of sights or things to do.

Thanks to its ports and two regional airports, getting to and from the region also couldn't be easier.

**Stories:** Maritime Gateway, Vikings, Layers of Life and History

[www.IrelandsAncientEast.com](http://www.IrelandsAncientEast.com)



Cobh, Co. Cork



Reginalds Tower, Waterford

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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES

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## MARITIME GATEWAY

### SOULS SAVED, FAREWELLS AND TITANIC TALES ENVELOP THIS TRAIL

**Transport:** Train and Foot

**Route:** Cork City to Cobh

**Highlights:** English Market, Titanic Experience and Cobh Heritage Centre

Start your journey in the English market, the bustling social hub of Cork city, replete with artisan stalls

representing nearly every culinary art imaginable. Sample delicacies of local cuisine and far off exotic climates or buy something to take with you.

Then hop on a train for Cobh, a scenic coastal town on the north shore of Cork harbour which served as the last port of call for the Titanic. Delve into the stories of this fateful farewell and find out how it shaped this corner of the country forevermore.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Camden Fort Meagher, Spike Island, Cork Butter Museum, Cobh Cathedral, Youghal Clock Gate Tower, Jameson Experience, Cork City Gaol or St Mary's Collegiate Church

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE MARITIME GATEWAY?

Further afield The Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, Hook Head Lighthouse, Ballycotton Lighthouse are worth the adventure. And for the ultimate experience, why not get out on the water yourself! Speak to the advisors in the tourist information office to help craft your own unique experience.



Bishops Palace, Waterford

1



## VIKINGS

### EXPERIENCE THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE VIKINGS ARRIVAL IN IRELAND

**Transport:** On Foot

**Route:** Waterford City

**Highlights:** Waterford County Museum, King of the Vikings and the Waterford Viking Triangle

Grab a Waterford breakfast with freshly baked blaa (the traditional bread introduced by the Huguenots) and

when you're ready, set out to explore the treasures gathered by Ireland's oldest city.

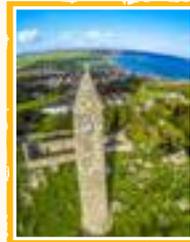
Dip and delve into the three museums of Waterford Treasures, reading the changing times through precious artefacts. For something very different, compliment the experience with King of the Vikings, an exciting and dynamic 3D Virtual Reality experience housed in an exact copy of a Viking house.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Take a walking tour of Waterford and check out nearby Reginalds Tower, House of Waterford Crystal, Ardmore Round Tower and Dungarvan. Or go and explore the big houses along the Blackwater and Mount Congreve Gardens.

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE VIKINGS?

Why not head further afield with on a Viking adventure with Viking Tours Ireland or Louth Adventures and visit the Irish National Heritage Park, Clonmacnoise, Glendalough and Carlingford.



## LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY

### EXPLORE PARALLEL TALES OF OBSCURE WEALTH AND UTTER DESTITUTION

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Cork City and Waterford

**Highlights:** Fota House, Cork City Gaol and Mount Congreve Gardens

Visit Fota and get an intimate look at how life was lived in the past, whether as a servant or as a member of the gentry. For a sharp contrast and a glimpse of where the lives of the less fortunate could lead, head for Cork City Gaol for an interactive experience of what day-to-day life of prisoners and gaolers.

Then hit the road for Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford, home to Mount Congreve, one of 'the great gardens of the world', featuring about 30 hectares of intensively planted woodland garden and a nearly 2 hectare walled garden. A great itinerary if you plan on continuing your trip through Ireland's Ancient East in Waterford.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Slow down and add a few extra stops to your journey by taking in Ballymalloe House, Blackrock Castle, Waterford Garden Trail, Bishops Palace or Lismore Heritage Centre.

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY?

Curraghmore House, Wells House, Blarney Castle, Spike Island, Cobh Heritage Centre and Dunbrody Famine Ship are a must.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### BALLYCOTTON ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

Ballycotton, Co. Cork  
Tel: 021 4646875  
[www.ballycottonislandlighthouse.com](http://www.ballycottonislandlighthouse.com)

Travel in our open topped boat. Visit the Ballycotton Island summit. Explore the Lighthouse. Enjoy the stunning views from the Ballycotton lighthouse lantern balcony.

**Open:** April-Oct. 10.00-17.00.  
**Admission:** €20pp, €60 per family of four.



### BALLYMALOE COOKERY SCHOOLS FARM & GARDENS

Shanagarry, Co. Cork. P25R274  
Tel: 021 4646785 [www.cookingsfun.ie](http://www.cookingsfun.ie)

Ballymaloe Cookery School is situated in 100 acres of Organic Farm & Gardens. The extensive gardens are a mixture of Formal & Production gardens and include a 1 acre greenhouse. It is also possible to join daily Cookery Classes.

**Open:** All year Monday- Saturday. 11.00-17.30  
**Admission:** €6pp. €15 Family. Guided tours available on request.  
★ **Offer:** €5 off Family Ticket



### BALLYVOLANE HOUSE & GARDEN

Castlelyons, Co. Cork  
Tel: 025 36349 [www.ballyvolanehouse.ie](http://www.ballyvolanehouse.ie)

Ballyvolane House is a historic Irish Country house of extraordinary warmth, style and comfort that provides luxury accommodation and salmon fishing on the river Blackwater. A unique warm atmosphere pervades throughout the gardens and grounds created largely by the mixture of mature deciduous trees, formal, walled and woodland gardens. Also the home to the distillery of 'Bertha Revenge Gin.'

**Open:** by appointment only.  
**Admission:** Garden €6.50. Children U12 free.



### BALLYNATRAY HOUSE & GARDENS

Youghal, Co. Cork  
Tel: 024 97899 [www.ballynatray.com](http://www.ballynatray.com)

The Kitchen Garden, designed by Patrick Bowe in 2000 is on the site of a small brew yard. The Fragrant Garden was designed by Richard Taylor of Taylor-Tripp Associates, Hampshire in 2008. A 'parterre de broderie' has been planted in Box surrounded by fragrant flowering plants.

**Gardens Open:** May –Aug. To visit the Gardens please call or email in advance. Gardens are not open when the estate is booked privately.  
**Admission:** Adult €5, concession €4.



### BLARNEY CASTLE AND GARDENS

Blarney Castle Estate, Blarney, Co. Cork  
T23Y598  
Tel: 021 4385252

Situated 8km from Cork City, this historic castle is most famous for its stone, which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it.

**Open:** Jan-Feb. 9.00-17.00 (last adm. 16.00) Mar-Apr. 9.00-18.00 (last adm. 17.30) May-9.00-18.30 (last adm. 18.00) June-Aug. 9.00-19.00 (last adm. 18.30) Sept. 9.00am -18.30 (last adm. 18.00) Oct. 9.00am-18.00 (last adm. 17.30) Nov-Dec. 9.00am-17.00 (last adm. 16.00) Sun & B/Hol. Nov-Feb. 9.00am-17.00 (last adm 16.00) Mar-Oct. 9.00am-18.00 (last adm. 17.30)  
**Admission:** Adult-€15, Child €6, Stu/Sen. €12, Family €37.



### BRIDGETOWN AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY

Castletownroche, Co. Cork

Alexander Fitz Hugh Roche established the settlement and organised its buildings in a traditional quadrangle. Visitors can explore the remains of a 13th century Augustinian priory, including cloister, kitchen, refectory, chapter house and church. In recent years the site has undergone extensive renovation efforts.

**Open:** Daily, all year  
**Admission:** Free



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### CAMDEN FORT MEAGHER

Crosshaven, Co. Cork

Tel: 085 8501483 [www.camdenfortmeagher.ie](http://www.camdenfortmeagher.ie)

One of a network of forts built to defend Cork harbour in the 19th C. Explore the buildings & tunnels to discover exhibitions, artillery, living history displays and a Café with one of the best views of Cork harbour.

**Open:** May-Mid Sept. Sat. Sun. and Bank Holiday Mon. 12.00-17.00

(last entry 16.15)

**Admission:** Adult €5, Child €4, Child U 4 free of charge. Family & Seasonal passes available



### CIT BLACKROCK CASTLE OBSERVATORY

Castle Road, Blackrock, Co. Cork T12YW52

Tel: 021 4326120 [www.bco.ie](http://www.bco.ie)

Blackrock Castle is the oldest surviving structure still in use in Cork City, a 16th century fort turned robotic observatory & visitor centre with panoramic views of Cork Harbour. **Journeys of Exploration** tells the story of Cork's maritime heritage exploring themes of "Merchant City," "Defended Treasure" and "Safe Harbour. Come and explore over 400 years of history!"

**Open:** Daily; 10.00-17.00.

**Admission:** Adult €6.50, Student/Senior/Child (5-14yrs) €4.50, Family (2+2) €18, Group rate for 10 or more €5.50



### CLOYNE ROUND TOWER

Cloyne, Co. Cork

The Town of Cloyne houses a beautiful old round tower that was once part of a medieval monastic settlement, thought to have been established by St. Colman in 560. The structure is one of only one of two such towers existing in Co Cork today.



### COBH HERITAGE CENTRE

Deepwater Quay, Cobh, Co. Cork

Tel: 021 4813591 [www.cobhheritage.com](http://www.cobhheritage.com)

Cobh, "The Queenstown Story", an unmissable experience. An informative and emotive story of Irish Emigration. You will learn about: the early emigration to the Colonies, the West Indies, Canada and the U.S., the Coffin ships, the transportation of convicts to Australia, and of course the two great liners, The Titanic and The Lusitania. "Walk in the footsteps of our emigrant ancestors."

**Admission:** Adult €9.50; Concession €8.00; Family €25.00. (Last admission 1hr before closing)

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on presentation of this guide.



### COBH MUSEUM

Scot's Church, High Road, Cobh, Co. Cork P24AY26

Tel: 021 4814240 [www.cobhmuseum.com](http://www.cobhmuseum.com)

Located in the former Scots Presbyterian Church, Cobh Museum showcases the unique history surrounding the Great Island. Exhibitions: 'The Scuttling of the Aud 1916' New Exhibition 2017: 'The Americans in Queenstown in World War 1', Lusitania—A day in May.

**Open:** Apr – Oct: Mon – Sat, 11.00 – 13.00 & 14.00 – 17.30; Sun, 14.30 – 17.30

**Admission:** €4 (Concessions available)



### COBH TOWN HISTORY & TOURS

Cobh, Co. Cork

Tel: 085 1939076

History of Cobh, Tours of The Cathedral, Bridewell Prison Cathedral Crypt, History of Cork Harbour and Lusitania.

**Tours:** Daily, 11.00am, 14.00, 18.30.

**Admission:** €10



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# KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

## CORK BUTTER MUSEUM

O Connell Square, Shandon, Cork  
Tel: 021 4300600 [www.corkbutter.museum](http://www.corkbutter.museum)



The Butter Museum tells the story of Ireland's butter, the country's signature food. The golden fruit of our green grass, Ireland has been making butter for thousands of years. From 1000 year old bog butter to modern Kerrygold, the Butter Museum engages the visitor with this unique heritage.

**Open:** Daily; Mar-Oct 31st 10.00-17.00, Nov – Feb 11.00-15.00 Sat & Sun only. See website for Christmas and New Year Arrangements.

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Student/Senior: €3, Child €1.50. U12 free of charge.

★ **Offer:** Two admitted for €5 on presentation of this guide.

## CORK CITY GAOL

Convent Avenue, Sunday's Well, Cork  
Tel: 021 430 5022 [www.corkcitygaol.com](http://www.corkcitygaol.com)



Cork's most captivating experience, suitable for all ages & nationalities! Life-size wax figures, furnished cells & sound effects, experience 19th c. life both inside & outside prison walls! (Also original 6CK Radio Studio now restored).

**Open:** April-Sept. 9.30 - 17.00, Oct – Mar. 10.00 – 16.00.

**Admission:** Adult €8, Sen/Stu €7, Child €5, Family €25 (2+4 children up to age 17)

★ **Offer:** 2 adults admitted for €12 on presentation of this guide

## CORK CITY TOUR BUS

Cork  
Tel: 021 4309090 [www.corkcitytours.com](http://www.corkcitytours.com)



Cork City Tours is a popular sightseeing tour taking in the English Market, Cork City Gaol, the Shandon Bells, UCC and other top Cork City attractions on our hop on –hop off service. Tours depart daily from Grand Parade.

**Operates:** Daily, Mar-Nov. Purchase your ticket on board. (check website for timetable details)

**Admission:** Adult €15, Sen/Stu. €13, Child U16 €5, Child U 5 Free, FAM (2+2) €35

## CORK PUBLIC MUSEUM

Fitzgerald's Park, Mardyke Walk, Cork  
Tel: 021 4270679 [www.corkpublicmuseum.ie](http://www.corkpublicmuseum.ie)



The Museum's exhibits highlight and examine the city's rich civic, political, military, social and cultural histories. Marvel at archaeological exhibits that trace over 7,000 years of human settlement in Cork.

**Open:** 1st May. Tue-Fri. 10.00-16.00. Closed Mon.

Sat: 11.00-16.00. Sun. May-Sept. 14.00-16.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge

## ELIZABETH FORT

Barrack St, Cork  
Tel: 021 4975947 [www.elizabethfort.ie](http://www.elizabethfort.ie)



The imposing 17th century Elizabeth Fort perches on a limestone outcrop overlooking the city and affords excellent views of the town below. The walls of the fort are newly opened to the public.

**Open:** Oct-May: Tue-Sat, 10.00-17.00; Sun, 12-17.00. Jun-Sept: Mon-Sat, 10.00-17.00; Sun, 12.00-17.00. Free guided tour at 13.00 each day fort is open.

**Admission:** Free

## ENGLISH MARKET

Between Grand Parade & Patrick St., Cork  
[www.englishmarket.ie](http://www.englishmarket.ie)



Cork's beloved English Market is a gourmet hub, selling fresh produce such as quality meats, fish, spices, fruit, vegetables, baked delicacies, cheeses and much more.

**Open:** All year. Mon – Sat. 08.00-18.00. Closed Bank Holidays. (Tour groups and operators need to contact Market management in advance)



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### FITZGERALD'S PARK

Mardyke Walk, Cork  
Tel: 021 4924000 [www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie)

Fitzgerald's Park is Cork City's main park, incorporating new Garden area featuring the award winning Sky Garden, riverside walk, ornamental pond area and playground. A modern concrete skate park is located within 300m from the park. It also houses Cork Public Museum.

**Open:** 08.30am. Closing times. Nov-Feb. 17.00. Mar & Oct. 18.00. Apr & Sept. 20.00. May & Aug. 21.00. Jun & July. 22.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge



### FOTA HOUSE ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Fota Island, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
Tel: 021 4815543 [www.fotahouse.com](http://www.fotahouse.com)

Visit Fota House and see what life was like for those who lived and worked in the "big house". The charming café, stunning gardens and arboretum make a visit to Fota a great day out.

**Open:** House open 7 days, Mar-Sept, 10.00-17.00. Gardens open all year round. Award winning Victorian Frameyard Garden open Mon-Fri, 10.30-15.00. Sun 13.00-16.00.

**Admission:** House Tour, Adult €8, Child €3, Concession €6, Family €19. Frameyard Tour Adult €5, Child €2, Concession €4, Family €14.

★ **Offer:** Combo Tour ( House & Victorian Frameyard) Adult €11, Child €4, Family €29, Con. €8



### FOTA WILDLIFE PARK

Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
Tel: 021 4812678 [www.fotawildlife.ie](http://www.fotawildlife.ie)

Fota Wildlife Park is where you can come face to face with free roaming animals & birds from all parts of the world. Leap over to the new Tropical House & Conservation centre or visit the Asian Sanctuary.

**Open:** Mid Mar-Oct: Daily 10.00-18.00 (last Admission 16.30)  
Nov-Mid Mar. 10.00-16.30 (Last admission 15.00)

**Admission:** Adult €16, Child €10.50, Toddlers (up to 36 months) Free.  
Stu /Sen €11.50, Family €48 (2+2) €56(2+3), €64(2+4)



### JAMESON DISTILLERY MIDLETON

Distillery Walk, Midleton, Co. Cork P25Y394  
Tel: 021 461 3594 [www.jamesonwhiskey.com](http://www.jamesonwhiskey.com)

Midleton town, only 15 minutes from Cork City, has a rich history in whiskey distillation. There are a range of guided experiences to enjoy, taking in both the exterior and interior features of the distillery grounds.

Discover the Jameson Experience, Malt House Restaurant, Gift Store and Bar.

**Summer Tours:** Mar-Oct. Open 10.00-18.00. Tours :7 days from 10.00am – 16.30.

**Winter Tours:** Nov-Feb. Open 10.00-18.00. Tours: 7 days 11.00/13.00/14.45/16.15

**Admission:** Adult €18.00. Sen/Stu, Group 15+ €15.00, Child €9.00,  
Family (2 Adults 3 Children) €45



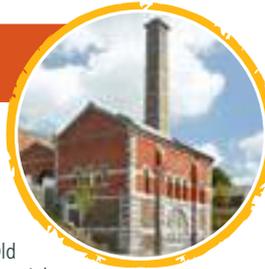
### LIFETIME LAB@OLD CORK WATERWORKS

Lee Road Cork T23 N828  
Tel: 021 4941500 [www.lifetimelab.ie](http://www.lifetimelab.ie)

A lesser told story, a behind the scenes secret: yet an essential ingredient to the prosperity of Cork City during the Victorian times. The multi award winning Old Cork Waterworks reveals over 300 years of Cork's industrial past. Voted 'Best Interactive Event' Heritage Council and Winner Best 'Industrial Site/Museum' IHA1.

**Open:** Jun-Aug. Mon-Fri 9.00-17.00, Sat/Sun/B. Hol . 10.00-17.00. Sept-May, Mon-Fri 9.00-17.00.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Children €3, Family (2a +2c) €15.



### NANO NAGLE PLACE

Douglas St, Cork  
Tel: 021 4193580 [www.nanonagleplace.ie](http://www.nanonagleplace.ie)

Start your visit to Cork City at Nano Nagle Place. Discover 18th century Cork and be inspired by the story of Nano Nagle and her educational mission. Relax and find spiritual renewal in our beautiful gardens.

**Open:** Monday-Sunday. 10.00-17.00

**Admission:** Gardens are free. Charges apply to the Heritage Centre, check website for details.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### 1 OLDE YOUGHAL WALKING TOUR

Youghal Tourist Office, Market Square,  
Youghal, Co. Cork

Tel: 024 92447 [www.youghal.ie](http://www.youghal.ie)

Take a fascinating walking tour around the medieval walled port town of Youghal and immerse yourself in its compelling history.

**Open:** All Year. Allow 1hr 30 mins.. Duration of tour can be tailored to suit schedules.

**Admission:** Prices & booking on request. Discounts available for groups, Sen/Stu.& schools.



### SHANDON BELLS, ST ANNE'S CHURCH

St. Anne's Church, Church St., Shandon,  
Cork T23YN88

Tel: 021 4505906 [www.shandonbells.ie](http://www.shandonbells.ie)

Explore Cork's most iconic landmark, built in 1722. The church is home to the famous Shandon Bells. You can ring the bells and climb 132 steps of the tower to experience a spectacular view of the city.

**Open:** Mar-May+ Oct: Mon-Sat 10.00-16.00,SUN 11.30-16.00;Jun-Sept: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00,Sun 11.30-16.30;Nov-Feb; Mon-Sat, 11.00-15.00,Sun 11.30-15.00. (See website for Christmas & New Year arrangements)

**Admission:** Adult €5, Sen/Stu €4, Family €12 (2 adults +4 children under 16)  
Children €2.50 (5 – 15 years).

★ **Offer:** 2 adults admitted for €8 on presentation of this guide



### SPIKE ISLAND

Cobh, Co. Cork

Tel: 021 4811485 [www.spikeislandcork.ie](http://www.spikeislandcork.ie)

The island Fortress built to defend an empire that became the largest prison in the world! Spike Island has 1300 years of history, from a 6th century monastery, 18th century Fortress, the world's largest Victorian prison and centuries of island homes. Ferry followed by fully guided tour. Audio guides available, café on site, museums, exhibitions and scenic walks.

**Open:** June/July/ Aug-7 days, 10.15,11am & hourly until 15.00. May,Sept-7 days, 12 & 14.00.April/Oct-Weekends Only-12.00 & 14.00. 363 days a year for pre-booked groups 15+.

**Admission:** Adults €18, Child €10, Family €45. Discounts for groups 15 + Entry includes ferry and Fort entry.



### ST. FIN BARRES CATHEDRAL

Bishop St, Cork

Tel: 021 4963387

[www.cathedral.cork.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.cork.anglican.org)

St. Fin Barres Cathedral. Daily services. A William Burges neo gothic gem. 1200 Carvings, Masonic Stained Glass, Gargoyles, Griffins, Arches & Angels. Guided tours. Gift Shop

**Open:** Mon-Sat: 9.30-17.30; Sun ( Apr-Nov.) 13.00-14.30; 16.30-17.30. Morning Prayer: 10.00;12.00 Eucharist; 17.15 (Tues-Thurs ) Evening Prayer ;18.15 (Fri)( Sept-Jun) Choral Evensong.

**Admission:** Adult €5, senior €4, Student €3. Group discount available

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on presentation of this guide (one per person)



### ST. MARY'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork

Tel: 024 90549 [www.youghal.ie](http://www.youghal.ie)

St. Mary's Collegiate Church is protected as a national monument. The extensive graveyard is surrounded by the original medieval town walls, complete with walkways, canons and viewing points.

**Open:** Summertime-9.30-17.00. Wintertime 9.00-16.30.

**Admission:** Free of charge. Guided tours available (small charge)



### TITANIC EXPERIENCE COBH

White Star Line Building,  
20 Casement Square, Cobh, Co. Cork

Tel: 021 4814412 [www.titanicexperiencecobh.ie](http://www.titanicexperiencecobh.ie)

On April 11th 1912, 123 passengers came to the busy Transatlantic Port of Queenstown (now Cobh) to board Titanic, bound for New York. Join our guided tours within the building from where they departed and retrace the footsteps of Titanic's 123 Queenstown passengers.

**Open:** Apr-Sept 9.00-18.00.Last tour 17.15.Oct-Mar 10.00-17.30.Last tour 16.45.

**Admission:** Adult €9.50,Child €6.50, Stu/Sen €8. Family rates available.

★ **Offer:** 10% off all ticket types on presentation of this guide, or to book on-line use discount code POCKET2017



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### TITANIC TRAIL GUIDED WALKING TOUR



Meeting Point, Commodore Hotel, Cobh, Co. Cork P24XT93

Tel: 087 2767218 [www.titanic.ie](http://www.titanic.ie)

One of Ireland's most interesting and thought provoking guided walking tours. Historically preserved Cobh was Ireland's principle port of emigration to the USA and last port of call for RMS Titanic. Not to be missed!

Operates daily all year round at 11.00hrs & 14.00hrs (booking on line required)  
Private tours arranged anytime from 08.00-1800hrs.

**Admission:** Adult €9.50, Children U 12 €4.75, Sen/Stu €8.50 available for groups, Sen/Stu. & schools.



### YOUGHAL CLOCK GATE TOWER



Main St, Youghal, Co. Cork

Tel: 024 20769 [www.youghalclockgate.ie](http://www.youghalclockgate.ie)

A Guided Tour of Youghal Clock Gate Tower is an invitation to travel through 600 years of "Time" with costumed storytellers journeying with you and engaging you in life as lived in the Tower in a bygone era.

**Open:** Oct-Mar: Thur-Sun. 10.00-17.00 (last tour 16.00). Apr-Sept: 7 days a week, 9.00-18.00 (last tour 17.00)

**Admission:** Adult €9.50, Child €5, Family €24 (2a+2c) Stu/Sen €7.50, Group €8.50 (10+ people)

Check Website for special offers throughout the year.



### YOUGHAL HERITAGE CENTRE



Market Place, Youghal, Co. Cork

Tel: 024 92447 [www.youghal.ie](http://www.youghal.ie)

Experience a fascinating journey through Youghal's rich and varied history—from the Viking's raids of the 8th century, to the arrival of Sir Walter Raleigh, and through Victorian Youghal and up to the present day.

**Open:** All year

**Admission:** Free. Small cover charge for tours. Guided tours available on request.



### ARDMORE ROUND TOWER



Ardmore, Co. Waterford

12thc round tower founded by St. Declan, the Cathedral features marvellous Romanesque sculptures depicting scenes from the old and new testament, it also contains two ogham stones. St Declan's Oratory a small building to the east of the church reputedly contains his grave.



### BISHOPS PALACE



Viking Triangle, Waterford

Tel: 0761 102650 [www.waterfordtreasures.com](http://www.waterfordtreasures.com)

This magnificent Georgian building offers a unique experience as the visitor steps back in time to enjoy a grand 18th century residence. Don't miss the oldest piece of Waterford Crystal in the world—which dates back to 1789.

**Open:** 7 days a week year round. Mon-Fri. 9.15-18.00 (17.00 Sept-May). Sat. 09.30-18.00 (10.00-17.00 Sept-May) Sun & B/H 11.00-18.00 (17.00 Sept-May) Last admission 17.20. (16.20 Sept-May). Opening outside of normal hours for groups can be facilitated.

**Admission:** Adult €7, Sen/Stu €6, Fam. €14 (2+2). Adult combined entry €10, Sen/Stu €9, Fam. €20 (2+2) Medieval Museum & Bishops Palace. Child u14 free with adult. Closed 25th/26th Dec, Jan 1st.



### CAPPOQUIN HOUSE GARDENS



Cappoquin, Co Waterford P51D324

Tel: 087 6704180  
[www.cappoquinhouseandgardens.com](http://www.cappoquinhouseandgardens.com)

South facing hillside garden. Extensive views over Blackwater. Acid soil. Mixture of trees, shrubs and herbaceous, formal and informal. Much appreciated by garden lovers.

**Open:** All year. 10.00-16.00. Closed Sunday.

**Admission:** €5pp.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### 1 CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Viking Triangle, Waterford

Tel: 051 858958 [www.christchurchwaterford.com](http://www.christchurchwaterford.com)

The present building built by John Roberts, is the most important Georgian Cathedral on these islands and houses an Elliott organ of national importance.

**Open:** Easter-Oct, Mon.-Sat. 10.00-17.00. Oct-Easter, Mon-Sat. 12.00-15.00

**Admission:** Free. Free guided tours Mon-Fri. 11.00am, 12.00pm, 14.00, 15.00, and 16.00. Sat. 11.00, 12.00pm, 14.00, 15.00. (Donation is appreciated)



### COPPER COAST UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK VISITOR CENTRE

Bunmahon, Co. Waterford

Tel: 051 292828 [www.coppercoastgeopark.com](http://www.coppercoastgeopark.com)

Explore rugged coast line, hidden coves and stunning golden beaches on our Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark. Scenic walking trails to suit all ages and abilities throughout the Geopark. Visit our Mining & Geological Exhibition. Café and gift shop.

**Open:** Spring (from Apr.) Sat & Sun. 11.00-17.00. Summer (from May) Mon-Sun. 7 days. 1100-17.00.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Child €3, Family €15, Sen/Stu €4. Groups by appointment. Please book in advance.

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on admission price with this guide.



### CURRAGHMORE HOUSE & GARDENS

Portlaoigh, Co Waterford

Tel: 086 8211917 (bookings)  
[www.curraghmorehouse.ie](http://www.curraghmorehouse.ie)

Curraghmore House is the historic home of the 9th Marquis of Waterford. The 2500 acre gardens include an arboretum, some beautiful terraces and an enchanting Shell House created by Catherine Countess of Tyrone in 1754.

**Open:** Easter-Sept. Wed- -Sun. 10.30-16.30. Oct.- Easter by appointment only.

**Admission:** Gardens €5, Shell House Tours €7.50, House Tours €10, House, Shell House & Gardens €15. Guided tours 11am & 14.00 daily.



### DROMANA HOUSE & GARDENS

Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, P51 X682

Tel: 086 8186305 [www.dromanahouse.com](http://www.dromanahouse.com)

800 years of history at Dromana. Your guide, a member of the family bring you from 1215 to now. Tales of battles, Royalty & scandals. The garden stretches over 30 acres, overlooking the majestic Blackwater River.

**Open:** May, June, July +Heritage week. 14.00-18.00. Tue.-Sun. Other times by appointment.

**Admission:** House €7.50. Garden €5



### DUNGARVAN CASTLE

Dungarvan, Co Waterford

Tel: 058 48144 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

The Castle, which dates in part from the 12th century, consists of a polygonal shell keep with an enclosing curtain wall, a corner tower, a gate tower and a two story military barracks which houses an exhibition documenting the history of the castle.

**Open:** May 25th-Sept 28th 10.00-18.00. Last admission 17.15.

**Admission:** Free



### HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Viking Triangle, Waterford

Tel: 051 317000 [www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com](http://www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com)

Located on the Mall in the heart of Waterford City, visitors can take a guided Factory tour, where they can witness up close and personal all areas of the traditional crystal production. After the tour indulge your passion for the world's most famous crystal in our opulent retail store. We also have a café on site where you can enjoy breakfast, lunch & afternoon tea.

**Open:** See website for opening hours.

**Admission:** Adult €13.50, senior €11, Student €10, Child U 5 yrs. free, Child 6-18yrs €5.00, Family ticket €30



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### 1 KING OF THE VIKINGS-VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

10 Bailey's New Street, Waterford X91 AOPF  
[www.kingofthevikings.com](http://www.kingofthevikings.com)

An exciting and dynamic Virtual Reality experience lasting 15 mins, housed in an exact copy of a Viking house found in Waterford, makes for one of the most outstanding attractions in Ireland's Ancient East.

**Open:** 10.00-18.00. 7 days a week

**Admission:** Please see website for admission prices and winter opening times



### LAFCADIO HEARN JAPANESE GARDENS

Pond Road, Tramore, Co. Waterford X91 RP76  
Tel: 087 0960013 [www.lafcadiohearngardens.com](http://www.lafcadiohearngardens.com)

The Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens have a wonderful and unique story to tell. The main element of design, in particular the use of rocks and water and the plant selection, are influenced by the tradition of a Japanese Strolling Garden.

**Open:** All Year Round - Tue-Sun 11.00-16.00(winter) 11.00-17.00 (summer)

**Admission:** Adult €5, Children U12 Free. Guided Tour €7.50pp (min.4 people)

★ **Offer:** Groups over 10 people -Guided Tour €5pp



### LISMORE CASTLE GARDENS

Lismore, Co. Waterford  
Tel: 058 54061 [www.lismorecastlegardens.com](http://www.lismorecastlegardens.com)

Seven acres of gardens all set within the historic Lismore Castle walls. From majestic trees to flowering meadows, ornamental displays to fruit & vegetables there is something to delight all visitors.

**Open:** 16th Mar.- 15 Oct. Mon-Sun. 10.30am-17.30 (last entry 16.30) (main gallery & gardens)

**Admission:** Adult €8, Concessions (OAPs/Children/Students) €6.50. Family (2 adults + 3 Children) €20. Friends Annual Ticket €35. Friends – Family €60 (includes entry in to Gardens & Gallery) Groups can book in advance to have a tour of the gardens.



### LISMORE HERITAGE CENTRE

Lismore, Co. Waterford  
Tel: 058 54975 [www.discoverlismore.com](http://www.discoverlismore.com)

Newly designed exhibition rooms, award winning "Lismore Experience" audio visual. Robert Boyle Science Room, Lismore Family Fun Experience, an interactive guide to the history of Lismore where all the family get involved in solving the clues.

**Open:** Mon-Fri 9.00-17.30 all year round. Sat.10.00-17.00 and Sun 12.00-17.00 Mar-Nov.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Student/ senior €4.50. Children go free.



### MEDIEVAL MUSEUM

Viking Triangle, Waterford  
Tel: 0761 102501 [www.waterfordtreasures.com](http://www.waterfordtreasures.com)

The striking award winning museum, reveals the story of Waterford through middle Ages and visitors are wowed as they go underneath the new building in to century's old vaults.

**Open:** 7days a week year-round. Mon-Fri. 9.15-18.00(17.00 Sept-May)Sat.09.00-18.00.(10.00-17.00 Sept-May) Sun & B/H 11.00-18.00(17.00 Sept-May. Last Admission-17.20 (16.20. Sept-May)

**Admission:** Adult €7, Sen/Stu €6 Family €14 (2+2) Adult combined entry €10,Sen/Stu €9, FAM €20 (2+2) (Medieval Museum & Bishops Palace)



### MOUNT CONGREVE GARDENS

Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford X91 PX05  
Tel: 051 384115 [www.mountcongreve.com](http://www.mountcongreve.com)

Just 10 mins from Waterford City centre, a tranquil 70 acres of world class woodland gardens, including a 4 acre walled garden. Over 16kms of paths with something to see in all seasons.

**Open:** Mar-Oct, Thur.-Sun., 11am-17.30.

**Admission:** Adult €6, O.A.P €5, Kids under 12 free. Family pass available.

★ **Offer:** Groups of 10 or more €5 pp.



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### SALTERBRIDGE HOUSE & GARDEN

Cappoquin, Co. Waterford P51 H985  
Tel: 058 54952  
[www.salterbridgehouseandgarden.com](http://www.salterbridgehouseandgarden.com)

A Victorian Country House and Garden

**Open:** 17th -21st April, 24th -28 April, 1st May-1st June, 14th -31st August. 9.00-13.00. Groups by prior arrangement only.

**Admission:** House & Garden €10, Garden €5pp.



### SUIR RIVER CRUISES

Waterford  
Tel: 087 2807563/051 833777  
[www.suirrivercruises.ie](http://www.suirrivercruises.ie)

What better way to see the sights and sounds of Waterford than from its famous river.

**Operates:** Daily at 10.00, 12.30 & 15.00.. Departs from the Clock Tower. Pre booking only. 1 & 2 hour cruises. Also available for group hire for 4 or more people.



### TOURIN HOUSE & GARDENS

Tourin, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford  
Tel: 058 54405 [www.Tourin.ie](http://www.Tourin.ie)

Situated overlooking the river Blackwater in Co. Waterford, Tourin House was built in 1840. The Gardens extend over 15 acres with a Boardwalk, Pleasure Grounds, Walled Garden and broadleaved forestry. A garden for all seasons.

**Open:** April-Sept. Tue-Sat. 13.00-17.00. Groups and other times by appointment.

**Admission:** House €5, Garden €5

★ **Special Offer:** Children Free.



### VIKING EXHIBITION AT REGINALD'S TOWER

Viking Triangle, Waterford X91Y880  
Tel: 051 304220 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Reginald's Tower was built in the late 12th century, it had a second phase added in the late 15th century. Following some restoration work it now houses the Viking Treasures of Waterford and an exhibition of the tower's history.

**Open:** Jan-early Mar: Wed-Sun-9.30-17.00. Late Mar.-Mid Dec: Daily-9.30-17.30. Last admissions 30 mins before closing.

**Admission:** Adult €5, senior €4, Student/Child €3, Family €13. Children under 6 are free



### WATERFORD'S VIKING TRIANGLE

Waterford  
[www.waterfordvikingtriangle.com](http://www.waterfordvikingtriangle.com)

Explore over 1000 years of history in less than 1000 paces! The Viking Triangle is Waterford's Cultural & Heritage quarter and is home to Waterford Treasures-three museums telling the story of Viking Waterford and the House of Waterford Crystal.



### WALKING TOURS OF WATERFORD

Jenkins Lane, Waterford X91 PR23  
Tel: 051 873711 [www.jackswalkingtours.com](http://www.jackswalkingtours.com)

The tour lasts 1 hour and covers over 1,000 years of history, and includes four National Monuments, two Cathedrals and introduces the visitor to a range of rakes, rogues, reprobates and revolutionaries who enlivened the city's history.

**Open:** Mid Mar-Mid Oct.

**Admission:** Charges Apply, Children U12 free



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### 1 WATERFORD GREENWAY

Waterford –Dungarvan  
[www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com](http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com)

Spectacular 46k off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway between Waterford and Dungarvan, alongside the River Suir, by Mount Congreve, across eleven bridges, three viaducts through a 400m tunnel and Copper Coast views!

**Open:** All year  
**Admission:** Free of charge.



### WATERFORD & SUIR VALLEY RAILWAY

Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford  
Tel: 051 384058 [www.wsvrailway.ie](http://www.wsvrailway.ie)

All aboard to Experience the magic of Rail! Board the train at Kilmeaden Station, hear the whistle blow and take off on an exciting journey beside Waterford Greenway, take in the panoramic views of the River Suir, get a glimpse in to Mount Congreve Gardens, make a wish as you pass through the Fairy Wood and on to Carriganore.

**Open:** April & Sept. Mon-Sat. 11.00-15.00. Sun. 12.00-16.00. May-Aug. 11.00-16.00. Sun. 12.00-17.00. Trips depart on the hour.

**Admission:** Adult €8.50, Children €4, Sen/Stu €7.50. 2 Adults + 1 Child €20, 2+2 €23, 2+3 €26, 2+4 €29.



 For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see [www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)



Blarney Castle, Co. Cork

## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne, Roman Street, **CORK**  
[www.corkandross.org](http://www.corkandross.org)

Known locally as the North Cathedral, the building is a combination of red sandstone and limestone dressings, and is of early neo gothic revivalist style.

Cedar Lodge Garden, Midleton, **CO. CORK**  
[www.ringofcork.ie](http://www.ringofcork.ie), 021 4613379

An award winning garden set on 2 acres, specialising in rare and unusual plants in mixed borders of shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

Coosheen Garden, 15 Johnstown Park, Glounthaune, **CO. CORK**  
[www.hesterfordegarden.com](http://www.hesterfordegarden.com), 021 4353855

1/3 acre garden creatively landscaped with raised beds and troughs of rare and unusual smaller perennials, alpines and bulbs.

Cork Walks, **CORK**  
[www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie)

Cork Walks are free self guided walks consisting of interpretive panels with local historic information and colour coded finger posts for guidance. Pick up brochure from the Cork Tourist Office.

Drombo Gardens, Carrignavar, **CO. CORK**  
[www.ringofcork.ie](http://www.ringofcork.ie), 021 4884555

This is an award winning 2 acre garden in a tranquil and rural setting

Franciscan Well Brewery, North Mall, **CORK**  
[www.franciscanwellbrewery.com](http://www.franciscanwellbrewery.com),

Franciscan Well is one of Ireland's best respected breweries. See website for details of Brewery Tours including tasting.



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Hillside Garden, Annmount, Glounthaune, **CO. CORK**  
[www.hillsidegardens.ie](http://www.hillsidegardens.ie), 021 4353119

One of Irelands Premier Gardens .This mature 4 acre garden has won the top national award in Ireland twice.

Lee Fields, **CORK**

to the west of the city is a popular recreation area on the south side of the River Lee, with a riverside walk and a grassy area.

Mallow Castle, Bridewell Lane, Mallow, **CO. CORK**  
[www.mallow.ie](http://www.mallow.ie), Tel: 022 42222

The 'Old' Mallow Castle is a three storey rectangular stronghouse with wings projecting from the middle of the northern and southern walls.

Military Museum, Collins Barracks, **CORK**

<http://www.military.ie/info-centre/defence-forces-museums/collins-barracks-museum/>, Centres on the history and traditions of the barracks, the Defence Forces and the story of General Michael Collins. See website for opening times.

Millennium Garden of Time, Youghal, **CO. CORK**  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie), 024 92447

The garden is based on the Chi-Rho page from the Book of Kells and features a number of ponds. Each one contains a fountain clock and tells a different aspect of time

Red Abbey Abbey Street, **CORK**

Cork's oldest surviving structure, the late medieval Red Abbey tower is the sole survivor of an Augustinian friary founded in the 13th century.

St. Colman's Cathedral, 5 Cathedral Terrace, Cobh, **CO. CORK**  
[www.cobhcathedralparish.ie](http://www.cobhcathedralparish.ie), Tel: 021 4813222

St. Colman's Cathedral is of neo-Gothic architecture by the architects Pugin and Ashlin. The Cobh Carillon now boasts 49 bells, including the heaviest bell in Ireland at 3.6 tons.

St. Finbar's South Church Dunbar Street, **CORK**  
Tel: 021 4272989, [www.corkandross.org](http://www.corkandross.org)

Also known as the 'South Chapel,' St. Finbar's South built in 1776 is home to the delicate sculpture of the 'Dead Christ' which is the work of Ireland's most distinguished sculptor of the 19th century, John Hogan.

St. Peters Church, North Main Street, **CORK**

[www.Corkcity1916.ie/centre-of-commemoration/](http://www.Corkcity1916.ie/centre-of-commemoration/), Tel: 021 4278187

This unique, historical and beautiful space in the heart of Cork City is a must see tourist attraction.

UCC Visitors' Centre Campus Tours, Main Quadrangle, University College **CORK**  
[www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie), Tel: 021 4901876

The UCC Campus Tour is a guide led tour of the University main campus. The tour charts the history of the University's foundation as Queens College Cork in 1845 to a modern dynamic 21st century University with over 20,000 students.



Ballysaggartmore Towers, Lismore, Co. Waterford

Beechwood Garden, Glanmire, **CO. CORK**  
[www.beechwoodgarden.com](http://www.beechwoodgarden.com), 021 4884489

An award winning garden for all seasons set on a sloping one acre site. Groups only by Appointment.

Abbey Road Gardens, Abbeylands, Ferrybank, **WATERFORD**  
051 851111 / 087 2209026

Abbey Road Garden is made up of a series of garden spaces or rooms with a surprise around every corner.

Ballysaggartmore Towers Lismore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
Gothic style buildings near Lismore surrounded by woodlands.

Edmund Rice Heritage Centre, Barrack St, **WATERFORD**  
[www.edmundrice.ie](http://www.edmundrice.ie), Tel. 051 874390

Experience the interactive museum and visitor centre dedicated to Edmond Rice.

Fairbrook House Gardens & Museum of Contemporary Configurative Art, Killmeaden, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.fairbrook-house.com](http://www.fairbrook-house.com), 051 384657 / 085 8131448

This 3.5 acre walled artists garden and 3 acre woodland garden is laid out between the ruins of a former woollen mill.

Fenor Bog - National Nature Reserve, Fenor, **CO. WATERFORD**  
Tel: 051 381978

An alkaline fen, the swampy woodland and marsh habitats support diverse animal and birdlife. Fenor bog is part of the Copper Coast heritage trail.

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Barronstrand St, **WATERFORD**  
[www.waterford-cathedral.com](http://www.waterford-cathedral.com). Tel. 051 875166

18th Century Cathedral designed by well known Waterford architect John Roberts.



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Mount Melleray Abbey Cappoquin, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.mountmellerayabbey.org](http://www.mountmellerayabbey.org), Tel: 058 54404.

The first monastery founded in Ireland after the Reformation - visitors who wish to take time for quiet contemplation are welcomed.

St. Carthag's Cathedral, Lismore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
Tel: 058 54975.

Dedicated to St. Carthag, who founded the Lismore Monastery in 635AD.

The Waterford Nature Park, **WATERFORD**  
[www.waterfordnaturepark.ie](http://www.waterfordnaturepark.ie).

The park which covers 50 acres, is an oasis within the City environment.

Waterford County Museum, Old Town Hall, Dungarvan.,  
**CO. WATERFORD**

[www.waterfordcountymuseum.org](http://www.waterfordcountymuseum.org). Tel: 058 45960.

The display depicts the history of Dungarvan and Co. Waterford and features key area events, genealogy, maritime history and more.

### FAMILY FRIENDLY

Cobh Road Train, Cobh, **CO CORK**  
[www.cobhroadtrain.com](http://www.cobhroadtrain.com), Tel: 085 1363393

The Cobh Road Train provides a fun and informative trip around the historic town of Cobh.

Doneraile Wildlife Park, Doneraile, **CORK**  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie), Tel: 087 2515965

An outstanding example of an 18th century landscaped park covering 166 hectares. Several restored water features and a number of deer herds can be viewed along the many pathways within the Park

Leahy's Open Farm, Dungourney, Midleton, **CO. CORK**  
[www.leahysopenfarm.ie](http://www.leahysopenfarm.ie), Tel: 021 4668461

Have a fun, exciting and adventurous family day out. Hold a snake, collect the eggs, ride the real JCB mini diggers, Quad and barrel train rides. Maze, crazy golf, loads of animals, museums & coffee shop.

Rumleys Open Farm **CORK** Tel: 021 4885122. [www.rumleysfarm.ie](http://www.rumleysfarm.ie)

Only five minutes from Cork City, Rumleys is a fully working farm with a range of farm and exotic animals, zipline, go kart track, large indoor and outdoor play and picnic areas.

Tír na Sí, Condonstown, Watergrasshill, **CORK**  
[www.tirnasi.com](http://www.tirnasi.com), Tel: 021 4889431

Our passion is to live as self sufficiently as possible, rear our own meats, grow vegetables, keep animals. Restaurant, indoor play area, nature trail, farm.

Epic Tour of the Viking Triangle. Waterford  
Tel: 0761 102501

The only "all weather" tour in Ireland that gives you access to six national monuments.

### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Cork Arts Theatre Carroll's Quay, **CORK**  
[www.corkartstheatre.com](http://www.corkartstheatre.com), Tel: 021 4505624

Is an intimate, purpose-built auditorium with a reputation for staging cutting edge theatre and music.

Cork Opera House, Emmet Place, **CORK**  
[www.corkoperahouse.ie](http://www.corkoperahouse.ie), Tel: 021 4270022

Offers a varied programme of drama, opera, dance, comedy and concerts.

Granary Theatre, Mardyke, **CORK**  
[www.granary.ie](http://www.granary.ie), Tel: 021 4904275

The Granary is owned by UCC and shows work by artists in theatre, dance and live art.

Sirius Arts Centre Cobh, **CO. CORK**  
[www.siriusartscentre.ie](http://www.siriusartscentre.ie), Tel: 021 4813790

Sirius Arts Centre is open all year round and is a local focus for arts and cultural programming. It is located in the historic and restored Old Yacht Club Building.

The Everyman Theatre, MacCurtain Street, **CORK**  
[www.everymancork.com](http://www.everymancork.com), Tel: 021 4501673

Cork's beautiful Victorian theatre hosts a diverse range from drama to comedy and pantomime.

The Firkin Crane, Shandon, **CORK**  
[www.firkincrane.ie](http://www.firkincrane.ie), Tel: 021 4507487

Firkin Crane, the home of dance in Cork, has two performance spaces, four dance studios and is a unique resource for Dance & the Arts.

Triskel Arts, Tobin Street (off South Main St.), **CORK**  
[www.triskelartscentre.ie](http://www.triskelartscentre.ie), Tel: 021 4272022

TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE is Cork's leading cultural centre delivering a world class live music, cultural cinema and visual art against the backdrop of a beautifully restored 1700s Georgian Church.

Coast Guard Cultural Centre Tramore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.coastguardculturalcentre.ie](http://www.coastguardculturalcentre.ie), Tel: 051 391656

A refurbished heritage building with a dedicated Art Gallery, Event Space and Coffee Dock. See website for details.

Garter Lane Art Centre, O'Connell Street, **WATERFORD**  
[www.garterlane.ie](http://www.garterlane.ie). Tel: 051 855038

The gallery houses a year round programme of exhibitions, children's art and dance classes. The theatre presents a programme of theatre, music, film and dance.

Old Market House Arts Centre, Dungarvan, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.waterfordcoco.ie](http://www.waterfordcoco.ie), Tel: 058 48944

One of Dungarvan's oldest buildings, hosting year round exhibitions by local, national and international artists.



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### ARTS, CRAFT & CULTURE

#### Cork Lough, **CORK**

Is a natural lake, south west of the city's centre. It is a designated bird sanctuary and a popular local amenity.

#### Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, **CORK**

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie), Tel: 021 4805042

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional Art Museum for Munster.

#### Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, Western Road, **CORK**

[www.glucksman.org](http://www.glucksman.org), Tel: 021 4901844

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery is a cultural and educational institution that promotes the research, creation and exploration of the visual arts.

#### Ardmore Pottery and Craft Gallery, Ardmore, **CO. WATERFORD**

[www.ardmorepottery.com](http://www.ardmorepottery.com), Tel: 024 94152

Perched on the cliff top, this gallery stocks a range of hand thrown earthenware pots, assorted crafts and paintings of Irish design.

#### Central Arts, Central Hall 123a Parade Quay, **WATERFORD**

[www.centralarts.ie](http://www.centralarts.ie), Tel: 086 4543246

Waterford's newest arts company plays host to a small theatre and exhibition space

#### Criostal Na Rinne, Ring, Dungarvan, **CO WATERFORD**

[www.criostal.com](http://www.criostal.com), Tel. 058 46174

Crystal cutting studio workshop in the scenic Gaeltacht area of An Rinn.

#### Greyfriars Gallery, Greyfriars St, **WATERFORD**

Tel: 051 849856/7

This late Victorian church functions as both a home for some of the municipal collection and as a base for national and international exhibitions.

#### Joan Clancy Art Gallery, An Rinn, **CO. WATERFORD**

[www.joanclancygallery.com](http://www.joanclancygallery.com), Tel: 058 46205. M: 086 8134597

A small gallery tucked away in the Gaeltacht area of an Rinn.

#### Kite Design Studios 11 Henrietta Street, **WATERFORD**

Tel 051 858914

A unique visitor attraction, with on - site designers and crafts people working in situ, selling high - end craft and art, including the Irish Handmade Glass Company

#### Pauline Bewick Art Exhibition, WIT (Walton Building), Cork Road, **WATERFORD**

Tel: 051 302745

Permanent exhibition of renowned Seven Ages Collection.

#### Sean Egan Art Glass @ Bishops Palace, Cathedral Square, **WATERFORD**

[www.seaneganartglass.com](http://www.seaneganartglass.com), T. 087 1239523

Master engraver for 30 years, specialises in celtic and oriental designs, family crests, sports trophies and presentation pieces.

#### The Anchor Art & Design Boutique Cliff Road, Ardmore, **CO. WATERFORD**

[www.anchorartanddesign.ie](http://www.anchorartanddesign.ie), Tel. 02487740, 087 8216715

Design workshop and retail outlet. Exhibitions.

#### The Beach House Gallery 65 O Connell St. Dungarvan, **CO. WATERFORD**

[www.thebeachhousegallery.com](http://www.thebeachhousegallery.com), Tel. 058 24482

The Beach House is a treasure trove of quality Irish art, crafts and gifts. It is also a working studio where artist Pippa Sweeney creates, exhibits and sells her unique needle felted art. Needle felting workshops are also available. Booking essential for workshops.

#### Waterford Municipal Art at Theatre Royal, The Mall, **WATERFORD**

Tel. 051 874402 [www.theatreroyal.ie](http://www.theatreroyal.ie)

A large selection of beautiful and extraordinary artworks from the Waterford Municipal Art Collection is now on semi - permanent display in the public areas of the Theatre Royal.

#### Willow and Wild by designer Bonzie. Parade Quay, **WATERFORD**

[www.bonziedesigns.com](http://www.bonziedesigns.com), Tel: 086 1230696

Each Bonzie piece is hand crafted at their purpose built studios. Each piece includes intricate detailing that is unique to that garment ensuring that no two pieces of Bonzie clothing are the same.

### ACTIVITY

#### Activity Days Ltd., Blarney, **CO. CORK** [www.activitydays.ie](http://www.activitydays.ie), 087 4129698

Guided Activities

#### Atlantic Sea Kayaking, **CORK**

[www.atlanticseakayaking.com](http://www.atlanticseakayaking.com), Tel: 028 21058

Sea Kayaking

#### Ballyhass Lakes Activity Centre, Mallow, **CO. CORK**

[www.ballyhasswakepark.ie](http://www.ballyhasswakepark.ie), Tel: 022 27773

Activity Centre / Wakepark

#### Blackwater Outdoor Activities, Castletownroche, **CO. CORK**

[www.blackwateroutdooractivities.com](http://www.blackwateroutdooractivities.com), Tel: 086 7837015

Outdoor Adventure Centre

#### City Jogging Irish Tours, **CORK**

[www.cityjoggingirishtours.com](http://www.cityjoggingirishtours.com), Tel: 087 2656273

Guided fun jogging or walking Cork City Highlights Tour.

#### Cork City Kayaking Tours **CORK**

[www.atlanticseakayaking.com](http://www.atlanticseakayaking.com), Tel: 028 21058

Kayaking trips in Cork City and Harbour, including the famous stop over of the Titanic. Half day, full day and evening trips are available.

#### Cork City Walks, **CORK**

[www.corkcitywalktours.com](http://www.corkcitywalktours.com), Tel: 087 7004981

Experience Cork, take a leisurely stroll around Cork City with local guides.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Cork Harbour Boat Hire The Quay, Cobh & Custom House Quay, **CORK CITY** [www.corkharbourboathire.com](http://www.corkharbourboathire.com), Tel: 086 0747926  
Hire a self drive boat in the safety of Cork Harbour; all tours are led by a qualified safety boat guide.

Cork Harbour Boat Hire, Cobh & Cork City, **CORK**  
[www.corkharbourboathire.com](http://www.corkharbourboathire.com), Tel: 086 6686281  
Self Drive Boats

Cork Sea Safari Harbour Tours, **CORK**  
[www.safari.ie](http://www.safari.ie), Tel: 086 8208565  
Group bookings taken for an unforgettable experience in Cork Harbour.

Eco Adventures, East Cork, **CORK**  
[www.eastcorkoutdooradventures.org](http://www.eastcorkoutdooradventures.org), Tel: 087 6971065  
Outdoor Adventure

Ocean Escapes Crosshaven, **CO. CORK**  
[www.oceanescapes.ie](http://www.oceanescapes.ie), Tel: 086 4010627  
Discover Cork's breath-taking coastline & harbour from the comfort of a RIB with high speed tours and dolphin & whale watching trips. Departures from Cork City, Cobh & Crosshaven. Booking required.

Sail Cork, East Ferry, Cobh, **CO. CORK**  
[www.sailcork.com](http://www.sailcork.com), Tel: 021 4811237  
Sailing / Powerboating / Navigation courses

Spike Island Adventure, Spike Island, **CO. CORK**  
[www.spikeadventure.com](http://www.spikeadventure.com), Tel: 086 0209252  
Adventure Centre

Swell Surf School, Inch Beach, Whitegate, **CO. CORK**  
[www.swellsurfschool.ie](http://www.swellsurfschool.ie), Tel: 087 9803206  
Surfing Lessons

Trabolgan Holiday Village, Whitegate, **CO. CORK**  
[www.trabolgan.com](http://www.trabolgan.com), Tel: 021 4661551  
Trabolgan is a great place for the perfect family day out, with an exciting range of activities for young and old with both indoor and outdoor play areas.

Whale of a Time, Ballydavid, Cloyne, **CO. CORK**  
[www.whaleofatime.ie](http://www.whaleofatime.ie), Tel: 086 3283250  
Whale & Dolphin Watching trips, operating out of Cork Harbour, Kinsale and Youghal.

Youghal Dive Charters, **CO. CORK**  
[www.seahunter.ie](http://www.seahunter.ie), Tel: 087 2112488  
Dive Charter

Zipit Forest Adventure, Farran Wood, **CO. CORK**  
[www.zipit.ie](http://www.zipit.ie), Tel: 051 858008  
Treetop Rope Adventure

Ardmore Adventures, Ardmore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.ardmoreadventures.ie](http://www.ardmoreadventures.ie), Tel: 083 3743889  
Sea kayaking, surfing, rock climbing, archery, snorkelling and power boat trips

Ardmore Diving, Old Parish, Dungarvan, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.ardmorediving.com](http://www.ardmorediving.com), Tel: 087 6897600  
Scuba diving & training

Blackwater Boating, Cappoquin, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.blackwaterboating.ie](http://www.blackwaterboating.ie), Tel: 053 58 54382/0 87 6832872  
Canoeing and Kayaking packages.

Bunmahon Surf School, Bunmahon, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.bunmahonsurfschool.com](http://www.bunmahonsurfschool.com), Tel: 087 6398210  
Surf school

Deep Sea Charters, Dunmore East, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.dunmoreboattrips.ie](http://www.dunmoreboattrips.ie), Tel: 087 6369164  
Whale and dolphin watching

Dunmore East Adventure Centre, Dunmore East, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.dunmoreadventure.com](http://www.dunmoreadventure.com), Tel: 051 383783  
Surfing, canoeing, sailing archery & more

Freedom Surf School & Adventure, Tramore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.freedomssurfschool.com](http://www.freedomssurfschool.com), Tel: 051 386773 / 086 3914908  
Surf lessons, land yachting, stand up paddle boarding.

Oceanics Surf School, Tramore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.oceanics.ie](http://www.oceanics.ie), Tel: 051 390944  
Surf programmes and multi activity breaks

Pure Adventure, Waterford / Kilkenny, **WATERFORD**  
[www.pureadventure.ie](http://www.pureadventure.ie), Tel: 087 2265550 / 083 3414769  
Canoeing and kayaking courses

Sea Paddling.com, Waterford Coastline, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.seapaddling.com](http://www.seapaddling.com), Tel: 051 393314  
Sea kayaking

T - Bay Surf & Eco Centre & café, Tramore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.tbaysurf.com](http://www.tbaysurf.com), Tel: 051 391297  
Surf lessons, kite surfing, eco tours & water safety

Tramore Adventure Centre, Tramore, **CO. WATERFORD**  
Tel: 051 393561 / 086 3914908  
Outdoor adventures & residential packages

Tramore Surf School, Tramore **CO. WATERFORD**  
[www.tramoresurfschool.com](http://www.tramoresurfschool.com), T: 051 391011/M: 0 87 7563993  
Surfing lessons, surf camps.

Blackwater Cruises, Youghal, **CO. CORK** Tel: 087 9889076  
Cruise departs daily ( April- Nov. ) from Youghal jetty and travels North up the river Blackwater, an area of natural beauty.



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Waterford Greenway



Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Park

## SPECIAL INTEREST TRAILS

We have compiled a list of Special Interest Trails for you to explore while journeying through Ireland's Ancient East.

**WATERFORD GREENWAY** - Travel through time and exquisite nature, winding in and out of splendid gardens, ruined castles and Viking sites, on a beautiful journey across three tall viaducts from the river to the sparkling sea. The Waterford Greenway is a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway line between Waterford and Dungarvan.

**WATERFORD GARDEN TRAIL** - Immerse yourself in gorgeous greenery and some of the finest specimens of Irish horticulture. Many days can be spent enjoying a rich variety of flora and fauna species, all of which contribute to the uniqueness of the gardening attractions on this trail, featuring around 15 private gardens.

**BALLYHOURA MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS** - Get your adrenaline fix in the beautiful undulating hillsides of the Ballyhoura Mountains. Straddling the counties of Cork and Limerick, this is the largest trail network of its kind in Ireland. 98km of trails including forest road climbs, tight twisty single tracks with loads of ups and downs, board walk, tight turns and technical rocky bits are guaranteed to leave you smiling.

**CORK CITY IWALKS** - Amble through charming and quiet lanes or dive right into the bustle of its cosmopolitan and lively streets, seeing for yourself why this jewel of the 'Rebel Country' is so beloved by locals and visitors alike – so much so that even the Queen had to pop by for a visit. This series of free self-guided walking trails weaves you through the gems of the city.



For further information on these trails or others in the area and the sights to be seen along the way, be sure to visit the **Tourist Information office** nearest to you.

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## WELCOME TO LIMERICK, TIPPERARY, KILKENNY, CARLOW AND WEXFORD

Throughout history these rich heartlands have been coveted and claimed by many, serving as the backdrop to tales of warring families, devastating loss, masterful strokes of diplomacy and a fair share of epic romances too.

Ancient Celtic sites, medieval abbeys, imposing fortresses and other relics endure in solitude, awaiting discovery.

Blending heritage and a vibrant taste of contemporary Irish life, each corner of this area offers something different. You can lose yourself in the bustling streets of Medieval Kilkenny, seek ancient truths among Carlow's megalithic monuments or get away from it all in Wexford's coastal havens.

Head west-wards to take in Tipperary's breath-taking scenery and quaint towns, or on to Limerick for its youthful urban charm and lush forest parks.

Whether your thing is hacking out on horseback, paddling along on a kayak or hitting the green – you can find it here.

After your day's exploring is done, sample the area's finest cuisine (with a few Michelin stars in-between) or head to the area's many historic pubs to swap stories with locals over a pint.

One thing is clear, in this land of good cheer, there are friends and memories to be made.

**Stories:** Layers of Life and History, Castles & Conquests, Ancient Ireland and Sacred Ireland

[www.IrelandsAncientEast.com](http://www.IrelandsAncientEast.com)

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Ballyhack, Co. Wexford



Kayaking, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny



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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES



Dunbrody Famine Ship, New Ross, Co. Wexford



Kilkenny City

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## LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY

### EXPLORING PARALLEL TALES OF OBSCENE WEALTH AND UTTER DESTITUTION

**Transport:** Own Car  
**Route:** Wexford and Carlow  
**Highlights:** Dunbrody Famine Ship, Altamont Gardens, Wells House and Loftus Hall



Start your journey at the quayside at New Ross and board The Dunbrody to relive the grim horror of 'an Gorta Mór', the Great Famine that forced many to flee to the New World on disastrously overcrowded vessels just like this one.

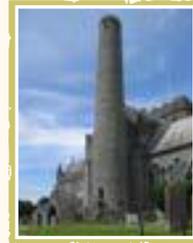
To see what life was like for more fortunate souls, continue your journey with a taste of stately great houses and fine Irish gardens, visiting Altamont Gardens, Wells House and Loftus Hall...said to be one of the most haunted houses in Ireland.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Rothe House, Stories from the Hearth, Tintern Abbey, Hook Lighthouse and the National 1798 Rebellion Centre.

#### HUNGRY FOR LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY?

Curraghmore House, Huntington Castle, Dunaghmore Workhouse, Borris House, Swiss Cottage, Altamont Gardens and Wicklow Historic Gaol shouldn't be missed.



## CASTLES AND CONQUESTS

### A JOURNEY OF BATTLES, BETRAYALS AND BETROTHALS

**Transport:** On Foot  
**Route:** Kilkenny  
**Highlights:** Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny Walking tour and Kilkenny Medieval Mile.



Stroll through Kilkenny's Medieval Mile, ducking down narrow slipways, in and out of historic pubs and bright coloured shops. Unearth old secrets through the stories of your guides – from innkeepers accused of witchcraft to the exploits of mighty Norman conquerors, like Strongbow's son-in-law William Marshal, who built Kilkenny castle.

Explore Kilkenny's Medieval Mile, home not only to some great stories, but a fair few charming pubs – perfect for the wind-down.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Smithwick's Experience, the Medieval Mile Museum, St. Canice's, Rothe House, Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Thomastown, Jerpoint Park and Graiguenamanagh.

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE CASTLES AND CONQUESTS?

Ros Tapestry, Ballyhack Castle, Waterford Treasures, Ferns Castle, Rock of Cashel and Rock of Dunamaisie are all worth a visit.



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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES



Lough Gur



Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

## ANCIENT IRELAND



**DISCOVER HIGH KINGS, ANCIENT ILLUMINATION AND MONUMENTS TO PREHISTORIC MAN**

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Limerick, Carlow, Kilkenny

**Highlights:** Lough Gur, Brownshill Dolmen and Dunmore Cave

Walk the 110 steps up to Hangman's Rock, breathing in the crisp air and exhilarating, unspoilt panoramas of

Lough Gur, getting in one glimpse a cross section of 5,000 years of history – from the Neolithic to present times.

Then make your way to the magnificent Brownshill Dolmen to experience Prehistoric Ireland in all its glory, reliving ancient religious rites. To round off your trip, why not plunge fearlessly into the depths of Dunmore Cave, to hear tales of chilling Viking massacres and to take in geological wonders.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Kilkenny Medieval Mile, Huntington Castle, Altamont Gardens

### HUNGRY FOR MORE ANCIENT IRELAND?

Dunmore Cave, Bru na Boinne, Hill of Uisneach, Castlecomer Discovery Park and Corlea Trackway are all worth a visit.

## SACRED IRELAND



**PIONEERS, PURITY AND THE PATH TO CHRISTIANITY**

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Tipperary and Kilkenny

**Highlights:** Holycross Abbey, Rock of Cashel and St Canices Cathedral.

Follow the trail of the pilgrims of yore, starting off with Holycross, a 12th Century Cistercian abbey near Thurles,

Co. Tipperary - founded by none other than Donal Mór O'Brien, King of Munster.

After contemplating the relic of the True Cross enshrined within, make your way to the Rock of Cashel, complete with a bristling medieval round tower, cathedral and castle, squat on a massive grassy outcrop. This leaves you enough time to head for Kilkenny, to admire the massive Gothic cathedral of St. Canice's – home to saintly relics, defensive towers and memorials a Great War memorial.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Monastic Roscrea, Kilkenny Medieval Mile, Jerpoint Park, Hore Abbey and Kells Priory.

### HUNGRY FOR MORE CASTLES AND CONQUESTS?

Ardmore Cathedral and Round Tower, Clonmacnoise, Lough Gur, Glendalough are all worth a visit.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### ALTAMONT GARDENS

Tullow, Co. Carlow  
Tel: 059 9159444 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Large beautiful old world garden Robsonian in style. Lawns and clipped yews slope down to a lake surrounded by rare trees and shrubs. There is a steep descent through the "Ice Age Glen" to a beautiful river walk.

**Open:** Daily, every day ex. Christmas day. Jan & Dec. 9.00-16.00.  
Feb & Nov 9.00-16.30. Mar-Oct 9.00-17.00. Apr-Sept 9.00-18.30.

**Admission:** Free of charge, except pre-booked guided tours €3. Car park €2



### BLACK CASTLE

Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

The village of Leighlinbridge developed at this strategic crossing on the River Barrow, defended by the Black Castle. In 1181, the Norman Hugh de Lacy built the first castle here to defend the crossing while the present castle is reported to have been built by Sir Edward Bellingham in 1547. Access direct from the river tow path.



### BORRIS HOUSE

Borris, Co. Carlow  
Tel: 059 9771884 [www.borrishouse.com](http://www.borrishouse.com)

Borris House, the ancestral home of the Macmorrough Kavanaghs, Kings of Leinster, is one of the few Irish estates that can trace its history back to the Royal families of ancient Ireland and the tour covers all aspects of the history of the house. Walk around the Lace Garden, and enjoy the Woodland Walk along the Mountain Stream.

**Open:** Part of May-Sept. Tue.-Thurs. 12.00pm-16.00.

**Admission:** Fees applies-check website for details



### BROWNSHILL DOLMEN

Hacketstown Rd, Carlow

The capstone of this magnificent megalithic tomb is believed to be the largest in Europe, weighing some 103 tons. Its date of construction has been estimated at between 4,900 and 5,500 years ago and it is thought that religious services were performed here. Signposted, direct access at 5km from Carlow town on the R726 Hacketstown Road.



### CARLOW CASTLE

Carlow Town

Carlow Castle built in the early years of the 13th century is situated beside the banks of the rivers Barrow and Burren near the centre of Carlow Town. It is one of the most important Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland and is open to the public on week days only.



### CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

College St., Carlow R93 E3T2  
Tel: 059 9131554  
[www.carlowcountymuseumblog.wordpress.com](http://www.carlowcountymuseumblog.wordpress.com)

Visit this award winning Museum and see what you are missing. Among the displays is the magnificent 19th century Carlow Cathedral hand carved wooden pulpit, also read about the 19th century scientist John Tyndall who discovered the greenhouse effect and lots more.

**Open:** Sept-May, Mon -Sat 10.00-16.30, Jun-Aug. Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00. Sun & B/H 14.00-16.30

**Admission:** Free of charge. Self-guided and pre book for group tours.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### DUCKETT'S GROVE WALLED GARDENS & PLEASURE GROUNDS

Rainestown, Co. Carlow

Tel: 059 9131554 ( Carlow Tourist Office)  
[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com) / [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

Duckett's Grove, the 18th, 19th and early 20th century home of the Duckett family, was formerly at the centre of a 20,000 acre estate that has dominated the Carlow landscape for over 300 years. Even in ruin, the surviving towers and turrets make it one of the most photogenic historic buildings in the country.

**Open:** Daylight hours  
**Admission:** Free



### HUNTINGTON CASTLE AND GARDENS

Clonegal, Co. Carlow

Tel: 053 9377160 [www.huntingcastle.com](http://www.huntingcastle.com)

A superb 17th century Castle. Still lived in by the present generation of the family, it is a working family home. Enjoy a fascinating tour of the Castle and run & play in the gardens or explore our adventure playground and woodland trail. Relax in the tea room & gift shop.

**Open-Gardens:** Daily May-Sept. 12.00-17.30. House: w/e May & Sept. Daily June, July, Aug, Easter, Halloween, Christmas etc.

**Admission:** Guided Castle Tour & Gardens, Adult €9, Con €7, Child €4. Family & Group discounts available.



### RATHWOOD

Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

[www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)

Rathwood Home & Garden World combines all the luxury of shopping with the freedom of the countryside. Within the store there is: a beauty salon, ladies boutiques, furniture showrooms, a garden centre, a restaurant & much more. Outside there are lovely woodland walks, a children's playground, the maze of Ireland and a train ride.

**Open:** All year round: Mon-Sat. 9.30-18.00. Sun 11.00-18.00.  
**Admission:** Free of charge. Train ride €3 pp.



### CASTLECOMER DISCOVERY PARK

Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

Tel: 056 4440707 [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

This 80 acre woodland park has a wide range of outdoor activities including High ropes and Zip-line, Tree- Top Walk activities, Elf & Fairy Village, boating activities, junior woodland adventure course, Coal Mining Exhibition & Jarrow Café.

**Open:** Weekdays 09.30-17.00. Weekend 10.00-17.00(May-Aug.)  
10.30-16.30 (Sept-Apr)

**Admission:** Please see website for individual prices & pre-booking details for named activities. All day car parking €4 (1st hour free)



### DUISKE ABBEY

Graigueunanagh, Co. Kilkenny

Tel: 059 9724238

A National Monument, Duiske Abbey originated in the 13th century. The abbey's simple exterior contrasts with its elaborate interior where visitors can see the ancient stone and high clerestory windows of the nave as well as an effigy of a 13th c knight at the entrance.

**Open:** Daily



### DUNMORE CAVE

Castlecomer Road, Co. Kilkenny

Tel: 056 7767726 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Dunmore Cave contains some of the finest calcite formations found in any Irish cave. Exhibitions and displays in the visitor centre. The cave is inaccessible for wheelchair users. Visitor centre is fully accessible.

**Open:** Daily: Mar-Jun, 9.30-17.00, last tour 16.00.  
Mid Jun-11th Sept. 9.30-18.30, last tour 17.00. 11th Sept-end Oct, 9.30-17.00, last tour 16.00. Nov-Mar. Wed-Sun(Inc.) 9.30-17.00, last tour 15.00.

**Admission:** Adult €5. Sen/Group €4. Child/Stu. €3, Family €13



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### JERPOINT ABBEY

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny R95 P523  
Tel: 056 7724623 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

An outstanding Cistercian abbey founded in the second half of the 12th century. The chief delight of the Abbey is the sculptured cloister arcade with unique carvings. Access for visitors with disabilities. Guided tours available. Visitor centre holds an interesting exhibition.

**Open:** Daily: Mar-end of Sept. 9.00-17.00. Nov. 9.30-16.00. Open Dec-Feb. for pre booked groups. Closed for Christmas period. Last adm. 45 mins before closing.

**Admission:** Adult €5. Sen/group €4. Stu/Child €3. Family €13



### KILKENNY CASTLE

Office of Public Works, The Parade,  
Kilkenny R95 YRK1  
Tel: 056 7704100 [www.kilkennycastle.ie](http://www.kilkennycastle.ie)

12th century Castle remodelled in Victorian era and set in extensive parklands. Two wings are restored to their 1830s splendour including the magnificent Picture Gallery. The Parade Tower wing is the dedicated events area and the east wing houses the Butler Gallery.

**Open:** Oct-Feb 9.30-16.30. Mar-9.30-17.00. Apr-May 9.30-17.30. Jun-Aug 9.00-17.30. Sept 9.30-17.30. Admissions 30 & 45 mins before closing. Check website for Christmas opening.

**Admission:** Adult €8, Sen/Group (20+) €6, Stu/Child (6yrs +) €4, Family €20. Family & Group discounts available.



### KILKENNY GHOST TOURS

28/29 Rose Inn St., Kilkenny  
Tel: 085 1706978 [www.kilkennyghosttours.com](http://www.kilkennyghosttours.com)

This one of a kind Kilkenny tour takes you through the medieval capitol of Ireland. Kilkenny's ghostly tales all have one very important thing in common-they are all based around fact and arise from genuine historic tragedies.

**Open:** All year round at 20.00, 7 nights a week.

**Admission:** €14 per adult. Family group and Student rates available.

★ **Special Offer:** Two Adults & two children €50.



### IRELAND'S MEDIEVAL MILE, KILKENNY

Kilkenny City

Ireland's Medieval Mile is a unique discovery trail running through the Medieval heart of Kilkenny, linking St. Canices and Kilkenny Castle, with lots of cultural and heritage attractions to discover in between including Smithwick's Experience, Rothe House and the newly opened Medieval Mile Museum.



### KILKENNY WALKING TOURS

Kilkenny Tourist Office, Rose Inn St.,  
Kilkenny R95 XF53  
Tel: 087 2651745 [www.kilkennywalkingtours.ie](http://www.kilkennywalkingtours.ie)

Kilkenny Walking Tours are Kilkenny's oldest tours operating 34 years. Professional Guides will guide you through the Medieval Mile bringing Kilkenny's history & stories alive.

**Open:** Mar-Sept. Daily, Tours Mon –Sat 11am & 14.00. Sun Apr-Sept 11.15am- & 12.30 pm.

**Admission:** Adult €10, Sen/Stu. €8. Family Offers available. Fam. & Group rates on request.



### MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM

St. Mary's Lane, High St., Kilkenny  
Tel: 056 7817022 [www.medievalmilemuseum.ie](http://www.medievalmilemuseum.ie)

As the starting point of the " Medieval Mile" trail, it brings to life Kilkenny's history as Ireland's premier medieval city. Displays of Kilkenny's civic treasures and replicas of some of the High Crosses of Ossory illustrate the local Gaelic monastic heritage and the ancient city's historic role in Ireland.

**Open:** Nov-Mar. 11.00-18.00 (closed Mondays). Apr-Oct. 10.00-18.00 (7 days)

**Admission:** Guided Adults €12, Stu/OAPs €10, Child €5. Fam. €20. Self-Guided, Adults €12, Stu/OAPs €6, Child €3, Fam. €15



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### ROTHE HOUSE AND GARDEN

Parliament St, Kilkenny  
Tel: 056 77222893 [www.rothehouse.com](http://www.rothehouse.com)

17th century merchant's town house and garden located in the centre of Kilkenny City. Museum, garden, books, gifts and family history centre.

**Open:** Oct.-Feb. 9.30-16.30. Mar. 9.30-17.00. Apr.-May 9.30-17.30. Jun-Aug. 9.00-17.30. Sept.. 9.30—17.30. ( Last adm. 30 & 45 mins before closing)

**Admission:** €5.50 per Adult. Concession €4.50. Children u12 free. Guided tours available.

★ **Offer:** 10% off in shop when this ad is presented. T/C apply



### SMITHWICKS EXPERIENCE

Parliament St. Kilkenny  
Tel: 056 7786377 [www.smithwicksexperience.com](http://www.smithwicksexperience.com)

Smithwick's Experience Kilkenny was listed as one of the "Top 26 hot new attractions in the world to visit in 2015" by the Lonely Planet. With over 300 years of brewing experience, let your senses come to life as you immerse yourself in the history of Ireland's favourite Ale.

**Open:** 10.00-18.00 (last tour 17.00) all tours are fully guided. Check website for more details on seasonal opening hours.

**Admission:** Adult €13, Stu+18/Sen. €11, Family €33, Stu. -18 €7.

Admission includes a complimentary pint of Smithwick's or a soft drink for u18s.

Audio guides also included in French, German, Spanish & Italian.

For best admission rates, book online at [www.smithwicksexperience.com](http://www.smithwicksexperience.com).



### ST. CANICE'S CATHEDRAL AND ROUND TOWER

Coach Road, Kilkenny City  
Tel: 056 7764971 [www.stcanicescathedral.com](http://www.stcanicescathedral.com)

Visit St Canices Cathedral to explore or take in the serenity of an early Gothic Cathedral. See the wonderful stained glass and the largest collection of ancient monuments. View Kilkenny and the surrounding areas from the 9th century round tower (weather permitting)

**Open:** Apr. May & Sept. Mon -Sat. 10.00-13.00 14.00-17.00. Sun. 14.00-17.00. Jun. July & Aug. Mon-Sat. 09.00-18.00. Sun. 14.00-18.00. Oct-Mar. Mon-Sat 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00. Sun. 14.00-16.00. Please note round tower opens at 10am.

**Admission:** Adult €4, Sen/Stu. €3, Family €12



### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Gowran, Co. Kilkenny  
Tel: 056 7726894 (Open Season)  
056 7724623 (Closed season)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Late 13c church includes an aisled nave, a chancel and a tower and features high quality stone carvings.

**Open:** 18th May-31st Aug. Wed.-Sun. 10.00-17.30 inclusive. Last Adm. 45 mins before closing.

**Admission:** Free.



### THE LOST TOWN HERITAGE SITE JERPOINT PARK

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny R95 KC2F  
[www.jerpointpark.com](http://www.jerpointpark.com)

Jerpoint Park is a unique tourist attraction in Ireland's Ancient East, offering Guided Heritage Tours of the footprints of a deserted 12th Century Medieval Town plus the Tomb effigy of St. Nicholas. Also sheep dog demonstrations.

**Open:** Easter-Halloween.

**Admission:** €10 per person, children u12 free with accompanying adult



### WOODSTOCK GARDENS & ARBORETUM

Inistiogue, Co. Kilkenny. R95 XR80  
[www.woodstock.ie](http://www.woodstock.ie)

Restored Victorian Garden, renowned for its tree collection. Enjoy a stroll through the tranquil woodland walks and formal gardens, Take time out for tea in the conservatory. Other facilities: children's playground, picnic area and orienteering trail.

**Open:** All year round. April-Oct., 09.00-19.00, Nov-Mar. 10.00-16.30. Tea shop opening hours seasonal. Check website.

**Admission:** €4 per car to the car park includes access for all occupants. Group rates available on request.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### DEVALERA MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE



Water St., Bruree, Co. Limerick V 35 CF80  
Tel: 086 3949230

The Museum uses graphic panels, set pieces and displays of personal memorabilia to tell the story of Eamonn de Valera, former President of Ireland and to explore the rich history of Bruree "Palace of Kings"

**Open:** by appointment only.

**Admission:** Family €10, Adults €5

★ **Offer:** Students €2.50 seniors €2.50



### KILMALLOCK MUSEUM AND HISTORIC TOWN TRAIL



Kilmallock, Co. Limerick  
Tel: 063 98259 / 087 2187012  
[www.heritageisland.com](http://www.heritageisland.com)

The Museum, housed in a 19th century town cottage, serves as an introduction to the heritage of the medieval fortress town, noted for its imposing gates and fine 12th century Collegiate Church and Dominican Priory. The museum features scale models of houses excavated in the area as well as a small collection of implements from 19th & 20th centuries.

**Open:** Year round. Mon-Thurs. 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00 .Fri & Sat. 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00.Sun. 12.00-16.00. Town Tours available.

**Admission:** Free. Donations welcome



### LOUGH GUR HERITAGE CENTRE



Lough Gur Lake, Bruff, Co. Limerick. V35 ED96  
Tel: 061 385186 / 087 2852022  
[www.loughgur.com](http://www.loughgur.com)

Lough Gur is one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites. The Centre boasts a state of the art facility and includes a modern exhibition detailing over 6,000 years of history at Lough Gur.

**Open:** Daily, Mon-Fri. Mar.-Oct. 10.00-17.00, Sat & Sun 12.00-18.00.Oct-Mar. Mon-Fri.10-16.00, Sat & Sun. 12.00-16.00.Check website for details.

**Admission:** Adults €5, Children €3, Students/Seniors €4, Family €15. Group rate on request



### THE THOMAS FITZGERALD CENTRE



Bruff, Co. Limerick  
Tel: 061 382829 [www.visitbruff.com](http://www.visitbruff.com)

Thomas Fitzgerald who emigrated from Bruff in 1852, was Great Grandfather to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States. The centre has a number of displays showcasing memorabilia and other items of interest relating to the Kennedy Family.

**Open:** Mon-Fri 10.00-14.00. Closed Public Holidays. Open by appointment also.

**Admission:** Adult €5. Children Free. Group rate available for 4 or more people.



## TIPPERARY

### BRÚ BORÚ CULTURAL CENTRE



Cashel, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 062 61122 [www.bruboru.ie](http://www.bruboru.ie)

Join us in June, July, & August for one of our special nights of authentic Irish traditional music, song and dance (pre-show dinner also available). Explore our unique cultural exhibition "Sounds of History" seven metres underground. Craft shop, Restaurant and Genealogy services available.

**Open:** Sept-May :Mon -Fri, 9.00-17.00.June-Aug, Tue-Sat, 9.00-23.00.Mon 9.00-17.00.

**Admission:** Sounds of History: Adult €5. Stu/OAP €4. Child €3. Summer Show, Adult €20, Child €10.



### CAHIR CASTLE



Castle St. Cahir, Co. Tipperary E21 P652  
Tel: 052 7441011 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

One of Ireland's largest and best preserved castles. The castle's attractions include an excellent audio-visual show.

**Open:** Mid Oct-Feb: Daily 09.30-16.30. Mar-Mid June: 09.30-17.30. Mid June- Aug 09.30-18.30. Sept-Mid Oct: 09.30-17.30. Closed from the 24th-30th Dec.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Group/Sen. €4, Child/Student €3, Family €13.

Please note there are no credit and debit card facilities available at this site.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### CASHEL FOLK VILLAGE

Cashel, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 062 63601 / 087 9151316

Winner of the prestigious TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013/2014/2015/2016. A unique collection of original 1916 Memorabilia/Monuments on site. It also includes The Great Irish Famine Museum, the Penal chapel, Irish Civil War Museum and much more.

**Open:** Late Mar-Early Jun. 10.00-17.30. Early Jun-Mid Sept. 10.00-19.00. Mid Sept-End Oct. 10.-17.30. Nov-Late Mar. by appointment  
**Admission:** Adult €6.50. Sen/Stu €5. Children 6/13 €4. FAM (2+2) €18.



### HOLY CROSS ABBEY

Thurles, Co. Tipperary E41 PH01  
Tel: 086 1665869 [www.visitholycross.ie](http://www.visitholycross.ie)

Holy Cross Abbey is one of Ireland's National Monuments. A gloriously restored Cistercian Abbey, it is a venerated place of pilgrimage with a relic of the true cross.

**Open:** All year round. Guided tours on request.



### MITCHELSTOWN CAVE

Burncourt, Cahir E21 H920, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 052 7467246

One of the more spectacular caves in Europe. The guided tour takes you through almost half a mile of the world famous cave.

**Open:** Feb-May. 10.00-16.00. Jun-Aug. 10.00-16.45. Sept.-Oct. 10.00-16.30. Nov. 10.00-16.00. Dec-Jan. 10.00-16.00 weekend only and closed 24th & 25th December.  
Entry to cave is by guided tour. Min 2 adults required for tour.  
**Admission:** Adult €9. Child €3.50 (up to 12 yrs.) Family €20.



### ST. MARY'S FAMINE MUSEUM

Thurles, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 0504 21133 or 086 8785859  
[www.hiddentipperary.com](http://www.hiddentipperary.com)

The Museum holds the largest collection of Famine memorabilia in Ireland including the only known minutes of a Great Famine Food Committee and a display of early 18th century period clothing.

**Open:** Daily 1st May-31st Sept. (other times by appointment)



### ST. PATRICK'S ROCK OF CASHEL

Cashel, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 062 61437 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

A spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone, it includes 12th century Round Tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel and restored Hall of Vicars Choral.

**Open:** Mid Sept-Mid Oct. 9.00-17.30. Last Adm. at 16.45. Mid Oct.-Mid Mar. 9.00-16.30. Last Adm. at 15.45. Mid Mar-Early June. 9.00-17.30. Last Adm. 16.45. Early June-Mid Sept. 9.00-19.00. Last Adm. 18.15. Visitors with mobility issues are advised to check with site prior to travelling.  
**Admission:** Adult €8, Group/Sen €6, Child/Stu €4 Family €20. Please note all groups must be pre-booked.



### THE SWISS COTTAGE

Ardfinnan Road, Cahir E21 DX07  
Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 052 7441144 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

A delightful "cottage orne" built in the 1800s to a design by the famous Regency architect John Nash. Its interior contains a graceful spiral staircase and some elegantly decorated rooms.

**Open:** Easter to late October daily 10.00-18.00 with last admission 17.15.  
**Admission:** Adult €5, Sen/Group (20+) €4, Child/Stu. €3, Family €13. Please note that there are no credit and debit facilities at this site.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### COUNTY WEXFORD STORYTELLING HOUSES



Co. Wexford

[www.storiesfromtheearth.ie](http://www.storiesfromtheearth.ie)

Storytelling Houses are almost unique to Co. Wexford. There are 8 houses now in operation throughout the County. Check website for house location, dates and times.

**Admission:** Free. All are welcome



### DUNBRODY FAMINE SHIP EXPERIENCE & RESTAURANT



South Quay, New Ross, Co. Wexford

Tel: 051 425239 [www.dunbrody.com](http://www.dunbrody.com)

Explore our award winning replica emigrant vessel both above and below decks. Listen to real life stories by costumed performers. As well as the ships tour the Visitor Centre houses a river view restaurant and the Irish American Hall of Fame.

**Open:** Seven days a week 9.00-18.00. Evening tours available on request Jun/July/Aug.

**Admission:** Adult €10, Child/Stu €6, Sen €8, FAM (2+1 u12) €22, FAM(2+2 u12) €25, FAM (2+3 u12) €30. Closed 25th & 26th Dec.



### ENNISCORTHY CASTLE



Castle Hill, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Tel: 053 9234699 [www.enniscorthycastle.ie](http://www.enniscorthycastle.ie)

This award winning Castle has been home to Norman Knights, English Earls and local merchant families. See our rare medieval wall art-THE HALBERDIER, and visit our battlements to see amazing views of the surrounding countryside.

**Open:** Mon-Fri 9.30-17.00. Sat./ Sun, B/Hols 12.00-17.00.

Last entry to exhibition is 45 minutes before closing.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Sen/Stu €4, Child €3, Family (2+3) €10

★ **Offer:** Integrated ticket for Castle/1798 Centre, Adult €10, Sen/Stu €7, Child €5, FAM €25



### HOOK LIGHTHOUSE VISITOR CENTRE



Fethard-on-Sea, Hook Peninsula,  
New Ross, Co. Wexford

Tel: 051 397055 [www.hookheritage.ie](http://www.hookheritage.ie)

Purpose built as a lighthouse 800 years ago, and still fully operational today. Hook lighthouse truly is one of a kind! Cafe, gift shop, picnic area, games, Wi-Fi, parking. The visitor centre offers guided tours of the medieval lighthouse tower.

**Open:** Daily, All year, 9.30-17.00 (later during summer) (closed 21st-25th Dec)

**Admission:** Adult €9, Sen/Stu €7, Child €5 (ages 5-16) U 5 free (with accompanying adult/Fam) Fam 1+1 €12, Fam 1+2 €16, Fam 2+1 €20, Fam 2+2 €22, Fam 2+3 €24.

★ **Offer:** 20% discount on presentation of this guide.



### IRISH AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM & JOHNSTOWN CASTLE GARDENS



Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. Y35 HP22

Tel: 053 9184671 [www.irishagrimuseum.ie](http://www.irishagrimuseum.ie)

With one of the most comprehensive displays of farming and rural life in the country, Irish Agricultural Museum makes a wonderful day out for all the family whatever the weather.

**Gardens open daily:** 9.00-16.30 (Nov-Feb) 9.00-17.30 (Mar-Jun, Sept-Oct) 9.00-18.30 (July-Aug) **Museum:** Nov-Feb, Mon-Fri. 9.00-16.00 (11.00-16.00, Sat & Sun) Mar-Jun, Sept-Oct, Mon-Fri. 9.00-17.00 (11.00-17.00 Sat & Sun) Jul-Aug, Mon-Fri. 9.00-18.00 (11.00-18.00 Sat & Sun)

**Admission:** Gardens, Adult €3, OAP €2, Child €1, Fam. €8 (free Nov-Feb) Garden & Museum Adult €8, OAP €6, Child €4, Fam. €24



### LOFTUS HALL



Fethard-on-Sea, Hook Head,  
New Ross, Co. Wexford Y34 YC93

Tel: 051 397728 [www.loftushall.ie](http://www.loftushall.ie)

Loftus Hall, renowned as Ireland's most haunted house, is located on the stunning Hook Peninsula, Co. Wexford. Take an interactive, guided, ground floor tour; hear the fascinating history, and infamous legend of Loftus Hall.

**Open:** Weekends 11th Feb-11th Jun. Open daily 8th-23 Apr, 17th Jun-3rd Sept, 21st Oct-5th Nov.

**Admission:** Adult €10, Sen €7, Stu €6, Child €5, Family (2a+ 2c) €25, Family ( 2a+3 or 4c) €30. Please see website for more details



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### NATIONAL 1798 REBELLION CENTRE

Millpark Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 053 9237596

The Rebellion Experience not to be missed. Meet key figures in the rebellion and participate in our 4D Battle of Vinegar Hill.

**Open:** Mon-Fri 9.30-17.00. Closed Sat. & Sun. Last entry to exhibition is 45mins before close.

**Admission:** Adult €7, Stu/Sen €4, Children over 5 €3, Family €20.



### ROS TAPESTRY

The Quay, New Ross, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 051 445396 [www.rosapestry.ie](http://www.rosapestry.ie)

The Ros Tapestry is a unique project that has been ongoing since 1998 and has involved over 150 stitchers working on 15 giant tapestries depicting events around the Anglo-Norman arrival in Wexford.

**Open:** Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00. Sun 11.00-15.00 (unless pre-booked).

**Admission:** Adults €8, Sen. €7, Stu/Child €6, Family €23. Group discount available. We cater for groups up to 40 people.



### ROSSLARE HARBOUR MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

Rosslare, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 086 3103417

A comprehensive display of Maritime images, art, ship models, and artefacts.

**Open:** Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays. 14.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Free.



### THE IRISH NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK

Ferrycarrig, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 053 9120733 [www.inhp.com](http://www.inhp.com)

Begin an unforgettable journey through Ireland's Past at our award winning Heritage centre. Explore re-constructed historical sites depicting life in ancient Ireland, located on the picturesque surroundings of the river Slaney.

**Open:** May-Aug.9.30-18.30, Sept-Apr. 9.30-17.30(Last admission 2 hours prior to close of business)

**Admission:** Adult €9.50, Sen/Stu €8, Family (2 adults + 3 children u 16yrs) €25.

**Offer:** 10% off sales in the INHP craft & gift shop. N/A with any other offer.



### THE JFK MEMORIAL PARK

New Ross, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 051 388171 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Dedicated to the memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America from 1960-1963, the Arboretum contains over 4,500 types of trees and shrubs covering 623 acres. A Visitor Centre houses exhibitions and audio visual show.

**Open:** Daily, Oct- Mar. 10.00-17.00. April Daily 10.00-18.30. May – Aug. Daily 10.00-20.00. Sept, Daily 10.00-18.30

**Admission:** Adult €5, Group/Sen. €4, Child/Stu. €3, Family €13



### THE KENNEDY HOMESTEAD

Dunganstown, New Ross, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 051 388264 [www.kennedyhomestead.ie](http://www.kennedyhomestead.ie)

Telling the ultimate success story of the Irish in America! The Kennedy Homestead offers a state of the Art Visitor Centre, housing rare and unique memorabilia and archive film footage. Visitors can also enjoy our souvenir shop and coffee dock.

**Open:** 9.30-17.30.

**Admission:** Adult €7.50, Sen €6.50, Stu/Child €6, FAM (2+3u12) €22. Group rates apply.



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### TINTERN ABBEY

Saltmills, New Ross, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 051 562650 / 056 7724623  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

A Cistercian abbey, founded c. 1200 by William, the Earl Marshall, and named after Tintern in Wales. The remains consist of nave, chancel, tower, chapel and cloister.

**Open:** Daily 10.00-17.00. April 6th -1st Nov. Last admission 16.15.  
**Admission:** Adult €5, Group/Sen. €4, Child/Stu €3, Family €13.  
Please note on 1st Nov., last admissions to Abbey & tea-rooms is 15.00



### VINEGAR HILL BATTLEFIELD

Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 053 9237596

Most Famous site of the 1798 Rebellion, the spectacular views belie its background as one of the bloodiest battlefields in Irish History.

**Open:** Year round from 10.00 to dusk.  
**Admission:** Free. Ample parking on-site for cars and coaches.  
Laneway to Vinegar Hill not accessible by 52 seater coaches.



### WELLS HOUSE & GARDENS

Ballyedmond, Gorey, Co. Wexford  
Tel: 053 9186737 [www.wellshouse.ie](http://www.wellshouse.ie)

Enchanted woodland walks, restored terrace & parterre gardens, house tours, archery, clay pigeon shooting, an adventure playground, Craft Courtyard, Animal Farm & falconry and a calendar of events throughout the year.

**Open:** May- Sept. 10.00- 18.00. Oct-April, 11.00-16.00.  
**Admission:** €8 per car. See website for details of house tours & events..



### WEXFORD WALKING TOURS

The Quay, Wexford  
Tel: 086 1079497  
[www.wexfordwalkingtours.net](http://www.wexfordwalkingtours.net)

History happened in all weathers, so do our tours!  
Daily tour of Wexford Town, Mon –Sat. 11.00am from Wexford Tourist Office.

**Open:** Daily Tour of Selskar Abbey, Mon-Sat. 15.00 From An Tobar, Westgate, Wexford Town.

**Admission:** Charges apply. Please see website for details.



For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see [www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)



Wexford Quay

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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

#### Adelaide Memorial Church Myshall, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel: 059 9157671

Built as a miniature of Salisbury Cathedral, the church houses many objects of interest. The key is held locally by Mrs. Bridie Daly (white bungalow opposite church grounds).

#### Ardattin Cottage Museum Tullow, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel: 059 9155639.

This museum houses a unique collection of artefacts. Open: by appointment only. Admission applies.

#### Ballymoon Castle, Bagenalstown, **CO. CARLOW**

[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

A large, square castle, with imposing entrance gate and formidable square towers measuring 20ft high and 8ft thick. Access to the castle is via a small timber foot bridge.

#### Carlow Historic Town Trail, **CARLOW**

Tel: 059 9130411 [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

Discover the history of Carlow Town in a one hour self-guided tour featuring identifiable finger signposts and large map boards.

#### County Carlow Military Museum The Old Church, Athy Road **CARLOW**

Tel: 087 6904242

Privately run museum featuring a large range of artefacts relating to local, national and international conflicts.

#### Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, **CO. CARLOW**

[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com), Tel: (0)59 9151769

Hardymount Gardens features a wonderful walled garden that sits behind the house and contains many unusual plants and flowers

#### Kilgraney Herb Gardens, Clonegal, **CO. CARLOW**

[www.kilgraneyhouse.com](http://www.kilgraneyhouse.com), Tel: 059 9775283

The Herb Garden consists of a large kitchen garden, a Tea walk, a medicinal herb courtyard, a medieval monastic herb garden & a garden of aromatic herbs

#### Saint Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel: 059 9721570. [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

Contact: The Very Revd Tom Gordon. St. Laserian's Cathedral (13th Century) is on the site of a 7th Century monastery.

#### St. Mullins Heritage Centre St. Mullins, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel: 087 9977090/051 424913.

Saint Mullins is the location of a splendid collection of early monastic remains including a round tower and monastery .

#### Tullow Museum, Bridge Street, Tullow, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel: 086 3416919/087 2383515

Housed in a former Methodist church, the museum houses a splendid collection of artefacts documenting the region's history.



Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

#### Weavers Cottages Clonegal, **CO. CARLOW**

Tel. 053 9377575

The Durdin or Weavers Cottages were built by Alexander Durdin in the late 17th century, and now feature many items, artefacts, furniture and pictures from bygone times.

#### 'Gáirdín an Ghorta' Newmarket, near Knocktopher, **CO KILKENNY**

[www.faminegarden.com](http://www.faminegarden.com), Contact: Willie Barron. Tel: 086 8394349.

This small garden commemorates the Famine. Open: All year, no admission fee. Guided tours by request.

#### Black Abbey, **KILKENNY**

The Dominican Black Abbey dates back to 1225. Of particular note is the stained glass 'Rosary Window', the stonework of which survives intact.

#### Butler House Gardens, **KILKENNY**

Tel: 056 7721279.

Restored and landscaped back to their original splendour in 2000 by the Kilkenny Civic Trust.

#### Edmund Rice House, Westcourt, Callan, **CO. KILKENNY**

[www.edmundrice.net](http://www.edmundrice.net), Tel 056 - 7725993 / 087 2180323

A 300yr old, 6 roomed thatched house. The birthplace in 1762 of Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers & Presentation Brothers.

#### Genealogical Centre, **KILKENNY**

[www.rothehouse.com](http://www.rothehouse.com) Tel: 056 7722893

See Rothe House & Garden The Irish Family History Foundations - Online Research Service. This provides access to Irish Church and other sources for the family historian. [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

#### Jenkinson Park, Jenkinson, **CO. KILKENNY**

[www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

This Forest Park has a deer park and looped walks of varying length.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### Kells Priory, Kells, **CO. KILKENNY**

These extensive ruins of an Augustinian Priory date back to 1193. Nearby is a local museum. (operates seasonally) Open: The site is accessible all year.

### Kilfane Glen & Waterfall, Kilfane, Thomastown, **CO. KILKENNY**

[www.kilfane.com](http://www.kilfane.com), Tel: 056 7727105

This attraction includes a waterfall and cottage ornée, with an outdoor sculpture display.

### Shankill Castle & Gardens, Paulstown, **CO. KILKENNY**

[www.shankillcastle.com](http://www.shankillcastle.com), Tel: 059 9726145 or 087 7672656.

There are a whole host of things to do at Shankill and in the surrounding area, take a tour of the house and gardens, explore stunning walks and discover local arts & crafts.

### St. Marys Cathedral, **KILKENNY CITY**

Built between 1843-1847 in a gothic revival style. The chapter house has been renovated to include Tea rooms and bookshop.

### The James Hoban Memorial Arbor, Desart, Callan Rd. **CO. KILKENNY**

Born in Desart near Callan, James Hoban designed the White House Building in Washington DC.

### The Newpark Fen, **KILKENNY**

This game and bird sanctuary and amenity area offers opportunities to view many different species of birds.

### Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, **CO. LIMERICK**

[www.glenstal.org](http://www.glenstal.org), Tel: 061 621000

Home to a community of Benedictine monks who work and pray together. Visitors are welcome to join the monks for all the liturgies that take place throughout the day in the Abbey Church. Open: All year round.

### Old Irish Ways Museum, Bruff, **CO. LIMERICK**

Tel: 086 1541078. [www.oldirishways.com](http://www.oldirishways.com)

This unique collection features An old Irish Pub, An Old Kitchen, An Irish Creamery, An Old Classroom, Forge, a must see Famine Pot and much more.

### Terra Nova Gardens, Killmallock, **CO. LIMERICK**

[www.terranovagarden.com](http://www.terranovagarden.com) Tel: 063 90744

Terra Nova is a beautifully designed, richly planted, award winning garden set in the Golden Vale of Co. Limerick.

### Ballyboy House Gardens & Woodlands, Clogheen, Cahir, **CO. TIPPERARY**

[www.ballyboyhouse.com](http://www.ballyboyhouse.com), Tel: 052 7465297 / 087 6360296

The house is surrounded by four acres of garden, both formal and informal, and seventy-five acres of woodland with walks created throughout the native hardwood trees.

### Ballyhist Garden, Ballyhist, Ardfinnan, Clonmel, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 052 7466788 / 087 7996169

Ballyhist Garden features a young pergola walk, sunken garden and water feature with Japanese bridge.

### Cabragh Wetlands Education Centre, Holycross, **CO. TIPPERARY**

[www.cabraghwetlands.ie](http://www.cabraghwetlands.ie), Tel: 0504 43879

200 Acres of floodplain wetlands. Rare insects, flowers, nesting/overwintering birds.

### Camas Park Garden, Camas Park, Cashel, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 062 61010 / 086 2551277

The extensive garden features herbaceous borders, terraces and a paved enclosure with walls and pergolas clad with some unusual climbers.

### Carrick-on-Suir Heritage Centre, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 051 640200. [www.carrickonsuirancestry.com](http://www.carrickonsuirancestry.com)

Photographs, documents and artefacts of the area are on display.

### Castletown Glebe Garden, Portroe, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 067 23318

Set in dramatic scenery beneath the Arra hills, this is a mature rectory garden with views over Lough Derg.

### Cistercian Abbey, Kilcooley, **CO. TIPPERARY**

The Abbey is set in the grounds of a large private estate adjoining the ancient pilgrim route to Cashel.

### Curreeny Heritage Hedge School, Kilcommon, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 067 25100

This historic memorial site was where students and teachers met during the times of the Penal Laws.

### Dundrum Nurseries, The Celtic Plantarum, Dundrum, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 062 71303

Miles of paths and walkways, waterfalls and fresh water lakes..

### Fancroft Mill and Gardens, Roscrea, **CO. TIPPERARY**

[www.fancroft.ie](http://www.fancroft.ie), Tel: 0505 31484

The water wheel at Fancroft Mill which is 4.5 m in diameter is driven by a tributary of the Little Brosna River which forms the boundary between Co. Tipperary and Co. Offaly.

### Holy Trinity Church, Fethard, **CO. TIPPERARY**

The Holy Trinity Church is one of the largest and finest medieval parish churches in Ireland

### Hore Abbey, Cashel, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Hore Abbey was founded by Cistercians in 1266. It was once a Benedictine abbey but was given to the Cistercians by Archbishop David MacCearbhaill, who later entered the monastery.

### Killurney Garden, Killurney, Clonmel, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 052 6133155 / 087 9444662

Killurney Garden is a mature garden that includes rare trees and shrubs, extensive herbaceous borders, a scree bed, heather bed, rolling lawns and the ruins of a 16th-century church



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Lar Na Pairce Museum, Thurles. **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.larnapairce.ie, Tel: 0504 22702

Tells the story of Gaelic Games, Camogie & handball

Main Guard, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.heritageireland.ie, Tel: 052 6127484

(During the closed season, call The Rock of Cashel, Tel. 062 61437)

James Butler, Duke of Ormond, built the Main Guard in 1675 as the courthouse for the Palatinate of administrative Area of County Tipperary.

Monaincha Abbey, Roscrea, **CO. TIPPERARY**

The ruined abbey-church stands on a raised site, once an island in a peat bog. The 12C main doorway is finely carved and the chancel is in sandstone.

Mount St. Josephs Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.msroscrea.ie Tel: 0505 25600

A living monastery, a haven of peace and tranquillity 4.9kms from Roscrea.

Nenagh Heritage Centre, The Governor's House, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage/nenagh-heritage-centre, Tel: 067 33850

Located in two Georgian buildings which were built between 1840-1842 as the Governor's House and Gatehouse of an extensive gaol complex for North Tipperary.

New Haven Garden, New Haven, Cahir, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
Tel: 087 2319639

The New Haven Garden, features large lawns, interesting walks and four different water features

Redwood Castle, Lorrha **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.redwoodcastleireland.com, Tel: 087 7479566.

A visit to this Celtic tower house is a must for the Celt enthusiast.

Roscrea Castle and Damer House, Roscrea, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.heritageireland.ie, Tel: 0505 21850

The stone Castle consists of a gate tower, curtain walls and two corner towers. The castle rooms are furnished. Damer House is an example of pre-Palladian architecture.

Saint Ruadhan's Abbey Lorrha. **CO. TIPPERARY**  
Built around 1,000A.D. this was once the most famous of Munster's monasteries

Slieveardagh Heritage Centre, River Street, Killenaule, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.slieveardagh.com, Tel: 052 9156165

The Centre tells the interesting and diversified local history ranging from coal mining to the Young Irelanders and has the Derrynaflan Exhibition.

South Tipperary Arts Centre, Clonmel. **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.southtipparts.ie, Tel: 052 6127877

The Centre programmes a mixture of arts and cultural events including local, national and international visual arts, performing arts, music and literature.

St Mary's Garden of Remembrance, Thurles, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
Tel: 0504 21651

St Mary's contains a garden with a series of memorials.

The Famine Warehouse 1848, Ballingarry, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.heritageireland.ie, Tel: 087 9089972

During the Great Famine the Warehouse was the scene of the 1848 Rebellion. The house exhibits the history of the Famine and mass emigration.

Tig Roy, Glen of Aherlow, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.tigroy.com Tel: 087 2572281

Tig Roy runs classes, courses and workshops in traditional Irish music, language & set dancing from September to May.

Tipperary County Museum, Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel, **CO. TIPPERARY** Tel: 052 6134550. www.tipperarycoco.ie  
This extensive museum building has displays from prehistoric to modern times.

Tipperary Excel Heritage Centre, **TIPPERARY TOWN**  
Tel: 062 80520. www.tipperary-excel.com

Arts, Culture, Cinema, Entertainment, Dance School, Art Gallery

Turtulla Garden, Turtulla, Thurles, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
Tel: 0504 21839 / 087 8358842

Turtulla is a mature, award-winning garden located just outside Thurles, County Tipperary.

Ballyhack Castle, Ballyhack, Hook Peninsula, **CO. WEXFORD**  
www.heritageireland.ie, Tel: 051 389468.

The castle is thought to have been built in the 15th century by the Knights Hospitallers of St. John.

Ballymore Historic Museum, Ballymore House, Camolin, Enniscorthy, **CO. WEXFORD**

Tel 053 9383189 / 086 3541407 www.ballymorehistoricfeatures.com

Ballymore Historic Features celebrates and emphasises the past in a refreshing and unique way.

Brown Clayton's Folly, Carrigbyrne, **CO. WEXFORD**

Locally known as the 'Pinnacle' and measuring 28.5 meters high, this is a replica of Pompeii's Alexandrian column, built in 1839 in memory of Sir Ralph Abercromby.

Colclough Walled Garden, Tintern Abbey, **CO. WEXFORD**  
www.colcloughwalledgarden.com, Tel: 083 3064159

The main features of this 2.5 acre stone/brick lined walled garden include curved corners, two intra mural structures on the dividing brick wall which splits the garden in two sections, east and west.

Coolaught Gardens, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 053 9244137 / 087 6446882

This country farmhouse garden has borders which blend old favourites and new introductions in an informal atmosphere.



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### Dunbrody Abbey Visitor Centre, Campile, Hook Peninsula, CO. WEXFORD

[www.dunbrodyabbey.com](http://www.dunbrodyabbey.com), Tel: 086 3759938

A Cistercian Abbey founded in 1210 AD. Close by are the ruins of Dunbrody Castle which houses a craft shop, a hedge maze, walks, picnic area, and small museum

### Ferns Castle, Ferns, CO. WEXFORD

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie), Tel: 053 9366411

Originally a square fortification with large corner towers. One tower contains a fine circular chapel with carved ornament. The work of the Ferns Tapestry Project is on display in the centre.

### Galley Cruising Restaurant The Quay, New Ross, CO. WEXFORD

[www.rivercruises.ie](http://www.rivercruises.ie), Tel: 051 421723

Ireland's Most Scenic River Cruises with World Famous Cuisine. Fully licensed, it is an ecological and gourmet treat. Booking essential.

### Glenavon Japanese Garden, Gorey, CO. WEXFORD

Tel: 053 9425331 / 085 2048737

The garden depicts the four seasons and is centred round a beautifully recreated Japanese pavilion.

### Kilmokea Gardens, Great Island, Campile, CO. WEXFORD

[www.kilmokea.com](http://www.kilmokea.com), Tel: 051 388109 / 086 0853308

These peaceful spiritual gardens are beautifully laid out around a pretty Georgian house overlooking the river Barrow.

### Lucy's Wood Garden, Barkers Road (to Mount Leinster) Bunclody, CO. WEXFORD

Tel: 053 9377256

This two acre garden is in two parts, the original area is now the vegetable gardens but includes some wonderful trees.

### Monksgrange Garden & Norman Gallery, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, CO. WEXFORD

[www.visitwexford.ie](http://www.visitwexford.ie), Tel: 053 9255071

Our 3 acre garden is sheltered by woodland with a collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. It offers peaceful walks alongside a natural stream.

### Newtownbarry House & Garden, Newtownbarry House, Bunclody, CO. WEXFORD

[www.newtownbarryhouse.com](http://www.newtownbarryhouse.com), Tel: 053 9376383 / 087 1227846 / 087 0569805

The gardens around the House are the recently restored 18th & 19th century Sunken Garden, The Rose Garden and Lake.

### Our Lady's Island Rosslare, CO. WEXFORD

[www.ladysisland.ie](http://www.ladysisland.ie)

Highlights include an ancient monastery dedicated to Our Lady, the ruins of the Augustinian Priory and a Norman tower.

### Saint Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, CO. WEXFORD

[www.staidancathedral.ie](http://www.staidancathedral.ie), Tel: 053 9235777

Designed by the English Architect, AW Pugin, the cathedral was restored to its original Pugin splendour in 1994.

### Selskar Abbey, West Gate, WEXFORD

Selskar Abbey is a 12th-century structure that replaced a pre-Christian temple dedicated to Odin.

### St.Iberius Church, Main St. WEXFORD

One of Wexfords oldest treasures. It is named after St. Ibar, the first known Christian Missionary in the Wexford area.

### Tacumshane Windmill Tacumshane Broadway, CO. WEXFORD

Tel: 053 913 1700.

Built in 1846, the mill was used until 1936 and was renovated in the 1960s. Key available from The Millhouse Bar & Restaurant.

### The Bay Garden, Camolin, Enniscorthy, CO. WEXFORD

[www.thebaygarden.com](http://www.thebaygarden.com), Tel: 053 9383349

This two acre garden surrounding an 18th century farmhouse has been developed over 20 years from a neglected orchard and field creating an array of different garden areas.

### The Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Ardavan Lane, WEXFORD

[www.wexfordwildfowlreserve.ie](http://www.wexfordwildfowlreserve.ie), Tel: 076 1002660

An exhibition centre, and filmshow are here to welcome visitors. The observation tower and hides give views of waterbirds, including the rare Greenland White fronted Geese.

### Wexford Lavender Farm Gorey, CO. WEXFORD

[www.wexfordlavenderfarm.com](http://www.wexfordlavenderfarm.com), Tel: 087 0686774

Ireland's first lavender farm Attractions for all the family, including barrel train ride, café, woodland walks and more.

### Woodville House Gardens, Woodville, New Ross, CO. WEXFORD

Tel: 051 422957 / 087 9709828

A Victorian walled garden, 1.2 acres in size with conservatories, vegetable garden, fruit trees, herbaceous borders and lawn.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

### Kilkenny City Tours By Road Train, KILKENNY

Enquire at Tourist Office for details.

See historical sites of Kilkenny city from the comfort of the road train. Charge applies. Train departs from outside Kilkenny Castle on the hour, daily (during season).

### Kilkenny Road Train Tours KILKENNY

Enquire at Tourist Office for details.

Sit back and relax on our custom built train and let us bring the wonderful and historic sights of Kilkenny to you. Train departs from outside Kilkenny Castle hourly, on the half hour, daily, (during Season).



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

The National Reptile Zoo, Gowran, **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.nationalreptilezoo.ie](http://www.nationalreptilezoo.ie), Tel: 056 7726757

Some of the worlds rarest and most amazing animals! Suitable for all ages. Animal Encounter Zone, Walk-through Tropical Habitat. Soft Play Area, Café, Picnic Area. Over 50 exhibits!

Fairy Fort Farm, Borrisoleigh, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
[www.fairyfortfarm.com](http://www.fairyfortfarm.com), Tel: 086 4021659

A visitor farm with lots of traditional farm animals, kids play area, swearing Stone, picnic area, tree house, stream and waterfall, fairy fort, famine haggard.

## 2 EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Visual Centre for Contemporary Art & George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Old Dublin Road, **CARLOW**  
[www.visualcarlow.ie](http://www.visualcarlow.ie), Tel: 059 9172400

Visual is an architecturally iconic and award-winning arts centre located in the heart of Carlow Town, with a 335-seat theatre and Irelands largest gallery space.

Cleeres Bar & Theatre 28 Parliament st., **KILKENNY**  
[www.cleeres.com](http://www.cleeres.com) Tel: 056 7762573  
Traditional live Irish music venue.

Kytelers Inn, **KILKENNY**  
[www.kytelersinn.com](http://www.kytelersinn.com) Tel. 056 7721064

Kytelers Inn, in the heart of the Mediaeval City of Kilkenny, combines a rich heritage with 21st century amenities and service.

Set Theatre **KILKENNY**  
[www.set.ie](http://www.set.ie), Tel: 056 7765133  
Arts Culture & Entertainment

The Hole in the Wall 17 High Street, **KILKENNY**  
[www.holeinthewall.ie](http://www.holeinthewall.ie), Tel: 087 8075650

The oldest surviving townhouse in Ireland is now restored, the Elizabethan building, its tavern, snug and Archer room are open to visitors.

Watergate Theatre Irishtown **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.watergatetheatre.com](http://www.watergatetheatre.com), Tel: 056 7761674

Theatre & Live Music venue

Honey Fitz Theatre, Lough Gur, **CO. LIMERICK**  
[www.loughgur.com](http://www.loughgur.com) honey-fitz-theatre, Tel: 061 385186/087 2852022

Arts Culture & Entertainment

Nenagh Arts Centre, Nenagh, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
[www.nenagharts.com](http://www.nenagharts.com), Tel: 067 34400

Nenagh Arts Centre hosts a variety of events including music, comedy, theatre and films.

The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
[www.thesourceartscentre.ie](http://www.thesourceartscentre.ie), Tel: 0504 90204.

The Source Arts Centre comprises of a 250 seat Theatre, Visual Art Gallery, Community Studio Space and Café & Bar

Fr. Murphy Centre Boolavogue, Ferns, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 087 2935560/ 053 9366898. [www.boolavogue.info](http://www.boolavogue.info)

Homeplace of Fr. John Murphy of 1798 fame. Farm machinery, Wexford folklore exhibition & Garden of Remembrance. Tea room, craft shop, picnic area and children's playground.

The National Opera House High Street, **WEXFORD**  
Tel: 053 912 2400 [www.nationaloperahouse.ie](http://www.nationaloperahouse.ie)

The National Opera House is Ireland's first custom-built, multi-purpose opera house and home to the world-famous Wexford Festival Opera

Wexford Town Arts Centre Cornmarket, **WEXFORD**  
[www.wexfordartscentre.ie](http://www.wexfordartscentre.ie), Tel: 053 9123764

Provides year - round programme of exhibitions, plays, concerts, film, lectures and workshops.

## ARTS, CRAFT & CULTURE

Castlecomer Estate Yard Arts and Crafts Centre, Castlecomer, **CO KILKENNY**

[www.madeinkilkenny.ie](http://www.madeinkilkenny.ie), Tel: 056 4440876/056 4440007

Visit the Estate Yard, home to some of Ireland's top Artists and Craft Designers.

Cushendale Woollen Mills Graiguenamanagh, **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.cushendale.ie](http://www.cushendale.ie), Tel: 059 9724118

Traditional woollen mills, featuring colourful textiles in natural fibres.

Duiske Glass Gift Shop, High Street, Graiguenamanagh, **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.duiskeglasskilkenny.ie](http://www.duiskeglasskilkenny.ie), Tel: 059 972 4174.

Duiske Glass Gift Shop is regarded as one of Ireland's best loved treasures with a wide selection of traditional and modern gifts

Jerpoint Glass Studio Stoneyford, **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.jerpointglass.com](http://www.jerpointglass.com), Tel: 056 772 4350

Watch as skilled glassblowers turn molten glass into beautiful Jerpoint pieces. Gallery shop.

Kilkenny Crystal Studio Tinnamona, Callan, **CO. KILKENNY**  
[www.kilkennycrystal.com](http://www.kilkennycrystal.com), Tel: 056 7725132. (Shop: Rose Inn Street, Kilkenny, Tel: 056 7721090).

Kilkenny Crystal is Ireland's oldest family owned crystal studio workshop.

Kilkenny Design Centre, The Parade, **KILKENNY**  
[www.kilkennydesign.com](http://www.kilkennydesign.com) Tel: 056 7722118

Opposite Kilkenny Castle, the centre has local and national crafts on display and for sale.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

National Craft Gallery Castle Yard, **KILKENNY**  
www.nationalcraftgallery.ie, Tel: 056 7796147

This gallery, behind Kilkenny Design Centre, runs a year round exhibition

Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Bennettsbridge, **CO. KILKENNY**  
www.nicholasmosse.com, Tel: 056 7727505

This water - powered factory includes a visitors' area, shop, bargain area, café and a small museum.

Rudolf Heltzel 10 Patrick Street, **KILKENNY**  
www.rudolfheltzel.com, Tel: 056 7721497

German by birth Rudolf Heltzel has lived and worked in Kilkenny since 1966. At his studio, he crafts exceptional contemporary jewellery in gold, platinum and silver.

The Blackbird Art Gallery **KILKENNY**  
www.theblackbirdgallery.ie. Tel: 087 7843015

Contemporary commercial art gallery.

The Butler Gallery, Kilkenny Castle, **KILKENNY**  
www.butlergallery.com, Tel: 056 7761106

Contemporary art gallery. Open daily, all year, free admission. See website for more details.

Farney Castle, Holycross, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
Tel: 0504 43281

Tour the Historic House and see Cyril Cullen's designer knitwear and porcelain. A coffee shop is situated in the 15th century Round Tower.

Kilcooley Pottery, Grange, Thurles, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.kilcooleypottery.com, Tel: 056 8834471

Our opening hours are flexible and always better to ring ahead.

Mandy Parslow Studio Potter Clonbeg Lodge, Glen of Aherlow, **CO. TIPPERARY**

www.parslowpottery.com, Tel: 062 56011

The showroom is open by appointment only. Please telephone in advance to arrange a suitable time.

Rossa Pottery & Gift Shop, 77 Main St., Cashel, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.facebook.com/Rossa-Pottery, Tel: 062 61388.

Rossa Pottery specialise in thrown ceramics. All pieces 100% handmade.

The Craft Granary, Church Street, Cahir, **CO. TIPPERARY**  
www.craftgranary.ie, Tel: 052 7441473

Wonderfully restored 19th century granary. One of the four Regional Craft Centres in Ireland, showcases craft, pottery, etc. and an art gallery.

Ballyelland Pottery, The Old Mill, Castlebridge, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 087 2029730, www.ballyellandpottery.ie

Artisan ceramics, pottery and sculpture in working studio. Located at 200 year old mill.

Blue Egg Gallery, **WEXFORD**  
www.blueegggallery.ie, Tel: 053 9145862

Exhibits and sells contemporary craft work by Irish and International makers.

Craanford Mills, Craanford, Gorey, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 053 9428124/087 9683526

Restored 17th century corn - grinding watermill.

Creations by Annette Whelan Kilmore Quay, **CO. WEXFORD**  
www.creationsbyannetwhelan.com, Tel: 085 7227751

Fused glass artist based at Kilmore Quay, Co Wexford.

Greenacres Art Gallery Selskar, **WEXFORD**  
www.greenacres.ie, Tel: 053 9122975

Exhibitions all year round.

Kiltrea Bridge Pottery, Kiltrea, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 053 923 5107 www.kiltreapottery.com

Kiltrea pottery is light years away from the machine made and mass produced pottery.

Paul Maloney Pottery Ballindinas, Barntown, **CO. WEXFORD**  
www.paulmaloneypottery.com, Tel: 053 9120188

Finely crafted tableware, giftware and oil paintings by Paul at his studio/shop and gallery.

The Collins-Grant Galleries, **WEXFORD**

www.padraiggrant.com.artupstairswexford.com, Tel: Denis 086 2434360/Padraig  
Tel: 087 2866466

Contemporary art, crafts and photography.

The Pigyard Gallery 13 Selskar Street, **WEXFORD**  
www.pigyardgallery.com, Tel: 053 9122019

Located at Spectrum Art & Framing. checkwebsite for events & exhibitions.

The Woodturning Studio Gorey, **CO. WEXFORD**  
Tel: 087 2684488

Award winning Robert O Connor creates beautifully handcrafted gifts in wood for all occasions.

### ACTIVITY

Go with the Flow River Adventures, (Rivers Barrow & Nore), **KILKENNY**  
www.gowiththeflow.ie, Tel: 087 2529700

Canoeing and river adventures, team building.

Kilkenny Activity Centre, Orchard Road, **KILKENNY**  
www.kilkennyactivitycentre.ie, Tel: 086 2611567

Group activities for all ages & types of groups

Kilkenny Cycling Tours, **KILKENNY**  
Tel: 086 8954961

Offers the opportunity to visit historical and cultural sites of Kilkenny City. Extended tours available on request.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Pure Adventure, Graiguenamanagh, **KILKENNY & WATERFORD**  
www.pureadventure.ie, Tel: 087 2265550

Canoe & Kayak Trips and Tours on the Nore & Barrow rivers.

The Kilkenny Way, **KILKENNY**

www.thekilkennyway.com, Tel: 056 7721718 / 086 8171978

An interactive hurling tour and skills experience that engages you in the history of the game.

Ballyhoora Mountain Bike Trails, Ardpatrick, **CO. LIMERICK**

www.visitballyhoora.com. Tel: 063 91300

The trail network is the largest of its kind in Ireland. There are five cross-country loops to choose from, varying in lengths.

Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre, Kilfinane, **CO. LIMERICK**

www.kilfinaneoeoc.com, Tel: 063 91161

Canoeing, surfing, hill-walking, rock climbing, mountain biking, abseiling, indoor climbing wall, team challenges and more

Lazy Dog Clay Bird Shooting, Knocklong, **CO. LIMERICK**

www.lazydogshooting.ie, Tel: 062 53563

All weather clay bird shooting ground

Bike Park Ireland, Fairmount Farm, Ballingarry, Roscrea, **CO. TIPPERARY**

www.bikeparkireland.ie, Tel: 067 21961 / 087 2831454

Gravity fed mountain bike park

Galtee Valley Xtreme Adventure, Burncourt Cahir, **CO. TIPPERARY**

www.galteevalley.com, Tel: 085 1695483

Zorbing, dune buggies, archery, giant jenga, giant futsal, sumo suits

Glen of Aherlow Nature Park, Christ the King Statue Glen of Aherlow, **CO. TIPPERARY**

www.aherlow.com, Tel: 062 56331

The Glen of Aherlow Nature Park is on 50 acres of woodland with ash, oak, scots pine and beech.

Killaloe River Cruises, Ballina, **CO. TIPPERARY**

www.killaloerivercruises.com, Tel: 086 814 0559

Tours on a 12 seater passenger boat

The Ku ee tu, Nenagh, **CO. TIPPERARY**

Tel: 067 24295. www.discoverloughderg.ie

53 seater water bus offering guided tours

Gravity Extreme Adventure, Courtown, **CO. WEXFORD**

www.courtownadventure.ie, Tel: 053 9424849

High ropes adventure centre.

Hooked Kite Surfing, Duncannon, Hook Peninsula, **CO. WEXFORD**

www.hookedkitesurfing.ie, Tel: 087 6755567

Kite surfing school

Kayak Safari, **WEXFORD**

Tel: 087 673 9357

Guides Tours of river Slaney, Kayak Hire

Rosslare Water Sports, Rosslare, **CO. WEXFORD**

www.rosslareholidayresort.com, Tel: 053 9132202

Windsurfing, kayaking, sailing centre

Sheilbaggan Outdoor Education Centre, New Ross, **CO. WEXFORD**

www.sheilbagganoec.com, Tel: 051 389550

Large range of outdoor activities

The Surf Shack, Curracloe, **CO. WEXFORD**

Tel: 087 9154786, www.surfshackireland.com

Surf lessons



Wexford Harbour



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Altamont Gardens Carlow



Dunbrody Abbey

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## SPECIAL INTEREST TRAILS

We have compiled a list of Special Interest Trails for you to explore while journeying through Ireland's Ancient East.

**KILKENNY FOOD AND CRAFT TRAILS** - What better way to get to know a place and people than by sampling their delicious cuisine, fine handcrafts and stunning scenery? trailKilkenny offers a range of exciting activity and themed trails – Food, Craft, Cycling and Walking - designed to inspire you to explore and get to know Kilkenny. The Kilkenny trails brochure provides free maps and information for 9 scenic walks, 3 river walks and 4 cycle routes of varying lengths, to suit a diverse range of fitness levels.

**CARLOW GARDEN TRAIL** - Stroll some of the country's most beautiful and renowned gardens, breathing the deep floral scents, colours and sounds of these lovely green acres, among seasonal blooms and ancient trees. The Carlow Garden Trail currently features 22 different gardening attractions, from great old gardens that have been lovingly restored and maintained throughout the years to smaller gardens which are maturing beautifully with time.

**THE NORMAN WAY HERITAGE TRAIL** - Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the Normans, the conquerors who in the 11th and 12th centuries took Britain and Ireland by storm, besting Kings on both isles to leave indelible marks on our histories, laws, languages and cultures. The Norman Way is a heritage trail that runs along the south coast of County Wexford. Along this Wexford Trail you will discover authentic medieval sites which will help you to understand the Norman way of life.

**THE BUTLER TRAIL** - Venture along the winding River Suir valley, the backdrop to the Butlers 800 year legacy and learn about one of this island's most powerful and pervasive Hiberno-Norman families, uncovering their royal links as well as tales of loyalty, treason and masterful diplomacy amidst uncertain times. Set in the romantic charming towns of Cahir and Carrick-on-Suir and the bustling town centre of Clonmel, these Butler landmarks each have their own story to tell.



For further information on these trails or others in the area and the sights to be seen along the way, be sure to visit the **Tourist Information office** nearest to you.

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## WELCOME TO WESTMEATH, OFFALY, LAOIS, KILDARE AND WICKLOW

Tread in the footsteps of Ireland's greatest heroes and relive their most daring deeds. If you listen to the locals and learn to read the landscape, you may hear whispered tales of human sacrifices and catch glimmers of long dead bonfires, where once kings and druids held court.

Tucked south and east of Dublin this area will take you on a winding way from Westmeath in the ancient Kingdom of Mide, down through the bog-lands and hilltops of Offaly, Ireland's mythological centre, to the scenic lowlands of Kildare and Laois, till you reach Wicklow, 'the Garden of Ireland', on the coast.

Take a journey back in time as you survey the scenery from the top of the Hill of Tara – the 'sanctuary of the Kings', discover the sacred grounds of one of Ireland's finest early Christian sites, trek through Ireland's largest national park or head for Kildare and catch the excitement of a day at the races to enjoy a spectacle that once set the hearts of ancient heroes pounding just that bit faster.

Whatever you do, you can't go wrong by rounding off the evening with a fireside chat amongst friends and locals with something to warm your belly – perhaps a sip of the area's famous whiskeys.

**Stories:** Layers of Life and History, the Sport of Kings, Ancient Ireland, Mystical Waterways, Sacred Ireland

[www.IrelandsAncientEast.com](http://www.IrelandsAncientEast.com)

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Glendalough

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Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly

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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES



Powerscourt House, Co. Wicklow



Athlone Castle

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## LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY

REVEAL POIGNANT LAYERS OF TRAGEDY, TRIUMPH AND TALES OF ENDURANCE

**Transport:** Own Car  
**Route:** Wicklow  
**Highlights:** Russborough House, Powerscourt and Wicklow Gaol



Begin with a tour of the stunning country mansion of Russborough House, admiring refined Palladian architecture and an art collection featuring priceless works by Europe's old masters.

Next head for Powerscourt, one of Ireland's most famous estates, for a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces and statues, as well as the delectable cuisine of the Avoca terrace café. For a taste of something altogether different, continue to Wicklow Gaol for an immersive experience, recounting the fate of rebels, convicts, cruel gaolers and unforgiving hangmen.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Castletown House, Emo Court, Kilruddery House and Donaghmore Workhouse

### HUNGRY FOR LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY?

Donaghmore Famine workhouse, Steam Museum and Lodge Park Walled Gardens and Dunbrody Famine Ship are all worth a visit.

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## IRELAND'S MYSTICAL WATERWAYS

LET GLISTENING WATERS GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE CENTRE OF IRELAND

**Transport:** Own Car  
**Route:** Offaly and Westmeath  
**Highlights:** Birr Castle and Kilbeggan Distillery Experience



First head to Birr Castle for its award-winning gardens, Irish scientific and architectural heritage, as well as the charming surroundings of Birr – a beautiful Georgian heritage town.

To put some fire in your belly and get you in a poetic mood, make the Kilbeggan Distillery Experience your next stop and discover one of the world's oldest breweries, authentic Irish artisan whiskey and take a guided tour of the traditional brewing process.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Athlone Castle, Clonmacnoise, Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, Viking Tours and Lough Borra Discovery Park and Birr Heritage Trail

### HUNGRY FOR MORE MYSTICAL WATERWAYS?

Take the Old Rail Trail, hire a cruiser or take a trip to Ardagh Heritage and creativity Centre, Dunna Si Amenity and Heritage Park, Brian Boru Heritage Centre, Spirit of Killaloe or Lorrha Abbey.



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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES



Birr Castle



National Stud & Gardens

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### ANCIENT IRELAND

**DISCOVER SUN GODS, BOG ROADS AND ANCIENT HIGH KINGS**

**Transport:** Own Car  
**Route:** Westmeath and Offaly  
**Highlights:** Hill of Uisneach, Lough Boora Discovery Park and Clonmacnoise



Cross the threshold into a magical otherworld of ancient gods and goddesses, ring forts, cairns, barrows and holy wells on the Hill of Uisneach in Westmeath. To immerse yourself further into the mysteries of the ancients, visit Lough Boora, Co. Offaly, for its Mesolithic Loop Walk: a trek through a unique Irish wetlands habitat, featuring Mesolithic sites and abundant wildlife, from skylarks to hares and foxes.

To finish it all up swing by Clonmacnoise for a touch with early Irish Christianity and the legacy of its saints. Explore the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches dating back to the 10th and 13th century, two round towers, high crosses and early Christian grave slabs.

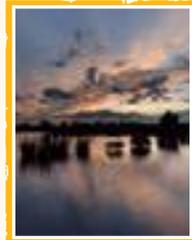
#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Celtic Roots Studio, Corlea Trackway and Fore Abbey

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE ANCIENT IRELAND?

Bru na Boinne, Hill of Tara and Brownshill Dolmen are all worth a visit.

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### THE SPORT OF KINGS

**GALLOP THROUGH THE HEARTLAND OF EQUESTRIAN IRELAND**

**Transport:** Own Car  
**Route:** Kildare  
**Highlights:** Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens, the Curragh and Curragh Military Museum



Admire the horses and the vivid colours of the Japanese gardens at the Irish National Stud in Kildare. Perhaps you'll want to grab some refreshments at the Tea House, before making your way to the Curragh – the mecca of Ireland's thoroughbred horse industry.

If you make it there on its regular race-days or festivals, partake in the excitement as horses plunge neck-to-neck up the home straight, to the delight and dismay of keen punters both here and abroad. To ease the beating of your heart, check out the Curragh Military Museum to learn about everything from native flora and fauna to the social history of the camp and its role for the present day Irish Defence Forces.

#### HAVE MORE TIME?

Take a barge trip, go racing or pop into the Lullymore Heritage and discover park or travel across to Meath to check out the Battle of the Boyne visitor centre.

#### HUNGRY FOR MORE SPORT OF KINGS?

Visit Berney Brothers Saddlery, Tholsel in Fethard. You could also ask at your local tourist office for Horse riding options near you.

## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### ATHLONE CASTLE VISITOR CENTRE



Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 090 6442130 [www.athlonecastle.ie](http://www.athlonecastle.ie)

Athlone Castle was built in 1210 to defend the crossing point of the Shannon. Over the centuries it has evolved into a bold defensive structure that we see today. Visitors will discover Athlone's history through a series of interactive modern exhibitions where the stories of its people, castle and battles are brought to life. Self-guided tour, multi-lingual audio guides, café & shop, dress-up areas, fun games, handling collection, outdoor chess & stunning views of River Shannon.

**Open:** all year round - last admission 1 hr before closing  
See website for opening hours.

**Admission:** Adult €8, Student/Senior €6, Child (U15)€4, Family (2A+2C) €20, Family (2A+4C) €25



### MOATE MUSEUM



Main Street, Moate, Co Westmeath  
Tel: 090 6481428 [www.irishagrimuseum.ie](http://www.irishagrimuseum.ie)

Farm and folk museum housed in a former remand prison. The collections reflect centuries of life in Moate, from domestic rural, farming, traditional boats, the dairy, shops, schooling, religious life, Blacksmith forge as well as the role of the prison cells.

**Open:** By appointment

**Admission:** Free



### TULLYNALLY CASTLE GARDENS



Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 044 9661856/087 9574378  
[www.tullynallycastle.ie](http://www.tullynallycastle.ie)

Explore the beautiful and romantic gardens, with lakes, waterfalls and follies; and meet the new baby Llamas in the walled gardens. Children's play area and discovery trail. Delicious refreshments available in the Castle tearooms.

**Open:** 11am – 5pm, Thursday – Sunday and bank holidays  
Also daily for Heritage week, 19th – 27th August

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Children €3, Families €16



### BELVEDERE HOUSE GARDENS & PARK



Mullingar, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 044 9349060 [www.belvedere-house.ie](http://www.belvedere-house.ie)

160 acre lakeside estate with Georgian villa, Victorian walled garden and 18th Century naturalistic parkland punctuated with numerous melancholic Follies including The Jealous wall, licensed Café & gift shop, fairy garden, 4 outdoor children's play areas and picnic areas.

**Open:** Year Round, Daily, from 09.30 (check web for details)

**Admission:** Adult €8.00, Child €4.00, Senior/Student €6.00, Family (2+2) €23.00

★ **Offer:** 2 for 1 admission (not valid for special events).



### KILBEGGAN DISTILLERY EXPERIENCE



Main Street, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 057 9332134 [www.kilbeggandistillery.com](http://www.kilbeggandistillery.com)

Visit the oldest distillery in Ireland. Dating back to 1757, a visit today lets you discover real artisanal Irish whiskey distilling at its finest. The perfect marriage of past and present makes Kilbeggan Distillery an authentic Irish experience not to be missed.

**Open:** 10.00 – 15.30 (Nov - Mar), 09.00 – 17.30 (Apr - Oct) 7 days per week.

**Admission:** Apprentice Tour: €14, Distillery Tour: €26 See website for more times.



### UISNEACH



Loughnavally, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 087 7189550 [www.uisneach.ie](http://www.uisneach.ie)  
email: [tours@uisneach.ie](mailto:tours@uisneach.ie)

This ancient royal site has long been regarded as The Mythological and Sacred centre of Ireland and the resting place of the Sun-God Lugh & the Earth Goddess Ériu after whom the country was named Éire. It's most famous feature 'The Catstone' was deemed to mark the centre of the country where the five ancient provinces met.

**Open:** Public tours – May – September, Wednesday – Sunday (inclusive) at 1pm  
Closed: Monday and Tuesday

Private & group tours by arrangement

**Suggested donation:** Adult €10 and children free



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### VIKING TOURS IRELAND



7 St Mary's Place, Athlone

Tel: 086 2621136 [www.vikingtoursireland.ie](http://www.vikingtoursireland.ie)

Departs daily from quayside at Athlone Castle and plies the waters of the Shannon to Lough Ree and Clonmacnoise. Live Commentary on board with complimentary tea/coffee.

**Open:** Easter – Halloween, check website for times

**Admission:** Lough Ree: Adult: €12, Child: €6, Family €35 (2 adults & 4 children)

Clonmacnoise: Adult: €18, Child: €9, Family: €55 (2 adults & 4 children)



### BELLFIELD HOUSE & GARDEN



Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 086 6002180 [www.angelajupe.ie](http://www.angelajupe.ie)

Walled garden and woodland around a georgian style farmhouse. The gardens consist of large snowdrops and daffodil collection, tulip, Iris and old roses and an old water feature.

**Opening times:** Easter – 2nd May, 6th May – 20th May

June, July, August & September Wednesday – Saturday or by appointment

**Admission:** Adult €5, Child free



### BIRR CASTLE GARDENS AND SCIENCE CENTRE



Birr Town, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 9120336 [www.birrcastle.com](http://www.birrcastle.com)

Experience 120 acres of tranquil gardens, including a lake, waterfalls and exotic plant and tree collection. Marvel at the world famous telescope, and discover astronomical, engineering and photographic achievements of a remarkable family in the Science Centre. Ireland's largest Tree house with bouncy pillow, climbing frame, sand pits and hobbit hole.

**Open:** Mar – Oct 9:00 – 18:00, Nov – Mar (10:00 – 16:00)

**Admission:** Adult €9 Child €5 Senior/Students €7.50 Family €25 Under 4 Free



### CLARA & MONGAN'S BOG



Access is from the Clonmacnoise to Ballinahown road [R444], park at the Bord na Móna rail underpass.

Clara Bog is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a statutory nature reserve, established in 1987. It covers approximately 460 hectares, and is situated about 2km south-east of Clara town. The Visitor Centre for Clara Bog is co-located at the Library in Clara. Visitors are recommended to stay on the track way provided. As with any outdoor activity, dress appropriately, and be prepared for bad weather.



### CLONMACNOISE MONASTIC SETTLEMENT



Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly

Tel: 090 9674195

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

This 6th century monastery located on the River Shannon, boasts seven churches and two round towers.

**Open:** All year round.

Last Admission 45 min before closing.

**Admission:** Adults €8, Group/Senior €6, Child/ Student €4 Family €20



### LEAP CASTLE



Aghancon, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 086 8690547 [www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Reputed to be the most haunted castle in Ireland, a former bastion of the powerful O'Carroll dynasty. It has a massive tower and walls nine feet thick. Gory murders are said to have taken place there - notably at a window high up in the tower.

**Open:** Mon - Sat by appointment only.



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### LOUGH BOORA DISCOVERY PARK



Boora, near Cloghan, Co. Offaly  
Tel: 057 9340010 [www.loughboora.com](http://www.loughboora.com)

A paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, which until now has been an unshared secret. Bike hire and coffee shop open daily onsite.

- Three off-road Cycle Routes ranging in distance from 6km to 15.8km
- Five off-road Walking Routes ranging in distance from 3.3km to 15,8km
- A dramatic Outdoor Sculpture Park displaying 24 large scale sculptures
- Four Angling lakes suitable for all abilities.
- Fairy Avenue

**Open:** All Year Round.



### SLIEVE BLOOM MOUNTAINS



Kinnitty, Co. Offaly  
Tel: 086 8210056 [www.slievebloom.ie](http://www.slievebloom.ie)

Enjoy day treks, eco and looped walks in an area rich in archaeology, history, tradition and culture. Discover a wonderful variety of landscapes – blanket bogs, forestry paths, mountain streams, waterfalls, and old settlement ruins. Each year there is two walking festivals, A May Bank Holiday Festival and a July Eco Festival. There is also, organised walks every weekend.

**Open:** all year round.



### TULLAMORE D.E.W. HERITAGE CENTRE



Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly  
Tel: 057 9325015  
[www.tullamoredewvisitorcentre.com](http://www.tullamoredewvisitorcentre.com)

The original home of Tullamore D.E.W. Irish Whiskey. An inspiring story told in a beautifully restored 19th Century Bonded Warehouse on the banks of the Grand Canal in the town of Tullamore.

**Open:** Mon – Sat (09.30 - 18.00), Sundays & Bank Holidays (11.30 - 17.00)

**Admission:** Curious Taster's Journey: Adult €14, Senior/Student €11 Families (2 + 3) €30

Whiskey Wise Master Class: €28 time: 14.30

Ultimate Distillery Experience phone directly for details at 057 9325015



### CASTLE DURROW GARDENS



Durrow, Co. Laois  
Tel: 057 8736555 [www.castledurrow.com](http://www.castledurrow.com)

A historic castle hotel with spectacularly restored gardens. Herbaceous borders, a water garden, kitchen garden and orchard. Garden tours available by prior booking.

**Opening:** Wednesday – Sunday, 09.00 – 18.00

**Admission:** Free



### DONAGHMORE MUSEUM & WORKHOUSE



Donaghmore, Rathdowney, Co. Laois  
Tel: 086 8296685

The Museum is a unique attraction and aims to tell the story of the families who lived and died within the famine workhouse walls before, during and after the great famine. The museum uses guided and self-guided tours combined with various exhibits to explain the socio-economic conditions which led to the establishment of this and other workhouses. Visitors to the museum can view an agricultural collection made up of a wide range of artefacts donated by local people, ranging from farm implements, household items and hand tools.

**Open:** All year, Mon - Fri (excluding Public Holidays) 11.00 - 17.00. Sat, Sun and Public Holidays Jun - Sep, 14.00 - 17.00. Group Tours can be catered for by appointment.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Student: €3, Family: €10.



### EMO COURT & GARDENS



Emo, Co. Laois  
Tel: 057 8626573 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Emo Court was designed by the architect James Gandon in 1790 for the Earls of Portarlington and is a magnificent example of this neo-classical style. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland which were first laid out in the 18th century and contain formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks. The house and gardens were taken into state ownership in 1994.

**Open:** House: Easter to September, House by guided tour only: 10.00 - 18.00.

Garden: entry is free of charge. Closing times vary.

Cupcake Café at Emo, contact directly for opening hours Tel: 057 8633964.

**House Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Group: €4, Child/Student: €3, Family: €13.



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### GASH GARDENS

Castletown, Portlaoise, Co. Laois  
Tel: 087 2728337 [www.gashgardens.ie](http://www.gashgardens.ie)

The enchanting oasis is packed with interesting and unusual plants. Vibrant herbaceous borders and established trees and shrubs combine with still and gushing water features to provide a succession of colour and interest through the seasons.

**Opening:** May – September, Monday – Saturday 10.00 – 17.00  
**Admission:** €5 per person. Groups welcome by advance booking



### HEYWOOD GARDENS

Ballinakill, Co. Laois  
Tel: 057 8733563 / 087 6675291  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Completed in 1912, the gardens are composed of four elements consisting of gardens, lakes, woodland and architectural features. Linked by a terrace that ran along the front of the house, which now no longer exists. The formal gardens forms the centre-piece of the property and were designed by the famous architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869 - 1944). In the sunken garden, circular terraces descend to an elliptical pool, where small statues of turtles gaze inquisitively at the grand fountain. An extensive replanting programme is currently underway.

**Opening:** Oct - Mar: 08.30 - 17.30, Apr and Sept: 08.30 - 19.00, May - Aug: 08.30 - 21.00.  
**Admission:** Free of charge.



### LAOIS HERITAGE TRAIL

Co. Laois  
Tel: 057 866 4000 [www.laois.ie/heritage](http://www.laois.ie/heritage)

Welcome to the heritage of Laois, told through the stories of its people. With our audio trails as your guide, you're about to go on a real-life journey through this mystical place. These trails tell the story of Laois, from the early Christian monks who built monasteries at Aghaboe, to the Norman knights who defended the castle on the Rock of Dunamase.

**Opening times:** vary by site; please check individual site information for details.  
**Admission:** prices vary by site, please check individual site information for details.  
App free to download from the Apple app store and the Google Play Store.



Photo credit: Dominic Reddin

### MOUNTMELICK MUSEUM

Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois  
Tel: 057 8624525  
[www.mountmellickdevelopment.com](http://www.mountmellickdevelopment.com)

Mountmellick Embroidery which came into being in the 1820's is unique as it is the only form of embroidery from the Nineteenth Century that can claim to be entirely Irish in origin and design. The work was carried out on white satin jean using white cotton thread and was used to decorate household products. This collaboration with renowned fashion designer Heidi Higgins has brought the craft into the 21st century.

**Opening:** All year: Mon - Fri, 09.30 - 16.30. Open weekends by request.  
**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child under 16: Free of charge.



### ROCK OF DUNAMASE

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The Rock of Dunamase is an imposing and magnificent example of the remains of a Celtic fortification overlooking the valley of the O'Moores. It has a colourful history boasting ownership by Strongbow in 1170 and becoming the Norman's most important fortification. In the fourteenth century it was burned at least twice by the Irish and later ownership went to the Earl of Thomond. It eventually fell into decay in 1795 leaving spectacular remains. Standing at over 45 metres in height, the ruin dominates the landscape. There is a full audio guide to this site free to download at [abartaudioguides.com/rock-of-dunamase-audio-guide](http://abartaudioguides.com/rock-of-dunamase-audio-guide)

**Open:** All year, daylight hours. Admission: Free of charge.



### STRADBALLY STEAM MUSEUM

Stradbally, Co. Laois  
Tel: 086 3890184 [www.irishsteam.ie](http://www.irishsteam.ie)

The Steam Museum hosts a treasure of steam, fire and farm engines some dating back over sixty years and offers an exciting visit for all the family. The National Steam rally is held on the August Bank Holiday and the Narrow Gauge Railway is open on Bank Holiday Sunday and Mondays throughout the year. Please phone 086 3890184 for opening hours and to make an appointment.

**Open:** Adult: €5, Senior/Student: €3, Child: Free of charge when accompanied by an adult.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### TIMAHOE ROUND TOWER

Timahoe, Co. Laois  
087 6813116 [www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The original church to which this belfry belonged is now replaced by a community run Heritage Centre, a few yards to the south-west corner of which it stands. An extraordinary carved doorway makes this the most elegant round tower in Ireland. Carvings of human heads, with flowing beards and moustaches, decorate the main entrance. Built in the 1100s, Timahoe is a complete tower though now without floors or ladders.

**Opening:** Tuesday – Sunday, 11.00 – 15.00

**Admission:** Free of charge. Please phone before arrival



### ATHY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM

Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 059 8633075  
[www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie](http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie)

The Museum focuses on the history of Athy and the surrounding area and is world renowned for featuring the only permanent exhibition devoted to Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Irish Antarctic explorer which includes unique artefacts, film footage and multi lingual audio guides.

**Open:** All year: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. Saturday & Sunday 12.00 - 16.00

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child: €3, Senior/Student: €3, Family (2+2): €12.  
Group discount available.



### BARGE TRIP/IE - GRAND CANAL CRUISING

Grand Canal Harbour, Sallins, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 087 6465465 [www.bargetrip.ie](http://www.bargetrip.ie)

Cruising for just an hour or two on the Grand Canal, you'll gently travel through 250 years of history: through locks, bridges and aqueduct, through tales of great engineers and merchants plying their trade. Scheduled Cruises from March to October Departures at 10.00, 13.00, 14.15, 15.30, 17.00 and 19.00

**Admission:** Leinster Aqueduct Cruise - Adult €13.50, Child €9  
McCreevy's Lock Cruise – Adult €17, Child €13.50  
Digby Lock Cruise – Adult €24, Child €17



### BURTTOWN HOUSE & GARDEN

Athy, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 057 8624525  
[www.mountmellickdevelopment.com](http://www.mountmellickdevelopment.com)

Burtown House, an early Georgian villa, is surrounded by lush flower, vegetable and woodland gardens with beautiful park and farmland walks. Built by the Quaker, it is one of two houses in Kildare from the 18th Century that is still owned by the original family that built it. It has art galleries, an organic restaurant and The Stable Yard accommodation

**Opening times:** Wednesday – Sunday 11.00 – 17.30, BH Monday 11.00 17.30  
Group rates available on request

**Admission:** Gardens €8, Green Barn Free



### CASTLETOWN HOUSE & PARKLANDS

Celbridge, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 01 6288252 [www.castletownhouse.ie](http://www.castletownhouse.ie)

Castletown is Ireland's largest and most significant 18th century palladian style country house, nestled along the banks of the river Liffey and just 20km from Dublin City Centre. Parking available from: Exit 6, M4, Celbridge West or on the main street.

**House Open:** 12th March - 31st October, Daily 10.00 - 17.00.  
Check website for guided tour times. Parklands; Free admission. Gates open daily from 07.00, refer to website for gate closing times and to view our extensive events programme.

**Admission:** Adult guided tour: €10/ self-guided tour €8, Senior/Group guided tour: €8 self-guided tour: €5, Student/Child (over 5yrs) guided tour: €5, self-guided tour €3.50 Family guided tour: €25 self-guided tour: €15



### IRISH NATIONAL STUDD & GARDENS

Tully, Kildare  
Tel: 045 521617 [www.irishnationalstudd.ie](http://www.irishnationalstudd.ie)

From horses to horticulture the Irish National Stud & Gardens offers you a unique experience that can be enjoyed at your leisure or as part of a guided tour.

**Open:** 1st Feb - Mid Nov, Daily; 09.00 - 18.00  
Last admission 17.00

**Admission:** Adult: €12.50, senior/student: €9.50  
Children u/16: €7, children u/5 Free Family: 2 adults & 4 children u/16 €29.50  
Concessions available.



 **Offer:** 2 for the price of 1 on production of this guide.

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### KILDARE TOWN HERITAGE CENTRE & TOURIST OFFICE

Market House, Market Square, Kildare  
Tel: 045 530672 [www.kildareheritage.com](http://www.kildareheritage.com)

Visitors to the centre can discover the story of one of Ireland's oldest towns and avail of information on the town, county and region. It's an ideal starting point for touring the area. There is a free audio guide on the town entitled: Kildare Town Heritage Trail which can be downloaded directly from our website.

**Open:** Mon - Sat: 09.30 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



### LULLYMORE HERITAGE DISCOVERY PARK



Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045 870238 [www.lullymoreheritagepark.com](http://www.lullymoreheritagepark.com)

Lullymore, a key award winning attraction in Ireland's Ancient East. It is the only attraction in Ireland offering a comprehensive experience of the peatlands and the history and culture of the rural communities that lived there through the ages. The Park, set on over 60 acres of natural beauty, is also a great place for families with both indoor and outdoor play areas.

**Open:** Daily; Easter Sat - Sep 10.00 - 18.00. Group bookings are available all year.

**Admission:** Adult: €9, Senior: €8, Family (2+2): €30 (Additional Child: €7.50).



### THE NEWBRIDGE SILVERWARE VISITOR CENTRE



Cutlery Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045 431301 [www.newbridgesilverware.com](http://www.newbridgesilverware.com)

Home to the Museum of Style Icons, one of the world's largest collections of fashion and cinema memorabilia and Ireland's fifth most visited free tourist attraction, the Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre has something for everyone.

**Open:** Daily; Mon - Sat 9.00 - 18.00, \* Sun & Pub Hol 10.00 - 18.00\*

\*Restaurant closes at 17.00.

**Admission:** Free parking and free entry to all areas including the Museum of Style Icons.



### ST. BRIGID'S CATHEDRAL & ROUND TOWER



Market Square, Kildare  
Tel: 045 521229

St. Brigid's Cathedral is a beautifully restored Norman Cathedral built on the original site of St. Brigid's Monastic Settlement which dates back to the fifth century. The site includes Ireland's highest accessible Round Tower.

**Open:** May - Sep, Mon - Sat 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. Sun 14.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Cathedral: €2, Round Tower: €4



### THE CURRAGH



Co. Kildare  
[www.curragh.info](http://www.curragh.info)

This is a vast plain that has been a horse-racing venue from the earliest times. It is the headquarters of Irish racing today, and here the Irish Derby and other classic races are decided. For nearly a century the Curragh camp has been an important military station and training centre and this is reflected in the military museum at the barracks.



### AVONDALE HOUSE & FOREST PARK



Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow  
Tel: 0404 46111 [www.coilteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coilteoutdoors.ie)

Birthplace and home of Charles Stewart Parnell, the Uncrowned King of Ireland (1846-1891) is set in a magnificent 500 acre Forest Park. This historic Georgian House was built in 1777 and contains fine original plasterwork and furniture.

**Open:** June - August;  
See website for opening times.

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Concession: €6.50, Child: €4.50, Family (2+2): €20, Child U5: Free of charge.



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Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 0404 45352 / 45325 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

This early Christian ecclesiastical settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Set in a glaciated valley with two lakes, the monastic remains include a superb round tower, stone churches and decorated crosses.

**Open:** Daily Mid Oct - Mid Mar; 9:30 - 17:00, Mid Mar - Mid Oct; 9:30 - 18:00.

Last admission 45 mins. before closing.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Group: €4, Student/Child: €3, Family: €13.



### KILLRUDDERY HOUSE & GARDENS

Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 2863405 [www.killruddery.com](http://www.killruddery.com)

Home to 16 generations of the Brabazon family, Killruddery is a living, working House, garden & farm. Featuring beautiful places for those seeking serenity and spaces where children can run free while parents relax.

**Open:** Apr & Oct; Weekends only 9.30 – 18.00, May – Sep; Daily 9.30 – 18.00.

**Admission:** House (Guided Tour) & Gardens: Adult €14, Concession: €12  
Gardens Only: Adult €7.50, Concession: €6.50, Child under 12: €2 children under 4 are free. (Group rates available.)



### MOUNT USHER GARDENS

Ashford, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 0404 40205 [www.mountushergardens.ie](http://www.mountushergardens.ie)

The garden which covers 22 acres through which the Vartry river runs is home to 4,500 trees and plants from all over the world. For 37 years the garden is maintained organically without the use of herbicides or pesticides.

**Open:** Daily all year (closed 25th & 26th December)

**Admission:** Adults €7.50, Seniors/Students €6.50  
Children 4yrs – 16yrs €3.50, under 4 yrs. free  
Special group rates for 20 or more



### POWERSCOURT HOUSE & GARDENS

Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 2046000 [www.powerscourt.com](http://www.powerscourt.com)

Come and explore Ireland's most beautiful and intriguing estate. Voted No. 3 in the world's top ten gardens by National Geographic, Powerscourt Gardens stretch over 47 acres and offer magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

**Open:** Daily; 9.30 - 17.30. Gardens close at dusk in winter.

**Admission:** Adult: €10.00, Student/Senior: €8.50 Child under 16: €5, Child under 5: Free of charge, Family (2+3): €25.



### RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE AND PARKLAND

Russborough, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 045 865239 [www.russborough.ie](http://www.russborough.ie)

Russborough House has one of the most impressive private art collections which may be viewed by taking a guided tour of the house. Also, included is a restaurant & gift shop. The 18th century walled garden is now available for pre booked tours. The parklands offer a maze, fairy trail, tree trail & playground, car & coach parking.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 - 17.00.

**Offer:** Admission to House and exhibition centre – 2 for the price of 1 on production of this booklet.



### WICKLOW'S HISTORIC GAOL

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

Tel: 0404 61599  
[www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com](http://www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com)

Wicklow's Historic Gaol is one of Ireland's best and most interactive experiences... Here you will be transported back in time and meet face to face with some of the most notorious characters to have walked the floors of this dramatic and historic building.

**Open:** Daily; 10.30 - 16.30. Visit website for details of night tours and evening events.

**Admission:** Adult: €7.90, Child: €5, Student/Senior/Concession: €6.70, Family (2+3): €20. Group Rates available.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Upper Lake, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 0404 45425

[www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie](http://www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie)

The National Park protects 20,000 hectares of upland habitats, animals and plants in the Wicklow Mountains. Visitor facilities are located in Glendalough, including the National Park Information Office, walking trails, toilets and parking.

**Open:** Daily, all hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



Sallins Grand Canal, Co. Kildare



For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see [www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)

## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

Ballitore Library & Quaker Museum, Mary Leadbeater House, Ballitore, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library), Tel: 059 8623344

The Museum is the only museum in Ireland dedicated to the Quaker heritage in the local context. It contains a Quaker costume and folk life collection as well as one room dedicated to the memory of Mary Leadbeater.

Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie), Tel: 045 860133

Enjoy guided tours of peatland exhibitions and wildlife gardens. Discover wetland wildlife through pond dipping or amphibian searches and relax with a complimentary tea or coffee. Check website for opening times

Coolcarrigan House & Gardens, Naas, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.coolcarrigan.ie](http://www.coolcarrigan.ie), Tel: 045 863527

An attractive georgian house built in 1830's occupied by the 6th generation of the same family. The garden is a hidden oasis on the edge of the Bog of Allen, with a fantastic 15 acre full of rare trees. Check website for opening times.

Harristown House, Brannockstown, Kilcullen, **CO. KILDARE**  
Tel: 045 483614/087 2588775

Built in the second half of the 18th century. This House is open to the public for specific days and times. Please contact directly for details. The House sits in parkland setting overlooking the Liffey.



Lough Tay, Co. Wicklow



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### Larchill Gardens, Kilcock, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.larchill.ie](http://www.larchill.ie), Tel: 01 6287354

Larchill is a unique 18th century parkland garden. It is a 'Ferme Ornée' or ornamental farm and is the only surviving garden of its type in Europe. Please contact directly for opening times.

### Leixlip Castle, Main Street, Leixlip, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.kildare.ie](http://www.kildare.ie), Tel: 01 6244430

Adam de Hereford built the castle. Features of the castle include, the front hall, which boasts a 17th century Brussels tapestry, gothic greenhouse, temple seat and the gazebo. Please contact directly for opening hours.

### Mullaghmast, Ballitore, Kildare

This site, a National Monument, includes earthworks, ring forts, barrows and a standing stone. The overall site is dominated by Rath Mor.

### The Curragh Military Museum, The Curragh, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie), Tel: 045 445342

The Museum reflects all aspects of the Curragh; military, civilian, equitation, conservation and archaeology. The Museum is sub divided into three parts. Contact directly for opening times.

### Abbeyleix Heritage House & Museum, Upper Main Street, Abbeyleix, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.abbeyleixheritage.com](http://www.abbeyleixheritage.com), Tel: 057 8731653

It is situated in a 19th century school and houses a museum with exhibits from ancient to more recent times. Abbeyleix Carpet Factory produced some of the world's finest carpets. Contact directly for opening times

### Aghaboe Abbey, Ballacolla, Portlaoise, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.megalithicireland.com/Aghaboe.html](http://www.megalithicireland.com/Aghaboe.html)

Aghaboe Abbey was founded in the sixth century by St. Canice. The doorway in the west wall, through which the public would have entered dates from the middle ages. The abbey grew into a major centre of learning, commerce and agriculture.

### Ballaghmore Castle, Dublin Road, Borris in Ossory, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.castleballaghmore.com](http://www.castleballaghmore.com), Tel: 0505 21453

Ballaghmore Castle was built in 1480. A Sheela-na-Gig carved in stone is on the front facing wall, a pagan fertility symbol to ward off evil. See website for details.

### Fruitlawn Garden, Abbeyleix, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 057 8730146/ 087-2318287

The plants in the garden include many rare and special varieties collected over years from some of Ireland's best gardens. Seasonal Gardening Courses available. Please contact directly for details.

### Killeshin Church, Killeshin, **CO. LAOIS**

The Church, a preserved ruin, is on the site of an old monastery founded by Saint Comgán towards the end of the fifth century.

### Mountmellick Work, St. Martins, Acragar, Mountmellick, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.mountmellickdevelopment.com/museum.htm](http://www.mountmellickdevelopment.com/museum.htm), Tel: 057 8624525

It was founded in the 1820's and is the only form of embroidery from the nineteenth century that can claim to be entirely Irish in origin and design. The work was carried out on white satin jean. Contact directly for opening times.

### Poet's Cottage, Camross, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie), Tel: 057 8735016

This replica thatched famine cottage gives visitors a sense of what daily life must have been like for most in rural Ireland in the 1800s. The cottage is named after Patrick Ryan a poet from Camross. Please contact directly for details.

### The Sensory Gardens, Dove House, Abbeyleix, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 057 8731325

This garden environment is designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of plants and the use of materials that engage one's senses. Contact directly for opening times.

### Timogue Church, Portlaoise, Timahoe, **CO. LAOIS**

Timogue is a rare church dating from about 1736. Nearby are two ring-forts, a ruined mill and the site of a tower house.

### Charleville Castle, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, **CO. OFFALY**

[www.charlevillecastle.com](http://www.charlevillecastle.com), Tel: 057 932 3040

Designed by Architect Francis Johnston, Charleville is said to be the finest gothic revival Castles in the Country. It is currently under conservation. This gem is fun and unique to visit. Check website for opening times

### Cloghan Castle, Lusmagh, Banagher, **CO. OFFALY**

Tel: 057 9151650.

This is one of the few medieval castles which are lived in and offers access to groups by appointment. Bounded by the rivers Shannon and Little Brosna, it was originally a medieval O'Madden Stronghold.

### Clonony Castle, Shannon Harbour, **CO. OFFALY**

Tel: 087 7614034

A Tudor castle built around 1500 by MacCoughlan clan on a limestone outcrop and rising fifty feet in the air surrounded by two bawn walls, lovely gardens and a moat. Viewing by appointment only.

### Croghan Hill, **CO. OFFALY**

[www.offalytourism.com](http://www.offalytourism.com)

Croghan Hill is the remains of an extinct volcano and rises from the Bog of Allen in County Offaly and is only 232 m high. The mound on its summit is thought to be a bronze age burial place.

### Macregol Gospels, Birr Town Library, Wilmer Road, Birr, **CO. OFFALY**

[www.birrhistsoc.com](http://www.birrhistsoc.com), Tel: 057 9124950

A facsimile of the Macregol Gospels is on permanent display free of charge in the magnificently restored Pugin-designed Birr town library.



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### Fore Abbey and its Seven Wonders, Fore, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Explore the fascinating Fore Abbey(630A.D.) where visitors can see St Fechin's church built about 900 A.D and discover the seven wonders - like the water that flows uphill, the tree that won't burn. See the website for more of the seven wonders. Open: All Year.

### Ballard Organic Farm, Kilbeggan, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.ballardorganicfarm.ie](http://www.ballardorganicfarm.ie) Tel: 087 2557679

Ballard Farm is ideally suited to groups requiring a visit to a technical working farm operated by the Lawlor family since 1844. Main enterprises are organic beef production, cereals and forestry. Open for groups by appointment.

### Kildevin House, Streete, Ballykildivan, Mullingar, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie), Tel: 043 6687289.

An impressive Georgian residence surrounded by c.88 acres of parkland. Neolithic artifacts were located on the property in 2002 which currently reside in the National Museum of Ireland. See website for opening times.

### Lough Park House, Castlepollard, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie), Tel: 044 9661226.

Lough Park House is an early 18th century Dower House of the Pollard family; with a pediment Doric doorcase, containing pilasters and good detail in the small porch. Check website for opening times.

### St. John's Church Drumcree, Collinstown, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie), Tel: 044 9666570.

A modest scale church built in subdued Gothic Revival-style. The church retains its original character and much of its original fabric despite conversion to a private dwelling in 2004. Contact directly for opening times.

### Turbotstown House, Coole, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie), Tel: 086 8580478

An early nineteenth-century county house, which retains its early character and form. The design for this fine structure are attributed to the renowned architect Francis Johnston. Contact directly for opening times.

### Altidore Castle, Kilpeddar, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.ihh.ie](http://www.ihh.ie), Tel: 087 7601369

Eighteenth century house now owned by descendants of Thomas Emmet. The mature and informal gardens may be viewed. The estate is managed organically. Prior notice before arriving is appreciated.

### Arklow Maritime Museum, Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.arklowmaritimeheritage.ie](http://www.arklowmaritimeheritage.ie)

The Museum is a treasure trove of shipbuilders models, half models, plans and collection of eight paintings from famous pier head painter, Ruben Chapel. Check website for opening times.

### Baltinglass Abbey, Baltinglass, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)

The Abbey has six beautiful gothic arches on either side of the nave, supported by alternate round and square pillars, which are a noteworthy feature of the ruins.

### Dower House Gardens, Rossanagh, Ashford, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 0404 40168

There is a wild flower meadow for visitors to enjoy also a white garden which is hailed as one of wicklow's most impressive gardens. There is parking and only parts are accessible to wheelchairs. No dogs or picnics allowed.

### Dwyer McAllister Cottage, Derrynamuck, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie), Tel: 0404 45325 / 52

A fine example of a traditional whitewashed thatched cottage built with local stone. Historically linked to the 1798 Rebellion. Contact directly for opening times. Admission is free.

### Hunting Brook Garden, Lamb Hill, Blessington, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.huntingbrook.com](http://www.huntingbrook.com), Tel: 087 2856601

Hidden in the foothills of the Wicklow mountains, a sanctuary from hustle and bustle of the modern world. No dogs allowed. Check website for opening times and admission rates.

### Joyce's House, Martello Tower, Bray, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.jamesjoycetower.com](http://www.jamesjoycetower.com), Tel: 01 2868407

Described as a "Georgian toy fort" was built near the ruins of a medieval castle of the O'Toole family in the slopes of the Wicklow mountains. Contact directly for opening times & admission is free.

### Kilmacurragh Gardens, Kilbride, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.botanicgardens.ie](http://www.botanicgardens.ie), Tel: 0404 48844

The garden was planted during the 19th century. It features a spectacular collection of flowers from early spring. Carparking and entry is free. Dogs are allowed on a lead. Café on site. Check website for opening times.

### Knockanree Garden, Avoca, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.visitwicklow.ie/attractions/knockanree-garden](http://www.visitwicklow.ie/attractions/knockanree-garden), Tel: 0402 35628

A very diverse garden and home to many foreign species which are rare in Ireland. There are some interesting stone structures. Dogs are permitted on a lead. Check website for opening times.

### Parnell National Memorial Park, Rathdrum, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.avondale-house.com](http://www.avondale-house.com) Tel: 0404 46111

An outstanding tourist amenity, with its bronze statue of Parnell, its walks, ponds, free car park and restful seating areas. Well worth a visit!

### Powerscourt Waterfall, Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.powerscourt.com](http://www.powerscourt.com), Tel: 01 2046000

Powerscourt Waterfall is set in one of Ireland's most beautiful parklands at the foothills of the Wicklow mountains. Visit the highest waterfall in Ireland, explore its parkland and discover its wildlife. Check website for opening times.

### Shekina Sculpture Garden, Glenmalur, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.shekinasculpturegarden.com](http://www.shekinasculpturegarden.com), Tel: 086 856 9106

Features in the garden include gazebo, seating area of stone, wood or metal, two bridges, a weather vane and much more. A special Shekina exhibition is taking place over the summer months. It is essential to phone before visit.



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Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood, Powerscourt Estate, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.childhoodmuseum.org](http://www.childhoodmuseum.org), Tel: 01 2748090

Explore the magical miniature world of Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood at Powerscourt Estate. Contact directly for details.

The Black Castle, Castle Street, Wicklow Town, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)

There is a fine vantage point for views over the town and the coast of North Wicklow from the ruins.

The Mottee Stone, Avoca, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie) or [www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Legend suggests that Fionn MacCumhaill hurled the stone from the top of Lugnaquilla Mountain. However, geologists would suggest that it is one of many erratic boulders that were carried in the great ice flows of the ice age.

Victoria's Way Sculpture Garden, Roundwood, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.victoriasway.eu](http://www.victoriasway.eu), Tel: 01 2818505

It covers approximately 22 acres of open county and forest. It contains 33 black granite and 3 bronze sculptures ranging 5ft to 15ft. It takes about an hour to walk around the park. Check website for opening times.

Wicklow Head Lighthouse, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.greatlighthouses.com](http://www.greatlighthouses.com)

Wicklow Head Lighthouse was one of two lighthouses built on the headland in 1781. Its octagonal stone tower has been transformed by Irish Landmark Trust and now houses truly unique and delightful self-catering accommodation.

Wrens wood, Kiltimon, Ashford, **CO. WICKLOW**  
<http://visitwicklow.ie/attraction/wrens-wood-garden/>, Tel: 01 2810274

Over six hectares of mature, secluded nature-friendly woodland garden, with streams and an ancient ring-fort. Check website for opening times.

### FAMILY FRIENDLY

Caragh Open Farm, Caragh, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.caraghopenfarm.com](http://www.caraghopenfarm.com), Tel: 087 6957306

As well as the pet farm there is a scenic walk and lots of playgrounds to ensure your day out is fun. Check website for opening times and details.

Clonfert Pet Farm, Clonfert, Maynooth, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.clonfertpetfarm.com](http://www.clonfertpetfarm.com), Tel: 087 9005131

Animals, Bouncy Castle, go-karts, indoor soft play area, and picnic areas to keep the family entertained. Check website for opening times.

Donadea Forest Park, Donadea, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.donadeaforest.com](http://www.donadeaforest.com)

There are many historical features in Donadea Forest Park including the remains of the castle, walled gardens, church, tower, ice house, boat house and lake. Carpark charge in operation.

Kildare Farm Foods, Open Farm & Shop, Rathmuck, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.kildarefarmfoods.com](http://www.kildarefarmfoods.com), Tel: 045 526774

An Open Farm, Farm Shop, Café, and Farm Express train, on which you can take a trip around the farm. (charge applies). Admission: Free of charge.

Moat Theatre, Naas, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.moattheatre.com](http://www.moattheatre.com), Tel: 045 883030

Theatre with a Visual Arts Space situated in the Main Café/Foyer area. Check website for details.

Steam Museum & Lodge Park Walled Garden, Lodge Park, Straffan, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.steam-museum.ie](http://www.steam-museum.ie), Tel: 01 6288412

Seeing working Stationary Steam Engines and a walk through Lodge Park walled garden make a perfect combination for a day out for all the family. Check website for opening times and more details.

Stonebrook Pet Farm, Coghlanstown West, Ballymore Eustace, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.stonebrookpetfarm.com](http://www.stonebrookpetfarm.com), Tel: 086 2661720

The farm's picturesque setting in the luscious pastures of the river Liffey valley is an ideal spot for a family day out. To make a booking or for more information call Jackie on 086 2661720 or check website

The Kildare Maze, Ballinafagh, Prosperous, Naas, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.thekildaremaze.com](http://www.thekildaremaze.com), Tel: 086 8519296

Leinster's largest hedge maze including wooden maze, zip wire, assault course and crazy golf. A challenging and exciting day out with good old fashioned fun. Check website for details.

Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park, Moate, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
[www.dunnasi.ie](http://www.dunnasi.ie), Tel: 090 6481183

Unique heritage park with 18 individual attractions, native pet farm, rural museum, 'Seal' exhibition. Dance with us on the 'Ceili' floor. Check website for opening times and all other details.

Dún na Sí Genealogical & Heritage Park, Moate, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
[www.dunnasi.ie](http://www.dunnasi.ie), Tel: 090 6481183

Genealogy service all year round. They are affiliated to the Irish family history foundation and carry out ancestral research helping you to trace your family roots in the midlands.

Lilliput Adventure Centre, Mullingar, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
[www.lilliputadventure.com](http://www.lilliputadventure.com), Tel: 044 9226789

Large range of outdoor water & land based activities by appointment. Courses include canoeing, hill walking, rock climbing or first aid. They run multi-activity programme. Check website for more information

Greenan Maze, Greenan, Rathdrum, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.greenanmaze.com](http://www.greenanmaze.com), Tel: 0404 46000

A great day out for all the family with two mazes, three museums, fairy tree walk, treasure hunts, farm animals, tea-rooms and craft shop, playground, tours and special events. Check website for admission rates.



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National SEA LIFE Centre, Strand Road, Bray, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.visitsealife.com](http://www.visitsealife.com), Tel: 01 2866939

The National SEA LIFE Centre is an amazing aquarium on Bray seafront, where you will come face to face with over 900 fresh water and marine creatures (from starfish to sharks!). Check website for details.

### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Riverbank Arts Centre, Main Street, Newbridge, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.riverbank.ie](http://www.riverbank.ie), Tel: 045 448330

Entertainment, Comedy, Film, Cinema, Theatre, Arts, Workshops, Gigs, Music, Exhibitions, Children's Events all at Riverbank Arts Centre. See website for details.

Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise, **CO. LAOIS**  
[www.dunamais.ie](http://www.dunamais.ie), Tel: 057 8663355

The Dunamais Arts Centre is a purpose built theatre and arts centre with pantomime, theatre, traditional music, workshop & exhibitions. See website for more information.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Oxmantown Mall, Birr, **CO. OFFALY**  
[www.birrtheatre.com](http://www.birrtheatre.com), Tel: 057 9122911

Dance, film and visual art all at Birr Theatre. Check website for programme of events and times

Courthouse Arts Centre, Ballinacor, Tinahely, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.courthousearts.ie](http://www.courthousearts.ie), Tel: 0402 38529

Wicklow's longest established professional arts venue for music, theatre, visual art, film, literature, comedy and dance. See website for details.

Mermaid Arts Centre, Main St, Bray, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.mermaidartscentre.ie](http://www.mermaidartscentre.ie), Tel: 01 2724030

This is a contemporary Arts Centre in Bray. The centre was launched in 2002 and has programmed visual arts, theatre productions, opera, dance, cinema, comedy and music. See website for the programme.

Signal Art's Centre, 1 Albert Ave, Bray, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie), Tel: 01 2762039

There is approximately 25 shows a year in the gallery. Also, it facilitates book launches and charity exhibitions.

### ARTS, CRAFT & CULTURE

Crookstown Craft Village, Ballytore, Athy, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.crookstowncraftvillage.com](http://www.crookstowncraftvillage.com), Tel: 059 8623208

Here, crafts people work side by side in a cluster of colourful, wooden studios and shops. Check website for more information.

Kilcock Art Gallery, Commons East, Kilcock, **CO. KILDARE**  
[www.kilcockartgallery.com](http://www.kilcockartgallery.com), Tel: 086 2578283

Contemporary modern and traditional Irish art showing Irish Artists and art work. Open: Wednesday - Saturday. Contact directly for times.

Abbeyleix Gallery, Market Square, Abbeyleix, **CO. LAOIS**  
[www.laois.ie/department/libraries](http://www.laois.ie/department/libraries), Tel: 057 8730020

Abbeyleix Library building includes a gallery, hosting monthly exhibitions. Please contact directly for more details or check website.

Finn Ceramics, The Flat, Ballinaslee, Durrrow, **CO. LAOIS**  
Tel: 087 9856476

Classes are available to learn how to make hand built ceramics with an award winning artist in a purpose built fully equipped studio. Ring for more details.

Mountmellick Gallery, Moore Street, **CO. LAOIS**  
[www.laois.ie/departments/arts/](http://www.laois.ie/departments/arts/), Tel: 057 8644572

Mountmellick Library building includes a gallery, hosting different exhibitions each month showcasing the work of local, national and international artists.

Tin Jug Studio, Brendan Street, Birr, **CO. OFFALY**  
[www.tinjugstudio.com](http://www.tinjugstudio.com), Tel: 057 9121818

The Studio offers art classes for adults and children, art/craft workshop and art exhibitions. The studio can be rented for short stays. Check website for details.

Celtic Roots Studio, Craft Village, Ballinahown, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
[www.celticroots.ie](http://www.celticroots.ie), Tel: 090 6430404

It combines a workshop and gallery space with an interpretative centre and display of historic artefacts made from bogwood. Check website for opening times.

Genesis Gift Gallery, the Downs, Dublin Rd, Mullingar, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.genesisireland.com](http://www.genesisireland.com), Tel: 044 9344948

Genesis has a unique product offering ranges from elegant figurative sculptures to contemporary textiles, glass, jewellery, iron works, clocks and ceramics. Please phone for opening times.

Luan Gallery, Grace Road, Athlone, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
[www.athloneartsandtourism.ie](http://www.athloneartsandtourism.ie), Tel: 090 6442154

Since 2012, it has showcased both national and international visual art projects ensuring a varied and engaging art programme is delivered. Contact directly for opening times.

Rockfield Ecological Estate, Rathowen, Mullingar, **CO. WESTMEATH**  
Tel: 086 2487447

Rockfield Ecological Estate house records date back to 1795. It is a classical georgian house with delicate and ornate plasterwork offering traditional character and charm. Contact directly for opening times.

Avoca Painting School & Gallery, Knockanode, Avoca, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.avocagallery.com](http://www.avocagallery.com), Tel: 0402 35555

Receive professional tuition in acrylic and oil painting and drawing from artist Rod Coyne. It also, provides workshops, demonstrations and painting vacations. Check website for details.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Cherrylane Fine Arts Gallery, Killincarrig, Delgany, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.cherrylaneartservices.com](http://www.cherrylaneartservices.com), Tel: 01 2875565

The gallery is a unique manufacturing setup operating from a building which is 400 years old. They specialise in picture framing, wedding gifts, giclee printing and canvas printing. Check website for details.

Geoffrey Healy Pottery, Kilmacanogue, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.healy-pottery.com](http://www.healy-pottery.com), Tel: 01 2829270

Award winning potter Geoffrey makes hand-thrown ceramic pieces in his workshop and studio. Pottery workshops are held monthly. He makes gift items, lamp bases, tableware range. See website for details.

Jenny Kelly Pottery, Market Square, **CO. WICKLOW TOWN**  
[www.jennykellypottery.ie](http://www.jennykellypottery.ie), Tel: 087 7596747

The studio and shop was opened in 2010 and since then her pieces have become well known in the Irish craft industry. She continues to develop new styles to bring to the industry. She runs 8 week courses. Ring directly for details.

Kilmantin Art Gallery, Bridge St, **CO. WICKLOW TOWN**  
[www.kilmantinarts.com](http://www.kilmantinarts.com), Tel: 087-2426148

The Gallery currently has approximately 40 members which are local artists from County Wicklow and Wexford. They provide a range of different arts and crafts such as paintings, wood craft, pottery, stained glass, jewellery and more.

The Irish School of Landscape Painting, River Run Studios, Ashford, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.irishschooloflandscapepainting.com](http://www.irishschooloflandscapepainting.com), Tel: 0404 42884

The school was founded in 1957 and each summer the school offers courses in some of Ireland's most breathtaking locations. Check website for details.

The Mill at Avoca, Avoca Village, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.avoca.com](http://www.avoca.com), Tel: 0402 35105

Established in 1723, Ireland's oldest working handweaving mill, with free tour and award winning shop & café. Experience the process of weaving a throw from yarn to loom.

### ACTIVITY

Vista Mountain Treks, Kilcock, **CO. KILDARE**

[www.facebook.com/vista.mountain.treks](http://www.facebook.com/vista.mountain.treks), Tel: 01-6519299/086 0581551

Provides guided hikes into Wicklow and Dublin mountains. There is a range of packages available to suit the client. See website for more details.

Fossey Mountain Springs Ranch,, Timahoe, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.fosseymountainranges.com](http://www.fosseymountainranges.com), Tel: 087 2316591 or 057 8627320

Trail riding from one hour up to eight hour, all trails are off road. Also, the Ranch offers lessons. Other activities include archery, roping, horseshoe throwing. See website for details.

Irish Fly Fishing & Game Shooting Museum, Attanagh, Durrow, **CO. LAOIS**

[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 086 3153088

The museum explores 300 years of hunting and fishing in Ireland. Over four thousand exhibits with many rare artefacts. Contact directly before arrival.

Birr Outdoor Education Centre, Birr, **CO. OFFALY**

[www.birroec.ie](http://www.birroec.ie), Tel: 057 9120029

Provides an action packed programme for young adventures. There is accommodation for 40 people with supporting facilities. Contact directly for details.

Grand Canal Adventures, Daingean, **CO. OFFALY**

[www.grandcanaladventures.ie](http://www.grandcanaladventures.ie), Tel: 089 4039240

Cater for all age groups in the following activities: kayaking, aqua zorbing, cycling, row boating and many more. See website for more details.

Shannon Adventure, The Marina, Banagher, **CO. OFFALY**

Tel: 057 9151411

Canoeing & camping holidays on the river shannon, grand canal and river barrow. Tuition available. See website for more details.

Adventure Athlone, Athlone, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.adventureathlone.webs.com](http://www.adventureathlone.webs.com), Tel: 086 2783374

Snorkelling, water skiing, wakeboarding. Lessons available and tailored to suit you. Also, available is hiking treks and helicopter trips. See website for details.

Barracuda Boat Hire, Athlone, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.barracadaboattrips.com](http://www.barracadaboattrips.com), Tel: 087 2301981

Boat trips to Clonmacnoise and Lough Ree, Evening river taxi, full and half day fishing trips, also catering for hens/stags. See website for details.

Bay Sports, Athlone, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.baysports.ie](http://www.baysports.ie), Tel: 090 6494801

Large range of water based sports such as pedal karting, inflatable waterpark, obstacle course, land and water challenges, pedal boats and much more. See website for details.

Lakelands Shooting, Mullingar, **CO. WESTMEATH**

[www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie](http://www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie), Tel: 044 9223127

Clay pigeon shooting. Private and group lessons available. Corporate days can also be arranged. Bookings by appointment only. Check website for details.

Avon Ri Adventure Centre, Blessington, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.avonri.com](http://www.avonri.com), Tel: 045 900670

Water sports & activities such as kayaking, canoeing, sailing, wind surfing, bike hire, pet farm and much more. Check website for details.

Biking.ie, Ballinastoe, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.biking.ie](http://www.biking.ie), Tel: 083 4346992

Mountain Bike & Road Bike Rental, Mountain Bike Trails. There is lessons and guided tours available. Check website for more information.



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## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Brittas Bay Surf School, Brittas Bay, **CO. WICKLOW** (Seasonal)  
[www.brittasbaysurfschool.com](http://www.brittasbaysurfschool.com), Tel: 086 7396010

It's the first dedicated surf school in the East Coast of Ireland. Surfing & Tuition for adults and children. Easter & Summer Camps available. See website for details.

Clissmann Horse Drawn Caravans, Cronybyrne, Rathdrum, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.clissmannhorsecaravans.com](http://www.clissmannhorsecaravans.com), Tel: 0404 46920

Horse Drawn Caravans & Donkey Walking Holidays also, glamping caravans which are perfect for both couples and families looking for an unusual and quirky place to stay. Check website for more information.

Eco Adventure Ireland, Near Enniskerry, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.ecoadventureireland.ie](http://www.ecoadventureireland.ie), Tel: 01 2767988

They offer eco activities, educational programmes and accommodation. There is a large range of activities available. Check website for details.

Kippure Estate, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.adventurewicklow.com](http://www.adventurewicklow.com), Tel: 01 4582889

Large range of Activities such as paintball, clay shooting, mountain navigation, kayaking, hill walking. They cater for kids birthday parties also. See website for times and details.

Rathcon Farm Activities, Grangecon, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.rathcon.com](http://www.rathcon.com), Tel: 086 8292309 / 087 9624805

Activities include air rifle shooting, adventure course, treasure hunt, raft racing and archery. The lake can be booked exclusively for groups. See website for details and rates.

Wicklow Adventure Tours, Hidden Valley, Rathdrum, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.irelandholidaypark.com](http://www.irelandholidaypark.com), Tel: 086 7272872

they offer an extensive range of on-site and off-site activities such as Kayaks, paddle boats, laser tag games, kids outdoor adventure parks, bumper boats and football also accommodation available. See website for information.

Wicklow Boat Charters, 10C Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, **CO. WICKLOW**

[www.wicklowboatcharterers.ie](http://www.wicklowboatcharterers.ie), Tel: 087 6832179

They offer boat charter with a qualified skipper for angling, heritage, scenic and wildlife tours. See website for details.

Wicklow Boat Hire, Unit W1, The Murrough, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.wicklowboathire.ie](http://www.wicklowboathire.ie), Tel: 087 2575196

Tours of Coastline from 2 hours to 8 hours also on offer is kayak/canoe hire from sister company Wicklow Kayaking. See website for information.

Wicklow Kiteboarding, 1 Avondale Court, Ballyguile Beg, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.wicklowkiteboarding.com](http://www.wicklowkiteboarding.com), Tel: 086 8646940

Kiteboarding and kitesurfing lessons available. See website for rates and details.

Wild Rosanna, Rosanna, Ashford, **CO. WICKLOW**  
[www.wildrosanna.com](http://www.wildrosanna.com), Tel: 085-2721568

Exhilarating outdoor adventure pursuits set in spectacular landscape. Activities include archery, assault courses, bubble football, inflatable horse racing, laser tag, orienteering and much more. Contact directly for information.



Emo Court, Co. Laois

## SPECIAL INTEREST TRAILS

We have compiled a list of Special Interest Trails for you to explore while journeying through Ireland's Ancient East.

**LAOIS HERITAGE TRAIL** - Take a scenic spin through this beautiful county's history and culture, exploring fine buildings, ancient religious communities and atmospheric castles. From the refined Neoclassical facade of Emo Court to the dramatic silhouette of the Rock of Dunamase; no matter what your interests are, this trail through the unspoiled landscape of Laois has you covered, with something for history lovers, architecture buffs, sportsmen and admirers of fine hand crafts alike.

**OLD RAIL TRAIL** - Bring your own bikes or hire them at the trail head and follow the old rail track under arched bridges, through a tunnel and past beautiful countryside with lots of entry and exit points along the way, allowing you to hop on and off to explore villages and attractions along the way. Whether you want to go for a leisurely 8km cycle from Athlone to Moate or the ambitious full 40km, you can do the Old Rail Trail your way.



For further information on these trails or others in the area and the sights to be seen along the way, be sure to visit the **Tourist Information office** nearest to you.



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## AREA 4

# WELCOME TO LONGFORD, CAVAN, MONAGHAN, LOUTH AND MEATH

The echoes of the past ring particularly strongly here, giving you the feeling of occupying a space between the ages. It feels as if you look closely enough, you can see right through the mists of history into an epic and mysterious past.

To the north and west of Dublin in particular, ancient sites seem to litter the landscape. This area skirts the border with Northern Ireland and possesses a

diverse geography of peaceful loughs, windswept mountains, flat-topped drumlins, long winding rivers and lake-lands.

Straddling the ancient Kingdoms of the Southern Uí Néill, Breifne, Airgialla and Leinster, every era of Irish history is evident here, from Palladian manors and ruined Gaelic tower-houses to the dim and mystical chambers of ancient Newgrange – an Irish cultural treasure and place of worship predating even the mighty pyramids of Egypt.

Delve the into the mysteries of the past, seek out some of the most sacred sites of Irish kingship and listen raptly to tales of warring giants, eccentric aristocrats and a fair share of ghostly apparitions.

Forest parks and burren walks offer great potential for outdoor escapes, while the many cosy towns you'll find along the way present the perfect place to put your feet up, whether with a pint or a strong cup of tea.

**Stories: High Kings & Heroes, Ireland's Mystical Waterways, Sacred Ireland, Vikings, Layers of Life and History, Castles & Conquests**

[www.IrelandsAncientEast.com](http://www.IrelandsAncientEast.com)



Loughcrew Cairn, Co. Meath



Carlingford, Co. Louth



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# HALF DAY ITINERARIES



## ANCIENT IRELAND



**UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF PASTORAL LANDS LADEN WITH MYTH, MAGIC AND MYSTERY.**

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Meath

**Highlights:** Bru na Boinne, Hill of Slane and Loughcrew Cairns

Witness first-hand the splendour of Bru na Boinne, the UNESCO World Heritage Site home to the enormous

Megalithic passage graves of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth – relics of the ancient worship that predate even the pyramids of Egypt.

Traverse the ages to the arrival of Christianity and the early church at the Hill of Slane, the site of a ruined Franciscan monastery, with links to St. Patrick himself. As fitting for an ancient itinerary, finish your journey at the Loughcrew Cairns, an imposing passage tomb thought to date back to around 3300 BC.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Slane Castle, Carlingford, Loughcrew Megalithic

### HUNGRY FOR MORE ANCIENT IRELAND?

Cavan Burren Geopark, Hill of Uisneach, Lough Gur, Shannon Pot and Kells High Cross are all worth a visit.



## CASTLES AND CONQUESTS



**TIME TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE AGES.**

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Cavan and Carlingford

**Highlights:** Clough Oughter Castle, King John's Castle Carlingford and County Museum Monaghan

Visit Clough Oughter Castle on the scenic shores of Lough Oughter and partake in a guided boat trip (or hire a canoe or kayak) from the Cavan Canoe Centre.

Compare this landmark with King John's Castle on the southern shore of Carlingford Lough, offering views of the Mourne Mountains and similar aquatic diversions.

Top it off with the Monaghan County Museum, a prize winning community museum and the perfect place to gather up insider information on the area, its history and culture through its helpful guides.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

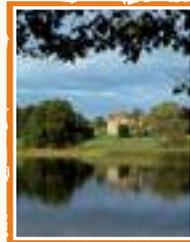
Check out nearby Granard Motte and Bailey or Trim Castle.

### HUNGRY FOR MORE CASTLES & CONQUESTS?

Set off on a medieval walking tour in Carlingford, explore the Kilkenny Medieval Mile or drop into the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, or Slane Castle.



Proleek Dolmen, Co. Louth



## LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY



**EXPLORING PARALLEL TALES OF OBSCENE WEALTH AND UTTER DESTITUTION**

**Transport:** Own Car

**Route:** Louth and Monaghan

**Highlights:** Glaslough Village, Carrickmacross Workhouse and Beaulieu House

Walk the 2 km heritage trail through the quaint and beautiful village of Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, from

Salvator's Church into the Castle Leslie estate, bringing to life the stories of an iconic Irish great house and its relationship with its local community.

Once you've experienced a slice of aristocratic refinement, see what it was like in the poorhouse at the Carrickmacross Workhouse – where the destitute where subjected to harsh treatment and draconian laws imposed by the British ruling class. Unwind at the end of your journey among the beautiful walled gardens and grassy terraces of Beaulieu House, on the banks of the River Boyne, between the town of Drogheda and the Irish Sea.

### HAVE MORE TIME?

Check out nearby Monasterboice, Drogheda Museum, Listoke Gardens, Hilltown Park Gardens, Monaghan Museum and Patrick Kavanagh Centre

### HUNGRY FOR MORE LAYERS OF LIFE AND HISTORY?

Donaghmore Famine Workhouse, Wicklow Gaol, Powerscourt, Dunbrody Famine Ship and Castletown House are all worth a visit.



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## KEY VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

### CORRAVAHAN HOUSE & GARDENS



Drung, Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan  
Tel: 087 9772224 [www.corravahan.com](http://www.corravahan.com)

Corravahan is an 1840's Georgian-style house. Associated with the Beresford and Leslie families until the 1970's, the house retains its original period features and has been carefully repaired and conserved during the past decade.

**Open:** 14.00 – 18.00, check website for opening dates  
**Admission:** Adult: €7, OAP/Student/Children: €5, groups by arrangement



### CAVAN BURREN PARK



Blacklion, Co. Cavan  
[www.cavanburren.ie](http://www.cavanburren.ie)

A mythical, spiritual landscape of monuments, megalithic tombs, hut sites and pre-bog walls from pre-historic times. Stunning views of Cuilcagh Mountains, West Cavan and the greater Global Geopark. New interpretative centre and four new walking trails now open.

**Open:** All year.



### CAVAN COUNTY MUSEUM



Virginia Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan  
Tel: 049 8544070 [www.cavanmuseum.ie](http://www.cavanmuseum.ie)

Here you can relive the chaos of the Easter Rising with a giant replica of the GPO and a walk-through tunnel, mirroring cramped conditions endured by the rebels. Indoors, there is a treasure trove of fascinating artefacts that our ancestors used to hunt, or the mysterious three-faced Corleck Head.

**Open:** June – September, Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00 – 17.00  
Sunday, 14.00 – 17.30

**Admission:** Adult €5, Child/Student €3, senior €3, Family (2 + 2) €12



### CLOUGH OUGHTER CASTLE



Killeshandra, Co. Cavan  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Clough Oughter Castle is part of the Marble Arch Geopark, and is situated beside the picturesque Killykeen Forest Park. The castle itself sits on a Crannog (man-made island) and so is only accessible by boat or canoe. Canoes can be rented from Cavan Canoe Centre who also offer guided day trips to the castle by Canadian Canoe. From land the castle can be viewed from several easily accessible locations. Cavan Canoe Centre: 087 290 5752



### DRUMLANE MONASTIC SITE



Milltown, Co. Cavan  
Tel: 049 9526121 [www.thisiscavan.ie](http://www.thisiscavan.ie)

Drumlane Monastic Site is between Drumlane and Derrybrick Loughs. Remains of a 6th century monastery founded by St. Mogue, which boasts fine stonework and the only surviving 10 metre high round tower in the diocese. Interpretation and parking is available on site.



### KILLINAGH CHURCH



Kiltaglassan, Blacklion, Co. Cavan  
[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)

Killinagh Church is a gothic revival church which was built around 1850 and located on the southern shores of Lough McNeen, three miles from Blacklion. Beyond its cemetery is a remarkable collection of sixteen bullaunstones (stones with man-made hollows).

*Photo credit: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage*



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### KILMORE CATHEDRAL

Cullies, Co. Cavan

Tel: 049 4331404 [www.kilmorediocese.ie](http://www.kilmorediocese.ie)

The cathedral stands on an elevated wooded site adjacent to Lough Oughter six miles west of Cavan town. One of its more interesting features is the 12th century Romanesque doorway built into the outside wall of the vestry. Tel direct for tour: 049 4331404



### MARBLE ARCH CAVES GLOBAL GEOPARK

Cavan/Fermanagh

[www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com](http://www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com)

Recognised by UNESCO, the Geopark boasts some of the finest natural landscapes in Ireland. Ranging from rugged uplands, lakes and forests through drumlins, the landscapes of the Geopark represents history dating back as far as 895 million years ago. Waterfalls, old abbeys, megalithic tombs, walks, trails and stunning show caves are just some of the attractions. Visitors will also enjoy a year round programme of events.



### ODD – OUT-DOORS & DIRT

Brackley Lake, Bawnboy, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

Tel: 049 9523877 [www.odd.ie](http://www.odd.ie)

Extreme outdoor adventure park for ages 10+ including off-road buggies, clay pigeon and hover crafting, archery, paintball, laser clays and team building activities.

**Open:** All Year (subject to pre-booking)

Check website for rates and special offer for large groups available.



### ST. KILIAN'S HERITAGE CENTRE

Mullagh, Co. Cavan

Tel: 046 9242433 [www.stkiliansheritagecentre.ie](http://www.stkiliansheritagecentre.ie)

A unique heritage centre detailing the life and influence of St. Killian - the seventh century Apostle of Franconia in Germany.

**Open:** Oct - Easter, Mon - Fri (10.00 - 17.30).  
Easter-Oct, Tue - Fri (10.00 - 18.00). Mon by arrangement.  
Sat, Sun & Bank Holiday Mon (14.00 - 18.00)

**Admission:** Adult €3, Student, Senior & Group Rate €2.50



### BEAULIEU HOUSE & GARDEN

Drogheda, Co. Louth

Tel: 041 9838557 [www.beaulieuhouse.ie](http://www.beaulieuhouse.ie)

Beaulieu is an ancient estate overlooking the banks of the River Boyne. For over 800 years, it has been home to just two families, the Plunketts and the Tichbournes. This historic home is set in stunning gardens and grounds, built in the late c17th. The guided tour of the house takes 40 minutes to complete. Tours of the four acre walled garden are self-guided.

**Open:** 1st Jun – 10th Sep; Mon - Fri 11.00 - 17.00. Also weekends Jul & Aug. 13.00 - 17.00

**Admission:** Adult: €10, Children under 16 free of charge. Garden only: €5 p.p.  
Groups by appointment only



### CARLINGFORD LOUGH CRUISES

12 Ardfield Avenue, Warrenpoint

Tel: 048 41753425

Email: [loughcruises3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loughcruises3@yahoo.co.uk)

Offering daily cruises on Carlingford Lough from May to September. Also, daily passenger ferry service from Omeara to Warrenpoint. Great group rates available.

**Open:** May – September

One Hour cruises to Ross Monument, Narrow Water Castle and Bay & Harbour

**Admission:** Daily Ferry from Omeara to Warrenpoint Adult €7, Child €5

Private Cruise hire: Adult €12, Child €7

Group rates for more than 10 passengers. Booking required



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### COLLON HOUSE & GARDEN

Ardee Street, Collon, Co. Louth  
Tel: 087 2355645 [www.collonhouse.com](http://www.collonhouse.com)

Built in 1740, Collon House won the An Taisce first prize in 2014 for conservation and restoration. House & Garden tours by appointment. Tea & coffee available. See website for full details. Bus & car parking nearby.

**Open:** by appointment – April – September

**Admission:** House & Garden tour Adult: €15 including tea/coffee & cake



### COUNTY MUSEUM DUNDALK

Carroll Centre, Roden Place,  
Jocelyn Street, Dundalk

Tel: 042 9392999 [www.dundalkmuseum.ie](http://www.dundalkmuseum.ie)

Located in a lovingly restored late 18th century warehouse, the multi-award winning County Museum celebrates the story of County Louth's rich, social, industrial and cultural history. These exhibits include the replica of the fabled Mell flake, a piece of flint made by human hands and transported here in gravel via an ice sheet, it is the earliest artefact to have been found in Ireland. Other exhibits include examples of rock art, as well as gun money and Oliver Cromwell's shaving mirror!

**Open:** All year, Tue - Sat 10.00 - 17.00. (Closed, Sun, Mon & B/H.)

**Admission:** Adult: €2, Child: €1, Family: €5.



### KING JOHN'S CASTLE RUIN

Carlingford, Co. Louth  
[www.irelandinruins.blogspot.ie](http://www.irelandinruins.blogspot.ie)

The castle is located on the southern shores of Carlingford Lough. The lough was named by the Vikings and means 'bay of the hag'. Built by Hugh de Lacy, this dramatic fortress offers stunning views across the lough towards the Mourne Mountains. The interior of the castle is closed to the public due to the masonry being quite brittle. There is ongoing efforts to shore it up so it can eventually be reopened. Rails have been added for safety and the views from this aspect are breathtaking.



### MONASTERBOICE ROUND TOWER AND HIGH CROSSES

Monasterboice, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
Tel: 041 9837070 / 042 9335484  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

In the 5th century, St. Buite founded a monastic community near Drogheda in County Louth and today, it is home to an impressive collection of ruins. On the site, visitors can discover an old graveyard, two churches and a sundial. Monasterboice is most famous for its spectacular high crosses especially the cross of Muineadach.

**Open:** All year during daylight hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



### OLD MELLIFONT ABBEY

Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
Tel: 041 9826459 / 041 9880300  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

The first Cistercian monastery in Ireland founded in 1142 by St. Malachy of Armagh, its most unusual feature is the octagonal Lavabo c. 1200. The Visitor Centre houses an interesting exhibition on the work of masons in the Middle Ages with fine examples of their craft on display. Access to site is by stone stairway.

**Open:** 25th May – 30st August: Daily 10.00 - 18.00.

Please check [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Group: €4, Child/Student: €3, Family: €13.



### PROLEEK DOLMEN

Ballymascanlon, Co. Louth  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The magnificent Proleek Portal Tomb is situated in the grounds of Ballymascanlon Hotel, just outside Dundalk on the legendary Cooley Peninsula. It is one of the finest examples of its kind in Ireland. Portal tombs have two tall stones at the front (portal stones) and a smaller stone at the back supporting a large capstone. Proleek Portal Tomb is about 3m high and has a huge capstone weighing approximately 35 tons. Legend says that a wish will be granted to anyone who can throw a pebble on its capstone so that it stays there. The two front portal stones are 2m high.

**Open:** All year during daylight hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



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### BRÚ NA BÓINNE VISITOR CENTRE

(Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth)  
Donore, Co. Meath  
Tel: 041 9880300 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth, interpretive displays and viewing areas. An audio visual presentation can be viewed in English, Irish, German, Italian or Spanish. All admission to Newgrange and Knowth is through the Visitor Centre, there is no direct access to these monuments. Visitors are brought from the Visitor Centre to the monuments by shuttle bus. Last admission to the Visitor Centre is 45 minutes before closing. Last tour of monuments is 1 hour 45 mins before closing. Please note that this is a very busy site and visitors may experience a delay during the summer months. Check website for Admission rates and opening times.



### HAMWOOD HOUSE & GARDENS

Maynooth Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath  
Tel: 01 8255210 / 086 3722701  
[www.ihh.ie](http://www.ihh.ie)

A fine Georgian house built 1777 and continues to be occupied by the same family. Historic walled gardens, pine walk with amazing 'champion' pine trees and spring Garden. Artists Eva and Letitia Hamilton lived here.

**Opening times:** Friday – Sunday 10.00 – 19.00 1st April – 30th September

**Admission:** Grounds, House & Gardens Adults €10, Children under 12 Free Gardens only Adults €5, Children under 12 Free



### HILL OF SLANE

Trim, Co. Meath  
[www.megalithicireland.com](http://www.megalithicireland.com) or  
[www.visitslane.ie/the-hill-of-slane/](http://www.visitslane.ie/the-hill-of-slane/)

The Hill of Slane is predominantly steeped in Christian history and myth. St Patrick is traditionally believed to have lit the first paschal fire on the hill in defiance of the pagan High King Lóegaire. The king, who resided at Tara, forbid any other fires being lit within view of Tara during the Beltaine Festival (Spring Equinox). Today a large complex of Ecclesiastical Ruins including an impressive early gothic tower can be seen on the hill.

**Open:** All year round



### HILL OF TARA

Navan, Co. Meath  
Tel: 046 9025903 / 041 9880300  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Though best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage tomb was constructed there. Audio Visual is in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese and lasts 20 minutes.

**Open:** Daily: 11th May - 20th September: Times: 10.00 - 18.00.  
Last admission 1 hour before closing.

**Admission:** Adult €5, Senior/Group €4, Child/Student €3, Family €13.



### KELLS HIGH CROSS & ROUND TOWER

Kells Town, Co. Meath  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The Monastery at Kells was re-founded in 804 by monks from St Colmille's Iona. As one of the religious centres of Western Europe in the 8th & 10th century, this holy site not only housed the Book of Kells for centuries but also produced one of Ireland's most important collection of High Crosses, some of them still standing in the shadow of the Round Tower.

**Open:** All Year



### LOUGHCREW CAIRNS CENTRE & TOURIST OFFICE

Corstown, Oldcastle, Co. Meath  
Tel: 049 8541240 [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

The Loughcrew Cairns are a group of Neolithic passage tombs dating to 3000 BC. The tombs are located on three different hills, inside Cairn T, lies some of the most beautiful examples of Neolithic art in Ireland.

**Open:** 25th May – 30th August; Daily, 10.00 - 18.00.  
Please check [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.  
Last admission is 45 minutes before closing.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



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### LOUGHCREW HISTORIC GARDENS

Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Tel: 049 8541356 [www.loughcrew.com](http://www.loughcrew.com)

Birth place of St Oliver Plunkett (church and tower House), Peterre 17th century ruins of an Irish long house. 17th century landscape gardens with many walks.

Adventure course with zip line, witches rope course, Crannog challenge, archery, forest crystal maze and Limetree Coffee Shop.

**Open:** 17th March – 30th September daily, 10.00 – 17.00  
1st October – 17th March: weekends only, 10.00 – 18.00

**Admission:** Adult €6, student/senior €5, child €3, under 6 free



### SLANE CASTLE

Slane Village, Co. Meath

Tel: 041 9820643 [www.slaneastle.ie](http://www.slaneastle.ie)

Situated in the beautiful Boyne valley, Slane Castle has been in the Conyngham family since 1703. Internationally renowned for its open air rock concerts. Slane Castle has played host to an impressive range of guests.

**Open:** 7th May – 31st August; Sunday – Thursday  
Opening times: 11.00-17.00 (last tour leave at 16.20)  
Limited off season tours will be available, please log onto the website for further details.

**Admission:** Adult €12, child/student/senior/group €10 family €40  
Open for Heritage Week 19th – 27th August



### TAYTO PARK

Kilbrew, Ashbourne, Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8351999 [www.taytopark.ie](http://www.taytopark.ie)

Tayto Park is an unforgettable day out for all the family. Explore our fun-filled attractions such as the new Viking themed water flume ride, the Rollercoaster, the Air Race, The 5D Cinema and our much loved Playground, Factory Tour and Zoo.

**Open:** May – June, Daily; 10.00 – 18.00, July – August, Daily; 09.30 - 19.00, Sept - Dec, Weekend only; 10.00 - 17.00

**Admission:** Adult: €15, Under 3: Free of charge, Special Needs Adult/Child & Carer: €12  
Book online for discounts.



### TRIM CASTLE

Trim, Co. Meath

Tel: 046 9438619 / 046 9438964  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Trim Castle, the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, was constructed over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Construction stronghold of the castle was begun c.1176

**Open:** 1st Nov – 10th Feb; Weekends only 9.00 - 15.45  
11th Feb – 16th March; Open Daily 9.30 - 16.30,  
17th March – 30th Sept; daily 10.00 – 17.00, October; daily 9.30 – 16.30  
Refer to [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

**Admission:** Including Tower; Adult: €5, Group/Senior: €4, Child/Student: €3, Family: €13. Castle Excluding the Tower; Adult: €2, Group/Senior: €1, Child/Student: €1, Family: €4.



For more information, call into our Tourist Offices (listed on page 1 of this guide) or see [www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)



Hill of Slane, Co. Meath

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### FURTHER EXPLORATION

**Ballyhugh Arts and Cultural Centre, Ballyhugh, Ballyconnell, CO. CAVAN**  
Tel: 049 9526044

A unique collection of artefacts and local photographs. Old-time dancing Monday and Wednesday nights. Exhibitions, live shows, ceilís, concerts and lectures all year. Check website for details.

**Belturbet Railway Station, Belturbet, CO. CAVAN**  
www.discoverbelturbet.ie, Tel: 087 6894808

Historic cut-stone railway museum and station masters house on the famed narrow gauge railway line.

**Cavan Genealogy, Farnham Building, Farnham St, CO. CAVAN**  
www.cavan.rootsireland.ie, Tel: 049 4361094.

Combine records of genealogy interest, family record research on request, help finding gravestones of relevance to family. Phone for details.

**Moneygashel Cashel, CO. CAVAN** www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com  
Glangevlin - located off the R206 Glangevlin - Blacklion Road is an early Christian fort with circular thick stone wall and two small staircases. Beautiful views. Check website for details.

**The Wesleyan Chapel, Adelaide Row, Bailieborough, CO. CAVAN**  
Tel: 042 9666666.

Arts, Cultural and Tourism Centre. The beautifully restored 1800's Wesleyan Chapel is a dedicated centre of learning and education for performance, visual and literacy.

**Abbey Ruins - Abbeyshrule Abbey (12th Century) & Inch Mór Monastery (6th Century), on Lough Gowna, CO. LONGFORD**  
www.megalithicireland.com

Built in 1150 and funded by the O'Farrell family, this was the first Cistercian site in Longford. The church ruins left on the site dates from the 13th century.

**Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre, Ardagh Village, CO. LONGFORD**  
www.creativeardagh.blogspot.ie, Tel: 086 3027602

Built in 1898, the old school house is now the Heritage Centre. The exhibition contained outlines the various periods of this exquisite village and offers a fascinating insight to its enchanting history.

**Ballinamuck Visitor Centre, Ballinamuck, CO. LONGFORD**  
www.longfordtourism.ie, Tel: 087 2055462

Formerly the historic royal Irish constabulary barracks. Exhibition which details the famous Battle of Ballinamuck which took place in 1798. Viewing by appointment

**Cairn Hill (between Drumlish and Ballinalee), CO. LONGFORD**

There are several written accounts of cairns, dolmens and passage graves on the hill - these structures date back to 2500 B.C. At 278 metres above sea level it is the highest hill in the county.

**Casey's Bogwood Sculptures, Barley Harbour, Newtowncashel, CO. LONGFORD**  
www.bogoak.ie, Tel: 043 33 25297

Father and Son team have spent 60 years producing sculptures in bog oak. There is a display at their studio gift shop. Contact directly for opening times.

**Corlea Trackway Visitors Centre, Kenagh, CO. LONGFORD**  
www.heritageireland.ie, Tel: 043 3322386

The centre displays an Iron Age bog road constructed from oak planks in 148-147BC. The oak road is the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe. Admission is free. Check website for times.

**Crannógs - the Crannóg on Lough Derragh, near Abbeylara, CO. LONGFORD**

Crannógs (manmade islands) in local lakes. Lough Derragh cairn is an oval site 30m in diameter and rising over 2m above the lakebed constructed on layers of timber.

**Dolmens - Aughnaccliffe & Cleenrath dolmens, CO. LONGFORD**

Aughnaccliffe is home to two of four portal tombs in County Longford dated to c3800BC. These Dolmens/portal tombs are thought to be places used for burial, ritual and religious activities.

**Forts - just off the main street in Granard, CO. LONGFORD**

There are 7 ringforts surrounding Aughnaccliff (1161 AD) of which Sonnagh is the best preserved. They are better thought of as protected homesteads rather than military structures.

**Mass Rock - at Aghanoran, CO. LONGFORD**

At Aghanoran, an iron cross marks the site of the mass rock used during penal times. Lady well and mass rock at Derrydarragh, Newtowncashel.

**Moorhill House, Castlenugent, Lisryan, CO. LONGFORD**  
Tel: 047-81952

Built c.1815. It has retained its early form, character and fabric. It was the home of Robert Blackall. Contact directly for opening times and admission.

**Motte, Granard, CO. LONGFORD**

Granard motte stands 534 ft. above sea level and is reputed to be the highest in Ireland offering superb views. It's an impressive reminder of the Anglo-Norman presence in the region.

**St Mel's Cathedral, LONGFORD**

www.longfordparish.com, Presbytery: Tel: 043 3346465

St. Mel's Cathedral was founded in 1840. On Christmas day in 2009, it suffered from an accidental fire. It took 5 years to restore and re-opened in 2014. Admission: Free. Guided tours must be prebooked and not always available.

**Stone Circles - Cloughernal & Cartronbore, Abbeylara, CO. LONGFORD**

Fine examples of stone circles can be found at Abbeylara. They are generally assigned to Bronze Age and are interpreted as ritual or ceremonial sites where druidic worship flourished.

**Barmeath Castle & Gardens, Dunleer, CO. LOUTH**

www.boynevalleygardentrail.com, Tel: 041 6851205

Barmeath is a flamboyant castle set in 10 acres of historic gardens overlooking Dundalk Bay. There is an ornamental lake, walled garden, archery garden and woodland to explore. No dogs allowed.

**Carlingford Heritage Centre, Carlingford, CO. LOUTH**

www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com, Tel: 042 9373454

It has on permanent display the documented history of the town with the first references to the Vikings in the area circa 850 AD. Check website for opening times and admission is free.



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Castle Roche Ruins, Dungooley Rd, Dundalk, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

It is one of the most striking Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland. The legendary ghost appears at the 'Murder Window' to this very day, which strangely enough is bricked up from the inside...

Castletown Motte, Mount Ave, Dundalk, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The De Verdon's built Castletown Motte and Bailey in the late 12th century. The motte comprises a large circular mound which rises to some 20m and is enclosed by a ditch with an external bank.

Cúchulainn's Stone, Rathiddy, Knockbridge, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)

It is an impressive monument standing at over 3m high and 1.3m wide. This stone is traditionally associated with the greatest hero of Irish folklore - Cúchulainn.

Drogheda Museum, Millmount Cultural Centre, Millmount, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.droghedamuseum.ie](http://www.droghedamuseum.ie), Tel: 041 9833097

It includes craft shops and a restaurant. Among the permanent displays are Guild banners, authentic 19th Century Folk Kitchen and industrial rooms. See website for details.

Forest Edge Gardens, 5 Forest Edge, Stameen, Drogheda **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.boynevalleygardentrail.com](http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com), Tel: 087 4164890/041 9841436

A small prize winning garden fronted by a tiered setting leading into a hidden oasis of woodland, tree ferns and ponds. Open by appointment. Visitors must phone prior to arrival.

Kildemock Jumping Church, Millockstown, Ardee, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

According to legend, the west gable of this building jumped almost a meter inside the wall of the original foundation to exclude an excommunicated church member who had been buried in the church.

Killineer House & Gardens, Killineer, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.boynevalleygardentrail.com](http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com), Tel: 041 9838563

The early 19th century garden have formal paths descending from terraces and lawns to a woodland garden with walks surrounding the attractive lake and summerhouse. Check website for details.

Listoke Gardens,, Ballymakenny Rd, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.listoke.com](http://www.listoke.com), Tel: 041 9832265

Stroll through the gardens, browse in the garden shop, take in the lovely art work in the gallery and enjoy refreshments in the Pavillion Tearooms. Also, a Listoke Distillery and Gin school.

Magdalene Tower, Magdalene St, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The Tower is all that now remains of the once important Dominican Friary. It is the belfry tower of the friary which Lucas de Netterville, then Archbishop of Armagh, founded in about 1224.

Saint Brigid's Shrine & Well, Faughart, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The Hill of Faughart is one of the great historical sites of Louth, the archaeology of which indicates an early christian ecclesiastical foundation associated with Saint Brigid, a Norman motte-castle and church ruin.

St. Laurence's Gate, Laurence Street, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

St. Laurence's Gate, is not in fact a gate but a barbican, a fortified structure used to defend the gate, which was behind it. See website for more details.

St. Peter's Church, West St, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie](http://www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie), Tel: 041 9845355

St. Peter's Church in West Street is world famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett. The facade is an imposing structure in Gothic style, built of local limestone.

Athlumney Castle Ruins, Athlumney, Navan, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Near the castle ruins which has a 17th century house attached, are the ruins of a 14th century manorial church, also in the vicinity there is a motte and bailey. Check website for more details.

Bective Abbey, Navan, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

Bective Abbey was founded in 1147. It was one of the country's most important monastic settlements. It was chosen as a location for the 1995 film 'Braveheart'. Open: All year. Admission: Free.

Dardistown Castle, Julianstown, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.dardistowncastle.ie](http://www.dardistowncastle.ie), Tel: 041 9829239

It was built in 1465 by John Cornwalsh with a British Government grant of £10. It was extended in the 16th century by Dame Genet Sarsfield. Contact directly for details.

Donaghmore Round Tower, Navan, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.roundtowers.org/donaghmore](http://www.roundtowers.org/donaghmore)

This well-preserved 10th century site includes the church and a fine round tower which is still in good condition. The cemetery which the site sits is quite small but is beautifully maintained.

Dunmoe Castle, Navan, **CO. MEATH** [www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

The castle was built in the 15th century and was home to the D'arcy family. The castle originally a four turreted structure, is now, through years of ruin, reduced to just two.

Dunsany Castle, Dunshaughlin, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.dunsany.com](http://www.dunsany.com), Tel: 046 9025169

It is the ancestral home of the Lords of Dunsany, heads of the Plunkett family since 1400. The family still live in the castle. Guided tours is by appointment. Check website for details.

Fourknocks Passage Tomb, Ardcath, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie), Please call 01 8354722 for the key holder

The tomb is decorated with abstract art and bears the first depiction of a human face found in prehistoric art in Ireland. Only the main tomb has been excavated and is open to the public.



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Francis Ledwidge Museum, Slane, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.francisledwidge.com](http://www.francisledwidge.com), Tel: 041 9824544

The cottage birthplace of World War I poet, Francis E. Ledwidge. The Museum gives information on the life of the poet. It has original letters, poems and memorabilia on display.

Hill of Ward, Athboy, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.discoverboynevalley.ie](http://www.discoverboynevalley.ie)

The ancient site of Samhain Festival, forerunner of the modern Halloween tradition and site of the annual Spirit of Meath Halloween Festival. Check website for more details.

Irish Military War Museum, Starinagh, Collon, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.imwm.ie](http://www.imwm.ie), Tel: 041 9819501

At the Museum people can hold original de-activated weapons and equipment from both world wars. The museum contains the largest privately owned collections on display in Ireland.

Oldbridge Estate Victorian Garden, Drogheda, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.boynevalleygardentrail.com](http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com), Tel: 041 9809950

A recently restored victorian walled garden, peach house and octagonal sunken garden lie awaiting your discovery. Gardens are free to visit and you can enjoy delicious food in the Tearoom Pavilion.

Sonairte Eco Centre, The Ninch, Laytown, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.sonairte.ie](http://www.sonairte.ie), Tel: 041 9827572

Visit its walled organic garden, Nature Trail, Information Centre, Heritage Trail, Bee Museum and Café. Also, monthly food & crafts markets are run. Check website for details.

St. Columba's Church, Kells, **CO. MEATH** [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

The grounds mark the original site of the Monastery of Kells, the only remaining portion of the mediaeval Church still standing, is the bell tower. See website for more details.

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trim, **CO. MEATH** [www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com)

St. Patrick's Cathedral, which was built in 1803 on an historic site boasts a 15th century stone tower. The church was given cathedral status in 1955. Check website for details.

Tower of Lloyd, The People's Park, Kells, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.archiseek.com](http://www.archiseek.com)

The Tower of Lloyd is over 30 meters high and has a lantern round the top, in the manner of a lighthouse. A ring fort walk and picnic tables are situated around the tower. Check website for times.

Ballybay Wetlands Centre, Derryvalley Farm, Ballybay, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.ballybaywetlands.ie](http://www.ballybaywetlands.ie), Tel: 042 9748022

An impressive multi-purpose venue. Consisting of Education Training opportunities, tourism, outdoor pursuits & cultural events. Admission: Free of charge. (Charge applies to workshops)

Busy Bee Ceramics, Mullan Village, Emy Vale, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.busybeeceramics.ie](http://www.busybeeceramics.ie), Tel: 086 1080738

A working pottery studio with workshops for every age group and abilities in ceramics. Also, run Summer camps, Halloween camp and Easter camps. Please phone prior to arrival.

Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, Market Square, Carrickmacross, **CO. MONAGHAN** Tel: 042 9664176

Home of traditional Irish Carrickmacross Lace. Lace is always associated with wedding dresses, for instances that worn by Princess Diana and Kate Middleton. See website for details.

Monaghan County Museum, 1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan Town, **CO. MONAGHAN** [www.monaghan.ie/museum](http://www.monaghan.ie/museum), Tel: 047 82928

An award winning museum. It boasts a comprehensive collection of artefacts from medieval crannogs, along with the Cross of Clogher from 14th century. Admission: free. Check website for details.

Patrick Kavanagh Rural & Literary Resource Centre, Inniskeen, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
Tel: 042 9378560

The centre houses a permanent exhibition on the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's best loved poets. 60-seat audio-visual theatre and reference library. Check website for details.

Rally School Ireland, Gola, Scotstown, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.rallyschoolireland.ie](http://www.rallyschoolireland.ie), Tel: 047 89098

Rally car driving for men, women, teens and kids 10+. Irelands best high performance driving experience. No licence required. Check website for times and rates.

Sam More Open Farm, Three Mile House, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.easypeazyfamilybreaks.com](http://www.easypeazyfamilybreaks.com), Tel: 047 57397 or 086 2322601

Vintage displays and insights into how life used to be. Stationery engines, vintage cars and a working forge. Open farm. Picnic area, indoor canteen, nature walk and fairy fort.

Wildlife and Heritage Centre, Listinny, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.wildlifeandheritage.com](http://www.wildlifeandheritage.com), Tel: 047 80632

Ireland's largest private collection of mounted specimens of Irish Wildlife including Corncrake, Bittern & Cuckoo. External tour includes live Buzzards and Owls. Must phone prior to arrival.

### FAMILY FRIENDLY

Woodfield Open Farm, Kells, **CO. MEATH**  
Tel: 049 8541270

A large range of farm animals and pets can be found in their natural environment also scenic walks and picnic areas.

Swallow Studios Art & Craft Gallery, Annayalla, Castleblayney, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.lizchristy.com](http://www.lizchristy.com), Tel: 042 9746614

Craft & textile workshop of hand weaver Liz Christy and batik artist Louise Loughman. A weaving demonstraton is provided in the Studio and also a gift shop on site from local craft people.



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### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

An Táin Theatre, Crowe St., Dundalk, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie), Tel: 042 9332332

Many local heroes and international stars have graced the stage of the Town Hall Theatre, now called An Táin, not least of whom was a then little-known singer called Luciano Pavarotti!

Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.droichead.com](http://www.droichead.com), Tel: 041 9833946

Droichead Arts Centre hosts performances, events, exhibitions, parties, offices, studios, meeting rooms and much more. Check website for full listings and details.

The Barbican, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.thebarbican.ie](http://www.thebarbican.ie), Tel: 041 9807416

The Barbican is a multi functional building equipped for entertainment, education and enterprise. It has both a 500 seated auditorium and a 100 seated theatre. Check website for details.

TLT Concert Hall & Theatre, Matthews Lane, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.thetlt.ie](http://www.thetlt.ie), Tel: 041 9878560

The TLT is a 900 seat venue which brings national and international shows to Louth. It stages a variety of performing arts and commercial events. It has wheelchair access and ample free parking.

Solstice Arts Centre, Railway Street, Navan, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.solsticeartscentre.ie](http://www.solsticeartscentre.ie), Tel: 046 9092300

Home to a diverse range of music, theatre, visual arts, cinema and dance from local and international artists and companies. Tourist information is also provided. See website for details.

The Venue Theatre, Main Street, Ratoath, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.venue theatre.ie](http://www.venue theatre.ie), Tel: 01 6895600

The 234 seat theatre presents dance and music, as well as the best of local and national professional and amateur companies. Also, a restaurant, 5 large multi purpose rooms.

The Garage Theatre, Education Campus, Old Armagh Road, **CO. MONAGHAN** [www.garagetheatre.com](http://www.garagetheatre.com), Tel: 047 81597

The Theatre provides a venue for touring theatrical groups who produce a high quality of professional theatre. Check website for events and upcoming shows. Book online.

The Iontas Centre, Castleblayney, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.iontascastleblayney.ie](http://www.iontascastleblayney.ie), Tel: 042 9753400

Built in 2005, offering activities in both theatre and visual gallery. It has an inhouse café and bar. Also, they provide a number of rooms for hire. It's a dynamic multi-disciplined resource centre.

The Market House Venue & Gallery, Market Street, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 047 38162

An 18th century gallery over two floors. It is built of local grey limestone. The carving & stonework are noted for their uncommon delicacy. They have excellent exhibition space and music venue.

Ulster Canal Stores, Cara Street, Clones, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.facebook.com/ulstercanalclones](http://www.facebook.com/ulstercanalclones), Tel: 047 52125

Incorporate Clones lace exhibition and sales, tea-shop and local arts and crafts. Also, free parking, Tourist Information, complimentary WiFi and a venue hire.

### ARTS, CRAFT & CULTURE

Shannon Pot, Blacklion, **CO. CAVAN**  
[www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com/attraction/shannon-port/](http://www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com/attraction/shannon-port/)

As the surface rising of Ireland's longest river, the Shannon Pot's fame can be traced back to the legendary Finn MacCool and the Fianna, the great warriors of Irish mythology.

Bridge Street Studio, 97 Bridge Street, Dundalk, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.bridgestreetstudios.com](http://www.bridgestreetstudios.com), Tel: 042 9351712

The range of work spans the craft and art spectrum including ceramics, painting, textiles and jewellery. It hosts ongoing exhibitions which includes the most recent work of the artists.

Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, Laurence Street, Drogheda, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.highlanes.ie](http://www.highlanes.ie), Tel: 041 9803311

The Gallery is an exciting state-of-the-art facility and aims to be one of Ireland's most important visual art spaces presenting a dynamic and diverse programme of exhibitions. Admission is free.

Slane Craft Collective, 3, Newgrange Mall, Slane, **CO. MEATH**  
Tel: 041 9820008

Come and meet the makers of local craft and design at Slane Craft Collective, located in the village of Slane. A wide selection of pottery, handmade stained glass and wood turning. Visit [www.slaneartcollective.blogspot.ie](http://www.slaneartcollective.blogspot.ie) for details of more Meath Craft Workers., Meath

Hilton Park Victorian Gardens, Clones, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.hiltonpark.ie](http://www.hiltonpark.ie), Tel: 047 56007

Set among 600 acres of heritage woodlands, gardens and lakes. It is famous for its very tall oaks, planted in 1752 to commemorate the marriage of an ancestor Anne Cope. See website for details.

### ACTIVITY

Castle Saunderson, Belturbet, **CO. CAVAN**

Large castellated mansion in a tudor-revival style. The majority of the structure dates from 1840's. The Saundersons owned the castle until 1977 and Scouting Ireland acquired it in 1997.

Cavan Canoeing, Inishmore, Butlersbridge, **CO. CAVAN**  
[www.cavancanoeing.com](http://www.cavancanoeing.com), Tel: 087 2905752

Kayaking, boating and canoeing on spectacular Lough Oughter. Local nature and historical tours, summer camps multi-day packages for individuals or groups. See website for details.



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Ramor Watersports Club, Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia, **CO. CAVAN**  
[www.ramowatersportsclub.com](http://www.ramowatersportsclub.com), Tel: 087 1241674

Founded in 2009 and located at Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia. Sailing lesson are available, contact directly for information. Also, fishing, waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing and swimming.

Rural Adventure, Corgreagh, Kill, Cootehill, **CO. CAVAN**  
[www.ruraladventure.ie](http://www.ruraladventure.ie), Tel: 085 1632985

Catering for all age groups and abilities from extreme sports such as rock climbing. Also, tailored packages are provided with a number of activities to choose from and range from 1 day to 4 days.

Canoe Kayak Hire, Killashee, **CO. LONGFORD**  
Tel: 086 0515898

Boat Rental, all season canoe kayak hire. Please contact directly for details.

Carlingford Adventure Centre, Thosel St, Carlingford, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.carlingfordadventure.com](http://www.carlingfordadventure.com), Tel: 042 9373100

Offers over 20 land and water activities including canoeing, kayaking, water trampolines, pier jumping, rock climbing, abseiling and many more. Check website for more information.

Louth Adventures, Carlingford, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.louthadventures.ie](http://www.louthadventures.ie), Tel: 087 8208985

They offer a range of sea tours from harbour thrill seekers to more relaxed sunset trip. The boats are ideal for family groups, school tours, corporate/work outings. Also water taxi services available.

Sky Park, Carlingford, **CO. LOUTH**  
[www.skypark.ie](http://www.skypark.ie), Tel: 042 9373100

It is Ireland's biggest zip line and sky trekking park. There are 4 courses in Skypark and many challenges like suspension bridge, base jumps, rock climbing and many more.

Boyne Valley Activities, Trim, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.boynevalleyactivities.ie](http://www.boynevalleyactivities.ie), Tel: 086 7342585

Offers a wide range of activities that cater for the young and old. From white water rafting to indoor paintball to medieval river tours and archery. Check website for more details.

Loughcrew Adventure Course, Oldcastle, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.loughcrew.com](http://www.loughcrew.com), Tel: 049 8541356

Activities include a rope course, ten metre climbing and abseiling wall, archery, orienteering and team building. Please phone prior to arrival as events need to be booked in advance.

Rathbeggan Lakes, Dunshaughlin, **CO. MEATH**  
[www.rathbegganlakes.com](http://www.rathbegganlakes.com), Tel: 01 8240197

You can zip across the lake from the High Kings Climbing Tower or fish for a tasty trout. Visit the allotment garden and farm shop or race the paddleboats. Check website for more activities.



Carrickmacross Workhouse, Co. Monaghan

A.W.O.L Paintball Games, Killybrone, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 047 86224

A range of activities are available such as Paintball, Canoeing, Kayaking, Archery, Abseiling, Orienteering, outdoor lazer games and crazy golf. Summer camps and private tuition also available.

Glaslough Village, Glaslough, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.irelandancienteast.com](http://www.irelandancienteast.com), Tel: 047 73718

Starting beside the Famine Monument and finishing at Saint Salavator's Church the trail follows a route of 2 kilometres, open for all to enjoy, around the village and into the Castle Leslie estate.

Irish Country Quads, Carrickakelly, Inishkeen, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.irishcountryquads.com](http://www.irishcountryquads.com), Tel: 042 9378997 / 087 2460742

Guaranteed fun for all ages with quad biking, Archery, shuffleboard, rifle & clay pigeon shooting. Courses are specially designed and feature tunnels, water splash drive and lots more.

Muckno Adventure, Lough Muckno Park Castleblayney, **CO. MONAGHAN**  
[www.mucknoadventure.com](http://www.mucknoadventure.com), Tel: 087 8175520

Canadian canoeing, obstacle course, water park, archery, forest games, orienteering, waterslide, fishing and boat hire. Catering for all groups school tours, private parties, adults & children.



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Glaslough, Co. Monaghan



Cavan Burren Park

## SPECIAL INTEREST TRAILS

We have compiled a list of Special Interest Trails for you to explore while journeying through Ireland's Ancient East.

**GLASLOUGH HERITAGE TRAIL** - Take a walk through charming Glaslough village and learn the history of the Leslie family as well as many stories of times past and present – of rural railways, superstitions and burial practices as well as evocative tales of life 'upstairs' and 'downstairs' in Ireland's great houses. Starting beside the Famine Monument and finishing at Saint Salvator's Church the trail follows a route of 2 kilometres, open for all to enjoy, around the village and into the Castle Leslie estate.

**BOYNE VALLEY GARDEN TRAIL** - Crisscross the historic counties of Meath and Louth, visiting splendid gardens that date back as far as the 17th century and perhaps partake one of the many events hosted there, whether it be a charity fete, an outdoor theatre performance or a simply meditative stroll in good company. The Boyne Valley Garden Trail offers gardening enthusiasts a route map to a stunning variety of historic and contemporary gardens located in the beautiful Boyne Valley.

**CAVAN BURREN TRAILS** - Explore the the Cavan Burren Park and over 5,000 years of history waiting to be discovered. The Burren Trails feature walks suitable for the most casual stroller to the hardest hiker, from bog bridge trails to gravel paths, past some of the finest prehistoric features in Ireland – including unforgettable views of the Geo Park and Marble Arch caves nearby.



For further information on these trails or others in the area and the sights to be seen along the way, be sure to visit the **Tourist Information office** nearest to you.

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Copper Coast, Co. Waterford



Rostellen Dolmen, Cork



Knowth, Co. Meath



Cahir Castle, Co. Tipperary

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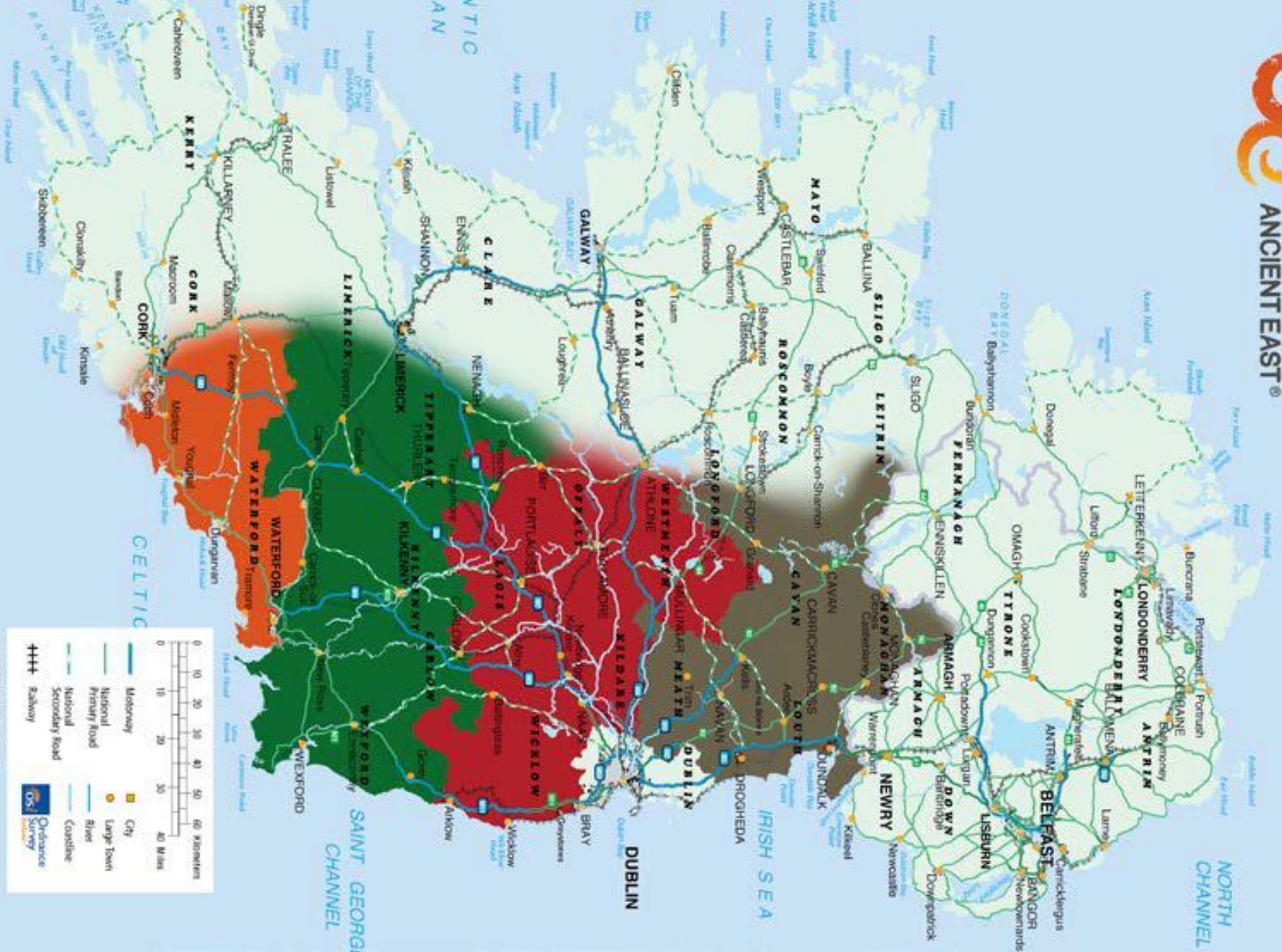
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**PICK UP FREE, MORE DETAILED MAPS IN OUR TOURIST OFFICES!**  
See contents page for details

Distance Survey Method based on RTN  
Distance Survey Method / Government of Ireland

