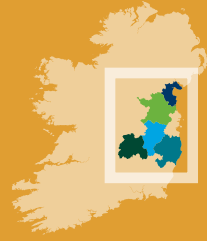


# East On Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide



FREE COPY



THINGS TO DO

PLACES TO SEE

FAMILY FUN

EVENTS & MAPS

AND LOTS MORE...



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority



# GET IN TOUCH!



**Visit one of Fáilte Ireland's official tourist offices, where you will receive free and unbiased advice, information, maps and literature. You can also book accommodation, attractions, events, festivals, tickets and tours.**

## WICKLOW

### Wicklow Tourist Office

Rialto House, Fitzwilliam Square,

Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

T: 0404 69117

E: [wicklow@failteireland.ie](mailto:wicklow@failteireland.ie)

#lovewicklow

## APPLEGREEN MOTORWAY DISCOVER IRELAND INFORMATION UNITS

**M1 Castlebellingham:** Northbound and Southbound

**M1 Lusk:** Northbound and Southbound

**M4 Enfield:** Eastbound and Westbound

For a complete list of all Community Tourist Offices and Visitor Information Points affiliated with Fáilte Ireland, please visit our website below.



**Visit our website:**

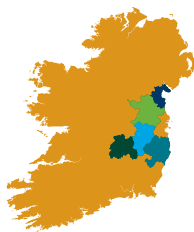
**DISCOVERIRELAND.IE**

**Connect with us:**



# Contents

Get in Touch.....	Inside Cover
Experience Dublin's Doorstep.....	2
Kildare.....	10
Laois.....	22
Louth.....	34
Meath.....	46
Wicklow.....	58
Adventure & Water Sports.....	70
Angling.....	76
Beaches.....	82
Driving Routes.....	86
Equestrian.....	96
Family Fun.....	102
Food and Culinary.....	108
Gardens.....	114
Golf.....	120
Heritage & Culture.....	128
Tracing Ancestry.....	132
Travel Options.....	136
Walking & Cycling.....	138
Festivals & Events.....	148
Regional Map.....	160



**Family Friendly:** This symbol denotes attractions that are suitable for families.



**Wheelchair Friendly:** This symbol denotes attractions that are wheelchair accessible.



**Mobile Phone Tip:** When using a mobile phone from another country (i.e. Non-Irish phone), you need to dial the international prefix for Ireland (+353). For example: to phone 045 530672 (a number in the Kildare area), you need to dial it as +353 45 530672



**Photography:**  
Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland & Cathy Donovan.

## Fáilte Ireland

### Development Team:

Editor: Cathy Donovan.  
Research & Contributors: Travel Advisors, Stephanie Byrne, Selena Clarke, Joanne Day, Conor Phelan & Annette Turner.

### Artwork & Production:

TOTEM, The Brewery, Fairlane,  
Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Ireland.  
T: +353 (0)58 24832  
W: www.totem.ie

**Publishers:** Fáilte Ireland,  
88-95 Amiens Street,  
Dublin 1.

T: 1800 24 24 73.

W: www.failteireland.ie

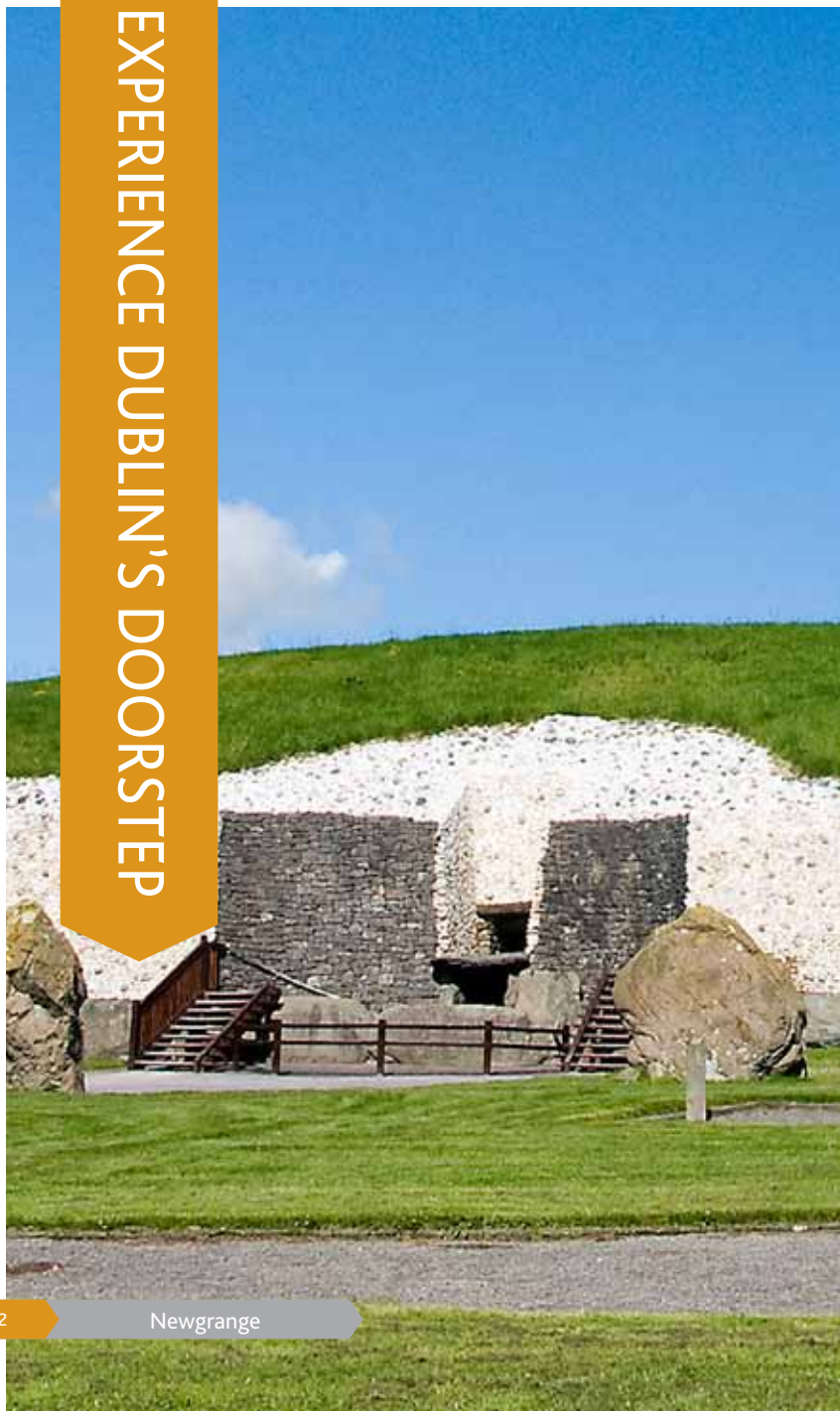


**Fáilte Ireland**

National Tourism Development Authority

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this guidebook 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.

# EXPERIENCE DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP



# Experience Ireland's East on Dublin's Doorstep

The counties of Kildare, Laois, Louth, Meath and Wicklow that surround Ireland's capital city are packed with beautiful heritage sites, welcoming towns and activities for all the family. Fascinating and compelling, this region is at the very centre of Ireland's history and culture.

Dublin's Doorstep is the ideal destination for a holiday break, the region is rich with fascinating culture, history and heritage. From the retreat of St. Kevin in Glendalough to the UNESCO World heritage site at Brú na Boinne, or the monastic site of Monasterboice, in the historic Boyne Valley. Be sure to pick up the free heritage guide for details on the Boyne Valley Driving Tour.

[www.discoverireland.ie/Boynevalley](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Boynevalley)

Stroll around the peaceful gardens at Powerscourt, learn about the horse racing industry at the Irish National Stud, visit the stately home at Emo Court or just relax and enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of Carlingford. Experience the great outdoors, enjoy the fine sandy beaches dotted along the coastline, go golfing, horse riding, horse racing or explore some of the breathtaking walks this region has on offer.

For the ultimate experience, try out the Grand Tour Routes, a choice of classic driving routes in Kildare and Wicklow, that combine raw landscape, cultural treats and charming villages at every turn. Or, why not pamper yourself on a spa break, take a shopping break, or enjoy the thrill of a day at the races? Festivals and events, award winning food, quaint towns and villages; the choice is yours in Dublin's Doorstep. So sweep away those cobwebs and get a breath of fresh air in the region that has it all!



Organic Food Market, Co. Wicklow

# Experience Ireland's East on Dublin's Doorstep

## Experience Food

Let your taste buds experience something different, from cheeses to seafood to prime Irish organic steak, there is something to be experienced that will suit all budgets be it a picnic or fine dining. Savour the aroma and taste of freshly baked brown bread with real Irish butter in the village bakery, enjoy choosing a treat amid the sights, sounds, and hustle and bustle of a **Farmers' Market** or experience the textures and scents during a visit to an organic farm.

Why not create your own masterpiece by learning a new dish to recreate again once you are home? Each cookery school will leave you with a different experience or memory, from the herb gardens at **Ghan House** located in the medieval seaside village of Carlingford, Co. Louth to a cookery class designed for men at **Fairyhouse Food & Wine School**, in Co. Meath... Just remember to pre-book!

Foodies will enjoy a visit to **The Village of Lyons** a restored historic village on the banks of the Grand Canal close to Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Relax and browse through the shops and choose from fine dining or a café experience in beautiful surroundings.

In Wicklow, **The Strawberry Tree** at Brooklodge & Macreddin Village, is the only certified organic restaurant in Ireland, featuring the freshest organic and wild foods, many grown to order on nearby organic farms, or foraged by their chefs and full time food forager, on the lanes and in the fields. **Ballyknocken House**, home to TV Chef and Food Writer, Catherine Fulvio is a centre for culinary learning where you can combine your cookery experience with an outdoor activity!

Savour the local foods made by passionate people who are proud of their local ingredients, and chefs who deliver everything from traditional Irish dishes to some unusual foodie treats. Allow yourself to be guided by your taste buds around Dublin's Doorstep!



Ladies' Day at the Races

## A Thoroughbred Experience

Nowhere better symbolises all that is great about Ireland's equine history, the beating heart of Ireland's thoroughbred industry, than the **National Stud**, one of the stops on Queen Elizabeth's visit to Ireland in 2011. This unique attraction of outstanding natural beauty is home to some of the most magnificent horses and beautiful gardens to be found anywhere in the world. You can learn about Ireland's horse racing industry on a tour of the stud and pay a visit to the adjacent Horse Museum.

Ireland has long been famed for the quality of its thoroughbreds and it's easy to see why. Few things match a day's horse racing for the winning combination of atmosphere and adrenalin rush. Whether you're there to enjoy the ambience, show off your style or make your fortune, this truly is the Sport of Kings. Aside from top quality racing, adults can relax and enjoy the atmosphere of fashion, fine dining and quality entertainment.

Kildare is renowned as the 'Thoroughbred County', with annual festivals and regular meets at the **Curragh**, **Naas** and **Punchestown** that offer horse racing at its best. In Meath, National Hunt and Flat racing are regularly held at **Fairyhouse** (home of the Irish Grand National), **Bellewstown** (for over 300yrs) and **Navan** which is one of the finest possible tests for National Hunt horses.

Also in Meath, Laytown Races occupy a unique position in the Irish and English racing calendar as it is the only race event run on a beach under the rules of the Turf Club. Usually held in early September, **Laytown** is one of the few remaining beach races in the world. 2015 will be the 148th running of the event which was first recorded in 1868. Don't miss a chance to experience something truly extraordinary!



Laytown Beach Races



Trim Castle

## Experience Movie Locations

Take a trip to Bettystown beach in county Meath, where filming for **'Into the West'** took place. Movie Buff's will be in their element with a visit to **Trim Castle** where scenes for **'Braveheart'** were shot, whilst there, why not enjoy a walk beside the River Boyne and enjoy the views, just be careful not to end up in the stocks!

Over the last 85 years, hundreds of films have been made in County Wicklow, known as 'The Garden of Ireland' but now also as the **'Hollywood of Europe'**! The rolling mountains, picturesque villages, and the long sandy beaches are features that are recognisable in many film and television productions. The new historical drama **'The Vikings'** starring Gabriel Byrne and Travis Fimmel, was also shot on location in County Wicklow.

Serious film fans can visit film locations in Kildare & Wicklow for more locations of **'Braveheart, Camelot, King Arthur, The Tudors, Excalibur, and Michael Collins'** to name a few! Think of Killruddery House & Gardens, lately a location for movies like **'Becoming Jane'** and **'The Count of Monte Cristo'**. Fans of **'Ballykissangel'** can visit the actual village which is Avoca.

There are dedicated **'Braveheart, Excalibur and Michael Collins'** film trails for fans to follow and enjoy. Wicklow was also the Irish location for the Hollywood adaptation of Cecilia Ahern's best-selling novel **'P.S. I Love You'**.

Make sure to have a camera at the ready, as the scenery along the route is outstanding. A fun activity for children and 'bigger children' even, would be to act out their favourite scene on location. When you get home, you can share your own movie with friends and see if you need to make the Director's cut!



Hill of Tara





Avondale House, Co. Wicklow

## Experience Great Houses

Stately houses and sweeping country estates are a dramatic and often surprising feature of the Irish landscape... and you'll find the absolute highlights in Kildare & Wicklow.

One being **Killruddery House & Gardens**, Ireland's finest Elizabethan revival mansion or what about the home of Charles Stewart Parnell at **Avondale House**. Four fabulous statements of Irish Palladian-style architecture include **Powerscourt House, Russborough House, Carton House and Castletown House** which are all based on the classical temple architecture of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, an 18th century style whose elegance and symmetry reaches its highpoint on Dublin's Doorstep. Or pay a visit to **Emo Court** in County Laois designed by architect James Gandon in 1790; it is a magnificent example of the new classical style.

All are open to visit (check websites for times and seasons), revealing not just stunning interiors and formal gardens, but several surprises too. Carton House, built for the Earl of Kildare, is today a hotel. Russborough has some amazing artwork... and an absorbing maze. Powerscourt boasts tempting shopping and a terrace café, and Castletown even hosts concerts.

Visit some of the great houses and relive history, enjoy a concert or afternoon tea, or even better, stay for the night!

## Experience Heritage

Get away from it all on a break with a difference in the Boyne Valley, Ireland's ancient capital and its most sacred and mythical landscape. The ancient sites and monuments are among the best examples of their kind in Europe and are all within a short distance of each other. In one day you can visit the great prehistoric tombs at the UNESCO World Heritage Site at **Brú na Boinne** (Newgrange), and also the site of the infamous **Battle of the Boyne**.

You can look out from the **Hill of Tara**, sharing the view with the ancient High Kings of Ireland, or be mesmerised by the detail of the **Celtic Crosses** at Kells. You can stand in awe at the gates of **Trim Castle**, the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Europe, or pay your respects at the shrine of **St. Oliver Plunkett**. The choice is yours, so go and experience the Boyne Valley!



Mount Usher Gardens

## Experience Country Gardens

Wicklow is known as Ireland's Garden County, you'll find formal gardens surrounding stately homes, like those at **Powerscourt Estate**, where cascading terraces and Italianate formations were the work of Daniel Robertson. Robertson, said to have suffered from gout, directed operations from a wheelbarrow, fortified by a bottle of sherry. Rumour has it that when the sherry was finished, work ceased for the day!

The Robinsonian gardens at **Mount Usher** recently voted favourite in Ireland by BBC Gardeners' World magazine, strikes a contrasting note to this elegant estate. Here, you'll find rusty-red Japanese maple, Himalayan magnolia and a dainty Wedding Cake Tree amongst other exotic highlights appearing to grow naturally along the banks of the River Vartry.

Or take the **Irish National Stud** in Kildare. Yes, the primary business here is bloodstock, but there are delicately manicured Japanese Gardens here too, created by the Japanese master horticulturist Tassa Eida. A century old, they are amongst the finest of their kind in Europe. Fittingly, here you'll also find a garden dedicated to **Saint Fiachra**, patron saint of gardeners. Little wonder this experience blossoms!

Isn't it time you took some gardening leave? With 11 historic gardens and 3 garden centres on the Boyne Valley Garden trail to navigate your way around! Also worth a visit is **Heyworth Gardens** in Ballinakill, County Laois. These formal gardens were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and completed in 1912.

Whether you like your gardens walled or wild, there are some gloriously green and verdant gems to explore all over Dublin's Doorstep!

## The Fashionista Experience!

For the fashionista, a rainy day in Kildare will provide the perfect opportunity to feast your eyes on the extensive collection of artefacts and memorabilia of Stars of the Silver Screen and Modern Day Icons in the **Museum of Style Icons** and of course the trove of treasures available at **Newbridge Silverware**, a contemporary shopper's paradise, housing a vast complete range of products and incorporating the award winning Silver Restaurant.

Indulge in some retail therapy at **Whitewater Shopping Centre** in Newbridge, with over 70 amazing tenants showcasing the latest style fashion trends. Or visit **Kildare Village** designer outlet shopping village, featuring year-round



Walking at Glendalough

reductions on a variety of designer labels in the smart boutiques along the charming open-air promenade.

Head to **Ladies Day** at the races for the ultimate Fashionista experience, where if you have a passion for millinery, entering the Best Dressed Lady Competition is a must. The big decision is whether to wear a hat or a fascinator, but whichever you choose, make sure it's outrageous....after all it's only fashion!

## Experience Walking

Situated close to the geographical centre of Ireland and tucked away in the heart of the midlands, the gentle rolling hills of the **Slieve Bloom Mountains** rise, forming a natural link between Counties Laois and Offaly. Exploring the Slieve Blooms on foot is a great way to immerse yourself in this lovely landscape, made up of forests, blanket bog and hidden valleys which will be of interest to lovers of archaeology and nature.

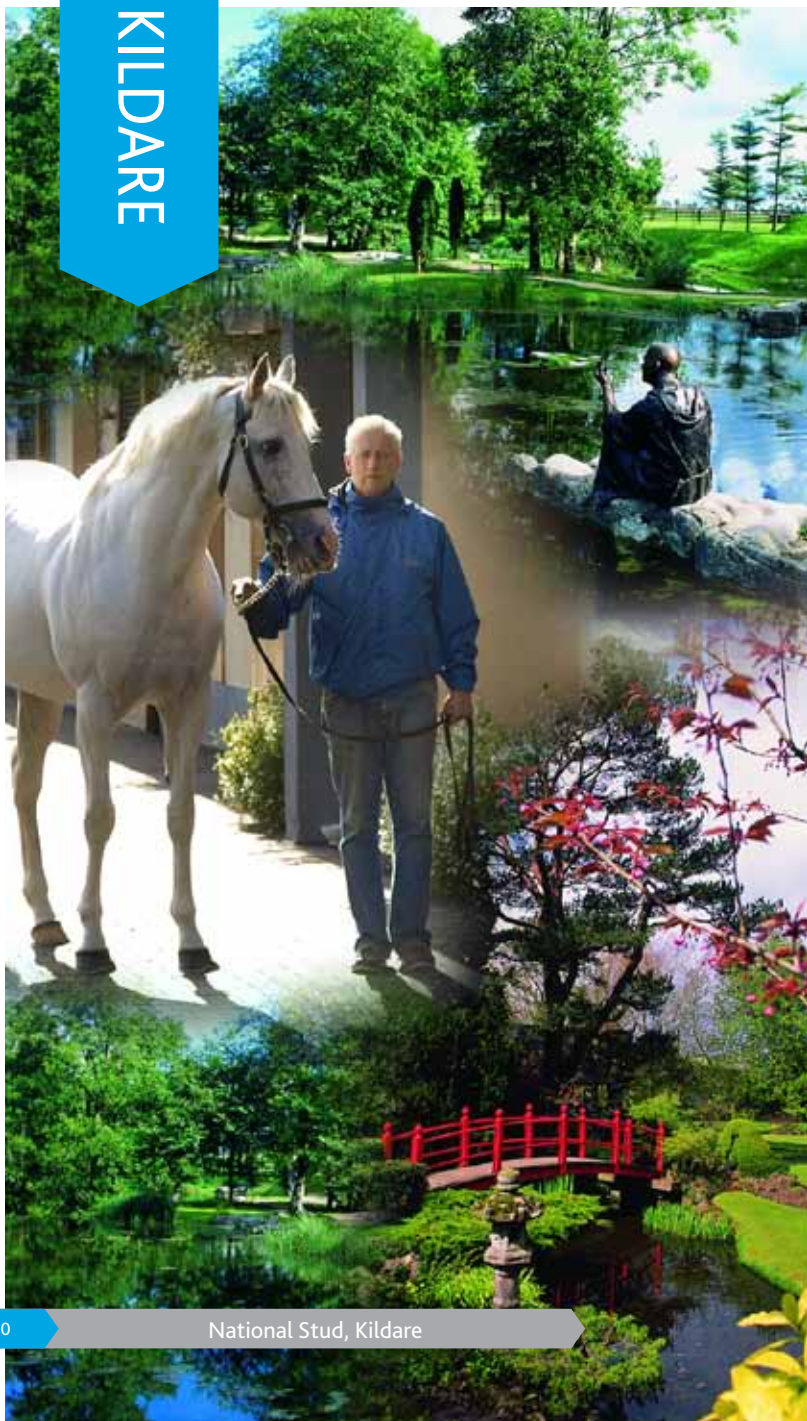
A hill walkers paradise, as the mountains are not so high as to be dangerous, but can still provide a challenge to every grade of walker with a wide choice of looped walks and long distance way-marked walks. For the more adventurous or experienced, the **Cooley Peninsula** or **Wicklow Way** offers fabulous scenery. Or the experienced Rambler can simply take to the hills with a good map and a compass!

Large stretches of the **Inland Waterways** in Kildare have excellent paths for walkers, there are paths along the Grand Canal Main Line, Barrow Line, Naas Branch and part of the Corbally Branch, along the Royal Canal and in the Pollardstown Fen Nature Reserve. The canal towpaths also offer a natural rural walking experience.

The new **Blessington Greenway Walk** links the historic town of Blessington with the Palladian mansion at Russborough House offering splendid views of Blessington Lakes. Choose to walk or cycle and enjoy magnificent scenery, wildlife and natural woodland.

As for accommodation, eateries and pubs which cater to walkers, you'll have plenty to choose from in all of the surrounding areas. So put on those walking boots and take a hike around Dublin's Doorstep!

# KILDARE



# Kildare

Kildare is renowned as the 'Thoroughbred County', with annual festivals and regular meets at the Curragh, Naas and Punchestown that offer horse racing at its best.

The Irish National Stud is testament to the county's strong horse breeding tradition, where you can learn about Ireland's horse racing industry on a tour of the stud and pay a visit to the adjacent Horse Museum. If you fancy a thrill other than an equine one, motor racing at Mondello Park might be the ticket!

For those with more sedate activities in mind, the county offers a range of special interest activities such as golf, fishing, ecology, cruising and walking. This laid-back county is also popular with those interested in fine homes and gardens. Highlights include the magnificent Castletown House and the stunning Japanese Gardens.

If shopping is on your to-do list, then you won't want to miss Kildare Village's fantastic range of designer outlets, you'll be sure to pick up a bargain or two. Choose some Silverware in Newbridge, or get crafty in Crookstown Craft Village where beautiful handmade objects can be bought or just enjoyed!

As for places to stay, Kildare's many heritage towns like Monasterevin, Athy, Kildare and Leixlip which was home to Arthur Guinness's first brewery, welcome visitors and offer history buffs the opportunity to gaze into the county's fascinating past.

## *Did you Know?*

- Kildare is the centre of Ireland's Grand Canal network built in the late 18th century.
- Christy Moore, the folk musician, was born in Newbridge.
- Ballymore Eustace was the film location of 'Hadrian's Wall Fortress' in the 2004 film King Arthur.
- The Curragh Racecourse is the headquarters of flat racing in Ireland.

*For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/kildare](http://www.discoverireland.ie/kildare)*



Athy Castle

## Kildare Towns & Villages

**Athy** (G3) is a designated historic town on the Grand Canal with 3 historic walking trails. The original Market House, in the town centre is now a Heritage Centre which houses a remarkable collection of artefacts and memorabilia of Ernest Shackleton, the legendary explorer.

**Ballitore** (G4) is a charming village which was founded by Quakers in 1685. Visit the 18th century home of writer Mary Leadbeater which now houses a library and a museum of Quaker artefacts and writings.

**Ballymore Eustace** (F3) is an attractive town. In the churchyard of St. John's church are two interesting monolithic granite crosses.

**Castledermot** (G4) is a testament to the artistic work of Irish monks over 1,000 years ago; the old churchyard contains a pair of exceptionally beautiful Celtic crosses and a round tower, close by is the ancient castle of Kilkea.

**The Curragh** (F4) 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.

**Kilcock** (E4) is a picturesque town situated on the banks of the Royal Canal. It is home to the Larchill Arcadian Gardens. The old bog road which is 4.5km west from Kilcock on the N4 road was the subject of poet Teresa Braydon's song 'The Old Bog Road'.

**Kildare** (F3) is an ancient cathedral town, located beside the Curragh Plains and famous Curragh Racecourse. Major attractions include The Irish National Stud & Gardens, which was included in HM Queen Elizabeth's tour, in 2011. The round tower at St. Brigid's Cathedral was built more than a thousand years ago and is one of the few that can still be climbed. On the outskirts of town is the Kildare Village, a designer outlet shopping village.

**Kill** (F4) is a pretty village which has won numerous awards in the prestigious Tidy Towns Competition. Behind the main street is a large earthen enclosure on Kill Hill and a motte, which offers the visitor an impression of the town's ancient past. Kill has been identified as the burial place of the Kings of Leinster. The famous Goff's Bloodstock sales ring, where over half of all Irish bred horses are sold, is located nearby.



Kildare Town Park Credit: Cathy Donovan

**Leixlip** (E5) is located on the banks of the River Liffey. Points of interest are Leixlip Castle, St. Mary's Church (12th century) and an unusual 'barn', a five storey circular building with a winding stone stairway around it; it was built in 1743 to provide work for the poor.

**Maynooth** (E4) boasts a university and a 13th century castle. This castle has an exhibition during summer months in the keep of the castle. The 19th century university building has a bell tower, a spire, and the chapel is particularly interesting. There is a national science museum there which has two specialities: religion and physics, it opens during summer months. Just outside Maynooth is Carton House, built by the Dukes of Leinster, it is now a hotel and golf club..

**Moone** (G4) is a small village famous for its granite High Cross which is one of the finest examples in Ireland. This area was inhabited 6,000 years ago, which makes it one of the oldest inhabited areas in the country.

**Naas** (F4) is at the centre of the sport of kings – horse racing! The Irish for Naas is Nás na Riogh, the Assembly Place of the Kings. Its English form 'Naas' is pronounced so that it rhymes with race, and that is most appropriate because one of Ireland's busiest and best loved race courses is on the very edge of the town. The Kings in the name were the kings of Leinster and an earthen mound in the town is the site of the ancient royal palace.

**Newbridge** (F4) famous for 'Newbridge Silverware' has a visitor centre and museum of style icons, which has exhibited items belonging to the Beatles, Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Michael Jackson to mention a few!

**Robertstown** (F4) is a lovely canal-side village and is a great centre for exploring the Grand Canal and its neighbouring Bog of Allen. Close by is Pollardstown Fen, which is an important nature reserve.

**Straffan** (E4) is a small village home of The K Club which hosted the Ryder Cup in 2006. There is also a Steam Museum and Straffan Butterfly Farm. A visit to Straffan Antiques & Design Centre in the unique setting of the 18th century stone farm buildings of Straffan Courtyard comes highly recommended.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/kildare](http://www.discoverireland.ie/kildare)

\*Brackets( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

# Visitor Attractions

## 1 Irish National Stud & Gardens

Tully, Kildare Town

Tel: 045 521617

[www.irishnationalstud.ie](http://www.irishnationalstud.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; 9.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €12.50, Concessions available.

★ **Offer:** 2 for the price of 1 on production of this guide.



## 2 Castletown House & Parklands

Celbridge

Tel: 01 6288252

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



Castletown is the largest and most significant Palladian style country house in Ireland. The designs of a number of important architects were used, Alessandro Galilei, Sir Edward Lovett Pearce and Sir William Chambers.



**Open:** 14th Mar - 31st Oct, Daily 10.00 - 18.00. Parklands; open daily, 8.00 - 20.00. Please refer to [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.

**Admission:** Adult: €5.50, Senior/Group p.p.: €3.50, Student/Child of 5 & over: €2, Family: €12.00. For Guided Tour rates, please see website.

## 3 Kildare Town Heritage Centre & Tourist Office

Market House, Market Square,  
Kildare Town

Tel: 045 530672

[www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)



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.



**Open:** Mon - Sat: 9.30 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



#### 4 St. Brigid's Cathedral & Round Tower

Market Square, Kildare Town

Tel: 045 530672

[www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)



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

★ **Offer:** Group 10+: Cathedral: €1.50, Round Tower: €3 per person.

#### 5 Bog of Allen Nature Centre

Lullymore, Rathangan

Tel: 045 860133

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



Enjoy guided tours of peatland exhibitions and wildlife gardens home to an insect eating plant display. Discover wetland wildlife through pond dipping or amphibian searches and relax with a complimentary tea or coffee.



**Open:** All year, Mon - Fri 10.00 - 16.00. Check website for special weekend opening dates.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Family: €15.

#### 6 Athy Heritage Centre & Museum

Town Hall, Emily Square,

Athy

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 artifacts, film footage and audio.

**Open:** All year: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child: €2, Senior/Student: €2.50, Family (2+2): €8. Group discount available.

# Visitor Attractions

## 7 National Science Museum at Maynooth

St. Patrick's College,  
Maynooth

Tel: 087 9152003

[www.maynoothcollege.ie/national-museum-maynooth](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie/national-museum-maynooth)



Museum contains largest collection of historic scientific instruments on display in Ireland, mostly made in Ireland between 1880 and 1920 and exported around the world. Contains large coils, batteries and items associated with Nicholas Callan who invented the Induction Coil, The Maynooth Battery and patented the principle of galvanisation to prevent rusting.

**Open:** Jun, Jul & Aug; Wed 14.00 - 16.00, Sun 14.00 - 18.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## 8 Ballitore Library & Quaker Museum

Mary Leadbeater House,  
Ballitore

Tel: 059 8623344

[www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library)



Ballitore Quaker Museum is the only museum in Ireland dedicated to the Quaker heritage in the local context. It contains a Quaker costume collection and a folk life collection as well as one room dedicated to the memory of Mary Leadbeater.

**Open:** Wed, Fri & Sat; 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.00, Thu 12.30 - 16.00 & 16.45 - 20.00

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## 9 Lullymore Heritage Discovery Park

Lullymore, Rathangan

Tel: 045 870238

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



The multi-award winning Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park is set on 60 acres of breathtaking peat land and woodland. It explores Irish heritage, culture and environment and 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): €28 (Additional Child: €7).

## 10 The Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre

Cutlery Road, Newbridge

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 attractions, the Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre has something for everyone.

**Open:** Daily; Mon - Sat 9.00 - 18.00, \* Sun & Pub Hol 11.00 - 18.00\*

\*Restaurant closes at 17.00.

**Admission:** Free parking and free entry to all areas including the Museum of Style Icons.

## 11 Steam Museum & Lodge Park Walled Garden

Steam Museum, Lodge Park, Straffan

Tel: 01 6288412

[www.steam-museum.ie](http://www.steam-museum.ie)



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, technology and nature at its best.

**Open:** May & Sep, Sat & Sun 14.00 - 18.00, Jun - Aug, Fri, Sat & Sun 14.00 - 18.00

**Admission:** Adult: €7.50. Senior/Child/Student: €5, Family: €20, Groups(20+) €5pp

★ **Offer:** 10% discount on presentation of Guide.

## 12 The Kildare Maze

Ballinafagh, Prosperous, Naas

Tel: 086 8519296

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



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, make a day of it and bring a picnic!

**Open:** May & Sep; Weekends only, Jun, Jul & Aug; Daily 12.00 - 18.00 See Facebook for Easter, Halloween and Christmas opening times.

**Admission:** Adult: €8, Child/Student/Senior: €6, Family (2+2): €25, Family (2+3): €29.

★ **Offer:** 15% Discount per admission per Pocket Guide upon presentation at Reception.

# More to Experience

## Craft Studios & Theatres

**Crookstown Craft Village (G4)** Crookstown, Ballitore

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

Here, craftspeople work side by side in a cluster of colourful, wooden studios and shops.

**Irish Pewter Mill Centre (G4)** Timolin, Moone Tel: 059 8624164

Casting still takes place at the Pewtermill, there is also a museum and a showroom where you can buy Celtic items. This museum is only open by appointment.

**Kilcock Art Gallery (E4)** Kilcock Tel: 01 6287619 [www.kilcockgallery.com](http://www.kilcockgallery.com)

Contemporary Modern and Traditional Irish Art showing Irish Artists and Art work.

**Moat Theatre (F4)** Naas Tel: 045 883030 [www.moattheatre.com](http://www.moattheatre.com)

Theatre with a Visual Arts Space situated in the Main Café/Foyer area.

**Riverbank Arts Centre (F4)** Newbridge Tel: 045 448330 [www.riverbank.ie](http://www.riverbank.ie)

Entertainment, Comedy, Film, Cinema, Theatre, Arts, Workshops, Gigs, Music, Exhibitions, Children's Events all at Riverbank Arts Centre. See website for details.

## Open Farms

**Caragh Open Farm (F4)** Caragh Tel: 087 6957306 [www.caraghopenfarm.com](http://www.caraghopenfarm.com)

As well as the pet farm there is a scenic walk and lots of playgrounds to ensure your day out is fun. Open: Apr, May, Jun, Sep: Weekends only. Jul - Aug; Daily, Mon - Sat 11.00 - 17.00. Sun/Public Hols; 12.00 - 17.00. Admission: Family (2 +3): €15, Adult: €4, Child: €3.

**Clonfert Pet Farm (E4)** Clonfert, Maynooth Tel: 087 230 9712

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

Animals, Bouncy Castle, go-karts, indoor soft play area, and picnic areas to keep the family entertained. Open; Daily 10.00 - 17.30. Admission: Family (2+2): €15. Adult: €5, Child: €5 (Admission fee includes use of all play areas)

**Kildare Farm Foods Open Farm & Shop (F3)** Rathmuck, Kildare

Tel: 045 526774 [www.kildarefarmfoods.com](http://www.kildarefarmfoods.com)

An Open Farm, Farm Shop, Café, and Farm Express train, on which you can take a trip around the farm.(Charge applies) Open: Mon - Fri 9.00 - 17.00, Sat 9.00 - 15.00 Closed Sun & Public Hols. Admission: Free of charge.

**Stonebrook Pet Farm (F4)** Coghlanstown West, Ballymore Eustace

Tel: 086 2661720 [www.stonebrookpetfarm.com](http://www.stonebrookpetfarm.com)

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.

**Straffan Butterfly Farm (E4)** Tel: 01 6271109

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

The Straffan Butterfly Farm is Ireland's first live tropical butterfly exhibition.

**Open:** During summer months, contact directly for opening times.



Market Square, Kildare Credit: Cathy Donovan

## Houses, Castles & Museums

**Harristown House** (F4) Kilcullen Tel: 045 483614 [www.harristownhouse.com](http://www.harristownhouse.com)

Harristown House sits in a parkland setting overlooking the Liffey. The estate is surrounded by beech, oak and lime trees. Contact directly for opening hours.

**Leixlip Castle** (E5) Leixlip Tel: 01 6244430

Leixlip village was established by the Vikings. Adam de Hereford, a follower of Strongbow, built the castle. Features of the castle include, the front hall, which boasts a 17th century Brussels tapestry depicting Theodosius offering the head of Pompey to Caesar. Contact directly for opening hours.

**The Curragh Military Museum** (F4) The Curragh Tel: 045 445342 [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)

The Museum reflects all aspects of the Curragh; military, civilian, equitation, conservation and archaeology. Contact directly for opening times.

## Monuments & Parks

**Donadea Forest Park** (E4) [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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.

**Open:** Winter; 8.00 - 17.30, Summer, 8.00 - 21.30. Charge for Car Park: €5.

**Mullaghmast** (G4) Ballitore [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

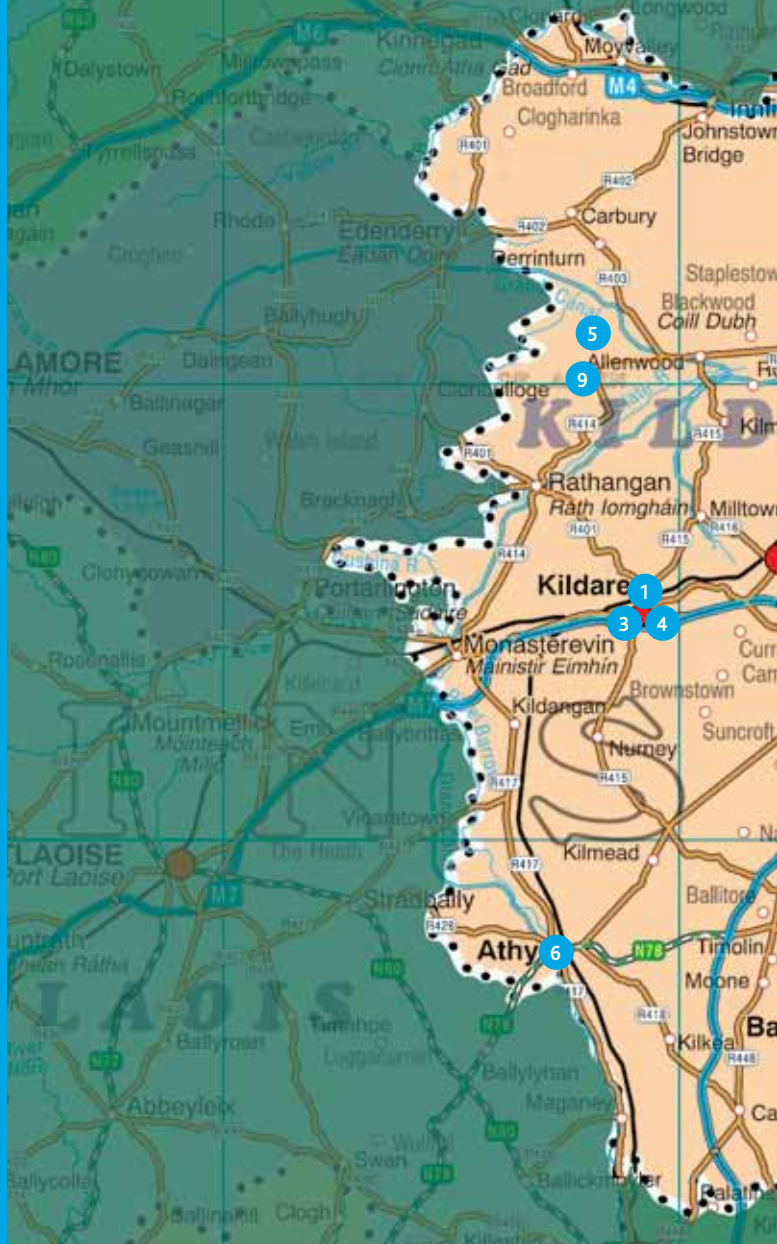
This site, a National Monument, includes earthworks, ring forts, barrows and a standing stone. The overall site is dominated by Rath Mor.

## Walking Tours

Take a tour of one of the oldest towns in Ireland, visit St. Brigid's Cathedral, the site of a Norman Castle, three medieval Abbeys and much more.

Tel: 045 530672 [www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.



Map No.	Attraction
1	Irish National Stud & Gardens
2	Castletown House & Parklands
3	Kildare Town Heritage Centre & Tourist Office

Map No.	Attraction
4	St. Brigid's Cathedral & Round Tower
5	Bog of Allen Nature Reserve
6	Athy Heritage Centre & Museum
7	National Science Museum at Maynooth

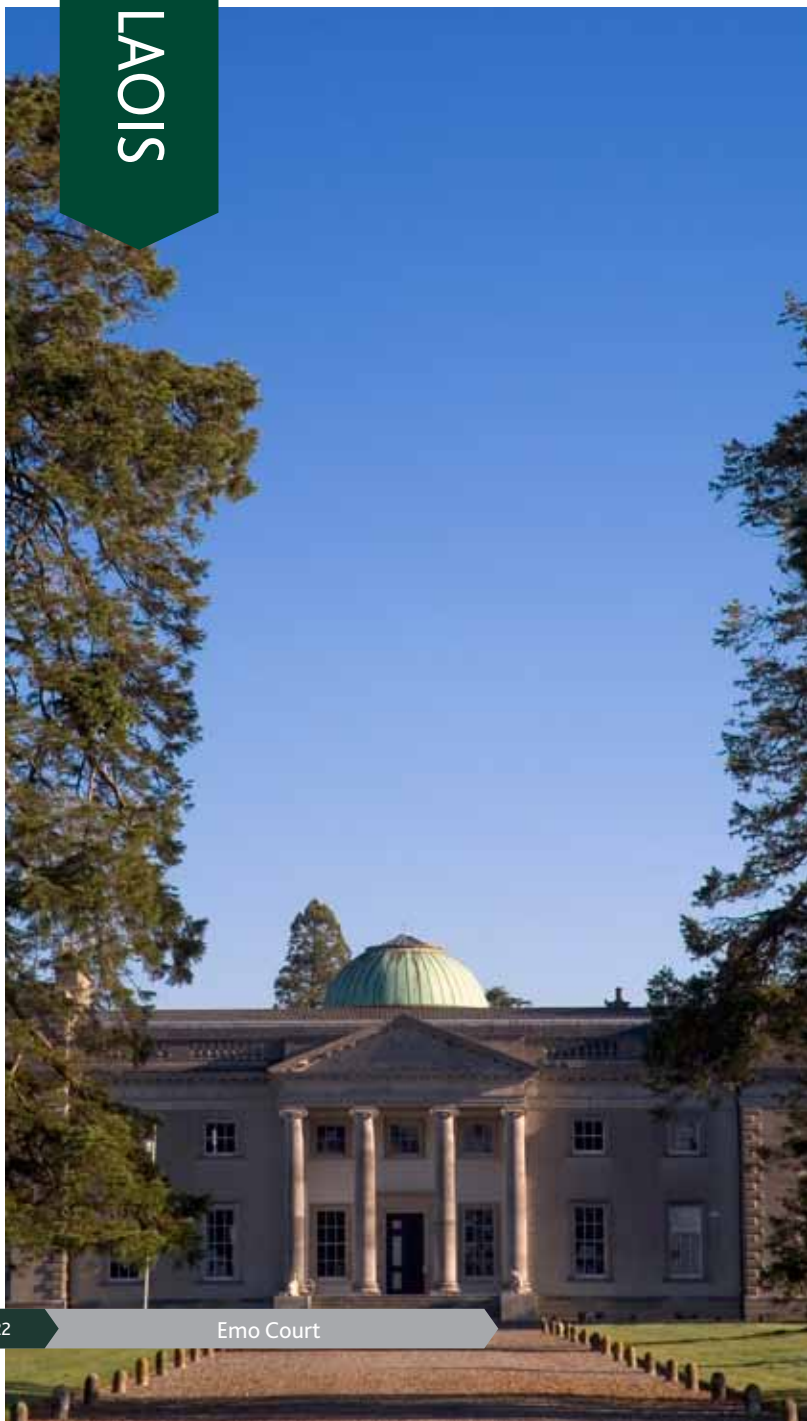


Map No.	Attraction
8	Ballitore Library & Quaker Museum
9	Lullymore Heritage Discovery Park
10	Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre

Map No.	Attraction
11	The Steam Museum & Lodge Park Walled Garden
12	The Kildare Maze

All attractions listed above are fully detailed on pages 14 - 17

# LAOIS





# Laois

Home to the oldest mountains in Europe, Laois is imbued with myth and legend. The county has over 1,000 heritage sites which take you on a fascinating journey into its past!

Some of the places you shouldn't miss include the crumbling fortress at the Rock of Dunamaise, Emo Court House and Gardens and Ballaghmore Castle. Although sobering, the Workhouse Museum in Donaghmore provides vivid stories of families who lived and died here after the Great Famine.

Keep your eyes peeled while travelling and you'll see countless monastic ruins that date to the 6th Century, like Aghaboe Abbey and Timahoe's round tower. Durrow and Abbeyleix are also worth a visit as both are designated heritage sites.

For those looking to stretch the legs, there are off-road walking routes for the ideal hiking holiday. Anglers also have an abundance of options. And while we're on the mellow vibe, how about hiring a barge on the Grand Canal or the River Barrow, or a horse-drawn caravan at Kilvahan? These are sure-fire ways to guarantee the freedom of the countryside.

## Did you Know?

- Laois does not border any other county which touches the coast. It is therefore considered to be 'the most landlocked county in Ireland.'
- William Russell Grace was born in Ballylinan on May 10th, 1832 and was the first Roman Catholic Mayor of New York City.
- The well known music festival Electric Picnic takes place annually in Stradbally.
- The Great Famine of 1845-49 devastated the county; by the time the workhouse opened at Donaghmore in 1853, many of the poorest had emigrated or died.
- Laois was originally known as Queen's County.

*For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)*



Abbeyleix Credit: Cathy Donovan

## Laois Towns & Villages

**Abbeyleix Heritage Town** (G2) was planned and created in the 18th century by the landlord Viscount de Vesci. Today visitors can explore its distinct heritage & attractions, such as the award winning library, Abbeyleix Heritage House and the Abbey Sensory Garden situated in the old walled garden of the Brigidine Convent. Here you will also find one of very few Bowls Courts in Ireland, where the French game can be enjoyed.

**Ballinakill** (G2) is an example of a 17th century market town that can boast an outdoor swimming pool for summer use! The town's entrance from Abbeyleix is marked by two trees known as toll trees where a toll was paid by visitors to the town. Close by are the impressive Heywood Gardens.

**Cullahill** (H2) has an impressive early 15th century tower house, the principal stronghold of MacGillapatricks of Upper Ossory. The 'castle' has an interesting Sheela-na-Gig, and a medieval church.

**Clonaslee** (F2) village lies at the foothills of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The name means 'way of the meadow', the way referred to, being the famous Slí Dála or Munster Way. The village is close to Brittas Lake, Slieve Bloom Forest Park, The Giants Grave and many forest walks with some beautiful scenery.

**Donaghmore** (G2) has attractive buildings and overlooks a river and old bridge. A former famine workhouse is open to the public all year. During the Great Famine, some 10 percent of the local population sought refuge here. Now restored, visitors can see many of the original features.

**Durrow** (G2) is a charming village; the name comes from the Irish 'doire', meaning an oak wood, and is a reminder of the great oak forests that covered much of Ireland in the past. Early in the 18th century Castle Durrow was built, this magnificent classical mansion is now a country club hotel.

**Emo** (F3) boasts the impressive Emo Court which was designed in 1790 by architect James Gandon. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland that date from the 18th century and contain formal lawns, a lake and forest walks.

**Killeshin** (G3) village is located in the Rossmore Hills from which it is said that ten counties can be seen. Near the village are the ruins of Killeshin Church, this important medieval monastery was founded here in 545 AD.



Portlaoise Credit: Cathy Donovan

**Mountmellick** (F2) is a bustling colourful town originally enterprised by the Quaker community. An old grain mill has been renovated and houses a Quaker museum. The main focus is to conserve and display original pieces of Mountmellick embroidery of which the town is renowned and to protect the memory of Mountmellick's rich Quaker industrial past. It is an attractive town with a fine square, architecturally impressive houses, shops and ecclesiastical buildings.

**Portarlington** (F3) was developed from a 17th century Huguenot colony; it is a charming riverside town with an interesting assortment of architecture. One of its most treasured possessions is the Church register with entries from 1694 to 1816. The park is presided over by the colossal granite sculpture of a reclining bather by Dick Joynt which celebrates 'the universality of women and the triumph of the human spirit'.

**Portlaoise** (G2) the county capital of Laois, is a vibrant town with shops, pubs and clubs, all sorts of places to stay and easy access to a wide range of things to do, including many festivals to keep visitors entertained. Recent years have seen its transformation from a rather sleepy town, into an exciting and rapidly growing centre, with branches of all the best shops, fascinating local sources of crafts and good food and the splendid Dunamais Arts Centre, opened in 1999, with its theatre and art gallery.

**Rosenallis** (F2) is a village situated on the northeast end of Capard Ridge in the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Several viewing points in the vicinity provide a wonderful vista of the lush green central plain of Ireland. It is said that you can see six counties from the 'Stoney Man' on the ridge of Capard.

**Stradbally's** (G3) name translates as 'the village on the street' – which describes it very well. Stradbally Hall hosts a steam rally during the August bank holiday, also in the grounds is the Stradbally Hall Narrow Gauge Railway. The popular 'Electric Picnic' music event is held annually in Stradbally.

**Vicarstown** (F3) is an attractive village on the Grand Canal. Buildings of interest include the 1860's Grattan School and Grattan Lodge (built in 1882 by Henry Grattan's granddaughter Lady Pauline Grattan Bellew). Vicarstown is a good base to visit Fisherstown where one of the oldest pubs in Ireland is located.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

# Visitor Attractions

## 1 Emo Court & Gardens

Emo

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. It was acquired and extensively restored by Mr. Cholmeley Harrison in the 1960s. 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: 2nd Apr - 23rd Sep, Daily 10.00 - 18.00. Gardens are open all year & entry is free of charge. Cupcake Café at Emo, contact directly for opening hours Tel: 057 8633964.

**House Admission:** Adult: €4, Senior/Group: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10.

## 2 Donaghmore Museum & Workhouse

Donaghmore, Rathdowney

Tel: 086 8296685

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



Donaghmore Famine Workhouse 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.

### 3 Heywood Gardens

Ballinakill

Tel: 057 8733563

or 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 form the centre-piece of the property and were designed by the famous architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869 - 1944) and probably landscaped by Gertrude Jekyll (1843 - 1932). It is one of four Gardens in this country designed by him, the others being in the War Memorial Park, Lambay Island and Howth Castle. 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.



**Open:** Oct - Mar: 8.30 - 17.30, Apr and Sep: 8.30 - 19.00, May - Aug: 8.30 - 21.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

### 4 Stradbally Steam Museum

Stradbally

Tel: 086 1258813

or 057 8641878

[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. On show, amongst others, is a Land Rover fire engine that was stationed at Stradbally Fire Station around 1950. A Guinness loco engine which was used by the Guinness Brewery over 50 years ago is also displayed.



**Open:** Please phone 086 1258813 for opening hours.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Student: €3, Child: Free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

# Visitor Attractions

## 5 Abbeyleix Heritage House & Museum

Upper Main Street, Abbeyleix

Tel: 057 8731653

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



Abbeyleix Heritage Centre is situated in a 19th century school and houses a museum with exhibits from ancient to more recent times. The prehistoric display covers stone age, bronze age and iron age. Abbeyleix Carpet Factory produced some of the world's finest carpets and there are original carpets on display. It is particularly famous for producing carpets for the ill fated RMS Titanic. There is also an N gauge and 00 gauge model railway layout, a playground and tourist information.

**Open:** Tue - Sat 9.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child/Student/Unwaged: €2, Preschool: Free of charge.

## 6 Rock of Dunamais

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise,

Tel: 057 8621178

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



The Rock of Dunamais 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.

**Open:** All year, daylight hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

Ask our Travel Advisors for a comprehensive listing of  
**"Whats On"**  
 in the local area!

## 7 Mountmellick Museum

Irish town, Mountmellick

Tel: 057 8624525

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



Created in 1825 to assist the poor, Johanna Carter's 'new' style combined the draughting and embroidery skills usually taught to cultured ladies of that period. Her rendering of realistic floral designs, perfectly balanced by the quiet white elegance of the stitches appealed to the simple taste of the 19th century Quakers. Decades of women since have been connected by white cotton threads encrusted on White Satin Jean. Heirlooms of bed coverlets; pillow shams; etc. are on display in Mountmellick Museum. Group and one to one workshops are provided all year round on request.



Open: All year; Mon - Fri, 9.00 - 16.30. Open weekends by request.

Admission: Adult: €5, Child under 16: Free of charge.

## 8 Timahoe Round Tower

Timahoe

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



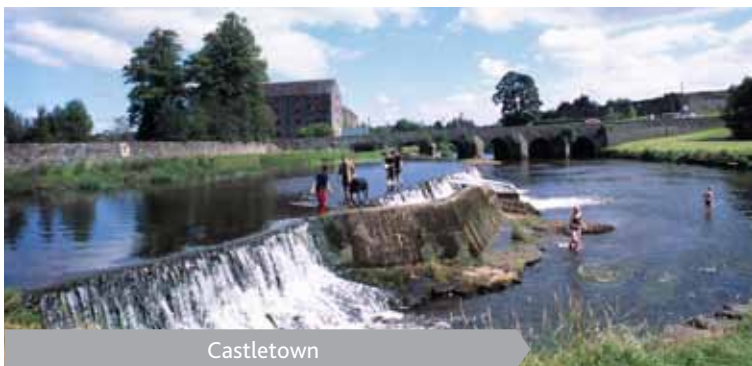
The original church to which this belfry belonged is now replaced by a modern (Protestant) church, a few yards to the south-west corner of which it stands. An extraordinary carved doorway makes this the most elegant round tower in Ireland. Carvings of human heads, with flowing beards and moustaches, decorate the main entrance. Smaller carvings decorate a second storey window. Built in the 1100s, Timahoe is a complete tower though now without floors or ladders. The tower rises almost 30 metres high and is more than 17 meters wide at its base. Its walls are nearly 2 metres thick. Inside there are five different floors, which were reached by ladders.



Grounds Open: All year, daylight hours.

Admission: Free of charge.

Pick up your  
**FREE local Town or City map**  
in our Discover Ireland Centres!



Castletown

# More to Experience

## Abbeys & Churches

### **Aghaboe Abbey (G2)** Ballacolla

Aghaboe Abbey was founded in the sixth century by St. Canice. The abbey grew into a major centre of learning, commerce and agriculture.

### **Timogue Church (G3)** Timahoe

Timogue is a rare church dating from about 1736. Nearby are two ring-forts, a ruined mill and the site of a tower house.

### **Killeshin Church (G3)** Killeshin

The Church, a preserved ruin, is on the site of an old monastery founded by Saint Comghan towards the end of the fifth century. The surviving ruins include a beautifully carved 12th century Romanesque doorway which is now a national monument.

## Craft Studios & Workshops

### **Abbeyleix Gallery (G2)** Tel: 057 8730020

Abbeyleix Library building includes a gallery, hosting monthly exhibitions.

### **Bijouterie of My Dream (G2)** The Ballagh, Durrrow Tel: 057 8736494

Hand made jewellery using crystal, glass and natural semi-precious stones.

### **Bluebell Dolls Houses (G2)** Pallas Little, Portlaoise Tel: 057 8660703

### **Candles Un-Laoised (G2)** 11 Beechlawn, Portlaoise Tel: 087 0644372

Personalised candles providing a unique gift for family and friends.

### **Derrin Crafts (G2)** Derrin, Borris-in-Ossory Tel: 0505 41782 [www.derrincrafts.ie](http://www.derrincrafts.ie)

Greeting Cards, Invitations, Jewellery & Magnetic Therapy Jewellery.

### **Dunamais Arts Centre (G2)** Portlaoise Tel: 057 8663355

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

The Dunamais Arts Centre is a purpose built theatre and arts centre.

### **Emoke Ceramics (G2)** Lower Boley, Abbeyleix Tel: 087 2110999

Emoke Ceramics produces a range of gifts and tableware.

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.





Vicarstown Credit: Cathy Donovan

**Finn Ceramics (G2)** The Flat, Ballinaslee, Durrrow Tel: 087 9856476  
Handthrown pottery / ceramics.

**Franz Design (G2)** Portlaoise Tel: 057 8661812 [www.franzdesign.com](http://www.franzdesign.com)  
Fine Art Irish Sculpture, lighting, home and living products.

**Hatai Pheig (G2)** Bushfield House, Borris-in-Ossory Tel: 0505 41250 [www.hataipheig.com](http://www.hataipheig.com)  
A delightful range of hand-knitted hats, bags and scarves.

**Irish Collectables (F3)** Portarlinton Tel: 087 6555372 [www.irishcollectables.com](http://www.irishcollectables.com)  
Originals, photos, notes and rare collectable Irish pieces.

**Marie Farrell (G2)** Lacken, Rosenallis, Portlaoise Tel: 086 3907894  
Bowls, Lamps, Twig-Pots and other unique items turned from pieces of wood.

**Mountmellick Gallery (F2)** Tel: 057 8644572  
Mountmellick Library building includes a gallery, hosting different exhibitions each month, showcasing the work of local, national and international artists.

**Mountmellick Work (F2)** St. Martins, Acragar, Mountmellick Tel: 057 8624531  
White on white embroidery done in white cotton on a white cotton satin jean.

**The Bag Ladies (G2)** Rosenallis Tel: 057 8628692  
Handmade bags and a wonderful assortment of styles for any occasion.

## Castles

**Ballaghmore Castle (G2)** Borris in Ossory Tel: 0505 21453 [www.castleballaghmore.com](http://www.castleballaghmore.com)  
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.

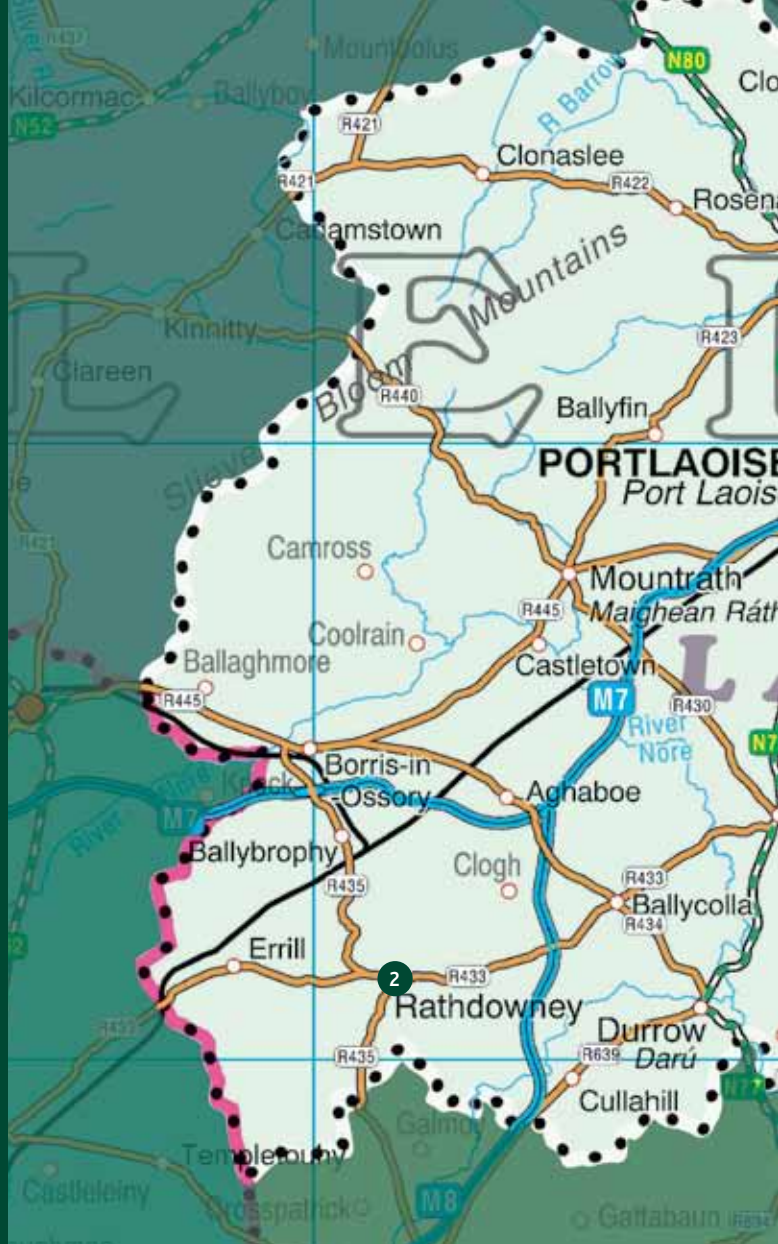
**Lea Castle (F3)** is a ruin situated midway between Portarlinton and Monasterevin; it was built in 1260 by William de Vesey.

## Museums

**Irish Fly Fishing & Game Shooting Museum (G2)** Attanagh Tel: 086 3153088  
Over four thousand exhibits with many rare artefacts. Contact directly for details.

**Poet's Cottage (G2)** Camross Tel: 057 8735016 [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)  
A replica thatched famine cottage of the 1800s. Contact directly for details.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)



Map No.	Attraction
1	Emo Court and Gardens
2	Donaghmore Museum and Workhouse

Map No.	Attraction
3	Heywood Gardens
4	Stradbally Steam Museum
5	Abbeyleix Heritage House



Map  
No.

### Attraction

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 6 | Rock of Dunamaisé   |
| 7 | Mountmellick Museum |
| 8 | Timahoe Round Tower |

All attractions listed above are fully detailed on pages 26 - 29



# Louth

It is impossible to turn in any direction in Ireland's smallest county without stumbling upon something interesting!

Starting on Louth's northern border, the Cooley Mountains are not only stunningly scenic but are the mythical home of hurling as told in the Táin Bó Cúailnge. These mountains will lead you to the Viking influenced town of Carlingford. Carlingford's harbour looks out across its famous lough to the Mourne Mountains. The town's medieval streets are packed with cosy eateries and it's a Mecca for outdoor pursuits on land or sea.

Greenore is famous for its golfing, close by there are links courses at Seapoint and Baltray and there are few parkland courses as fine as Dundalk. Historical attractions in Louth include the beautiful high crosses at Monasterboice and Mellifont Abbey.

Louth is probably most famous for the Boyne River. Drogheda straddles its banks with its fabulous Arts Centre, Martello tower and a bustling centre. Further along the river the beautiful Beaulieu House and its motor racing museum. And if its fishing you're after don't forget that the Boyne is where the Salmon of Knowledge was caught, so there's no excuse not to become an expert on Co. Louth!

## Did you Know?

- Co. Louth is the smallest county in the whole of Ireland.
- Clogherhead was used as a film location for 'The Devils Own,' 'Perrier's Bounty' and 'Captain Lightfoot'.
- The Kildemock Jumping Church is a famous local site, according to legend the church apparently 'jumped' to remove the burial place of an excommunicated church member!
- The annual Samba Festival is held in Drogheda and International Samba bands visit the town for a week of music, song, dance, drumming and parades.
- The actor, film producer and environmentalist Pierce Brosnan was born on May 16th 1953 in Drogheda.

*For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/louth](http://www.discoverireland.ie/louth)*



Annagassan

## Louth Towns & Villages

**Annagassan** (C5) is a coastal village with a surprisingly eventful past. Originally a small port with a busy harbour pier; the Norsemen captured the settlement in 831. It wasn't until 928 that the Vikings were eventually defeated by the native Irish and driven from the locality.

**Ardee** (C4) is an ideal base from which to explore the mysteries of the Boyne Valley and Cooley Peninsula. There are a number of places of interest in both the town and the hinterland of historic and recreational interest, including a 14th century Norman Castle and the strange tale of the 'jumping church' in Kildemock.

**Ballymascanlon** (B5) is a small parish situated 4km north-east of Dundalk on the road to Carlingford. This parish derives its name from the sept of the Scanlon's, its ancient proprietors. Visitors can visit Proleek Dolmen and a wedge tomb close by.

**Baltray** (C5) is an idyllic village on the shore of the Boyne estuary. The area is of considerable importance for its wildlife preservation, which includes frequent feathered visitors such as ducks, Brent geese, waders and ringed plovers.

**Blackrock** (B5) is perched on the very edge of the sea, with a promenade and wonderful views over Dundalk Bay to the mountains. When the tide goes out it reveals an immense area of sand flats, seeming to stretch all the way to the Cooley mountains, although interrupted by the narrow channel that leads to Dundalk Port.

**Carlingford** (B5) is an area of outstanding natural beauty surrounded by the Cooley and Mourne mountains, Carlingford Lough & King John's Castle. The medieval village of Carlingford is a delight to stroll around with its shops, restaurants, coffee shops, traditional pubs and crafts. Visitors can participate in a host of water & land based activities in Carlingford.

**Dromiskin Village** (C5) was an important ecclesiastical centre from the 5th century. A round tower from the early monastery still stands in the churchyard of the Church of Ireland parish church. There are also the remains of a ringed cross in the Celtic style and a carved spiral pillar from the 9th - 10th century close by.



Drogheda Cannon

**Collon** (C4) is a manorial hamlet which has medieval origins. The original settlement on the site was granted a Tuesday market by Henry III in 1229. The village is most famous for being the base of the Cistercian Abbey of new Mellifont.

**Drogheda** (D5) is a medieval town with a wealth of historical interest. The most venerated possession is preserved in St. Peter's Church, the head of St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, who was executed in London in 1681. The town contained monasteries of a number of religious orders and their ruins stand in various parts of the town, together with the barbican tower of the ancient walls. Close to it are some of the fine town houses built in the 18th century. The former St. Mary's Church has been beautifully restored to recreate the fascinating world of ancient Drogheda. High above the town is Millmount, where the 19th century garrison barracks and Martello Tower have been transformed to a Visitor Centre.

**Dundalk** (B5) is a thoroughly modern town in the midst of a land of ancient legend. Dundalk offers all the perks of city life, combined with easy access to the countryside, steeped in history and tradition. St. Nicholas' Church was built on foundations from the 13th century and rebuilt more than once. It contains some Dutch stained glass from the 16th century, a number of interesting medieval tombs and a memorial to Robert Burns, whose sister lived nearby. The modern Church of the Holy Redeemer has sculptures by some of the best contemporary artists. The prize-winning County Museum, in a beautifully restored late 18th century warehouse, offers an extensive programme of permanent exhibitions, temporary displays & performances.

**Termonfeckin** (C5) village is situated on the eastern shore of the county and has an extensive stretch of golden beach, only a stroll from its centre. The origin of its name dates to the 7th century when a monastery was founded here by St. Fechin.

**Tullyallen** (C5) is perched high above the Boyne. Human activity on the hill is shown to date back 6,000 years. A battle for control of the English Crown took place in the area in the 17th century - The Battle of the Boyne (1690). From the village, both the river and battle site are reached via the famous King William's Glen. Nearby Townley Hall Forest Park provides the opportunity for an invigorating hike.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/louth](http://www.discoverireland.ie/louth)

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

# Visitor Attractions

## 1 Monasterboice Round Tower and High Crosses

Monasterboice,  
Drogheda

Tel: 041 9837070 /  
042 9335484

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



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 an outstanding example of high crosses of the early Christian period, noted as being the tallest in Ireland. It is monolith, 5 meters high, which features many detailed scenes from the Bible. The crosses stand in the shadow of a magnificent Round Tower, about 300 meters high. Monasterboice was a thriving centre of religion and learning until 1142, when the Cistercians arrived at the nearby Mellifont Abbey.

**Open:** All year during daylight hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## 2 Beaulieu House & Garden

Drogheda

Tel: 041 9838557

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



Beaulieu is an ancient estate overlooking the banks of the River Boyne, just over three miles from the town of Drogheda. For over 800 hundred 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 house has many fascinating interior carvings and wall paintings, family history and atmosphere. The guided tour of the house takes 40 minutes to complete. Tours of the four acre walled garden are self-guided.

**Open:** 1st Jun – 4th Sep; Mon - Fri 11 - 17.00. Also weekends Jul & Aug. 13.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** €10 p.p., Children under 16 free of charge. Garden only: €5 p.p.



### 3 Old Mellifont Abbey

Tullyallen, Drogheda

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:** 28th May - 2nd Sep: Daily 10.00 - 18.00.  
(Please check [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.)

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Senior/Group: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10.

### 4 County Museum Dundalk

Carroll Centre, Roden Place,

Jocelyn Street, Dundalk

Tel: 042 9327056/7

[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. Chronicling the historical development from the Stone Age up to the present, the Museum, through a combination of artefacts and computer interactives, presents this story over three galleries of permanent exhibition. These exhibits include the replica of the fabled Mellifont 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.

# Visitor Attractions

## 5 Drogheda Museum Millmount

Millmount Cultural Centre,  
Drogheda

Tel: 041 9833097

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



Drogheda Museum Millmount and Martello Tower are located in the Millmount Cultural Quarter, Drogheda which includes craft shops and a restaurant. Among the permanent displays are the unique Guild banners, authentic 19th Century Folk Kitchen, industrial rooms plus many items relating to the town's past.



**Open:** Mon - Sat, 10.00 - 17.30, Sun and P/H 14.00 - 17.00.

Please note last tours are one hour before closing.

**Admission:** Museum; Adult: €3.50, Senior/Child: €2.50, Student: €3, Family (2+2): €8. Museum & Tower; Adult: €5.50, Concession/Child: €3, Student: €4, Family (2+2): €12.

★ **Offer:** 2 for the price of 1 on production of this guide.

## 6 Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery

Laurence Street,  
Drogheda

Tel: 041 9803311

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



The Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery opened its doors in 2006 and was the culmination of many years planning to deliver a dedicated visual art space for the Irish north east region of an international standard. The gallery is sited in the former Drogheda Franciscan Church and part of the Friary; known locally as the 'Highlane Church'. The main exhibition spaces are open plan and include the old church level and a new floor at the height of the old balcony and as such the character of the building is not lost.



The gallery is sited in the former Drogheda Franciscan Church and part of the Friary; known locally as the 'Highlane Church'. The main exhibition spaces are open plan and include the old church level and a new floor at the height of the old balcony and as such the character of the building is not lost.

**Open:** All year, Mon - Sat, 10.30 - 17.00. Please check website for additional opening hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge, suggested donations of €2 welcomed. (For group bookings please contact the gallery directly).

## 7 Carlingford Heritage Centre

Carlingford

Tel: 042 9373454

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



The Heritage Centre has on permanent display the documented history of the town with the first references to the Vikings in the area circa 850 AD, through the Norman & Medieval eras and into modern times. This historical exhibit is embellished with maps, drawings, illustrations, a beautiful wall mural, photographs and a DVD presentation for all to enjoy.

**Open:** All year; Mon - Fri, Apr - Oct 9.30 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.00, Nov - Mar 9.30 - 16.30.

**Admission:** Free of charge, donations are welcome.



## 8 Proleek Dolmen

Ballymascanlon

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



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. A portal tomb resembles a giant's table and is sometimes called a dolmen, which comes from the Breton word tolmen meaning stone table.

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. Known as the Giant's Load, it is believed that it was carried to Ireland by a Scottish giant named Parrah Boug McShagean.

**Open:** All year during daylight hours.

**Admission:** Free of charge.





Carlingford

# More to Experience

## Castles & Monuments

**Castle Roche Ruins (B5)** Dungooley Rd, Dundalk [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Castle Roche is one of the most striking Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland, the seat of the De Verdon family in the 13th century. The legendary ghost appears at the 'Murder Window' to this very day, which strangely enough is bricked up from the inside...

**Castletown Motte (B5)** Mount Ave, Dundalk [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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 (B4)** Rathiddy, Knockbridge [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Clochafarmore Standing Stone is an impressive monument standing at over 3 meters high and 1.3m wide. This stone is traditionally associated with the greatest hero of Irish folklore - Cúchulainn.

**King John's Castle Ruins (B5)** Carlingford [www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.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.

## Churches & Settlements

**Kildemock Jumping Church (C4)** Millockstown, Ardee [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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. The ruin dates back to the 14th century, though the site also contains carved stones from the 13th century.

**Magdalene Tower (D5)** Magdalene St, Drogheda [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

The Magdalene 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 early in about 1224.

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.



Brú Bar, Drogheda

### **Saint Brigid's Shrine & Well (B5) Faughart** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

The Hill of Faughart is one of the great historical sites of North Louth, scene of several incidents in the Táin Bó Cuailgne, the archaeology of which indicated remnants of an Iron Age hill fort, an early Christian ecclesiastical foundation associated with Saint Brigid, a Norman motte-castle and a medieval church ruin.

### **St. Laurence's Gate (D5) Laurence Street, Drogheda** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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. The barbican consists of two lofty circular towers, connected by a wall, in which there is an archway entry to the portcullis.

### **St. Peter's Church (D5) West St, Drogheda** Tel: 041 9838537 [www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie](http://www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie)

St. Peter's R.C. Church in West Street is world famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett. The facade is an imposing structure in the Gothic style, built of local limestone.

## Craft Studios & Workshops

### **Bridge Street Studio (B5) Dundalk** Tel: 042 9351712 [www.bridgestreetstudios.com](http://www.bridgestreetstudios.com)

The range of work spans the craft and art spectrum including ceramics, painting, textiles and jewellery.

## Theatres

### **An Táin Theatre (B5) Crowe St., Dundalk** Tel: 042 9392919 [www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie)

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 (D5) Drogheda** Tel: 041 9833946 [www.droichead.com](http://www.droichead.com)

Centre for the Arts, gallery and venue for theatre, film, exhibitions and events.

### **TLT Concert Hall & Theatre (D5) Drogheda** Tel: 041 9878560 [www.thetlt.ie](http://www.thetlt.ie)

The TLT is a 900 seat venue which brings national and international shows to Louth.

### **The Barbican (D5) Drogheda** Tel: 041 9807416 [www.thebarbican.ie](http://www.thebarbican.ie)

The Barbican has both a 500 Seated Auditorium and a 100 Seated Theatre.



Map No.	Attraction
1	Monasterboice Round Tower and High Crosses
2	Beaulieu House and Garden

Map No.	Attraction
3	Old Mellifont Abbey
4	County Museum Dundalk



Map No.	Attraction
5	Drogheda Museum, Millmount and Martello Tower
6	Highlanes Gallery

Map No.	Attraction
7	Carlingford Heritage Centre
8	Proleek Dolmen

All attractions listed above are fully detailed on pages 38 - 41

# MEATH





# Meath

There's no better place to visit if peering into the past makes for your perfect holiday. Top of the must-visit list is incredible Brú na Bóinne with the passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. These burial places predate the pyramids so it's little wonder they are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the heritage town of Trim, you'll find the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, with its beautifully preserved grounds. Meath has lots of more modern diversions too, like Sonairte, Ireland's national ecology centre, and the Solstice Arts Centre. Other options include the wonderful fishing and walking in the Boyne Valley, site of the famous battle. If you have kids, Tayto Park is sure to appeal!

For those in search of playgrounds with tees and greens, head for the famous golf links at Laytown and Bettystown. With their uninterrupted sands, fun parks and cosy eateries, these seaside villages have been popular holiday getaways for over 100 years.

Laytown Strand Races each September is a cracking day out! If racing tickles your fancy, you'll be pleased to know that you can also enjoy a punt at Fairyhouse, Bellewstown and Navan!

## *Did you Know?*

- Newgrange (3000BC) is 400 years older than the Pyramids of Egypt.
- The Battle of the Boyne had the largest number of troops ever deployed on an Irish battlefield.
- The ancient Tailteann (Teltown) games provided the inspiration for the Olympic Games.
- Trim Castle served as a 'castle double' for York Castle in Mel Gibson's 1996 Oscar-winning movie, Braveheart.
- The greatest concentration of Megalithic art in Western Europe is in Knowth, which has over three hundred decorated stones.

*For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)*



Navan

## Meath Towns & Villages

**Ashbourne** (D5) is a bustling market town close to Fairyhouse Racecourse and Tayto Park and hosts the Irish Women's Rugby Internationals.

**Athboy** (D3) village is the medieval creation of the Plunkett family. Overlooking the town of Athboy is the Hill of Tlachtga or 'Hill of Ward', an Iron Age ring fort, where the great Celtic feast of Samhain (Halloween) is said to have originated.

**Bettystown** (D5) is a thriving village with a fine sandy beach. The world famous 'Tara Brooch' was discovered on this beach! Close by the Laytown beach boasts horse racing on the beach! The only strand races held in Europe.

**Kells** (C3) is a delightful town and home of the Book of Kells one of the most beautiful books in the world, now preserved in Trinity College, Dublin. It is an 8th century manuscript of the Four Gospels painted by the monks of the monastery founded in Kells for the followers of the great St. Colmcille. The curving road around the church on the hill follows the outline of the ancient monastery. The highlights of ancient Kells are clustered around the protestant church, with its medieval tower and graceful 18th century steeple. There are three Celtic Crosses in the churchyard and a round tower. Across the road is a small, stone-roofed church, one of the oldest monastic buildings in Ireland. The Hill of Lloyd Tower nearby resembles a lighthouse! It also has a park from where wonderful views can be enjoyed.

**Navan** (D4) is a busy centre set on high ground where the River Boyne is joined by its tributary the Blackwater, close by are the ruins of Athlumney Castle. Navan's churches, shops and handsome town houses are mostly 19th century work. In the middle of some of the richest pasture in Ireland, it was an important market town. In the 1960s Navan became a mining town, with the development of Tara Mines, Europe's greatest source of lead and zinc.

**Nobber** (C4) is the birthplace of the blind harpist Turlough O'Carolan, composer, poet and the most famous of all Irish harpists. A monument in the town is a true testament to the popularity of this musician. Several 'high crosses' were discovered in the villages old cemetery (St. John's) dating from possibly the 10th century. Moynagh Lake west of the village is the site of a crannog which dates to Neolithic times.

**Oldcastle** (C3) is an idyllic village, five thousand years ago the affluent stone-age community, who lived where Oldcastle now stands, decided to commemorate their dead on the nearby hilltops.



Trim Castle

Their legacy lives on with Loughcrew Cairns. Most of them are 'passage graves' built to the same design as the world-famous examples at Newgrange. Oldcastle is also home to Loughcrew Gardens. The demesne was once the property of the Plunkett family and the childhood home of its most distinguished member, the 17th century Oliver Plunkett, archbishop, martyr and saint. There can be no doubt that he worshipped in the old church that still stands in the gardens.

**Rathcairn** (D3) is a Gaeltacht area in Meath, where the Irish language is spoken and the traditional way of life is embraced through music and dance.

**Ratoath** (D5) is a focal point for horseracing at Fairyhouse and bloodstock sales and equestrian events at Tattersalls and has its own vibrant community theatre, The Venue, serving east Meath.

**Slane** (D4) is a beautiful manorial village built around a crossroads; the central focus of the village are the four fine Georgian Houses facing each other. The Conynghams, successors of the great Norman Lords of Slane, planned Slane. It was here, from the top of the hill overlooking the village, that St. Patrick lit the Paschal Flame on Easter Eve (in the second half of the fifth century), a symbol of the light of Christianity, which was about to sweep away the old pagan order. A short distance from the village on the Navan road is Slane Castle, famous as a concert venue; the surrounding grounds boasting a natural amphitheatre of immense size.

**Trim** (D4) with its magnificent castle by the River Boyne is one of the most spectacular medieval towns in Ireland. At The Ford of the Elder Tree – as its name in Irish translates - St. Patrick established a monastery and left it in the care of his nephew St. Loman. Great monasteries came to be built in the area and the towers and walls of some of them still stand, adding to the beauties of Trim's skyline. But the most important event took place in 1172 when Hugh de Lacy began the building of the castle. Declared a dangerous building in 1403, it has remained standing for seven hundred years and now, made safe and accessible, it welcomes visitors. The last sounds of battle were heard in 1994 when the castle took its place in the film Braveheart.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

# Visitor Attractions

## 1 Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre (Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth)

Donore

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.**

**Open:** Daily: Feb - Apr: 9.30 - 17.30, May: 9.00 - 18.30, Jun - mid Sep: 9.00 - 19.00, mid - end Sep: 9.00 - 18.30, Oct: 9.30 - 17.30, Nov - Jan: 9.00 - 17.00. Newgrange is open all year round except for Dec 24th - 27th. Knowth is open from 3rd - 15th Oct.

**Admission:** A = Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, B = Visitor Centre & Newgrange, C = Visitor Centre & Knowth, D = Visitor Centre, Newgrange & Knowth.

A Adult: €3, Senior/Group/Child/Student: €2, Family: €8.

B Adult: €6, Senior/Group: €5, Child/Student €3, Family: €15.

C Adult: €5, Senior/Group/Child/Student: €3, Family: €13.

D Adult: €11, Senior/Group: €8, Child/Student: €6, Family: €28.

Visitor Centre is fully accessible to visitors with disabilities. 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. It is advisable to arrive as early in the day as possible to avoid the disappointment of finding all the tours for that day sold out.

## 2 Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre

Market House, Market Square,  
Oldbridge Estate

Tel: 041 9809950

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



The Battle of the Boyne between King William III and his father-in-law, King James II, was fought in 1690. Both kings commanded their armies in person. The Visitor Centre is located in the restored 18th century Oldbridge House, which is on the battlesite.

**Open:** Daily: Mar - Apr: 9.30 - 16.30, May - Sep: 10.00 - 17.00, Oct - Feb: 9.00 - 16.00. Please Check Our Website For Updates.

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Senior/Group rate: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10

## 3 Hill of Tara

Navan

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.

**Open:** Daily: 14th May - 16th Sep: 10.00 - 18.00.

Last admission 1 hour before closing.

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Senior/Group: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10.

## 4 Trim Castle

Trim

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 of the massive three storied keep, the central stronghold of the castle, was begun c.1176.

**Open:** Daily: 15th Mar - 31st Oct; 10.00 - 18.00, Nov - 14th Mar; Weekends only 9.00 - 17.00. Refer to [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.

**Admission:** Including Keep; Adult: €4, Group/Senior: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10. Castle Excluding the Keep; Adult: €2, Group/Senior: €1, Child/Student: €1, Family: €4.

# Visitor Attractions

## 5 Slane Castle

Slane Village

Tel: 041 9820643

[www.slane castle.ie](http://www.slane castle.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:** 24th May - 30th Aug; Sun - Thu 12.00 - 17.00.

Please log onto website for further details.

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Child/Student/Senior/Group: €5, Family: €20.

\*Note for Heritage Week, 22nd to 30th Aug, open Fri & Sat also.

## 6 Loughcrew Cairns Centre & Tourist Office

Corstown, Oldcastle

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:** 28th May - 2nd Sept; Daily, 10.00 - 18.00.

Please check [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie) for updates.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## 7 Tayto Park

Kilbrew, Ashbourne

Tel: 01 8351999

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



Tayto Park is an unforgettable day out for all the family, explore our new attractions such as The Rollercoaster, The Air Race, The 5D Cinema and our much loved Playground, Factory Tour and Zoo.

**Open:** Apr - Aug, Daily; 10.00 - 18.00, Sep - Dec, Sat & Sun; 10.00 - 17.00

**Admission:** Adult: €14, Under 3: Free of charge (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

## 8 Irish Military War Museum

Starinagh, Collon

Tel: 041 9819501

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



A unique hands-on museum, where people can hold original de-activated weapons and equipment from both world wars. The museum contains the largest privately owned collection on display in Ireland. You can even learn to drive a tank!



**Open:** Daily, year round 10:00 - 17:00; Tue – Sun (Closed Mon).

**Admission:** Adult: €8, Child: €5, Family: €25

★ **Offer:** Adult: €7, Child: €5, Family: €20 on presentation of this guide.

## 9 Bective Abbey

Navan

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



Bective Abbey was founded in 1147; it sits overlooking the River Boyne and was one of the country's most important monastic settlements. Due to its castle-like qualities, the site was also chosen as a location for the 1995 film 'Braveheart'.



**Open:** All year.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## 10 Tower of Lloyd

The People's Park, Kells

[www.visitingkells.ie/spire](http://www.visitingkells.ie/spire)



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 in The People's Park around the Tower.



**Open:** Check website for Tower opening times.

**Admission:** Free of charge, (Donations welcome.)



Tower of Lloyd, Kells

## More to Experience

### Craft Studios & Theatres

**Art & Print Gallery (D4) Slane** Tel: 041 9820649 [www.lillyfineart.com](http://www.lillyfineart.com)

**Slane Craft Collective (D4) 3, Newgrange Mall, Slane** Tel: 041 9820008  
[www.slanecraftcollective.com](http://www.slanecraftcollective.com)

Come and meet the makers of local craft and design at Slane Craft Collective, located in the village of Slane. Open: Mon - Sat 10.00 – 18.00, Sun & B/H 11.00 – 17.00

**Solstice Arts Centre (D4) Railway Street, Navan** Tel: 046 9092300  
[www.solsticeartscentre.ie](http://www.solsticeartscentre.ie)

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.

**The Venue Theatre (D5) Ratoath** Tel: 01 6895600 [www.venue theatre.ie](http://www.venue theatre.ie)

The theatre presents dance and music, as well as the best of local and national professional and amateur companies.

Visit [www.meath.ie/Tourism/CraftinMeath](http://www.meath.ie/Tourism/CraftinMeath) for details of more Meath Craft Workers.

### Churches, Abbeys & Towers

**Donaghmore Round Tower (D4) Navan** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

This well-preserved 10th century site includes the church and a fine round tower which is still in good condition.

**St. Columba's Church (C3) Kells** [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.

**St. Patrick's Cathedral (D4) Trim** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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 and is reputed to be older than Armagh or Canterbury.

### Houses & Castles

**Athlumney Castle Ruins (D4) Athlumney, Navan** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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.

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.



**Dardistown Castle (D5)** near Julianstown Tel: 041 9829239[www.dardistowncastle.ie](http://www.dardistowncastle.ie)

Was built in 1465 by John Cornwallsh with a British Government grant of £10

**Open:** Contact directly for opening hours & admission rates.**Dunmoe Castle (D4)** [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Is an imposing ruin situated above the tranquil Boyne between Navan and Slane, it was home of the D'Arcy family from the 15th century.

**Dunsany Castle (D4)** Tel: 046 9025169 [www.dunsany.com](http://www.dunsany.com)The castle is located between Dunshaughlin & Trim and is a short distance south of the Hill of Tara. **Open:** By appointment Jun - Aug.**Hamwood House (E5)** Dunboyne Tel: 01 8255210 / 086 8270454 [www.ihh.ie](http://www.ihh.ie)A Palladian Georgian house, which was built in 1768. **Open:** 1st Apr - 31st Jul; Mon - Fri, and 1st and 3rd weekends each month; 14.00 - 18.00. Contact directly for admission prices.

## Megalithic Sites

**Fourknocks Passage Tomb (D5)** Ardcath [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

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, please call 01 8354722 for key holder.

**Hill of Slane (D4)** Trim [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

St. Patrick is traditionally believed to have lit the first Paschal fire on the Hill of Slane. Today a large complex of Ecclesiastical Ruins including an impressive early gothic tower can be seen on the hill.

**Hill of Ward (D4)** Athboy [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

The ancient site of Samhain Festival, forerunner of the modern Halloween tradition and site of the annual Spirit of Meath Halloween Festival.

**Kells High Cross (C3)** Kells Town [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).

As well as the Book of Kells, the monastery is also famous for its five High Crosses, the most famous is the Market Cross, standing at 3.35 meters high.

## Even More to Experience

**Francis Ledwidge Museum (D4)** Slane Tel: 041 9824544 [www.francisledwidge.com](http://www.francisledwidge.com)

The cottage birthplace of World War I poet, Francis E. Ledwidge.

**Open:** Contact directly for opening hours and admission rates.**Sonairte Eco Centre (D5)** The Ninch, Laytown Tel: 041 9827572 [www.sonairte.ie](http://www.sonairte.ie)

Sonairte is a great place for a family visit with its Walled Organic Garden, Nature Trail, Information Centre, Heritage Trail, Bee Museum and Café.

**Open:** Tue - Sun 10.30 - 17.00 (Feb - Dec).**Woodfield Open Farm (C3)** Kells Tel: 049 8541270 [www.woodfieldopenfarm.com](http://www.woodfieldopenfarm.com)

As well as a host of farm animals, the farm also has an extensive play area for children and a café.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)



Map No.

## Attraction

- 1 Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Newgrange and Knowth
- 2 Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre

Map No.

## Attraction

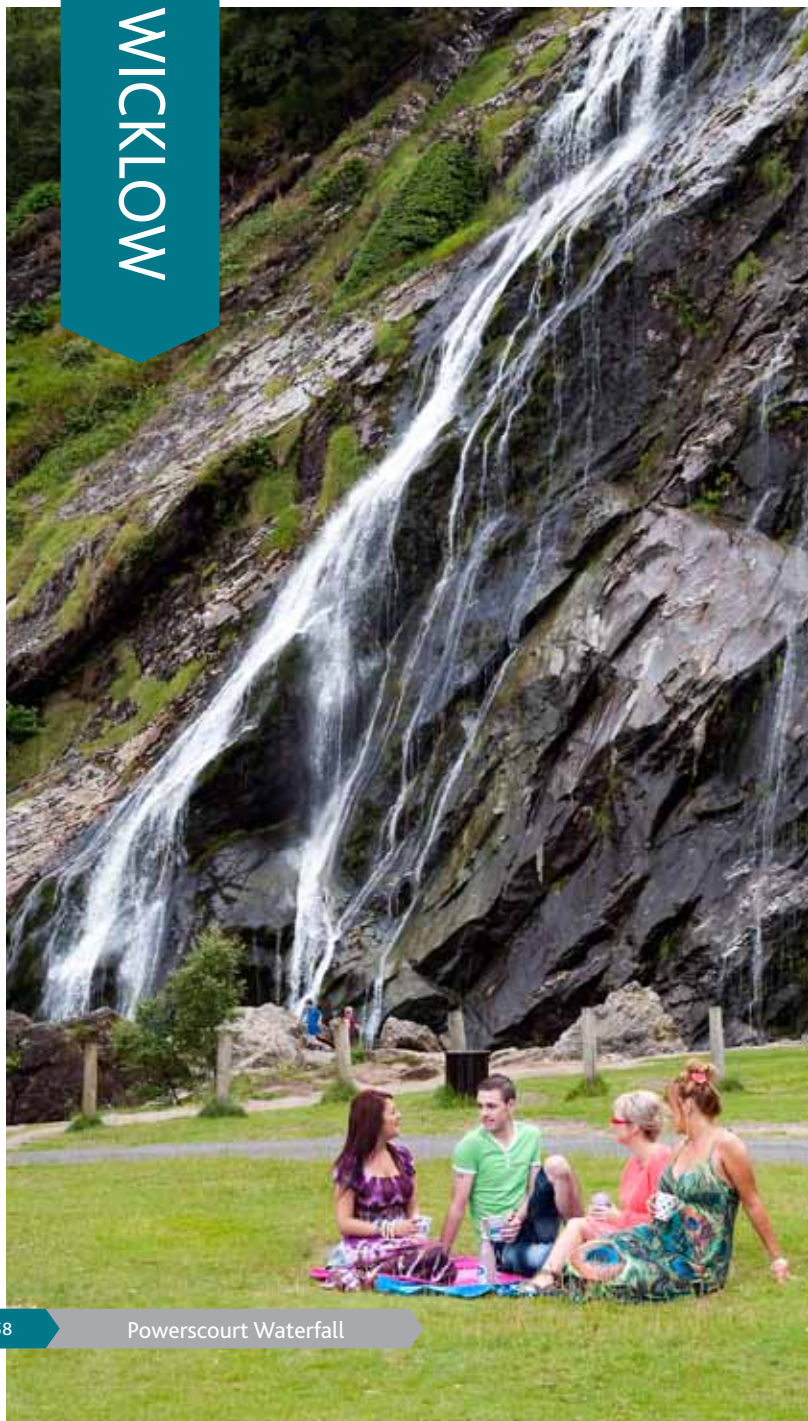
- 3 Hill of Tara
- 4 Trim Castle
- 5 Slane Castle



Map No.	Attraction
6	Loughcrew Cairns
7	Tayto Park
8	The Irish Military War Museum
9	Bective Abbey
10	Tower of Lloyd

All attractions listed above are fully detailed on pages 50 - 53

# WICKLOW



# Wicklow

Renowned for its scenery, Wicklow is known as the 'Garden of Ireland' and boasts many fine examples at the grand houses of Kilruddery, Russborough, Avondale and Powerscourt.

As for those whose idea of relaxation is to stretch the legs and not rest them, Wicklow is a haven for walkers. Choose from short strolls to the multi-day Wicklow Way, the longest self-guided walking route in the country.

Hidden around every corner are rich and interesting attractions including the 6th century monastic centre of Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Two popular seaside towns that vibrate with excitement are Greystones which offers beautiful cliff walks, boutique shopping and fine dining and Bray which has something for everyone from its rich heritage and splendid scenery to a vibrant arts scene, aquarium and bustling Main Street.

For the adventurous, there's an unparalleled range of activities including horse riding, mountain biking, kayaking and falconry. On the subject of eagles, the county has an amazing catalogue of golf courses. You don't have to have hawk eyes to spot the potential for fun in Wicklow.

## *Did you Know?*

- A village called Hollywood nestles in the Wicklow Mountains!
- Wicklow Gaol is proclaimed to be one of the most haunted places in Ireland.
- Poulaphouca was the second hydroelectric station to be built in Ireland after Ardnacrusha on the Shannon River. Poulaphouca means 'The Ghost's or Devil's Hole' in English.
- The films 'Excalibur' and 'Braveheart' among many others were shot in Ardmore Studios, in Bray.
- The 2004 comedy romance, Laws of Attraction was partly filmed at Humewood Castle, Kiltegan.

*For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/wicklow](http://www.discoverireland.ie/wicklow)*



Powerscourt House and Gardens

## Wicklow Towns & Villages

**Annamoe** (G5) is small picturesque village in County Wicklow that is well known for its fishery. The small stone humpback bridge is a popular place for tourists to stop and view the beautiful County Wicklow scenery.

**Arklow** (H5) town is an excellent base to explore the Vale of Avoca and the Wicklow Mountains. The glorious sandy beaches of Brittas Bay and Clogga are well worth a visit. Activities include angling, golfing and swimming.

**Ashford** (G6) is a scenic village and home to the famous Mount Usher Gardens, which boast a famous collection of plants gathered from all corners of the world. Devil's Glen Woodland and Waterfall is located 4km west of Ashford on the road to Glendalough via Nun's Cross. The waterfall and pool at the head of the glen is called the Devil's Punchbowl.

**Aughrim** (G5) is famous for its granite and is often referred to as the granite village due to the large amount of buildings constructed using local granite. Liverpool Cathedral was also built using this stone. In Aughrim there is a commemorative memorial to honour the memory of those involved in the 1798 rebellion.

**Avoca** (G5) "There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet as that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet". So sang Thomas Moore in 1807. The Vale of Avoca, already popular in his time, took on immortality. The popular series 'Ballykissangel' was filmed here.

**Baltinglass** (G4) is a place oozing in heritage. Bronze Age burial chambers (5,000 years old) have been excavated on the Pinnacle, a 383 meter hill. The Abbey, founded by the King of Leinster Dermot McMurrough in 1148, was built for the Cistercian order of monks, however only ruins remain today.

**Blessington** (F4) village is on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains and has the biggest manmade lake in Ireland and offers fantastic leisure activities and a beautiful lake drive (35 km). Close by is Russborough, one of the most beautiful of all the great 18th century houses of Ireland.

**Bray** (F6) is a quintessential 19th century town with a beautiful promenade, you can enjoy the splendid seafront, walk the magnificent Bray Head, visit Sealife or Killruddery House and Gardens.



Bray Summerfest

**Brittas Bay** (G6) has a 5km stretch of beautiful white sand dunes and clean beaches. It has won & maintained the Blue Flag for many years now. It is ideal for bathing, sailing & walking.

**Donard** (G4) is an enchanting village at the northern end of the Glen of Imaal. The Dwyer McAllister Cottage, which is a few kilometers southeast of the town, is worth a visit to anyone interested in Irish history.

**Glendalough** (G5) and its Monastic site has been one of the most sacred Christian places in Ireland for over a thousand years. Today it still retains its haunting beauty with two silent lakes set between steep mountains. Ancient monastic ruins & round tower, rare and beautiful oak forest, exciting cliffs for rock-climbers and mining relics provide endless interest.

**Kilcoole** (F6) just south of Greystones was famous for being the film location of TV series 'Glenroe'. Fans of Glenroe can visit Glenroe Pet Farm. The shingle beach in Kilcoole is a paradise for birdwatchers. This nature reserve runs all the way to Wicklow town where it leads to the Broadlough.

**Rathdrum** (G5) town, situated high on the western side of the beautiful Avonmore valley, offers majestic views of the Avonmore River, which flows through the Vale of Clara. The town has been the location for films like 'Michael Collins', 'A Love Divided' and 'Durango'. Avondale House and Forest Park is set on 500 acres, it was the birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell.

**Roundwood** (F5) claims to be the highest village in Ireland, and has a lovely setting on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains.

**Shillelagh** (H4) is a 17th century planned estate village, with attractive terrace stone houses and a handsome courthouse with a clock tower. Tomnafinnoge Oak Forest, standing just off the Tinahely road, is one of the largest standing oak forests in the country. The Irish shillelagh originates from this village.

**Wicklow Town** (G6) is built on the side of a great promontory overlooking the sea. Wicklow enjoys one of the most attractive settings of any Irish town. A centre for fishing, sailing and walking, it has easy access to many of the wonders of the surrounding county including Wicklow Gaol, Wicklow Head & the ruins of Black Castle.

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.

# Visitor Attractions

## 1 Glendalough Monastic Site & Visitor Centre

Glendalough

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: €4, Senior/Group: €3, Student/Child: €2, Family: €10.

## 2 Powerscourt Gardens

Powerscourt Estate,

Enniskerry

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: €8.50, Student / Senior: €7.50, Child under 16: €5,  
Child under 5: Free of charge, Family (2+3): €25.

## 3 Wicklow Mountains National Park

Upper Lake,  
Glendalough

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.



#### 4 Avondale House & Forest Park

Rathdrum

Tel: 0404 46111

[www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.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:** Easter - 31st Oct. (Opening times are subject to change, please check website or phone for times)

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Concession: €6.50, Child: €4.50, Family (2+2): €20, Child U5: Free of charge. Please note: Pay parking in place €5 per car (coins).

#### 5 National SEA LIFE Centre

Strand Road, Bray

Tel: 01 2866939

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



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!) in 25 amazing displays!



**Open:** Daily (except 25/26 Dec) 10.00 - 17.00 (Mar - Oct). 11.00 - 16.00 (Nov - Feb): Summer hours apply during weekends and holidays.

**Admission:** Adult: €11.50, Child (3-14): €8.50, Under 3: Free of charge. Family (2+2): €36.

#### 6 Wicklow's Historic Gaol

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town

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.

# Visitor Attractions

## 7 Greenan Maze

Greenan Farm Museums & Maze,  
Greenan, Rathdrum

Tel: 0404 46000

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



A great day out for all the family, with lots to do for adults and kids. Two mazes, three traditional museums, wild nature walks, nature trails, treasure hunts, farm animals, Tea-Rooms, Craft-Shop, picnics, tours and special events.



**Open:** Apr, May & Sep Weekends only; Jun, Jul & Aug Daily; 10.00 - 18.00  
Public Holidays, Easter, Halloween & Special Events; see [www.greenanmaze.com](http://www.greenanmaze.com) for details.

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Child: €7, Family discounts available.  
See website [www.greenanmaze.com](http://www.greenanmaze.com) for other admission rates.

## 8 Russborough House and Parkland

Russborough, Blessington

Tel: 045 865239

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



Russborough is a stunning Palladian Mansion with award winning guided house tours, award winning Tea Rooms, Parkland Tours, 3D exhibition, Maze, Playground, Artisan outlets, Gift Shop, Sheepdog Demonstrations, Falconry, Tourism and Brand Activity Days. Visit: [www.facebook.com/russborough](https://www.facebook.com/russborough).



**Open:** Daily 10.00 - 17.00.

**Admission:** Guided House Tour + 3D interactive Basement Exhibition: €12,  
Guided House Tour: €10, 3D Basement Exhibition: €6.

★ **Offer:** 20% off Public Tour rates on production of this guide.

## 9 Dwyer McAllister Cottage

Derrynamuck

Tel: 0404 45325 / 52

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

A fine example of a traditional whitewashed thatched cottage built with local stone. Historically linked to the 1798 Rebellion.



**Open:** Mid June - Mid Sep (Afternoons only).

**Admission:** Free of charge.

**10 The Mill at Avoca**

Avoca Village

Tel: 0402 35105

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

Established in 1723, Ireland's Oldest Working Handweaving Mill, with Free Tour. Experience the process of weaving a throw from yarn to loom. The Mill is the heritage of Avoca, with award winning shop & café.

**Open:** Daily 09.30 - 17.30.**Admission:** Free of charge.**11 Killruddery House & Gardens**

Southern Cross Road, Bray

Tel: 01 2863405

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

Home to 16 generations of the Brabazon family, Killruddery is a living, working House, gardens & 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 €11, Concession: €9, Child: €3, Family (2+2): €22. Gardens Only: Adult €6.50, Concession: €5.50, Child: Free of charge. (Group rates available.)**12 Powerscourt Waterfall**

Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry

Tel: 01 2046000

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

Come and explore Ireland's most beautiful and intriguing estate. Visit the highest waterfall in Ireland, explore its parkland and discover its wildlife. Enjoy a family-friendly day out including a children's playground. Picnics and barbecues welcome.

**Open:** Times vary; please see website for seasonal opening times.**Admission:** Adult: €5.50, Student / Senior €5.00, Child under 12: €3.50, Child under 2: Free of charge, Family (2+3): €16



Glendalough

## More to Experience

### Abbeys, Houses & Castles

**Altadore Castle** (F6) Kilpeddar Tel: 087 7601369

Open: Feb 10 - 24, March 10 - 15, May 1 - 31, June 1 - 5, Aug 23 - 31, 13.00 - 17.00. Prior notice appreciated. Groups all year by Appointment.

**Baltinglass Abbey** (G4) Baltinglass [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.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.

**Joyce's House** (F6) Martello Tower, Bray Tel: 01 2868407

Please contact directly for opening times & prices.

**The Black Castle** (G6) There is a fine vantage point for views over the town and the coast of North Wicklow from the ruins.

### Craft Studios & Workshops

**Avoca Handweavers Mill** (G5) Avoca Village Tel: 0402 35105 [www.avoca.ie](http://www.avoca.ie)  
(Outlet in Enniskerry & Kilmacanogue)

**Avoca Painting School & Gallery** (G5) Knockanode, Avoca Tel: 0402 35555

**Cherrylane Fine Arts Gallery** (F6) Killincarrig, Delgany Tel: 01 2875565

**Conary Arts Centre** (G5) Conary Tel: 087 2334714 [www.conary.net](http://www.conary.net)

**Courthouse Arts Centre** (H5) Tinahely Tel: 0402 38529 [www.courthouseartscentre.ie](http://www.courthouseartscentre.ie)

**Geoffrey Healy Pottery** (F6) Kilmacanogue Tel: 01 2829270 [www.healy-pottery.com](http://www.healy-pottery.com)

**Jenny Kelly Pottery** (G5) Dunganstown, Kilbride Tel: 087 7596747  
[www.jennykellypottery.ie](http://www.jennykellypottery.ie)

Also Retail Outlet at Market Square, Wicklow Town.

**Kilmantin Art Gallery** (G6) Bridge St, Wicklow Town Tel: 0404 61980  
[www.kilmantinarts.com](http://www.kilmantinarts.com)

**Mermaid Arts Centre** (F6) Main St, Bray Tel: 01 2724030 [www.mermaidartscentre.ie](http://www.mermaidartscentre.ie)

**River Gallery** (G5) Aughrim Tel: 0402 36878 [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)

\* Brackets ( ) indicate the grid references on the regional map at the back of this guide.



Greystones Harbour

**Shuttleknit** (G6) Crinion Park, Wicklow Town Tel: 0404 25641 [www.shuttleknit.com](http://www.shuttleknit.com)

**Signal Art's Centre** (F6) Albert Ave, Bray Tel: 01 2762039 [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie)

**The Irish School of Landscape Painting** (G6) River Run Studios, Ashford  
Tel: 0404 42884 [www.irishschooloflandscapepainting.com](http://www.irishschooloflandscapepainting.com)

**The Space Inside Arts Centre** (G6) Wicklow Town Tel: 087 6836688

## Museums & Attractions

**Arklow Maritime Museum** (H5) Bridgewater Centre, Arklow Tel: 0402 32868  
[www.maritimemuseumarklow.com](http://www.maritimemuseumarklow.com).

**Open:** Tue - Sat 10.00 - 17.00. Admission: Adult: €5, Senior: €2, Child: FOC.

**Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood** (F5) Powerscourt Estate Tel: 01 2748090  
[www.taraspalace.ie](http://www.taraspalace.ie)

Explore the magical miniature world of Tara's Palace Museum of Childhood at Powerscourt Estate. Contact directly for details.

**Indian Sculpture Park** (F5) At Victoria's Way, Roundwood Tel: 01 2818505  
[www.victoriasway.eu](http://www.victoriasway.eu)

At present there are 33 black granite stone sculptures and 3 bronze on view. Please check website for opening times & admission rates.

**Parnell National Memorial Park** (G5) Rathdrum Tel: 0404 46262

An outstanding tourist amenity, with its bronze statue of Parnell, its walks, ponds, free car park and restful seating areas. Well worth a visit!

**Sculpture in Woodland** (G6) Ashford Tel: 01 2011111

Sculpture in Woodland has over 20 sculptures located here.

**The Mottee Stone at Avoca** (G5)

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.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/wicklow](http://www.discoverireland.ie/wicklow)

Map  
No.

## Attraction

- 1 Glendalough Monastic Site and Visitor Centre
- 2 Powerscourt Gardens
- 3 Wicklow Mountains National Park

Map  
No.

## Attraction

- 4 Avondale House and Forest Park
- 5 The National SEA LIFE Centre
- 6 Wicklow's Historic Gaol
- 7 Greenan Farm Museums and Maze

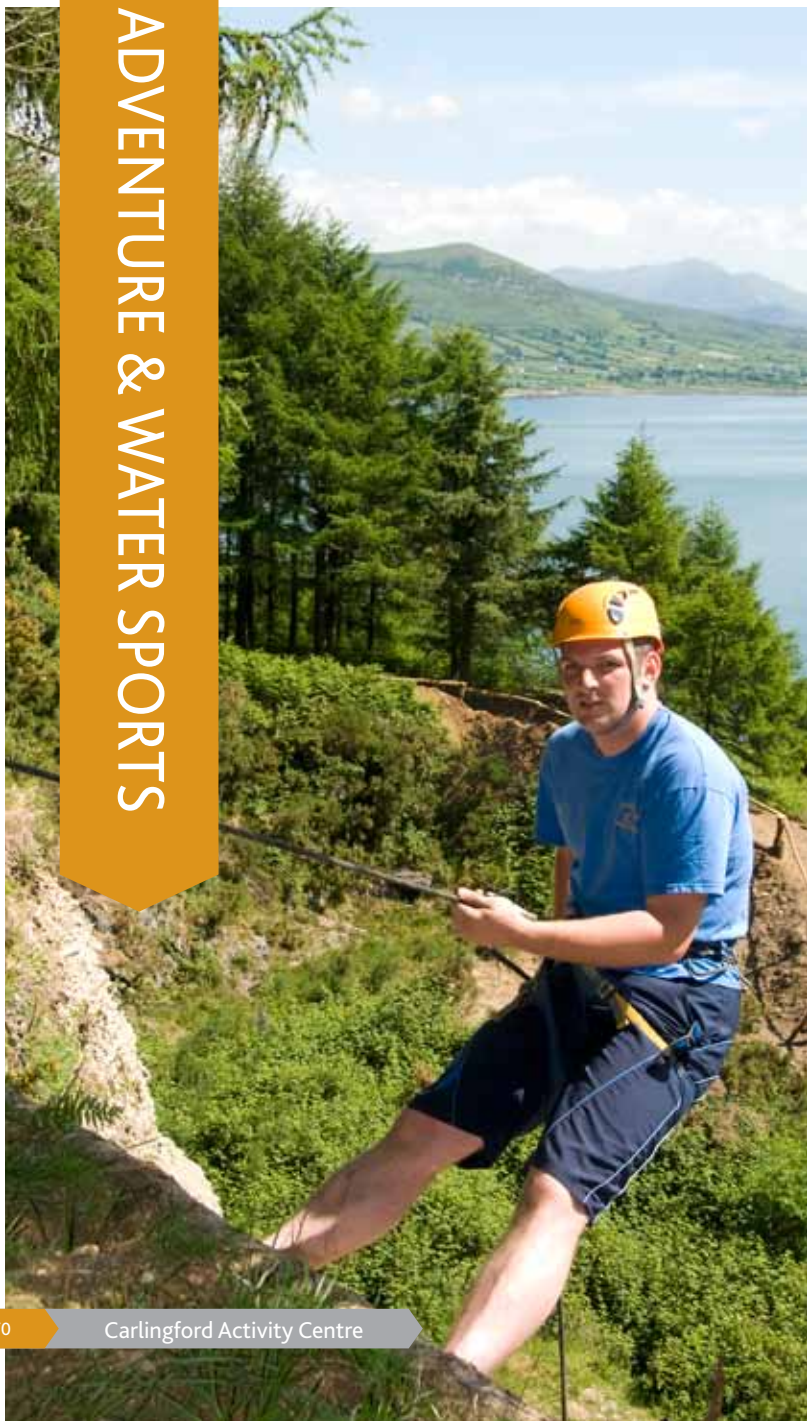


Map No.	Attraction
8	Russborough
9	Dwyer McAllister Cottage
10	The Mill at Avoca

Map No.	Attraction
11	Killrudey House and Gardens
12	Powerscourt Waterfall

All attractions listed above are fully detailed on pages 62 - 65

# ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS





# Adventure & Water Sports

Adventure enthusiasts have plenty to get excited about, with everything from high wire adventure courses to high octane racing.

Visitors of all ages (but especially the kids) will love the Adventure Centres located around the region, from the stunning setting of the Wicklow Mountains to the beautiful medieval town of Carlingford and Loughcrew in County Meath.

If its high octane you're into then why not visit Mondello Park, in Kildare for some motor racing lessons! Or get to grips with the basics on some of the go karting tracks throughout the region. If that's not enough to satisfy you why not go for helicopter flying lessons, all to be found in Dublin's Doorstep.

With mountains and moors, rivers and lakes, canals and bogs the outdoor enthusiast is spoiled in this part of Ireland. There's a range of adrenaline-fuelled action out there on the water to choose from. Most of the fishing harbours on the east coast, from Carlingford to Arklow, have sailing clubs and several offer instruction. Facilities and space for sail-boarding and canoeing, with easy access and good accommodation, extend over the entire coast.

Many miles of superb beaches, gently sloping and safe, welcome swimmers and surfers both old and young, many of them hold the coveted Blue Flag award for safety and comfort.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/adventure](http://www.discoverireland.ie/adventure)



Kayaking on River Barrow



Carlingford Activity Centre



Carlingford Marina

## Adventure &amp; Water Sports

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Kildare</b>		
Abbeyfield Farm Country Pursuits, Abbeyfield, Clane	086 8164130 www.abbeyfieldfarm.com	Clay Pigeon Shooting, Air Rifle & Archery
Canalways Ireland, Spencer Bridge, Rathangan	087 2433879 www.canalways.ie	Barge Hire
European Helicopter Academy, Weston Airport, Leixlip	076 6030046 www.europeanhelicopteracademy.ie	Flying Lessons
Jennifer's Travels, Monasterevin	086 3425546 www.jenniferztravels.com	Narrowboat Hire
Mondello Park, Donore, Naas	045 860200 www.mondello.ie	International Motorsport Venue
Sky West Aviation, Leixlip	01 6280088 www.skywest.ie	Pleasure Helicopter Flights
<b>Laois</b>		
Barrowline Cruisers, Vicarstown, Portlaoise	057 8626060 www.barrowline.ie	Narrowboat & Barge Hire
Fossey Mountain Springs Ranch, Timahoe	057 8627320 www.fosseymountainranges.com	Trail Riding
Kilvahan Horse Drawn Caravans, Coolrain	057 8735178 www.horsedrawncaravans.com	Horse Drawn Caravans
Supershot Paintball, Cork Road, Stradbally	086 3777499 www.supershot.ie	Paintball
True Fitness, Portarlinton	086 1055051 www.truefitness.ie	Biking, Kayaking, Hill Walking
<b>Louth</b>		
Ardee Shooting Grounds, Ardee	041 6853711	Clay Pigeon Shooting
Carlingford Adventure Centre, Thosel St, Carlingford	042 9373100 www.carlingfordadventure.com	Range of Outdoor Water & Land Based Activities
Carlingford Lough Cruises, Carlingford	048 41753425	Pleasure Cruise
Funtasia, Donore Rd, Drogheda	041 9898000 www.funtasia.ie	Waterpark & Amusement Rides
Louth Adventures, Carlingford	087 8208985 www.louthadventures.ie	Water Based Activities
White River Park, Collon	041 9819100 www.whiteriver.ie	Go Karting
<b>Meath</b>		
Athboy Karting, Delvin Road, Athboy (near Addistown)	086 8068776 www.athboykartingcentre.ie	Karting, Archery, Rifle Range
Irish Balloon Flights, Trim	046 9483436 www.balloons.ie	Hot Air Balloon Trips - various locations
Loughcrew Adventure Course, Oldcastle	049 8541356 www.loughcrew.com	Range of Activities Including a Zip Wire!
Newgrange Falconry, Donore	086 8866738 www.newgrangefalconry.com	Falconry Displays & Lessons - at your location
Puddenhill Activity & Karting Centre, Pudden Hill, Ashbourne	01 8354444 www.puddenhill.com	Karting & Various Activities
Rathbeggan Lakes, Dunshaughlin	01 8240197 www.rathbegganlakes.com	High Kings Tower, Activity Zone

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/adventure](http://www.discoverireland.ie/adventure)

## Meath

The Zone, Extreme Activity Centre, Mullaghboy Ind. Estate, Navan	046 9071623 www.thezone.ie	Karting, Paintballing, Paintball Laser Tag, Archery, Mission Impossible Maze, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Shooting Simulator
---	-------------------------------	---

## Wicklow

Arklow Skateboard Park, Seaview Avenue, Arklow	0402 23328	Skateboard Park
Avoca Tours	086 0258484 www.avocatours.com	Gold Panning, Heritage Walks, Bike Hire & Tours
Avon Ri Adventure Centre, Blessington	045 900670 www.avonri.com	Water Sports & Activities
Biking.ie	083 4346992 www.biking.ie	Mountain Bike & Road Bike Rental
Blessington Sailing School, Avon Ri Hotel, Blessington Lakes	087 2232767 www.hobiecatcentreireland.com	Sailing (May-Oct)
Brittas Bay Surf School, Brittas Bay (Seasonal)	086 7396010 www.brittasbaysurfschool.com	Surfing & Tuition Easter & Summer Camps
Clissmann Horse Drawn Caravans, Cronebyrne, Rathdrum	0404 46920 www.clissmannhorsecaravans.com	Horse Drawn Holidays
Deep Blue Sea Kayaking, various locations	086 8205627 www.deepblueseakayaking.com	Sea Kayaking
Eco Adventure Ireland, Near Enniskerry	01 2767988 www.ecoadventureireland.ie	Large range of Activities
Hilltop Sporting Club, Newtownmountkenedy	01 2818025 www.hilltopshootingsports.com	Clay Pigeon Shooting & Archery
IPG Paintballing, Bray	1800 246188 www.ipgvip.ie	Paintballing
Kippure Estate, Manor Kilbride, Blessington	01 4582889 www.adventurewicklow.com	Large range of Activities
Polo Wicklow, Kilpoole, Wicklow Town	087 2869691 www.polowicklow.com	Polo School
Rathcon Farm Activities, Grangecon	086 8292309 / 087 9624805 www.rathcon.com	Clay Pigeon, Rifle Shooting & Angling
Shearwater Sea Kayaking, Blessington	086 8368736 www.shearwaterseakayaking.ie	Sea Kayaking
Skirmish Paintball Pursuits, Roundwood	087 3369107 www.skirmish.ie	Paintballing
Vagabond Adventure Tours, Greystones	01 4428559 www.vagabondtoursofireland.ie	Cycling, Equestrian, Guided tours etc...
Wicklow Adventure Tours, Hidden Valley, Rathdrum	086 7272872 www.irelandholidaypark.com	Cycling
Wicklow Boat Charters, 10C Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	087 6832179 www.wicklowboatcharters.ie	Sightseeing / Boat Charters
Wicklow Boat Hire, South Quay, Wicklow Town	086 0281369 www.wicklowboathire.ie	Tours of Coastline, Kayak Hire
Wicklow Kiteboarding, Brittas Bay	086 8646940 www.wicklowkiteboarding.com	Kiteboarding & Lessons
Wicklow Skateboard Park & Outdoor Gym, The Murrough, Wicklow	0404 20100	Skateboard Park & Gym



Carlingford Activity Centre



Sailing in Wicklow



Mondello Park Motor Racing School

# ANGLING



# Angling

Whether you're planning to relax by the river on a coarse angling break, or want to try out game angling or pike fishing, we've got details of great locations and a range of operators to choose from. Or you could try your luck at landing the big one, sea angling out on open water!

**Sea angling:** There is a fantastic variety of good quality fishing whether you are interested in shore, small boat, charter boat, rock fishing or fly-fishing for bass.

**Trout fishing:** River Fane, Dundalk, Co. Louth, River Boyne and tributaries, Slane, Navan, Trim & Kells, Co. Meath. These rivers and their tributaries are some of the Country's premium wild brown trout fishing rivers. There are many club fisheries on these rivers, which require a permit and are available from local tackle shops.

**Pike angling:** This region offers some of the best pike fishing in the country. A popular spot is the magnificent Blessington Lake in Co. Wicklow, always guaranteed for a good days fishing! There are expert guides available in the region that can offer the angler the best chance of catching the monster pike of a lifetime!

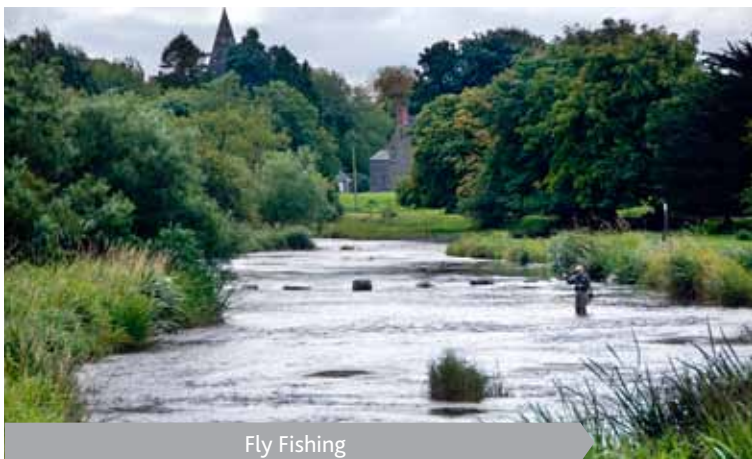
**Coarse angling:** Anglers will be afforded a wide choice and variety of angling. There is something to suit every coarse angler in the region and the main species available include bream, roach, rudd, hybrids, tench and carp. There are no licences or permits required on many of these waters and generally the fishing is free so there is nothing stopping you!

A list of fisheries, fishing guides, ghillies, instructors and boat hire can be obtained on [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/angling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/angling)



Fishing in Carlingford



Fly Fishing



Laytown Beach, Co. Meath



# Angling

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Kildare</b>		
Cleeres Angling Centre, Clane Business Park, Clane	045 893551 www.fishingirelandcentre.com	Tackle Shop
Countryman Angling, Leanne House, Pacelli Road, Naas	045 879341 www.discoverireland.ie	Tackle Shop & Bait Stockist
Curragh Springs Fishery, Ballysax, The Curragh	087 2462028	Put & Take Fishery
Finlays Angling Centre, Monasterevin	045 525331 www.finlaysanglingcentre.com	Tackle Shop & Bait Stockist
Fly Fishing at Carton House, Maynooth	01 5052000 www.cartonhouse.com	Pike, Trout & Salmon
Griffin Hawe Angling, 22 Duke Street, Athy	059 8631221 www.griffinhawe.ie	Tackle Shop & Bait Stockist

## Laois

Irish Fly Craft, Abbeyleix	086 8451257 www.irishflycraft.com	Tackle Shop
Laois Angling Centre, Coolrain	057 8735091 www.laoisanglingcentre.ie	Put and Take Fishery, Equipment hire & Tuition
The Tackle Shop, Mountrath	057 8732162 www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands	Tackle Shop & Bait Stockist
Victor Cox Tackle Shop, Mountmellick	057 8624107 www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands	Tackle Shop

## Louth

Boyne Angling Centre, Unit 16 Boyne Shopping Centre, Drogheda	041 9872943	Tackle Shop
Greenore Co-Op, 22 Euston Street, Greenore	042 9373822	Tackle Shop
John Woods Garden Machinery and Fishing Tackle, Unit 6, John Street Industrial Estate, John Street, Ardee	041 6857943	Tackle Shop
Patsy McArdle, The Bicycle Doctor, Bridge Street, Dundalk	042 9327033	Tackle Shop
Sea Angling - Carlingford Lough	048 30264906 www.carlingfordlough.co.uk	Deep Sea Angling Charter & Equipment Hire
Top Guns Sports, 50 Magdalene Street, Drogheda	041 9842225	Tackle Shop

## Meath

Angler's World, Unit C1, Balmoral Business Park, Kells Road, Navan	046 9071866 www.anglersworld.ie	Tackle Shop & Permits
Peter O'Reilly Fly Fishing School, Boyne Hill, Navan	046 9028210 www.oreillyfishing.com	Fly Fishing School

A list of fisheries, fishing guides, ghillies, instructors and boat hire can be obtained on [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/angling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/angling)

## Meath

Rathbeggan Lakes Angling, Dunshaughlin	01 8240197 www.rathbegganlakes.com	Put and Take Fishery, Bait, Wheelchair Accessible
Sports Den, 39 Trimgate Street, Navan	046 9021130 www.sportsden.ie	Tackle Shop & Permits

## Wicklow

Annamoe Trout Fisheries, Annamoe	0404 45470 www.annamoetroutfishery.com	Put and Take Fishery
Avonmore Tackle Products, 36 Main Street, Rathdrum	087 9787040 / 087 8362618 www.irishflytying.com	Tackle Shop
Gotcha, Greystones	01 2871122 www.gotchaangling.com	Tackle Dealer
National Disabled Angling Park, Aughrim	0402 36552 www.discoverireland.ie	Put and Take Fishery
Power Sound Tackle Shop, Arklow	0402 33966 www.discoverireland.ie	Tackle Dealer
Rathcon Lake, Grangecon	086 8292309 www.rathcon.com	Put and Take Fishery
Tinnehinch Fly Angling Centre & School, Enniskerry	01 2766089 www.flyfishingwicklow.com	Put & Take Angling Centre & School
Viking Tackle Bray, 79 Castle Street, Bray	01 2869215 www.vikingtackle.ie	Tackle Shop

A list of fisheries, fishing guides, ghillies, instructors and boat hire can be obtained on [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/angling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/angling)



Boats on Blessington Lake



Fishing



Fishing in Kildare



Fly Fishing, Co. Meath

# BEACHES



# Beaches on Dublin's Doorstep

You are never too far away from a beach on Dublin's doorstep with spectacular beaches in Louth, Meath & Wicklow waiting to be explored, these include 6 Blue Flag beaches (Year 2014).

At the coast, where the salty air meets the rolling hills, a day at a breathtaking beach can reinvigorate the senses. With plenty to choose from, some of the most popular beaches are mentioned below.

**Shellinghill/Templetown Beach** in Carlingford, County Louth fronts one of Louth's most popular but as yet, unspoilt stretch of coastline with smooth safe sands.

**Clogherhead Beach** in the small fishing village of Clogherhead in County Louth, is a popular tourist destination for its unspoilt golden sands and wonderful views. Port Beach is located a few short miles north and is fronted by a mature dune area which is perfect for picnics, and offers plenty of play space for children.

**Bettystown** in County Meath is a long established seaside resort with a fine, sandy stretch of beach from Laytown to the mouth of the Boyne at Mornington.

**Brittas Bay** is the most popular beach in Wicklow, it has a 5 km stretch of beautiful white sand dunes, clean beaches and is ideal for bathing, sailing & walking.

**Greystones** in County Wicklow boasts two beaches, the South Beach is a long sandy strip that follows on from the shingly North Beach at the harbour.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/beaches](http://www.discoverireland.ie/beaches)



Rush Beach, Co. Wicklow



Clogherhead Beach, Co. Louth



Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow

The International Blue Flag programme is operated in Ireland by An Taisce with the support of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education. Each location meets a range of environmental and safety criteria which collectively represent a high level of environmental quality.



**The Blue Flag** is an international, voluntary eco-label for beaches and marinas and is awarded to beaches and marinas that meet a specific set of criteria: Environmental information & education, water quality, safety & services and environmental management.

## Blue Flag Beaches

NAME	LOCATION
<b>Louth</b>	
Clogherhead	Clogherhead
Port	Carlingford
Shellinghill/Templetown	Carlingford
<b>Wicklow</b>	
Brittas Bay North	Arklow
Brittas Bay South	Arklow
Greystones	Greystones



**Green Coast Awards** are awarded to beaches for their natural beauty, clean environment and water quality. These beaches may not have the necessary built infrastructure as to meet criteria set for Blue Flag status; however Green Coast Award beaches are exceptional places to visit and to enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity.

## Green Coast Beaches

NAME	LOCATION
<b>Wicklow</b>	
South Beach	Arklow



For more information on Blue Flag and Green Coast Award beaches, please contact:  
**An Taisce:** Tel: 01 4002210  
 Web: [www.blueflagireland.org](http://www.blueflagireland.org)

# Driving Routes

We have chosen some great driving routes which will introduce you to many of the region's most famous sights and attractions and also to lesser known gems along the way.

Routes can be travelled in any direction and from any starting point, map illustrations are intended as a guide only, and routes should be used in conjunction with reference to a good road map of Ireland.

## Take your car and explore the Boyne Valley in your own time and space!

The Boyne Valley is both Ireland's ancient capital and it's most sacred and mythical landscape. Moreover, its sites and monuments are amongst the best examples of their kind in Europe and are all within a short distance of each other. There is a signed driving route that will take you all around the Boyne Valley. This route brings you to the main towns and villages and to the many historic sites along the way where you can stop and explore in your own time. **(See map on pages 88 & 89 for details of this route.)**

## Like coastal views? Then you'll love this scenic driving route!

Kicking off in Bray, where a Victorian promenade connects with a stunning cliff walk, it proceeds through Wicklow, throwing up mile after mile of remarkably underrated eastern coastline. Within a short distance of Dublin, you'll pass the 18th century Wicklow lighthouse on its headland perch. You can explore (and even surf) hidden beaches like Mahermore. You can break out the picnic blanket on sandy, family-friendly strips like Brittas Bay. Of course, driving along the coastline isn't your only route to stunning sea views. Returning north through the Wicklow Mountains, you'll ascend to some mouth-watering vistas over the Irish Sea. Climb the Great Sugar Loaf, and you might even see Snowdonia in Wales. **(See map on page 90 for details of this route.)**

## Gordon Bennett Route, they did things differently in 1903!

Back then, the speed limit in Ireland was 12mph, and the prospect of The Gordon Bennett Cup, for which daredevil motorists would race each other around a 104-mile circuit of Kildare, Laois and Carlow, was enough to bring half the country to a standstill. It's easy to re-trace the route today in Kildare, the course runs through Athy and on to Kilcullen, before crossing the plains of the Curragh into Kildare Town. Who was Gordon Bennett? The flamboyant son of a New York Media Baron, whose passion for motor cars led him to sponsor the first-ever international motoring competition, which debuted in 1900, and arrived in Ireland three years later. Today, you can follow in their tyre tracks - at your own sweet pace. **(See map on page 91 for details of this route.)**

Pick up your  
**FREE local Town or City map**  
in our Discover Ireland Centres!



### Get ready for the off! On the Great Plains of the Curragh!

This touring route, looping leisurely around Maynooth, the Blessington Lakes and the great pastoral expanse of the Curragh, takes drivers right to the heart of Irish horse country including the racecourses at Nass and Punchestown and the Curragh. The Curragh a 5,000-acre plain whose name means 'place of the running horse' lies at the centre of Kildare. Not everything about the Curragh is equestrian, of course. It's also home to the Irish Defence Forces, and the British Army trained men here to fight in the Boer and First World Wars. Newbridge, Kildare and Maynooth are three warm and welcoming towns along the route; places you can stop into for a slap-up meal, a heritage fix, or an overnight stay. **(See map on page 92 for details of this route.)**

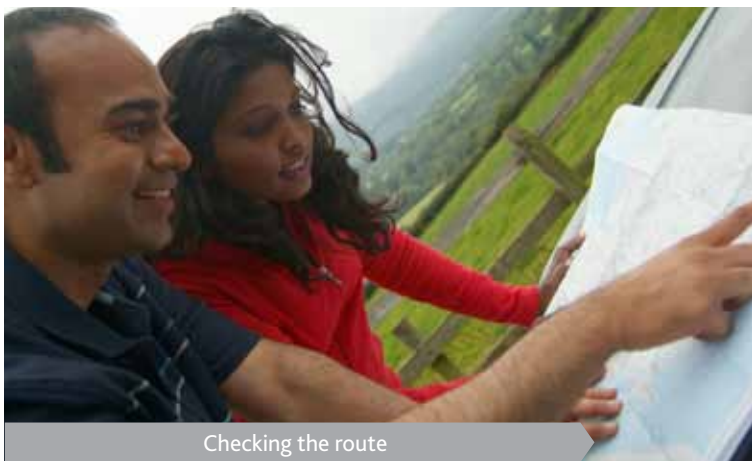
### Ireland's Garden County the Wilds of Wicklow!

Wicklow is Ireland's Garden County, but this is a garden as only nature could have made it, bursting with heather-clad mountains, gushing waterfalls, dramatic valleys and sparkling hidden lakes. At the core of this exhilarating drive lies Wicklow Mountains National Park. Wicklow's Military Road, begins north of Glenree, and is at its most ruggedly beautiful when passing through the Sally and Wicklow gaps. It's hard to believe such rawness of landscape could lie so close to a capital city. But wild and all as Wicklow gets, of course, you're never far from villages like Laragh, Roundwood and Blessington; the perfect places to overnight or to grab a bite whilst exploring the area. **(See map on page 93 for details of this route.)**

### Picture it... Just you, the open road and a classic touring route that sweeps from the wilds of Wicklow to the horse-peppered plains of Kildare!

The Grand Tour is the quintessential circuit of Kildare and Wicklow, taking in the most spectacular scenery, the most beautiful big houses and gardens and the most intriguing Early Christian heritage sites... in a route as suited to a short visit as a long, leisurely meander. Just a short drive from Dublin, you'll find wild mountains, craggy coastline and horsey plains. You'll enjoy big welcomes in small towns. You can immerse yourself in Palladian mansions and ancient heritage, taste mouth-watering food and experience real Irish culture and craic. Skim the surface or discover in depth. It's all here, in one easy trip. **(See map on pages 94 & 95 for details of this route.)**

Find more info on these routes at: [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie), [www.discoverireland.ie/boynevalley](http://www.discoverireland.ie/boynevalley), [www.grandtour.ie](http://www.grandtour.ie)



Checking the route

# Boyer Valley Driving Route



**BOYER VALLEY**

## Driving Route



Tourist Information Office & Visitor Centre



# Coastal Views Driving Route



- AH** Avondale House & Forest Park
- BP** Bray Promenade & Sealife Centre
- BB** Brittas Bay
- GW** Glenmacnass Waterfall
- GC** Glencree Cemetery
- GH** Glendalough
- GL** Great Sugar Loaf

- KR** Killruddy House & Gardens
- LT** Lough Tay
- MW** Meeting of the Waters
- MU** Mount Usher
- PH** Powerscourt Gardens & Waterfall
- WG** Wicklow Gaol

# Gordon Bennett Driving Route



- The Curragh
- Gordon Bennett Start Point
- Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens

- Kildare Town Heritage Centre
- Newbridge Silverware & Museum of Style Icons
- St. Brigid's Cathedral

# Great Plains of the Curragh Driving Route



- BL** Blessington Lakes
- BA** Bog of Allen Nature Centre
- CA** Carton Avenue & Carton House
- CH** Castletown House
- CU** The Curragh
- GR** The Grand Canal
- IS** Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- KH** Kildare Town Heritage Centre
- LU** Lullymore Heritage Park
- MA** NUI Maynooth St. Patrick's College
- NS** Newbridge Silverware & Museum of Style Icons
- RU** Russborough House, Gardens & Maze
- SB** St. Brigid's Cathedral

# Wilds of Wicklow Driving Route



**BL** Blessington Lakes

**GW** Glenmacnass Waterfall

**GC** Glencree Cemetery

**GH** Glendalough

**GL** Great Sugar Loaf

**LT** Lough Tay

**PG** Powerscourt Gardens & Waterfall

**RU** Russborough House, Gardens & Maze

**SG** Sally Gap

**WL** Wicklow Gap & Leadmines

# Kildare Wicklow Grand Tour Driving Route



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>(AH)</b> Avondale House & Forest Park    | <b>(GW)</b> Glenmacnass Waterfall                  |
| <b>(BL)</b> Blessington Lakes               | <b>(GC)</b> Glencree Cemetery                      |
| <b>(BA)</b> Bog of Allen Nature Centre      | <b>(GL)</b> Glendalough                            |
| <b>(BP)</b> Bray Promenade & Sealife Centre | <b>(GB)</b> Gordon Bennett Start Point             |
| <b>(BB)</b> Brittas Bay                     | <b>(GR)</b> The Grand Canal - Robertstown          |
| <b>(CA)</b> Carton Avenue & Carton House    | <b>(CL)</b> Great Sugar Loaf                       |
| <b>(CH)</b> Castletown House                | <b>(IS)</b> Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens |
| <b>(CU)</b> The Curragh                     | <b>(KH)</b> Kildare Town Heritage Centre           |





- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Killruddery House & Gardens                  |  Russborough House, Gardens & Maze |
|  Lough Tay                                    |  St. Brigid's Cathedral            |
|  Lullymore Heritage Park                      |  The Sally Gap                     |
|  NUI Maynooth / St. Patrick's College         |  Wicklow's Historic Gaol           |
|  Meeting of the Waters - Vale of Avoca        |  The Wicklow Gap & Leadmines       |
|  Mount Usher Gardens                          |   |
|  Newbridge Silverware & Museum of Style Icons |   |
|  Powerscourt Gardens & Waterfall              |   |

# EQUESTRIAN



# Equestrian

## Horse Riding

From the reassuringly steady pace of a trusty mare to the exhilaration of a sand-scattering gallop on wild and wonderful beaches, there are few sensations to rival those created by the bond between horse and rider. Enjoy a horse riding weekend at an equestrian centre tailor-made to suit your level and frame of mind, chill out or break free, choose from gentle treks to cross-country runs. Beautiful scenery, fresh country air and a great sense of camaraderie among riders, these are the memories you will treasure for the rest of your life. So from trail riding to dressage and show jumping, this region has top-quality equestrian centres to suit all your needs.



### Follow the Shamrock

Independently Assessed and Quality Assured by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

'Whenever you see this symbol you can be assured this Equestrian Centre is visitor friendly and committed to delivering high quality services and facilities. Visit: [www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian](http://www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian) for current listings.

## Horse Racing

Dublin's Doorstep racecourses service the most serious horse pundit to the more relaxed racegoer. Racing festivals such as the Irish National Hunt festival at Punchestown, the Curragh Derby Festival and Fairyhouse Winter Racing Festival are renowned for their carnival atmosphere. Aside from top quality racing, adults can relax and enjoy the atmosphere of fashion, fine dining and quality entertainment. Perhaps you're looking for something a little bit different on the racing scene? Then the Laytown races could be just for you. Each September, thousands of race goers flock to this tiny Meath village with its broad, sandy beach to view Europe's only officially approved beach racing. Find information on Race Festivals on [www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie)

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian](http://www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian)



Wolftek Horse Tours



Ravensdale Lodge Equestrian Centre



Bel Air Equestrian Centre

## Equestrian

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>Kildare</b>	
Abbeyfield Farm, Clane	086 8164130 <a href="http://www.abbeyfieldfarm.com">www.abbeyfieldfarm.com</a>
Ballyteague Stables, Ballyteague, Kilmeague, Naas	086 7307181 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Barretstown Camp Fund Ltd., Ballymore Eustace, Naas	087 8141391 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Blackberry Stables, Laragh, Maynooth	086 8778541 <a href="http://www.blackberrystablesridingschool.com">www.blackberrystablesridingschool.com</a>
Castlewarden Pony & Country Club, Straffan	087 6782349 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Clonfert Maynooth Equestrian Centre, Maynooth	087 9322909 <a href="http://www.clonfertmaynoothquestrian.ie">www.clonfertmaynoothquestrian.ie</a>
Copper Beech Stables, Duneaney, Kildangan Road, Kildare Town	089 4851288 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Dunbyrne Stud, Kilmeague, Naas	086 2224440 <a href="http://www.dunbyrnestud.com">www.dunbyrnestud.com</a>
Hazelbrook Equestrian Centre, Ardoon Stud, Newbridge	087 8502261 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Little Oak Equestrian Centre, Prosperous	085 2733424 <a href="http://www.littleoakequestrian.com">www.littleoakequestrian.com</a>
Lullymore Equestrian Centre, Lullymore Lodge, Rathangan	087 2518487 <a href="http://www.lullymorequestrian.ie">www.lullymorequestrian.ie</a>
Toberton Lodge, Johnstown, Naas	087 9816463 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
<b>Laois</b>	
Stradbally Equestrian Centre, Stradbally	086 8240238 <a href="http://www.stradballyhall.ie">www.stradballyhall.ie</a>
<b>Louth</b>	
Dunany Cross Country Equestrian Course, Dunany, Togher, Drogheda	087 7550056 <a href="http://www.dunanycrosscountry.com">www.dunanycrosscountry.com</a>
Ravensdale Lodge Equestrian & Trekking Centre, Dundalk	087 2306603 <a href="http://www.ravensdalelodge.com">www.ravensdalelodge.com</a>
The Railings Riding School, Kilpatrick, Ardee	086 9676190 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
<b>Meath</b>	
Bachelors Lodge Equestrian Centre, Navan	087 6556386 <a href="http://www.bachelorslodge.net">www.bachelorslodge.net</a>
Broadmeadow Equestrian Centre, Bullstown, Ashbourne	087 2413663 <a href="http://www.ireland-horses.com">www.ireland-horses.com</a>
Carton Equestrian, Blackhall Little Stud, Kilcloon	087 6888187 <a href="http://www.cartonequestrian.com">www.cartonequestrian.com</a>
Curragha Equestrian, Curragha, Ashbourne	087 2256783 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Kells Equestrian Centre, Normanstown, Carlanstown, Kells	087 9544351 <a href="http://www.kellsequestriancentre.com">www.kellsequestriancentre.com</a>
Moy Riding Centre, Summerhill	086 8239115 <a href="http://www.moyridingcentre.ie">www.moyridingcentre.ie</a>
Pelletstown Riding Centre, Pelletstown, Drumree	087 4164997 <a href="http://www.pelletstownridingcentre.com">www.pelletstownridingcentre.com</a>
Stewarts of Kilcloon, Kilcloon	086 0315453 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
The Barn Equitation & Performance Pony Centre, Corbalis, Julianstown	086 3921095 <a href="http://www.annestanleythebarn.com">www.annestanleythebarn.com</a>
<b>Wicklow</b>	
Bel Air Hotel & Equestrian Centre, Ashford	087 2794392 <a href="http://www.belairhotelequestrian.com">www.belairhotelequestrian.com</a>
Brennanstown Riding School, Hollybrook, Kilmacanogue	087 2522778 <a href="http://www.brennanstownrs.ie">www.brennanstownrs.ie</a>
Broomfield Equestrian Centre, Broomfield, Tinahely	087 7513186 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Festina Lente Equestrian Centre, Old Connaught Avenue, Bray	01 2720704 <a href="http://www.festinalente.ie">www.festinalente.ie</a>
Killegar Stables, The Scalp, Enniskerry	01 2860919 <a href="http://www.killegarstables.com">www.killegarstables.com</a>
Knocklishen Riding Stables, Knocklishen Beg, Kiltegan	087 9420205 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>

## Wicklow

Maltfield Stud Riding School, Ballykeane, Redcross	087 6800187 <a href="http://www.maltfieldstud.com">www.maltfieldstud.com</a>
Oak-Hill Equine, Knockanree Lower, Avoca	087 7110390 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Oakwood Stables, Ballinabarney, Redcross	086 1728878 <a href="http://www.irishponies.ie">www.irishponies.ie</a>
Old Farm Equestrian Centre, Ballycullen, Ashford	087 2626855 <a href="http://www.oldfarmequestriancentre.ie">www.oldfarmequestriancentre.ie</a>
Templeraíne House Stud, Arklow	086 8429283 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Wicklow Equestrian Centre, Tomdarragh, Roundwood	087 7403331 <a href="http://www.aire.ie">www.aire.ie</a>
Spruce Lodge, Ballyrogan Stud, Redcross	0404 47377 / 086 8373348 <a href="http://www.sprucelodge.ie">www.sprucelodge.ie</a>

## Horse Racing On Dublin's Doorstep

Curragh Racecourse, Co. Kildare	045 441205 <a href="http://www.curragh.ie">www.curragh.ie</a>
Naas Racecourse, Co. Kildare	045 897391 <a href="http://www.naasracecourse.com">www.naasracecourse.com</a>
Punchestown Racecourse, Co. Kildare.	045 897704 <a href="http://www.punchestown.com">www.punchestown.com</a>
Dundalk Stadium, Co. Louth	042 9334438 <a href="http://www.dundalkstadium.com">www.dundalkstadium.com</a>
Bellewstown Racecourse, Co. Meath	041 9823614 <a href="http://www.bellewstownraces.ie">www.bellewstownraces.ie</a>
Fairyhouse Racecourse, Co. Meath	01 8256167 <a href="http://www.fairyhouse.ie">www.fairyhouse.ie</a>
Navan Racecourse, Co. Meath	046 9021350 <a href="http://www.navanracecourse.ie">www.navanracecourse.ie</a>

For local fixtures and information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian](http://www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian)

For information on the Association of Irish Riding Establishments visit [www.aire.ie](http://www.aire.ie)

Horse Racing Ireland, visit: [www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie)

For Road Trotting info, visit: [www.irishtrotting.com](http://www.irishtrotting.com)

Book your  
**Accommodation**  
in any of our Discover Ireland Centres  
with great value and advice, along  
with no booking fees!



Laytown Beach Races, Co. Meath



Horseriding in Athy, Co. Kildare



Brennanstown Riding School, Co. Wicklow



Dundalk Racecourse

# FAMILY FUN





# Family Fun

When you've spent a little time having fun in Dublin's Doorstep region you'll leave everything else behind. With so much action, adventure and excitement it's easy to lose yourself for a few moments, you'll love it. But the best thing is that the kids will love it too!

There are plenty of fabulous, pristine beaches on Dublin's Doorstep. Most are safe for bathing and are well served with good access and facilities. Off the beaten track there is adventure to be had, looking for secret coves, hidden beaches and places to call your own for the day. Inland there are a number of great Activity Centres, Open Farms and attractions perfect for enchanting little explorers.

Curious kids can get all the stimulation they need on days out with a difference. Join the Murtagh Family for a day of fun which includes giant bubble blowing, clay modelling, music and dance on Causey Farm. St. Fiachra's Garden, with its 'Discover Science Trail' is just brilliant for feeding hungry minds.

The Carlingford Adventure Centre offers over 20 land and water based activities for kids of all ages whilst the National Sea Life Centre invites visitors to enjoy a journey through the magical world of underwater wildlife... without getting wet!

As a destination for parents with children you couldn't ask for more, there's so much to see and do and children are welcome almost everywhere. Many hotels have children's activity programmes with fully equipped leisure centres too. It's a great way to give adventurous youngsters a thrill and to make sure they are properly worn out by bed time!

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/familyfun](http://www.discoverireland.ie/familyfun)



Athy Heritage Centre, Co. Kildare



National Stud and Gardens, Co. Kildare



Carlingford Activity Centre, Co. Louth

# Family Fun

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Kildare</b>		
Caragh Open Pet Farm, Naas	087 6957306 www.caraghopenfarm.com	Pet Farm
Clonfert Pet Farm, Clonfert, Maynooth	087 2309712 www.clonfertpetfarm.com	Pet Farm, Indoor & Outdoor Play Areas, Bouncy Castle, and Karting
Indoor Mini Golf, Naas	045 409998 www.minigolf.ie	18 Hole Indoor Crazy Golf Course
Jungle Den, Naas	045 834100 www.jungleden.ie	Activity Centre
K Bowl, Ladytown Bus Pk, Naas	045 408144 www.kbowl.ie	Bowling & Games Room
Little Joey's, Naas Town Centre	045 856666 www.littlejoey's.ie	Activity Centre
Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park, Bog of Allen, Rathangan	045 870238 www.lullymoreheritagepark.com	Pet Farm, Indoor & Outdoor Play Areas, Discover Science Trail
Nurney Lakes, Blackditch, Nurney	087 2221828 www.nurneylakes.ie	Working Farm with Fish Stock, Fishing School and Play Area
Odeon, Naas	1520 880000 www.odeoncinema.ie	Cinema
Odeon, Newbridge	1520 880000 www.odeoncinema.ie	Cinema
Play Barn, Johnstown, Naas	045 882670 www.fundays.ie	Activity Centre
Stonebrook Pet Farm, Ballymore Eustace, Naas	086 2661720 www.stonebrookpetfarm.com	Pet Farm
Straffan Butterfly Farm, Ovidstown, Straffan	01 6271109 www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com	Live Tropical Butterfly Exhibition (June - August)
The Fun Factory, Business Park, Newhall, Naas	045 988122 www.funfactory.ie	Activity Centre
The Kildare Maze, Prosperous, Naas	086 8519296 www.kildaremaze.com	Maze, Crazy Golf, Pet's Corner, Assault Course, Picnic Area, Zipwire
Tricky Tricksters Magic Castle, Toughers Bus Pk, Naas	045 409192 www.fundays.ie	Activity Centre
Wallaby Woods Donadea, Derryvarroge, Donadea	045 909555 www.facebook.com/WallabyWoodsDonadea	Nature Trails, Flora and Fauna. Exotic Animals and Guided Tours
K Leisure, Carragh Rd, Naas	045 881655 www.kildareleisure.ie	Swimming
K Leisure, Barrack Lane, Greenhills, Athy	059 8641522 www.kildareleisure.ie	Swimming

## Laois

Kilvahan Adventure Farm, Coolrain	057 8735178 www.horsedrawncaravans.com	Mini Zoo, Take a jaunt on a Real Zebra, Carriage Driving, Camels & lots more!
Roll 'n Bowl, Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise	057 8670005 www.bowlingireland.com	Bowling & Activity Centre
Stradbally Steam Museum, Stradbally	086 1258813 www.irishsteam.ie	Steam Museum
Portarlinton Leisure Centre, Portarlinton	057 8645800 www.portarlintonleisurecentre.ie	Swimming
Odeon Cinema, Portlaoise	1520 880000 www.odeoncinemas.ie	Cinema
Portlaoise Leisure Centre, Portlaoise	057 8681200 www.portlaoiseleisurecentre.ie	Swimming, Playground, Astro turf

## Louth

Drogheda Leisure Park, Marley's Lane, Drogheda	041 9877707 www.droghedaleisure.ie	Bowling, Indoor Activities
Drogheda Omniplex, Drogheda	041 9844007 www.omniplex.ie	Four Screen Cinema
Dundalk IMC, Dundalk	042 9320400 www.imccinemas.ie	Multiplex Cinemas
Funtasia Water Park, Donore Rd, Drogheda	041 9898000 www.funtasia.ie	Water Park
Kangaroo Klub, Newgrange Business Park, Donore, Drogheda	041 9877777	Activity Centre
Pirates Den, Coes Rd, Dundalk	042 9327454 www.pirates-den.com	Activity Centre

## Meath

Causey Farm, Fordstown, Navan	046 9434135 www.causey.ie	Open Farm, Seasonal Activities & Events for Children
Grove Gardens & Pet Farm, Fordstown, Kells	046 9434276 www.grovegardensandopenfarm.com	Pet Farm & Seasonal Activities
Huckleberrys Den, Mullaghboy Ind Est Navan	046 9093377 www.huckleberrysden.com	Soft Play Adventure Centre
Jesters Play & Party, Navan Shopping Centre	046 9075599 www.jestersplayandparty.com	Activity Centre, Lazerzone & 9 Hole Crazy Golf
Mellowes Play Centre, Moygrehan, Athboy	046 9433921 www.mellowes.ie	Indoor & Outdoor Activity Centre
Newgrange Open Farm, Newgrange, Slane	041 9824119 www.newgrangefarm.com	Open Farm - from 15 March
Pudden Hill Activity Centre, Moorepark, Garristown	01 8354444 www.puddenhill.com	Activity, Karting & Play Centre
Red Mountain Open Farm, Corballis, Donore, Drogheda	041 9823221 / 086 2573159 www.redmountainopenfarm.ie	Open Farm with Indoor Facilities
Tayto Park, Kilbrew, Ashbourne	01 8351999 www.taytopark.ie	Mr Tayto / Buffalo Theme Park
The Zone, Mullaghboy Ind Estate, Navan	046 9071623 www.thezone.ie	Karting, 8+, Archery, Laser Clay Shooting
Woodfield Open Farm, Carnaross, Kells	049 8541270 www.woodfieldopenfarm.ie	Open Farm - Seasonal

## Wicklow

Arklow Fun Works, Croghan Ind. Estate	0402 24661	Activity Centre
Bray Leisure Bowl, Quinsboro Rd, Bray	01 2864455 www.braybowl.ie	Bowling & Activity Centre
Charlesland Sport & Recreational Park, Greystones	01 2016145 www.shorelineleisure.ie	Skateboarding, Tennis, Playground etc.
Clara Lara Fun Park, Rathdrum	0404 46161 www.claralara.com	Outdoor Activity Park
Diamond Bowl & Kids Zone, Wicklow Town	0404 65222 www.wicklowbowl.ie	Bowling & Activity Centre
Glenroe Farm, Kilcoole	01 2872288 www.glenroefarm.com	Pet Farm
Greenan Farm Museum & Maze, Ballinanty, Greenan, Rathdrum	0404 46000 www.greenanmaze.com	A Real Maze!
Kids Adventure Park, Hidden Valley Caravan Park, Rathdrum	086 7272872 www.irelandholidaypark.com	Forest Playground, Lazy River, Football etc.
River Valley Holiday Park, Redcross	0404 41647 www.rivervalleypark.ie	Indoor & Outdoor Sports & Activities
Star Leisure Centre, Seafrott, Bray	01 2863540 www.starleisure.ie	Indoor Amusements

## Wicklow

Tick Tock, Thomastown, Arklow	:0402 33624 www.tick-tockactivityfarm.ie	Farm & Activity Centre
Zoom, Kilcoole Rd, Greystones	:01 2016600 www.fundays.ie	Activity Centre
Gaiety Cinema, Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Arklow	:0402 41016 www.gaietyarklow.ie	Cinema
Arklow Crazy Golf, Seaview Ave., Arklow	Tel 0402 23328	Crazy Golf
Shoreline Leisure, Southern Cross Rd, Bray	Tel: 01 276 5660 www.shoreline.ie	Swimming
Shoreline Leisure, Charlesland, Greystones	Tel: 01 201 6145 www.shoreline.ie	Swimming
Coral Leisure, Seaview Ave., Arklow	:0402 23382 www.coralleisure.ie	Swimming
Coral Leisure, Station Rd, Wicklow Town	:0404 66831 www.coralleisure.ie	Swimming



Tayto Park, Co.Meath

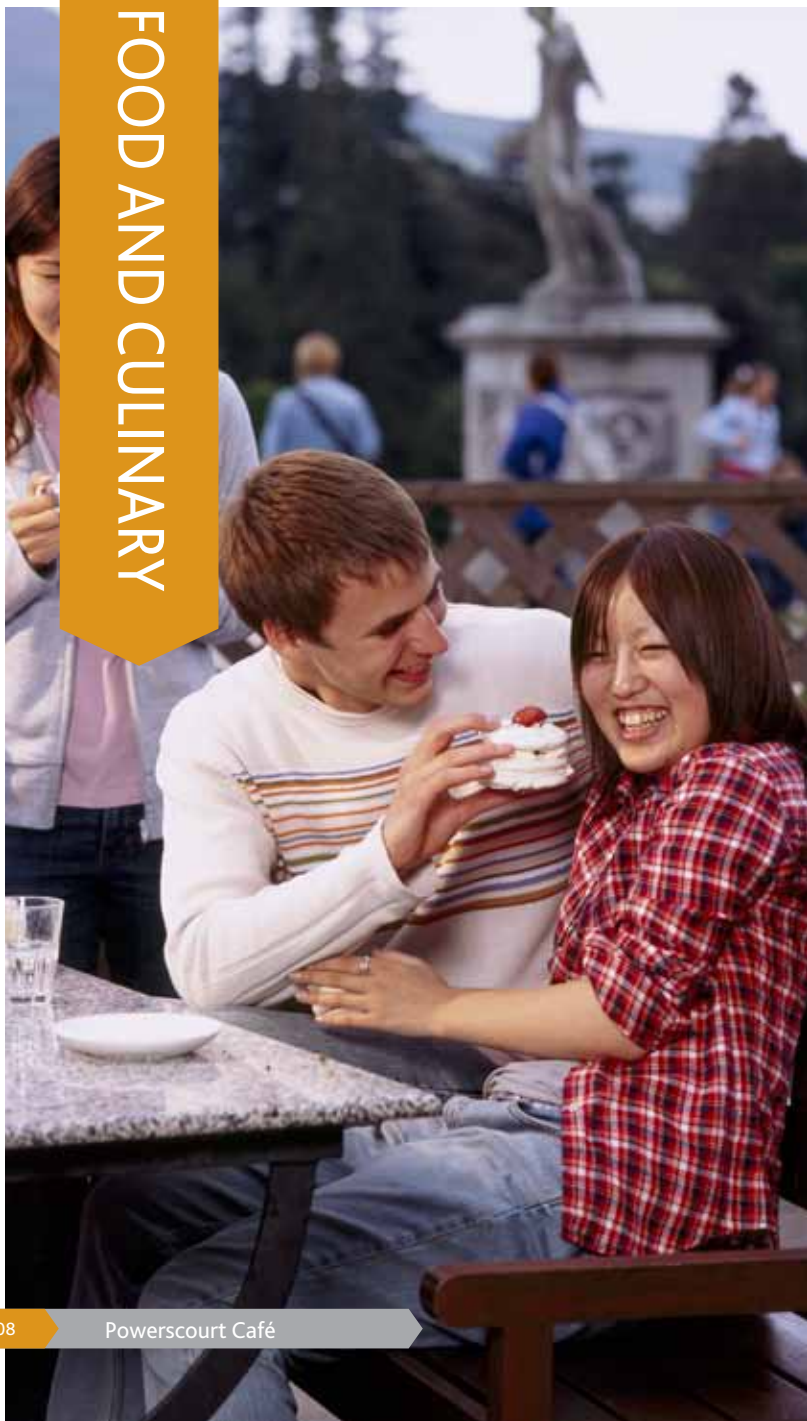


Bray Summerfest

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/familyfun](http://www.discoverireland.ie/familyfun)

For a full listing of Festivals & Events in the region see pages 150 to 159 in this guide

# FOOD AND CULINARY



# Food & Culinary

Discover Irish food on Dublin's Doorstep! From food festivals and farmers' markets, top class restaurants, to fish and chips, you'll find somewhere to suit your needs and your budget.

And, if you can't (or won't cook); the region boasts award-winning cookery schools to turn you into a culinary expert. So go on, spoil yourself and have some fun on a Dublin's Doorstep food adventure!

**Cafés** can be found in most towns and villages and usually serve a selection of teas and coffee, homemade baking, sweet and savoury snacks as well as more substantial bites. Cafés are usually open from 9.00 - 18.00 with some having longer opening hours.

**Restaurants** throughout the region cater for all tastes whatever your budget. Locally sourced ingredients and produce make dining out a memorable experience. Look out for Early Bird menus between 17.00 - 19.00, these provide great value for money. The majority have last sittings for A La Carte around 21.00. Most restaurants are family friendly and will offer a children's menu.

**Pubs** that serve food are on the increase, a large selection of pubs serve tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner. You can soak up the traditional Irish pub atmosphere while enjoying your meal in comfortable relaxed surroundings. Last orders for food is usually no later than 21.00.

**Artisan Food Stores** are scattered throughout the region, where you can meet like minded passionate foodies and pick up delicious local delights.

**Deli Counters** are available in most convenience stores and supermarkets. They offer freshly made sandwiches, rolls and wraps as well as hot food and drinks. These are an ideal stop for the traveller on the go. Fast food restaurants are found in every town and offer a cheaper alternative to sit down dining and most have late night opening.

**Useful Info...** Awards and recommendations from organisations such as The Bridgestone Guide, Bord Bia, The Michelin Guide and The Georgina Campbell Guide are marks of quality and prestige.

Visit: [www.discoverireland.ie/food](http://www.discoverireland.ie/food)



Fairyhouse Cookery School

## Cookery Schools

Enhance your Dublin's Doorstep holiday by learning a new skill or improving an old one; find out what our cookery schools have to offer the budding chef.

Many are located in idyllic locations using the produce from their kitchen gardens to create wonderful dishes.

### Kildare

**The Village at Lyons Cookery School**, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. T: 01 6303500.  
[www.villageatlyons.com](http://www.villageatlyons.com)

Designed to appeal to all ages from children to grand-parents, there is something for everyone at this cookery school, from the novice to the more experienced cook. Classes take place over one, two & three days, as well as evening classes. Along with being taught the culinary skills and the tricks of trade used to serve up the tastiest of dishes, cooking enthusiasts will get to cook alongside some of Ireland's top chefs and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

### Louth

**An Grianan**, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth. T: 041 9822119. [www.an-grianan.ie](http://www.an-grianan.ie)

Set in an idyllic manor house, near, long sandy beaches, An Grianan's cookery courses are different every week and can be tailor made to suit all needs. From one pot wonders and winter warmers, to impressing your friends with a dinner party, there is sure to be something for everybody.

**Ghan House Cookery School**, Carlingford, Co. Louth. T: 042 9373682  
[www.ghanhouse.com](http://www.ghanhouse.com)

Ghan House Cookery School is located close to medieval Carlingford village and set within walled grounds which have a herb garden. If you want to know more about baking, seafood, entertaining your family and friends or simply wish to watch the experts show you how, then there will be a course to suit you.

Ask our Travel Advisors for a comprehensive listing of  
**"Whats On"**  
 in the local area!



**The Tasty Tart, Sandpit, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth. T: 087 9893871 [www.thetastytart.ie](http://www.thetastytart.ie)**

The Tasty Tart is a home based, although purpose built Cookery School. Classes are informative with a focus on using interesting ingredients to produce delicious dishes. Due to the school's proximity to the sea, fish is often a focus. Some classes include an early morning trip to the pier in Clogher Head to see what the boats have brought in followed by a day of using the haul to create beautiful dishes.

---

**Meath****Fairyhouse Cookery School, Fairyhouse Rd, Rathoath Rd, Co. Meath.**

T: 01 6896476. [www.fairyhousecookeryschool.com](http://www.fairyhousecookeryschool.com)

Fairyhouse Cookery School provides cookery courses in a relaxed and friendly environment. With cookery courses and cookery classes to deliver something for everyone; so whether you are 'new' to the kitchen and eager to learn to cook or you are a gourmet 'foodie' in search of new ideas, there are a wide range of cooking lessons to suit all abilities and experience.

---

**Wicklow****Ballyknocken Cookery School, Glenealy, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. T: 0404 44627.**

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

Award-winning Ballyknocken Cookery School is home to TV Chef and Food Writer, Catherine Fulvio, and is scenically located on a 350 acre farm. The Cookery School offers a wide range of cookery classes, including Catherine's Southern Italian Kitchen and seasonal favourites including BBQ & Outdoor Dining to Fabulous Mains & Desserts.

---

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/food](http://www.discoverireland.ie/food)



The Tasty Tart



Organic Food Market, Wicklow

## Farmers' Markets

Farmers' Markets have experienced considerable growth in recent years. They are food markets where local growers, farmers' and artisan food producers sell their produce directly to the consumer. Take in the atmosphere of our farmers' markets, by browsing around and sampling the local and organic produce such as farmhouse cheeses, salmon, meats and a wide range of organic fruit and vegetables.

### Kildare

**Naas Farmers' Market** Trax Brasserie, Friary Lane, Naas; Saturday 10.00 - 15.00

---

### Laois

**Portlaoise Farmers' Market** Shaw's Centrepoint Car Park, Portlaoise; Friday 9.00 - 15.00

---

### Louth

**Carlingford Craft and Food Fair** St Michael's Hall, Carlingford; 1st Sunday of month 11.00 - 18.00

---

**Dundalk Town Producers' Market** The Square, Dundalk; Friday (May - Oct) 10.00 - 15.00

---

**Ravensdale Country Market** Ravensdale Community Centre, Dundalk; Saturday 10.30 - 12.00

---

**West St. Farmers' Market** West St, Drogheda; Friday 10.00 - 14.00

---

### Meath

**Athboy Farmers' Market** Main St., Athboy; Saturday; (Mar - Dec) 11.00 - 14.00

---

**Sheridans Cheese Mongers Food Market** Carnaross; Saturday 10.00 - 14.00

---

**Sage and Stone** Julianstown Rd, Duleek; last Saturday of month (Mar - Dec) 11.00 - 16.00

---

**Sonairte Farmers' Market** The Ecology Centre, Laytown; 1st Sunday of month 11.00 - 16.00.

---

**Trim Organic Market** Loman St, Trim; Fridays 10.30 - 17.00

---

## Wicklow

**Aughrim Farmers' Market** The Pavillion, Aughrim Village; Saturday 10.00 - 14.00

**Baltinglass Country Market** Old Stratford Lodge School, Church Lane, Baltinglass; Saturday (Feb - Dec) 10.00 - 13.00.

**Brooklodge Organic Market** Macreddin Village, Brooklodge; 1st Sunday of month (Apr - Oct) 12.30 - 17.00.

**Killruddery House Farm Market** Market Southern Cross Rd., Bray; Saturday 10.00 - 16.00.

**Roundwood Farmers' Market** Main St., Roundwood; Sunday (Mar - Nov) 13.00 - 17.00.

For more information log on to [www.bordbia.ie/aboutfood/farmersmarkets](http://www.bordbia.ie/aboutfood/farmersmarkets)

Note: Market Days may change, please check before attending.

Food festivals allow you to experience Ireland's vibrant food culture, to mingle with the locals and celebrate all that's good with Irish food...

## Food Festivals 2015

**Carlingford Oyster Festival** 8 - 10 August [www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)

Oysters, Oysters, Oysters and lots of Fun for all the Family!

**Taste of Togher** 19th September [www.tasteoftogher.com](http://www.tasteoftogher.com) A food and heritage festival celebrating the best of local produce that Togher and its surrounds have to offer, while linking in with the area's rich Viking past in Annagassan, Co. Louth.

For more food inspiration, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit the great food websites below:

[www.discoverireland.ie/food](http://www.discoverireland.ie/food)

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

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

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

[www.ireland-guide.com](http://www.ireland-guide.com)

[www.tripadvisor.ie/Restaurants](http://www.tripadvisor.ie/Restaurants)



Naas Farmers' Market

# GARDENS



# Gardens

Whether you want to relax and ramble through the mixed borders or get inspiration from the seasoned gardeners, the gardens on Dublin's Doorstep will leave a vibrant and lasting impression with you.

Whatever the season, each garden on Dublin's Doorstep has something to offer. From large, formal gardens which provide hours of enjoyment, to smaller, more intimate gardens that may only be open to visitors for certain periods of the year, there are wonderful places to visit.

So why not visit one of these gardens this year, whether you live in the county or are just passing through. It is always worth visiting a few to compare and contrast what the individual owners have created over time.

The gardens in Meath are relaxing places to wander around, with spectacular vistas and fantastic follies, or explore the gardening heritage of Laois with five gardens open to the public. Beaulieu House in Louth has one of the earliest examples of an Irish walled garden. The Japanese Gardens at Tully, in Kildare which were planned to symbolise the 'Life of Man,' are now of international renown and are acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe.

Wicklow, known to all as 'The Garden of Ireland' sets a theme which follows throughout the region. You will find an extraordinary variety of scenery, wild and tame, from remote mountains, through wooded valleys down to the sea.

Please note that many gardens are open by appointment only, so it is advisable to check directly with the garden before you visit.

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/gardens](http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens)



Beaulieu House Gardens



Killruddery House and Gardens



Mount Usher Gardens

## Gardens

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>Kildare</b>	
Burton House & Gardens, Athy	059 8623148 <a href="http://www.burtonhouse.ie">www.burtonhouse.ie</a>
Coolcarrigan House & Gardens, Naas	045 863527 <a href="http://www.coolcarrigan.ie">www.coolcarrigan.ie</a>
Irish National Stud, Japanese & St Fiachras Gardens, Tully, Kildare	045 521617 <a href="http://www.irishnationalstud.ie">www.irishnationalstud.ie</a>
Larchill Gardens, Kilcock	01 6287354 <a href="http://www.larchill.ie">www.larchill.ie</a>
Lodge Park Walled Gardens, Straffan	01 6273115 <a href="http://www.steam-museum.ie">www.steam-museum.ie</a>
<b>Laois</b>	
Castle Durrrow Gardens, Durrrow	057 8736555 <a href="http://www.castledurrow.com">www.castledurrow.com</a>
Emo Court House & Gardens, Emo	057 8626573 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.ie">www.heritageireland.ie</a>
Gash Gardens, Gash, Castletown	057 8732247 <a href="http://www.gashgardens.ie">www.gashgardens.ie</a>
Heywood Gardens, Ballinakill	057 8733563 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.ie">www.heritageireland.ie</a>
The Sensory Gardens, Dove House, Abbeyleix	057 8731325 <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a>
Fruitlawn Garden, Abbeyleix	057 8730146 <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a>
<b>Louth</b>	
Beaulieu House & Gardens, Drogheda	041 9838557 <a href="http://www.beaulieu.ie">www.beaulieu.ie</a>
Listoke Gardens, Ballymakenny Rd, Drogheda	041 9832265 <a href="http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com">www.boynevalleygardentrail.com</a>
Killineer House & Gardens, Killineer, Drogheda	041 9838563 <a href="http://www.killineerhouse.ie">www.killineerhouse.ie</a>
Barmeath Castle & Gardens, Dunleer	041 6851205 <a href="http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com">www.boynevalleygardentrail.com</a>
Collon House, Ardee Street, Collon	087 235 5645 <a href="http://www.collonhouse.com">www.collonhouse.com</a>
Forest Edge Gardens, 5 Forest Edge, Stameen, Drogheda	087 4117259 / 087 4164890 <a href="http://www.boynevalleygardentrail.com">www.boynevalleygardentrail.com</a>
Rokeby Hall, Grangebellew, Drogheda	086 8644228 <a href="http://www.rokeby.ie">www.rokeby.ie</a>



Heywood Gardens, Co. Laois

## Meath

Oldbridge Estate, Drogheda, Co Meath	:041 9809950 www.boynevalleygardentrail.com
Grove Gardens, Fordstown, Kells	:046 9434276 www.grovegardensandopenpetfarm.com
Hamwood House & Gardens, Dunboyne	:01 8255210 www.discoverireland.ie/gardens
Loughcrew Historic Gardens, Oldcastle	:049 8541356 www.loughcrew.com

## Wicklow

Dower House Gardens, Rossanagh, Ashford	:0404 40168 www.discoverireland.ie/gardens
Festina Lente, Old Connaught Avenue, Bray	:01 2720704 www.festinalente.ie
Hunter's Hotel Award Winning Gardens, Newrathbridge, Rathnew	:0404 40106 www.hunters.ie
Hunting Brook Garden, Lamb Hill, Blessington	:087 2856601 www.huntingbrook.com
Killruddery House & Gardens, Bray	:01 2863405 www.killruddery.com
Kilmacurragh Gardens, Kilbride	:0404 48844 www.botanicgardens.ie
Knockanree Garden, Avoca	:0402 35628 www.wicklowgardens.com
Mount Usher Gardens, Ashford	:0404 40205 www.mountushergardens.ie
Powerscourt House & Garden, Enniskerry	:01 2046000 www.powerscourt.ie
Russborough House, Garden & Maze, Russborough, Blessington	:045 865239 www.russborough.ie
Shekina Sculpture Garden, Glenmalure	:086 8569106 www.shekinasculpturegarden.com
Victoria's Way Sculpture Garden, Roundwood	:01 2818505 www.victoriasway.eu
Wrenswood, Kiltimon, Ashford	:01 2810274 www.wicklowgardens.com

**Please note that some Gardens are open only by appointment or for group visits, so please contact in advance of visit.**

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/gardens](http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens)



Powerscourt House and Gardens





Mount Usher Gardens, Co. Wicklow

# GOLF



# Golf

Away from the hustle and bustle of Dublin but still within a short drive of the city, Dublin's Doorstep is famous the world over for the quality and unique character of its golf courses, which over the years have been tried and tested by the very best on the biggest stages!

Who, for instance, could forget Team Europe's heroics at the 2006 Ryder Cup, hosted on the Arnold Palmer course at the iconic K Club? Or how Suzann Pettersen and her fellow team mates bested the heavily favoured US Team at the 2011 Solheim Cup at Killeen Castle? Paul Casey kept the crowd entertained until the very end at the final day of the 2013 Irish Open at Carton House. Showing an impressive display of composure the Englishman secured his 12th victory on the European Tour much to the delight of the spectators.

## Quality Assured Courses - Choose the Shamrock



Whenever you see this symbol you can be assured this golf club is visitor friendly and the club is committed to delivering high quality services and facilities. Ireland is the first country to set up such a nationwide approval scheme for golf courses. This scheme was launched by Fáilte Ireland in 2010 to navigate consumers towards an excellent Irish golfing experience. Visit [www.golf.discoverireland.ie](http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie) for current listings.

Manicured parkland, wide-open heathland and elemental links... With so many fantastic golf courses crammed onto Dublin's Doorstep, it can be difficult to know which to choose. But who says you have to pick only one? If you've got a few days, why not make the most of it with our Irish Golf Passes? This way you get to have a golf feast by experiencing a selection of our top courses at truly competitive rates.

Visit [www.golf.discoverireland.ie](http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie)



Carton House, Co. Kildare



The K Club, Co. Kildare



The Heritage Golf Club, Co. Laois

## Golf

NAME & LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS	HOLES
<b>Kildare</b>		
Athy Golf Club, Athy	:059 8631729 <a href="http://www.athygolfclub.com">www.athygolfclub.com</a>	18
Carton House - The O'Meara Course, Maynooth	:01 5052000 <a href="http://www.cartonhousegolf.com">www.cartonhousegolf.com</a>	18
Carton House - The Montgomerie Course, Maynooth	:01 5052000 <a href="http://www.cartonhouse.com">www.cartonhouse.com</a>	18
Castlewarden Golf Club, Straffan	:01 4589254 <a href="http://www.castlewardengolfclub.com">www.castlewardengolfclub.com</a>	18
Celbridge Elm Hall Golf Club, Celbridge	:01 6288208 <a href="http://www.celbridgeelmhallgolfclub.ie">www.celbridgeelmhallgolfclub.ie</a>	9
Cill Dara Golf Club, Little Curragh	:045 521295 <a href="http://www.cilldaragolfclub.com">www.cilldaragolfclub.com</a>	9
Craddockstown Golf Club, Blessington Rd, Naas	:045 897610 <a href="http://www.craddockstown.com">www.craddockstown.com</a>	18
Dunmurry Springs Golf Club, Dunmurry Hill, Kildare Town	:045 531400 <a href="http://www.dunmurrysprings.ie">www.dunmurrysprings.ie</a>	18
Highfield Golf Club, Carbury	:046 9731021 <a href="http://www.highfield-golf.ie">www.highfield-golf.ie</a>	18
Killeen Golf Club, Kill	:045 866003 <a href="http://www.killeengolf.com">www.killeengolf.com</a>	18
Knockanally Golf Club, Donadea	:045 869671 <a href="http://www.knockanally.com">www.knockanally.com</a>	18
Millicent Golf Club, Millicent Rd, Clane	:045 893279 <a href="http://www.millicentgolfclub.com">www.millicentgolfclub.com</a>	18
Moyvalley Golf Club, Balyna Estate, Moyvalley	:046 9548080 <a href="http://www.moyvalleygolfclub.com">www.moyvalleygolfclub.com</a>	18
Naas Golf Club, Kerdiffstown, Naas	:045 874644 <a href="http://www.naasgolfclub.com">www.naasgolfclub.com</a>	18
Newbridge Golf Club, Newbridge	:045 486110 <a href="http://www.newbridgegolfclub.com">www.newbridgegolfclub.com</a>	18
Palmerstown Stud Golf Club, Johnstown	:045 906901 <a href="http://www.palmerstownhouse.ie">www.palmerstownhouse.ie</a>	18
The Curragh Golf Club, Curragh	:045 441238 <a href="http://www.curraghgolf.com">www.curraghgolf.com</a>	18
The K Club Palmer Course, Straffan	:01 6017200 <a href="http://www.kclub.ie">www.kclub.ie</a>	18
The K Club Smurfit Course, Straffan	:01 6017200 <a href="http://www.kclub.ie">www.kclub.ie</a>	18

## Laois

Abbeyleix Golf Club, Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix	:057 8731450 <a href="http://www.abbeyleixgolfclub.ie">www.abbeyleixgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Mountrath Golf Club, Knockanaina, Mountrath	:057 8732558 <a href="http://www.mountrathgolfclub.ie">www.mountrathgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Portarlinton Golf Club, Garryhinch, Portarlinton	:057 8623115 <a href="http://www.portarlingtongolf.com">www.portarlingtongolf.com</a>	18
Portlaoise Golf Club, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise	:057 8661557 <a href="http://www.portlaoisegolfclub.com">www.portlaoisegolfclub.com</a>	18
Rathdowney Golf Club, Coolinaboul West, Rathdowney	:0505 46170 <a href="http://www.rathdowneygolfclub.com">www.rathdowneygolfclub.com</a>	18
The Heath Golf Club, Portlaoise	:057 8646533 <a href="http://www.theheathgc.ie">www.theheathgc.ie</a>	18
The Heritage Golf Club, Killenard, Portlaoise	:057 8645500 <a href="http://www.theheritage.com">www.theheritage.com</a>	18

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.golf.discoverireland.ie](http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie)

## Louth

Ardee Golf Club, Townparks, Ardee	041 6853227 <a href="http://www.ardeegolfclub.com">www.ardeegolfclub.com</a>	18
Ballymascanlon Golf Course, Dundalk	042 9358200 <a href="http://www.ballymascanlon.com">www.ballymascanlon.com</a>	18
County Louth Golf Club, Baltray, Drogheda	041 9881530 <a href="http://www.countylouthgolfclub.com">www.countylouthgolfclub.com</a>	18
Dundalk Golf Club, Blackrock, Dundalk	042 9321731 <a href="http://www.dundalkgolfclub.ie">www.dundalkgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Greenore Golf Club, Greenore	042 9373212 <a href="http://www.greenoregolfclub.com">www.greenoregolfclub.com</a>	18
Seapoint Golf Club, Termonfeckin	041 9822333 <a href="http://www.seapointgolfclub.com">www.seapointgolfclub.com</a>	18

## Meath

Ashbourne Golf Club, Archerstown, Ashbourne	01 8352005 <a href="http://www.ashbournegolfclub.ie">www.ashbournegolfclub.ie</a>	18
Bellewstown Golf Club, Bellewstown	041 9882757 <a href="http://www.bellewstowngolfclub.ie">www.bellewstowngolfclub.ie</a>	18
Black Bush Golf Club, Thomastown, Dunshaughlin,	01 8250021 <a href="http://www.blackbushgolfclub.ie">www.blackbushgolfclub.ie</a>	27
County Meath Golf Club, Newtownmoynagh, Trim	046 9431463 <a href="http://www.countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie">www.countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie</a>	18
Glebe Golf Club, Kildalkey Road, Trim	046 9431926 <a href="http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie">www.golf.discoverireland.ie</a>	18
Headfort Golf Club, Navan Rd, Kells	046 9240146 <a href="http://www.headfortgolfclub.ie">www.headfortgolfclub.ie</a>	36
Julianstown Golf Course, Julianstown	041 9811953 <a href="http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie">www.golf.discoverireland.ie</a>	9
Kilcock Golf Club, Gallow, Kilcock	01 6287592 <a href="http://www.kilcockgolfclub.ie">www.kilcockgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Killeen Castle, Dunsany	01 6893000 <a href="http://www.killeencastle.com">www.killeencastle.com</a>	18
Knightsbrook Golf Club, Knightsbrook, Trim	046 9482100 <a href="http://www.knightsbrook.com">www.knightsbrook.com</a>	18
Laytown & Bettystown Golf Club, Bettystown	041 9827170 <a href="http://www.landb.ie">www.landb.ie</a>	18
Moor Park Golf Club, Mooretown, Navan	046 9027661	18
Rathcore Golf Club, Rathcore, Enfield	046 9541855 <a href="http://www.rathcoregolfandcountryclub.com">www.rathcoregolfandcountryclub.com</a>	18
Royal Tara Golf Club, Bellinter	046 9025508 <a href="http://www.royaltaragolfclub.com">www.royaltaragolfclub.com</a>	27
South Meath Golf Club, Longwood Rd, Trim	046 9431471 <a href="http://www.southmeathgolfclub.com">www.southmeathgolfclub.com</a>	9
Summerhill Golf Club, Agher, Rathmolyon	046 9557587 <a href="http://www.summerhillgolfclub.com">www.summerhillgolfclub.com</a>	9

## Wicklow

Arklow Golf Club, Abbeylands, Arklow	0402 32492 <a href="http://www.arklowgolflinks.com">www.arklowgolflinks.com</a>	18
Ballinastoe Golf Club, Ballinastoe	01 2818480 <a href="http://www.ballinastoeogolfclub.com">www.ballinastoeogolfclub.com</a>	9
Baltinglass Golf Club, Baltinglass	059 6481350 <a href="http://www.baltinglassgolf.com">www.baltinglassgolf.com</a>	18

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.golf.discoverireland.ie](http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie)

For the  
**Personal Touch**  
visit our Discover Ireland Centres for  
free Tourist Information & advice!



Ballymascanlon Golf Club, Co. Louth



Ladies Irish Open, Killeen Castle



Headfort Golf Club, Kells, Co. Meath



Woodenbridge Golf Club, Wicklow



Bray Golf Course, Co. Wicklow



Wicklow Golf Club

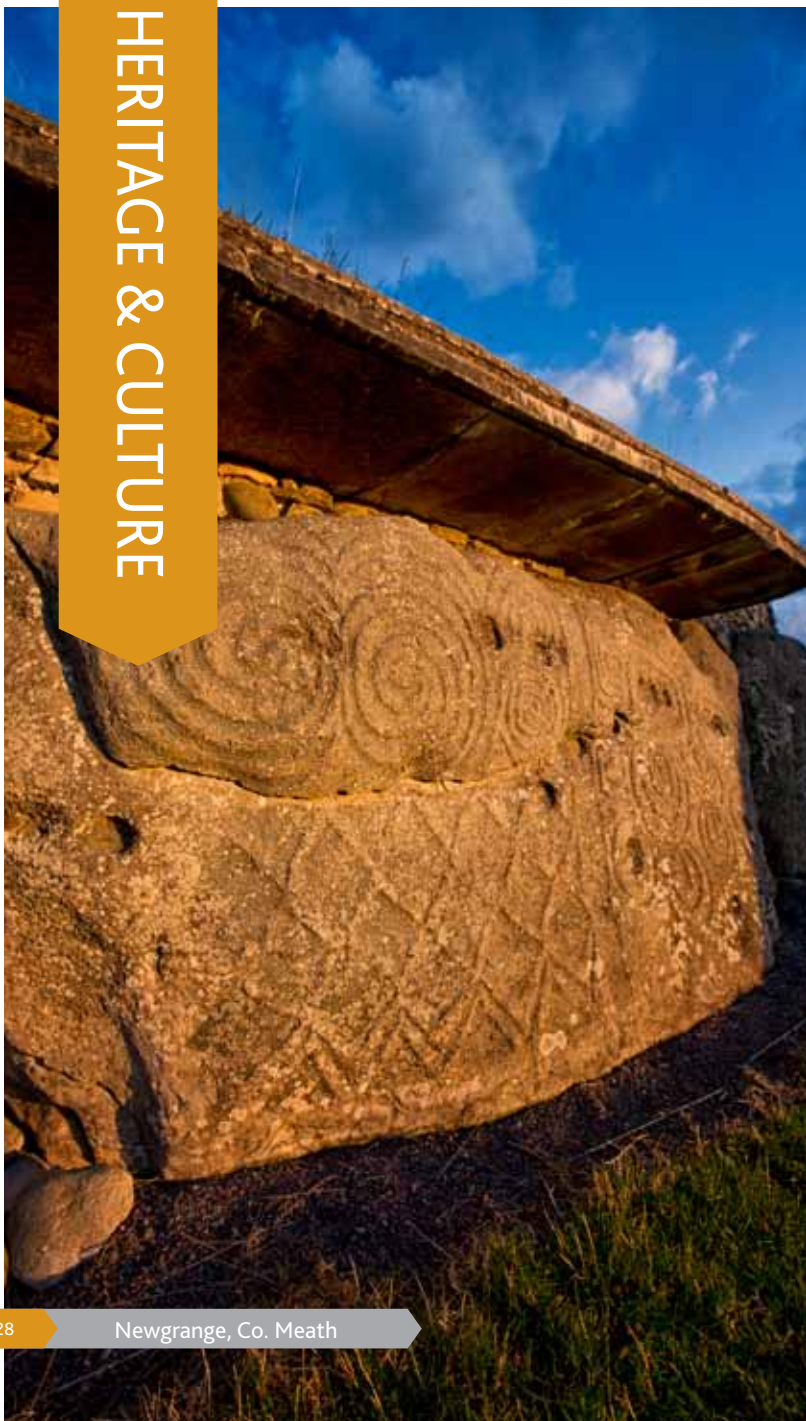


## Wicklow

Blainroe Golf Club, Blainroe,	:0404 68168 <a href="http://www.blainroe.com">www.blainroe.com</a>	18
Blessington Lakes Golf Club, Baltyboys, Blessington	:045 867146 <a href="http://www.blessingtonlakesgolfclub.com">www.blessingtonlakesgolfclub.com</a>	9
Bray Golf Club, Bray	:01 2763200 <a href="http://www.braygolfclub.com">www.braygolfclub.com</a>	18
Coollattan Golf Club, Shillelagh	:053 9429125 <a href="http://www.coollatingolfclub.com">www.coollatingolfclub.com</a>	18
Charlesland Golf Club, Charlesland, Greystones	:01 2878200 <a href="http://www.charlesland.com">www.charlesland.com</a>	18
Delgany Golf Club, Delgany	:01 2874536 <a href="http://www.delganygolfclub.com">www.delganygolfclub.com</a>	18
Djouce Golf Club, Roundwood	:01 2818585 <a href="http://www.djoucegolfclub.com">www.djoucegolfclub.com</a>	9
Druids Glen Golf Resort, Newtownmountkenny	:01 2812550 <a href="http://www.druidsglenresort.com">www.druidsglenresort.com</a>	18
Druids Heath Golf Club, Newtownmountkenny	:01 2812550 <a href="http://www.druidsglenresort.com">www.druidsglenresort.com</a>	18
Dún Laoghaire Golf Club, Enniskerry	:01 2721866 <a href="http://www.dunlaoghairegolfclub.ie">www.dunlaoghairegolfclub.ie</a>	18
Glen of the Downs Golf Club, Coolnaskeagh, Delgany	:01 2876240 <a href="http://www.glenofthedowns.com">www.glenofthedowns.com</a>	18
Glenmalure Golf Club, Greenan, Rathdrum	:0404 46679 <a href="http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie">www.golf.discoverireland.ie</a>	18
Glenmill Golf Club, Timore, Newcastle	:01 2810977 <a href="http://www.glenmillgolfclub.ie">www.glenmillgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones	:01 2874136 <a href="http://www.greystonesgc.com">www.greystonesgc.com</a>	18
Kilcoole Golf Club, Newcastle Rd, Kilcoole	:01 2872066 <a href="http://www.kilcoolegolfclub.com">www.kilcoolegolfclub.com</a>	9
Macreddin Golf Club, Macreddin Village, Aughrim	:0402 36999 <a href="http://www.macreddingolfclub.com">www.macreddingolfclub.com</a>	18
Millbrook Golf Club, River Valley, Redcross	:0404 41647 <a href="http://www.rivervalleypark.com">www.rivervalleypark.com</a>	18
Old Conna Golf Club, Ferndale Rd, Bray	:01 2826055 <a href="http://www.oldconna.com">www.oldconna.com</a>	18
Powerscourt Golf Club, Enniskerry	:01 2046033 <a href="http://www.powerscourtgolfclub.com">www.powerscourtgolfclub.com</a>	36
Rathsallagh Golf Club, Rathsallagh, Dunlavin	:045 403316 <a href="http://www.rathsallagh.com">www.rathsallagh.com</a>	18
Roundwood Golf Club, Newtownmountkenny	:01 2818488 <a href="http://www.roundwoodgolf.com">www.roundwoodgolf.com</a>	18
The European Club, Brittas Bay	:0404 47415 <a href="http://www.theeuropeanclub.com">www.theeuropeanclub.com</a>	18
Tulfarris Golf Club, Blessington	:045 867600 <a href="http://www.tulfarrishotel.com">www.tulfarrishotel.com</a>	18
Wicklow Golf Club, Dunbur Rd., Wicklow Town	:0404 67379 <a href="http://www.wicklowgolfclub.ie">www.wicklowgolfclub.ie</a>	18
Woodbrook Golf Club, Dublin Rd., Bray	:01 2824799 <a href="http://www.woodbrook.ie">www.woodbrook.ie</a>	18
Woodenbridge Golf Club, Vale of Avoca, Woodenbridge	:0402 35202 <a href="http://www.woodenbridge.ie">www.woodenbridge.ie</a>	18

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.golf.discoverireland.ie](http://www.golf.discoverireland.ie)

# HERITAGE & CULTURE



# Heritage & Culture

Surrounded by our culture and heritage at every turn, it's easy to miss out on the phenomenon that is our history!

Take a step back through time and discover amazing buildings and monuments just waiting to be explored, as you learn more about Ireland's past and how it still influences the present.

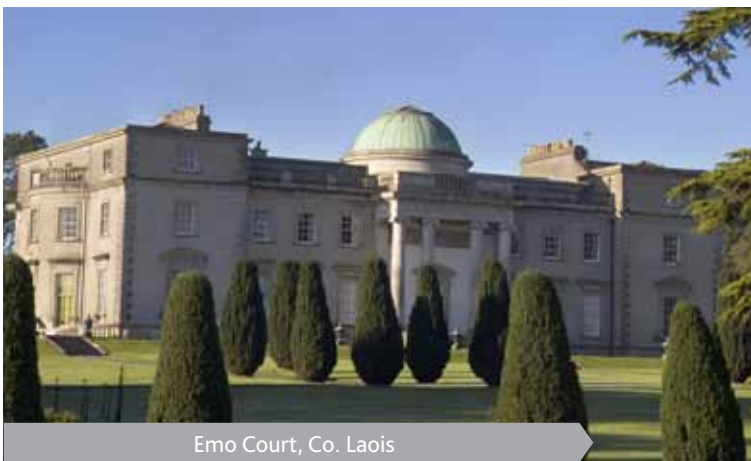
Sights not to be missed include Newgrange (Brú na Bóinne). Built around 3200BC, the UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the oldest astronomically aligned monuments in the world and puts on quite a show during the winter solstice. Other must sees include the Hill of Tara, one of the Boyne Valley's many treasures.

Be amazed by our ancient Christian heritage, the land of saints and scholars. Ireland's early Christian heritage is steeped in learning and spirituality, the most famous treasure being the Book of Kells. This heritage continues today, with opportunities to visit prehistoric megalithic sites, medieval buildings, unique Celtic crosses and religious settlements such as Glendalough.

It's all there, for those looking to get away from it all. Our castles and historic houses, heritage attractions, museums and properties of historical interest are the perfect places to visit for a family day out or a weekend break with friends.

For more information on the Boyne Valley, you can pick up the free Boyne Valley Heritage Guide or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/Boynevalley](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Boynevalley)

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/heritage](http://www.discoverireland.ie/heritage)



Emo Court, Co. Laois



Mellifont Abbey, Co. Louth



Avondale House, Co. Wicklow

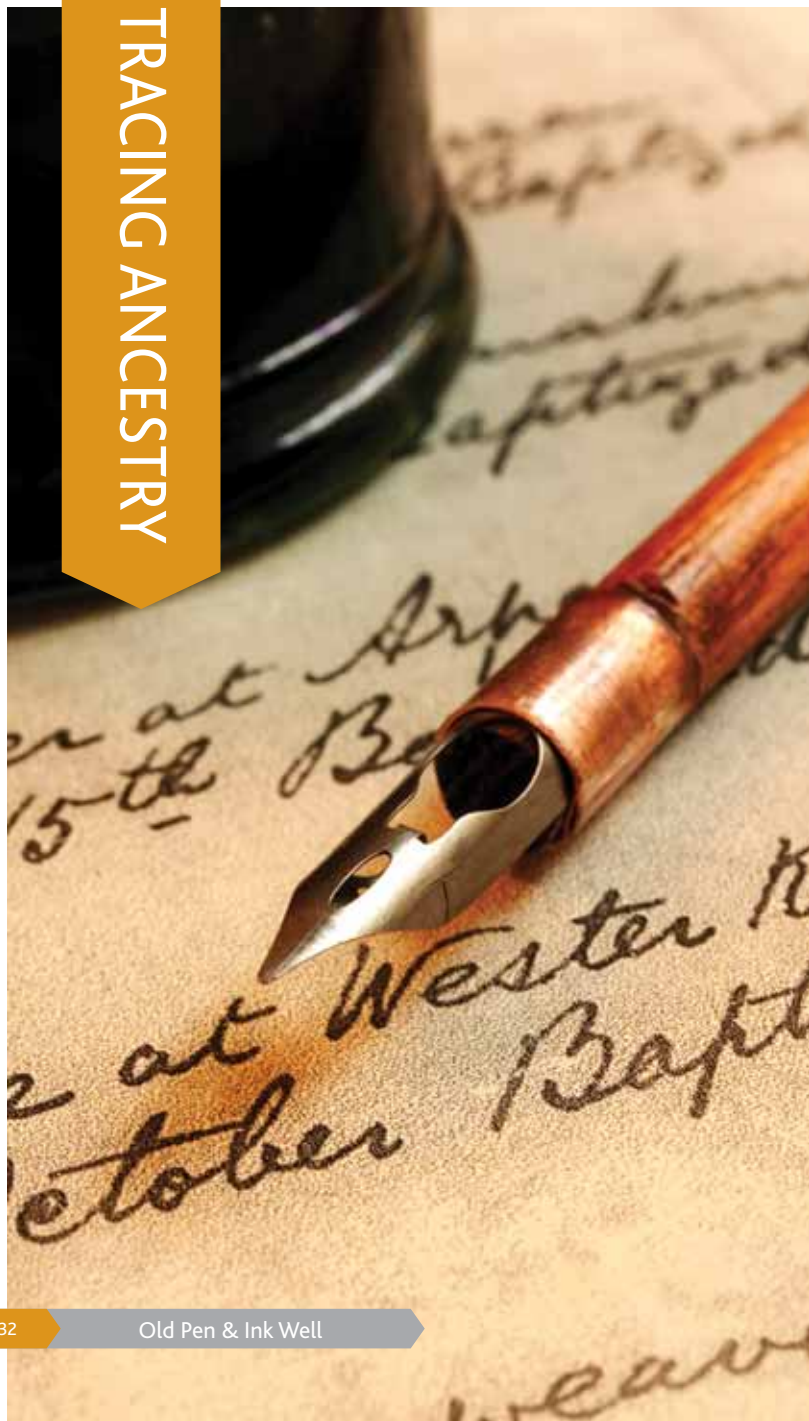
# Heritage Visitor Centres & Sites

NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>Kildare</b>	
Athy Heritage Centre, Emily Square, Athy	059 8633075 <a href="http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie">www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie</a>
Castletown House, Celbridge	01 6288252 <a href="http://www.castletown.ie">www.castletown.ie</a>
Kilcullen Heritage Centre, Kilcullen	045 481613
Kildare Town Heritage Centre, Market House, Market Square	045 530672 <a href="http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage">www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage</a>
Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park, Lullymore, Rathangan	045 870238 <a href="http://www.lullymoreheritagepark.com">www.lullymoreheritagepark.com</a>
Maynooth Castle, Maynooth	01 6286744 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
<b>Laois</b>	
Abbeyleix Heritage House, Abbeyleix	057 8731653 <a href="http://www.abbeyleixheritage.com">www.abbeyleixheritage.com</a>
Emo Court House & Gardens, Emo	057 8626573 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Heywood Gardens, Ballinakill	057 8733563 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Mountmellick Museum, Mountmellick	057 8624525 <a href="http://www.mountmellickdevelopment.com">www.mountmellickdevelopment.com</a>
<b>Louth</b>	
Carlingford Heritage Centre, Carlingford	042 9373454 <a href="http://www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com">www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com</a>
Old Mellifont Abbey, Tullyallen, Drogheda	041 9826459/041 9880300 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Monasterboice, Drogheda	<a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>
Proleek Dolmen, Ballymascanlon, Dundalk	<a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>
<b>Meath</b>	
Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge Estate, Oldbridge	041 9809950 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre (Newgrange and Knowth) Tours from Visitor Centre at Donore	041 9880300 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Dowth Megalithic Passage Tomb, Dowth	041 9880300 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Hill of Slane	<a href="http://www.meath.ie/tourism">www.meath.ie/tourism</a>
Hill of Tara	046 9025903 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Loughcrew Cairns, Corstown, Oldcastle	049 8542009 / 049 8541240 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Trim Castle, Trim	046 9438619 / 046 9438964 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
<b>Wicklow</b>	
Agricultural Heritage Display Centre, Enniskerry	01 2862423 <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>
Avondale House & Forest Park, Rathdrum	0404 46111 <a href="http://www.heritageisland.com">www.heritageisland.com</a>
Dwyer McAllister Cottage, Dunlavin	0404 45325 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>
Glendalough Visitor Centre, Glendalough	0404 45352 <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/heritage](http://www.discoverireland.ie/heritage)

Pick up your  
**FREE local Town or City map**  
in our Discover Ireland Centres!

# TRACING ANCESTRY



# Tracing Your Ancestors in Ireland - Genealogy

In Ireland, the past is encompassed in the landscape. Ancient folklore, legendary tales and historical events abound in every corner of the country. Neolithic tombs rub shoulders with Celtic crosses and are situated mere miles from medieval castles and stately homes.

Pulsing through Irish veins is an adventurous spirit that has inspired millions of Irish people to roam the globe over the centuries. The causes of the many waves of migration have been varied but with around 80 million people around the world claiming Irish ancestry, it's no wonder that family history research is such a popular activity.

## Getting to the root of your family tree

There is a wide range of resources available for people who wish to trace their ancestry in Ireland. From census records and marriage certificates to land deeds and Church records, and many helpful genealogy specialists who will be able to assist you begin your family research.

When you start researching your family history you never know what you're going to find, and with no fewer than four recent US presidents claiming Irish family connections, the chances of discovering an influential relative are not as slim as they might at first seem!

So why not take the opportunity to track down your own Irish heritage. Perhaps you will discover Irish roots you never knew existed and you may even be able to lay claim to the Irish Government's Official Certificate of Irish Heritage! [www.heritagecertificate.com](http://www.heritagecertificate.com)

For further information visit: [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)



National Library of Ireland

## Irish Genealogical Resources

### National Repositories

**National Archives.** Bishop St, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4072300 [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

Members of the public are welcome to visit the National Archives to explore the sources available, and can avail of an in-house Genealogy Service, which offers a free, short personal consultation with a professional genealogist. The complete 1901 and 1911 census records are also available online at the National Archives website.

**National Library of Ireland.** Kildare St, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6030200 [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

The National Library offers a free Genealogical Advisory Service, making it the perfect place to start your research. Resources available include civil records, microfilm of Catholic Church records, land and property records.

**General Register Office.** Werburgh Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6354000 [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie)

The General Register Office holds all civil birth, marriage and death records from 1864 onwards (records for the six counties of Northern Ireland are only held as far as 1921).

**Valuation Office.** Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey St, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8171000  
[www.valoff.ie](http://www.valoff.ie)

The Valuation Office documents all changes of occupancy of land and property from the time of the original survey (1848 - 1864) to the late 20th century.

### Regional Repositories

Throughout the Dublin's Doorstep Region, there are a number of local genealogical resources that should be able to assist in your quest to find your Irish ancestors. It is advisable to make an advance appointment to view sources in most of the following repositories.

**Kildare:** Kildare Library & Arts Service, Riverbank Arts Centre, Main St., Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 431109 Email: [colibrarian@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:colibrarian@kildarecoco.ie)

**Laois:** Laois County Library, J.F.L. Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8674315  
Email: [laoislibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:laoislibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

**Louth:** Louth County Library, Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel: 042 9335457  
Email: [libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie](mailto:libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie)

**Meath:** Meath County Library, Railway Street, Navan, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 9021134  
Email: [colibrarian@meathcoco.ie](mailto:colibrarian@meathcoco.ie)





## Old Family Artefacts

**Wicklow:** Wicklow County Library, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2723205  
Email: [library@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:library@wicklowcoco.ie)

### County Genealogy Centres:

**Kildare:** Kildare Genealogy, Riverbank, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045 448350 Email: [kildaregenealogy@iol.ie](mailto:kildaregenealogy@iol.ie)

**Laois:** Irish Midlands Ancestry, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Tel: 057 9321421  
Email: [info@offalyhistory.com](mailto:info@offalyhistory.com)

**Louth:** Louth County Library, Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel: 042 9335457  
Email: [referencelibrary@louthcoco.ie](mailto:referencelibrary@louthcoco.ie)

**Meath:** Meath Heritage, Town Hall, Castle Street, Trim, Co Meath. Tel: 046 9436633  
Email: [meathhc@iol.ie](mailto:meathhc@iol.ie)

**Wicklow:** Family History Centre, County Council Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town.  
Tel: 0404 20126 Email: [wfh@eircom.net](mailto:wfh@eircom.net)

### Online genealogical resources

**Familysearch.org** is a free worldwide genealogical service offered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The site can be accessed at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

**Irishgenealogy.ie** is a free website run by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The site offers church records for both RC and COI. The site can be accessed at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)

**Quakers-in-ireland.ie** The Society of Friends (Quakers) has been keeping records since the 17th century. The site can be accessed at [www.quakers-in-ireland.ie](http://www.quakers-in-ireland.ie)

**Roots Ireland.ie** hosts church records covering most of the country and includes the Diocese of Cloyne. The site can be accessed at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

**The Irish Jewish Genealogical Society** holds individual entries ranging from date and place of birth, school, marriage and occupation detail. The site can be accessed at [www.irishjewishroots.com](http://www.irishjewishroots.com)

### Other Useful Websites

[www.glasnevintrust.ie/genealogy](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/genealogy)  
[www.apgi.ie](http://www.apgi.ie) (Association of Professional Genealogists)  
[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

# TRAVEL OPTIONS





# WALKING & CYCLING



# Walking & Cycling

To feel the pulse of a place you have to touch it, there is simply no better way to do that than by getting grounded and travelling by foot or bicycle. Dublin's Doorstep offers endless trails, Waymarked Ways and Looped Walks for everyone from the hard core cyclist to a family out for a stroll with a dog.

Whether you are planning an Irish walking holiday or just fancy stretching your legs for a few hours, we have the route for you. Choose from short looped walks, multi-day national waymarked trails, strolls through forests or the amazing Wicklow National Park.

Whether you're on for a quick amble or want to take off for a week long walking safari... Just imagine taking carefree to the hills every day while someone else worries about your packed lunches and your luggage, make sure to pack those walking shoes!

Need a break from the city? Far from the noisy urban gridlock, lie quiet country lanes, with nothing between you and pure fresh air. There's nothing like the freedom of two wheels, free from the confines of a car, your senses can absorb the sights, sounds and scents of the countryside.

Stop to chat with people, take an impulsive detour and discover a secret strand, or slow down to absorb the local history and culture. Simply put, your bike offers an open invitation to meander and explore, wherever and whenever you please!

For more information, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)  
[www.discoverireland.ie/cycling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/cycling)

## Looped Walks

NAME	LOCATION	CATEGORY	TIME (HRS)	DIFFICULTY
<b>Kildare</b>				
Athy Slí	Athy	Town	5	Easy
Aylmer Loop	Donadea Forest	Nature	1.5 - 2	Moderate
Celbridge Slí	Celbridge	Town	1.75	Easy
Clane Slí	Clane	Town	5	Easy
Donadea Forest Slí	Clane	Nature	.75	Easy
Kilcock Slí	Kilcock	Town	.75	Easy
Leixlip West Slí	Leixlip	Town	.75	Easy
St. Catherine's Park Slí	Leixlip	Town	1	Easy

## Laois

Ballyroan Slí	Ballyroan	Town	1.75	Easy
Binnianea Loop	Cullahill	Nature	3	Moderate
Brittas Forest Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	2	Moderate
Collins Bog Loop	Abbeyleix	Nature	1 - 1.5	Easy
Dunmore Loop	Durrow	Nature	3.5	Moderate
Emo Slí	Emo	Town	1	Easy
Flat Rock Loop	Glenbarrow	Nature	1	Moderate
Glenbarrow Eco Loop	Glenbarrow	Nature	3	Strenuous
Glendinoregan Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	2.5 - 3	Hard
Killamuck Loop	Abbeyleix	Nature	2	Easy
Leafy Loop	Durrow	Nature	5	Hard
Monicknew Bocadh Lodge Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	2.5	Moderate
Monicknew Riverside Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	5	Easy
Monicknew Valley Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	1.5	Moderate
Mountmellick Slí	Mountmellick	Town	1.75	Easy
Old Mill Loop	Glenbarrow	Nature	3.5	Strenuous
Portlaoise Slí	Portlaoise	Town	1 - 1.5	Easy
Rickets Rock Loop	Clonaslee	Nature	1 - 1.5	Easy
Slieve Bloom Way	Clonaslee	Nature	2 days	Strenuous
Waterfall Loop	Glenbarrow	Nature	2	Moderate

## Louth

Annaloughan Loop	Annaloughan	Mountain	3	Moderate / Hard
Barnavave Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	4	Hard
Blackrock Slí	Blackrock	Town	5	Easy
Carlingford Slí	Carlingford	Village	1.5	Moderate
Commons Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	1.5	Moderate
Drogheda Slí	Drogheda	Town	1	Easy

## Louth

Dundalk Slí	Dundalk	Town	1.75	Easy
Grange Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	2	Moderate / Hard
Molly Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	1 - 1.5	Easy
Roskey Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	2.5	Moderate
King John's Caste Walk	Carlingford	Village	1 - 1.5	Moderate
Omeath Loop	Omeath	Village	2	Moderate
Slieve Foye National Loop	Carlingford	Mountain	2 - 3	Hard
Táin Way	Carlingford	Mountain	4+	Hard
Whitestown Coastal Loop	Whitestown	Coastal	1 - 2	Easy / Moderate

## Meath

Boyne River Slí	Trim	Nature	.5	Easy
Girley Bog Walk	Drewstown Woods	Nature	2	Easy
Navan Slí	Navan	Town	1.25	Easy
Tara Slí	Tara	Nature	.5	Easy
Trim Slí	Trim	Town	1	Easy

## Wicklow

Avondale Forest Cairn Walk	Rathdrum	Nature	1	Moderate
Avondale Slí	Rathdrum	Nature	.5	Easy
Avondale Forest Park Centenary Trail	Rathdrum	Nature	1.5	Moderate
Ballinastoe Slí	Roundwood	Nature	.5	Easy
Ballycumber Loop	Tinahely	Mountain	3 - 3.5	Moderate
Bells Lane Slí	Carnew	Town	.5	Easy
Bray Slí	Bray	Town	2	Easy
Emoclew Slí	Arklow	Nature	.75	Easy
Howards Way Slí	Arklow	Town	.75	Easy
Kyle Loop	Tinahely	Mountain	5 - 6	Moderate
Managans Loop	Tinahely	Mountain	1.5 - 2	Moderate
Maulin Mountain Loop	Crone Woods	Nature	2 - 2.5	Hard
Millennium/Jubilee Loop	Rathdrum	Nature	1.5 - 2	Easy
Spink Loop	Glendalough	Mountain	3 - 4	Hard
The Brook Slí	Carnew	Nature	.5	Easy
Tinahely Loop	Tinahely	Terrain	5 - 6	Hard
Vartry Reservoir Slí	Roundwood	Nature	1 - 2	Easy
Wicklow Slí	Wicklow Town	Town	1.5	Moderate

### Fáilte Ireland Walking Information

This useful website will provide you with maps & detailed information on the way marked ways, looped walks, walking holidays & walking festivals & events. The 'walkers welcome' section has information on towns and villages with great walking accommodation, services and guided walks. Visit [www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)



Walking in Glendalough, Co. Wicklow



Walking in Carlingford, Co. Louth



Walking the Wicklow Way



## Walking

There are three designated 'Walkers Welcome' walking hubs on Dublin's Doorstep. There is Carlingford and the Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth for day-long hikes or looped walks such as Slieve Foye, Barnavave, and Common's Loop. In Tinahely, Co. Wicklow you can access the Wicklow Way waymarked trail (and other walks in the area) and from the Slieve Bloom Mountains, you can access the Slieve Bloom waymarked trail (and other walks).

The new Blessington Greenway Walk links the historic town of Blessington with the Palladian mansion at Russborough House. The trail starts at Blessington and leads south along the shores of Blessington Lake, through forest and natural woodland. The Greenway commences at Avon Ri Activity Centre at the southern end of the town, along this walk you will have the opportunity to appreciate the magnificent scenery and wildlife in the area. Visit: [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)

## Waymarked Ways

These interesting trails can be enjoyed by walkers of all abilities as the walker can choose to complete the whole trail or choose sections of the trails for shorter walks.

- **The Kildare Way** (37km) starts in Kildare and ends in Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
- **The Barrow Way** (114km) starts in Robertstown, Co. Kildare and ends at St. Mullins, Co. Carlow.
- **The Slieve Bloom Way** (77km) starts and ends in Glenbarrow, Co Laois.
- **The Táin Way** (40km) starts and ends in Carlingford, Co. Louth.
- **The Wicklow Way** (132km) starts in Marlay Park, Co. Dublin and ends at Clonegal, Co. Carlow.

## Historic Town Walks

Take in the beauty of ancient Ireland as you go back in time on a historic town walk, choose from Athy, Co. Kildare, Naas, Co. Kildare, Kells, Co. Meath, Slane, Co. Meath or Trim, Co. Meath. Alternatively there are Heritage Trails to be found Athboy, Clonard, Duleek, Moynalty and Trim in Co. Meath, Delgany in Co. Wicklow and Drogheda in Co. Louth.

From unforgettable trekking holidays to family walking adventures, find the right walking operator to suit your needs. For more information on local walking operators, call into your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)

## Useful National Websites

**Irish Forestry Walks:** [www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

**Irish Trails:** [www.irishtrails.ie](http://www.irishtrails.ie)

**National Parks & Wildlife Service:** [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

**Slí na Sláinte (Health Walks):** [www.irisheart.ie](http://www.irisheart.ie)

## Cycling

It's the perfect time to get on your bike, choose from cycle routes including mountain bike trails, long-distance options and family friendly jaunts. Stop to chat with people, take an impulsive detour and discover a secret strand, or slow down to absorb the local history and culture. Simply put, your bike offers an open invitation to meander and explore, wherever and whenever you please! Some of the cycling routes to be explored in the Dublin's Doorstep region include:

### Linear Cycle Route

> **Dundalk to Drogheda Cycling Tour** [www.louthholidays.com](http://www.louthholidays.com)

Dundalk and its surroundings in County Louth boast long sandy beaches, vibrant towns and legendary and historic sites. Cycling is a very popular way to explore and discover the area which has many tourist attractions and breathtaking scenery. This 54km route is easy to cycle and takes in much of the lovely coastline. It starts in Dundalk, County Louth and travels through the villages of Castlebellingham, Annagassan, Clogherhead, Termonfeckin and Baltray, ending in the medieval town of Drogheda. The final stage of the tour is along the mouth of the River Boyne and into the centre of the town.

### Loop Cycle Route

> **The Táin Trail Cycling Route** [www.louthholidays.com](http://www.louthholidays.com)

This trail is based on the ancient Irish epic of the Táin Bó Cuailgne or the Cattle Raid of Cooley and follows (as closely as possible) the path of Queen Maeve and her army in her pursuit of the great Brown Bull of Cooley. As you cycle through this warm and welcoming landscape you will encounter the magnificent Cooley Mountains, breathtaking views of Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Mountains. At 587km (365 miles) in length, it runs from Co. Roscommon to the Cooley Peninsula and back again, with 152km (95 miles) of the total route in Louth.

### Mountain Bike Trails

> **Ballinastoe Woods Mountain Bike Trail** Tel: 083 4346992. [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Ballinastoe Mountain Bike Park is located in Roundwood, County Wicklow. Cyclists can rent a mountain bike; take a guided tour or a lesson with the experts. The Park has 14km of purpose built mountain bike trails. Special consideration has been made to ensure the trails are weather proof and usable all year round. There are two loops to choose from, both of which are signposted by red cyclist icons. The terrain at Ballinastoe woods is a mix of wide double-track and narrow single-track, offering a challenge for any mountain biker.

### Fáilte Ireland Cycling Information

If you're thinking about a cycling trip with a difference, call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/cycling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/cycling) This useful website will suggest some of our most stunning and memorable routes. To make the planning process easier, we've compiled lots of handy information like detailed route descriptions and cycling services.



Lough Dan, Co. Wicklow



Mountain Biking, Ballinastoe, Co. Wicklow



Cycling in Carlingford



Mountain Biking, Ballinastoe, Co. Wicklow

## Cycling Operators

NAME	CONTACT DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Kildare</b>		
Cahill's Cycles, Monread Business Park, Naas	086 2217551 www.cahill.ie	Bicycle Hire
<b>Laois</b>		
M Kavanagh, Railway St, Portlaoise	057 8621357	Bicycle Hire
<b>Louth</b>		
On Yer Bike, Carlingford & Drogheda	042 9373793 www.onyerbike.ie	Bicycle Hire / Cycling Tours
Quay Cycles, 11 North Quay, Drogheda	041 9834526 www.quaycycles.com	Bicycle Hire (Apr - Sept)
Tain Tours, Carlingford	087 2397467 www.carlingford.ie	Bicycle Hire / Cycling Tours
<b>Meath</b>		
Cyclize, Flower Hill, Navan	046 9077771 www.cyclize.ie	Bicycle Hire / Shop
Newgrange Lodge, Donore	041 9882478 www.newgrangelodge.com	Bicycle Hire
<b>Wicklow</b>		
Avoca Tours Main Street, Avoca	086 0258484	Bicycle Hire
Avon Ri, Lakeshore, Blessington	045 900670 www.avonri.com	Bicycle Hire
Bespoke Cycles, South Quay, Wicklow Town	0404 32264 www.bespokecycles.ie	Bicycle Hire
Cycling Holidays Ireland, Bray	086 6033405 / 087 2267751	Bicycle Hire and Cycling Holidays
Eco Adventure Ireland, Lacken House, Enniskerry	01 2767988 www.ecoadventureireland.ie	Cycling Holidays in Wicklow
Everest Cycles, Bray	01 2828660	Bicycle Hire (Apr - Sep)
McGrath Bicycle Hire, Main Street, Rathdrum	0404 46172	Bicycle Hire
Toms Bike Shop, Main St, Blessington	045 851614 www.tomsbikeshop.ie	Bicycle Hire

Need some help organising your cycling tour? Join a guided tour or book a bespoke cycling holiday. To find a cycling operator that suits your needs, call into your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/cycling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/cycling)

## Useful National Websites

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

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

Mountain Biking Ireland: [www.mbi.ie](http://www.mbi.ie)

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

# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



# Festivals & Events

One of the best ways to engage in the local culture is to visit a festival or event on Dublin's Doorstep. With lots to choose from you will find something to surprise and delight, entertain and entice you in every corner of the region!

There's plenty of fun for all the family to be had in the picturesque surrounds of Dublin's Doorstep. From music, arts and theatre to the downright unusual, there won't be a dull moment in these magical counties.

For anyone interested in good food, don't miss the opportunity to indulge yourself at the Food Festivals on Dublin's Doorstep. Get involved and savour the fabulous street markets with artisan foods and craft stalls, restaurants, cafés, gourmet food outlets, fine wine and the mouth watering Carlingford oysters.

Racing fans can look forward to the ultimate sporting and social event of the Irish summer, at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival. The Fairyhouse Premier Jumps meeting is always thrilling and in terms of pre-Christmas festivals, there are few to beat it!

You'll be spoilt for choice! Throughout the region there are arts festivals that bring you everything except the ordinary in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and street performance! Why not partake in some of our festivals and remember to squeeze every drop of fun out of the event?

For more festival information: Call in to your nearest Discover Ireland Centre, Tourist Office or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/festivals](http://www.discoverireland.ie/festivals)

# Festivals and Events on Dublin's Doorstep

## SYMBOLS



Family



Music



Sport



Heritage



Educational



Food



Arts



Garden



Agriculture



Miscellaneous

## MAY 2015

### SwimAthy 2015

24 May

Athy, Co. Kildare

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

SwimAthy is an open water swim which takes place in the River Barrow at Athy, Co. Kildare. 400m, 750m and 1,500m swims take place against a stunning historical and heritage backdrop.



### The Táin March

24 May - 1 June

Various Locations in Louth

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

The Tain March is a 4 day event that recreates the march of Queen Maeve of Connaught from Tulsk in Co.

Roscommon to Cooley in Co. Louth to capture the Brown Bull of Cooley.



### Tattersalls International Horse Trials & Country Fair

27 - 31 May

Tattersalls Ireland, Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath, Co. Meath

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

An international three day event combining sport and a country fair. Top class competitors mingle with amateurs & spectators in the beautiful surroundings of Tattersalls Country House.



### The Rose of Tralee Regional Festival

Portlaoise Heritage Hotel,

Portlaoise, Co. Laois

28 - 31 May

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

A stepping stone for Roses aiming to reach the Rose of Tralee International Festival. With parades and music, this is a fantastic party in the midlands!



### Blue Jean Country Queen Festival

29 May - 1 June

The Old Darnley Lodge Hotel, Athboy, Co. Meath

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

Queens gather from many counties & nations to represent their youth organisations. A weekend full of free children's activities, live music & fun.



### Gordon Bennett Irish Classic Car Run

29 May - 1 June

Laois, Kildare and Carlow

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

A non-competitive vintage car run in honour of the great Gordon Bennett, which takes place over four days on the June Bank Holiday weekend in three counties.





For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

## DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

**Note:** Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Boyne Valley Walking Festival

29 - 31 May

Various locations in Drogheda  
[www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)

The Annual Boyne Valley Walking Festival will be taking place over the June Bank Holiday weekend. Starting on Friday, May 29th and finishing on Sunday, May 31st.



### TriAthy 2015

30 May

Barrow Quay, Athy, Co. Kildare  
[www.triathy.com](http://www.triathy.com)

The 9th edition of Ireland's Fastest Triathlon returns to Athy, Co. Kildare. Over 2,000 participants are expected to take part against the backdrop of White Castle and the River Barrow.



## JUNE 2015

### Wicklow 200

7 June

Greystones, Co. Wicklow  
[www.wicklow200.ie](http://www.wicklow200.ie)

Wicklow 200 is a 200km cycle through Co. Wicklow which will include a number of climbs that will test the stamina and fitness of all who take part. There is also a shorter route of 100km.



### Glenmore Challenge

13 June

Mullaghbouy Community Centre,  
Cooly Peninsula, Co. Louth.  
[www.glenmoreac.com](http://www.glenmoreac.com)

A 10 mile road race and 5km trail walk organised by Glenmore AC, and set in the stunning Cooley countryside.



### HELL & BACK Apollo

13 - 14 June

Killruddery Estate, Bray, Co. Wicklow  
[www.hellandback.ie](http://www.hellandback.ie)

HELL & BACK Apollo is back...but this time, it's bigger and better than ever! As well as the popular 12K route, we are also offering you the chance to do a 20K option, allowing you experience each of our hellish obstacles twice in the same day!!!



### Midsummer Sean-nós Festival - 'Spraoi in Áth Buí'

19 - 21 June

Athboy, Co. Meath  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Featuring the All Ireland Sean-nós Dancing Competitions; workshops in sean-nós dancing; a céilí; music and craic!



### Irish Maritime Festival 2015

19 - 21 June

Drogheda Port, North Quays,  
Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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

Ireland's largest maritime festival with a host of activities to entertain and delight. Enjoy a weekend filled with tall ships, extreme water sports, river races, aquariums, music, food and lots of family fun!



### Gravity Enduro Event (Round 2)

20 - 21 June

Ballinastoe, Co. Wicklow  
[www.gravityenduro.ie](http://www.gravityenduro.ie)

The 2015 Gravity Enduro Series will see competitors battle it out over five events held around the country, with the winner crowned as the best all round rider in Ireland. This is a true test of man and machine as riders tackle all terrain in all weather, using the same bike for all special stages.



## Festivals and Events on Dublin's Doorstep

### Trim Hay Making Festival

21 June

Porchfields (beside Trim Castle),  
Co. Meath.

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

A fun filled day out for all the family promoting the cultural history of rural Ireland through music, song, dance, games, pastimes and work methods.



### Hay / Kells Book Festival

25 - 28 June

Kells, Co. Meath

[www.hayfestival.com/kells](http://www.hayfestival.com/kells)

The Irish offshoot of the Hay Festival in Wales, this event hosts authors, performers, historians, chefs, children's writers and anyone that can be read and enjoyed by the general public.



### The 150th Irish Derby

26 - 28 June

The Curragh Racecourse, The Curragh,  
Co. Kildare

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

Celebrate the 150th Irish Derby with a spectacularly glamorous weekend of world class racing, fashion, food and music.



### Drogheda Samba Festival

26 - 28 June

Drogheda, Co. Louth

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

Drogheda Samba Festival is a three-day celebration of Samba, Latin and African music and dance with pub and street gigs, and a carnival parade.



### Craic In The Granite

26 - 28 June TBC

Aughrim, Co. Wicklow

[www.craicinthegranite.webs.com](http://www.craicinthegranite.webs.com)

A music and arts festival embracing all genres of music from popular and traditional through to classical and jazz; and providing a range of workshops.



### International Harp Festival – An Chúirt Chruitireachta 2015

28 June - 3 July

An Grianán, Termonfeckin,  
Co. Louth

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

The 30th Annual International Harp Festival will celebrate the magic and inspiration of the Irish harp through concerts, workshops and exhibitions with internationally acclaimed harpists and trad musicians.



## JULY 2015

### Bellewstown Racing Festival

2 July - 27 August

Bellewstown Racecourse,  
Bellewstown, Co. Meath

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

Enjoy racing and fun on the Hill of Crockafotha at Bellewstown Racecourse - combining the very best of Flat and National Hunt in this Sport of Kings.



### Greystones Americana and Roots Festival

3 - 5 July

Greystones, Co. Wicklow

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

The 5th Annual Greystones Americana returns this year with the very best of local and international alt-country, bluegrass, Honky Tonk and folk. A family weekend of music and fun.



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

## DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

**Note:** Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Groove Music Festival

4 - 5 July

Killruddery House, Southern Cross Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

Based in the stunning settings of Killruddery House & Gardens, Groove is a family friendly music and entertainment festival.



### Bray Summerfest 2015

4 July - 3 August TBC

Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

From the best in live music to the largest line-up of family fun, Bray Summerfest returns in July 2015!



### Athy Bluegrass Festival

10 - 12 July

Athy, Co. Kildare

[www.athy-bluegrass.com](http://www.athy-bluegrass.com)

Ireland's 1st and longest running Bluegrass festival celebrates 25 years of Bluegrass this year. 'Athy In July' is for bluegrass music, its musicians and fans. The festival for the bluegrass fan with 3 days of non stop undiluted bluegrass music.



### Loughcrew Opera Feast

10 - 12 July

Loughcrew House & Gardens,  
Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

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

Two evenings of light opera in the very romantic setting of Loughcrew Historic Gardens. Candlelit picnics and dinner available.



### Stone Mad Ultra 2015

11 - 12 July

Athy Town Centre, Co. Kildare

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

Return for our 3rd multi-stage marathon challenge to Athy and the Barrow Valley STONE MAD brings an exciting NEW race format to Ireland. It is a two day multi-stage marathon. Run, jog or walk! 2015 marks the return for our third year of this multi-stage marathon challenge to Athy and the Barrow Valley.



### Dundalk LGBT Pride 2015

13 - 18 July

Dundalk, Co. Louth

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

An annual LGBT Pride festival, celebrating the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the North East Region of Ireland.



### Arklow Seabreeze Festival

17 - 19 July

Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

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

Top class free entertainment for all the family on the streets of Arklow with something to suit all tastes. In the lead up to festival are the annual Swinging Pubs Competition, festival princess and much more.



### The Secret Garden Music Festival

18 July

Wicklow Polo Arena, Kilpoole Hill,  
Wicklow Town

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

A family orientated event showcasing the best in up-and-coming Irish musical talent as well as well as incorporating an artisan food and craft fair.



## Festivals and Events on Dublin's Doorstep

### Walk to D-Feet MND

18 July

Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

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

Join the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association for this summer's Walk to D-Feet MND, in the stunning grounds of Castletown House, Celbridge for a 5k walk in aid of Motor Neurone Disease



### The Darley Irish Oaks

18 July

The Curragh Racecourse, Co. Kildare

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

Europe's top fillies takes centre stage with top horses and jockeys battling it out for Classic race glory. Fashion and glamour are key ingredients on the day, with lots of entertainment for everyone.



### Bray Air Display

19 July

Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

Ireland's largest free air show takes to the skies above the East Coast once again this July. This family-friendly event, as part of Bray Summerfest, attracts around 88,000 spectators!



### Moxie Adventure Race

19 July

Tulfarris House Hotel, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

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

The Moxie Adventure Race is one of the best adventure races of the 2015 calendar. Competitors will kayak, run and cycle a choice of three courses: 27km, 40km & 60km.



### Lacken KnockanStockan Festival

24 - 25 July

Lacken, Blessington Lakes, Co. Wicklow  
[www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

A three day music event with live art, live DJ's, and dance performances ranging from bollywood, belly dancing and even KnockanStockan's exclusive Burlesque show 'Saucy Jack and the Bang Bang Band'. With yoga, Thai massage, reflexology and much more.



### Kilmacanogue Horse Show

25 July

Monastery, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Fun for all the family with showing classes for horses and sheep; carriage driving; photography; a family dog show and a scarecrow competition.



### Gravity Enduro Event (Round 3)

25 - 26 July

Djouce, Co. Wicklow

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

The 2015 Gravity Enduro Series will see competitors battle it out over five events held around the country, with the winner crowned as the best all round rider in Ireland. This is a true test of man and machine as riders tackle all terrain in all weather, using the same bike for all special stages.



### Durrow Scarecrow Festival

26 July - 3 August

Durrow, Co. Laois

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

An original and quirky festival with something for all ages. Feed your imagination and soak up the fun filled atmosphere in this welcoming picturesque town where there is a surprise around every corner!



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

## DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

**Note:** Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Le Cheile Arts & Music Festival

30 July - 3 August  
Oldcastle, Co. Meath  
[www.lecheile.com](http://www.lecheile.com)

Le Cheile brings the best of national and international music & arts talent to numerous venues and stages over August Bank Holiday weekend.



### Wicklow Regatta Festival

31 July - 3 August  
Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow  
[www.wicklowregatta.com](http://www.wicklowregatta.com)  
Singing pubs competition, family sports day, children's fancy dress, teddy bears picnic, treasure hunts, battle of the bands, ceili, open air music, Regatta Queen Ball, fireworks display, raft race.



## AUGUST 2015

### International Ladies Polo Match

1 August  
Polo Wicklow Summer Grounds,  
Ballyhenry, Ashford, Co. Wicklow  
[www.polowicklow.com](http://www.polowicklow.com)  
A fun family day out! Bring a picnic, your family and your teddy bear to enjoy polo with some of the best ladies players from over the world.



### All-Ireland Poc Fada Championships Finals

1 August  
Annaverna Mountain, Ravensdale,  
The Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth.  
[www.anpocfada.net](http://www.anpocfada.net)  
An Poc Fada - The All Ireland Championships are the only national contests for individual players of both Camogie and Hurling with four categories: Seniors, Camogie, Boys U16 and the Comórtas Beirte (Pairs - Senior Hurlers).



### National Steam Rally

2 - 3 August  
Stradbally, Co. Laois  
[www.irishsteam.ie](http://www.irishsteam.ie)

The oldest steam rally in Ireland where over 30 steam engines give working demonstrations and numerous family events are held including a carnival, trade stands and steam train rides.



### Tinahely Show

3 August  
Tinahely, Co. Wicklow  
[www.tinahelyshow.ie](http://www.tinahelyshow.ie)  
A family day out, catering for all. Trade stands, exhibitions, dog show, horse and pony show jumping and other competitions. Enjoy a host of entertaining events of interest to all age groups.



### Carlingford Oyster Festival

8 - 10 August  
In and around Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth  
[www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)  
Carlingford Oyster Festival promises four days of Oysters, Oysters, Oysters and lots of fun for all the family! Featuring Morgan's Ocean Fresh Carlingford Oyster Pearl Competition.



### Hands-on History - Medieval Life in Trim

9 - 16 August  
Blackfriary, Griffon Park,  
Trim, Co. Meath.  
[www.culturaltourismireland.ie](http://www.culturaltourismireland.ie)  
Historic themed family fun events. Join the archaeologists and step back in time to meet the medieval monks and masons to delve into the 750 year old Blackfriary, Trim. Hands-on fun for all!



## Festivals and Events on Dublin's Doorstep

### 40th Annual Moynalty Steam Threshing Festival

9 August

Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath

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

Come along to the 40th Annual Moynalty Steam Threshing Festival and see events like reaping and binding; threshing by steam; and horse, tractor & flail.



### The Hollywood Fair

12 - 16 August

Hollywood Village, Co. Wicklow

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

A community fun festival taking place over 3 days in August. The festival is themed on pre-1950's rural life when people had to be self-reliant and where a high value was placed on traditional crafts.



### Da Cooley Thriller XC Mountain Bike Marathon

15 August

Carlingford, Co. Louth

[www.dacooleythriller.wordpress.com](http://www.dacooleythriller.wordpress.com)

2015 sees the 8th hosting of 'Da Cooley Thriller' cross country, mountain bike marathon. The course and riders will be taken on thrills & spills around the Cooley's!



### King / Queen Greystones Charity Triathlon

16 August

Greystones, Co. Wicklow

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

This event, now in its 14th year, raises money for local charities and is entirely volunteer run. In addition to the classic King of Greystones sprint distance triathlon, we have added a Try a Triathlon distance for beginners.



### Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School

17 - 19 August

Carlingford, Co. Louth

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

This year's theme, McGee and Mitchel: Revolution and Reconciliation provides the basis for a lively debate on the issue of physical force in politics, a subject which divided the former Young Ireland comrades in the 19th century, and continues to influence politics in the 21st century.



### National Heritage Week

22 - 30 August

Nationwide

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

Heritage Week is about bringing heritage to life with 1700 events taking place across Ireland - from medieval fairs to night-time bat walks and traditional music sessions to kids' workshops, there is something for everyone.



### Bellewstown Racing Festival

26 - 27 August

Bellewstown, Co. Meath

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

Come to the Bellewstown Racing Festival for racing and fun on the Hill of Crockafotha, since 1726. Theme days such as best dressed; family fun; and clubs, pubs & parties. Something for everyone!



## SEPTEMBER 2015

### Electric Picnic

4 - 6 September

Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois

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

Electric Picnic is an annual arts-and-music festival which has been staged since 2004 at Stradbally Hall, it has received widespread international acclaim, being described as "Ireland's version of Glastonbury".



For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

## DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

**Note:** Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Gravity Enduro Event (Round 4)

5 - 6 September  
Carrick, Co. Wicklow  
[www.gravityenduro.ie](http://www.gravityenduro.ie)

The 2015 Gravity Enduro Series will see competitors battle it out over five events held around the country, with the winner crowned as the best all round rider in Ireland. This is a true test of man and machine as riders tackle all terrain in all weather, using the same bike for all special stages.



### Glendalough National Park Swim

5 - 6 September  
Glendalough National Park Upper Lake, Co. Wicklow  
[www.openwaterswimmer.ie](http://www.openwaterswimmer.ie)

This full weekend of swimming consists of a 750m and 1.5km swim on Saturday, and a 3.9km iron distance swim on Sunday!



### Laytown Strand Races

10 September  
Laytown Strand, Laytown, Co. Meath  
[www.laytownstrandraces.ie](http://www.laytownstrandraces.ie)

The annual Strand Races take place on the beach between Laytown & Bettystown, with the Mountains of Mourne and the Irish Sea providing a wonderful back drop to this unique event.



### Irish Champions Weekend

12 - 13 September  
The Curragh Racecourse, Co. Kildare  
[www.curragh.ie](http://www.curragh.ie)

Taking place at Leopardstown on Saturday and The Curragh on Sunday, the event will be a combination of history, glamour, excitement and prestige showcasing the Irish Horse Racing industry to the world.



### Spirit of Folk Festival

18 - 20 September  
Dunderry Park, Navan, Co. Meath  
[www.spiritoffolk.com](http://www.spiritoffolk.com)

An all-day, all-night festival for lovers of folk, storytelling, living history and holistic workshops. It is family friendly and set on 25 acres of woodland. A magical feast for the senses!



### Taste of Togher

19 September  
The Glyde Inn / Linn Duachail Restaurant, Annagassan, Co. Louth  
[www.tasteoftogher.com](http://www.tasteoftogher.com)  
A food and heritage festival celebrating the best of local produce that Togher and its surrounds have to offer, while linking in with the area's rich Viking past.



### Women's Adventure Race Wicklow

19 September  
Roundwood, Co. Wicklow  
[www.gaelforceevents.com](http://www.gaelforceevents.com)  
Women-only adventure race involving 24.5km of running, cycling and kayaking. This is a great way to finish the summer and to test your fitness while having a day out with the girls!



### Loughcrew Autumn Equinox Festival

19 - 20 September  
Loughcrew Megalithic Centre & Loughcrew Gardens, Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath  
[www.directingtourism.ie](http://www.directingtourism.ie)  
Celebrate the Autumn Equinox at 5,500 year old Loughcrew Cairns with activities including dawn ceremonies, spiritual seminars and workshops.



## Festivals and Events on Dublin's Doorstep

### The National Ploughing Championships 2015

22 - 24 September

Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co. Laois

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

The National Ploughing Championships is Europe's largest outdoor event, taking place on over 800 acres with 1,400 exhibitors.



### Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival

24 - 27 September

Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath

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

A festival of music, food, craft, heritage and fun held every September. Festival-goers enjoy the poetry and film night, science and technology workshops, artisan food market, dance, drama and more.



## OCTOBER 2015

### Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival

1 - 31 October

Athboy, Co. Meath

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

Halloween originated in Meath more than 2,000 years ago. The Spirits of Meath celebrates this with a festival that includes a re-enactment of the Samhain Festival on the historic Hill of Tlachtga in Athboy, Co. Meath.



### Runamuck Autumn Challenge

17 October

Clonkerran House, Johnstownbridge, Co. Kildare

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

The Runamuck Challenge, now in its 5th year, is Ireland's original, biggest and most fun off-road challenge event appealing to all ages from 15 to 75+ who are looking for a challenge with a fun atmosphere.



### Megalithic Man Adventure Race

17 October

Loughcrew Adventure Centre, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

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

Adventure race consisting of running, cycling, hiking and an assault course, with distances for all abilities ensuring a challenge no matter how fit you are!



### 15th Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

23 - 26 October

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.

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

The 15th Shackleton International Autumn School will feature lectures, drama, film, an annual dinner, excursions, and exhibits.



### Wicklow Walking Festival

23 - 26 October

Laragh, Co. Wicklow

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

This walking festival offers walks in the Wicklow Mountains and National Park including a climb up Lugnaquilla, a night hike and graded day walks.



### Lullymore Halloween Happenings

25 - 31 October Dates TBC

Lullymore Heritage Park, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co Kildare

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

Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park hosts its now infamous Halloween Happenings Festival for seven spooky days this October. Come along if you dare for the fright of your life!





For more details on Festivals & Events, check out:

## DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

**Note:** Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Glendalough Trail Run

31 October

Glendalough & Laragh, Co. Wicklow

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

The Glendalough Trail event is a run/ walk over a 15.5km route in one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland. The scenery is second to none so come along for a superb day out in aid of Fighting Blindness.



## NOVEMBER 2015

### Dundalk Festival of Light & Culture

28 - 29 November (TBC)

Dundalk, Co. Louth

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

A pre-Christmas festival with music, markets, street theatre, a special appearance by Titan the Robot, lanterns, fireworks and much more.



### Premier Jumps Festival at Fairyhouse Racecourse

28 - 29 November

Fairyhouse Racecourse, Ratoath,

Co. Meath

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

The last weekend of every November sees top quality racing at the Premier Jumps Racing Weekend. This meeting is an extremely popular event with entertainment for all the family.



### Athy's Christmas Streets & Treats

28 November - 31 December

Athy, Co. Kildare.

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

Fourth Annual 'Shop Local' Festival. Festive theme events and shop local promotions in Athy. A warm welcome awaits, where Santa and friends always bag a bargain or two! Proudly supported by the Athy Town Promoters Group.



## DECEMBER 2015

### Winter Solstice at Newgrange

21 December

Newgrange National Monument,  
Co. Meath.

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

The annual Winter Solstice sun show at Newgrange is a world famous event. Five thousand years ago the Neolithic builders of the monument ingeniously engineered it so that sunlight could enter the vaulted chamber at dawn at the Winter Solstice.



### Causey Christmas Experience

Various Dates in Dec

Causey Farm, Fordstown, Navan,  
Co. Meath.

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

A Christmas event for families with young children. See Santa come down the chimney, meet Mrs. Claus, visit the Elves Workshop and more!



### Christmas at Lullymore

December TBC

Lullymore Heritage Park, Lullymore,  
Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

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

A magical experience for both young and old is guaranteed as the park is transformed into a Winter Wonderland of family fun with some very special guests to entertain you along the way!



### Christmas Party Race Day at Fairyhouse Racecourse

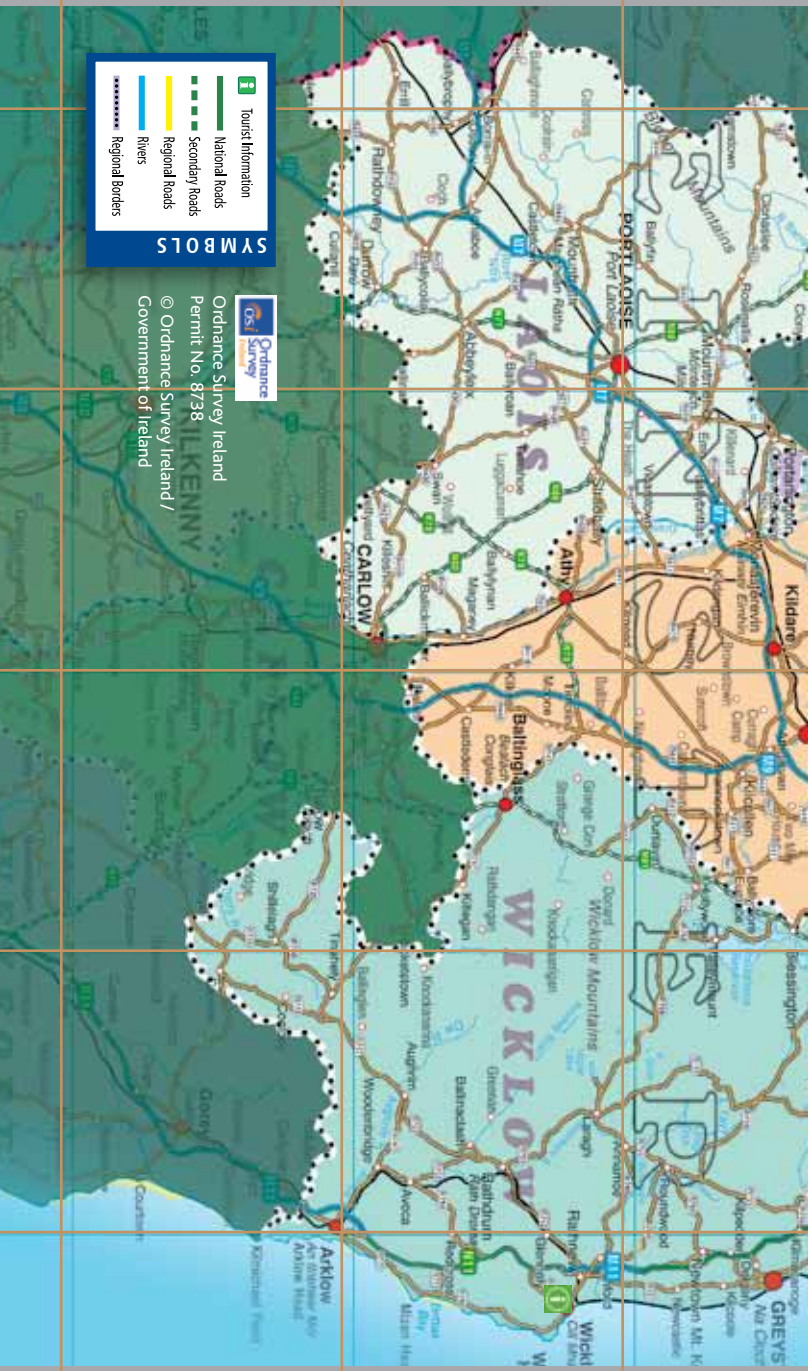
19 December

Fairyhouse Racecourse, Ratoath,  
Co. Meath.

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

Christmas Party Race Day.





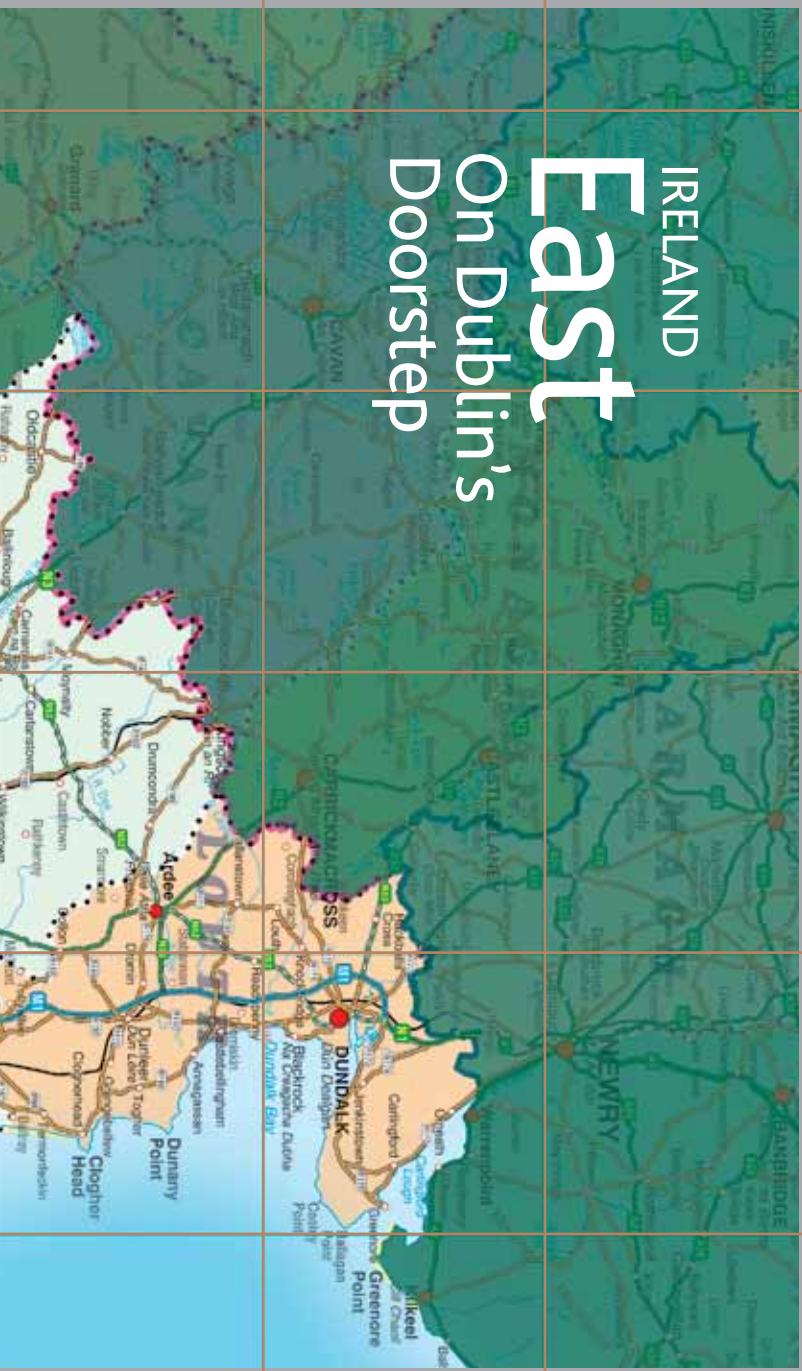


1 2 3 4 5 6

IRELAND

# East

On Dublin's  
Doorstep



C

B

A

C

B

A

THINGS TO DO



Bray Air Spectacular, Co. Wicklow

PLACES TO SEE



Carlingford, Co. Louth

FAMILY FUN

EVENTS & MAPS

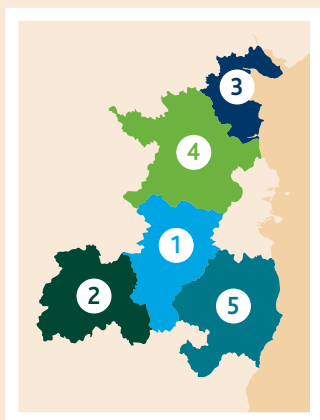
AND LOTS MORE...



Newgrange, Co. Meath

# East Region

- 1 KILDARE
- 2 LAOIS
- 3 LOUTH
- 4 MEATH
- 5 WICKLOW



**DISCOVERIRELAND.IE**

Visitors - we welcome your feedback on this guide!

E: [pocketguides@failteireland.ie](mailto:pocketguides@failteireland.ie)



FI-23375-15