

2019
Admission
Charges Apply
in 2022

Trade Catalogue 2021-2022



Ireland's Ancient East

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands
Wild Atlantic Way
Dublin



1. GROUPS AND TRADE ... EXPLORE MORE

Bring your group to visit an historic place for a great day out.

- If you are a public group or in the travel trade and have customers for group travel, FIT or MICE our staff are delighted to present memorable experiences at over 70 historic attractions.*
- Our guides excel in customer service and storytelling that enthral and engrosses the visitor, while offering a unique insight into the extraordinary legacy of Ireland's iconic heritage.
- Join our mailing list for more information on heritageireland.ie
- Contact each site directly for booking – details in Groups / Trade Catalogue

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions some sites may not be open.

2. GROUP VISIT BENEFITS

- Group Rate – up to 20% off normal adult admission rate. (min. 10 at most sites)
- One free tour leader per group booking
- Free once-off familiarisation visit
- Ability to amend/cancel bookings free of charge
- Coach parking at many of our sites
- Use of tour groups own wireless transmission whisper system allowed. (This does not include open audio loud-speakers.) Some of our sites have their own guided wireless transmission system/audio guide provided free of charge.
- Fast track admission for pre-booked groups
- Exclusive guided tours (some sites have specific language guided tours)

- Specific language audio-visual films in some sites for pre-booked tours
- Access to OPW Tour Operator Voucher Scheme (TOVS). Payment by monthly invoice. Email us at toursopsaccounts@opw.ie

*Minimum numbers may vary at sites due to COVID-19 restrictions as at April 2021.

*Some sites may not be fully accessible or closed due to COVID-19 restrictions as at April 2021.

3. PLAN YOUR ITINERARY

- For inspiration about passage tombs, historic castles, Christian sites and historic houses and gardens throughout Ireland.
- From brunch to banquets – find out about catering facilities at sites, events and more ...
- Wild Atlantic Way
- Ireland's Ancient East
- Dublin
- Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

4. TOUR OPERATORS VOUCHER SCHEME – CONTACT US

- Visitor Services, Office of Public Works, 20 Lakeside Retail Park, Ballindine Road, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, F12 DK30, Ireland. T. 353 (1) 647 6000 / E. toursopsaccounts@opw.ie
- Coming soon – Holiday Pass. Explore more with a 2-week Holiday Pass. For use by FITs / individuals only.
- Join our mailing list for more information on heritageireland.ie



OPW



Altamont

Tullow, Co. Carlow



Old world gardens with an atmosphere all of their own.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 09.00 – 18.30

Times may vary.

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Renowned collection of over 200 varieties of snowdrop – Visit in February for the Snow Drop Walk.
- Plant collection of the late Corona North, who bequeathed the property to the Irish State.
- Visit during Carlow Garden Festival July/ August for lectures, talks & walks.

A large and beautiful estate covering 16 hectares in total, Altamont Gardens is laid out in the style of William Robinson, which strives for 'honest simplicity'. The design situates an excellent plant collection perfectly within the natural landscape.

For example, there are lawns and sculpted yews that slope down to a lake ringed by rare trees and rhododendrons. A fascinating walk through the Arboretum, Bog Garden and Ice Age Glen, sheltered by ancient oaks and flanked by huge stone outcrops, leads to the banks of the River Slaney. Visit in summer to experience the glorious perfume of roses and herbaceous plants in the air.

With their careful balance of formal and informal, nature and artistry, Altamont Gardens have a unique and wholly enchanting character.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Garden Tour	Tour of Altamont Gardens, a must for garden lovers.	Moderate	Min 5 Max. 25.	30 minutes.	Free.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (59) 9159444
E. altamontgardens@opw.ie

LOCATION

Altamont, Tullow, Co. Carlow
R93 N882. Near Ballon,
signposted off the N80 and
N81 between Tullow and
Bunclody.

FACILITIES

Car Parking
Coach Parking
Toilets, wheelchair accessible
toilets, baby changing facilities

TEA ROOMS

The Old Yard Tea Rooms are
located in the gardens and
serve a delicious selection of
food and beverages. Contact
directly for bookings:
T. 00353 87 906 4570
E. hello@theoldyard.ie

NEARBY

Huntington Castle and
Gardens, Carlow County
Museum and Dunmore Caves.



Ballyhack Castle

Arthurstown, Co. Wexford



Founded by the knights Hospitaller in the 1450s.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Early May - Late August.

09.30 - 16.15

Dates and times may vary.
Check with sites for exact dates.

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- 15th century Medieval Castle
- Free Guided tours
- Try on replica armour
- Take a selfie dressed as a knight!
- Located on The Hook Peninsula

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 51 389 468

E. jerpointabbey@opw.ie

Ballyhack Castle was founded by the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, one of the two great military orders founded at the beginning of the 12th century at the time of the Crusades.

This tower house is located in a commanding position overlooking Waterford Estuary, one of the great trade routes of medieval Ireland.

Take time to hear about the escapades of the Knights and the Crusades. Hear about the many defensive features of the castle. Try to avoid the murder hole and machicolaton, and navigate the steep stairs. The castle also has a chapel, a secret room and plenty of space for prisoners!

The site has a display of replica armour for visitors to try on. Learn what it was like to be a knights squire. Find out how to dress a knight and prepare him for battle; and then how clean up afterwards!

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour of Castle	In the expert hands of the guide, enjoy a tour of the castle, learn of the architecture and art of the Middle Ages and the de Birmingham family history.	Wheelchair access to the ground floor only. Guides provide a booklet of photos and points of interest in the interior for those who cannot access the floors above.	Min. 10. Max. 40	45 minutes	€4.00 Group Rate
Audio Visual Presentation		Wheelchair access to the ground floor only. Guides provide a booklet of photos and points of interest in the interior for those who cannot access the floors above.	Max. 50	20 minutes	As part of admission fee

LOCATION

Ballyhack, Arthurstown,
Co. Wexford, Y35 TN56.
On the Hook Peninsula in
Ballyhack village (off R733),
Arthurstown, Hook Peninsula,
Co. Wexford.
GPS 52.246033276403345,
-6.967252828548686

FACILITIES

Car Parking available in the Ballyhack village. This free public parking is located approx 300 meters away from the castle entrance.
Coach Parking available in the Ballyhack village. Coaches can drop and collect. This free public parking is located approx 300 meters away from

the castle entrance. Reception in the lower floor of the tower house. No café on site. Small shop and public house serving food in the village, approx. 2 minute walk. Tea-room facilities at Dunbrody Abbey (6km) and Ramsgrange (7km)
No public toilets.

NEARBY

Close to Tintern Abbey, Hook Lighthouse, Loftus Hall, Duncannon Fort, JFK Memorial Park & Arboretum, Dunbrody Abbey, Duncannon Village, various beaches.

BIODIVERSITY

The site is located overlooking Waterford estuary so visitors can spend time at the quayside or walking along the public footpath to

Arthurstown, located approx 3km away. A return walk via the old St. James' cemetery allows for panoramic views of the estuary and gives visitors a chance to admire the local flora and fauna in addition to the unique estuary landscape and environment.

SUSTAINABILITY

Ballyhack Castle sits at the the end (or beginning!) of the 120km EuroVelo1 cycle route stretching from Rosslare Port the car ferry at Ballyhack village. Hugging the coastline as closely as possible the route is well-signposted and takes in a number of wonderful attractions.



OPW

IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Battle of the Boyne – Oldbridge Estate

Drogheda, Co. Meath



Largest battle on Irish soil in 1690, at stake were English throne, French dominance of Europe and control of Ireland.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 – 17.00

01.05.21 – 30.09.21

Daily, 09.00 – 16.00

01.10.21 – 30.04.22

Open all year.

OPENING HOURS 2022–2023

Daily, 10.00 – 17.00

01.05.22 – 30.09.22

Daily, 09.00 – 16.00

01.10.22 – 30.04.23

ADMISSION

Adult €5.00, Group/ Senior €5.00,
Student/Child €3.00, Family €13.00.

Accompanied under 12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Events calendar: outdoor theatre, walks, talks, family events, music events
- Tea Room serving delicious fare located in Victorian Walled Garden

The Battle of the Boyne, between King William III and his father-in-law King James II, was fought on July 1st 1690. It was the largest battle ever fought on Irish soil with 60,000 troops deployed around Oldbridge Village on the banks of the River Boyne. As part of the wars of the Grand Alliance, 13 different nationalities were present on the day. The three main issues were, the throne of England, French dominance in Europe and power and control in Ireland.

Situated on 500 acres that take in much of the original battlefield, Oldbridge House today provides an interpretative centre for those who wish to learn more about the battle and explore the battlefield itself.

The extensive gardens have been restored and feature an unusual sunken octagonal garden, a peach house, an orchard and herbaceous borders, while the tearoom has been created adjacent to the old stable block. Throughout the year, outdoor theatre, workshops and events such as cavalry displays and musket demonstrations help to recreate a sense of what it might have been like on the fateful day in July 1690.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre – Indoor Guided Tour	<p>Pre-booked guided tours of the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre. In the expert hands of an engaging Battle of the Boyne guide, the highlights tour showcases background and day of the Battle in 1690, bringing to life the three kings and armies who engaged on the banks of the Boyne.</p> <p>Original, replica weaponry and art. A state of the art laser model of the battlefield explains the logistics on the day. The tour finished with an award winning audio visual film in the fully seated AV Room.</p>	On flat surface – indoors Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 30	45 minutes	Adult €5, Group, Senior €4, Student €3, Family €13, accompanied under 12's go free.
Living History Displays	<p>Interactive 17th Century Military and Social Living History. Be transported back to the time of the Battle of the Boyne and witness for yourself the skills of a well-trained Musketeer and hear about the regiments who fought at the battle in 1690.</p> <p>Experience Social Living History and meet some of the characters that would have had roles at the battle, such as the Sutler, Barber Surgeon, Paymaster and Gunsmith</p>	On flat surfaces – paved or grass. Wheelchair accessible on paved surfaces.	Min. 10. Max. 30	30 mins. Selected Sundays and bank Holidays during summer season.	Adult €5, Group, Senior €4, Student €3, Family €13, accompanied under 12's go free.

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Original and replica weaponry from the 17th century
- Laser model of the battle field
- Award winning Audio visual in Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindi and Mandarin
- Beautiful battle site walks on historic 18th century landscape and adjacent to the Boyne Blue Way – canal and river walks

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 41 9809950
E. battleoftheboyne@opw.ie
www.battleoftheboyne.ie

LOCATION

Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 CY68. Exit 9 – 5 km off M1 Motorway 9
Dublin – Belfast.
GPS Latitude: 53.722910
Longitude: -6.414290

FACILITIES

Car Park capacity 120, Coach Parking 3. All parking, free of charge. Vehicle parking area is approximately 100 metres from the Visitor Centre. Tea Room in Victorian Walled Garden. Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, baby changing facilities.

NEARBY

Close to Bru na Boinne (Newgrange and Knowth

and Old Mellifont Abbey). Near to the historic town of Drogheda, picturesque Slane Village, Franics Ledwidge Musuem and Slane Castle and Whiskey Museum.

TEA ROOMS

in Victorian Walled Garden. Groups bookings to be made in advance.

T. 00 353 (0) 41 9842921
E. customercare@brambles.ie

PARK LANDS

Self guiding walks through the battlesite and 18th century estate, adjacent to the Boyne Blue Way – canal and river.

LANGUAGES

Award winning Audio visual in Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindi and Mandarin. Handouts in same languages.

BIODIVERSITY

The Oldbridge Estate encompasses many wildlife and biodiversity schemes: Linnet Plots, beetle banks, bat boxes, a wide variety of specimen trees, wildflower meadows and is part of the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme. We also facilitate local beekeepers to place native bee hives on site.

SUSTAINABILITY

The 1.9km long, walking and cycling facility, of the Boyne Greenway, connects the town of Drogheda with the Oldbridge Estate.

The Visitor Centre is primarily powered by a renewable energy - wood pellet heating system. Rain water and well water used to water plants in the Walled Garden Registered with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and the Marine for Plant Traceability and Plant Health

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre

Newgrange & Knowth, Co. Meath



The Visitor Centre is the portal through which you get to explore the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne

OPENING HOURS FOR 2021–2022

February, March & April 2022 -

Open Daily: 9:30 - Last shuttle 15:00
- Last admission to Visitor Centre 16:45

May, June, July & August 2022 -

Open Daily: 9:00 - Last shuttle 16:30
- Last admission to Visitor Centre 18:15

September 2022 -

Open Daily: 9:00 - Last shuttle 15:30
- Last admission to Visitor Centre 17:15

October 2022 -

Open Daily: 9:30 - Last shuttle 15:00
- Last admission to Visitor Centre 16:45

November & December* and January -

Open Daily: 9:00 - Last shuttle 14:30
- Last admission to Visitor Centre 16:15

*Earlier opening on winter-solstice mornings (18th - 23rd December) with regular options suspended
Closed 24th - 27th December inclusive

Brú na Bóinne is Ireland's richest archaeological landscape and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is dominated by the three great passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth. These amazing structures represent the creative and cultural pinnacle of the Neolithic society that lived along the river Boyne 5000 years.

The Visitor Centre is the starting point of all visits to Newgrange and Knowth. It houses a state-of-the-art immersive exhibition which provides a fascinating snapshot of Neolithic life. Shuttle busses transport visitors to see both Newgrange and Knowth as they are now a combined visiting experience.

With over 600 decorated stones, Brú na Bóinne contains the largest collection of megalithic art in Europe. At Knowth there is a new interactive exhibition dedicated to this extraordinary gallery. Knowth contains the largest passage tomb in Europe surrounded by 18 smaller tombs and is truly one of the great glories of the ancient world.

The chamber at Newgrange is an awe-inspiring and a reminder of engineering expertise of the builders. The exterior is equally impressive with stunning examples of megalithic art.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Brú na Bóinne Tour Plus Newgrange Chamber	Access to exhibition and facilities in visitor centre. Supervised access to Knowth and Newgrange. Guided access to Burial Chamber at Newgrange.	Moderate. 300m walk to visitor centre from coach/ carpark/ shuttle busses. Lift in visitor centre. Outdoors for over 2 hours of visit. No shelter. Gravel paths around both monuments. Steps to access Chamber at Newgrange which is also is low and narrow. Steps to climb to viewing platform on top of Knowth .	15 minimum 24 maximum	2 hours 45 minutes including the visitor centre exhibitions.	Adult €18, Group/Senior (10+ /Aged 60+) €16, Student/ Child (with valid I.D/ Aged 12+) €12, Family (2 Adults & up to 5 children Aged 12+) €48
Brú na Bóinne Tour Outside Only	Access to exhibition and facilities in visitor centre. Supervised access to Knowth and Newgrange (no chamber access).	Moderate 300m walk to visitor centre from coach/carpark. Lift in visitor centre. 300m walk from visitor centre to shuttle buses. Outdoor for over 2 hours of visit. No shelter. Gravel paths around both monuments. Steps to climb to viewing platform on top of Knowth.	15 minimum 24 maximum	2 hours 45 minutes including the visitor centre exhibitions.	Adult €12, Group/Senior (10+ /Aged 60+) €10, Student/ Child (with valid I.D/ Aged 12+) €8, Family (2 Adults & up to 5 children Aged 12+) €28
Exhibition Only	Access to exhibition and facilities in visitor centre.	Mild – Moderate 300m walk to visitor centre from coach/carpark. Lift in visitor centre.	15 minimum 40 maximum	45 minutes	Adult €5, Group/Senior (10+ /Aged 60+) €4, Student/ Child (with valid I.D/ Aged 12+) €3, Family (2 Adults & up to 5 children Aged 12+) €13

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supervised access to Newgrange and Knowth
- Shuttle transfer to the Monuments
- Guided tours of Newgrange Chamber
- State of the art exhibition in the visitor centre
- Audio Guides for the exhibition in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin

- Café & Gift Shop
- Temporary Exhibitions

LOCATION

A92 EH5C
53.694773,-6.446403
Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre
Donore
Drogheda
County Meath

BOOKING

T. 00353 (41) 9880300
E. brunaboinne@opw.ie
W. <https://heritageireland.ie/visit/places-to-visit/bru-na-boinne-visitor-centre-newgrange-and-knowth/>

All groups of 15 people or more must book well in advance.

There are limited slots each day for groups.

The maximum number allowed per

group is 48 including leaders/guides.

All groups must report to the Visitor Centre at their allotted time, not directly to the Monuments.

Groups are brought by shuttle bus to and from the Visitor Centre.

It is not always possible to accommodate unbooked groups or late arrivals.

LANGUAGES

Irish, English, French & German

CAFE

Tea Rooms: Brambles Café
www.brambles.ie
T. 00353 (41) 9814888
E. customercare@brambles.ie
110 seats

FACILITIES

Free car, coach & motorbike parking
8 coach spaces, 3 disabled car spaces,
3 motorbike spaces, 120 car spaces.
Parking is 300m walk from Visitor
Centre. Toilets in Visitor Centre,
Newgrange and Knowth.
Universal access toilets in Visitor
Centre and Knowth. Baby changing
in Visitor Centre. Café. Gift shop and
tourist information. Visitor centre full
universal access - wheel chairs are
available to borrow. Shuttle buses
have universal access.

NEARBY

Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre,
7km, 10 minute drive. Old Mellifont
Abbey, 14km, 15 minute drive. Frances
Ledwidge Museum, 9km, 11 minute
drive. Slane Castle & Distillery, 10km,
15minute drive.

BIODIVERSITY

The grounds of Brú na Bóinne centre
(Newgrange & Knowth) are planted
entirely with native plants. Willow and
hazel are coppiced to make wattle
fences. Abundance of wild flowers,
animals and plants to see.

SUSTAINABILITY

2015 IRISH RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AWARDS

Silver Award Winner 2015 for Best
Cultural Heritage Attraction.
Shuttle bus fleet being upgraded to
electric. Bottle refill water fountain
available. All recyclable cups and
packaging used in Tea Rooms.



OPW



IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Cahir Castle

Cahir, Co. Tipperary



One of the best preserved medieval castles in Ireland showcasing the skill of the medieval craftsmen.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2021

Daily: 09.30 - 16.45
01/03/21-03/06/21

Daily: 09.00 - 17.45
04/06/21-31/08/21

Daily: 09.30 - 17.00
01/09/21-26/10/21

Daily: 09.30 - 15.45
27/10/21-28/02/21

**CLOSED ANNUALLY 24th - 30th
DECEMBER INCLUSIVE**

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2022

Daily: 09.30 - 16.45
01/03/22-02/06/22

Daily: 09.00 - 17.45
03/06/22-31/08/22

Daily: 09.30 - 17.00
01/09/22-27/10/22

Daily: 09.30 - 15.45
28/10/22-28/02/22

**CLOSED ANNUALLY 24th - 30th
DECEMBER INCLUSIVE**

Begun in the early 13th century and enlarged in subsequent centuries, Cahir Castle stands on a rocky island in the River Suir which has been fortified since the 3rd century AD. Its well preserved curtain walls, courtyards and buildings are wonderful examples of the craftsmanship of the medieval builders. Exploring the castle, it doesn't take much to imagine what daily life was like in this medieval fortress.

Cahir Castle's formidable defenses proved to be impregnable until 1599, when it was successfully taken by the forces of Queen Elizabeth I, following a three day siege. Learn about the event, the politics of this turbulent period and the characters involved. The Siege exhibition and model help to recreate a sense of what it might have been like on these fateful days in May 1599.

Finally, wander in the footsteps of Hollywood elite such as Stanley Kubrick, Martin Sheen, Richard Burton, Liam Neeson, Matt Damon and others who have all filmed at Cahir Castle over the years.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Cahir Castle - mainly outdoors	The highlights tour brings to life the long fascinating history, stories and characters. A model and exhibition of the 1599 siege explains what was probably the most important event in the history of the castle. The audio visual film in the fully seated AV Room can be viewed either at the start or end of the tour.	On mainly flat but varied surfaces - mainly outdoors which include gravel, cobbles and grass.. Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 50	35 minutes	Adult €5.00, Senior/ Group €4.00, Student/ Child €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied under 12s go free.
Cahir Castle - indoors	Upper levels of buildings - self guiding. Exhibitions - Women in Medieval Ireland, The 1599 Siege of Cahir Castle and lastly The 1916 Rising	Access by spiral stairs and straight stairs	Min 10. Max. 50	25 minutes	€4.00 Group Rate as part of admission charge
Audio visual	"Cahir Castle and the Story of Irish Castles" a presentation in our AV theatre with commentary available in Irish, English, French, German, and Italian	On flat surfaces - ground floor Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 55	15 mins.	€4.00 Group Rate as part of admission charge

ADMISSION

Adult €5.00, Senior/ Group €4.00, Student/ Child €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied under 12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Period furniture
- The artillery (culverin) ball embedded in the walls since the 1599 siege
- Portcullis - rare in Ireland
- Exhibition and model of the 1599 siege
- Audio visual: "Cahir Castle and the Story of Irish Castles"
- Wonderful opportunities for photographs
- Adjacent to the Suir Blue Way canoeing and riverside walk

BOOKING

T. 0353 52 7441011
E. cahircastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

Castle St., Cahir, Co. Tipperary, E21 P652. Junction 10 (2 km) off M8 Motorway (Dublin - Cork) and Junction 11 (4 km) off M8 (Cork - Dublin)
GPS: 52.3452° N, 7.4070° W

LANGUAGES

Booklet available in English (€5.00) French, German, Irish, Italian, Spanish (€2.00), and Leaflet in English €0.50.

Audio visual (15 mins) "Cahir Castle and the Story of Irish Castles" a presentation in our AV theatre with commentary available in, English, French, German, Irish and Italian.

FACILITIES

Public car parking directly adjacent to castle in the Castle Street Car Park (70 parking spaces) - paid parking €1.20 per hour.

Public coach parking directly adjacent to site (6 parking bays) - paid parking (€1.20 per hour).

Toilets, universal access toilets, baby changing.

Shop- (books children's wooden swords, etc)-summer only.

No Tea Room on site.

NEARBY

In the historic town of Cahir, close to Swiss Cottage, the Rock of Cashel and Ormond Castle Adjacent to the Suir Blue Way, canoeing and river walk.

PARKLANDS/GROUNDS/WALKS

“The Inch Field” is a public green space adjacent to castle which offers a pleasant, peaceful experience and stunning views of castle. The beautiful Coronation riverside walk starts from the car park adjacent to the castle.

BIODIVERSITY

Cahir Castle is home to both long eared and pipistrelle bats, while grey heron, mute swans and mallard ducks are regularly seen on the River Suir which flows outside the castle walls. A flock of domesticated geese is a common sight on the river and in the adjacent Inch Field, a public green area. The Suir is also known for its stocks of brown trout and salmon: trout can often be seen in the river as one approached the main gate of the castle. You may also catch a glimpse of otters and grey squirrels in the vicinity of the castle.



Castletown House

Celbridge, Co. Kildare



Magnificent 18th Century Palladian Palazzo on 120 acres of Parklands at the heart of the Liffey Valley.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 – 17.00

Mid March to end October. Earlier or later opening is available by appointment.

ADMISSION

Group rates vary by experience – see overleaf.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Architectural gem in the Italianate palace style, with extraordinary plasterwork
- Colourful Characters from William Conolly to the indomitable spirit of Lady Louisa
- Stunning collection of furniture, decorative and visual arts
- Focus on Native Irish Materials including Kilkenny marble fireplaces and limestone floors
- Conolly Family Archive with highlights available to view as part of an intimate VIP tour

Castletown House is Ireland's first and finest Palladian style mansion. Built in the 1720s for William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, Castletown House was constructed to exemplify its owners' influence and immense wealth. In the second half of the eighteenth century, William's grand – nephew Tom and his wife, Lady Louisa, created the grand interiors that visitors can still enjoy today. Remaining in the Conolly family until its sale in 1965, the estate was ultimately acquired by the state in 1994.

A tone of grandeur is immediately set upon arrival into the magnificent double height Entrance Hall of Ireland's first and finest example of Palladian style architecture. This theme of opulence continues through multiple ornate rooms (including Ireland's only surviving eighteenth century Print Room) that boast a clear commitment to the use of native Irish materials. Feel the weight of history in a house that was once occupied by the prestigious Conolly family including William, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons and the indomitable Irish noblewoman, Lady Louisa.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided House Highlights Tour	A highlights tour takes in the magnificent double height Entrance Hall, lavishly decorated reception rooms and breath-taking Long Gallery. Followed by unlimited time to explore the 120 acres of parklands	limited accessibility to museum rooms. no wheelchair access to the first or second floor of the main house or the Hunting Room in the Stable Wing.	Min.8. max. 50	30 minutes	Group Rate €8.00
Guided Full House Tour	A full tour with insights into the estate's history, owners (the Conolly family), architectural and decorative art gems. Followed by unlimited time to explore the 120 acres of parklands	limited accessibility to museum rooms. no wheelchair access to the first or second floor of the main house or the Hunting Room in the Stable Wing.	Min.8. max. 50	1 hour	Group Rate €10.00
Biodiversity Garden Trail	Biodiversity Fairy Trail Admission to Castletown's newly re designed Pleasure Gardens with fairy trail. Explore the fairy woods and learn all about biodiversity, see sculptures of some of the shy animals of the garden and watch the busy bees and butterflies at work on our pollinator patch!	NA	No restrictions	1 - 2 hours	€3 per adult, Family €10. Access included with guided tour of the house.

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Parklands with meadows, waterways, woodlands, a classical temple and gothic lodge
- Ireland's earliest surviving vaulted stables

BOOKING

T. 00353 1 628 8252
E. castletown@opw.ie

LOCATION

Celbridge, Co. Kildare,
W23 V9H3 20 minutes from
Dublin City, at Exit 6, M4.
GPS: 53.34927428194026,
-6.530257814998238

FACILITIES

Approx. 200 free car parking spaces. On-street paid parking is also available in Celbridge Village. Free spaces for 3 - 4 coaches. On site Courtyard Café, Wi-Fi, Toilets on site.

LANGUAGES

Leaflets are available in English, Irish, French, Italian, German and Mandarin.

TEA ROOMS

Situated in the restored eighteenth-century Kitchen Wing, The Courtyard Café is run by The Caterers.

Seating capacity: 80 people (split between The Original

Kitchen and The Housekeeper's Room).

T. 00353 1 627 9498
E. castletown@thecaterers.ie

ACCESSIBILITY

Disabled parking is available at the Kitchen Wing/Café side of the house (the far side of the house as you approach by car). Please note there is limited accessibility of the museum rooms, and no wheelchair access to the first or second floor of the main house or the Hunting Room in the Stable Wing. Prams and buggies are not allowed in the museum rooms and must be left at reception.

NEARBY

Kildare Village Shopping, Maynooth Castle, Carton House, Leixlip Castle.

BIODIVERSITY

All Ireland Pollinator award in 2017 and 2018 and maintains an 80acre wildflower meadow . Our Ha-Ha network of approx. 1.2 km offers many opportunities for solitary mining bees. Biodiversity garden launched in 2020 and includes sculptures of animals, birds, fungi and giant insects. Carved animals were created from Oak, Larch, Silver Fir and Thuja from our woodlands. The willow sculptures were made by a local artist.

SUSTAINABILITY

Onsite café uses biodegradable packaging.



OPW



IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Doneraile Court

Doneraile, Co. Cork



A cultural landmark in the heart of North Cork.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 09.00 – 17.00

26/03/21 – 01/11/21

2022 dates should be similar.
Check with site.

ADMISSION

Adult €8.00, Senior/ Group €6.00,
Child/ Student €4.00, Family
€20.00. Accompanied under
12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A walk through a historic landscape
- Beautiful vistas of the house and a chance to view the Red, Sika and Fallow deer in their natural environs throughout the parkland
- Historical gardens 18th and 19th century with Gardeners cottages and Parterre as part of ticketed house tour
- New events programme for 2020 with links to Doneraile's literary past

Located in County Cork, Doneraile Court was the home of the St Leger family from 1645 until 1969 when it came into State care and is now managed by the OPW. The house is set in a magnificent 18th century Capability Brown-style landscape, which frames it from different vistas within the park. The landscape has many specimen trees dating from this period, including many Oak, Beech, Spanish chestnut and Lime walk. Some Larch trees on the estate are believed to be the first specimens planted in the 1730s. There are also many water features on the estate. The River Awbeg flows through the middle of the park and is considered to be one of the keystones of Capability Brown's design.

The house was built by the St Leger family around 1645 on the site of a ruined castle. By the time it was refurbished in the mid-eighteenth century it had become an outstanding example of Georgian architecture. Its associations range from links to the famous St Leger Stakes in horse racing and literature, with famous Irish writers such as Elizabeth Bowen.

Thirteen generations of the St Leger family lived at Doneraile over three centuries. The family had some extraordinary members. For example, Elizabeth St Leger made history when she became the first woman Freemason in the world in 1712.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Tour of Doneraile Court and Gardens	Join our expert guides for an informative and entertaining tour of Doneraile House, detailing the family history of the St. Legers and restoration of the ground floor of the house, which was completed in 2019. The Pleasure gardens and 18th and 19th century walled Gardens and Parterre were added to enjoy as part of the ticketed offering in 2020.	Moderate. Stairs. Access for those with disabilities to ground floor only.	Min. 2. Max. 15	45 minutes	Adult €8.00, Senior/ Group €6.00, Child/ Student €4.00, Family €20.00. Accompanied under 12s go free.
Self Guiding Walks	The house is set in a magnificent 18th century Capability Brown-style landscape, which frames it from different vistas within the park. Enjoy the majestic specimen trees and deer herd as well as 3 graded signed walks.	Moderate. Gravel and tarmac surfaces, graded walks.	Unlimited	60 minutes	Free

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 22 24771
E. doneraile@opw.ie
www.doneraileestate.ie

LANGUAGES

English

LOCATION

Doneraile, Co. Cork,
P51 XR66.
Sat Nav: 52.221905,-8.581600

FACILITIES

Free car and coach park on site. Toilets on site. Parklands for walks. Children's playground on site.

ACCESSIBILITY

Separate wheelchair access to house, please request before visit. Some steps into house moderate difficulty. Gravel and tarmac surfaces, graded walks.

TEA ROOMS

When you've seen life above stairs, come below stairs for a treat in the 19th century kitchen wing. Relax in the courtyard under blue skies or settle in with a hot drink by the stove. Contact Mint Catering.
T. 00 353 22 24448

NEARBY

Desmond Castle, Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottage, the Main Guard, Blarney Castle, Cork City, Limerick City, Bunratty Castle.

BIODIVERSITY

3 different Deer types whose home has been Doneraile park since the 19th century. As well as a protected herd of Irish Kerry cattle. Specimen Trees and bat-boxes.

SUSTAINABILITY

The estate is a natural walking and family friendly environment.



Dungarvan Castle

Dungarvan, Co. Waterford



Journey Back To The Dawn Of Anglo-Norman Rule In Ireland.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021-2022

Daily, 10.00 - 18.00
End May - End Sept
(last admission, 17.15)

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Army and Police Barrack discover what life was like for those who served at Dungarvan Castle.
- Dungarvan Castle house an excellent Multi-Media Exhibition Centre.
- South West Corner Tower - a beautiful structure which hosts Civil Wedding Ceremonies.
- Attacked and besieged on many Dungarvan Castle still maintains its medieval walls

Dungarvan castle dates from the early days of the Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland. Dungarvan Castle is one of the few Royal Castles in Ireland. For 800 years it was the seat of the Crown's administration in Munster.

It was built c.1209 to safeguard the entrance to Dungarvan Harbour. There you will see a polygonal shell keep - a rare building type in Ireland - which is the earliest structure on the site.

Visitors can explore the castle which has an enclosing curtain wall, a corner tower and a gate tower. Within the wall is a two-storey military barracks, which dates from the first half of the eighteenth century. It was used by the British Army and the Royal Irish Constabulary until 1922. During the Irish Civil War Dungarvan Castle was destroyed by the Anti-Treaty IRA. It was subsequently refurbished and served as the Headquarters of the local Garda Síochána.

Today the Barracks and Castle grounds are open to visitors. The barracks is now the exhibition centre, where visitors can discover and see for themselves what life was like for those who served there. Come discover Dungarvan Castle's long and intriguing history.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	<p>Free guided tours by knowledgeable Guide Staff who will bring to life Dugarvan Castle's unique history, from its origins as an Anglo Norman Castle to Millary Barracks.</p> <p>Pre-booked guided tours for groups.</p> <p>Regular tours also available.</p>	<p>Grounds flat gravel surface</p> <p>Indoors: Wheelchair accessible</p> <p>Exhibition Centre. The South West Tower is not wheelchair accessible.</p>	<p>No Min.</p> <p>Max. 25</p>	45 minutes	Free
Self Guiding Audio-visual and exhibitions	<p>Dungarvan Castle allows visitors to self guide. The Castle has an excellent Audio-Visual and interactive Exhibition.</p> <p>Explore the Castle Grounds and the South West Tower and at your leisure.</p>	<p>Grounds flat gravel surface</p> <p>Indoors: Wheelchair accessible</p> <p>Exhibition Centre. The South West Tower is not wheelchair accessible.</p>	<p>No Min.</p> <p>Max. 30 - 35</p>	45 minutes	Free

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Dungarvan Castle houses a polygonal Shell Keep – a rare architectural feature in Ireland.
- Art Exhibition – William Fraher Watercolour Collection.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 58 48144
E. charlesfort@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Guidebooks on sale in English, Irish, French, German, Spanish.

LOCATION

Castle Street, Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford, X35 DV58

NEARBY

The Main Guard, Ormond Castle, Swiss Cottage, Cahir Castle, Waterford Crystal, Waterford City.

FACILITIES

Audio-Visual, Exhibition, Toilets, Universal Access Toilets, Baby Changing facilities.

Wedding Venue.

As Dungarvan Castle is located in the town of Dungarvan parking is available nearby. Dungarvan is known for fine restaurants and Food Festivals.

BIODIVERSITY

Dungarvan town was congratulated by Biodiversity Ireland in 2017 for pollinator planting, Dungarvan Harbour is a special protection area and is home to a number of bird species. The Waterford Greenway begins here. A variety of different landscapes, including the Comeragh Mountains, Nire Valley, Copper Coast and Balckwater river are closeby.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Dungarvan Castle is close to the Greenway, The An Rinn Gaeltacht, the Comeragh Mountains, Nire Valley, Copper coast and River Blackwater.

SUSTAINABILITY

Dungarvan Castle is close to the spectacular Waterford Greenway or Déise Greenway - a 46 km cycling and hiking trail along the old Mallow/Waterford railway line.



OPW

IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Hill of Tara

Co. Meath



Tara, the ancient inauguration site of the High Kings of Ireland is an important archaeological landscape, celebrated in myth and legend.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 - 17.00

End of May until end of August

ADMISSION

Adult €5.00, Group €4.00,
Student €3.00, Family €13.00.
(Accompanied under 12s go free)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided tours of the principal monuments on the Hill.
- Stained glass window in Church by renowned artist Evie Hone.
- The Lia Fáil - inauguration stone of the Kings of Tara.
- A 5,000 year old Neolithic passage tomb.
- Impressive large scale earthworks.
- Over 50 hectares of wide open spaces.
- Breath taking views.

Tara of the Kings (Teamhair na Rí) was the royal site of Mide, the fifth province of Ancient Ireland. The title 'King of Tara' always implied a special power. The right to rule was not inherited but was granted by the deities and won by courage, strength and wisdom. The main monuments of the Hill are clustered together on the summit. There are over 30 visible monuments, some are as old as the Neolithic period (4,000BC-2,400BC) while the latest were built around 1,000AD. Most had a ritual purpose and it is likely that at least some of the sites were intended for sacred ceremonies and gatherings.

Tara has always had a special place in Irish tradition because of the hold it has on the national imagination.

An audio visual show in the 19th Century Church gives you an introduction to Tara. Guided tours of the site will help you understand the story of this exceptional place. There are dramatic views over the surrounding countryside.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Hill of Tara Visitor Centre	Pre booked Audio Visual show in beautiful 19th Century Church and a guided tour of the principal monuments on the Hill of Tara.	Medium.	Min. 10 Max. 40	1 hour and 15 minutes total.	Adult €5.00, Group €4.00, Student €3.00, Family €13.00. (Accompanied under 12s go free)
Hill of Tara Walk	Self guided exploration of the Ancient Capital of Ireland.	Medium.	No Min. or Max.	30 minutes.	Free

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0)46 9025903
E. hilloftara@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Audio Visual Show - a 22 minute show in Irish, English, French, German, Italian and Japanese.

LOCATION

Castleboy, Tara, Navan,
Co. Meath C15 P44W
GPS: 53.5813, - 6.60693

FACILITIES

Free Car and coach parking.
Toilets and Café near car park. Information panels

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Hill of Tara is open all year round.

TEA ROOMS

When you've seen life above stairs, come below stairs for a treat in the 19th century kitchen wing. Relax in the courtyard under blue skies or settle in with a hot drink by the stove. Contact Mint Catering.

T. 00 353 22 24448

NEARBY

Bective Abbey. 8km. 11 minute drive, Trim Castle. 16 km. 19 minute drive, Navan 16km. 14 minute drive, Hill of Scyrne. 6km. 8 minute drive, Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange and Knowth) 27km. 25 minute drive

BIODIVERSITY

The Hill of Tara is in the heart of rural Co. Meath.

SUSTAINABILITY

One of the most popular places for family walks in Co. Meath.



Jerpoint Abbey

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny



The extensive remains of a 12th century Cistercian monastery with an unrivalled collection of figurative sculpture dating from the 12th to 16th centuries.

OPENING HOURS 2020

Daily, 9.30 - 17.30

March - September

Daily, 09.30 - 17.00

October

Daily, 10.00 - 16.00

November

December, January and

February pre booking only.

Closed weekends.

ADMISSION

Adult € 5.00, Senior/ Group € 4.00,
Student/ Child € 3.00, Family
€ 13.00. Accompanied Under
12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Extensive remains of a 12th century monastery, sculpture dating from the 12th to 16th centuries, medieval wall painting

Set in a beautiful tranquil location, Jerpoint Abbey was founded c. 1160 as part of the 12th century reforms of the Irish Church. The abbey was founded by a Gaelic (native Irish) King for the Cistercian Order. The monks settled on the shore of the little Arrigle river and began establishing Jerpoint Abbey. This monastery would evolve to accumulate an extensive holding of land comprising 20,000 acres at its peak. The story of Jerpoint is the story of the rise and fall of the medieval Irish economy and the impact of these fluctuations on society as a whole.

The monasteries of the Cistercian Order were known for their clean lines and simplicity which reaches a crescendo in the beautiful sculpture at Jerpoint. The sculpture culminates in the early fifteenth century cloister arcade where patterns, lay people, religious, saints, mythical figures, animals and foliage all vie for your attention.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Jerpoint Abbey. Guided Tour	Pre-booked guided tours of Jerpoint Abbey with trained tour guide. The tour discusses architecture, general medieval social history, art and sculpture. We offer guided tours tailored to special interest groups, e.g. religious, pilgrimage, medieval interest, celtic/Christianity groups, architectural interest and general interest.	Indoors & outdoors with some uneven surfaces. Wheelchair accessible	Min. 10. Max. 50	45 minutes	€4.00
Display of sites to visit in the area. Self guided visit	Display in the visitor centre depicting other National Monument sites to visit in the locality. This is a permanent static display.	Indoors	Min. 10. Max. 50	15 minutes	Free
Film display of other Cistercian monasteries and OPW sites across the country. Self-guided visit	Display in the medieval Chapter House depicting other Cistercian monasteries and OPW National Monument sites to visit in Ireland. This is a permanent static display. Take time to savour the quiet and calm atmosphere of the monastery and wander and photograph at your leisure.	Indoors	Min. 10. Max. 20	15 minutes	Included in general admission

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Display showing other unstaffed National Monument sites in the area
- Short film depicting other Cistercian monasteries in Ireland, and other locations to visit, located in the Chapter House of the medieval monastery
- Treasure Hunt available for children and families

BOOKING

T. 00353 56 7724623
E. jerpointabbey@opw.ie

LOCATION

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, R95 P523. 2km south of Thomastown on the R448, close to Exit 10 off the M9 motorway

FACILITIES

Car Parking, Coach Parking, Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, picnic area.
No Tea Room on site.

NEARBY

Kells Priory, St Mary's Church Gowran, Kilkenny Castle, Dunmore Cave, Mt Juliet Hotel, Jerpoint Glass, Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Knocktopher village, Thomastown 2km, Kilkenny City 17km, Waterford City 37km



OPW



Kilkenny Castle

Co Kilkenny



Principal residence of one of the most powerful families in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle is of exceptional historical significance for its role in Irish political and cultural history.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 9.30 – 17.00

1st October – 31st March

Daily, 09.15 – 17.30

1st April – 30th September

(Last admission 30 minutes before closing)

ADMISSION

Group Rate: €6.00

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spectacular suite of 17th Century Decius Mus Tapestries.
- Stunning Picture Gallery with its hand painted hammerbeam roof.
- Events calendar: talks, family events, music events, festivals.
- Magnificent Moorish Staircase with its carved foliage & animals.
- 'Splendid parkland & formal Rose Garden.

Standing on a strategic height, Kilkenny Castle was built by William Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke in the 12th Century to command the crossing of the River Nore.

In the 14th Century Kilkenny Castle became the principal Irish residence of the powerful Butler Family, Earl, Marquess & Dukes of Ormonde for almost 600 years.

Today visitors can experience the exuberant spirit of the Victorian age, faithfully brought back to life in the restored Period Rooms of Kilkenny Castle.

The Castle Park includes a 21 hectares walled demesne parkland to the south and a formal terraced Rose Garden to the north. The estate overlooks the Nore River and features mature trees and shrubs with an ornamental lake and a children's playground.

Kilkenny is a vibrant and compact city which hosts a number of renowned festivals each year. A variety of events such as concerts, art exhibitions, talks, workshops and street theatre are held throughout the year in the Castle & Park.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Kilkenny Castle Self-Guided Visit (From February to October)	Pre-booked visit of the Period Rooms of Kilkenny Castle with short introductory talk by trained tour guides. Groups are invited to discover the magnificent Period rooms of Kilkenny Castle with a self-guided visit. Leaflets with room plans and information are made available to groups at the start of their visits and a short introduction talk will be offered by one of our knowledgeable guides before entering. A number of caption panels and display stands are positioned along the tour route to provide further information.	4 levels accessible by staircase. Ground floor only Wheelchair accessible.	Min. 15 Max. 45	45 minutes.	€6.00
Kilkenny Castle Guided Tours (From November to January)	Pre-booked guided tour of the Period Rooms of Kilkenny Castle with a trained tour guide. An experienced guide accompanies the group on a journey of discovery, with both historical knowledge and a social narrative of the Castle. Visitors are offered the opportunity to experience the family space over three floors of the permanent exhibition set in their original period rooms.	4 levels accessible by staircase. Ground floor only Wheelchair accessible.	Min. 15 Max. 45	45 minutes.	€6.00

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 56 7704106
E. bookingskilkennycastle@opw.ie
W. kilkennycastle.ie

LANGUAGES

Information Leaflets available in Irish, English, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Free optional 12 minutes audio-visual presentation in English.

LOCATION

The Parade, Kilkenny,
R95 YRK1
GPS 52.65000512443783:
-7.249482497622694
15 minutes walk from
McDonagh Raily Station

FACILITIES

Toilets, baby changing facilities

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Self guiding walks through the 21 hectares of Parkland & Rose Garden, Children's playground, Outdoor Café.

TEA ROOMS

The Tea Room is located in Victorian Kitchen: Open daily, Castle opening hours. Groups must pre-book.

PARKING FOR COACH / CAR

Coach parking is available on the eastern side of the Castle Road leading up to the Castle. At peak times, there is an overflow coach parking area located at the south side of Larchfield. Coach parking is currently free of charge.

Limited on street, short term parking is within a 1 minute walk and carparks are located from 2 to 14 minutes away. Parking fees apply.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS

Kilkenny City is serviced by national daily bus and rail services. There is a public bus stop 6 minute walk away that serves: Dublin, Cork and Waterford with links to various other locations. The train station is located a 14 minute walk for Kilkenny Castle and there is daily service to Dublin and Waterford.

BIODIVERSITY

There are various biodiversity areas within Kilkenny Castle Park. There are 15 acres of native woodland, 3 acres of Native wildflower meadows and stone walls on all perimeters. Bird and bat boxes will be found in various locations with the 52 acres. There is a dedicated Bee area with 2 bee hives and 2 floating duck houses can be found on our lake located within our woodland.

SUSTAINABILITY

Bike hire is available in Kilkenny City from <https://kilkennycyclingtours.com/> and people can cycle to Kilkenny Castle. Kilkenny Castle is located in the heart of Kilkenny City and is within walking and cycling distance of all the local city attractions.



OPW



Loughcrew Cairns

Oldcastle, Co Meath



The Loughcrew cairns are a complex of 5,000 year old passage tombs, at the top of County Meath's highest hills.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

End of May - End of August

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Neolithic passage tombs dating to 3000 BC.
- Wonderful megalithic art.
- Spectacular views of surrounding countryside.
- Monuments rich in story and legends.
- 'The Hags Chair', a gigantic kerbsone with art.
- Opportunity to get some exercise as you climb the steep hill.

There are about 30 tombs at Loughcrew, sited on four different hills and shown on maps as Sliabh na Caillí, or The Hills of the Witch.

Legend has it that the Hag or Witch formed the cairns when she jumped from one hill to the next dropping stones from her apron. After she had jumped onto three hills, she still had to get to the fourth and final hill in order to attain great power. In the attempt to get to the last hill, she fell and died. The story says that she is buried where she fell, on the slopes of Patrickstown Hill.

The tombs have dominated the landscape south of Oldcastle for thousands of years and they can be seen from a great distance.

Cairn T, on Carnbane East, is the best known and the most visited.

The climb to the top of Carnbane East is not an easy one but it only takes about 15 minutes even if you have to stop and admire the view as you go up.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Hear about the archaeology, mythology and art of these Neolithic monuments	Good level of fitness required. Sensible footwear needed and a walking stick.	Min. 2 Max. 30	(Approx) 1 hour, including climb.	Free
Self Guided	Explore the monuments and enjoy the views.	Good level of fitness required. Sensible footwear needed and a walking stick.	Min. 1 Max. 30	60 minutes.	Free

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0)87 0524975
E. brunaboinne@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Leaflet is available in English and Irish 50c each.

LOCATION

GPS: 53.7447, -7.11024
Cortown, Oldcastle, Co Meath

FACILITIES

Parking, Coffee shop and toilets nearby.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Steep climb to top of the Hill.

NEARBY

Oldcastle Town 6 km. 10minute drive, Fore Abbey 14km. 15 minute drive, Kells. 19km. 20 minute drive, Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff. 18km. 22 minute drive, Lough Sheelin 22km. 25 minute drive.

BIODIVERSITY

Larks always on the Hill.
Rare orchids.

SUSTAINABILITY

Wide open spaces with lots of opportunity for exercise and wellbeing.



OPW



IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

National Botanic Gardens of Ireland

Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow



21st Century Conservation and Planting within a 52 acre Victorian Plant Collectors Garden.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2021-2022

Daily, 9.00 - 17.00

Summer Opening Hours
(mid-February to October)

Daily, 09.00 - 16.30

Winter Opening Hours
(November to mid-February)

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Massive displays of flowering rhododendrons in spring and early summer
- Wildflower meadows / crocus lawn / spring bulbs.
- Double sided Herbaceous borders.
- Oak avenue with native understory planting.
- Wonderful walking experience with birdsong, buzzing bees and bountiful blossoms.

The National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh is nestled in Wicklow the garden county of Ireland, just an hour's drive from Dublin. It is famous for its towering old rhododendron trees that begin flowering spectacularly in the spring, followed by wonderful wildflower meadows in early summer. The double herbaceous borders originally planted in Victorian times are one of the highlights of the summer / autumn season.

The gardens at Kilmacurragh were developed during a period of great botanical and geographical explorations with numerous plant species from around the world being introduced to Ireland for the first time. The different soil and climatic conditions at Kilmacurragh resulted in many of these specimens succeeding there while struggling or failing in other parts of Ireland.

This fantastic historical collection has been restored in tandem with new approaches in horticulture featuring ecological planting with plants from exotic locations from as far away as Chile, China, Tibet and Tasmania while also creating a haven for native plants, wildlife and biodiversity.

Today Kilmacurragh plays a key role in ex situ plant conservation giving a home to many plants that are threatened and endangered in the wild

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Rhododendron Walks	Join our garden guides for a walk through the glorious rhododendron avenues, experience the glorious petalled pathways and find out about the many different varieties on display.	moderate	Min. 5. Max. 50	60 minutes	Free
Kilmacurragh From olden days to the 21st century (explore the history of Kilmacurragh - find out our plans for the future)	Experience the gardens through the eyes of our passionate guides. Learn not only about its monastic roots and the family that lived there from Cromwell's time to the early 20th century but also about the very modern 21st century approaches to plant conservation that can be witnessed right throughout the gardens today.	moderate	Min. 5. Max. 50	1 hour	Free
Wildflower wanderings	Take a walk through the wildflower meadows with our expert guides and get an insight into the best wildflowers that you can plant to create a successful wildflower meadow.	moderate	Min. 5. Max. 15	45 minutes	Free

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Chilean ravine.
- Giant Lilies.
- Wonderful self guided and guided Walks.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0)404 48844
E. botanicgardens@opw.ie
(Dec to March) T. 01 8040319

LOCATION

Kilmacurragh, Kilbride, Co.
Wicklow, A67 YR12.
52 55'44.7"N, 6 08'55.2"W

FACILITIES

Tearooms, gardens, free coach & car parking. Toilets on site.

TEA ROOMS

Acton Cafe. Pet friendly, dogs on leads. Picnic Tables.

Seating capacity: 30 indoors, 16 outdoors.

T. 00353 (0)404 48842.

NEARBY

Dwyer Mc Allister Cottage, Glendalough, Wicklow Mountains National Park, Kilruderry House and Gardens and Mount Usher Gardens.

BIODIVERSITY

Kilmacurragh is famous for its wildflower meadows that host an abundance of native plants, lots of insects and birds can be observed at close range. The Herbaceous borders are constantly humming with the sound of bees as they go about their business collecting their nectar.

Old Mellifont Abbey

Co. Louth



A testament to what was once the most powerful and influential monastery in medieval Ireland.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 – 18.00
End of May to beginning of
September. (last admission 17.15)

ADMISSION

Guided tour: Adult €5.00, Senior/
Group €4.00, Student €3.00,
Family €13.00. (Accompanied
Under 12s go free).

Self guided visit: Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exhibition in the visitor centre museum.
- Original carved masonry from the Abbey including many with Medieval Masons Marks.
- Original floor tiles from the Abbey.
- 13th Century Chapter House.

This beautiful site is typical of the Cistercians who chose to build their abbeys as far removed from the temptations of towns as possible. Although the remains of Mellifont are quite fragmentary, the outlines of the church and domestic buildings can be seen. Two buildings remain largely intact today, the thirteenth century early English Gothic chapter house, and the octagonal Romanesque lavabo. The lavabo is the unique architectural feature of Mellifont, the only one to be built in Ireland. It stood as a medieval washroom, that originally contained a fountain used for both physical and spiritual cleansing. Following the dissolution of the Abbey on 1549, the property eventually passed to the Moore family. In 1603, Hugh O'Neill the Earl of Tyrone, submitted to Lord Deputy Mountjoy here after the Nine Years War. It was this submission and the subsequent signing of the "Treaty of Mellifont" that was to forever change the course of political history in Ireland. During the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, Mellifont was used as the headquarters of King William of Orange.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour and Admission to Exhibition	Prebooked guided tours of the site with our highly praised guides.	Basic	Min. 10 Max. 40	1 hour	Adult € 5.00, Senior/Group €4.00, Student €3.00, Family €13.00, (Accompanied under 12s go free).
Self Guided Visit	Visitors can explore the site by themselves using the interpretive panels located at strategic points.	Basic	No Min. or Max.	30 minutes	Free

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Model of the 13th Century Abbey Precinct.
- Interpretive panels throughout the site.
- Universal Access to most of the site via pathways.
- Passport stamping location on the Boyne Valley Camino walk.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 41 9826459
T. 00353 (0) 41 9880300
E. mellifontabbey@opw.ie

LOCATION

Tullyallen, Drogheda,
Co Louth A92 K682
10km north-west of Drogheda
off the Drogheda-Collon
Road, R168

FACILITIES

Free Car Parking, Free
Coach Parking, Toilets,
wheelchair accessible
toilets, Picnic benches

SUSTAINABILITY

Old Mellifont Abbey is part
of the Boyne Valley Camino
walking route

NEARBY

Monasterboice Round Tower
and High Crosses. 9 km. 10
minutes drive. Brú Na Bóinne
(Newgrange and Knowth)
10km. 15 minutes drive. Battle
of the Boyne Oldbridge 7km.
10 minute drive. Drogheda
10km. 12 minute drive. Townley
Hall Woodland Walks 6 km.
8minutes drive

BIODIVERSITY

The name Mellifont means
Fountain of Honey. The bees
still visit the site to gather
pollen. Swallows nest every
year in our Chapter House
and the Abbey is home to
several different types of
bat. The river Mattock flows
alongside the Abbey.



Ormond Castle

Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary



Ireland's finest Tudor Manor House, which was fit for a Queen.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021-2022

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
27.03.21 - 29.10.21

Daily, 09.30 - 16.15
30.10.21 -

2022 (Similar period to above)

ADMISSION

Adult € 5.00, Senior/Group €4.00,
Student/ Child € 3.00, Family €
13.00, (Accompanied under 12s
go free).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 30 metre Long Gallery with its stunning plasterwork
- The attic with its original roof timbers
- Period furniture

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 51640787
E. ormondcastle@opw.ie

Ormond Castle is the finest and earliest example of an Elizabethan manor house in Ireland. It was built by Thomas Butler, 10th Earl of Ormond in the 1560s and was integrated into an older medieval castle and two 15th century towers. The state rooms in the manor house contain some of the finest decorative plasterwork in the country, featuring portraits of Queen Elizabeth I, a distant cousin of the Earl Thomas and many other motifs associated with the Tudor dynasty, which provided 3 kings and 2 queens of England.

This Renaissance building was unusual in Ireland in what was a period of political upheaval. Its design and interior decoration was influenced by contemporary European trends and showcases the craftsmanship of the period. The elegant interior is bright and spacious, which is markedly different from the earlier, and gloomier medieval sections of the building, now in ruin.

Experience the same feeling of wonderment on entering the stunning Long Gallery as those visiting when it was first built. Marvel at the work of the Elizabethan builders and craftsmen and soak in the atmosphere of this most elegant building.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Ormond Castle – Indoors	Pre-booked guided tours of the Castle with a trained tour guide offering a unique insight into the extraordinary legacy of this historic manor house. Learn about Black Tom Butler, 10th Earl of Ormond who build the manor house in 1565 in honour of his friendship with his distant cousin Queen Elizabeth I of England.	Rising from ground floor floor to the next level by spiral stairs and further stairs to attic – Not wheelchair accessible.	Min 10. Max. 25	55 minutes	Adult € 5.00, Senior/Group €4.00, Student/Child € 3.00, Family € 13.00, Accompanied under 12s go free.
Exhibition Audio visual	Touch screen displays 2 X 7 minute AV presentation. This award winning audio visual features the two main characters associated with the building of the Tudor manor house and their individual views of the this period; Black Tom Butler 10th Earl of Ormond and his first wife Elizabeth Berkeley .	On flat surfaces/ground floor. Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 30	15 minutes	Included in above admission charge

LOCATION

Castle Street, Carrick on Suir,
Co Tipperary E21 CX59 on
N24 from Waterford (27 km)
52.3452° N, 7.4070° W

FACILITIES

Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, baby changing facilities, Public Car Parking in New Street car park (approx..90 spaces)(5 mins walk), charge €1.20 per hour. Public Coach Parking in New Street car park (1 bus parking bay), (5 mins walk), charge €1.20 per hour. No Tea Room on site.

LANGUAGES

Guide books available in English (€15), French, German, Italian and Irish (€4.00).

Leaflets available in English, Irish, French, German, Italian and Spanish (€0.50).

Free returnable laminated tour information available in English, Irish, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The audio visual (2 X 7 minutes) presentations is available in English and Irish with subtitles available in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Chinese.

Exhibition: The touch screen exhibition information is available in English, Irish, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Chinese.

PARKLANDS/GROUNDS/WALKS

Adjacent to the Suir Blue Way – river and pathway which caters for cycling, walking and canoeing.

BIODIVERSITY

A pair of ravens nest each year in one of the ruined medieval towers where they produce a brood of young. These are the largest members of the crow family and have a wing span of 1metre -1.2 metres.

NEARBY

Adjacent to the Suir Blue Way. Close to Curraghmore House & Mount Congreve Gardens.

St Mary's Church

Gowran, Co. Kilkenny



Knights, Ladies, Saints and Sinners.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Wed–Sun: 10.00–17.30

End March to End August

Check with site for exact dates.

ADMISSION

Group €4.00

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ogham stone dating to the 4th/5th Century
- O'Tunney tombs - from the hands of a master mason
- An Túr Gloine stained glass windows
- Butler Family (Kilkenny Castle) Knights Effigies
- Cadaver tomb

St Mary's Church was built in the late thirteenth century as a collegiate church and was served by a college – clerics who lived in a community but did not submit to the rule of a monastery.

The church was patronised by the powerful Butler family of Kilkenny Castle and many early family members are commemorated here with elaborate medieval tombs. The impressive ruins were decorated by the Gowran Master whose stone carvings are immortalised in the poetry of Nobel Laureate Séamus Heaney.

The once medieval church was later partly reconstructed in the early 19th century and functioned as a Church of Ireland church and adding to its already impressive collection of memorials two stained glass windows created by the prestigious cooperative studio An Túr Gloine (The Glass Tower) one commemorating Aubrey Cecil White who died the 1st day of the Battle of the Somme WWI. The church was gifted to the state as a National Monument in 1970s.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Tour of Sligo Abbey Guided Walking Tour	Pre-booked guided tours of Sligo Abbey Outside walking tour with a trained guide. Hear all about the dramatic history of the site. Find which parts of the structure were built in which century, learn the identities of the figures in the O'Crean tomb, hear the story behind the mysterious "Love Knot" and discover the Dracula connection.	Some stairs and uneven ground. Stones may be slippery when wet.	Min 10 Max. 40.	30 minutes.	€4.00 Group Rate

BOOKING

T. 00353 56 772 6894
E. stmaryschurch@opw.ie

Out of season contact information:

T. 00353 56 772 4623
E. breda.lynych@opw.ie

LOCATION

Main St., Gowran, Co. Kilkenny, R95 CV0Y. In the centre of Gowran town. Follow the R448 from Carlow south towards Thomastown

FACILITIES

Toilet, No wheelchair accessible toilet. Free parking nearby.
No Tea Room on site.

NEARBY

Close to Jerpoint Abbey Thomastown and Kilkenny Castle and Dunmore Cave (10mins away from the medieval city of Kilkenny).



OPW

IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Swiss Cottage

Cahir, Co. Tipperary



One of the finest cottage ornés of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries Picturesque Movement.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2020–2021

Daily: 10.00 - 17.15
13/03/21-29/10/21

Daily: 09.30 - 16.45
30/10/21- 31/10/21

2022 Similar dates to above,
check with website.

ADMISSION

Adult €5.00, Senior/ Group €4.00,
student/ Child €3.00, Family €13.00,
Accompanied under 12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wonderfully decorated interiors, Original Dufour wallpaper, Period furniture
- Adjacent to historic 19th century wooded landscape and to the Suir Blue Way - river walk
- Rose and wisteria clad exterior in early summer

The Swiss Cottage was built in 1810 by Richard Butler, 1st Earl of Glengall and his wife Emily, a high society couple and members of the Prince Regent's set in London. It is almost certain that they engaged the foremost architect of the day, John Nash, to design a cottage orné to reflect the characteristics of the in vogue Picturesque Movement. This movement was characterized by a preoccupation with the combined pictorial values of architecture and landscape.

Situated within their private demense in idyllic, picturesque and wooded surroundings overlooking the River Suir, the cottage with its enveloping thatched roof, rustic rose and wisteria clad exterior and sumptuously decorated interiors is a feast for the eye. The cottage's rooms are decorated in fashionable toile wall coverings (cloth on paper backing) panoramic Dufour wallpaper made in Paris and elegant period furniture.

Drink in the peaceful atmosphere, smell the fragrant roses in the gentle warm air of a summer's day and imagine the Earl and Countess holding fishing and hunting parties there and also summer soirées with close friends. This was the ultimate short term peaceful retreat, which allowed the couple to leave behind the hustle and bustle of their nearby main residence, Cahir House, even if only for a few hours.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour – Indoors	<p>Guided tours of Swiss Cottage with trained tour guide.</p> <p>Access by guided tour only.</p> <p>Pre-booking required for all groups.</p> <p>In the expert hands of an engaging Swiss Cottage guide, the highlights tour showcases the background to the Georgia/regency period, bringing to life characters associated with the cottage.</p>	<p>Located on an elevated site with external and internal stairs.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible – first floor only.</p> <p>2 car spaces adjacent to site.</p>	<p>Min 10 Max. 15. (Max Group size 45 pax with group divided in to 3 for access to rooms)</p>	<p>40 minutes but up to 1 hour if the group is more than 30.</p>	<p>Adult €5.00, Senior/ Group €4.00, student/ Child €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied under 12s go free.</p>

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 52 7441144
E. swisscottage@opw.ie

LOCATION

Ardfinnan Rd., Cahir, Co.
Tipperary, E21 DX07.
Off Junction 10 (4 km) M8
Motorway (Dublin – Cork) and
Junction 11 (6 km) M8 (Cork –
Dublin). Close to Cahir Castle
(2 km), the historic town of
Cahir and the Rock of Cashel
(23 km)

FACILITIES

Booklet: English, French, German,
Irish and Italian (€4.00)
Leaflet: English and Irish (€0.50)

FACILITIES

On site Car Parking. On site
Coach Parking (2 spaces). Toilets,
wheelchair accessible toilets,
baby changing facilities. No Tea
Room on site.

NEARBY

Cahir Castle, the Main Guard
in Clonmel, St. Patrick's Well,
Mitchelston Cave, Rock of
Cashel.

Swiss Cottage is adjacent to the
Suir Blue Way – canoeing and
riverside walk.

BIODIVERSITY

Swiss Cottage is located in
Cahir Park, the old walled
private demesne of the Butlers
of Cahir, which lies within the
Lower River Suir SAC (Special
Area of Conservation).

The area is rich in wild life
and the following can be seen
regularly near the cottage:

Otter, grey squirrels, mute
swans, mallard ducks, grey
heron, barn owls, buzzards
and sparrow hawks. The river
Suir is also renowned for its
stocks of brown trout and also
salmon.



The Rock of Cashel

Co. Tipperary



Where the stories of Kings and Bishops are revealed.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021-2022

Daily, 9:00 - 17:30

Mid March - 1st June

(Last admission 16:45)

Daily, 9:00 - 19:00

1st June - Mid September

(Last admission 18:15)

Daily, 9:00 - 17:30

Mid September - Mid October

(Last admission 16:45)

Daily, 9:00 - 16:30

Mid October - Mid March

(Last admission 15:45)

ADMISSION

Adult €8.00, Senior/ Group
€6.00, Student/ Child €4.00,
Family €20.00, Accompanied
under 12s go free.

Guided tour of Cormac's Chapel:
€3 on top of the regular ticket price.

Perched dramatically on a natural rock outcrop in the famed Golden Vale, visitors will step back in time as they view the spectacular buildings at the Rock of Cashel. These structures are one of the most significant collections of medieval buildings in Ireland. Visitors will see unique buildings, such as the one-of-a-kind 12th century Cormac's Chapel, one of Ireland's few remaining complete round towers, and one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Ireland. Inside the Hall of the Vicar's Choral they will see the original St. Patrick's Cross and many fascinating artefacts associated with the site. They will hear our guides taking them back through centuries of history, from the kings that used the Rock of Cashel as their seat of power and inauguration place, to the bishops, battles and attacks that took place at the Rock throughout its turbulent history. Any visitor to the Rock of Cashel will leave with a lasting impression, and a feeling that they know medieval Ireland a little better.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Our guided tours take visitors around all 5 buildings of the Rock of Cashel (with the exception of the interior of Cormac's Chapel). Visitors will learn about the history, art, architecture, and folklore of the Rock of Cashel with an experienced guide.	Moderate difficulty. There is gravel, flagstone pathways, and grass surfaces. There are several steps into the Vicar's Choral reception area. Visitors with disabilities can gain access via the gated entrance, and there are wheelchair ramps on site.	Min. 20 No Max. Although larger groups may be split up to allow for a better experience.	45 minutes - 1 hour.	Adult €8.00, Senior/Group €6.00, Student/ Child €4.00, Family €20.00, (Accompanied under 12s go free).
Guided Tour of Cormac's Chapel	These special guided tours take visitors into the recently conserved Cormac's Chapel. Due to the fragile nature of the medieval frescos, Cormac's Chapel is a controlled environment and access is by guided tour only. On these tours visitors will learn about the conservation efforts, as well as about the building's unique nature and history.	Mild difficulty. The doorway into Cormac's Chapel is narrow, but the interior surfaces are even.	No Min. Max. 100. Tickets for this tour are sold on a first come, first served basis, and cannot be prebooked.	20 - 25 minutes.	€3 on top of the regular ticket price.
Self-Guided Visit	Visitors have the option to self-guide at the Rock of the Cashel (with the exception of the interior of Cormac's Chapel). Visitors can take their time, enjoy the views, and watch the audio-visual presentation. Leaflets are available for purchase in a variety of languages.	Moderate difficulty. There is gravel, flagstone pathways, and grass surfaces. There are several steps into the Vicar's Choral reception area. Visitors with disabilities can gain access via the gated entrance, and there are wheelchair ramps on site.	No Min. No Max.	No time limit.	Adult €8.00, Senior/Group €6.00, Student/ Child €4.00, Family €20.00, (Accompanied under 12s go free).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fully guided tours.
- Audio-visual presentation.
- Guided access to Cormac's Chapel which houses Ireland's only medieval frescos.
- St. Patrick's Cathedral built in the 13th century in the Gothic style.
- A 27-metre-high round tower. Monument sites in the area.
- A bishop's residential tower.

- Interesting exhibitions in the Vicar's Choral.
- Stunning panoramic views of the Golden Vale.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 62 61437
E. rockofcashel@opw.ie

LOCATION

GPS: Latitude: 52.5200763
Longitude: -7.8904522
Full address: St. Patrick's Rock of Cashel, Cashel, Co. Tipperary E25 KX44

LANGUAGES

Leaflets are available for 50c in English, Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Polish. There is an audio-visual presentation available in English, Irish, French, German, and Italian.

TEA ROOMS

There are no tea rooms on-site.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

The buildings at the Rock of Cashel are set within a graveyard which visitors are free to visit.

FACILITIES

Car/bus parking facilities, managed by Tipperary County Council, at the base of the hill at a cost of €4.50 per vehicle. This is approximately 200m from the reception.

There are no cafes or shops on site. There are no on-site toilet facilities at the Rock of Cashel, but there are public toilets next to the car park.

NEARBY

Cashel Folk Village, approx. 500m from the site, Athassel Priory, Golden. 10km , Holycross Abbey 13.4km, Cahir Castle. 16.4km, Swiss Cottage. 18.2km.

BIODIVERSITY

The Rock of Cashel is home to several species of birds, in particular Jackdaws and Swifts.



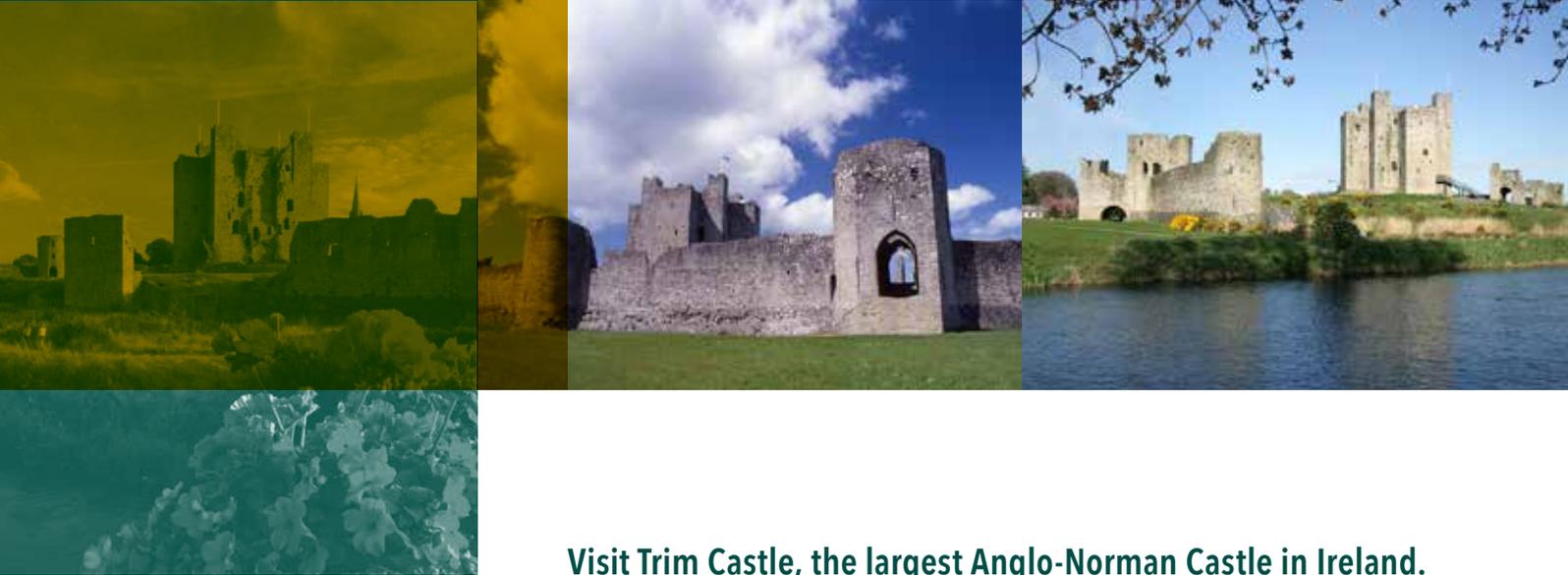
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IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®

Trim Castle

Co. Meath



Visit Trim Castle, the largest Anglo-Norman Castle in Ireland.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 – 17.15

February to beginning
of November

Daily, 09.00 – 16.00

November to February

ADMISSION

Guided Tour: Adult € 5.00,
Senior/Group €4.00,
Student/ Child € 3.00,
Family €13.00, Accompanied
under 12s go free.

Grounds Only: Adult €2.00

Senior /Group €1.00

Student/Child 1.00

Family €4.00

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3D models showing the various stages of construction of the Keep in fascinating detail.

Trim Castle is the most spectacular evidence of late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century Anglo-Norman power in Ireland. The guided tour of the Keep includes the history of the Norman conquest of Ireland, the story of the de Lacy family in Ireland, the construction of the castle and the wider history of the beautiful heritage town of Trim. Most of the rooms remain unchanged since their original design and many have some original features still intact. As you walk through these atmospheric chambers, imagine the reality of living in a medieval castle.

The grounds at Trim Castle cover a stunning 1.5 hectares. Follow the gently undulating pathway that leads you around the main monuments within the great curtain wall. Information panels are placed to show you the buildings in their original form and to make sure you have all the information you could possibly want, with historical timelines of all the different structures. This is a self-guided option, so take your time. At your leisure, absorb the sight of the great stone keep built by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter, the most spectacular evidence of late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century Anglo-Norman power in Ireland.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour of the Keep	<p>A tour of the mighty Keep with one of our knowledgeable and well informed guides.</p> <p>Learn how the Keep was built and hear some of the stories of remarkable people associated with Trim.</p>	<p>Medium.</p> <p>Steep and uneven steps. Low doorways. Not suitable for anyone with a fear of heights or vertigo.</p>	<p>Min. 2 Max. 25</p>	60 minutes	<p>Adult €5.00, Senior/Group €4.00, Student/ Child €3.00, Family €13.00, (Accompanied under 12s go free).</p>
Grounds Only	<p>The grounds at Trim Castle cover a stunning 1.5 hectares. Follow the gently undulating pathway that leads you around the main monuments within the great curtain wall. Information panels are placed to show you the buildings in their original form and to make sure you have all the information you could possibly want, with historical timelines of all the different structures.</p>	Low.	No Min. or Max.	60 minutes	<p>Adult €2.00 Group/Senior €1.00 Student/Child €1.00 Family €4.00</p>

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- A climb to the top of the Tower to enjoy stunning views of Trim Heritage town and surrounding countryside.
- The opportunity to explore the grounds of the Castle on your own taking as long as you wish.
- Information panels showing the buildings in their original form with historical timelines of all the different structures.
- A visit to the private Chapel with its remarkable piscina.
- The stories of famous individuals such as Queen Isabella, Richard Duke of York, Prince Hal and the Duke of Wellington and renowned families and dynasties such as the DeLacy's and the Mortimers whose history in interwoven with that of Trim Castle.
- Town centre location with lovely walks, hotels, restaurants and craft shops nearby.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 46 9438619
E. trimcastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

Castle St, Trim,
Co Meath, C15 HN90
GPS Coordinates:
53.5551, -6.7907

FACILITIES

Toilets including baby changing facilities.

LANGUAGES

Leaflets available in English, Irish, German and French 50c each.

PARKLANDS/GROUNDS/WALKS

Riverside walks in town outside Castle walls, known as 'The Porch Fields'.

BIODIVERSITY

Riverside walks along the river Boyne where lots of wildlife and plants can be enjoyed.

NEARBY

Located in Heritage town of Trim, Bective Abbey 8 km. 10minute drive, Hill of Tara 16km. 20 minute drive, Loughcrew 36km. 40 minute drive, Athboy 13km. 15 minute drive.

SUSTAINABILITY

Walking routes in and around the town.



From banquets to
brunch ... enjoy
catering facilities at
our historic sites.



Clockwise from top left:
Dublin Castle; Kilkenny Castle; Castletown House
and Parklands; Farmleigh House