



Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS

HERITAGE IRELAND
Ireland's National Heritage
in the care of the OFFICE of PUBLIC WORKS

2019
Admission
Charges Apply
in 2022

Trade Catalogue 2021-2022



Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Wild Atlantic Way

Dublin

Ireland's Ancient East



OPW

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

Ireland's Iconic Heritage Sites

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

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WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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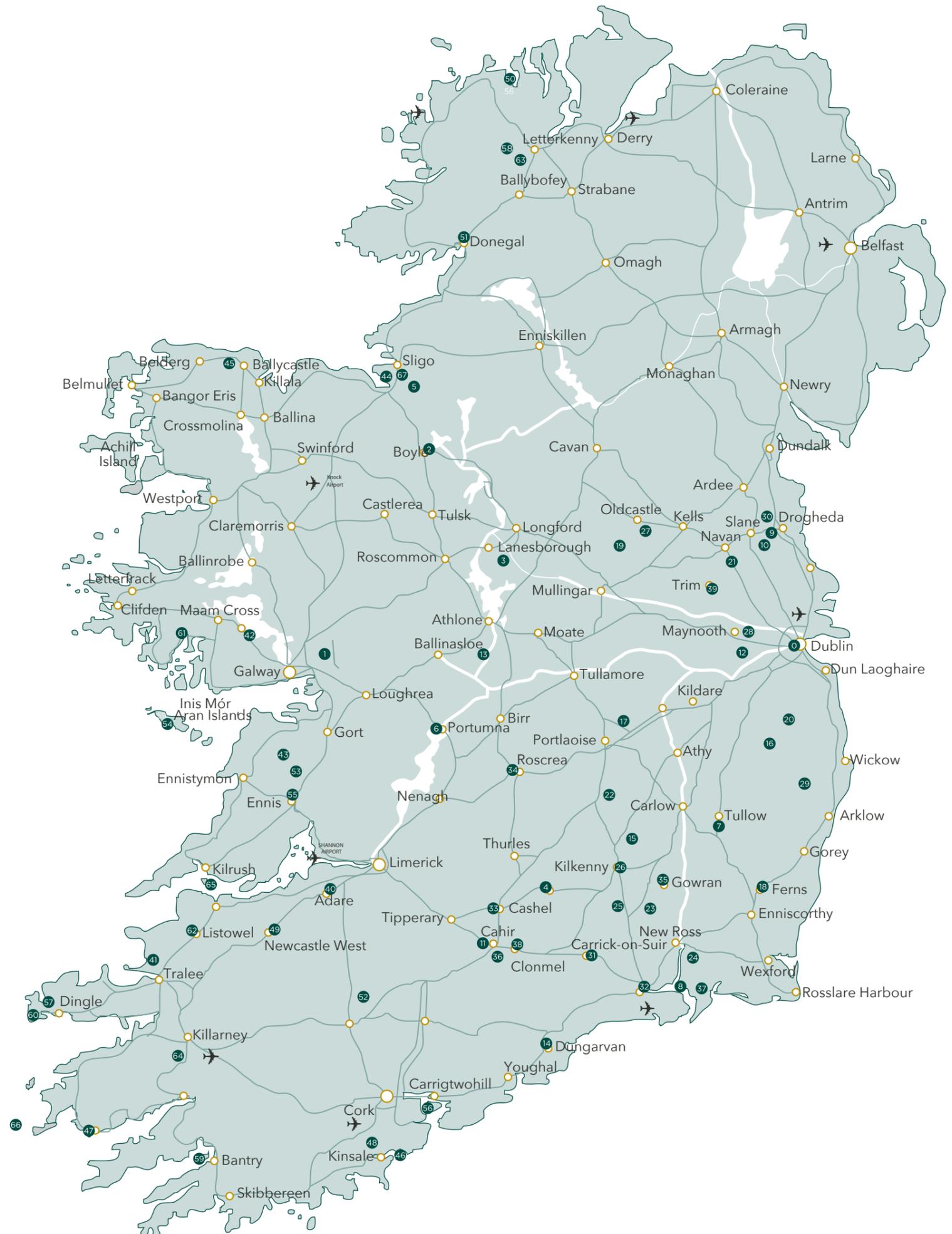
DUBLIN

- 0 Áras an Uachtarain
- 0 Arbour Hill
- 0 Casino Marino
- 0 Custom House Visitor Centre
- 0 Dublin Castle
- 0 Farmleigh House
- 0 Garden of Remembrance
- 0 Government Buildings
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- 0 Iveagh Gardens
- 0 Kilmainham Gaol
- 0 National Botanic Gardens - Glasnevin
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IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

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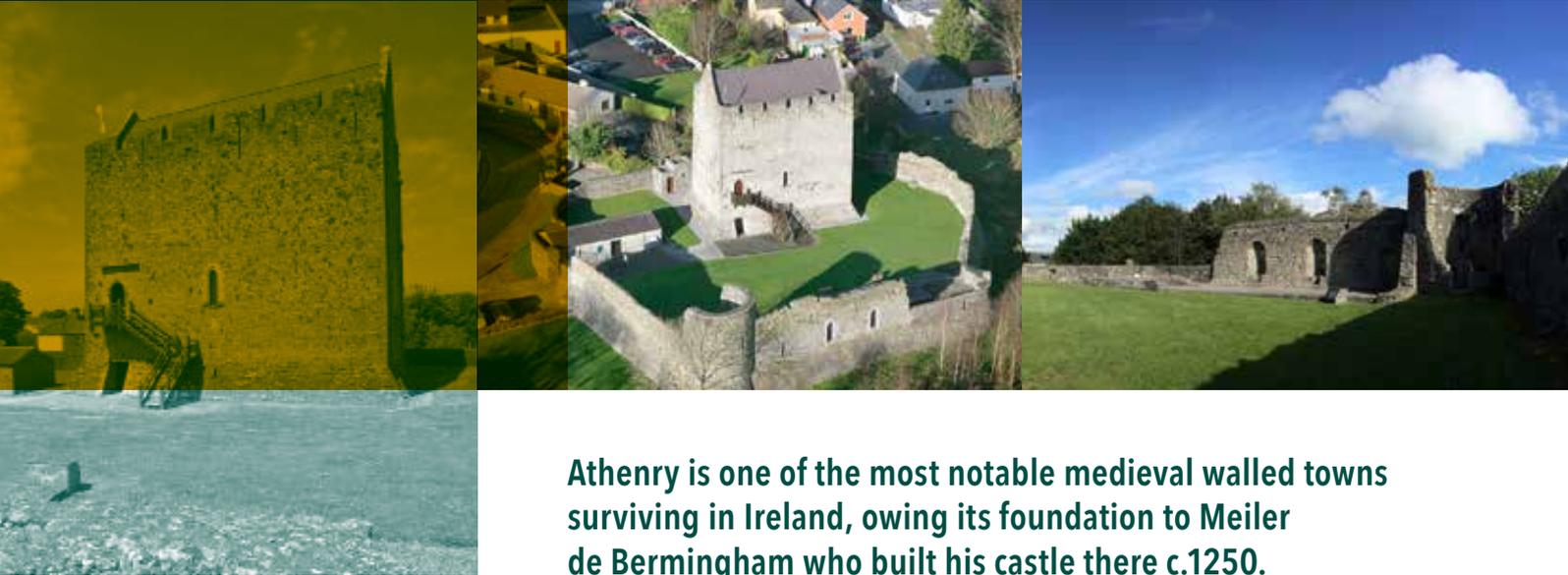
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Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS

Athenry Castle

Athenry Town, Co. Galway



Athenry is one of the most notable medieval walled towns surviving in Ireland, owing its foundation to Meiler de Bermingham who built his castle there c.1250.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2021–2022

Daily, 9.30 – 18.00

25.03.21 – 29.09.21

(last admission 17.15)

Daily, 09.30 – 17.00

30.09.22 – 03.11.22

(last admission 16.15)

ADMISSION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Athenry is a Medieval Heritage Town
- A 20 minute film in the audio visual room.
- Various defence features such as original arrow loops and embrasures.
- See how the castle changed over the centuries.
- Inter-mural stairway which leads to the battlements.

The story of Athenry as we know it begins in the 13th century when Meiler de Bermingham, built his castle here to form part of the defences of one of the most notable medieval walled towns in Ireland. The general location was strategically important as Athenry lies along the Esker Riada, a ridge of gravel and sediment running from east to west. The M6 motorway, which links Dublin and Galway today, largely follows this ancient route.

Meiler, (Lord of Athenry), founded the town of Athenry and started to build his castle here in 1235. By the 15th Century, the de Berminghams had moved from the castle to their more comfortable Town House, in the centre of Athenry town. The castle then became a garrison for soldiers.

Today the site consists of the restored castle and outer bawn wall. The Castle has many interesting medieval features such as the 13th Century fine carvings on the doorway and windows in the first floor, which bear witness to the importance of this room. This local style of carving is between Romanesque and Gothic is known as “School of the West.”

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. Stairs to all other areas of the castle.	Min. 10. Max. 40	45 minutes	Adult €5.00 Senior/ Group €4.00 Child/Student €3.00 Family €13.00. Accompanied children under 12 go free.
Self Guided Tour	A walk through the grounds and castle at your leisure. Read the bilingual panels of information on each floor. Watch the 20 minute Audio Visual in your own time.	Visitors with mobility difficulties can access the grounds and basement only. Stairs to all other areas.	Max. 40	50 minutes	Adult €5.00 Senior/ Group €4.00 Child/Student €3.00 Family €13.00. Accompanied children under 12 go free.

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Base batter which gave the castle strength and support in addition to being a defensive feature.
- Elaborate carvings in the Great Hall linked to medieval craftsmen known as the School of the West.
- Annual events such as Heritage Week and Walled Towns Day.

LOCATION

King John Castle, Court Lane, Location: Off the M6 motorway and 25 km east of Galway City.
GPS: 53.300140, -8.7444073.

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (91) 844797
E. athenrycastle@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Leaflet available in Irish, English and German.
Audio Visual also available in English

FACILITIES

Free parking immediately outside the castle gate to facilitate 5 cars. Paid parking close by within the town. Male and Female toilets on site

BIODIVERSITY

Surrounding the castle is the River Clarin with green parkland and children's playground.

TEA ROOMS

Restaurants and tearooms in the surrounding town of Athenry outside the castle gates. No Tea Rooms on site.

NEARBY

Visit Athenry Castle, Athenry Dominican Priory, Athenry Heritage Centre, The Market Cross and the Medieval town walls and gates. Outside the gates of the castle you can see St. Mary's, home of the Heritage Centre and on the other side of the park is the Dominican Priory of Saints Peter and Paul founded c.1241. (The key to the Priory can be requested from castle reception for a refundable deposit of 10 euros)



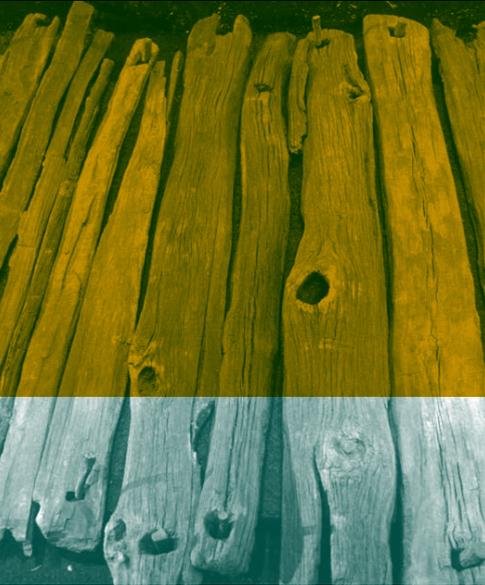
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Corlea Roadway Visitor Centre

Co. Longford



The centre interprets an Iron Age bog road, the largest of this kind to be uncovered in Europe dating from 148 BC.

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Daily, 10.00 – 18.00
01.04.21 – 30.09.21

Daily, 10.00 – 18.00
01.04.22 – 30.09.22

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- 18 metre stretch of ancient wooden structure permanently on display
- Exterior walkway on the surrounding raised bog (located directly over the existing buried roadway)

Hidden away in the boglands of Longford, not far from Kenagh village, is an inspiring relic of prehistory: *a togher* – an Iron Age road – built in 148 BC. Known locally as the Danes' Road, it is the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe.

Historians agree that it was part of a routeway of great importance. It may have been a section of a ceremonial highway connecting the Hill of Uisneach, the ritual centre of Ireland, and the royal site of Rathcroghan.

The roadway was built from heavy planks of oak, which sank into the peat after a short time. This made it unusable, of course, but also ensured it remained perfectly preserved in the bog for the next two millennia.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Corlea Roadway Visitor Centre	Pre-booked guided tours of the Corlea roadway Visitor Centre offering a unique insight into the pathway to the past. The guided tour includes access to the original trackway which is preserved in a specially controlled environment.	On flat surface - indoors Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 50	45 minutes	Free
Audio Visual	Self guided visit to the exhibition area is also available Audio-visual available (ENGLISH ONLY) detailing the discovery & excavation of the roadway.	On flat surfaces, paved or grass. Wheelchair accessible on paved surfaces.	Max. 61	17 minutes	Free
Walk	A section of the guided tour takes place on the raised bog; highlighting the flora & fauna.	On flat surfaces Wheelchair accessible.			Free

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (43) 332 2386
E. corlea@opw.ie

LOCATION

2 Cartron Rd, Cloonbreany,
Keenagh, Co. Longford,
N39 XT18

3km from Kenagh village
and accessed on the
Longford - Kenagh road, R357.
15km from Longford or from the
Mullingar-Lanesboro road R392.

FACILITIES

Car parking (50 m from entrance
to visitor centre entrance), coach
parking (50m from visitor centre
entrance, over flat ground), toilets,
wheelchair accessible toilets, baby
changing facilities, picnic tables.
No Tea Room on site.

WALKS/NEARBY

Adjacent to the 5km looped
canal and bogland walkway,
cycleway, Greenway, Ballymahon
(5 minute drive), Centreparks (10
minute drive), Adjacent to the
Royal Canal cycleway.

LANGUAGES

Leaflet and audio visual in
English only.



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Ireland's Hidden
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Parke's Castle

Co. Leitrim



A fine example of a restored Plantation Manor House of the 17th century with foundations of an earlier tower house visible in the courtyard.

OPENING HOURS 2021-2022

Open daily, 10.00 - 18.00

March - Early November

ADMISSION

Adult: €5.00

Group/Senior: €4.00

Child/Student: €3.00

Family: €13.00

Accompanied children
under 12 go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Murderhole - a fifteenth century defence feature.
- Elaborate sixteenth century banquetting hall carvings.
- Annual family-friendly events including Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and Halloween.
- Beautiful river walk along the banks of the Drimneen.

Take a guided tour and learn all about the O'Rourke's and the Parke's family and what life was like in the 16th and 17th century in Co. Leitrim. Stand on the battlements and admire the spectacular views of Lough Gill and the surrounding landscape. Imagine yourself as a poet like W.B Yeats reciting his poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'. Be inspired! Watch the Audio Visual presentation entitled 'Stone by Stone' a short film on the history and heritage of the surrounding North West region and hear the voice of W.B Yeats. Explore all the rooms inside including the Parke's family sitting room, the wonderful exhibition of Vernacular Buildings and learn all about life and traditions associated with traditional Irish cottages. Admire the left-handed spiral staircase built using traditional Irish Oak. Down along the lakeshore at the end of the garden visit the sweathouse and listen to the sound of many different birds nestling in the trees above.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Guided tour of the courtyard, the gatehouse, manor house and defensive tower. It includes the vernacular exhibition. The tour visits the pigeon tower, forge, moat and garden area. The tour concludes at the sweathouse.	Steps, Spiral staircase, cobbled areas, grass area.	Max. 25	1 hour	Adult: €5.00 Group/Senior: €4.00 Child/Student: €3.00 Family: €13.00 Accompanied children under 12 go free.
Short Tour	This tour is geared towards visitors with mobility issues. It is designed to provide visitors with a history of the castle from the courtyard. It is a short 20min talk on Parke's Castle history.	Level path in courtyard.	Max. 30	20 minutes	Adult: €5.00 Group/Senior: €4.00 Child/Student: €3.00 Family: €13.00 Accompanied children under 12 go free.

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 71 9164149
E. parkescastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

GPS 54.264768, -8.334429
Kilmore, Fivemilebourne,
Co. Leitrim, F91 FP71

LANGUAGES

Self-guided leaflet available for use on site in 19 different languages.

OPW leaflet for sale in English and Irish (50c each)
AV in English, French, German and Italian.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Garden area at the castle

FACILITIES

Toilets, universal access toilets, shop, café, baby changing etc., carpark adjacent to site (not lined out) council car park.

NEARBY

Creevelea Friary (9km), Deerpark (5km), O'Rourke's Table (4km), Sligo Abbey (11km), Isle of Innisfree (13km).

BIODIVERSITY

Parke's Castle is situated on the shores of Lough Gill, an ideal location for Bats. Many different species of birds nestling on site. Sand martins on site every year nestling in the walls of the castle. Cartron Glen walk/woodland nearby (5min walk).

Portumna Castle & Gardens

Co. Galway



Portumna Castle and Demesne occupy a magnificent location on the shores of Lough Derg on the River Shannon.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2020–2021

Daily, 9.30 – 18.00
25.03.21 – 29.09.21
(Last admission 17:15)

Daily, 9.30 – 17.00
30.09.21 – 03.11.21
(Last admission 16:15)

ADMISSION

Adult €5.00, Senior/ Group €4.00,
Child/ Student €3.00, Family €10.
Accompanied under 12s go free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Defensive features of the Castle
- Ladies Garden 17th century type roses in bloom (June/July)
- Story of Furry, a little dog that saved a girl's life from a fall off the castle
- Walk around the 17th century walled kitchen garden
- Willow Maze in Kitchen Garden
- Giant Chess Set

Although gutted by fire in 1826, the Castle is still an imposing example of Irish architecture of the early 17th Century. Built before 1618 by Richard de Burgo, 4th Earl of Clanricarde, the castle became the main seat of the de Burgo family for over 200 years.

Architecturally, the building marks the transition from the medieval Tower House to the Renaissance style manor house with complimentary influences from both periods. In 1968, the Office of Public Works re-roofed the building and based on extensive archaeological and historical research, other major conservation and partial restoration works continue to be carried out by a team of skilled artisans.

The ground floor of the castle is open to the public and houses an exhibition on the history and restoration of the building and the de Burgo family. The virtual reality DVD presentation adds to the exhibition, bringing the story to life.

The imposing façade of the castle faces north and is approached by a long avenue and formal gardens. The dramatic approach has three formal enclosures which contain geometric and regular plantings, an old shrub rose garden and a walled kitchen garden, all combining to re-create a sense of the original 17th century setting.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Castle Tour	Full guided tour of the formal gardens, defensive & architectural features and ground floor of castle	Castle ground floor not wheelchair accessible, Information book for ground floor available for users. Flat gravel pathways on grounds are wheelchair accessible.	Min. 2. Max. 40 *Bigger groups can be divided	45 minutes	Adult €5 Senior/ Group €4 Student/ Child €3 Family €13
Self-Guiding Castle Tour		Castle ground floor not wheelchair accessible, Information book for ground floor available for users. Flat gravel pathways on grounds are wheelchair accessible.	No min, no max.	At your leisure.	Adult €5 Senior/ Group €4 Student/ Child €3 Family €13
17th century Kitchen Garden Tour	Full guided tour of the 17th century kitchen garden including formal gardens.	Flat gravel pathways are wheelchair accessible	Min. 2. Max. 30	30 minutes	Adult €5 Senior/ Group €4 Student/ Child €3 Family €13
Self-guiding 17th century Kitchen Garden Tour	Enjoy the gardens at your leisure.	Flat gravel pathways are wheelchair accessible	No min, no max.	At your leisure.	Adult €5 Senior/ Group €4 Student/ Child €3 Family €13

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Tea Room serving refreshments, light lunches and snacks
- Workshops, events and exhibitions throughout the season

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 90 9741658
E. portumnacastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

Portumna, Co. Galway,
H53 YK27.
GPS Lat:53.0866805,
Long: -8.220730799999956

LANGUAGES

Visitors guides are sold in Irish, English ,German and French @ 50cent each. There is a 4 minute DVD in English.

FACILITIES

Exhibitions, shop, gardens, toilets/toilet for visitors with a disability. FREE private car parking for approximately 30 cars. The main car park is 200 mtrs from reception. FREE coach parking, 23 coaches, approx. 200 mtrs from reception

THE COURTYARD CAFÉ

Tea Rooms. Group bookings in advance.

T. 00353 (0) 909 9741667
E. catocafinefoods@gmail.com

NEARBY

Lough Derg, the River Shannon, Portumna Forest Park and the Irish Workhouse Center. River Shannon's Connacht Harbour Marina. Camper Van Parking.

BIODIVERSITY

Portumna Castle 17th century walled kitchen garden is an organic vegetable and flower garden. There are plenty of pollinators throughout the site including the native black honey Bee who not only lives in the gardens but also inhabits the arrow loops and musket holes in the Castle building. Portumna Forest Parks has native flora and fauna which includes the Red Squirrel and Fallow Deer.



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