



WILD ATLANTIC WAY
SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN

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

Trade Catalogue 2021-2022

**2019
Admission
Charges Apply
in 2022**



Wild Atlantic Way

Dublin

Ireland's Ancient East

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands



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. touropsaccounts@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

Wild Atlantic Way

IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

- 1 Athenry Castle
- 2 Portumna Castle & Gardens
- 3 Corlea Roadway Visitor Centre
- 4 Boyle Abbey
- 5 Nenagh Castle
- 6 Parke's Castle

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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- 43 Burren National Park
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- 45 Céide Fields
- 46 Charles Fort
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- 49 Desmond Castle, Newcastle West
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- 52 Doneraile Court and Estate
- 53 Dromore Wood
- 54 Dun Aonghasa
- 55 Ennis Friary
- 56 Fota Arboretum
- 57 Gallarus Oratory
- 58 Glebe House and Gallery
- 59 Innacullin (Garinish Island)
- 60 Ionad an Bhlascaoid
- 61 Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara
- 62 Listowel Castle
- 63 Newmills Corn and Flaxmills
- 64 Ross Castle
- 65 Scattery Island
- 66 Skelligs
- 67 Sligo Abbey

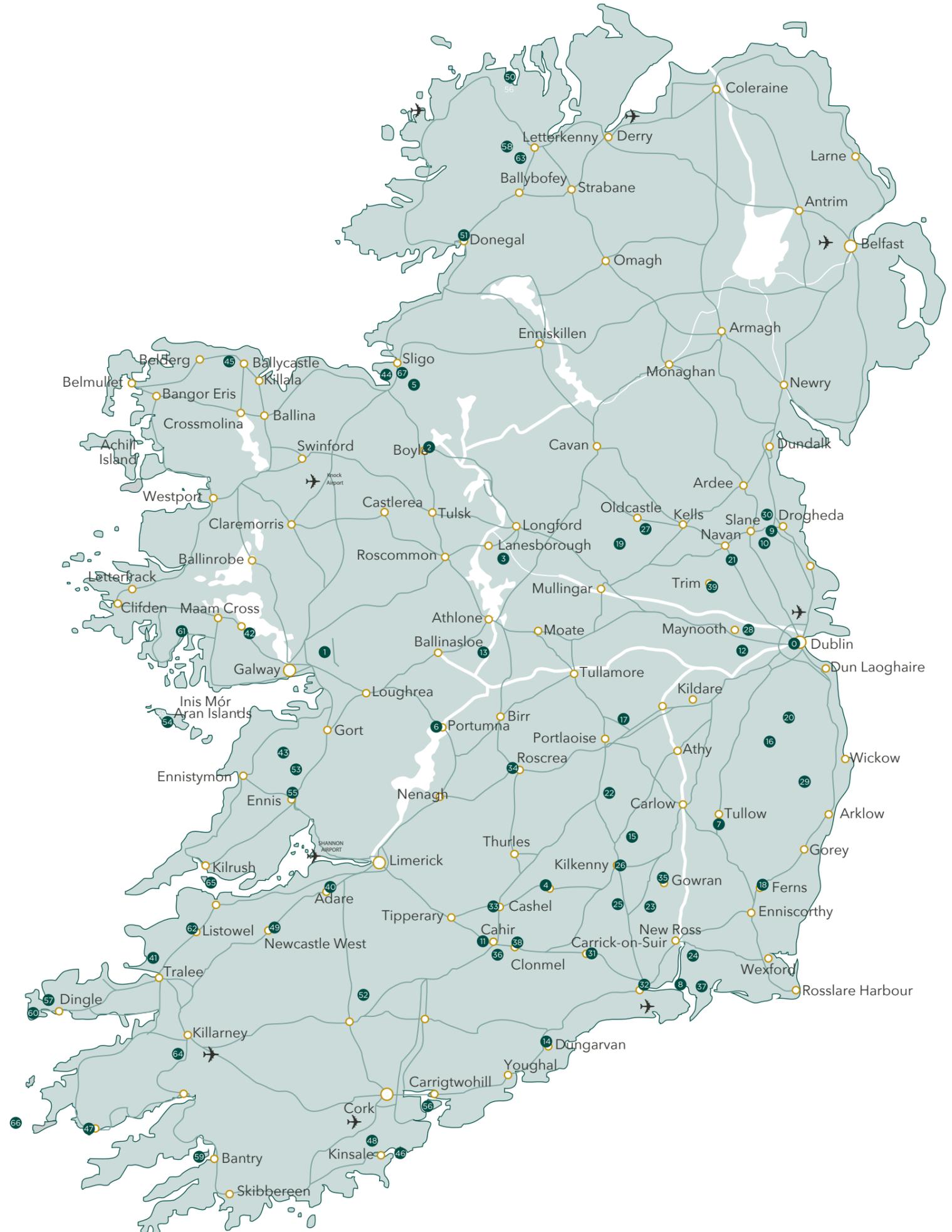
DUBLIN

- 0 Áras an Uachtairain
- 0 Arbour Hill
- 0 Casino Marino
- 0 Custom House Visitor Centre
- 0 Dublin Castle
- 0 Farmleigh House
- 0 Garden of Remembrance
- 0 Government Buildings
- 0 Grangegorman Military Cemetery
- 0 Iveagh Gardens
- 0 Kilmainham Gaol
- 0 National Botanic Gardens - Glasnevin
- 0 Pearse Museum & St. Enda's Park
- 0 Phoenix Park Visitor Centre & Ashtown Castle
- 0 Rathfarnham Castle
- 0 Royal Hospital Kilmainham
- 0 St. Audeon's Church
- 0 War Memorial Gardens Islandbridge

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

- 7 Altamont Gardens
- 8 Ballyhack Castle
- 9 Battle of the Boyne - Oldbridge Estate
- 10 Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre
- 11 Cahir Castle
- 12 Castletown House and Estate
- 13 Clonmacnoise
- 14 Dungarvan Castle
- 15 Dunmore Caves
- 16 Dwyer Mc Alister Cottage
- 17 Emo Court and Gardens
- 18 Ferns Castle
- 19 Fore Abbey
- 20 Glendalough Visitor Centre
- 21 Hill of Tara
- 22 Heywood Gardens
- 23 Jerpoint Abbey
- 24 JFK Arboretum
- 25 Kells Priory

- 26 Kilkenny Castle
- 27 Loughcrew
- 28 Maynooth Castle
- 29 National Botanic Gardens - Kilmacurragh
- 30 Old Mellifont Abbey
- 31 Ormond Castle
- 32 Reginald's Tower
- 33 Rock of Cashel
- 34 Roscrea Heritage (Castle & Damer House)
- 35 St. Mary's Church Gowran
- 36 Swiss Cottage
- 37 Tintern Abbey
- 38 The Main Guard
- 39 Trim Castle



Ardfert Cathedral

Ardfert, Tralee, Co. Kerry



A trio of medieval churches founded by St. Brendan 'The Navigator'

OPENING HOURS 2021

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
01.04.21 - 29.09.21

OPENING HOURS 2022

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
31.03.22 - 28.09.22

ADMISSION

€5 Adult,
Group/Senior: €4.00
€3 Student,
€13 Family
(accompanied under 12's free)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Romanesque West Door with blind arcading similar to that found at Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel
- Temple-na-Hoe - a small masterpiece of Romanesque architecture
- Romanesque carvings - petalled flowers, geometric design & decorative bosses

For anyone with a passion for architecture Ardferd Cathedral will be a delight. St. Brendan 'The Navigator' was born in the Ardferd area in the sixth century. He founded the monastery not long before embarking on his legendary voyage. He was the subject of a medieval 'Life of St. Brendan' and the text known as 'Navigatio Brendani'. It was his cult which inspired the three medieval churches that stand on site today.

The earliest building is the cathedral begun in the twelfth century incorporating part of an earlier eleventh century church. It boasts some of the tallest thirteenth-century windows in Ireland and a spectacular row of nine lancet windows in the south wall. It is famed for its magnificent Romanesque West Door with blind arcading similar to that found at Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Ardfert Cathedral Guided Tour	Pre-booked guided tour. In the expert hands of an engaging Ardfert Cathedral guide with highlights of the medieval complex. Commencing at the display model of the site as it existed in the middle ages you are led through the site and the various phases of construction and architectural features are included along with historical references to the growth of Ardfert as a medieval corporation and diocese.	Moderate. Access for wheelchair is restricted to Transept and main body of Cathedral. Uneven terrain outside through centre on gravel paths.	Min. 10. Max. 40	45 minutes	€4.00 Group Rate
Self Guided Tour	Self-guided tour of the cathedral. Our guides can give a brief introduction to set you on your way. Commencing at the display model you get an overview of the medieval complex. There are very informative interpretation panels illustrating the development of the complex from Early Christian period to the seventeenth century. Much of the displayed stonework has its own description.	Moderate. Access for wheelchair is restricted to Transept and main body of Cathedral. Uneven terrain outside through centre on gravel paths.		3-60 minutes	€5 Adult, €4 Senior/ Group Rate €3 Student, €13 Family (accompanied under 12's free)

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Carved Ogham stone found locally is displayed in transept
- Effigies of two medieval bishops or abbots and selection of early Christian grave slabs, baptismal font and decorated corbel displayed in transept

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0)66 713 4711
E. ardfertcathedral@opw.ie

LOCATION

Located 10km from Tralee on R551 (Tralee to Ballyheigue Road). Address: Ardfert, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
GPS: 52.3285°N, 9.7816°W.
Eircode: V92 KR7P

FACILITIES

Free public Car Parking along the roadside outside building (anywhere between 3-50 meters). Free public Coach Parking for one coach - 25 meters. There are no public toilets. No Tea Room on site.

NEARBY

Listowel Castle, Listowel (30km). Kerry County Museum, Tralee (10km). Tralee Bay Wetland's Centre, Tralee (11km). Tarbert Bridewell, Tarbert (47km). Crag Cave, Castleisland (32km).

LANGUAGES

Information sheets are available in French, German, Italian and Irish.



OPW



Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS

Aughnanure Castle

Oughterard, Co. Galway



**Discover the only medieval castle open to visitors
in beautiful Connemara**

OPENING HOURS 2021–2022

Open daily, 9.30 – 18.00 February – October (Last admission at 17:15)

Open daily, 9.30 – 17.00 October – November (Last admission at 16:15)

Open daily, 9.30 – 16.00 November (Last admission at 15:15)

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

Aughnanure Castle is a late-fifteenth century Gaelic towerhouse that stands on a limestone outcrop on the leafy banks of the Drimneen River. Built by the O'Flaherty chiefs of the medieval territory of Iarchonnacht, the castle stands as a testament to what was once the most powerful and influential force in late-medieval Iarchonnacht and is a visible statement of the family's wealth and status on an important route-way to Lough Corrib. For almost four centuries the O'Flahertys ruled supreme as independent Gaelic warrior lords and depended on the sea for trade, food and transport while the green fields and mountain pastures provided grazing for their herds, and the thick forests offered a safe refuge. By the sixteenth century they had built a network of small castles or towerhouses along the Atlantic coastline and further east towards Lough Corrib from where they ran their prosperous little Gaelic kingdom, far out of the reach of English law.

The legacy of this powerful family is deeply entwined with that of the towerhouse at Aughnanure which provides the backdrop through which the story of Gaelic medieval Ireland is told.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Castle Tour	Fully guided tours of all four floors of the castle, its flanking towers, walls gatehouse and remains of the banqueting hall. The story of the O'Flahertys is one of many stories of Gaelic ruling families in Ireland, fighting for survival in a time of major political upheaval. Explore the stout stone walls and flanking towers that provided refuge to the family in times of raiding and war. The tour ends by walking back through the gatehouse, over the bridge and along the beautiful banks of the Drimneen river.	Wheelchair access on ground floor only. Uneven surfaces on pathways around the grounds.	Min. 2. Max. 30	45 minutes	Adult: €5.00 Group/Senior: €4.00 Child/Student: €3.00 Family: €13.00 Accompanied children under 12 go free.
Self Guiding	There are several information panels inside the castle that will guide you through the building at your own pace. These informative panels tell the story of Aughnanure, the O'Flahertys and Gaelic medieval Ireland and can be accompanied by visitor's guides in several languages, available for sale at reception. Paths around the site facilitate visitors with reduced mobility and guides are always on hand to answer any questions.	Wheelchair access on ground floor only. Uneven surfaces on pathways around the grounds.	No min, no max.	30 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 (91) 552214
E. aughnanurecastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

Oughterard, Co. Galway,
H91 PX20. Off the N59
main Galway to Cliften route.
5kms south of the village
of Oughterard
GPS Lat: 53.419712,
Long: -9.274392

LANGUAGES

Leaflet available in Irish,
English, French, German,
Italian, Spanish and Polish.

FACILITIES

Free car and mini bus parking
max 20 spaces. Approx 150
mtrs from reception. Toilets
on site. No Tea Room on site.

NEARBY

Glengowla Mines, Quiet Man
Bridge, Corrib Cruises,
Brigit's Garden and Cafe.

BIODIVERSITY

The river Drimneen running
along the path to the castle
acts as a natural barrier and is
a perfect habitat for nature in
the wild.



OPW



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Céide Fields

Ballycastle, Co. Mayo



Field systems from our earliest farmers, preserved beneath natural blanket bog.

OPENING HOURS 2021

Daily, 10.00 - 17.00
12.03.21 - 31.05.21

Daily, 10.00 - 18.00
01.06.21 - 30.09.21

Weekends, 10.00 - 17.00
01.10.21 - 27.10.21

Available for bookings in winter season. Guided tours only from April to August 2021 due to upgrading work. Visitor Centre not available until late summer 2021 due to upgrading work. Check with site for 2022 opening arrangements.

ADMISSION

Student €3 / Group €4 / Adult €5
Family €13 / Under 12s go free!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hear about the oldest known fossilised farmland and the latest discoveries on a guided tour.
- Admire the ever changing wild Atlantic from our glass rooftop whatever the weather.

Beneath the wild boglands of North Mayo lies a Stone Age farmed countryside that gives a unique insight into the sophistication of early farming nearly six thousand years ago.

The stone-walled fields, extending over hundreds of hectares, are the oldest known globally. Visitors can see the exposed field walls and dwelling enclosure on the neolithic surface and learn how these walls hidden under up to 4 metres of bog were located using a centuries old technique. They can also experience the natural blanket bog with its own unique vegetation and wildlife.

The award-winning visitor centre is set against some of the most dramatic Wild Atlantic Way coastline. A viewing platform on the edge of the 110-metre-high cliff will help you make the most of the breathtaking scenery.

Entirely new presentations including an exciting audio-visual immersive experience due to open in late summer 2021.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Céide Fields Guided Walking Tour	Guided walking tour of the site outside with trained tour guide. Hear how this landscape has changed from forest to farmland to bogland, and about the everyday lives of our neolithic ancestors. See the exposed field walls and dwelling enclosure and try being an archaeologist by probing for a hidden wall. Walk on the bog with its colourful mosses, heathers, lichens, sedges and insect-eating sundews, to the background music of the lark.	On boardwalk with a number of steps. Wet Weather clothing and sturdy footwear advised. The terrain and the weather can be challenging.	Max. 50	45 minutes	Adult €5, Group €4, Student €3, Family €13. Accompanied children under 12s go free!
Indoor Exhibitions	Entirely new presentations including an exciting audio-visual immersive experience due to open in late summer 2021. Meet our ancestors from the hunter gatherers, to the first farmers and the metalworkers. See how the local environment and landscape has been ever changing. Experience the fascinating story of the ongoing discovery of the most extensive stone age landscape.	Indoors fully accessible.	Unlimited	30-60 minutes	Adult €5, Group €4, Student €3, Family €13. Accompanied children under 12s go free!

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- See if you can spot hares, frogs and the elusive lizard in the natural bog vegetation.
- Test your head for heights on our 110m high cliff edge platform.
- Amazing pine tree that grew on the bog 4,300 years ago.
- Tea Room serving delicious refreshments.
- All new exhibitions due to open late summer 2021.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (96) 43325
E. ceidefields@opw.ie

LOCATION

On R314, 8kms west of Ballycastle, on Wild Atlantic Way. 14kms from Downpatrick Head. Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26PF66

FACILITIES

Free Car Parking – 25 spaces, 100m approx. to Visitor Centre.
Free Coach Parking – 6 spaces, 100m approx. to Visitor Centre, drop off / pick-up at disabled entrance, tea room, toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, baby changing facilities available on site.

TEA ROOMS

Tea Room will not be available until late summer 2021 due to installation of new exhibitions. Groups must pre-book. Phone 096 43929. Max capacity is 75.

NEARBY

Downpatrick Head, Wild Atlantic Way; Ballinlen Museum of Art, Ballycastle; Jackie Clarke Museum, Ballina

BIODIVERSITY

blanket bogs, sea cliffs

SUSTAINABILITY

Committed to reducing waste and recycling.



Charles Fort

Kinsale, Co. Cork



Ireland's finest example of a 17th century star-shaped fortification.

OPENING HOURS 2021-2022

Daily: 10.00 - 18.00

Last Admission at 17.15.
Mid-March to End of October.

Daily: 10.00 - 17.00

Last Admission at 14.15.
November to End of Mid-March.

ADMISSION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regular Guided tours.
- Multi-media Exhibition Centre.
- Tearooms with panoramic views of Kinsale Harbour.
- Charles Fort is located at the start of the scenic Wild Atlantic Way driving route. Scenic walkway from Kinsale town to Charles Fort along the 'Scilly Walk', circa 30-40 minutes'

As one of the largest military installations in the country Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. The most significant of these include the Jacobite Williamite War in 1690 and the Irish Civil War in 1922-23. Charles Fort was declared a National Monument in 1973. Across the estuary is James Fort, an earlier structure, designed by Paul Ive in 1602, in the aftermath of the 1601 Battle of Kinsale.

Protecting the town and harbour of Kinsale with its strong ramparts, bastions and outer defensives, Charles Fort will introduce you to the history of the making of modern Ireland. Here you will explore Ireland's heritage as a former British colony and its strategic maritime and historical connections with Europe.

Join one of our knowledgeable OPW guides to learn about Charles Fort's military architectural splendour. Discover what life was like for the enlisted soldier and his family and encounter the many interesting personalities associated with Charles Fort's military past.

Or you can meander around the site at your leisure and experience our multi-media exhibition within our restored Barrack Stores. After your voyage of discovery why not sit back and soak up the stunning views of Kinsale harbour from our Tearooms, while enjoying a selection of home-baked delights.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Charles Fort – Guided Tours	<p>Guided tours for visitors by informed and trained OPW tour guides. Discover cutting edge military architecture from the 17th century. Explore the life of a British Army Redcoat in an Irish garrison town. Hear tales of ghostly apparitions, cruel punishments and scorched earth devastation.</p> <p>Groups must be pre-booked.</p> <p>Special tours for school groups (Free Educational visits – pre-booking is essential).</p>	<p>As a large military installation Charles Fort has uneven and sloped terrain and unprotected high walls. Suitable footwear is required.</p> <p>Not all areas are wheelchair accessible.</p>	No Min Max. 45.	40 minutes.	<p>Adult €5.00, Group /Senior €4.00, Child / Student €3.00, Family €13.00.</p> <p>Accompanied children under 12 go free.</p> <p>No additional cost for a guided tour.</p>
Charles Fort – Self-Guided experience.	<p>Explore the grounds of Charles Fort at your leisure. Experience our multi-media exhibition, WW1 and Royal Munster Fusiliers photographic exhibition.</p>	<p>As a large military installation Charles Fort has uneven and sloped terrain and unprotected high walls. Suitable footwear is required.</p> <p>Not all areas are wheelchair accessible.</p>	Max. 30-35	40 minutes	<p>Adult €5.00, Group /Senior €4.00, Child / Student €3.00, Family €13.00.</p> <p>Accompanied children under 12 go free.</p> <p>No additional cost for a guided tour.</p>

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Children’s seasonal fun trails and treasure hunts.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0)21 4772263
E. charlesfort@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Leaflets in Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Italian and Polish.

LOCATION

Summer Cove, Kinsale, Co. Cork, P17 AY18. Charles Fort is located circa 2 kilometres from Kinsale town. Divert from the R600. Eircode: P17 AY18

FACILITIES

Off road Car & Coach Parking free of Charge. The main entrance gate is only 100 metres from the parking area. Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilet, & baby changing facilities. Small Gift Shop.

TEAROOMS

The ‘Charles Fort Tearooms’ are open daily from 1st May 2020 to 30th September 2021. Weekends only from mid-March to 30th April and October. Seating capacity: 50
To pre-book for groups please email: charlesfort@opw.ie

NEARBY

Kinsale Town, Old Head Signal Tower, The Ringfinnan Garden of Remembrance, local beaches

and sailing. Scenic coastal walk beyond Charles Fort to Preghane Headland (south-east from Charles Fort). Preghane Headland is the site of the former British and later the Irish Army’s Firing Range.

SUSTAINABILITY

Locally sourced homemade cakes and scones served in our Tearooms. Drinking water available to ‘top-up’ your travel bottle. Wonderful walkways available for you to amble along in the vicinity of Charles Fort. These coastal paths will enable you to experience the flora, fauna and sealife of this rich and diverse coastal landscape.



Derrynane House & National Historic Park

Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry



Immerse yourself in Derrynane; breath-taking coastal retreat of Daniel O'Connell 'The Liberator'

OPENING HOURS 2021

Daily, 10.30 - 17.15

17.03.21-30.09.21

Daily, 10.00 - 16.00

01.10.21-01.11.21

Weekends, 10.00 - 16.00

06.11.21-12.12.21

OPENING HOURS 2022

Daily, 10.30 - 17.15

17.03.22-30.09.22

Daily, 10.00 - 16.00

01.10.22-31.10.22

Weekends, 10.00 - 16.00

05.11.22-11.12.22

ADMISSION

€3 Student, €4 Group, €5 Adult,

€13 Family, under 12s go free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Informal woodland gardens with rare plant collection & endangered South American species

Derrynane House, the family home of Daniel O'Connell, showcases The Liberator's life and lasting impact on Irish culture, human rights and democracy. The original demesne landscape is set within Derrynane National Historic Park and covers over 120 hectares with extensive woodlands, informal gardens, spectacular coastline, archaeology, architectural features and internationally protected wildlife and habitats.

Derrynane has a Green Flag award for meeting the highest international standards of quality, management, amenities and sustainability in public green spaces. Derrynane is situated in the core zone of the Kerry Dark Sky Reserve, one of three Gold Tier Reserves in the world.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Derrynane House	Pre-booked guided tours of Derrynane House with tour guide. Explore the home of one of Ireland's great historic figures – Daniel O'Connell 'The Liberator'. See the house, private chapel and coach house and learn about O'Connell's life and far-reaching legacy.	On flat surface – indoors Wheelchair accessible	Min 10. Max. 45 (groups over 27 will be split)	45 minutes	€5 Adult €4 Group €3 Student €13 Family (accompanied under 12's free)
Self Guided Tour	Self-guided family nature trail with 20 stops. Explore scenic coastal habitats, with European level protection, that provide a home for rich and diverse flora and fauna, including rare species such as the Natterjack Toad, Kerry Slug and Kerry Lily. The natural wildflower meadows display a range of native flowers including a suite of orchids.	On flat surface – indoors Wheelchair accessible	1-27	1 hour	€4 group, €5 Adult, €3 Student, €13 Family (accompanied under 12's free)
Woodland Fairy Trail	Self-guided fairy trails in the woodlands of Derrynane House. Explore the magical fairy trails in the woodlands of Derrynane House. Searching for the fairy homes is a great family fun adventure. Even on a rainy day, the shelter of the woods makes this a memorable day out for all.	Uneven surfaces. Moderate fitness level. Suitable footwear.			Free
Seashore Nature Trail	Self-guided family nature trail with 20 stops. Explore scenic coastal habitats, with European level protection, that provide a home for rich and diverse flora and fauna, including rare species such as the Natterjack Toad, Kerry Slug and Kerry Lily. The natural wildflower meadows display a range of native flowers including a suite of orchids. (Guide book available from Derrynane House or App available for download online visit http://www.vincenthylandartist.com).	Uneven surfaces. Moderate fitness level. Suitable footwear. Fragile environment. Do not wander off trail.		1 hour 20 minutes	€1.50 guide book

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Walks & Trails , Seashore Nature Trail, Fairy House Woodland Trail, Mass Path, Kerry Way
- 300 acres unspoilt Irish landscape with wildlife habitats of international importance
- 1.5 km of coastline – breath-taking scenery, top-ten Blue Flag beach, Abbey Island

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 66 9475113
E. derrynanehouse@opw.ie
www.derrynanehouse.ie

LOCATION

Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry,
V23 FX65. Located 3.5km
from Caherdaniel (off the N70,
the Ring of Kerry).
GPS: 51.7625°N, 10.1305°W

FACILITIES

Free Car Parking – 81 bays. Approx. 500
metres to House
Free Coach Parking 3 bays for large
coachs & 2 bays for small coaches
approx. 500 metres to House. Tea
Room in Courtyard, Toilets, wheelchair
accessible toilets, baby changing
facilities

AUDIO VISUAL

Fully Seated for 45 pax, Available in
Irish, English, French and German

NEARBY

The Old Barracks, Cahersiveen (29km).
Skellig Chocolate Factory,
Ballinskelligs (26km).
Kells Bay Gardens, Kells, Cahersiveen
(43km).
Skellig Experience, Portmagee (33km).
Seafari, Kenmare (53km).

TEA ROOMS

Ahamore Tea Rooms
Seats 30 indoor and 72 outdoors in
Courtyard.
Groups must pre-book.
Point of contact: Deirdre Corridan.
T. +353 (0) 87 2655920
E. d.corridan@gmail.com

BIODIVERSITY

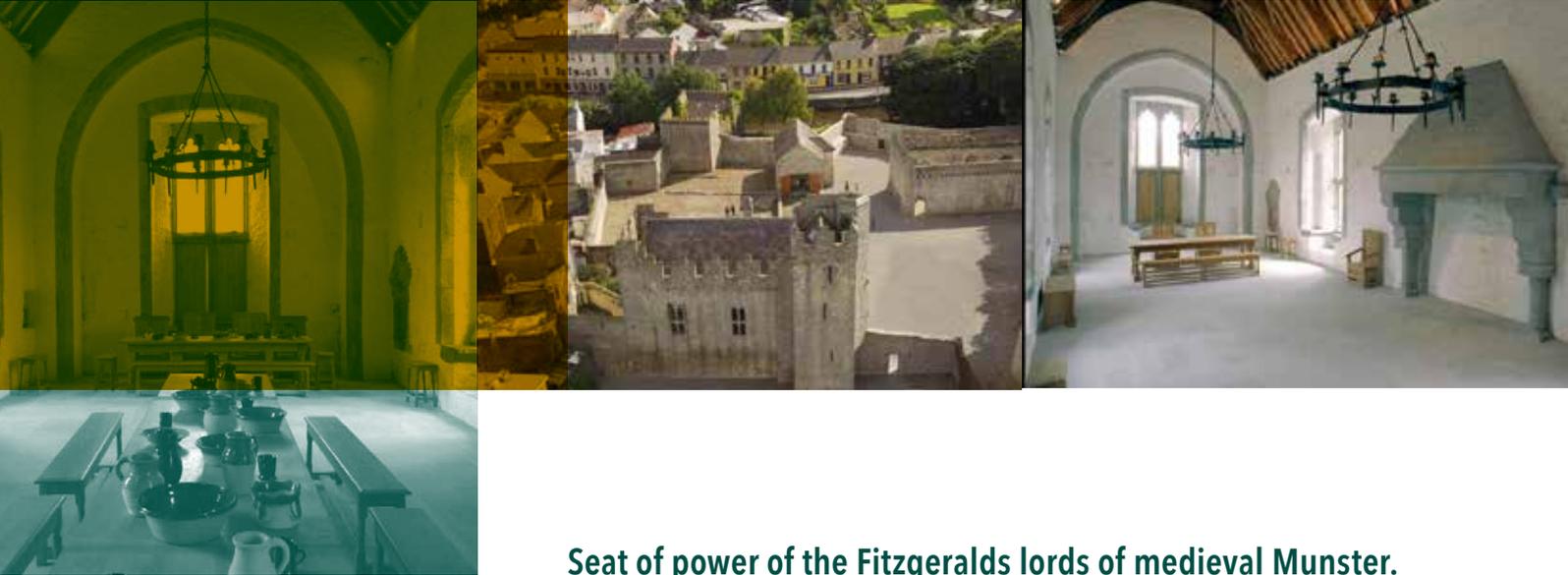
Green Flag Award, Dark Sky Reserve,
Woodlands, National Historic Park,
South American Plant Collection,
Natterjack Toad, Kerry Lily.

SUSTAINABILITY

Biodegradable cups in Tea Room.

Desmond Castle

Newcastle West, Co. Limerick



Seat of power of the Fitzgeralds lords of medieval Munster.

OPENING HOURS 2021

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
April - End of October

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free admission and guided tours.
- Stunning views of Newcastle West and its hinterland.
- Climb the castles winding medieval stairs.
- Learn about life in medieval Ireland.
- Hear how the castle survived a dozen attacks over several centuries.

Built in 1198 by the Fitzgeralds during the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland. Desmond Castle grew in scale as the Fitzgerald's grew in power in medieval Ireland and became their seat of power when they gained the title the Earls of Desmond. The Fitzgerald's fell from power in the late 1500's when they led several rebellions against English rule in Ireland.

The castle was confiscated by Elizabeth 1 and granted to the Courtney family - the Earls of Devon who owned the site until the early 20th Century. During the Irish War of Independence 1919 -1921 the castle was occupied by the British Army. Part of the castle was destroyed by artillery fire in 1922 during the later Irish Civil War.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	The castle's history mirrors that of the English conquest of Ireland and the guided tour gives visitors an overview of religious, political and cultural change in Ireland over the last 800 years.	Steep winding stairs, small rooms and narrow passages.	Min. 2 Max. 50	30 - 45 minutes	Free

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 69 77408
E. desmondhall@opw.ie

LOCATION

The Square, Newcastle West,
Co. Limerick, V42 YD76

FACILITIES

Museum display on the struggle for Irish Freedom 1916 -1923. Interactive displays on local heritage sites. Toilet Facilities.

LANGUAGES

Free informations sheets available in English only.

BIODIVERSITY

River Arra parkland adjacent to the castle - wild native Irish bird life.

NEARBY

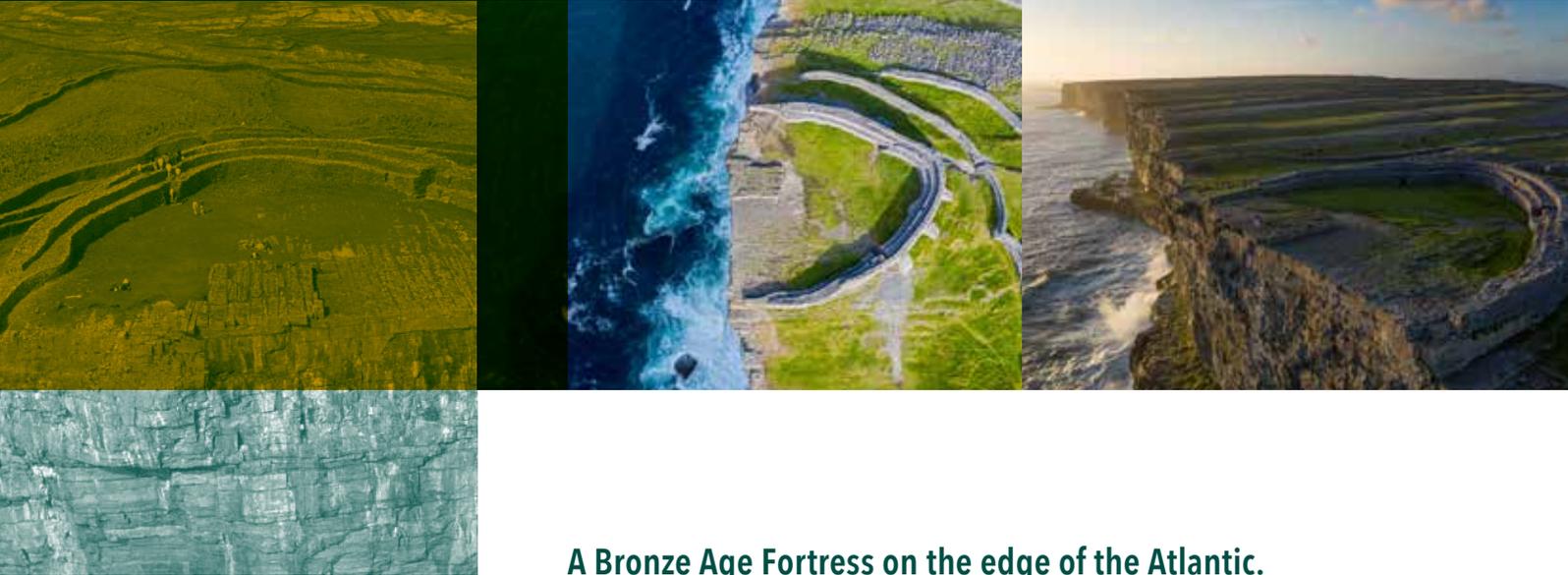
Pubs & restraunts - adjacent to the castle, Listowel Castle - 28km, King John's Castle Limerick - 30km, Scattery Island - 50km.

SUSTAINABILITY

Pedestrian access to the site and other local amenities.

Dún Aonghasa

Co. Galway



A Bronze Age Fortress on the edge of the Atlantic.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021-2022

Daily: 9.00 - 16.00
Winter Hours

Daily: 10.00 - 17.00
Summer Hours

ADMISSION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Visitor Centre - featuring an exhibition on Dún Aonghasa and its context on the Aran Islands.
- The hike - during the 15 minute walk up to Dún Aonghasa from the Visitor Centre, enjoy spectacular views of the mountains of Conamara to the south.

The most celebrated site on the islands is Dún Aonghasa. Perched on the highest point of Inis Mór's southern cliffs, and close to the narrowest point of the island, the ancient fort dominates its environs. Whoever controlled Dún Aonghasa could control not only the island, but the surrounding seas as well. Its massive ramparts would have been an intimidating sight for any trading ship looking for access to Galway bay that was foolish enough to try and avoid giving the islanders their slice of the action!

There are two stages in the history of the fort. The earliest phase begins around 1100BC when 14 acres were enclosed by two massive stone walls.

The second stage in the history of the fort begins c.800 AD when the ancient walls were strengthened and added to. An impressive cheveaux de fris was added, a dense band of jagged, upright stones, surrounding the fort from cliff to cliff, making Dún Aonghasa an even more intimidating proposition for any would-be invaders.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Take a guided tour with our friendly and experienced guides. All our guides are experts on the history of Dún Aonghasa, can also fill you in on island life.	Moderate. Fort is 1km walk from visitor centre along gravel path. Suitable footwear required.	No Min Max. 30.	30 minutes.	Adult €5.00, Group /Senior €4.00, Child / Student €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied children under 12 go free. No additional cost for a guided tour.
Peek over the edge of the cliff	Crawl to the edge of the 87m high cliff and enjoy the blast of sea air as you peek over the edge.	Moderate. Fort is 1km walk from visitor centre along gravel path. Suitable footwear required.	N/A	N/A	Adult €5.00, Group /Senior €4.00, Child / Student €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied children under 12 go free. No additional cost for a guided tour.

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Marvel at the massive girth of the walls which are 4m thick in places, and up to 6m high.
- Enjoy the array of wildflowers which grow on the site in early summer.
- Take in the uninterrupted view of the horizon - on a clear day, you might be able to see Mount Brandon, Co. Kerry, 60km away.

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 99 61008
E. dunaonghasa@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Leaflets are available in Irish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and cost 50c.

LOCATION

Dún Aonghasa, Cill Mhuirbhígh, Árainn, Co. na Gaillimhe/Co. Galway, H91 YT20

FACILITIES

Toilets, Baby-changing.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

Dún Aonghasa is a 15 minute hike from the visitor centre, along a rough gravel path, with spectacular views of Connamara.

NEARBY

Dún Eochla - Early medieval ring-fort - 4km.
Na Seacht dTeampall - Medieval Church site - 2km.
Dúchathair - promintory fort - 9km
Teampall BHeanáin - Medieval Church, said to be the smallest in Europe - 10km
Dún Eoghnachta - Early medieval ring-fort - 3km

ACCESSIBILITY

Dún Aonghasa Visitor Centre is located 8km from the pier in Cill Rónáin where the ferry arrives on Inis Mór. Private bike rental, tour buses and pony-and-traps are available in Cill Rónáin. The fort of Dún Aonghasa is located 1km walk from the visitor centre, along a steadily rising rough gravel path. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended

BIODIVERSITY

Dún Aonghasa is among farmland which is alive with wildflowers in early summer. It is also home to stoats and an array of seabirds. Dolphins and basking sharks are often spotted passing by in the sea below the cliff.



OPW



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Ennis Friary

Co. Clare



Burial place of ancient Irish kings and chieftains.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES 2021 - 2022

Open 7 days a week
April - October

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
April - September

Daily, 10.00 - 16.15
October - Start of November

ADMISSION

Free
Group: €4.00

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free guided tours.
- Explore the ancient ruins of one of Ennis's oldest medieval buildings.
- Learn about life and death in early medieval Ireland.

The O'Briens of Thomond, who once ruled much of north Munster, founded this medieval Franciscan friary. It grew quickly into a huge foundation, with 350 friars and a famed school of 600 pupils by 1375. It was the very last school of Catholic theology to survive the Reformation.

The building contains an exceptional wealth of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century sculptures carved in the local hard limestone, including one of St Francis himself displaying the stigmata. An arch between the nave and transept bears a remarkable image of Christ with his hands bound.

Don't forget to visit the sacristy, an impressive structure with a ribbed, barrel-vaulted ceiling. Take especial note of the beautiful east window, with its five lancets, as it lights up the chancel.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Hear the story of the oldest surviving building in Ennis the capital of County Clare. Admire some of the finest medieval Irish sculpture – wander the graveyard and admire the Friary's stunning architecture.	Some narrow passages, uneven terrain and steep steps.	Min. 2 Max. 50	45 minutes	Free Group: €4.00

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Hear the story of the Franciscan Friars, the O'Brien Clann and political and religious change in Ireland.
- Admire some of the finest surviving medieval Irish sculpture.

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 65 6829100
E. ennisfriary@opw.ie

LOCATION

Abbey Street, Ennis,
Co. Clare, V95 AN28

FACILITIES

Coach parking
available nearby.

LANGUAGES

Booklets available in English,
Irish, French, German.

BIODIVERSITY

Wild birdlife nest at the
friary including swallows,
swifts and hawks.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS/ WALKS

The Friary graveyard is a large
tranquil outdoor area where
visitors can relax in the shadow
of the medieval ruins towering
over them.

NEARBY

Clare Museum – 500 metres,
Dromore Wood Nature Reserve
– 5km, Bunratty Castle – 20 km
Cliffs of Moher – 30km.

Glebe House & Gallery

Letterkenny, Co. Donegal



An artist's haven set in the Donegal Hills, with works by international artists.

OPENING HOURS 2021 AND 2022

June

Saturday to Thursday
11.00 - 17.30

July - August

7 days a week
11.00 - 11.30

September - November

Saturday to Thursday
11.00 - 17.30

ADMISSION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exhibitions and Education Programme for schools and students
- Art Workshops, Plein Air Painting
- Gardens and Tree Talks
- Family Events, Children's Arts & Crafts and Garden Trails

The Glebe House is the former home of the artist and collector Derek Hill. It is set on a hilltop sloping down to Lough Gartan, with the Derryveagh Mountains and Glenveagh National Park serving as a spectacular backdrop.

Derek Hill created a home for himself in the wilds of Donegal that was both unique and inspiring. It's often said that every picture tells a story; in the Glebe House, everything in the collection tells a story. The house is decorated with William Morris textiles and collections of Islamic and Oriental art. The full collection includes over three hundred works by leading twentieth century artists such as Picasso and Kokoshka. In addition there are wonderful collections of Irish, British and Italian works.

Derek Hill's studio and guesthouse was converted into a Gallery in the early 1980's by the OPW. It now displays a series of curated exhibitions each season.

The gardens at the glebe are an artist's haven a delightful blend of formal and informal gardens covering twenty acres on the banks of Lough Gartan. There are points of interest everywhere with its large swathes of plants and wonderful trees. The gardens are open all year round from dawn until dusk.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Glebe House Guided Tour	Join one of our knowledgeable guides for a tour of Glebe House that takes you from the early nineteenth century, when building commenced, right up to the present day. Hear the fascinating story of Derek Hill, and discover the incredible artwork of the Tory Islanders.	Universal access to the ground floor only.	Min. 10. Max. 15	45 minutes	Group Rate €4.00
Glebe Gallery Self Guiding	Exhibitions throughout the year.	Universal access to the ground floor only.			Free
Glebe Gardens Self Guiding	A delightful blend of formal and informal gardens covering twenty acres on the banks of Lough Garten. Open from dawn til dusk.	Moderate, rough paths, uneven terrain.			Free

BOOKING

T. 00353 (0) 74 913 7071
E. glebegallery@opw.ie
www.glebegallery.ie

Max per group in house is 15. It is very important to book in advance so large groups can be accommodated.

LOCATION

Glebe House and Gallery,
Churchill, Letterkenny, Co.
Donegal, F92 WP70

FACILITIES

Exhibitions, toilets, and car/
coach park on site.

ACCESSIBILITY

Universal access to the
ground floor only of house
and gallery.

TEA ROOMS

Glebe Tearooms allow you to enjoy a relaxing coffee or light bite, in the wonderful setting of a landscape largely unchanged since the early twentieth century.

Open 11.00 - 17.30. Vintage Afternoon Tea is available from 14:00 to 17:00; booking is essential. Contact the Tearooms directly on 00353 87 329 7169.

NEARBY

Glenveagh Castle and
National Park.

Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir – Blasket Centre

Dingle, Co. Kerry



Edge of the edge: a stunning insight to the story of an extraordinary island.

OPENING HOURS 2020

Blasket Centre - CLOSED due to upgrade works in 2021 season
For 2022 opening hours, check with site directly.

Great Blasket Island -
Opening times and hours dependent on private ferry operators, and weather conditions, normally 10:30 departure Dún Chaoin / return 17:00

ADMISSION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Multi-media exhibition of artefacts, sound and moving and still images brings you on a virtual journey to the Great Blasket Island.
- Story of a remote island life was told by the islanders in their own words and language.
- Walk to the spectacular clifftop Wild Atlantic Way Viewing Platform overlooking the Blasket

The Blasket Centre, on the western tip of the famed Dingle Peninsula in Co. Kerry, is a magical celebration of an Island life now gone, that of the Great Blasket. The story of the tiny community is both unique and emblematic, and is told in an amazing series of multi-media exhibits and presentations to captivate visitors of all ages.

See how an internationally significant outpouring of literature and stories came from this windswept island community, how they survived the elements and eked out a frugal living, experience their music, song and traditions, the ebb and eventual demise of the island community in the 1950s.

The centre itself is a striking modern building situated in a stunning location overlooking the Blasket Islands. Walk to the stunning clifftop Viewing Platform and experience the power of the sea and the rugged landscape. Stroll through the exhibitions and have a perfect cup of coffee in the café with its panoramamic windows to the sea.

A visit to the Great Blasket Island by privately operated ferry from Dunquin, Ventry or Dingle, is a more challenging but fabulously rewarding trip. Experience a guided tour of the deserted island village with expert OPW guides, see the restored cottage of Blasket author Tomás O’Crohan, visit the spectacular White Strand with its resident Seal colony and take in the staggering land and seascapes all around – an unforgettable day trip.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Blasket Centre	A self-guided tour at your own pace of the acclaimed Blasket Centre exhibition	Suitable for all fitness levels and disabled	Min. 1 Max. 40	45 - 90 minutes	€5.00 per person, €4.00 per person (groups)
Cliff-top Walk to WAW Blasket Centre Viewing Point	A short walk from the Blasket Centre to the spectacular Viewing Point overlooking the Blasket Islands and the most westerly point in Europe.	Wheelchair accessible on paved surfaces.	Min. 10 Max. 40	15 - 30 minutes	Free
Visit the Great Blasket Island	Take any one of the private ferries from Dingle, Dún Chaoin or Ventry to the Western Island. Our OPW Guides will show you the Blasket village and the restored home of Tomás Ó Criomhthain, the principal island author.	Not suitable for wheelchair or physically impaired visitors. Facilities on the island are limited and the terrain can be challenging.	Min. 1 Max. 30 Depending on ferry capacity.	Half day or full day	Ferry charges - as published by operators Guided tours OPW: Free

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Never to be forgotten sea journey to the remote Great Blasket, home until 1953 to a unique community.
- Guided tour of the deserted island village, the home of writers, storytellers, fishermen and farmers from a bygone age.
- Hike around the 6km long island with spectacular scenery.

BOOKING

T. 00 353 66 9156444
E. blascaod@opw.ie
www.blasket.ie

Great Blasket Island ferry access: Please contact
Blasket Island Ferries, (DÚN CHAOIN) +353 85 775 1045
OR
Dingle Boat Tours (DINGLE) +353 87 672 6100
OR
Marine Eco Tours (VENTRY) +353 86 335 3805
marinetours.ie

LOCATION

Dun Chaoin, Dingle, Co. Kerry, V92 TH73. Sleah Head Drive - 23 km west of Dingle town. GPS 52: 132417N, 10:462836W

FACILITIES

Free Parking: 120 cars / 3 coaches, 100 metres from entrance to Blasket Centre. Universal access toilets, shop, Café, Baby changing etc.

PARKLANDS/ GROUNDS, / WALKS

A spectacular 46 hectare site with cliff walk, WAW clifftop Viewing Platform overlooking the Blasket Sound and Blasket Islands.

NEARBY

Dingle town, Daingean Uí Chúis (23km via Sleah Head)
Sleah Head (6km) Ballyferriter, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh village (8km), Gallarus Oratory early Christian church(13 km) Kilmalkedar Early Christian site (15km).

TEA ROOMS

Contact Centre for 2021 - 2022 details.



OPW



Listowel Castle

Co. Kerry



Where the Fitzmaurice Clann made their last stand.

OPENING HOURS 2020

Daily, 10.00 - 17.15
May - September

ADMISSION

Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free admission and guided tours.
- Stunning views of Listowel town and its hinterland.
- Climb the castle's winding medieval stairs.
- Learn about life in medieval Ireland.
- Hear the story of the Fitzmaurice rebellion and the siege of the castle.

Listowel Castle stands on an elevation overlooking the River Feale, above the location of a strategic ford. The castle was built by the Fitzmaurice family circa 1400. Although only half of the building survives, it is still one of Kerry's best examples of Anglo-Norman architecture.

Listowel Castle was the last bastion of the Fitzmaurice Clann in their rebellion against the forces of Queen Elizabeth I in 1600 during the Nine Years War. The castle's garrison held out for 28 days of siege before finally being overpowered by Sir Charles Wilmot. In the days following the castle's fall, Wilmot executed all of the rebels captured inside.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Guided Tour	Hear the story of the siege of the castle by the English in 1600 and the execution of the rebel garrison captured there.	Steep winding stairs, small rooms and narrow passages.	Min. 2 Max. 15	30 - 45 minutes	Free

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (0) 86 3857201
E. listowelcastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

The Square, Listowel, Co.
Kerry, V31 RD93

FACILITIES

No Toilets on site.

LANGUAGES

Free information sheets available in English, Irish, French, German and Spanish.

BIODIVERSITY

River Feale nature walk begins adjacent to the castle - wild native Irish flora and fauna.

TEA ROOMS

Tea room in Kerry Writer's Museum adjacent to the castle.

NEARBY

Kerry Writer's Museum - adjacent to the castle, Listowel Town Historic walking trail, Lartigue Monorail and railway Museum - 4km, Ardfert Cathedral - 28km, Scattery Island - 35km.

SUSTAINABILITY

Pedestrian access to the site and other local amenities.

Ross Castle

Co. Kerry



A lakeside citadel steeped in legend.

OPENING HOURS DATES FOR 2021-2022

Daily, 9.30 - 17.00
26/02/21 - 02/11/21

Daily, 9.30 - 17.00
25/02/22 - 01/11/22

ADMISSION

Ross Castle: Adult €5.00,
Group €4.00, Student €3.00,
Family €13.00. Accompanied
under 12s go free.

Ross Island Mining Trail: Free

HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection of late medieval furniture and tapestries.
- Exhibition room with display model of Ross Castle and information panels.
- Lakeside setting with stunning views.
- Walks & Trails - Ross Island Mining Trail.

Ross Castle sited on an inlet of Lough Leane was built by the O'Donoghue chieftains in the fifteenth century. Legend has it that O'Donoghue slumbers under the lake and every seven years rises on his magnificent white horse. Following the Desmond Rebellion in the castle changed ownership to Donal McCarthy Mór and eventually to the Browne family – ancestors of the Earls of Kenmare.

The castle contains numerous defensive features such as bartizans on two corners from which missiles could be dropped on enemies, a murder hole and numerous musket loops. An unusual feature on an Irish Castle is an oak door hinged from projecting stone brackets high above the entrance door allowing soldiers to defend the entrance door directly from above. The rooms included in the guided tour contain antique furniture and tapestries. Ross Castle occupies an unique setting on lakeshore and in a National Park.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Ross Castle	<p>Pre-booked guided tours of Ross Castle with tour guide.</p> <p>We only accept group bookings for following tour times:</p> <p>10:30 & 11:00 15:30 & 16:00</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>Guided tour involves climbing steep spiral staircase.</p> <p>The castle is not wheelchair accessible only reception, exhibition & toilet.</p>	<p>Min. 10 Max. 15</p>	45 minutes	<p>Adult €5.00, Group €4.00, Student €3.00, Family €13.00. Accompanied under 12s go free.</p>
Ross Island Mining Trail	<p>Self-guided trail. (guide book available for sale at Ross Castle.</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>Uneven surfaces. Suitable footwear. Do not wander off trail.</p>	N/A	40 minutes - 2 hours	<p>Free</p> <p>€1.50 guide book.</p>

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Unique setting in Killarney National Park.

BOOKING

T. 353 (0) 64 663 5851
E. rosscastle@opw.ie

LOCATION

Located 3km from Killarney (off the N71, Kenmare Road)
Address: Ross Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
GPS: 52.0412°N, 9.5314°W
Eircode: V93 V304

LANGUAGES

Leaflets in German, French, Italian .50c.

FACILITIES

Free Car Parking – approx 110 bays split between two car parks (approx. 500m from site) Free Coach Parking – 3 bays (approx. 500m from site) Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilet.

SUSTAINABILITY

Drinking fountain. Although not specific cycle paths, many visitors hire bikes in Killarney to cycle through the National Park and to Ross Castle.

WALKS

Ross Castle is situated in Killarney National Park with self-guided walking trails commencing at Ross Castle to Ross Island and other trails into the Park.

NEARBY

Killarney House, Killarney (4 km).
Muckross House, Killarney (10 km).
Killarney National Park - Torc Waterfall (11 km) & Ladies View (19 km). Lily of Killarney Watercoach tours (depart from Ross Castle). Crag Cave, Castleisland (31km).

BIODIVERSITY

Ross Castle is adjacent to a lake and is located in Killarney National Park. Killarney House contains an exhibition to orientate visitors and introduce them to the landscape and flora and fauna of the Park.

Self-guiding walks through the Park which lead through woodland, open spaces and lakeshore.

Scattery Island Centre

Co. Clare



In the footsteps of St Senan.

OPENING HOURS AND DATES FOR 2021-2022

**Open 7 days a week.
April-October annually.**

Check ferry sailings at
scatteryislandtours.com

ADMISSION

Free Guided Tours, admission fee
applies to boat trip by local operator.
Access is weather dependant.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the peace and tranquility which brought the monks to the island.
- Marvel at the monastery's ancient ruins including the 36m tall round tower.
- Enjoy the islands unspoilt natural beauty.
- Home to rare birdlife and schools of dolphins (during summer)
- Unique Location On Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

Located on the Wild Atlantic Way just off Kilrush in Co. Clare, and recently awarded The European Destination of Excellence for 2017 (EDEN), Scattery Island is truly a unique visitor experience. Visitors to the island are amazed at the wealth of historic sites, which includes five Churches, a Cathedral, a magnificent Round Tower, Napoleonic War Artillery Battery and a working Lighthouse.

Free guided walking tours are available through the local ferry operator so visitors can immerse themselves in the island's rich history. Scattery also offers a great a family day out. The perfect place for a picnic or to admire the islands rare bird life and protected species.

Today the island is completely uninhabited, and you can explore its ancient historic sites and experience its unspoilt natural beauty in peace and tranquillity.

A short boat trip will take you to the island, where you can explore its multi-layered, 1,500-year history.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Experience	Description	Fitness Level	Min. / Max. numbers	Duration (approx.)	Price per person
Ferry Journey to Island	Ferry journey to and from Scattery Island – during good weather seals and dolphins are often sighted on this journey.	Contact the ferry operator regarding accessibility.	Max. 55	30 minutes	Contact ferry operator 'Scattery Island Tours'. Fees Apply.
Guided Tour	Free guided walking tour of the island including the abandoned village and the 1,500 year old monastery.	moderate with some uneven terrain and steep steps	Min 2, max 50	45 minutes	Admission to the visitor centre and guided tours are free – but there is a separate charge for the ferry to the island.

HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- Grass land which is home to an array of wild bird, animal and plant life which is of great interest to ecologists who visit.

BOOKING

T. 00 353 (87) 995 8427
E. scatteryisland@opw.ie

LOCATION

Scattery Tours, Kilrush Marina, Kilrush, Co. Clare. V15 AD62.

LANGUAGES

Audioguides available for a fee in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

FACILITIES

Car parking, coach parking available at Kilrush Marina Ferry terminal, toilets, wheel chair accessible toilets, baby changing facilities, no Tearoom on site.

TEA ROOMS

Tea Coffee and packed lunches are available from Scattery Island Tours with advance booking.

WALKS/NEARBY

Ennis Friary - 30km
Cliffs of Moher - 40km

BOAT ACCESS

Access to the Island by booking directly with Scattery Island Tours www.scatteryislandtours.com

BIODIVERSITY

Wild birdlife nest at the friary including swallows, swifts and hawks.

SUSTAINABILITY

Scattery Island won a European Destination of Excellence Sustainability Award in 2019.

Sligo Abbey

Abbey Street, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo



Where friars' prayers echo among the ruins.

OPENING HOURS 2021 - 2022

Daily: 10.00 - 18.00

End of March - End of October.

Check with sites for exact dates.

ADMISSION

€ 5.00 Adult

€ 4.00 Group/ Senior rate

€ 3.00 Student/ Child - Accompanied under 12s go free.

€ 13.00 Family

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wealth of medieval carving
- Gothic and Renaissance tomb sculpture
- High altar - the only surviving example in an Irish monastic site
- Make a wish or maybe declare your love at the "Love Knot".
- Feel the tranquillity in Sligo town's only medieval structure
- Try to identify some of the figures on the O'Crian tomb

This Dominican friary has dominated Sligo town centre since the mid-thirteenth century, when it was created by Maurice FitzGerald, the founder of the town itself. Some of the building from that period has survived the next nine centuries of turmoil.

The abbey was partially destroyed by burning in 1414, when it fell foul of an unattended candle, and suffered further mutilation following the Rebellion of 1641. According to legend, worshippers salvaged the abbey's silver bell at that time and threw it into Lough Gill. You can hear it peal even now – provided, that is, that you are wholly free from sin.

Despite the ravages of history, the abbey contains a great wealth of carvings, including Gothic and Renaissance tomb sculpture, a well-preserved cloister and a sculptured fifteenth-century high altar – the only such altar to survive in an Irish monastic church.

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 (71) 9146406
E. sligoabbey@opw.ie

LANGUAGES

Self guide leaflet in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch.

LOCATION

Abbey St., Sligo, F91 K796.

FACILITIES

Small exhibition, toilets.
Public car park close to site.
No Tea Room on site.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair access to visitor centre and toilet, partial access to site.
Steps and stairs on site, gravel paths, uneven surfaces.

NEARBY

Sligo Town on the banks of the Garavogue River. Sligo County Museum displays memorabilia of local poet W.B. Yeats, Carrowmore megalithic cemetery 4kms.



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