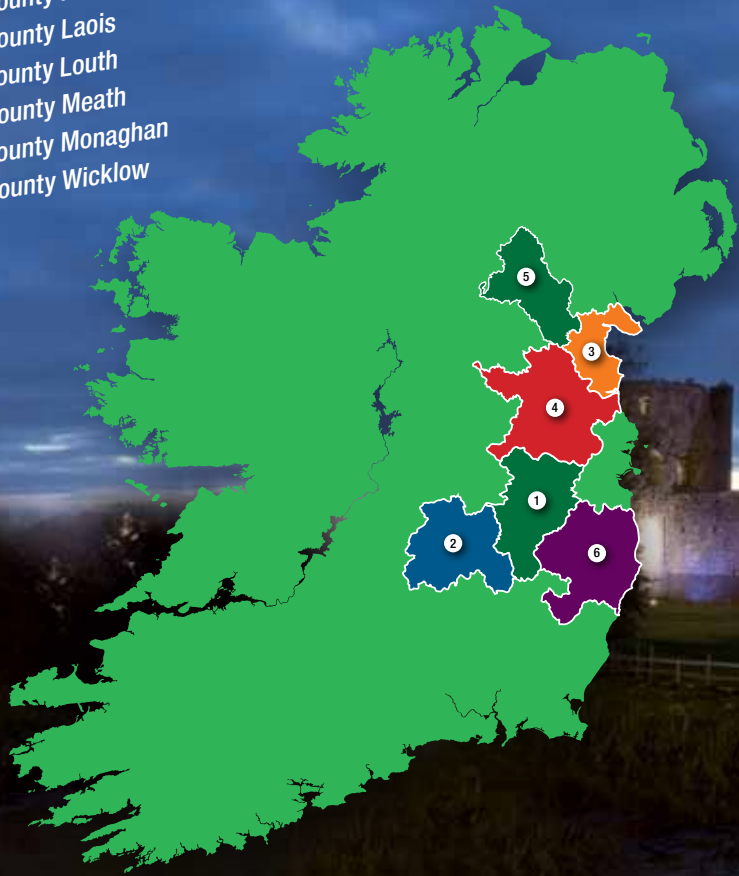


# IRELAND

## East Region

- 1. County Kildare
- 2. County Laois
- 3. County Louth
- 4. County Meath
- 5. County Monaghan
- 6. County Wicklow



# East

On Dublin's Doorstep

## Pocket Guide

East on Dublin's Doorstep  
Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES

Things to do

Places to see

Family fun

Events & Maps

And lots MORE...

FI/11328-11

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE

 **Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority

All website & email links are live.



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

## **Bru na Boinne Tourist Office**

Donore, Co. Meath.  
T 041 9880305  
E [brunaboinne@failteireland.ie](mailto:brunaboinne@failteireland.ie)

## **Dundalk Tourist Office**

Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co Louth.  
T 042 9335484  
E [Dundalk@failteireland.ie](mailto:Dundalk@failteireland.ie)

## **Wicklow Tourist Office**

Rialto House, Fitzwilliam Square,  
Wicklow Town.,  
T 0404 69117  
E [wicklow@failteireland.ie](mailto:wicklow@failteireland.ie)

## **Applegreen Motorway Discover Ireland Information Units**

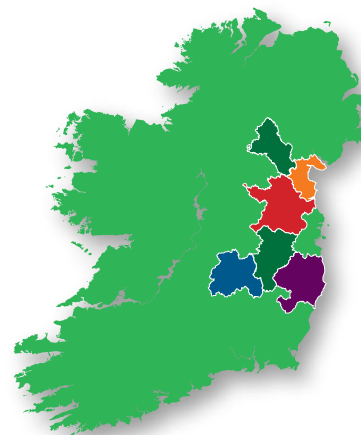
Castlebellingham, Northbound and Southbound.  
Enfield, Eastbound and Westbound.  
Lusk, Northbound and Southbound.

## **T2 at Dublin Airport**

T 01 9440197  
E [dublinairport2@failteireland.ie](mailto:dublinairport2@failteireland.ie)

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Pocket Guide**

## ACTIVITIES

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



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

**Map References:** Each attraction has a map reference to identify its position on the regional map e.g. Irish National Stud will be found at F3.



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

All website & email links are live.



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GLENDALOUGH



NEWGRANGE

3

# Welcome to Ireland's East on Dublin's Doorstep

Dublin's Doorstep comprises the six counties of Kildare, Laois, Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Wicklow that surround Ireland's capital city. Fascinating and compelling, this region is at the very centre of Ireland's history and culture.

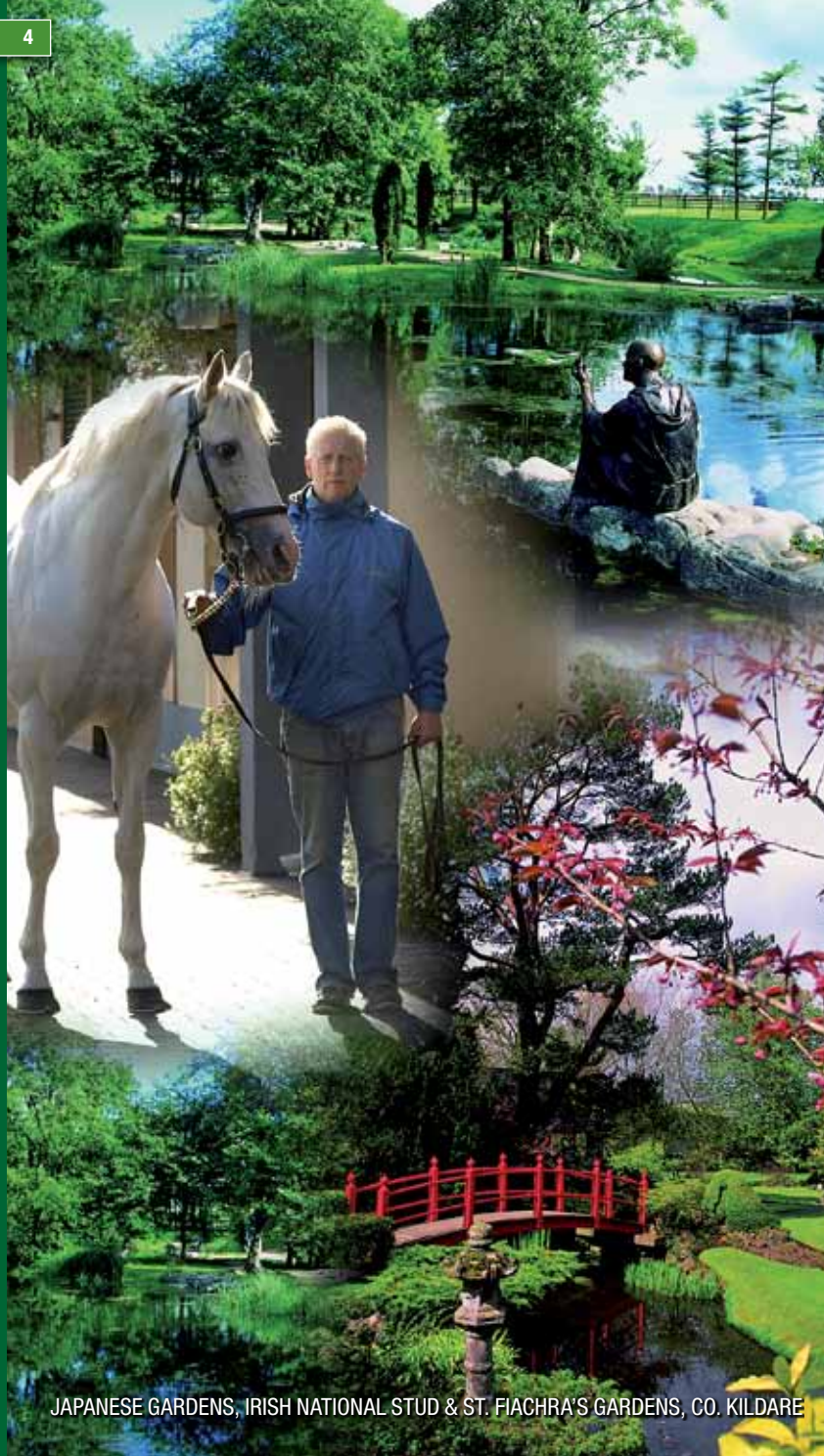
Dublin's Doorstep is rich in ancient heritage sites from the retreat of St. Kevin in Glendalough in Wicklow to the world heritage site in Newgrange or the monastic site of Monasterboice, in the historic Boyne Valley. Visit the stately home at Emo Court in Laois, the tranquillity and beauty of Carlingford in Louth or the birthplace of poet and novelist, Patrick Kavanagh, in the village of Inniskeen in County Monaghan.

Attractions range from the Irish National Stud, Japanese Garden's and St. Fiachra's Gardens in Kildare to Powerscourt House and Gardens in Wicklow, just one of the many stately homes and gardens open to the public. Enjoy the fine sandy beaches dotted along the coastline and take in the natural views and beauty of both land and sea.

Dublin's Doorstep has a variety of quality links and parkland golf courses. It hosted the Ryder Cup in 2006, and is hosting the Solheim Cup 2011 which is being held in Killeen Castle in County Meath.

## ACTIVITIES





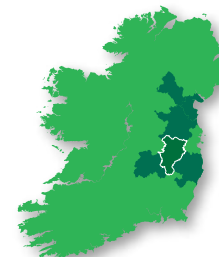
JAPANESE GARDENS, IRISH NATIONAL STUD & ST. FIACHRA'S GARDENS, CO. KILDARE

# Kildare

Kildare's famous racecourses, The Curragh, Punchestown and Naas are home to exciting racing festivals, whilst the Irish National Stud is testament to the county's strong horse breeding tradition. In addition, the county offers a range of special interest activities such as golf, motor racing, fishing, ecology, cruising and walking. In September 2006, the K Club hosted the most prestigious international golfing event, "The Ryder Cup".

County Kildare's many heritage attractions are of great importance to the island of Ireland and provide much to interest the visitor. Explore the heritage towns of Athy and Kildare. Visit Leixlip, where Guinness was first brewed and Maynooth, a traditional university town since the 18th century. See the many houses and gardens on offer such as the magnificent Castletown or experience the wilderness of the Bog of Allen.

Visit Newbridge, a thriving retail town and home to the world famous Newbridge Silverware factory. Spend time at Kildare Village Shopping Outlet. With over 50 luxury outlet boutiques you will be sure to pick up a bargain or two.



## ACTIVITIES



## Kildare towns and villages

In Kildare's towns and villages you'll find the warmth of the Irish welcome and a fascinating history, all set against an untouched rural landscape.

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

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

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

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

**The Curragh F4** is a vast plain that has been a horse-racing venue from the earliest times. It is the headquarters of Irish racing today, and here the Irish Derby and other classic races are decided. For nearly a century the Curragh Camp has been an important military station and training centre and this is reflected in the military museum at the barracks.

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

**Kildare F3** is an ancient cathedral town, located beside the Curragh plain & race course. A place of importance & interest is the cathedral & round tower. St. Brigid, in the 5th century, established it as a monastery. It was remarkable in having both nuns and monks. The round tower that stands beside the cathedral was built more than a thousand years ago and is one of the few that can still be climbed. On the outskirts of town is the National Stud & St. Fiachra's Gardens & Kildare Village Outlet.

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

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



SHOPPING

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

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

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

**Naas F4** is at the centre of the sport of Kings – horse racing! The Irish for Naas is Nás na Riogh the Assembly Place of the Kings. Its English form 'Naas' is pronounced so that it rhymes with race, and that is most appropriate because one of Ireland's busiest and best-loved race courses is on the very edge of the town.

The Kings in the name were the kings of Leinster and an earthen mound in the town is the site of the ancient royal palace.

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

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

**Straffan E4** is a small village which can boast the K Club which hosted the Ryder Cup in 2006, a Steam Museum and Straffan Butterfly Farm.

For more information on Kildare's towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens

**F3** ♿ ↑↑↑

Tully, outside Kildare Town, Co. Kildare.  
Tel: 045 522963/521617  
Email: [reservations@instourism.net](mailto:reservations@instourism.net)  
[www.irish-national-stud.ie](http://www.irish-national-stud.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.155315, -6.910143

Established in 1946, the Irish National Stud is the only stud farm in Ireland open to the public and is a must see for any visitor to the area. The state of the art horse museum tells the story of Ireland's long love affair with horse racing, and horse racing's love affair with Ireland. Experience St. Fiachra's gardens, inspired by the monastic movement in Ireland during the 6th and 7th centuries. Visit the internationally renowned and acclaimed Japanese gardens created to symbolise the 'Life of Man'. With so much to see and do, a trip to the National Stud is an unforgettable experience.

**Open:** 12th February to Christmas, daily from 9.30 – 18.00.

Guided tours available daily at 12.00, 14.30 and 16.00. Last admission: 17.00.  
Car Park closes at 18.15 SHARP.

**Admission:** Adult: €11, Senior/Student: €8, Child (under 16): €6,  
Family: €27 (2 Adults & 4 children).

**Wheelchair accessible:** Part of the Japanese Gardens are not accessible for wheelchairs/prams/pushchairs.



## Castletown House & Parklands

**F4** ♿ ↑↑↑

Celbridge, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 01 6288252  
Email: [castletown@opw.ie](mailto:castletown@opw.ie)  
[www.castletown.ie](http://www.castletown.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.432447, -6.547852

Castletown is the largest and most significant Palladian style country house in Ireland. The house is set amongst beautiful 18th century parklands of Celbridge, Co.Kildare. The house was built c.1722 for the speaker of the Irish House of Commons, William Conolly (1622- 1729). The designs of a number of important architects were used, Alessandro Galliei, Sir Edward Lovett Pearce and Sir William Chambers. The estate was sold in 1965 and in 1967 the house and some parkland were purchased by the Hon. Desmond Guinness. It was transferred to State Care in 1994.

**Open:** 1st April – 30th October 10.00 – 18.00. Closed on Mondays except on Bank Holidays. Last admission for tours of the house is 16.45.

Tours: Tuesday to Sunday. Parklands - open daily, 8.00 – 20.00.

Castletown can close at very short notice for Government business. Tours may have limited access if there is an event or private function running in the house.

**Admission:** Adult: €4.50, Senior/Student/Child of 5 & over: €3.50  
Family: €12.50, Group: 20 adults €3.50 each.

**Wheelchair access** is restricted to the basement and ground floor Museum rooms.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Kildare Town Heritage Centre & Tourist Office

F3  

Market House, Market Square, Kildare Town.  
Tel: 045 530672  
[www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)  
Sat Nav: 53.157554, -6.910958

Kildare Town Heritage Centre is an exciting visitor attraction situated in

the picturesque medieval town of Kildare. Located in the restored 18th century Market House opposite St Brigid's Cathedral, the Heritage Centre hosts a multi-media exhibition telling the story of Kildare. An audio visual presentation lets Cogitosus, a 7th century monk take you on a fascinating journey through time from when St Brigid established her church in 480AD, to later centuries when Kildare was raided by Vikings and later ruled by the Normans. Kildare Town Heritage Centre is the ideal starting point for a tour of the county.

**Open:** Monday – Saturday: 9.30 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge. **Wheelchair accessible:** Tourist Office is wheelchair accessible; the Heritage Centre is not accessible.



## St Brigid's Cathedral & Round Tower

F3  

Market Square, Kildare Town.  
Tel: 045 521229  
[www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)  
Sat Nav: 53.157554, -6.910958

St Brigid's Cathedral is a beautifully restored Norman Cathedral that occupies

the site of the original pagan shrine to the goddess Brigid, the early Christian foundation and church of St. Brigid. Designed in an early gothic style with a square central tower, the Cathedral was built in troubled times for defence as well as for a place to worship. The grounds of the Cathedral contain a number of fascinating links to the early history of the site including a round tower, Celtic cross and St. Brigid's firehouse.

**Open:** May – September, Monday – Saturday from 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00. Sunday from 14.00 – 17.00. Group visits are possible outside these months by prior arrangement. **Admission:** Suggested donation to enter the Cathedral. Climb the round tower: €4.

**Wheelchair accessible:** No wheelchair access to Round Tower.



## The Bog of Allen Nature Reserve

G4  

Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.  
Tel: 045 860133  
Email: [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.22361, -6.993999

The Bog of Allen Nature Centre is run

by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. On visiting you will explore Ireland's peatland heritage from the uses of peat, peatland formation, flora and fauna of peatlands, traditional methods of hand cutting turf, archaeology of peatlands and the their industrial development. The centre also offers wildlife gardens that you can walk through at your leisure where you can visit Ireland and the U.K's largest public display of insect eating plants. Before you leave why not visit an example of an intact raised bog.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Friday 10.00 – 16.00 (except bank holiday Monday's).

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child: Free of charge. Groups are offered a guided tour at a cost of €8 per person (booking essential).

**Wheelchair accessible:** Wheelchair access to ground floor only.



## Athy Heritage Centre & Museum

G3  

Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.  
Tel: 059 8633075  
Email: [athyheritage@eircom.net](mailto:athyheritage@eircom.net)  
[www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie](http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.992445, -6.983399

Located in the former 18th century Market

House Athy Heritage Centre-Museum brings the history of Athy to life from its Anglo Norman settlement to the Quakers, Great Famine, Grand Canal, 1903 Gordon Bennett Motor Race, Athy men in WW1 and more. Home of the only permanent exhibition in the world to Kildare born Polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, which includes 15 foot model of the ship Endurance. Also hosts an annual Ernest Shackleton International Autumn School-October bank holiday weekend. Audio guides-30 seated audio visual room brings the whole experience to life.

**Open:** All year: Monday – Friday 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00.

Weekend opening is seasonal.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child: €2, Senior/Student: €2.50, Family: €8.

## ACTIVITIES



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THE K-CLUB 13

## ART CENTRES & GALLERIES

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

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

## CRAFT

**Irish Pewter Mill Centre** **G4** Timolin, Moone. Tel: 059 8624164. Open by appointment.

**Newbridge Silverware Showroom** **F4** Newbridge. Tel: 045 431301, [www.newbridgesilverware.com](http://www.newbridgesilverware.com). Open all year Monday – Saturday from 9.00 – 18.00, Sundays & bank holiday's open 11.00 – 18.00.

## DESIGNER OUTLET

**Kildare Village Outlet** **F3** Kildare. Tel: 045 520501, [www.kildarevillage.com](http://www.kildarevillage.com). 50 luxury outlet boutiques. Open: Monday – Wednesday: 10.00 – 18.00. Thursday: 10.00 – 20.00, Fri & Sat: 10.00 – 19.00. Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11.00 – 18.00.

## FARMS

**Castlefarm** **G3** Narraghmore, Athy. Tel: 059 8636948, [www.castlefarmshop.ie](http://www.castlefarmshop.ie). Castlefarm is an award winning organic dairy farm & shop. Group tours are available by appointment.

**Straffan Butterfly Farm** **E4** Straffan. Tel: 01 6271109, [www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com](http://www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com). The Straffan Butterfly Farm is Ireland's first live tropical butterfly exhibition. Open daily June – August, 12.00 – 17.30. Adult: €7, Child/Senior/Student: €5, Family €25 (2 adults & 3 children).

## HOUSES & CASTLES

**Coolcarrigan House & Gardens** **F4** Naas. Tel: 045 863524, [www.coolcarrigan.ie](http://www.coolcarrigan.ie). There are over eight acres of garden and arboretum. There are some spectacular displays of colour through the year. There is also a small private church surrounded by a moat. Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €8, Senior/Student: €5, Child: Free of charge.

**Grange Castle** **E3** Grange. Tel: 046 9733274. Grange Castle, close to the source of the Boyne, is a fine example of a late 15th century tower house. The castle was embellished in the first half of the 17th Century with ornamental battlements and Jacobean chimneys. Open by appointment.

**Harristown House** **F4** Kilcullen, Tel: 045 483614, [www.harristownhouse.com](http://www.harristownhouse.com). Harristown House was built in the second half of the 18th century under the supervision of the architect Whitmore Davis. It was rebuilt after a fire in the 1890s by James Franklin Fuller. The La Touche family lived in the house until 1920. Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €6, Senior/Student/Child: €3.

**Leixlip Castle** **E5** Leixlip. Tel: 01 6244430. Leixlip village was established by the Vikings. Adam de Hereford, a follower of Strongbow, built the castle. Features of the castle include, the front hall, which boasts a 17th century Brussels tapestry depicting Theodosius offering the head of Pompey to Caesar. Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €8, Senior/Student/Child: €4.

## MUSEUMS

**Ballitore Library & Quaker Museum** **G4** Ballitore, Tel: 059 8623344. Quaker items include a wedding dress and bonnet worn by Marian Richardson at Ballitore in 1853. Open all year from 12.00 noon – 17.00, Tuesday – Saturday. Closed on Bank Holiday weekends. Admission is free.

**National Science Museum** **E4** Maynooth University. Open during summer months, contact directly for opening times. Tel: 01 7083780.

**Newbridge Museum of Style Icons** **F4** Newbridge. Tel: 045 431301, [www.newbridgesilverware.com](http://www.newbridgesilverware.com). Open all year Monday – Saturday from 9.00 – 18.00, Sundays & bank holiday's open 11.00 – 18.00. Admission is free.

**The Curragh Military Museum** **F4** The Curragh, Tel: 087 2571906. Open by appointment.

**The Steam Museum & Lodge Park Walled Garden** **E4** Straffan, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6288412, [www.steam-museum.ie](http://www.steam-museum.ie). The Power Hall exhibits unique, stationary steam engines from the 1830's. Now saved from destruction and fully restored to working order, they turn under steam and once powered the Industrial Revolution. The Model Hall displays the Richard Guinness collection of inventors and early large size prototype railway models. Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €7.50, Child/Senior/Student/Group 20+: €5, Family €20.

## NATIONAL MONUMENT

**Mullaghmast** **G4** Balitore. This site, a National Monument, includes earthworks, ring forts, barrows and a standing stone. The overall site is dominated by Rath Mor.

## NATURAL

**Donadea Forest Park** **E4** The park covers 243ha of mixed woodland. There are many historical features including the remains of the castle, walled gardens, church, tower, ice house, boat house and lime tree avenue. There is also a 2.3ha lake with ducks and other birds, and a wonderful display of water-lilies in the summer. Open: Winter; 8.00 – 19.00, Summer, 8.00 – 21.00. Charge for Car Park: €4.

## WALKING TOURS

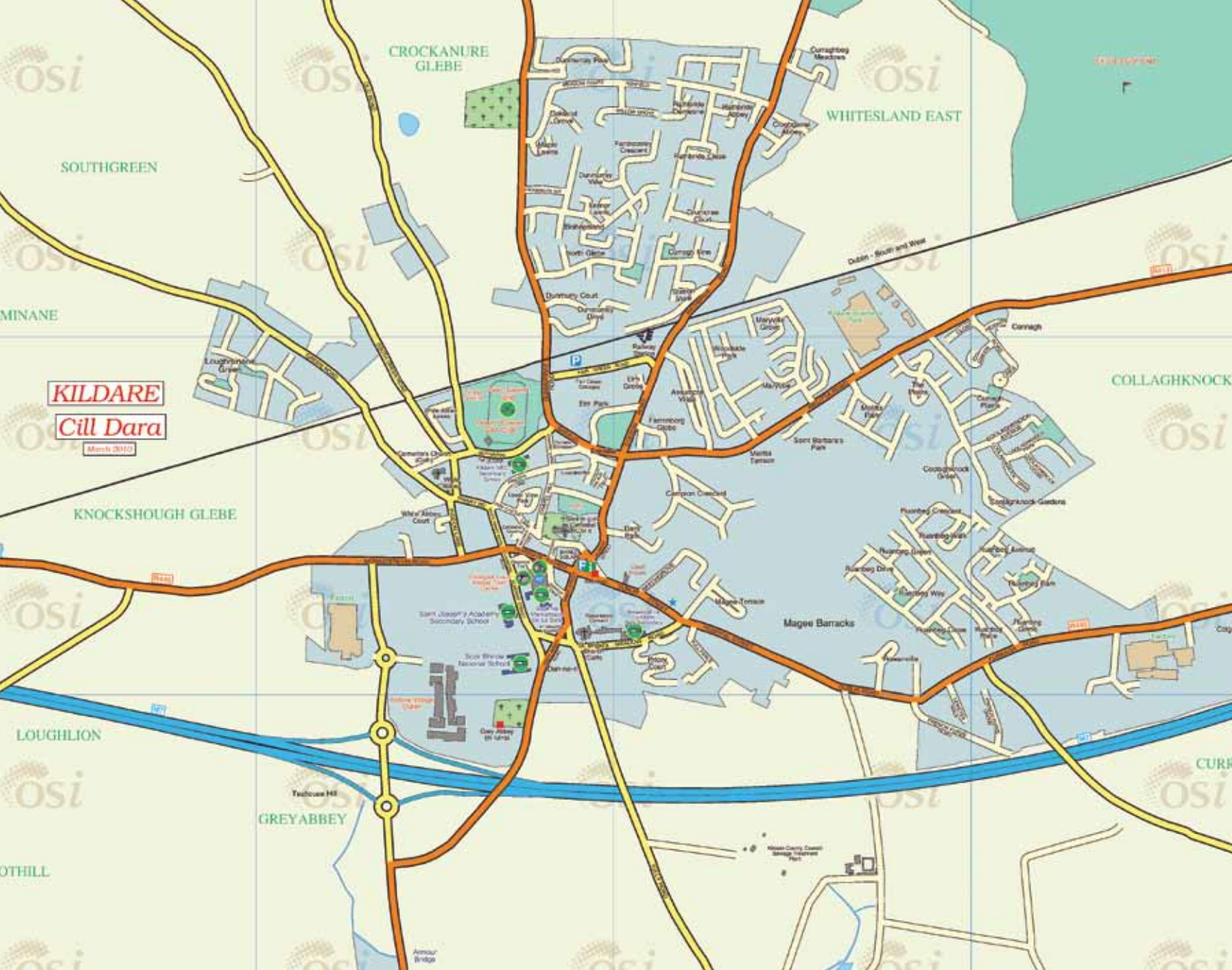
Take a tour of one of the oldest towns in Ireland, visit St. Brigid's Cathedral, the site of a Norman Castle, three medieval Abbeys and much more. Tel: 045 530672, [www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage](http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage)

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Kildare, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES





## ACTIVITIES



EMO COURT, CO. LAOIS

# Laois

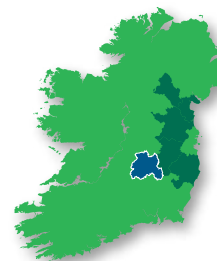
Laois is a fascinating county with much to attract the visitor. Tranquility is easily found along the banks of the Grand Canal at Vicarstown, or on the walking routes in the Slieve Bloom Mountains.

Visit the Round Tower at Timahoe or the Romanesque door at Killeslin old church. Enjoy the gardens surrounding the splendid Gandon House at Emo and the Lutyens gardens at Heywood. Portlaoise, the county town is rich in retail therapy and nightlife and is a key gateway to the Slieve Bloom Mountains.

There are reminders in Portarlinton of its Huguenot past, Mountmellick is famous for its lace, while the estate towns of Durrow and Abbeyleix, the latter a designated heritage town with an award winning library, have their own unique character.

Castletown is a pleasant village to visit, set on the banks of the river Nore and built around a triangular green, fragments of a castle dating back to 1182 remain. The village performs well in the annual tidy towns competition and has won a gold medal in this category.

Stradbally is famous for its steam festival and museum. Why not visit the Donaghmore famine museum and the fly fishing museum in Attanagh. The county has fine uncrowded golf courses, good fishing and excellent equestrian facilities.



## ACTIVITIES



## Laois towns and villages

Whether your passion is heritage, the great outdoors, or buzzing nightlife, Laois has something for everyone. Here are some towns and villages that are waiting to be explored:

**Abbeyleix village G2** of gracious town houses was planned & created in the 18th century by the landlord Viscount de Vesci. The 19th century school house at the north end of the village stands in a pleasant garden and is now Abbeyleix Heritage House. It's exhibits tell the history of County Laois. The smaller Sexton's House has been preserved and used to exhibit a wonderful collection of 19th century furniture and domestic equipment. The Abbey Sense Garden (sensory garden) occupies the old walled garden of the Brigidine Convent, founded in 1842. It aims to capture all five senses. A bowls court has been set out in the gardens, one of very few places in Ireland where this French game can be enjoyed.

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

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

**Donaghmore G2** has attractive buildings and overlooks a river and old bridge. A former famine workhouse is open to the public all year. During the Great Famine, some 10 per cent of the local population sought refuge here. Now restored, visitors can see the original dormitories, kitchen and waiting hall, plus the agricultural museum.

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

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

**Kelleshin G3** is an important monastic centre whose name may derive from Gleann Uiscean, the valley in which it was established or from Kill Uisin, the church of Oisín.

**Mountmellick F2** is a bustling colourful town originally enterprised by the Quaker community. An old grain mill has been renovated and houses a Quaker museum. The main focus is to conserve and display original pieces of Mountmellick embroidery of which the town is renowned and to protect the memory of



ABBEYLEIX LIBRARY

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Mountmellick's rich Quaker industrial past. It is an attractive town with a fine square, architecturally impressive houses, shops and ecclesiastical buildings.

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

**Portlaoise G2** the capital of Laois, is a vibrant town with interesting shops & good restaurants & nightlife, there is easy access to a wide range of places to visit & things to do. It is a vibrant place with many festivals throughout the year to keep visitors entertained.

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

**Stradbally's G3** name translates as 'the village on the street' – which describes it very well. Stradbally Hall, the Cosbys' stately home, was begun in 1772 and greatly enlarged and embellished in the 1860s in its present Italianate style. The Irish Steam Preservation Society holds its steam rally here during the August bank holiday. Also in the grounds is the Stradbally hall narrow gauge railway. It runs on bank holidays, and on request, except in winter. The popular "Electric Picnic" music event is held in Stradbally annually.

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

For more information on Laois towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Emo Court & Gardens

F3

Emo, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 8626573  
Email: [emocourt@opw.ie](mailto:emocourt@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.111648, -7.201538

Emo Court was designed by the architect James Gandon in 1790 for the Earls of Portarlington and is a magnificent example of this neo-classical style. During the middle of this century it was owned by the Jesuits, it was then acquired and extensively restored by Mr. Cholmeley-Harrison in the 1960s. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland which were first laid out in the 18th century and contain formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks. The house and gardens were taken into State ownership in 1994.

**Open:** House: Easter (21st April) to 28th Sept, Daily 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Senior/Group: €2, Child/Student: €1, Family: €8.

**Garden:** Open all year every day during daylight hours.

No dogs are allowed, cycling is forbidden.

**Cupcake Cafe at Emo.** Tel: 057 8633964.

**Open:** February - October Monday – Friday 10.00 – 17.00,

Saturday & Sunday 10.00 to 18.00.

November – January, Saturday & Sunday 10.00 – 17.00.

Bank Holidays 10.00 – 17.00.



## Donaghmore Museum & Workhouse

G2

Donaghmore, Rathdowney, Co Laois.  
Tel: 0505 46212 or 086 8296685  
[www.donaghmoremuseum.com](http://www.donaghmoremuseum.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.858093, -7.587519

Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum is a unique attraction and aims to tell the story of the families who lived and died within the famine workhouse walls before, during and after the great famine. The museum uses guided and self-guided tours combined with various exhibits to explain the socio-economic conditions which led to the establishment of this and other workhouses. Visitors to the museum can view an agricultural collection made up of a wide range of artefacts donated by local people, ranging from farm implements, household items and hand tools located in one of the two buildings that make up the Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays) 11.00 – 17.00.

Saturday, Sunday and public holiday's from June – September, 14.00 – 17.00.

Groups by appointment, call 086 8296685.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Senior/Student: €3, Family: €10.

Groups of ten and over: €4 per person.

**Wheelchair accessible:** Partially accessible.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Heywood Gardens

G2

Ballinakill, Co Laois.  
Tel: 057 87 33563, 087 6675291  
Email: heywoodgardens@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie  
Sat Nav: 52.878455, -7.308741

Completed in 1912, the property consists of gardens, lakes, woodland

and architectural features. It was transferred to State ownership in November 1993 from the Salesian Fathers who had taken care of it since 1941. The formal Gardens form the centre-piece of the property and were designed by the famous architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) and probably landscaped by Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932). The Gardens are composed of four elements linked by a terrace that ran along the front of the house which now no longer exists. An extensive re-planting programme is currently underway.

**Open:** October to March: 8.30 – 17.30, April and September: 8.30 – 19.00, May to August: 8.30 to 21.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge. Limited access for visitors with disabilities.



## Stradbally Steam Museum

G3

Stradbally, Co Laois.  
Tel: 086 1258813  
www.irishsteam.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.017262, -7.147293

The Steam Museum houses many steam, fire and farm engines, some dating back over 60 years. On show, amongst others,

is a Land Rover fire engine that was stationed at Stradbally fire station around 1950. A Guinness loco engine which was used by the Guinness Brewery over 50 years ago is also displayed. The museum hosts a treasure of steam engines and offers an exciting visit for all the family.

**Open:** Monday – Friday, 9.30 – 17.30. Saturday and Sunday by appointment only by calling: 086 1258813.

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



## Abbeyleix Heritage House

G2

Abbeyleix, Co Laois.  
Tel: 057 8731653  
Sat Nav: 52.916148, -7.348309

Housed in the historic North boy's school, the museum at Heritage House will transport you back in time allowing you to journey with the pre-Christian warring

tribes of Laois, witnessing their conversion to Christianity and the rise of monastic Laois. Learn of the Norman influence, the suppression of the monasteries at the hands of Henry VIII and our progress through plantations, the influence of the landlords and our brush with the industrial revolution. Learn how an enterprising landlord created much needed work for women and in a landlocked county exported carpets worldwide even carpeting the staterooms of the ill fated Titanic.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Friday 9.00 – 17.00.

Open Saturday, May to August 13.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Senior/Student/Group rate: €2.



## Rock of Dunamais

G3

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.  
Tel: 057 8621178  
www.discoverireland.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.03533, -7.281361

The Rock of Dunamais is an imposing and magnificent example of the remains of a Celtic fortification overlooking the valley

of the O'Moore's. It has a colourful history boasting ownership by Strongbow in 1170 and becoming the Norman's most important fortification. In the fourteenth century it was burned at least twice by the Irish and later ownership went to the Earl of Thomand. It eventually fell into decay in 1795 leaving spectacular remains. Standing at over 45 meters in height, the ruin dominates the landscape.

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

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES



24 VICARSTOWN



DURROW 25

## ABBEYS & CHURCHES

**Aghaboe Abbey G2** Ballacolla. The abbey was founded by St. Canice in 576. About two hundred years later it was plundered by Norsemen and a further church was built. Over the centuries many attacks and fires resulted in the Abbey having to be rebuilt.

**Timogue Church G3** is a wonderful and rare church dating from about 1736. There is an impressive early monument to a Fitzgerald of Morette, and the aisle is flagged with memorials also to members of the Fitzgerald family. Nearby are two ring-forts, a ruined mill and the site of a tower house.

**Timahoe Round Tower G3** An extraordinary carved doorway makes this the most elegant round tower in Ireland. Carvings of human heads, with flowing beards and moustaches, decorate the main entrance, about five meters from the ground. Smaller carvings decorate a second storey window. The round tower was built some time in the 1100s, the tower rises almost 30 meters high and is more than 17 meters wide at its base. Its walls are nearly 2 meters thick. Inside there are five different floors, which were reached by ladders.

## ART CENTRES & GALLERIES

**Dunamais Arts Centre G2** Portlaoise, Co. Laois,  
Tel: 057 8663355, [www.dunamais.ie](http://www.dunamais.ie)

**Mountmellick Gallery F2** Tel: 057 86 24733.

**Abbeyleix Gallery G2** Tel: 057 87 30020.

**Huguenot Gallery F3** Portarlinton, Tel: 057 86 42442.

**The Framing Gallery G2** Portlaoise, Tel: 057 86 62957.

## CRAFTS

**Laois Craft Centre F3** The Gateway, Emo Park Woods, Tel: 057 8646043. The craft centre and workshop are located at the entrance to the beautiful heritage site of emo park wood. This idyllic location surrounded by trees, shrubs and wildlife is a short distance from Emo Court. Open: Monday – Friday, 10.00 – 17.30, Saturday & Sunday, 10.30 – 18.00.

## HOUSES & CASTLES

**Ballyfin House G2** Portlaoise. Possibly one of the finest neoclassical houses in the country. It was built in 1821-6 in Slieve Bloom sandstone by Sir Charles Coote; it is open to the public by appointment. Tel: 057 8755245.

**Ballaghmore Castle G2** Borris in Ossory. Ballaghmore Castle was built in 1480 by the Gaelic Chieftain Mac Giollaphadraig (now called Fitzpatrick), meaning son of the servant of Patrick. A Sheela-na-Gig carved in stone is on the front facing wall, a pagan fertility symbol to ward off evil. Open to the public by appointment. Tel: 0505 21453.

**Lea Castle F3** is a ruin situated midway between Portarlinton and Monasterevin; it was built in 1260 by William de Vesey. It changed hands many times during its turbulent history.

## MUSEUMS

**Irish Fly Fishing & Game Shooting Museum G2** Attanagh.  
Tel: 086 3153088. [www.irishflycraft.com](http://www.irishflycraft.com)

The only fishing and hunting museum of its kind in Europe. Over four thousand exhibits with many rare artifacts tracing the development of hunting, shooting and fishing through the ages. Open every Saturday and Sunday. By appointment Monday to Friday. Contribution if desired as admission.

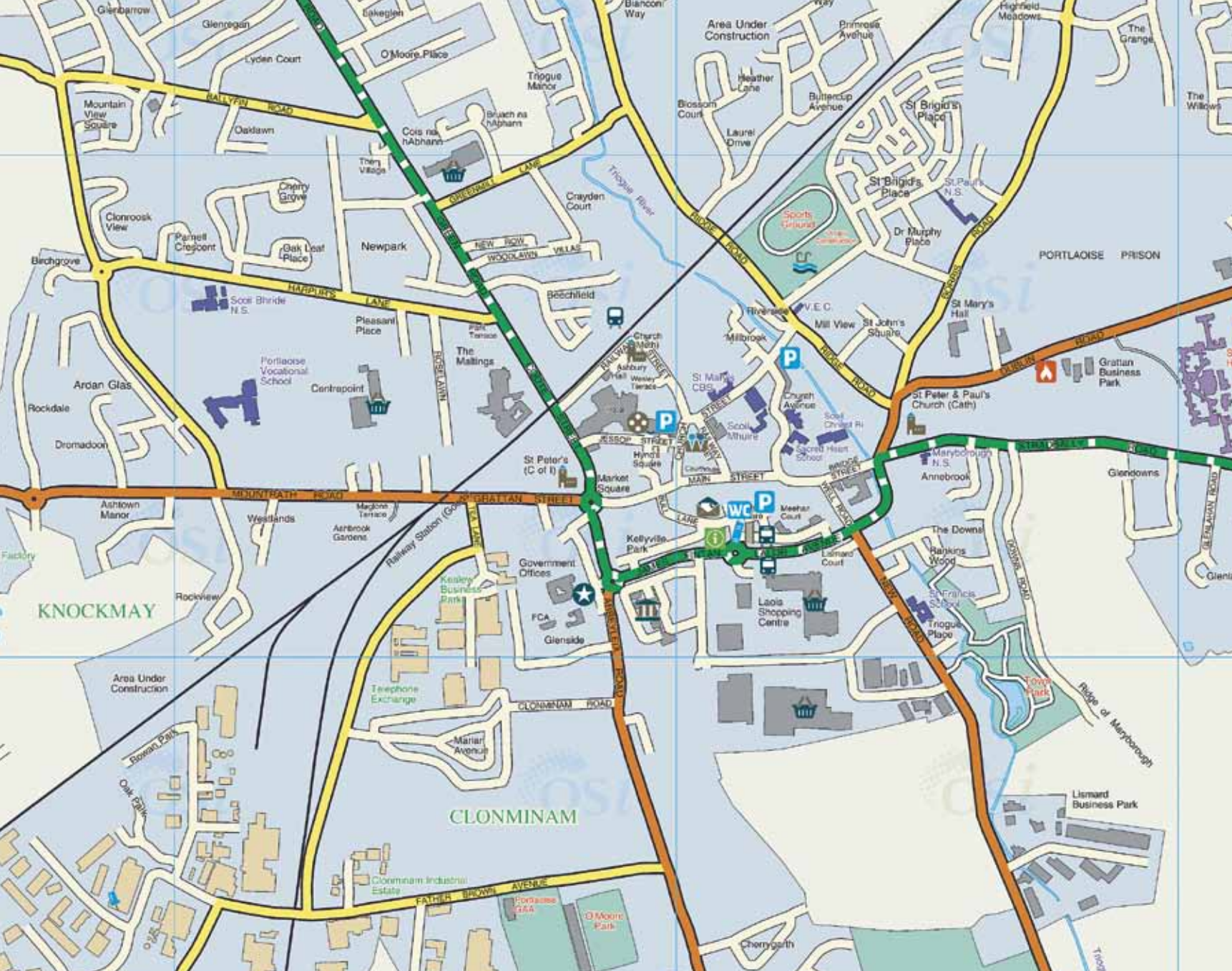
**Mountmellick Museum F2**  
Tel: 057 8624525. [www.mountmellickdevelopment.com](http://www.mountmellickdevelopment.com)

The main focus of the museum is to conserve and display the original pieces of Mountmellick's rich Quaker industrial past. The original embroidery designs were created in 1825 and were inspired by the flora and fauna on the banks of the River Owenass. Open 9.00 – 17.00, Monday – Friday. (weekends by request for groups). Admission: Adult: €5, Senior/Student: €3. Child: Free of charge. Group prices on request.

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Laois, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

## ACTIVITIES





ACTIVITIES



CARLINGFORD VILLAGE

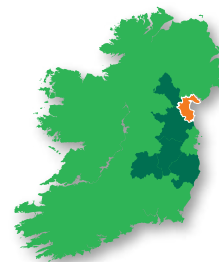
# Louth

What ever you are looking for in a holiday, be it a quiet break or an action packed getaway, Louth with its rich medieval past abounds with interesting places to see and a host of different things to do.

Louth offers plenty of fun-filled days for families on holiday, whether it is visiting the monastic sites of Mellifont and Monasterboice or the many fascinating buildings including St. Laurence's Gate, Millmount Motte and Martello Tower. Spending a day at one of the several seaside resorts, summer camps, participating in a range of activities, or just stocking up on the local delicacies at fantastic farmers' markets, families will enjoy the Louth experience.

Louth also offers a wide range of shops, if you are looking for anything from traditional gifts to designer labels you will be sure to find it in one of the shopping centres, craft centres, or chic boutiques which makes for an extremely pleasurable shopping experience.

Louth is walker's paradise, with the legendary Cooleys providing the scenic backdrop as well as the perfect terrain for a walking holiday. Follow the path of Queen Meave on the **Táin Trail** or walk the 40km **Táin Way** which encircles the Cooley Peninsula in the north-east of the county.



## ACTIVITIES





30 CASTLETOWNROCHE, DUNDALK



KING JOHN'S CASTLE, CARLINGFORD

## Louth towns and villages

Louth is a captivating area of mountains and valleys.

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

**Ardee C4** derives its name from the folklore tradition of a duel between the legendary Irish heroes, Ferdia and Cuchulainn near the river Dee. There are a number of places of interest in both the town and the hinterland of historic and recreational interest, including a 14th century Norman Castle and the strange tale of the "jumping church" in Kildemock. Ardee is an ideal base from which to explore the mysteries of the Boyne Valley and Cooley Peninsula.

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

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

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

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

**Dromiskin Village C5** was an important ecclesiastical centre from the 5th century. A round tower from the early monastery still stands in the churchyard of the Church

of Ireland parish church. There are also the remains of a ringed cross in the Celtic style and a carved spiral pillar from the 9th - 10th century close by.

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on Louth see [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Monasterboice Round Tower and High Crosses

C5

Monasterboice, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 041 9837070 or 042 9335484  
[www.discoverireland.ie/eastcoast](http://www.discoverireland.ie/eastcoast)  
Sat Nav: 53.767486, -6.400137

Monasterboice is the remains of the monastic settlement founded by Saint Buite who died in 521. The remains consist of an old graveyard, two churches, three sculptured crosses, two early grave slabs and a sundial.

The South church is the older of the two and still has the remains of the chancel arch. The smaller church is situated beside the round tower. The round tower is about 30 metres high. It is now missing its upper part and conical cap. The door is 2 metres above ground level and is approached by modern steps. The cross nearest the graveyard entrance is Muirdeach's Cross, an outstanding example of high crosses of the Early Christian period in Ireland. It is a monolith, 5 metres high. Monasterboice is definitely worth a visit and is a fine example of early Christian Ireland.

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

**Admission:** Free of charge.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** No.



## Beaulieu House, Gardens & Car Museum

C5

Beaulieu, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 041 9838557  
[www.beaulieu.ie](http://www.beaulieu.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.823354, -6.289673

The delightful Dutch style house is unique to Ireland and thought to be one of the very first unfortified houses constructed in the country. For a house of this age to survive in a virtually unchanged state is unique and therefore represents a true national treasure of Irish heritage. Enjoy guided tours of the house and the fascinating family history. Stroll at leisure through the four acres of historic walled garden. Visit the car museum containing a collection of classic race and road cars with memorabilia of Ireland's top lady driver, Gabriel Konig whose race experiences have taken her worldwide.

**Open:** 1st May – mid September; Monday – Friday, 11.00 – 17.00.

July & August open Saturday and Sunday, 13.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Guided tour of the house: €8. Visit to the gardens: €6. Entry to the museum: €6. Special package – €20; Guided tour of the house, visit the garden, entry to the museum & free tour guide book.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Old Mellifont Abbey C5 ↑↑↑

Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: End April-Sept. 041 982 6459,  
1st Oct.-Apr. (Brú na Bóinne office)  
0 41 988 0300.  
Email: mellifontabbey@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.839564, -6.459961

The first Cistercian monastery in Ireland founded in 1142 by St Malachy of Armagh, its most unusual feature is the octagonal Lavabo c. 1200. The Visitor

Centre houses an interesting exhibition on the work of masons in the Middle Ages with fine examples of their craft on display. Access to site is by stone stairway.

**Open:** 28th April – 28th September, daily 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Senior/Group: €2, Child/Student: €1, Family: €8.

The Visitor Centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities. Wheelchair access to site is restricted.



## County Museum Dundalk B5 ♿ ↑↑↑

Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 042 9327056/7  
www.dundalkmuseum.ie  
Sat Nav: 54.004654, -6.397240

Located in a lovingly restored late 18th century warehouse, the multi-award winning County museum brings history

to life. The museum celebrates the story of County Louth's rich, social, industrial and cultural history from the Stone Age up to the present day over three exhibition galleries. The museum boasts a fine 72-seat theatre where visitors can view a short film introducing the many delights of County Louth. The museum also holds a variety of travelling exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

**Open:** All year, Tuesday – Saturday 10.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3.80. Senior/Student: €2.50. Child: €1.20.

Family ticket: €10.15.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide



## Millmount Museum & Martello Tower D5 ↑↑↑

Millmount, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 041 9833097  
www.millmount.net  
Sat Nav: 53.711800, -6.350319

Millmount Museum is the town museum of Drogheda. Located in the Officer's

quarters of a former military barracks built in 1808, the museum has been described as one of the finest town museums in Ireland. The museum houses a wide variety of artefacts of local and national importance. Chief amongst the attractions is the unique collection of guild and trade banners, which is recognised by Ireland's National Museum as being of special significance, and includes the only remaining guild banners in Ireland. Popular exhibits include an authentic 18th century Irish folk kitchen, dairy and laundry, and the Irish history room detailing the major events in Ireland's history.

**Open:** The museum is open all year (except for Christmas). Open Monday – Saturday, 9.30 – 17.30. Sundays and Bank Holidays 14.30 – 17.00. Please note last tour one hour before closing.

**Admission:** Museum & tower – Adult: €5.50, Senior/Child: €3, Student: €4, Family (2 adults & 2 children): €12.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** Ground floor only.



## Highlanes Gallery D5 ♿ ↑↑↑

Laurence Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 041 9803311  
www.highlanes.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.716012, -6.348596

The gallery is sited in the former Drogheda Franciscan Church and part of the friary; known locally as the 'High Lane

Church'. The building dates from the early 19th century, though elements date back to earlier times and include the former Franciscan burial crypts.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Saturday from 10.30 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES



36 CLOGHERHEAD



MELLIFONT ABBEY 37

## ART CENTRES & GALLERIES

- An Táin Theatre** **B5** Dundalk. Tel: 042 9392919, [www.antaintheatre.com](http://www.antaintheatre.com)  
**Droichead Arts Centre** **D5** Drogheda. Tel: 041 9833946, [www.droichead.com](http://www.droichead.com)  
**TLT Concert Hall & Theatre** **D5** Drogheda. Tel: 041 9878560, [www.thetlt.ie](http://www.thetlt.ie)  
**The Barbican** **D5** Drogheda. Tel: 041 9807416, [www.thebarbican.ie](http://www.thebarbican.ie)  
**Basement Gallery** **B5** Dundalk. Tel: 042 9392916, [www.antaintheatre.com](http://www.antaintheatre.com)  
**Bridge Street Studio** **B5** Dundalk. Tel: 042 9351712, [www.bridgestreetstudios.com](http://www.bridgestreetstudios.com)

## CASTLES & MONUMENTS

- Castle Roche Ruins** **B5** Dungooley Rd, Dundalk. Castle Roche is one of the most striking Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland and can be viewed for miles around. Located on a rocky hilltop, it commands wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Lady Rohesia de Verdun had the castle built in 1236 AD. Legend has it that Lady Rohesia promised her hand in marriage to the architect if he completed the castle to her satisfaction. When he went to claim her hand, she had him thrown from one of the windows, which to this day is known as the 'murder window'.  
**Castletown Motte** **B5** Mount Ave, Dundalk. The De Verdon's built Castletown Motte and Bailey in the late 12th century. The motte comprises a large circular mound which rises to some 20m and is enclosed by a ditch with an external bank.  
**Cúchulainn's Stone** **B4** Rathiddy, Knockbridge. Clochafarmore standing stone is an impressive monument standing at over 3 meters high and 1.3m wide. It is believed that standing stones may mark locations where great events took place and this stone is traditionally associated with the greatest hero of Irish folklore - Cúchulainn.  
**King John's Castle Ruins** **B5** Carlingford. The castle is located on the southern shores of Carlingford Lough. The Lough was named by the Vikings and means 'bay of the hag'. Built by Hugh de Lacy, this dramatic fortress offers stunning views across the Lough towards the Mourne Mountains.  
**Proleek Dolmen** **B5** Ballymascanlon. The Proleek Portal Tomb is about 3 meters high and has a huge capstone weighing approximately 35 tons. Legend says that a wish will be granted to anyone who can throw a pebble on its capstone (that stays there).

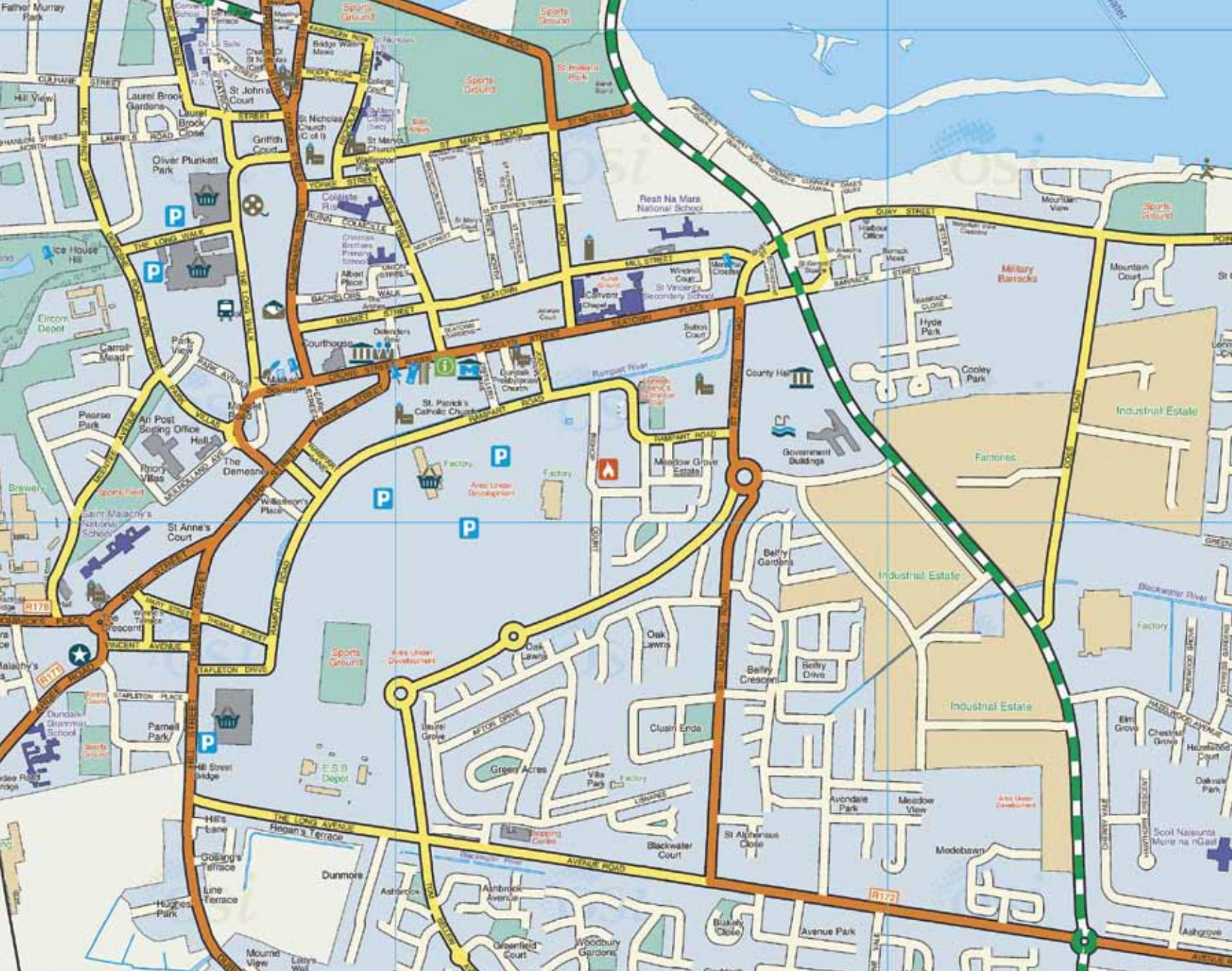
## CHURCHES & SETTLEMENTS

- Kildemock Jumping Church** **C4** Ardee. This remarkable church ruin is in the townland of Millockstown, 4km south of Ardee. The gable wall is standing upright, two feet inside its original foundations.  
**Saint Brigid's Shrine & Well** **B5** Faughart. Situated 5km from Dundalk, the hill of Faughart is one of the great historical sites of North Louth, scene of several incidents in the Tain Bo Cuailgne, the archaeology of which indicated remnants of an Iron Age hill fort, an early Christian ecclesiastical foundation associated with Saint Brigid, a Norman motte-castle and a medieval church ruin.  
**St. Laurence's Gate** **D5** Drogheda. St. Laurence's Gate, which led to the Friary of St Laurence, is widely regarded as one of the finest of its kind in Europe. It consists of two lofty circular towers, connected together by a wall, in which there is an archway. Visitors can appreciate the spectacular dimensions of the medieval walls south of the gate at Featherbed Lane.  
**St. Peter's Church** **D5** Drogheda. St. Peter's Church is among the finest Gothic revival churches in Ireland and is famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett.  
**Magdalene Tower** **D5** Magdalene St, Drogheda. The Magdalene Tower is all that now remains of the once important Dominican Friary. It is the belfry tower of the friary which Lucas de Netterville, then Archbishop of Armagh, founded early in about 1224.

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Louth please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

## ACTIVITIES





## ACTIVITIES



NAVAN BRIDGE

# Meath

The rich heritage of County Meath ensures that every visit is memorable. Don't miss the chance to visit the world renowned prehistoric tombs at Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange), and the site of the Battle of the Boyne, located near Oldbridge.

Kells with its High Cross and Round Tower, the splendid Norman Castle at Trim, the fabled Hill of Tara near Navan and the holy Hill of Slane are just some of the sites to be explored.

There is horse racing at Fairyhouse, the home of the Irish Grand National, Bellewstown and Navan. There are special gardens to visit at Loughcrew, Dunboyne and Kells, and good fishing to be found in the River Boyne, the Royal Canal, Lough Sheelin and Drumconrath Lakes.

The wide range of equestrian centres and golf courses throughout the county, including the links at Bettystown/Laytown make Meath a destination worth discovering.

County Meath is delighted to be the Host County to the 2011 Solheim Cup, with Killeen Castle as the perfect location, when the famed event comes to Ireland between 23rd and 25th of September.



## ACTIVITIES





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BRIDGE OVER BOYNE RIVER, SLANE



INTERIOR OF TUMULUS, NEWGRANGE

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## Meath towns and villages

Meath is a county, rich in heritage and culture.

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

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

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

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

**Nobber C4** was the birthplace of Turlough O’Carolan, composer, poet and the most famous of all Irish harpists.

**Oldcastle C3** is an idyllic village, five thousand years ago the affluent stone-age community, who lived where Oldcastle now stands, decided to commemorate their dead on the nearby hilltops. Their legacy lives on with Loughcrew Cairns. Most of

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

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

**Slane D4** is a beautiful manorial village built around a crossroads; the central focus of the village are the four fine Georgian Houses facing each other. The Conynghams, successors of the great Norman Lords of Slane, planned Slane. It was here, from the top of the hill overlooking the village, that St. Patrick lit the paschal flame on Easter eve (in the second half of the fifth century), a symbol of the light of Christianity, which was about to sweep away the old pagan order. A short distance from the village on the Navan road is Slane Castle, an imposing castellated mansion with towers and embattled parapets, built on a beautiful site overlooking the river valley. Built by the Conyngham family, it is the home of Lord Henry, Earl of Mountcharles, and has become famous as a concert venue; the surrounding grounds boasting a natural amphitheatre of immense size.

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

For more information on Meath’s towns and villages, visit our website  
[www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Newgrange and Knowth D5

Donore, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 041 9880300  
Email: [brunaboinne@opw.ie](mailto:brunaboinne@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.694567, -6.4463

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. All admission to Newgrange and Knowth is through the Visitor Centre, there is no direct access to these monuments. Visitors are brought from the Visitor Centre to the monuments by shuttle bus..

**Open:** Daily: Feb – April: 9.30 – 17.30, May: 9.00 – 18.30,  
June – Mid Sept: 9.00 – 19.00, Mid – End Sept: 9.00 – 18.30,  
October: 9.30 – 17.30, Nov – Jan: 9.00 – 17.00.

Newgrange is open all year round except for December 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th. Knowth is open from Easter to 28th October.

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

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

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

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

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

Wheelchair access restricted. Centre is fully accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Last admission to the Visitor Centre is 45 minutes before closing. Last tour of monuments is 1 hour 45 mins before closing. Please note that this is a very busy site and visitors may experience a delay during the summer months. It is advisable to arrive as early in the day as possible to avoid the disappointment of finding all the tours for that day sold out.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide



## Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre C5

Oldbridge Estate, Drogheda, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 041 9809950  
Email: [battleoftheboyne@opw.ie](mailto:battleoftheboyne@opw.ie)  
[www.battleoftheboyne.ie](http://www.battleoftheboyne.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.724405, -6.421058

The Battle of the Boyne between King William III and his father-in-law, King James II, was fought on 1 July 1690 (11 July according to our modern calendar). Both kings commanded their armies in person, 36,000 on the Williamite side and 25,000 on the Jacobite side - the largest number of troops ever deployed on an Irish battlefield. At stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe and Religious power in Ireland. The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre is located in the recently restored 18th century Oldbridge House, which is on the battlesite.

**Caution - deep water.**

**Open:** Daily: March – April: 9.30 – 17.30, May – September: 10.00 – 18.00, October – February: 09.00 – 17.00. All groups must be pre-booked; site closes Christmas and New Year.

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Senior/Group rate: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10. Free admission to the grounds (battle site walkways). Restricted access for wheelchair visitors. Centre is accessible for people with disabilities.



## Hill of Tara D4

Navan, Co. Meath.  
Tel: May – Sept. 14th. 046 902 5903 or 15th Sept. – end May 041 9880300 (Brú na Bóinne office)  
Email: [hilloftara@opw.ie](mailto:hilloftara@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.581092, -6.609993

Though best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage-tomb was constructed there. Tara was at the height of its power as a political and religious centre in the early centuries after Christ. Attractions include an audio-visual show and guided tours of the site. As much of the tour is outdoors, visitors are advised to wear weather protective clothing and shoes suitable for walking over uneven terrain.

**Open:** Daily: 26th May – 14th September: 10.00 – 18.00. Last admission 1 hour before closing. **Admission:** Adult: €3, Senior/Group: €2, Child/Student: €1, Family: €8. Restricted access for visitors with disabilities.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Trim Castle

D4

Trim, Co Meath.  
Tel: 046 9438619, 046 9438964  
Email: trimcastle@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.553822, -6.789894

Trim Castle, the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, was constructed over

a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Hugh de Lacy was granted the Liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare, (Strongbow). Construction of the massive three storied Keep, the central stronghold of the castle, was begun c. 1176 on the site of an earlier wooden fortress.

**Open:** Daily; Easter – 31st October 10.00 – 18.00, 1 – 31st October: 09.30 – 17.30. November to January: Weekends only 09.00 – 17.00, February – Easter: Weekends only 09.30 – 17.30. Christmas 2011, closed the 24th & 25th December, 31st December & 1st January.

**Admission:** Including keep; Adult: €4, Group/Senior: €3, Child/Student: €2, Family: €10. Castle Excluding the Keep; Adult: €3, Group/Senior: €2, Child/Student: €1, Family: €8.

Access for visitors with disabilities is very restricted.



## Slane Castle

D4

Slane, Co Meath.  
Tel: 041 982 0643  
Email: info@slanecastle.ie  
www.slanecastle.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.713777, -6.565704

Slane Castle is set on the grounds of a 1,500 acre estate through which flows the

River Boyne, a few kilometres upstream from the site of the Battle of the Boyne. Over the last quarter of a century Slane Castle has become internationally famous for its summer concerts. Its natural amphitheatre attracts 80,000 music fans annually.

**Open:** June 5th to September 1st, Sunday – Thursday 12.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Child/Student/Senior €5, Family €20, Child under 5: Free of charge.



## Loughcrew Cairns

C3

Corstown, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 049 854 1356, June - August  
www.heritageireland.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.758454, -7.114506

The Loughcrew Cairns, also known as the Hills of the Witch, are a group of Neolithic passage tombs dating to 3000 BC. The

tombs are located on three different hills and Cairn T, one of the largest tombs in the complex, is situated on Cairnbane East. Inside this tomb lies a cruciform chamber, a corbelled roof and some of the most beautiful examples of Neolithic art in Ireland. During the Vernal and Autumn Equinox people gather at dawn in Cairn T to watch sunlight enter the chamber and illuminate the inside of the tomb.

**Open:** 2nd June – 31st Aug Daily, 10.00 – 18.00. **Admission:** Free of charge. The climb to Cairn T is very steep and visitors are asked to wear suitable footwear and to be careful.



## Tayto Park

D5

Kilbrew, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 01-8351999  
Email: info@taytopark.ie  
www.TaytoPark.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.542679, -6.462815

Visit Ireland's most unique attraction, for an unforgettable day out for all the family.

Explore the High Ropes Course, The Climbing Wall, The Jumpers, The Tayto Factory Tour, The Pow Wow Playground and discover the hundreds of rare breeds of animals, The Potatohontus Native American Village, The Lodge Restaurant along with much much more. Tayto Park is located near Ashbourne in County Meath and only 20 minutes drive from Dublin City Centre.

**Open:** March 16th – April 17th, Wednesday to Sunday 10.00 – 17.00.

April 18th – September 25th, Monday to Sunday 10.00 – 18.00.

September 28th – December 31st Wednesday to Sunday 10.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult €12, Child 3 and under Free, Child over 3 and under 16/ Student/Senior €12. Family Tickets: €40, 2 adults + 2 children, 2 adults + 3 children €50, 2 adults + 4 children €60 (children must be accompanied by an adult).

## ACTIVITIES



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LOUGHCREW GARDENS 49

### ART CENTRES & GALLERIES

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

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

### CHURCHES, ABBEYS & TOWERS

**St. Columba's Church C3** Kells. The grounds mark the original site of the Monastery of Kells. According to the 'Book of Lismore', King Diarmait or Dermot, High King of Ireland granted to Columba the Dun or Fort of Kells to establish a religious community.

**St. Patrick's Cathedral D4** Trim is in a historic setting on an ancient site with a 15th century tower. It is reputed to be older than Armagh or Canterbury. The fine stone tower is a remnant of the medieval parish church of Trim.

**Bective Abbey D4** near Navan boasts views overlooking the Boyne and is the second Cistercian Abbey to be established in Ireland. Although most of the present impressive ruins date to the 15th century, the abbey was originally founded in 1147. The abbey was one of the most important monastic sites in the country, as the Abbot of Bective sat in the Parliament of the Pale. Hugh De Lacy, was buried there in 1195, but was eventually reinterred in Dublin. Bective Abbey was used in the filming of the movie Braveheart, chosen because of its castle like qualities. The ruins are readily accessible to the public.

**Donaghmore Round Tower D4** is located close to Navan. The settlement includes the church and a fine round tower which was built sometime in the 10th century and is still in good condition.

**Lloyd Tower C3** The Hill of Lloyd is 3km North West of Kells. Its most striking feature is an 18th century folly in the form of a lighthouse, erected by the son of the Earl of Bective in his father's memory.

### HOUSES & CASTLES

**Hamwood House E5** Dunboyne. Tel: 01 8255210 / 086 8270454. A Palladian Georgian house, which was built in 1768. Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission for house: Adult/Senior/Student: €5, Child: Free of charge. Admission for gardens: Adult/Senior/Student: €5, Child: Free of charge.

**Athlumney Castle Ruins D4** Athlumney, Navan. This is a settlement complex where one can trace the changing forms of a manorial building since the Norman conquest; it features a motte or artificial hill of the first settlement in the late 12th century.

**Dardistown Castle D5** near Julianstown was built in 1465 by John Cornwalsh with a British Government grant of £10. Tel: 041 9829239, [www.dardistowncastle.ie](http://www.dardistowncastle.ie), Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €6, Child €3.

**Dunmoe Castle D4** is an imposing ruin situated above the tranquil Boyne between Navan and Slane, it was home of the D'Arcy family from the 15th century.

**Dunsany Castle D4** Tel: 046 9025169, [www.dunsany.com](http://www.dunsany.com). The castle is located between Dunshaughlin & Trim and is a short distance south of the Hill of Tara. It is the ancestral home of the Lords of Dunsany, heads of the Plunkett family, since the 1400's. The family still live in the Castle, which holds a private collection of paintings, ceramics and furniture. Dunsany Castle also has a fine demesne, featuring the Abbey (1440). Open: Contact directly for opening hours. Admission: Adult: €20, Senior: €15, Child/Student: €10 (Children under 12 free). Garden an additional €5

### HIGH CROSS

**Kells High Cross C3** Kells town. Probably the most famous of the high crosses in Kells is the Market Cross, standing at 3.35 meters high.

### PASSAGE GRAVES

**Fourknocks D5** at Ard Rath are passage graves decorated with abstract art and bear the first depiction of a human face found in prehistoric art in Ireland. Three earthen mounds were excavated by the National Museum in 1950-1952. One covered a passage grave to crucifixion plan, with decorated uprights and lintels resembling the Newgrange designs. The contents of this tomb were intact and so the results were of immense importance and value to students of the megalithic period in Ireland and the world. Open to public, please call 041 9880305 for details.

### MUSEUM

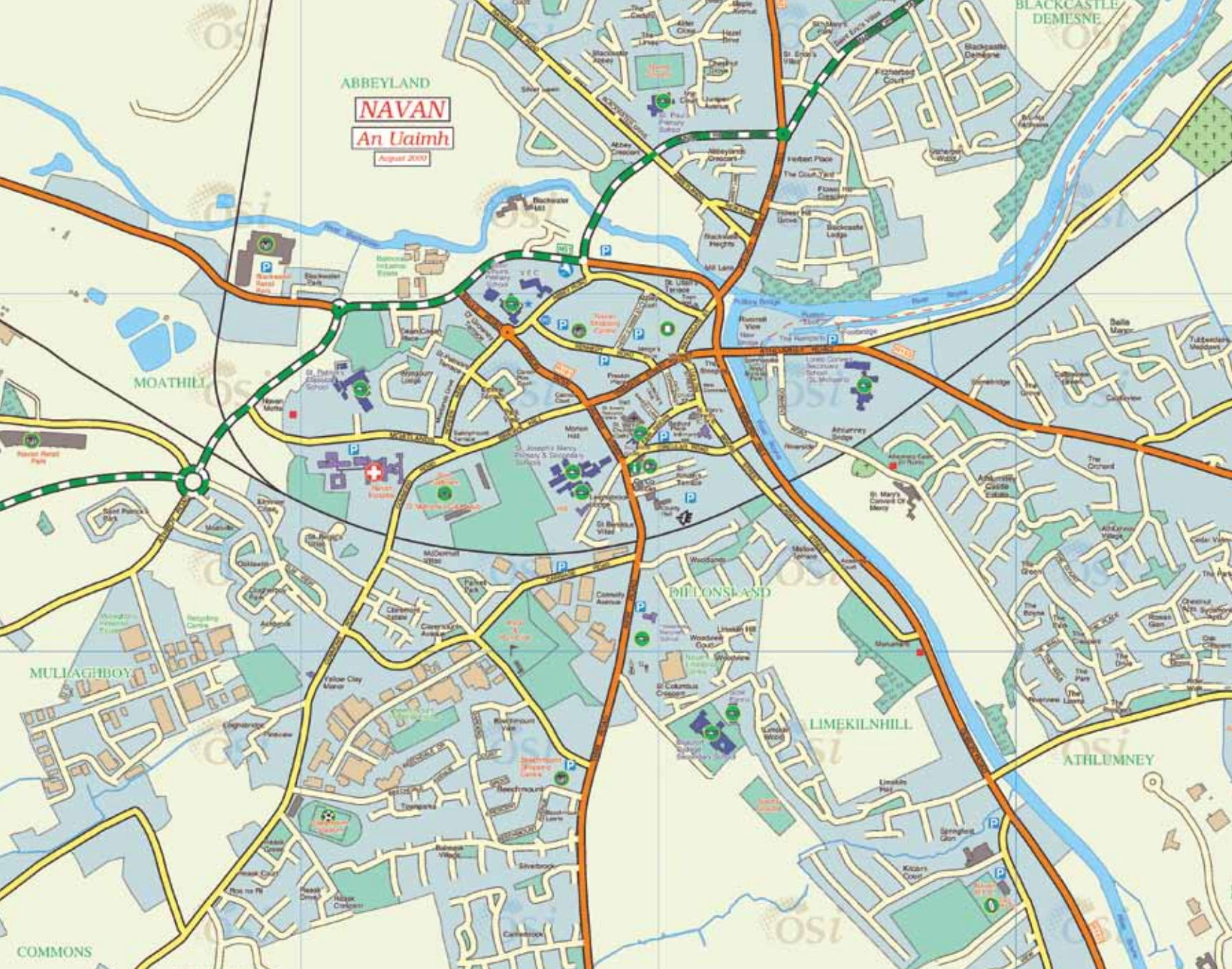
**Francis Ledwidge Museum D4** is the cottage birthplace of World War One poet, Francis E Ledwidge. Tel: 041 9824544, [www.francisledwidge.com](http://www.francisledwidge.com). Open 7 days a week from 10.00 – 13.00 & 13.30 – 17.00. Admission: Adult: €3, Student/Senior: €2, Child: €1, Family: €6.50.

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Meath, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES





## ACTIVITIES





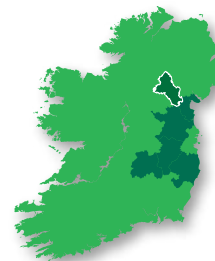
GLASLOUGH VILLAGE

# Monaghan

The visitor to County Monaghan will find an interesting landscape, a friendly atmosphere and activities to suit most interests. Good fishing for the angler, beautiful countryside for horse-riding, walking and cycling, glorious greens for golfing and pitch and putt, entertainment to suit every taste and tempo, plenty of resources for the amateur genealogist tracing their roots, a host of water sports and outdoor pursuits and many fabulous forest parks.

The virtues of being off the beaten tourist track mean that visitors can enjoy their stay in Monaghan being looked after by and in the company of Monaghan people. Pursuing their interests in the company of the locals enable tourists to get a true flavour of the county. The accommodation available leaves nothing to be desired and there are cafés and restaurants to suit every palate and pocket.

The good humour, wit and inquisitive friendliness of Monaghan people makes visitors to the county feel wanted and welcome, while the natural beauty of the area makes them want to linger for longer. Many tourists are inclined to extend their stay and most return year after year to enjoy the magic of Monaghan.



## ACTIVITIES





54 ROSSMORE MEMORIAL, MONAGHAN TOWN



LOUGH MUCKNO

## Monaghan towns and villages

Monaghan is a must for a number of reasons, including its unique attractions, activities, vibrant festivals and great food.

**Ballybay B3** is situated to the south of the county; it is the smallest of the principal towns with a population of 1,052. The town which is located beside Lough Major was founded on the linen industry but is now a prominent angling centre with several excellent waters.

**Carrickmacross B4** is a pretty market town which developed around a Castle built by the Earl of Essex in 1630. The Convent of the St. Louis Nuns now stands on the original castle site. The Nuns were largely responsible for the revival of lace-making skills in the region and the Carrickmacross Lace Co-operative has been instrumental in keeping the tradition alive today. This lace may be purchased at The Lace Gallery, Market Square where demonstrations of this skill can be given by prior request. One of the most imposing buildings in the town is the Roman Catholic Church. Of particular significance in the church are the ten beautiful stained-glass windows which were designed by the renowned artist Harry Clarke in 1925. Other buildings of note include the 18thc St Finbar's Protestant Church with its magnificent steeple, the Courthouse and the historic Magheross Church.

**Castleblayney B4** is situated to the east of the county close to the Armagh border. It has a population of 3,000 and is home to Country and Western Music in the County. The town is well known for its musical links with Big Tom and Paddy Cole. Music nights are held in its many fine pubs. The town was founded on the site of an early Christian Church. Hope Castle was named after Henry Hope, owner of one of the largest uncut diamonds in the world.

**Clones A3** has many buildings and sites of historical interest. The Diamond is dominated by the Church of Ireland and an early 9/10th century High Cross. Other buildings of note in and around the town include the Presbyterian Church, and the ruins of John Wesley's Methodist Church.

**Monaghan Town A3** The capital of the county is Monaghan Town situated to the North of the county. The town is the focal point of the county's furniture industry,

poultry, and mushroom production. It is a lively town with some wonderful architecture that can best be appreciated on foot.

The County Museum is well worth a visit. St. Macartan's Cathedral was built in 1892 and contains interesting Stations of the Cross and tapestries. Other buildings of particular note around the town include the original 17thc, Market House, the Courthouse, St Patrick's Church of Ireland, and the First Monaghan Presbyterian Church.

**Rockcorry B3** developed as a result of the linen industry which was founded by the Corr family. An obelisk-style monument, situated between Cootehill and Rockcorry, was erected by local electors in honour of the 18th c. MP Richard Dawson.

**Inniskeen B4** was the birthplace in 1904 of the poet and novelist, Patrick Kavanagh. Places such as 'Shancoduff Farm' or 'My Black Shanco' and 'Kednaminsha School', which are associated with the poet's work, are all clearly signposted.

**Glaslough Village A3** originated from the presence of Castle Leslie. The castle is now an up market hotel but visitors can walk around the grounds, exploring the splendid gardens of this 405ha estate. Donagh Graveyard contains the ruins of an early Christian Church and High Cross. Donagh's original 12th C. Bronze crucifix is currently used in processions at Monaghan Cathedral.

**Donaghmoyne B4** sign-posted off the Carrickmacross to Castleblaney road, is the location of the Mannan Castle 18-hole Parkland Golf Course. The ruins of Mannan Castle, with its motte and bailey, are still clearly visible.

**Newbliss B3** the home of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, is situated close to Clones. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is a residential arts centre dedicated to the great theatre director Sir Tyrone Guthrie. It is surrounded by 450 acres of forest and lake which give it a seclusion and tranquillity idyllically suited to its new role as a workplace for artists.

**Scotshouse B2** located just outside Clones is a village with an historic past. Remnants of an ancient border - the Black Pigs Dyke run through here and it is the birthplace of Arthur Griffiths. There are two historic graveyards in the village - Drum Swords and Magheratemple.

For more information on Monaghan's towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/monaghan](http://www.discoverireland.ie/monaghan)

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Patrick Kavanagh Rural & Literary Resource Centre B4

Inniskeen, Co Monaghan.  
Tel: 042 9378560  
Email: [infoatpkc@eircom.net](mailto:infoatpkc@eircom.net)  
[www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com](http://www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com)  
Sat Nav: 54.329338, -6.525879

The Centre houses exhibitions on Kavanagh and local history. On view are twelve specially commissioned paintings illustrating Kavanagh's epic poem "The Great Hunger", a miniature model depicting Kavanagh's classic, "A Christmas Childhood", Kavanagh's Death Mask and other memorabilia associated with the poet.

A special feature of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre is our unique tour of Kavanagh Country, which takes in many sites immortalised by Inniskeen's most famous son. Reserve the 26th – 28th November for the Annual Kavanagh Weekend.

**Open:** Tuesday – Friday 11.00 – 16.30; Sunday: 1st June – 30 September from 15.00 – 17.30. Season: February – December.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Student/Senior: €3.



## Wildlife and Heritage Centre A3

Listinny, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 80632  
Email: [info@wildlifeandheritage.com](mailto:info@wildlifeandheritage.com)  
[www.wildlifeandheritage.com](http://www.wildlifeandheritage.com)  
Sat Nav: 54.228514, -6.822681

As an education and rehabilitation facility, the Wildlife Centre preserves wildlife by actively educating people to care for our environment, providing rehabilitation for injured or stressed Wildlife and releasing them back into their natural habitats. Our Heritage collection helps demonstrate how farming methods have contributed to the change in our environment.

**Open:** Bookings only (by phone or via our website). Season: All year.

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Children/Senior/Student: €5.



## Monaghan County Museum A3

1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan Town,  
Co Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 82928  
E-mail: [comuseum@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:comuseum@monaghancoco.ie)  
[www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)  
Sat Nav: 54.249531, -6.973271

Already an award winning museum, following the Council of Europe Museum prize and the Gulbenkian - Norwich Union award, Monaghan museum encapsulates the archaeology of the local region under one roof.

It boasts a comprehensive collection of artifacts from medieval crannógs, native to Monaghan along with perhaps one of the most prominent finds of the region, the Cross of Clogher, dated to the 14th century.

The Museum is also actively involved in many archaeological excavations in the local area.

**Open:** (All year) Monday to Saturday; 11.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## Sam More Open Farm A3

Threemilehouse, Co. Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 57397 or 086 2322601  
Sat Nav: 54.217575, -7.043695

Sam More Open Farm is a treat for all the family. It combines vintage displays and an insight into how life used to be with unusual animals and nature walks. There

are stationary engines, vintage cars and a working forge for the vintage/heritage enthusiasts. Animals include alpacas, miniature donkeys, pygmy goats, different breeds of sheep, pygmy hedgehogs, geese and black swans to name but a few. Other facilities include a picnic area, indoor canteen, nature walk and fairy fort.

**Open:** Daily; 10.00 – 19.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child: €4.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES





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PATRICK KAVANAGH SCULPTURE

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### CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

**Swallow Studios Art & Craft Gallery B4** Annayalla, Castleblayney, County Monaghan. Tel: 042 9746614, [www.lizchristy.com](http://www.lizchristy.com)  
Swallow Studios in the heart of County Monaghan is the workshop of hand weaver Liz Christy and batik artist Louise Loughman. Colour plays a big part in the lives of these two artisans, Liz's hand-woven scarves are well known as truly wearable art which are inspired by Monet's Impressionist paintings.  
Open: Mon – Fri 10.00 – 18.00. Open: Sat/Sun by arrangement.

**Ulster Canal Stores A3** Cara Street, Clones, Co Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 52125/51718.  
The Stores incorporate Clones Lace exhibition and sales; Tea-shop for snacks lunches; Tourist Information, Email facility and local crafts. There are guided Heritage Tours available locally. Open: All year.

**Carrickmacross Lace Gallery B4** Market Square, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. Tel: 042 9664176.  
This cottage industry has flourished and one of its recent great achievements was being featured on the late Princess Diana's wedding dress.

### THEATRE & ARTS

**The Garage Theatre A3** St Davnet's Complex, Armagh Road, Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 81597. [www.garagetheatre.com](http://www.garagetheatre.com)

**The Market House Venue & Gallery A3** Market Street, Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 38162. Email: [themarkethouse@eircom.net](mailto:themarkethouse@eircom.net)

**The Iontas Centre B4** Castleblayney, Co Monaghan. Tel: 042 9753400  
Website: [www.iontascastleblayney.ie](http://www.iontascastleblayney.ie)

### MUSEUMS

**Monaghan Veteran & Vintage Club A3** Ballinode, Co Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 57249.  
The museum illustrates changes in the way of life of country people in the twentieth century. Exhibits include steam and oil driven engines, early tractors, ancient kitchen utensils, old farmhouse furniture, public house artifacts etc. The club has a Field Day held on the first Sunday in July. Open: Viewing by arrangement.

### GARDENS, FOREST PARKS & AMENITY AREAS

**Ballybay Wetlands Centre B3** Ballybay, Co Monaghan. Tel: 042 9748022.  
The wetland environment centre is the first building within the Nature Station master plan conceived by Solearth for the 65 acre farm and wetland area in Co. Monaghan. It provides a new restaurant, seminar rooms and support facilities for the experiencing and studying of wetlands and migratory birds.

**Hilton Park Gardens A3** Hilton Park, Clones, Co.Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 56007, [www.hiltonpark.ie](http://www.hiltonpark.ie)  
Beautiful lakeside landscaped park, with superb trees. Elements include herbaceous border, herb garden, fine ornamental parterre and a 200 yard long crenulated yew hedge. Open: All year: By arrangement only. Admission: €6.

**Rossmore Forest Park A3** Monaghan. Forest and lakeside walks; nature trails; viewing points; picnic areas; toilets and car park.

**Lough Muckno Leisure Park B4** Castleblayney. Several small walks, parking, picnic area, toilets and there is a bar/restaurant in Hope Castle.

**Hollywood Park A3** 7km from Monaghan, (off Ballinode – Scotstown Road). Fishing, nature walks; play area; boating; swimming; picnic area; toilets and car park.

**Dartry Forest (Bellamont Forest Park) B3** Rockcorry (1.5km from Cootehill). Forest Walks.

**Fane River Park B4** Inniskeen. River Walk; Picnic area.

**Billy Fox Memorial Park B3** Shantonagh (4km from Shercock). Forest Walks; Picnic Areas

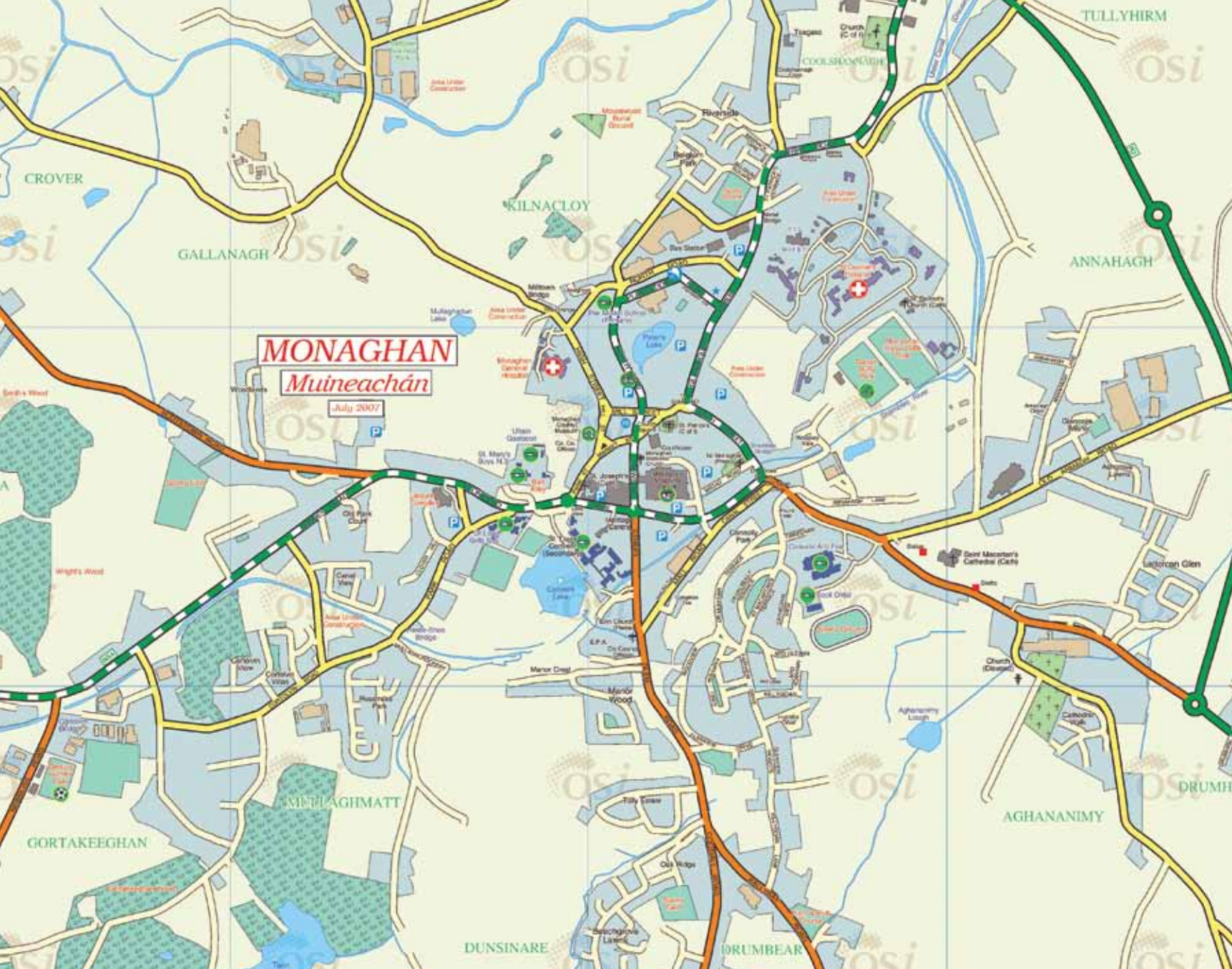
**Emylough Emyvale A3** Recreation Area; Picnic Areas.

For further information on places to visit & activities in Monaghan, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES





## ACTIVITIES





SALLY GAP

# Wicklow

**Renowned for its scenery, Wicklow is a beautiful mix of golden sandy beaches, rolling mountains, wooded glens, cascading waterfalls and lakes.**

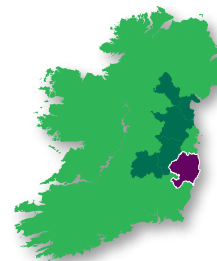
Hidden around every corner are rich and interesting attractions including the 6th century monastic centre of Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Experience the magnificent houses and gardens such as Powerscourt, Kilruddery, Russborough, Avondale and Mount Usher Gardens which prove Wicklow's reputation as the "Garden of Ireland".

Wicklow's landscape provides a perfect backdrop for a range of activities such as golf, walking, angling, outdoor pursuits and equestrian as well as scenic drives.

Wicklow's picturesque towns and villages have attracted many film makers for years producing such films as "Excalibur", "Michael Collins" and "Braveheart". Popular TV series such as "Ballykissangel" and "Glenroe" were filmed in the attractive villages of Avoca and Kilcoole.

The coastal towns of Greystones and Bray offer good pubs, cafes, restaurants and shopping, combined with stunning sea views along the promenade. Or why not explore the heritage town of Baltinglass, in the southwest of the county on the banks of the River Slaney.



## ACTIVITIES

## Wicklow towns and villages

Wicklow, garden of Ireland, renowned for golden sandy beaches and rolling mountains.

**Annamoe G5** is small picturesque village in County Wicklow that is well known for its fishery; there is a small stone humpback bridge which is a popular location to view the beautiful scenery.

**Arklow H5** town is an excellent base to explore the Vale of Avoca and the Wicklow Mountains. The glorious sandy beaches of Brittas Bay and Clogga are well worth a visit. There are many activities you can participate in when you visit Arklow such as angling, golfing and swimming.

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

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

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

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

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

**Bray F6** is a quintessential 19th century town with a promenade & an exhilarating cliff walk and the magnificent Bray Head.

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

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



GLENDALOUGH

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

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

**Rathdrum G5** town, situated high on the western side of the beautiful Avonmore valley, offers majestic views of the Avonmore River, which flows through the Vale of Clara. The town has been the location of films like “Michael Collins”, “A Love Divided” and “Durango”. Avondale House and Forest Park is set on 500 acres. It was the birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell, one of the greatest political leaders of modern Irish history.

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

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

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

For more information on Wicklow towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Glendalough Monastic Site & Visitor Centre

G5 

Glendalough, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 0404 45352/45325

Email: [george.mcclafferty@opw.ie](mailto:george.mcclafferty@opw.ie)

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

Sat Nav: 53.052771, -6.286926

This early Christian ecclesiastical settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Set in a glaciated valley with two lakes, the monastic remains include a superb round tower, stone churches and decorated crosses. The Visitor Centre has an interesting exhibition and an audio-visual show. French, Italian and Spanish guided tours are available all year by advance booking.

**Open:** Daily: Mid October – mid March, 9:30 - 17:00, mid March – mid October 9:30 - 18:00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3.00, Senior/Group: €2, Student/Child: €1, Family: €8.

The Visitor Centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities. Access to the graveyard is very difficult for wheelchair users.



## Powerscourt House, Gardens & Waterfall

F5 

Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2046000

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

Sat Nav: 53.185773-6.186934

One of the world's great gardens, Powerscourt is situated 20km south of Dublin City Centre in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains.

The garden was begun by Richard Wingfield in the 1740's and stretches out over 47 acres. An audio visual brings to life the rich history of the Estate. The house is now home to the best of Irish design in gifts, clothes and furniture. You can also treat yourself to a dish from the Avoca Cookbook in the Terrace Cafe.

**Open:** Daily 9.30 – 17.30. Gardens close at dusk in winter.

Closed 25th & 26th Dec.

**Admission:** Gardens: Adult: €8, Student/Senior: €7, Child under 16: €5, Child under 5 free of charge.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** Partial access to house & gardens.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## The National SEA LIFE Centre

### F6

Strand Road, Bray.  
Tel: 01 2866939  
www.sealife.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.357109, -6.152344

Dive in and be wowed by the many strange, beautiful and fascinating creatures of the deep as you journey

through the amazing underwater world of SEA LIFE. Prepare for astonishing close views of everything from humble starfish to tropical sharks, all in displays which recreate their natural habitats. To get any closer you'd have to get wet!

Hold a crab or touch a starfish in our Rockpool Experience. Watch our fun talks and feed shows every hour on the hour throughout the day. Take part in our kids quiz trail.

**Open:** March – October: Daily, 10.00 – 17.00 (last admissions).

November – February: 11.00 – 16.00 Mon – Fri, 10.00 – 17.00 Sat & Sun.

**Admission:** Adult €12.50, Child €9.50, Senior/Student €11, 2 Adults & 2 Children €38, 2 Adults & 3 Children €40, 2 Adults & 4 Children €42, Children under 3 free. Last admission 1 hour before closing.



## Wicklow's Historic Gaol

### G6

Kilmartin Hill, Wicklow Town.  
Tel: 0404 61599  
www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com  
Sat Nav: 52.97932, -6.038103

Welcome to one of Ireland's best and most interactive experiences... Wicklow's Historic Gaol. On entering the building,

you will be transported back in time and meet face to face with some of the most notorious characters to have walked the floors of this dramatic and history filled building. As you travel back in time, you are entering one of the cruellest, most historically shameful places in Ireland.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Saturday 10.30 – last admission 16.30.

Sunday 11.00 – last admission 16.30. Winter 11.00 – 15.00, check with gaol for details of Friday night tours (opening hours subject to change).

**Admission:** Adult: €7.30, Child: €4.50, Student/Senior: €6, Family (2+3): €19. Group Rate: €6 per adult, €4.25 per child.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** Severely limited.



## Mount Usher Gardens

### G6

Ashford, Co. Wicklow.  
Tel: 0404 40205/40116  
www.mountushergardens.ie  
Sat Nav: N 53 00.543 W 6 06.463

Mount Usher Gardens measure 20 acres with over 5,000 different plants and trees. The Vartry River flows through

them passing over weirs and under several bridges, from where different views of the gardens can be enjoyed. In March-April, thousands of bulbs are flowering in the meadows. March, April, and May are the best months for admiring Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias and Magnolias of all sizes and colours.

The presence of majestic, mature trees among these Eucalyptus, Nothofagus, Oaks and Eucryphia are always impressive, especially when their glorious autumn colours begin to show. Shopping Courtyard and Avoca Café.

**Open:** Daily 10.30 – 17.20. 26th February – October 31st.

**Admission:** Adult: €7.50, Senior/Student: €6, Child (5-15 yrs): €3. Child under 5: Free of charge.



## Russborough House & Demesne

### F4

Blessington. Co. Wicklow.  
Tel: 045 865239  
www.russborough.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.135517, - 6.572386

Russborough House is beautifully maintained and lavishly furnished,

containing fine furniture, tapestries, porcelain and much of the Beit collection of paintings. Magnificent views of the Blessington Lakes and Wicklow Mountains. Parkland walks for the more energetic and a 20,000 square feet Maze for the most adventurous. New for 2011 is a self guided interactive exhibition featuring interactive touch screens, audio handsets, 3D photographs and cinema projection. Also craft workshops including a weaver and a blacksmith with a working forge. Kitchen Garden Cafe & souvenir shop.

**Open:** Daily from May – September from 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €10. Senior/Student over 16: €8. Child under 16 years: €5. Child under 5: Free of charge. Family ticket: €25.

## ACTIVITIES





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AVOCA



WICKLOW HILLS

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### ABBEYS, HOUSES & CASTLES:

**Baltinglass Abbey G4** Baltinglass. The Abbey is situated on the east bank of the River Slaney on the North side of Baltinglass town. The six beautiful gothic arches on either side of the nave, supported by alternate round and square pillars, are a noteworthy feature of the ruins.

**Avondale House & Gardens G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46111, [www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie). Open: April/May/June & Sept 12.00 – 16.30, Tues – Sat, July & August 11.30 – 17.00 daily. October open weekends only, open Bank Holiday Monday's.

Admission: Adult: €7, Concession: €6.50, Child: €4.50, Family: €20 (2+2).

Grounds only car parking: during open season €5, per car.

**Joyce's House F6** Martello Tower, Bray, Tel: 01 2868407. Please contact directly for opening times & prices.

**Killruddery House & Gardens F6** Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 286 3405, [www.killruddery.com](http://www.killruddery.com). Open: April, weekends only, 9.30 – 17.00, May 1st – Sept 30th 9.30 – 17.00, daily. Admission: Adult: €10, Concession: €8, Child: (3-12 yrs) €3, Family: €18 (2+2). Gardens only: Adult: €6, Concession: €5, Child: (3-12yrs) Free of charge.

**Altidore Castle F6** Kilpeddar. Tel: 087 7601369. Open: Mar 5th - 25th, May 1st – 31st, and June 1st – 10th daily 13.00 – 17.00.

**The Black Castle G6** ruin stands on a rocky promontory over the sea, at the eastern side of the town. There is a fine vantage point for views over the town and the coast of North Wicklow from the ruins.

### ART CENTRES & GALLERIES:

**Avoca Painting School & Gallery G5** Knockanode, Avoca. Tel 0402 35555, [www.avocapaintingschool.com](http://www.avocapaintingschool.com)

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

**Courthouse Arts Centre H5** Tinahely. Tel: 0402 38529, [www.tinahely-courthouse.ie](http://www.tinahely-courthouse.ie)

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

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

**The Space Inside Arts Centre G6** Wicklow Town. Tel: 085 1138367.

**Arklow Visual Art Gallery H5** Arklow. Tel: 0402 32732, [www.arklowvisualarts.com](http://www.arklowvisualarts.com)

**Cherrylane Fine Arts Gallery F6** Killincarrig, Delgany. Tel: 01 2875565, [www.cherrylanefinearts.com](http://www.cherrylanefinearts.com)

**Kilmantin Art Gallery G6** Bridge St, Wicklow town. Tel: 0404 61980.

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

**The Wicklow Gallery G6** Rathnew. Tel: 0404 64633, [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)

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

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

### CRAFT CENTRE

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

### MUSEUMS

**Arklow Maritime Museum H5** Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, Tel: 0402 32868, [www.arklowmaritimemuseum.com](http://www.arklowmaritimemuseum.com). Open Tuesday – Saturday from 10.00 – 17.00. Admission: Free of charge.

**Greenan Farm Museum & Maze G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46000, [www.greenanmaze.com](http://www.greenanmaze.com) Open: Please contact directly, & see website for workshops taking place throughout the season. Admission: Adult: €8, Children over 3 years: €5.50 (Children under 3 go free), Family: €23 (2 adults & 2 children), extra child: €3.50.

### NATURAL ATTRACTION

**Parnell National memorial Park G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46262. Parnell National Memorial Park has, since its creation proved to be an outstanding tourist amenity, with its bronze statue of Parnell, its walks, ponds, free car park and restful seating areas. Well worth a visit!!

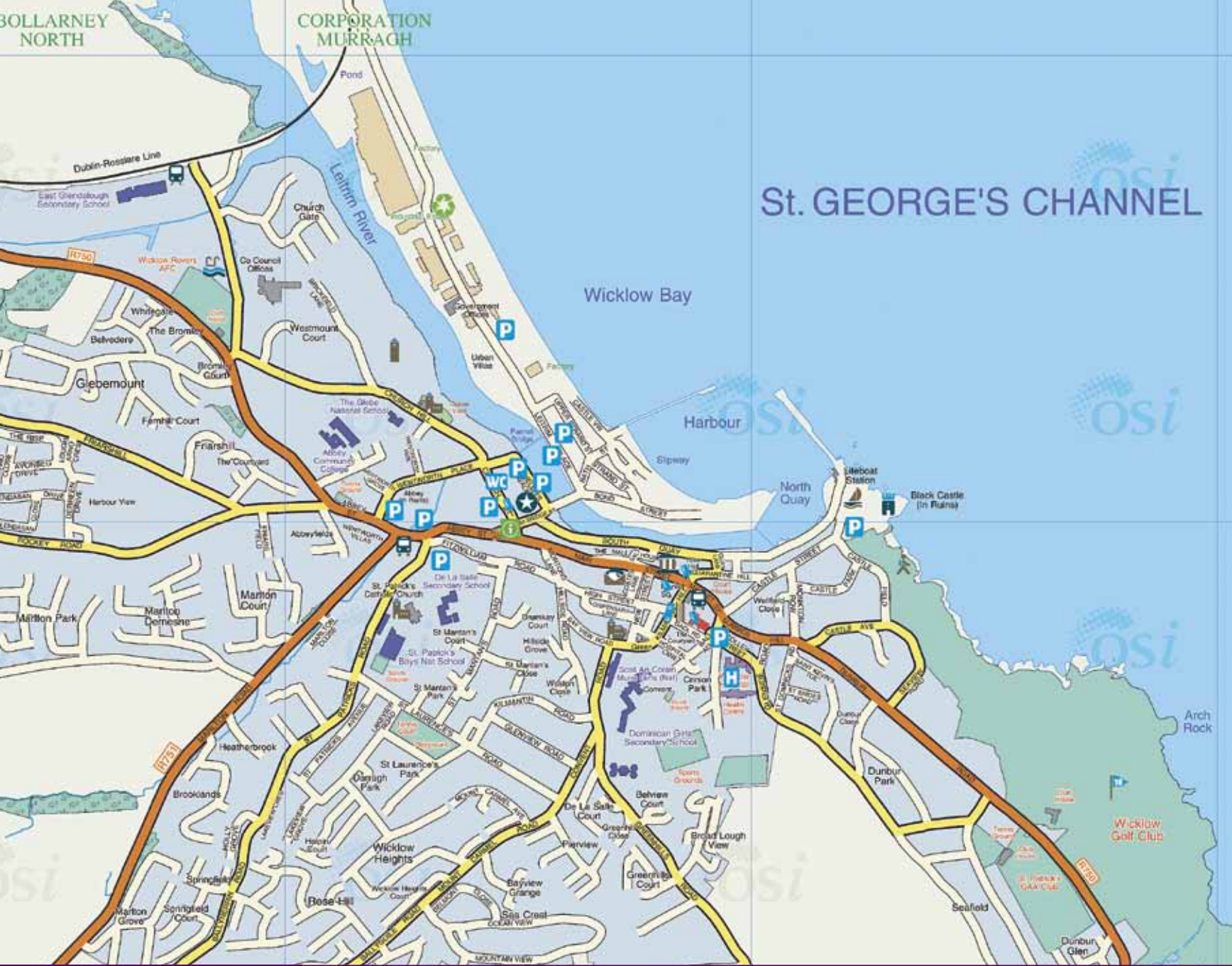
**Sculpture in Woodland G6** Ashford. Tel: 01 2011111. Unique in Ireland, Sculpture in Woodland was formed to develop a greater awareness of wood as an artistic medium. 20 sculptures are located here, by Irish & International artists

**The Mottee Stone at Avoca G5** Legend suggests that Fionn MacCumhail hurled the stone from the top of Lugnaquilla Mountain. However, geologists would suggest that it is one of many erratic boulders that were carried in the great ice flows of the ice age and then deposited as the ice melted.

**Wicklow Mountains National Park G5** Upper Lake, Glendalough. Tel: 0404 45425, [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie). The National Park, which covers much of upland Wicklow, contains an area of approximately 20,000 hectares (49,421 acres). This includes large areas of mountain blanket bogs, including the Lugnaquilla, Liffey Head Bog complexes and Glendalough Wood Nature Reserve. The National Park provides protection for the landscape and wildlife, from rare orchids to the wild and beautiful Peregrine Falcon.

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Wicklow, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

## ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES





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BRITTAS BAY NORTH



TEMPLETOWN BLUE FLAG BEACH, CO. LOUTH

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# Beaches on East on Dublin's Doorstep

You are never too far away from a beach on Dublin's doorstep with spectacular beaches in Louth, Meath & Wicklow waiting to be explored, these include 5 Blue Flag beaches (Year 2010).

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



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

The following is a listing of Blue Flag Beaches in the Region:

## County Louth

- > **Carlingford:** Templetown
- > **Clogherhead:** Clogherhead, Port

## County Wicklow

- > **Arklow:** Brittas Bay North
- > **North Wicklow:** Greystones



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

## Green Coast Beaches

### County Meath

- > **Mornington**

For more information on the Blue Flag please contact:



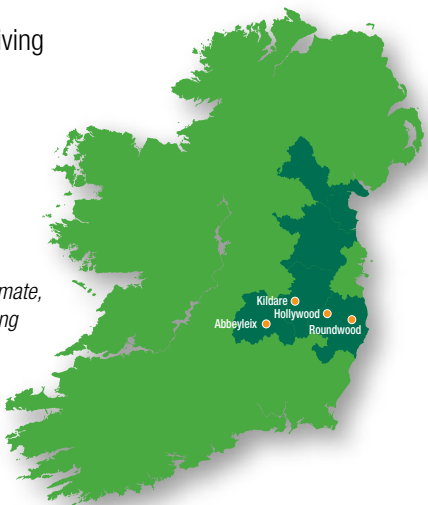
**An Taisce:** Tel: 01 4002210.  
Email: [blueflag@antaisce.org](mailto:blueflag@antaisce.org) Web: [www.beachawards.ie](http://www.beachawards.ie)

## ACTIVITIES

# Touring Routes

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

*Please note that the length and recommended time of drives are approximate, depending on number of sites visited along routes and time spent there. Routes can be travelled in any direction and from any starting point, map illustrations are intended as a guide only, and routes should be used in conjunction with reference to a good road map of Ireland.*



## TOUR OF COUNTY LAOIS

**Route 1: Borris in Ossory »  
Abbeyleix » Stradbally » Emo »  
Mountmellick » Portlaoise**

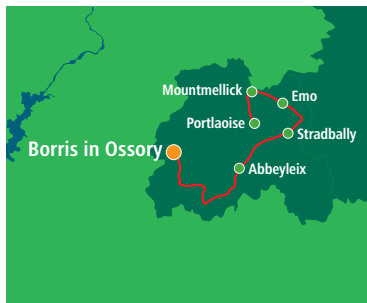
Distance: 103km

This tour starts in **Borris in Ossory** which lies beneath the beautiful Slieve Bloom Mountains, take the R435 signposted Rathdowney, you will pass through Ballybrophy and on to Donaghmore, watch out for a brown sign for Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum on the right.

From Donaghmore continue to Rathdowney on the R435 to do some shopping at the Rathdowney Shopping Outlet.

From Rathdowney take the R433 signposted Abbeyleix to Ballacolla. This is a late eighteenth Century, well kept village, which has access to the Slieve Bloom Mountains.

From Ballacolla turn right onto to R434 to travel to Durrow, turn right onto the N80 signposted Cork to enter the village, one of Durrow's finest features is the suite of buildings around the green under the gates and a battlemented wall which in turn



encloses a tastefully designed modern primary school and the important castle (1713 -32), one of the last large pre-Palladian houses to be built in Ireland.

From Durrow, travel back the N80 signposted Dublin, turn right onto an unnamed road signposted Ballinakill. In Ballinakill turn left at sign for Heywood Gardens, which were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Take a left for Timahoe & Heywood Gardens are on the right.

Leaving Heywood Gardens, turn left, then next right onto the R432, travel to the designated heritage town of Abbeyleix, while there visit the award winning library and Abbeyleix Heritage House.

From **Abbeyleix**, follow the brown signposts to Timahoe, on entering the village turn right to see the Round Tower which was built in the mid 12th century and is one of the finest in Ireland.

From Timahoe, continue straight on an unnamed road, follow signs for Stradbally on entering the village turn left to visit the Steam Museum, with some exhibits dating back over 60 years.

From **Stradbally** you can take a detour on the N80 signposted Port Laoise, you will see a brown sign post to the right to visit the Rock of Dunamaise, a magnificent example of the remains of a Celtic fortification. Leaving Dunamaise, head back on the N80 to Stradbally, on entering Stradbally take a left on to the R427 for Vicarstown.

Turn right for Vicarstown Bridge where tranquility is easily found along the banks of the Grand Canal, Turn back on the road that you came & continue straight ahead, follow signs for Emo. Continue on the R422, signposted Mount Mellick. Continue on to **Emo**, where you can visit Emo Court, designed by James Gandon in 1790 for the Earls of Portarlington.

From Emo travel to **Mountmellick** on the R422, where Mountmellick Museum showcases Mountmellick embroidery that was developed in the 1800's. The Museum also tells the story of Mountmellick's rich Quaker and industrial history.

From Mountmellick, take the N80 to **Portlaoise** the capital of county Laois, where our tour ends in this vibrant town where there are interesting shops, great restaurants & a buzzing nightlife.

## THE EXCALIBUR DRIVE

**Route 2: Roundwood »  
Sally Gap » Enniskerry »  
Bray » Greystones »  
Newtownmountkennedy »  
Roundwood**

Distance: 67km

This drive is based around the north of County Wicklow and is 66Km round trip. It passes through various towns and villages in which the film Excalibur was filmed. This drive starts and finishes in the town of **Roundwood**.



## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES



## THE EXCALIBUR DRIVE CONTINUED

Roundwood is reputedly the highest village in Ireland. At 238m above sea level it is surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in the country.

From Roundwood follow the drive north past Victoria's Way, a recreation space for adults including several hand carved black granite sculptures from India. The drive veers left onto the **R759** and on your left passes Lough Tay and the dramatic cliffs of Luggala Estate, which is known locally as the Guinness Estate. At the **Sally Gap** crossroads the Excalibur Drive takes a turn right and you follow the military road past the upper and lower **Lough Bray** towards the **Glencree Valley**. Along the Military Road several army barracks were established and the Glencree Barracks is one of them, the barracks are now the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. Before coming to the Centre the drive takes a **turn right** along the Glencree River and this small winding road takes you through the valley towards Powerscourt Waterfall. The **Powerscourt Waterfall** is the highest in Ireland tumbling from a height of 120 meters, it is open daily to visitors and is a must see.

Head back to the R760, next on the drive is the Powerscourt Estate near the pretty village of **Enniskerry**. Powerscourt Estate is one of the world's greatest gardens. There is also a terrace café that you can sit back and relax in and have a little something while admiring the beautiful gardens around you.

Next the drive takes you from the leafy setting of Enniskerry on the R117, N11 & R761 (follow signposts for Bray) into the seaside resort of **Bray**. Bray is the longest established seaside town in Ireland. There is a long sand and shingle beach to walk on which is fronted by a spacious Esplanade complete with bandstand.

The drive itself heads south into Greystones on the R761 and you pass **Killruddery House** and Gardens, the most extensive surviving French style garden in Ireland. Follow the sign posts for Greystones, a charming seaside town, with its untouched old style seafront of Georgian and Victorian houses. Behind the seafront runs the attractive Main Street with plenty of excellent shops, coffee shops and restaurants. The drive continues south along the coast road R762, R774 & R761 (follow signposts for Kilcoole) into the village of **Kilcoole**, which is famed for its television series 'Glenroe'. Glenroe farm is an open farm and was one of the locations in which the series was filmed.

Next on the Excalibur drive on Kilcoole main Street turn right onto unnamed road where you will pass the world famous Druids Glen Golf Club which has hosted both the Murphy's Irish Open and the Seve Trophy.

The drive continues to the village of **Newtownmountkennedy**, Ireland's longest place name, turn right onto main street R772, turn right onto the R765 (signposted Roundwood) Turn left onto the R764 entering Roundwood where you can round off your journey with some bar food and atmosphere in one of the cosy pubs in the village.

## MONASTERIES OF LONG AGO: WICKLOW & KILDARE

**Route 3: Glendalough » Castledermot » Moone » Kildare**

Distance: 91km

The Dublin's Doorstep Region has a great range of outstanding monastic sites, this driving tour begins in Glendalough Co. Wicklow & finishes in Kildare town.

Beginning in **Glendalough**, set in one of the most beautiful valleys in the Wicklow Mountains and not much more than an hour's drive from Dublin, it remains one of the most breathtaking religious sites in Europe and is an extremely popular location for modern pilgrims, picnickers and mountaineers. St. Kevin established a hermitage there in the 6th century and it quickly developed to become a great monastic establishment. Sheltered by dramatic mountains on either side and with two lakes on the floor of the valley, the monastic ruins include a round tower and the remains of more than seven churches, many of them with interesting romanesque sculpture.

From Glendalough take the R756, sign posted Wicklow Gap over the mountains to Hollywood. Leaving Hollywood take the N81 signposted Baltinglass. At Baltinglass, Cistercian monks settled in 1148 and introduced gothic architecture. Overlooking the River Slaney, part of the nave of their church still stands, displaying a fascinating merging of native romanesque and continental gothic styles.

Leaving Baltinglass take the N81 direction Tullow, turn right onto unnamed road, signposted Castledermot. At **Castledermot**, you meet the first of the Celtic crosses. Two of them stand in the churchyard, carved from massive blocks of granite and decorated with relief sculpture of scenes from the Scriptures and marvellous interlacing abstract forms, also in the churchyard; there is a Romanesque Archway and a 20 metre tower.

Leaving Castledermot take the N9 signposted Dublin, turn right at the Brown sign post for Moone. After this right turn on entering **Moone** village, turn left and go through the entrance with two stone pillars, follow the signposts for Moone High Cross which is one of the finest Celtic crosses in the world. Tall and slender, it is covered with delightful stylised people and animals, real and imaginary.

Leaving Moone village turn left onto R415 then immediate right onto the N9 direction Dublin, then turn left onto R415 sign posted Kildare. Keep following the signs for **Kildare** and on entering the town head for the centre where you will find a round tower and a cathedral on a hill. They stand on the site of the nunnery founded by the great St. Brigid in the 5th century and still sacred to her memory. The round tower is one of very few provided with stairs and offers a fantastic view. The cathedral dates to the 13th century and is in active use. Nearby are the Curragh race course, the Irish National Stud and its gardens, all well worth a visit. The busy town of Kildare is liberally supplied with shops including the Kildare Outlet Centre, pubs, restaurants and hotels.



## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES

## BOYNE VALLEY TOUR

**Route 2: Drogheda » Slane » Kells » Oldcastle » Trim » Drogheda**

Distance: 189km

This tour begins in **Drogheda**, while there visit Millmount Museum which is the town museum and has won an International Gulbenkian Museum Award.

Beaulieu House, Gardens & Motor Museum in Beaulieu Demesne was formed in 1169 by the Blessed Oliver branch of the Plunkett family. Take the R166 from Beaulieu towards Termonfeckin after 4kms take a right at Beaulieu Cross and Beaulieu House is about 1km down the road.

Leaving Beaulieu House return to Drogheda and take the R132 north to Monasterboice to visit the remains of the monastic settlement and round tower founded by Saint Buite in the fifth century. The remains consist of an old graveyard, two churches, three sculptured crosses, two early grave slabs and a sundial. The cross nearest the graveyard entrance is Muirdeach's Cross, an outstanding example of high crosses of the Early Christian period in Ireland.

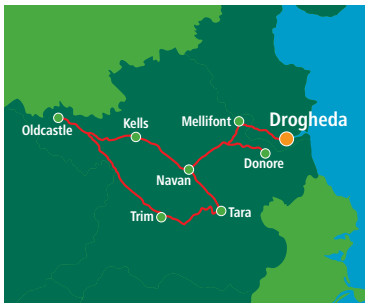
From Monasterboice take the R168 south take the Old Mellifont Rd on your right which lead to the Old Mellifont abbey. Take the Old Mellifont Rd back to the R138. Turn right on the R138 heading south to the M1 junction.

At the M1 junction take the N51 towards **Slane**. Slane Castle located on the N51 Navan Rd. and is set on the grounds of a 1,500 acre estate through which flows the River Boyne, a few kilometres upstream from the site of the Battle of the Boyne. Over the last quarter of a century Slane Castle has become internationally famous for its summer concerts. Further along the N51 is the Francis Ledwidge Museum. The museum is the cottage birthplace of World War I poet, Francis E. Ledwidge.

From Slane take the N51 to Navan and visit the Solstice Arts Centre. It is a symbol of the belief and pride that Co. Meath feels about its cultural and artistic life. From Navan take the N3 to **Kells**, an area steeped in history. It is well worth taking a look at the high cross and the area in which The Book of Kells originated but is now housed in Trinity College Dublin. There is a good selection of coffee shops and restaurants here so it is an ideal spot to stop for a break.

From Kells take the R163 to **Oldcastle** and visit the Loughcrew Cairns, also known as the Hills of the Witch, are a group of Neolithic passage tombs dating to 3000 BC. While there visit Loughcrew House & Gardens, a serene garden of vistas and unexpected features, the mighty ancient yew walk and the martyr St. Oliver Plunkett's family church create a spirit of mystery and dark history.

From Oldcastle take the R154 to **Trim**. In Trim town stands Trim Castle, it is the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland and was constructed over a 30-year period by Hugh de Lacy.



## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

Carry on to Bective Abbey, about 8kms from Trim on the R161. Bective Abbey was founded in 1147 by Murchadh O Melaghin, King of Meath, for the Cistercians, and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. From Bective, follow local roads to the Hill of Tara. Though best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage tomb was constructed there.

From Tara go north towards the N3 and on to Navan and then take the N51 through Slane to Oldbridge. En route follow the signs for Battle of the Boyne Site on your right. The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre is located in the recently restored 18th century Oldbridge House, which is on the battle site. Leaving Battle of the Boyne site follow the signs to Brú na Bóinne via Donore Village. Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre is on the L1601.

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full-scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. All admission to Newgrange and Knowth is through the visitor centre, there is no direct access to these monuments.

**Please note:** intended visitors to the monuments of Newgrange and Knowth are advised to arrive early in the day at the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre.

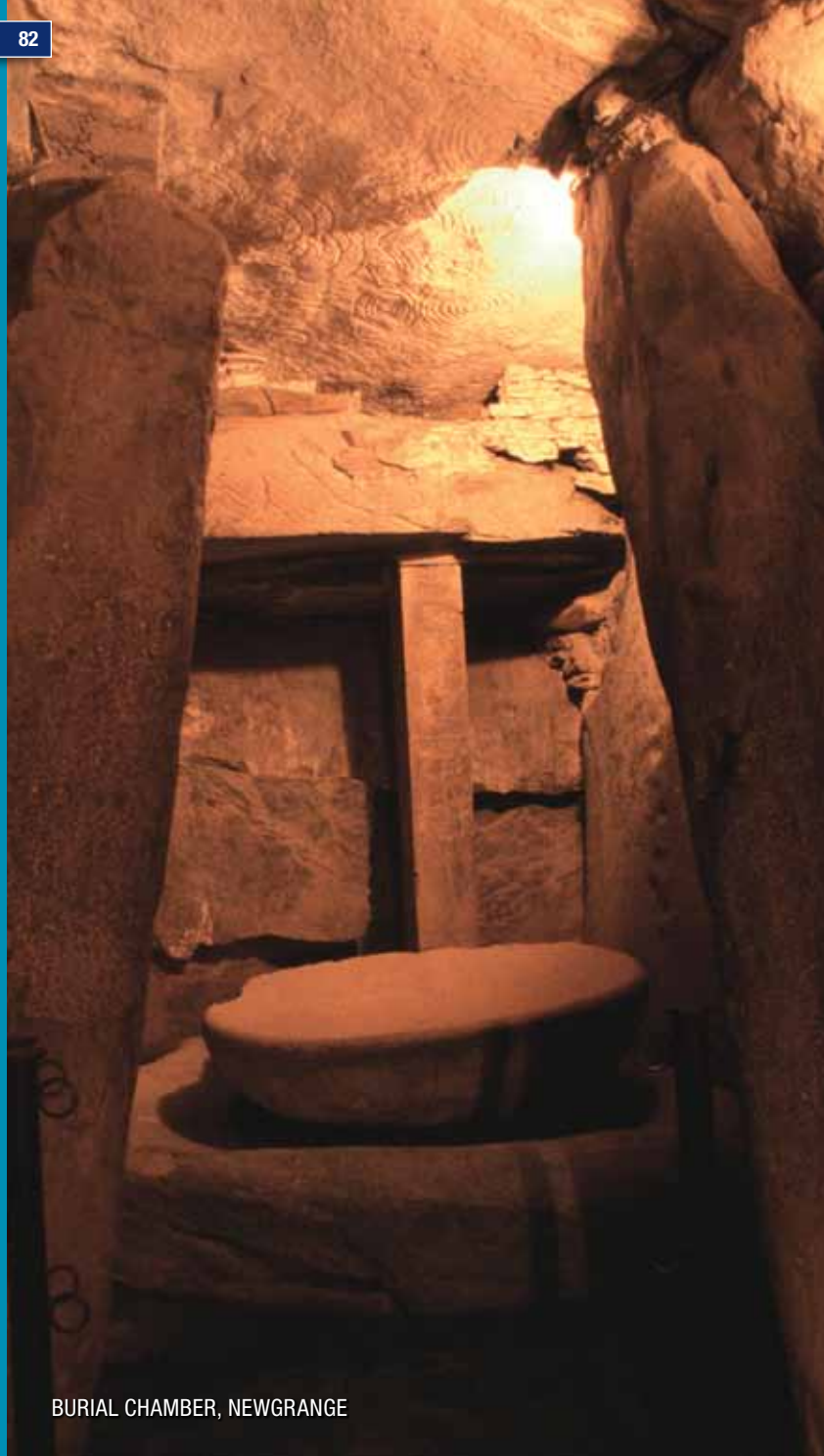
**For more information on this tour, please contact Brú na Bóinne.**  
**Tel: 041 9880305 or Dundalk Tourist Office. Tel: 042 9335484.**



DECORATED ENTRANCE STONE, NEWGRANGE

## ACTIVITIES





BURIAL CHAMBER, NEWGRANGE

# Heritage & Culture

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

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

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

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

## The land of saints and scholars

Ireland's early Christian heritage is steeped in learning and spirituality, a heritage which continues today, with opportunities to visit religious sites, unique Celtic crosses and religious settlements.

Be amazed by our ancient Christian heritage, the workmanship of the Book of Kells, the historic monasteries and churches throughout the countryside like Clonmacnoise, the Boyne Valley and Glendalough. It's all there, for those looking to get away from it all. Our castles and historic houses, heritage attractions, museums and properties of historical interest are the perfect places to visit for a family day out or a weekend break with friends.

## ACTIVITIES

| GENEALOGY CENTRES ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |  |  |                  |  |
|--|--|--|------------------|--|
|  | Name                                   | Address                                    | Telephone        | Web Site   |
| KILDARE                                | Kildare Heritage and Genealogy Company | Riverbank, Main St, Newbridge, Co. Kildare | 045 448350       | <a href="http://www.kildare.ie/genealogy">www.kildare.ie/genealogy</a>                     |
| LOUTH                                  | MC Research                            | Castlebellingham, Co. Louth                | 042 9372046      | <a href="http://www.mc-research.com">www.mc-research.com</a>                               |
| MEATH                                  | Trace your Meath Ancestors             | Trim, Co. Meath                            | 046 9436633      | <a href="http://www.meathroots.com">www.meathroots.com</a>                                 |
| MONAGHAN                               | Monaghan Ancestral Research            | 6 Tully, Monaghan                          | N/A              | Postal enquiries only  |
|  | Cassandra Hand Centre                  | Clones, Co. Monaghan                       | 047 20626        | Email: <a href="mailto:Josephine@cassandrahand.ie">Josephine@cassandrahand.ie</a>          |
|  | Monaghan County Library                | Clones, Co. Monaghan                       | 047 74713/ 51143 | Email: <a href="mailto:clennon@monaghancoco.ie">clennon@monaghancoco.ie</a>                |
| WICKLOW                                | Wicklow Family History Centre          | Wicklow, Co. Wicklow                       | 0404 20126       | <a href="http://www.wicklow.ie/familyhistorycentre">www.wicklow.ie/familyhistorycentre</a> |



| HERITAGE VISITOR CENTRES & SITES ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |   |   |             |   |
|---|---|---|-------------|---|
|   | Name  | Address                                   | Telephone   | Web Site  |
| KILDARE   | Kildare Town Heritage Centre                        | Market House, Market Square, Kildare Town | 045 530672  | <a href="http://www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage">www.kildare.ie/kildareheritage</a>  |
|   | Athy Heritage Centre                                | Emily Square, Athy                        | 059 8633075 | <a href="http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie">www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie</a>  |
|   | Kilcullen Heritage Centre                           | Kilcullen                                 | 045 481613  | –   |
|   | Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park                 | Lullymore, Rathangan                      | 045 870238  | <a href="http://www.lullymoreheritagepark.com">www.lullymoreheritagepark.com</a>  |
|   | Maynooth Castle                                     | Maynooth                                  | 01 6286744  | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
| LAOIS   | Castletown House                                    | Celbridge                                 | 01 6288252  | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a> / <a href="http://www.castletown.ie">www.castletown.ie</a> |
|   | Emo Court House & Gardens                           | Emo                                       | 057 8626573 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Abbeyleix Heritage House                            | Abbeyleix                                 | 057 8731653 | <a href="http://www.heritagehousemuseum.com">www.heritagehousemuseum.com</a>  |
|   | Heywood   | Ballinakill                               | 057 8733563 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
| LOUTH   | Carlingford Heritage Centre                         | Carlingford                               | 042 9373454 | <a href="http://www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com">www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com</a>  |
|   | Old Mellifont Abbey                                 | Tullyallen, Drogheda                      | 041 9826459 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
| MEATH   | Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre (Newgrange and Knowth) | Tours from visitor centre at Donore       | 041 9880300 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Trim Visitor Centre                                 | Castle Street, Trim                       | 046 9438619 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Battle of the Boyne - Oldbridge Estate              | Oldbridge                                 | 041 9809950 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Dowth   | Dowth                                     | 041 9880305 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Hill of Tara  | Tara                                      | 046 9025903 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Trim Castle   | Trim                                      | 046 9438619 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
| MONAGHAN  | Loughcrew Cairns                                    | Corstown, Oldcastle                       | 049 8542009 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Monaghan County Museum                              | 1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan Town            | 047 82928   | <a href="http://www.monaghan.ie">www.monaghan.ie</a>  |
| WICKLOW   | Agricultural Heritage Display Centre                | Enniskerry                                | 01 2862423  | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
|   | Bray Heritage Centre                                | Main Street, Bray                         | 01 2867128  | <a href="http://www.braytowncouncil.ie">www.braytowncouncil.ie</a>  |
|   | Dwyer McAllister Cottage                            | Dunlavin                                  | 0404 45325  | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |
|   | Glendalough Visitor Centre                          | Glendalough                               | 0404 45352  | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.com">www.heritageireland.com</a>  |

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES





KITE SURFING

# Adventure & Water Sports

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

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

If its high octane you're into then why not go for some motor racing lessons in Kildare or drive a Porche 911 in Monaghan. Get to grips with the basics on Quad bikes or some of the go karting tracks throughout the region. If that's not enough to satisfy you why not go for helicopter flying lessons, all to found in Dublin's Doorstep.

With mountains and moors, rivers and lakes, canals and bogs the outdoor enthusiast is spoiled in this part of Ireland. Most of the fishing harbours on the east coast, from Carlingford to Arklow, have sailing clubs and several offer instruction. Facilities and space for sail-boarding and canoeing, with easy access and good accommodation, extend over the entire coast. Many miles of superb beaches, gently sloping and safe, welcome swimmers old and young. Many of them hold the coveted Blue Flag award for safety and comfort.

## ACTIVITIES



East on Dublin's Doorstep  
Pocket Guide

| ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                     |  |                                       |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|   | Name                                | Description  | Address                               | Telephone & Web                                  |
| KILDARE                                       | European Helicopter Academy         | Flying lessons                                       | Weston Airport, Leixlip               | 01 6217370<br>www.westonairport.com              |
|   | Eirecopter                          | Pleasure helicopter flights                          | Leixlip                               | 01 6280088<br>www.eirecopter.ie                  |
|   | Mondello Park                       | International motorsport venue                       | Donore, Naas                          | 045 860200<br>www.mondello.ie                    |
|   | Moyvalley Adventure Zone            | Off road driving, archery, clay pigeon shooting      | Moyvalley                             | 087 6170003<br>www.maz.ie                        |
|   | Abbeyfield Farm Country Pursuits    | Clay pigeon shooting, air rifle & archery            | Abbeyfield, Clane                     | 045 982560/086 8164130<br>www.abbeyfieldfarm.com |
|   | Freedom on the Water                | Barge tours on the Grand Canal                       | Monasterevan                          | 045 529410<br>www.kildare.ie/freedomonthewater   |
|   | Canalways Ireland                   | Barge hire   | Spencer Bridge, Rathangan             | 045 524646/087 2433879<br>www.canalways.ie       |
|   | Jennifers Travels                   | Narrowboat hire                                      | Monasterevan                          | 086 3425546                                      |
| LAOIS   | Kilvahan Horse Drawn Caravans       | Horse drawn caravans                                 | Coolrain                              | 057 87 35178<br>www.horsedrawncaravans.com       |
|   | Fossey Mountain Springs             | Archery & western style horse riding                 | Timahoe                               | 057 8627320<br>www.fosseymountainsprings.com     |
|   | Supershot Paintball                 | Paintball  | Cork Road, Stradbally                 | 086 3777499<br>www.supershot.ie                  |
|   | Barrowline Cruisers                 | Cruiser hire   | Vicarstown, Portlaoise                | 057 8626060<br>www.barrowline.ie                 |
|   | XL Karting                          | Karting  | Clonminham Bus Park, Portlaoise       | 057 8670881<br>www.xlkarting.com                 |
| LOUTH   | Ardee Shooting Grounds              | Clay pigeon shooting                                 | Ardee                                 | 041 6853711<br>www.ardeeshootinggrounds.com      |
|   | Neptune Adventure Centre            | Large range of outdoor water & land based activities | Clogherhead                           | 01 2569337<br>www.neptuneireland.com             |
|   | Funtasia                            | Waterpark & amusement rides                          | Donore Rd, Drogheda                   | 041 9898000<br>www.funtasia.ie                   |
|   | Carlingford Adventure Centre        | Large range of outdoor water & land based activities | Thosal St, Carlingford                | 042 9373100<br>www.carlinfoadventure.com         |
|   | Carlingford Lough Cruises           | Pleasure Lough cruises                               | Carlingford                           | 048 41753425                                     |
|   | White River Park                    | Go Karting   | Collon                                | 041 9819100<br>www.whiteriver.ie                 |
| MEATH   | Athboy Karting                      | Karting, archery, rifle range                        | Addinstown, Delvin                    | 086 8068776<br>www.athyboykartingcentre.ie       |
|   | Loughcrew Adventure Course          | Large range of activities including a zip wire!      | Oldcastle                             | 049 8541356<br>www.loughcrew.com                 |
|   | Hot Air Balloon Trips               | Pleasure flights                                     | Trim, Newgrange, Slane, Kells & Navan | 01 4433211<br>www.balloonflights.ie              |
|   | Newgrange Falconry (By appointment) | Falconry displays and lessons                        | Donore                                | 086 8866738<br>www.newgrangefalconry.com         |

ACTIVITIES





| ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |   |   |                         |  |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|--|
|   | Name                                      | Description   | Address                 | Telephone & Web                                |
| MEATH   | The Zone, Extreme Activity Centre         | Large range of activities incl. karting, archery & paintball              | Mullaghboy, Ashbourne   | 046 9071623<br>www.thezone.ie                  |
|   | Puddenhill Activity & Karting Centre      | Karting & various activities  | Pudden Hill, Ashbourne  | 01 8354444<br>www.puddenhill.ie                |
|   | Irish Aquatic Sport Centre                | Wake boarding & waterskiing   | Summerhill              | 086 6016340<br>www.wakeboardingwaterskiing.com |
| MONAGHAN                                      | A.W.O.L Paintball Games                   | Paintball, canoeing, kayaking, archery, abseiling, orienteering           | Killybrone              | 047 86224<br>www.letsgoawol.com                |
|   | Lough Muckno Waterski & Wakeboarding Club | Waterskiing & wakeboarding  | Castleblayney           | 087 7402806<br>www.skimuckno.com               |
|   | Irish Country Quads                       | Quad biking, archery, clay pigeon shooting, shuffleboard                  | Inniskeen               | 042 9378997<br>www.irishcountryquads.com       |
|   | Mourne Clay Pigeon Shooting               | Clay pigeon shooting  | Castleblayney           | 042 9745953<br>www.clayshooting.ie             |
|   | Rally School Ireland                      | Motor sport activities  | Scotstown               | 047 89098<br>www.rallyschoolireland.ie         |
|   | Tanagh Outdoors Education Centre          | Canoeing, kayaking, archery, banana boating, orienteering, assault course | Rockcorry               | 049 5552988<br>www.monaghanvec.ie              |
| WICKLOW                                       | Eco Adventure Ireland                     | Large range of activities   | Near Enniskerry         | 01 2767988<br>www.ecoadventureireland.ie       |
|   | Hilltop Sporting Club                     | Clay pigeon shooting & archery  | Newtown-mountkennedy    | 01 2818025<br>www.hilltopshootingsports.com    |
|   | Skirmish Paintball Pursuits               | Paintballing  | Roundwood               | 01 2018035<br>www.skirmish.ie                  |
|   | Rathcon Farm Activities                   | Laser skirmish, clay pigeon shooting                                      | Grangecon               | 086 8292309<br>www.rathcon.com                 |
|   | IPG Paintballing                          | Paintballing  | Bray, Wicklow           | 1800 246 188<br>www.ipg.ie                     |
|   | Clissmann Horse Drawn Caravans            | Horse drawn caravan holidays  | Croneybyrne, Rathdrum   | 0404 46920<br>www.clissmann.com/wicklow        |
|   | Vagabond Adventure Tours                  | Tours including activities such as surfing, equestrian etc.               | Greystones              | 01 6607399<br>www.vagabondtoursofireland.ie    |
|   | Wicklow Adventure Tours                   | Cycling & kayaking  | Hidden Valley, Rathdrum | 086 7272872<br>www.irelandholidaypark.com      |
|   | Irish Balloon Flights                     | Hot air balloon trips   | Various locations       | 046 9483436<br>www.balloons.ie                 |
|   | Avondale Forest Park                      | Orienteering course   | Rathdrum                | 0404 46111<br>www.coillteoutdoors.ie           |
|   | Blessington Adventure Centre              | Watersports & activities  | Blessington             | 045 900670<br>www.avonri.com                   |
|   | Deep Blue Sea Kayaking                    | Sea kayaking  | Various locations       | 01 2760263<br>www.deepblueseakayaking.com      |
|   | Shearwater Sea Kayaking                   | Sea kayaking  | Blessington             | 086 8368736<br>www.shearwaterseakayaking.ie    |
|   | Arklow Skateboard Park                    | Skateboard park   | Seaview Avenue, Arklow  | 0402 23328                                     |

ACTIVITIES



WALKING, CARLINGFORD

# Walking

There is no better way to get away from it all and explore the beautiful diversity of the region including short, coastal, mountain, bog & forest walks.

Take in the beauty of Wicklow **National Park** or longer looped and way marked way walks, not forgetting the many guided tours of various towns throughout the region.

There are two designated **walking hubs** on Dublin's Doorstep, **Tinahely**, Co. Wicklow where you can access the Wicklow Way waymarked trail (and other walks in the area) and the **Slieve Bloom** Mountains where you can access the Slieve Bloom waymarked trail (and other walks).

## Waymarked Ways

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

- > **The Kildare Way** (37km) starts in Kildare and ends in Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
- > **The Barrow Way** (114km) starts in Robertstown, Co. Kildare and ends at St. Mullins, Co. Carlow.
- > **The Slieve Bloom Way** (77km) starts and ends in Glenbarrow, Co Laois.
- > **The Táin Way** (40km) starts and ends in Carlingford, Co. Louth.
- > **The Wicklow Way** (132km) starts in Marley Park, Co. Dublin and ends at Clonegal, Co. Carlow.
- > **The Monaghan Way** (64km) starts in Monaghan town and ends in the pretty village of Iniskeen, near the birthplace of poet and novelist Patrick Kavanagh.

## ACTIVITIES



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| LOOPED WALKS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                               |                 |                       |            |            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
|                                   | Name                          | Location        | Category              | Time (hrs) | Difficulty |
| KILDARE                           | Aylmer Loop                   | Donadea Forest  | Nature                | 1.5-2      | Moderate   |
|                                   | Slí Na Sláinte/Heritage Trail | Kildare Town    | Nature/<br>Historical | 1          | Easy       |
| LAOIS                             | Waterfall Loop                | Glenbarrow      | Nature                | 1          | Easy       |
|                                   | Old Mill Loop                 | Glenbarrow      | Nature                | 2          | Moderate   |
|                                   | Brittas Forest Loop           | Clonaslee       | Nature                | 1-1.5      | Moderate   |
|                                   | Binnianea Loop                | Cullahill       | Nature                | 3-3.5      | Moderate   |
| LOUTH                             | Slieve Foye Loop              | Carlingford     | Mountain              | 3          | Hard       |
|                                   | Barnavave Loop                | Carlingford     | Mountain              | 4          | Moderate   |
|                                   | Commons National Loop         | Carlingford     | Mountain              | 1+         | Moderate   |
|                                   | Grange Loop                   | Carlingford     | Nature                | 2          | Moderate   |
|                                   | Whitestown Coastal Loop       | Whitestown      | Coastal               | 1+         | Moderate   |
|                                   | Omeath Loop                   | Omeath          | Mountain              | 2          | Hard       |
|                                   | Annaloughan                   | Jenkinsonstown  | Mountain              | 3          | Moderate   |
| MEATH                             | Griley Bog Walk               | Drewstown Woods | Nature                | 2          | Easy       |
| MONAGHAN                          | Rossmore Lakes Loop           | Rossmore        | Nature                | 2          | Easy       |
| WICKLOW                           | Spink Loop                    | Glendalough     | Mountain              | 3.5-4      | Hard       |
|                                   | Maulin Mountain Loop          | Crone Woods     | Nature                | 2-2.5      | Hard       |
|                                   | Managhans Loop                | Tinahely        | Mountain              | 1.5-2      | Easy       |
|                                   | Millennium Loop               | Rathdrum        | Nature                | 1.5-2      | Easy       |
|                                   | Ballycumber Loop              | Tinahely        | Mountain              | 3-3.5      | Easy       |
|                                   | Kyle Loop                     | Tinahely        | Mountain              | 5.5-6      | Hard       |



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| WALKING ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP       |                       |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Name                               | Details               | Address                                      | Telephone & Web                            |
| <b>WALKING OPERATORS</b>           |                       |  |  |
| Hilltop Treks                      | Guided walks          | Wicklow Mountains                            | 087 7849599<br>www.hilltoptreks.ie         |
| Footfalls Walking Holidays         | Guided walking breaks | Trooperstown, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow         | 0404 45152<br>www.walkinghikingireland.com |
| Hillwalk Ireland                   | Guided walking breaks | Breaks based in Co. Wicklow                  | 087 6545056<br>www.hillwalkireland.com     |
| Joyce's Ireland                    | Guided walking breaks | Cedarwood, Castlekevin, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow | 087 7726404<br>www.joycesireland.co.uk     |
| <b>WALKING EVENTS</b>              |                       |  |  |
| Táin Walking Festival              | 4th - 6th March       | Omeath, Co. Louth                            | www.louth.ie                               |
| Tinahely Walking Festival          | 29th April - 2nd May  | Tinahely, Co. Wicklow                        | www.tinahely.ie                            |
| The Tain March                     | 18th - 26th June      | From Roscommon to Carlingford                | www.carlingford.ie                         |
| 10th Annual Laois Walks Festival   | 3rd - 31st July       | Throughout Laois                             | www.laoispartnership.ie                    |
| Oxfam Ireland Trail Trekker        | 10th - 11th September | From Donard Park, Co. Down to Carlingford    | www.carlingford.ie                         |
| Footfalls Wicklow Walking Festival | 28th - 31st October   | Laragh, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow             | www.walkinghikingireland.com               |

Fáilte Ireland Walking Information:  
[www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)

This useful website will provide you with maps & detailed information on the waymarked, looped walks, walking holidays & walking festivals & events. The “walkers welcome” section has information on towns and villages with great walking accommodation, services, and guided walks. The website will also provide you with information on the various **town heritage trails** available in towns throughout the region and advise you of the many **forest & nature walks** that can be enjoyed.

Useful National Websites

Coillte Outdoors (Irish Forestry Walks): [www.coillte-outdoors.ie](http://www.coillte-outdoors.ie)  
Slí na Sláinte (Health Walks)/Irish Heart Foundation: [www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie)

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ACTIVITIES



CYCLING, CARLINGFORD

# Cycling

Need a break from the city? Far from the noisy urban gridlock lie quiet country lanes, with nothing between you and pure fresh air. Cycling is an excellent way to get off the beaten track & explore mountain, forest & waterside trails at a leisurely pace.

Some of the routes to be explored in the Dublin's Doorstep region include:

- > **Dundalk To Drogheda Cycling Tour** Tel: 042 9335484.  
This route is easy to cycle and takes in lovely coastal cycling, the route is 54 km long. It starts in Dundalk and travels through Castlebellingham, Annagassan, Clogherhead, Termonfeckin, Baltry, in to Drogheda. The final stage of the tour is along the mouth of the river Boyne and into the centre of the town.
- > **Sliabh Beagh Cycling** Tel: 048 67751918.  
Sliabh Beagh is an area of beautiful, unspoiled countryside dotted with many lakes and rivers and is well suited to cycling. The 5 cycle routes on minor country roads, which vary in length from 29 to 60 Kilometers, are suited to those with good levels of fitness.
- > **The Táin Trail Cycling Route** Tel: 042 9335484.  
The Táin Trail Cycling Route runs for approx. (585 kilometres) the cycling route follows the route taken by the legendary characters in the epic tale of An Táin Bó Cuailgne (the Cattle Raid of Cooley). The cycling trail retraces their steps as closely as possible, The trail is fully signposted with distinctive brown bull finger-post signs, as well as pictorial maps in key towns along the route.
- > **Kingfisher Cycle Trail** Tel: 071 9856898.  
This is a mapped and signposted cycle route covering over 480 km through counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Monaghan, Roscommon and Fermanagh.
- > **Ballinastoe Woods Mountain Bike Trail** Tel: 083 4346992.  
This is a 13.7 km looped cycle trail in Roundwood, Co. Wicklow.

## ACTIVITIES



| CYCLING OPERATORS/BICYCLE HIRE ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |   |                                       |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Name  | Details                                   | Address                               | Telephone & Web                          |
| Cahills Cycles                                      | Bicycle hire                              | Fishery Lane, Naas, Co. Kildare       | 045 881585<br>www.cahill.ie              |
| Biketrax  | Bicycle hire                              | The Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare     | 01 6291774<br>www.biketrax.ie            |
| M. Kavanagh   | Bicycle hire                              | Railway Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois | 057 8621357                              |
| Irish Cycle Hire                                    | Bicycle hire                              | Glack, Ardee, Co. Louth               | 041 6853772<br>www.irishcyclehire.com    |
| Quay Cycles   | Bicycle hire - Summer only                | North Quay, Drogheda, Co. Louth       | 041 9834526                              |
| Newgrange Lodge                                     | Bicycle Hire                              | Donore, Co Meath.                     | 046 9882478<br>www.newgrangelodge.com    |
| Patrick McQuaid                                     | Bicycle Hire                              | Knocknafubble, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. | 047 88108                                |
| Eco Adventure Ireland                               | Cycling holidays in Wicklow               | Lacken House, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow | 01 2767988<br>www.ecoadventureireland.ie |
| Irish Cycling Safaris                               | Cycling holidays in Wicklow/ Bicycle hire | Bellfield Bikeshop, UCD, Dublin 4     | 01 2600749<br>www.cyclingsafaris.com     |
| Bray Cycle Centre                                   | Bicycle hire (April-September)            | Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow     | 01 2863357                               |
| Avon Ri   | Bicycle hire                              | Lakeshore, Blessington                | 045 900670<br>www.avonri.com             |
| The Cycle Shop                                      | Bicycle hire                              | South Quay, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow | 0404 32264                               |
| McGrath Bicycle Hire                                | Bicycle hire                              | Main Street, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow    | 0404 46172                               |

| UPCOMING CYCLING EVENTS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP   |                |                                     |  |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name   | Date           | Address                             | Telephone & Web                              |
| TriAthy  | 4th & 5th June | Athy, Co. Kildare                   | www.triathy.com                              |
| Wicklow 200                                    | 12th June      | Wicklow County                      | www.wicklow200.ie                            |
| An Post Meath Heritage Cycle Tour              | 24th July      | Trim, Co. Meath                     | www.meathsports.ie                           |
| "Bull Raid" Mountain Bike Race                 | 6th August.    | Bellurgan Park Estate, County Louth | www.twelvehourmountainbikerace.wordpress.com |
| 'Da Cooley Thriller' Mountain Bike XC Marathon | 27th August    | Carlingford, Co. Louth              | www.dacooleythriller.wordpress.com           |

**Fáilte Ireland Cycling Information:**  
[www.discoverireland.ie/cycling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/cycling)  
This website contains detailed information on cycling & mountain bike routes.

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# Equestrian

## Horse Racing

This region has long been famed for the quality of its thoroughbreds and it's easy to see why. Few things match a day's horse racing for the winning combination of atmosphere and adrenalin rush. Whether you're there to enjoy the ambience, show off your style or make your fortune, this truly is the sport of kings.

Racing festivals such as the Irish National Hunt festival at Punchestown, the Curragh Derby festival and Fairyhouse winter racing festival are renowned for their carnival atmosphere. Aside from top quality racing, adults can relax and enjoy the atmosphere of fashion, fine dining and quality entertainment.

Perhaps you're looking for something a little bit different on the racing scene? Then the Laytown races could be just for you. Each September, thousands of race goers flock to this tiny Meath village with its broad, sandy beach to view Europe's only officially approved beach racing.

Find information on Race Festivals on [www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie)

## Horse Riding

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

So from trail riding to dressage and show jumping, this region has top-quality equestrian centers to suit all your needs.

Check out the many horse riding weekend breaks and other options we have available on [www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian](http://www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian)

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| HORSE RIDING ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                      |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                   | Name                                 | Address  | Telephone & Web  |
| KILDARE                           | Abbeyfield Farm                      | Abbeyfield, Clane                              | 086 8164130<br>www.abbeyfieldfarm.com                        |
|                                   | Ballyteague Stables                  | Ballyteague, Kilmeague, Naas                   | 086 7307181<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Black River Equestrian Centre        | Black River Farm, Kilberrin, Maddenstown South | 086 0263579/045 526176<br>www.blackriverfarm.info            |
|                                   | Blackberry Stables                   | Laragh, Maynooth                               | 086 8778541<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Borehard Livery Yard                 | Baysland, Naas                                 | 087 2538944<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Castlewarden Pony & Country Club     | Castlewarden, Straffan                         | 087 6782349<br>www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian             |
|                                   | Clonfert Maynooth Equestrian Centre  | Maynooth                                       | 087 2306665 /01 6287420<br>www.clonfertmaynoothquestrian.com |
|                                   | Kill International Equestrian Centre | Kill   | 086 8111022<br>www.killinternational.ie                      |
|                                   | Kilmon Riding Centre                 | Ballintubbert, Athy                            | 087 6444578<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Littlehill Stables                   | Boleybeg, Ballymore Eustace                    | 087 2047911<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Little Oak Equestrian Centre         | Downings North, Prosperous                     | 085 2733424<br>www.littleoakequestrian.com                   |
|                                   | Maynooth Equestrian Centre           | Clonfert Road, Maynooth                        | 087 9086894<br>www.maynoothquestriancentre.com               |
|                                   | Nurney Ridding School                | Furzevale, Nurney                              | 045 521453/087 2874134                                       |
| LOUTH                             | Toberton Enterprises Ltd.,           | Toberton Lodge, Johnstown, Naas                | 087 9816463/045 871863<br>www.aire.ie                        |
|                                   | Dunany Cross Country Course          | Dunany, Togher, Drogheda                       | 087 7530056<br>www.dunanycrosscountry.com                    |
|                                   | Kildemock Equestrian Centre          | Kildemock, Ardee                               | 086 9676190<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Piperstown Livery                    | Piperstown, Drogheda                           | 087 2106207<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
| MEATH                             | Ravensdale Lodge Equestrian Centre   | Ravensdale, Dundalk                            | 087 2306603<br>www.ravensdale-equestrian-centre.com          |
|                                   | Anne Stanley School of Equitation    | The Barn, Julianstown                          | 041 9829395<br>www.aire.ie                                   |
|                                   | Bachelors Lodge Equestrian Centre    | Kells Road, Navan                              | 046 9021736<br>www.bachelorslodge.com                        |
|                                   | Broadmeadow Equestrian Centre        | Bullstown, Ashbourne                           | 087 2413663<br>www.ireland-horses.com                        |
|                                   | Carton Equestrian Centre             | Blackhall Little Stud, Kilcloone               | 087 6888187<br>www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian             |
|                                   | Castlehill Equestrian Centre         | Julianstown                                    | 087 9177692<br>www.castlehill.tv                             |

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HORSE RIDING ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

|          | Name                            | Address                                    | Telephone & Web                                  |
|----------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| MEATH    | Curragha Equestrian Centre      | Curragha, Ashbourne                        | 087 2256783<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Kells Equestrian Centre         | Normanstown, Carlanstown, Kells            | 087 9544351<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Martinstown Lodge               | Martinstown, Athboy                        | 086 8298669<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Moy Riding Centre               | Moy Stud, Summerhill                       | 086 8239115<br>www.moyridingcentre.ie            |
|          | Kells Equestrian Centre         | Normanstown, Carlanstown, Kells            | 046 9246998<br>www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian |
|          | Pelletstown Riding Centre       | Pelletstown, Drumree                       | 087 4164997<br>www.pelletstownridingcentre.com   |
| MONAGHAN | Castle Leslie Estate            | Glaslough                                  | 087 7817691<br>www.castleleslie.com              |
|          | Cloncaw Equestrian              | Emyvale Road, Glaslough                    | 0876689866<br>www.cloncaw.com                    |
|          | Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre   | Mullaghmore, Tydavnet                      | 087 6600629<br>047 89645                         |
|          | Shenandoah Stables              | Cooltrimegish, Tullynahinera, Castleblaney | 086 4022252<br>www.shenandoah-stables.com        |
| WICKLOW  | Bel Air Riding School           | Ashford                                    | 087 2794392<br>www.belairhotelequestrian.com     |
|          | Blackthorn Cottage Stables      | Kilquade                                   | 087 7736703<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Brennanstown Riding School      | Hollybrook, Kilmacanogue, Bray             | 087 2522778<br>www.brennanstownrs.ie             |
|          | Broomfield Equestrian Centre    | Broomfield, Tinahely                       | 087 7513186<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Festina Lente Equestrian Centre | Old Connaught Avenue, Bray                 | 086 8514550<br>www.festinalente.ie               |
|          | Killegar Riding Stables         | The Scalp, Enniskerry                      | 01 2860919<br>www.killegarstables.com            |
|          | Knocklishen Riding Stables      | Knocklishen Beg, Kiltegan.                 | 087 9420205<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Maltfield Riding School         | Ballykeane, Redcross.                      | 087 6800187<br>www.maltfieldstud.com             |
|          | Old Farm Equestrian Centre      | Old Farm, Ballycullen, Ashford             | 087 2626855<br>www.aire.ie                       |
|          | Tomdarragh Lane                 | Tomdarragh Lane, Roundwood.                | 01 2019878<br>www.aire.ie                        |



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CARTON GOLF CLUB, KILDARE

# Golf

The Dublin's Doorstep region of Ireland is home to many of the big name golf courses, and of course many affordable hidden gems. It's no surprise then that it has attracted the attention of great golf architects as well as prestigious Irish, European and international golf events.

You'll find The Ryder Cup venue at The K Club which has hosted the Smurfit Kappa European Open for many years, whilst the prestigious Irish Open has been held at Carton House, Baltray and Druids Glen.

Snapping at the heels of the more established courses are precocious youngsters such as The PGA National Ireland in Kildare, and The Heritage in Co. Laois. Concra Wood Golf and Country Club in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan was designed by Christy O'Connor Junior and Christy O'Connor Senior. It opened in 2008, and will become one of Ireland's and Europe's finest golf courses.

Killeen Castle in County Meath is set to be a flurry of activity in autumn 2011 when it hosts the famed Solheim Cup event.

Everywhere you travel in the region there are golf courses that offer excellent value and a real challenge. The Region's vibrant commuter towns are full of great nightlife and dining options as well as outlet shopping villages to keep shoppers busy during the day. A selection of sumptuous and enjoyable golfing and spa resorts are there to be enjoyed by those who like to take a break away from it all.

## ACTIVITIES

# WICKLOW GOLF CLUB



| Name                      | Holes                                 | Location                     | Telephone                   | Web                      |                                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| KILDARE                   | Athy Golf Club                        | 18                           | Athy                        | 059 8631729              | www.athygolfclub.com           |
|                           | Bodenstown Golf Course                | 18                           | Sallins                     | 045 897096               | www.discoverireland.ie/golf    |
|                           | Carton House - The Montgomerie Course | 18                           | Maynooth                    | 01 5052000               | www.cartonhouse.com            |
|                           | Carton House - The O'Meara course     | 18                           | Maynooth                    | 01 5052000               | www.cartonhouse.com            |
|                           | Castlewarden Golf Club                | 18                           | Straffan                    | 01 4589254               | www.castlewardengolfclub.com   |
|                           | Celbridge Golf Course                 | 9                            | Celbridge                   | 01 6288208               | www.discoverireland.ie/golf    |
|                           | Cill Dara Golf Club                   | 9                            | Little Curragh, Curragh     | 045 521295               | www.discoverireland.ie/golf    |
|                           | Craddockstown Golf Club               | 18                           | Blessington Road, Naas      | 045 897610               | www.craddockstown.com          |
|                           | Dunmurry Springs Golf Club            | 18                           | Dunmurry Hill, Kildare Town | 045 531400               | www.dunmurrysprings.ie         |
|                           | Highfield Golf Club                   | 18                           | Carbury                     | 046 9731021              | www.highfield-golf.ie          |
|                           | Kilcock Golf Club                     | 18                           | Gallow, Kilcock             | 01 6287592               | www.kilcockgolfclub.com        |
|                           | Kilkea Castle Golf Club               | 18                           | Castledermot                | 059 9145555              | www.kilkeacastle golfresort.ie |
|                           | Killeen Golf Club                     | 18                           | Kill                        | 045 866003               | www.killengolf.com             |
|                           | Knockanally Golf Club                 | 18                           | Donadea                     | 045 869322               | www.knockanally.com            |
|                           | Millicent Golf Club                   | 18                           | Millicent Rd, Clane         | 045 893279               | www.millicentgolfclub.com      |
|                           | Naas Golf Club                        | 18                           | Kerdiffstown, Naas          | 045 874644               | www.naasgolfclub.com           |
|                           | Newbridge Golf Club                   | 18                           | Newbridge                   | 045 486110               | www.newbridgegolfclub.com      |
| PGA National Ireland      | 18                                    | Palmerstown House, Johnstown | 045 871404                  | www.palmerstownhouse.com |                                |
| The Curragh Golf Club     | 18                                    | Curragh                      | 045 441714                  | www.curraghgolf.com      |                                |
| The K Club Palmer Course  | 18                                    | Straffan                     | 01 6017200                  | www.kclub.ie             |                                |
| The K Club Smurfit Course | 18                                    | Straffan                     | 01 6017200                  | www.kclub.ie             |                                |
| Woodlands Golf Club       | 18                                    | Cooleragh, Coill Dubh, Naas  | 045 860777                  | www.woodlandsgolf.ie     |                                |
| LAOIS                     | Abbeyleix Golf Club                   | 18                           | Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix        | 057 8731450              | www.abbeyleixgolfclub.ie       |
|                           | Mountrath Golf Club                   | 18                           | Knockanaina, Mountrath      | 057 8732558              | www.mountrathgolfclub.ie       |
|                           | Portarlinton Golf Club                | 18                           | Garryhinch, Portarlinton    | 057 8623115              | www.portarlintongolf.com       |
|                           | Rathdowney Golf Club                  | 18                           | Coolnaboul West, Rathdowney | 0505 46170               | www.rathdowneygolfclub.com     |
|                           | The Heath Golf Club                   | 18                           | The Heath, Portlaoise       | 057 8646533              | www.theheathgc.ie              |
|                           | The Heritage Golf Club                | 18                           | Killenard, Portlaoise       | 057 8645500              | www.theheritage.com            |

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GOLF ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

|          | Name                                | Holes | Location                 | Telephone       | Web  |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| LOUTH    | Ardee Golf Club                     | 18    | Townparks, Ardee         | 041 6853227     | <a href="http://www.ardeegolfclub.com">www.ardeegolfclub.com</a>                             |
|          | Ballymascanlon Golf Club            | 18    | Ballymascanlon, Dundalk  | 042 9358200     | <a href="http://www.ballymascanlon.com">www.ballymascanlon.com</a>                           |
|          | County Louth Golf Club              | 18    | Baltray, Drogheda        | 041 9881530     | <a href="http://www.countylouthgolfclub.com">www.countylouthgolfclub.com</a>                 |
|          | Dundalk Golf Club                   | 18    | Blackrock, Dundalk       | 042 9321731     | <a href="http://www.dundalkgolfclub.ie">www.dundalkgolfclub.ie</a>                           |
|          | Greenore Golf Club                  | 18    | Greenore                 | 042 9373212     | <a href="http://www.greenoregolfclub.com">www.greenoregolfclub.com</a>                       |
|          | Killin Park Golf Club               | 18    | Killin, Dundalk          | 042 9339303     | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf">www.discoverireland.ie/golf</a>                 |
| MEATH    | Seapoint Golf Club                  | 18    | Termonfeekin             | 041 9822333     | <a href="http://www.seapointgolfclub.com">www.seapointgolfclub.com</a>                       |
|          | Ashbourne Golf Club                 | 18    | Archerstown, Ashbourne   | 01 8352561      | <a href="http://www.ashbournegolfclub.ie">www.ashbournegolfclub.ie</a>                       |
|          | Bellewstown Golf Club               | 18    | Bellewstown              | 041 9882757     | <a href="http://www.bellewstowngolfclub.com">www.bellewstowngolfclub.com</a>                 |
|          | Black Bush Golf Club                | 27    | Thomastown, Dunshaughlin | 01 8250021      | <a href="http://www.blackbushgolfclub.com">www.blackbushgolfclub.com</a>                     |
|          | County Meath Golf Club              | 18    | Newtown-moyknagh, Trim   | 046 9431463     | <a href="http://www.countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie">www.countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie</a>           |
|          | Glebe Golf Club                     | 18    | Kildalkey, Trim          | 046 9431926     | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf">www.discoverireland.ie/golf</a>                 |
|          | Headford Golf Club - New Course     | 18    | Navan Rd, Kells          | 046 9240146     | <a href="http://www.headfordgolfclub.ie">www.headfordgolfclub.ie</a>                         |
|          | Headford Golf Club - Old Course     | 18    | Navan Rd, Kells          | 046 9282001     | <a href="http://www.headfordgolfclub.ie">www.headfordgolfclub.ie</a>                         |
|          | Julianstown Golf Course             | 9     | Julianstown              | 041 9811953     | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf">www.discoverireland.ie/golf</a>                 |
|          | Knightsbrook Golf Club              | 18    | Knightsbrook, Trim       | 046 9482100     | <a href="http://www.knightsbrook.com">www.knightsbrook.com</a>                               |
|          | Moor Park Golf Club                 | 18    | Mooretown                | 046 09027661    | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf">www.discoverireland.ie/golf</a>                 |
|          | Laytown & Bettystown Golf Club      | 18    | Bettystown               | 041 9827170     | <a href="http://www.landb.ie">www.landb.ie</a>   |
|          | Navan Golf Course                   | 18    | Proudstown, Navan        | 046 9072888     | <a href="http://www.navangolfclub.ie">www.navangolfclub.ie</a>                               |
|          | Rathcore Golf Club                  | 18    | Rathcore, Enfield        | 046 9541855     | <a href="http://www.rathcoregolfandcountry-club.com">www.rathcoregolfandcountry-club.com</a> |
|          | Royal Tara Golf Club                | 27    | Bellinter                | 046 9025508     | <a href="http://www.royaltaragolfclub.com">www.royaltaragolfclub.com</a>                     |
|          | South Meath Golf Club               | 9     | Longwood Rd, Trim        | 046 9431471     | <a href="http://www.southmeathgolfclub.com">www.southmeathgolfclub.com</a>                   |
|          | Summerhill Golf Club                | 9     | Summerhill               | 046 9557587     | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/golf">www.discoverireland.ie/golf</a>                 |
| MONAGHAN | Nuremore Hotel and Country Club     | 18    | Carrickmacross           | 042 9671368     | <a href="http://www.nuremore.com">www.nuremore.com</a>                                       |
|          | Mannan Castle Golf Club             | 18    | Carrickmacross           | 042 9663308     | <a href="http://www.mannancastlecastle-golf-club.ie">www.mannancastlecastle-golf-club.ie</a> |
|          | Concra Woods Castleblaney Golf Club | 18    | Castleblaney             | 042 9749485     | <a href="http://www.concrawood.ie">www.concrawood.ie</a>                                     |
|          | Clones Golf Club                    | 18    | Hilton Park, Clones      | 047 56017       | <a href="http://www.clonesgolf.com">www.clonesgolf.com</a>                                   |
|          | Rossmore Golf Club                  | 18    | Cootehill Road, Monaghan | 047 81316/71222 | <a href="http://www.rossmoregc.com">www.rossmoregc.com</a>                                   |

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DRUIDS GLEN GOLF CLUB



WOODENBRIDGE GOLF CLUB



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| GOLF ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                             |       |                                       |             |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                           | Name                        | Holes | Location                              | Telephone   | Web                         |
| WICKLOW                   | Bray Golf Club              | 18    | Bray                                  | 01 2763200  | www.braygolfclub.com        |
|                           | Ballinastoe                 | 9     | Ballinastoe                           | 01 2818480  | www.ballinastoegolfclub.com |
|                           | Blainroe Golf Club          | 18    | Blainroe                              | 0404 68168  | www.blainroe.com            |
|                           | Coollatten Golf Club        | 18    | Coolatin, Shillelagh                  | 053 9429125 | www.coollatingolfclub.com   |
|                           | Djouce Golf Club            | 9     | Roundwood                             | 01 2818585  | www.djoucegolfclub.com      |
|                           | Druids Glen Golf Club       | 18    | Woodstock House, Newtownmount-kennedy | 01 2873600  | www.druidsglen.ie           |
|                           | Druids Heath Golf Club      | 18    | Newtownmount-kennedy                  | 01 2812278  | www.druidsglen.ie           |
|                           | Glen of the Downs Golf Club | 18    | Coolnaskeagh, Delgany                 | 01 2876240  | www.glenofthedowns.com      |
|                           | Glenmalure Golf Club        | 18    | Greenan, Rathdrum                     | 0404 46679  | www.glenmalure.com          |
|                           | Glenmill Golf Club          | 18    | Timore, Newcastle                     | 01 2810977  | www.glenmillgolfclub.ie     |
|                           | Greystones Golf Club        | 18    | Whitshed Road, Greystones             | 01 2874136  | www.greystonesgc.com        |
|                           | Kilcoole Golf Club          | 9     | Newcastle Rd, Kilcoole                | 01 2872066  | www.kilcoolegolfclub.com    |
|                           | Millbrook Golf Club         | 18    | River Valley, Redcross                | 0404 41647  | www.rivervalleypark.com     |
|                           | Old Conna Golf Club         | 18    | Ferndale Rd, Bray                     | 01 2826055  | www.oldconna.com            |
|                           | Powerscourt Golf Club       | 36    | Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry        | 01 2046033  | www.powerscourt.ie          |
|                           | Rathsallagh Golf Club       | 18    | Rathsallagh, Dunlavin                 | 045 403316  | www.rathsallagh.com         |
|                           | Roundwood Golf Club         | 18    | Ballinahinch, Newtownmount-kennedy    | 01 2818488  | www.roundwoodgolf.com       |
|                           | The European Club           | 18    | Brittas Bay                           | 0404 47415  | www.theeuropeanclub.com     |
|                           | Tulfarris Golf Club         | 18    | Blessington Lakes, Blessington        | 045 867600  | www.tulfarrishotel.com      |
|                           | Wicklow Golf Club           | 18    | Dunbur Rd                             | 0404 67379  | www.wicklowgolfclub.ie      |
|                           | Woodbrook Golf Club         | 18    | Dublin Rd, Bray                       | 01 2824799  | www.woodbrook.ie            |
|                           | Woodenbridge Golf Club      | 18    | Vale of Avoca, Woodenbridge           | 0402 35202  | www.woodenbridge.ie         |

For pitch and putt course listings, log on to the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland website on [www.ppui.ie](http://www.ppui.ie)

ACTIVITIES



LOUGH MUCKNO, CO. MONAGHAN

# Angling

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

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

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

**Pike angling:** This Region offers some of the best pike fishing in the country. Whether fishing the magnificent Lough Muckno in Castleblaney, Glaslough Lake at Castle Leslie or Blessington Lake, Co Wicklow, pike anglers will not be disappointed. There are expert guides available in the region that can offer the angler the best chance of catching the monster pike of a lifetime!

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

For further information & details of permits: [www.cfb.ie](http://www.cfb.ie)

## ACTIVITIES





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| ANGLING ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                 |   |                                  |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
|                              | Name                            | Details   | Address                          | Telephone & Web  |
| KILDARE                      | Fishing at Carton House         | Pike, trout & salmon                            | Carton House, Maynooth           | 01 5052000<br><a href="http://www.cartonhouse.com/activities-fishing.html">www.cartonhouse.com/activities-fishing.html</a> |
|                              | Lyreen Angling Centre           | Put and take fishery                            | Dunboyne Road, Maynooth          | 087 2101698<br><a href="http://www.lyreenanglingcentre.com">www.lyreenanglingcentre.com</a>                                |
|                              | Cleere's Angling Centre         | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | Clane Business Park, Clane       | 045 893551<br><a href="http://www.fishingirelandcentre.com">www.fishingirelandcentre.com</a>                               |
|                              | Finlay's Angling Centre         | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | Monasterevin                     | 045 525331<br><a href="http://www.finlaysanglingcentre.com">www.finlaysanglingcentre.com</a>                               |
|                              | Countryman Angling              | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | Leanne House, Pacelli Road, Naas | 045 879341<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>   |
|                              | Griffin Hawe Angling            | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | 22 Duke Street, Athy             | 059 8631221<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
|                              | Curragh Springs Fishery         | Putt & Take Fishery                             | Ballysax, The Curragh            | 087 2462028<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
| LAOIS                        | Laois Angling Centre            | Put and take fishery, equipment hire & tuition. | Coolrain                         | 057 8735091<br><a href="http://www.laoisanglingcentre.ie">www.laoisanglingcentre.ie</a>                                    |
|                              | Laois Fishing Supplies          | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | Ballybrittas                     | 057 8633923<br><a href="http://www.laoisfishingsupplies.com">www.laoisfishingsupplies.com</a>                              |
|                              | The Tackle Shop                 | Tackle shop & bait stockist                     | Mountrath                        | 057 8732162<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands">www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands</a>                      |
|                              | Irish Fly Craft                 | Tackle shop                                     | Abbeyleix                        | 086 8451257<br><a href="http://www.irishflycraft.com">www.irishflycraft.com</a>  |
|                              | Victor Cox Tackle Shop          | Tackle shop                                     | Mountmellick                     | 057 8624107<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands">www.discoverireland.ie/lakelands</a>                      |
| LOUTH                        | Sea Angling - Carlingford Lough | Deep sea angling charter & equipment hire       | Carlingford                      | 048 30264906<br><a href="http://www.carlingfordlough.co.uk">www.carlingfordlough.co.uk</a>                                 |
|                              | Sea Angling - Dundalk           | Deep sea angling charter                        | Dundalk                          | 086 8798204<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
|                              | Island Fishing Tackle           | Tackle shop                                     | 58 Park Street, Dundalk          | 042 9335698<br><a href="http://www.islandfishingandshooting.com">www.islandfishingandshooting.com</a>                      |
|                              | Hugh O'Neill Sports             | Tackle Shop                                     | Castle Street, Ardee             | 041 6853268<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
|                              | Drogheda Angling Centre         | Tackle shop                                     | Fairgreen, Drogheda              | 041 9845442<br><a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a>  |
|                              |                                 |   |                                  |  |

ACTIVITIES

ANGLING ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

|          | Name  | Description                                 | Address                                     | Telephone & Web                                  |
|----------|---|---|---|--|
| MEATH    | Rathbeggan Lakes Angling                        | Put and take fishery, wheelchair accessible | Dunshaughlin                                | 01 8240197<br>www.rathbegganlakes.com            |
|          | The Flying Sportsman                            | Tackle shop & permits                       | Carrick Street, Kells                       | 046 924 1743<br>www.discoverireland.ie           |
|          | Sports Den                                      | Tackle shop & permits                       | 39 Trimgate Street, Navan                   | 046 9021130<br>www.sportsden.ie                  |
|          | Angler's World                                  | Tackle shop & permits                       | Balmoral Industrial Park, Kells Road, Navan | 046 9071866<br>www.anglersworld.ie               |
| MONAGHAN | The Ballybay Lakes & Dromore River System       | Bream, Roach, Tench & Pike                  | Ballybay                                    | www.fishinginireland.info                        |
|          | Lough Muckno                                    | Bream, Rudd, Roach, Tench, Perch & Pike     | Castleblaney                                | www.fishinginireland.info                        |
|          | Clones Angling Centre (incl River Finn & Lakes) | Bream, Roch, Rudd, Tench, Perch & Pike      | Clones                                      | www.fishinginireland.info                        |
| WICKLOW  | Annamoe Trout Fisheries                         | Put and take fishery                        | Annamoe                                     | 0404 45470<br>www.annamoetroutfishery.com        |
|          | Tinnehinch Fly Angling Centre & School          | Put & take angling centre & school          | Enniskerry                                  | 01 2868652<br>www.discoverireland.ie             |
|          | Rathcon Lake                                    | Put and take fishery                        | Grangecon                                   | 045 403173<br>www.rathcon.com                    |
|          | National Disabled Angling Park                  | Put and take fishery                        | Aughrim                                     | 0402 36552<br>www.discoverireland.ie             |
|          | Frankie Sports                                  | Tackle dealer & permits                     | The Mall, Wicklow Town                      | 0404 69351<br>www.frankie.ie                     |
|          | Avonmore Tackle Products                        | Tackle shop                                 | 36 Main Street, Rathdrum                    | 0404 43142/087 8362618<br>www.discoverireland.ie |
|          | Viking Tackle Bray                              | Tackle shop                                 | 79 Castle Street, Bray                      | 01 2869215<br>www.vikingtackle.ie                |
|          | Dogs Rods Guns                                  | Tackle shop                                 | River House, Quarantine Hill, Wicklow Town  | 0404 25558<br>www.discoverireland.ie             |
|          | Power Sound Tackle shop                         | Tackle dealer                               | Arklow                                      | 0402 33966<br>www.discoverireland.ie             |



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ACTIVITIES

A listing of waterways, boat hire and ghillies can be obtained on [www.cfb.ie](http://www.cfb.ie)

# Gardens

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

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

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

The gardens in Meath are relaxing places to wander around, with spectacular vistas and fantastic follies, or explore the gardening heritage of Laois with five gardens open to the public. Experience the peace and tranquility of the gardens in Louth, or visit Hilton Park Gardens in Monaghan, a lakeside park and garden, with parterre and herbaceous borders.

The Japanese Gardens at Tully, in Kildare were created between the years 1906-1910. The Gardens, planned to symbolise the 'Life of Man', are now of international renown and are acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe

Wicklow, known to all as 'The Garden of Ireland' sets a theme which follows throughout the region. You will find an extraordinary variety of scenery, wild and tame, from remote mountains, through wooded valleys down to the sea. Most gardens welcome visitors from spring to autumn and a few stay open throughout the year. There are also some more that may be visited by arrangement with the owners.

## ACTIVITIES



| GARDENS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |   |                           |             |  |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------|--|
|                              | Name  | Address                   | Telephone   | Web  |
| KILDARE                      | Irish National Stud, Japanese & St Fiachras Gardens | Tully, Kildare            | 045 521617  | <a href="http://www.irish-national-stud.ie">www.irish-national-stud.ie</a>         |
|                              | Larchill Gardens                                    | Kilcock                   | 01 6287354  | <a href="http://www.larchill.ie">www.larchill.ie</a>                               |
|                              | Coolcarrigan House & Gardens                        | Naas                      | 045 863524  | <a href="http://www.coolcarrigan.ie">www.coolcarrigan.ie</a>                       |
|                              | Grange Castle & Gardens                             | Grange                    | 046 9733274 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Lodge Park Walled Gardens                           | Traffan                   | 01 6288412  | <a href="http://www.steam-museum.ie">www.steam-museum.ie</a>                       |
| LAOS                         | Erno Court House & Gardens                          | Erno                      | 057 8626573 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.ie">www.heritageireland.ie</a>                 |
|                              | Gash Gardens  | Gash, Castletown          | 057 8732247 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Heywood Gardens                                     | Ballinakill               | 056 7721450 | <a href="http://www.heritageireland.ie">www.heritageireland.ie</a>                 |
|                              | The Sensory Gardens                                 | Dove House, Abbeyleix     | 057 8731325 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
| LOUTH                        | Beaulieu House & Gardens                            | Drogheda                  | 041 9838557 | <a href="http://www.beaulieu.ie">www.beaulieu.ie</a>                               |
|                              | Knockabbey Castle & Gardens                         | Louth Village             | 01 6778816  | <a href="http://www.knockabbeycastle.com">www.knockabbeycastle.com</a>             |
|                              | Listoke Gardens                                     | Ballymakenny Rd, Drogheda | 041 9832265 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
| MEATH                        | Loughcrew Historic Gardens                          | Oldcastle                 | 049 8541356 | <a href="http://www.loughcrew.com">www.loughcrew.com</a>                           |
|                              | Grove Gardens                                       | Fordstown, Kells          | 046 9434276 | <a href="http://www.grovegardenstetfarm.com">www.grovegardenstetfarm.com</a>       |
|                              | Glebeewood Gardens                                  | Rathoath                  | 01 8256015  | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Hamwood House & Gardens                             | Dunboyne                  | 01 8255210  | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
| MONAGHAN                     | Hilton Park Victorian Garden                        | Clones                    | 047 56007   | <a href="http://www.hiltonpark.ie">www.hiltonpark.ie</a>                           |
| WICKLOW                      | Powerscourt House & Garden                          | Enniskerry                | 01 2046000  | <a href="http://www.powerscourt.ie">www.powerscourt.ie</a>                         |
|                              | National Garden Exhibition Centre                   | Kilquade                  | 01 2819890  | <a href="http://www.gardenexhibition.ie">www.gardenexhibition.ie</a>               |
|                              | Russborough House, Garden & Maze                    | Russborough, Blessington  | 045 865239  | <a href="http://www.russborough.ie">www.russborough.ie</a>                         |
|                              | Mount Usher Gardens                                 | Ashford                   | 0404 40205  | <a href="http://www.mountushergardens.ie">www.mountushergardens.ie</a>             |
|                              | Kilruddery House & Gardens                          | Bray                      | 01 2863405  | <a href="http://www.kilruddery.com">www.kilruddery.com</a>                         |
|                              | Kilmacurragh Gardens                                | Kilbride                  | 01 8040300  | <a href="http://www.botanicgardens.ie">www.botanicgardens.ie</a>                   |
|                              | Ballard Park Gardens - by appointment               | Ballinacash, Rathdrum     | 0404 46251  | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Homesdale Garden - groups by appointment            | Church Rd, Greystones     | 01 2874270  | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |

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| GARDENS ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                      |                               |            |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--|
|                              | Name                                 | Address                       | Telephone  | Web  |
| WICKLOW                      | Greenan Farm Museum & Maze           | Ballinanty, Greenan, Rathdrum | 0404 46000 | <a href="http://www.greenanemaze.com">www.greenanemaze.com</a>                     |
|                              | Hunter's Hotel Award Winning Gardens | Newrath Bridge, Rathnew       | 0404 40106 | <a href="http://www.hunters.ie">www.hunters.ie</a>                                 |
|                              | Hunting Brook Garden                 | Lamb Hill, Blessington        | 01 4583972 | <a href="http://www.huntingbrook.com">www.huntingbrook.com</a>                     |
|                              | St. Joseph's Garden                  | Old Connaught Ave, Bray       | 01 2821585 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Shekina Sculpture Garden             | Glenmalure                    | 01 2838711 | <a href="http://www.shekinasculpturegarden.com">www.shekinasculpturegarden.com</a> |
|                              | Dower House Gardens                  | Rossanagh, Ashford            | 0404 40168 | <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie/gardens">www.discoverireland.ie/gardens</a> |
|                              | Victoria's Way Garden                | Roundwood                     | 01 2818505 | <a href="http://www.victoriasway.eu">www.victoriasway.eu</a>                       |
|                              | Knoackanree Garden                   | Avoca                         | 0402 35628 |  |
|                              | Villa Mimosa                         | Rocky Rd, Wicklow Town.       | 0404 61684 |  |



ACTIVITIES



AVOCA FERN CAFE



# Food & Dining

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

And, if you can't (or won't cook); the region boasts award-winning cookery schools to turn you into a culinary expert.

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

Spoil yourself, have some fun and come on an Irish food adventure.

## FOOD FESTIVALS

**A Taste of Carlingford:** 28th - 29th May.

Carlingford, Co. Louth. [www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)

**Clogherhead Prawn Festival:** 15th - 17th July.

Clogherhead, Co. Louth. [www.clogherheadprawnfestival.ie](http://www.clogherheadprawnfestival.ie)

**Drogheda Food Festival:** 12th - 14th August.

Various venues in Drogheda, Co. Louth. [www.louth.ie](http://www.louth.ie)

**Carlingford Oyster Festival:** 13th - 14th August.

Carlingford, Co. Louth. [www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)

**Gourmet Greystones:** 2nd - 4th September.

Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 086 891 6715

**Taste of Monaghan Festival:** 30th Sept - 3rd October.

Monaghan Town. Tel: 0863726192

**Wild & Slow:** 12th - 13th November.

Aughrim, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0402 364 44

## ACTIVITIES

## COOKERY SCHOOLS:

Enhance your Irish holiday by learning a new skill or improving an old one, find out what our cookery schools have to offer the budding chef.

Roll up your sleeves, don the apron and while away a morning, afternoon or evening creating that perfect dish, whether it be baking Irish soda bread or sushi made simple.

### KILDARE

**The Village at Lyons Cookery School**, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

T: 01 6303500

The Village at Lyons has teamed up with well known cook and author, Clodagh McKenna, to launch The Village at Lyons Cookery School. The Cookery School offers an extensive range of cookery classes covering everything from classic French cooking to tapas and BBQs.

**The Ivy Cookery School**, Thornville, Feighcullen, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

T: 087 3105373 [www.theivy.ie](http://www.theivy.ie)

Enjoy an evening with friends at the Ivy, watch a cookery demonstration & savour the food.

### LOUTH

**Ghan House Cookery School**, Carlingford, Co. Louth.

T: 042 9373682 [www.ghanhouse.com](http://www.ghanhouse.com)

Ghan House cookery school is located close to medieval Carlingford village and set within walled grounds which have a herb garden.

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

An Grianan is a unique centre that combines a mid-week break with courses in arts, crafts, cookery, leisure, personal development and self care for individuals or groups of adults of any age or skill level.

### MEATH

**Fairyhouse Food & Wine School**, Fairyhouse Rd, Rathoath Rd, Co. Meath.

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

Billie O'Shea and her team offer a wide range of courses at the modern purpose built facility located in Co. Meath and only 15 minutes from nearby Castleknock. With a friendly approach to teaching hands-on cookery.



CASTLE LESLIE COOKERY SCHOOL

**Bespoke Cookery School**, Herbertstown, Stamullen, Co. Meath.

T: 01 8355822. [www.bespokecuisine.ie](http://www.bespokecuisine.ie)

At Bespoke Cuisine cookery school the classes are small and the atmosphere fun and informal. There is always plenty of opportunity to ask questions and try things out. Every session involves tasting, the idea is that you do not leave hungry!

### MONAGHAN

**Castle Leslie Cookery School**, Glasslough, Co Monaghan.

Tel: 047 88100, Email: [info@castleleslie.com](mailto:info@castleleslie.com), [www.castleleslie.com](http://www.castleleslie.com)

One of the best known cookery schools in Ireland, offers tailor made cookery courses personally designed by an expert team of chefs.

### WICKLOW

**Ballyknocken Cookery School**, Glenealy, Ashford, Co. Wicklow.

T: 0404 44627. [www.thecookeryschool.ie](http://www.thecookeryschool.ie)

Run by TV chef/proprietor Catherine Fulvio, Ballyknocken Cookery School offers a selection of day, weekend and residential courses with themes such as Gourmet Cooking; BBQ, Southern Italian Cuisine and Baker's Delight to name but a few.

## ACTIVITIES



FARMERS' MARKETS:

Take in the atmosphere of our farmers' markets, by browsing around and sampling the local and organic produce such as farmhouse cheeses, salmon, meats and a wide range of organic fruit and vegetables.

KILDARE

- Kildare Market** Friary Hall, Kildare Town. Thursday; 10.00 – 12.00.
- Naas Country Market** Naas Town Hall. Friday; 10.00 – 12.00.
- Naas Farmers' Market** Friary, Naas. Saturday; 10.00 –15.00.
- Athy Farmers Market** Emily Square, Athy. Sunday; 10.00 – 14.00.

LAOIS

- Mountrath Farmers' Market**  
Macra na Feirme Hall, Mountrath. Friday; 9.00 – 12.00.
- Portlaoise Farmers' Market** The Square, Portlaoise. Friday; 10.00 – 15.00.



NAAS FARMERS' MARKET

LOUTH

- Dundalk Food Producers Market**  
Earl Street, Dundalk. Friday; 9.00 – 12.00.
- Drogheda Market**  
West Street, Drogheda. Friday; 10.00 – 17.00.
- Carlingford Indoor Craft & Food Fair**  
St. Michaels Hall, Carlingford. First Sunday of month; 12.00 – 18.00.

MEATH

- Enfield Country Market** Enfield. Friday; 9.30 – 16.00.
- Kells Farmers' Market** Kells. Saturday; 10.00 – 16.00.
- Sonairte Farmers' Market** Laytown.  
Third Sunday of month. March – December; 10.30 – 17.00.

MONAGHAN

- Monaghan Farmers' Market**  
Castleblaney Livestock Sales Yard. Last Saturday of month; 9.00 – 13.00.
- Caherdaniel Market**  
Monaghan Town Courthouse. Friday; 10.00 – 14.00.

WICKLOW

- Country Craft Market** Brockagh Centre, Laragh. T: 0404 45611.  
Second Sunday of month from March onwards; 11.00 – 16.00.
- Aughrim Market** The Pavilion, Rednagh Rd, Aughrim.  
Saturday; 11.00 – 14.00.
- Roundwood Country Market** Main Street, Roundwood.  
Sunday mid-March to end November; 14.00 – 17.00.
- Newcastle Country Market** Community Hall, Newcastle.  
Saturday; 11.00 – 13.00.
- Brooklodge Market** Macreddin Village.  
First Sunday of month; 11.00 – 16.00.

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

ACTIVITIES



# Sporting Events

Why not soak up the atmosphere, spectate or even participate in one of the many sports available on Dublin's Doorstep!

## Horse Racing

Dublin's Doorstep is unique because it boasts **Ireland's first floodlit all-weather horse race track** at Dundalk stadium Co. Louth, and has the only official strand races in Europe at Laytown beach in Co. Meath! Another interesting fact is that this area is famous for breeding horse racing legends!

You are never too far from a racecourse in the Dublin's Doorstep area with the following racecourses within easy reach; The Curragh, Punchestown and Naas, in Co. Kildare. Navan, Fairyhouse, Bellewstown & of course the strand racing at Laytown in Co. Meath. Also there is horse racing at Dundalk Stadium, Co. Louth the only all-weather floodlit track in Ireland.

[www.hri.ie](http://www.hri.ie) (Horse Racing Ireland).

## Greyhound Racing

An exciting night out can be enjoyed at:

**Dundalk Greyhound Stadium**, Racecourse Rd, Dundalk.

Tel: 042 9334438. [www.dundalkstadium.com](http://www.dundalkstadium.com)

The venue offers a luxurious restaurant, boasting unrivalled panoramic views of the race circuit. Greyhound racing takes place every Friday & Saturday evening.

For further information on Greyhound Racing contact:



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

(Irish Greyhound Board).

## ACTIVITIES

Gaelic Games

Amongst a wide selection of sports on offer are our native Gaelic sports, including the thrilling game of hurling, famed for its fast pace and exciting encounters. Gaelic football, camogie, hurling & ladies football are played in every large town for at least nine months of the year. Why not experience the excitement and thrill of a match first hand by going along to a Gaelic games event. It's a unique experience you won't forget. [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie). (Gaelic Athletics Association).

Soccer

Soccer is played in various clubs throughout the year. Most clubs have their own grounds where matches are played during the week, but mainly at weekends. [www.fai.ie](http://www.fai.ie). (Football Association Ireland).

Rugby

Rugby Union is popular with many clubs throughout Dublin's doorstep. Games are played throughout the year except during the summer. [www.irishrugby.ie](http://www.irishrugby.ie)

Motorsport

A variety of car & motorcycle racing can be enjoyed at Mondello Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 860200. [www.mondello.ie](http://www.mondello.ie) The national circuit remains the most commonly used layout for car & motorcycle events with International races such as the BSB, BTCC and F3 and GT events taking place on the full International track.

Rally School Ireland, Gola, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan provides action packed days where you get to drive real rally cars on our purpose built venue designed to get you very sideways!! Tel: 047 89098. [www.rallyschoolireland.ie](http://www.rallyschoolireland.ie)

For local fixtures and information, visit one of our tourist offices (see list inside front cover) or our website [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)



IRELAND UNDER 21'S RUGBY



RALLY SCHOOL, MONAGHAN

ACTIVITIES





# Family Fun

**When you've spent a little time having fun in Dublin's Doorstep region you'll leave everything else behind.**

With so much action, adventure and excitement it's easy to lose yourself for a few moments, you'll love it. But the best thing is that the kids will love it too!

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

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

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

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

## ACTIVITIES



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| FAMILY FUN ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                     |   |   |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                 | Name                                | Details   | Address                                   | Telephone & Web                              |
| KILDARE                         | Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park | Pet farm, indoor & outdoor play areas, Discover science trail                 | Bog of Allen, Rathangan                   | 045 8702338<br>www.lullymoreheritagepark.com |
|                                 | Straffan Butterfly Farm             | Live tropical butterfly exhibition  | Ovidstown, Straffan                       | 01 6271109<br>www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com  |
|                                 | Play Barn                           | Activity centre   | Johnstown, Naas                           | 045 882670<br>www.fundays.ie                 |
|                                 | The Fun Factory                     | Activity centre   | Business Park, Newhall, Naas              | 045 988122<br>www.funfactory.ie              |
|                                 | Tricky Tricksters Magic Castle      | Activity centre   | Toughers Bus Pk, Naas                     | 045 409192<br>www.fundays.ie                 |
|                                 | K Bowl                              | Bowling & games room  | Ladytown Bus Pk, Naas                     | 045 408144<br>www.kbowl.ie                   |
|                                 | Little Joey's                       | Activity centre   | Naas Town Centre                          | 045 856666<br>www.littlejoeys.ie             |
| LAOIS                           | Kilvahan Adventure Farm             | Mini zoo, take a jaunt on a real zebra, carriage driving, camels & lots more! | Coolrain                                  | 057 87 35178<br>www.adventure-farm.com       |
|                                 | Roll N Bowl                         | Bowling & activity centre   | Clonminan Ind Est, Portlaoise             | 057 8670005<br>www.bowlingireland.com        |
|                                 | Tearaways                           | Activity centre   | Rathdowney Outlet                         | 0505 48714<br>www.tearaways.ie               |
| LOUTH                           | Dundalk Sports Bowl                 | Bowling   | Racecourse Rd, Dundalk                    | 042 9336000<br>www.discoverireland.ie        |
|                                 | Pirates Den                         | Activity centre   | Coes Rd, Dundalk                          | 042 9327454<br>www.pirates-den.com           |
|                                 | Drogheda Leisure Park               | Bowling, indoor activities  | Marleys Lane, Drogheda                    | 041 9877707<br>www.droghedaleisure.ie        |
|                                 | Funtasia Water Park                 | Waterpark   | Donore Rd, Drogheda                       | 041 9898000<br>www.funtasia.ie               |
|                                 | Dundalk IMC                         | Carroll Centre  | Dundalk                                   | 042 9320400<br>www.imccinemas.ie             |
|                                 | Drogheda Omniplex                   | Boyne Centre  | Drogheda                                  | 041 9844007<br>www.omniplex.ie               |
|                                 | Kangaroo Klub                       | Activity centre   | Newgrange Business Park, Donore, Drogheda | 041 9877777                                  |
|                                 |                                     |   |   |  |

ACTIVITIES



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| FAMILY FUN ON DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP |                                       |  |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                 | Name                                  | Details  | Address                               | Telephone & Web  |
| MEATH                           | Woodfield Open Farm                   | Open Farm  | Carnaross, Kells                      | 049 8541270<br><a href="http://www.woodfieldopenfarm.com">www.woodfieldopenfarm.com</a>        |
|                                 | Grove Gardens & Pet Farm              | Pet farm & seasonal activities                       | Fordstown, Kells                      | 046 9434276<br><a href="http://www.grovegardenspetfarm.com">www.grovegardenspetfarm.com</a>    |
|                                 | Jesters Play & Party                  | Activity centre & Lazerzone                          | Navan Shopping Centre                 | 046 9075599<br><a href="http://www.jestersplayandparty.com">www.jestersplayandparty.com</a>    |
|                                 | Newgrange Open Farm                   | Open Farm - Summer months                            | Newgrange, Slane                      | 041 9824119<br><a href="http://www.newgrangefarm.com">www.newgrangefarm.com</a>                |
|                                 | Tayto Park                            | Mr Tayto/<br>Buffalo Theme park.                     | Kilbrew, Ashbourne                    | 01 -8351999<br><a href="http://www.taytocrisps.ie/park">www.taytocrisps.ie/park</a>            |
|                                 | Causey Farm                           | Open Farm, seasonal activities & events for children | Fordstown, Navan                      | 046 9434135<br><a href="http://www.causeyexperience.com">www.causeyexperience.com</a>          |
|                                 | Pudden Hill Activity & Karting Centre | Activity & Karting centre                            | Moorepark, Garristown                 | 01 8354444<br><a href="http://www.puddenhill.com">www.puddenhill.com</a>                       |
|                                 | Mellowes Play Centre                  | Indoor & outdoor activity centre                     | Moygrehan, Athboy                     | 046 9433921<br><a href="http://www.mellowes.ie">www.mellowes.ie</a>                            |
|                                 | The Zone                              | Karting, 8+  | Mullaghboy Ind Park, Navan.           | 046 9071623<br><a href="http://www.thezone.ie">www.thezone.ie</a>                              |
|                                 | Dino's Den Play Centre                | Activity centre, Wed-Sun                             | Mullaghboy Ind Park, Navan            | 046 9093744<br><a href="http://www.dinosdenplaycentre.ie">www.dinosdenplaycentre.ie</a>        |
| MONAGHAN                        | Red Mountain Open Farm                | Open farm. Year round                                | Corballis, Donore, Drogheda           | 041 9823221<br><a href="http://www.redmountainopenfarm.ie">www.redmountainopenfarm.ie</a>      |
|                                 | The Diamond Screen Cinema             | Four screen cinema                                   | Monaghan.                             | 047 84755<br><a href="http://www.diamondmonaghan.com">www.diamondmonaghan.com</a>              |
|                                 | Blayney Bowls                         | 10-pin bowling centre                                | Castleblaney.                         | 047 9749955<br><a href="http://www.blayneybowls.ie">www.blayneybowls.ie</a>                    |
| WICKLOW                         | Monaghan Leisure Centre               | Leisure Centre & Fitness Studio                      | Monaghan.                             | 047 81734<br><a href="http://www.coralleisure.ie">www.coralleisure.ie</a>                      |
|                                 | Diamond Bowl & Kids Zone              | Bowling & activity centre                            | Wicklow Town                          | 0404 65222<br><a href="http://www.wicklowbowl.ie">www.wicklowbowl.ie</a>                       |
|                                 | Star Leisure Centre                   | Indoor amusements                                    | Seafront, Bray                        | 01 2863540<br><a href="http://www.starleisure.ie">www.starleisure.ie</a>                       |
|                                 | Bray Leisure Bowl                     | Bowling & activity centre                            | Quinsboro Rd, Bray                    | 01 2864455<br><a href="http://www.braybowl.ie">www.braybowl.ie</a>                             |
|                                 | Glenroe Farm                          | Pet farm   | Kilcoole                              | 01 2872288<br><a href="http://www.glenroefarm.com">www.glenroefarm.com</a>                     |
|                                 | Tick Tock                             | Farm & activity centre                               | Thomastown, Arklow                    | 0402 33624<br><a href="http://www.tick-tockactivityfarm.ie">www.tick-tockactivityfarm.ie</a>   |
|                                 | Zoom                                  | Activity centre                                      | Kilcoole Rd, Greystones               | 01 2016600<br><a href="http://www.fundays.ie">www.fundays.ie</a>                               |
|                                 | Clara Lara Fun Park                   | Activity park  | Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow                 | 0404 46161<br><a href="http://www.claralara.com">www.claralara.com</a>                         |
|                                 | Greenan Farm Museum & Maze            | A real maze!   | Ballinanty, Greenan, Rathdrum         | 0404 46000<br><a href="http://www.greenanemaze.com">www.greenanemaze.com</a>                   |
|                                 | Charlesland Sport & Recreational Park | Skateboarding, tennis, playground etc                | Charlesland, Greystones               | 01 2016145<br><a href="http://www.charleslandssportspark.ie">www.charleslandssportspark.ie</a> |
|                                 | Kids Adventure Park                   | Forest Playground, Lazy River, football etc.         | Hidden Valley Caravan Park, Rathdrum. | 086 7272872<br><a href="http://www.irelandholidaypark.com">www.irelandholidaypark.com</a>      |
|                                 |                                       |  |                                       |  |
|                                 |                                       |  |                                       |  |

For further information on playgrounds and swimming pools in the area, please contact the local Discover Ireland Centre or Tourist Office; see details on inside front cover of this guide.

ACTIVITIES





FESTIVAL PARADE

# Festivals & Events








One of the best ways to engage in the local culture is to visit a festival or event in Dublin's Doorstep. With hundreds of festivals and events to choose from, there is something to surprise and delight, entertain and entice you in every corner of the region.

From music, arts and theatre to the downright unusual, there really never is a dull moment. The magical counties of the region are alive with a fascinating history and a vibrant contemporary culture.

You'll be spoilt for choice! Throughout the region there are arts festivals that bring you everything except the ordinary in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and street performance! Get involved and savour fabulous food, magical music and the countless cultural events taking place.

Many of this regions festivals and events offer opportunities to participate, to learn something new, or discover a hidden talent! Breathe in the beauty of the landscape at any of our walking festivals. Or choose from the wide variety of winter and summer schools that offer the very best in poetry, music, painting and cookery.

## ACTIVITIES

|   |   |  |   |  |         |
|---|---|--|---|--|---------|
| <br>Agriculture | <br>Arts     | <br>Educational   | <br>Family | <br>Food  | SYMBOLS |
| <br>Garden      | <br>Heritage | <br>Miscellaneous | <br>Music  | <br>Sport |         |

FESTIVALS & EVENTS ON DUBLINS DOORSTEP

APRIL

Féile Patrick Byrne

14th – 17th April  
Carrickmacross.  
[carrickmacross@comhaltas.net](mailto:carrickmacross@comhaltas.net)  
The festival will take place in and around Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. There will be workshops, sessions, the annual Patrick Byrne lecture as well as a concert headlined by exciting new group, Goitse.



The Irish National Guitar & Blues Festival 2011

15th – 17th April.  
TLT Concert Hall & various venues in Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.irishguitarfest.com](http://www.irishguitarfest.com)  
3 Days of guitar madness and blues heaven. Come see the worlds greatest musicians perform live and check the latest gear in the guitar world.



Wicklow Adventure Race

16th April.  
Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.wicklowadventurerace.com](http://www.wicklowadventurerace.com)  
53Km Cycle, 18km Run, & 2km Kayak challenge in the Wicklow Mountains.



Cooley Legends Half Marathon

23rd April.  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
[www.cooleylegendshalfmarathon.com](http://www.cooleylegendshalfmarathon.com)  
Off road half marathon in the Cooley Mountains' rugged landscape, meandering along the Táin Trail, past bogs, lakes, Slieve Foy to finish in Carlingford.



South Kildare Medieval Festival 2011

24th April.  
Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.  
[www.southkildaremedievalfestival.com](http://www.southkildaremedievalfestival.com)  
A blend of living history, archaeology, hands-on workshops and exhibitions, suitable for all ages.



Fiddler of Oriel Festival

28th April – 1 May.  
Monaghan.  
[www.feileoriel.com](http://www.feileoriel.com)  
Feile Oriel is a Traditional Irish Music, Song and Dance Festival.



Drogheda Fringe Festival 2011

28th April – 2nd May.  
Various venues in Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.louth.ie](http://www.louth.ie)  
The Fringe includes over 30 venues with music, comedy, art, poetry and film events throughout the town and coincides with the Drogheda Arts Festival.



Bray Jazz Festival

29th April – 1st May.  
Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.brayjazz.com](http://www.brayjazz.com)  
The premier jazz weekend in the Dublin area, attracting upwards of 5,000 visitors to Bray each year.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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

Drogheda Arts Festival 2011

29th April - 2nd May.  
Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.droghedartsfestival.ie](http://www.droghedartsfestival.ie)  
Innovative, stimulating, and welcoming, Drogheda Arts Festival has a growing reputation for quality arts performances and exhibitions which attract thousands of visitors to the town over the May Bank Holiday weekend.



Vantastival

29th April - 1st May.  
Dunany Estate, Dunany, Togher, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.vantastival.com](http://www.vantastival.com)  
Weekend music festival catering particularly for campervan enthusiasts but open to everyone, with a music line-up and range of activities to suit all.



MAY

Fairy & Elf Fair

1st May.  
Causey Farm, Navan, Co. Meath.  
[www.causey.ie](http://www.causey.ie)  
Magical afternoon of Fairy and Elf themed workshops, activities, music, a fairy parade, storytelling and little people dressed in their fairy best!



K-Fest 2011

2nd – 8th May.  
Naas, Co. Kildare.  
[www.k-fest.com](http://www.k-fest.com)  
K-Fest is a celebration of music, culture, food, art, theatre and community for locals and visitors alike in the town of Naas.



Navan Choral Festival

5th - 8th May.  
Navan, Co. Meath.  
[www.navanchoralfestival.com](http://www.navanchoralfestival.com)  
Choral Competitions for primary and secondary school choirs, youth & gospel choirs, church & adult choirs. National Choir of the Year Competition.



Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards/Festival

12th May.  
Athy Heritage Centre & Museum, The Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.  
**T:0 59 863 3075.**  
Cecil Day Lewis festival entries are invited from all schools in Co. Kildare to enter the annual Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards.



ALMC Motor Club Performance Car Show

15th May.  
City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath.  
[www.almcmotorshow.com](http://www.almcmotorshow.com)  
ALMC Motor Club bring some of the finest rally and performance cars in Ireland to the CityNorth Hotel, in a family friendly event for charity.



Tattersalls Festival featuring the International Horse Trials

26th – 29th May.  
Ratoath, Co. Meath.  
**Tel: 01 886 4300**  
World class equestrianism, family fun and entertainment, and a superbly run event are the hallmarks of the Tattersalls Festival.



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS ON DUBLINS DOORSTEP

Wicklow Arts Festival

26th – 29th May.  
Wicklow Town & surrounds.  
[www.wicklowartsfestival.ie](http://www.wicklowartsfestival.ie)

A four day celebration of the arts in the scenic coastal town of Wicklow, featuring art exhibitions, comedy, classical recitals and theatre.



Wicklow Roar

28th May.  
Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.roar.ie](http://www.roar.ie)

Competition of Trail Run, Biking & other multisport activities in West Wicklow around Blessington Lakes.



SwimAthy 2011

29th May.  
Athy, Co. Kildare.  
[www.swimathy.com](http://www.swimathy.com)  
SwimAthy is an open water swim in the River Barrow.



JUNE

Carrickmacross Festival

3rd – 5th June.  
Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.  
[www.carrickmacross.ie/festival](http://www.carrickmacross.ie/festival)  
Great fun for all the family!!



Flat Lake Festival

3rd – 6th June.  
Hilton Park, Clones, Co. Monaghan.  
[www.theflatlakefestival.com](http://www.theflatlakefestival.com)  
A Bank Holiday Weekend of unique entertainment!



Abbey Fest

3rd – 6th June.  
Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.  
[www.abbeyfest.ie](http://www.abbeyfest.ie)

Music and arts family focused festival dedicated to the presentation and promotion of local and national musicians and artists.



Americana and Roots Weekend

3rd – 6th June.  
The Beach House, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.rootswweekend.com](http://www.rootswweekend.com)  
This annual music festival features four days of the best Bluegrass, Americana and Roots Music for the whole family.



Art in Action

4th – 6th June.  
Townley Hall, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.artinaction.ie](http://www.artinaction.ie)  
Art in Action is a 3-day arts & crafts festival where top artists and craftspeople from many different disciplines are invited to set up studio and demonstrate their work and skills live.



The Beat on the Boyne Festival 2011

5th – 6th June.  
Various venues in Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.louth.ie](http://www.louth.ie)  
The 3rd annual event will feature 2 free daytime concerts on Saturday and Sunday (1pm to 8pm) on the banks of the River Boyne featuring talent from the Boyne Valley plus many associated events throughout Drogheda.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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

2011 Cox Cup

10th June.  
Newbridge Greyhound Stadium, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.  
[www.newbridgegreyhoundstadium.ie](http://www.newbridgegreyhoundstadium.ie)  
See the most prestigious greyhounds in Ireland contest for the €50,000 Cox Cup. Top action racing, children's entertainment, fun for all the family.



Wicklow Gardens Festival

11th – 19th June.  
Wicklow.  
[www.visitwicklow.ie/gardens](http://www.visitwicklow.ie/gardens)  
Weekend of activities celebrating Wicklow's gardens.



Dunlavin Festival of Arts

17th – 19th June.  
Various venues in Dunlavin Town, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.dunlavinartsfestival.com](http://www.dunlavinartsfestival.com)  
It is a community based festival with something for all the family. Visual arts, crafts, music, drama, outdoor activities, street entertainment.



Wicklow Adventure Race

19th June.  
Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.wicklowadventurerace.com](http://www.wicklowadventurerace.com)  
53Km Cycle, 18km Run, & 2km Kayak challenge in the Wicklow Mountains



Drogheda Samba Festival

24th – 26th June.  
Drogheda Borough, Co. Louth.  
[www.droghedasamba.com](http://www.droghedasamba.com)  
A three-day celebration of Brazilian, Latin and African music and dance, which includes indoor and outdoor gigs, workshops and a carnival parade.



An Chúirt Chruitireachta Annual International Festival for Irish Harp

24th – 26th June.  
An Grianan, Termonfechin, Co. Louth.  
[www.cairdenacruite.com](http://www.cairdenacruite.com)  
A weeklong programme of harp workshops, seminars, sessions and concerts focusing on music of the ancient harping tradition and Irish traditional music.



Kells Heritage Festival

30th June - 3rd July.  
Kells, Co. Meath.  
[www.kellsfestivals.com](http://www.kellsfestivals.com)  
Family festival in its 20th year, with cultural, arts, and children's' events , finishing with Market Day. Great family and visitor festival.



Trim Swift Festival

30rd June - 3rd July.  
Trim, Co. Meath.  
[www.trimswiftfestival.com](http://www.trimswiftfestival.com)  
The festival seeks to promote comedy, political satire and debate in Ireland, featuring leading politicians, satirists and social commentators.



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN DUBLINS DOORSTEP & LAKELANDS

JULY

Seisiún Camross CCÉ - Camross Comhaltas Seisiún

1st July - 12th August (Fridays).  
Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
Tel: 087 769 4302

Great Irish traditional nights of entertainment, music, song, dance & storytelling. Siamsaíocht Ghaelach Náisiúnta & Ceol na nGael!



Kells Market Day - Arts, Crafts & Family Fun

3rd July.  
Market Streets of Kells, Co. Meath.  
[www.marketday.kellschamber.ie](http://www.marketday.kellschamber.ie)

A traditional market day with arts, crafts and artisan food stalls, as well as a farmers market, family fun, street entertainment and livestock displays.



Athy Bluegrass Festival

7th – 10th July.  
Carlton Abbey Hotel, Athy, Co. Kildare.  
[www.athy-bluegrass.com](http://www.athy-bluegrass.com)

Athy bluegrass festival is a 4 day event celebrating American bluegrass music.



Oxegen

8th – 10th July.  
Punchestown Racecourse, Naas, Co. Kildare.  
[www.oxegen.ie](http://www.oxegen.ie)

Voted Best European Festival two years running, OXEGEN is renowned for its incredible music line-up and an unrivalled atmosphere.



The Boyne Brothers Golf Challenge

7th – 10th July.  
Knightsbrook Hotel Spa & Golf Resort, Trim, Co. Meath.  
[www.knightsbrook.com](http://www.knightsbrook.com)

County Meath's unique 3 Brothers Golf Competition, an event with both a competitive & social nature promises to be a golfing experience not to be missed!



Loughcrew Garden Opera

8th – 9th July.  
Loughcrew Gardens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.  
T. 049 854 1356  
"Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss, Opera set in a fully decorated marquee located in beautiful gardens - the magic of the Loughcrew Opera is something you will never forget!



Carlingford Lough Endurance Challenge

9th July.  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
[www.clec.ie](http://www.clec.ie)  
The Columbia Carlingford Lough Endurance Challenge 'CLEC' is Ireland's longest running multi-sport event. Hill running, mountain biking & sea-kayaking.



Bray Summerfest

10th – 24th July.  
Bray seafront and various locations in Bray town, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.braysummerfest.com](http://www.braysummerfest.com)  
Ireland's largest free beach party festival, with music, dance, food & crafts.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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Muckno Mania Festival

14th – 17th July.  
Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.  
[www.mucknomania.ie](http://www.mucknomania.ie)  
The 2011 Muckno Mania Festival is in its twelfth year and will again feature a broad array of activities including art related events.



Adelaide International Kells

Road Races 2011  
16th – 17th July.  
Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath.  
[www.kellsroadraces.com](http://www.kellsroadraces.com)  
Premier road race which attracts top class competitors. Favourite with the fans and riders alike. Spectacular viewing, easy access, well organised.



Arklow Seabreeze Festival

15th – 17th July.  
Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.  
T: 086 385 3674  
Carnival atmosphere, action packed weekend of free entertainment for all the family, fun, laughter, music to suit all tastes, Arklow at its best.



Festival français de portarlinton (French Festival of Portarlinton)

15th – 17th July.  
Portarlinton, Co. Laois.  
T. 057 8623281  
Festival français de portarlinton is a weekend full of entertainment for all the family to celebrate the towns French Huguenot Heritage.



Craft in Action

16th July – 20th August.  
Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath.  
[www.newgrange.com](http://www.newgrange.com)  
This is an opportunity to meet the craft workers of the Boyne Valley and watch them create their work.



Wicklow Regatta Festival 2011

22nd July - 1st August.  
Wicklow Town.  
[www.wicklowregatta.com](http://www.wicklowregatta.com)  
Family fun with something for everyone including Golly fishing, fancy dress, treasure hunts and of course the regatta race.



Hopkins International Literary Festival

23rd – 29th July.  
Newbridge College, Co. Kildare.  
[www.gerardmanleyhopkins.org](http://www.gerardmanleyhopkins.org)  
'The best literary festival in Ireland' (ed. Oxford Companion) with poetry, classical and traditional music, workshops, art, lectures & youth programme.



Bray Summerfest Air Spectacular 2011

24th July.  
Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.airspectacular.com](http://www.airspectacular.com)  
Ireland's largest free family airshow, featuring Irish and international aerobatic pilots, search and rescue demonstrations and parachute landings.



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS ON DUBLINS DOORSTEP

Durrow Laois Howya Festival

24th July – 1st August.  
Various venues in Durrow, Co. Laois.  
[www.durrowvillage.com](http://www.durrowvillage.com)

Festival of friendship, the HOWYA festival includes the All-Ireland's Scarecrow competition for the delight of young & old alike.



Maureen Culleton Summer School and Festival of Dance

25th July – 1st August.  
Community Centre, Ballyfin,  
Co. Laois.

Tel: 087 648 2038

A celebration of the dances and music of Ireland, with workshops and céilithe each day. All abilities catered for.



An Poc Fada

30th July.  
Annavernaa Mountain, Ravensdale,  
Cooley Peninsula.  
[www.anpocfada.net](http://www.anpocfada.net)

An Poc Fada Craobh na hÉireann 1961 - Caoga Bliain – 2011. All Ireland poc Fada Championships 50th Anniversary of the first All Ireland Poc Fada.



National Steam Rally

31st July - 1st August.  
Stradbally Hall, Stradbally, Co. Laois.  
[www.irishsteam.ie](http://www.irishsteam.ie)

Premier event in the calendar of steam in Ireland. Steam engines, vintage cars, steam threshing and steam train rides are but a few of the attractions.



AUGUST

Tinahely Agricultural Show/  
Wicklow County Show

1st August.  
Fairwood Park, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.  
[www.tinahelyshow.ie](http://www.tinahelyshow.ie)

Agricultural show featuring bloodstock, livestock, show jumping, produce, craft, garden exhibitions, trade display, vintage show, entertainment & attractions.



Slieve Bloom Music  
from the Mountain Festival

13th – 14th August.  
Clonaslee, Co. Laois.  
[www.slievebloom.ie](http://www.slievebloom.ie)

Traditional music festival with free events in local pubs. Great music, great fun!



Moynalty Steam Threshing  
Festival August 2011

14th August.  
Moynalty, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 046 924 4390  
Ireland's best loved steam threshing festival.



Carlingford Legends Olympic Triathlon

20th August.  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
[www.setantatri.com](http://www.setantatri.com)  
Olympic distance triathlon: 1500m swim; 40k bike; 10k run.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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

Taaffes Castle Medieval Challenge

21st – 28th August.  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
[www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)  
8 time travellers are selected to live in Taaffes Castle in Medieval Carlingford to for 7 days exactly as they did 800 years ago in 1211!



Walled Town Day

23rd August.  
Carlingford Co. Louth.  
[www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)  
King John's Castle, Carlingford.



Medieval Day and Canon Shoot

23rd – 30th August.  
Milmount Museum & Martelle Tower,  
Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
[www.millmount.net](http://www.millmount.net)



Walled Town Day

23rd – 24th August.  
Drogheda Town.  
[www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)



Killruddery Festival

Il Divo in Concert – 19th August.  
Colm Wilkinson Concert –  
28th August.  
Killruddery House Gardens,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
Concerts in an intimate and ambient  
17th century garden featuring  
legendary artists from around  
the world.



Kilcullen River Festival 2011

28th August.  
Market Square, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.  
E-mail: [kilcullenriverfestival@gmail.com](mailto:kilcullenriverfestival@gmail.com)  
A fun filled day out for all the family on  
the banks of the River Liffey.



SEPTEMBER

Monaghan Harvest-Time R&B Festival

2nd – 4th September.  
Monaghan.  
[www.harvestblues.ie](http://www.harvestblues.ie)  
Harvest Time Blues Festival.



The High Kings Festival

3rd – 4th September.  
Donore Village, Newgrange, Co. Meath.  
[www.louthmouthpromotions@gmail.com](http://www.louthmouthpromotions@gmail.com)

Festival to select the High King of  
Donore, which includes fun & games,  
set dancing at the crossroads, pony &  
trap rides, great music, food & more.



Royal Meath Show

4th September.  
Porchfields, Trim, Co. Meath.  
T: 046 902 5599

A Show with a huge range of animal  
and home industry classes promised  
to keep all the family entertained.



Laytown Strand Races

8th September.  
T: 041 984 2111  
Annual horse racing on the beach at  
Laytown, Co. Meath



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Bog Snorkelling Competition

10th September.  
Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.  
[www.irishbogsnoorkelling.com](http://www.irishbogsnoorkelling.com)  
Competitors must complete two lengths of a 60 yard bog drain in the quickest time possible, wearing a snorkel, mask and flippers.



Ratoath Autumn Festival

10th – 11th September.  
Ratoath, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 086 843 5583  
Fun fair, foods from European countries, local crafts, face painting, all kinds of music and much more!



Navan Live 2011

14th – 18th September.  
Navan, Co. Meath.  
[www.navanlive.com](http://www.navanlive.com)  
Navan Live 2011, host of some of Ireland's biggest names in music.



Feile na Mi  
(Singing and Dancing Competitions)

18th – 19th September.  
An Bradan Feasa, Rathcairn,  
Atha Bui, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 046 943 2381

As part of this Meath Festival various competitions take place in all ages in Sean-nós dancing and in particular Sean-nós singing.



Wicklow Adventure Race

24th September.  
Powerscourt & Sally Gap, Co.Wicklow.  
[www.wicklowadventurerace.com](http://www.wicklowadventurerace.com)  
53Km Cycle, 18km Run, & 2km Kayak challenge in the Wicklow Mountains.



The 2011 Solheim Cup

23th – 25th September.  
Killeen Castle, Dunsany, Co. Meath.  
[www.solheimcup.com](http://www.solheimcup.com)  
The first staging of The 2011 Solheim Cup in Ireland. Biennial TransAtlantic tournament between USA & Europe.



23rd Annual O'Carolan Cultural & Heritage Festival

30th September – 2nd October.  
Nobber, Co. Meath.  
Tel: 046 905 2115  
A cultural & heritage festival celebrating Turlough O'Carolan, born in Nobber in 1670.



Annual Patrick Kavanagh Weekend

30th September – 2nd October.  
Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan.  
[www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com](http://www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com)  
The Patrick Kavanagh Weekend is a celebration of the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh.

A feast of lectures, poetry, music, song, storytelling and craic in the poet's native village of Inniskeen.



Dundalk International Fashion Weekend

30th September – 2nd October.  
[www.loutholidays.com](http://www.loutholidays.com)  
Dundalk's popular fashion weekend.



OCTOBER

Farmaphobia Halloween Experience

15th – 31st October.  
Causey Farm, Navan, Co. Meath.  
[www.causey.ie](http://www.causey.ie)  
100 minutes of screams & laughter at Ireland's biggest Halloween event - eerie ghosts, ghoulish entertainers, adrenalin pumping frights, serious fun!



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

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

Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival

21st - 31st October.  
Meath County.  
Tel: 046 909 7060  
Spirts of Meath Halloween Festival!  
Fun by day, frights by night!!!  
Family fun & grown up events all around County Meath!



The Tain Festival

Late October (date tbc).  
[www.tainfestival.com](http://www.tainfestival.com)  
A celebration of Music, Comedy, Literature, Film, Food and street entertainment.



Clones Film Festival

27th – 31st October.  
Clones.  
[www.clonesfilmfestival.com](http://www.clonesfilmfestival.com)  
Ireland's Biggest Little Film Festival.



The Hallowe'en Howls Comedy Festival

21st – 25th October.  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
[www.halloweenhowls.ie](http://www.halloweenhowls.ie)  
Ireland's top comedians return to Portlaoise for the October Bank Holiday Weekend to join in one of the highlights on the Irish comedy calendar.



11th Shackleton Autumn School/Festival

28th – 31st October.  
Athy Heritage Centre & Museum,  
The Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy,  
Co. Kildare.  
[www.shackletonmuseum.com](http://www.shackletonmuseum.com)  
Held annually on the October Bank Holiday weekend, this 4 day event consists of lectures, exhibits, drama, film, music and field trips.



NOVEMBER

Ardee Baroque Festival 2011

18th – 20th November.  
Ardee, Co. Louth.  
[www.createlouth.ie](http://www.createlouth.ie)  
The only Orchestral Baroque Festival on the island of Ireland, it prides itself on quality music, evocative venues and a warm, friendly, festive atmosphere.



Santa's Magical Trail

25th November – 22nd December.  
Athy, Co. Kildare.  
[www.santasmagicaltrail.ie](http://www.santasmagicaltrail.ie)  
Join Rudolph and the elves and journey with them through Santa's magical trail. "A fun filled and magical experience for children young and old".



DECEMBER

St David's Christmas Fair

3rd – 4th December.  
St David's School, Sea Front,  
Greystones, Co. Wicklow.  
Tel: 087 291 7519  
Arts & crafts by local artists, home baked items, clothes, toys & books, Christmas decor, Santa's grotto, mulled wine, tea rooms.



Feile na Nollaig

4th December.  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
[www.carlingford.ie](http://www.carlingford.ie)  
Santa arrives in Carlingford with little surprises for all the children.



For a list of festivals and events,  
log on to  
[www.discoverireland.ie/festivals](http://www.discoverireland.ie/festivals)

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# Travel Options

It has never been easier to get around the East Region. This region can boast easy access to air and sea travel as well as being linked by a well serviced train and bus network. Beat the traffic and fly direct into Dublin airport or sail in to Dublin port.



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**Dublin Port:** Dublin Port is very centrally located, only minutes from Dublin city centre and close to both rail and bus connections. It is Ireland's busiest passenger ferry port with up to 17 sailings daily to the UK and the continent. For full information on the port you can log onto: [www.dublinport.ie](http://www.dublinport.ie)

**Dublin Airport:** Not only is Dublin airport Ireland's busiest airport it is also amongst the ten busiest airports in Europe. For all you need to know on flight information to Ireland you can log onto: [www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com)

### AIR

#### Dublin Airport

Tel: +353 1 814 1111

Web: [www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com)

Email: [information.queries@daa.ie](mailto:information.queries@daa.ie)

Dublin Airport is situated approximately:

- > 75kms from Wicklow town
- > 68kms from Kildare town
- > 57kms from Navan town
- > 74kms from Dundalk town
- > 121kms from Monaghan Town.

### SEA

#### Dublin Port

Tel: 01 8876000

Web: [www.dublinport.ie](http://www.dublinport.ie)

Email: [info@dublinport.ie](mailto:info@dublinport.ie)

### DRIVING

A valid driving license is required by the visitor from their country of residence. Driving in Ireland is on the left hand side of the road. Safety belts must be worn at all times by front and back seat passengers. Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear safety helmets whilst driving.

The speed limit is 120kph on the motorways, 100kph on national roads and 80kph on non-national roads. Brown signposts with white lettering provide information on visitor attraction including castles, accommodation, tourist information offices, scenic areas and picnic sites.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus Eireann – National Bus Company servicing all major towns and cities.

Tel: 01 8366111.

Web: [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

### CAR HIRE

Most of the major car rental companies have desks at the airports terminals and large towns throughout the region. All drivers must have valid licenses. It is advisable to book in advance.

For information on car hire please log onto: [www.carrentalcouncil.ie](http://www.carrentalcouncil.ie)

### TAXI SERVICES

There are many taxi companies offering services on the cities, towns and villages in the region, for their contact details you can contact a local tourist office or directory enquiries on 11811.

## ACTIVITIES

IRISH RAIL – NATIONAL RAIL COMPANY

Tel: 1850 366 222  
Web: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)  
Email: [reservations@irishrail.ie](mailto:reservations@irishrail.ie)



# Practical Information

## BANKS

Banks are generally open from Monday to Friday from 10.00 – 16.00. Each bank has one later opening day per week. Bureau de Change facilities as well as ATM machines are available at most banks. Money transfers can be organised through Western Union Money Transfer.

## CLIMATE

Influenced by the Gulf Stream, Ireland has a mild temperature climate with the average summer temperature around 15°C. Areas close to the coast rarely have a large difference between summer and winter conditions, with an average 10°C difference between January and July. Typical winter weather in Ireland is cloudy and raining with the occasional sunny spell. temperatures around January average 5°C. For regional forecasts, please log onto: [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)

## CREDIT CARDS

MasterCard, Visa and American Express credit cards are widely accepted in Ireland.

## CURRENCY

The unit of currency in the Republic of Ireland is the Euro. One euro consists of 100 cents. Notes are €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500. Coins are 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1 and €2.

## ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage in the Republic of Ireland is 220 volts. Plugs are 3-pin flat, therefore adapters are required for 2-pin appliances. En-suite bathroom shaving points normally have 110 and 240 volt outlets.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

In Ireland the general Emergency Telephone number is 999 or 112 – no coins required in telephone coin boxes. These numbers will alert the appropriate service – Fire, Gardai (Police), Lifeboat, Coastal, Mountain and Cave Rescue Services.

## MEDICAL & HEALTH TREATMENT

EU Citizens are entitled to free hospital treatment in a public ward and should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (which replaced the old E111 form) prior to departure. For further details see [www.ehic.ie](http://www.ehic.ie). Private medical insurance is advised for visitors from non-EU countries.

### Naas General Hospital

Naas, Co. Kildare.  
Tel: 045 897221.

### Midland Regional Hospital

Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 8621364.

### Louth County Hospital

Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel: 042 9334701.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: 041 9837601.

### Our Lady's Hospital

Navan, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 9078500.

### GP Out of Hours Services

Service usually operate from 18.00 – 22.00, Monday - Friday and 10.00 –18.00 at the weekends.  
MI Doc Tel: 1850 307 702.

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# Practical Information

## INTERNET & EMAIL

Internet access is available across the region in Internet Cafes and Libraries.

## LANGUAGE

Irish (Gaelic) and English are the official languages of the Republic of Ireland. Street and road signs are all bilingual. In Gaeltacht areas the Irish Language is still in everyday use.

## PASSPORTS/VISAS

For the latest information on passports and visa requirements for Ireland, contact the Department of Foreign Affairs, 80 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: + 353 (0)1 478 0822.

[www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie](http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie)

## POST

An Post is Ireland's national postal service provider. Generally, Post Offices are open from 9.00 – 17.30, Monday – Friday, and 9.00 – 13.00 on Saturday. For more information visit [www.anpost.ie](http://www.anpost.ie)

## SHOPPING HOURS

Shops are generally open from 9.00 – 18.00, Monday – Saturday. Most large stores have a late-night shopping evening or two during the week. Some large stores are also open on Sundays, particularly in the larger towns.

## TELEPHONE

**Directory Enquiries:**

call 11811/11850/11890.

**International Enquiries:** call 11818.

## TIPPING

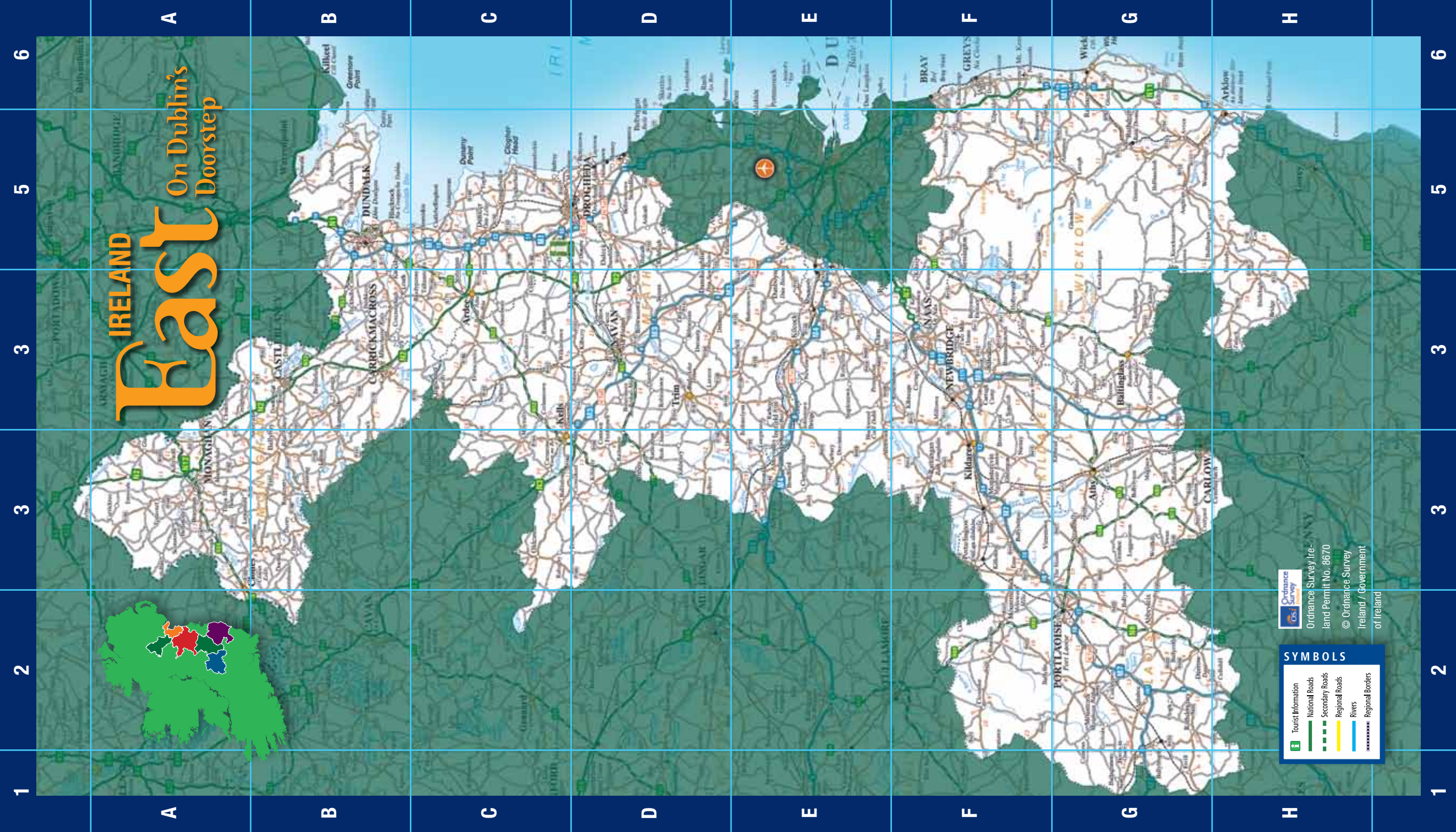
It is customary to add a gratuity of between 12 and 15 per cent to the bill in restaurants or hotels, when a service charge is not already included in your bill. Tipping is not usual in pubs, except when you are served at your table.

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