

**WWW.DUBLINPLACESTOVISIT.COM**  
**- THE VIP TAXIS GUIDE TO PLACES TO VISIT IN DUBLIN**

**AIRFIELD HOUSE** - The Airfield Trust was established by Letitia & Naomi Overend, daughters of a successful Dublin solicitor, to keep the Airfield Estate intact for educational & recreational purposes. The Overends' life & times can be appreciated via the Airfield House exhibition. A working farm with a milking Jersey herd, sheep, pigs, chickens, donkeys & 50 laying hens. Two farmers are on hand to guide visitors through twice daily milkings, egg collecting, mucking out & feeding. The farmyard allows easy access to the animals, the milking parlour & the dairy kitchen. Also on view are attractive gardens, a small vineyard, & a garage for vintage cars. Open daily 9.30am-5pm. [www.airfield.ie](http://www.airfield.ie) Overend Way, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 01-969 6666. Adults €10; concessions.

**ARAS AN UACHTARAIN** - Residence of President of Ireland. Guided tours Sat only. Summer 10.15am-4.00pm; Winter 10.15am-3.30pm. Closed: 24-27 Dec. Tickets issued at Phoenix Park Visitor Centre on Sat on first-come, first-served basis. Advance bookings not permitted. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/ArasanUachtarain/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/ArasanUachtarain/) Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 6770095. Admission free.

**ARBOUR HILL** - Military cemetery. Last resting place of 14 of executed leaders of 1916 insurrection. Open all year Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; Sat 11am-4pm; Sun 9.30am-4pm. <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/ArbourHillCemetery/> Rear of National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 821 3021. Admission free.

**ARDGILLAN CASTLE** - Large 18<sup>th</sup> C country manor house (1738) built in extensive parklands overlooking Irish Sea. Demesne features walled & rose garden. Ground floor rooms, kitchens open to visitors (guided tour). House tours start 11.30 am (on demand). Tricky to find: 20 miles from city centre near Balbriggan. Park open Nov-Jan: 9am-5pm; Feb-Mar: 9am-6pm; Apr 9am-7pm; May 9am-8pm; June-Aug 10am-9pm; Sept 10am-8pm; Oct 10am-7pm. Gardens open daily 9.30am-4.30pm Winter and 9.30am-6pm Summer. **House opening times:** Feb-Nov daily 10am-5pm; Dec-Jan Tues-Sun 10am-4.30pm. Closed 23 Dec to 1 Jan. [www.ardgillan.ie](http://www.ardgillan.ie) Tel: 01 8492212. House tour - Adults €6.50; concessions.

**THE ARK** - A unique, purpose-built cultural centre in the heart of Dublin's Temple Bar, where children aged 2-12 can explore theatre, music, literature, art, film, & dance. Varied programme of performances, exhibitions & creative workshops. Busy schedule for primary school children. Housed on site of a former Presbyterian Meeting House (1728); carefully restored front facade of the church. 1,500 sq.m. housing a theatre, a gallery and a workshop. Ark booking office open Mon-Fri 10am-4:30pm. [www.ark.ie](http://www.ark.ie) The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, 11a Eustace St, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6707788. Ticket price guide: School bookings €5 per child; exhibitions €5; workshops/concerts €12. Pre-booking absolutely essential.

**AVIVA STADIUM** – Home of Irish Rugby. Stadium tour. Open 7 days Feb-Oct 10am-4pm; Nov-Jan 10am-3pm. Tours on the hour every hour (go to stadium tour office, Lansdowne Road). Closed on match days (check website for details). Closed 24-26 Dec. [www.avivastadium.ie/tours](http://www.avivastadium.ie/tours) Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 238 2300. Adults €10; Concessions.

**BANK OF IRELAND (HOUSE OF LORDS)** – Former Irish Houses of Parliament. World's first purpose-built two-chamber parliament house. Built 1729. Purchased in 1803 by Bank of Ireland (Irish Parliament abolished 1801). Access allowed to House of Lords Chamber except if closed for a private function. Guided tour Tues only 10.30am. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish\\_Houses\\_of\\_Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Houses_of_Parliament) College Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 07 662 39350. Free entry.

**BLESSINGTON STREET BASIN** - A picturesque walled park with a landscaped walk around a large lake and plenty of places to sit. Built in the early 19th century to provide a clean water supply to the north of the city. Completely refurbished in 1993/94 and now a quiet city haven, providing a “secret garden” for local residents and visitors alike. Bird sanctuary on the central island. Open every day 10am; closing time varies in line with nightfall. [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie) Blessington Street Basin, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8300833. Free admission.

**CASINO MARINO** – One of the finest 18th century neo-classical buildings in Europe. 16 finely decorated rooms. Guided tours only. Open 14 Mar-31 Oct: 10am-5pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/CasinoMarino](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/CasinoMarino) Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Marino, Dublin 3. Tel: 01 833 1618. Adults €3; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY** – One of best museums in Europe (Lonely Planet). Art museum & library house collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books from Asia, Middle East, North Africa & Europe. Open Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm (March-Sept); Tues-Fri: 10am-5pm (Oct-Feb); Saturdays: 11am-5pm (all year). Sundays: 1pm-5pm (all year). Closed Bank Holiday Mondays, Good Friday, 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan. Free public tours Wed at 1pm, Sun at 3pm & 4pm. [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie) Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 4070750. Admission free.

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL** - Founded in 1030. One of the largest medieval crypts in Europe. Exhibition of treasures & manuscripts. Open Mon-Sat: March-May 9am-6pm. June-Sept 9am-7pm; Oct-Feb 9am-5pm. Open Sun Mar-Oct 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-6pm. June-Sept 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-7pm. Oct-Feb 12.30pm-2.30pm. Closed 26 Dec. [www.christchurchdublin.ie](http://www.christchurchdublin.ie) Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 677 8099. Adults €6; concessions. Guided tours of the cathedral including the belfry (€10) take place at 11.30 am and 1.15 pm (Saturdays) and 1.15 pm (Sundays). Visitors get the opportunity to ring the famous bells under expert supervision.

**THE CHURCH** - Former St. Mary's Church of Ireland. One of earliest examples of a galleried church in Dublin. Built at beginning of 18th century, it boasts many outstanding features (spectacular stained glass window). Historical figures associated with St. Mary's include Arthur Guinness, Sean O'Casey, Wolfe Tone, John Wesley, Jonathan Swift and G.F. Handel. St. Mary's closed in 1964 and lay derelict for a number of years. Beautifully restored, it is now a café, bar and restaurant. “Self Guided Tour” available everyday between 11am and 4pm. [www.thechurch.ie/about/history/](http://www.thechurch.ie/about/history/) The Church, junction of Mary St & Jervis St, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 828 0102.

**CROKE PARK STADIUM TOUR AND GAA MUSEUM** - Ireland's largest and most iconic sporting arena. Showcases national games of hurling and Gaelic football. Stadium tour; refurbished GAA Museum. Open Jan-Apr & Sept-Dec: Mon-Fri: 11.00,

13.00 & 15.00; Sat: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00; Sun & Bank Holidays: 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00. May: Mon-Fri: 11.00, 13.00 & 15.00; Sat, Sun & Bank Holiday: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00; June: Mon - Fri: 11.00, 13.00, 15.00 & 16.00; Sat: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00 & 16.00; Sun & Bank Holiday: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00. July-August: Mon - Sat: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00 & 16.00; Sun & Bank Holiday: 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 & 15.00. Check website for match day information (when restrictions apply). [www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum/visit/stadium-tours](http://www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum/visit/stadium-tours) Croke Park, St Joseph's Avenue (off Clonliffe Road), Dublin 3. Tel: 01 819 2323. Adults €12.50; concessions.

**CUSTOM HOUSE** – A masterpiece of European neo-classicism by James Gandon (1791). Closed to visitors (despite what it says on the Internet!). [www.archiseek.com/2010/1791-custom-house-customhouse-quay-dublin/#.UgYfAJLYdIE](http://www.archiseek.com/2010/1791-custom-house-customhouse-quay-dublin/#.UgYfAJLYdIE) Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-888 2000.

**DALKEY CASTLE AND HERITAGE CENTRE** – Guided living history tours with the past brought to life by actors. Opening hours: Jan 6-Mar 31 and Oct-Dec 22: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; weekends/Bank Holidays 11am-5pm. April, May, Sept: Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm; weekends/Bank Holidays 11am-5.30pm. June, July & August: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; weekends/Bank Holidays 11am-6pm. Guided Historical Walks on Wed & Fri from 1st June to 31st August at 12 noon; booking required (€7). See website for details of other events (e.g. guided literary walks). [www.dalkeycastle.com](http://www.dalkeycastle.com) Tel: 01 285 8366. Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. Living history tours - adults €8.50; concessions.

**DRIMNAGH CASTLE** - Feudal stronghold. Only remaining castle in Ireland surrounded by a flooded moat. Restored great hall, battlement tower, stable, coach house, formal 17<sup>th</sup> C gardens. Open Mon-Thur 9am-4pm; Fri 9am-1pm. Weekends by appointment. [www.drimnaghcastle.org](http://www.drimnaghcastle.org) Long Mile Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 450 2530. Adults €4; concessions.

**DUBLIN CASTLE** – Operated as a military fortress, a prison, treasury, courts of law and seat of English administration in Ireland for 700 years. **State Apartments** were built as residential & public quarters of Viceregal Court; seat of the executive, focus of a fashionable social life. Today the venue for Ireland's Presidencies of the European Union, for Presidential inaugurations & for prestigious functions. The **Undercroft** is sited at lower ground floor level in the Lower Castle Yard. A guided tour of the State Apartments/Undercroft is available (Adults €8.50 for a guided tour or €6.50 for a self-guided visit; concessions). Open Mon-Sat: 10am-4.45pm; Sun & Bank Holidays: 12pm-4.45pm. Also on this site, the **Chapel Royal** is a gothic revival building designed by Francis Johnston, famous for its vaulting, plaster decoration, carved oaks & galleries. Open Mon-Sat 10am-4.45pm; Sunday & Public Holidays, 12pm-4.45pm. Admission free. Also on this site, in the **Revenue Museum** one can appreciate the varied activities of the Revenue Commissioners, from tax collection to customs controls, over several centuries. Housed in the crypt of the Chapel Royal. Open weekdays from 10am to 4pm. Admission free. All attractions on this site closed Good Friday, 24-28 Dec. & 1 January. [www.dublincastle.ie/VisitorFacilities](http://www.dublincastle.ie/VisitorFacilities) Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-645 8813. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**DUBLIN CITY HALL** – Georgian building housing multi-media exhibition on city's history. Normally a self-conducted tour. Tours for groups by prior arrangement. Open Mon–Sat: 10am-5.15pm. Closed Sun, Bank Holidays, St Patrick's Day, Good Friday, 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan. [www.dublincity.ie/dublincityhall](http://www.dublincity.ie/dublincityhall) Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 222 2204. Adults €3.60; concessions.

**DUBLIN CIVIC TRUST** – The Trust's headquarters is the only surviving Georgian building on Castle Street. Now fully restored, this handsome merchant townhouse & shop is one of the last buildings of its type & period in Dublin to remain intact. The house as a whole is only open to the public on special occasions (Culture Night, Open House weekend) but the shop and exhibition centre can be visited. An educational trust with charitable status, the Trust works to recognise & protect the city's architectural heritage via building identification, sensitive repair with minimal intervention, and the appropriate use of the city's historic building stock. The Trust regularly publishes literature on the built heritage of Dublin. Shop and exhibition centre open Mon-Fri 10.00am-6.00pm. Read a detailed account of the restoration of No. 4 Castle Street at [www.dublincivictrust.ie/more-about-us.php](http://www.dublincivictrust.ie/more-about-us.php) 4 Castle Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 6911.

**DUBLIN GARDENS GROUP** - Apart from Hunting Brook Gardens, Helen Dillon's Garden, and Mount Usher Gardens, which are all given individual entries within this website, you may be interested in a number of lesser known Dublin area gardens which are described in detail on [www.dublinalgardens.com/cms/](http://www.dublinalgardens.com/cms/). These locations include: Carmel Duignan's Garden, Carysfort Lodge, Corke Lodge, June Blake's Garden, Knockrose, Lambs Cross Garden, Rathmichael Lodge, Shirley Beatty's Garden, the Bay Garden and the Van der Lee Garden. The Dublin Garden Group consists of Ireland's most distinguished private gardens in the greater Dublin area, some of them world famous and others secret gems. The owners of these private gardens, most of which are not open to the public, welcome groups to share their enthusiasm for and knowledge of their plants and designs.

**DUBLIN WRITERS MUSEUM** - 18th C mansion celebrating lives & works of Dublin's literary celebrities. Open Mon-Sat 10am–5pm; Sun/Bank Holidays 11am – 5pm. Check Christmas/New Year times on website. [www.writersmuseum.com](http://www.writersmuseum.com) 18 Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 872 2077. Adults €7.50; concessions.

**DUBLIN ZOO** - Ireland's most popular family attraction (over one million visitors a year). 70-acre park. Home to some 400 animals. Open Mon–Sun. Jan: 9.30am–4.30pm; Feb: 9.30am–5pm; Mar – Sept: 9.30am–6pm; Oct: 9.30am–5.30pm; Nov & Dec: 9.30am–4pm. Closed Christmas Day, St Stephen's Day. [www.dublinzoo.ie](http://www.dublinzoo.ie) Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 474 8900. Adults €16.80; concessions.

**DUBLINIA** - Viking and Medieval Dublin re-created through life-size reconstructions. Open Mar-Sept: 10am- 6.30pm; Oct-Feb: 10am-5.30pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. [www.dublinia.ie/](http://www.dublinia.ie/) St. Michael's Hill, Christchurch, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 679 4611. Adults €8.50; concessions.

**DUNSINK OBSERVATORY** - Opened in 1785. First building in Ireland specifically constructed for scientific research. Our greatest mathematician & scientist, William Rowan Hamilton, lived and worked here. Open Nights (free of charge) on the first and third Wed of each month (Oct-March only). Weather permitting, visitors can view

celestial objects through the historic Grubb Telescope and attend audio-visual presentations/lectures on a wide variety of topics. Occasional special evenings for parents/children who want to learn more about astronomy and space, meet a real astronomer & explore the night sky together. School/College trips to Dunsink can be arranged if pre-booked. [www.dunsink.dias.ie](http://www.dunsink.dias.ie) Dunsink Observatory, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Re Open Nights, phone Hilary O'Donnell at 087-6294966 or email [hod@cp.dias.ie](mailto:hod@cp.dias.ie) For general queries phone 01 4406656.

**FARMLEIGH HOUSE** - Estate of 78 acres near Phoenix Park. Edwardian mansion used by guests of the nation and for high level Government meetings. Extensive grounds. House Tours Jan-Dec: Wed-Sun and Bank Holidays 10am-5pm (tours are limited to 11am, 1pm and 3pm from Jan-Mar 17). Estate open all year round 10am-6pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/FarmleighHouseandEstate](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/FarmleighHouseandEstate) Phoenix Park, Dublin 15. Tel: 01 815 5900. Free admission.

**FOUR COURTS** – Iconic site where the country's legal system was originally housed under one roof (late 18<sup>th</sup> century). Almost completely demolished during Irish civil war (1922). Noted for the Round Hall & the Dome. Location of Supreme Court, High Court, District Court, Law Library. No heritage tours available but visitors can wander around (Mon-Fri 10am-5pm); visitors are also welcome to go into courtrooms and observe most cases. Group visits welcome (pre-booked), including second level college groups for criminal justice system education briefings. <http://www.courts.ie/courts.ie/library3.nsf/pagecurrent/C405A2905C07523880256DA900495EE2?opendocument&l=en> Inn's Quay, Dublin 7. Information Office Tel: 01 888 6459 .

**FREEMASONS' HALL** - Home of Grand Lodge of Ireland since 1866. Houses many meeting rooms in different architectural styles, including an Egyptian room and a mock Gothic Room. Exhibition on Freemasonry in Ireland from the early 18th Century. Museum open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (free). In June, July, August there is a guided tour (€2) at 2.30pm (Mon-Fri). [www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/freemasons-hall/48878](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/freemasons-hall/48878) 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6795465.

**GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHY** - Ireland's premier venue for photography exhibitions. Groups welcome. To arrange a free tour of the Gallery and an informal talk on the current exhibition, contact the education officer. Open Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 1pm-6pm. [www.galleryofphotography.ie/about/](http://www.galleryofphotography.ie/about/) Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 671 4654. Admission free.

**GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES (DUBLIN)** – See the website entry for full details.

**GENERAL POST OFFICE (GPO)** - Dublin's GPO was the headquarters for those who took part in the Easter Rising of April 1916. This rebellion ended in failure but led to Irish independence & the creation of a new State. The GPO (finished 1818) was designed by Francis Johnston. Statues on the roof are of Hibernia (Ireland), with Fidelity to one side & Mercury to the other. Destroyed during 1916 Rising; rebuilt and re-opened in 1929. A museum here houses “Letters, Lives & Liberty”, an exhibition exploring the role played by Post Office staff in Irish society. View stamps, a copy of 1916 Proclamation, short documentaries. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Sun/Public Holidays. [www.anpost.ie/AnPost/History+and+Heritage/Museum/Museum.htm](http://www.anpost.ie/AnPost/History+and+Heritage/Museum/Museum.htm) O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-7057420. Admission fee: €2.



**GLASNEVIN MUSEUM AND CEMETERY** – Visit graves of famous people and hear about Irish history on a guided tour. Over 1,500,000 people are buried here. Trace your roots in Genealogy Area (all records online at [www.glasnevintrust.ie/genealogy](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/genealogy)). The popular historical tour gives a valuable insight into Victorian and later times. Visit the final resting place of Daniel O’Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins, Maud Goone, Roger Casement, etc. A dramatic attraction from May-September is the daily re-enactment of famous political speeches. Museum attractions include the City of the Dead (burial practices & record-keeping); the Religion Wall different beliefs about the after-life); the Milestone Gallery (special exhibitions on key historical figures); and the Timeline (a digital interactive table with details of the lives & relationships of the most famous people buried here). A current exhibition in the Prospect Gallery (running to June 2015) is “A call to arms”, which highlights artefacts and heirlooms relating to Ireland’s involvement in the First World War. When planning a visit, remember that you can now access *the Botanic Gardens* via the Cemetery. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat, Sun, Bank Holidays 11am-5pm. Tours daily 11.30am, 2.30pm (extra summer tour 1pm). [www.glasnevinmuseum.ie](http://www.glasnevinmuseum.ie) Finglas Road, Dublin 11. Tel: 01 882 6550. Combined Museum & Tour Ticket – €12 for adults; concessions.

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS** - Imposing complex built by former British administration in Ireland. Now accommodates Dept of Taoiseach, Dept of Finance and Office of Attorney General. Tours take place every Sat at 10.30, 11.30, 12.30 and 13.30. Tickets can be collected on the day from National Gallery, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2, from 10.00 am. <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/GovernmentBuildings/> Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 645 8813. Admission free.

**GUINNESS STOREHOUSE** – The story of Guinness; spectacular views of Dublin. Learn to pour the perfect pint, etc. Open 7 days: 9.30am-5pm; July/Aug 9.30am-7pm. Closed Dec 24-26 & Good Friday. [www.guinness-storehouse.com](http://www.guinness-storehouse.com) St. James's Gate, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 408 4800. Adults €16.20 (online price); concessions.

**HELEN DILLON'S GARDEN** - Helen Dillon is the undisputed queen of Irish gardening. Her acre of town garden in the elegant Ranelagh district of Dublin has become the most photographed garden in Ireland. [www.dillongarden.com](http://www.dillongarden.com) 45 Sandford Road (Sandford Terrace, beside Sandford Church), Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Phone 086-2559266. Open - March, July & August: Daily 2-6pm; April, May, June & September: Sundays only, 2-6pm. Adults €5.

**HOWTH CASTLE** – Private residence of the Gaisford-St Lawrence family with origins in medieval times. Only open to public on charity open days, as notified on website. Groups may book guided tours (by email only). [www.howthcastle.com](http://www.howthcastle.com)

**HUGH LANE GALLERY** - Oldest gallery of modern and contemporary Art in Ireland. 2,000 artworks, incl. Manet, Monet, Renoir and Degas, and the Francis Bacon studio. Regular concerts, lectures, etc. Open Tues-Thurs: 10am-6pm; Fri & Sat: 10am-5pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. Closed Mondays. [www.hughlane.ie](http://www.hughlane.ie) Charlemont House, Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 222 5564. Admission free.

**HURDY GURDY MUSEUM OF VINTAGE RADIO** – An extensive collection of exhibits chronicling the history of telecommunications from the 1840s onwards. There

are examples of early Morse equipment, gramophones, crystal sets, valve radios, etc. Pat Herbert is the curator. Located on Tower Hill, overlooking Howth Harbour. Open May-October 11am to 4pm daily; November-April 11am to 4pm on Sat & Sun only. <https://sites.google.com/site/hurdygurdymuseum/home> Martello Tower, Howth, Co. Dublin. Phone 086-8154189. Adults €5, concessions.

**IMAGINOSITY** – A child-centred creative and educational interactive space for children under 9 and their families. Visitors encouraged to get involved & have fun while learning. A wide variety of workshops and classes in arts & crafts, computers, music & theatre. No additional fee for most workshops. The Theatre offers children the opportunity to engage in role-play, improvised drama & more formally directed theatre. Other spaces include the news/weather station, the construction company, the climber, the town centre, the garage, the roof, the doctor's office, the library, the bank, the puppet room, & the maths house. After school programme (daily 3pm-5pm) includes an hour-long class activity (music, art, drama) & an hour of supervised play. Open 7 days. Mon 1.30pm–5.30pm. Tues-Fri:9.30am–5.30pm. Sat/Sun: 10am–6pm. Bank Hol Mon: 9.30am–5.30pm. Closed 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan. Imaginosity operates 2-hour sessions which you can book into (see website). Workshops operate on a first come first served basis. See website for detailed calendar of workshop events. [www.imaginosity.ie](http://www.imaginosity.ie) Imaginosity, The Plaza, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Tel: 01 2176130. €8 for children and adults; concessions.

**IRISH ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE** - Established in 1976 to collect & preserve material relating to the architecture of Ireland. Well over 1,000,000 items in its collections. Greatest single source of information on Ireland's buildings. The Archive is stored within the largest terraced house on Merrion Square. Fine entrance hall, stone main staircase, neoclassical plasterwork. Public areas include Archive Reading Rooms (ground floor) and Architecture Gallery (showcasing a programme of exhibitions which make the Archive's holdings accessible to all). Open Tues-Fri 10am-5pm. [www.iarc.ie](http://www.iarc.ie) 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6633 040. Admission free.

**IRISH JEWISH MUSEUM** – Collection of photographs, paintings, memorabilia telling story of Ireland's Jewish communities in Dublin & other Irish cities over last 150 years. Staffed by volunteers. Located on site of Dublin's Walworth Road Synagogue, once in the heartland of "Little Jerusalem," a densely populated Jewish enclave off the South Circular Road. Open May-Oct Sun-Thurs 11am-3.30pm. Nov-Apr Sundays only 11am-3pm. *Always closed on Jewish holidays*. Pre-booked groups can visit outside of normal opening hours. <http://jewishmuseum.ie/directions-and-opening-hours> 3 Walworth Road (near Victoria, Lennox & Harrington Streets), South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4531797 or 085 706 7357. Admission free; donations gratefully accepted.

**IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART** - Ireland's leading institution for modern art. Based in Royal Hospital, Kilmmainham. Open: Tues-Fri: 11.30am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-5.30pm; Sunday & Bank Holidays: 12pm-5.30pm. Closed Mondays, Good Friday, 24-26 Dec. Tours providing a general introduction to IMMA exhibitions take place Wed 1.15pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm. Each tour lasts 30 minutes. Please arrive early for tours as numbers are limited. No booking required. [www.imma.ie](http://www.imma.ie) Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 612 9900. Admission free.

**IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVE** - National reference archive & resource centre for the traditional song, instrumental music & dance of Ireland. The largest collection in existence of sound recordings, books/serials, sheet music & ballad sheets, photographs, videos/DVDs for the appreciation & study of Irish traditional music. Also holds a representative collection of the traditional music of other countries. Archive open to all but only for research and study purposes. Visitors may listen to recordings, view DVDs and photographs, read music collections, research material and topics of interest. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; late opening Thur to 8pm. Open to the general public one Saturday a month 10am-5pm. [www.itma.ie](http://www.itma.ie) 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 661 9699.

**IVEAGH GARDENS** – One of finest & least known of Dublin's parks & gardens. Access from Hatch Street. Open Mon-Sat: 8am, Sun, Bank Holidays: 10am. Gardens close Dec-Jan: 3.30pm; Feb & Nov: 4pm; March - Oct: 6pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/TheIveaghGardens/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/TheIveaghGardens/) Clonmel Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 7816. Free admission.

**IVEAGH TRUST FLAT MUSEUM** - Flat 3B on Bull Alley Estate is the only Iveagh Trust flat which has remained largely unchanged since the first tenants took up occupancy in 1904. Furniture & fittings were acquired from the last tenants, the Molloy family. The flat contains a living room & 2 bedrooms (one doubling as a food prep. area). Outside on the landing is a communal sink, w/c, and storage cupboard (for coal). Nellie Molloy, one of six children, continued to live in the flat until her death at the age of 95 in 2002. The flat is now a museum, a visual reminder of flat design & of how families lived in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Dublin tenements. Viewing can be arranged for small groups by appointment only (phone 01 454 2312, during office hours Mon-Fri). Flat 3B Iveagh Trust, Bull Alley Estate, Patrick Street, Dublin 8. [www.theiveaghtrust.ie/?page\\_id=359](http://www.theiveaghtrust.ie/?page_id=359)

**JAMES JOYCE CENTRE** - Beautifully restored Georgian town house. Exhibition of items relating to life and work of James Joyce. Open Oct-Mar [Tues-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12pm-5pm]. Open Apr-Sept [Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12-5pm]. Open Bank Holidays. Closed St Patrick's Day, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, 22 Dec-2 Jan. [www.jamesjoyce.ie](http://www.jamesjoyce.ie), 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1. Phone 01 878 8547. Adults €5; concessions.

**JAMES JOYCE HOUSE OF THE DEAD** - One of Dublin's most interesting literary and historic buildings. The setting where Joyce set his famous short story, "The Dead" and where director John Huston located his film of the story. Open to visitors by appointment only (use the online booking facility). Adults €12; concessions. [www.jamesjoycehouse.ie](http://www.jamesjoycehouse.ie) 15 Usher's Island, Dublin 8. Tel: 087-672-9516.

**JEANIE JOHNSTON FAMINE SHIP MUSEUM** – Climb on board a replica of a wooden tall ship which sailed between Tralee & North America 1848-1855. Guided tours only. Jan-Feb: Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm. Open 7 days from March 1 to November 30. Tours usually at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm but check the "book online" link ([www.jeanie.visrez.com/public/events/3](http://www.jeanie.visrez.com/public/events/3)) to make sure. Dec: Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm. Closed 25-28 Dec. [www.jeaniejohnston.ie](http://www.jeaniejohnston.ie) Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 473 0111. Adults €9; concessions.



**KILMAINHAM GAOL** - One of largest unoccupied gaols in Europe. Major exhibition detailing political and penal history of the prison. Guided Tour Only. Open Apr-Sept: Daily 9:30am-6pm. Oct-Mar: Mon-Sat 9:30am-5.30pm. Sun: 10am-6pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/KilmainhamGaol/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/KilmainhamGaol/) Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 5984. Adults €7; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**KING'S INNS** – Oldest institution of professional legal education in Ireland (1541). Guided tours can be arranged (01 874 4840). Costs €100 for group of 30 or less. Tour lasts an hour, visiting Darley's neo-classical library building and Gandon's last public building in Dublin. As part of the October "Open House" weekend, a tour of the King's Inns complex is available. [www.kingsinns.ie/about/history](http://www.kingsinns.ie/about/history) Constitution Hill, Dublin 7.

**LEINSTER HOUSE** – Seat of the two Houses of the Oireachtas (National Parliament): Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (Senate). Built 1747. When the House is in session, “walk up” or drop in tours take place on Mon and Fri at 10.30am and 2.30pm. Each tour is limited to the first 30 people who arrive or have already booked a tour. Phone 01 6183781 to make a booking. People wishing to arrange a group tour of Leinster House can do so by contacting their local TD or Senator with full details. Tours are available on Mondays to Fridays at 10.30 am, 11.30 am, 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm. To reserve a place on one of these tours, email [event.desk@oireachtas.ie](mailto:event.desk@oireachtas.ie). Enter by the Kildare Street gate. Bring your passport or other form of identification with you. [www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/visitsevents/visitleinsterhouse/](http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/visitsevents/visitleinsterhouse/) Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 618 3781. Admission free.

**LITTLE MUSEUM OF DUBLIN** - Full of items donated by ordinary Dubliners. Charts cultural & social history of Dublin in 20<sup>th</sup>C. Open Mon–Sun & Bank Holidays 9.30am–5pm. Thur 9.30am–8pm. Closed Xmas holiday period. [www.littlemuseum.ie](http://www.littlemuseum.ie) 15 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2. Phone 01 661 1000. Adults €7 (€5 if booked online); concessions. Very popular guided tours available on the hour, every hour. Free admission every Thurs from 6pm-8pm (sponsored by Diageo/Guinness). Why not avail of the Green Mile walking tour of St Stephen’s Green, a new venture by the Little Museum? Tour a square which has been at the centre of Irish history for hundreds of years. Enjoy a 90-minute walk in the company of an expert local guide. The tours take place on Saturdays at 11.30am and are free with your entry ticket to the Little Museum.

**MALAHIDE CASTLE** – Magnificent 12<sup>th</sup>C Castle, home to the Talbot family for over 800 years. Superb period furniture; extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings; ornamental gardens. Open Mon-Sun 9.30am–4.30pm. Closed 25-26 Dec. [www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie](http://www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie) Malahide, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 8169538. Adults €12; concessions.

**MANSION HOUSE** – Official residence of Dublin's Lord Mayor. Built as townhouse (1705) for Joshua Dawson, developer of Dawson Street & Nassau Street. Sold to Dublin Corporation in 1715. Only mayoral residence in Ireland still used for original purpose. Oldest mayoral residence in Ireland & UK (older than London by 15 years). Oldest free-standing house in Dublin. Usually not open to the public. For the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mansion House which occurs in 2015 there are quite a number of tours available. See <http://dublincity.ie/main-menu-your-council-lord-mayor-mansion-house/mansion-house-dublin-celebrates-300-years> Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

**MARSH'S LIBRARY**– Oldest public library in Ireland (1701) containing some 25,000 printed books relating to 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>C. Fine example of 17<sup>th</sup>C scholar's library. Open every day except Tues, Sun. Weekdays 9:30am-5pm. Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Tues, Sun, Bank Holidays. Closed Christmas Eve to New Year's Day (inclusive). [www.marshlibrary.ie/home](http://www.marshlibrary.ie/home) St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4543511. Adults €3; concessions.

**NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS** – Fine plant collections. Over 15,000 species and cultivars from all around the world. Award-winning restored glasshouses. Free guided tours Sun at 12 pm & 2.30pm; tours Mon-Sat at 3 pm - €2 charge. Open every day except Christmas Day. Mar-Oct: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm. Nov-Feb: Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm, Sat & Sun, 10am-4.30pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/NationalBotanicGardens/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/NationalBotanicGardens/) Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8040300. Free admission. Car parking charge €2.

**NATIONAL GALLERY** – Collection of over 2,500 paintings. Every major European School of painting represented. Free public tours. Open Mon-Sat 9:30am–5.30pm; Thurs 9:30am–8.30pm; Sun 11am–5.30pm; Bank Holidays: 10am–5.30pm. Closed Good Friday and 24-26 Dec. [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie) Merrion Square West & Clare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 661 5133. Admission to permanent collection is free.

**NATIONAL LEPRECHAUN MUSEUM** – Light-hearted celebration of Irish fairy tales & folklore. Covers such territory as festivals of Samhain, Bealtaine & Lughnasa; Tuatha Dé Danann; Cúchulainn & the Fianna, the Púca, the Banshee. Rainbow room, leprechaun well, Giant's Causeway, rain room. Open daily 10am-6.30pm. [www.leprechaunmuseum.ie](http://www.leprechaunmuseum.ie) Jervis Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 873 3899. Adults €12; concessions.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY** - Houses books, prints, manuscripts, newspapers, music, ephemera and genealogical material. Best collection of Irish documentary heritage in the world. There are two current exhibitions: Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats ("one of the most important literary exhibitions yet staged internationally") and World War I Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience (through original artefacts, first hand personal accounts and eyewitness testimony, visitors are brought dramatically inside the lives of those who experienced the Great War). No scheduled guided tours of the Library. Groups can pre-book a tour of the Yeats Exhibition (email - [learning@nli](mailto:learning@nli)). There is a scheduled tour of the Yeats Exhibition on the first Thursday of each month from March - October 2015 at 2pm. No booking is required. Exhibition areas open Mon-Wed 9.30am-7.45pm; Thurs & Fri 9.30am-4.45pm; Sat 9.30am-4.45pm; Sun 1pm-4.45pm. [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 603 0200. Admission free.

**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM** - Museum celebrating Ireland's maritime heritage. See lighthouse lights, the SS Great Eastern display, artefacts recovered from wreck of RMS Leinster (torpedoed 1918 with 500 deaths), models of City of Dublin Steam Packet Company ships. Museum run by volunteers & community employment scheme. Open daily 11am-5pm. Closed Mondays during the winter. [www.mariner.ie/](http://www.mariner.ie/) Mariners' Church, Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 2800969 (11am-5pm). Adults €5; concessions.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM (ARCHAEOLOGY)** – See outstanding examples of Celtic & Medieval art, such as Ardagh Chalice, Tara Brooch & Derrynaflan Hoard. Admire finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts in Europe. Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm; Sun: 2pm-5pm. Closed Mon (including Bank Holidays). Closed Good Friday, 25 Dec. [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie) Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 677 7444. Admission free.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM (COLLINS BARRACKS)** - Decorative Arts & History Museum charting Ireland's economic, social, political & military progress through the ages. Displays range from silver, Asian Art, ceramic & glassware pieces to weaponry, furniture, examples of folklife & costume. Military History exhibition 'Soldiers and Chiefs: The Irish at War at Home & Abroad, 1550-2001'. Also a 1916 exhibition and a World War One exhibition. Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm; Sun: 2pm-5pm; closed Mon (incl Bank Holidays); Closed Good Friday and 25 Dec. [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie) Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 677 7444. Free admission.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)** – A 'cabinet-style' museum showcasing a comprehensive zoological collection. 10,000 exhibits. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Closed Mon (incl. Bank Holidays), Good Friday, Christmas Day. [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie) Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 677 7444. Admission free.

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE** – Archive holding photographic collections of National Library of Ireland (5.2 million photographs). Contains reading room and exhibition gallery. Over 20,000 glass plate negatives (1870-1954) digitised & viewable online. Regular programme of exhibitions. Reading room open to researchers, by prior appointment only (phone 01-6030373). Exhibitions open Mon-Sat: 10am-4.45pm & Sun: 12-4.45pm. [www.nli.ie/en/photographs-introduction.aspx](http://www.nli.ie/en/photographs-introduction.aspx) Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 603 0200. Admission free.

**NATIONAL PRINT MUSEUM** – museum of printing craft skills. Open all year Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun 2pm-5pm. Closed Bank Holiday weekends. Closed 21 Dec-1 Jan. Self-guided tours. Also guided tours for individual visitors and pre-booked groups. Tour takes you through the history of printing, and the museum's three part print-shop style exhibition (composing, printing and finishing areas). Free tour every Sunday at 3pm (excluding Bank Holiday weekends). No booking required. Daily guided tours at 11.30am and 2.30pm, Mon- Fri. No afternoon tour on Wednesdays. [www.nationalprintmuseum.ie/](http://www.nationalprintmuseum.ie/) Garrison Chapel, Beggars Bush Barracks, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6603770. Adults €3.50; concessions. Caution - parking on site is very limited and the clampers are active.

**NATIONAL TRANSPORT MUSEUM** - Ireland's only comprehensive collection of public service & commercial road transport. Some very rare, some unique. Oldest items date from 1883, the newest 1984. Five main standalone categories - Passenger, Commercial, Fire & Emergency, Military, & Utility. 180 vehicles in stock, 60 on display. Open Sat, Sun, Bank Holidays 2pm-5pm. Also open 26 Dec - 1 Jan 2pm-5pm. [www.nationaltransportmuseum.org/](http://www.nationaltransportmuseum.org/) Heritage Depot, Howth Demesne, Howth, Dublin 13. Tel: 01 832 0427. Adults €3.

**NATIONAL WAX MUSEUM** – A journey through Irish cultural heritage including a children's zone, a recording studio and numerous life-like wax characters. Open Mon –

Sun 10am-7pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. [www.waxmuseumplus.ie](http://www.waxmuseumplus.ie) Foster Place, College Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 671 8373. Adults €12; concessions.

**NEWBRIDGE HOUSE AND FARM** - Fine unchanged Georgian house (1752) set in 360 acre demesne. Contains most of original furniture. Fine Red Drawing Room, Museum of Curiosities, ornate plasterwork. Open Apr-Sept 7 days, 10am-5pm. Oct-Mar Tues-Sun & Bank Holidays 11am-4pm. Tours of the house available every day during Apr-Sept period. During the Oct-Mar period, tours available at weekends/Bank Hols (at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm); during winter months weekday tours (Tues-Fri) by appointment only. No guided tours Oct 25-31; no guided tours during weekends in December; no guided tours Dec 22-24. Closed December 24-January 3. Also 18<sup>th</sup>C working farm with courtyard, extensive buildings, pastures. [www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com/joomla/](http://www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com/joomla/) Newbridge House & Farm, Hearse Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 843 6534. Farm & House Adults €10; concessions. (Farm only Adults €5; House only Adults €7).

**NEWMAN HOUSE** – Original home of University College Dublin. Two Georgian town houses (1738, 1765) and a Victorian hall; fine interiors & splendid plasterwork. Associated with John Henry Newman, Gerald Manley Hopkins & James Joyce. Open June, July, Aug Tues-Fri only. Tours at 2pm, 3pm, 4pm. Other times by appointment only. [www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/newman-house/30802](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/newman-house/30802) 85-86 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 477 9810. Adults €5.

**NUMBER TWENTY NINE** - Georgian House Museum. Self-guided tour from basement to attic; rooms furnished with original artefacts from 1790-1820, illustrating how life was lived in late Georgian era by upper middle-class Dublin families. Sponsored by ESB in partnership with National Museum. Open mid-Feb to mid-Dec Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm. Closed Sun, Mon. Guided tours (on a first come, first served basis) each afternoon at 3pm; group tours are on a pre-arranged booked basis (11am). [www.esb.ie/main/about-esb/numbertwenty-nine/default.htm](http://www.esb.ie/main/about-esb/numbertwenty-nine/default.htm) Fitzwilliam Street Lower, Dublin 2. Email: [numbertwenty-nine@esb.ie](mailto:numbertwenty-nine@esb.ie) Adults €6; concessions.

**OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY** – A tour through a re-created distillery. Visited by over 350,000 people a year. Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm. Open Bank Holidays. Closed Good Friday, 24-26 Dec. [www.jamesonwhiskey.com/ie/tours/oldjamesondistillery](http://www.jamesonwhiskey.com/ie/tours/oldjamesondistillery) Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 807 2355. Adults €13.50 (online price); concessions.

**PEARSE MUSEUM** – Once a school run by Patrick Pearse (of 1916 fame), now a museum in attractive grounds. Exhibition; audio-visual show titled "This Man Kept a School". Open Nov-Jan Mon, Wed-Sat 9.30am-4pm. Feb Mon, Wed-Sat 9.30am-5pm. Mar-Oct: Mon, Wed-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm. Open Sundays & Bank Holidays 10am (closing time varies seasonally). Closed Tuesdays. Closed over the Christmas period. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/PearseMuseum-StEndasPark/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/PearseMuseum-StEndasPark/) St. Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 493 4208. Admission free.

**THE PEPPER CANISTER** - St. Stephen's Church (also known as the Pepper Canister Church) was the last of a distinguished series of Georgian churches built by the Church of Ireland. Historic parish residents included Oscar Wilde, Sheridan Le Fanu, W.B. Yeats, Thomas Davis. Major conservation works completed in 2010. A popular concert

venue. Church open on Thursdays from 12.30pm-2.30pm excl. holiday periods; visitors welcome. [www.peppercanister.ie](http://www.peppercanister.ie) Mount Street Crescent, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6767727.

**PHOENIX PARK** - Over 700 ha. (1752 acres) in area; largest enclosed public park in any capital city in Europe. Open to public since 1747. Home to large herd of fallow deer, a Visitor's Centre, a Victorian kitchen walled garden (2.5 acres), Zoological Gardens and Aras an Uachtarain. Many walks & cycle routes. Park open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Walled kitchen gardens** open daily 10am-4pm all year round. On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of every month, meet the Park Gardeners between 10.30am & 12.30 pm in Kitchen Garden. **Visitors' Centre** - Exhibition on history/wildlife of Park. Nearby is fully restored Ashtown Castle, a medieval tower house. Tel: 01-6770095. Open Apr-Dec 7 days a week 10am-6pm. Jan-Mar closed on Mon & Tues, open Wed-Sun 9.30 am-5.30 pm. [www.phoenixpark.ie](http://www.phoenixpark.ie) Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 8205800. Admission free.

**POWERSCOURT TOWNHOUSE CENTRE** – A speciality shopping centre set in an elegant Georgian house just off Grafton Street. Formerly home to Richard Wingfield 3rd Viscount Powerscourt (1730-1788), this town house entertained guests during the Parliament season. The Powerscourt Centre is a fine example of Dublin's Georgian architecture and is unique in showing the transition from rococo style to neo-classic under one roof. A guided tour takes you through the kitchen and cellars, the entrance hall, Lady Powerscourt's dressing room & bedroom, the music room, the ballroom & the dining room (all these areas are now in commercial use). Free tours each Sat at 11am and 3pm (meet at South William St entrance). [www.powerscourtcentre.ie/history/](http://www.powerscourtcentre.ie/history/) 59 South William Street, Dublin 2. Group tours available by request Mon-Fri: phone Shireen on 086 8065505 or email [shireengail@gmail.com](mailto:shireengail@gmail.com)

**RATHFARNHAM CASTLE** – Castle dating back to Elizabethan period. Fine example of Irish fortified house. Houses Berkeley Costume & Toy Collection of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>C toys, dolls & costumes. The Castle and Tearooms are **closed till June 2015** (major improvement works are under way, designed to significantly upgrade access to the principal floors of the Castle). Open Winter/Spring Wed-Sun & Bank Holidays 10.30am-5pm. Open Summer Tues-Sun & Bank Holidays 10am–5.15pm. Closed 24-27 Dec. Open 28-30 Dec. Closed 31 Dec & New Year's Day. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/RathfarnhamCastle/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/RathfarnhamCastle/) Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Tel: 01 493 9462. Free admission.

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF IRELAND** - Founded in 1849, RSAI was granted a Royal Charter in 1869. Actively involved today in conserving Ireland's heritage. Maintains a library & archival collections, provides lectures & excursions, and publishes a widely respected Journal. Winter Monday evening talks. RSAI is in general open to members only (€70 p.a.) but guests can attend lectures/excursions. Restored library houses a collection of books, journals & archive materials documenting Ireland's human & built heritage. Library open Wed (10am-1pm) and Thur (10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm). Fine meeting rooms overlooking Merrion Square; unique restored Georgian garden to the rear. [www.rsai.ie/](http://www.rsai.ie/) 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6761749. RSAI facilities are open to non-members **by appointment only**.

**ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM** – 17<sup>th</sup>C building modelled on Les Invalides in Paris as a home for old, sick and disabled soldiers. Contains Master's Quarters, Great Hall, Chapel and Vaulted Cellar. Notable formal gardens. Now home to Irish Museum of Modern Art. Admission into the new heritage display area is free. Guided tours run



during the summer on Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm. Tours are subject to availability (please phone to book). [www.imma.ie/en/subnav\\_44.htm](http://www.imma.ie/en/subnav_44.htm) Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 612 9900. Adults €5; concessions.

**SCIENCE GALLERY** – Trinity College venue promoting current areas of science and art-science collaborations. Knowledgeable, enthusiastic staff. 4-6 temporary exhibitions each year, as well as lectures & other events. Current exhibitions: see website. Open Tues-Fri 12pm to 8pm; Sat & Sun 12pm-6pm; closed Mon. [www.sciencegallery.com/](http://www.sciencegallery.com/) Naughton Institute, Pearse Street, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 896 4091. Admission free.

**MAKESHOP** is a collaborative workshop space where you can learn everything from DIY robotics to how to build your own radio. Created by Science Gallery, Makeshop is for everyone from novices to advanced makers; its aim is to provide people with the tools, materials and guidance they need to get making, in a place where creativity is encouraged and everyone is welcome. Makeshop has a daily menu of walk-in workshops that last between 10 and 30 minutes. These workshops are cheap, fun and informative. Open Sun-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-6pm. [www.sciencegallery.com/makeshop](http://www.sciencegallery.com/makeshop) Makeshop, Lincoln Place, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6624416. Admission free.

**SHACKLETON EXHIBITION** - Curated by American Museum of Natural History, New York. Brings to life 1914-17 Shackleton expedition in which 3 Irishmen took part: Ernest Shackleton (Kildare), Tom Crean (Kerry) & Tim McCarthy (Cork). Wall texts, diary excerpts, and superb photographs. Opening times: Mon-Sun 11am-5pm (winter); Mon-Sun 11am-6pm (summer). [www.shackletonexhibition.com](http://www.shackletonexhibition.com) Ferry Terminal, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 236 0544. Adults €6; concessions.

**SHAW BIRTHPLACE** – Birthplace of playwright George Bernard Shaw, now a restored Victorian home giving insight into domestic life of 19<sup>th</sup> middle classes. Closed to visitors (despite what it says on many websites). 33 Synge Street, Dublin 8. Enquiries: phone Nyrée Landrey at 01 6057752.

**SKERRIES MILLS** - Award-winning restoration of Great 5 Sail Windmill, Thatched 4 Sail Windmill and Water mill. All three mills in working order, a rare survival of 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> C industrial Ireland. Guided tours last 50 minutes. Built on a high site with fine coastal views. Also Watermill Café, Craft Shop. Open Apr-Sept 10am-5.30pm. Oct-Mar open 10am-4.30pm. Closed 24-27 Dec, 31 Dec, 1 Jan. [www.skerriesmills.ie](http://www.skerriesmills.ie) Skerries, County Dublin. Tel: 01 849 5208. Adults €6.25.

**ST. AUDEON'S CHURCH** - Only remaining medieval parish church in Dublin. Open 25 Apr-23 Oct: 9.30am-5.30pm. Guided Tours. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StAudoensChurch](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StAudoensChurch) Cornmarket, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 677 0088. Free admission.

**ST. MARY'S ABBEY** - Once the wealthiest Cistercian Abbey in Ireland. Only two rooms remain. Closed until further notice. Normally open 4 June-26 Sept, on Tues/Wed/Thur, 10am-5pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StMarysAbbeyDublin](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StMarysAbbeyDublin) Meetinghouse Lane, Off Capel Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01- 6476000 (Noreen Finnegan).

**ST MICHAN'S CHURCH** - Built on site of early Danish chapel (1095). Current church dates from 1686. Home of famous crypts - five long burial vaults containing

mummified remains of influential Dublin families (17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> C). Crypts open Spring/Summer/Autumn hours (16 Mar-1 Nov) on Mon-Fri 10am-12.45pm and 2pm-4.45pm. Sat 10am-12.45pm. No tours on Sun. Crypts open Winter hours (4 Nov-14 Mar) Mon-Fri 12:30pm-3:30pm. Sat 10am-12:45pm. No tours on Sun. Closed public holidays 17 Mar, 4 May, 1 June, 3 Aug & 26 Oct. Closed 3 Apr-6 Apr inclusive. Closed 23 Dec to 1 Jan inclusive.. [www.stmichans.com/](http://www.stmichans.com/) St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 872 4154. Adults €5; concessions.

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL** – Founded in 1991, Jonathan Swift was Dean here (1713–1745). Handel's Messiah received first performance here (1742). Two sung services every day. Permanent exhibition (“Living Stones”). Open Mar-Oct: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 9am-10.30am, 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-6pm. Nov-Feb: Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Sun 9am-10.30am, 12.30pm-2.30pm. Closed 17 Oct, 31 Oct, 8 Nov, 14 Nov, 21 Nov, 18 Dec, 25-26 Dec. Guided tours daily Mon-Sat at 10.30am and 2.30pm at no extra cost. [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie) Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 9472. Adults €6; concessions.

**ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN** - Ireland's best known Victorian public park. 9 hectares (22 acres) maintained in original Victorian layout. Lunchtime concerts during summer months. Open Mon-Sat 7.30am, Sun & Bank Holidays 9.30am. Gardens close according to daylight hours. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StStephensGreen/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/StStephensGreen/) St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 7816. Admission free. You can take a 90-minute guided tour of this park – see the “Green Mile” entry in the Tours section below.

**TAILORS' HALL** - Dublin's oldest surviving guildhall, built to accommodate the Guild of Tailors in Dublin. Home to An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland, since 1984. Has passed through various uses, including entertainment, guilds, teaching, political meetings, an army barracks, and a courthouse. Two-storey building over basement clad in red brick with a steep pitched roof. Entrance hall is brightly lit by tall round-headed windows. Interior includes a fine staircase and several 18th century marble chimneypieces. Restored from dereliction in the 1960s, with further work in the 1980s. Visitors welcome. Opening Mon - Fri: 10am-4pm. Closed for lunch: 1pm-2pm. Closed Sat-Sun. Building closed for holiday periods. [www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org) Back Lane, off Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4541786. No entry fee, but donations accepted for upkeep of building.

**TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN** - Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. Atmospheric 40-acre site in the heart of Dublin. Treasures include the Book of Kells (the world's most famous medieval manuscript); the Books of Durrow & Armagh; an early Irish harp. All are displayed in the Treasury and in the Long Room (which houses 200,000 rare books). Visit the Book of Kells “Turning Darkness into Light” exhibition. Open Mon-Sat 9:30am-5pm. Sun (May-Sept) 9.30am-4.30pm. Sun (Oct-Apr) 12pm-4.30pm. Closed over Christmas period; Bank Holiday hours same as Sundays. [www.tcd.ie/Library/bookofkells](http://www.tcd.ie/Library/bookofkells) Trinity Library, College Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 896 2320. Adults €10. See separate entries for the Science Gallery & the Zoological Museum. Enjoy student-led walking tours through the four historical squares of the campus, providing a history of the university, its buildings and its historic context. Tours in the high season depart from the front gate daily from 10.15 am (last tour 3.40 pm, last tour on Sundays/Bank Holidays at 3.15 pm). Tour ticket €5. Combination ticket

(Tour and admission to Book of Kells) €12. In the low season, regular tours take place on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays only.

**WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS** – One of the most famous memorial gardens in Europe. Dedicated to the memory of 49,400 Irish soldiers who died in 1914-18 war. One of four gardens in Ireland designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Sunken rose gardens, herbaceous borders and extensive trees. Open: Mon-Fri 8am, Sat-Sun 10am. Gardens close according to daylight hours. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/WarMemorialGardens/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/WarMemorialGardens/) Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 475 7816. Admission free.

**WATERWAYS IRELAND VISITORS CENTRE** - Family friendly visitor attraction located on the waters of the Grand Canal Basin. Learn about the history and use of Ireland's waterways for exploration, transport and recreation. Explore the story of Dublin's two canals, collect information on today's water based activities and test your knowledge on our interactive quiz. Written information available in many languages. Open to the public April-Sept, Wed-Sun 10am-6pm. Popular attraction for school groups (open all year round for pre-booked educational groups). [www.waterwaysirelandvisitorcentre.org/](http://www.waterwaysirelandvisitorcentre.org/) Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6777510. Adults €8; concessions available.

**ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM, TRINITY COLLEGE** – A 250-year old collection housing 25,000 specimens. Much of the collection remains intact, a vital undergraduate teaching resource for the Dept of Zoology. Open 7 days 10.30am-4pm (2 June to 30 August only). <http://www.tcd.ie/Zoology/museum/> Zoological Museum, School of Natural Sciences, Department of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 8961366. Admission €3.

## **TOURS**

**ARCHITECTURE TOURS** - Informative walking tours of Dublin's built environment. In the past, four tours took place every weekend - the Temple Bar tour, the Docklands tour, the Living City tour and the Georgian tour - but now group tours are arranged by prior appointment only. The cost is roughly €11.50 per person. [www.architecture-tours.ie](http://www.architecture-tours.ie) Tel: 01 6761703.

**CITY SIGHTSEEING DUBLIN TOUR** - Your 2 day ticket is valid on 2 different routes (Red and Blue). The route takes in 28 stops at Dublin's top visitor attractions. The full tour lasts 90 minutes and is organised on a "hop on, hop off" basis. Departures take place daily all year round every 8-15 minutes. There is a live guide commentary; audio guides are also available in 8 languages. The tour departs from 14 Upper O'Connell Street. First tour 9am. The time of the last tour varies. Precise information is difficult to find on the website – exact info becomes clear when you go to book online. <https://loveireland.com/tours/city-sightseeing-dublin/> City Sightseeing, 14 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 898 0700. Adults €16.15 if booked online; concessions. 2 kids (under 12) free with every two full paying adults.

**DUBLIN BUS GHOST TOUR** - Body snatching in St Kevin's Graveyard; Dracula's Dublin origins; haunted cathedrals; the walking gallows; visit a crypt. Theatrical experience with professional actors. Tour lasts two hours. Not suitable for children under 14 years. Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.

May-Oct: every day except Sunday. Nov-Apr: variable dates & times. Check online or by phone in advance. No tours on Sundays. No tours on 17 March, 23-27 December. Tours can be booked online up to 1 hour before departure (special discount of 15% when you book online). Adults €28. [www.dublinsightseeing.ie/Ghost Bus/index.aspx](http://www.dublinsightseeing.ie/Ghost%20Bus/index.aspx) Price includes free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01 703 3028.

**DUBLIN BUS SIGHTSEEING HOP ON HOP OFF TOUR** – See Dublin's essential attractions in a 90-minute tour with live commentary. Get off at any one of 33 stops. Get on again at no extra charge. Tickets good for two days' use. Two routes. Purple route covers city centre attractions. Pink route explores Dublin Docklands attractions. Book online up to 1 hour before departure (special discount of 15% when you book online). Run by the State transport company, Dublin Bus. Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 OR at any of the 33 hop off points. Daily. Tour every 15 mins or so. Purple route - first bus 9am, last bus 5pm. Pink route - first bus 9.45am, last bus 4.35pm. [During the summer months, the finishing time for the tours is later than shown here]. Adults €19; 2 kids under 14 free with a fare-paying adult. Price includes free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01 703 3028. [www.dublinsightseeing.ie/citytour.aspx](http://www.dublinsightseeing.ie/citytour.aspx)

**DUBLIN DISCOVERED BOAT TOURS** - Cruise along the River Liffey through the heart of Dublin. 45 minute tour. Sail under Dublin's famous bridges; admire historic buildings from a unique vantage point, assisted by an expert guide. All-weather purpose-built boat. Several tours each day. Sailing times vary slightly, depending on the tides. Check sailing schedule via the “Book Online” facility. Guide schedule - March: 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm. April, Oct: 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm, 4.15pm. May-Sept: 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm, 4.15pm. November (Fri-Sun only): 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm. No tours December, January, February. [www.dublindiscovered.ie](http://www.dublindiscovered.ie) Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 4730000. Adults €12.60 (online price); concessions.

**DUBLIN LITERARY PUB CRAWL** - Of Dublin's 850 licensed premises, its “literary pubs” have a special fame. Irish writers formerly patronised pubs like the Palace, McDaid's, Mulligan's and the Bailey to meet the journalists/literary editors of the Irish Times and the Irish Press. This gossipy scene is brought to life by the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl. A team of actors leads you on a trail from bar to bar; no props, no lights, no make-up, just the voice and personality of the actor. Apr-Oct 7.30pm every evening; Nov-March Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun 7.30pm. [www.dublinpubcrawl.com/](http://www.dublinpubcrawl.com/) Duke Pub (upstairs), 9 Duke Street (off Grafton St), Dublin 2. Tel: 01-670 5602. Credit card booking 087 263 0270. You can also book online. Adults €12.

**GREEN MILE WALKING TOUR** – A new venture by the Little Museum of Dublin, the Green Mile tour tells the story of St. Stephen's Green, a square at the centre of Irish history for hundreds of years. A 90-minute walk in the company of an expert guide. Sat at 11.30am. Free with your entry ticket (€7) to the Little Museum of Dublin, 15 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. [www.littlemuseum.ie/the-green-mile](http://www.littlemuseum.ie/the-green-mile) Phone 01-6611000.

**HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS OF DUBLIN** -Longest-established walking tour in the city. Historically themed tours led by knowledgeable history graduates from Trinity College. Highly rated by Irish Times, Sunday Times, Fodor, Frommers, etc. The standard tour covers Dublin's development, the influence of American/French

Revolutions, the Famine, the Great War/1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Northern conflict and Ireland today. The meeting point is the front gate of Trinity College. Summer (May-Sept): daily 11am; 3pm. Spring/Autumn (April & Oct): daily 11am. Winter (Nov-March): Fri/Sat/Sun 11am. Also on offer is a range of specialised tours (for private or group bookings). [www.historicaltours.ie/](http://www.historicaltours.ie/) Historical Insights Ireland Ltd, 6 Palmerston Place, Dublin 7. Tel: 087 6889412. Adults €12; concessions. Online booking available.

**HOWTH DAY TOUR** – 6 hour tour to Howth village, including cliff top walk, ancient monuments, lonely lighthouses, 18<sup>th</sup> C coastal defences, Howth Castle, Howth Harbour, medieval ruins, dramatic scenery & wildlife. Meet in small square next to City Hall. 9.30am Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun. Adults €24, some discounts. [www.newdublintours.com/daily-tours/howth-day-tour.html](http://www.newdublintours.com/daily-tours/howth-day-tour.html) Run by Sandemans New Europe (Berlin-based).

**JAMES JOYCE CENTRE WALKING TOURS** – Guided walking tours of historic Joycean Dublin. From Jan-March there is a tour every Saturday, departing from the James Joyce Centre at 11am. Each Sat features either “Dubliners” (a ramble through the city of Joyce’s most accessible work, “Dubliners”, starting from the James Joyce Centre and finishing near Trinity College); or “Circular” (a wander around the Hibernian metropolis, taking in places of Joycean interest; the tour starts/finishes at the James Joyce Centre). No advance booking necessary. From Apr-Sept, tours take place on Tues, Thur, Sat - see website for exact details. [www.jamesjoyce.ie/events/category/tour/](http://www.jamesjoyce.ie/events/category/tour/) James Joyce Centre, 35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 878 8547. Adults €10; concessions.

**LE COOL DUBLIN WALKING TOUR** – Alternative tour of the city with a bias towards current cultural experiences. Incorporates elements like pop-ups, collectives, street art exhibitions, eccentric shops, DIY culture, fashion, emerging music and literature, artists, interesting chefs, hidden historical gems and the latest trends. A continually evolving two-hour tour which engages with people who are reshaping Dublin city in vibrant ways. Unpredictable: the route and stops are different every time. Check for walk dates on the website; book online. [www.lecoolwalkdublin.tumblr.com/](http://www.lecoolwalkdublin.tumblr.com/) For enquiries, email [tours.dublin@lecool.com](mailto:tours.dublin@lecool.com) Adults €15.

**MALAHIDE CASTLE AND COASTAL DAY TOUR** - Half day tour. Scenic coastal drive along Dublin’s northern coast; visit fishing village of Howth; climb Howth Summit; enjoy a guided tour of Malahide Castle; visit Avoca coffee and gift shop. Tour departs from Trinity College (across from Molly Malone statue) at 9.30am & 2pm. Bus returns at 1.30pm and 6pm approx. Tour runs daily from April to October. Operates Sat & Sun only in February, March, November. [www.loveireland.com/tours/malahide-castle-coastal-tour/](http://www.loveireland.com/tours/malahide-castle-coastal-tour/) Dublin Visitor Centre, 17 Lower O’Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8980700. Adults €21.25 (online price); concessions.

**NEWGRANGE AND HILL OF TARA TOUR** - Full day tour. Scenic coastal drive along Dublin’s northern coast. Visit Hill of Tara (number of ancient monuments). Visit Tomb of Newgrange (guided visit to visitor centre). UNESCO World Heritage Site, oldest and largest Neolithic burial chamber in Europe (3,200 BC). Also visit coastal village of Howth. Tour departs from Dublin Visitor Centre at 9am. Return time 5pm approx. Tour runs from April to October on Mon/Tues/Fri/Sat. <https://loveireland.com/>



[tours/newgrange-hill-of-tara-grayline-daytours/](#) Dublin Visitor Centre, 17 Lr O'Connell St, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8980700. Adults €30.60 (online price); concessions.

**1916 REBELLION WALKING TOUR** – Authors of “The Easter Rising” take you to sites associated with the Rising. Two hour tour. Meet at International Bar, 23 Wicklow Street (near Dublin Tourism). Mar 1-Oct 31 daily. Mon-Sat 11.30am, Sun & Bank Holidays 1pm. Book in advance (by phone) or pay on the day. [www.1916rising.com](http://www.1916rising.com) Tel: 086 8583847. Adults €12.

**NORTH COAST & MALAHIDE CASTLE** – Dublin Bus tour. Visit Casino at Marino, Malahide Castle (admission included), Avoca Café, Malahide Marina/Village, Portmarnock, Howth & Clontarf (Rose Garden, Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount Strand). Live commentary. Tour lasts 3 hours. Book online up to 1 hour before departure (special discount of 10% by booking online). Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tour departs Oct-March 11am, Fri & Sat only. 14 Apr-30 Sept every day at 11am. Adults €24; 2 kids under 14 free with a fare-paying adult. Price includes free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01 703 3028. [www.dublinsightseeing.ie/northcoast.aspx](http://www.dublinsightseeing.ie/northcoast.aspx)

**PAT LIDDY WALKING TOURS** – Two main options available: (A) **Dublin Highlights & Hidden Corners**. GPO, Henry Street, St Mary's Church, Italian Quarter, Liffey, Ha'penny Bridge, Temple Bar, City Hall, Dublin Castle, former Houses of Parliament and Trinity College campus. Book online or pay on the day. 90 minutes long. Nov-March: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat at 11am (no tour on Dec 26); Apr-Oct daily at 11am. Leave from outside Dublin Bus Office, 59 Upper O'Connell St. Adults €10; concessions. (B) **Best of Dublin**. 2.5 hour walk taking in former Houses of Parliament, Trinity College, Grafton Street, Bewley's, Powerscourt Townhouse, City Hall, Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle, Chester Beatty Library, medieval city walls, Temple Bar West, Fishamble Street & Christ Church Cathedral. Depart from former church, Suffolk Street. Apr 1-Apr 29 every Thur & Sat at 2.30pm; Apr 30-Sept 30 daily except Sundays at 2.30 pm; Oct 1-Oct 31 every Thur & Sat at 2.30pm. Adults €12; concessions. Tel: 01 8329406. [www.walkingtours.ie](http://www.walkingtours.ie)

**SANDEMANS NEW DUBLIN TOUR** - 3-hour tour bringing Dublin to life. Covers Viking, Norman, Medieval, and Georgian Dublin, as well as literary/music icons plus the usual heritage attractions. Guides work on a tips-only basis (the guides are “freelance”); visitors may feel uneasy about this business model. Tours daily at 11am and 2pm: meet at the small square next to City Hall. Reservations not necessary, though you can book online. Sandemans New Europe is Berlin-based. [www.newdublintours.com/daily-tours/new-dublin-free-tour.html](http://www.newdublintours.com/daily-tours/new-dublin-free-tour.html)

**SEA SAFARI** - Two different tours all year round. Each boat holds 6-12 passengers. (a) Dublin Port Tour – departs from Convention Centre. Gives history of Liffey & Port area from 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>C to modern times. Rain wear and warm clothing advised. (b) Dublin Bay South Tour – departs from Convention Centre. 70 minute tour takes you along the Liffey and through docklands area out to Dublin Bay, heading south to Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey Island & Killiney Bay. Watch out for seals, porpoises, etc. [www.seasafari.ie/tours-2/dublin-bay-port-tour/](http://www.seasafari.ie/tours-2/dublin-bay-port-tour/) Tel: 01 6689802. Prior booking essential. Dublin Port Tour - Adults €20; concessions. Hourly 10.30am-4.30pm from late April to end of Sept. Dublin Bay South Tour - Adults €40; concessions.

**SOUTH COAST & POWERSCOURT** – Dublin Bus tour. Visit Sandymount Strand, Dún Laoghaire, Sandycove, Dalkey, Bray Promenade, Wicklow mountains, Enniskerry, and Powerscourt House & Gardens. Live commentary. Tour lasts 5 hours. Free admission to Powerscourt included. Book online up to 1 hour before departure (special discount of 10% by booking online). Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tour departs Oct-March 10.30am, Fri & Sat only. 14 Apr-30 Sept every day at 11am. Adults €24; 2 kids under 14 free with a fare-paying adult. Price includes a free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01 703 3028.

[www.dublinsightseeing.ie/southcoast.aspx](http://www.dublinsightseeing.ie/southcoast.aspx)

**TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSICAL PUB CRAWL** – Led by two professional musicians who perform tunes & songs while telling the story of Irish music and its influence on contemporary world music. The Pub Crawl visits famous pubs & bars in the Temple Bar area. Meet at Oliver St. John Gogarty's (upstairs) at the corner of Fleet St. & Anglesea St., Temple Bar. Summer: 7.30pm from April to October (7 nights a week). Winter: 7.30pm from November to March (Thur, Fri and Sat nights).

[www.discoverdublin.ie/musical-pub-crawl/](http://www.discoverdublin.ie/musical-pub-crawl/) Buy tickets on the night, or in Dublin Tourist Office, Suffolk Street, or book online. Tel: 01 4753313. Adults €12.

**VIKING SPLASH** - Pretty unique land and water tour of Dublin. Engaging tour guides. Authentic World War II military amphibious vehicles go on both land & water. D deservedly popular tour; entering the sea at Grand Canal Harbour is spectacular. Route takes in most of major sights in south city (Trinity College, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Viking/Medieval/Georgian Dublin, Government buildings, Dublin Docklands). Open-sided vehicle: expect to get a little wet. Tour lasts 75 mins. Advance online booking essential; or book by phone. Tours run every 30 mins during high season; every 90 mins off peak. Finish time in winter can be quite early (3pm). Check tour times online or by phone. Departure point - St. Stephen's Green North, close to Grafton St. [www.vikingsplash.com/](http://www.vikingsplash.com/) Tel: 01 707 6000. Adults €20 (online price), otherwise €22; concessions.

**WICKLOW MOUNTAINS TOUR** - Full day tour. Covers Glendalough (guided tour of monastic settlement), Avoca village, the Wicklow mountains, the Sally Gap, the Guinness Lakes, the Glencree Valley and Blessington Lakes. Tour departs from 14 Upr O'Connell Street all year round at 9am; returns 5.30pm approx. No tours Dec 25-26.

<https://loveireland.com/tours/the-wicklow-mountains-tour/> City Sightseeing Shop, 14 Upr O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8980700. Adults €26; concessions.

**WILD WICKLOW TOURS** - Full day tour to Glendalough. Departs every day. Short city tour; coastal drive past Dun Laoghaire Harbour, Dalkey and Killiney; visit Avoca Handweavers; personally guided tour through 6th Century Monastic Settlement of Glendalough, followed by walk to the Upper Lake. Also visit Sally Gap (mountain lakes, wild boglands). Customers are collected at Shelbourne Hotel, St Stephens Green (8.50am) and also at a number of other locations. Full day excursion (9am-5.30pm). Highly rated by Lonely Planet. [www.wildwicklow.ie/](http://www.wildwicklow.ie/) Wild Wicklow Tours, 14 Lower Albert Road, Sandycove, Co.Dublin. Tel: 01 2801899. Adults €28; concessions.

## **FURTHER AFIELD - PLACES TO VISIT IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTIES**

**AVONDALE HOUSE** - Birthplace & home of Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891), great Irish political leader. Fine Georgian House (1777) set in magnificent forest park of over 500 acres. House beautifully restored, now a museum to Parnell's memory. Audio-visual presentation, exhibition. Café, book shop. Forest park provides huge variety of forest trails, river walks. Museum & Kitchen Cafe open: April-May 11am-4pm Tues-Sun (incl Bank Holiday Mondays); June-Aug 11am-5pm - 7 days a week; Sept-Oct 11am-4pm Tues-Sunday (incl Bank Holiday Mondays). Guided tours available. [www.heritageisland.com/attractions/avondale-house-forest-park/](http://www.heritageisland.com/attractions/avondale-house-forest-park/) Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 46111. Adults €7; concessions.

**BALLITORE QUAKER MUSEUM** - Ballitore is a village founded by the Quakers in the 1700's. Through the writings of Mary Leadbeater (who corresponded with Mary Edgeworth & Edmund Burke) Ballitore is widely known. It is the only planned and permanent Quaker Settlement in Ireland. Home to several historical buildings, the Meeting House of the Society of Friends was restored in 1975 & it has served as a library since then. Within the library, the museum contains a selection of artefacts & memorabilia including a wedding dress/bonnet worn by Marian Richardson (1853), the door & lintel stone from the original Shackleton home in Yorkshire (1660), and a ledger for the Shackleton mills at Lucan (1807-1810). Open Tues-Sat 12 noon - 5pm. Closed on Bank Holidays & weekends. [www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/ballitore-library-quaker-museum/13670](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/ballitore-library-quaker-museum/13670) Quaker Museum, Ballitore, Co. Kildare. Tel: 059 8623344. Admission free.

**BATTLE OF THE BOYNE VISITOR CENTRE** – Battle fought between King William III & King James II on 11 July 1690. Visitor Centre located in restored 18<sup>th</sup>C Oldbridge House. Free access to battlesite, parklands & formal gardens. Displays of original & replica 17<sup>th</sup>C weaponry, exhibitions, audiovisual, walled garden. Self-guided tours. Open March-Apr daily 9.30am-4.30pm; May-Sept daily 10am-5pm; Oct-Feb daily 9am-4pm. Closed from 24 Dec-Jan 2. [www.meath.ie/Tourism/Heritage/HeritageSites/BattleoftheBoyneSite](http://www.meath.ie/Tourism/Heritage/HeritageSites/BattleoftheBoyneSite) Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 9809950. Adults €4; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wed of every month.

**BEAULIEU HOUSE AND GARDENS** - Important historic home with famous gardens. Open 1 June to 4 Sept Mon to Fri 11am-5pm. Also open July/Aug Sat, Sun 1pm-5pm. Guided tours of house, gardens & motor collection. <http://beaulieuhouse.ie/cms/visitors/> Beaulieu House, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 983 8557. Adults €10 (guided tour of house, self-guided tour of garden); children under 16 free.

**BECTIVE ABBEY** – Ireland's second Cistercian monastery, founded in 1147. Located 15 mins from Trim off R161 (Navan Road). Open all year. Chief features of ruins are combined religious & defence elements. Cloister quite well preserved. Some beautiful arches still intact. [www.meath.ie/Tourism/Heritage/HeritageSites/BectiveAbbey/](http://www.meath.ie/Tourism/Heritage/HeritageSites/BectiveAbbey/) Trim, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 943 7111. Admission free.

**BOG OF ALLEN NATURE CENTRE** - An international centre for peatland education, conservation & research run by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Explore the typical interior of a traditional Irish cottage in 19<sup>th</sup> C Ireland. See ancient treasures like bog butter, coins, the Great Irish Elk and an ancient dugout canoe, all

recovered from the Bog of Allen. Visit an exhibition celebrating the beauty & unique wildlife of Irish boglands; and a greenhouse of insect eating plants found in bogs (the largest such collection in Ireland & the UK). The wildlife conservation gardens provide a refuge for biodiversity. They are entirely peat free & are managed without using pesticides, chemicals, peat based soil improvers or tap water. Finish your day by visiting Lodge Bog, a living bog nature reserve. Open all year from Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm. Not open at Christmas or on public holidays. [www.ipcc.ie/discover-and-learn/bog-of-allen-nature-centre/](http://www.ipcc.ie/discover-and-learn/bog-of-allen-nature-centre/) Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 860133. Adults €5; family (2 adults, 3 children) €15.

**BOYNE VALLEY GARDEN TRAIL** - Apart from the Battle of the Boyne/Oldbridge House & Gardens, and Beaulieu House & Gardens, which have individual entries on this site, there are a number of lesser known gardens in Meath & Louth which are described in detail on <http://boynevalleygardentrail.com/our-gardens/>. The Garden Trail includes a number of historic gardens, smaller scale gardens and garden centres. A handy brochure can be downloaded. Each garden hosts different events over the year.

**CASTLETOWN HOUSE** - Largest and most significant Palladian style country house in Ireland. Built 1722-1729. Open daily 14 Mar-31 Oct: 10am–6pm. Guided tours Mon-Sat at 10.15am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm and 5pm. Guided tours Sundays at 10.15am, 11am and 5pm. Self guide option on Sunday afternoons (12pm to 4.30pm). Restored 18th century parklands open daily (free admission). [www.castletown.ie](http://www.castletown.ie) Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6288252. Adults €7; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**CAUSEY FARM** – Highly acclaimed venue for tourism & educational visits. Year round packages for Irish & international groups, as well as seasonal events for families & individuals. 300 acre farm producing Limousin-cross cattle & a large flock of Belclare ewes which lamb in springtime. Farm also produces winter wheat & spring barley, as well as curly kale, beet & turnips. Causey Farm targets the school tours market, as well as corporate clients & international visitors (in groups). The summer activity afternoon (Fridays in July and August at 2pm) includes sheepdog demonstrations, milking a cow, visiting the bog, traditional turf-cutting, & a bodhrán workshop. €14 per person. Tours are customised depending on group requirements, so the price per individual can vary. Booking essential. [www.causey.ie](http://www.causey.ie) Causey Farm, Girley, Fordstown, Navan, Co. Meath. Tel 046-9434135. Home of the Halloween fright phenomenon, Farmophobia, which is wildly popular (<http://www.farmaphobia.com>).

**COUNTY MUSEUM DUNDALK** - One of Ireland's finest Local Authority Museums, located in a restored 18th C distillery. Interesting artefacts - a Heinkel bubble car; leather coat worn by King William of Orange at Battle of the Boyne. Three galleries of permanent exhibitions: “From Farm to Factory” - story of Louth’s industrial development. “Archaeology of Louth” - archaeological methods. Memorial garden dedicated to botanist Thomas Coulter. “The Irish in World War One” - soldier’s life, aftermath of war. “On the Trail of the Arctic Fox” - celebrates great Irish Arctic explorer, Francis McClintock. Open Tues-Sat 10am–5pm. Closed Sun, Mon, Bank Holidays. [www.dundalkmuseum.ie/en/main/information/](http://www.dundalkmuseum.ie/en/main/information/) Carroll Centre, Roden Place, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co.Louth. Tel: 042 9327056. Adults €2; concessions.

**DUNSANY CASTLE** - Established as a towered fortification of the Norman Pale in the period 1180-1200. Built for a key Norman warlord, Hugh de Lacy, whose chief seat was at Trim. Parts of the original building still stand. It is the longest occupied home and one of the oldest continuously inhabited buildings in Ireland, being the ancestral home of the Lords of Dunsany (the Plunkett family) since the early 1400s. The unique Gothic Revival library is one of the star features. A fine collection of books from across the centuries. Church of St. Nicholas holds tombs of family members & local residents and some of the best medieval carvings surviving in Ireland. Heirlooms include an enamelled silver mug presented by Elizabeth I and the watch & cross of St. Oliver Plunkett. A guided tour offers a fascinating insight into the family history. Open daily excl Sundays June 1-August 31 from 10am-4pm. [www.dunsany.com/](http://www.dunsany.com/). Dunsany, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Tel: 046-9025169. Adults €15; concessions.

**GLENDALOUGH** - Early Christian ecclesiastical settlement founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Set in a valley with two lakes. Monastic remains include a superb round tower, stone churches & decorated crosses. Visitor Centre - exhibition & audio -visual show. Guided tours. Open Mid-Oct to Mid-March daily 9.30am-5pm; Mid-March to Mid-Oct daily 9.30am-6pm. Visitor Centre closed Dec 23-28. Tel: 0404 45352. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/glendaloughvisitorcentre/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/glendaloughvisitorcentre/) Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Adults €4; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**HILL OF TARA** – Seat of High Kings of Ireland for over 2000 years. Ancient spiritual & political capital of Ireland. Five Ancient Roads of Ireland converged here. Great view from hill. Famous Feis (festival) was held every third year at which laws of the land were discussed. Located 15 mins from Navan off N3. Visitor Centre open 14 May-16 Sept 10am-6pm. Guided tours available on request during May-Sept season. Audio-visual film. All year round access to Hill of Tara itself. Tel: 046 902 5903. Tara, Navan, Co. Meath <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/hilloftara/> Adults €4; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**HUNTING BROOK GARDENS** - 5 acres of botanical herbaceous gardens and 15 acres of woodland gardens & valley. Jimi Blake, its creator, collects plants from foreign expeditions & sources rare seeds globally. Innovative garden, a fusion of tropical, prairie & woodland styles. Expansive views over Wicklow Mountains. Located between Brittas & Blessington on N81. Specific open days (not yet announced for 2015). Generally open from Wed-Sun each week (11am-5.30pm); phone to check. [www.huntingbrook.com](http://www.huntingbrook.com) Hunting Brook, Lamb Hill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 087 285 6601. Adults €6.

**IRISH NATIONAL STUD & JAPANESE GARDENS** – Racehorses are conceived, born & raised on Tully's famous **Stud Farm**, long the source of thoroughbred champions. See six stallions, famed for race track feats. The **Japanese Gardens** are the finest of their kind in Europe. Created 1906-1910 by Col. William H. Walker, the gardens symbolise the "Life of Man", tracing the journey of a soul from oblivion to eternity. Also visit St. Fiachra's Garden, designed in 1999 by Martin Hallinan, and the Horse Museum (includes a tribute to Arkle, the greatest steeplechaser ever). 150,000 visitors every year. Open Feb 1-Nov 28. Open 7 days 9am-6pm. Guided tours of stud at 10.30am, 12pm, 2.30pm & 4pm daily, lasting 35 mins. Self guide leaflet available for Japanese Gardens, Saint Fiachra's Garden & Horse Museum. [www.irishnationalstud.ie/](http://www.irishnationalstud.ie/)



[visitors](#) Irish National Stud, Tully, Kildare. Tel: 045 521617. Adults €12.50; concessions.

**KILLRUDDERY HOUSE AND GARDENS** – Home since 1650 to 16 generations of the Brabazon family. House extensively reconstructed in Tudor Revival style in the 1820s. Contains one of the few remaining 17<sup>th</sup> Century gardens in these islands. Elaborate interiors, striking Orangery. Popular location for tv series (e.g. The Tudors). Guided tours of house July/Aug/Sept from 1pm – 4pm. Opening times for Gardens: April, weekends only 9.30am – 6pm; May-Sept daily 9.30am – 6pm; October, weekends only 9.30am – 6pm; Farm market Sat 10am – 4pm. [www.killruddery.com/](http://www.killruddery.com/) Southern Cross, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2863405. Adults €11 (house and gardens); Adults €6.50 (gardens only); concessions.

**KILMACURRAGH ARBORETUM** - managed by the National Botanic Gardens, this is the remnants of a large estate planted during the 19<sup>th</sup>C by the then curators of the National Botanic Gardens. Numerous plant species from around the world being introduced to Ireland for the first time. The different soil and climatic conditions at Kilmacurragh resulted in many of these specimens succeeding there while struggling or failing at Glasnevin. Famous for its conifers and rhododendron collections. Free guided tours: twice daily from April onwards at 12 noon & 3pm. Open mid-November to mid-February, daily 9am-4pm. Open mid-February to mid-November, daily 9pm-6pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/Kilmacurragh/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/Kilmacurragh/) Kilbride, Co. Wicklow (5km off the N11. Turn right just beyond the Beehive pub). Tel: 0404 48844 or 01 8570909. Admission Free.

**LARCHILL ARCADIAN GARDEN** - Ornamental Farm (Ferme Ornée) created 1740-1780. Only surviving, near complete garden of its type in Europe. Designed as a pastoral paradise, reflecting man's harmony with nature. Working farm, decorative buildings, walled garden, tree-lined avenues, 65 acres of landscaped parkland filled with follies, grottos, statuary, and an 8-acre lake. Has gained national & international awards after extensive restoration work. Opening hours limited (May/June Mon-Fri 10am-2pm; open some May/June weekends; some August dates) – check website. [www.larchill.ie](http://www.larchill.ie) Kilcock, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 628 7354. Adults €8; concessions. House €9 by appointment only.

**MAYNOOTH CASTLE** – A great stone castle founded in the early 13<sup>th</sup>C; principal residence of the Kildare branch of the FitzGerald family who were one of the most powerful families in Ireland (Maynooth Castle was one of the largest & richest houses). The castle was remodelled in the 17<sup>th</sup>C. Taken over by the State in 1991, a programme of restoration began in 2000. There is an exhibition in the keep on the history of the castle & the family. Open May 21-Sept 30 (Wed-Sun & Bank Holidays 10am-6pm). Access to the keep by guided tour only. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/maynoothcastle/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/maynoothcastle/) Maynooth Village, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01-628 6744. Admission free.

**MELLIFONT ABBEY** - First Cistercian monastery in Ireland (1142). Visitor Centre houses an interesting exhibition on the work of medieval masons. Access to site by a stone stairway. Guided tours available on request. Open May 28-Sept 2 daily 10am-6pm. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/OldMellifontAbbey/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/OldMellifontAbbey/) Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 982 6459. Adults €4; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**MONASTERBOICE** - Interesting monastic site near Drogheda, Co. Louth. Impressive ruins include a large cemetery, two churches, one of tallest round towers in Ireland and two of best high crosses. Superb examples of Celtic art which brought the Bible to life for illiterate people. Muiredach's Cross dates from 900-923 AD; regarded as finest high cross in Ireland. West Cross at 6.5m high is tallest high cross in the country. Also a simpler North Cross. Round tower is over 30m (110 feet) tall, divided into four stories inside. Tower closed to the public. Site open sunrise to sunset. [www.sacred-destinations.com/ireland/monasterboice](http://www.sacred-destinations.com/ireland/monasterboice) Monasterboice, Co. Louth. Free admission.

**MOUNT USHER GARDENS** – Highly regarded Irish garden, laid out across 22 acres along banks of River Vartry. Fine example of Robinsonian-style garden; informal natural design. Over 5000 species of plant, many of them rare & exotic. Avoca Café on site. Situated in village of Ashford, 35 minutes from Dublin on N11. Gardens open daily 10am to 6pm. Last garden admission 40 minutes before closing. Avoca Café and Shopping Courtyard on site. [www.mountushergardens.ie/index.html](http://www.mountushergardens.ie/index.html) Ashford, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 40205. Adults €7.50; concessions.

**NATIONAL GARDEN EXHIBITION CENTRE** - Permanent exhibition of show gardens. 23 separate gardens on display. Exhibition contains 15,000 different plants. Large garden centre on site. Open all year. Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm. Sun 12pm-5.30 pm. Bank holidays 10am-5.30pm. [www.gardenexhibition.ie](http://www.gardenexhibition.ie) Kilquade, Co Wicklow. Tel: 01 281 9890. Adults €5; children under 16 free. *Under new ownership – temporarily closed.*

**NATIONAL SEALIFE CENTRE** – An indoors aquatic Zoo with 30+ displays. Sea creatures from the world's oceans: over 70 different species on view, incl an impressive tropical shark lagoon. Check website for feeding times/talks [piranha, carp, tropical sharks, octopus, seahorses, sting ray]. Open March-Oct: 10am-6pm every day (incl weekends & Bank Holidays); Nov-Feb: 11am-5pm (Mon-Fri); 10am-5pm (Sat-Sun & School holidays). Closed Dec 25-26. [www.visitsealife.com/Bray/](http://www.visitsealife.com/Bray/) Seafront, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2866939. Adults €9.20 (online price); concessions.

**NEWBRIDGE MUSEUM OF STYLE ICONS** – An attraction forming part of Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre. Permanent exhibition of garments & memorabilia from collections of world stars (e.g. Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, Princess Diana, Michael Jackson). Craft workshop, extensive showrooms & restaurant on site. Open Mon-Sat 9am–6pm; Sun/Public Holidays: 11am–6pm. [www.newbridgesilverware.com/museum](http://www.newbridgesilverware.com/museum) Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 431301. Admission free.

**NEWGRANGE NEOLITHIC MONUMENT** - Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth & Dowth. Full scale replica of chamber at Newgrange, model of one of smaller tombs at Knowth. Busy site, delays likely during summer months, so arrive early! Tickets sold on first come first served basis, cannot be reserved in advance. Newgrange open all year round except for Dec. 24-27. (Knowth open from Apr 3-Oct 31). Feb-April daily 9.30am-5.30pm; May daily 9am-6.30pm; June-Mid Sept daily 9am- 7pm; Mid-End Sept daily 9am-6.30pm; Oct daily 9.30am-5.30pm; Nov-Jan daily 9am-5pm. All admissions via Visitor Centre. Visitors are brought to the monuments by shuttle bus. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/brunaboinnevisitorcentre/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/brunaboinnevisitorcentre/) Donore, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 988 0300. Exhibition only -

Adults €3; Exhibition & Newgrange visit - Adults €6; Exhibition & Knowth visit - Adults €5; Exhibition & visits to both Newgrange & Knowth - Adults €11. Concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**POWERSCOURT HOUSE & GARDENS** - One of most beautiful gardens in Ireland. Charming walled garden, striking terraces, fine statuary, varied trees, lovely walks, scenic surroundings. Italian garden, Japanese garden, pets' cemetery. Waterfall Ireland's highest at 121m (398ft). Spectacular house (Richard Castle, 1741) restored after disastrous fire; now far from its original glory. Tara's Palace (museum for children) inside the House. Gardens open daily 9.30am–5.30pm (winter closing at dusk), closed 25-26 Dec. Ballroom/Garden Rooms Sun 9:30am-1:30pm; May-Sept Mon 9:30am-1:30pm. Avoca Terrace Café daily 9.30am–5pm. Waterfall Jan/Feb/Nov/Dec 10.30am-4.00pm; Mar/ Apr/Sept/Oct 10.30am-5.30pm; May/June/July/Aug 9.30am-7pm. Closed 2 weeks before Xmas. [www.powerscourt.com](http://www.powerscourt.com) Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 204 6000. Gardens - Adults €8.50; concessions. Waterfall Adults €5.50; concessions.

**RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE** - Stunning Palladian mansion designed in 1741 by Richard Cassels. One of most beautiful houses in Ireland. Bought by Sir Alfred and Lady Beit in 1952 to house their impressive art collection. Mansion & its collections left to Irish State in 1978. Top class house tour, 3D exhibition, maze, 18<sup>th</sup>C walled garden, gift shop, café. Grounds open March 16-Dec 22 from 10am-6pm. House open every day March 17-Sept 30; guided tours take place hourly. Oct 1-Dec 22 guided tours at 1pm & 2pm on weekdays and hourly at weekends. Guided demesne tours (must be pre-booked): Sat/Sun 2pm. 3D interactive exhibition: 10am-5pm. [www.russboroughhouse.ie/](http://www.russboroughhouse.ie/) Russborough, Blessington, Co Wicklow. Tel: 045 865 239. Adults – House tour €10, 3D exhibition €6, both House & Exhibition €12. Concessions for students, children, seniors. Maze €3.

**SLANE CASTLE** – Impressive historic building, the work of famous architects James Gandon, James Wyatt & Francis Johnston. Parklands laid out by Capability Brown. King George IV stayed here in 1821. U2 recorded “The Unforgettable Fire” here in 1984. Slane has been in the same family's hands since 1701. Lovingly restored after a devastating fire in 1991. Famed venue for open air rock concerts. Open for guided tours May 24-28, June 1-28, July 2-31, Aug 1-30. Sun-Thur only 12pm-5pm. Closed Fridays & Saturdays. [www.slanecastle.ie/castle/castle\\_tours.php](http://www.slanecastle.ie/castle/castle_tours.php) Slane, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 982 0643. Adults €7; concessions.

**STRAFFAN BUTTERFLY FARM** – Walk through a tropical mini jungle with butterflies flying freely all around you. See life cycle of butterflies. Exhibition area with examples of butterflies from all over the world. Also a variety of live tarantulas, scorpions, stick insects, millipedes & small reptiles, all housed in natural surroundings. Open June-Aug 7 days 11am-5.30pm. School tours by appointment. [www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com](http://www.straffanbutterflyfarm.com) Ovidstown, Straffan, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6271109. Adults €8; concessions.

**TAYTO PARK** - Take a factory tour to see how Ireland's favourite crisps are made. See Ireland's first herd of American Bison, Amur Tigers, Corsac Foxes & Eurasian Lynxes. Get a flavour of life & culture of Native Americans. Try activities such as High Ropes Course, longest & fastest Zip Wire in Ireland, giant 18 meter tubular slide,

bucking buffalo bronco, Extreme Climbing Wall, & Tayto Air Jumpers. [Additional charges for each “ride”. No factory production on Sun, Bank Holidays; limited production on Sat]. Closed Jan 1- March 25. Mar 26-Mar 31: Open 10am-6pm. April – June: Open 7 days 10am–6pm. July & Aug: Open 7 days 9.30am–7pm. Sept: Open Sat & Sun 10am–6pm. Oct: Open Sat & Sun 10am–5pm. Oct Mid-Term Break: Open Sat 24<sup>th</sup> –Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10am – 5pm. Nov: Open Sat & Sun 10am–5pm. Dec: Open Fri 12pm – 5pm, Sat & Sun 10am – 5pm. Mon Dec 15<sup>th</sup> -Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> 12pm-5pm. Closed Dec 24-31. [www.taytocrisps.ie/park/](http://www.taytocrisps.ie/park/) Tayto Park, Kilbrev, Ashbourne, Co.Meath. Tel: 01 835 1999. Adults €14; concessions.

**TRIM CASTLE** – Largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. Construction of the massive three storied keep began in 1176. Twenty-sided tower, protected by a ditch, curtain wall and moat. Guided tours only. Not suitable for visitors with disabilities. Very busy during summer months (booking advisable). Open 1 Nov to 14th March: Weekends only 9am-5pm; 15th March - 31st October: Daily 10am-6pm. Closed weekend before Christmas, weekend before New Year's Day. [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands\\_eastcoast/TrimCastle/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands_eastcoast/TrimCastle/) Trim, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 943 8619. Adults €4; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

**WICKLOW GAOL** – A recreation of 18<sup>th</sup>C prison life. Construction of the prison started in 1702. Prisoners were “transported” to distant UK colonies from 1789-1856, including over 600 men involved in 1798 Rebellion. At height of the Great Famine, the number of prisoners swelled to 780. Gaol closed in 1924. Part-guided tours. Open daily, Mon-Sun 10.30am-4.30pm. Usually closed over Christmas period (Dec 23-Jan 3 inclusive). Spooky night tours also available (advance booking required - adults only) on last Friday of month, excl December, starting at 7pm & leaving every 15 mins; last tour at 8.30pm sharp. [www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com](http://www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com) Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 61599. Adults €7.90; concessions. Night Tour €15.

**WICKLOW GARDENS** - Apart from Avondale House & Forest Park, Hunting Brook Gardens, Killruddery House & Gardens, Kilmacurragh Arboretum, Mount Usher Gardens, the National Garden Exhibition Centre, and Powerscourt House & Gardens, which are all given individual entries within this website, you may be interested in a number of lesser known Wicklow gardens which are described in detail on [www.wicklowgardens.ie](http://www.wicklowgardens.ie). These locations include Dower House, Festina Lente, Hunter’s Hotel, June Blake’s Garden & Nursery, Knockanree, Knockrose Garden, Shekina Sculpture Garden, Smith’s Garden, and Wrenswood.

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[www.dublinplacestovisit.com](http://www.dublinplacestovisit.com) is not a commercial venture. It is a “social enterprise”, a good will initiative designed to make a positive contribution to tourism, especially in Dublin and the adjoining counties.

[www.dublinplacestovisit.com](http://www.dublinplacestovisit.com) comes to you courtesy of VIP Taxis (phone 01-4783333). All information has been gleaned from official websites. Updated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

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For comments, and the reporting of incorrect information on this website, please email [seanperusilke@hotmail.com](mailto:seanperusilke@hotmail.com)

Readers with an enthusiasm for visiting historic houses and gardens will be interested in a list compiled by the Revenue Commissioners. The document lists properties which gain tax relief on money spent on repairs, restoration and maintenance. In return, such properties/gardens must open to the public for a limited number of days each year. The opening hours tend to be eccentric; hence, the need for a detailed listing! For full details, please consult [www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/s482-properties.pdf](http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/s482-properties.pdf)

The Revenue document is a lengthy continuous list. A more user-friendly website which covers many (but not all) historic houses with restricted opening hours is [www.ihh.ie](http://www.ihh.ie), the website of the Irish Historic Houses Association. Very full details, including opening hours, are provided for all those houses affiliated to the IHHA and you can search by county to identify historic houses within geographic areas of interest.

Open House Dublin is an annual weekend festival in early October featuring up to 100 noteworthy buildings, from the obvious to the overlooked. Representing a diversity of building types and uses, OHD offers visitors the chance to explore several buildings within a type or to spend the weekend moving around the city, taking in a host of attractions. Each venue offers a unique insight into Dublin's architectural story. All OHD tours are free. See <http://openhousedublin.com/> for full details.

Bridges of Dublin is a Dublin City Council project whereby a comprehensive digital archive of information has been developed about the bridges spanning the Liffey in Dublin county. [www.bridgesofdublin.ie](http://www.bridgesofdublin.ie) is a wonderful-looking website with a host of historical information, splendid photographs and neat features such as a set of photos showing the bridges and the city as they were in the past and how they are in the summer of 2013 (you click on the images and they fade from old to new - click on "Historical Dublin" and select the "Then and Now" option).

Finally, the Dublin Event Guide is a weekly e-mail newsletter which lists free cultural events in Dublin City and in the Greater Dublin area. Gigs, festivals, talks, lectures, and exhibitions are included. Written in blog-style by Joerg Steegmueller, the Event Guide is free and has more than 20,000 readers. You can subscribe free of charge to the weekly email by signing up at [www.dublineventguide.com](http://www.dublineventguide.com).