

<p>WWW.DUBLINPLACESTOVISIT.COM - THE VIP TAXIS GUIDE TO PLACES TO VISIT IN DUBLIN</p>

AIRFIELD HOUSE - The Airfield Trust was established by Letitia & Naomi Overend 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 on hand to guide visitors through daily milkings, egg collecting, mucking out & feeding. Farmyard allows easy access to animals, milking parlour & dairy kitchen. Also on view are attractive gardens, a small vineyard, & a garage for vintage cars. Heritage tours of house, garage, gardens & farm daily from Wed-Sun at 11.30am and 2.30pm (check for availability). Open Sept-June: Mon-Sun 9.30 am-5pm. Open July & Aug: Mon-Sun 9.30 am-6pm. Restaurant open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm; Sat/Sun/Bank Holidays 9am-5pm (phone 01-9696641). www.airfield.ie Overend Way, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 01-969 6666. Adults €10; concessions.

ARAS AN UACHTARAIN - Residence of President of Ireland. Open Saturdays only. Guided tour provided. Summer 10.15am-4.00pm; Winter: 10.30am-3.30pm. Usually closed for 2-3 Saturdays over the Christmas/New Year period. 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/ 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. www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/arbourhillcemetery/ Rear of National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 821 3021. Admission free.

ARDGILLAN CASTLE - Large 18th 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 at 11.00 am (available on demand; the last tour is 2 hours before closing time). Tricky to find: 20 miles from city centre near Balbriggan. To see the opening times of the park, gardens and house, please consult <http://ardgillancastle.ie/opening-times/> Closed 23 Dec to 1 Jan. 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-4pm. 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 €11. 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, Landsdowne Road). Closed on match days (check website for details). Closed

25-26 Dec. www.avivastadium.ie/tours Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. Tel: Tel 01-232 0878 or 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 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 Blessington Street Basin, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8300833. Free admission.

BUTLERS CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE - What really goes on behind the doors of a working chocolate factory? Find out by booking a guided tour at the Butlers Chocolate Experience, with plenty of tastings along the way. Tours run daily at 10am, 12 noon and 3.30pm Mon-Sat & on Bank Holidays. Double check tour times via the website booking calendar. All bookings must be made in advance. Factory itself does not operate on weekends/bank holidays. www.butlerschocolates.com/chocolateexperience/ Butlers Chocolates, Clonsaugh Business Park, Dublin 17. Tel: 01 6710599. Adults/children €13.50; get an extra 5% discount when you book online.

CASINO MARINO – One of the finest 18th century neo-classical buildings in Europe. 16 finely decorated rooms. Guided tours only. Open 16 Mar-31 Oct. Months of March, April, May, October: 10am-5pm. Months of June-September: 10am–6pm. Tours on the hour every hour. www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/casinomarino/ Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Marino, Dublin 3. Tel: 01 833 1618. Adults €7; 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-Oct); Tues-Fri: 10am-5pm (Nov-Feb); Saturdays: 11am-5pm (all year). Sundays: 1pm-5pm (all year). Closed Bank Holiday Mondays, Good Friday, 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan. Free guided tours at 1pm on Wed, 2pm on Sat, pm on Sun. Tours are on a first-come, first- served basis with no booking required. www.cbl.ie Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 4070750. Admission free.

CHOCOLATE WAREHOUSE – A unique journey through the history and joy of making chocolate. A film explains the story of chocolate and how cocoa beans are grown and harvested. In the hands on session, visitors put on aprons, coat chocolates, add toppings and hand pipe with white chocolate. Decorate and package your own chocolate to take home. Booking advisable. www.chocolatewarehouse.ie/chocolate-workshops/. Mulcahy Keane Industrial Estate, Greenhills Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12. Tel: 01-4500080. Adults €12.50; concessions.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL - Founded in 1030. One of the largest medieval crypts in Europe. Exhibition of treasures & manuscripts. Open Mon-Sat: March, Oct 9.30am-6pm. Apr-Sept 9.30am-7pm; Nov-Feb 9.30am-5pm. Open Sundays Mar, Oct 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-6pm. Apr-Sept 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-7pm. Nov-Feb 12.30pm-2.30pm. Closed 26 Dec. www.christchurchdublin.ie Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 677 8099. Adults €6.50; concessions. Guided tours of the cathedral, which now all incorporate the belfry, take place at 12.10pm, 2pm, and 4pm Monday – Friday; and at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm on Saturdays. All guided tours give you the opportunity to visit the belfry and ring the bells of Christ Church Cathedral yourself. The tour costs €4 (on top of the €6.50 normal visitor fee). One can also enjoy the Christ Church Cathedral Belfry Tour on weekends at 11.30am and 1.15pm on Saturdays and at 1.15 pm on Sundays. The tour costs €4 (on top of the €6.50 normal visitor fee).

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/ 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. See detailed opening times on website; check website for match day information (when restrictions apply). www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum/visit/stadium-tours Croke Park, St Joseph's Avenue (off Clonliffe Road), Dublin 3. Tel: 01 819 2300. Adults €14; concessions.

CUSTOM HOUSE – A masterpiece of European neo-classicism by James Gandon (1791). The Visitor Centre here re-opened in March 2017. Open Thur, Fri: 2pm-4pm. Open Sat/Sun/Public Holidays: 11.30am-4.30 pm. Admission free. www.archiseek.com/2010/1791-custom-house-customhouse-quay-dublin/#.UgYfAJLYdIE Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-888 2000. Admission free.

DALKEY CASTLE AND HERITAGE CENTRE – Guided living history tours with the past brought to life by actors. It is wise to book the tour in advance online (Adults €9; concessions). Entry to the Heritage Centre is included in the guided tour price. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat-Sun 11am-5pm (closing time variable - open till 6pm in the high season). Closed Tuesdays. See website for details of other events (e.g. guided literary walks). www.dalkeycastle.com Tel: 01 285 8366. Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

DRIMNAGH CASTLE - Feudal stronghold. Only remaining castle in Ireland surrounded by a flooded moat. Restored great hall, battlement tower, stable, coach house, formal 17th C gardens. Open Mon-Thur 9am-4pm; Fri 9am-1pm. Weekends by appointment. www.drimnaghcastle.org Long Mile Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 450 2530. Adults €4.50; concessions.

DUBLIN CASTLE – Operated as a military fortress, a prison, treasury, courts of law and seat of English administration in Ireland for 700 years. The **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. The **Chapel Royal** is a gothic revival building designed by Francis Johnston, famous for its vaulting, plaster decoration, carved oaks & galleries. A guided tour of the State Apartments/Undercroft/Chapel Royal is available (Adults €10 for a guided tour or €7 for a self-guided visit; concessions). The State Apartments, the Undercroft & the Chapel Royal are open 7 days a week from 9.45am to 5.45pm. 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, 25-27 Dec. & 1 January. www.dublincastle.ie Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-645 8813. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

DUBLIN CITY HALL – Georgian building (1769-1779) housing an exhibition on the city's history. Now the headquarters of Dublin City Council. Originally built as the Royal Exchange & used by the merchants of Dublin as a financial centre until 1851. Now restored to its former 18th C glory. 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 Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 222 2204. Free admission.

DUBLIN CIVIC TRUST – The Trust's former 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. (Now in private hands, the house is not open to the public). 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. Read a detailed account of the restoration of No. 4 Castle Street at www.dublincivictrust.ie/more-about-us.php Tel: 01 8749 681.

DUBLIN GARDENS GROUP – You may be interested in a number of lesser known gardens which are described in detail on www.dublinalgardens.com/cms/. This group consists of Ireland's most distinguished private gardens in the greater Dublin area, some of them 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 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 Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 474 8900. Adults €17.50; 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/ St. Michael's Hill, Christchurch, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 679 4611. Adults €9.50; 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 Dunsink Observatory, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Re Open Nights, phone Hilary O'Donnell at 087-6294966 or email hod@cp.dias.ie For general queries phone 01 4406656.

EPIC THE IRISH EMIGRATION MUSEUM - An exhibition which brings to life the story of Ireland's communities overseas - past, present and future. Through 20 galleries, using cutting-edge interactive technologies (designed by the award-winning team behind Titanic Belfast), visitors explore tales of migration, the forces that drove 10 million journeys, and the impact Irish migration has had on the world. www.epicirelandchq.com The CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-5313688. Adults €14; concessions. Open 7 days a week from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Closed Dec 24-27. EPIC is a self-guided visit. Adjacent to EPIC is the Irish Family History Centre, a way for visitors to discover their family story and explore their Irish heritage. Entrance costs €9.50.

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. Open 7 days 10am-5pm. House tours every hour, starting at 10.15am. Estate open all year round 10am-6pm. www.farmleigh.ie 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 18th 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). <http://freemason.ie/freemasons-hall/public-tours/> 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6761337.

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/ 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) O'CONNELL STREET - Witness History is a new visitor attraction placing one right inside the GPO during Easter Week 1916. Examine the original copy of the Proclamation; explore the events of Easter Week through personal stories, eyewitness accounts and historic artefacts (many previously unseen); compare the life of a wealthy child in Dublin at the time to the life of a child of the tenements; learn about the events leading up to the Rising and its aftermath. Open 7 days 9am–5:30pm except Sat/Sun 10am-5.30pm. Closed January 1, Easter Sunday, Dec 24-26. www.gpowitnesshistory.ie/ General Post Office, O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8721916. Self-guided tour. Adults €12; concessions.

GEORGE'S STREET ARCADE - Dublin's first purpose-built Victorian Shopping Centre (1881). About 50 tenants, mostly small sidewalk stalls, selling everything imaginable. A unique part of the Dublin shopping scene with its own special ambience. Open Mon-Wed 9am-6.30pm; Thur-Sat 9am-7pm; Sun 12pm-6pm. <http://www.georgesstreetarcade.ie/> George's Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-2836077.

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). The popular historical tour gives an 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. Witness the daily (2.30 pm) re-enactment of famous political speeches. Museum attractions include the City of the Dead (burial practices & record-keeping); & the Milestone Gallery (special exhibitions on key historical figures). You can now access *the Botanic Gardens* via the Cemetery. Museum Opening Times: Mon-Sun inc Bank Holidays 10am-6pm. General History Tour: Daily at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm. Dead Interesting Tour: Daily at 1pm March-Sept. www.glasnevinmuseum.ie Finglas Road, Dublin 11. Tel: 01 882 6550. General History Tour (incl entry to museum) – Adults €13; concessions. Dead Interesting Glasnevin (incl entry to museum) – Adults €13; concessions. Museum only - Adults €6.50; 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. 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. The No. 1 tourist attraction in Ireland. Open 7 days a week 9.30am-7pm (last admission at 5pm). Late opening July & August: 9am-8pm (last admission at 6pm). Closed Dec 24-26 & Good Friday. www.guinness-storehouse.com St. James's Gate, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 408 4800. Ticket prices vary. The standard adult online price is €20 but it is wise to book in advance to avail of off peak discounts (the adult price can drop to €14). The website seems to imply that admissions not purchased online are 10% more expensive. Concessions for senior citizens and for children.

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

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 Tue-Thurs 9.45am-6pm, Friday 9.45am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Closed Mondays. www.hughlane.ie Charlemont House, Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 222 5550. 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. 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 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 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. Winter (Oct-May): Open Sun 10.30am to 2.30pm. Summer (June to mid-Sept): Open Mon/Tues/Wed/Thur/Sun 11am-3pm *Always closed on Jewish holidays*. Pre-booked groups can visit outside of normal opening hours. www.jewishmuseum.ie or www.jewishireland.org/irish-jewish-history/museum/ 3 Walworth Road (near Victoria, Lennox & Harrington Streets), South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4531797 or 085 706 7357 (texts only). Admission €5 (Tours €7).

IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART - Ireland’s leading institution for modern art. Based in Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. Open: Tues-Fri: 11.30am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-5.30pm; Sunday & Bank Holidays: 12pm-5.30pm. Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays), 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 Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 612 9900. Admission free (there is a charge for occasional special exhibitions).

IRISH ROCK’N’ ROLL MUSEUM - Essentially a tour featuring some of Dublin’s best loved professional music facilities, including the Button Factory (a live music venue); Temple Lane Rehearsal Studios; & Temple Lane Recording Studio. The Thin Lizzy exhibition is incorporated into a fully functioning studio, featuring memorabilia. The Wall of Fame as a symbol of Irish music royalty has been a fixture in Temple Bar since 2003. The museum also displays an extensive variety of vintage instruments and equipment. Visit Temple Lane Rehearsal Studios where many acts do pre-production for albums and Temple Lane Recording Studio where many major artists have recorded, including The Script, Rihanna and Kodaline. Open 7 days a week 11 am to 5.30 pm. <http://irishrocknrollmuseum.com/> Curved Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6351993. Adults €16; concessions.

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 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 661 9699.

IRISH WHISKEY MUSEUM - Learn the origins of Irish whiskey, its rise to glory, its dramatic fall and its current revival. The Museum contains a unique collection of Irish whiskey memorabilia dating back to the 1800s. The Classic Tour consists of a fully guided tour & three crafted Irish whiskey tastings. The Premium Tour and the Blending Experience are more detailed options. Open Summer: 10am (first tour 10:30 am) to 6pm (last tour 5.30pm); Winter: 10.30am (first tour 11am) to 6pm (last tour 5.30pm).

www.irishwhiskeymuseum.ie 119 Grafton St, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-5250970. Prices: Classic Tour - Adults €17; concessions. Premium Tour - Adults €20; concessions. Blending Experience – Adults €28; concessions.

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.iveaghgardens.ie 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 how families lived in early 20th 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

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; closed Mon]. Open Apr-Sept [Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12-5pm]. Open Bank Holidays. Closed St Patrick's Day, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, 23 Dec-2 Jan. www.jamesjoyce.ie, 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1. Phone 01 878 8547. Adults €5; concessions. See also (page 20) “James Joyce Centre Walking Tours”.

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. Currently closed (the house is being sold by receivers). 15 Usher's Island, Dublin 8.

JAMES JOYCE TOWER The Martello Tower on Sandycove Point is one of a series of 15 similar towers built around Dublin in 1804 to counter the threat of an invasion by Napoleon. Demilitarised in 1904, the tower was rented to Oliver St John Gogarty, who invited the 22-year-old James Joyce to join him. The first chapter of “Ulysses” (1922) was set here. The tower was bought in 1954 by the architect Michael Scott. He and his friends set up the James Joyce Museum, which opened in 1962. Now run by the volunteers of the ‘Friends of Joyce Tower Society’ (with support from Fáilte Ireland), the museum collection has grown over the years. Open daily: Summer 10am–6pm; Winter 10am–4pm. www.joycetower.ie James Joyce Museum, Sandycove Point, Sandycove, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 280 9265. Admission free; donations welcomed.

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. Difficult to summarise tour times; see website for full updated details - check the “book online” link. Closed 25-28 December. www.jeaniejohnston.ie Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 473 0111. Adults €10; concessions.

KILMAINHAM GAOL - One of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe. Outstanding guided tour. Explore the social history of Kilmainham Gaol & Irish prisons in the 1800s, the history of Irish nationalism (1796-1924) and the restoration of the Gaol in the 1960s. The 'Last Words' section displays the last letters and personal belongings of the 14 leaders of the Easter Rising executed at Kilmainham in 1916. Open 7 days a week 9.30am-5.30pm except 1 June-31 August when the longer opening hours are 9am-6.45pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/ Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 5984. Adults €8 (online price) - otherwise €9; concessions. Very busy in the peak tourist season – be sure to book online.

KING'S INNS – Oldest institution of professional legal education in Ireland (1541). Guided tours rarely available. As part of the October "Open House" weekend, a tour of Darley's neo-classical library building and Gandon's last public building in Dublin is usually arranged. 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. Enter by the Kildare Street gate. Bring your passport or other form of identification with you. 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 20thC. Open Mon–Sun & Bank Holidays 9.30am–5pm. Thur 9.30am–8pm. Closed Xmas holiday period. www.littlemuseum.ie 15 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Phone 01 661 1000. Adults €8; concessions. Very popular guided tours on the hour, every hour. Free admission every Thurs from 6pm-8pm (sponsored by Diageo/Guinness). Also on offer is the Green Mile walking tour of St Stephen's Green. Tour a square which has been at the centre of Irish history for hundreds of years in the company of an expert local guide. Saturdays & Sundays at 11.00am. Free with your entry ticket to the Little Museum.

MALAHIDE CASTLE – Magnificent 12thC Castle, home to the Talbot family for over 800 years. Superb period furniture; extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings; ornamental gardens. Open 7 days 9.30am–5.30pm. Last guided tours of castle at 4.30pm Apr-Oct, 3.30pm Nov-March. Closed 24-26 Dec. www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie Malahide, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 8169538. Adults €12.50; 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. www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-your-council-lord-mayor/mansion-house Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

MARSH'S LIBRARY– Oldest public library in Ireland (1701) containing some 25,000 printed books relating to 16th-18thC. Fine example of 17thC scholar's library. Open every day except Tues, Sun. Weekdays 9:30am-5pm. Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Tues, Sun, Bank Holidays. Closed Dec 25-Jan 1 (inclusive). www.marshlibrary.ie/home St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4543511. Adults €3; concessions.

MARY AIKENHEAD HERITAGE CENTRE - Mary Aikenhead (1787-1858) was the foundress of the Sisters of Charity; this exhibition conveys the history of the congregation. Gain an insight into the life and times of Mary Aikenhead, the spirit of her order, its origins and its continuing expression today. She spent the last 27 years of her life as an invalid. The focal point of the exhibition is her room, where she lived from 1845 to 1858. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am–4.00 pm. www.rscmaheritage.com/ Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross Rd, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W. Tel: 01-491 0041. Admission is free. Please phone in advance to arrange a visit.

NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE - Aquazone, at the National Aquatic Centre, is one of the most innovative water parks in Europe. Over 650,000 visitors per year. Rides include Master Blaster (water roller coaster), Flow Rider (Surfing Machine); Beach Pool; Pirate Ship; Flumes. Open 10am-7pm on Monday-Friday and 10am-6pm on Saturday-Sunday. Competition Pool open 6am-10pm on Monday-Friday and 8am-8pm on Saturday-Sunday. Competition Pool (50 metre pool with moveable floors) included in day visitor price. Weekend opening hours apply on Bank Holiday Mondays. <http://www.aquazone.ie/> National Sports Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Tel: 01- 6464 300. Full Pricing during School Holidays; at Weekends; and in high season (approx. May 20-August 31). Adults: €15; children €13. Reduced pricing in off peak season (approx. Sept 1-May 19). Price depends on time of day (either €4.80 or €7.50 for adults; €3.80 or €5.50 for children). Check website for full details.

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS – Fine plant collections. Over 15,000 species and cultivars from all around the world. Award-winning restored glasshouses. Free guided tours Sunday at 12pm & 2.30pm. Daily Guided Tours Mon-Sat at 11:30am and 3pm – €5 per person. Open every day except Christmas Day. WINTER opening hours (from second last Sunday of Oct to last Sunday in Feb) – Mon to Fri 9am – 4:30pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 10am – 4:30pm. SUMMER opening hours (first Sunday in March to last Sunday of Oct) – Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 10am – 6pm. www.botanicgardens.ie Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel: 01-8570909 or 01-8040300. Free admission. Car parking charge €2 (for 2 hours; €2 per hour thereafter).

NATIONAL GALLERY – Collection of over 2,500 paintings. Every major European School of painting represented. Free tours every Sat at 12.30 pm and every Sunday at 11.30 am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Open Mon-Sat 9:15am–5.30pm; Thurs 9:15am–8.30pm; Sun 11am–5.30pm. Closed Good Friday and 24-26 Dec. www.nationalgallery.ie Merrion Square West & Clare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 661 5133. Admission to the 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. In the high season tours are every 20 minutes; in the low seasons, tours are every hour (Mon-Fri)

and every 30 minutes (weekends). Evening tours Fridays 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm. Saturdays 7.00 pm, 7.30 pm, 8.30 pm. www.leprechaunmuseum.ie Jervis Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 873 3899. Day tours - Adults €14; concessions. Night tours – Adults €16.

NATIONAL LIBRARY - Houses books, prints, manuscripts, newspapers, music, ephemera and genealogical material. Best collection of Irish documentary heritage in the world. There are 3 current exhibitions: Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats ("one of the most important literary exhibitions yet staged internationally"); 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); and Signatories (visitors are introduced to the lives of the 7 men who signed the Proclamation through a series of graphic panels and a selection of original documents). For information about occasional public tours, see www.nli.ie/en/list/current-events.aspx. 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 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/ Mariners' Church, Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 2800969 (11am-5pm). Adults €6; 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 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. World War One exhibition. Major military history exhibition 'Soldiers and Chiefs: The Irish at War at Home & Abroad, 1550-2001'. "Proclaiming a Republic: the 1916 Rising" is not to be missed. Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm; Sun: 2pm-5pm; closed Mon (incl Bank Holidays); Closed Good Friday and 25 Dec. 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 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. "Beyond Leaving" is an update of a

project studying post-crash emigrants, examining the distance between expectation and reality for Irish emigrants. Reading room open to researchers, by prior appointment only (phone 01-6030373). Exhibitions open Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm & Sun: 12-5pm. www.nli.ie 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 tours from 29 February – 18 March inclusive. No afternoon tours on Wednesdays. 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 claspers 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/ Heritage Depot, Howth Demesne, Howth, Dublin 13. Tel: 01) 832 0427 or (01) 847 5623. Adults €3.

NATIONAL WAX MUSEUM – A journey through Irish cultural heritage including a children's zone, a Chamber of Horrors and numerous life-like wax characters. Open Mon – Sun 10am-10pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. www.waxmuseumplus.ie 22-25 The Lafayette Building, Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 671 8373. Adults €15; 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 open Tues-Sun 11am-4pm. Tours of the house available Oct-March: Tues-Sun at 12 noon, 2pm, 3pm; April-September: Mon-Sun at 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm. Closed Dec 24-Jan 3. Tours may be unavailable in Oct and Dec due to Halloween/Christmas events – phone to double check. Also 18thC working farm with courtyard, extensive buildings, pastures. www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com 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. Guided tours in June, July, and August on Tuesdays & Fridays at 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm. €5. www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/newman-house/30802 85-86 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 477 9810.

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.numbertwentynine.ie Fitzwilliam Street Lr, Dublin 2. Email: numbertwentynine@esb.ie Adults €6; concessions.

OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY – A tour through a re-created distillery. Visited by over 350,000 people a year. Open 7 days. Mon–Thur from 9.30am (last tour 5.30pm). Fri–Sat from 9.30am (last tour 7pm). Sun from 10am (last tour 5.30pm). Open Bank Holidays. Closed Good Friday, 24-26 Dec. www.jamesonwhiskey.com/ie/visit-us Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 8072355. Adults €18; concessions.

PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY - A small working distillery within the old St. James's Church in the heart of Dublin's inner city Liberties area. Guided tours run every hour on the hour and are small in size. Open Monday to Saturday: 9.30am– 6pm (first tour 10am, last tour 5pm); Sundays: 11.30am–6pm (first tour 12pm, last tour 5pm). www.pearselyonsdistillery.com 121-122 James's Street, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6916000. Adults: €20. Children under 10 free; children aged 11-17 €10.

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 every day 9.30am-4pm. Feb every day 9.30am-5pm. Mar-Oct every day 9.30am-5.30pm. Open Sundays and Bank Holidays at 10am (the closing time varies, as per the weekday opening hours above). Closed over the Christmas period. 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 11am-2pm Mon-Fri excl. holiday periods; visitors welcome. 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 2nd 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 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. A fine example of Dublin's Georgian architecture, the house is unique in showing the transition from rococo style to neo-classic under one roof. Walk around the kitchen/cellars, entrance hall, Lady Powerscourt's dressing room/bedroom, music room, ballroom & dining room (all areas are in commercial use as shops). www.powerscourtcentre.ie/history/ 59 South William Street, Dublin 2. Group tours only (Mon-Fri): phone Shireen (086-8065505); email shirengail@gmail.com

RATHFARNHAM CASTLE – Castle dating back to Elizabethan period. Fine example of Irish fortified house. The Castle and Tearooms re-opened in October 2015 after major improvement works designed to upgrade access to the principal floors of the Castle. Open May-Sept: 9.30am-5.30pm daily; open Oct-Apr: Wed to Sun & Bank Holiday Mondays 10.30am-5.00pm. Closed 24-27 Dec. Open 28-30 Dec. Closed 31 Dec & New Year's Day. www.rathfarnhamcastle.ie Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Tel: 01 493 9462. Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission on first Wednesday of every month. Guided tours available.

RICHMOND BARRACKS - 3,000 Irish rebels were held here. Now restored to showcase the site's history (military barracks, housing estate, school, exhibition centre). 90 death sentences were handed out here in May 1916; 14 executions were carried out in Kilmainham, including the seven signatories of the proclamation. Later Richmond Barracks was used for housing purposes. The adjacent Goldenbridge Cemetery is open to visitors for the first time since 1869. Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm. Daily tours at 11am & 2pm. Sat/Bank Holidays - access only by guided tour at 11am. Closed Sundays. Closed for lunch 12.45pm-1.45pm Mon-Fri. www.richmondbarracks.ie Off Belfin Rd, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-222 8400. Admission must be pre-booked online. Guided tours - Adults €8; concessions. Guided tours last 90 minutes and include an exclusive tour of Goldenbridge Cemetery. Self-guided visit – Adults €6; concessions. “The Mess” Café is open from 10 am to 4 pm Monday-Friday only and got a very favourable review from the Irish Times in August 2017.

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 (€75 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 and Thur (10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm). Fine meeting rooms overlooking Merrion Square; unique restored Georgian garden to the rear. www.rsai.ie/ 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6761749. RSAI facilities are open to non-members **by appointment only**.

ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM – 17thC 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. Visit the small but excellent exhibition - “Old Man's House” - about the history of the Hospital and its pensioners. Heritage guided tours are provided on request only (please email paulf.obrien@opw.ie to enquire). www.imma.ie/en/subnav_44.htm Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 612 9900. Admission free.

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/ 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 Makeshop, Lincoln Place, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6624416. Admission free.

SHAW BIRTHPLACE – Birthplace of playwright George Bernard Shaw, now a restored Victorian home giving insight into domestic life of 19th 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 17th, 18th and 19th 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 Skerries, County Dublin. Tel: 01 849 5208. Adults €8.

ST. AUDEON'S CHURCH - Only remaining medieval parish church in Dublin. Open 20 Apr-26 Oct: 9.30am-5.30pm. Guided Tours. 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/ 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 (17th to 19th C). Tours of church and vaults: Mon-Fri 1 Nov-16 March 12.30pm-3.30pm; 17 March-31 Oct 10am-12.45pm & 2pm-4.30pm. Sat (all year round) 10am-12.45pm. No tours on Sun. Closed on bank holidays. Closed Easter weekend (Fri-Mon inclusive). Closed 23 Dec to 1 Jan inclusive. http://www.cccgroup.dublin.anglican.org/Christ_Church_Cathedral_Group/St_Michans.html St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 872 4154. Adults €6; concessions.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL – Almost 800 years old, Jonathan Swift was Dean here (1713-1745). Handel's Messiah received its first performance here (1742). Two sung services every day. Permanent exhibition ("Living Stones"). Open Mar-Oct: Mon-Fri 9.30-5pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 9am-10.30am, 12.30pm-2.30pm, 4.30pm-6pm. Nov-

Feb: Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm; Sat 9.00am-5pm; Sun 9am-10.30am, 12.30pm-2.30pm. Closed 24-26 Dec. Excellent guided tours daily (at no extra cost). In the off season, only two tours a day (Mon-Sat) at 10.30am & 2.30pm. As visitor numbers increase (towards the summer), tours are Mon-Sat at 10.30am, 11.30am, 2.30pm, 3pm and 3.30pm. In the high season (June 1-Aug 31) – there are tours every half hour between 10am & 12pm, and every half hour between 2pm & 3.30pm. An audio guide of the Cathedral can be downloaded from its website. www.stpatrickscathedral.ie Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 9472. Adults €6.50; 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/dublin/ststephensgreen/ St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 7816. Admission free. You can take a 60-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 Back Lane, off Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4541786. No entry fee.

TEELING WHISKEY DISTILLERY - The Teeling Family has been crafting Irish whiskey since 1782 when Walter Teeling set up a craft distillery on Marrowbone Lane, starting a 230-year family tradition. During Walter's time, there were over 37 different distilleries in Dublin. Irish whiskey fell on hard times and the last still closed in 1976. The Teeling Whiskey Distillery is the first new distillery in Dublin in over 125 years. It is a three copper pot still operation, reviving the traditional style of Dublin whiskey distillation. Winner of “Experience of the Year” award from “Luxury Travel Guide”. Tours, including tastings, daily between 10am and 5.40pm (tours every 20 minutes). www.teelingdistillery.com/tasting-options/ 13-17 Newmarket, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-5310888. €15 per person including whiskey & cocktail tasting.

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 Old Library/ Long Room (which houses 200,000 rare books). Visit the Book of Kells “Turning Darkness into Light” exhibition. Mon-Sat (Oct-Apr) 9.30am-5pm; Mon-Sat (May-Sept) 8.30am-5pm; Sun (Oct-Apr) 12pm-4.30pm; Sun (May-Sept) 9.30am-5pm. Easter opening times may vary from this – check the Trinity website. Closed over Christmas period. Bank Holiday hours same as Sundays. www.tcd.ie/visitors/ Trinity Library, College Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 896 1000. Online prices: Adults €10 (off-peak) or €13 (peak). You avoid queuing by booking online. 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 (June-Sept) depart from the front gate daily from 9.15am (last tour 3.40pm, last tour on Sundays/Bank Holidays at 3.15pm). Tour ticket €6. Combination ticket (Tour and admission to the Book of Kells and the Old Library) €14. In the low season, regular tours take place on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays only. You must check the Trinity website for accurate details about tour times. Tour tickets can only be bought in person (they are not available online).

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/warremorialgardens/ Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 475 7816. Admission free.

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 (1 June to 31 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 (min. 4 people, max 25 people) are arranged by prior appointment only. The cost is roughly €11.50 per person. www.architecture-tours.ie Tel: 01 6761703.

CITY SIGHTSEEING DUBLIN TOUR – 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. Buy a 1 or 2 day ticket. Departures daily all year round every 15 minutes. Live guide commentary; audio guides also available in 8 languages. Tour departs from 14 Upr O'Connell St. First tour 9am. <https://citysightseeingdublin.ie/hop-on-hop-off/> City Sightseeing, 14 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 898 0700. Adults €19 (1 day/online) or €21.25 (2 days/online); concessions available. One child (under 14) free with each full paying adult. 2-day ticket includes free walking tour of Dublin (summer only: 10.30am and 2pm daily).

DUBLIN BAY CRUISES – The only regular passenger ferry operating on Dublin Bay. 7 different cruise options. Sailing Schedule: Dun Laoghaire to City Centre 9:30 am; City Centre to Dun Laoghaire 11 am; City Centre to Howth (via Dun Laoghaire) 11 am; Dun Laoghaire to Howth 12:30 pm; Howth round trip 2:15 pm; Howth to Dun Laoghaire 3:30 pm; Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey Island round trip 5:30 pm. Two especially attractive routes are City Centre to Howth via Dun Laoghaire (150 mins) AND Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey Island (75 mins). Ship capacity - 120 passengers. Advance booking recommended. €22 one way; return €28. Concessions. www.dublinbaycruises.com/ Tel: 01 9011 757. No sailings Jan 1-March 16 (first sailing of the year on March 17).

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. Meet at Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. May-Oct: every day except Sunday. Hard to get weekend bookings (due to huge demand). Nov-Apr: tours usually on Fri/Sat only. Check online in advance. No tours on Sundays or bank holidays. Adults €28 (get a 15% discount by booking online). Tours can be booked up to 1 hour before departure. The price includes a free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. www.dublinsightseeing.ie 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 30 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. Run by the State transport company, Dublin Bus. Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 OR at any of the 30 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 €22 for 2 days (get an extra 15% off when you book online); 2 kids under 14 free with a fare-paying adult. Price includes free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Also included is free entry into The Little Museum of Dublin, normally €8. Tel: 01 703 3028. www.dublinsightseeing.ie

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. At least four tours each day. Sailing times vary slightly, depending on the tides. Check sailing schedule via the “Book Online” facility on the official website. No tours December, January, February. www.dublindiscovered.ie Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 4730000. Adults €13.50 (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/ 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 €13.

GREEN MILE WALKING TOUR – A Little Museum of Dublin initiative, this tour tells the story of St. Stephen's Green, a square at the centre of Irish history for hundreds of years. A 60-minute walk in the company of an expert guide. Saturdays & Sundays at 11.00am. Free with your entry ticket (€8) to the Little Museum of Dublin, 15 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. www.littlemuseum.ie/the-green-mile Phone 01-6611000.

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE TOUR – see earlier entry on page 7.

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/ 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, 18th 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 €26, some discounts. www.newdublintours.com/daily-tours/howth-day-tour.html Run by Sandemans New Europe (Berlin-based).

IRISH ROCK'N' ROLL MUSEUM – See earlier entry on page 8.

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 (and sometimes on additional days - check the James Joyce Centre events website calendar). www.jamesjoyce.ie/events/category/tour/ James Joyce Centre, 35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 878 8547. Adults €10; concessions.

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 City Sightseeing shop at 14 Upper O’Connell St at 9.40am & 2.10pm. Bus returns at 1.40pm & 6.10pm approx. Tours run daily all year. No tours on Dec 22-26. <https://citysightseeingdublin.ie/malahide-castle-coastal-tour/> Tel: 01 5311711. Adults €21.25 (online price); concessions.

NEWGRANGE AND MONASTERBOICE TOUR - Full day tour. Scenic coastal drive along Dublin’s northern coast. 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 historic monastic settlement of Monasterboice & coastal village of Howth. Tour departs from Dublin Visitor Centre (17 Lr O’Connell St) at 8.45am. Return time 5.30pm approx. Tour runs Mon/Tues and Fri/Sat from April-Oct (check website calendar). <https://loveireland.com/tours/newgrange/> Tel: 01 8980700. Adults €36 (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. Feb on Fri/Sat/Sun only (Fri/Sat at 11.30am, Sun at 1pm). Mar 1-Dec 1 daily (Mon-Sat 11.30am, Sun & Bank Holidays 1pm). Book in advance (online) or pay on the day. www.1916rising.com Tel: 086 8583847. Adults €13.

NORTH COAST & MALAHIDE CASTLE – Dublin Bus tour. Visit Malahide Castle (admission included), Avoca Café, Malahide Marina/Village, Portmarnock, Howth & Clontarf (Rose Garden, Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount Strand). Live commentary. Tour lasts 5 hours. Book online up to 1 hour before departure. Meeting point - Dublin Bus, 59 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tour departs every day at 11am. Adults €25 (you get an extra discount of 20% by booking online); 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

OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY TOUR – A tour through a re-created distillery. Visited by over 350,000 people a year. Open 7 days. Mon–Thur from 9.30am (last tour 5.30pm). Fri–Sat from 9.30am (last tour 7pm). Sun from 10am (last tour 5.30pm). Open Bank Holidays. Closed Good Friday, 24-26 Dec. www.jamesonwhiskey.com/ie/visit-us Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 8072355. Adults €18; concessions.

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, Powerscourt Townhouse, Dublin Castle, Chester Beatty Library, St. Patrick's Cathedral, George's St Arcade, Temple Bar West, & Christ Church Cathedral. Depart from former church, Suffolk Street. Apr & Oct every Thur & Sat at 2.30pm; May-Sept daily except Sundays at 2.30 pm. Adults €12; concessions. See website for details of **special** events. Tel: 087 9052480. 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 Bernardo Square, next to City Hall. Reservations not necessary, though you can book online. www.neweuropetours.eu/dublin/en/home

SEA SAFARI - Each boat holds 6-12 passengers. Dublin Port Tour departs from Convention Centre. Gives history of Liffey & Port area from 17th and 19thC to modern times. Rainwear and warm clothing advised. www.seasafari.ie/tours-2/dublin-bay-port-tour/ Tel: 01 6689802. Prior booking essential. Adults €20; concessions. Hourly 10.30am-4.30pm from late April to end of Sept. **Tours suspended since mid-2016.**

SOUTH COAST & POWERSCOURT – Dublin Bus tour. Visit Sandymount Strand, Dún Laoghaire, Sandycove, Dalkey, Bray Promenade, Wicklow mountains, Enniskerry, Powerscourt House & Gardens and Glendalough. Live commentary. Tour lasts 7 hours. Free admission to Powerscourt included. Book online up to 1 hour before departure. 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 10.30am. Adults €27; children €12. Extra discount of 20% if you book online. Price includes a free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01 703 3028. www.dublinsightseeing.ie

TEELING WHISKEY DISTILLERY – see earlier entry on page 17.

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/ Buy tickets on the night, or in Dublin Tourist Office, Suffolk Street, or book online. Tel: 01 4753313. Adults €14.

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. 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 daily, every 15-30 minutes (high season), every 90 minutes (low season). 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/ Tel: 01 707 6000. Adults €22 (€25 in July & August); concessions.

WICKLOW GLENDALOUGH & KILKENNY TOUR - Full day tour. Explore the heart of Wicklow, Glendalough and Ireland's medieval capital, Kilkenny. Enjoy a guided tour of the 8thC monastic settlement of Glendalough. Explore Kilkenny Castle. Tour includes a walking tour of the city. The tour departs from Gresham Hotel at 8.45am; the bus gets back to Dublin at 6pm approx. Daily service March-Aug; a more limited schedule applies in the off season (check the official website calendar). www.loveireland.com City Sightseeing Shop, 14 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8980700. Adults €33; concessions. Cost of lunch not included.

WILD WICKLOW TOUR - 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-6pm). Highly rated by Lonely Planet. 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 Café open June, July, August Thur-Sun & Bank Holiday Mondays 11am to 5pm. Guided tours available. Closed Sept-May. 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 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 18thC Oldbridge House. Free access to battlesite, parklands & formal gardens. Displays of original & replica 17thC weaponry, exhibitions, audiovisual, walled garden. Self-guided tours. Open March-Apr daily 9.30am-4.30pm; May-Sept daily 9am-5pm; Oct-Apr daily 9am-4pm. Closed from 24 Dec-Jan 2. www.meath.ie/Tourism/Heritage/HeritageSites/BattleoftheBoyneSite Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 9809950. Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wed of every month.

BEAULIEU HOUSE AND GARDENS - Important historic home with famous gardens. Open 1 June to 10 Sept Mon to Fri 11am-5pm. Also open July/Aug Sat, Sun 1pm-5pm. Also open on May Bank Holiday. Guided tours of house, gardens. <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/ 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 19th 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). Open all year from Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm (last visit at 4 pm). Not open at Christmas or on public holidays. 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 for tours 16 Mar-5 Nov: 10am-6pm. More limited opening times in Nov & Dec. See website for detailed guided tour times. Restored 18th century parklands open daily (free admission). www.castletown.ie Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6288252. Adults €10 (price includes tour); 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. Causey Farm targets the school tours market, as well as corporate clients & international visitors (in groups). Typical tour activities include sheepdog demonstrations, visiting the bog, traditional turf-cutting, céilí dancing, making your own soda bread, and a bodhrán workshop. Tours are customised depending on group requirements, so the price per individual can vary. Booking essential. www.causey.ie Causey Farm, Girley, Fordstown, Navan, Co. Meath. Tel 046-9434135. Home also of the chilling Halloween experience, “Farmaphobia”.

COUNTY MUSEUM DUNDALK - One of Ireland's finest Local Authority Museums, located in a restored 18thC distillery. Interesting artefacts - a Heinkel bubble car; leather coat worn by William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne. Permanent exhibitions: “From Farm to Factory” - the story of Louth’s industrial development. “Archaeology of Louth”. Memorial garden dedicated to botanist Thomas Coulter. “The Irish in World War One” - the soldier’s life, aftermath of war. “On the Trail of the Arctic Fox” celebrates the Irish Arctic explorer, Francis McClintock. A new exhibition, ‘Birth of a Nation – the Evolution of Irish Nationhood, 1641-1916’, features memorabilia from participants in the 1916 Rising. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Sun, Mon, Bank Holidays. 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 July 1-31, August 1-18, and August 28-31 from 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Tel: 046-9025169.

Adults €15; concessions 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/midlands-eastcoast/glendaloughvisitorcentre/ Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission on first Wed 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 11 May-20 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 www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/hilloftara/ Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission the first Wednesday of every month.

HOUSES, CASTLES AND GARDENS OF IRELAND (HCGI) - HCGI is a subscription organisation dedicated to the promotion of visiting its members' properties. Members are provided with a marketing service that connects them to group tour organisers, film location/event managers, wedding planners, media representatives, and heritage/culture seekers. See website for full details.

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. For details of "special event Sundays", see www.huntingbrook.com/courses-events/open-days/. From April 1st 2017 open from Wed-Sun each week (11am-5.30pm); phone to double check. www.huntingbrook.com Hunting Brook, Lamb Hill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 087 285 6601. Adults €6.

IRISH HISTORIC HOUSES ASSOCIATION (IHHA) - Heritage properties that remain in private hands have a unique value. See the website (under the heading "Further Afield") for details of such houses which are occasionally open to the public.

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 7 days 9am-6pm (incl Bank Holidays). Guided tours of stud at 10.30am, 12pm, 2.00pm & 4pm daily, lasting 45 mins. Self guide leaflet available for Japanese Gardens, Saint Fiachra's Garden & Horse Museum. www.irishnationalstud.ie/

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

KILDARE: OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST – See the website under the heading “Further Afield” for some places of interest which don't merit a detailed listing

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 17th Century gardens in these islands. Elaborate interiors, striking Orangery. Popular location for tv series (e.g. The Tudors). Guided tours of house - complicated opening hours: see www.killruddery.com/tours-killruddery-house/ 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 9am – 3pm. Southern Cross, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2863405. Adults €14 (house and gardens); Adults €7.50 (gardens only); concessions.

KILMACURRAGH ARBORETUM - managed by the National Botanic Gardens, this is the remnants of a large estate planted during 19thC by curators of the Botanic Gardens. Numerous plant species from around the world were introduced to Ireland for the first time (many specimens succeeded here while struggling or failing at Glasnevin). Famous for conifers & rhododendron collections. Free guided tours: twice daily from April onwards at 12 noon & 3pm (phone to double check this). Open Winter (Oct 27 to mid-Feb) Mon-Sun 9am-4.30pm; open Summer (mid-Feb to October) Mon-Sun 9am-6pm. Cafe hours are 10am-5pm. Closed Christmas Day. www.botanicgardens.ie/kilmac/kilmvisit.htm Kilbride, Co. Wicklow (leave motorway at J18). Tel: 0404-48844. 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 Kilcock, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 628 7354. Adults €8; concessions. House €9 by appointment only.

LOUTH: OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST – See the website under the heading “Further Afield” for some places of interest which don't merit a detailed listing

MAYNOOTH CASTLE – A great stone castle founded in the early 13thC; 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 17thC. 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 18-Sept 27 (Wed-Sun & Bank Holidays 10am-6pm). Access to the keep by guided tour only. www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/maynooth-castle/ Maynooth Village, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01-628 6744. Admission free.

MEATH: OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST – See the website under the heading “Further Afield” for some places of interest which don't merit a detailed listing.

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 June 1-Aug 30 daily 10am-6pm. www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/oldmellifontabbey/ Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 982 6459. Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission on 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 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. Avoca Café and Shopping Courtyard on site. www.mountushergardens.ie Ashford, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 40205. Adults €7.50; concessions.

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 7 days a week (except Dec 25 & 26). Mon-Fri 11am to 5pm. Sat/Sun 10am to 6pm. Summer hours: 7 days, 10am to 6pm. Open Christmas Eve: 11am-4pm. Open New Year's Day: 12pm-6pm. Closed Dec 25-26. www.visitsealife.com/Bray/ Seafront, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2866939. Adults €10 (if booked online; the price at the door is €12.50); concessions.

NEWBRIDGE MUSEUM OF STYLE ICONS – An attraction forming part of the 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: 10am–6pm. www.newbridgesilverware.com/museum Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 431301. Admission free. Restaurant closes at 5pm. Limited places available on guided tours: 10:30am Tues & Thur.

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 1-Nov 1 inclusive). 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. www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/brunaboinnevisitorcentre/ Donore, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 988 0300. Exhibition only - Adults €4; Exhibition & Newgrange visit - Adults €7; Exhibition & Knowth visit - Adults €6; Exhibition & visits to both Newgrange & Knowth - Adults €13. Concessions. Free Admission the first Wed of every month. Visitors are brought to the monuments by shuttle bus.

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/Jun/July/Aug 9.30am-7pm. Closed 2 weeks before Xmas. www.powerscourt.com Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 204 6000. Gardens - Adults €10 (Mar-Oct); €7.50 (Nov-Feb); concessions. Waterfall - Adults €6; concessions.

RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE - Stunning Palladian mansion designed in 1741 by Richard Cassels. One of the most beautiful houses in Ireland. Bought by Sir Alfred and Lady Beit in 1952 to house their impressive art collection. The mansion & collections were left to the Irish State in 1978. Top class house tour; basement exhibition on the life & times of the Beits; 3D photographic exhibition; mini-cinema; maze; 18thC walled garden; gift shop; café. House & grounds open March 1-Dec 23 from 10am-6pm. House open daily May-Sept (10am-5pm); guided tours hourly. During March/April and Oct-Dec guided tours at 1pm and 2pm (and sometimes at 3pm). Rhododendron Tours – Sundays in May at 2pm (€7). Sheepdog Demonstrations available – group bookings only. National Bird of Prey Centre open 7 days a week during summer months - 11am to 5pm; phone to clarify other opening times. Adults €9. (www.nationalbirdofpreycentre.ie). Russborough website opening times are very confusing – please phone in advance to make sure of tour times. www.russborough.house.ie/ Russborough, Blessington, Co Wicklow. Tel: 045 865 239. Adults – House tour & exhibition €12. Concessions. Maze €3. €2 parking fee.

SKYPARK CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE - Ireland's biggest zip line park. Try out zip lines, rock climbing towers, suspension bridges, Tarzan swings, tightropes, rope bridges, cargo nets, base jumps and tree houses. Four levels of difficulty. Open Sept -Oct: Sat & Sun at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm; Nov-Feb: Sat & Sun at 9.30am & 1.30 pm (usually closed Dec 21-Jan 12); March-June: Sat & Sun at 10am & 2pm; July-Aug: open 7 days a week (sessions at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2.00 pm). Pre-booking essential. www.skypark.ie Dundalk Road, Moneymore, Co Louth. Tel: 042-9373100. Prices - Children age 9-17 €29; Children aged 5-8 €12. Adults €35.

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 7-May 31, June 1-30, July 1-31, Aug 1-28. Sun-Thur only 11am-5pm. Closed Fridays & Saturdays. www.slanecastle.ie/castle/castle_tours.php Slane, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 982 0643. Adults €12; concessions. Groups must book in advance.

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. Try a range of adventure activities. Attractions include the Cú Chulainn Coaster (€5), the rotator, the air race, the extreme climbing wall, the sky walk, the Tayto twister, the zip line extreme, the steam train express, the Crispy Creek Mining Company and the super hero training wall. Additional charges for each ride (apart from overall admission price). You can purchase an all-day multi-ride wristband (€15) or individual ride tokens. Realistically, each person entering the Park will pay €30 (the admission fee plus the cost of a wristband). No factory production on Sun, Bank Holidays; limited production on Sat. Closed Dec 24- March 17. See detailed opening hours on the Tayto website. www.taytopark.ie/visitor-information/ticket-prices Tayto Park, Kilbrew, Ashbourne, Co.Meath. Tel: 01 835 1999. Adults/children €15; 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: Jan (Sat & Sun) 9am-4pm; 1-10 Feb (Sat & Sun) 9.30am-4.30pm; 17 March – 30 Sept (daily) 10am-5pm; Oct (daily) 9.30am-4.30pm; Nov & Dec (Sat & Sun) 9am-4pm. Usually closed weekend before Christmas and weekend before New Year's Day. www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/trimcastle/ Trim, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 943 8619. Adults €5; concessions. Free Admission on the first Wednesday of every month.

WICKLOW GAOL – A recreation of 18thC 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 Dec 23-Jan 3 & Good Friday. Spooky night tours also available (advance booking required - adults only) on last Friday of month from March-November, starting at 7pm & leaving every 15 mins; last tour at 8.30pm sharp. www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 61599. Adults €7.90; concessions. Night Tour €15.

WICKLOW GARDENS – You may be interested in a number of lesser known Wicklow gardens which are described in detail on www.visitwicklow.ie. 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.

WICKLOW: OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST – See the website under the heading “Further Afield” for some places of interest which don't merit a detailed listing.

www.dublinplacestovisit.com is not a commercial venture. It is a good will initiative designed to make a positive contribution to tourism, especially in Dublin and the adjoining counties.

www.dublinplacestovisit.com is partially sponsored by VIP Taxis (phone 01-4783333). All information has been gleaned from official websites. Updated 6th March 2017.

The website is designed, written and edited on a totally voluntary basis by Seán Silke.
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For comments, and the reporting of incorrect information on this website, please email 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

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, 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 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 25,000 readers. You can subscribe free of charge to the weekly email by signing up at www.dublineventguide.com.