

<p>WWW.DUBLINPLACESTOVISIT.COM - A QUICK GUIDE TO PLACES TO VISIT IN DUBLIN</p>

As opening hours and admission fees change frequently, these are not mentioned below. For full details of opening hours and admission fees, please consult www.dublinplacestovisit.com OR the individual attraction's website.

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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. www.airfield.ie Overend Way, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 01-969 6666.

ARAS AN UACHTARAIN - Residence of President of Ireland. Guided tour provided. Tickets issued at Phoenix Park Visitor Centre on Sat. from 9.30 am on a first-come, first-served basis. Advance bookings not permitted. www.heritageireland.ie Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 6770095. Admission free. (Contact Visitor Centre for confirmation that tours are taking place – phone 01-6770095 or email – phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie).

ARBOUR HILL - Military cemetery. Last resting place of 14 of the executed leaders of the 1916 insurrection. <https://heritageireland.ie> 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 a walled garden & a rose garden. Ground floor rooms, kitchens open to visitors (guided tour). Tricky to find: 20 miles from city centre near Balbriggan. www.ardgillan.ie Tel: 01 8492212.

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.

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. Free guided tour. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Houses_of_Parliament College Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 07 662 39350.

BLESSINGTON STREET BASIN - A picturesque walled park with a landscaped walk around a large lake and with 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. www.dublincity.ie Blessington Street Basin, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8300833.

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. The factory itself does not operate on weekends/bank holidays. www.butlerschocolates.com/chocolateexperience/ Butlers Chocolates, Clonsaugh Business Park, Dublin 17. Tel: 01 6710599.

CASINO MARINO – One of the finest 18th century neo-classical buildings in Europe. 16 finely decorated rooms. Self-guided tours. www.casinomarino.ie Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Marino, Dublin 3. Tel: 01 833 1618.

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY – One of the best museums in Europe (Lonely Planet). An art museum & library housing a collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, & rare books from Asia, Middle East, North Africa & Europe. www.cbl.ie Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 4070750.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL - Founded in 1030. One of the largest medieval crypts in Europe. Exhibition of treasures & manuscripts. www.christchurchcathedral.ie Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 677 8099. Guided tours available.

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. 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. www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum/visit/stadium-tours Croke Park, St Joseph's Avenue (off Clonliffe Road), Dublin 3. Tel: 01 819 2300.

CUSTOM HOUSE VISITOR CENTRE – A masterpiece of European neo-classicism by James Gandon (1791). www.heritageireland.ie Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 046-940 7140.

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. Entry to the Heritage Centre is included in the guided tour price. 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. www.drimnaghcastle.org Long Mile Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 450 2530.

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 the Viceregal Court; seat of the executive, the focus of a fashionable social life. Today the Castle is the venue for Ireland's Presidencies of the EU, 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, famous for its vaulting, plaster decoration, carved oaks & galleries. A guided tour of the State Apartments/Undercroft/ Chapel Royal is available. Also on this site - the **Revenue Museum** documents the varied activities of the Revenue Commissioners over several centuries. Housed in the crypt of the Chapel Royal. The **Garda Museum** is located at the Treasury Building, Dublin Castle. www.dublincastle.ie Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-645 8813.

DUBLIN CITY HALL – Georgian building (1769-1779) 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. www.dublincity.ie Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 222 2204.

DUBLIN CIVIC TRUST – 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. www.dublincivictrust.ie 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.dublingardens.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 ZOO - Ireland's most popular family attraction (over one million visitors a year). 70-acre park. Home to some 400 animals. www.dublinzoo.ie Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 474 8900.

DUBLINIA - Viking and Medieval Dublin re-created through life-size reconstructions. www.dublinia.ie/ St. Michael's Hill, Christchurch, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 679 4611.

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. 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. 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.epicchq.com CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-9060861. 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.

FARMLEIGH HOUSE - Estate of 78 acres near Phoenix Park. Edwardian mansion used by guests of the nation & for high level Government meetings. Extensive grounds. www.farmleigh.ie Phoenix Park, Dublin 15. Tel: 01 815 5914.

FOUR COURTS – Iconic site where the country's legal system was originally housed under one roof (late 18th century). Seriously damaged 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; 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. www.courts.ie 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. www.freemason.ie 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. www.galleryofphotography.ie Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 671 4654.

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

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. <http://www.georgesstreetarcade.ie/> George's Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-2836077.

GPO MUSEUM - O'CONNELL STREET - Witness History is a visitor attraction placing you 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. www.gpowitnesshistory.ie/ General Post Office, O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 61-711222. Self-guided tour.

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 Irish History 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 re-enactment of famous political speeches. www.glasnevinmuseum.ie Finglas Road, Dublin 11. Tel: 01 882 6550.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS - Imposing complex built by former British administration in Ireland. Now accommodates Dept of Taoiseach, Dept of Finance and Office of Attorney General. Tickets can be collected on the day from National Gallery, Merrion Square West. www.heritageireland.ie Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 645 8813.

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE – The story of Guinness; spectacular views of Dublin. Learn to pour the perfect pint, etc. The No. 1 tourist attraction in Ireland. Self-guided tour. www.guinness-storehouse.com St. James's Gate, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 408 4800.

14 HENRIETTA STREET - Dating from the 1720s, Henrietta Street is the most intact collection of early to mid-18th century aristocratic townhouses in Ireland. These vast houses were divided into tenements from the 1870s to the 1890s to house the city's working poor. The last families left in the late 1970s. The museum tells the story of the building's shifting fortunes, from family home and power base to courthouse; from barracks to its final incarnation as a tenement. Taking the stories, personal experiences and objects of former residents, coupled with research, the Museum gathers, interprets and preserves Dublin's tenement history. 14 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. Tel 01- 524 0383. www.14henriettastreet.ie Also noteworthy is the "Georgian Dublin Outdoor Walking Tour: Henrietta Street and Beyond". A walk through Georgian Dublin exploring the architectural and social history of the city.

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. www.hughlane.ie Charlemont House, Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 222 5550.

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 was the original curator. Located on Tower Hill, overlooking Howth Harbour. <https://sites.google.com/site/hurdygurdymuseum/home> Martello Tower, Howth, Co. Dublin. Phone 086-3818865.

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).

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. www.jewishmuseum.ie 3 Walworth Road (near Victoria, Lennox & Harrington Streets), South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Tel: 089-4263625.

IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART - Ireland's leading institution for modern art. Based in Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. www.imma.ie Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 612 9900.

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 is a symbol of Irish music royalty. Extensive variety of vintage instruments and equipment on display. Visit Temple Lane Rehearsal Studios and Temple Lane Recording Studio. <http://irishrocknrollmuseum.com/> Curved Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6777134 or 089-4490795 (weekends).

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. 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. www.irishwhiskeymuseum.ie 119 Grafton St, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-5250970.

IVEAGH GARDENS – One of the finest & least known of Dublin's parks & gardens. Access is from Hatch Street. www.iveaghgardens.ie Clonmel Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 7816.

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

JAMES JOYCE CENTRE - Beautifully restored Georgian town house. Exhibition of items relating to life and work of James Joyce. www.jamesjoyce.ie, 35 North Great

George's Street, Dublin 1. Phone 01 878 8547. See also in the Tours section - "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. www.joycetower.ie James Joyce Museum, Sandycove Point, Sandycove, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 280 9265.*

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. www.jeaniejohnston.ie Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 473 0111.*

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. www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/ Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 5984. 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 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. **Public** tours are available on days when the Dáil and Seanad are **not** sitting (usually Mon, Fri). You can book your tour in advance or enquire at the visitors' entrance 15 minutes before the tour time. Each tour limited to the first 30 people who arrive or have pre-booked. To book a place on a **public tour**, email event.desk@oireachtas.ie with your name, address, email address & contact phone number, or phone 01-6183781. Enter by the Kildare Street gate. Bring your passport or other form of identification with you. www.oireachtas.ie/ Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6183781. Admission free.*

LITTLE MUSEUM OF DUBLIN - *Full of items donated by ordinary Dubliners. Charts cultural & social history of Dublin in 20thC. www.littlemuseum.ie 15 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Phone 01 661 1000. Very popular guided tours available on the hour, every hour. Also avail of 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. Advance booking essential (). www.littlemuseum.ie/the-green-mile

MALAHIDE CASTLE – Magnificent 12th C Castle, home to the Talbot family for over 800 years. Superb period furniture; extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings; ornamental gardens. www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie Malahide, Co. Dublin. Tel: 061-711 222.

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 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

MARLAY PARK WALLED GARDEN – The Walled Gardens were restored in 2000. You enter through the head gardener's house and tea rooms, and see a Regency-style ornamental garden, featuring an extensive display of colourful period plants, ranging from herbaceous borders to shrub beds. The orangery, arbour and water fountain combine with the other features to create a distinctive atmosphere. www.dlrcoco.ie Marlay Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. Tel: 01-2047275 or 01-2054341.

MARSH'S LIBRARY– Oldest public library in Ireland (1701) containing some 25,000 printed books relating to 16th-18th C. Fine example of a 17th century scholar's library. www.marshlibrary.ie St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4543511.

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. www.rscmaheritage.com/ Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross Rd, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W. Tel: 01-491 0041. Please phone in advance to arrange a visit.

MUSEUM OF LITERATURE IRELAND (MoLI) - MoLI is a collaboration between UCD and the National Library of Ireland. Named for James Joyce's muse Molly Bloom. Located in one of Dublin's finest historic houses (Newman House). MoLI showcases multimedia exhibitions, priceless artefacts, lectures, performances, etc. Newman House is the original home of University College Dublin. It consists of two Georgian town houses (1738, 1765) and a Victorian hall. Fine interiors & splendid plaster work. <https://moli.ie/> Newman House, 86 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 716 5900. Historic house tours on Sundays. The Commons Café is open Tues to Sun.

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); Wave Pool; Pirate Ship; Dark Hole. www.aquazone.ie/ National Sports Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Tel: 01- 6464 300.

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS – Fine plant collections. Over 15,000 species and cultivars from all around the world. Award-winning restored glasshouses. Daily Guided Tours. www.botanicgardens.ie Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. 01 8040300 and 01 804 0319.

NATIONAL GALLERY – Collection of over 2,500 paintings. Every major European School of painting represented. Free tours every Thur, Sat, Sun. www.nationalgallery.ie Merrion Square West & Clare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 661 5133.

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. www.leprechaunmuseum.ie Jervis Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 873 3899.

NATIONAL LIBRARY - Houses books, prints, manuscripts, newspapers, music, ephemera and genealogical material. Best collection of Irish documentary heritage in the world. Current exhibitions in Kildare Street: Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats ("one of the most important literary exhibitions yet staged internationally"). Also (in the Bank of Ireland, College Street) "Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again". For information about occasional public tours, see www.nli.ie. Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 603 0200.

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. www.mariner.ie/ Mariners' Church, Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 2800969 (11am-5pm).

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. www.museum.ie Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 677 7444.

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 folk life & costume. www.museum.ie Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 677 7444.

NATIONAL MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY) – A 'cabinet-style' museum showcasing a comprehensive zoological collection. 10,000 exhibits. www.museum.ie Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 677 7444. The museum was closed for some time to permit major conservation and renovation works to take place. The ground floor is now open. The rest of the Museum continues to be a building site.

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE – Archive holding photographic collections of National Library of Ireland (5.2 million photographs). Contains reading room and exhibition gallery. Over 20,000 glass plate negatives (1870-1954) digitised & viewable online. Regular programme of exhibitions. Reading room open to researchers, by prior appointment only (phone 01-6030373). Exhibitions open every day. www.nli.ie Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 603 0200.

NATIONAL PRINT MUSEUM – museum of printing craft skills. Self-guided tours. Also guided tours for individual visitors and pre-booked groups. One guided tour most days. www.nationalprintmuseum.ie/ Garrison Chapel, Beggars Bush Barracks, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6603770.

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. www.nationaltransportmuseum.org/ Heritage Depot, Howth Demesne, Howth, Dublin 13. Tel: 01) 832 0427 or 085 146 0499.

NATIONAL WAX MUSEUM – A journey through Irish cultural heritage including a children's zone, a Chamber of Horrors and numerous life-like wax characters. www.waxmuseumplus.ie 22-25 The Lafayette Building, Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 671 8373.

NEWBRIDGE HOUSE AND FARM - Fine unchanged Georgian house (1752) set in 360 acre demesne. Contains mostly of the original furniture. Fine Red Drawing Room, Museum of Curiosities, ornate plasterwork. Also fine working farm with courtyard, extensive buildings, pastures (great for kids). Guided tours every day. www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com Newbridge House & Farm, Hearse Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 843 6534.

NEWMAN HOUSE – See Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI).

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. www.numbertwenty-nine.ie Fitzwilliam Street Lr, Dublin 2. The Museum is "temporarily closed" to facilitate the construction of a new ESB Head Office Complex (some feel it will never reopen). You can make a virtual tour by means of the website.

OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY TOUR – A tour through a re-created distillery. Visited by over 350,000 people a year. www.jameson-whiskey.com Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 8072355.

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. www.pearselyonsdistillery.com 121-122 James's Street, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6916000.

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". www.heritageireland.ie St. Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 493 4208.

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. A popular concert venue. Very limited opening hours. 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. **Visitors' Centre** - Exhibition on history/wildlife of Park. Nearby is fully restored Ashtown Castle, a medieval tower house (tours are available). Tel: 01-6770095. The **Magazine Fort** on St Thomas Hill, off the Military Road, is worth a visit. Free guided tours are available for part of the year. www.phoenixpark.ie Phoenix Park, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 8205800.

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 59 South William Street, Dublin 2. Group tours only. Phone Shireen (086-8065505); email shireengail@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. www.rathfarnhamcastle.ie Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Tel: 01 493 9462. 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, cultural centre). 90 death sentences were handed out here in May 1916; 14 executions were carried out in Kilmainham, including the 7 signatories of the proclamation. No longer a museum but try these tours: Richmond Barracks to Kilmainham **walking tour**; Goldenbridge **Cemetery tour**. www.richmondbarracks.ie Off Bulfin Rd, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-524 2532.

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY - An artist based and artist-orientated institution dedicated to developing appreciation of traditional and innovative approaches to the visual arts. Holds exhibitions; runs education and collection programmes. There are five gallery spaces. www.rhagallery.ie Gallagher Gallery, 15 Ely Place, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-661 2558.

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. 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 IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art). Visit the small but excellent exhibition - "Old Man's House" - about the history of the Hospital and its pensioners. Main building closed at present. Grounds & gardens open. Free tours of grounds/gardens available daily; booking is essential (phone 087-3422399 or email rhktours@opw.ie). www.imma.ie Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6437 700.

SHAW BIRTHPLACE – Birthplace of playwright George Bernard Shaw, now a restored Victorian home giving insight into domestic life of 19thC middle classes. Closed to visitors (despite what it says on many websites). 33 Synge Street, Dublin 8. Enquiries: Phone 01-4750854. Email: shawhouse@dublintonism.ie

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. www.skerriesmills.ie Skerries, County Dublin. Tel: 01 849 5208.

ST. AUDOEN'S CHURCH – The only remaining medieval parish church in Dublin. Guided Tours. www.heritageireland.ie Cornmarket, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 677 0088. Closed for maintenance work.

ST. MARY'S ABBEY - Once the wealthiest Cistercian Abbey in Ireland. Only two rooms remain. Closed until further notice. www.heritageireland.ie Meetinghouse Lane, Off Capel Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01- 6476000 (Noreen Finnegan).

ST. MICHAEL'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. www.cathedralgroupdublin.ie/our-history/ St Michael's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 872 4154. No booking required.

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”). Guided tours take place throughout the day. Ask at the front desk for the time of the next tour. Tour times are not guaranteed (tour guides are voluntary) and tours cannot be booked. Enquire on arrival. If no tour is available, you can ask for an audio guide and written information. www.stpatrickscathedral.ie Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 453 9472.

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. www.heritageireland.ie St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 475 7816. You can also 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 (by appointment only). www.antaisce.org Back Lane, off Christchurch Place, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4541786.

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. Tours, including tastings, daily. www.teelingdistillery.com/tasting-options/ 13-17 Newmarket, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-5310888.

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. www.tcd.ie/visitors/ Trinity Library, College Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 896 1000. Advisable to book online. 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.

TRINITY COLLEGE ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM – 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. www.tcd.ie/visitors/zoological Zoological Museum, School of Natural Sciences, Department of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 8961366.

gléVIKING 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. Open-sided vehicle: expect to get a little wet. Tour lasts 75 mins. Advance booking by email info@vikingsplashdublin.ie. Departure point - St. Stephen's Green North, opposite Starbucks. www.vikingsplashdublin.ie Tel: 01-224 3852.

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. www.heritageireland.ie Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: 01 475 7816.

WINDMILL LANE RECORDING STUDIOS - The tour presents visitors with an intimate opportunity to understand the creation and production of the most iconic songs and albums by some of the most influential bands and artists of the past 40 years. windmillanerecording.com, Tel: 01 668 5567, 20 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.

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. 15 people, max 25 people) are arranged by prior appointment only. www.architecture-tours.ie Tel: 01 6761703.

BIG BUS TOURS (CITY SIGHTSEEING) – **Two tours** - Red (day tour) & Black (night tour). Red route takes in 30 stops at Dublin's top visitor attractions, lasts 105 minutes and is organised on a "hop on, hop off" basis. Buy a 1 or 2 day ticket. Tour departs from 13 Upr O'Connell St. www.bigbustours.com/ Big Bus Tours, 13 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 531 1711. Two kids (under 14) free with each full paying adult. 2-day ticket includes free walking tour of Dublin.

DUBLIN BAY CRUISES – The only regular passenger ferry operating on Dublin Bay. 7 different cruise options. Ship capacity - 120 passengers. Advance booking is recommended. www.dublinbaycruises.com/ Tel: 01 9011 757.

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. Hard to get weekend bookings (due to huge demand). 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 135-minute tour with live commentary. Get off at any one of 33 stops.

Get on again at no extra charge. Tickets good for two days' use. 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 33 hop off points. 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. Tel: 01 844 4265. 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.*

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. www.dublinpubcrawl.com/ Duke Pub (upstairs), 9 Duke Street (off Grafton St), Dublin 2. Credit card booking 087 263 0270. You can also book online.*

GEORGIAN DUBLIN WALKING TOUR – *The Georgian Dublin Outdoor Walking Tour: Henrietta Street and Beyond. A walk through Georgian Dublin exploring the architectural and social history of the city. Book online. www.14henriettastreet.ie*

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. Tour a square which has been at the centre of Irish history for hundreds of years in the company of an expert local guide. Booking essential (www.littlemuseum.ie/the-green-mile). Phone 01-6611000.*

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE TOUR – *see earlier entry on page 5.*

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. 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. 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. . 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 6.

JAMES JOYCE CENTRE WALKING TOURS – Guided walking tours of historic Joycean Dublin. “Introducing Joyce’s Dublin” takes you through North Central Dublin, where much of Joyce’s work is set. The guide takes take you to such places as Belvedere College, St. George’s Church, Hardwicke Street, 7 Eccles Street, the Parnell Monument, and the Joyce Statue. ‘Footsteps of Leopold Bloom’ retraces Bloom’s exact route in the ‘Lestrygonians’ episode of Ulysses. Famous stops include O’Connell Bridge, Trinity College, the Bank of Ireland, Grafton Street, Davy Byrnes, and the National Museum. www.jamesjoyce.ie James Joyce Centre, 35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 878 8547.

1916 REBELLION WALKING TOUR – The authors of “The Easter Rising” take you to sites associated with the Rising. Two hour tour. Meet at International Bar, 23 Wicklow Street. Book in advance (online) or pay on the day. www.1916rising.com Tel: 086 8583847.

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. 2 kids under 14 free with a fare-paying adult. Price includes free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Tel: 01-844 4265. 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. www.jamesonwhiskey.com Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 8072355.

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. 120 minutes long. (B) **Best of Dublin**. 140 minutes long. Takes 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, St Patrick’s & Christ Church Cathedrals. See website for details of **special** events. Tel: 01 8329406 (office); 087 9052480 (emergency). 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”). Reservations not necessary. www.neweuropetours.eu

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. Price includes a free walking tour of Dublin with Pat Liddy. Two children under 14 years of age can travel free with each paying adult. Tel: 01 703 3215. www.dublinsightseeing.ie

TEELING WHISKEY DISTILLERY – see earlier entry on page 13

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSICAL PUB CRAWL – Led by two professional musicians who perform tunes & songs while telling the story of Irish music. The Pub Crawl visits famous pubs & bars in the Temple Bar area. Meet at Oliver St. John Gogarty's (upstairs) at corner of Fleet St. & Anglesea St., Temple Bar. www.traditionalpubcrawl.com Buy tickets on the night, or in Dublin Tourist Office, Suffolk Street, or book online. Tel: 01-4758345.

VIKING SPLASH – see earlier entry on page 13.

VINTAGE TEA TRIPS - Indulge in afternoon tea treats, great conversation and tap your feet along to some fabulous 1950s jazz while taking in the sights of the city aboard a 1960s vintage bus. vintageteatrips.ie, Tel: 01 255 1777, 4 Essex Street East, Dublin 8.

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. Customers are collected at Shelbourne Hotel, St Stephens Green. 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.

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. The forest park provides a huge variety of forest trails & river walks. The re-developed Avondale Forest Park now includes the remarkable Treetop Walk & Viewing Tower, with breathtaking views over the Wicklow mountains, Avonmore river valley and the Vale of Avoca. <https://www.coillte.ie/site/avondale-forest-park/> Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 46111.

BALLITORE QUAKER MUSEUM - Ballitore is a village founded by the Quakers in the 1700's. 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. www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/ballitore-library-quaker-museum/13670 Quaker Museum, Ballitore, Co. Kildare. Tel: 059 8623344.

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. www.battleoftheboyne.ie Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 9809950.

BEAULIEU HOUSE AND GARDENS - Important historic home with famous gardens. Open by appointment only. <https://beaulieuhouse.ie/visitors/> Beaulieu House, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041 983 8557.

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/discover/heritage/heritage-sites/bective-abbey Trim, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 943 7111.

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. 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.

BOYNE VALLEY GARDEN TRAIL – A number of lesser known gardens in Meath & Louth 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.

CASTLETOWN HOUSE - Largest and most significant Palladian style country house in Ireland. Built 1722-1729. See website for detailed guided tour times. Restored 18th century parklands open daily (free admission). www.castletown.ie Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6288252.

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. Booking essential. www.causey.ie Causey Farm, Girley, Fordstown, Navan, Co. Meath. Tel 046-9434135. Home also of the chilling Halloween experience, "Farmaphobia" (see www.farmaphobia.ie).

COUNTY MUSEUM DUNDALK - One of Ireland's finest Local Authority Museums, located in a restored 18th C distillery. Interesting artefacts - a Heinkel bubble car; leather coat worn by William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne. www.louthcoco.ie Carroll Centre, Roden Place, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co.Louth. Tel: 042 9392999.

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. A guided tour offers a fascinating insight into the family history. www.dunsany.com/. Dunsany, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. Tel: 046-9025169.

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. Tel: 0404 45352. www.heritageireland.ie Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.

GREENAN MAZE - Explore fun mazes, museums of traditional farming life and farm animals, and wander along nature walks including ponds, wetlands and woodlands. greenanmaze.com. Tel: 0404 460 00 / 086 884 5624. Ballinanty, Greenan, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

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. Guided tours available. There is also a 25-minute audio-visual film in the Visitor Centre. Tel: 046 902 5903. Tara, Navan, Co. Meath www.heritageireland.ie

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. For details of “special event Sundays”, check the website. www.huntingbrook.com Hunting Brook, Lamb Hill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 087 285 6601.

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. The **Japanese Gardens** are the finest of their kind in Europe and symbolise the "Life of Man", tracing the journey of a soul from oblivion to eternity. Also visit St. Fiachra's Garden & the Horse Museum (includes a tribute to Arkle, the greatest steeplechaser ever). 150,000 visitors every year. Guided tours of the Stud. 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.

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). www.killruddery.com Farm market on Saturdays. Southern Cross, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2863405.

KILMACURRAGH ARBORETUM - managed by the National Botanic Gardens, this is the remnants of a large estate planted during 19thC by the curators of the Botanic Gardens. Here numerous plant species from around the world were introduced to Ireland for the first time. Famous for conifers & rhododendron collections. Free guided tours. www.botanicgardens.ie Kilbride, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 48844.

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. www.larchill.ie Kilcock, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 628 7354.

MAYNOOTH CASTLE – *A great stone castle founded in the early 13thC; principal residence of the Kildare branch of the FitzGerald, once one of the most powerful families in Ireland. 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. www.heritageireland.ie Maynooth Village, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01-628 6744.*

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 June/July/August. www.heritageireland.ie Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: Summer 041 9826459; otherwise 041 9880300.*

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. Round tower is over 30m (110 feet) tall. Tower closed to the public. Site open sunrise to sunset. www.discoverboynevalley.ie Monasterboice, Co. Louth.*

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. www.mountushergardens.ie Ashford, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 49672 (Cafe - 0404 40116).*

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]. www.visitsealife.com/Bray/ Seafront, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 2866939.*

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. www.newbridge silverware.com/museum Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 431301. Admission free. Guided tours by prior arrangement only.*

NEWGRANGE NEOLITHIC MONUMENT - *Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth & Dowth. Full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange, a model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. Busy site, delays likely during summer months, so arrive early! Full online booking available. Complex opening hours – see website for full details. All admissions via Visitor Centre. www.heritageireland.ie Donore, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 988 0300. There are 4 tour options:*

(1) Visitor Centre plus Knowth visit plus Newgrange visit (2) Visitor Centre plus Newgrange visit (3) Visitor Centre plus Knowth visit (4) Visitor Centre only.

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 is 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. www.powerscourt.com Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 204 6000.

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; mini-cinema; maze; 18thC walled garden; gift shop; café. Sheepdog Demonstrations available – group bookings only. National Bird of Prey Centre open 7 days a week during summer months. Phone 045-857755. www.russboroughhouse.ie/ Russborough, Blessington, Co Wicklow. Tel: 045 865 239.

SKYPARK CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE - Skypark is Ireland's biggest Adventure Park, with a wide range of activities in the air and on the ground. Within the Aerial Courses option, you can test yourself on 30 challenges including cargo nets, skateboards, giant log swings, monkey bars and ziplines. Courses range in height from 6ft to 40ft. The other broad range of activities includes archery, footgolf, frisbee golf, quazer, axe throwing and archery combat. You buy an all access half-day pass. www.skypark.ie Dundalk Road, Carlingford, Co Louth. Tel: 042-9373100.

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. Guided tours. www.slanecastle.ie Slane, Co. Meath. Tel: 041 982 0643.

EMERALD PARK - Formerly Tayto Park. 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, the Rotator, the Power Surge, the Endeavour, the Air Race, Windstar, Dino Dash, the Extreme Climbing Wall, and the Sky Walk. See detailed opening hours on website. www.emeraldpark.ie Emerald Park, Kilbrew, Ashbourne, Co.Meath. Tel: 01 835 1999.

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). www.heritageireland.ie Trim, Co. Meath. Tel: 046 943 8619.

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. The gaol was closed in 1924. Part-guided tours. Spooky night tours may also be available (advance booking required - adults only) but tour schedules are erratic. www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 0404 61599.

WICKLOW GARDENS – A number of lesser known Wicklow gardens 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.

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. All information has been gleaned from official websites.

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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 <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/0df7c-s482-tax-relief/>.

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.