



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

SOCIAL GUIDE TO CLONMACNOISE.

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

A Trip to Clonmacnoise.

Today we are going on a trip to Clonmacnoise which is in County Offaly.

In this story we will find out how to enter the visitor centre and what we will see and do on our visit.

You can get to Clonmacnoise by car, bus or boat. The car park and bus park can get very busy so please make sure to stay with your family or group.



This is the entrance we will use to visit the visitor centre and monastic site.



Sometimes the visitor centre can get busy and the hall way and reception can get crowded, we may have to wait to get our ticket and information. Before our visit we can buy a ticket online at:

<https://heritageireland.ie/visit/places-to-visit/clonmacnoise/>

But remember OPW sites are free for people under 12, people with disabilities or carers.

Early mornings and later in the day is usually a quieter time to visit.



When you enter the visitor centre you will see the reception desk. At the reception desk you can get your tickets and this is where you get your site map.

The person at the desk will explain where everything is and will also tell you about the times of the audio-visual and if there is a guided tour.

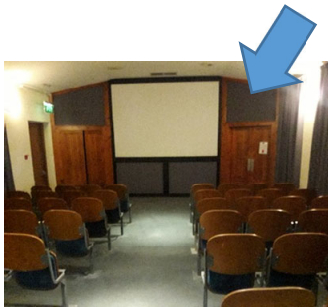
If there is no tour you can go around the site with your family and come back to the reception desk if you have any questions.



Audio-visual



Sometimes the hall way into the audio-visual and museum can get crowded, if there is too many people you can straight outside and come back later to view the real crosses.



history of Clonmacnoise.

The audio-visual is a 20 minute film that tells you some of the

Parts of the film are loud, especially when explaining the Viking attacks, if its too loud you can leave the audio-visual whenever you would like, or you don't have to see it if you don't want.

If you would like to see the audio-visual if you sit near the front you can leave through the door on the right whenever you want.

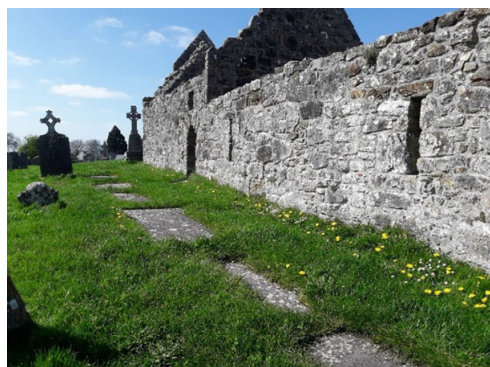


In the museum you will see the real high crosses. They were moved inside because the rain was eroding (washing away) all of the pictures. The crosses are very old (over a thousand years old) so please don't touch the cross. The copy of the cross is outside and you can touch the crosses outside.

Remember: **DON'T** touch the crosses that are **INSIDE**, you **CAN** touch the crosses **OUTSIDE**!

The pictures on the crosses are from the bible and were used to teach people about Jesus when most people could not read or write. The pictures were painted when they were first made but the rain has washed away all the paint.

Now we can go outside and explore!



If we are going on a tour the guide will bring us to different parts of the site. We must remember to walk around the site and not to run as ground in the graveyard can be bumpy.

If we go into a church we must remember to mind our heads, the doors were small to keep out the wind and rain.

If you have a question you can put up your hand so the guide will know that you have a question. If you have loads of questions the guide can answer them at the end of the tour.

Some people want to spend the whole day in Clonmacnoise. Others just have a short time to visit. Both are good. The important thing is to enjoy your time.

What will we see in Clonmacnoise

Clonmacnoise is an old monastery with a Cathedral (a big church) and some small churches, round towers and high crosses. There is also a graveyard around the churches and an old castle that looks like it will fall down. Clonmacnoise was a really important monastery and was also a college, people from all over Europe would come to Clonmacnoise to pray and study.

The whispering arch



Round towers and high crosses



Churches



Toilets:

The toilets are beside the visitor centre. Mens are to the left.
Womens are to the right.



The hand driers in the toilets are loud.

Exit:

This is the exit gate back to the car park or bus park: (NEED PHOTO FROM OTHER SIDE)

