

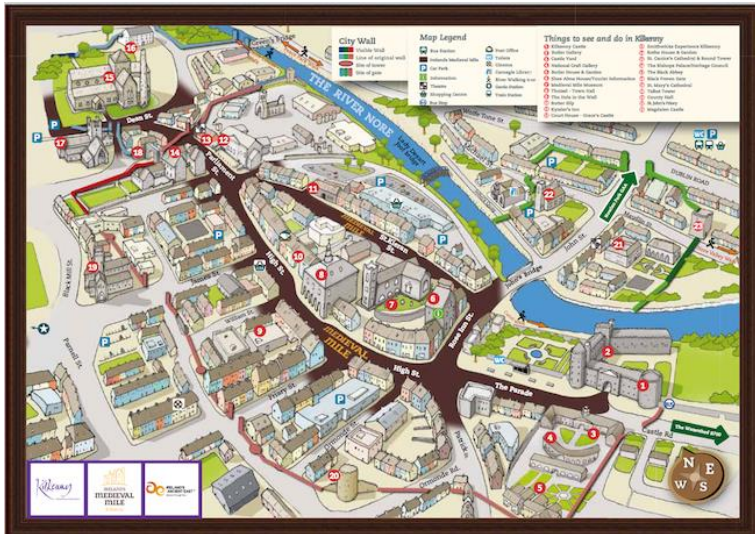
Social Story Guide

A visit to Kilkenny Castle

This is a story about visiting Kilkenny Castle.



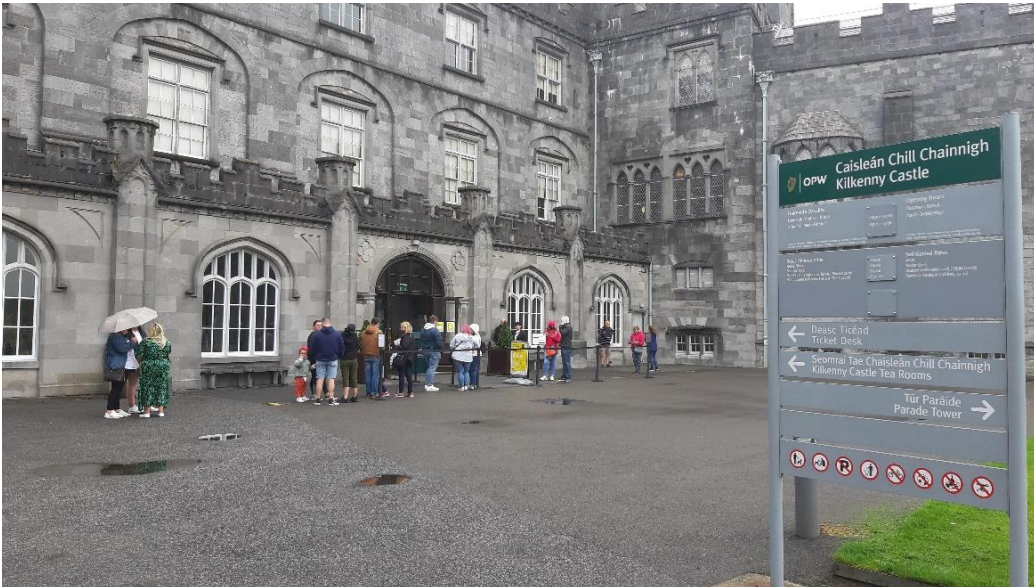
Kilkenny Castle is a big castle the middle of Kilkenny City. The Castle has a park, with paths going through woodland areas, a pond with ducks, a Rosegarden and a playground. There is a market every Thursdays & Saturdays from 9.30am to 2.30pm just outside the Castle, it has some craft and food stalls and sometimes there are street performers & musicians. Kilkenny Castle is a very busy place with a lot of visitors.





I arrive:

I enter the Castle grounds through a big gate from the street.



I enter the Courtyard.

There are 2 queues in the Courtyard, one for people who have bought tickets already & one for people who want to buy tickets

Everyone has to queue outside before entering the Castle.

If I have tickets or I have reserved my place in advance I join the queue with this sign:



If I don't have a ticket, I join the queue with this sign:



If waiting in line is challenging for me, I can show the Castle staff my Autism I.D card then I can go inside without waiting.

**I wait outside on the “Please Wait Here” mat until a Castle staff tells me it’s ok to enter.
I finish my food and drinks before I enter the Castle.**



The Castle Staff will ask everyone to wear a face mask before entering the Castle. If wearing a face mask is uncomfortable for me, that is okay and I don’t have to wear one.

I can download a letter (<https://asiam.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Face-mask-letter.pdf>) and show it to the Castle staff. The letter explains that I can’t wear a face mask and this is okay.



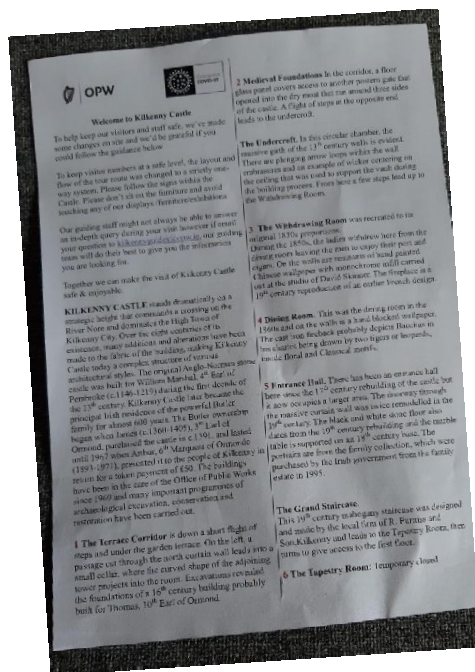
The Castle Staff will ask everyone buying tickets for their name and phone number in case of contact tracing. I enter the Castle; I will have to sanitise my hands. I can use the hand sanitizer in the Castle or I can bring my own.

I go through the doorway and turn on the right to go to the Ticket Desk.





The Castle staff give me a ticket and I take an information leaflet from the display on the wall.



My leaflet has information on the rooms in the Castle. I follow the arrows and the numbers from 1 to 10 on the signs.

The numbers on the signs let me know which room is next to see. I will find the same numbers on my leaflet.

I will have to social distance and stay away from the other people inside the Castle. If social distancing is difficult for me, I can download a letter (<https://asiam.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Letter-regarding-social-distancing.pdf>) and show it to the Castle staff. This letter explains that I find it difficult to social distance and that is okay.

SIGNS:

I see a lot of signs in the Castle, some of the signs give me instructions to follow, some signs give me information on the rooms I see, some signs show me where to go and other signs tell me how to protect myself and others from COVID-19

I can ask the Castle Staff if I don't understand a sign.



This type of signs give information on how to protect myself and others from COVID-19.



These mats are on the floor to show me where to go and to remind me to stay 2 meters away from other people.



This marking in the courtyard remind me to stay 2 meters away from the person in front of me when queuing in the courtyard.







This type of signs means that I cannot go in that way.



These signs tell me how many persons or family units are allowed in a room at any one time.





This sign means that I cannot sit on the furniture.

 <p>OPW Oifigea Offices of Public Works</p> <p>← Cuairt ar an Chaisleán Castle Visit</p> <p>← Pasáiste don Ardán Terrace Corridor 1</p> <p>← Dúshraitheanna Meánaoiseacha Medieval foundations 2</p>	<p>This type of signs with arrows and numbers show me the way to follow. I follow the arrows and the number in order from 1 to 10</p>
	<p>This type of signs give me information on the Paintings in the Picture Gallery.</p>
	<p>This type of signs gives me information on the restoration work that took place in the Castle and show me photos of before and after the work. This signs are only in the Blue corridor.</p>
	<p>This type of sign gives me information on the rooms I visit.</p>

The rooms & areas I will see:

Basement

		<p>The Terrace Corridor Number 1 on my leaflet</p>	<p>I go down some steps into the Terrace Corridor. This part of the Castle is darker and can be damp I follow the corridor.</p>
		<p>Medieval Foundations Number 2 on my leaflet</p>	<p>I am now in the Medieval Foundations Part of the floor is a metal grid and can be very noisy. If I find the noise stressful I can ask the Castle staff to show me a different way to continue my visit</p>



The Undercroft

At the end of the corridor I go up a few steps and I am in the Undercroft. I go up the steps on the left.

Ground Floor



The Withdrawing Room Number 3 on my leaflet

I go up a few more steps on the left and I am on the Ground Floor of the Castle. I enter the room on my left: I am now in the Withdrawing Room .



The Dining Room Number 4 on my leaflet

After the Withdrawing Room, I go in the Dining Room
Sometimes a very loud alarm will sound if someone goes too close to the ropes or tries to open the windows. The alarm is to tell the guide that the room needs to be checked. When the alarms go off, the doors will close automatically. A member of staff will turn off the sound and reopen the doors as quickly as possible



The Entrance Hall
Number **5** on my leaflet

After the Dining Room I enter the Entrance Hall.
At the end of the Entrance Hall I go up the Main Staircase on the left.
I see a sign telling me that room 6 is closed. I go up a few more steps.

First Floor



The Library
Number **7** on my leaflet





At the top of the Main Staircase I turn to my right. I am now on the First Floor.
I enter the Library.



The Drawing Room Number **8** on my leaflet

I go straight to the Drawing Room At the end of the Drawing Room I go through the door and up a stone staircase called the Private Staircase

Second Floor

		<p>The Blue Corridor Number 9 on my leaflet</p>	<p>I reach the top of the staircase I am now on the Second Floor in the Blue Corridor</p> <p>There are lovely views of the Park from the windows on the right. I go towards the other end of the Blue Corridor.</p>
		<p>Victorian Nursery</p>	<p>On the left I see the Victorian Nursery. There is a plastic panel in front of the door so I can see inside. I go a little further.</p>
		<p>The Private Sitting Room</p>	<p>After the Victorian Nursery I see the Private Sitting Room on the left. There is a plastic panel in front of the door so I can see inside I go a little further.</p>
		<p>The Chinese Bedroom</p>	<p>At the end of the Blue Corridor there is plastic screen in front of a door so I can see inside the bedroom I turn right and go down the Moorish Staircase.</p>

East Wing



The Picture Gallery
Number 10 on my
leaflet

At the bottom of the staircase
I stop and look left. I will let people who are
leaving the room to go before I enter. I am now
in the Picture Gallery.

The Picture Gallery is the last room of the tour.
There can be a lot of people but there is a lot of
space for everyone. I go on the left side of the
room and go on a loop following the mats.
There are red benches in the middle of the
room and window seats but I cannot seat on
them. I leave the Picture Gallery through the
same door I came in.



My visit of the Castle is now finished.
I go downstairs and follow the exit signs.
At the bottom of the staircase, I go through the doorway on the left.
I am outside, I can go to the Rosegarden if I follow the path on the left or
I can go to the courtyard if I follow the path on the right.



Staff

I will meet Castle Staff at the Ticket Desk and in the rooms.

The Castle Staff can answer questions I have about the Castle's history and they are here help me. If I am overwhelmed and need to go to the quiet space, I can ask one of the Castle Staff to bring me there.

The Castle staff wear face masks or face shields.

They don't have a uniform but wear dark colours, usually black & navy.

The Castle staff wear badges and lanyards around their neck.

The Castle staff have completed the AsIAm Autism Awareness Course.



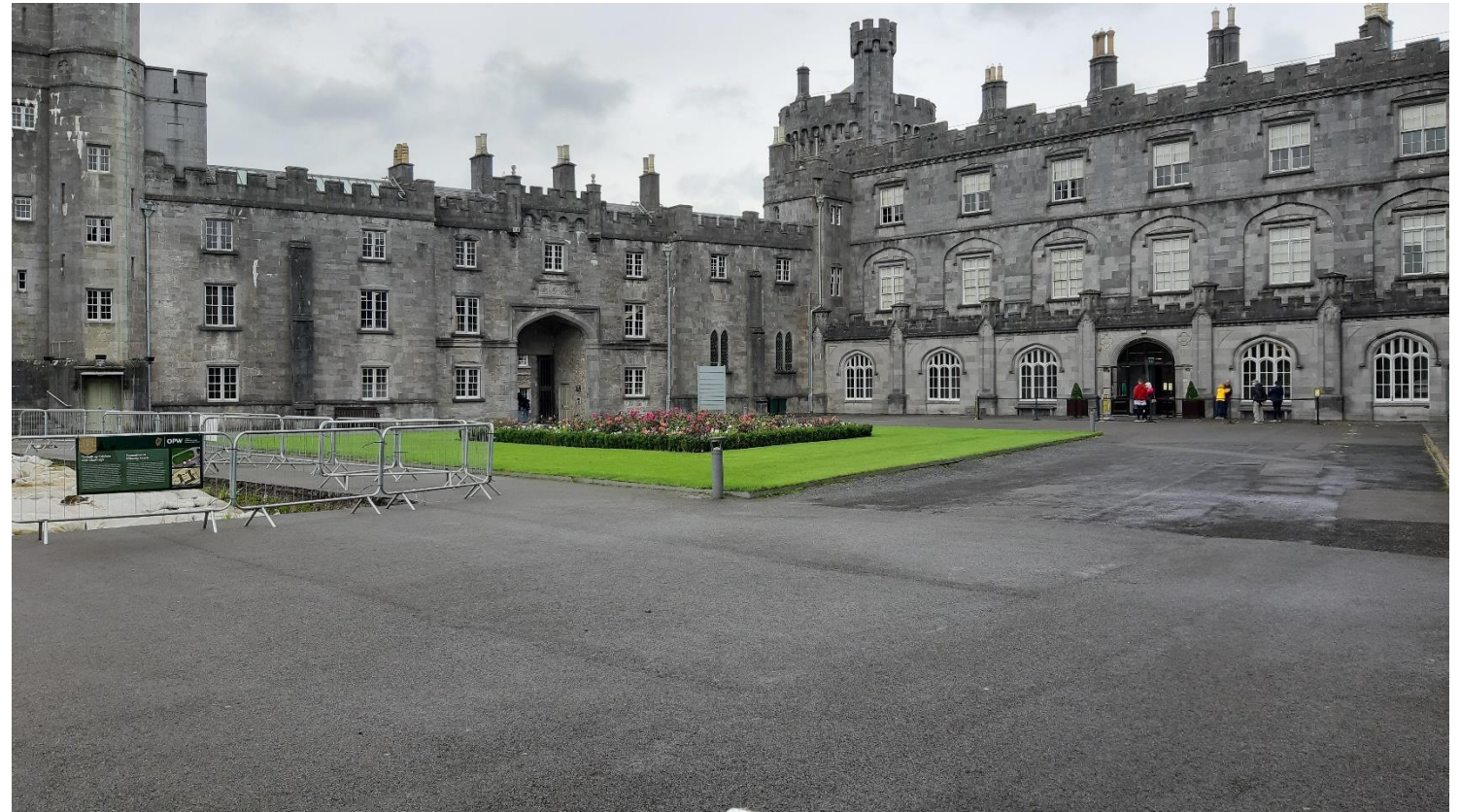
GOING TO THE TEA ROOM



After my visit I can go to the Castle Tea room to drink and eat. I go through the doorway and turn left. I go at the end of the corridor and enter the Tea Room.

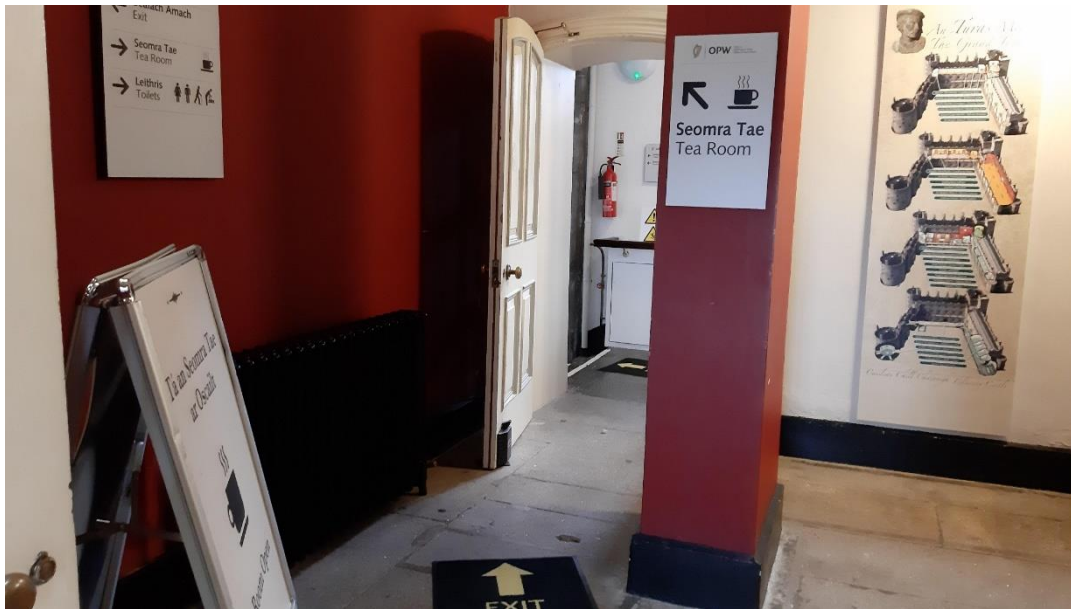


I am in the Tea Room. I wait at the “Please Wait Here to be Seated” sign for a staff to tell me where to sit down.

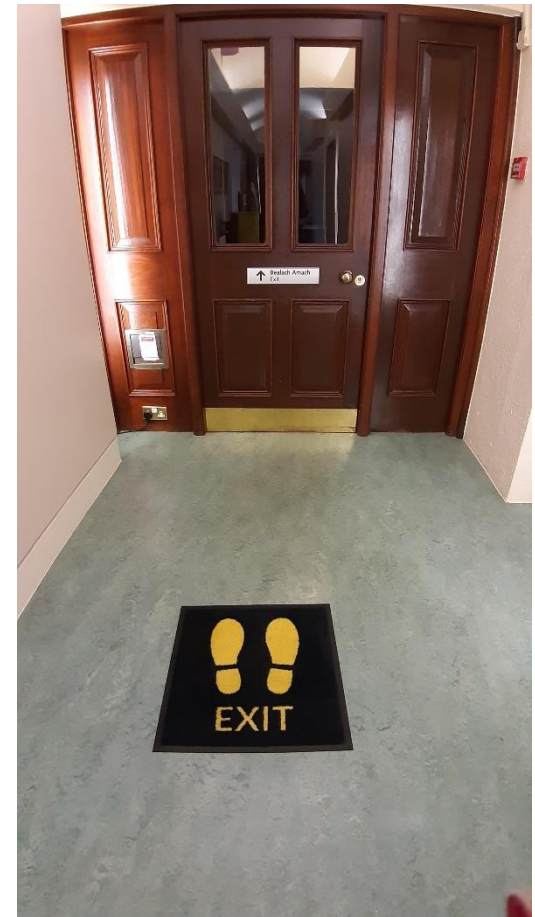


I finish my food & drink in the Tea Room. To exit, I go through the door on the far right and I go up the stairs. I push the door and I am in the Courtyard.

GOING TO THE TOILETS



After my visit I can go to the toilets. I go through the doorway and turn left. I go at the end of the corridor and go up the stairs on my left.



I walk on the left side of the Corridor. I stop at yellow counter and I wait. It might be busy and I might need to queue. The Castle Staff there will tell me when it is ok to enter the toilets. When I leave the toilets I go to my right and go down the stairs to the exit.