



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Heritage Ireland ON SCREEN

A Guide to
**Filming at
Ireland's
Historic
Locations**

The prehistoric passage tomb at Knowth, Co. Meath, part of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site
Photo: Ken Williams



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Trim Castle as the walled city of York in *Braveheart*
Photo: Frank Mc Courtney



Liam Neeson in *Michael Collins* at Dublin Castle
Photo: Allstar Picture Library Ltd. Alamy Photo Stock

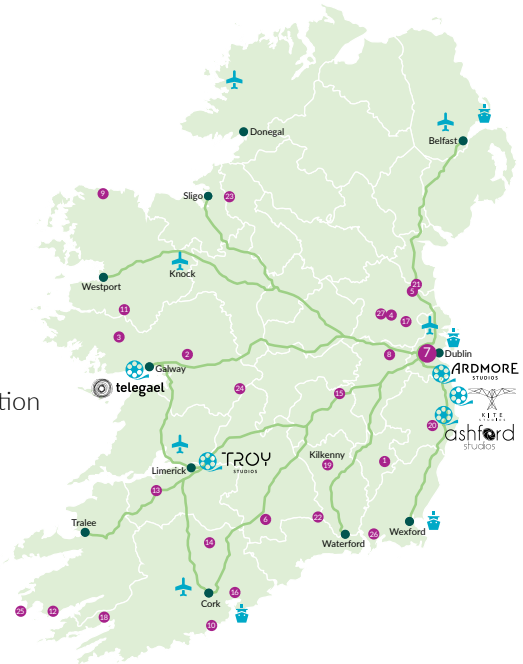


Amy Adams and Matthew Goode in *Leap Year*, St Stephen's Green
Photo: AF Archive and Alamy



Ridley Scott on location
Photo: Entertainment Pictures and Alamy Photo Stock

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“Working with the The Office of Public Works in Ireland was an invaluable experience. Their unique historical sites supply dramatic scenery as well as being incredibly production-friendly. It was a smooth and rewarding process and I hope to work again with them in the future.”

Ridley Scott, film director & producer

Academy Award Nominee for Directing. Academy Award Winner 'Best Picture' for *Gladiator*. Recipient of BAFTA for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema. Director of many films including *Alien* (1979), *Blade Runner* (1982), *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *Gladiator* (2000), *The Last Duel*, filmed at Cahir Castle (2021).



Introduction

Ireland's relationship with cinema runs deep. Moving pictures were first shown here in 1896, and just a few months later cameramen working for the Lumières filmed the first footage of the country.

Ever since then, filmmakers have flocked to Ireland, drawn by the diversity of its landscapes, the mild climate that enables filming all year round and, above all, by a 5000-year history that's visible across the land, from Brú na Bóinne to Bantry Bay, and features Neolithic passage tombs, Augustinian monasteries, Medieval castles, Elizabethan manor houses, Palladian mansions, parks and gardens and monumental forts. The majority of these extraordinary sites are maintained and managed by the Office of Public Works (OPW).

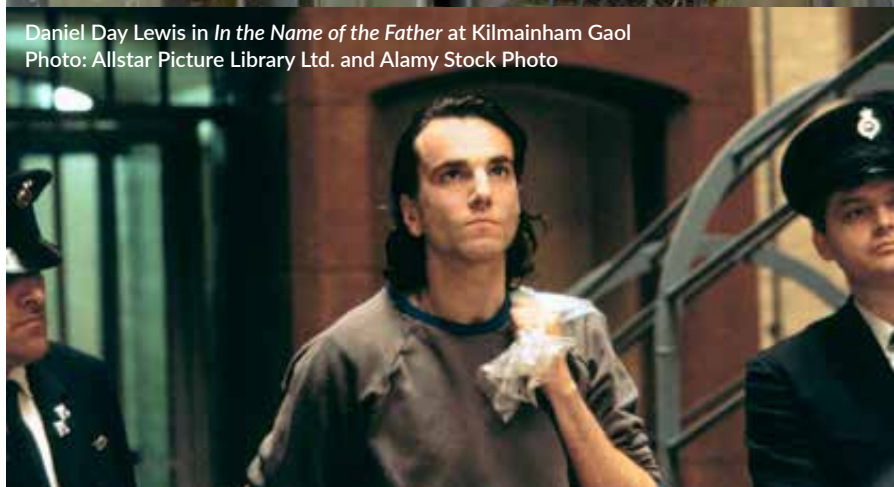
The OPW is a government organisation responsible for the care of nearly 800 of Ireland's most iconic heritage sites. From the Hill of Tara to Inacullin, our portfolio spans the breadth of Ireland's history, cared for by a dedicated team of heritage and conservation experts committed to restoring, preserving and promoting Ireland's cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy.

As part of our mission, we are proud to offer access to our sites to filmmakers from all over the world, working closely with film crews to maintain the highest standards of safety, integrity and authenticity. From *The Italian Job* and *Barry Lyndon* to *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, some iconic films have been shot at OPW sites, and with superb infrastructure, great post-production studios, and easy access by air and sea, it has never been easier to film here.

These pages offer a brief snapshot of our portfolio. For a broader sense of what the OPW can offer, visit heritageireland.ie and get in touch.



The 1916 Corridor, Kilmainham Gaol
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Daniel Day-Lewis in *In the Name of the Father* at Kilmainham Gaol
Photo: Allstar Picture Library Ltd. and Alamy Stock Photo



The Italian Job, Kilmainham Gaol
Photo: AF Archive and Alamy Stock Photo



©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



The East Wing of Kilmainham Gaol
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Kilmainham Gaol

Located in the heart of Dublin, Kilmainham Gaol is one of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe and one of the most iconic sites in Ireland. The prison where successive generations of Irish rebels were held (from the 1798 Rebellion to the War of Independence), and where the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising were executed, Kilmainham is steeped in Irish history and has featured (as itself) in a number of historical dramas including *Michael Collins* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, but the magnificent east wing of the gaol, with its classic 'panoptic' design based on Pentonville Prison in London, has stood in for prisons all over the world in films like *The Italian Job*.

The great Irish nobles like the Dukes of Ormonde built castles to last and many of the finest medieval castles in Ireland remain remarkably intact, with bastions, towers and keeps. Rebuilt and remodelled over the centuries, they boast an astonishing variety of styles, from the classic medieval keep of Trim Castle to the Baroque Ducal Palace of Kilkenny Castle. The interiors are, if anything, more varied, with medieval banqueting halls, Elizabethan Long Galleries, and ornate drawing rooms in Victorian and Edwardian styles. Their locations – whether on the coast, by the shores of a lough, or in the centre of a city – are often spectacular as the buildings themselves. This rich heritage has proved an irresistible draw for filmmakers, and Irish castles have appeared in everything from historical epics like *Braveheart* to Arthurian fantasies such as *Excalibur* and *The Green Knight*.

Castles & Forts



Athenry Castle

Standing tall in the heart of Athenry, beside the Clarinbridge River it was built to guard, thirteenth-century Athenry Castle is an imposing example of a medieval 'hall-keep', an early type of keep or principal tower. The keep is remarkably intact, with original battlements, a great hall on the first floor, accessed by an external wooden staircase, and a banqueting hall. The simplicity of the layout belies a wealth of intricate carvings in the distinctive local 'School of the West' style.



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Aughnacore Castle



Standing alone in picturesque surroundings on the shores of Lough Corrib in Connemara, Aughnacore Castle was the seat of the fearsome O'Flaherty family that ruled West Connacht for 300 years. The imposing six-storey tower house, with its sixteenth-century banqueting hall, is a particularly fine feature, and the site also features a watch tower, bastions, a dry harbour and an unusual double 'bawn' or walled enclosure.

All photos on this page: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Photo: © Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit



Dev Patel in *The Green Knight*, filmed at Cahir Castle
Photo: A24



Jody Comer in *The Last Duel*, filmed at Cahir Castle
Photo: Entertainment Pictures / Alamy Stock Photo



Cahir Castle

Standing proudly on a rocky island in the River Suir, Cahir Castle is one of Ireland's largest, best-preserved and most authentic castles. Built in the Middle Ages for the powerful Butler family, the castle was at the cutting edge of defensive castle design and much of the original structure remains, including the keep and tower. Rising above the River Suir, it looks spectacular from every angle, and with its superb location (just off the M8 and within easy reach of Kilkenny, Cork and Dublin) it is no surprise that the castle has featured in major film and TV productions over the years, including, Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel* and David Lowery's *The Green Knight*, which was crowned winner of EUFCN European Location Award 2021.



The Banqueting Hall, Desmond Castle



All photos on this page: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Desmond Castle

Desmond Castle in Newcastle West, boasts one of the most impressive medieval banqueting halls in Ireland. While the building itself was begun in 1198, the vaulted lower chamber, the hall and the adjoining tower all date from the fifteenth century. The two-storey banqueting hall has been fully restored with authentic medieval features including a limestone hooded fireplace and a musician's gallery in oak.



Dublin Castle Chapel Royal
Photo: Davison & Associates



St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle
Photo: Trinity Digital Studio

Dublin Castle

The seat of power in Ireland since 1204, Dublin Castle is a breathtaking complex that has played host to many feature films over the years, including Neil Jordan's revolutionary epic *Michael Collins*, as well as more recent period dramas such as HBO series *The Tudors* and Showtime's *Penny Dreadful*.

Though elements of the original Medieval castle remain – including the thirteenth-century wardrobe tower – the heart of the modern castle is a Georgian Palace, once home to the Viceroy of Ireland, and complete with sumptuous State Apartments where balls, banquets and ceremonies have taken place for 300 years (the drawing room appeared as the home of the Chevalier di Balibari in *Barry Lyndon*). St. Patrick's Hall is where Ireland's presidents are inaugurated and has hosted dignitaries such as Benjamin Franklin, John F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, Princess Grace, and Queen Elizabeth II. The Gothic Revival Chapel Royal in the Lower Castle Yard is also one of Dublin cities architectural highlights.



Throne Room, Dublin Castle
Photo: Davison & Associates



Neverland, Dublin Castle
Photo: WENN Rights Ltd / Alamy Stock Photo



Photo: Donal Murphy Photography

The Rose Garden, Kilkenny Castle
Photo: Tourism Ireland



The Nursery, Kilkenny Castle



The Dining Hall, Kilkenny Castle

Kilkenny Castle Library
Photo: Davison & Associates



Kilkenny Castle

Rising sharply from the banks of the River Nore, Kilkenny Castle has dominated the heart of the city for 800 years. Many elements of the original thirteenth-century stone castle remain, but in the seventeenth century the castle was transformed into a magnificent Baroque Ducal Palace. The sumptuous interiors, carefully restored to late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century fashions, offer an extraordinary range of styles, from the Moorish staircase to the Chinese bedroom, but undoubtedly the highlight is the picture or long gallery, built in the Castellated Baronial style, which appeared (as the Trinity College library) in *Circle of Friends*. A mix of open parkland and formal gardens offer magnificent views of the castle exterior.

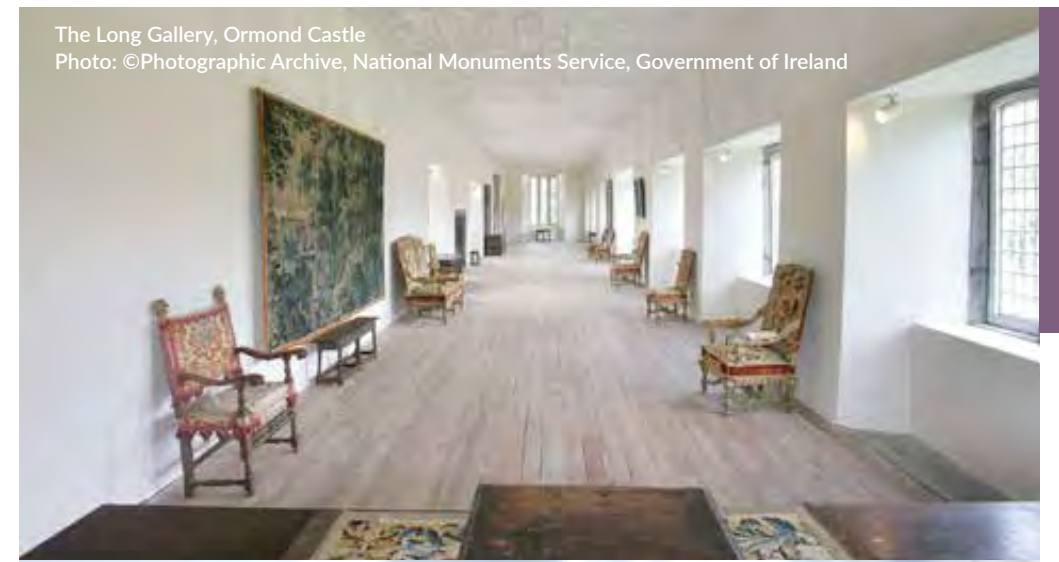


The Long Gallery, Kilkenny Castle

All photos on this page: Davison & Associates



The Earl's Chamber, Ormond Castle
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



The Long Gallery, Ormond Castle
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Ormond Castle viewed from the east
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Ormond Castle

Ormond Castle is one of Ireland's hidden gems. Built in 1565 in honour of Queen Elizabeth I beside a medieval castle on the banks of the River Suir, it is the finest Elizabethan manor house in Ireland. The interiors are justly celebrated for their ornate – and superbly restored – stucco plasterwork, and the 33-metre long gallery, which runs the whole length of the house and is one of the best examples in Ireland.



The Courtyard, Ormond Castle
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Parke's Castle

Parke's Castle occupies a striking setting on the northern shores of Lough Gill in County Leitrim. Built in the early-seventeenth century by 'the proudest man this day living on the earth', the colourful and rebellious English planter Robert Parke, the castle was painstakingly restored in the late-twentieth century using traditional Irish oak and craftsmanship.



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

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Portumna Castle

Built to a pioneering design that combines elements of Medieval and Renaissance architecture, Portumna Castle is one of Ireland's earliest semi-fortified manor houses. Magnificently situated on the shores of Lough Derg, the Castle is approached via a tree-lined avenue that leads through three impressive gateways to reveal a series of formal gardens. The Walled Kitchen Garden, designed according to Renaissance fashion on a geometrical plan, and the Ladies Garden filled with seventeenth-century roses, create an enchanting sense of the original setting.



The Walled Kitchen Garden, Portumna Castle
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Trim Castle

Nestled at the heart of a town rich in Medieval architecture, Trim Castle is one of Ireland's most spectacular castles. Built on the banks of the River Boyne at the end of the twelfth-century, it is the largest Anglo-Norman fortification in Ireland. Many of the original Medieval features are intact, including the monumental three-storey keep at its centre (all but impregnable in its day), the gate house and the curtain wall, made the castle the perfect stand-in for the city of York in *Braveheart*.

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National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



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Charles Fort

Charles Fort is one of the country's most impressive military installations, a classic star-shaped fortification in a spectacular location overlooking Kinsale Harbour. Built in the late-seventeenth century, the fort was plunged almost immediately into the Williamite Wars, holding out for 13 days against the Duke of Marlborough's men. It served as a military barracks for 200 years, adding numerous outbuildings, but the monumental bastions, turrets and moat still preserve the essence of the original fortress.

The Hill of Tara, seat of the High Kings of Ireland
Photo: Ken Williams

The ancient history of Ireland is visible across the country in the stone walls and monuments that still dot the landscape today. Some, like the Céide Fields, lie buried deep beneath blanket boglands along Ireland's wild Atlantic coastline. Others, painstakingly restored, look as magnificent as they did 5,000 years earlier, none more so than Newgrange, centrepiece of the Brú na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage Site in County Meath, a Neolithic passage tomb older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids, and with a purpose equally mysterious.

Prehistoric Sites

Beltany Stone Circle, Co. Donegal
Photo: Ken Williams



Drombeg Stone Circle, Co. Cork
Photo: Ken Williams



Carrowkeel, Co. Sligo
Photo: Ken Williams



Grange Stone Circle, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick
Photo: Ken Williams



Dún Aonghasa, Aran Islands, Co. Galway
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National
Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Sites of Ancient Ritual and Ceremony

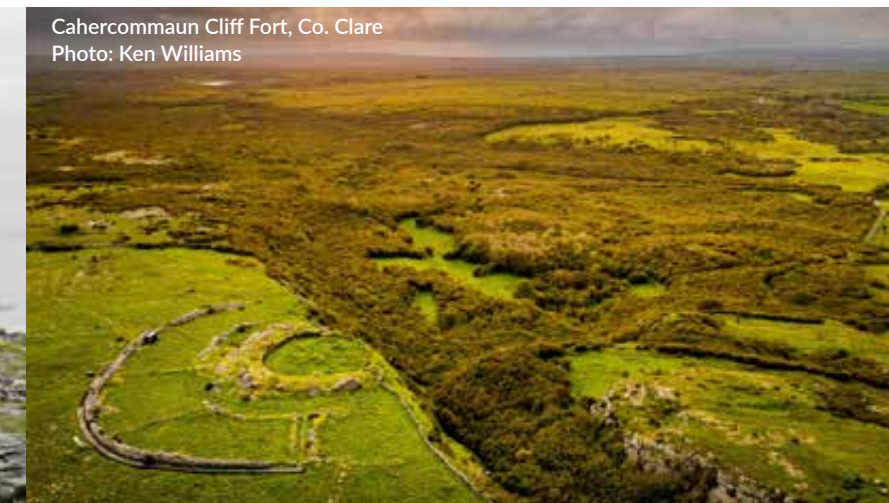
Many of Ireland's more than 700 national monuments are sites of national and global importance situated in remote and spectacular locations. Among them are a wealth of prehistoric monuments including Stone Age tombs and royal burial mounds, great ringforts and places of ceremonial inauguration justly famous throughout the world. These pages offer a glimpse of just a handful of the most spectacular prehistoric sites.

For more information visit heritageireland.ie

Amy Adams and Matthew Goode in
Leap Year, filmed at Dún Aonghasa
Photo: Benderspink/Octagon Films/
Spyglass Entertainment / Album



Cahercommaun Cliff Fort, Co. Clare
Photo: Ken Williams





Hill of Tara

The seat of the High Kings of Ireland for hundreds of years – from the Iron Age to the Early Christian Period – the Hill of Tara is one of the most important and sacred sites in Ireland. While its halls and palaces have disappeared, many remarkable sites in this vast complex are still clearly visible, including monumental earthen banks, sometimes thought to be the remains of a banqueting hall; the Mound of the Hostages, a Neolithic passage tomb; and the Lia Fáil – the great coronation stone – which stands proudly on the monument known as An Forradh.



Lia Fáil or Stone of Destiny
Photo: Ken Williams



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Céide Fields

The blanket boglands of Céide Fields have a character all of their own. Nestled at the edge of the Atlantic in north Mayo, the site contains the world's oldest-known stone-walled fields, dating back almost 6,000 years and buried beneath the ancient blanket boglands that give the site its special appeal. These boglands constitute a unique ecosystem that supports a range of wildlife, including hares, frogs and lizards, and a huge array of flora that changes throughout the year, from spring milkworts to summer bog cotton and purple heather in autumn. The cliffs at the edge of the site are among the most dramatic in the west of Ireland, rising 110 metres above the sea.



Céide Fields
Photo: Courtesy of Fáilte Ireland

The Rock of Dunamase, Co. Laois
Photo: Ken Williams

The history of Irish Christianity dates back to the arrival of St Patrick in the fifth century AD, and by the early middle ages the country was dotted with holy sites, clinging, like the Augustinian monastery at Skellig Michael, to the rockface at Ireland's inhospitable extremes, or nestled, like the 'monastic city' at Glendalough, amid fertile valleys. Some (like Kells Priory) are picturesque ruins, but others (like Sligo Abbey) retain many of their original features: magnificent cloisters, round towers or chapels with nave, chancel, tower, Gothic arches and even a medieval octagonal 'lavabo' or two.

Abbeys & Early Christian Sites



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Sophie Marceau in *Braveheart* filmed at Bective Abbey
Photo: AA Film Archive and Alamy and Icon Productions

Bective Abbey

Situated on the banks of the River Boyne amid rolling Meath countryside, Bective Abbey is a spectacular and well-preserved monastic settlement. The abbey was founded by the King of Meath for the Cistercian order in 1147, and the key features – dating from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries – include the church, chapter house and a magnificent cloister complete with pointed Gothic arches. Due to the authentic medieval architecture, it has featured in films such as Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* and Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel*.

Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Cong Abbey, Cong, Co. Mayo
Photo: Sean Tomkins

Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Cong Abbey

Situated in large wooded grounds on the edge of Cong, the small County Mayo town where John Ford filmed *The Quiet Man* in 1952, Cong Abbey is a jewel in the crown of monastic sites in the west of Ireland. Founded in 1134 by Turlough O'Connor, High King of Ireland, on the site of a seventh-century monastery, this Augustinian abbey is a site of great importance and at its height was home to 3,000 monks. The abbey boasts some of the finest examples of Gothic architecture and masonry in Ireland, including the three lancet windows of the main church, a classic feature of the Gothic style.



The octagonal lavabo at Old Mellifont Abbey, Co. Louth
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Mellifont interior
Photo: Ken Williams



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Tintern Abbey interior
Photo: Aidona Photography, Aoife O'Neill



Photo: Aidona Photography, Aoife O'Neill

Old Mellifont Abbey

Founded in 1142, Mellifont Abbey was the first Cistercian monastery in Ireland and at times has played a major role not just in ecclesiastical history but in the history of the country. The Treaty of Mellifont, ending the Nine Years War, was signed here in 1603, and William of Orange used the abbey as his headquarters during the famous Battle of the Boyne. The ruins, set in rolling countryside on the border of counties Louth and Meath, just 30 minutes from Bective Abbey (see p. 30), boast several remarkable architectural features, including a well-preserved two-storey octagonal 'lavabo' (a space for ritual washing).



Tintern Abbey

Caught in a fierce storm at sea and fearing for his life, the Earl of Pembroke, William Marshall, vowed to establish an abbey if he reached land. The result was Tintern Abbey or Tintern de Voto ('Tintern of the Vow'), a thirteenth-century Cistercian Monastery originally populated by monks from another of the Earl's monasteries: Tintern Abbey in Wales. Set in a Special Area of Conservation and surrounded by woodland, the Abbey's deeply atmospheric remains are remarkably intact, with nave, chancel, tower, chapel and Medieval cloister all still standing.



Daisy Ridley in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, filmed on Skellig Michael
Photo: courtesy of Lucasfilm Ltd. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*™ & © Lucasfilm Ltd.
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Skellig Michael

Skellig Michael is one of Ireland's most recognisable landmarks. Rising from the Atlantic like a ragged pirate ship, the island has long exerted an irresistible allure, both for thousands of sea birds and for the Augustinian monks who once called it home, building St Fionan's monastery and a network of distinctive beehive huts. Skellig Michael has been a site of pilgrimage since the sixteenth century and is now a major attraction for tourists, drawn to its unique architecture, breathtaking views and UNESCO World Heritage status. It is no surprise that filmmakers have numbered among the recent visitors, including Neil Jordan (*Byzantium*), Werner Herzog (*Heart of Glass*) and, most famously, the *Star Wars* franchise.



Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Mark Hamill and Daisy Ridley in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
Photo: courtesy of Lucasfilm Ltd. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*™ & © Lucasfilm Ltd.
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Photo: Tourism Ireland / Tom Archer



Photo: Tourism Ireland / Tom Archer

Ireland can boast a number of wonderful stately homes like Castletown House or the Gandon-designed Emo Court, monuments to Georgian wealth and taste complete with magnificent staircases, rotunda, ionic colonnades and vast estates filled with follies, stone bridges and deer. But the OPW portfolio includes many other kinds of house, from Tudor manor houses with their beautiful long galleries and walled gardens – to the homes of National Heroes, Daniel O’Connell and Patrick Pearse, the picture-postcard Swiss Cottage, and Victorian stately homes like Farmleigh House. Many of the greatest estates are in or near Dublin, with its studios and excellent transportation links, making them ideal locations for filming.

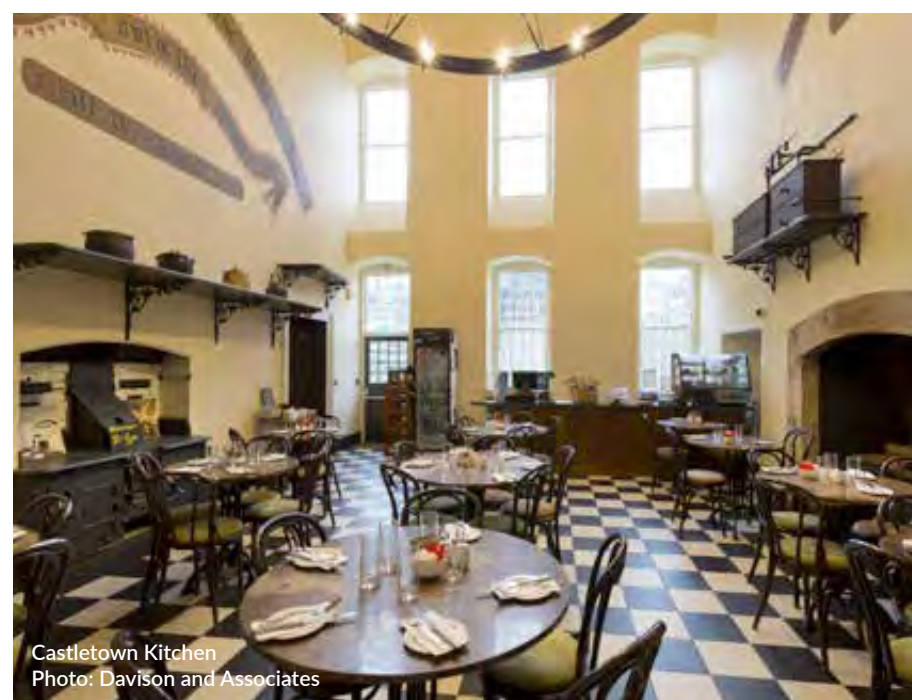
Historic Houses



Castletown House, Co. Kildare
Photo: Tourism Ireland

Castletown House

Set amongst beautiful eighteenth-century parklands on the banks of the River Liffey, just 20 km from the centre of Dublin, Castletown House is Ireland's greatest Palladian-style country house: a monument to Georgian wealth and taste. Built in 1722 for William Conolly, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the house – flanked by pavilions linked by ionic colonnades – is an impressive sight. The authentic Georgian interiors include a spectacular double-height Entrance Hall with polished limestone floor, a Portland stone cantilevered staircase (one of the largest in Ireland) with opulent Rococo plasterwork, a dining room inspired by Inigo Jones' banqueting hall at Whitehall, the glorious long gallery (complete with three Murano-glass chandeliers) and a fully intact eighteenth-century print room.



Castletown Kitchen
Photo: Davison and Associates



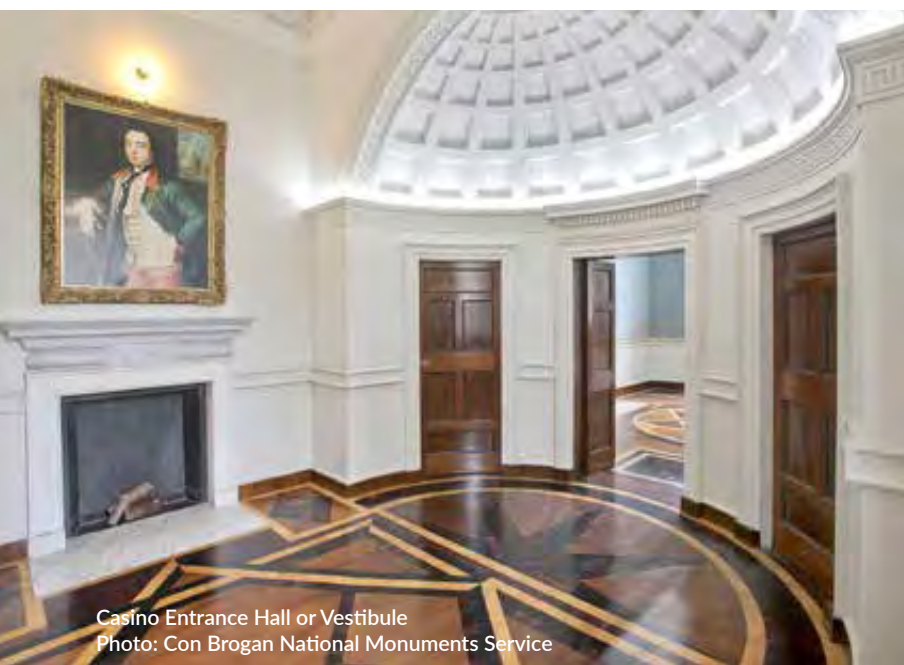
The Long Gallery, Castletown House
Photo: Davison & Associates



The Red Drawing Room, Castletown House
Photo: Davison & Associates



Photo: Davison & Associates



Casino Entrance Hall or Vestibule
Photo: Con Brogan National Monuments Service



State Bedroom
Photo: Niall McKenna OPW



State Bedroom
Photo: Niall McKenna OPW



Blue Salon
Photo: Niall McKenna OPW



Casino Marino
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Casino Marino

Built as a country retreat for the first Earl of Charlemont, but only 4 km from the centre of Dublin, this 'casino' or 'little house' is a miniature neo-classical masterpiece, one of the finest buildings of its kind in Europe. From the outside it appears small but on the inside it is surprisingly spacious, with three storeys and 16 rooms, each one richly decorated and filled with ingenious optical illusions.



Photo: Vincent Hyland



Photo: Ben Russell



Photo: Ben Russell



Photo: Ben Russell

Derrynane House

At the southern tip of the Iveragh Peninsula in Kerry stands Derrynane House, the ancestral home of one of the greatest statesmen of Irish history: Daniel O'Connell. While the interior displays many relics of O'Connell's life, the demesne landscape is part of Derrynane National Historic Park: over 120 hectares of lands with a wealth of archaeological, horticultural, botanical and ecological treasures.

Photos: Clare Keogh Photography



Doneraile House

Presiding over 160 hectares of landscaped parkland and wildlife estate, Doneraile Court was the home of the St Leger family for 300 years. Originally built around 1645, the house was remodelled in the mid-eighteenth century into an outstanding example of Georgian architecture. The ground floor houses prestigious collections of furniture and art, while the parklands, laid out in the naturalistic style of Capability Brown, include pleasure grounds, a parterre walled garden, water features, beautiful limestone bridges, magnificent cascades and fish ponds, and ancient trees, as well as numerous pathways through an estate populated with three kinds of deer.



Photo: © Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Emo Court

In the midst of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, just an hour from Dublin, stands Emo Court, a quintessential neo-classical mansion complete with portico, ornate plasterwork ceilings, and a magnificent rotunda. Designed in 1790 by the celebrated architect James Gandon (who also designed Dublin's Custom House and Four Courts), the house was not completed for some 70 years, but remains a wonderful example of a Georgian mansion. The authentic period feel continues outside amid gardens landscaped in the neo-classical style, with formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks with views of the mountains.

Photo: Jonathan Hession

Photo: Jonathan Hession

Photo: Jonathan Hession



Pearse Museum

Housed in a fine Georgian building in St Enda's Park in the Dublin suburb of Rathfarnham, the Pearse Museum is where the leader of the 1916 Rising, Patrick Pearse, lived and ran his pioneering Irish-speaking school. Inside, the museum tells the story of Patrick Pearse and his brother Willie, both of whom were executed for their part in the 1916 Rising. The museum is set within 20 hectares of attractive parkland featuring a wild river valley, forested areas and some enchanting eighteenth and nineteenth-century follies, including Emmet's Fort and a mysterious hermit's cave.



Pearse Museum Schoolroom
Photo: Con Brogan



Pearse Museum Dormitory
Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland

Rathfarnham Castle

Less than 7 km from Dublin city centre, in the middle of Rathfarnham, stands Rathfarnham Castle, the earliest fortified house in Ireland, built in luxurious style by a Yorkshire clergyman who eventually became Lord Chancellor of Ireland. In the late-eighteenth century the house was remodelled on a grand scale by some of the finest architects of the day, and boasts a wealth of interesting interior features, with ornate ceilings and a grand ballroom.

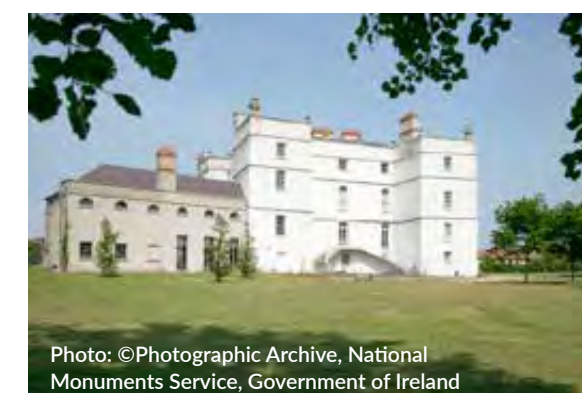


Photo: ©Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Photo: Davison & Associates



The Four Seasons Room
Photo: Davison & Associates



The Ballroom, Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin
Photo: Davison & Associates

Phoenix Park, Dublin, home to a herd of fallow deer since the seventeenth century
Photo: Naoise Culhane

Ireland has more than its fair share of outstanding gardens. Some, like Dublin's National Botanic Gardens, with its historic glasshouses, were built for the nation. Others started out as private passions, like Innacullin on Garinish Island, an extraordinary Italian garden set amid lush tropical vegetation, or James Hugh Smith-Barry's stunning Victorian creation on Fota Island, with a world-renowned collection of rare trees and shrubs.

From giant public spaces like Phoenix Park, the largest enclosed public park in Europe, to hidden gems like Iveagh Gardens, the 'secret garden' that has appeared in recent films and TV shows like *Ripper Street*, *Penny Dreadful* and *Albert Nobbs*, Ireland has a wonderful array of parks and gardens to choose from.

Parks & Gardens





Photo: JK Photography

Altamont Gardens

Altamont Gardens is an enchanting 16-hectare estate laid out in the style of William Robinson, Victorian pioneer of the 'wild garden' style which balances nature and artistry. A fine Georgian house presides over lawns that slope down to a lake ringed by rare trees and rhododendrons. Distinct areas – including the arboretum, bog garden and Ice Age glen lead to the banks of the River Slaney.



Photo: JK Photography

Photo: JK Photography



Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Drogheda, Co. Meath
Photo: Jonathan Hession



Photo: Jonathan Hession

Battle of the Boyne Oldbridge Estate

This recently restored eighteenth-century house is now a museum and visitor centre commemorating the largest – and perhaps most important – battle ever to have taken place on Irish soil: the Battle of the Boyne (1690), in which the forces of King William III defeated those of his father-in-law, James II, in a contest for the British throne. The extensive grounds are home to the beautifully restored walled garden and the unique sunken octagon garden, the only known octagonal walled garden in Ireland.

Fota Arboretum

Fota House, the ancestral home of the Smith-Barry family, stands at the heart of this magnificent estate on Fota Island, just 16 kilometres from the city of Cork. The gardens, first laid out in the nineteenth century by James Hugh Smith-Barry, include stunning features such as the ornamental pond, formal pleasure gardens, Victorian working garden, orangery and sun temple, while the 11-hectare arboretum has a world-renowned collection of rare tender and exotic trees and shrubs from the southern hemisphere.



Photo: Ben Russell



Photo: Ben Russell

The nineteenth-century formal gardens at Fota Arboretum, Co. Cork
Photo: Ben Russell



Photo: AF archive / Alamy Stock Photo

National Botanic Gardens Dublin

Just 3 kilometres from Dublin city centre, the National Botanic Gardens are an oasis of calm in the nation's capital: a beautiful green space that's home to over 15,000 plant species (many of them endangered) from habitats all over the world. The jewel in the gardens' crown is a set of exquisitely restored historic glasshouses, including the curvilinear range and the great palm house by the celebrated Victorian iron founder Richard Turner.



Photo: Fáilte Ireland / Tourism Ireland



Photo: Fáilte Ireland / Tourism Ireland



Reeve Carney and Eva Green in *Penny Dreadful* at National Botanic Gardens Dublin
Photo: AF Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

Ilnacullin Garinish Island



Situated on a small island in Bantry Bay, Cork, Ilnacullin has a strong claim to be one of the most enchanting gardens in Ireland. The 15-minute ferry ride across the sheltered bay offers a chance to glimpse the pair of sea eagles recently reintroduced to the island and the island itself is just as magical, with Italian gardens (complete with a Roman marble sarcophagus and a teahouse made from Bath stone), a martello tower with breathtaking views over Bantry Bay, and spectacular plant life that flourishes all year round, courtesy of the island's mild and humid microclimate.

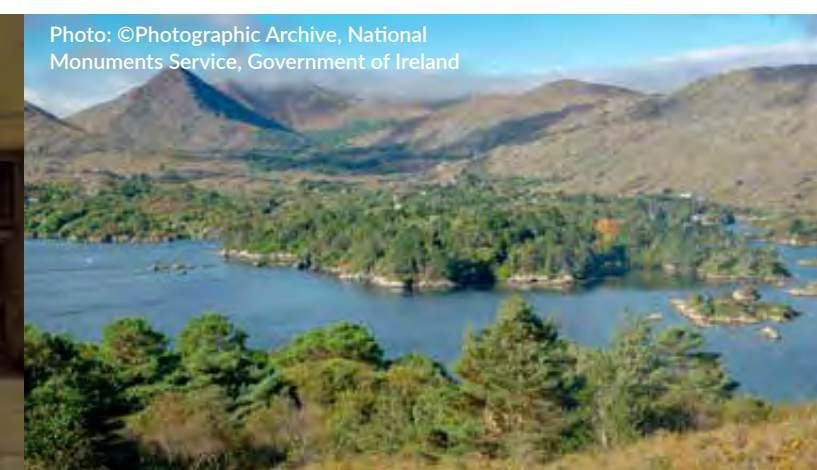
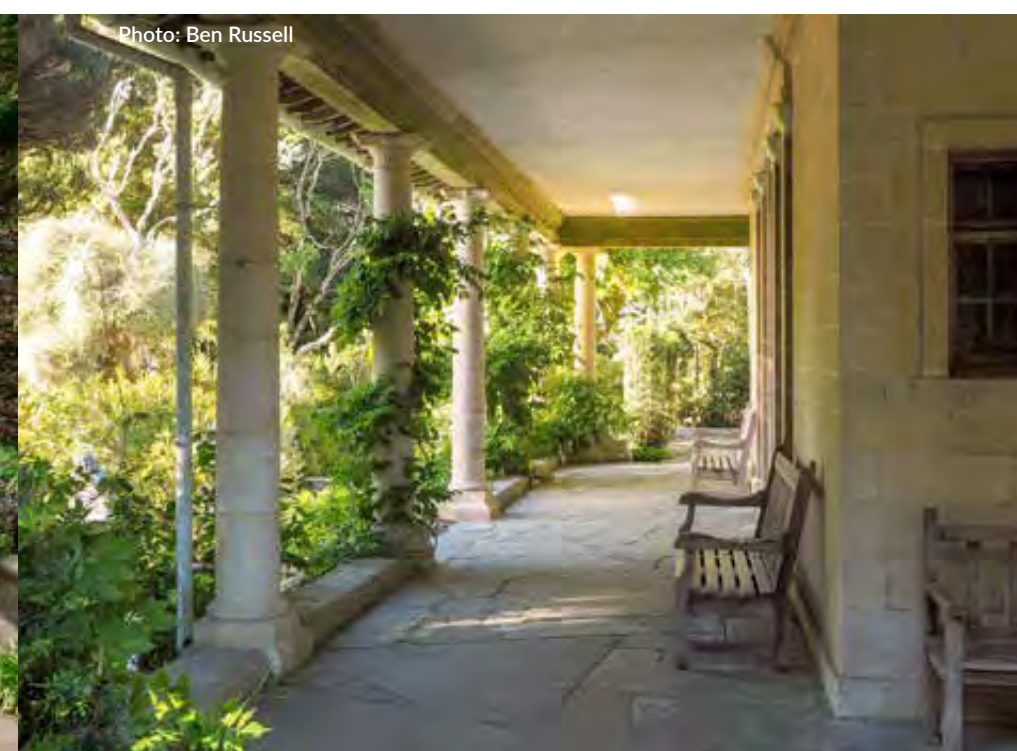




Photo: Aidona Photography, Aoife O'Neill



Photo: Aidona Photography, Aoife O'Neill

Iveagh Gardens

Tucked away behind St Stephen's Green in the historic heart of Dublin, the Iveagh Gardens are among the finest, but least known, of the city's parks and gardens, a tranquil and enchanting space offering respite from the surrounding bustle. Designed in 1865 as the grounds for the Dublin Exhibition Palace, the gardens boast a unique collection of features including rustic grottos, sunken formal lawns, fountains, woodlands, a rosarium, a maze, the American garden, rockeries and even archery grounds.



Eva Green in *Penny Dreadful*
Photo: WENN Rights Ltd and Alamy



National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh

Parks & Gardens



All photos on this page: Bernard Van Geissen

In 1854, in collaboration with the curators of the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, landowner Thomas Acton created a pioneering garden in this tranquil corner of County Wicklow, but it was only in 1996 that it became part of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. Today Kilmacurragh, filled with rare and beautiful plants, provides a wonderful complement to its Glasnevin parent. In spring the walks are transformed by fallen rhododendron blossoms, while the wildflower meadow is most spectacular in summer.



Fallow deer in Phoenix Park, Dublin
Photo: Naoise Culhane



Phoenix Park

Just 5 kilometres from the centre of Dublin, Phoenix Park is the largest enclosed public park in any capital in Europe. Created in the 1660s as a place for Charles II to hunt the deer that still roam there today, the park is steeped in history, from seventeenth-century Ashtown Castle to Áras an Uachtaráin, the Georgian-era hunting lodge that is home to the President of Ireland; the Magazine Fort, which played a crucial role in the Easter Rising; and the Victorian mansion, Farmleigh House. Filled with gardens, tree-lined avenues and acres of grassland, the park offers a vast and varied landscape, an oasis of calm in the heart of the bustling city.



Royal Hospital Kilmainham

The Gardens, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin
Photo: Mark Reddy, Trinity Digital Studios

The East Front, Royal Hospital Kilmainham
Photo: Davison & Associates



Photo: Mark Reddy, Trinity Digital Studios



Photo: Davison & Associates

Inspired by Les Invalides in Paris, the Royal Hospital Kilmainham was designed by leading architects of the late-seventeenth century as a retirement home for soldiers. Since 1991 it has been home to the Irish Museum of Modern Art, but the building's magnificent exterior and stunning formal gardens remain gloriously intact.



Clonmacnoise Monastery, Co. Offaly
Photo: Ken Williams

Key Information

Ireland is a country rich in heritage, both natural and man-made, with a mild climate that enables filming all year round (despite the occasional drop of rain) and excellent transportation links. Few locations, however seemingly remote, are more than an hour from a major transport hub or a world-class film studio with state-of-the-art facilities, local labour is highly skilled and, with generous tax incentives available, Ireland offers an irresistible package for filmmakers.

The map opposite shows the location of all the sites featured in this brochure, while the table overleaf lists their key features and locations at a glance.

With 30 National Historic Properties and 750 National Monuments in our portfolio, only a fraction of our sites are featured here.

For more information on what the OPW can offer, visit heritageireland.ie or get in touch via the contact details opposite.

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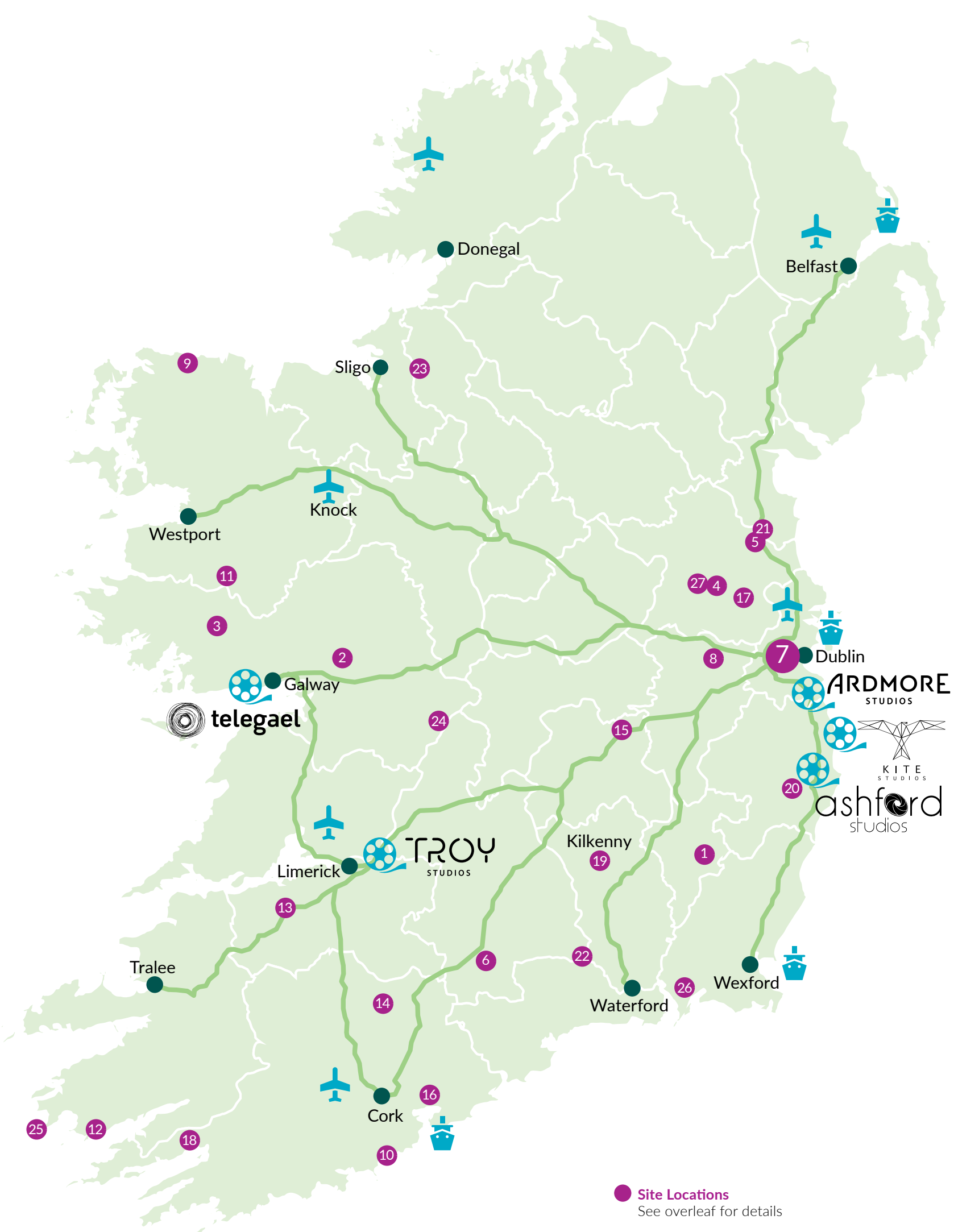
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Mark Reddy
Bernard Van Geissen
Ken Williams



Distance from Dublin to:

Belfast – 168 km / 2 hours
Cork – 265 km / 3 hours
Galway – 210 km / 2.5 hours
Limerick – 205 km / 2.5 hours
Wicklow – 45 km / 45 mins

Airports

Belfast International
Cork International
Donegal National
Dublin International
Ireland West Knock
Shannon International Clare

Ports

Belfast
Cork
Dublin
Rosslare


















Studios


















Ardmore Studios
Ashford Studios
Kite Studios
Stiúideo Telegael
Troy Studios

Local Film Offices

The network of film offices offers a free service providing information, advice and support to filmmakers in every county throughout Ireland. Contact information for each office can be found at www.screenireland.ie/filming/network-of-local-film-offices

 **For Locations** see map on previous page

SITE	Key Features	Nearest Town	Nearest Studio	Nearest Airport	Parking
Altamont Gardens	 Robinsonian-style gardens	Tullow (9 km)	Ashford Studios (77 km)	Dublin Airport (117 km)	On-site (50 cars) + off-site
Athenry Castle	 13th century castle with external stairs, banqueting hall, basement and 'School of the West' carvings	Athenry (0 km) Galway City (25 km)	Stiúideo Telegael (55 km)	Shannon Airport (81 km) Ireland West Airport Knock (83 km)	On-site (6 cars) + off-site
Aughnanure Castle	 16th-century castle with a six-story tower, banqueting hall and trap door	Oughterard (4 km) Galway City (26 km)	Stiúideo Telegael (36 km)	Shannon Airport (118 km) Ireland West Airport Knock (111 km)	On-site (20 cars)
Bective Abbey	 Medieval church, chapter house and cloister	Trim (7 km) Navan (9 km)	Ardmore Studios (75 km)	Dublin Airport (49 km)	On-site + off-site
Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge Estate	 18th-century house with an octagonal walled garden	Drogheda (6 km)	Ardmore Studios (90 km)	Dublin Airport (44 km)	On-site (137 cars, 3 coaches) + off-site
Cahir Castle	 One of Ireland's largest and best-preserved castles, located in a magnificent setting along the River Suir.	Cahir (0 km) Clonmel (19 km)	Troy Studios (61 km)	Shannon Airport (88 km) Cork Airport (83 km)	Off-site
Casino Marino	 Inlaid marquetry floor Zodiac Room Secret Tunnels	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (28 km)	Dublin Airport (9 km)	On-site (30 cars, 5 coaches)
Castletown House	 Ireland's greatest 18th century Palladian style country house. Double-height entrance hall, cantilevered staircase, print room and long gallery	Celbridge (2 km) Dublin (22 km)	Ardmore Studios (44 km)	Dublin Airport (28 km)	On-site (200 cars) + off-site
Céide Fields	 Wild bog landscape Dramatic coastline	Ballina (35 km) Belmullet (35 km)	Stiúideo Telegael (157 km)	Ireland West Knock Airport (73 km)	On-site (50 cars) + off-site
Charles Fort	 Star-shaped military fortification Monumental scale 20-acre site, spectacular location overlooking Kinsale Harbour	Kinsale (4 km) Cork (28 km)	Troy Studios (135 km)	Cork Airport (22 km)	On-site (15 designated, 30 non-designated)
Cong Abbey	 Early Gothic architecture Lancet windows	Cong (0 km) Ballinrobe (12 km)	Stiúideo Telegael (57 km)	Ireland West Knock Airport (64 km)	Off-site
Derrynane House	 Beach-side location 120-acre National Historic Park	Kenmare (50 km)	Troy Studios (183 km)	Cork Airport (146 km)	On-site (80 cars) + off-site
Desmond Castle, Newcastle West	 Fully restored Medieval banqueting hall	Newcastle West (0 km) Limerick City (48 km)	Troy Studios (50 km)	Shannon Airport (67 km)	On-site + off-site
Doneraile Estate	 Doneraile Court & Gardens Walled parkland (400 acres)	Mallow (11 km)	Troy Studios (67 km)	Cork Airport (54 km)	On-site
Dublin Castle	 State Apartments Medieval Tower Chapel Royal	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (31 km)	Dublin Airport (12 km)	Off-site
Emo Court	 Neo-classical mansion designed by James Gandon	Porlaoise (14 km)	Ardmore Studios (97 km)	Dublin Airport (90 km)	On-site
Fota Arboretum and Gardens	 Palm walk, orangery, Victorian fernery World-renowned collection of rare trees and shrubs	Cobh (7 km) Cork (18 km)	Troy Studios (115 km)	Cork Airport (24 km)	On-site (250 cars) + off-site
Hill of Tara	 The Rath of the Synods The Mound of the Hostages The Fort of the Kings The Royal Seat and Cormac's House Lia Fáil – the Stone of Destiny	Navan (12 km)	Ardmore Studios (70 km)	Dublin Airport (43 km)	Off-site

Ilnacullin, Garinish Island	 Beautiful Italian gardens Breathtaking views	Glengarriff (2 km) Kenmare (49 km)	Troy Studios (166 km)	Cork Airport (93 km)	Off-site (Glengarriff)
Iveagh Gardens	 Rustic grottos, formal lawns woodlands, maze, rosarium, American garden	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (23 km)	Dublin Airport (13 km)	Off-site
Kilkenny Castle	 Baroque Ducal Palace Sumptuous Victorian/Edwardian interiors Baronial-style long gallery	Kilkenny City (0 km)	Troy Studios (115 km)	Dublin Airport (137 km) Cork Airport (152 km)	Off-site
Kilmainham Gaol	 Victorian East Wing Iconic panopticon design with central staircase Courtyard	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (32 km)	Dublin Airport (22 km)	Off-site
National Botanic Gardens (Glasnevin)	 Historic wrought-iron glasshouses	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (28 km)	Dublin Airport (8 km)	On-site (60 cars, 3 coaches)
National Botanic Gardens (Kilmacurragh)	 Stunning springtime walks Victorian herbaceous borders	Wicklow Town (11 km)	Ashford Studios (14 km)	Dublin Airport (66 km)	On-site + off-site
Old Mellifont Abbey	 Two-storey octagonal lavabo	Drogheda (10 km) Slane (12 km)	Ardmore Studios (79 km)	Dublin Airport (47 km)	On-site + off-site
Ormond Castle	 Stucco plasterwork 30-metre long gallery Oak-panelled Earl's Chamber	Carrick-on-Suir (0 km) Clonmel (19 km) Waterford City (29 km)	Troy Studios (99 km)	Cork Airport (123 km) Shannon Airport (127 km)	Off-site
Parke's Castle	 17th century castle and manor house with tower Stunning location on Lough Gill	Dromahair (7 km) Sligo (10 km)	Stiúideo Telegael (180 km)	Ireland West Airport Knock (65 km)	On-site (20 cars, 2 coaches)
Pearse Museum	 Granite portico	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (19 km)	Dublin Airport (19 km)	On-site (50 cars) + off-site
Phoenix Park	 1,750 acres of grassland & tree-lined avenues Herd of wild fallow deer	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (33 km)	Dublin Airport (13 km)	On-site (6000 cars)
Portumna Castle	 17th-century fortified manor house Walled kitchen garden Stunning location on Lough Derg	Portumna (0 km) Nenagh (31 km)	Troy Studios (68 km)	Shannon Airport (100 km)	On-site (20 cars, 2 coaches)
Rathfarnham Castle	 Luxurious 18th-century interiors, Long gallery, ballroom	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (26 km)	Dublin Airport (17 km)	On-site (15-20 cars)
Royal Hospital Kilmainham	 17th-century façade formal gardens	Dublin (0 km)	Ardmore Studios (32 km)	Dublin Airport (13 km)	On-site
Skellig Michael	 Stunning Atlantic views Ancient monastic site	Portmagee (12 km by boat) Cahersiveen (17 km from Portmagee)	Troy Studios (178 km)	Cork Airport (165 km from Portmagee)	Off-site (Portmagee)
Tintern Abbey	 13th-century Cistercian monastery Setting in special area of conservation	Waterford City (24 km)	Ashford Studios (121 km)	Cork Airport (162 km)	On-site (50 cars) + off-site
Trim Castle	 Largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland Well-preserved curtain wall, gatehouse and keep	Trim (0 km) Navan (15 km)	Ardmore Studios (73 km)	Dublin Airport (50 km)	Off-site

“As a film and television location manager working in Ireland, the co-operation and positive input of the OPW and its huge and diverse portfolio of properties is a crucial part of our industry. This relationship encourages international film production to Ireland and, of course, paves the way and opens up possibilities for our own local, indigenous film makers.”

Peter Conway, location scout / manager

Credits include: *The Last Duel* (2021), filmed at Cahir Castle and Bective Abbey; *Albert Nobbs* (2012), filmed at Dublin Castle and Iveagh Gardens, and *The Old Curiosity Shop* (2007).





OPW

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nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Cover Image:
Cahir Castle, Co. Tipperary
Photo: ©Fáilte Ireland,
Courtesy Liam Murphy

