



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Social Guide

A trip to Aughnanure Castle

Introduction

We are going on a trip to Aughnanure Castle.

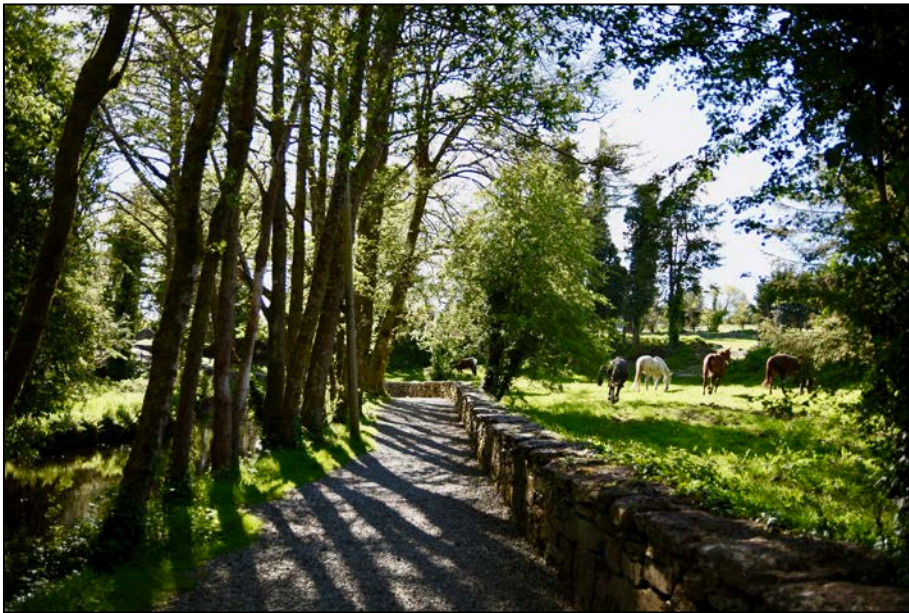
It is a medieval castle located on the banks of the Drimneen River and close to the village of Oughterard in west Co. Galway.

In this story we'll learn about how to enter the castle, find our way around the grounds and find out what we will expect to see on our visit.

The Castle Carpark



Before reaching the castle itself, you will have to park in the carpark and follow the path get to the main reception area.



The river walk brings you along the beautiful banks of the Drimneen River to the castle gatehouse where you might also see cattle, horses, dogs and cats from the working farm next door.

The Castle Gatehouse



The main reception area is just over the bridge and through the castle gatehouse.



This is the main reception area. Here you can get your admission tickets, arrange a guided tour or buy a visitor's guide. Free self-guiding handouts are also available.

The Castle Grounds



There are paths around the grounds to help you find your way around.

Toilets



One toilet is provided on site. From reception, follow the path all the way to the end to bring you to the toilets that are located at the back wall.

Castle Walls



There are both high and low walls surrounding the castle. It is not permitted to climb these walls or any other part of the monument as it is not safe to do so.

The Banqueting Hall



This is the remains of the banqueting hall. Follow the path through the doorway to get inside. The ground is uneven so you must be careful walking here.

The Banquetting Hall Carvings



Here you will see these carvings above the windows.

The Watchtower



After the banquetting hall, our next stop is the watchtower. Follow the path to the watchtower, where you can go inside.

The Castle



We are now going to follow the path from the watchtower and go inside the castle, which has four floors.

The Castle Entrance



This is the main door of the castle. This leads to a small hallway called the entrance lobby. The main room of the ground floor is straight ahead.

The Ground Floor



This is the ground floor of the castle. There are information panels on the walls here that tell you the history of the castle.

The Spiral Staircase



This is the spiral staircase. Make sure to hold onto the handrail as you ascend the stairs.

The Garderobe



The spiral stairs will lead to the first level of the castle that contains two rooms. The first is the garderobe or medieval toilet, which can be seen at the end of the room. There is also a doorway to the right, which leads to the second room. This is called the guard room.

The Guard Room



This is the guard room.

The Second Floor Private Apartments



This is main room on the second floor. There are lots of information panels on the walls that explain the history of the castle.

The Second Floor Ante-Chamber



A doorway leads to another room on this floor. This is called the ante-chamber.

The Third Floor Hall



This is the main hall on the third floor of the castle. There are more information panels here to read if you wish.

The Secret Chamber



There is a doorway that leads to an opening in the ground called the secret chamber.

The Gallery



The spiral staircase brings you to another level above the third floor hall. This is called the gallery, from where you can have a view of the hall from above. This is the highest level of the castle that you can access.

Leaving the Castle



You must descend the spiral staircase to the ground floor and pass reception again to leave Aughnacore Castle. Exit through the gatehouse door. The path will lead you back to the carpark.