



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Social Guide

A visit to Kilmainham Gaol

An introduction for families and first-time visitors

We are going to take a tour of Kilmainham Gaol. Gaol is just another word for a prison. The Gaol was built more than 200 years ago. There are no prisoners in Kilmainham Gaol now, but a long time ago thousands of men, women and children were held here. Some of the prisoners were very important people and we will hear about them during our visit.

In this story, we will learn what to do when we arrive at Kilmainham Gaol. We will meet some of the people who work here, and find out what we can see and do during our visit. We will visit 3 buildings, the Courthouse Visitor Centre, the Gaol and the Museum.

Kilmainham Gaol is on Inchicore Road in Dublin 8. We can take a bus or tram to the Gaol. There is also a car park located nearby. Kilmainham Gaol is very busy so we should book our tickets in advance.



The Courthouse Visitor Centre

We start our visit in the Courthouse Visitor Centre, which is located next to the Gaol. This is the main entrance to the visitor centre.



It can be busy and noisy. One of the guide staff will meet us at the main entrance. They are very friendly and can help us. The guides will check our tickets and give us directions and information about our visit.



If we don't have our tickets printed the guide will show us to reception. We can collect our tickets at the reception desk. The time of our tour is on the ticket. There is a lot to do and see in the visitor centre while we wait for the tour to start.

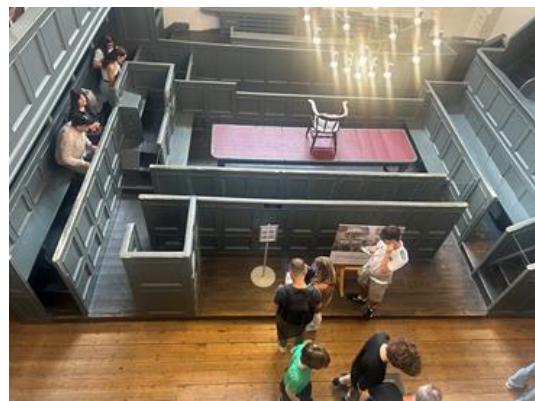
There are signs on the walls to help us find the toilets, café and gift shop.



If we need help we can also ask one of the guides. A lot of people work at Kilmainham Gaol. All the guides have a name badge and carry a walkie talkie. You might see and hear them using the walkie talkie to speak to each other.



The Courtroom is on the ground floor of the visitor centre, and this is where our tour will start. It is also a good place to sit and relax.

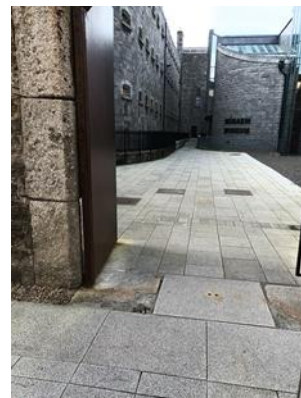
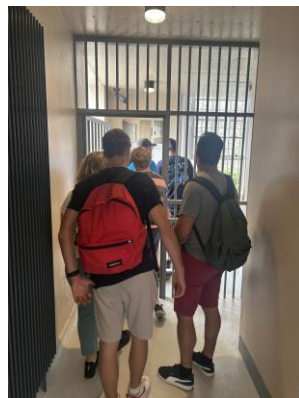


When our tour is ready to start, the guide will use the microphone to let us know.



It's loud so everyone in the Visitor Centre can hear the call. Tours start every 15 minutes, so one of the guides will check our tickets again to make sure we are on the right tour.

When we leave the Courtroom we need to be careful on the steps. We follow our group and walk pass the holding cells to meet the tour guide in the courtyard.

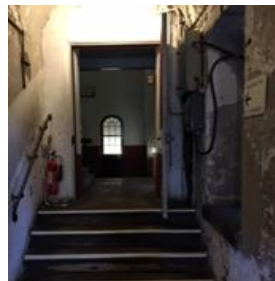


The Guided Tour of Kilmainham Gaol

Our tour guide will show us around the prison. The guided tour takes 1 hour. There will be 35 people on the tour. We can take photographs but we are not

allowed to eat on the tour and we can only drink water. The building is very old so we must be careful not to damage the walls.

These are the stairs we use to get to the first stop on the tour.



The steps are worn and can be slippery so we need to be careful. Walk slowly and hold the handrail. It's important to follow the guide and to stay together so we don't get lost.

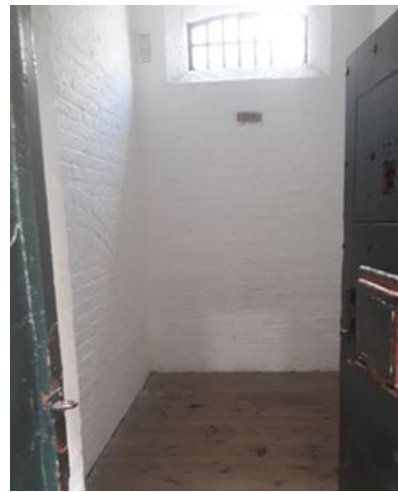
The prison chapel is the first stop on the tour. We sit down here for a few minutes while the guide tells us about the Gaol. It's a little bit dark in the chapel. The guide uses a projector and screen to show pictures of the Gaol and photographs of some of the prisoners who were held here.



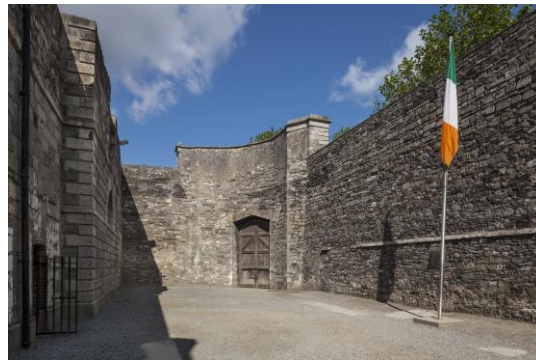
After the chapel, the guide will show us the corridors and cells in the prison. Some of corridors are very narrow. There is no heat in the prison so it can be cold in the winter.



As we walk around, the guide will tell us stories about the prison and the prisoners. We will speak quietly to each other on the tour so everyone can hear the guide.



Halfway through the tour we will reach the East Wing of the Gaol. The guide will give us a few minutes here to walk around and take photographs. We can go inside the cells in this part of the prison.



The final part of the tour is outside. The tour guide will show us some of the prison yards. The ground is uneven in the yards so we need to be careful. We also should take a rain jacket or umbrella with us on a wet day.

This is the front entrance to the Gaol and where our guided tour ends.



The guide will say goodbye to us here and will show us into the museum. Be careful walking down the steps to the museum.

The Museum

The museum is self-guided. We can stay in the museum for a long time or a short time. There are lots of objects and exhibits to see.



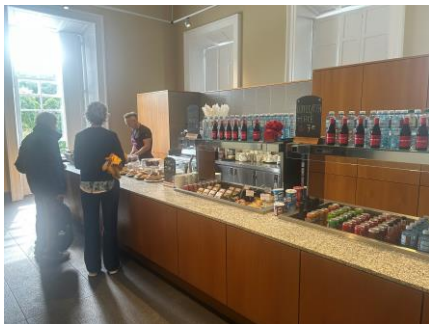
Some of the guides will be working in the museum. They are all friendly and happy to help us and answer our questions. The Picture Gallery is on the ground floor of the museum. This is a quiet place to sit or to rest for a few minutes.



When we are ready to leave the museum, we use this glass door on the ground floor. A guide will be there to direct us back to the Courthouse Visitor Centre.



In the visitor centre we can use the toilets or visit the café or gift shop.



We exit through the front door of the Courthouse Visitor Centre when we are ready to leave.



We hope you enjoy your visit to Kilmainham Gaol.

More information about accessing Kilmainham Gaol can be found on our website. You can also email or phone us if you have a question or need help with your visit.

<https://www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/>

<https://www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/plan-a-visit/>

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