



Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS

Portumna Castle

Heritage Sites of Ireland Trade Catalogue 2026

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands



OPW Oidhreacht Éireann
Heritage Ireland



Group Trade Information

1. Groups and trade ... explore more

Bring your group to visit an historic place for a great day out.

- If you are a public group or in the travel trade and have customers for group travel, FIT or MICE our staff are delighted to present memorable experiences at over 70 historic attractions.
- Our guides excel in customer service and storytelling that enthralls and engrosses the visitor, while offering a unique insight into the extraordinary legacy of Ireland's iconic heritage.
- Join our mailing list for more information on www.heritageireland.ie
- Contact each site directly for booking – details in Groups/Trade Catalogue

2 Group Visit Benefits

- Group Rate – up to 20% off* normal adult admission rate (min. 10 at most sites)
- One free tour leader per group booking
- Free once-off familiarisation visit
- Coach parking at many of our sites
- Some of our sites have their own guided wireless transmission system/audio guide provided free of charge.
- Fast track admission for pre-booked groups
- Exclusive guided tours (some sites have specific language guided tours)
- Specific language audio-visual films in some sites for pre-booked tours
- Access to OPW Tour Operator Voucher Scheme (TOVS). Payment by monthly invoice. Email us at toursopsaccounts@opw.ie

2026-2027 rates will be made available on heritageireland.ie
Children under 12 visit free but must be accompanied by an adult.

*2026 rates and opening dates are listed as of March 2026, please confirm directly with sites for exact rates and opening dates.

3 Plan Your Itinerary

- For inspiration about passage tombs, historic castles, Christian sites and historic houses and gardens throughout Ireland.
- From brunch to banquets – facilities at sites, varied events, exhibitions and so much more.
 - Wild Atlantic Way
 - Ireland's Ancient East
 - Dublin
 - Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

View itinerary options here: <https://heritageireland.ie/itineraries/>

4 Tour Operators Voucher Scheme – contact us

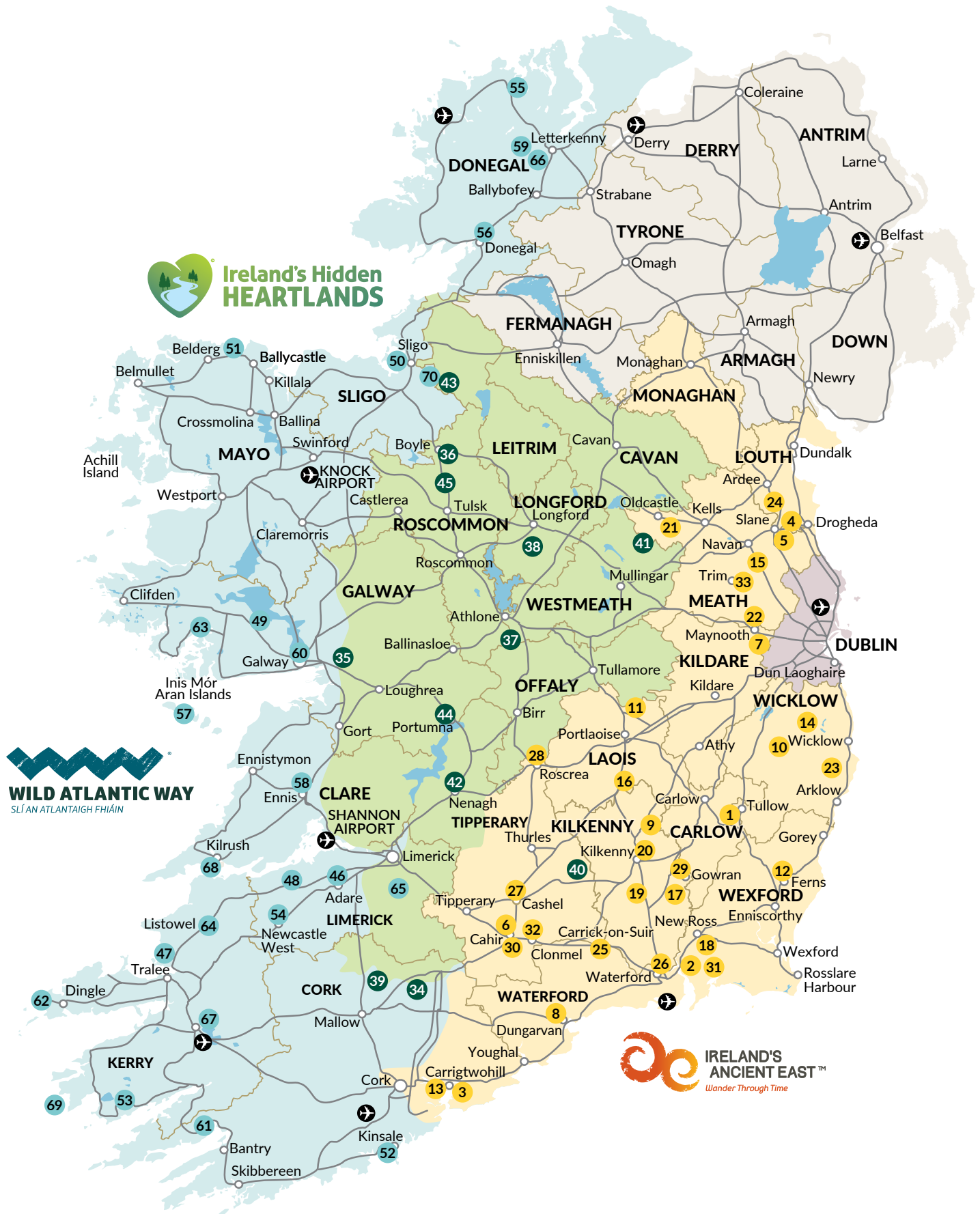
- Visitor Services, Office of Public Works, 20 Lakeside Retail Park, Ballindine Road, Clarendon, Co Mayo, F12 DK30, Ireland.
T: +353 (0)1 647 6000
E: toursopsaccounts@opw.ie
- Join our mailing list for more information on www.heritageireland.ie



OPW Oidhreacht Éireann
Heritage Ireland

Heritage Services

Ireland's Iconic Heritage Sites



Dublin

- A** Áras an Uachtaráin
- B** Arbour Hill Cemetery
- C** Casino Marino
- D** Custom House Visitor Centre
- E** Dublin Castle
- F** Farmleigh House and Gardens
- G** Garden of Remembrance
- H** Government Buildings
- I** Grangegorman Military Cemetery
- J** Irish National War Memorial Gardens
- K** Iveagh Gardens
- L** Kilmainham Gaol Museum
- M** National Botanic Garden of Ireland – Glasnevin
- N** Pearse Museum – St Enda's Park
- O** Phoenix Park
- P** Phoenix Park – People's Flower Gardens
- Q** Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Ashtown Castle
- R** Rathfarnham Castle
- S** Royal Hospital Kilmainham
- T** St Audeon's Church and Visitor Centre
- U** St Mary's Abbey – Chapter House
- V** St Stephen's Green



Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

- 34** Anne's Grove
- 35** Athenry Castle
- 36** Boyle Abbey
- 37** Clonmacnoise Monastic Site
- 38** Corlea Iron Age Roadway and Visitor Centre
- 39** Doneraile Court and Estate
- 40** Famine Warehouse 1848
- 41** Fore Abbey
- 42** Nenagh Castle
- 43** Parke's Castle
- 44** Portumna Castle and Gardens
- 45** Rathcrogan Visitor Centre

Ireland's Ancient East

- 1** Altamont Gardens
- 2** Ballyhack Castle
- 3** Barryscourt Castle
- 4** Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre – Oldbridge Estate
- 5** Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre: Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth
- 6** Cahir Castle
- 7** Castletown House and Parklands
- 8** Dungarvan Castle
- 9** Dunmore Cave
- 10** Dwyer McAllister Cottage
- 11** Emo Court and Estate
- 12** Ferns Castle
- 13** Fota Arboretum and Gardens
- 14** Glendalough Monastic Site and Visitor Centre
- 15** Hill of Tara
- 16** Heywood Gardens
- 17** Jerpoint Abbey
- 18** The John F Kennedy Arboretum
- 19** Kells Priory
- 20** Kilkenny Castle
- 21** Loughcrew Megalithic Cemetery
- 22** Maynooth Castle
- 23** National Botanic Garden of Ireland – Kilmacurragh
- 24** Old Mellifont Abbey Monastic Site
- 25** Ormond Castle
- 26** Reginald's Tower and Greyfriars/French Church
- 27** Rock of Cashel
- 28** Roscrea Castle, Gardens and Damer House/Black Mills
- 29** St Mary's Church, Gowran
- 30** The Swiss Cottage
- 31** Tintern Abbey
- 32** The Main Guard
- 33** Trim Castle

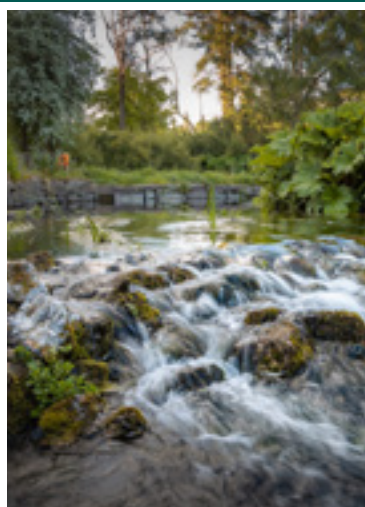
Wild Atlantic Way

- 46** Adare Castle
- 47** Ardfert Cathedral
- 48** Askeaton Castle
- 49** Aughnacore Castle
- 50** Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery
- 51** Céide Fields Neolithic Site and Visitor Centre
- 52** Charles Fort Military Fortress
- 53** Daniel O'Connell House – Derrynane House
- 54** Desmond Castle, Newcastle West
- 55** Doe Castle
- 56** Donegal Castle
- 57** Dún Aonghasa – Ancient Stone Fort
- 58** Ennis Friary
- 59** Glebe Gallery and Garden – Derek Hill House
- 60** Hall of the Red Earl
- 61** Inacullin (Garinish Island)
- 62** Ionad an Blascaoid – The Blasket Centre
- 63** Músaem na bPíarsach agus Páirc Naomh Éanna – Pearse's Cottage and Visitor Centre
- 64** Listowel Castle
- 65** Lough Gur Visitor Centre and Lakeshore Park
- 66** Newmills Corn and Flaxmills
- 67** Ross Castle
- 68** Scatterry Island and Visitor Centre
- 69** Sceilg Mhichil UNESCO World Heritage Property
- 70** Sligo Abbey



Annes Grove Gardens

Co Cork



Opening Hours

April to September

Thursday – Monday: 10.00 – 15.00

Location

Castletownroche, Co Cork,
P51 HR74

A horticultural paradise in North County Cork.

Anne's Grove is an historic estate located near Castletownroche, Co. Cork. It was the home of the Annesley family from the 1600s until 2015 when it was gifted to the Irish state and entered the care of the Office of Public Works.

Richard Arthur Grove Annesley inherited Anne's Grove in 1892 and developed the landscape in the Robinsonian style in the early 1900s. He supported the plant-hunting expeditions led by Frank Kingdom-Ward to Tibet, Yunnan Province, Burma and Bhutan and assembled an exotic collection of plants. Some of the spectacular flowering shrubs dating from this period include *Cornus kousa*, *Embothrium*, *Eucryphia* and *Hoheria*.

Period buildings and features on the site include the Bleaching Yard, Coach House, North Stables Carriage Display, Dairy Yard and Walled Garden, which are all fully wheelchair accessible.

Highlights

- Horticultural gem set on the picturesque banks of the River Awbeg.
- Stunning collection of specimen plants from all over the world.
- Experience an oasis of nature and beauty on the picturesque banks of the River Awbeg, said to be the inspiration for Edmund Spenser's 'Faerie Queene'.



Annes Grove Gardens

Co Cork

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Guided Tour (Outdoors)	A garden guided tour takes in the history of the house and gardens, the Grove Annesley family and the story of the plant hunting expeditions of the early 20th century. Followed by unlimited time to explore the gardens at your own leisure.	Moderate. Garden walks feature a mix of gravel and grass paths with slopes, steps and exposed water.	Min. 2 Max. 25	60 minutes	€4.00 Group Entry includes guided tour Individuals €5.00 Adult €4.00 Senior (over 60) €3.00 Student U12s Free
Self-guided Garden Tour (Outdoors)	Explore Annes Grove Gardens at your own leisure	Moderate. As above	Min. N/A Max. N/A	60 minutes	Rates as above

On-site Facilities

- Car parking - accessible parking is available at the front of the house.
- Coach parking.
- Toilets.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)87 938 4907 or +353 (0)46 942 2460

E: annesgrove.gardens@opw.ie

Languages

Leaflet in English.

Parklands/Walks

Woodland and riverside walks, formal gardens and lawns.

Nearby

Doneraile Estate, Barryscourt Castle, Cahir Castle.

Biodiversity

The OPW *Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026*, involves implementing biodiversity-friendly management measures at heritage sites, including pollinator-friendly grass management; maintaining diverse wild plant communities; sustainable trees management practices; bat friendly low lighting levels; mechanical weed control allowing minimal use of pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers; planting of native varieties, etc., at key locations.

Sustainability

In line with the OPW's Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, avoid the generation of waste through life cycle thinking and reuse and recycling, commit to 'green' procurement of goods and services, promote use of public transport, walking and cycling routes to access heritage sites.



Athenry Castle

Co Galway



Opening Hours

March to October

Daily: 09.30 – 18.00

Last admission 17.15

October to November

Daily: 09.30 – 17.00

Last admission 16.15

Location

King John Castle, Court Lane,
Athenry, Co Galway, H65 WP93

Off the M6 motorway and 25km
east of Galway City

Historic castle in one of Ireland's most notable medieval walled towns.

Athenry Castle is the centrepiece of one of the best-reserved medieval towns in Ireland. The story of Athenry began in the 13th century when Meiler de Bermingham, Lord of Athenry, built his castle to form part of the defences of one of the most notable walled towns in Ireland.

Athenry lies along the Esker Riada, a ridge of gravel and sediment that runs from east of the country to the west, formed after the last great Ice Age. In 1235, de Bermingham founded the town of Athenry and began the construction of the castle. By the 15th century, the family left the castle to live in new quarters in the town. The castle was then occupied by a military garrison who made substantial changes to the building.

Today, the visitor can visit the hall-keep, which is a large rectangular building within the castle bawn walls. Beginning in the basement, the visitor can then go up the stairs to the Great Hall. The tour continues to the attic then finally down one flight to the audio-visual room for a 20-minute film on the history of Athenry Castle.

Highlights

- Various medieval defensive features and curiosities including the 13th century battlements, arrow loops, inter-mural stairway, garderobe and embrasures throughout the complex.
- The dramatic base batter, which is an important part of the castle from both structural and defensive standpoints.
- The carvings at the castle entrance, east and south facing windows, unique in Irish castles, bear testament to the importance and status of the castle.
- The evidence of the hoarding beneath the battlements demonstrate the importance of maintaining clear visibility of the surrounding countryside.
- The 20 minute video in the audio-visual room tells of the history of Athenry Castle (English language only).



Athenry Castle

Co Galway

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Guided Tours of Castle (Indoors)	The tour will be on the ground and at all levels of the castle. Wheelchair access is to the basement only.	Moderate. There is seating at all levels except the attic.	Min. 2 Max. 40	45-60 minutes Visitors can spend as much time as they like after their tour.	€5.00 Adult €4.00 Senior/Group €3.00 Student €13.00 Family
Self-Guided visit of the grounds and Hall-Keep	Investigate the grounds and building at your leisure. Watch the 20-minute video in your own time.	Moderate. Visitors with mobility issues can access the grounds and basement only. There are stairs to access all other areas.	Min. N/A Max. N/A	45-60 minutes	€5.00 Adult €4.00 Senior/Group €3.00 Student €13.00 Family

On-site Facilities

- Free parking immediately outside the castle gate to facilitate 5 cars. Paid parking close by within the town.
- Toilets on site.
- Bilingual information panels on each floor.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)91 844 797 **E:** athenrycastle@opw.ie

Languages

Leaflets available in Irish, English and German, cost €0.50.
Audio-visual in English.

Parklands/Walks

Park and childrens' playground immediately outside the castle grounds.

Tea Rooms

None on site. Restaurants and cafés in the surrounding town of Athenry just a few minute's walk from the castle.

Nearby

Aughnanure Castle, Portumna Castle and Clonmacnoise Monastic Settlement.

Dominican Priory of Saints Peter and Paul founded c.1241.

Biodiversity

Surrounding the castle is the River Clarin with green parkland and childrens' playground.

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Sustainability

Served by public transport.

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Boyle Abbey Co Roscommon



Opening Hours

March to September

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Last admission 17.15

Location

Boyle, Co Roscommon, F52 XE16

Located in Boyle town, off the N4
(Dublin to Sligo road)

A historic site with history from monastic to military.

This Cistercian monastery was founded in the twelfth century by monks from Mellifont Abbey under the patronage of the local ruling family, the MacDermotts. It was one of the most powerful of the early Cistercian foundations in Ireland and among the foremost in Connacht.

Cromwellian forces wreaked devastation when they occupied the abbey in 1659. It was further mutilated during the following centuries, when it was used to accommodate a military garrison. Despite all the violence it has suffered over the centuries, Boyle Abbey is well preserved and retains its ability to impress.

A 16th/17th century gatehouse has been restored and houses a small exhibition, where you can learn more about the Abbey's gripping history.

Highlights

- Admire the unique transitional architecture of the School of the West.
- See if you can spot the enigmatic Sheela-na-gig.
- Find out about the painstaking dismantling and rebuilding of the north wall.
- Admire and try to decipher the many unique stone carvings of figures and animals.



Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Guided Walking Tour (Outdoors)	The guide will bring the turbulent history of this atmospheric ruins to life, as it changed from a monastic site to a military garrison. Learn the reason for the contrasting architectural styles of the columns in the nave. Let the guide point out the sometimes hard to spot carvings, and ponder their meaning. Guided tour is outdoor but partially sheltered.	Mild. Some steps and uneven ground. Stones may be slippery when wet.	Min. N/A Max. 50	30 minutes	€4.00 Group
Indoor Exhibitions	A small exhibition upstairs in the gatehouse includes a model of the complete Abbey in it's heyday.	Mild. Accessed by a stone stairway.	Min. N/A Max. N/A	15 minutes	(Included in admission) €4.00 Group

On-site Facilities

- Car parking – On roadside outside site.
- Coach parking – On roadside outside site.
- Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets.
- Almost all outdoor site accessible on gravel paths and paved surfaces. Exhibition room is upstairs.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)71 966 2604 **E:** boyleabbey@opw.ie

Languages

Leaflets available in French, German, Italian, Spanish.

Tea Rooms

None.

Nearby

King House, Boyle; Lough Key Experience Attraction; Arigna Mining Experience.

Biodiversity

The OPW *Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026*, involves implementing biodiversity-friendly management measures at heritage sites, including pollinator-friendly grass management; maintaining diverse wild plant communities; sustainable trees management practices; bat friendly low lighting levels; mechanical weed control allowing minimal use of pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers; planting of native varieties, etc., at key locations.

Sustainability

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The Boyle to Lough Key is a 7.9km cycleway linking Boyle abbey with Lough Key Forest and Activity Park.



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**Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS**

Clonmacnoise Monastic Site

Co Offaly



Opening Hours

November to January

Daily: 10.00 – 17.00

Last admission 1 hr before closing

Closed 24th, 25th & 26th December

February to March

Daily: 10.00 – 17.30

Last admission 1 hour before closing

March to May

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Last admission 1 hour before closing

June, July & August

Daily: 09.00 – 18.30

Last admission 1 hour before closing

September – mid-November

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Last admission 1 hour before closing

**Please Note: Car/bus park closed
outside of business hours**

**Refurbishment works will be
undertaken in 2026 which will
necessitate the closure of the
Visitor Centre from March
onwards. External guided tours
will be available. Please check
heritageireland.ie for up-to-date
information**

Location

Clonmacnoise, Shannonbridge,
Athlone, Co Offaly, N37 V292

Located 6km from Shannonbridge
village and accessed on the R444.

22km from Athlone on the N62
and R444 through Ballinahown.

www.heritageireland.ie

A spectacular monastery on the banks of the River Shannon.

St Ciarán founded this monastery on the banks of the River Shannon in the 6th century. The monastery flourished and became a great seat of learning, a university of its time with students from all over Europe.

The ruins include a cathedral, two round towers, three high crosses, nine churches and over 700 early Christian graveslabs.

The original high crosses, including the magnificent 10th century 'Cross of the Scriptures' are on display in a purpose built visitor centre adjacent to the monastic enclosure.

Highlights

- Original high crosses and the largest collection of pre-Norman graveslabs are on display in the purpose built Visitor Centre.
- Whisper your secrets at the 'Whispering Arch'.
- Audio-visual highlighting the long and varied history of Clonmacnoise.
- Peaceful views overlooking the majestic River Shannon.



Clonmacnoise Monastic Site

Co Offaly

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Clonmacnoise Visitor Centre and Site (Outdoors and Indoors)	<p>Guided tours of the Monastic site and Visitor Centre with trained tour guides. All groups must be pre-booked and arrive at confirmed times only.</p> <p>Option 1: Access to the monastic site and exhibition area, guided tour with a local guide and viewing of the audio-visual.</p> <p>Option 2: Access to the monastic site and exhibition area, guided tour with a local guide, NO audio-visual. The guided tour includes access to the original high crosses which are preserved in a specially controlled environment.</p>	<p>Mild.</p> <p>On flat surface indoors and wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Outdoors there are uneven surfaces.</p>	Min. 15 Max. 55	60 minutes	€6.00 Group
Self-guided Tour	Access to the monastic site and exhibition area is also available.	As above	Min. N/A Max. 15	60 minutes	€6.00 Group
Audio Visual	Suitable for children from 10 years of age.	As above	Min. N/A Max. 54	22 minutes	€6.00 Group

On-site Facilities

- Car park located 50m from entrance to Visitor Centre entrance over flat ground.
- Free car parking available during business hours (40 spaces and 2 wheelchair accessible spaces).
- Coach parking located 50m from Visitor Centre entrance over flat ground.
- Free coach parking available for pre-booked groups/customers only. Photo stops not permitted. (7 coach park bays available).
- Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, and baby changing facilities.
- Picnic tables.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)90 967 4195 **E:** clonmacnoise@opw.ie

Languages

Leaflet available in Irish, English, French, Italian, German, Spanish – €0.50 each. Official guide book available in English – €5.00. Audio-visual in English, German, French, and Italian.

Tea Rooms

No catering facilities on site.

Nearby

Lough Boora Parklands, 25min drive
 Birr Castle, 30min drive
 Corlea Trackway, 45min drive
 Athlone Castle, 30min drive

Biodiversity

Clonmacnoise is located on the banks of the River Shannon, lands surrounding the monuments are SACs (Special Area of Conservation). *The OPW Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026* involves implementing biodiversity-friendly management measures at heritage sites, including pollinator-friendly grass management; maintaining diverse wild plant communities; sustainable trees management practices; bat friendly low lighting levels; mechanical weed control allowing minimal use of pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers; planting of native varieties, etc. at key locations.

Sustainability

Bicycle parking available. In line with the OPW's Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, avoid the generation of waste through lifecycle thinking and reusing and recycling, commit to 'green procurement' of goods and services, promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling routes to access heritage sites.



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**Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS**

Corlea Iron Age Roadway and Visitor Centre

Co Longford



Opening Hours

April to September

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Location

2 Cartron Road, Cloonbreany,
Keenagh, Co Longford, N39 XT18

Located 3km from Kenagh village
and accessed on the Longford-
Kenagh road, R357

15km from Longford or from the
Mullingar-Lanesboro road R392

The centre interprets an Iron Age bog road,
the largest of this kind to be uncovered in Europe
dating from 148BC.

Hidden away in the boglands of Longford, not far from Kenagh village, is an inspiring relic of prehistory, a togher, an Iron Age road, built in 148 BC. Known locally as the Danes' Road, it is the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe.

Historians agree that it was part of a routeway of great importance. It may have been a section of a ceremonial highway connecting the Hill of Uisneach, the ritual centre of Ireland, and the royal site of Rathcroghan.

The trackway was built from heavy planks of oak, which sank into the peat after a short time. This made it unusable, of course, but also ensured it remained perfectly preserved in the bog for the next two millennia.

Highlights

- 18m stretch of ancient wooden structure permanently on display.
- Exterior walkway on the surrounding raised bog (located directly over the existing buried roadway).
- Free admission.



Corlea Iron Age Roadway and Visitor Centre

Co Longford

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre Guided Tour	Pre-booked guided tours of the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre with trained tour guides. The guided tour includes access to the original trackway which is preserved in a specially controlled environment.	Mild. Indoors on flat surface and wheelchair accessible.	Min. 10 Max. 60 (Groups of 10 or more need to pre-book)	45 minutes	Free admission
Self-guided Tour & Audio-visual	Self-guided visit to the exhibition area is also available. Audio-visual available (English) detailing the discovery and excavation of the trackway.	Mild. Indoors and wheelchair accessible.	Min. N/A Max. 60	17 minutes	Free admission

On-site Facilities

- Car park is located 50m from entrance to Visitor Centre entrance. Free car parking available during business hours (20 spaces).
- Coach park is located 50m from Visitor Centre entrance, over flat ground). Free coach parking available for customers (2 coach park bays).
- Toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets, baby changing facilities.
- Picnic tables.
- No catering facilities available on site.

Booking details

T: +353 (0)43 332 2386 **E:** corlea@opw.ie

Languages

Audio-visual available in English only. Leaflet available in English only, €0.50.

Parklands/Walks

Walks throughout the site on raised bog.

Tea Rooms

No catering facilities available on site.

Nearby

Adjacent to the 5km looped canal and bogland walkway/cycleway/Greenway

Ballymahon village, 5 min drive

Centreparks, 10 min drive

Adjacent to the Royal Canal Cycleway

Biodiversity

The bogland surrounding the visitor centre is a living, breathing raised bog which contains an abundance of flora and fauna. The *OPW Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026* involves implementing biodiversity-friendly management measures at heritage sites, including pollinator-friendly grass management; maintaining diverse wild plant communities; sustainable trees management practices; bat friendly low lighting levels; mechanical weed control allowing minimal use of pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers; planting of native varieties, etc. at key locations.

Sustainability

Bicycle parking available, located on the Royal Canal Cycleway. In line with the OPW's Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, avoid the generation of waste through lifecycle thinking and reusing and recycling, commit to 'green procurement' of goods and services, promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling routes to access heritage sites.



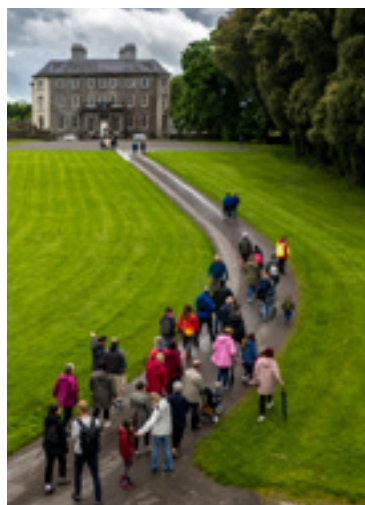
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**Ireland's Hidden
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Doneraile Court and Estate

Co Cork



Parklands Opening Hours

Spring/Summer/ Autumn

Thursday – Monday 8.00 – 20.00

Bank Holidays 8.00 – 20.00

Winter

Monday – Friday 8.00 – 17.00

Saturday – Sunday 8.00 – 17.00

Bank Holidays 8.00 – 17.00

Court Tours

March to November 10.00 – 17.30

Average length of visit: 1-2 hours

Location

Doneraile, Co Cork, P51 A899

North Cork's 'real-life Downton Abbey'.

Doneraile Court is the centerpiece of one of Ireland's most beautiful estates. Located in County Cork, Doneraile Court was the home of the St Leger family from 1637 until 1969 when it came into State care and is now managed by the OPW. The house is set in a magnificent 18th century Capability Brown-style landscape, which frames it from different vistas within the park.

The landscape has many specimen trees dating from this period, including many Oak, Beech, Spanish Chestnut and Lime. Some Larch trees on the estate are believed to be the first specimens planted in the 1730s. There are also many water features on the estate. The River Awbeg flows through the middle of the park and is considered to be one of the keystones of Capability Brown's design.

Highlights

- A walk through a historic landscape.
- Beautiful vistas of the house and a chance to view the Red, Sika and Fallow deer in their natural environs throughout the parkland.



Doneraile Court and Estate

Co Cork

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Tour of the Court	Join our expert guides for an informative and entertaining tour of Doneraile Court, detailing the family history of the St Legers and restoration of the house.	Moderate. Stairs. Lift from basement to First Floor.	Min. 2 Max. 25	60mins	€6.00 Group €8.00 Adult €6.00 Senior (over 60) €4.00 Student U12s Free
Self-guiding Walks	The Court is set in a magnificent 18th century landscape influenced by the designs of William Kent and Capability Brown which frames it from different vistas within the park. Enjoy the majestic specimen tress and deer herd.	Moderate. Mix of tarmac and gravel paths, open water features are present.	Min. N/A Max. N/A	N/A	Free

On-site Facilities

- Coach and car parking available 500m walk from Court.
- Toilets.
- Wheelchair parking and changing places toilet available at the rear of the Court.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)46 942 3174 or +353 (0)46 942 3175

E: donerailecourt@opw.ie

Languages

English.

Parklands/Walks

Explore the grounds and gardens with a Garden Trail and Children's Tree Trail Map doneraileestate.ie

Tea Rooms

Open daily during the Summer. Open weekends only in Winter.

Contact: Sarah at **T:** +353 (0)87 359 506.

Nearby

Barryscourt Castle, Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottage, The Main Guard, Annes Grove Gardens, Castletownroche, Cork City, Limerick City, Bunratty Castle.

Biodiversity

The OPW *Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026*, involves implementing biodiversity-friendly management measures at heritage sites, including pollinator-friendly grass management; maintaining diverse wild plant communities; sustainable trees management practices; bat friendly low lighting levels; mechanical weed control allowing minimal use of pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers; planting of native varieties, etc., at key locations.

Sustainability

In line with the OPW's Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, avoid the generation of waste through life cycle thinking and reuse and recycling, commit to 'green' procurement of goods and services, promote use of public transport, walking and cycling routes to access heritage sites.

Dublin bike station available outside the front entrance, served by public transport. Located on the Suir Blue Way with canoeing, cycling and walking routes.



OPW Oidhreacht Éireann
Heritage Ireland



**Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS**

Parke's Castle

Co Leitrim



Opening Hours

March to November

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Last admission 17.15

Location

Kilmore, Fivemilebourne,
Co Leitrim, F91 FP71

A tranquil setting with a turbulent past.

A beautifully restored 17th century Plantation Manor House, Parke's Castle sets on the shores of Lough Gill, the lake of Brightness. In the courtyard, the foundations of an earlier Gaelic tower house can be seen.

Take a guided tour and learn about the families, Gaelic and Planter, who lived here, the O'Rourkes and the Parkes. Discover what life was like in the 16th and 17th centuries, through the transition from the Kingdom of Breifne to the County of Leitrim. Stand on the battlements and admire the spectacular views of the Lough Gill, a landscape that inspired WB Yeats to write *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*.

Watch a short film, *Stone by Stone*, to explore the history and heritage of the surrounding area. The interior of the castle, restored with Irish Oak, includes an exquisitely crafted, left-handed spiral staircase, an exhibition of traditional cottages, and examples of period dress and furnishings. Outside, visit the forge and the dovecote, or follow the path along the lakeshore that leads to the sweathouse, where locals once gathered to practice folk medicine. This tranquil setting boasts a long and varied history, beautiful views and excellent craftsmanship.

Highlights

- Restored manor house interior featuring Irish oak, including the left-handed, Irish oak spiral staircase.
- Examples of period furnishings and dress.
- Vernacular architecture exhibition and traditionally thatched forge.
- Rural lakeshore location with battlements overlooking the stunning Lough Gill.



Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Guided Tour (Indoors & Outdoors)	Guided tour of the courtyard, the gatehouse, manor house and defensive tower which includes the vernacular exhibition. Outside the tour visits the dovecote, forge, moat, garden area and concludes at the sweathouse.	Moderate. Steps, stairs, spiral staircase, cobbled areas, flagged path, high wall walks with railings, grassy area.	Min. N/A Max. 25	60 minutes	€4.00 Group
Short Guided Tour (Outdoors)	This tour is geared towards visitors with mobility issues. It is designed to provide visitors with a history of the castle from the courtyard. It is a short 20 minute talk on Parke's Castle history.	Mild. Level path in courtyard through cobbled area.	Min. N/A Max. 30	30-45 minutes	€4.00 Group

On-site Facilities

- Visitor's toilets, disabled toilet, baby changing.
- Car and coach park adjacent to site.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)71 916 4149 **E:** parkescastle@opw.ie

Languages

Self-guided leaflet available for use on site in 19 different languages. OPW leaflet for sale in English and Irish, €0.50 each. Audio-visual in English, French, German and Italian.

Parklands/Walks

Garden area at the castle including a short, paved path along the lakeshore. Nearby, the lovely Cartron Glen (Troll Wood) walk follows a stream up through Cartron Glen (moderate incline), through mature beech trees.

Tea Rooms

None.

Nearby

Creevelea Friary, 9km
Deerpark, 5km
O'Rourke's Table, 4km
Sligo Abbey, 11km
Isle of Innisfree, 3km

Biodiversity

Parke's Castle is situated on the shores of Lough Gill (SAC), an ideal location for bats. The castle, trees and shrubs on site provide a nesting place for many species of bird including migratory sand martins and swallows. Areas of grass are left to become meadow and a nearby wood is swathed in bluebells in the spring.

Sustainability

Great care is taken to manage the site in a way that protects the nesting migratory birds that call the castle home each summer, as well as being mindful of our proximity to Lough Gill – the source of Sligo Town's drinking water. Each room has movement activated sensors for lighting to reduce energy use.



Portumna Castle and Gardens

Co Galway



Opening Hours

March to mid-October

Daily: 10.00 – 18.00

Last admission 17.15

Mid-October to November

Daily: 10.00 – 17.00

Last admission 16.15

Location

Portumna, Co Galway, H53 YK27

Eastbound on N65 at Portumna turn right to Castle Avenue. Proceed to Portumna Castle entrance.

Westbound on N65 at Portumna turn left to Dominic Street, follow through to Abbey Street. Proceed to Portumna Castle entrance.

Seventeenth century splendour on the shores of Lough Derg.

Strategically on the shores of Lough Derg and on the banks of the River Shannon. Portumna Castle was built by Richard Burke, 4th Earl of Clanricarde and his wife Frances Walsingham by 1618. This unique example of a Jacobean semi-fortified house is of huge architectural importance, highlighting the transition from medieval tower house to Renaissance style manor house. The castle was the main seat of the Burke family until an accidental fire gutted it in 1826. The Burke family held their estates at Portumna for almost 300 years.

The Burke family are descended from the Norman family of de Burgo, who came over to Ireland in 1185 with Prince John. De Burgos established themselves in Connacht through grants and conquests. Their descendants would go on to divide Connacht, where the southern territory of Upper Mc William became the ancestral homes of the Clanricardes. During the policies of King Henry VIII, the title 'Earl of Clanricarde' was granted to the family. The seat of power at Loughrea was moved to Portumna when Richard, 4th Earl of Clanricarde built his castle there.

Since 1968, major conservation work has been carried out to the fabric of the building as well as the walls, gardens and gateways. The castle has been re-roofed and the massive chimney stacks have been reinstated. Restoration works by skilled OPW craftsmen is ongoing and parts of the castle are off limit.

Highlights

- Ladies Garden 17th century type roses in bloom (June/July).
- Defensive features of the castle and gardens.
- The surroundings of Portumna Forest Park and Waterways facilities.
- Tea Room serving refreshments, light lunches and snacks.
- Seasonal art exhibitions and workshops in the Gallery.



Portumna Castle and Gardens

Co Galway

Visitor Experiences

EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	FITNESS LEVEL	MIN/MAX NUMBERS	DURATION (APPROX.)	PRICE PER PERSON
Guided Tours of Castle	Full guided tour of the formal gardens, defensive and architectural features and ground floor of castle including the history of the Burke family.	Mild. Castle ground floor not wheelchair accessible. Information book for ground floor available for users. Flat gravel pathways on grounds are wheelchair accessible.	Min. 2 Max. 40* *Bigger groups can be divided	45 minutes	€4.00 Group *Price per Person includes entry both to Castle and all Gardens
Self-guiding visit of Castle	Information at reception areas. Interpretive panels and audio-visual on the ground floor of castle.	Mild. Castle ground floor not wheelchair accessible, Information book for ground floor available for users. Flat gravel pathways on grounds are wheelchair accessible.	Min. N/A Max. N/A	At your leisure	€4.00 Group
Garden Tour	Full guided tour of the 17th century working walled kitchen garden. (Pre-booking essential, subject to availability of Craft Gardener)	Mild. Flat gravel pathways are wheelchair accessible.	Min. 2 Max. 30	30 minutes	€4.00 Group
Self-guided visit of Garden	Reception will facilitate any queries	Flat gravel pathways are wheelchair accessible.	Min. N/A Max. N/A	At your leisure	€4.00 Group

On-site Facilities

- Car parking – free private car parking for approximately 20 cars, 2 coaches and disabled parking area. The main car park is 250m from reception.
- Free coach parking for 2/3 coaches, approx. 200m from reception.
- On-site Tea Room in coach house block.
- Gift shop.
- Art and Exhibition Gallery.
- Toilets, wheelchair accessible, baby changing facilities.

Booking Details

T: +353 (0)46 942 2900 **E:** portumnacastle@opw.ie

Languages

Visitors guides are sold in Irish, English, German and French €0.50 each. All information panels are bilingual. Onsite general history of Portumna Castle translation in Irish, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Polish.

Parklands/Walks

Portumna Castle is surrounded by Portumna Forest Park with its varied cycling and walking trails.

Tea Rooms

Run by CaToCa Catering. Open daily.

T: +353 (0)90 974 1667 or +353 (0)86 617 3534

Nearby

Portumna Forest Park, Lough Derg and River Shannon, River Shannon's Connacht Harbour Marina and Castle Marina, Camper Van Parking, Irish Workhouse Centre.

Biodiversity

The restored 17th century walled kitchen garden is an experience for the senses with seasonal changes of flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs, creating an ideal biodiverse haven for butterflies, bees and resident red squirrels.

Sustainability

In line with the OPW's Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reduce energy consumption and Green house Gas Emissions, avoid the generation of waste through life cycle thinking and reuse and recycling, commit to 'green' procurement of goods and services, promote use of public transport, walking and cycling routes to access heritage sites.

Portumna Castle is on Local link routes 322 & 547; on the Lough Derg Blueway; and served by Dick's Bike Hire and Lough Derg Ebike Tours