

ACTIVITY & EXCURSION

BOOKLET



Introduction

We are delighted to launch our new Activity & Excursion Booklet which is aimed at visiting international students coming to Dublin, Ireland.

The Future Learning Activity Booklet was designed with the student at heart, ensuring they get the most of their experience when visiting this beautiful country. We also hope this booklet can be of benefit to any tourist visiting Dublin.

Too often over the years we had noticed that individuals and groups would embark on an activity or excursion not fully knowing what lay ahead of them. This booklet provides all the most important information you need in advance by highlighting the important facts, preparation, recommended times and the history and background.

We hope you enjoy reading through this booklet and as always we welcome your feedback so we can improve the next edition.

Regards,

Future Learning Team

Contents

Full Day

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Half Day

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Page Number	Activity / Location
8	Belfast
9	Dublin
10	Dublin - ZOO
11	Aquazone Water Park
12	Tayto park
13	National Stud & Japanese Gardens
14	Kilkenny
15	Eagles and Owls
16	Glendalough
18	Howth & Newbridge House
20	Carlingford
21	Clohoge
22	Powerscourt Estate & Gardens
24	Wicklow Way
25	Lakes & Waterfalls
26	Cliffs of Moher & Galway City
30	Dublin
31	Dublinia
32	Trinity College & Book of Kells
33	Hugh Lane Gallery
34	Christ Church Cathedral
35	St Patricks Cathedral
36	Butler's Chocolate Factory
38	Guinness Storehouse
40	Croke Park & GAA Museum
41	Collins Barracks
42	St. Stephen's Green and Grafton Street
44	Dundrum Shopping Centre
45	Irish Museum of Modern Art
46	Natural History Museum
47	National Museum of Archaeology
48	James Joyce Tower
49	James Joyce Centre
50	National Gallery of Ireland
51	Jeanie Johnston Famine Ship
52	Bray Head
54	Dalkey Castle
55	Howth
56	Malahide Castle and Gardens
57	Donabate Coastal Path
58	Skerries
59	Swords

Full Day

ACTIVITIES &
EXCURSIONS



Belfast

World's largest Titanic visitor experience

Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland and birthplace of the Titanic. It is also part of the United Kingdom. It is a divided city, on religious/political grounds, and though currently at peace, the legacy of "The Troubles" can still be seen in the city's murals and street art. It is a 2 hour bus journey from Dublin and you can select your own activities and build your own tour from the options above.



© Future Learning 2019

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

City Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Belfast City Hall Tour
- Ulster Museum (closed on Mondays)
- Titanic Experience (tickets must be purchased in advance)
- Short Walking Tour of Belfast past City Hall, St. Georges Market, Waterfront Hall, The Big Fish, Albert Memorial Clock, High Street and Shopping District (free time).
- Visit the Falls Road to see the political murals.

ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 5 hours with 1.5 hours of walking (optional)

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable rain gear and umbrellas. From October to April it can get very cold so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat, gloves and extra layers of clothing. Currency is pounds sterling.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The land that makes up Belfast has been occupied since the Bronze Age.
- Belfast was once the world's largest linen-producing area, hence its nickname "Linenopolis".
- As a majority of the residents in the northern part of Ireland were Protestant descendants of British colonists the British partitioned Northern and Southern Ireland in 1921, creating Northern Ireland.
- The Belfast "Good Friday" Agreement of 1998 was seen as the end of The Troubles

Dublin

Urban Trekking



© Future Learning 2019

Founded by the Vikings in the 9th century, Dublin is a small city with a rich political and multi-cultural heritage. As you walk its ancient streets you are never far from a medieval castle or cathedral, or from a square of handsome Georgian buildings – testimony to its status as the second city of the British Empire. Neither are you ever far from evidence of the city's bloody history of revolution, or its rich literary heritage. There is much more to this cosmopolitan city than its famous pubs and hospitality, so why not join us on a leisurely walk through its cobbled streets and historical sites. You won't be disappointed.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

City Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Ha'penny Bridge – Temple Bar – Viking Fishamble Street – Christ Church Cathedral – St. Patrick's Cathedral – Dublin Castle – City Hall – George's Arcade – Molly Malone Statue – Grafton St – St. Stephen's Green – Huguenot Graveyard – Merrion Square – Oscar Wilde Memorial – Trinity College – Famine Memorial – GPO – The Spire – Garden of Remembrance – James Joyce Statue.
- You will also have 1-2 hours for lunch, and shopping on Grafton Street or Henry Street.

ESTIMATED TIME

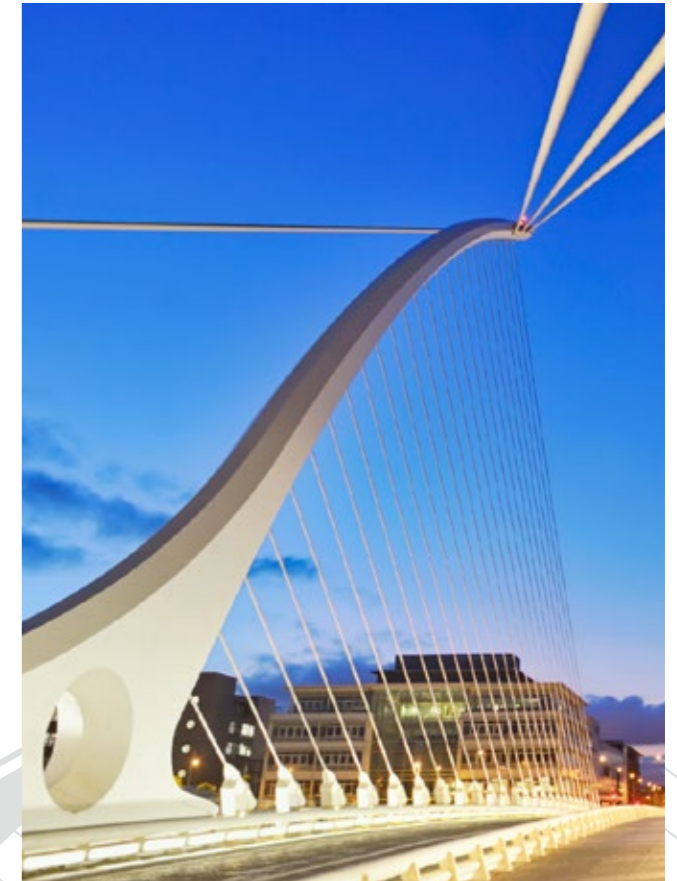
Tour takes 4-6 hours (including 2 hours for lunch and shopping).

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes. A raincoat and umbrella are also advisable outside of the summer months.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The Spire was built to replace a monument to Admiral Nelson that was blown up by the IRA in 1966.
- The name 'Dublin' comes from the Norse 'Dyflinn' which meant black pool, referring to the tidal pool of the River Liffey where the Viking town began.
- Molly Malone was not a real person but a fictional fishmonger in a popular Dublin ballad.
- The City of Dublin contains 666 licensed pubs. James Joyce mused in the pages of Ulysses that "a good puzzle would be to cross Dublin without passing a pub."



TITANIC



Dublin-zoo

Ireland's most popular family attraction

Located in the Phoenix Park in the heart of Dublin city, Dublin Zoo is not just Ireland's most popular family attraction, but one of the world's oldest, having opened in 1831. The 28 hectare park in the heart of Dublin is home to some 400 animals in a safe environment where education and conservation combine for an exciting and unforgettable experience! The Zoo is also a registered charity and your visit will help maintain the Zoo and contribute to its conservation and international breeding programmes.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Education, Nature & Conservation.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Take a walk through the zoo's replica habitats such as African Savanna, Kaziranga Forest Trail, Asian Forest, Gorilla Rainforest and Sea Loin Cove.
- 'Zoorassic World' – the Zoo's brand-new home for reptiles of the past and present, featuring a life-size replica fossil skeletons of Tyrannosaurus rex, Velociraptor, Oviraptor, Anhanguera, an Archaeopteryx plus life-sized replicas of a Galapagos tortoise and a Komodo dragon. Zoorassic World is also home to 12 species of living reptiles such as West African crocodiles, a king rat snake, a forest dragon, a green tree python, a turquoise dwarf gecko and more!
- The South American House - home to over nine species including monkeys, tortoises and parrots from the rainforests of Central and South America. Colourful or camouflaged, shy or show-off, each species has its own place in the forests. However, many of these species are now in danger due to hunting and deforestation.
- It is also possible to book a school trip with an education session.
- Established in 1662, about 30% of the Phoenix Park is covered with trees, and it is a sanctuary for many animals, including a herd of deer. Other sights that are possible to visit within the Park are the Wellington Testimonial, Papal Cross, and Aras an Uachtarain, the residence of the President of Ireland.



ESTIMATED TIME

1.5 – 2.0 hours.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The lion that roars at the start and end of all Metro Goldwyn Mayer movies from 1924 to 1928 was born in Dublin Zoo in 1919. The lion was called 'Slats'.
- Dublin Zoo is located in the heart of the Phoenix Park. It opened for the first time in 1831 thanks to the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland which was founded a few years earlier. When it first opened it hosted 46 mammals and 72 birds, which were all donated by London Zoo.
- It is the largest zoo in Ireland, stretching over 28 hectares and attracting over 1 million visitors every year.
- Dublin Zoo went through more than 100 years of history and has been affected by war. For example, during the Easter Rising meat ran out, and in order to keep the lions and tigers alive other animals had to be sacrificed and were put down. During World War II the public donated food to the animals and trees were chopped down to heat the houses.
- In 2011 a video of a Bornean orang-utan rescuing a chick from a pond emerged online. The video became an internet sensation viewed by hundreds of thousands of online users.

© Future Learning 2019

Aquazone

Europe's Largest Leisure Park

At the heart of Ireland's National Aquatic Centre lies AquaZone, one of the most technically innovative water parks in Europe. Since opening in 2003 the Centre has had over 650,000 visitors per year, who have all enjoyed hours of extreme thrills and raging water adventures.

Please note that a minimum ratio of 1 adult to every 20 children in the group for children aged 11+ is required. This designated adult is required to supervise the group poolside at all times.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Waterpark.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- **MASTER BLASTER:** This ride blasts riders uphill on jetted water and gravity does the rest. With hair-raising drops and thrilling banked curves, Master Blaster uphill water coasters deliver a rollercoaster-style ride that is a proven hair raiser. Height Restriction is 1.2 metres.
- **FLOW RIDER:** The FlowRider offers the thrill of riding a wave in a safe and controlled environment (no depth greater than 3 inches). Height Restriction is 1.3 metres.
- **GREEN GIANT FLUME:** This slide is quite long and built as an open chute. When using the right technique, you can reach very high speeds on the ride. Height Restriction is 1.1 metres.
- **DARK HOLE FLUME:** A dark flume ride (not for the faint hearted). Height Restriction is 1.2 metres
- **WAVE POOL:** The waves start in the deep end of the pool and gradually wash up on the centre shoreline, just like the ocean. For your safety, the waves stop periodically to let you take a break.
- **LAZY RIVER:** Guests leisurely float around our Wave Pool at two miles per hour. This relaxing trip takes about 10 minutes, a 120 metre ride.
- **BUBBLE POOL:** Kick back and relax in our Jacuzzi bubble pool.



ESTIMATED TIME

2.0 – 6.0 hours.



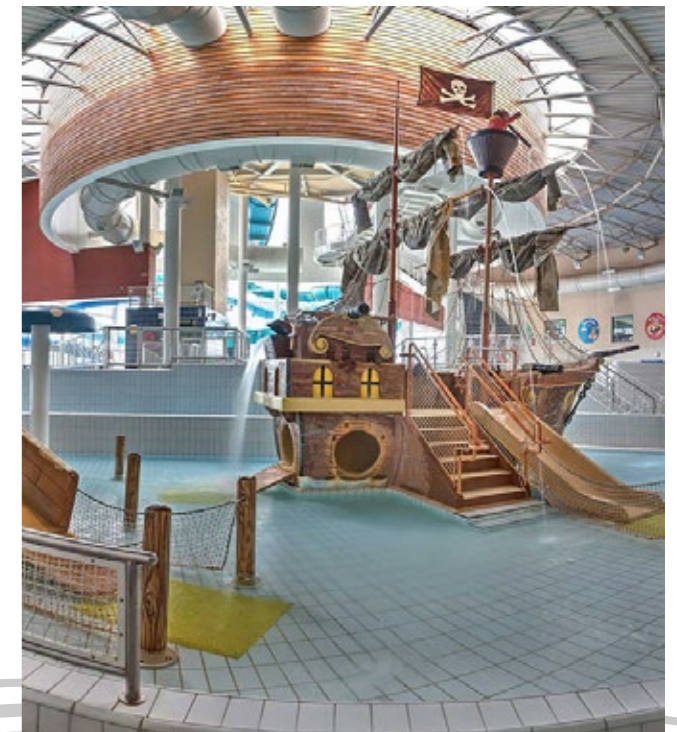
RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

- Swim hats are **COMPULSORY** in all water areas.
- Weak swimmers or persons with a medical condition must inform reception who will provide a wristband so lifeguards can provide assistance.



INTERESTING FACTS

- In 2016 over 980,000 people used the facilities of the Centre. It is Ireland's 4th most popular fee paying attraction. Since 2003 the centre has seen over 8 million people through its doors.
- The Centre and has won numerous major Awards over the years, including "Best Leisure Facility in Ireland" in 2014 & 2015.

© Future Learning 2019

Tayto Park

Giant Roller Coaster, Zoo & Amusements

Tayto Park is a potato crisp themed amusement park based on the Irish potato crisp brand "TAYTO". Opened in November 2010, it is located approximately 30km from Dublin in the townland of Kilbrew, in County Meath. The park developed 55 acres of farmland into an American-themed park that includes a Native American themed village multiple adventure rides. Tayto Park is Ireland's only Theme Park and has attractions for all ages.

Please note: Height restrictions apply. Several rides are unsuitable for guests with heart, neck, or back conditions, or if you are pregnant. It is strongly recommended that guests who have had recent surgery or an injury do not ride certain attractions.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Theme park.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Ireland's only wooden roller coaster.
- Maxi Dance Party 360.
- Adventure playgrounds and climbing walls.
- 5D Cinema: A short film experience featuring air gusts, water jets, leg ticklers, flashing lights, bubbles and smoke blasts
- An exotic zoo with lions, tigers, leopards, American bison and many more.



ESTIMATED TIME

2.0 – 6.0 hours.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Hat, gloves and rain coat if visiting outside of summer months.



INTERESTING FACTS

- It is the sixth most popular paid for attraction within the Republic of Ireland with 750,000 visitors annually.
- The Cú Chulainn Coaster is Ireland's only wooden roller coaster. Opened on 5 June 2015, the attraction is themed on Irish mythology and named after Cú Chulainn. A figure of the warrior is emblazoned across the front of the rollercoaster trains.

© Future Learning 2019

National Stud & Japanese Gardens

World Renowned Horse Breeding Centre



The Irish National Stud provides a unique opportunity for visitors to get close up to horses and wildlife in a relaxed and natural environment. The world famous Japanese Garden was designed and built at the turn of the century and maps the 'Journey of Life' according to ancient Japanese history. Visitors can follow the path and stop at each point for an explanation of the symbolism as they make their way through streams and tunnels. In St. Fiachra's Garden they will have fun exploring an environmental trail, enjoying the flora and fauna and identifying plants and animals that live in the local habitats. With another four acres of woodland and lakeside walks to discover, visitors will experience a memorable day out at this exquisite ecological facility.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Educational/Leisure.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Learn about the story of the thoroughbred, from birth to the racecourse with a tour of the stud and horses.
- Watch the thoroughbred foals frolic in their paddocks honing their future racing skills.
- Enjoy hands on interaction with the miniature Falabella horses.
- Visit the Horse Museum where the 'Sport of Kings' comes to life, and see a full skeleton of Ireland's most famous racehorse – the legendary three-time Gold Cup winner Arkle.
- Visit the world famous Japanese Gardens.



ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 2.0 – 6.0 hours.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, raincoat and umbrella.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The farm at Tully was purchased from the Fay family in 1900 by Colonel William Hall Walker, a wealthy Scotsman from a famous brewing family and the most successful racehorse breeder of the age.
- In 1915 the farm and all its stock was gifted to the Crown and became The National Stud under the leadership of Sir Henry Greer.
- In 1943, the newly formed Irish Government took over the land and buildings and in 1945 the Irish National Stud Company Ltd. was formed and officially took over the running of the Stud on 31st August, 1946.
- The Irish National Stud's Japanese Gardens are renowned throughout the world and are the finest of their kind in Europe. Created between 1906 and 1910 they were devised by Colonel William Hall Walker in collaboration with Japanese master horticulturist Tassa Eida and his son Minoru. Their aim was, through trees, plants, flowers, lawns, rocks and water, to symbolise the 'Life of Man'.
- The gardens are admired by 120,000 visitors every year.

© Future Learning 2019

Kilkenny

Historic Anglo-Norman Town and Castle

Kilkenny is a medieval town in the southeast of Ireland with a famous Norman Castle built in 1195. The town has deep religious roots and many well-preserved churches and monasteries, including the imposing St. Canice's Cathedral and the Black Abbey Dominican priory, both from the 13th century. It's also a crafts hub, with shops along its winding lanes selling pottery, paintings and jewellery

DESCRIPTION

- A walk around the town and a guided tour of Kilkenny Castle.
- Some free time to shop and explore the town.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Tour an Anglo-Norman castle that was occupied from 1146 to 1971 by the Butler family to learn how life changed for the family over 800 years.
- Visit St. Canices Cathedral and 11th century Round Tower
- Visit the 13th century Black Abbey (religious services permitting) and see its famous stained glass windows.
- See the house of the last woman to be accused of witchcraft in Ireland.

ESTIMATED TIME

3.0 – 4.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The Butler family handed Kilkenny Castle to the people of Kilkenny in 1967 for £50!
- The last witch in Ireland, reputedly Dame Alice Kytler, was born in Kilkenny in 1280. Widowed four times, she was accused of poisoning all of her husbands.
- Gulliver's Travels author, Jonathan Swift, attended Kilkenny College in the late 17th century, and a building at the college was named after him in 2007.

© Future Learning 2019

Eagles & Owls

National Bird of Prey Centre, Blessington

At the National Bird of Prey Centre you will get a chance to meet Birds of Prey from around the world as well as Irish natives such as the Golden Eagle, White tailed Sea Eagle and Red Kite. Upon entering the centre you will receive a guided tour and talk by a member of staff. You will also get a chance to hold some of our hand reared birds, such as the Little Owl, Barn Owl and Harris Hawk.



DESCRIPTION

- A guided talk and tour about all of the Birds Of Prey on display. Learn about the uniqueness of each bird and hear anecdotes about them.
- The chance to handle and stroke some of the hand-reared birds and have your photo taken.
- Participate in a flying display
- For those students afraid of owls or birds of prey, there is the option of doing the maze (€2).

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Birds of prey of all sizes from all over the world e.g. eagles, owls, vultures, kites & falcons. They even have a pair of noisy Kookaburras.
- The parklands of Russborough House. A visit to the house can be arranged at extra cost.

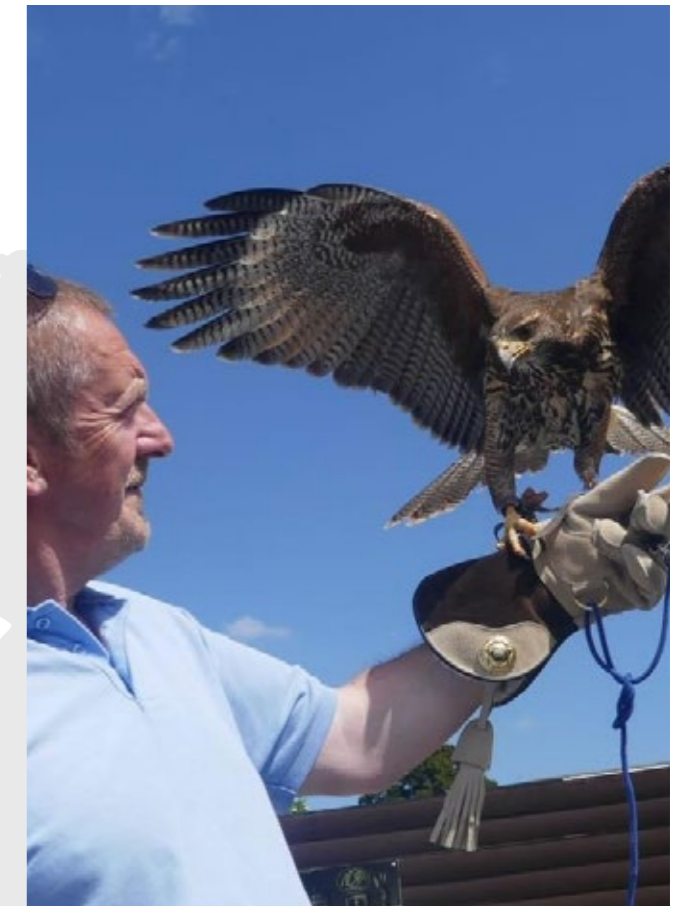
ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 1.5 – 2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

This is a short summer excursion that can be combined with others in Wicklow or with a visit to Russborough House and/or its famous maze.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Many English metaphors stem from falconry e.g. 'wrapped around my little finger', 'under my thumb', and 'hoodwinked'.
- The earliest known reference to falconry in Ireland is in the 7th century 'Life of St Colman Maic' in which the King of Tara is described as having 'da seabhac selga', or two hunting hawks.
- Remains of goshawks were found at Mount Sandel (7000 BC) and Newgrange (3000 BC).

© Future Learning 2019

Glendalough

Stunning Scenery & Medieval Monastery

Glendalough is the 'honeypot' of Wicklow Mountains National Park. The combination of the stunning scenery and monastic history make it one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland. The name Glendalough means 'valley of two lakes' and the valley stretches for 3km. At its mouth lies the ruins of a famous early Christian monastic settlement established by St. Kevin, who died about 618 AD. The extensive ruins include several early churches, a graceful round tower and various sites associated with the life of St. Kevin. The monks abandoned the settlement centuries ago due to religious and political upheavals but many of their hand-built stone buildings still stand testament to their way of life. The upper lake is about 20 mins walk on flat ground from the monastic site and there are small cafés at the car park beside the lake. Unfortunately, large buses cannot reach the upper car park due to the narrow roads.



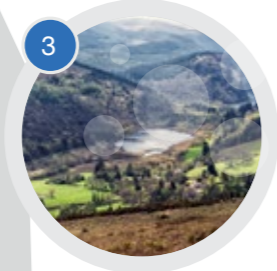


© Future Learning 2019



Glendalough is one of Ireland's most popular hiking destinations, and hikes in this area will give you a real flavour of the wild heather moors of the Wicklow Mountains and often an encounter with wild goats or deer. We offer two hikes in this area. Option 4 is the classic circuit of the lake which many Irish school groups undertake each autumn. This is one of the most spectacular hikes in Ireland and the views offered from the high ground are truly stunning in good weather. Option 3 goes to the half way point and the beautiful Gleanalo waterfall or the Gleanalo Valley Brridge, and returns the same way. Both hikes are dependent upon the weather and you always have the option of going to the halfway point and making a decision there about whether to continue to climb, or to turn back. If the group leader is concerned about the discipline of the group, the Classic circuit of the lake will not be undertaken as it passes close to some very steep cliffs.

If some members of your group are unable to hike, there is a fine hotel beside the monastic settlement that serves good food, and the walk to the upper lake and back is very gentle. The option is also there for non-hikers to turn back at the lake, or at the miner's village (again no hills involved and a flat walk). Once we go beyond the miner's village, however, the track becomes rocky and while not very steep, there are some tiring 30 minute sections of gentle ascent interspersed with flat or downhill sections. The highest part of the route is on wooden railway sleepers that protect the ground from erosion. The route and duration of all hikes are dependent upon the weather.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE (options can be chosen on the day)

 <p>OPTION 1</p> <p>MONASTIC SETTLEMENT AND LAKE</p>	 <p>OPTION 2</p> <p>MONASTIC SETTLEMENT, LAKE & HIKE TO MINERS VILLAGE</p>	 <p>OPTION 3</p> <p>MONASTIC SETTLEMENT, LAKE & HIKE TO WATERFALL <small>(if suitable leader available)</small></p>	 <p>OPTION 4</p> <p>MONASTIC SETTLEMENT, LAKE & FULL CIRCUIT HIKE <small>(if suitable leader available)</small></p>
---	---	---	--

 <p>ESTIMATED TIME</p> <p>2 - 2.5 hours <small>(30-40 mins walking)</small></p>	 <p>ESTIMATED TIME</p> <p>2.5 - 3 hours <small>(1.5-2 hours mins walking)</small></p>	 <p>ESTIMATED TIME</p> <p>3 - 3.5 hours <small>(2 hours 40 mins walking – involves 1x30 min section of uphill walking)</small></p>	 <p>ESTIMATED TIME</p> <p>4 - 4.5 hours <small>(3.5-4.0 hours walking – involves 2x30 min sections uphill walking)</small></p>
---	---	--	--

 <p>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</p> <p>Outdoor Hike.</p>	 <p>RECOMMENDED AGE</p> <p>Suitable for all ages, and options are available for all fitness levels.</p>
---	---

★ INTERESTING FACTS ▲

- Large herds of feral goats are found in Glendalough, and also of a hybrid of Sika and Red Deer.
- Mining in Glendalough dates back to the 1790's when lead, zinc and silver were mined. At peak production 2,000 miners were employed. The mines were most active during WWI, when there was a great demand for lead to make bullets. The mines fell into disuse in the early 1920s.
- The two lakes, which gave the valley its name were formed after the Ice Age. The Pollanass River spread alluvial deposits across the centre of the lake and created a divide to form the Upper and Lower Lakes.
- Founded in the 6th Century by St Kevin, for 500 years Glendalough was one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical foundations and schools of learning. It survived being burned and plundered by the Vikings, only to be finally destroyed, in 1214, by the Normans.

✓ PREPARATION ▲

- Even when it is sunny at sea-level it can rain in the mountains, so comfortable rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it can get very cold in the mountains so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing.
- Irrespective of the weather, comfortable walking shoes and thick socks are necessary if you are going to hike in the mountains. The ground can be very uneven and blisters or sprained ankles can result from poor choice of footwear. Your group will need to be aware of this before you travel.
- If you intend to hike you will need to bring plenty of food and water (at least 1 litre), so your group will need to bring a rucksack capable of carrying them.



Howth & Newbridge House

Sea Cliffs, Fishing Village & Stately Home/Farm

Howth is a popular destination for walkers in Dublin and you can choose to walk along the pier and around the village or you can visit the cliffs. The lower cliff path is the most spectacular, but while it is reasonably safe it is not suitable for people afraid of heights, or groups that are difficult to control. The upper walk is easier but still with nice views. You can avoid walking uphill by getting a bus to the summit and walking back.

Newbridge House is the most complete Anglo-Irish estate in Ireland. On our way we may see a small herd of Ireland's native Red Deer. During a one hour guided tour of the house you will see rooms still furnished with their original Georgian furniture. After the tour you will be free to explore the farm, which is home to many rare breeds of farm animals, some of which you will be able to get up close and personal with.



© Future Learning 2019



HOWTH



NEWBRIDGE HOUSE & FARM

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Outdoor Hike.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

Morning Activity: Visit to Howth, a busy fishing village with stunning sea cliffs nearby. Occasionally seals and porpoises can be seen in the harbour or from the cliffs. The cliff walk offers stunning views of Ireland's Eye, an island that had once been a Viking base, and also of Dublin Bay.

ESTIMATED TIME

2 - 2.5 hours (30-40 mins walking)

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Outdoor Hike.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

Afternoon Activity: A visit to Newbridge House and Farm, an 18th century Georgian stately home that will take you through 300 years of the life of the landed gentry in Ireland. You will see the famous Red Drawing Room, one of the finest Georgian rooms in Ireland, the best documented 18th century private art collection in the country, and the Museum of Curiosities – one of the few surviving family museums in Ireland. You will also see 370 acres of beautiful parkland, a herd of red deer (the native deer of Ireland) a traditional farm with rare breeds, a walled garden and a bird hatchery

ESTIMATED TIME

2 - 2.5 hours (30-40 mins walking)

★ INTERESTING FACTS ▲

Howth

- Howth receives approximately 1.3 million visitors each year.
- It used to be an island until sand bars formed to join it to the shore at Sutton.
- Norwegian Vikings settled in Howth in the 10th century and the name Howth is thought to be derived from the Old Norse Hǫfuð ("head" in English).
- King George IV of England visited the harbour 1821 and his footprints are preserved on the west pier. The harbour used to be the main sailing port between Britain and Ireland, but when it began to silt up the larger ships could no longer use it and a new harbour had to be built at Dun Laoghaire.

Newbridge House

- Newbridge House is a Georgian Villa built in 1747 for the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin.
- It is the only house in the Republic of Ireland where the original family and an outside body (Fingal County Council) work alongside each other to maintain the property and its contents.
- Newbridge House is also renowned across the world for its unique collection of Irish furniture and the Cobbe Collection of Old Master portraits.

PREPARATION ▲

- Comfortable rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it can get very cold so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat, gloves and extra layers of clothing.
- After heavy rain, the cliff walk at Howth can get quite muddy. Good shoes and thick socks are necessary if you are going to walk it outside of the summer months.

Carlingford

Historic Village & Spectacular Scenery

The Vikings occupied Carlingford Lough 9th Century giving the area its name i.e. 'Fjord of Carlinn', but the town itself appears to have begun with the building of a Castle by the Norman knight, Hugh de Lacy in the 12th Century. From the 14th to the 16th century the town was one of the most important trading ports on the east coast, a period that has left its legacy in the town in the surviving Norman town houses of rich merchants. Carlingford is also one of the most popular walking destinations in Ireland, the hills behind the town offering wondrous views of the Cooley and Mourne Mountains and of the lough itself. The many local pubs and restaurants are also famous for fresh seafood and most especially the local oysters.



© Future Learning 2019

WHAT YOU WILL SEE



OPTION 1

Visit the Heritage Centre (€2 but group rates available, advanced booking essential).

The Heritage Centre has on permanent display the documented history of the town. Gothic windows light the interior and on the east wall is a beautiful stained glass window. The graveyard has headstones dating back to the 15th century.

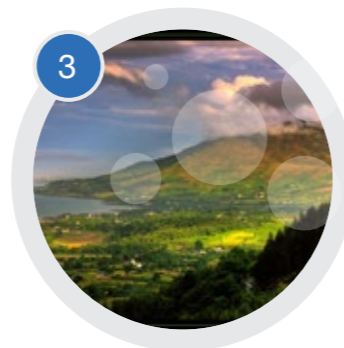
PREPARATION

- Comfortable rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From Oct to Apr it can get very cold in the mountains so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing.
- Irrespective of the weather, comfortable walking shoes and thick socks are necessary if you are going to hike in the mountains. Your group will need to be aware of this before you travel.
- If you intend to hike you will need to bring plenty of food and water so your group will need to bring a rucksack capable of carrying them.



OPTION 2

Hike the commons loop walks (2 hours) to get a sense of the beauty of the Cooley Mountains and panoramic views over the lough



OPTION 3

Walk the Great Eastern Greenway from Omeath to Carlingford (6.2km). Built on an old railway line it offers a safe track with spectacular views of Carlingford Lough (2hrs).

INTERESTING FACTS

- In 1467 Carlingford was granted the right to mint its own coinage.
- In 1742 the opening of the Newry Canal and sea level locks resulted in the bypassing of Carlingford as a trading port.
- It is now possible to take the ferry from Carlingford to Greencastle in Northern Ireland. Prices are cheap: €27 per bus. This considerably shortens the journey to places like the beautiful Silent Valley in the Mourne Mountains

Clohoge

Ireland's Prettiest Valley

We enter the estate and descend into the valley by a private tarmac road that is moderately steep. We will pass farms, rivers and mountains, see herds of deer and flocks of sheep. We will have lunch on the beach at beautiful Lough Dan, and maybe go for a paddle in the water. We will reverse our journey after lunch and take our time on the steep road back.



© Future Learning 2019

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A walk through a private estate offering the absolute best of Wicklow mountain scenery, herds of deer and flocks of sheep. A photographers dream!
- Beautiful Lough Dan, where the TV series "Vikings" was filmed.
- Famine era cottages and the largest 18th century farming landscape in Wicklow.
- This walk is dependent upon the weather. If weather is too bad we will go to Glendalough

ESTIMATED TIME

At 3.0 – 4.0 hours this out-and-back walk is NOT suitable for people with low levels of fitness or with health problems as the return walk involves a 30-40 min moderately steep road walk. The hike can also be combined with a trip to the Irish Bird of Prey Centre (extra cost).

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages and is regularly undertaken by families with small children.

PREPARATION

Comfortable shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it is advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing. Bring plenty of water, and a towel if you want to paddle in Lough Dan. No loud music permitted. This is a private estate.



INTERESTING FACTS

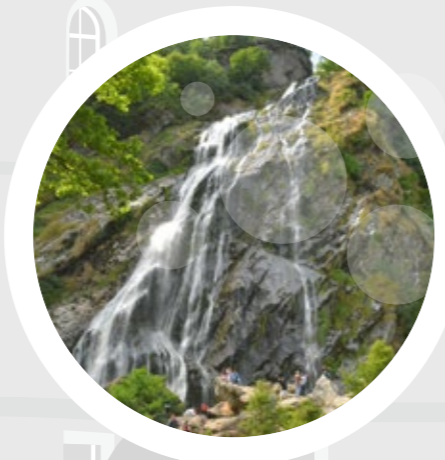
- The remains of famine era lazy beds and cottages can be seen along the walk. The population of the valley fell from 148 to 95 during the famine. Today it stands at less than 20.
- The TV series "Vikings" was filmed on Lough Dan.
- Luggala Lodge has hosted many famous people like Mick Jagger, Van Morrison & Michael Jackson.

Powerscourt Gardens & Waterfall

Voted No. 3 Garden in the World by National Geographic

Powerscourt House and Gardens, Located at Enniskerry in County Wicklow, is the most beautiful garden in Ireland and was recently voted No.3 in the World's Top Ten Gardens by National Geographic. The Gardens stretch over 19 hectares and offer visitors a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes, secret hollows and rambling walks. Inside the house you will find several craft shops and a café, as well as the world famous doll's house "Tara's Palace".

A trip to visit nearby **Powerscourt Waterfall** can also be added to this excursion, but at extra cost. The waterfall is Ireland's highest at 121m (398ft.) and lies just 6km from the Main Estate. Set in one of Ireland's most beautiful parklands at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, the waterfall is surrounded by Beech, Oak, Larch and Pine trees some of which were planted over 200 years ago. There is even a scattering of Giant Redwoods, which are native to Northern California where they may grow up to 80m high and live for 4,000! The Waterfall is an ideal location for summer picnics and barbecues and beautiful pathways meander through the flora and fauna. An on-site kiosk serves everything from coffee and tea to hot-dogs and ice-cream and is open weekdays from the 1st June to the end of August, and every weekend (weather permitting).



© Future Learning 2019

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sightseeing

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- The Walled Gardens, the Italian Garden, the Dolphin Pond and Japanese Gardens, The Pets Cemetery and Pepperpot Tower
- Exotic trees such as Douglas-Firs, Corsican Pines, Giant Redwoods, Atlantic Cedars, Noble Firs and countless more.
- Ireland's highest waterfall (if you choose that option).

ESTIMATED TIME

1.0 – 2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Since 1944 over twenty-five different movies and TV series have been shot at Powerscourt including Black Beauty, Barry Lyndon, The Count of Monte Cristo, Ella Enchanted and King Arthur.
- Powerscourt Gardens were designed from 1731 onwards, with the desire to create a garden which was part of the wider surrounding landscape.
- Inspiration for the garden design followed visits by the owners to ornamental gardens at the Palace of Versailles, Schönbrunn Palace near Vienna, and Schwetzingen Castle near Heidelberg.
- The River Walk at Powerscourt features the tallest tree in Ireland, a Douglas Fir. The tree stands at 61.5 metres (202 feet) towering above well-known landmarks including Dublin's Liberty Hall (59.5 m) and Niagara Falls (51m).
- Powerscourt Waterfall first became popular during the latter half of the eighteenth century when trips to see it coincided with the Romantic movement and the search for the sublime—places and views that would evoke emotions of awe and terror, of the dominance of nature.

PREPARATION

Good walking shoes. A raincoat and umbrella are also useful depending on the time of year and how close you want to get to the waterfall.

Wicklow Way

Discover the Wicklow Mountains

The **Wicklow Way** is part of a network of long-distance walking trails throughout Ireland. It combines easy accessibility with a wide variety of scenic experiences, some of them in truly remote upland areas. These include mountains, upland lakes, glacial valleys, fast flowing mountain streams, forests and farmland.

Some of the sections are quite close to Dublin (no more than an hour's drive). If your group is less than 30, it is possible to arrange a minibus drop off and pick-up at the start and finish of any of the individual sections.

DESCRIPTION

- Walks are weather dependent and subject to the availability of experienced leader.
- These walks are NOT suitable for people with low levels of fitness or health problems.
- Some of the hikes closer to Dublin can also be combined on a day excursion with a trip to the National Bird of Prey Centre (extra cost).

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Hiking.

ESTIMATED TIME

2.0 – 3.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

These walks are suitable for all ages and many of the shorter sections are regularly undertaken by families, school and scouting groups.

For younger, inexperienced walkers, shorter sections of the route are possible (3-4 hours) e.g. Cruagh Wood to Tirbradden or from Crone Wood to Lough Tay.

PREPARATION

Comfortable shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it is always advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing. Bring plenty of water. No loud music permitted. Much of the trail crosses private estates.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The Wicklow Way was the first waymarked trail in Ireland having been formally established in 1980.
- It is the most westerly section of the E8 footpath which extends across much of Europe

Lakes & Waterfalls

Small Group Scenic Tour

This tour by minibus offers the highlights of the Wicklow Mountains National Park for those who wish to see as much as possible in limited time.

DESCRIPTION

- A bus tour through the best of the Wicklow mountains stopping at all of the most scenic spots.
- A Visit to Powerscourt Waterfall and the giant redwood trees that grow beside it.
- A Visit the ancient monastic settlement at Glendalough.

Summer Only – Suitable for small groups (32 or less) as narrow roads require a small bus.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Powerscourt Waterfall and Mountain Views over stunning Lough Tay and the Clohoge Valley.
- Drive through wild moors to the Sally Gap over the "P.S. I Love You" bridge (2007 film location).
- Glenmacneass Waterfall and the beautiful Glenmacneass Valley.
- Glendalough Upper & Lower Lakes, the Poulanass Waterfall and the ancient monastic ruins..

ESTIMATED TIME

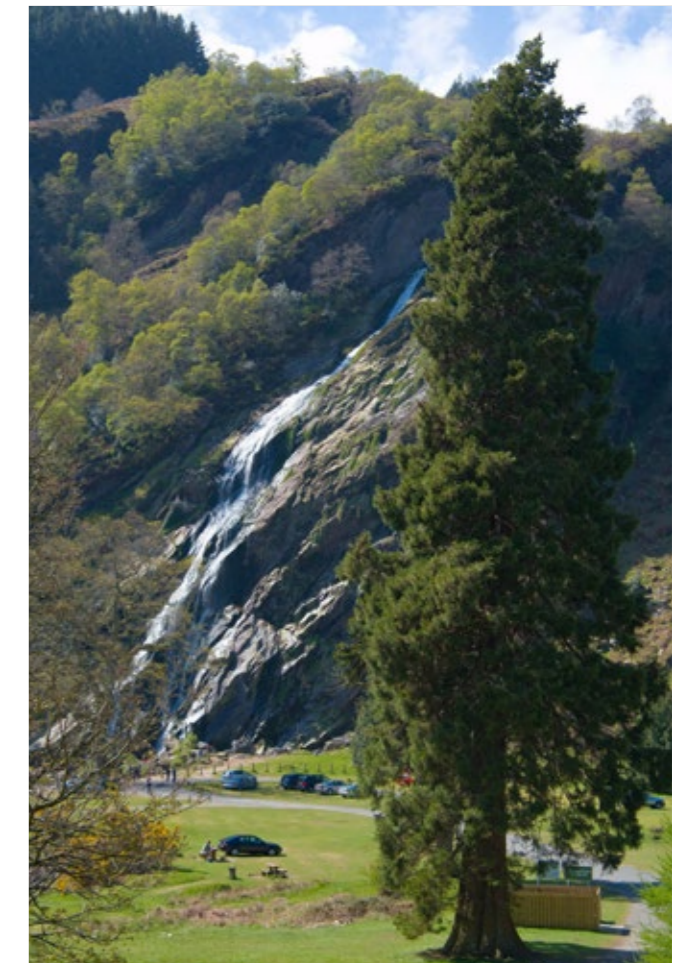
Takes 4-5 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

- Comfortable shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea.
- From October to April it is always advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing.
- Bring plenty of water.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Founded in the 6th century by St Kevin, Glendalough was one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical & educational foundations. It survived the Vikings only to be destroyed in 1214, by the Normans.
- Powerscourt Waterfall is Ireland's highest at 121m.
- Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger & The Beatles have all stayed in the lodge at Lough Tay.

Cliffs of Moher & Galway City

Highlights of the Atlantic Coast

Rising 214 meters above the Atlantic Ocean at their highest point and stretching for 8km along the coast, the world-famous Cliffs of Moher have become emblematic of the west coast of Ireland and are one of its most visited natural attractions.

The medieval city of Galway is widely known as Ireland's 'most Irish' city. Once described by the writer W.B Yeats as The Venice of the West, the city is also widely considered to be Ireland's cultural capital.



© Future Learning 2019



CLIFFS OF MOHER

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Bus Tour. Nature.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A scenic drive through the unique geology and lunar landscape of the Burren; one of Europe's great limestone karst regions.
- Stunning views of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands
- Winding coastal trails and pathways where you can peer over cliff edges at the waves below.
- An on site underground Visitor Centre at the cliffs that features educational exhibits and a number of arts and crafts gift shops.



GALWAY CITY

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Bus Tour. Nature, Culture and Urban exploration.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- You will have time to explore the cobblestoned pedestrian streets of Galway City with its artistic and bohemian ambience and its myriad speciality shops & boutiques and cafes.
- Overlooking the Spanish Arch sits the Galway City Museum where you can learn about Galway's 'City of Film' status or what the city looked like in the late 19th century and enjoy a coffee and cake in the ground floor café, with views out to the Spanish Arch.
- At weekends you can check out the colourful market in the shadow of St Nicholas' Medieval Church. As well as local cheeses and charcuterie, you may also find curries, sushi and Mediterranean favourites.

★ INTERESTING FACTS ▲

Cliffs of Moher

- The Burren is home to diverse and rich plant life representing around 75% of Ireland's native flora.
- The Cliffs of Moher form part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark which was awarded membership of the UNESCO supported Global Geoparks Network in 2011. The Cliffs have been voted the seventh most wonderful heritage site in the world by UNESCO.
- The cliffs were originally the site of a gigantic river delta and were formed about 320 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.
- O'Brien's Tower, which stands near the highest point of the cliffs, was built in 1835 by local landlord Cornelius O'Brien as an observation tower for Victorian tourists. Moher Tower, which stands on Hag's Head, at the southern end of the cliffs, was built as a lookout/signaling tower during the Napoleonic Wars.

Galway City

- Galway will be the European Capital of Culture in 2020.
- Galway is the unofficial capital of Gaeltacht (the native Irish speaking part of Ireland) and is home to 10% of the Irish population.
- Galway City is nicknamed "The City of Tribes" after the fourteen merchant families who led the city during the Hiberno-Norman period
- The King's Head Pub on High Street can trace its history back 800 years
- The Irish for Salthill is "Bóthar na Tra", which literally means "the road by the sea".

✓ PREPARATION ▲

Raincoat, comfortable walking shoes and umbrella. It can get quite windy on the cliffs so wrap up well.



Half Day

ACTIVITIES &
EXCURSIONS



Dublin

Urban Trekking (Half Day)

Founded by the Vikings in the 9th century, Dublin is a small city with a rich political and multi-cultural heritage. As you walk its ancient streets you are never far from a medieval castle or cathedral, or from a square of handsome Georgian buildings – testimony to its status as the second city of the British Empire. Neither are you ever far from evidence of the city’s bloody history of revolution, or its rich literary heritage. There is much more to this cosmopolitan city than its famous pubs and hospitality, so why not join us on a leisurely walk through its cobbled streets and historical sites. You won’t be disappointed.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

A 3 hour tour could include:

- Ha’penny Bridge – Temple Bar – Fishamble Street – Christ Church Cathedral – Dublin Castle – City Hall – George’s Arcade – Molly Malone Statue – Grafton St – St. Stephen’s Green – Huguenot Graveyard – Merrion Square – Oscar Wilde Memorial – Famine Memorial – GPO – The Spire – James Joyce Statue.

A 1 hour tour could include:

- Ha’penny Bridge – Temple Bar – Fishamble Street – Dublin Castle – George’s Arcade – Molly Malone Statue – then Grafton Street for shopping on your own time.



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1-3 hours. How much you get to see really depends on the pace of your group



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes. A raincoat and umbrella are also advisable outside of the summer months.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The Spire was built to replace a monument to Admiral Nelson that was blown up by the IRA in 1966.
- The name ‘Dublin’ comes from the Norse ‘Dyflinn’ which meant black pool, referring to the tidal pool of the River Liffey where the Viking town began.
- Molly Malone was not a real person but a fictional fishmonger in a popular Dublin ballad.
- The City of Dublin contains 666 licensed pubs. James Joyce mused in the pages of Ulysses that “a good puzzle would be to cross Dublin without passing a pub.”

© Future Learning 2019

Dublinia

Viking Dublin Interpretative Centre

After a brief walk through Viking Dublin from the site of the original settlement of Dyflinn to Viking Fishamble Street, we visit the Viking & Medieval Dublin exhibition at Dublinia. Here you can interact with the exhibits, dress in period costume, stroll down a noisy street, visit a Viking house, learn the Viking runic alphabet, and hear their poetry and sagas. On floor 2 you can also learn of warfare, crime and punishment, death and disease and even toothache remedies of medieval Dublin.

On the third floor of Dublinia is an interactive exhibit about the work of an archaeologist. You can even test your knowledge before leaving on an interactive quiz.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History/Tour.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Self-guided Educational Exhibitions on both Viking and Medieval Dublin.
- Self-guided Educational Exhibition on the work of an archaeologist.
- Christ Church Cathedral & Medieval Crypt



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 90 mins.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

www.dublinia.ie



INTERESTING FACTS

- The name ‘Dublin’ comes from the Norse ‘Dyflinn’ which meant black pool, referring to the tidal pool of the River Liffey where the Viking town began. The Vikings attacked Ireland for the first time in 795. But in 841, they decided they had had enough of quick raids and wanted to stay somewhere permanently, so they built a defensive camp known as a longphort at the black pool or ‘Dyflinn’. This became over time the city of Dublin
- The Vikings used to speak a language called Old Norse. We still use lots of these words in modern English – words like freckle, egg, knife and window.

© Future Learning 2019

Trinity College and Book Of Kells

The Historical Heart of Dublin

Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I, Trinity College Dublin is one of Ireland's top tourist attractions. It is the oldest university in Ireland and famous for its graduates such as Jonathon Swift, Samuel Goldsmith, Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett. A walk among the cobbled stones of the college will bring you back to the 18th century when the magnificent old library was built. The library is also popular with Star Wars fans as it is the model for the Jedi archives of the Jedi Temple in Star Wars II). Within its walls are housed the famous Brian Boru harp, and of course the 9th century Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript considered one of the treasures of medieval Europe.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- The beautiful grounds of Ireland's oldest University
- The most famous illuminated book in Europe
- The famous 'Brian Boru' Harp (which you can find on all Irish coins).
- The real life 'Jedi Archives' i.e. the magnificent Long Room of the Old Library. This is the longest single chamber library in the world and its beautiful oak bookcases house 200,000 of the library's oldest books.

ESTIMATED TIME

1.5 – 2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Trinity College Dublin was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I of England and modelled after the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- Irish Catholics were prohibited by the Catholic Church from attending Trinity College until 1970!
- Although in the very centre of the city today, when it was founded the college lay outside of the city walls.
- The Book of Kells is Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and the world's most famous medieval manuscript. The 9th century book is a richly decorated copy of the four Gospels of the life of Jesus Christ. A different page is presented to the public every day.
- The Book of Kells was most likely written in Scotland on the Irish monastery on the island of Iona. The gospel was probably taken to Abbey of Kells when Iona was attacked by Viking raiders in the 9th century.

Hugh Lane Gallery

Renoir, Manet, Bacon and more

The Hugh Lane Gallery, or 'Dublin City Gallery' is situated in Charlemont House on Dublin's Parnell Square. Founded by Sir Hugh Lane in 1908, it is the first known public gallery of modern art in the world. Admission is free and the gallery is completely wheelchair-accessible. The museum has a permanent collection and hosts exhibitions, mostly by contemporary Irish artists, but the renowned Hugh Lane Bequest of 1917 is shared with the National Gallery, London. Facilities include cafe and bookshop. Its most famous attraction is the studio of the famous painter Francis Bacon.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Art/Education.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Francis Bacon's studio. This was reconstructed in the gallery in 2001 after being dismantled and moved from 7 Reece Mews, London to Dublin in 1998 and now is permanently on display. Together with fascinating unfinished works by Francis Bacon, display cases presenting items from the studio, an audio visual room and touch screen terminals, it allows the visitor to delve further into the life and art of one of the most important figurative artists of the 20th Century.
- The Hugh Lane collection of French art, including works such as 'The Umbrellas' (Les Parapluies) by Auguste Renoir; 'Portrait of Eva Gonzalès' by Édouard Manet, 'Jour d'Été' by Berthe Morisot and 'View of Louveciennes' by Camille Pissarro.
- Harry Clarke's famous stained glass masterpiece 'The Eve of St Agnes'. This is a stunning example of the technical skill and visual imagination of an extraordinarily talented Irish artist.
- The Sean Scully gallery is one of the most beautiful rooms dedicated to the work of a contemporary artist in Europe.
- Take some time to visit the Garden of Remembrance across the road from the gallery and Oisín Kelly's famous sculpture of 'The Children of Lir'.

ESTIMATED TIME

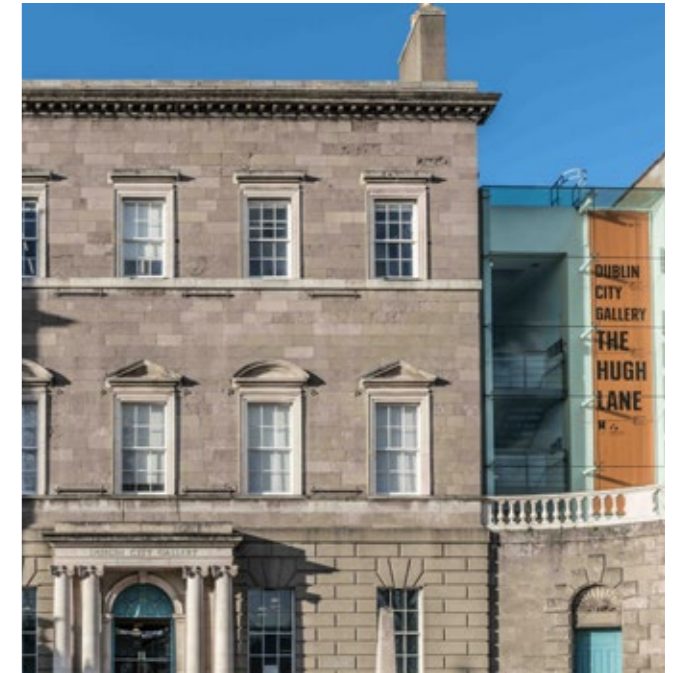
1.0-2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Sir Hugh Percy Lane was an Irish art dealer, collector and gallery director best known for establishing Dublin's Municipal Gallery of Modern Art (the first known public gallery of modern art in the world). He died on board the RMS Lusitania (a British ocean liner that was the world's largest passenger ship when sunk in 1915 by a German U-boat 18km off the coast of Ireland).
- The Hugh Lane Gallery first opened its doors in Clonmell House, on Dublin's Harcourt Street, on 20 January 1908. It was known as The Municipal Gallery of Modern Art and presented an acclaimed collection brought together by Hugh Lane and his supporters
- In 1933 the Municipal Gallery moved to its present location in Charlemont House, a neo-classical town house designed in 1765 by William Chambers for James Caulfeild, the first Earl of Charlemont.
- In 1992, the painting In The Omnibus by Honoré Daumier was stolen from the gallery, and recovered in 2014.

Christ Church Cathedral

Founded by Vikings, Built by Normans

Christ Church Cathedral is Dublin's oldest building, a leading visitor attraction and a place of pilgrimage for almost 1,000 years. Renowned for its beauty, architecture and exquisite floor tiles, it is home to the famous 12th Century crypt, one of the oldest and largest in Britain and Ireland. Christ Church. The Cathedral was founded in 1028 by Sitric, the Viking King of Dublin. The Cathedral once housed an important collection of relics ranging from a miraculous speaking cross to a piece from the crib of Jesus. Inside you can enjoy the cathedral's beautiful interior and fascinating medieval crypt.

DESCRIPTION

A visit to the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, a place of worship since Saint Patrick baptised Christian converts on the site over 1500 years ago.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Explore the medieval crypt, the largest in Ireland, and the earliest surviving structure in the city.
- View the cathedral's collection of priceless silver and Ireland's first copy of Magna Carta
- A mummified cat & rat are the most unusual inhabitants of the crypt, but also the most popular. Mentioned by James Joyce in Finnegans wake, they are known locally as 'Tom & Jerry'.
- The tomb of 'Strongbow' the Norman ruler who invaded Ireland in 1170 a.d.

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 30-60 mins.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The official name of Christ Church is The Cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.
- The elected president of Ireland has a reserved pew draped with the presidential insignia.
- Much of the television series The Tudors was filmed here.
- The cathedral has one of the finest collections of early modern silver in Ireland, including Communion Plate presented to the cathedral by William of Orange after he defeated James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.
- An unusual relic in the cathedral that survived the Reformation is the heart of Laurence O'Toole, a 12th century Archbishop of Dublin, who died at Eu in Normandy in 1180 while making his way back to Dublin. O'Toole was only 32 when he was elected Archbishop of Dublin in 1162 and was the first person of Gaelic descent to hold the position — all his predecessors having been of Viking or Norman origin. O'Toole's heart was stolen from the cathedral in 2012, but recovered by police six years later.
- There are stocks in the crypt dating to 1670. Once they were moved inside the cathedral in 1870 they ceased to be used for punishment.

© Future Learning 2019

St Patricks Cathedral

One of the few remaining buildings from medieval Dublin.

St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1191, is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, and has been a place of worship since Saint Patrick first baptised Christian converts on the site over 1500 years ago. During the 18th century the Cathedral simultaneously served as a place of worship for Huguenot Refugees and English Settlers, with services being held in French in the Lady Chapel. With its 43m high spire, St. Patrick's is the tallest and largest church in Ireland. Its most famous Dean was the writer and satirist Jonathon Swift.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Cathedral Visit. History.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A 13th century Gothic cathedral that is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland
- The largest Cathedral in Ireland that for centuries was also the largest enclosed space.
- The grave of Jonathon Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels. He held the post of Dean from 1713 to 1745.
- Memorial to Turlough O'Carolan, the famous blind harper.
- Beautiful stained glass windows and sculptures.
- A short movie about the history of the Cathedral.

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 40 mins to 1 hour.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Since 1432 the pupils of the choir school have sung twelve services a week during school term.
- Saint Patrick used a well on this site to baptize people in the 6th century.
- During the English Civil War the cathedral was desecrated by Oliver Cromwell. He considered Anglicans no better than Roman Catholics, so he decided to keep his horses in the nave.
- Benjamin Guinness, founder of the brewery, funded the cathedral's reconstruction in 1860. His legacy is a controversial stained glass window with the slogan: "I was thirsty and ye gave me drink."
- In 1492 the Butler's of Ormonde took refuge from the FitzGerald's of Kildare in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. The FitzGerald's demanded they come out and make peace. Afraid they would be slaughtered, the Butler's refused. Gerald FitzGerald then ordered a hole be cut in the door and thrust his arm through it to offer his hand in peace. Seeing him willing to risk his arm, the Butler's emerged and the families made peace. Today the door is known as the "Door of Reconciliation" and is on display in the Cathedral. This story lives on in the expression "to chance your arm".

© Future Learning 2019

Butler's Chocolate Factory

A make and taste experience

Like millions all over the world, have you ever wondered about what really goes on behind the doors of a real working chocolate factory? Close your eyes for a moment and imagine if you will the unmistakable aroma of chocolate assailing your senses and the cornucopia of chocolate in all forms that surrounds you. You can now make this dream a reality by visiting Butler's Chocolates Factory in north Dublin and taking the Butler's Chocolate Experience Tour. The Butler's Chocolate Experience offers you the opportunity to discover for yourself the magic and wonder of where chocolate comes from and how, since 1932, the Butler chocolate masters have used their skill and artistry to create their famous chocolate assortments, chocolate bars, fudge and toffee and hot chocolate.



© Future Learning 2019



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Educational.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Watch the chocolate movie and learn all about the origins of chocolate and the history of Butler's Chocolates.
- Wander around the interactive chocolate museum with optional worksheets for children of all ages.
- Savour the aroma from the chocolate gallery and enjoy a fascinating vista of the factory.
- Discover how Butler's chocolatiers have mastered their craft of chocolate artistry since 1932.
- Enjoy an up-close chocolate demonstration from a chocolatier, learning the interesting techniques of how individual chocolates are made.
- Finally, unleash your competitive chocolate spirit and decorate your own chocolate figure with lashings of liquid chocolate and chocolate flakes – the highlight of the tour.
- Personalised participant certificates are available on request.



ESTIMATED TIME

1.5 – 2.0 hours.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

Butlers



INTERESTING FACTS

- Butler's Chocolates was founded in 1932 by a pioneering woman called Marion Butler who named her luxury chocolate creations Chez Nous Chocolates. Marion, who was born in India and moved to Ireland as a young woman, continued to make her delicious chocolates until 1959 when the company was bought by Seamus Sorensen from Cork. The company is one of the few remaining family-owned chocolate producers in its market and is 100% Irish family owned.
- In the 1980's, the company was rebranded as Butler's Irish and later as Butler's Chocolates as a tribute to Marion's dedication to the mastery of chocolate, for which they continuously strive.
- Butler's opened its first retail outlet in 1989 on Dublin's Grafton Street. This shop was the foundation for Butler's Chocolate Cafés.
- Butler's Chocolates are available in over 40 countries and 60 airports around the world.



PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes



Guinness Storehouse

The home of Guinness

Located in the heart of the St. James's Gate Brewery, the Guinness Storehouse is Ireland's most popular tourist attraction. The seven-storey self-guided tour tells the story of Ireland's iconic drink and beings to life the heritage of this world famous beer. Your journey begins standing at the bottom of the world's largest pint glass, which rises through the building. It is a dramatic story that begins over 250 years ago and ends in Gravity Bar, Dublin's highest bar where you can enjoy spectacular 360 degree views over Dublin. There is a restaurant/snack shop on site (about halfway through the tour, so a good place to stop and refresh yourself before continuing the tour. The experience is housed on multiple floors, each connected with escalators and there are elevators too so very wheelchair accessible, plus stairs. A large gift shop sells almost every piece of Guinness clothing and souvenir you can think of.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Education.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Discover what it takes to make beer the Guinness way, from their famous strain of yeast to the passion of the brewers who go to extraordinary lengths to create the world's leading stout.
- See the giant wooden vats that were capable of holding 90,000 gallons of beer.
- See the famous Downhill Harp, which dates from 1702 and once belonged to the last of the old Irish school of travelling blind harpists, Denis Hempson. The harp bears the following inscription "In the time of Noah I was green, but since his flood I have not been seen, until 17 hundred and 02 I was found, by CR Kelly underground. He raised me up to that degree, that queen of musick you may call me".
- Enjoy a free drink (adults only) in the Gravity Bar where you can enjoy panoramic views of Dublin.



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1.5 – 2.0 hours.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



© Future Learning 2019



INTERESTING FACTS

- Arthur Guinness started his business in 1759 by renting an unused, four-acre brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin for the next 9000 years. He paid an initial £100 and locked in annual rent at £45. However, the original lease was voided when the company bought the property.
- There are six official steps to pouring a pint of Guinness, including waiting nearly two minutes for the beer to settle between the first and second pour.
- Guinness also owns breweries in Malaysia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Cameroon. All of the ingredients are sourced locally, except for one: the Guinness extract, a secret mixture that is added to a Guinness brewed anywhere in the world
- The country ranks third on the list of places where residents tip back the most Guinness annually, after Britain and Nigeria.
- The harp, along with Arthur Guinness's signature, made its first appearance on a Guinness beer label in 1862 and was officially registered in the trademark office in 1876. The same instrument appears on Ireland's coat of arms. The government ran into difficulties when trying to register the harp as a state symbol under international trademark law because the symbol and the Guinness label were so similar. Eventually, the state and the brewery were able to reach a compromise: the harp on a bottle of Guinness would always face right, while in official use, the harp would always be left-facing.



PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes

future learning



Croke Park & GAA Museum

The headquarters of Ireland's national sports

Croke Park is an iconic stadium, steeped in history, and has been at the heart of Irish sporting and cultural life since 1884. The stadium holds 82,300 people and serves as the primary host for Gaelic games, most notably the annual All-Ireland finals in football and hurling. On this tour you will get the opportunity to step behind the scenes of Ireland's biggest and most famous sports stadium and learn about the Irish tradition of Gaelic games. As you discover the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and enjoy a guided tour of the stadium you will also get to peek behind-the-scenes into the team dressing rooms and VIP area, and look out over the pitch from the stands.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sport/History.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Guided tour of Croke Park in Dublin.
- Enjoy panoramic views from the top tier of the stand – 30 meters above the famous pitch
- Learn about Gaelic games like hurling and Gaelic football at the Croke Park Museum.
- Go behind-the-scenes and see the team dressing rooms and playing pitch.
- Explore the museum with its new exhibition galleries that vividly illustrate the story of Gaelic games from ancient times to the present day.
- Test your own hurling and football skills in the interactive games zone – a must for museum visitors of all ages

ESTIMATED TIME

2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Croke Park is the fourth largest stadium in western Europe behind Barcelona's Nou Camp (99,786), Wembley in London (90,000), and the Bernabeu in Madrid (85,454).
- The stadium has hosted several major international music acts, including U2, Coldplay, Bruce Springsteen, Tina Turner, Garth Brooks, One Direction, The Police and Take That.
- In 2003 the stadium hoisted the opening and closing ceremonies of the Special Olympics.
- In 1917, rubble from the 1916 Easter Rising was used to construct a grassy hill on the railway end of Croke Park pitch. This terrace is still known as Hill 16.
- The darkest days in Croke Park's history was "Bloody Sunday", November 21 1920. Fourteen people were killed by the British army during a football match between Dublin and Tipperary. Officers opened fire on the crowd after spies working for the Irish rebel Michael Collins killed 14 British intelligence spies earlier that day.
- The biggest crowd at Croke Park was in 1961 when 90,556 fans watched County Down play County Offaly in the All-Ireland Football Final.

© Future Learning 2019

Collins Barracks

Museum of Decorative Arts and History

Collins Barracks was an army base for some 200 years before being renovated for use as a museum of military history and decorative arts. The network of tall, granite-faced buildings occupy an 18 acre site and retain an imposing, military air. On your visit you will be given the opportunity to explore the background to the 1916 Easter Rising that led to Irish Independence from Britain and the nuances of contemporary political events. Apart from military history you can also explore the museum's Collections of furniture, silver, ceramics, glassware and Asian art, as well as folk life and costume artefacts.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Museum Visit.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- One of the largest displays of materials from Easter Rising of 1916
- The stories of those caught up in the events of that momentous week - civilians, combatants and survivors alike.
- Experience a unique physical proximity to the people and events of Easter Week through the everyday, intimate and personal belongings of the participants.

ESTIMATED TIME

The tour takes 1-2 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups. Please note that only the ground floor is wheelchair accessible.



INTERESTING FACTS

- After WWI began, the IRB decided to stage a rising before the war ended to establish an Irish Republic. The war would put pressure on UK; and Germany could help them to achieve their goal.
- The Germans didn't support the rising fully but agreed to send arms. They were to be delivered on 21 April but were intercepted by the Royal Navy. Due to this the Rising had to be postponed by a day. The countermanning order by the head of the Irish Volunteers just added to the confusion however and resulted in many volunteers missing the Rising altogether, leading to its failure.
- Around 400 people were killed and 2500 wounded during the Easter Rising.

© Future Learning 2019



St. Stephen's Green & Grafton Street Shopping

The heart of Victorian Dublin

St Stephen's Green is Dublin's most famous park, providing an oasis of calm in the middle of a bustling city. Its four centuries of history are eventful and complex, involving such important figures as Arthur Guinness and Countess Constance Markievicz. The park itself hosts a large number of important sculptural monuments to Irish history. Many species of birds and plants also call the park their home. Public facilities at St Stephen's Green Park include a playground and a garden for the visually impaired. Grafton Street presents the traveller with a narrow winding street that's been at the heart of the city's social life for more than a century and runs from St. Stephen's Green to Trinity College. It is both a renowned shopping and cultural area, and is frequently alive with live music and artistic performances.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sightseeing Shopping.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

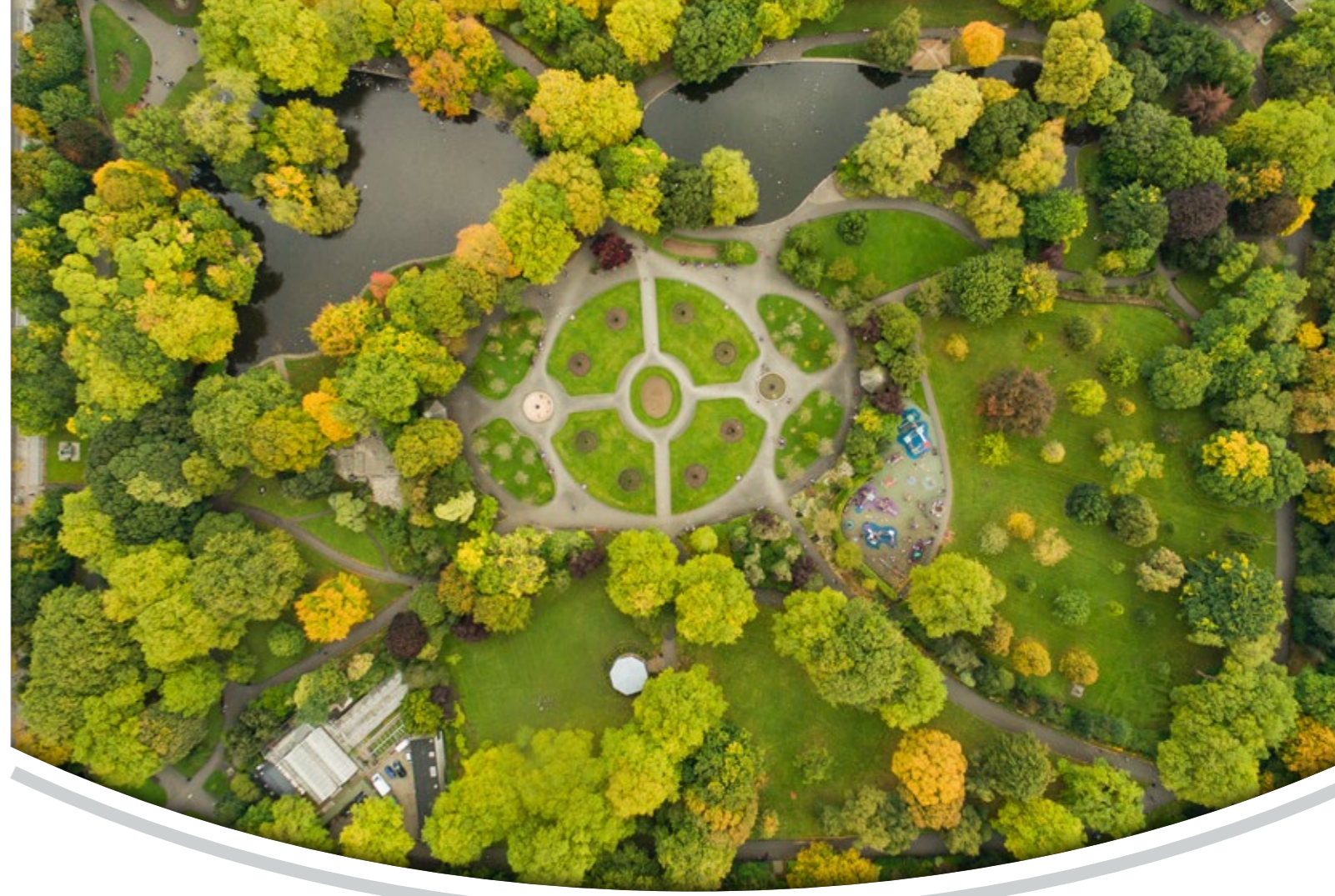
- Enjoy a stroll through St. Stephens green, taking time to feed the birds or view the famine memorial.
- Place your hands in Pavarotti's palm prints, preserved in bronze outside the Gaiety Theatre
- See Grafton Street's historic buildings with their Gothic, Art Deco and Jacobean facades so beloved of Victorian architects. The eclectic mix of 19th century styles add to the charm of the street, although you have to look up to appreciate them.
- In 1849, Hugh Brown and James Thomas opened a drapery shop. It is now one of Ireland's most exclusive department stores and occupies number 88 on the street.
- In 1869, Weirs & Sons jewellers opened at number 5. The business rapidly expanded and it moved to larger premises at number 96 where it still is today.
- Enjoy a tea or coffee at Dublin's oldest Café, "Bewleys Oriental Café".

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



© Future Learning 2019



INTERESTING FACTS

- Grafton Street has been Ireland's shopping mecca since Victorian times. When the British King, George V, visited Ireland in 1911, he paraded down the street.
- The narrowness of Grafton Street lends it an intimacy and warmth. The buildings too are narrow, most just 6m wide. This is a people-sized space, a street of elaborate dollhouses for grown-ups.
- In the 17th century Stephen's Green was nothing more than a marshy field on the outskirts of Dublin, used for grazing livestock, the odd public execution and the occasional 'witch' burning.
- By the mid-17th century, a park had been created on the green and grand houses built along its perimeter. This early gentrification extended to the pathway connecting the new Green to Trinity College. It was developed initially for residential housing and named after the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton and illegitimate son of Charles II of England.
- Bewley's Oriental Café sits on the site of the old Whytes Academy. This high-class school was attended by, among others, Thomas Moore, Robert Emmet and the Duke of Wellington.
- The Bewley family were Quakers who imported tea from Canton in China, before moving into the café trade. They opened shops on Westmoreland Street and Georges Street in the late 19th century. For the new Grafton Street premises, opened in 1927, the discovery of Tutankhamen's Tomb in Egypt was used as an inspiration for the design of the café's façade. A regular haunt for literary greats (Joyce mentions the café in Dubliners), it is still not unusual to see famous names at one of its tables.

PREPARATION

Good walking shoes, raincoat and umbrella.



Dundrum Shopping Centre

Ireland's Largest Shopping Centre

First opened on 3 March 2005, "Dundrum Town Centre" is a shopping centre located in Dundrum, Dublin, Ireland. It is Ireland's largest shopping centre with over 169 tenants and almost 140,000 square metres of floor space, and over 3,400 car parking spaces.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Shopping.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Dundrum Town Centre contains a range of retail, restaurant and entertainment tenants. Retail stores include Tesco Ireland, Marks and Spencer, House of Fraser, H&M, Next, Harvey Nichols, Gap, Hollister Co., Penney's, Hamleys and Zara.
- Restaurants include Eddie Rocket's, FIVE GUYS, Milano's, Nando's and TGI Fridays.
- Entertainment includes a cinema and Mill Theatre Dundrum.
- A temporary ice-skating rink is operational during some of the Winter months to host 'Dundrum on Ice', which starts in October.

ESTIMATED TIME

2.0 – 4.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Good walking shoes.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Dundrum Town Centre had to be evacuated shortly before 8pm on 24 October 2011 when floodwaters surged through the doors. The owner of a Mexican restaurant in the complex had five feet of water rush down steps towards his business, causing thousands of euro worth of damage.
- In 2009, Dundrum Town Centre was awarded "Shopping Centre of the Year" for the third year running at the FBD Retail Excellence Awards, as voted by shopping centre retailers throughout Ireland. By the end of 2009, Dundrum Town Centre had won 30 national and international awards since opening.

Irish Museum of Modern Art

The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham

The IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art) is Ireland's leading national institution for the collection and presentation of modern and contemporary art. It holds the Irish National Collection of modern and contemporary art, consisting of over 3500 works by Irish and international artists. The collection's emphasis is on works produced post-1940 and features works by many significant artists including Marina Abramović, Louise Bourgeois, Joseph Cornell, Robert Rauschenberg, Sol LeWitt, Louis le Brocquy, Matt Mullican, Roy Lichtenstein and Lawrence Weiner. The collection's emphasis is on works produced post-1940 and features works by many significant artists including Marina Abramović, Louise Bourgeois, Joseph Cornell, Robert Rauschenberg, Sol LeWitt, Louis le Brocquy, Matt Mullican, Roy Lichtenstein and Lawrence Weiner.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Art/Education.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- The Museum is housed in the 17th century Royal Hospital building in Kilmainham, Dublin, whose beautiful grounds include a formal garden, meadow and medieval burial grounds.
- The Royal Hospital Kilmainham is an iconic landmark. It was built in 1680 by royal command and predates its sister, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, by just two years. This is the oldest classical building in Ireland and was based on Les Invalides in Paris.
- The Museum holds a small collection of the works of Lucien Freud.
- Exhibits can vary from month to month, and some may require an entrance fee.

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1.0-2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes.

www.imma.ie



INTERESTING FACTS

- The Irish Museum of Modern Art is housed in the 17th-century Royal Hospital Kilmainham, which was founded in 1684 by James Butler, the Duke of Ormonde and Viceroy to Charles II, as a home for retired soldiers and continued in that use for almost 250 years.
- In 1922 the RHK was handed over to the Irish Free State and five years later the last pensioner was moved to Chelsea. It served as Garda Headquarters from 1930 to 1950 but fell into disrepair.
- In 1980 Taoiseach Charles Haughey approved plans to renovate it at a cost of IR£3 million. It took four years – which is almost as long as it took to originally build it three centuries before.
- The gardens were originally used for medicinal purposes but over time they became the private gardens of the Master of the RHK who was in charge of the British Army in Ireland at that time.
- In 1991, the RHK became home to the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) which explains all of those stunning sculptures you'll see around the hospital's 48 acres.
- The original stables have been restored, extended and converted into artists' studios.
- The Museum runs an artist in residence programme.

Natural History Museum

Visit to Dublin's beloved "Dead Zoo"



Situated in Merrion Square as part of the Leinster House complex, the museum sits in the heart of Georgian Dublin and is a photographer's dream. Some say the real star is the building itself.

If you have time, try to visit the Oscar Wilde memorial across the road and find your favourite witticism to translate into your own language.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Museum visit.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A 'cabinet-style' Victorian museum designed to showcase a wide-ranging and comprehensive zoological collection of natural life exhibits from all over Ireland, both current and extinct.
- Lifesize exhibits and giant suspended skeletons.
- Irish Fauna on the ground floor. The rest of the world on the first floor.
- A "Discovery Zone" where visitors can handle taxidermy and bones.



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1-2 hours. How much you get to see really depends on the pace of your group, the interest shown in the exhibits and any ancillary educational activities you may undertake.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups. Please note that only the ground floor is wheelchair accessible.



INTERESTING FACTS

- One of the giant Irish deer skeletons has an antler span of 3.5 metres!
- Affectionately known by Dubliners as the 'Dead Zoo' the Museum is effectively a museum of a museum, having changed little since its opening in 1897.
- Each year some 320,000 people visit the museum and enjoy all its Victorian charms
- TV period dramas such as Ripper Street and Penny Dreadful have been filmed here.
- A new entrance was constructed facing Merrion Street in 1909 which reversed the direction from which visitors approached the exhibitions. This is why some of the large exhibits face away from the entrance. It was too difficult to turn the whales and elephants.

National Museum of Archaeology

Treasures of Irish History



Discover Celtic gold treasures, ancient preserved bog bodies, ceramics, glass, Viking artefacts and many other archaeological objects from Ireland and the world at large. If you have an interest in history, or simply just the macabre, this will be the highlight of your visit to Dublin



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Museum visit.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Artefacts dating from 7000BC to the 20th Century exhibited in seven galleries.
- Iconic artefacts such as the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Derrynaflan Hoard, plus the Faddan More Psalter exhibition.
- The Kingship and Sacrifice exhibition which includes recently found bog bodies.
- Ór – Ireland's Gold exhibition is one of the largest and most important gold collections in Europe.
- The Ancient Egypt exhibition with the gilt and painted cartonnage case of the mummy Tentdinebu, and a number of important stelae, tomb furniture, offering tables, jewellery and household objects.
- The Viking Ireland exhibition. At the centre of this exhibition is a display of finds from the Museum's Dublin excavations, carried out between 1962 and 1981.



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1-2 hours. How much you get to see really depends on the pace of your group, the interest shown in the exhibits and any ancillary educational activities you may undertake.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups.



INTERESTING FACTS

- About one hundred ancient bodies have been found in Irish bogs. Some of them are on display in the museum. Causes of death range from accidental drowning to ritual execution.
- The cold, acidic, oxygen-free conditions within the bogs acts to mummify and preserve the bodies.
- The ancient Irish had their own alphabet called Ogham, which they carved into stones. The roman alphabet only arrived in the 6th century with Christian missionaries.
- The first recorded Viking raids on Ireland took place in A.D. 795, they integrated so well into Irish society in the centuries since then that almost 40% of the Irish population has Viking DNA.
- The ancient Irish loved bells. They were a sign of authority and most early Christian priests carried 'hand bells'. Those belonging to saints were revered as relics and buried during the Reformation.

James Joyce Tower

Free museum, staffed by volunteers

Situated in Sandycove, in south County Dublin, the **James Joyce Tower and Museum** is a Martello tower where James Joyce once spent six nights in 1904. The opening scenes of his novel *Ulysses* take place here, and the tower is a place of pilgrimage for Joyce enthusiasts, especially on Bloomsday.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Museum visit. Possible visit to beach (weather dependent)

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- One of a network of Martello towers built by the British along the coast of Dublin in the early 19th century to defend against the threat of a Napoleonic invasion.
- The setting in which the opening of James Joyce's masterpiece *Ulysses* is set, and the James Joyce Museum, which boasts a unique and wonderful collection of Joycean memorabilia.
- A vantage point from which to enjoy panoramic views of South Dublin and "the awakening mountains" Joyce refers to in *Telemachus*, the opening episode of *Ulysses* that is set in the Tower
- Sandycove Beach and the famous Forty Foot bathing place.

ESTIMATED TIME

Estimated Time 1 hour.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups.



INTERESTING FACTS

- James Joyce has authored some of the most famous and innovative works in literary history.
- Martello towers are small defensive forts that were built by the British in response to a threatened invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte at the beginning of the 19th century. These towers take their name from a 16th century tower located at Cape Mortella on the Island of Corsica.
- Architect Michael Scott bought the Martello Tower in 1954. He and his friends founded the James Joyce Museum with financial assistance from filmmaker John Huston, whose final film was a highly acclaimed adaptation of James Joyce's classic short story 'The Dead' from Dubliners.
- The Tower was officially opened as a museum on Bloomsday, 16 June, 1962 by Sylvia Beach, who first published *Ulysses*. Over the years, the museum collection has greatly expanded thanks to the kind generosity of many donors, which include Paul Ruggiero and Samuel Beckett.
- Joyce died in 1941 of a perforated duodenal ulcer. He is buried, not in Dublin, but in Fluntern cemetery in Zurich.

© Future Learning 2019

James Joyce Centre

Literary Museum

The **James Joyce Centre** is dedicated to promoting understanding of the life and works of James Joyce. Set over three floors, the Centre covers Joyce's life and work with a permanent interactive exhibition on *Ulysses*. Whether you're a true Joycean or a literary novice there is plenty to learn about and a wonderful insight into the Dublin that inspired Joyce's work.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History & Literature.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

A restored 18th-century Georgian townhouse at 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin, dating from a time when north inner city Dublin was at the height of its grandeur. On permanent exhibit is furniture from Paul Leon's apartment in Paris, where Joyce wrote much of *Finnegans Wake*, and the door to the home of Leopold Bloom and his wife, Molly, number 7 Eccles Street, one of the more famous addresses in literature, which had been rescued from demolition by John Ryan.

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1 - 2 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

www.jamesjoyce.ie



INTERESTING FACTS

- James Joyce has authored some of the most famous and innovative works in literary history.
- Joyce died in 1941 of a perforated duodenal ulcer. He is buried, not in Dublin, but in Fluntern cemetery in Zurich.
- Joyce's fear of thunder and lightning stemmed from his childhood, when his governess told him that thunderstorms were God manifesting his anger. This fear helped to inspire the 100-letter word he coined in his final novel.

© Future Learning 2019

National Gallery of Ireland

Treasures of Irish & European Art

Situated in Merrion Square as part of the Leinster House complex, the museum sits in the heart of Georgian Dublin. Opened in 1854, the National Gallery is open 361 days a year.

If you have time, try to visit the Oscar Wilde memorial across the road and find your favourite witticism to translate into your own language.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Museum visit.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- The National Collection of Ireland including internationally renowned works by Caravaggio, Goya, Monet, Vermeer, Turner, Rembrandt, Velazquez, Picasso and Vermeer.
- Famous works by Irish painters such as Yeats, Maclise, Leech and Burton..

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1-2 hours. How much you get to see really depends on the pace of your group, the interest shown in the exhibits and any ancillary educational activities you may undertake.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Advance booking for groups. Please note that only the ground floor is wheelchair accessible.



© Future Learning 2019



INTERESTING FACTS

- The National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin boasts some 2,500 paintings and approximately 10,000 other works in different media including water colours, drawings, prints and sculpture.
- Every major European school of painting is extensively represented at the gallery.
- The gallery was established by an Act of Parliament in 1854 and to the public in January 1864.

Jeanie Johnston Famine Ship

Nautical & Famine Museum

Take a 50 minute guided tour leading you through the historic Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship, taking in the detailed craftsmanship as you board the ship before journeying to the cabins where a guide will lead you through the dimly-lit quarters to show what life was like for those passengers who made the transatlantic voyage to an uncertain future in the 'New World'.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A reconstruction of a famous 19th century famine ship, the Jeanie Johnston is a replica of a three masted barque that was originally built in Quebec, Canada, in 1847.
- As the effects of the famine ravaged Ireland. Between 1848 and 1855, the Jeanie Johnston made 16 voyages to North America, sailing to Quebec, Baltimore and New York. The most passengers she ever carried was 254, from Tralee to Quebec on 17 April 1852. To put this number in perspective, the replica ship is only licensed to carry 40 people including crew.
- The Famine statues, in Custom House Quay in the Dublin Docklands, were presented to the City of Dublin in 1997.

ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 1.0 – 2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

www.jeaniejohnston.ie



© Future Learning 2019



INTERESTING FACTS

- Despite the number of passengers, and the long voyage, no crew or passenger lives were ever lost on board the Jeanie Johnston.
- No event in history has had a more profound effect on Ireland and the worldwide Irish Community than that of the Great Irish Famine (1845-1849).
- During the famine approximately 1 million people died and a million more emigrated from Ireland, causing the island's population to fall by between 20% and 25%.
- The cause of Famine is blamed on a potato disease commonly known as potato blight. Although blight ravaged potato crops throughout Europe during the 1840s, the impact and human cost in Ireland, where one third of the population was entirely dependent on the potato for food, was exacerbated by a host of political, social and economic factors.



Bray Head

Popular Scenic Attraction

Bray Head is a popular destination for nature walkers in Dublin, and there are 3 short walks possible.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Outdoor Hike.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE



© Future Learning 2019



OPTION 1:

GREYSTONES TO BRAY HIKE

Coastal Path and sea cliffs. Dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks can occasionally be seen in summer from the cliff walk.

DESCRIPTION

Get the train to Greystones and walk back to Bray, a flat walk along a stunning well-maintained coastal path with no climbing involved.

ESTIMATED TIME

3 – 4 hours (2.5-3 hours walking)

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



OPTION 2:

CLIMB BRAY HEAD

View of Cliffs and Panoramic View of Bray, Dublin & Wicklow mountains

DESCRIPTION

Get the train to Bray and climb to the cross on the summit of Bray Head and return by the same route. The climb involves ascending through woodland on a rough track that can be very slippery in wet weather. It is a short climb and not very steep, but worth it for views from the summit

ESTIMATED TIME

4 hours (2 hours walking of which 30 mins uphill)

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages. Short section of easy scrambling (3-4m).



OPTION 3:

CIRCUIT OF BRAY HEAD

(The best of walks 1&2 combined)

DESCRIPTION

Get the train to Bray, climb to the summit of Bray Head then continue across the mountain and descend onto the Cliff Walk and return to Bray enjoying the stunning views of the sea cliffs.

ESTIMATED TIME

4 hours (3 hours walking – involves 30 mins uphill and one 5m section of easy scrambling).

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages. Short section of easy scrambling (3-4m).

★ INTERESTING FACTS

- The cliff walk was once the property of Lord Meath and was closed every Friday for his private use. Members of the public could do it on other days by passing through a toll gate and paying a small fee.
- Just beyond the Toll Collector's cottage lies an area called the Brandy Hole. An immense cave here with an entrance at sea level had a tunnel that led to the cliff path. Brandy, tea, gin, silks and wine were smuggled in from France and landed under cover of darkness, before the ships sailed openly into Dublin with their legitimate cargo. The cave was destroyed when the railway was built.
- Bray Head is an excellent location for dolphin and whale watching. Train passengers frequently see large Bottlenose Dolphins and small black Harbour Porpoises as they leap from the sea at the bottom of the cliffs. Gigantic toothless, filter-feeding Basking Sharks are also a strong viewing possibility, as they are very common close to the Wicklow shores in summer

✓ PREPARATION

- Comfortable rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it can get very cold in the mountains so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat and gloves, and extra layers of clothing.
- Irrespective of the weather, comfortable walking shoes and thick socks are necessary if you are going to hike. The ground can be very uneven and blisters or sprained ankles can result from poor choice of footwear. Your group will need to be aware of this before you travel.



Dalkey Castle

Living History Tour with Costumed Guides

Dalkey is one of the most affluent suburbs of Dublin and a seaside resort southeast of the city. Founded by the Vikings, it became an active port during the middle ages. We travel there by local train, enjoying panoramic views of Dublin bay as the train skirts the coast. We will walk through the picturesque village to the castle where we will learn of its unique Viking, Norman and literary heritage and enjoy a “living history” performance with costumed actors.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Travel back to the mid-1500s and interact with costumed actors who will entertain you and enlighten you with the extraordinary work of the Archer, the Cook, and the travelling Barber-Surgeon.
- Video presentation on the history of Dalkey Village from stone-age to modern times.
- See medieval coins being made and tour the medieval fortified town house and battlements.
- If time and weather allow this could be combined with a short 20-30 min visit to Killiney Beach to see Ireland's equivalent of the Bay of Naples.



ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 90 mins. A visit to Killiney takes an extra 30-60 mins depending on how long you spend on the beach. Killiney Bay is considered as Ireland's “Bay of Naples”.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Rain coat and umbrellas if visiting beach. From October to April it can be very cold.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Such is the similarity of Killiney Bay to the bay of Naples that many of the local roads celebrate the Italian connection e.g. Vico Road, Nerano Road, Torca Road and Sorrento Terrace.
- Dalkey was originally founded as the Viking settlement of ‘Dalk-Ei’.
- Dalkey was one of the ports through which the plague entered Ireland in the 14th Century.
- The area has been home to celebrities such as Bono, Van Morrison, Enya, and Maeve Binchy.

The Queens 1745

© Future Learning 2019

Howth

Howth village and cliff walk

Howth is a popular destination for walkers in Dublin. You can choose to walk around the pier and village or to visit the cliffs. The lower cliff path is safe and spectacular, but it is not suitable for people afraid of heights, or groups that are difficult to control. The upper walk is easier but still with nice views. You can avoid walking uphill by getting a bus to the summit and walking back.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Outdoors & Nature.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Howth is a busy fishing village with stunning sea cliffs nearby.
- Occasionally seals and porpoises can be seen in the harbour or from the cliffs.
- The cliff walk offers views of Ireland's Eye, an island that was once a Viking base.
- If you have the time, why not purchase some fish and chips from one of the famous ‘chippers’ around the harbour. Burdocks, Beshoffs and Wrights all have shops in the village. Just watch out for the seagulls as you eat!



ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 2.5 – 3.0 hours walking.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

From October to April it can get very cold so bring a warm hat, gloves and extra layers of clothing. After heavy rain, the cliff walk can get quite muddy. Good shoes and socks are necessary.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Howth receives approximately 1.3 million visitors each year.
- It used to be an island until sand bars formed to join it to the shore at Sutton.
- Vikings settled in Howth in the 10th century. Howth is thought to be derived from the Norse word Hǫfuð.
- King George IV of England visited the harbour 1821 and his footprints are preserved on the west pier.

© Future Learning 2019

Malahide Castle & Gardens

Historic Home of the Talbot Family

Malahide Castle, parts of which date to the 12th century, sits in 260 acres of public parkland close to the village of Malahide in north County Dublin. Home for over 800 years to the Talbot Family, it offers a unique view of the social history of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland. Apart from the castle there is a 13th century abbey, a butterfly house, craft shops and a restaurant. As we walk from the train station to the castle you may even get to see one of our native Gaelic sports being played.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History & Nature.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A Norman castle that has been occupied from 1175 to 1975 A.D. and set in a 260 acre park.
- A tour of the castle to learn how both life changed for the family over 800 years.
- See the family art collection and learn about the castle's resident ghost.
- A visit to the ornamental gardens and the butterfly farm.

ESTIMATED TIME

Tour takes 1.5 – 2.0 hours.

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea.



★ INTERESTING FACTS

- Malahide Castle was built by the Talbots, an English family holding the title Earls of Shrewsbury, who had arrived in England during the Norman invasion with William the Conqueror
- The castle has been the Talbot family home for over 800 years. It was sold to the state by Rose Talbot In 1975 partly to fund inheritance taxes.
- When Milo Talbot brought exotic plants to Malahide, he introduced the mosquito to the estuary.
- Milo was rumoured to be a soviet spy killed by British intelligence in Greece in 1973.

© Future Learning 2019

Donabate Coastal Path

Towers, Cliffs and Smugglers' Coves

Walk from train station to beach to view the Martello Tower. Follow the cliff path to Tower Bay, pausing to View Lambay Island, the round tower, the Priest's Hole and Chink Well. Continue to Portrane to view the Tayleur Memorial and a 14th century Norman church. Return via bus or road.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Outdoors & Nature.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- Beautiful coastal walk along small cliffs overlooking Lambay Island.
- Martello Towers – constructed to defend coast against Napoleon and old coast guards houses.
- The Tayleur memorial – in memory of the 370 people who died in the infamous shipwreck.
- The round tower erected by Sophia Evans in memory of her husband George.
- Portrane Hospital – the remains of a Victorian red-bricked asylum.

ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 2.0 – 3.0 hours well-maintained paths (7-8km).

RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.

PREPARATION

Comfortable walking shoes, rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea in Ireland.



★ INTERESTING FACTS

- Lambay is home to a colony of wallabies introduced to the island in the 1950s by Rupert Baring.
- Tower Bay was renowned for ship wreckers and smugglers during the 18th century.
- Water from the Chink Well cave was once considered a cure for whooping cough.
- The Priest's Hole was a hiding place for priest's during the penal laws.

© Future Learning 2019

Skerries

Picturesque Fishing Village

Skerries is a popular weekend destination for Dubliners. A very picturesque village, it has a long sandy beach, amusement arcades, a fishing harbour and lots of sea-food restaurants. Skerries is the best place in Dublin for seal watching. If you book the tour of the mills you can also try your hand at milling.



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sightseeing.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- 16th and 18th century windmills can be seen from the road side. A guided tour can be arranged if you would like to see inside. Rates depend on the size of your group. Tour takes 50 mins.
- Picturesque Irish fishing village where seals can regularly be seen swimming close to the harbour.
- Martello Tower – originally a canon emplacement to defend the coast from Napoleonic invasion.
- St. Patricks footprint, chiselled by local people into the rock to mark the spot where he came ashore



ESTIMATED TIME

2.5 – 3.5 hours walking, depending on whether or not you book the guided tour of the mills.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

Comfortable rain gear and umbrellas are always a good idea. From October to April it can get very cold so it is always advisable to bring a warm hat, gloves and extra layers of clothing.

www.skerrieshomepage.com



INTERESTING FACTS

- The name Skerries comes from the Old Norse 'skere' meaning 'reef'.
- The 3 islands off the coast are called Shenick Island, St. Patrick's Island and Colt Island.
- St. Patrick founded a monastery on the island that bears his name in 432 A.D.
- The lighthouse is on Rockabill island. It is home to Europe's largest colony of roseate terns
- In 1916 a British destroyer landed troops in Skerries to help suppress the rebellion in Dublin.

© Future Learning 2019

Swords

History & Shopping

The historic town of Swords was founded in 560 AD by St. Columcille and takes its name from a local well that the saint is said to have blessed. The town's violent and religious history is remembered still by a 10th century round tower and a restored 12th century Norman castle, both of which are free to visit. One of the larger settlements of Greater Dublin, the town is also home to one of Dublin's largest shopping centres, with over 90 stores, several restaurants, and a multi-screen cinema all under one roof. Castles and Shopping Centres within 5 mins walk of each other, what more could you want?



TYPE OF ACTIVITY

History & Shopping.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

- A 10th Century Round tower and Norman belfry on site of 6th century Celtic monastery.
- A Holy Well for centuries considered a cure for leprosy.
- A 12th Century Norman Castle, Chapel & Manor House, with medieval staircases & battlements. The castle hall is famous for its stained glass windows, and in October you can pick apples from the courtyard orchard. Within walking distance of the castle the Pavillions Shopping Centre houses many of Ireland's most famous department stores such as Pennys (Primark) and Dunnes.



ESTIMATED TIME

Takes 2.0 – 3.0 hours. All attractions are free to enter.



RECOMMENDED AGE

Suitable for all ages.



PREPARATION

The medieval staircases are not suitable for people with mobility issues.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The town's origins date back to 560 AD when it was founded by St Columba (521–567). It was raided and burned 11 times by Vikings and Irish alike during 10-12th centuries.
- Legend has it that the saint blessed a local well, giving the town its name, Sord, meaning "clear" or "pure". However, An Sord also means "the water source".
- The Round Tower is one of the oldest in Ireland, the last remnant of the Celtic monastery.

© Future Learning 2019