

Heritage Trail

Tracing Meath's Royal Past

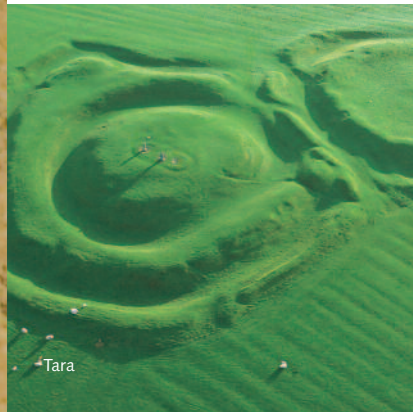
The spirit of the past is wonderfully alive in Co. Meath today. It is full of mystery and excitement, heartbreak and humour!

There are High Kings and Scholarly Monks, Vikings and Normans, castles and crosses, wise fish and singing stones, magical sagas and fabulous fairytales.

Ancient people of Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange) and Loughcrew left us enigmatic monuments, which were built to last forever. The mystery of these monuments still draws us to them...to trace the spirals they carved, to stand in these sacred places and to share for a moment an ancient view of the world.

Your tour through Meath is an experience in living history in a special place where magical things happen. Enjoy.

For more information check www.meathtourism.ie or info@meathtourism.ie



Travelling from Dublin city or airport, this historical driving route of Meath can be completed on one continuous journey or with planned overnight stops to savour the delights of Meath in the towns on route.

1 Hill of Tara

Tara, the ancient inauguration site of the High Kings of Ireland, is an evocative place celebrated in myth and legend. From the top of the hill there are dramatic views towards the Mourne and Cooley Mountains in the north east, across the Central Plain of Ireland to the Slieve Bloom Mountains in the southwest and to the Dublin/Wicklow Mountains in the south.

Location Halfway between Dunshaughlin and Navan off the N3

Open Access all year. Guided tours mid May - mid September. Admission Charge
Tel +353 (0) 46 902 5903
/41 988 0300

2 Bective Abbey

Founded in 1147, the substantial remains of Ireland's second Cistercian monastery still stand. Of the surviving buildings the cloister is the most impressive. The Abbey is wonderfully situated along the River Boyne with Bective Bridge nearby.

Location 15 min from Trim off the R161

Open All year. Admission free
Tel +353 (0) 46 943 7227

5 Kells Heritage Town

Kells is an Irish heritage town. Visitors will see the influence of both a pre-Norman monastic enclosure and a walled Anglo - Norman settlement. The High Crosses, with biblical scenes and Celtic patterns, represent decorative artifacts of Celtic Christianity. Five premier examples can be found in Kells including the famous Market Cross. For most people Kells is associated with the Book of Kells, probably the most famous of illustrated manuscripts. A perfect copy of the book is located at the Kells Civic Offices along with other treasures.

Tel +353 (0) 46 924 0064

6 Loughcrew Cairns

On top of the highest hills in Co Meath are some of its oldest monuments, the 5000 year old passage tombs of Loughcrew. Visitors to the monuments are rewarded not only by the ancient sites but also by some of the most stunning views in Ireland.

Location East of Oldcastle off the R163

Open all year, free guided tours June to Aug.
Tel +353 (0) 41 988 0300
Tel +353 (0) 49 854 1356

9 Brú na Bóinne

Brú na Bóinne - the Palace or Mansion of the Boyne- is the name given to one of the world's most important archaeological landscapes, dominated by the spectacular prehistoric passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. In recognition of the international importance of these monuments and the many other archaeological features in the area, UNESCO has designated Brú na Bóinne a World Heritage Site. Constructed during the Neolithic or New Stone Age, the passage tombs of Brú na Bóinne are about 5000 years old.

Location 2km west of Donore Village on L21

Open Newgrange - all year. Knowth - Easter to October. Admission charge. Access to Newgrange and Knowth from Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre only. Pre-booking for tour groups (extremely busy during summer months). It is advised to go early in the day.

Tel +353 (0) 41 988 0300
www.worldheritageireland.ie
Sat Nav coordinates:
N 53.694567 W -6.4463

Heritage and Visitor Centres

Trim Visitor Centre

Castle Street, Trim, Co. Meath
Tel +353 (0) 46 943 7227
Fax +353 (0) 46 943 8053
E trimvisitorcenter@eircom.net
www.meathtourism.ie

The visitor centre offers the exciting 'Power & the Glory' Audio Visual Show which paints a vivid picture of the historical background of the magnificent medieval ruins of Trim. Ramparts Coffee Shop serving speciality teas/coffees and homemade food all day Mon to Fri 9.30-5.30 Sat, Sun & bank Holidays 12-5.30 (seasonal)

St. Kilian's Heritage Centre

Mullagh, Kells, Co. Meath
Tel/ Fax +353 (0) 46 924 2433
Email stkiliancentre@eircom.net

St Kilian was born in Mullagh, County Cavan, in 640 AD in 686 AD he became a missionary to Wurzburg in Germany where he was martyred in 689 AD. The exhibition at Saint Kilians Heritage Centre in Mullagh, begins with a 15 minute audio visual presentation dealing with St Kilian and his times, his work, martyrdom and subsequent cult.



Trim Castle



Irish music



Kells



Loughcrew

3 Trim Castle

Built by Hugh de Lacy in 1173 this is the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. In medieval times, the castle stood like an imposing stone sentinel and powerful symbol of Norman strength. In modern times, the castle remains a strong focal point in Trim town and has been used in the epic film Braveheart which starred Mel Gibson.

Location Trim Town

Open Easter-End October. Weekends in Winter. Admission charge. Access to keep/castle building by guided tour only
Tel + 353 (0) 46 943 8619

4 Rathcairn

Rathcairn village is home to a lively Gaelic speaking community, where visitors can be immersed in Irish language, music and song.
Tel + 353 (0) 46 943 2068

7 Dunmoe Castle

This ruined castle stands close to the north bank of the River Boyne between Navan and Slane. It is believed that it was built in the 15th century. The castle was originally square with four round turrets at each corner.

Location 10 mins east of Navan, off the N51
Open All year. Admission free

8 Hill of Slane

Nearly 1,600 years ago, St Patrick lit the first Paschal Fire in Ireland to celebrate the Easter feast on the Hill of Slane. The Druids on the distant Hill of Tara had forbidden the lighting of any fires during the Pagan feast of Feis Temro, the Feast of Tara. Patrick's act of defiance was the spark that ignited the flame of Christianity in Ireland.

Location North of Slane off the N2
Open All year. Admission Free

10 Battle of the Boyne Site

The Battle of the Boyne in 1690 is arguably one of the most significant events in Irish history. The Protestant King William III of Orange, defeated the Catholic King James II and at stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe and Religious power in Ireland. Extensive free walks through the battle site that link with the Boyne Canal Towpath and Boyne River Walk. Living History Demonstrations of cavalry manoeuvres and black powder musket firing every Sunday and Bank Holiday in June, July and August.

Location On the south bank of the Boyne, 3km north of Donore Village off the L21. Signposted from off the N51 (Slane - Drogheda Rd, access for cars only-not suitable for coaches), off N1 (Drogheda) and off N2 (Slane-Ashbourne).

Open all year (except Christmas), Admission charge to Visitor Centre only, tea pavilion avail.
Tel +353 (0) 41 980 9950
E battleoftheboyne@opw.ie
www.battleoftheboyne.ie

St. Mary's Abbey/Talbot Castle

High Street, Trim, Co. Meath
Tel +353 (0) 46 943 1213
E info@meathtourism.ie

15th Century house once owned by Jonathan Swift. The school was once attended by the Duke of Wellington. Guided tours available June, July and September

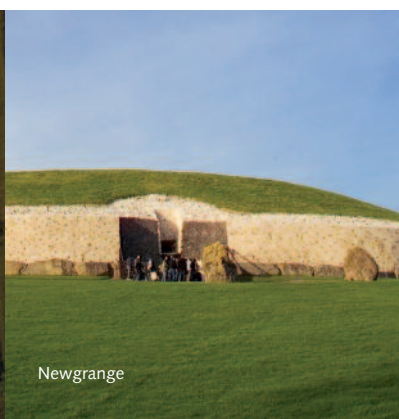
St. Columba's Church

Kells, Co. Meath
Tel +353 (0) 49 929 3626
E info@meathtourism.ie

St Columba's Church and Grounds mark the original site of the Monastery of Kells. It stands on one of the most important Church sites in Co. Meath.



Dunmoe Castle



Newgrange



Hill of Slane



Battle of the Boyne Site