Special Offers Inside







Touring Guide



Welcome

Welcome to Irelanda Heritage Island rich in history, incredible landscapes and superb exhibition and interpretive centres that will reward your visit. This guide introduces you to 83 of Ireland's Premier Attractions Whether your interest is the history of the people of Ireland, its industrial past, its food and drink, wonderful gardens inspiring houses and castles, or its renowned landscapes this guide will direct you to the best of what's available to explore and enjoy

Many attractions and locations featured in this guide provide exerca value offers to visitors who use the Heritage Island Discount Pass. See the offer listed alongside each description.

To a fail of these great orient simply show your Discount Pass (see inside back cover) or show this guide when visiting any of the attractions listed.

For further information, special events, and to book tickets see www.HeritageIsland.com





Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, H91 AX26

This is a very special place in the heart of the Burren. Let the knowledgeable quides at Aillwee welcome you to the dramatic underworld of this unique landscape. Your tour consists of a 35 minute guided walk through beautiful caverns, over bridged chasms, under weird formations and alongside the thunderous waterfall which sometimes gently sprays the unsuspecting visitor. Marvel at the frozen waterfall and explore the hibernation chambers of the long-extinct brown bears.

Visit the Birds of Prey Centre, home to one of the largest and most varied collections of Birds of Prey in Ireland - Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, Owls, and Vultures. The expert bird handlers are always available to help you understand these amazing Raptors and let you know about all the conservation programmes that are ongoing both

Tel: +353 (0)65 707 7036 Email: info@aillweecave.ie www.aillweecave.ie

AILLWFF CAVE And Birds of Prev Centre



nationally and internationally. Audio quides and information boards also give detailed information on all the residents. Daily flying displays provide a rare opportunity to see many of these wonderful species in dramatic free flight set against the Burren landscape

The Burren in North Clare is al birthplace of the Award Win

Open year round: L Sept, Oct 10.00-17 l & Aug 10.00-18.30. Check te for oth dates. Closed Dec 24

ese 'Bu Farmhouse 2 Aillwee'. This wond won numerou is national and inte fairs, and comes in op into the Farm nd taste some delicious en Gold Cheesel You may even be enough to see the cheesemaker

s: Joint Tickets: ult €18; Senior/Student €15; d €10; Family (2A+2C) €44. Only' tickets available.







Overend Way, Dundrum, Dublin 14, D14 EE77

Airfield Estate is Dublin's only 38-acre working farm & visitor attraction. Established in 1974 as a charitable organisation by Letitia & Maomi Overend for recreational an purposes - the miss on at Airfield is to connect people with food the land that it comes fro drum, ju e centre d Airfield Estate off rs many experie including: An int ve exhibition the Overend family home; Gardens - whereby the Walled Garden & Greenhouse reflect the Overend's family possion for plants; The interactive display garage provides you with access to the Overend's family cars include Letitia's 1927 Rolls Royce; The Farmyard - where the famous Jersey cows are milked and the eggs are collected daily; Visit the Kitchen Gardens to see where much of the fresh

Tel: +353 (0)1 969 6666 Email: info@airfield.ie www.airfield.ie



food is produced that goes directly into the field to fork restaurant: Woodland Walks with over 2,000 native trees, providing important wildlife corridors and improving the habitats of Airfield's bird & insect populations; The Grey Barn special indoor/outdoor play space for 0-4 year-old children; Overends Restaurant and Coffee Shop - Estate sourced farm to fork dining experiences.

Open year round: Please check website for details.

Airfield offers a place where you can reflect, be replenished & celebrate the connection between people & nature through the farm, gardens and natural environment. Tours can be organised with one of the specialised guides, or all experiences can be self-quided. Airfield Estate also offers an option for bespoke tours & private dining.

Entrance fees: Adult €10: Senior/Student €8; Child €5; Child (U3) Free.











Armagh - A city that has a unique sense of place in Ireland with a significance and influence felt across the island for 6,500 years.

Armagh is at the heart of celebrating the life of Saint Patrick, and on the new Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim's Walk, a journey of some 82 miles connecting locations of spiritual

Tel: +44 (0)28 3752 1800 Email: info@visitarmagh.com www.visitarmagh.com

significance to the saint.

There are many special things to experience in Armagh ranging fro the historically unique Navan Saint Patrick's Cathedrals, Irgiand only Planetarium, Irish Fusi Museum, Armagh County Mus No 5 Vicars' Hill, the Cardinal O'Fi Memorial Library and Alchive, the hive, the

Open year



ord Hou

events in Armas throughout the include Home of Saint Patrick's estival (March), Armagh Food and ider Festival (Sept) and Armagh Festival (Nov).

ATHLONE CAS VISITOR CENT



Sharmon in the heart of Ireland, to modern life in Athlone. Athlone Carele was first built to defend a coveted crossing point and evolved into a bold defensive structure over the centuries. Visitors to Athlone Castle Visitor Centre will discover a story of settlement, defence, and survival from as early as the Neolithic period, to the Viking,

Tel: +353 (0)90 644 2130 Email: info@athlonecastle.ie www.athlonecastle.ie

uater on the banks of the majestic Medieval and Norman ages, right up

Inside the Castle delve through the mists of time as the Castle's tumultuous past is revealed with a series of modern exhibitions authentic artefacts, interactive games, life-size sculptures, medieval dress-up area and an intense 360º

Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec: Wed-Sat 10.30-17.00, Sun 11.30-17.00; Mar, May, Sep, Oct: Tues-Sat 10.00-17.30, Sun 11.00-17.30; Jun. Aug: Mon-Sat 9.30-18.00, Sun 10.30-18.00

St. Peter's Square, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 A6D7



cinematic experience of the Great Siege of Athlone.

Enthusiastic guides and volunteers will be on hand to assist you with any queries you may have. Last admission is one hour prior to closing. Audioquides available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese & Chinese (Mandarin). Scheduled guided tours available during summer months.

Entrance fees: Adult €8: Senior/ Student €6; Child (U15) €4; Family (2A+2C) €20. (2A+4C) €25



3 Main St., Belleek. Co. Fermanagh, BT93 3FY

Visit Ireland's oldest working Pottery, over 160 years in business. A visit to Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre is the perfect way to spend a day out and a must on any itinerary. Famously known for being the oldest working pottery in Ireland, this 4-star attraction offers a fascinating insight into the world of Belleek and the process that delivers this world-class product. Offering a series of delicate delights to make your visit so much more memorable.

Begin your visit with an interactive quided tour. Guides will take you on a 30-minute pottery tour where you will see the 16 steps of how this world famous product is created. Amongst some of the skills demonstrated, you will see moulding, flowering, painting and basket weaving. As the oldest

Tel: +44 (0)28 6865 9300 Email: takethetour@belleek.ie www.belleekpottery.ie

BELLEEK POTTERY VISITOR CENTRE



working pottery in Ireland, the heritage of Belleek is hard to ignore. In addition to the displays of exquisite craftsmanship, an audiovisual presentation will inform you of the rich history of the pottery from its beginnings in the mid-1800s to the present day. The Belleek Museum houses some of the finest examples of product ever produced

Open year round, in holidays: Jan-Feb: M i. Mar-D Daily. Please contact ntre for specific opening hours our times. pottery including the Centre Picce ve completed your tour, e tle retail therapy in the d complete your visit time-out at the Belleek

s: Adult £6: nior/Student £4; Child Free; ly £10







Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 EF80



ting Lodge at nell stands on 160 acres of maintained estate punctuated with numerous foll es, the largest being The Jealous Wall suil to obscure his brother's larger house at Tudenham. Belvedere House is fully restored and is noted for its exquisite rococo ceilings and bow end design.

The Victorian Walled Garden exercises all the senses with a

Tel: +353 (0)44 934 9060 Email: info@belvedere-house.ie www.belvedere-house.ie



fragrant herb garden, old rose beds, tumbling herbaceous borders, alpines, climbers and vegetable potager. Belvedere plays host to a range of different outdoor events, including Garden Theatre, Bird Walks, Bat Walks, Music Concerts and Dog Shows.

Open year round: Daily from 09.30. May-Aug until 20.00. Please check website for details. Last admission 1 hour before closing. Closed Dec 24-26.

Belvedere has a licensed restaurant, shop, fairy garden, apiaries (beehives), four children's' play areas and several picnic areas.

Belvedere has a full calendar of events including Halloween, Easter and Christmas events. Please check website for latest details.

Entrance fees: Adult €8: Senior/Student €6; Child €4; Child (U3) Free: Family (2A+2C) €23









BIRR CASTLE GARDENS AND SCIENCE CENTRE



not valid for castle tours





The stunning gardens at Birr Castle are home to unending botanical marvels with an abundance of exotic flora to be found throughout along with feats of scientific and engineering wonder for all to view and enjoy.

Explore the gardens, which are home to the Great Telescope, once

Tel: +353 (0)57 912 0336 Email: reception@birrcastle.com www.birrcastle.com

the largest in the world created by the third Earl of Rosse in the 1840s along with Ireland's largest tree house and adventure area. The award-winning millenniu formal gardens, surrounded by t romantic hornbeam cloiste proudly houses the world's tal box hedges and in des plants exclusive to the orders. The 120

c 25, 26 Open vea & Jan 1. w.birr for season ning hou admission ? before clo

Birr Castle Demesne, Birr, Co. Offaly, R42 VO27

acres of gardens house an impressive plant collection of rare species from around the world, including over 40 trees published as champion trees of Britain and Ireland.

The historic science centre transports visitors back to a tip a when Birr Castle was a hub of scientific discovery and innovation The galleries reveal the wonders of early photography, eng astronom

mily home sin-opensits doors the summer months only for guided tours offering visitors the chance to it this private residence.

complete your visit with a trip to the Discovery wift Shop and the Castle Courtyard Café.

ance fees: Adult €9.50; Senior/ Student €8; Child (5-12) €5; Child (U5) Free; Family (2A+2C) €26. Rates do not include access to the castle.

BLARNEY CAST



with one full paying Adult



uated 8km/5miles from Cork City, this distort castle is most famous for its storte which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word 'Blarney' was introduced into the English language by Queen Elizabeth I and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. The stone is set in the wall below the battlements.

Tel: +353 (0)21 438 5252 Email: info@blarneycastle.ie www.blarnevcastle.ie

To kiss it, one has to lean backward (grasping an iron railing) from the parapet walk.

In the grounds of the castle, the Rock Close is a curious place of ancient trees and far more ancient stones, by legend a garden of druidic origin and a centre of worship in pre-Christian days.

Open year round: Daily from 09.00; Closing times vary through the season. Please check website for details.

Blarney, Co. Cork, T23 Y598

The place has an aura of magic and mystique with Wishing Steps, Witch's Kitchen, Druid's Cave, and many other delights, telling a story of centuries past. Blarney Castle Estate offers visitors the chance to stroll through one of the country's most spectacular gardens.

Blarney Castle & House are set in acres of parkland filled with rare and unusual trees & plants. There is a fern garden with the atmosphere of a tropical jungle, a poison garden full of deadly but fascinating plants, an 80metre/262feet long double herbaceous border, and rose pergola. extensive rhododendron beds, and spring bulbs.

Entrance fees: See www.blarneycastle.ie for admission details.





BOYNE VALLEY



The Boyne Valley, situated on the east coast of Ireland, is only 30 minutes from Dublin. Virtually every important event in Irish history took place in the Boyne Valley, making it the best place to start your holiday in Ireland. Some of its best-known attractions include the 5,000-year old burial chambers at the Newgrange and Knowth part of the Brù na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage Site and the interpretive centre at the Battle of the Boyne site.

Tel: +353 (0)46 909 7060 info@discoverboynevalley.ie www.discoverboynevalley.ie



Right in the heart of Drogheda Heritage town, visit the Gothic Revival St. Peter's Catholic Church, with the preserved head of St. Oliver Plunkett. Tour Millmount Museum and the Martello Tower to experience the wonderful views over Drogheda and it's medieval St. Laurence's Gate.

Open year round: Alase chewebsite for detail.

Marvel at the early Christian High Crosses a Monablerboke and Kells. No visite yould be complete without seeing The Castle the Jest preserved and most impressive Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. It is sittleted in the heritage town of Trim where you can also enjoy guided tooks and a leis prely walk down the River Loyde.

ntrance sees: Fees apply to some sitor attractions. Please check exite for details.



08

Kilfenora, Co. Clare, V95 W523

To begin to discover the secrets of the Burren a visit through the Burren Centre is essential. Here the story of the Burren is impressive presented in 'A Walk multidimensional exhibition. Subliminal ambient suggest the geological the lands ape, its flora, and l artefact original vorks of art audio visual and int enthrallin ractive ces together with dramatic life-like reproductions of human activity all con bine to provide an th history and insight into the i heritage of the Burren.

Take a walk down memory lane and enjoy the new exhibition entitled 'The Kilfenora Ceili Band Parlour,' which explores the music and history of this renowned band. Projections

Tel: +353 (0)65 708 8030 Email: info@theburrencentre.ie www.theburrencentre.ie

THE BURKEN CENTRE & THE CLEENORA CEILÍ BAND PARLOUR



showcasing a musical journey, archival photographs, historical artefacts, and interactive displays provide a fascinating insight into their musical journey for over 100 years.

There is enjoyment for all the family at this wonderful attraction. Homely Tea Rooms await you after your visit

Open mid-Mar to end of Oct. Mid Mar-May and Sept-Oct: Daily 10.00-17.00. Jun-Aug: Daily 09.30-17.30 where you sample some excellent traditional cuisine. Crafts are displayed in the creatively designed and spacious craft shop. Visit the famed Kilfenora Cathedral, adjacent to The Burren Centre, dedicated to St. Fachnan and built in about 1189 on the site of an early monastery.

Entrance fees: Adult €6; Senior/Student €5; Child (6-15) €4; Child (U6) Free; Family (2A+3C) €20







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BURREN NATURE SANCTUARY

Cloonasee, Kinvara, Co. Galway, H91 PTK7



Adult Admission Only



Explore the Burren Nature Sanctuary Interpretive Trail, which showcases features of Burren geology and biodiversity through interpretive panels and audio tour. Discover fossils from ancient tropical seas in the limestone rocks formed over millions of years. Identify seasonal wildflowers growing in the spaces between the rocks. Look out for

Tel: +353 (0)91 637 444 info@burrennaturesanctuary.ie www.burrennaturesanctuary.ie

butterflies and orchids in the organic meadow; migratory birds at the Turlough, a freshwater tidal lake that empties every 11 hours and is a relephenomenon. Stroll through the hedgerow of native Irish trees liping the ancient green road or bareen

Connect with nature yourself and each other in the peace and

Feb to Jup & Sep to Rec: Wed-Sun 10.00-18 00 Vul & Aug Dany 10.00-18 00 An: Closed



tranquility of this ancient landscape. Visit the totany by bble home to the National By tanical Sylection of snique and diverse Burren fora, where shasonal Angine, Mediterrane on Archic, and tropical plants grow alongside native Irish wildflowers. Neet the arm animals: donkeys, pigs, and sheep. Say hello to Irisky the feral Burren goat. Find the fairy houses in the native Hazel Wood and Selax in the Sanctuary case and enjoy fresh local produce.

Avance fees: Adult €5; Senior Free; Child (4yrs+) €10 Child (U4) €5; Family (2A+3C) €35

Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 V9H3



CASTLETOWN HOUSE



Castlete wn is the most celebrated and magnificent Palladian-style mansion in reland. When it was built in the 1720s, Castletown set a radical precedent and is now a fascinating part of Ireland's cultural and architectural inheritance.

The extraordinary scale of plasterwork, paintings, furniture

Tel: +353 (0)1 628 8252 Email: castletown@opw.ie www.castletown.ie and decorative arts as presented to the public today, brings to life this unique Italianate palace with its restored 120 acres of landscape, historic walks and restored 18th century garden buildings.

Situated in the restored 18th century Kitchen Wing, the Courtyard Café is run by 'The Caterers'. Pop in for a

Parklands: Open year round. House: Mid Mar - Early Nov: Daily 10.00-18.00 (Last entry: 16.45)



coffee before your tour or relax over lunch after exploring the parklands or attending an event.

With guided tours, self-guiding access, Craft Fairs and Country Markets, exhibitions, theatre, concerts and workshops and so much more, there is something for everyone at Castletown.

Entrance fees: Parklands Free. House, Self guided/Guided: Adult €8/€10; Senior €5/€8; Student/Child €3.50/€5; Child (U12) Free; Family (2A+3C) €15/€25



Strangford, Downpatrick, Co. Down, BT30 7BA

A unique 18th century mansion, famed for its mixture of architectural styles. See the gothic and classical collide at Castle Ward, an eccentric 18th century mansion resting on a rolling hillside within a 332 hectare (820 acres) completely walled Irish landscaped demesne, looking out over the tranguil waters of Strangford Lough in County Down.

Walk or cycle along the Lough trail or through the sheltered woodlands, and spot butterflies, rabbits, Irish hares, buzzards, pine martins, and swans.

Step into a fantasy world of castles and dragons as you explore the Georgian Farmyard on the shores of Strangford Lough, boasting ten film locations for the global television series HBO Game of Thrones.

Tel: +44 (0)28 4488 1204 castleward@nationaltrust.org.uk www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castleward

CASTLE WARD



Stroll through the sunken garden and see vivid reds, yellows, greens and pinks from flowers and subtropical plants in the four-tier Victorian garden.

Create your own adventure as you explore the Secret Shore Trail or experience life in a Victoria rsery.

Grounds: Nov-Mar 16: 10.0 10.00-18.00. House: Mar Stableyard/Farmyard Buildin Oct 31: 10.0 17.00. Last entry to House 1 re closing.

rangfo canoe, climb and and build a 18

off with a treat in the browse the gift shop and up a bargain in he second-hand

s: Grounds & House: lult £10.50; Child £5.25; d (U4) Free; y (2A+3C) £26.25









Dublin Castle, Dublin 2, D02 AD92



With free admission and described by the Lonely Nanet as not just the best museum in Rubin, but one of the best in Europe, the Chester Beatty is a must-see on any Dublin visitor's itinerary.

As the only museum in Ireland to win 'European Museum of the Year,' the collection includes manuscripts.

Tel: +353 (0)1 407 0750 Email: info@cbl.ie www.chesterbeattv.ie



miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books, and decorative arts - all the result of the collecting activities of one man - Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968).

Egyptian papyrus texts, beautifully illuminated copies of the Qur'an, the Bible, European medieval and renaissance manuscripts are among

Open Year Round. Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00; Sat 11.00-17.00; Sun 13.00-17.00. Closed Public/Bank Hols, Closed Mondays; Nov-Feb. Closed Jan 1, Good Friday & Dec 24-26. the highlights on display. In its diversity, the collection captures much of the richness of human creative expression from about 2700 BC to the present day.







Entrance fees: Free Admission



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christchurch Place. Dublin 8, D08 TF98





Located at the heart of Dublin city, Christ Church Cathedral has been a place of worship for 1,000 years.

The history of Christ Church reflects the history, both religious and political, of Ireland. The Crypt is the largest in Ireland and dates back to the late 11th century. The Cathedral's own copy of Magna Carta is on display there,

Tel: +353 (0)1 677 8099 Email: welcome@christchurch.ie www.christchurchcathedral.ie

alongside priceless silverware and the costumes from the hit TV show the Tudors and a mummified cat and rat

Music forms a very important cathedral life, and the Choir origins to 1493 with the four the choir school. The cathedral performed the first or formance Handel's Messiah in Dublin in 1742.

Sun 12.30-18.00 (closed Nov-Feb: Mo 30-17.00, Su osed Dec 26. I sion 45 min be



Visiting Musicians of lunchtime Recitals at 1315 in the nave.

To get the page t from y it, take about the climb u nt of 19 a guarter of a ton to two and a quarter tons, presents a world of numbers ells available for full-circle ringing.

leaflets available in 12 nform quages.

ance fees: Adult €7: Senior/Student €5.50; Child (4-16) €2.50; Child (U4) Free; Family (2A+2C) €17

CLARE MUSEL

Arthur's Row, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 EC92





Riches of Clare exhibition re Museum, located in a beautifully estored former convent built by the Sisters of Mercy in 1861, tells the history of the county over a period of 6,000 years using authentic artefacts, colourful text panels, and audio-visual presentations.



The exhibition is divided into the themes of Earth, Power, Faith, Water, and Energy and includes a large collection of objects on loan from the National Museum of Ireland - making a visit to Clare Museum an essential introduction to the whole county.



Admission is free with ample car parking and free coach parking beside the museum.



Tel: +353 (0)65 682 3382 Email: claremuseum@clarecoco.ie 17.30; Jun-Sept: Mon-Sat 09.30-13.00, 14.00www.clarelibrarv.ie/eolas/ claremuseum/

Open Oct-May: Tues-Sat 09.30-13.00, 14.00- Entrance fees: Free Admission 17.30. Last admissions 17.00. Closed Sun. Mon & Bank Hol. Times subject to change.

DUBLIN and DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Whether you are looking for culture, relaxation or fun. Dublin has it still. Usually the first port of call for many visitors to liciand. Dublin offers a compelling mix of history, heritage, pubs, elegant architecture, great snopping and a wide choice of dining options.

Dublin has become one of Europe's 'must-see' cities, and there is a host of wonderful attractions for all the family to enjoy. Beyond and surrounding Dublin, the countryside tells a wonderful story offering a rich and varied experience.

The Heritage Island attractions in these counties vary from historic houses and gardens to distilleries and heritage towns. With unspoiled countryside and beautiful scenery, touring by car is a pleasant and enjoyable way to explore.

Whether you are travelling on your own, as a family, or with friends, 'Dublin's Doorstep' is full of unique and diverse attractions, offering any visitor plenty of exciting and interesting places to discover.