

FREE

# Go Wild

## Northern Ireland

THINGS TO  
SEE & DO

IN THE SIX COUNTIES

TITANIC

TIMES PAST

GAME OF  
THRONES

SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE HIT TV SERIES

Go Wild  
Magazine

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Go Wild Tourism Magazine, Northern Ireland, 2020 Edition







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# Publisher's Note

**Planning and putting together the content for our first Go Wild Northern Ireland title was always done with a sense of excitement that a new title always brings and was a true pleasure for our team to put together.**

**A**s the publisher, I am delighted to have the opportunity to promote a country that is the final piece of the jigsaw for the team at Go Wild Magazines and fulfills our dream to have a Go Wild Magazine issue covering every tourism region on the island of Ireland.

Our team were spellbound by the Giant's Causeway, Game of Thrones, Titanic and other great visitor attractions in Northern Ireland, and hopefully, we have assembled the very best things to see and do within the six counties for you to enjoy.

Go Wild Northern Ireland can be downloaded for free, along with all of our other 5 Go Wild Titles anywhere in the world with the PRESSREADER Digital Magazine Platform, which is now available on Multiple worldwide airlines and top International hotel groups.

It will also be available on [www.issuu.com/gowildmagazine](http://www.issuu.com/gowildmagazine), Tourism Ireland's international website

and of course our own  
[www.gowildmagazine.com](http://www.gowildmagazine.com)

We want you to have the most amazing holiday, so feel free to email me with your stories on your experiences travelling throughout the magnificent six counties.

A huge thank you to our team of Dave Curtin, Keith Nicol, Ed Allen, Andrea Smith, Carol McMenamin, Cleo Power, Lauren Gonzalez, Lorraine Bell for your support in creating the first of many Go Wild Northern Ireland Titles.

Please enjoy,

*Bobby Power*

**Publisher, Go Wild Magazine titles**

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**For all the latest news, visit [www.gowildmagazine.com](http://www.gowildmagazine.com) - your official guide to the Emerald Isle**

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# EXCITING EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY BY EMBRACING “A GIANT SPIRIT” IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland - Embrace a Giant Spirit, a new experience brand being rolled by Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland, will highlight exciting experiences for visitors to Northern Ireland to enjoy, according to Tourism NI chief John McGrillen.

The focus on experiences has been added to the longstanding themes about the beauty of the landscape and the warmth of the welcome from local people that visitors have long experienced in Northern Ireland,” he continues.

“Embrace a Giant Spirit is an imaginative branding designed to showcase that there’s much, more to Northern Ireland well beyond the best known attractions such as the Giant’s Causeway and Titanic Belfast,” Mr McGrillen explains.

“The new brand is the outcome of extensive research in all our key markets to help us build on the outstanding achievements of our previous campaigns which saw tourism revenue here grow to a £1bn record last year. We want to double the size of the industry and its overall contribution to the economy over the next decade,” he adds.

Embrace A Giant Spirit will communicate “a high quality experience to visitors that is recognisable as distinctively Northern Irish”.

The brand comprises two important concepts: Firstly, a land built by a Giant Spirit which reflects consumer research and feedback that Northern Ireland is perceived as warm, engaging and big-hearted. It is a land built by pioneers and entrepreneurs with a rich cultural history, reflected through words, music and craft and woven together by a unique elemental beauty.

The second concept is an invitation to awaken spirits based on what is known about what visitors seek out in Northern Ireland, namely discovering and embracing the culture and



heritage here and enjoying refreshing experiences.

Embrace a Giant Spirit is a compelling concept reflecting the history, culture and the warmth of people of Northern Ireland.

Mr McGrillen continues: “The launch of the brand marks the start of a 10-year journey to support the tourism industry and local economy by developing new authentic experiences that can be promoted to the travel trade and to consumers throughout the world.”

A list of 23 visitor experiences is now being promoted. Sixteen are located in Antrim and Down. Others include the Dark Sky Observatory, currently under construction at Davagh Forest near Cookstown in Tyrone, Mourne Walks and a ‘blossom to bottle’ experience at the Armagh Cider Company, near Portadown. Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy, Taste the Coast Food Tours and Erne Water Taxis are also figuring in the promotional drive.

Experiences offered by filming locations associated with the TV blockbuster The Game of Thrones and events such as The Open golf championship last year at Royal Portrush are outstanding examples of the benefits to the local economy. “We estimate that one in every six visitors last year came specifically to experience the filming locations.





The success of The Open also enhanced substantially our global reputation as the place to go for the best golf experiences,” he says.

“We’ve some marvellous attractions for visitors and a growing number of tours now available to help them see and experience the very best of Northern Ireland. For instance, there are now a great many taste and tour experiences organised by local organisations in conjunction with councils and the attractions themselves. There are certainly opportunities in the development of further tours and also to increase the number and knowledge of tour guides.

He emphasises the role of local councils and other bodies in developing new experiences for visitors and also ensuring the quality of attractions they already have. “We will continue to work with individual councils as they do whatever they can to enhance their authentic and quality experiences for visitors to their respective areas.

“The new international promotional campaign is all about changing the perception that people overseas have of Northern Ireland and those of us who live here, by painting a picture of what the place is

really like now, as opposed to what people think it may be like.

He acknowledges that the key role played by food and drink and the overall hospitality industries in experiences for visitors. The importance of food and drink is also backed up by visitor attitude surveys which show that the percentage of visitors who thought Northern Ireland’s food offering now stands at an immensely impressive 83 percent.

“Local food and drink has reputation for premium quality, outstanding taste, wholesomeness and safety, all of which have been recognised in the tremendous achievements of companies in Great Taste Awards.

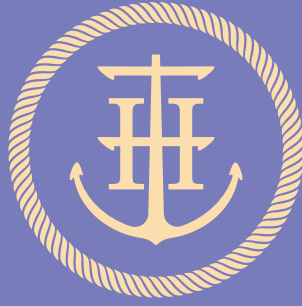
“Food and drink is now a critical part of our culture. Visitors are coming here increasingly to experience our fabulous food and drink in excellent restaurants and the huge investment in hotels,” he adds. “The level of investment in hotels and the wider hospitality sector will ensure there’s scope for growth well into the future.”





*Game of Thrones - The Dark Hedges, The Kingsroad*





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*Peace Bridge*







# Discovering GAME OF THRONES®

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Explore the real-world Westeros. In Northern Ireland, the lush Riverlands lie side-by-side with the Iron Islands, the Dothraki Sea and Winterfell are neighbours and you never know when you might come upon a direwolf. Follow the stories of the Seven Kingdoms, in Game of Thrones® Territory.

## WESTEROS

Transport yourself to Westeros – travel through the bewitched forests and ill-fated camps of the Seven Kingdoms, experience Winterfell in the North, and the azure waters of Castle Stokeworth.

## TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK

We're throwing you in at the deep end – Tollymore Forest Park is home to magnificent red woods, centuries-old stone structures and the forbidding White Walkers. Known as the Haunted Forest in Westeros, this expanse of wild woodland is where we first came face-to-face with the cold-blooded creatures.

## LEITRIM LODGE

Make a stop at Leitrim Lodge, nestled at the foot of the Mourne Mountains, and where Bran first met Meera and Jojen Reed. Afterwards, head to the quirky Olive Bizarre in Newcastle, and grab a baked creation to start your day out right.

## INCH ABBEY

Inch Abbey has quite the history – not only is it a beautiful Cistercian Abbey founded in 1180, it's also where the War of the Five Kings began. On a clear day, while you sit beside the gushing River Quoile, you can see Downpatrick Cathedral, where St Patrick is said to be buried.

## CASTLE WARD

Since the 16th century, the Ward family have called Castle Ward home. But in the Seven Kingdoms, this sprawling demesne has another name – Winterfell, ancestral home of House Stark.

## THE DARK HEDGES

Prepare yourself – you're about to travel from the North, through the Neck and into the turbulent Stormlands! Follow Tyrion and Jorah as they come face to face with the slavers of Essos, visit Pyke where the Greyjoys rule and take yourself down the mighty Kingsroad...

## CUSHENDUN CAVES

The Cushendun Caves are over 400 million years old. Found along the Antrim coastline, near the cosy village of Cushendun, they look out over the stony beach and the turbulent sea. In Westeros, these caves are the site of a dark crime. This is where Melisandre summons her shadowy demon beneath Renly's Camp, in order to murder Stannis' brother in the name of the Lord of Light.

## MUSSENDEN TEMPLE

Downhill Beach is a stretch of spotless white sands, overlooked by Mussenden Temple, a replica of the Temple of Vesta in Rome. But this immaculate beach has a darker side – this is where Stannis Baratheon rejects the seven old gods of Westeros. He is proclaimed as the champion of the Lord of Light by Melisandre and enters Dragonstone into the War of the Five Kings.









# CLARE TOLAN

## *Managing Director for Ireland of Irish Distillers*

**As managing director for Ireland of Irish Distillers, Claire Tolan has been responsible for the distribution of the Pernod Ricard portfolio of wines and spirits in the country since 2018.**

Claire grew up in the coastal town of Malahide in Dublin, and her career began in 1998 when she joined the Jameson Graduate Programme. She spent time as brand ambassador in San Francisco and held a number of commercial roles in the US, before joining the international commercial team for Jameson in 2007.

“I would say that I’m an igniter – great at getting things started - which has served me well working for Irish Distillers,” she says. “I’m also a very positive person, which helps in all aspects of life.”

One of Claire’s proudest accomplishments was overseeing the €11m redevelopment of Jameson Bow St. Distillery, which was named the world’s leading distillery tour at the World Travel Awards in 2018 and 2019.

“I absolutely loved working on the redevelopment,” she says. “We have had the privilege of calling Bow Street home since 1780, so it was really important that we got it right. Thankfully, it was a huge success and Jameson Distillery Bow St. and Jameson Distillery Midleton welcomed more than 500,000 visitors from 70 countries last year.”

Claire’s current role is centred around the firm’s domestic business, and Jameson achieved its 30th year of consecutive growth last year with sales of 7.7m. This represents an increase of 7.2m cases compared to the mid ’90s, and Claire believes that the company’s dedication

to innovation has helped to drive sales.

She is married with three boys, and says that while life is very busy, she has a good support network in place. “Flexible and smart working also plays a big part and I’m lucky to have an employer who supports that,” she says. “The first step is being organised, which means tightly managing my diary. I attend a lot of meetings, but I make sure that I allow time for action and, more importantly, thinking.”

Managing stress for Claire means having balance, where possible, and this includes using all of her holiday allocation. As her father is from Mayo, she loves going to the west of Ireland and spending time in Crossmolina and Westport. While the country is beautiful, she firmly believes that Ireland has an added attraction. “Irish people are friendly and we’re happy to interact and have the craic, and visitors love that,” she says.





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# Top things to do on the Causeway Coast

## Drive the iconic Causeway Coastal Route

You need a day or two (or ideally a long weekend!) to really delve deep into the iconic Causeway Coastal Route by car. It takes you through unrivalled scenery and links ancient castles, amazing geological formations, golden beaches and picturesque seaside towns and villages.



## Marvel at the Giant's Causeway

Catch the beautiful narrow-gauge heritage train on the Giant's Causeway & Bushmills Railway route and arrive in style at the site of the iconic hexagonal stones. Take in the amazing visitor centre and experience the power of the mighty Finn McCool.



## Walk Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

Once you dare to walk the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, remember there's only one way back. Yes, you'll have to do it again! But it's so worth it.

## Sail away to Rathlin Island

Escape to another world via Rathlin Island. Catch the ferry from Ballycastle across the Sea of Moyle. Take a tour of the upside down lighthouse built into a cliff face, and enjoy rustic walks which take you back to nature and one of the largest seabird colonies in the UK.

## Watch the sunset at Dunluce Castle

When the sun's rays are low over Dunluce Castle, your iconic holiday snap of the Antrim coastline is literally, on the horizon. This evocative castle lost its kitchen when it fell into the sea one stormy night.



## Taste the finest Irish whiskey

The smells are lovely and serenade the senses as you take a tour through the still active Old Bushmills Distillery on the banks of the River Bush. It's an interesting experience and gets you fired up for the fabulous tasting experience at the end. Follow this with lunch, a browse through the lovely gift shop for souvenirs or maybe spoil yourself with the purchase of a nice single malt with a personalised label.

## Get on the Game of Thrones trail

As the world of Game of Thrones is never far away, some 'set jetting' should be on your County Antrim itinerary. Be sure to visit the mysterious Dark Hedges, the foreboding Cushendun Caves and picturesque Ballintoy Harbour. For gossip and behind-the-scenes tales, talk to the locals or book a tour.

## Explore Carrickfergus Castle

You can't run out of adventure and stories at the impressive Carrickfergus Castle – there's 800 years of history to absorb in what is one of the most important and best documented medieval castles in the whole of Ireland.

## Get lost in the Glens of Antrim

Escaping to the Glens of Antrim brings nine opportunities to get lost amid unspoilt, picture-perfect landscapes.





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# Top things to do in Belfast



## Titanic Belfast

Built on the slipways where the ship itself was constructed over 100 years ago, Titanic Belfast isn't just a museum – it's an experience. Inside the shimmering exterior, you'll find nine galleries spread across six floors mirroring the height of Titanic, as well as interactive exhibitions, an underwater cinema and gantry rides. This is the whole story, from dream to tragedy. Allow at least three hours to take in a mix of moving images, special effects and reconstructions – and do book tickets in advance.

Later, give a nod to Samson & Goliath (Harland and Wolff's yellow cranes) and head to Hamilton Dock to see Titanic's little sister, the SS Nomadic, now fully restored and offering a unique onboard time-travel experience.



## St. George's Market

For an authentic taste of Belfast life, make your way to the renovated St. George's Market. It's in full flow on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, with free jazz on the weekends. More than 150 traders set up stalls laden with everything from antiques to metalwork but what people really visit this market for is the food.



## Black Taxi Tour

One of the best ways to see Belfast's famous wall art is to sign up for a Black Taxi Tour. Knowledgeable drivers supply an informative history lesson peppered with local tidbits, which reflects on both the city's intrinsic traditions and tells the story of the troubles.

Political turmoil and past conflicts are explored by the guides, with commemoration of much older historic and religious events also recorded across the city's walls. Travelling by taxi is also a great way to see the more recent murals livening up Belfast, which celebrate its modern sporting and cultural icons. Bring a camera: this is unmissable.



## Ulster Museum

Gleaming from a multi-million pound redevelopment, there are marvels wherever you turn in the Ulster Museum, so give yourself the time to enjoy it all. Alongside exhibitions that track the rise and fall of Belfast's craft trades are tens of thousands of fossils, as well as the only dinosaur bones ever found on the island of Ireland. Works of Asian, African, European and Pacific art adorn the museum, along with the famed Egyptian mummy, Takabuti. Meanwhile, the archaeological displays capture Ireland's evolution from the stone age right through to late medieval times.



## Botanic Gardens

A short stroll away from the Ulster Museum are the Botanic Gardens. Designed in the 19th century by Sir Charles Lanyon, who also designed parts of Queen's University, and built in part by Dublin's Richard Turner, the gardens and their ornate cast-iron palm house are a tribute to Victorian Belfast.



# COCA COLA VISITOR CENTRE

The Coca-Cola HBC Visitor Experience popular tourism attraction is situated inside our manufacturing plant on Lissue Road, Lisburn, offering visitors the opportunity to explore and learn about the past, present and future of some of world's most popular soft drinks and providing an insight into one of the island's leading businesses, Coca Cola HBC.

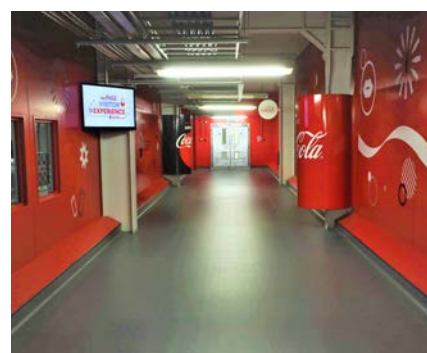
With portals to view manufacturing floor; a Heritage Theatre with an old American-style cinema atmosphere; and an educational interactive zone, the Visitor Experience has attracted more than 80,000 visitors since opening its doors nearly ten years ago.

In 2019, the Coca Cola Visitor



Experience was once again awarded four-star accreditation from the NI Tourism Board for the 5th year in a row for its offering as an 'excellent' visitor attraction.

The Coca Cola Visitor Experience is FREE of charge and a great learning experience for all ages, so be sure to book your visit today.





# Top things to do in Belfast

## Belfast City Hall

Belfast's Civic Building, the City Hall, first opened its doors in 1906 and today runs regular free public tours. The classical renaissance style of the building is a source of pride for the people of Belfast and it's not hard to see why. Beautiful stained glass windows adorn the hall, depicting Celtic myths and legends, such as the Cattle Raid of Cooley, as well as commemorating victims of the great famine and those who fought in the first and second world wars.



## Crumlin Road Gaol

Voted one of Belfast's top attractions by Trip Advisor, Crumlin Road Gaol is a sight to behold. Closed in 1996 after 150 years, today it is host to everything from educational tours to weddings and concerts, not to mention claiming to be one of the most haunted sites in Belfast.

Visitors can opt to take part in the paranormal tour, visiting the hotspots of spooky activity, as well as the gaol's execution chamber and flogging room. While it might not sound the best option for the faint of heart, children and families are catered to as well, with some great kid-friendly tours.



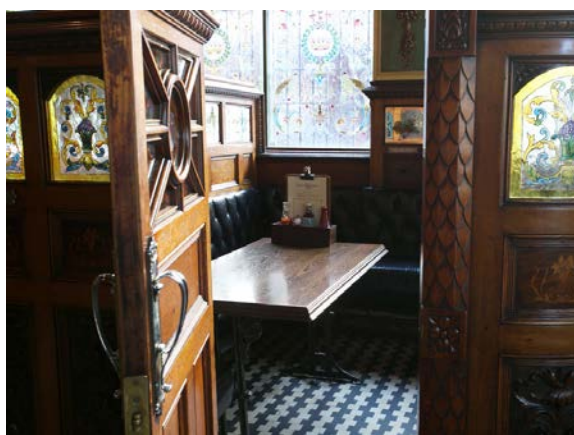
## The Mac

Trust us: the Metropolitan Arts Centre Belfast (Mac) is where you want to be for music, theatre, art, dance and everything in between. Opened in 2012, a typical year's events can range from roller disco to mind-reading shows plus experimental documentaries and that's just the theatre.



## Cave Hill Country Park

Named for the five caves along the main Belfast cliffs, Cave Hill Country Park is a hive of outdoor activity: a sprawling expanse of walking trails and orienteering routes, it is home to its own playground and is a mere five minutes from Belfast Zoo.



## Crown Liquor Salon

The Crown Liquor Saloon is a two-minute walk from Great Victoria Street Station and only a short stroll from the Grand Opera House and Europa Hotel. Dating back to the 1880s, the Crown is a gem of the Victorian era. Formerly known as the Liquor Saloon, this ageless and priceless pub was one of the mightiest Victorian gin palaces in the city and still boasts many of its original features, including gas lighting.



# TITANIC BELFAST MUSEUM

Titanic Belfast in Northern Ireland is a world leading tourist attraction located on the exact spot where the RMS Titanic was designed, built and launched.

The iconic six-floor building features nine interpretive and interactive galleries tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

Visitors can explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic by walking the decks, travelling to the depths of the ocean and uncovering the legend of the world's most famous ship in the city which she called home.

Described by the Guardian as “an inspiring testament to the Titanic and the city that built it”, it is a must-see for visitors in 2020 and beyond. For more information visit [titanicbelfast.com](http://titanicbelfast.com)



## TITANIC THE LEGEND THE STORY

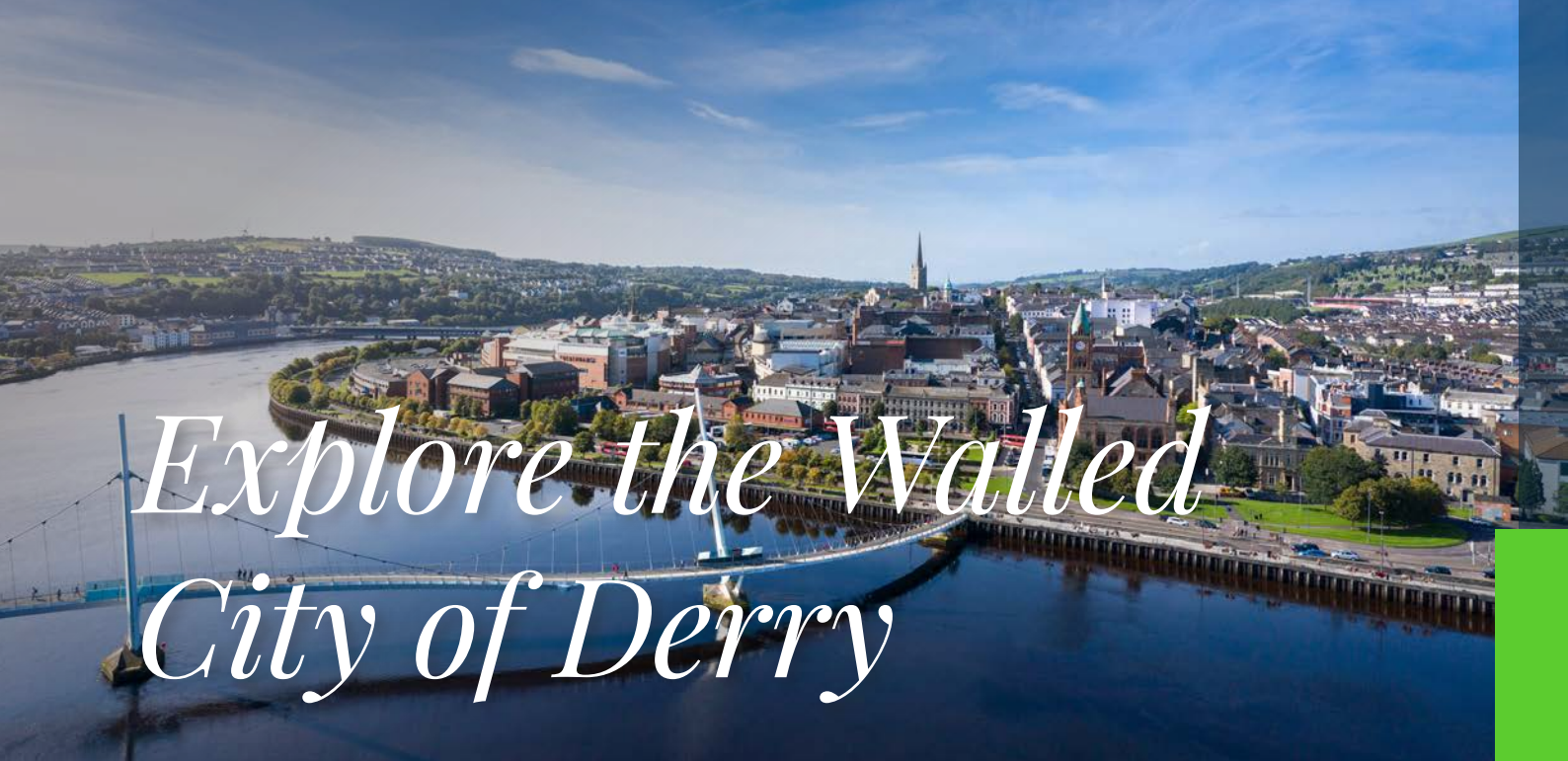
Explore the sights, sounds and stories of RMS Titanic at this world leading visitor attraction, in the city where it all began, Belfast, Northern Ireland.



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# Explore the Walled City of Derry

**D**erry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city, is the perfect hub from which to explore Ireland's North West. The beautiful historic walled city is the primary destination for cultural and heritage experiences. Renowned as the island of Ireland's only completely Walled City, built in 17th Century, the City Walls are over 400 years old and one of the finest examples in Europe. This compact, walkable city with key attractions, offers museums, cathedrals, churches, iconic murals, architecture and heritage unrivalled on the island.

The city and district is geographically idyllic, set against the backdrop of the hills of Donegal, it is the most strategically positioned city location on the island where visitors can enjoy a unique experience with the convergence of two internationally recognised coastal driving routes – “The Walled City - where the Wild Atlantic Way meets the Causeway Coastal Route”. The city is a fantastic base to overnight and to explore Giant's Causeway, Strabane, The Sperrins (AONB), Ulster American Folk Park, Beaches of Donegal, Malin Head (Ireland's Most Northerly Point), Glenveagh National Park or Titanic Belfast. A cosmopolitan City – it is a confident, vibrant forward-looking city



that provides the best of all worlds, offering city, coastal and countryside experiences.

The city is renowned for its buzzing atmosphere and hosts a abundance of festivals and events including Europe's largest Halloween Carnival (recognised by USA Today as the best Halloween Festival in the world) and the best NI Event & Festival Experience 2018! The greatest Halloween celebrations in the world offers a welcome like no other, filled with ghoulish events and frightful fun for all the family.

Derry also host one of Ireland's largest international City of Derry Jazz and Big Band Festival from 7th – 11th May 2020, bringing well-known names of music to the city, including Sir Van Morrison and Imelda May. City of Derry International Choral Festivals, Foyle Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament and the Foyle Maritime

Festival which will act as a host port for the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race in 2020 are also a must.

Derry-Londonderry is also a recognised “LegenDerry” foodie destination, with its award-winning food festivals, bustling restaurants, craic-filled bars, vibrant street food scene and brilliant food festivals putting new twists on the ancient city's fascinating food heritage.

The City offers visitors excellent value for money with competitively priced experiences with a wide range of accommodation offerings, diverse attractions, a feast of restaurant choices and a vibrant music scene including contemporary, traditional and jazz!

The City guarantees the warmest of welcomes with locals on hand to ensure a destination experience that is LegenDerry!



# DERRY HALLOWEEN

2020

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# ESSENTIAL NORTHERN IRELAND EXPERIENCES FOR 2020

After a brilliant 2019 in tourism across Northern Ireland, everyone's asking what's going to be hot in 2020. Well, in line with the new experience brand that has been developed to promote Northern Ireland, there will be a host of new and unique experiences inviting you to 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' and awaken your own. Here are just six to start you off.

## TOAST THE CAUSEWAY COAST

From the comfort of a luxury coach, savour a guided food tour along the Causeway Coastal Route. Arrive hungry, for the Toast the Coast guides will bring you to numerous foodie hotspots, each showcasing the best of local produce. Start with a deli breakfast featuring hand-blended Clandeboyne Yoghurt and Armagh Apple Juice, then get ready to experience the likes of Glenarm shorthorn beef, organic smoked salmon, gin, tapas, an artisan bakery and handmade fudge. Make a final toast to the coast in one of Ireland's smallest pubs.

## SOAK UP BELFAST'S TRAD MUSIC SCENE

Treat your ears to an in-depth Belfast Traditional Music Trail experience, which takes you through the city's thriving Cathedral Quarter in the company of skilled musicians. Listen as they tell tales, share songs and give renditions of traditional pieces with a variety of instruments, including the uilleann pipes. Learn about the various traditional tunes, the difference between a reel and a jig, and the language, customs and history that make up some of Belfast's rich musical heritage.

## GO ON AN ISLAND DISCOVERY

Create memories that will last a lifetime with your own personalised island-hop around the beautiful Fermanagh lakelands. Relax on board the Erne Water Taxi and experience a watery landscape full of hidden history and islands rich in heritage and folklore. Hear stories about the islands from your passionate and engaging host, then listen to the silence of the tranquil waterways once the boat's engines are turned off. Don't forget to hop into one of the many lakeside venues for some great food, hospitality and entertainment.

## STEP INTO THE HEANEY HOMEPLACE

Take a literary journey through the life and works of Nobel Laureate and world-famous poet Seamus Heaney. Set in his hometown of Bellaghy, the Heaney HomePlace features a series of interactive exhibitions over two floors, including real recordings of the man himself reciting his own work. Discover the words, rhythms and rhymes that made Heaney the most widely published poet in the English language and browse a host of personal artefacts such as his beloved leather school satchel, family photos and books from his own collection.

## HIKE ALONG A CLIFFTOP

See the Giant's Causeway from a new angle with the help of an Away a Wee Walk expert guide. Their five-mile Giant's Causeway Cliff Path Walk offers a stunning experience of some of the best clifftop views in Europe. With plenty of photo and commentary stops along the way, the hike begins at Dunseverick Castle before traversing an undulating, extremely scenic cliff path maintained by the National Trust. The views of Rathlin Island, coastal bays, high cliffs and the Giant's Causeway are simply breathtaking.

## DISCOVER A ROYAL RESIDENCE

Experience the beautiful Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, still in use as a royal residence, in all its restored and reimagined glory. The Georgian castle's stories of celebration, diplomacy and negotiation are now encapsulated in a fascinating guided tour that takes in the grand Throne Room, the ceremonial heart of the castle, as well as the State Drawing Room, Lady Grey's Study, the State Dining Room, Red Room and Stair Hall. Or just go for the stunning gardens, where you can meander around 100 acres of outdoor enchantment.

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The Gobbins Cliff Path, Causeway Coastal Route



# The Titanic

Titanic Belfast in Northern Ireland is a world leading tourist attraction located on the exact spot where the RMS Titanic was designed, built and launched. The iconic six-floor building features nine interpretive and interactive galleries tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

Visitors can explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic by walking the decks, travelling to the depths of the ocean and uncovering the legend of the world's most famous ship in the city which she called home. Described by the Guardian as "an inspiring testament to the Titanic and the city that built it", it is a must-see for visitors in 2020 and beyond.









# Fingal's Finest

## WITH SHANNON HERITAGE

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JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM DUBLIN CITY, AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE COASTAL TOWNS OF FINGAL IN NORTH COUNTY DUBLIN OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY.

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**H**ere you will find pristine beaches, magical marinas, craggy cliff walks and vibrant villages. The area is defined by the diversity of its landscape, with 88km of scenic coastline, three large protected estuaries and salt marsh habitats, thirteen major beaches and beautiful public parkland enhanced by historic buildings.

Malahide Castle is a magnificent and historic 12th-century castle situated in the heart of the

picturesque seaside village of Malahide. The Castle was built by the Talbots, an English family who arrived in England during the Norman invasion with William the Conqueror. Richard Talbot came to Ireland in 1174 and in 1185 he was granted the lands and harbor of Malahide by King Henry II for his "war-like" services in the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland. Except for a short time during the Cromwellian period, the Talbot family resided in Malahide for the next eight centuries.





On entering the castle, visitors have the opportunity to browse through an interactive interpretive area on the ground floor, retelling the history of the Talbot family and not forgetting their ghostly residents. The castle has featured on America's 'Most Haunted' and it is said to have not one, but five ghosts!

Castle tours are carried out by informative and friendly guides daily, guiding visitors through the historic reception rooms on the first floor including the magnificent Great Hall where banquets are still held for special occasions and events. Up the sweeping staircase are the beautiful bedrooms which overlook the vast 260 acres of parkland and West Lawn. Portraits from the National Portrait Gallery of Ireland adorn the walls throughout which adds to the castle's rich history and ambiance.

A ticket to visit Malahide Castle includes admission and the famous Talbot Botanic Walled Garden. Here, gardening enthusiasts and visitors can learn about Lord Milo Talbot's passion for gardening and travel. Lord Milo

was responsible for bringing new and exciting species of plants from the southern hemisphere, creating this uniquely charming botanical garden complete with roaming Peacocks.

Prepare for your heart to flutter as you experience the only Butterfly House in the Republic of Ireland. Step inside the Cambridge Glasshouse in the Walled Garden and you're in the domain of the most colorful creatures on earth. Watch them fly among tropical plants and spot their individual traits and markings. With over 20 species of butterfly, it's a paradise for amateur enthusiasts and experienced lepidopterists.

#### ONE FOR THE ROAD

Continuously looking to enhance the visitor experience, Malahide Castle will soon offer a comparative whiskey tasting experience conducted by John Callely of Whiskey Island. Guests can sample an American whiskey, Scottish whisky and savor Ireland's Lambay Island Whiskey, which ties back to the history of Malahide Castle and its connection with Lambay. Entirely off-grid and unattached to the mainland

by so much as a cable or pipe, Lambay is four miles off the coast of County Dublin. Natural springs give up fresh drinking water year-round, which is also used in Lambay Island Whiskey, aged in old cognac casks where they can breathe in the salty sea air. The new experience when available will be bookable online.

#### CASINO MODEL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Two well-loved Malahide landmarks are now joined together as one fantastic destination. The Fry Model Railway is now housed inside the Casino House, a Malahide landmark for over 200 years.

The Casino building, which occupies a prominent position at the entrance to Malahide, is the only cottage Orne of this type in Fingal and is of significant historical importance to Fingal's architectural heritage. Built in the late 17th Century it was originally a shooting lodge for the Talbot Family (of Malahide Castle). It has been carefully conserved, restored and extended to become a modern visitor attraction in a historic house and the permanent home of the Fry Model Railway collection which is of great historical importance not only to the people of Malahide but to model train enthusiasts worldwide. The carefully conserved collection is truly a national treasure that will now be displayed permanently for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

As well as the Fry Model collection, the museum also features a large modern model railway layout depicting several railway scenes in Ireland, interactive displays, soundscapes, an education and exhibition space and historical interpretations and memorabilia from Irish railways.

Casino Model Railway Museum is the latest heritage attraction to join the Shannon Heritage portfolio of eight day-visitor attractions and four evening entertainment experiences. Among these are, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, GPO Witness History, Malahide Castle & Gardens and King John's Castle.

#### NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

Newbridge House and Demesne - located in the coastal town of Donabate - is the most complete Anglo-Irish estate in Ireland. Consisting of approximately 370 acres of gently undulating pastureland, woodland walks, wildflower meadows, traditional farm, ruins of Lanistown Castle, a deer park and at its heart, a fine Georgian house designed by the renowned architect James Gibbs.

Newbridge House still has all the intimacy and warmth of a family home with the accessibility of property in public ownership. Open all year round, Newbridge house dates back to 1747 when it was built for the then-Archbishop of Dublin, Charles Cobbe. It is one of a kind in Ireland, as the Cobbe family still live at the house, meaning that there is a real sense of connection between the past and present. This is





achieved through a very successful and unique arrangement between Fingal County Council Shannon Heritage and the Cobbe family.

Visitors to this historic home can learn about its illustrious history as a tour guide takes them on a journey through three centuries of Irish history. The Red Drawing Room is one of the most well-preserved historic rooms in the country, where little has changed since 1828, and the wallpaper and curtains have been hanging since the 1820s. The house has also been the filming location for movies including *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and the Oscar award-winning *Barry Lyndon*.

Meanwhile, the hugely popular farm on the grounds of the house is one of the few examples of a traditional working farm in Ireland. Aiming to preserve traditional breeds that are otherwise declining in numbers across the country, the farm is brimming with new life as the birthing season is in full swing. It is home to Shetland and Connemara ponies, pigs, goats, bunnies, and birds. A must-see experience is the farmyard hatchery where baby chicks are born daily year-round.

[www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie](http://www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie)  
[www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com](http://www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com)  
[www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie](http://www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie)  
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*The Red Drawing Room is one of the most wellpreserved historic rooms in the country, where little has changed since 1828.*





  
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# Top things to do in County Fermanagh

**Fermanagh is Northern Ireland's lake district: beloved for its stunning scenery, historical landmarks and diverse experiences.**

## Explore our Subterranean World

Discover magical moments in one of Europe's finest show caves. Set in the heart of the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, the Marble Arch Caves pay homage to the fascinating secrets of a world of subterranean rivers, winding passages, lofty chambers and an array of delicate cave formations.

## See Florence Court

Tour the mansion or explore the walled garden and pleasure grounds, and make sure you don't miss the famous Florence Court yew tree.



## Live like a president at Lough Erne

Stay in Lough Erne Resort's lakeside lodges where G8 world leaders once laid their heads. It's best to sleep with the curtains open and witness the morning light trickling across the lough.



## Go island hopping

Hire a cruiser for some island-hopping on the lakelands and you will never regret it. Devenish Island, White Island, Boa Island and Inish Corkish, home to Fermanagh's Black Bacon, and another 150 islands can be all your own for a few hours or even overnight alone with nature.

## Explore Enniskillen Castle

Set on the edge of the River Erne, Enniskillen Castle dominates its home town. The visitor experience brings to life the castle's entire 600-year history. There are two museums to explore, the Inniskillings Museum and Enniskillen Castle Museums.

## Sleep beneath the stars

The roof of a Finn Lough bubble dome is a 360-degree window to the night sky. Dazzling in the summer and so cosy in the longer autumnal nights, this is a magical stargazing experience.



## Take the Belleek Pottery tea test

It's a well-known fact: tea tastes better when it's served in Belleek cups. Take the 30-minute tour of the historic factory and witness the ongoing production of the delicate pottery. Follow that with some excellent Belleek shopping and then it will be time for the tea shop to see if your tea tastes better for yourself.



## Fish on Lough Erne

With such a vast expanse of water so perfectly suited to fishing, every day on Lough Erne can be a different adventure. You never know what you might hook next but with trout and salmon among the top targets, and superb coarse fishing in some of the best boat and bank fishing grounds in Europe, all types of angler can succeed here.



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# Top things to do around Lough Neagh

Surrounded by some of Ireland's most charming villages, tranquil Lough Neagh is a paradise for nature lovers and foodies alike. This is Lough Neagh, Ireland's largest lake and a destination that ripples with history, heritage, nature and beauty.

## The Seamus Heaney HomePlace

The Seamus Heaney HomePlace celebrates the life and work of one of the world's greatest poets, Seamus Heaney, who grew up here in the village of Bellaghy. This is more than just a museum – it's a fascinating collection of artefacts and memorabilia, donated by Heaney's family as well as members of the public, which gives a very personal insight into the life of the Nobel Laureate.



## Sparkling waters

The best way to enjoy Lough Neagh? Well, it's got to be from the water! Abháinn Cruises offers lots of boat tours around the lake with very knowledgeable guides, but one of the best has got to be the trip to Coney Island from Toome Canal, a Game of Thrones filming location. Antrim Castle Gardens.

## Antrim Castle Gardens

More idyllic natural beauty awaits at the 400-year-old Antrim Castle Gardens. Walk in the footsteps of the Massereene family at this unique 17th century estate, which is home to the impressively refurbished Clotworthy House, as well as an art gallery, coffee shop and museum.

## Newforge House: A royal visit

Set within extensive grounds, Hillsborough Castle is not a castle at all – it's actually an 18th century country house that is the official residence in Northern Ireland of Queen Elizabeth II.

## Armagh Food and Cider festival

A visit to Brownlow House overlooking scenic Lurgan Park will have fans of costume drama sighing with joy before they've even arrived. Get a taste of the finer life and unwind at this stunning

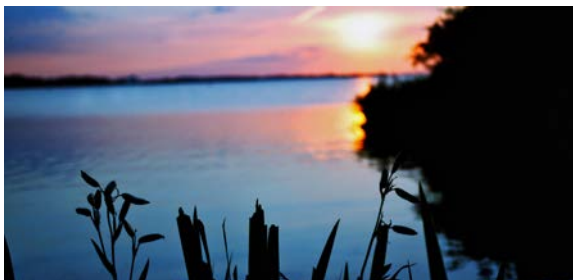
country manor complete with ornate ceilings, spiral staircases and opulent stained glass windows. Eisenhower helped plan the famous D-Day landings.

## The Argory

Built in the 1820s and set on a delightful hillside location, the Argory offers inspirational views across County Armagh. It's a wonderful place to wander around for a few hours, discovering garden, woodland and riverside walks, enjoying afternoon tea in Lady Ady's tea room, or ambling along the environmental sculpture trail. Afterwards, pop into Deli on the Green in Dungannon and sample the amazing produce Northern Ireland's flourishing food scene has to offer.

## Drum Manor Park

Explore the wilderness of County Tyrone's rugged beauty at Drum Manor Forest Park. Enjoy a magnificent stroll or cycle around the exquisite gardens, mixed woodlands and old manor ruins along serene walking trails.





# THE GOBBINS

## A DRAMATIC COASTAL WALK

By Carol McMenamin

I have dreamed about visiting The Gobbins coastal path ever since it re-opened to the public in 2014 after many years of closure. I finally made it a reality on a beautiful March Sunday morning earlier this year. Myself and my good friend Charisse drove up to the Antrim coast in my rickety old Land Rover taking our directions from Google maps. The route proved to be rather circuitous as we were so busy chatting we missed a turn and ended up on an even more scenic route, which got us there; eventually.

We first went to the visitor centre where we met our guide Gerald, a mine of information who was delighted to be working there in a job that he clearly loved. He told us

how he'd retired a few years ago and now he spends his time sharing his knowledge of this beautiful part of Northern Ireland with visitors from all over the world.

The Gobbins was originally opened in 1902, the brainchild of Berkeley Dean Wise, a Wexfordian who was light years ahead of his time when it came to engineering a lasting tourist attraction. For many years the great and the good from Belfast made day trips to the Antrim coast dressed in their finery to picnic along the Gobbins trail. It's not difficult to see why it was so popular then.

The views were truly spectacular as we made our way along the craggy, and at sometimes challenging, cliff path. We were lucky that the weather was beautiful

on the day we visited however we were assured that even on wet days when the waves are crashing all around, this walk is a fantastic experience.

We will definitely return in June when the birdlife will be more prolific and I can't wait to see the puffins, guillemots and razorbills crowding the cliff faces during the breeding season.

For more information or to book a tour contact [www.thegobbinscliffpath.com](http://www.thegobbinscliffpath.com)



THE  
GOBBINS

A Dramatic Coastal Walk

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# Top things to do in County Armagh

There is an array of interesting and fun things to do in County Armagh. Here are some to get you started.

## Explore Armagh City Centre

Take a day to explore three fascinating Church of Ireland buildings in Ireland's ecclesiastical capital. First, connect way back to the time of St. Patrick in the stunning Anglican cathedral that bears his name. Then head for the close by Armagh Robinson Library, a museum holding rare and exquisite books. No. 5 Vicars' Hill is a short distance away.



## Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral

Ascend the huge stone stairway and be prepared to be awed by the ornate detail of Armagh city's beautiful St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

## Walk the Georgian Mall

Take a stroll through the tree-lined Mall in the heart of Armagh to absorb the city's Georgian ambience. Appreciate the wonderful architecture and explore two great museums. Armagh County Museum and Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum.



## Stargaze at Armagh Planetarium

The Planetarium offers 'out of this world' experiences of the night sky in a digital theatre that gives awe-inspiring experiences of the planets, constellations and galaxies.

## Discover Lough Neagh

Perfect for a whole day out, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre is in the middle of a haven of natural beauty – Oxford Island Nature Reserve. Teeming with wildlife and with fantastic views of Lough Neagh, the miles of walks, bird watching hides, restaurant and children's play areas make this a great spot for discovering the marvels of Lough Neagh.

## Meet Celtic characters

Navan Fort was the ancient capital and seat of the Kings of Ulster; the adjacent Navan Centre brings its rich history to life.

## Unravel the Ring of Gullion

The 576m mountain of Slieve Gullion lies above and at the centre of a mysterious geological formation of lesser hills and dominates the south Armagh landscape.

## Hit the water at Craigavon Lakes

Kayaking, water-skiing, windsurfing, sailing, canoeing, banana boating – the Craigavon Lakes are excellent for all sorts of activity on the water. Head to Craigavon Watersports Centre for inexpensive pay and play facilities for open canoes, kayaks or a stand up paddle boards (available between April and October).

## Spend a day with Irish gentry

Built in the 1820s and now in the hands of the National Trust, The Argory is a delightful Irish gentry house surrounded by a wooded riverside estate.

## Visit the Milford House Collection

Visit the most technologically advanced house in 19th century Ireland – the first in Ireland to be lit with hydroelectricity.





# THE CANAL COURT HOTEL & SPA

The Canal Court Hotel is a leading 4 Star Hotel in County Down which is currently ranked in the top 100 Hospitality Businesses in Northern Ireland & is located at the heart of Newry City sitting on the banks of Ireland's Oldest Manmade Waterway, the Newry Canal. The hotel is located 40 minutes from Belfast and from Dublin.

The Canal Court Hotel has a number of dining and beverage outlets available to tickle your taste buds and satisfy your thirst from the Granary Bar to the Old Mill Restaurant to the Merchants Bar and the Conservatory with views over the Canal.

Newry City hotels don't come any more central than the Canal Court Hotel, Spa and Leisure Club. The



hotel is right in the heart of Newry City centre and close to the main shopping centres of the city, Slieve Gullion mountain range, the canal walk and plenty to see and do.

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# MEET RUTH ANDREWS

*Chief Executive Officer at AVEA Association of Visitor Experience and Attractions*



**R**uth Andrews could never be accused of resting on her laurels, given the number of high-profile roles she holds in the Irish tourism industry. The Wexford-born woman is chief executive of Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland (ITOA) and CEO of the Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions (AVEA). She also took on chairmanship of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) last year.

Then again, she reckons her destiny may have been mapped out all along as her parents both worked in the hotel industry. “It’s amazing how tourism gets into your blood system,” she says.

Having studied business and languages, Ruth spent seven years in the sales

and marketing office of the Doyle Hotel Group, followed by seven years working with the Great Southern Hotel group. She set up her own tourism marketing consultancy in 1998.

ITOA approached her to run its secretariat in 2006 on a part-time basis and she ultimately became its chief executive. The role with AVEA began in 2017 and chairmanship of ITIC commenced in 2019.

You can see why Ruth is so much in demand as there is a huge warmth and serenity about her and she radiates a positive, outward approach. This, one imagines, is what got her through the sad passing of her husband Ciarán in a road traffic accident in 2002, in which Ruth, then in her 30s, was also badly injured. Their daughter Claire was only a year old at the time and thankfully wasn’t with them when the accident occurred.

“It took me a year to recover physically

and I’m very glad to be as mobile and able as I am,” says Ruth. “It wasn’t easy and we miss Ciaran but we still have the memories. His family, and my own, have been a great support to us.”

Ruth says that 18-year-old Claire is her “joy,” and she hopes that she will get to travel when she leaves school. They live in Enniskerry in Wicklow, and Ruth’s office is beside her house, which eliminates the daily commute.

She travels a lot for work, of course, and says that we are blessed with amazing villages and towns all around Ireland. “The place and the people are without doubt our core advantages over other destinations,” she says. “People come to see the green, clean environment, and our people are naturally disposed to be friendly, curious and interested in the people who come to experience what we have to offer.”

[Itoa-Ireland.com](http://Itoa-Ireland.com), [Avea.ie](http://Avea.ie), [Itic.ie](http://Itic.ie)



# Abbey & Central Hotels

At the very tip of Donegal Bay, boasting panoramic views across to the Bluestack Mountains, are the Abbey and Central Hotels. Guests can discover more about these two stunning properties, each of which are bastions of traditional Irish hospitality. From traditional folk music in the duo's lively bars, to blissful massages in the Central Hotel's Sabai Treatment Room, adventure and relaxation can be found in equal measure.

As is expected from a coastal town, locally caught seafood is a speciality, and guests are spoilt for choice in the Abbey and Central hotel restaurants. The Market House Restaurant at the Abbey is famous for its fresh fish and 8oz, prime fillet steak on the Stone, while Chapman's Restaurant at the Central offers a quintessentially Irish afternoon tea, complete with traditional buttermilk scones.

Their central location makes the Abbey and Central Hotels the perfect base for discovering Donegal and the surrounding area. Visitors may saunter around the Bank Walk, take a short stroll into Donegal's town centre to pick up some signature tweed or travel by waterbus to discover the seal colony on Seal Island

[www.donegalhotelcollection.com](http://www.donegalhotelcollection.com)

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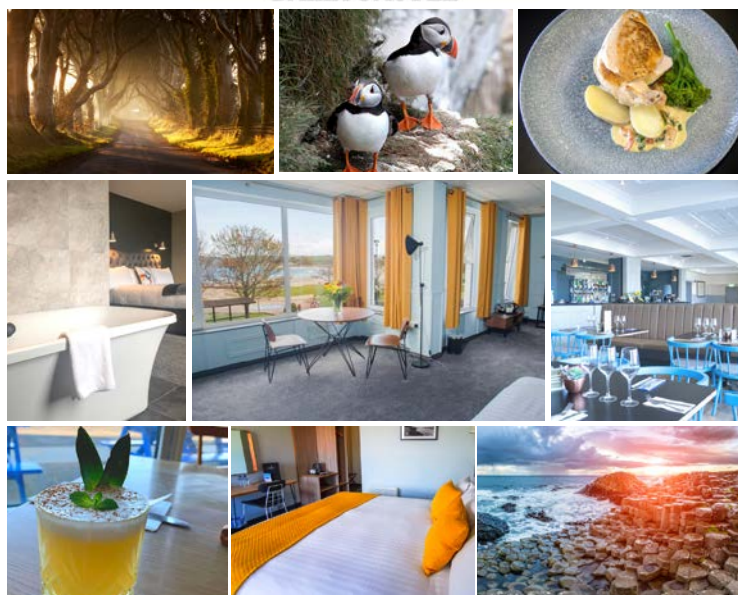
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# *Steal away to relax on the shores of Strangford Lough*

Looking to lift your spirits and discover something new? Then it's time to take a break in a place where you can unwind and recharge your batteries. The lush and tranquil landscapes of Strangford Lough, the largest sea lough in the British Isles, offer the perfect peaceful immersion in nature, history and culture, with many culinary delights to enjoy along the way.

Start your break with a drive down the peninsula along the lough shore, through the picturesque villages of Greyabbey and Kircubbin to the town of Portaferry, soaking up the gorgeous waterside views as you go. The small port town of Portaferry can trace its history back centuries and a walk around its streets and port area will take you past a sixteenth-century castle tower and many Georgian buildings. Portaferry is also the home of Exploris Aquarium, a must-see destination on any visit to the town.

Take the morning to tour the aquarium and discover Strangford Lough's Viking heritage and varied marine life. Visit the seal colony and otter enclosure, get up close to small sharks and sea urchins and explore a sunken galleon. Afterwards enjoy lunch at the Portaferry Hotel – a charming eighteenth-century coaching house located on the shore front – and watch the boats and ferries come and go. The hotel serves up some of the best

seafood in the area and is the perfect place to while away the afternoon.

Before leaving the town, be sure to pop up the road to Fiddler's Green, one of the 10 pubs or restaurants in Northern Ireland that boasts a Game of Thrones® door. The intricately carved door shows the Kraken of House Greyjoy rising up, while the flayed man of treacherous House Bolton reigns above it. After the obligatory selfie, relax with a drink. You might also be entertained by local musicians who often gather in the pub for a session.

As evening approaches it will be time to take the ferry across the lough to Strangford for a Game of Thrones®-inspired overnight stay in the award-winning Cuan Guest Inn. The inn's name comes from the Irish name for Strangford Lough, which was Loch Cuan.

The Cuan also has strong ties to Game of Thrones® as it was the accommodation for many of the cast members during the filming of Seasons 1 and 2 at nearby Castle Ward (Winterfell). The inn was given the first of the Doors of Thrones and, to celebrate, it created a unique beer called Hodoor.

The Cuan offers a number of 'Thrones' experiences, among which is the Game of Thrones® Banquet

Menu, Bed & Winterfell Breakfast. This package offers the opportunity to be a Stark for the evening. Wrap yourself in an authentic Stark cloak and tuck into a feast that includes medieval pease porridge, cod cakes on buttery winter squash and honey roasted chicken, washed down with honey mead or Hodoor.

The experience continues in the morning when you will awake to a glorious Winterfell breakfast based on Catelyn's request in the novel for "hot bread, butter, honey and blackberry preserves, a rasher of bacon and a soft boiled egg, a wedge of cheese and a pot of mint tea".

With a hearty breakfast under your belt you can start the leisurely journey home along the western shore of the lough. Time allowing, why not stop by Tracey's Farmhouse Kitchen in Killinchy for a bread-making class (you'll need to book in advance). Or join Tracey on a Northern Ireland Food tour that visits artisan producers in the area. It's a great chance to discover local ingredients and producers, top-class restaurants and to taste some amazing food.

Discover more ideas for short breaks at [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com)



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# Top things to do in the Mournes

With spectacular and varied panoramas, the Mountains of Mourne are famous as a boundless natural playground within Northern Ireland's great outdoors. Their clean air and beauty entices adventurers and relaxation seekers alike.



## Scale the highest peak

Towering above Newcastle, the Irish Sea and the whole of Ulster, Slieve Donard is a premier hillwalking, hiking and mountaineering experience. Rise to the challenge of climbing the high point of the Mournes and the rewards will be many. Pick a clear day and its summit will return truly unforgettable panoramas.

## Lose yourself in Tollymore

Be it horse riding, gentle strolls, cycling, nature trailing or picnicking by the Shimna River, the magnificent Tollymore Forest Park is large enough and varied enough for it all. It's so good, HBO have used it several times for scenes in Game of Thrones.



## Hear the silence in the valley

Breathe in the fresh mountain air and soak up the tranquillity that surrounds the liquid amphitheatre of Silent Valley. Follow the waterside through nature, heritage or challenge trails or take in the exhibition room explaining how the dam and reservoirs were built. An inspirational site for photographers, walkers and picnickers, the silence is golden all-year round.



## Play the great outdoors

Calling all adrenalin junkies – the Mournes are rock climbing, coasteering, abseiling, mountain biking, kayaking and you-name-an-adventure central. Mountain Biking at Castlewellsan Forest Park and bouldering at Bloody Bridge are firm favourites in the area.

## Ring the Peace Maze bell

Cycle, walk or horse-ride through the enchanting Castlewellsan Forest Park or solve your way to the centre of one of the world's largest permanent hedge mazes, then ring the bell to announce your achievement. Incredible views, one of Northern Ireland's most famous lakes, stunning castle and forest park, nature play and multi-activity centre – there's everything here for the finest of days out.



## Microlight the Mournes

For the thrill of a lifetime, soar like an eagle over the Mournes in a Microlight Flight and marvel at the mind-blowing scenery below. Several local operators can have you airborne in no time.

## Walk Slieve Gullion's slopes

Reconnect with nature, history and mythology on the many walking routes south west of the Mournes in the beautiful volcanic landscape of the Ring of Gullion. With the dome of Slieve Gullion at its heart, there is terrain to suit all-comers. On the short red squirrel safari walk, two hides let you watch for the elusive species at monitored feeding stations.





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# A Breath of Fresh Air on the Sperrin Mountains



From the main spine of the Sperrin Mountains a broad ridge of rolling upland stretches north all the way to the north coast, from the historic town of Dungiven all the way to Swans's Bridge near Binevenagh. The Ulster Way section then continues further to Castlerock on the north coast. Along the way the route enjoys fine views and a variety of walking, from open mountainside to forest trails and quiet roads.

You can step back in history and stand on the Hill of The O'Neill, one of the most important sites in the history of Ireland. A stronghold of noblemen, a place of authority and power. A region ruled for over 400 years by one of the most powerful dynasties in Ulster – The O'Neill's.

Gortin Park has a range of waymarked trails that give the visitor the chance to enjoy the Park's natural flora and fauna at its best. All the trails are colour coded and return to the car park. People with mobility difficulties will love the five mile long drive with breathtaking views. Visitors can also mountain bike and horse ride in the area although a permit is required for horse riding. Orienteering trails can be devised to suit all ages and abilities.



There are also camping and BBQ facilities on site.

A brand new play sculpture has also been recently installed. Inspired by its natural surroundings, the new wooden sculpture is sure to fascinate the kids with plenty of opportunities for exploration and play. Standing four metres tall, the carved sculpture is composed entirely of Larch, Red Cedar and Oak with the centrepiece, a family of Red Deer, chosen specifically to reflect the importance of the Forest Park's relationship with its much loved inhabitants.

Davagh Forest is located 12 miles from Cookstown in the heart of the Sperrin Mountains and offers a gentle walking trail as well as exciting cross-country mountain biking trails with a number of hair raising rock features thrown in for good measure.

Families and beginners can start off on Davagh's gentle green mountain bike trail or enjoy the faster flowing blue trail which includes some more technical options for those with a bit more confidence. The red trail at Davagh Forest starts with a long steady climb before opening up fabulous views, exhilarating descents and some extreme slab features.





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# Grace

## A LOVE STORY



*The love story of Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford is one of the most moving and memorable in Irish history, which has captured imaginations the world over.*

It tells a tale of two star-crossed lovers who married just hours before Plunkett was executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising.

Grace Gifford was born to a Catholic father and a fiercely Protestant mother in 1888, and was raised Church of Ireland. A talented artist and cartoonist, she contributed to various republication publications and was passionate about Ireland's independence from the United Kingdom.

She met and fell in love with Joseph Plunkett, who was the editor of the Irish Review, in September 1915. He too was born into wealth; his father, Count Plunkett, was the director of the National Museum. Joseph himself was a poet, nationalist and was committed to armed revolution. He was one of the military strategists of the 1916, Easter Rising.

Though Grace's parents did not approve of the union, the pair became engaged in December 1915 and intended to marry, however, history would intervene in their plans.

By the end of Easter week 1916, the Irish rebels had surrendered and were placed in Kilmainham jail, the fate of its leaders decided. The fifteen men, including Joseph Plunkett, were to be executed by firing squad.

When he discovered that he would die, Joseph requested permission to be married to his sweetheart, Grace. On the night of May 3rd 1916, just hours before he was to be executed, she was brought to the jail. In 1949 she recalled that evening, saying: "When I saw him... he was so unselfish, he never thought of himself. He was not frightened, not in the slightest."

The couple were married before a priest and two witnesses in the jail's chapel. The following day, Joseph Plunkett was executed. Before facing the firing squad, he said: "I am very happy I am dying for the glory of God and the honour of Ireland."

In his will, Joseph left everything to his widow, but his parents refused to honour it. She remained resolutely nationalist after her husband's death and was imprisoned in Kilmainham jail for three months in 1923. She never remarried and outlived her husband by 39 years. Grace Gifford died on December 13, 1955, and was buried with full military honours in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The tragic tale of their love was immortalised in song in 1985 by Frank and Sean O'Meara. It tells the sad story of their doomed relationship. The lyrics include poignant lines that reference



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the couple's last moments together.  
"Oh, Grace, just hold me in your arms  
and let this moment linger,  
They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.  
With all my love, I place this wedding  
ring upon your finger,  
There won't be time to share our love  
for we must say good-bye."

The song has been recorded by many musicians including The Wolfe Tones and The Dubliners and has proved to be very popular across the world. Most recently it left global superstar Rod Stewart bewitched, describing the ballad as "one of the greatest love songs ever written." He recorded a version of the track for his latest album 'Blood Red Roses'.

The legendary singer first came across the song when supporters of Celtic Football Club gave a rendition of it at a match and he became interested in discovering more about its origins.

Speaking to Ryan Tubridy, host of RTE's Late Late Show, in March of this year, he said: "I first heard the song when I went to the Scottish cup final four years ago, the fans were singing it and I couldn't get it out of my mind."

So captivated was he by the song and story that he decided to visit the chapel in the Kilmainham where Grace and Joseph wed. Talking about the experience, he explained: "I visited the jail and went into the chapel where it all happened. So, it means a lot to me, that one, it really does. There was no furniture in the jail apart from the jail bed, no table, no bed, no chair, nothing." Rod revealed that

he also visited Grace Gifford's grave in Glasnevin Cemetery in March of this year (pictured).

Rod's appearance on the Late Late Show became a celebration of the legendary love of Grace and Joseph and the beautiful, poignant ballad that was inspired by their story.

Ryan Tubridy presented the singer with a first edition collection of poetry by Joseph Plunkett which included a signature by Grace. Rod was moved to tears by the gesture and was taken aback by the generous gift. On the night Rod was also introduced to Frank and Sean O'Meara, the songsmiths who penned Grace.

One hundred years later, the love story of Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett continues to captivate the hearts and minds of both superstars and civilians alike.





As we gather in the chapel here in old Kilmainham Gaol,  
I think about these past few days, oh, will they say we've failed?  
From our school days, they have told us we must yearn for liberty,  
Yet, all I want in this dark place is to have you here with me.

Oh, Grace, just hold me in your arms and let this moment linger,  
They'll take me out at dawn and I will die.  
With all my love, I place this wedding ring upon your finger,  
There won't be time to share our love for we must say good-bye.

Now, I know it's hard for you, my love, to ever understand,  
The love I bear for these brave men, my love for this dear land,  
But when Pádhraic called me to his side down in the G.P.O.,  
I had to leave my own sick bed, to him I had to go.

Now, as the dawn is breaking, my heart is breaking, too,  
On this May morn, as I walk out, my thoughts will be of you,  
And I'll write some words upon the wall so everyone will know,  
I love so much that I could see his blood upon the rose.

Songwriters: Sean O'Meara / Frank O'Meara

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# Ulster Folk and Transport Museum



**Just south of the Belfast, in the Millionaire's row area of Cultra, are two museums for the price of one: The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. In one you can explore one of the most comprehensive transport collections in Europe while in the other, walk down recreated streets and buildings of Ulster as she was many years ago.**

In the Transport Museum you'll find majestic locomotives, horse-drawn carriages, vintage motorbikes, and cars at the Ulster Transport Museum, along with exhibits of historical materials including photographs of the Titanic.

The Transport Museum creatively displays one of Europe's largest and most comprehensive transport collections in their permanent galleries. From horse-drawn carriages to Irish built motor cars and from the mighty steam locomotives that graced our railways to the history of ship and aircraft building, the permanent galleries are well worth a visit.

On the other side of the museum area you'll be transported further back in time at the Ulster Folk Museum. Explore thatched cottages, farms, schools and shops as you experience life from over 100 years ago. Set in over 170 acres of rolling countryside overlooking Belfast Lough, chat to a costumed visitor guide, admire traditional crafts and meet farm animals.

The Folk Museum tells the story of life in early 20th century

Ulster. A bygone era is recreated in a rural landscape of farms, cottages, traditional crops and local breeds of livestock. The permanent galleries are well worth a visit. Many of the replica and reconstructed buildings have staff dressed in period costume to explain what life was like back in the time that the building was functioning.

Some of the most popular attractions include the W & G Baird print shop is housed on the ground floor of a two-storey reproduction building, which was built specifically to support a fine 1600s roof of architectural significance from New Row in Coleraine, County Londonderry.

The Corner Shop is an original building. It was built in 1889 in Nelson Street, Irish Quarter West, Carrickfergus, County Antrim. It was dismantled and moved to the Folk Museum in the late 1980s. This shop is typical of a traditional urban corner shop from a good quality, late Victorian brick-built terrace. It continued to run the corner shop until the 1970s.

The Gilford Picture House was built in the 1850s and came from Gilford, County Down. It was dismantled and moved to the Folk Museum in 1996. The building operated as a silent cinema until 1931. The two storey structure dates from the middle of the 1800s. It was originally used as a hay store and was later adapted for use as a cinema, shortly before the First World War. More details at: [www.nmni.com/our-museums/Ulster-Folk-Museum](http://www.nmni.com/our-museums/Ulster-Folk-Museum)



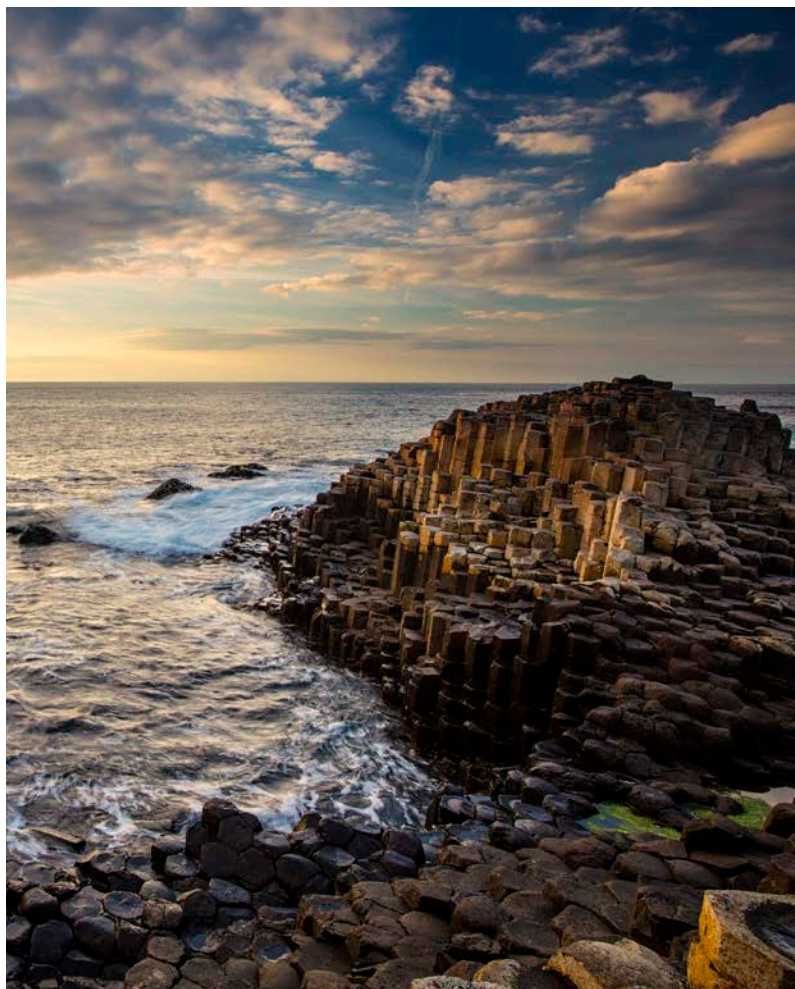
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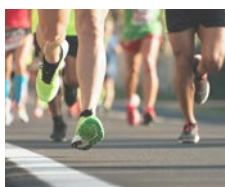
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# *‘Pawesome’ pet friendly places to visit and stay in Northern Ireland*

**N**orthern Ireland has everything you need to take your pet with you. With dog-friendly hotels, bars and restaurants, and stunning walking locations, your holiday experience will be one to remember. Take a look at Tourism NI's recommendations:

## **County Fermanagh**

For those looking for top accommodation options, Lusty Beg Island Hotel, in County Fermanagh, has been awarded Northern Ireland's first GOLD Paw Grading from Dog Friendly NI's PAW Grading Program. The rural island resort has two areas where owners and dogs can dine together, they offer solo traveler assistance for people visiting on their own with their dogs, and there's even a dog wash so muddy dogs can get spruced after enjoying a walk along the fantastic dog trail.

## **County Antrim**

If you're heading for Northern Ireland's Causeway Coastal Route, The Inn on the Coast, between the harbour towns of Portrush and Portstewart in County Antrim, offers spacious accommodation with excellent walking routes. There are dedicated pet-friendly rooms on the ground floor for up to two dogs and your pet is welcome at the seating area of the foyer and in the

reception, where you can relax and enjoy a drink or meal. The Inn even awards a Good Behaviour Certificate and a treat for your furry friend on check out.

## **County Tyrone**

For anyone who wants to escape to the country, Blessingbourne Country Estate, nestled on 550 acres of County Tyrone woodland and private lakes, has five luxury self-catering apartments that are all dog-friendly. The estate offers an idyllic setting for outdoor activity and adventure, including the bespoke Blessingbourne Woodland Walk, through a mix of mature woodland and open farmland, and is the perfect place for you and your pet to explore Tyrone's beautiful countryside.

## **County Down**

For anyone looking for a refreshing new year's walk to keep you and your pet fit, Slievenaslat Walk Trail, in Castlewellan in County Down, offers a challenging climb through the forest to the summit of Slievenaslat (272 metres). Once you reach the top there are iconic views of the Mourne Mountains and the surrounding drumlin landscape. If that hasn't tired you and your dog out, there are lots of other walks to choose from, with the forest's trail network totalling 7.5 miles.

## **County Londonderry**

If you just want to relax for the weekend, the Brown Trout Golf and Country Inn, in Aghadowey, County Londonderry, has a full range of dog-friendly accommodation, especially the spacious 4\* courtyard cottages. Guests and their pets can enjoy walks on the pathway alongside the golf course, then relax afterwards in the bar and lobby. The inn has a south-facing patio for long summer days and four open fires for dark winter nights.

## **County Armagh**

And finally, located in a quiet, rural area convenient to Lough Neagh, Ballydugan Pottery Courtyard Cottages consists of four cottages - Bramley Apple Cottage, Wheat Loft Apartment, Gaskins Grove, Dobsons Corner and Potters Cottage - all of which are pet friendly. Depending on your pet's age and fitness, this is a wonderful base for a country retreat and ideal for exploring Counties Armagh and Down with your pet. There are also opportunities for dog walking at nearby Craigavon Lakes.

**Discover more ideas for short breaks at [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com)**





## DAY TOURS

### **Cliffs of Moher / Wild Atlantic Way / Galway City day tour:**

Enjoy a two-hour visit at the Cliffs of Moher. Your ticket includes admittance to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre: A scenic drive along the Wild Atlantic Way Coast: A visit to Galway City, the bohemian and cultural capital of Ireland. Your two-hour visit includes a free walking tour of the City provided by the Tour Guide.

### **Giants Causeway / Belfast Titanic Museum / Belfast City Black Taxi Political Tour / Carrick Rede Rope Bridge:**

All attraction costs included in ticket to include admittance access the Giant's Causeway Heritage Centre & a guided walk with the Park Ranger.

### **Kilkenny City / Wicklow Mountains & Glendalough / Irish Sheep Dog Trials day tour:**

Includes walking tours of Kilkenny City & Glendalough Monastic site. A visit to a working sheep farm with sheep dog trials and the opportunity with the farmer to handle the lambs (bred for us all year round). Photographic stop at the top of the Wicklow Mountains. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Medieval Kilkenny City with your Tour Guide is also included in the ticket price. 2 hours at Glendalough and 2 hours + 30 mins Kilkenny City

**Game of Thrones & Giant's Causeway:** Visiting the Antrim coast and caves, Ballintoy Harbour and the Dark Hedges. The Giant's Causeway and Dunluce Castle.

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# Top things to do in County Londonderry

The allure of the Oak Grove County is wrapped up in its beautiful scenery and tranquillity, mixed with vibrant cultural and historical attractions, action, adventure and a strong literary heritage. Nicknamed 'Stroke City', due to differences of opinion on the use of the 'London' moniker, there's still much to see and do.



## Wander the wall

If you do nothing else in County Londonderry, you should linger around Derry's city walls, feel dwarfed, and then walk the one mile around them – all for free. The only completely intact city walls in Ireland, they stand 26 feet high and 30 feet wide. Your walk will take in all the main sights, including four sets of original gates and 24 original cannon. Don't miss the famed 'Roaring Meg'.



## Marvel at Mussenden Temple

This circular temple built in 1785 totters on a cliff edge high above the Atlantic Ocean. It's in the grounds of the ruins of historic Downhill Demesne, which are wonderful too. Hike around the estate and clifftop walks for stupendous views. Downhill beach and the temple exterior were used in Game of Thrones, but this is a fabulous site, even if you're not a fan.

## Hit the Causeway Coastal Route

Carve out your own beautiful slice of the Causeway Coastal Route by hitting the road from Derry to the pristine beaches at Benone and Downhill, where Game of Thrones was filmed.

## Get lost in the Jungle

This adrenaline-packed outdoor adventure centre will let you feel the thrills and excitement of anything from tree-top high wires to zorbing, archery with a difference, clay pigeon shooting and even llama trekking. It's also the largest paintball site in Northern Ireland.

## Step into Heaney's HomePlace

Immerse yourself in the world of the most widely published poet in the English language. County Londonderry was a major inspiration to the late Seamus Heaney, and now the Heaney Home Place is a must-go for literary fans and the curious alike.

## Take to the Tower

The Tower Museum is spread over five floors and its uppermost level gives stunning panoramic views of the Walled City and River Foyle. But immerse yourself first in the city's past with the Story of Derry Exhibition and An Armada Shipwreck – La Trinidad Valencera, the story of the Spanish Galleon that sank off the Donegal Coast in 1588.

## Walk the camomile lawn

Every step you take on the camomile lawn at Springhill House releases a delicious apple fragrance. Situated on the edge of the picturesque Sperrin Mountains and often called the 'prettiest house in Ulster', it's well worth a tour and walk.





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# *Six great glamping sites around Northern Ireland*

**N**o tents to pitch, no bumpy groundsheets and no sleeping bags to unroll – glamping is ideal for those who want to camp out in nature and appreciate a little bit of luxury at the same time. Luckily, there are glamorous camping sites set in picturesque landscapes all over Northern Ireland. Here are just six to get you thinking.

## **Tepee Valley, County Armagh**

Located in the secluded hills of the Orchard County, this glamping spot is quiet, peaceful and perfect for those wanting to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Feel the call of the wild with a stay in a large deluxe yurt, get close-up and cosy in a two-person shepherd's hut, or let the whole family enjoy a traditionally designed Native American tepee. With snug heating systems to keep you comfy and warm no matter the weather, there are glamping options here for any occasion.

## **Mountain Sky Glamping, County Londonderry**

Situated on a working farm overlooking the Sperrin Mountains, the two fabulous wooden-floored safari tents here are comfy, cosy and spacious. Sleeping six, there is a master bedroom with king size bed, a bunk second bedroom and a quirky 'sleeping cupboard' bed which is a favourite with children.

Other creature comforts include a wood burning stove, comfy sofa, oil

lamps and inside flushing loo. Each tent enjoys its own privacy, but are also placed perfectly for groups. There is beautiful walking country and adventure activities to explore nearby.

## **Sperrin View Glamping, County Tyrone**

Located in an area of outstanding beauty at the foothills of the Sperrins, these glamping pods allow you to lie in bed and gaze up at the stars in one of Northern Ireland's best dark sky locations. Sleeping five, the pods are also only metres away from one of Ireland's oldest heritage sites, the Beaghmore Stone Circles. Each pod comes fully equipped with its own kitchenette, shower and unique viewing window – perfect for budding astronomers or romantics who want to kick back, relax and star gaze.

## **Pine Tree Hollow Glamping, County Down**

Enjoy a comfortable stay in one of three cosy wooden glamping cabins located in a secluded rural setting overlooking Slieve Croob and the Mourne Mountains. Choose from the quirky over-sized beehive, a replica cattle wagon or a 20-foot wide yurt, all sleeping five but each with unique styles inside and out, including private outdoor spaces. Enjoy the nature, heritage, wildlife at your doorstep, or return to the comfort after exploring the excellent local activities, including the nearby towns of Castletwellan and Newcastle.

## **Crom Castle Estate, County Fermanagh**

Coming equipped with everything you need for a comfortable stay, these stone-built pods look out over the waters of Lough Erne, which is just a short distance away. They are kitted out with all the essentials, including mini fridge and microwave, two single beds and enough room for three children to stay on the floor (bring your own air beds) – and three of the five pods are dog-friendly. Roam the 2,000 acres of the beautiful Crom Estate, maintained by the National Trust, to your heart's content.

## **Further Space, County Antrim**

The perfect rural getaway along the Causeway Coastal Route, these cosy pods at Glenarm Castle have superb ocean views and all the comforts of home, including electric, running water and heating. Each pod features an expansive glazed entrance, coffee dock, shower room, and somewhere to sit and relax. Sleeping up to four, with a comfy double bed and hotel-quality bed-linen included, plus integrated bunkbeds tucked away that are ideal for tweens or teens. Wi-Fi comes as standard, as do slots to charge phones and laptop.

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# Top things to do in County Down

County Down has it all – majestic mountains, a tranquil lough, pretty coastal villages and Michelin-rated restaurants. If you can only linger a while, here's what you must see and do.



## Indulge your golfing dreams

From Rory McIlroy's favourites – world-class Royal County Down (Voted Number 1 in the World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses, Golf Digest, 2017 or his home club in Holywood – to the fantastic links of Ardglass, the parkland of Warrenpoint and the undulating greens at Kilkeel, the golf in County Down just couldn't get any better.

## Dip into Exploris

Discover a sea kingdom for small and big kids alike. Brave the Exploris Aquarium touch-tank to see if you can tantalise a tentacle or two. Cute seals and energetic otters might steal the show, but don't miss the talks in the reptile area and the shimmering snake and crocodile.

## Roam Mount Stewart

Make your way to Mount Stewart to indulge in the splendour of an aristocratic home. Stop off at Greyabbey to browse the antique shops.

## Wander the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum

Experience life at the turn of the century at the captivating Ulster Folk & Transport Museum. Discover cottages, farms, schools and shops as you wander through the beautiful parkland. Don't miss one of Europe's most interesting selection of cars, trains, planes and more, all with Northern Irish links.

## Tour St. Patrick's heartland

Sit in peace and tranquillity in Downpatrick, the final resting place of St. Patrick, where, in the grounds of Down Cathedral, his grave is marked by a single slab of Mourne granite.

## Sink into a secret swamp

Find wildlife fun at Castle Espie throughout the year. Take a tour

of the spring duckery, grab a bag of seed and play pied piper to a flock of fluffy ducklings. Watch you don't fall into the secret swamp with its upside-down trees and zip lines.



## See the Game of Thrones castle

Castle Ward in reality; Winterfell on the set of the Game of Thrones fantasy world – either way it's a must see. Game of Thrones fans can indulge in an immersive on set experience with Clearsky Adventures.

## Tour the Queen's palace

Amble up the hill in the quaint village of Hillsborough to the seat of royalty. The glorious gardens are open all year and are well worth investigating, before descending the hill to one of the many village pubs or restaurants.

## Visit Down County Museum

County Down Museum was once a Georgian gaol used as a final staging post for convicts bound for Australia. Experience the cell conditions the prisoners endured prior to their journey.



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## OPW

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is your gateway to Ireland's most iconic heritage sites. From Cork to Donegal and from Dublin to Galway, OPW is your partner to discover the very best of Ireland's heritage attractions.

From castles to battlefields, from formal gardens to wild landscapes and from Christian round towers to Neolithic burial chambers, there is something there for everyone. Our heritage card allows you to explore all these magnificent sites at a very affordable price.



## THE TEXAS STEAKOUT GOOD HONEST HEARTY FOOD SINCE 1989

Back in 1989, when the idea of the Steakout was conceived, there were very few restaurants in Limerick City. It was a gamble to open a restaurant with a Western theme and located in a basement was also a huge gamble. Thankfully, it was exactly what the Limerick people were looking for and, they responded accordingly. Back then their Waiting Staff were attired in full Cowboy/Cowgirl regalia, complete with Stetsons, Guns and Holsters! This caused quite a stir and was a great talking point in Limerick at that time. Kids were especially fascinated and spent more time playing with the Staff than eating their food! Today, not much has changed except they've grown in size, so pop in to visit them on 116 O'Connell Street, Limerick, and discover for yourself the great food and excellent hospitality that awaits.



## Titanic Hotel Belfast

Titanic Hotel Belfast is one of Northern Ireland's newest hotels, however its history goes way back to when the Titanic was built. It is a perfect accommodation option both for those looking for a comfortable and luxurious hotel in Belfast and for those who want to immerse themselves in its rich history.

Situated in Titanic Quarter, the hotel is just opposite Titanic Belfast and close to the city's main amenities. Titanic Quarter has been transformed over the past decade to become a must-see attraction, and Titanic Hotel Belfast is at the heart of it all! So, if you are seeking for a well-connected hotel in Belfast city centre with spectacular surroundings, look no further than Titanic Hotel Belfast.



## Lough Foyle Ferry

Connecting the Causeway Coast & Wild Atlantic Way. The Scenic Lough Foyle Ferry is the perfect way to experience both the Causeway Coastal Route and Wild Atlantic Way. Using the mouth of the Lough Foyle to connect Northern Ireland to Donegal, the ferry extends your trip without sitting in road traffic while still enjoying the coastal views.







*Belfast City Hall*



# Top things to do on Rathlin Island

Amidst the rugged landscape of this beautiful island let your mind wander and discover a tranquillity and beauty that is so unexpected.

The ferry to Rathlin Island travels just six miles across the Sea of Moyle. This island is six miles long, one mile wide, "L" shaped and home to a slowly increasing population of around 140 people.



## The Boathouse Visitor Centre

A short walk from the harbour is the Boathouse Visitor Centre, where visitors can discover some of the exciting history, learn about present day island life and see some artefacts from shipwrecks around the island. Enjoy many of the walks the Island has to offer including along the shore to Mill Bay where you may see some of the resident seals basking or at play. Cycle hire is another way to enjoy the island or take a bus trip.



## Rathlin Lighthouse

From April to July is puffin season so don't miss the opportunity to see them along with lots of other sea birds. The re-furbished seabird centre is open to the public from Easter with the added bonus of being able to explore a real working lighthouse which is now part of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland tour.

## Robert the Bruce

Many tales of myth and mystery surround Rathlin; perhaps the most famous tells of Robert the Bruce. In 1306, the Scottish King was driven from Scotland by Edward I of England and took refuge on Rathlin where he watched a spider persevering again and again

to bridge a gap with its web. Eventually it succeeded. Taking heart from the spider's efforts, he returned to Scotland and eventually regained his crown.

## Breakwater Studio

The island has a range of accommodation to suit different needs, a pub, restaurant, community shop and gift shop, offering Rathlin produced crafts. 'Breakwater Studio' features the work of local artist Yvonne Braithwaite.

## Rathlin Food Tour

The Rathlin Food Tour offers local, artisan, award winning food & drink around an amazing island, showcasing local, artisan, award winning food & drink in Northern Ireland's largest inhabited island. Your enthusiastic guide introduces you to four truly unique venues and some of the people who catch, grow, make and bake delicious food.

Remember the Irish proverb: Laughter is brightest where food is served best. At Irish Feast, we serve the best of local foods in the most wonderful of places - your laughter will be the brightest of all.

## Be informed

The Rathlin Development & Community Association (RDCA) is the voluntary body that represents the Rathlin community and manages an informative website with detailed information about services and activities on the island [www.rathlincommunity.org](http://www.rathlincommunity.org).





# AIRFIELD ESTATE:

## A RURAL HAVEN NEAR DUBLIN'S BUSTLING CITY CENTRE

**I**t's nice to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city every once-in-a-while and Airfield Estate offers something different to everyone who visits. Based in Dundrum, it's a haven for gardening enthusiasts, animal lovers, food lovers, families and those seeking a taste of the Irish countryside, just 15-minutes from the city centre.

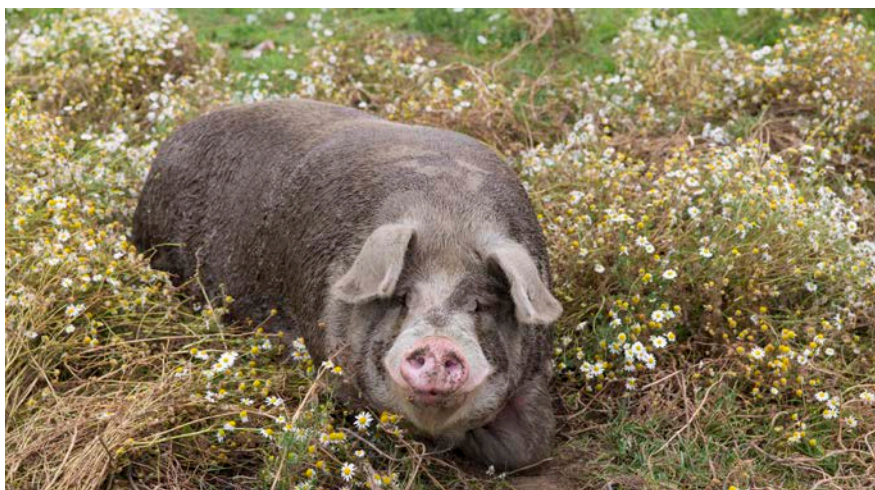
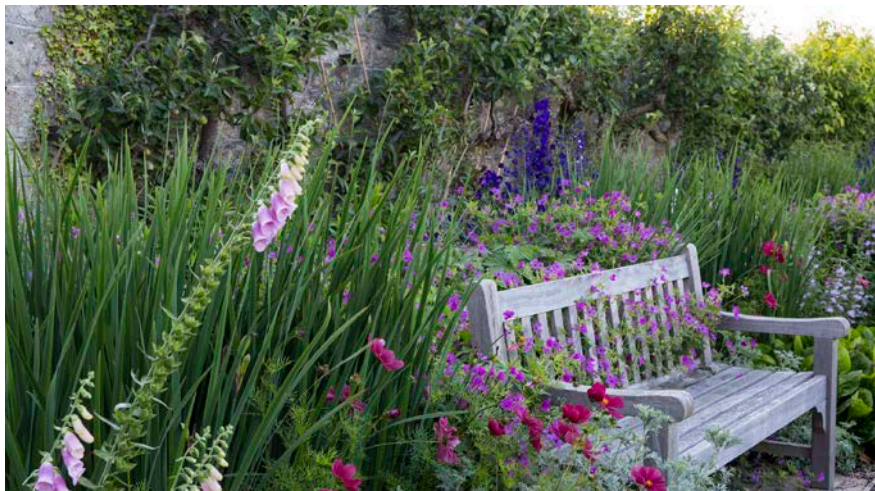
Visitors can catch sight of freshly laid eggs being collected, seasonal fruit and vegetables being harvested, get up close to the Jersey herd milking and you'll even get to taste the fresh, creamy milk, whilst discovering how milk converts from grass to glass.

You'll meet all the working farm animals on the Estate, including goats, chickens, pigs, cows and donkeys, to name but a few and, if you time your visit right, you can even help out at feeding time.

"There's plenty to do and take part in when you get here, such as morning nature trails, guided tours of the Overend family home and vintage car garage, storytelling, six acres of organic ornamental and food gardens to explore, old fashioned lawn games, a barn and mud kitchen for imaginative play and Naturescape – for the outdoor adventurer", said Shauna Morton of Airfield Estate.

It's guaranteed you'll spend hours at Airfield, so grab a table in Overend's Kitchen or a take away from the Stables Cafe and refuel with some freshly harvested food from the Estate.

"Home to the Overend family from 1894, Airfield was left in trust to the people of Ireland by Letitia and Naomi Overend in 1974. Their wishes were that the



Estate would be used for education and recreation. So, we work hard to honour their wishes and what visitors might not know is that their visit helps to fund the many food education programmes we deliver throughout the year to people of all ages and abilities. Airfield is not just a beautiful place with a remarkable history, it's a social and charitable hub, investing in people and initiatives that reach every corner of our community", explained Shauna.

Today, the 38-acre Estate in Dundrum offers visitors an insight into the sisters' lives at Airfield, an opportunity to learn more about Irish agriculture and the natural

environment, a chance to taste their sustainable seasonal produce... It's a rural experience that's only a hop, skip and jump from Dublin's City Centre. Be part of it!

Airfield Estate is open daily from 9.30am to 6pm (July/August) and all activities are included in the cost of admission (€12 adults/€5 children. Under 3s go free). Last admission is one hour before closing.

Airfield Estate, Overend Way,  
Dundrum, Dublin 14, Ireland,  
D14 EE77

Web: [www.airfield.ie](http://www.airfield.ie)  
Phone: 01 969 6666





*Lough Erne*



## See Ireland's History Come Alive



Explore the 1916 Easter Rising & Modern Irish History

GPO Museum, General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

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# An unforgettable shopping experience

Designer dreams come true at Kildare Village. Nestled within idyllic landscaped grounds and located just an hour from Dublin, the Village is home to 100 boutiques from the world's most exciting brands, including Maje, Sandro and The White Company, with savings of up to 60% off the recommended retail price, all year round.

Plus, discover a selection of restaurants, cafés and seasonal pop-ups, perfect for an indulgent break during your shopping day.

Discover more at [KildareVillage.com](https://www.KildareVillage.com)

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