

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Unlock the Secrets
of an Ancient Land



Trim Castle, Co.Meath



Day 1 | Co. Meath

1 Bru na Boinne – UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, Knowth Brú na Bóinne, Glebe, Donore, Co. Meath | A92 EH5C

The ancient burial site at Brú na Bóinne – a UNESCO World Heritage site – dates back 5000 years before the pyramids and Stonehenge.

Enter the tomb chamber at Newgrange, then learn the full story of Neolithic megalithic art in an absorbing new exhibition which helps you appreciate the importance of these sites, as well as the work involved in their rediscovery and preservation, before you visit the impressive passage grave at Knowth.

Allow 3 hours

Lunch:

Bru na Boinne cafe

Next Destination: 6.4km

2 Boyne Boats – Historic Boyne Canal Experience The Lockhouse, Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Meath | A92 X767

Take to the Boyne river and canal for a paddling tour in handcrafted traditional Kerry Naomhóg currachs, which starred in Game of Thrones, during the Historic Boyne Canal Experience. You will be guided through 5,000 years of the Boyne Valley. Young and old can paddle together and feel what it was like to travel on the sacred Boyne all those years ago.

Connect, learn and treasure the stories that shaped Ireland and the magic which has spawned legends.

Allow 2 hours



Next Destination: 11.6km

3 Slane Castle Estate – Combination tour of Slane Castle & Slane Distillery

Slanecastle Demesne, Slane, Co. Meath

The Slane Rocks Tour is a fully guided experience of both Slane Castle and Slane Distillery. After checking in at the Distillery you will head to Slane Castle and visit the rooms where royalty's been entertained, artists have recorded and the Conyngham family still live to this day. Then it's back to Slane Distillery where you will learn about the art of Whiskey making and the maturation mastery behind the Triple Casked Slane Irish Whiskey.

You will also get to enjoy the outdoors, taking in the architectural heritage and stunning views of the surrounding landscape, including the world – famous concert site. To finish up, a tutored Slane Whiskey tasting and then kick back and relax with a complimentary seasonal cocktail in our Distillery Bar.

Allow 2 hours



Dinner Options:

Tankardstown House | <https://www.tankardstown.ie/dining/>
Station House Hotel | www.stationhousehotel.ie/food.html

Hotel Options:

Trim Castle Hotel 4* | <https://www.trimcastlehotel.com/>
Castle Arch Hotel 3* | <https://www.castlearchhotel.com/>

Day 2 | Co. Westmeath

1 Tullynally – Entertaining guided tour of the grand rooms and the servants' quarters

Tullynally Pakenham Hall, Road, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath

Visit Tullynally Castle, overlooking the lake where, legend has it, the Children of Lir were transformed into swans. There's certainly magic to be found in its beautifully restored 18th-century walled flower gardens, terraced lawns, romantic woodland walks, and ornamental lakes.

On your fascinating tour of the castle – a family home, owned by the Pakenhams for 350 years – you'll hear stories of their innovation and literary connections and step back in time as you explore the castle's Victorian servants' quarters!

Allow 1.5 hours



Next Destination: 46km

2 Kilbeggan Distillery Experience – Guided Tour

Lower Main St, Aghamore, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath

Connect with the history as well as the process of whiskey-making at Ireland's first licensed distillery: production began here in 1757, powered by a watermill on the River Brusna. You'll hear stories about the distillery's role in this Westmeath town as you tour a historic building and see its time-honoured equipment at work.

Witness a traditional, hands-on approach at work before taking a small drop of Kilbeggan and fully understanding why this whiskey has stood the test of time!

Allow 1 hour



Next Destination: 9.1km

Lunch:

Browne's on the Green, The Crescent, Ballykilmore, Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath

<https://brownesonthegreen.ie/>

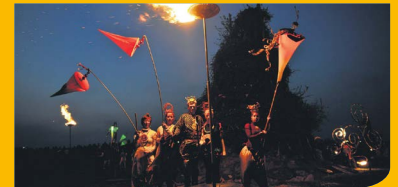
Next Destination: 18.4km

3 Hill of Uisneach – Mythological and archaeological tours of Ireland's sacred centre

Rathnew, Loughnavally, Co. Westmeath | N91 R6C9

Taken in the breath-taking views from the mythological and sacred centre of Ireland on this guided tour. In ancient times, a fire lit each year for the Bealtaine festival could be seen across most of Ireland.

Allow 1.5 hrs



Dinner Options:

Red Earth – Lifestyle Store & Restaurant | <https://www.redearthireland.com/>

StockHouse Restaurant | <http://stockhouserestaurant.ie/>

Hotel Options:

Trim Castle Hotel 4* | <https://www.trimcastlehotel.com/>

Castle Arch Hotel 3* | <https://www.castlearchhotel.com/>

Day 3 | Co. Meath – Co. Cavan

1 Trim Castle Castle St, Trim, Co. Meath | C15 HN90

The largest Anglo-Norman fortification in Ireland, Trim Castle took Hugh de Lacy & his successors 30 years to build. Discover the central fortification of Trim Castle, which is a monumental three-storey keep. This massive 20-sided tower, cruciform in shape, was all but impregnable in its day – protected by a ditch, curtain wall & water-filled moat. Modern walkways allow you to gaze down over the interior of the keep – a chance to appreciate the sheer size & thickness of the mighty castle walls.

Allow 1.5 hours



Next Destination: 43.5km

2 Loughcrew Cairns @ Loughcrew Megalithic Centre Loughcrew Cairns, Corstown, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

The Cairns at Slieve na Calliagh, are of huge historical importance. With their beginnings stretching back over 5,000 years, they are even older than Newgrange. Legends & stories which surround the tombs have kept them well preserved since their beginning more than 5,000 years ago. Loughcrew Tours provide a great way of exploring these wonderful monuments, join a guided tour to unravel the mystery.

Allow 1.5 hours



Lunch:

Nelly's Café | Loughcrew Megalithic Centre | <https://www.loughcrewmegalithiccentre.com/cafe/>

Next Destination: 11.9km

3 Crafts of Ireland – Choose from a variety of workshops Knocknaveagh, Virginia, Co. Cavan | A82 P2C2

This craft studio will make you feel like you are visiting family, welcoming you in with roaring log fires and stunning views of the Lough Crew hills, Mullaghameen Forest & on a clear day Cairn Hill.

Running workshops in both crafting and baking, workshops Crafts of Ireland provide include; Crochet, Knitting, Lace Making, Needle Felting, Wool Spinning, Natural Plant Dyeing, Embroidery, Pebble Art, Traditional Baking and more. For workshops which include afternoon tea, served on vintage china & with Newbridge cutlery, all food will be freshly baked & prepared on site – catering for special dietary requirements.

Allow 2 hours



Next Destination: 14km

4 Cavan County Museum – Bringing History to Life Virginia Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan | A82 YP70

Take a magical walk back through time in the historic wonderland that is Cavan County Museum! This exciting and vibrant museum takes history off the page and brings it to life with larger-than-life outdoor exhibitions such as the World War I Trench Experience and Battle of the Somme installation.

This gives you the opportunity to walk around the largest replica trench in Ireland or Britain and experience how it felt to fight in “the war to end all wars”. It’s so realistic, you can practically feel the bullets flying overhead, make sure you keep low!

Allow 2 hours



Dinner Option:

Courthouse Restaurant | <https://www.courthouserestaurant.ie/>

Hotel Option

Cabra Castle 4* | <https://www.cabracastle.com/>

Day 4 | Co. Louth

1 ½ day @ Carlingford Adventure Centre Tholsel Street, Carlingford, Co. Louth

The Carlingford Adventure Centre boasts a wide range of adventure activities to enjoy, from water sports on beautiful Carlingford Lough, ziplining amidst amazing scenery and rock climbing on historic Slieve Foye mountain.

There are also bespoke team building activities to choose from including Crystal Maze challenge course, raft building, survivor challenge and team development high ropes. A half day package allows for 1x3hr activity.

Allow 3 hours



Next Destination: 85metres

Lunch:

PJ O Hare's | <https://pjoharescarlingford.ie/>

2 Carlingford Heritage Centre

Church Road, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Visit Carlingford Heritage Centre, a start a guided tour of Carlingford medieval walled town built at the time of the Normans in the 12th century including site visits to King Johns Castle, Taaffe's Castle, the Market Square, The "Mint", The "Tholsel and the Dominican Friary before soaking up the views from the hillsides over Carlingford Lough.

Allow 2 hours



Or:

3 Carlingford Ferry – Scenic Ferry crossing across Carlingford Lough (weather permitting)

The Harbour, Greenore Port, Greenore, Co. Louth

Scenic Carlingford Lough crossing featuring epic scenery through an area shrouded in mystery, with a rich tapestry of legends and folklore hidden in its hills. Additional services are available for pre-booked groups include an onboard tour guide (offered in English), oyster tasting experience, Carlingford seafood chowder and local craft beer tasting.

Allow 20mins each way



Next Destination: 6.8kms

4 Cycle the Carlingford Greenway

Carlingford Marina, North Commons, Carlingford, Co. Louth | A91 DWP3

After the scenic ferry, take in some more breath-taking views of Carlingford Lough & Slieve Foye while cycling along the Carlingford Greenway. Taking you along the shoreline and traveling from Omeath to Carlingford, the greenway utilises the old railway line which offers spectacular views of the Cooley Peninsula & Carlingford Lough.

Allow 1.5 hours



Dinner Option:

Square Restaurant | <https://www.squarerestaurant.ie/>

Accommodation Option:

Cabra Castle 4* | <https://www.cabracastle.com/>

Day 5 | Monaghan

1 Patrick Kavanagh Centre - Guided Exhibition Tour Candlefort, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan | A91 KT70

Visit the newly upgraded Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen which celebrates the life and legacy of one of the greatest poets of the 20th century. In searing verse – most notably in 'The Great Hunger', the narrative poem that is his masterpiece – Kavanagh, a farmer as well as a poet, explored repression, loneliness, and his love of the land.

The fascinating new exhibitions here celebrate the area, now known as 'Kavanagh Country', and the man who gave an authentic voice to rural experience in 20th-century Ireland. We will also stop for coffee at the Raglan Road Tea Rooms next door.

Allow 1.5 hours



Next Destination: 5.6km

2 Brehon Brewhouse Microbrewery – Farm & Brewery Tour Brehon Brewhouse, Dunelty, Inniskeen, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan | A91E170

Start with a visit to the milking parlour to meet the McMahan herd which supplies cream for the famous Bailey's liqueur. Moving into the brewery, smell the specially selected malts that go into the Brehon Brewhouse beer & see the Master Brewer & this apprentice at work – all brewing, bottling & capping is done here by hand.

Moving into the tasting room in the original family home, which still holds the old range and dressers Seamus's grandmother once used. The tour ends with a little beer taster in the surrounds of this magical place, whilst being regaled stories of events that happened there and the characters who resided there over the years.

Allow 1 hour



Lunch:

The Riverbank Restaurant | <https://www.theriverbank.ie/>
Fiddlers Elbow | <http://www.fiddlers.ie/>

3 Carrickmacross Workhouse Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan | A81 E372

Now running as a non-for-profit community resource, the Carrickmacross Workhouse was once one of 130 Workhouses built throughout Ireland between 1841 & 1843 to house the poor.

Aptly named Teach na mBocht (The Poorhouse), the poor had to apply for admission to the Workhouse & surrender any land prior to entering as "inmates". Once admitted, they were subjected to a strict regime with little comfort – applying to enter one of these workhouses was a last resort.

Allow 1 hour

4 Irish Country Quads – Quad Biking Carrickakelly, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan | A91 HY74

Take a tour on a purpose-built quad bike course, which caters for bikers of all experience & through all weather conditions. Open all year round, there's no excuse not to get into the outdoors with this exciting & adventurous sport.

Allow 2 hours



Options:

5 Carrickmacross Lace Gallery Market Square, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan | A81 YE38

Carrickmacross is synonymous with the intricate style of lacemaking that emerged in the bustling Monaghan town in the 1820s. A demonstration at the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery introduces you to the colourful terms and history of the style, and the role that lace-making has played in the town's history, as you watch the needlework involved in meticulously creating each piece by hand.



6 Collective at Market Square Market Sq, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan | A81 K300

The Collective @ Market Square is a creative art & craft gallery. Set up to show case local artists & craft makers in the region, this innovative gallery is dedicated to the promotion & display of a range of products as well as artists.



Dinner Options:

Bellingham Castle | www.bellinghamcastle.ie/ **Cabra Castle** | www.cabracastle.com/dining/the-courtroom-restaurant

Hotel Option:

Cabra Castle 4* | <https://www.cabracastle.com/>