

Places To See and Things To Do

Golf in Wexford



With six championship courses, County Wexford is a golfer's paradise.

The wonderful natural terrain around our coastline provides the perfect mix. Enjoy the challenge of some of Ireland's most famous links, or the spectacular beauty of our superb parkland courses.

The informal and friendly manner in which the game is played here makes for a very special golfing experience.

Enniscorthy Castle



Recently renovated and refurbished, Enniscorthy Castle explores the development of the castle and town from its earliest Anglo-Norman origins, (12th Century) through the 16th century with recreations of the last residents' rooms of the, Mr. Henry J. Roche and his family, who lived here from 1903 to 1951. The exhibitions also explore the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy, the work of Irish furniture designer and architect Eileen Gray born in 1878 just outside Enniscorthy.

The roof of the castle is also accessible, with spectacular views of the surrounding buildings, Vinegar Hill, and countryside.

The Ros Tapestry



The Ros Tapestry Project is a massive community initiative in progress in the County of Wexford. Conceived in 1998 and being developed by over a hundred dedicated volunteers, fifteen striking embroidered panels - 6' x 4' each - it is a cultural and historical accolade to its' creators.

The Ros Tapestries depict events around the Anglo-Norman arrival to the South East of Ireland, specifically the founding of the town of New Ross, Co. Wexford by William Marshall and Isabel de Clare. The content for these tapestry panels was exhaustively researched and designed by Anne Bernstorff.

After ten years in the making this permanent exhibition of the magnificent embroidered Ros Tapestry is now open to public viewing in a dedicated exhibition centre on the Quay in New Ross

Tintern Abbey



Tintern Abbey is a Cistercian Abbey located on the Hook Peninsula, in west County Wexford.

The Abbey which is today in ruins, some of which have been restored was founded in the 13th century by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, as the result of a vow he had made when his boat was caught in a storm nearby.

On reaching safety in Bannow Bay, he redeemed his vow bequeathing about 9,000 acres of land for a Cistercian abbey.

Consequently, Tintern Abbey, sited on a gentle south facing slope overlooking Tintern stream, is sometimes called Tintern de Voto 'Tintern of the vow.' Once established, the abbey was colonised by monks from the Cistercian abbey at Tintern in Monmouthshire, Wales, of which Marshall was also patron.

Following its foundation, Tintern acquired large tracts of land in Co. Wexford and at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, appears to have been the third richest Cistercian abbey in Ireland (after St. Mary's in Dublin and Mellifont).

The Hook Peninsula and Lighthouse



One of the Oldest Operational Lighthouses in the World.

Hook Head, wild and elemental, tranquil and serene, in its serenity hides the treachery which awaits unsuspecting mariners.

Little wonder that William Marshall earl of Pembroke undertook the building of the lighthouse in the early 13th century as a navigational aid to guide his ships into Waterford Harbour "By Hooke or by Crooke" you will be enthralled.

Hook Lighthouse is a unique example of an almost intact medieval lighthouse.

It dates from the early 13th century

and was a major feat at the time of its construction.

Purpose built as a lighthouse, it has served sailors and shipping for 800 years, apart from a short closure during the 17th century. It is thought to be one of the oldest operational lighthouses in the world.

Irish National Heritage Park



A visit to the Irish National Heritage Park is like no other you can imagine. Surprises await around every turn as you explore 35 acres of this remarkable heritage trail.

From campsite to Ringfort, from mill to Fulacht Fiadh, from Crannog to Viking house, every activity is an unexpected adventure into 9000 years.

The world you enter is an authentic recreation of Ireland's heritage. Homesteads, places of ritual, burial mounds and long forgotten remains will enlighten the casual visitor and interest the scholar.

The Park, Restaurant & Shop are open everyday.

Johnstown Castle



The harmony between great Victorian revival castles and their surrounding ornamental grounds is rarely seen to such perfection as at Johnstown Castle.

The mature woodlands and lakes of this demesne provide the perfect setting for this turreted, battlemented and machicolated castle of gleaming silver-grey ashlar, built for the Grogan Morgan family between 1810 and 1855 and incorporating part of a more ancient castle.

Other attractions at Johnstown include a cemetery with very fine wrought-iron gates made in Italy, the site of the sunken Italian Garden

close to the car park, and the lower lake, dug in the 1850s and covering some fourteen acres.

All three lakes in the demesne provide a home for a wide range of waterfowl - mute swans, moorhens, coots, little grebes, herons and a recently introduced flock of mallards - all of which help to control the waterweeds.

The attractive early nineteenth century farm buildings to the north of the lower lake house the Irish Agricultural Museum where a variety of old horticultural implements are on display.

Dunbrody Famine Ship



The Visitor Experience provides a unique insight into a period of history which shaped modern day Ireland and America.

You will, first of all, view a 9 minute audio-visual presentation which gives the historic background to the Great Famine, and the reason why so many people were forced to emigrate on sailing ships like Dunbrody to America in the mid 19th century.

You will see fascinating footage of the building of the replica Dunbrody, the emotional day of her launching, and also her Maiden Voyage in 2005.

You will then follow in the footsteps of a group of Famine emigrants as you board the Dunbrody. A ticket is issued as if it were 1849, and this ticket allocates your space and food rations for the voyage ahead.

Kilmore Quay and Saltee Islands



Kilmore Quay is a small rural fishing village in the south-east corner of Ireland. It is 22 km from Wexford town and just 19 km from the international ferry port at Rosslare.

One of the first features to strike anyone visiting the village for the first time is the number of thatched cottages lining the village street. Most of these cottages date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, and are of significant national importance. Wandering down the village street will bring you to the harbour and fishing fleet. A recent addition to the old harbour is a state-of-the-art 55-berth marina, which has added a new dimension to boating along the south coast of the country.

The area around the village has many unspoilt beaches, offering miles of the finest sand dunes in the south-east. Along with the Saltee Islands, the stretches of natural sand dunes are some of the features that make Kilmore Quay unique in Europe and beloved of visitors and locals.

National 1798 Visitor Centre



The award winning National 1798 Centre offers a fascinating insight into the birth of modern democracy in Ireland.

The visitor experience starts outside the building by crossing 'the bridge to democracy'.

On the inside, the exhibition display follows a range of themes.

The opulence of pre-revolutionary Europe; the spread of revolution; the Irish context; the United Irishmen; the chain of battles in May and June 1798; Vinegar Hill, and the aftermath of the rebellion.

Following this dramatic display, the visitor moves on to view ghost-like life-size plaster figures which represent the people of 18th century Ireland.

The accompanying narration outlines the unfolding awareness of the spread of revolutionary ideas throughout Ireland, putting across a sense of growing urgency at grassroots level.

JFK Arboretum



The John F. Kennedy Arboretum covers 252 hectares (623 acres) on the southern slopes and summit of Slievecoiltia.

It contains 4,500 types of trees and shrubs from all temperate regions of the world, planted in botanical sequence. There are 200 forest plots grouped by continent. Special features include an Ericaceous Garden, (with 500 different rhododendrons, and many varieties of azaleas and heathers), dwarf conifers, hedges, ground covers and climbing plants.

The lake is the most popular part of the Arboretum, and is a haven for waterfowl. A road provides access to the summit at 271m from which there are panoramic views.

Wexford Wildfowl Reserve



Wexford Harbour and its Slob, by their location and geomorphological structure, are natural havens for birds. Situated on the south-east coast of Ireland, they are the closest point for birds migrating into or out of Ireland from Britain and the Continent from a southerly direction.

Waders and wildfowl in particular are attracted to the area where the flat landscape and the wide shallow harbour with its sandbars and mud banks provide safe areas to feed, loaf, roost and breed.

Wexford Harbour opening to the Irish Sea to the east, is partially protected by Rosslare Point to the south, the Raven sand dune system to the north and the Fort and adjacent sandbars in the middle.

From the west, the harbour is fed by the meandering River Slaney which, in its lower reaches, is tidal.

Wexford Racecourse



Wexford Racecourse is the South East of Ireland's leading race course. Wexford Racecourse assures you of a brilliant day out for all the family.

The National Hunt Races are run from March to November annually. All race meetings during the racing season feature both Flat and National Hunt Races.

Wexford Racecourse is an undulating, right handed course of 1 mile, 4 furlongs for chases, hurdles and flat races.

Duncannon Fort



Duncannon Fort is a star shaped fortress on an important promontory in Waterford Harbour. It was built in 1588 in the expectation of an attack on the area by the Spanish Armada.

The Fort is surrounded by a 30 ft high dry moat and has one of the oldest lighthouses of its kind in Ireland. All the major buildings in the Fort surround a parade ground.

A walk around the outer ramparts afford spectacular views across the estuary to Co. Waterford and down to Hook Head. Located at a lower level than the moat is the croppy boy cell.

After the 1798 rebellion, prisoners were detained here pending transfer to Geneva Barracks for trial and sentencing. An added attraction is the

Maritime Museum which charts the maritime history of one of the most dangerous coastlines in Ireland, the Wexford coast.

Wexford Web

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