

# Explore Louth: Heritage Trail



## Explore.louth: Heritage Trail Routes

## Route 2: Dundalk & The Cooley Peninsula

### Route 1: Drogheda & Louth's Coastal Villages

#### DUNDALK TOURIST OFFICE

Market Square, Dundalk, Co. Louth

T: +353 (0)42 9352111

E: info@dundalktouristoffice.ie

www.visitlouth.ie | GPS: 54.004307, -6.403209



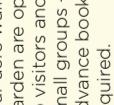
#### DROGHEDA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

The Tholsel, West St., Drogheda

T: +353 (0)41 9872845

E: droghedadatouristoffice@gmail.com

www.drogheda.ie | GPS: 53.714833, -6.350469



#### THE THOLSEL

GPS: 53.714833, -6.350469

Built in 1770, the Tholsel has been used for corporation meetings, court functions and also served as a gaol. In 2007 the ground floor became the tourist office. It features a free multimedia tourist exhibition, 'Drogheda, Gateway to the Boyne Valley'.



#### ST. PETER'S CHURCH & ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT'S SHRINE

GPS: 53.7149377, -6.352514

St. Peter's Church is among the finest Gothic Revival Churches in Ireland and is famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett, who was hanged at Tyburn in England on 1st July 1681.



#### ST. LAURENCE'S GATE

GPS: 53.715897, -6.347091

St Laurence's Gates is one of the finest of its kind in Europe. Twice the walls and gates held strong, firstly against Edward Bruce in 1317 and again in 1642 against Sir Phelim O'Neill.



#### HIGHLANES GALLERY

GPS: 53.715417, -6.348481

Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery is located in a former Franciscan Church and houses the town's most treasured heirlooms: a ceremonial sword and mace presented to Drogheda Corporation by King William III after the Battle of the Boyne.

**Interesting fact!** The mace is solid silver and weighs 108 ounces. It was restored in 2010 and grew three inches (76mm) when it was straightened out.



#### DROGHEDA MUSEUM, MILLMOUNT

GPS: 53.718000, -6.350519

Millmount Museum and Martello Tower are situated on high ground in the heart of Drogheda. Huge Lacy constructed the motte and bailey circa 1172. The castle formed part of the defences of the town during Cromwell's siege of Drogheda in 1649. Today, Millmount Museum houses various exhibitions on folk life, local industry and military history and the Curvich wall. Interesting gravestones include John Duggan, a private in the 17th Lancers, who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade.



#### DROMISKIN

GPS: 53.922061, -6.349227

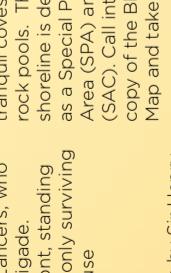
The history of Dromiskin goes back to the 6th Century. There are 16 historical locations on the Linn Duchaille, which was later abandoned. Today, Annagassan is a quiet seaside village and harbour with views from the beach overlooking the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne Mountains.



#### BLACKROCK

GPS: 53.936641

Blackrock (Na Creaghacha Dubha) is a seaside village on the shores of Dundalk Bay. Explore its beautiful beaches and wetlands, tranquil coves and rock pools. The entire shoreline is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Call into the local outlets to pick up a copy of the Blackrock Tourist Guide and Walking Map and take a self guided tour of the village.



#### ST. PETER'S C.O.I.

GPS: 53.716873, -6.350205

The organ in Church of St. Peter's was built by John Sneizer in London. "Cadaver Stones" from the tomb of Sir Edmond Golding and his wife Elizabeth Fleming can be found on the churchyard wall. Interesting gravestones include John Duggan, a private in the 17th Lancers, who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade.

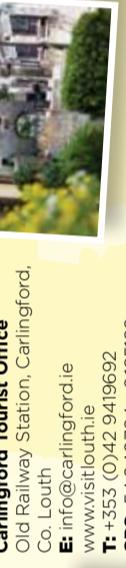
**Interesting fact!** The magnificient font, standing by the door at the West end, is the only surviving relic of the medieval church still in use.

#### BEAULIEU HOUSE & GARDENS

GPS: 53.728333, -6.295000

Built around a Plunkett tower house by Sir Henry Tichbourne in the 1620s, its unique architecture

Mourne, Cooley & Gullion region enjoy this stunningly beautiful and historic area of Ireland.



#### CARLINGFORD

Old Railway Station, Carlingford,

Co. Louth

T: +353 (0)42 419692

GPS: 54.040764, -6.185189

**King John's Castle & Other Buildings**

GPS: 54.043288, -6.186881

Carlingford Castle, overlooking Carlingford Lough, was the first stone building in Carlingford. The eastern half of the castle was added to in 1261 AD. Wander around medieval Carlingford village and discover its many other historic buildings including: **Taaffes Castle**, built in the 1600's, **The Tholsel**, a late medieval town gate, **The Mint**, with five highly decorated limestone windows and the **Dominican Priory**, believed to be founded by Richard de Burgo in c.1305.

**ST. PATRICK'S PRO-CATHEDRAL**

GPS: 54.003722, -6.398030

This cathedral took 12 years to build and was completed in 1847. The imposing gothic design was inspired by the Chapel of St. Mochta, an Augustinian Priory known as St. Mochta's House, which dates to the second half of the 12th century. The village itself was once the seat of the Bishops of Clogher and also the royal residence of the O'Carrolls, Kings of Oriel.

**CARLINGFORD HERITAGE CENTRE**

GPS: 54.038951, -6.185398

Located in a beautifully restored medieval church, a permanent display documents Carlingford's history from references to the Vikings circa 850 AD, through the Norman & Medieval eras to modern times.

**ANCESTRY RESEARCH** – information on genealogy, baptisms, marriages and deaths in parishes on the Cooley Peninsula can be found online at [www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com](http://www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com)

**LOUTH VILLAGE**

GPS: 53.910588, -6.540540

Picturesque Tallowntown Village, a former National Tide Towns winner, lies on the banks of the River Glyde. Here you will find a statue to Vere Foster, founder and first president of the Irish National Teachers organisation, who considered education as a liberator from poverty.

**ARDEE TOWN**

GPS: 53.855425, -6.539388

Ardee, a busy market town gets its name from the Irish, Ath Fhirdhia (the Ford of Ferdia). In medieval times, Ardee was at the northern edge of the Pale, the area of Ireland controlled by the English Government. Border battles between the Anglo-Normans and the Irish were frequent along the frontier, leaving a legacy of two castles on the main street.

**ST MARY'S C.O.I.**

GPS: 53.857753, -6.539169

The church is built on the site of the original medieval church established by the Normans. A terrible massacre happened here in 1315 when Edward Bruce's soldiers set fire to the church, killing men, women and children who had sought sanctuary there from his invading army.

**CHANTRY COLLEGE**

GPS: 53.857791, -6.538271

This was built as a home for the chaplains of St Mary's Church, sometime before 1487. Chantry chaplains used to chant or celebrate mass for wealthy individuals and families.

**HATCH'S CASTLE**

GPS: 53.856988, -6.539506

The smaller of two castles in the centre of Ardee, Hatch's Castle is a fine example of a late 14th Century urban fortified house that was once found in many towns throughout Ireland. Gifted to the Hatch family by Oliver Cromwell in the 1600s, it is still in use as a private family home today.

**FAUGHART**

GPS: 53.857368, -6.538333

Known as the birthplace of St. Brigid (453 AD), the site has a small medieval ruined church, St. Brigid's Well. The entire top of the hill was a hill fort in Iron Age times. In 732, the King of Ulaidh, was defeated by the Northern Ui Néill and his head was cut off on the 'Stone of Decapitation' (Cloc an Chomhaigh), located near the door of the old church at Faughart. Edward Bruce, was buried in Faughart Graveyard following his defeat at the Battle of Faughart on October 14, 1318.

**ROCHE**

GPS: 54.046711, -6.488371

The story goes that she promised her hand in marriage to the architect who would build her a castle at Roche. When he went to claim her hand, she threw him from one of the windows, which to this day is known as the 'murder window'.

**THE VICTORIAN RAILWAY VILLAGE OF GREENORE**

GPS: 54.031877, -6.130923

Built in 1870's by the London & North West Railway Company for the port and railway workers, it is reputedly the only completely planned village in Ireland. The entire village is an Architectural Conservation Area. Today, the Greenore Co-Op houses the Railway & Maritime Museum and a miniature railway. Walking tours of Greenore are also available.

**SCENIC CARLINGFORD FERRY**

GPS: 54.033906, -6.131771

The first ferry sailed between the medieval castles at Carlingford and Greencastle over 800 years ago. Today, the Scenic Carlingford Ferry allows visitors to Carlingford Lough's

## Route 3: Mid louth & The Boyne Valley

in single-combat at the fording point on the River Dee, and fought furiously. Cúchulainn finally won, and after fatally wounding Ferdia he carried him across the ford so he could die in honour. A bronze sculpture, created by Ann Meldon-Hugh, commemorates the mythical battle.



#### JUMPING CHURCH

GPS: 53.835870, -6.520906

About 15km outside Ardee at Kildemock, you will find The Jumping Church.

#### Believe it or Not:

Legend says that the wall of the Kildemock Church 'jumped' to exclude a man from the sacred enclosure within the church

#### COLLON

GPS: 53.779724, -6.486762

Collon House, ancestral home of the Foster family, dominates the crossroads in the village. Collon Church is a prominent landmark dominating the southern approach to the village. Commissioned by Speaker John Foster, of Collon House, and designed by the talented architect Rev Daniel Augustus Beaufort, the church is thought to have been modelled on the chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

#### IRISH MILITARY WAR MUSEUM

GPS: 53.764030, -6.470753

About 3.5km outside Collon you will find the Irish Military War Museum, Ireland's largest private military collective housed in a 5,000 sq ft hands on museum with WWI and WWII trenches and vehicles, original decommissioned weapons and equipment. The museum is set across a 22 acre site and tank rides can be booked on request along with guided tours of the exhibits.

#### OLD MELLIFONT

GPS: 53.742824,

Mellifont Abbey was one of the finest, high crosses in medieval Ireland. St. Malachy, along with a community of Irish and French monks founded this beautiful abbey, the first Cistercian Abbey in Ireland in 1142. Facilities include a visitors centre, exhibition and self guided trail. Guided tours are available on request

#### MONASTERBOICE HIGH CROSS & ROUND TOWER

GPS: 53.777784, -6.417737

This remarkable monastic site contains two of the finest, high crosses in Ireland. The 9th century Cross of Muireach is one of the best surviving examples of Irish religious art, and the Tall Cross (or West Cross) the highest cross in Ireland, standing around 7m. There is also a magnificent round tower, approx 35m high which was used as a watch tower and refuge for monks and valuables during times of Viking attack.

#### BATTLE OF THE BOYNE VISITOR CENTRE, OLD BRIDGE

GPS: 53.725353, -6.423498

This is the site of the infamous Battle of the Boyne, on the 1st of July 1690 (old Julian calendar). King William III commanded 36,000 troops against King James II and his 24,000. At stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe, and power in Ireland. The site includes a visitor centre with audio-visual show and laser battlefield model, a tea pavilion, walled garden and self guided walks. Living history events are held during the summer months.

#### CÚCHULAINN & FERDIA'S EPIC BATTLE

GPS: 53.855840, -6.538462

Ardore has a special place in Irish mythology as the site of the four day battle between Cúchulainn and Ferdia described in the Cattle Raid of Cooley, An Táin Bó Cúailnge. Cúchulainn and Ferdia met recently was the town's Courthouse.

