

# Kells & District

Original home of the Book of Kells  
and Monastic Treasures



DISCOVER  
BOYNE  
VALLEY

Birthplace of Ireland's Ancient East

# Fáilte go Ceanannas Mór

## Welcome to Kells

**Welcome to the Heritage Town of Kells. Situated on the River Blackwater in the heart of the Boyne Valley, the town and its environs have a rich archaeological, monastic and natural heritage. As the birthplace of Ireland's Ancient East, the Boyne Valley is renowned for its heritage wonders and Kells is proud to be part of that story.**

Ceannanus Mór, meaning Great Fort, was a royal residence before St. Columcille (Columba) established a religious settlement here in the middle of the 6th Century. He was exiled from Ireland after a dispute which led to the battle of Cúl Dremhne. Sailing to Scotland, he established a monastery on the island of Iona, which became a renowned centre of learning for many centuries, and remains a place of spiritual retreat.

We invite you to discover the many fine examples of early Christian architecture, including high crosses, towers and churches and of course, as home to the original Book of Kells, a visit to view the facsimile is a must.

The most enjoyable way to experience Kells' monastic past is to follow the Kells Heritage Trail, download the Kells App; or book a guided tour at the Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub.

Kells and district offers many other activities for all the family to enjoy, including golfing, fishing, horse riding, adventure parks, gardens, walks, pubs and restaurants.

We recommend you take a few days to enjoy the warm céad míle fáilte and the rich history of this unique area.

Text supplied by C. Murphy, Lucy O'Reilly, Aidan Wall and I. Olohan

Photo credits: J. Sheridan, B. Hand, D. Kennedy, R. McGrane, L. O'Reilly, J. Doyle, J. Moore, A. Martin,

Brochure produced by the Kells and District Tourism Network 2020





# Kells Frontier Town

**Kells lies near the physical frontier between the fertile lowlands of North Leinster and the poorer drumlin country of South Ulster. The frontier theme is a recurring one in the town's historical development from ancient times. In the pre-Norman period Kells was at the heart of national affairs, located on the border of the powerful Southern O'Neill kingdom of Meath and their Northern O'Neill brethren who between them ruled Ireland for 500 years.**

Due to its strategic and defensible position, after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, Kells became a vital military stronghold on the North-Western frontiers of their power base in Ireland, better known as the Pale. In 1315 Edward Bruce and his Scottish-Irish army burned Kells to the ground when they invaded the Pale.

The earliest reference to the fortified town walls of Kells is in a 'murage' grant of 1326. (A murage is a medieval toll for the building or repair of town walls) The only extant stretch of the medieval wall is at the end of the gardens south of Cannon Street and includes the ruin of one small round watch-tower.

Thomas Tylour, 1st Earl of Bective, ordered the removal of the walls in the early 1760s when construction of Headfort House began. Probably using some materials from the walls, the area around the Dublin Gate known as Headfort Place was also built and a wide tree-lined entrance avenue into the town was constructed, featuring a number of fine Georgian houses.

## **The Power of Five**

There are five windows in the Round tower looking over the five ancient roads which meet at Kells. On each road a gate to defend the town was constructed. The gates were located on Cannon Street, Carrick Street, Maudlin Street, John Street and Farrell Street (see map on page 9). No trace survives of the gates of Kells, although Maudlin gate still survived in 1817, when it was described as a 'covered archway'.





# The Book of Kells

## Kells' Greatest Treasure

The Book of Kells is the crowning glory of the Celtic illuminated manuscript art form, and one of the most important early medieval treasures of Western Europe.

Written in Latin, it contains the full text of the Four Gospels of the New Testament Bible.

Created on pages made from vellum (treated calf skin), the manuscript was illustrated in the elaborately ornate Hiberno-Saxon style depicting human and animal forms with intricate Celtic motifs. Many rare and expensive pigments were used, some imported from the Mediterranean area.

The Book of Kells may have been written entirely at the monastery in Kells or begun at Iona in Scotland and then completed in Kells.

In 1653 The Book of Kells was sent to Dublin for safe keeping by Charles Lambert governor of Kells. In 1661 it was donated to Trinity College by Henry Jones, Bishop of Meath.

You can view a copy of The Book in the Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub, the Church of St. Columba on the Monastic Site, the Church of St. Columille in Headfort Place, and in the Headfort Arms Hotel. You can also purchase The Book of Kells CD ROM online – [www.thebookofkells.com](http://www.thebookofkells.com).



Acknowledgement to: The Board of Trinity College Dublin

The Temptation of Christ



### DID YOU KNOW?

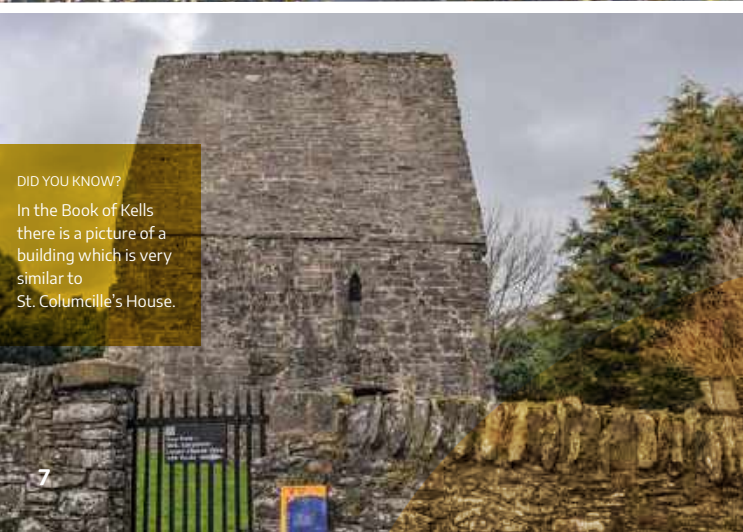
In 1007 the Book of Kells was stolen. It was found some months later "under a sod" without its jewel encrusted cover and with some of its pages missing.

### DID YOU KNOW?

About 185 calf skins were used in the making of the Book of Kells.

The monks kept a herd of as many as 1,200 cattle which also provided food and milk for the monastery.





## Kells Monastic Past

**Diarmuid Mac Caroll, High King of Tara is said to have granted the “Dún of Ceanannus” to St. Columcille in the 6th Century to establish a monastery. In 804 the Columban community on the island of Iona returned to Kells to escape the Norse raiding parties.**

The present Church on the site was built in 1778 and renovated in 1965 and the interior re-decorated. In June, July and August the church is open to tourists 10.00-1.00 and 2.00-5.00. Visitors are always welcome to attend any church services.

### Round Tower

The Round Tower or bell tower, (cloigtech) uniquely for towers in Ireland, has five windows, each of which looks out over one of the five ancient roads. At 100ft tall, it dominates the surrounding countryside as a powerful symbol of Christianity. Used as a bell-tower and place of sanctuary, it stood witness to countless bloody attacks by Vikings and native raiders alike. Dating from the 9th century it stands today at the highest point of the town, a centre of history and inspiration for the people of Kells, and visitors alike.

### High Crosses

The high crosses in Kells are the most important in Ireland. There are three high crosses and a cross base on the monastic site and the Market Cross is located outside the Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub. The biblical scenes depicted on the crosses were used for religious instruction.

### St. Columcille's House

Dating from the 9th Century, this stone oratory may have been built to house the relics of St. Columcille which were brought from Iona. It is believed that the Columban monks brought the Book of Kells here when they moved from Iona. The roof is barrel vaulted with three small chambers in the roof space.

The Columban community thrived and Kells became a centre of art, education and craftsmanship up to the 12th century. The 'Annals of the Four Masters' and the 'Down Survey' mention an underground passage from St. Columcille's House to St. Columba's church.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In the Book of Kells there is a picture of a building which is very similar to St. Columcille's House.

# Kells Historic Trail

Explore the wonderful historic delights of Kells on the The Kells Historic Trail. This walking trail starts at the Kells Courthouse and stops 1-11 take approximately 1 hour to complete. The additional stops are only a short distance by car.

1. Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub
2. Market Cross
3. St John's Cemetery
4. Town Hall
5. Parnell Gardens
6. Oliver Usher's Auction Rooms
7. Monastic Site
8. St Columcille's House
9. Churchyard Wall
10. Bective Square
11. Presbyterian Church

## 4 minute drive from Kells

12. Columcille's Well
13. Spire of Lloyd
14. Headfort House & Bridge



# Kells Historic Trail



## 1. Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub

The courthouse, now the Tourist Office & Cultural Hub was built in 1801. It was designed by the prominent Irish architect Francis Johnston. Johnston also designed the General Post Office and Nelson's Pillar in Dublin, Townley Hall, County Louth and the front entrance to Slane Castle. Here you can view a facsimile copy of the Book of Kells.

## 2. Market Cross

The famous 9th century Market Cross, the "Cross of the Gate" was originally located at the Eastern Gate of the monastery. It signified that a fugitive could claim sanctuary once inside the boundary of the monastic area. It currently stands outside Kells Courthouse. Damage to the cross is attributed to the 17th century army of Oliver Cromwell. Local belief has it that the cross was also used for hanging Irish rebels after the 1798 rebellion. (The rebels were referred to as Croppies, or Croppie Boys, because of their agrarian roots, or possibly for their fashion of cutting or cropping their hair short in the then new revolutionary French fashion).



## 3. St. John's Cemetery

St. John's Graveyard is associated with both the Crutched Friars (Frades Cruciferi) and with the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem. The former, a medieval Italian order devoted to the Holy Cross, had a priory in Kells in about the 12th century AD until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s. The carving known as the 'Abbess of St. John' may be associated with the Knights Hospitaller of St. John who owned land in Kilmainhambeg, now part of Headfort golf club. Established in the 12th century to provide medical care to Christian pilgrims to the holy land, the Knights later became a military order active on the crusades. Their original work is reflected in the contemporary St. John's Ambulance and the Order of Malta first aid service.

## 4. Kells Town Hall

Kells Town Hall was originally designed as a bank in 1853 by William Caldebeck. It became the town hall in 1974.



## 5. Parnell Garden

This is where Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) addressed the people of Kells about land rights for Irish tenants on 11th April 1975.

## 6. Oliver Usher's Auction Rooms

Originally a brewery where Ireland's first lager, Regal, ("Lager" spelt backwards) was brewed in the 1930s. It was later rebranded as Harp.





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### 7. The Monastic Site

At this medieval site, located at the centre and highest point of the town, are the round tower and three high crosses. There is also a belltower and sundial. There are interpretative panels inside the church.

### 8. St. Columcille's House

This is a stone oratory dating from the 9th Century, to house the religious relics of the monks. Access can be arranged through Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub.

### 9. Churchyard Wall

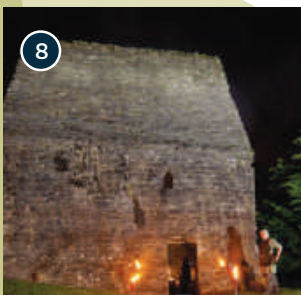
This wall marks the boundary of the original monastic site and was rebuilt in 1714.

### 10. Bective Square

In the centre of the square stands a bronze sculpture of an oak tree, by local artist Betty Newman-Maguire. It symbolises St. Columcille's love of the oak.

### 11. Presbyterian Church

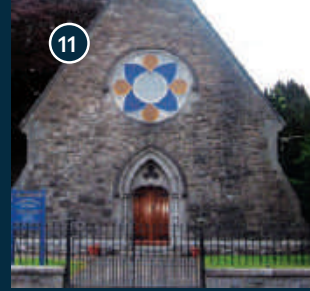
One of the two Presbyterian churches in Meath, this was built in 1871 on lands donated by Lord Headfort. Most of the original members were Scottish families working on the Headfort Estate.



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### 5 minute drive from Kells

### 12. St. Columcille's Well

A patron day is held annually on the eve of St. Columcille's feast day, June 9th. Why not sit and enjoy a quiet moment. Throw a coin in the well, make a wish or say a silent prayer.

### 13. Spire of Lloyd

This inland lighthouse was designed by Henry Aaron Baker (designer of the King's Inn, Dublin) in 1791 for the First Earl of Bective in memory of his father Sir Thomas Taylor. The Spire stands on the site of an iron age hill fort. The community park (The People's Park) includes the "Paupers Graveyard", in which many victims of the mid-19th century famine lie buried.

It is 30m high. On a clear day one can see magnificent views of the surrounding countryside as far as the Mourne Mountains in County Down, Northern Ireland. In the 19th century the Spire was used to view horse racing and the hunt.

### 14. Headfort House & Bridge

Thomas Taylor came to Ireland from Sussex in the 1650s as assistant surveyor to Sir William Petty to work on the Down Survey. He purchased extensive lands around Kells. In the 1760s his great-grandson, the Earl of Bective commissioned the architect George Semple to design Headfort House. The house contains the only intact Robert Adams interiors in Ireland. They have been restored under the aegis of the World Monuments Fund. Groups admitted by prior arrangement. T +353 (0) 46 924 0065



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# Local Walks

## Girley Bog Eco Looped Walk

3.5 miles (6 kilometres) / 1½ – 2 hours / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 40' 57.918" -6° 56' 46.470"

This walk covers forest and bogland where there is a wonderful variety of birdlife, plants and animals. Directions to Trailhead: Starting from the centre of Kells take the N52 following the signs for Mullingar. Follow the N52 for approximately 7km. Turn left onto a forestry roadway and follow for approximately 100m to reach the trailhead. Note: The trailhead is signposted from Kells.

## Ringfort and Blackwater River Looped Walk (KieranFlanagan's Way)

1 mile (1.5 kilometres) / 40 Minutes / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 43' 56.9922" -6° 54' 22.2834"

Start at the N.W. corner of the Peoples Park at Lloyd, through the swing gate and walk west towards Clavens Bridge, then cross the main Cavan road. Walk east along the Blackwater River to the Victorian Waterworks. Following the signs, turn right here towards Lloyd, cross the main road again to the bus stop sign, and head uphill to the Spire of Lloyd.



The Blackwater River

## Tailteann (Teltown) Blackwater River Drive & Walk

2.5 miles ( 4 kilometres) / 1.5 hours / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 40' 57.91" -6° 56' 46.77"

Drive to Donaghpatrick Church, Gibbstown where according to tradition, St. Patrick performed his first formal baptism after lighting the Pascal fire in Slane. Across the road from the church is Rath Airthir (Eastern Fort) an impressive trivallate ring fort incorporating a mound, possibly a Norman Motte.

Drive to Tailteann House (Teltown House) and start your walk at the "Mollies" on your right up the drive – an ancient cobbled path that leads up to the old graveyard where you will find rock art dating from about 2000BC, as well as the base of a cross and the ruins of an old monastery.

Walk along the banks of the Blackwater River round to the back of Martry Mill, which is still a functioning flour mill. To arrange a visit phone +353 (0) 86 817 3205



The Girley Bog



Kells Walk-About Guides

## Threshing Field Walk & Museum-Moynalty

0.7 miles / 30 mins / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 47' 17.0772" -6° 53' 23.0568"

Moynalty has beautiful parkland, with a walkway on the periphery. The "Duck Pond" is much admired, and the Borora River meanders along part of this area.

At the Agricultural Museum see a vast array of traditional farming implements and household items, giving an insight into life on the farm and rural homestead in days of yore. Visit the Museum by appointment.

## Kells Walk-About Tour Guides

Book at the Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub, Headfort Road, Kells.  
Payment by Donation.  
T +353 (0) 46 924 7508

## The World History of Kells

Unique walking tours covering six thousand years of local and national history: Stone Age Kells to the 21st Century. Talks and tours tailored to clients' specific interests.  
FB: The World History of Kells  
T +353 (0) 85 161 6527

### DIY KNOW?

Aonach Tailteann were ancient games that predated the Olympic Games and were held for thousands of years in Ireland. Legend has it that they were first held as funeral games by Lugh of the Longarm on the death of his foster mother Tailtiu.

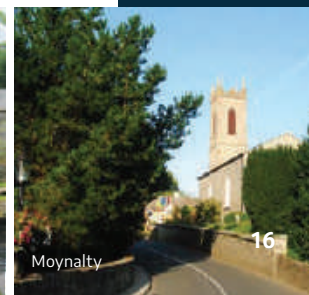
The games stopped with the last High King of Ireland, Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, and the coming of the Normans to Meath in the late 1100s.

### DIY KNOW?

Moynalty (Maigh nEalta) means "The plain of the birds".



Martry Mill



Moynalty

# Things to Do

## Family Fun

### Best O' Matz Play Centre

Kells Business Park, Cavan Road  
Bright, clean and friendly  
environment for children's fun.

T +353 (0) 46 929 3432  
W [bestomatz.ie](http://bestomatz.ie)

### Boyne Valley Activities

Drewstown House, Fordstown,  
Athboy

Boyne Valley Activities offers team  
building programs including group  
kayaking and archery, etc. Phone  
for group bookings.

T +353 (0) 86 734 2585  
W [boyn valleyactivities.ie](http://boyn valleyactivities.ie)

### Causey Farm

Girley, Fordstown

Family run, fun-based venue for  
a variety of entertainment. Learn  
about Irish culture – dance a jig,  
play the bodhrán, cut turf in a bog,  
bake brown soda bread, see  
a sheepdog at work, and more!

T +353 (0) 46 943 4135  
W [causey.ie](http://causey.ie)

### Fairgreen Play Area

Kells

This children's play area is situated  
opposite the Supervalu shopping  
centre on the Cavan Road.

### Haunted Spooktacular

Grove Gardens, Girley, Kells

Celebrate Halloween at Haunted Spooktacular.  
Scare attraction designed for adults (16+).

T +353 (0) 46 943 4276  
W [facebook.com/Hauntedspooktaculargrovegardens](https://facebook.com/Hauntedspooktaculargrovegardens)

### Kells Swimming Pool

Navan Road, Kells

Owned and operated by Meath  
County Council. 25 metre pool  
and a small pool suitable for  
toddlers. Open daily to public.  
Classes available: adults and  
children– beginners, improvers  
and advanced coaching. Aquafit.  
Intensive courses. Lifesaving.  
Available for hire to school  
groups, Summer schools /  
camps, community groups.

T +353 (0) 46 924 0551  
E [kellspool@meathcoco.ie](mailto:kellspool@meathcoco.ie)

### Loughcrew Gardens & Cafe

Oldcastle (20 minutes drive  
from Kells)

Ancient gardens with fairy trail  
and medieval moat. See the  
family church of St. Oliver  
Plunkett and Tower House.  
Book a tour of the house.

T +353 (0) 49 854 1356  
W [loughcrew.com](http://loughcrew.com)



The People's Park

### Royal Breffni Tours, The Crystal Maze

Kilmainhamwood, Kells (20  
minutes drive)

Fully supervised, day and night  
activity tours for all ages. The  
Crystal Maze offers over 100  
physical, mental and skill challenges  
around Ireland's  
biggest hedge maze. Also  
mountain hiking, walks,  
orienteering, water sports,  
horse riding, barbecues, etc.  
Pre-booking essential. Min.  
group size 20.

T +353(0) 42 966 7276  
W [royalbreffnitours.com](http://royalbreffnitours.com)

### The People's Park

Kells (3 minutes drive)  
Children's Play Area. Take  
the Oldcastle Road (R163)  
out of Kells. You can use the  
playground, see the inland  
lighthouse and visit the  
famine graveyard.

## Equestrian

### Kells Equestrian Centre

Carlanstown, Kells (10 minutes drive)

Accommodates competitive and pleasure riding with indoor  
and outdoor facilities. There are hacks along quiet country  
roads; qualified instructors, livery. Special needs catered for.  
AIRE approved.

T +353 (0) 87 954 4351 W [kellsequesrian.com](http://kellsequesrian.com)

## Golf

### Headfort Golf Club

Navan Road, Kells

Championship Course. It is set on what were originally the  
private lands of the Marquis of Headfort on the banks of the  
Blackwater River with beautiful trees (many rare species) and  
natural features. Visit the bar and restaurant in a picturesque  
setting.

T +353 (0) 46 924 0146 W [headfortgolfclub.ie](http://headfortgolfclub.ie)



Causey Farm



Kells Type Trail



Headfort Golf Club



Kells Equestrian Centre



## Fishing

The Kells Anglers Association was established in 1893 and own the fishing rights of circa 14 miles of the Blackwater River from its source at Lough Ramor to Kells. A medium size river it has some of the premier Wild Brown Trout fishing in Ireland. It has a wonderful stock of trout from ½lb to 1½lb, with trout caught each year between 2–5lb. In 2004 a record trout of 10lb was caught on dryfly.

From 1st March to 30th September trout can be caught on Wetfly, Dryfly, Nymph and Streamer. Each year, the Association hold a number of Junior competitions and fly fishing lessons. Parents are welcome to help with the barbecue while the children are supervised catching a number of fish species, including, Trout, Perch, Roach and Bream.

The river has a good run of Atlantic Salmon. The association has developed a number of spawning streams for both trout and salmon, which has dramatically increased the number of rod caught salmon. The Borora, a tributary of the Blackwater, holds a huge stock of small and medium size trout. It has an abundance of fly life associated with limestone rivers.

We are also blessed with more than 100 lakes within 1 hour from Kells. All hold excellent stocks of coarse fish, including Perch, Roach, Rudd, Tench, Bream and Pike to 20 and 30lb+. Some lakes are trout fisheries and are controlled by angling clubs and hold trout from 1lb to 5lb with some reaching double figures.

All in all, the Kells Blackwater and the surrounding area is a true mecca for fishing, from the complete beginner to the expert angler.



**Guide, Instructor Service,  
Equipment Hire, Permits**  
W [kells-anglers.com](http://kells-anglers.com)

Trout/Salmon Season  
1st March – 30th September.  
Coarse and Pike open all  
year round.

### **Kells Anglers Association Water Bailiffs**

Daniel Conaty  
+353 85 153 5320

Noel McLoughlin  
+353 87 217 9460

Liam McLoughlin  
+353 87 761 3742

Ciaran O'Kelly  
+353 86 375 2050

**Kells Anglers Association  
support Catch and Release.  
Please respect land owners  
property – bring your Litter  
home.**



# Festivals and Events



Muck of Kells

## Ongoing Events

### Kells Arts Club

Regular cultural events including poetry readings, arts lectures, and film club

### Clan Mc Cabe Rally

Open to all Mc Cables and those with an interest in the name.  
T +353 (0) 45 894 412  
E brianfrancis.mccabe@gmail.com

### Navan Racecourse

Racing all year round  
navanracecourse.ie



Hinterland Festival



Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival



Moynalty Steam Threshing Festival



Guth Gafa Festival

## Spring

### Equinox, Loughcrew Cairns

### Grand National at Fairyhouse

Every Easter Monday  
fairyhouse.ie

### Kells Musical & Dramatic Society Historical Pagents

February  
facebook.com/kellsmusicalsociety/

### Muck of Kells

### Spring Equinox, Loughcrew Cairns

St. Patrick's Day Festival  
(with Kells Silver Band est. 1848)  
Every St. Patrick's Day 17th March

## Autumn

### Equinox, Loughcrew Cairns

### Kells Musical & Dramatic Society Historical Pagents

September  
facebook.com/kellsmusicalsociety/

### Samhain Festival Kells

October

### Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival

October - November

## Winter

### Kells by Candlelight Winter Festival

December

### Meath Hunt

December

## Summer

### Blue Jean Festival, Athboy

June Bank Holiday Weekend

### "Dancing at the Crossroads" Céilé (Ughtyneill)

July  
ceilidancing.com

### Dunderry Fair

May  
dunderryfair.ie

### Girley Harvest Festival

August  
girleyharvestfestival.com

### Guth Gafa Annual Documentary Film Festival

### Kells Type Trail

Headquartered at The Sawmills  
June-August  
facebook.com/KellsTypeTrail/

### Hinterland Festival of Literature & Arts Kells

June  
hinterland.ie

### Jim Connell Memorial Festival

May  
jimconnellfestival.com

### Kells Road Races

June  
kellsroadraces.com

### Moynalty Steam Threshing Festival

August  
moynaltysteamthreshing.ie

### National Heritage Week

August

### Navan Choral Festival

May  
T 046 924 0345 / 087 244 3739

### Nobber Fair Day

May

### O'Carolan Harp Festival

August  
ocarolanharpfestival.com



Kells Musical & Dramatic Society



# More to Explore

**Why not discover some of the other interesting sites within a short drive of Kells or you could take the Boyne Valley Drive to explore some more.**

## St. Ciaran's Holy Well

Castlekeeran, Kells, Co. Meath (15 mins. towards Oldcastle on R163); 8km; GPS 53° 99' 5.47" -6° 58' 15.63" Allow 1 hr per visit  
Holy wells, High Cross, Ogham Stone. Legend tells us that the wells were formed at St. Ciaran's command and have healing powers. This was probably a place of worship in pagan times. Patron day is on 1st Sunday in August. Three cooked fish are said to appear in the well at midnight on the first Saturday of August.

## Loughcrew Passage Tombs

Oldcastle Co. Meath (36 mins towards Oldcastle on R163); 21 km; GPS +53 °44'38.40" -7 °77.32" Allow 2 hours  
One of Ireland's largest Neolithic Cemeteries, with over 30 Passage Graves dating from 3,000 BC. Older than Newgrange, the tombs offer amazing carvings from the Irish Neolithic era. There is also a collection of standing stones, a Cashel, Motte and cooking pots. Guided tours available in the summer months.  
W [heritageireland.ie](http://heritageireland.ie)

## Loughcrew Megalithic Centre

Oldcastle Co. Meath. A82 A6N7  
Loughcrew Megalithic Centre is a family run business providing guided tours and accommodation in the heart of the historic centre of Loughcrew. Located beside these ancient cairns, the megalithic centre is the perfect base to explore the Loughcrew Hills. On site there is a coffee shop, gift shop, hostel, camping, campervan and glamping site. Event Hall hire for events such as yoga, retreats etc.  
T +353 (0) 87 211 3624 / 86 736 1948  
W [loughcrewmegalithiccentre.com](http://loughcrewmegalithiccentre.com)

## St. Kilian's Heritage Centre

Mullagh, Co. Cavan (20 mins via Moynalty on the R164; 13.2 km; GPS: 53° 50' 0.92" 7° 4' 33.96"  
Allow 1hr 15 mins for the visit Patron Day 8 July. Originally from Mullagh, St. Kilian became a missionary to Wurzburg, Germany where he was martyred in 689 A.D. Watch a 15 minute audio-visual presentation about him. The exhibition traces the development of Gaelic script from the Ogham writing of the 4th century BCE up to the illuminated script of the Book of Kells. Open: Easter to Oct, Tues to Fri, 10am-6pm & Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays 2pm – 6pm. Adults €3; Students, OAP's & Groups €2.50  
T +353 (0) 46 924 2433 (coffee shop)  
E [stkiliancentre@eircom.net](mailto:stkiliancentre@eircom.net)

## The Seven Wonders of Fore

Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath (57 mins via Loughcrew on the Oldcastle Rd (R163), turn left past the coffee shop at Loughcrew and follow the signs for Fore; 31 km ; 30 mins; GPS: 53° 38' 50" 7° 12' 30". Allow 2.5 hours for visit  
Fore has been a Christian settlement for 1,400 years. St. Féichín founded a church 630–640 AD and a monastery that numbered around 300 monks by the time of his death. St. Féichín is renowned for the "Seven Wonders of Fore," including the water that never boils and the stream that flows uphill. The now abandoned Benedictine monastery was founded here during the thirteenth century.

## Battle of the Boyne Centre

Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Meath (38 mins, follow the M3 then take the N51 for Drogheda); 42 km; GPS: 53 °42'24.50 "6'25" 20.33". Allow 1 hour for visit  
The Battle of the Boyne between King William III and his father-in-law, King James II, was fought on 12 July 1690 (11 July according to our modern calendar). It was the largest number of troops ever deployed on an Irish battlefield, and at stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe and religious power in Ireland.  
T +353 (0) 41 980 9950  
W [battleoftheboyne.ie](http://battleoftheboyne.ie)

## Hill of Tara

Dunsany, Co. Meath (24 mins; take the M3 towards Dublin and exit at Jct 7, follow R147 signposted Dunshaughlin then Tara; GPS: 53 ° 34' 52.68" -6 ° 36' 32.04" Allow 1 hour for visit.  
Best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage-tomb was constructed there. Attractions include an audio-visual show and guided tours of the site during the summer months. Self guided audio tour available from [ingeniousireland.ie](http://ingeniousireland.ie).  
T +353 (0) 46 902 5903 / 41 988 0300  
W [heritageireland.ie](http://heritageireland.ie)

## Trim Castle

Trim, Co. Meath (37 mins; Leave the M3 at junction 9, at next roundabout take the 3rd exit, at next roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N51 signposted Delvin, follow signs for Trim; 26 km) GPS: 530 33'7.92" -60 47' 25.08"  
The largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland was constructed over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Hugh was granted the Liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare, (Strongbow). Construction was begun c. 1176 on the site of an earlier fortress.  
T +353 (0) 46 943 8619 / 46 943 8964  
W [heritageireland.ie](http://heritageireland.ie)

## Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre Newgrange & Knowth

Donore, Co. Meath (43 minutes; Head for Slane and follow signs for Newgrange); 39 km; GPS: 530 41' 40.20"N 60 26' 46.68"W. Allow 1 hour for visit  
Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. It includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange and interactive exhibits. Admission to Newgrange and Knowth is through the Visitor Centre, there is no direct access to these monuments. Visitors are brought from the Visitor Centre to the monuments by shuttle bus.  
T +353 (0) 41 988 0300  
E [brunaboinne@opw.ie](mailto:brunaboinne@opw.ie)  
W [heritageireland.ie](http://heritageireland.ie)



St. Ciaran's Well

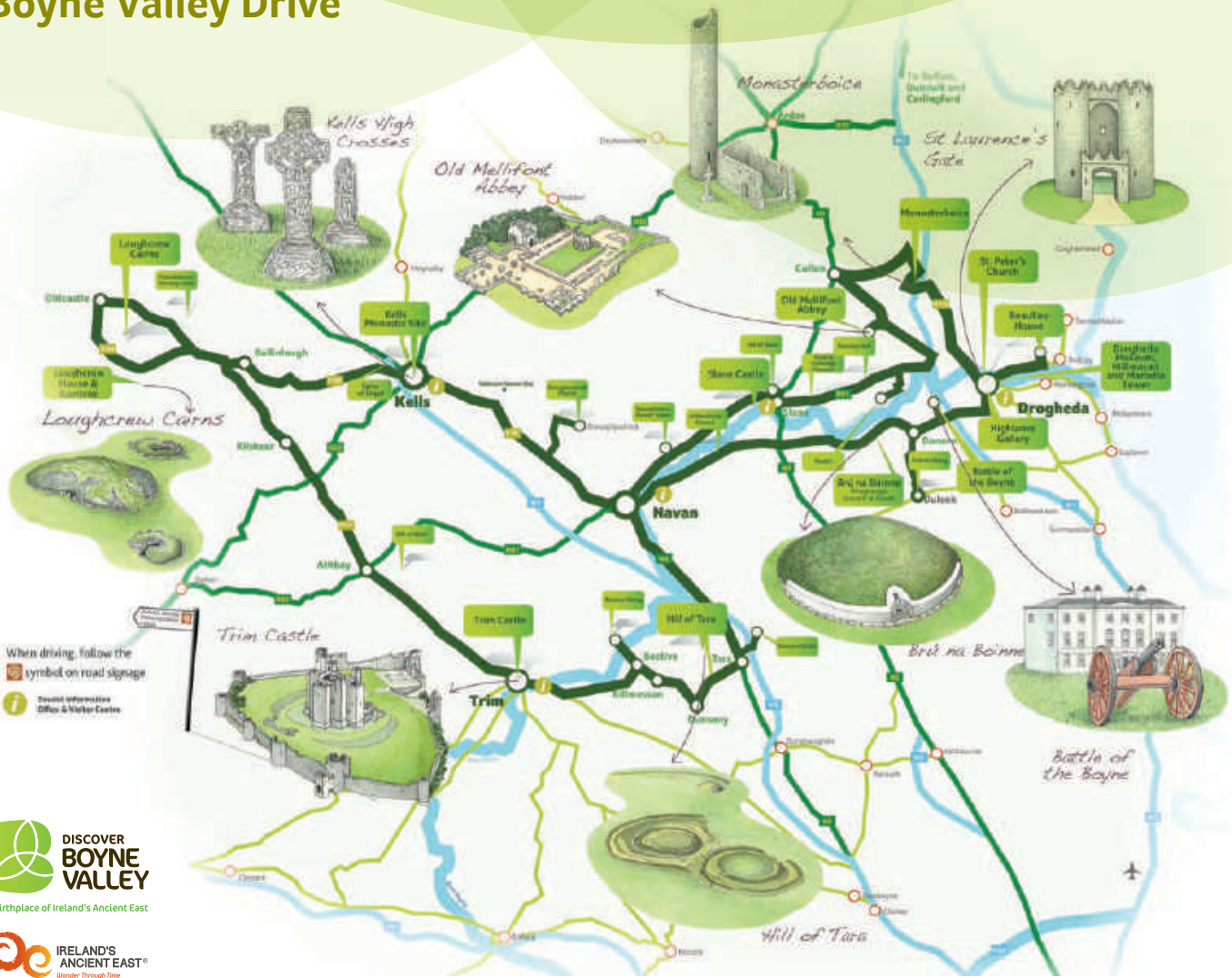


Loughcrew Cairns



Fore Abbey

# Boyne Valley Drive



DISCOVER  
BOYNE  
VALLEY

Birthplace of Ireland's Ancient East



IRELAND'S  
ANCIENT EAST®  
Wander Through Time



Hill of Tara



Trim Castle



Battle of the Boyne



Newgrange





KELLS GPS: 53° 43' 36.48" N -60° 52' 24.98" W

Kells, County Meath, is 40 minutes (30 miles) drive from Dublin airport. This designated heritage town offers the visitor a range of activities and attractions and makes an ideal start or finish to a longer stay in Ireland.

From angling, golf and walking to an ancient monastery, Celtic crosses and award winning accommodation and dining, Kells is an ideal destination for every member of the family.

For more information on our town visit  
W [discoverkells.ie](http://discoverkells.ie)



### Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub

Headfort Rd, Kells, Co. Meath, A82 RY62  
(located opposite the Market Cross on the R147 entering Kells from Navan)  
Free admission. For opening hours see website.

T +353 (0) 46 924 7508

E [kellscourthouse@discoverboynevalley.ie](mailto:kellscourthouse@discoverboynevalley.ie)

W [discoverkells.ie](http://discoverkells.ie)

[discoverboynevalley.ie](http://discoverboynevalley.ie)

### Tours of Kells

Kells Walking Tours  
(see page 16)

Kells Self-guided map  
(see page 10)

Download Kells App at  
[abartaheritage.ie/product/kells-heritage-town-audio-guide/](http://abartaheritage.ie/product/kells-heritage-town-audio-guide/)

