

# County Louth's Visitor Attractions

Located in Ireland's Ancient East less than 1 hours travel from Dublin or Belfast, Louth offers a wonderful array of historical attractions, outdoor pursuits, festivals, top class accommodation, award winning local produce and delicious fresh seafood. Here thousands of years of history, myth and legend combine with dramatic scenery and coastline, to produce a memorable holiday experience.

A warm welcome awaits you!

For further information on the attractions listed and much more, please go to

[www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie)



## CARLINGFORD TOURIST OFFICE

Station House, Carlingford

☎ +353 (0)42 9373 650

✉ [tourism@carlingfordheritagecentre.com](mailto:tourism@carlingfordheritagecentre.com)

## DROGHEDA TOURIST OFFICE

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## VISIT LOUTH

Louth County Council,

Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland

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FREE MAP & GUIDE

# VISIT LOUTH

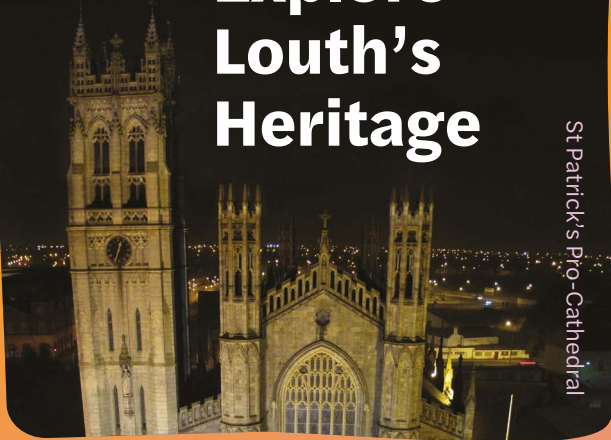
Out here, it's legendary!

Carlingford Lough Ferry

 IRELAND'S  
ANCIENT EAST®  
Wander Through Time

# Explore Louth's Heritage

St Patrick's Pro-Cathedral



*The 'Explore Louth Heritage Trail' is a self drive tour of Louth's heritage sites which brings you along picturesque coastline and through scenic countryside. Visit our website to download the map or pick one up from local tourist offices and start exploring.*

## **COUNTY MUSEUM** Roden Place, Dundalk

Step back in time in the award winning County Museum, located in a beautifully restored 18th century warehouse. With three floors of permanent exhibitions and an ever changing programme of temporary displays.

## **PROLEEK DOLMEN** Ballymascanlon, Dundalk

The magnificent Proleek Portal Tomb, situated in the grounds of Ballymascanlon House Hotel on the legendary Cooley Peninsula, is one of the finest examples of its kind in Ireland. The Dolmen is about 3m high and has a huge capstone weighing approximately 35 tons. Legend says that a wish will be granted to anyone who can throw a pebble on its capstone so that it stays there. There is also a Bronze Age wedge tomb nearby.

## **CÚCHULAINNS CASTLE / CASTLETOWN MOTTE** Castletown, Dundalk

This ruin, of a late 18th century castellated house known as 'Byrne's Folly', stands on top of a mound. It was built by Patrick Byrne, a well known pirate, in 1780 ad. The motte is built on the site of a pre-Christian fort called Dún Dealgan, meaning 'The Fort of Dealga'. This site is important in Irish mythology as it is said to be the birthplace of the legendary warrior - Cúchulainn.



## **ST BRIGID'S SHRINE & HOLY WELL FAUGHART** - Open all year

Faughart is closely associated with Saint Brigid, Ireland's Matron Saint, who is traditionally said to have been born here around 450 AD. This location features St. Brigid's Shrine, a tranquil and beautiful site that has attracted pilgrims for centuries. Nearby, at the Hill of Faughart, you can find a holy well dedicated to the saint. Louth, the birthplace of Brigid, invites visitors to explore its connections to her life. Whether you are looking for a spiritual retreat, an outdoor adventure, or a journey through rich cultural heritage, Faughart has much to offer. Pick up a free Brigid's Trail Map & Guide from tourist offices or download one from our website.



## **CARLINGFORD CASTLE (KING JOHN'S CASTLE)** Carlingford, Co. Louth

The original castle consisted of an enclosed courtyard with two rectangular towers at the entrance and two-storey buildings within. The eastern



half of the castle was added in 1261 AD and included a number of rooms and probably a great hall. There were a number of alterations made to the castle over the centuries. Discover more about this historic castle on a guided tour departing from Carlingford Tourist Office.

## **ST. PATRICK'S PRO-CATHEDRAL** Roden Place, Dundalk

At the heart of Dundalk town stands an imposing gothic design pro-cathedral, inspired by a chapel at King's College in Cambridge, England and named after St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

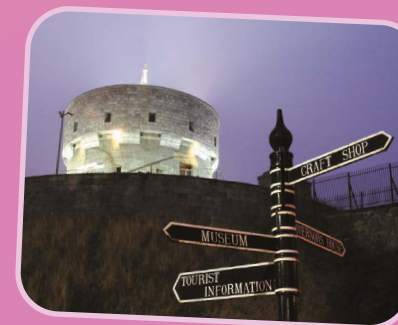
## **ST PETER'S CHURCH** - Shrine to Saint Oliver Plunkett West Street, Drogheda - Open all year

St. Peter's Church is among the finest Gothic Revival churches in Ireland and is famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett.



## **DROGHEDA MUSEUM, MILLMOUNT** Millmount, Drogheda - Open all year

The Museum and Martello Tower are located on the great fort that towers over Drogheda on an ancient hill and offer spectacular views of the town and the entire Boyne Valley. It was here that Cromwell met his strongest resistance when he laid siege to the town in 1649. The tower was restored in 2000 and is home to a military exhibition of Ireland's struggles.





### **MONASTERBOICE HIGH CROSS & ROUND TOWER**

*Monasterboice,  
Drogheda, Co. Louth*  
**Access all year**

A remarkable monastic site, containing two of the finest high crosses in Ireland, the 9th century Cross of

Muirdeach highly regarded as 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.

### **OLD MELLIFONT ABBEY**

*Tullyallen,  
Drogheda,  
Co. Louth*

**Open late May  
to early Sept.**

Mellifont Abbey was one of the wealthiest and most influential monastic houses 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.

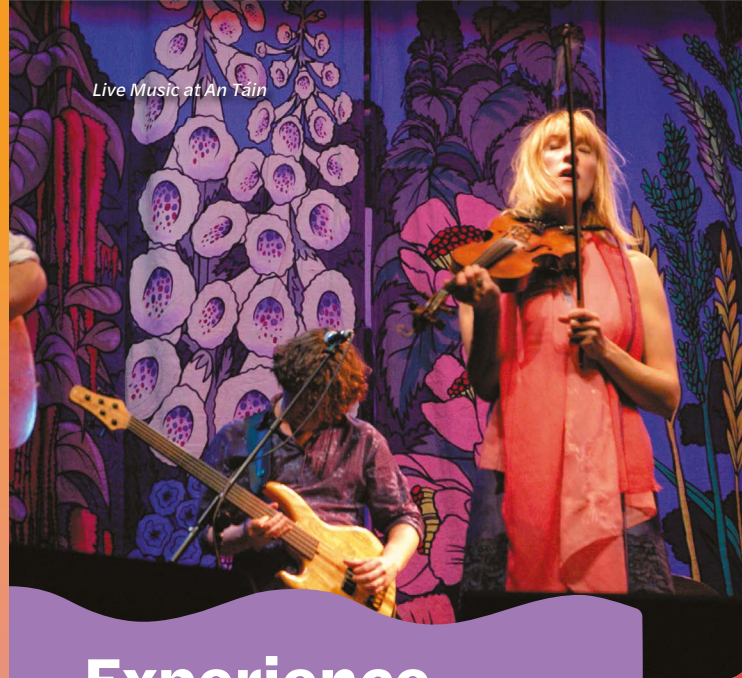


### **BEAULIEU HOUSE & GARDENS**

*Beaulieu, Drogheda,  
Co. Louth*

**For opening times  
– check website**

Beaulieu House is a 17th century house and gardens. Home to the same family since 1650 when it was acquired by Sir Henry Tichbourne, Marshall of the Army of Ireland.



*Live Music at An Táin*

## **Experience Arts & Culture**

### **DROICHEAD ARTS CENTRE**

*Stockwell Street & Narrow West Street,  
Drogheda*

A vibrant centre in the heart of Drogheda providing an extensive curated arts programme of theatre, music, film, visual arts, opera, dance, comedy, literature, family/children outreach and festivals. The centre is housed over two buildings, Stockwell St., which hosts a modern 169 seater theatre & a contemporary visual arts gallery; and Barlow House, an 18th century Georgian style townhouse, which hosts artist's spaces & print studios.



### **AN TÁIN ARTS CENTRE**

*Crowe Street, Dundalk.*

An Táin Arts Centre houses a 350 seat main theatre; 55 seat studio theatre; visual arts gallery and two workshop spaces. Their programme is a diverse collection of local arts, national tours, workshops, visual arts and in-house productions.

### **THE ORIEL CENTRE DUNDALK GAOL**

*Carrick Road, Dundalk*

The Oriel Centre, located in the historic Dundalk Gaol, is open to visitors throughout the year with concerts featuring traditional Irish Music and culture.

### **HIGHLANES GALLERY**

*St. Laurence Street, Drogheda*

Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, housed in a former Franciscan Friary Church, presents a diverse programme of temporary exhibitions and exhibitions drawn from the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection.



### **FESTIVAL FUN IN LOUTH**

There is something on offer here for everyone, from music and culture, to food, heritage, history and more. Discover the wide range of events and festivals taking place throughout the year by visiting [www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie)

# Discover the Great Outdoors



Enjoying a walk on the Greenway

## CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

### *Carlingford Marina to Omeath*

Enjoy a leisurely walk or cycle on the beautiful 7km greenway between Carlingford and Omeath. The greenway winds along the shoreline and was built mostly along the old railway line.

You will be rewarded with wonderful panoramic views of the lough, the mountains of Mourne and Slieve Foye Mountain, while you pass fields full of grazing sheep and old level crossings and bridges, with lots of trees, wildflowers and birds to be seen along the way. Bike hire is available locally.



## BOYNE VALLEY CAMINO

A self-guided, 25km looped walk which forms part of the Celtic Camino series. The walk goes from Drogheda along the Boyne, through Townley Hall woods, via Mellifont Abbey and Oldbridge House, through Tullyallen village, along the Boyne Canal and returns to Drogheda along the Boyneside Trail. Collect stamps en route created by

local artists to add to your official Camino Passport. Download a Map & Guide from our website or pick up a copy from the Drogheda Tourist Office.

## HILLWALKING

Majestic Slieve Foye and the Cooley Mountains are a haven for hikers and hillwalkers. Here you will walk in the Land of Legends, famed for stories of the Celtic warrior Cúchulainn, the Cattle Raid of Cooley and tales of the great giant Fionn Mac Cumhaill. There are a number of National Loop walks in the region, suitable for different levels of fitness, which reward you with spectacular views over Dundalk Bay and Carlingford Lough. (No dogs allowed on the mountains)



## STEPHENSTOWN POND

### *Knockbridge, Dundalk*

This nature park, with lakeside walkways and a wide array of wildlife, provides an ideal location for a family day out. Have fun in the new state of the art children's playground, enjoy a picnic while you feed the wildlife, or simply enjoy the walkways (Sli Na Slainte Route). Children can learn about the flora, fauna and wildlife from the educational interpretative boards as they walk round the nature park. Also located on the site is a 19th century cottage, once the home of Agnes Burns/Galt, sister of Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns.



## COILLTE FOREST PARKS

Connect with nature and enjoy a walk through leafy woodland trails at Ravensdale Forest or Townley Hall Woods, or take in the spectacular views of Carlingford Lough from the top of Slieve Foye Woods. Why not pack a picnic to enjoy on your day out too.



## LOUTH'S COASTLINE

Louth may be the 'Wee County' but it has over 70km of breath taking coastline to explore.

Enjoy a great family day out at one of Louth's beautiful \*Blue Flag beaches at Port, Clogherhead or Templetown (\*awarded annually). Discover the charming coastal villages of Clogherhead, Annagassan, Blackrock, Greenore, Carlingford and Omeath. If you enjoy Bird Watching don't miss Dundalk Bay, one of the most important places in Ireland for migratory coastal waterfowl.

## SEA LOUTH – SCENIC SEAFOOD TRAIL

Pick up your passport and start exploring the 'sea louth' Scenic Seafood Trail - visit the piers and see where the seafood producers land their catch, eat the finest fresh seafood in our local restaurants and admire the stunning coastal views along the way. There is so much to see, eat & admire on your trip to County Louth. Visit [www.sealouth.ie](http://www.sealouth.ie) to find out more!



**GOLF** Enjoy a round of golf at one of Louth's superb parkland golf courses located at Ardee and Blackrock, or choose one of the stunning coastal links courses located at Greenore, Seapoint and Baltray.

## ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES & FAMILY FUN

Looking for fun and adventure? Louth has a wide range of activities for you to enjoy including water sports; zip lines; go karting; boat rides; quad biking; cycling; trekking; waterparks; lazer combat; horse racing; swimming....the list goes on!



**Check out [www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie) for more information.**



# Enjoy our Towns & Villages

## CARLINGFORD

To the north of County Louth is the beautiful Cooley Peninsula and the medieval town of Carlingford. The area boasts great outdoor and water-based pursuits, adventure activities, rich heritage and breath taking scenery. It is also renowned for legendary tales of the epic Táin Bo Culainge (Cattle Raid of Cooley). Take a stroll around the harbour or spend time discovering the many historic buildings, quaint shops, bars, restaurants, and maybe even taste the famous Carlingford Oysters. Learn more about Carlingford's medieval past on a guided tour departing from Carlingford Tourist Office.



## GREENORE

The Victorian Railway Village of Greenore is an Architectural Conservation Area. Greenore Co-Op houses a miniature Railway & Maritime Museum and a Victorian Tea Room. See the Carlingford Lough Ferry as it sails between Greenore beneath the Cooley Mountains and Greencastle at the foot of the Mournes.



## DUNDALK

Dundalk is rich in heritage, with many of the famous Irish legends based in the wonderful landscape around here. Dundalk is known for its vibrant nightlife and great social scene. Discover the mix of high street and artisan stores, restaurants, bars and coffee shops. Relax by the water fountains at the piazza style Market Square, or enjoy a walking tour of the wonderful SEEK urban art murals dotted around the town, highlighting aspects of its culture, history and heritage.



## BLACKROCK

This very special seaside village lies on the shores of Dundalk Bay. Explore its beautiful beaches and wetlands, tranquil coves and rock pools, and enjoy its many artisan shops, cafes and award winning restaurants. Take a stroll along the charming promenade, enjoy an ice cream while taking time out to sit and delight in the spectacular views of the bay and the Cooley Peninsula.



## OMEATH

Omeath, nestled on the shores of Carlingford Lough, is a picturesque village that invites you to embrace stunning mountain views, a rich heritage, and peaceful charm. Walk the greenway, explore nearby medieval sites, or find solace in a cozy café. It is the perfect haven for nature lovers and those yearning for an authentic Irish retreat!

## ANNAGASSAN

Annagassan was once the site of a significant Viking Longphort built in 841 AD known as Linn Duachail. Today, Annagassan is a quiet seaside village and harbour with wonderful views from the beach overlooking Dundalk Bay, the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne Mountains.



## ARDEE

Midway between Drogheda and Dundalk is the town of Ardee on the banks of the River Dee which Irish Mythology states as the site of the epic battle between warriors Cúchulainn and Ferdia. Ardee Castle, the largest fortified medieval tower-house in Ireland and Hatch's Castle, built in the 1400's, are both situated on Ardee's Main Street.



## CLOGHERHEAD

The beautiful blue flag beach at Clogherhead has lovely views and miles of sand. The headland is the only high, rocky headland on the east coast between the Mournes and Howth in County Dublin. At Port Oriel grey seals are often seen in the harbour and black guillemots nest in special 'burrows' in the harbour wall.



## DROGHEDA

Drogheda is the gateway to the world famous Boyne Valley region. Call into the Tourist Office, located in the Tholsel, and discover all there is to do and

see in the area. While Drogheda is a large town, it has a wealth of unique attractions within walking distance of each other. Its quiet lanes feed into bustling thoroughfares and shopping areas, with an abundance of restaurants, cafés, bars and nightlife to enjoy. Why not take a self-guided walking tour around the DRAWDA Urban Art Audio Trail to see the fantastic murals which focus on key figures and moments from our mythological past.

Check out [www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie) for more information.

# VISIT LOUTH

Out here, it's legendary!



IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST®  
Wander Through Time



Scan Me  
to continue the journey



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### LEGEND

- |  |                       |  |                                  |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Walking Trail         |  | Sea Louth - Scenic Seafood Trail |
|  | Cycling Trail         |  | Swimming Pool                    |
|  | Bike Hire             |  | Forest Park                      |
|  | Caravan Park          |  | Fishing                          |
|  | Camping               |  | Bird Watching                    |
|  | Golf                  |  | Tourist Information              |
|  | Watersports           |  | Sailing                          |
|  | Adventure Centre      |  | Historic House & Garden          |
|  | Blue Flag Beach       |  | Heritage Centre                  |
|  | Beach                 |  | Arts / Theatre                   |
|  | Horse Racing          |  | Playground                       |
|  | Car / Passenger Ferry |  |                                  |