

# Cultúr!

at the heart of it 

## **A Guide to Ireland's National Institutions**

Welcome to a comprehensive listing of Ireland's National Cultural Institutions, with invaluable information on where to find, see and soak-up our cultural heritage. Use the map enclosed to devise your own cultural experience of Ireland.

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



## Abbey Theatre

The Abbey Theatre was founded by W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory in 1903. It has contributed some of the world's greatest theatrical works from writers such as J M Synge and Sean O'Casey through to contemporary classics from Brian Friel, Tom Murphy, Frank McGuinness, Mark O'Rowe, Tom Mac Intyre and Sebastian Barry. The Abbey Theatre along with its more intimate studio theatre, the Peacock, continues to nurture new writing as well as presenting the best of Irish and international drama. An icon of world theatre, the Abbey welcomes many overseas visitors every year.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Two theatres. A programme of lectures, discussions, workshops and outreach activities. Bar open from 7pm nightly.

#### Opening Hours

Box Office Monday to Saturday  
10.30am – 7pm

#### Performance Times

**Abbey:** Monday – Saturday  
8pm, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm.  
**Peacock:** Monday – Saturday  
8.15pm, Saturday Matinee 2.45pm.

#### Admission

**Abbey:** tickets from €15  
**Peacock:** tickets from €14

#### Guided Tours

Thursday 11am [subject to theatre schedule]. Contact the Outreach/Education Dept.  
tel: +353 1 887 2200

#### Access for Less Able

Sign language interpreted performances. Wheelchair accessible in the Abbey. Guide dogs permitted. Headsets and infrared loop system available [please request when booking].

#### How to get Here

**Bus:** all routes to city centre.  
**Dart:** Tara St & Connolly Stations.  
**Luas:** Red line to Abbey Street.

*Image: Marion O'Dwyer in The School for Scandal by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Abbey Theatre 2006. Photographer Ros Kavanagh.*

Abbey Theatre | 26 Lower Abbey Street | Dublin 1 | Ireland

**Box Office:** +353 1 878 7222 **Administration:** +353 1 887 2200 **Fax:** +353 1 872 9177

**Email:** [info@abbeytheatre.ie](mailto:info@abbeytheatre.ie) **Website:** [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

## General Information

### Facilities

Silk Road Café, Gift and Book Shop, audio-visual presentations, roof garden, baby-changing, reference library [admission by appointment]. The Library also mounts special temporary exhibitions and runs an event-filled public programme which includes lectures, workshops and family events.

### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm.  
Open Mondays from May to September. Saturday 11am – 5pm.  
Sunday 1 – 5pm. Closed Public Holiday Mondays, Good Friday, 24th – 26th December, 1st January

### Admission Free

### Guided Tours

Free public tours are available on Wednesday at 1pm and on Sunday at 3pm and 4pm. Tours outside these hours may be booked on tel: +353 1 407 0775 email: [educationservices@cbl.ie](mailto:educationservices@cbl.ie)

### Access for Less Able

Fully wheelchair accessible; general information leaflet available in Braille.

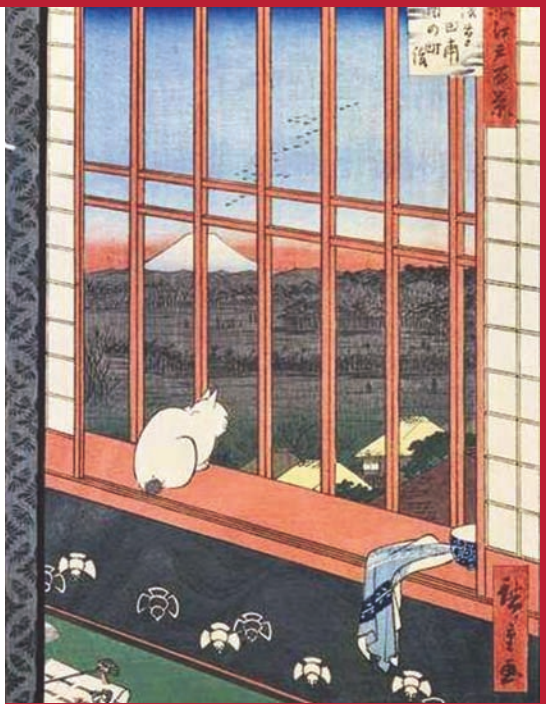
### How to get Here

**Bus:** all routes to city centre.

**Dart:** Tara Street.

**Luas:** Green line to St. Stephens Green.

*Image: The Festival of the Cock Procession across the Asakusa Rice Fields from: One Hundred Famous Views of Edo, Designed by Ando Hiroshige 1857, Japan.*



## Chester Beatty Library

Situated in the heart of the city centre, the Chester Beatty Library is an art museum and library which houses the great collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and some decorative arts assembled by Sir Alfred Chester Beatty [1875–1968]. The Library's exhibitions open a window on the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world. Its rich collection from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe offers visitors a visual feast. The Library was named Irish Museum of the Year in 2000 and was awarded the title European Museum of the Year in 2002.

Chester Beatty Library | Dublin Castle | Dublin 2 | Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 407 0750 Fax: +353 1 407 0760

Email: [info@cbl.ie](mailto:info@cbl.ie) Website: [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie)



## Irish Museum of Modern Art

The Irish Museum of Modern Art is Ireland's leading national institution for the presentation and collection of modern and contemporary art. IMMA presents a wide variety of art in a dynamic programme of exhibitions, which regularly includes bodies of work from its own Collection and its award-winning Education and Community programme. It also creates more widespread access to art and artists through its Artist's Studios and National Programme. IMMA is housed in the magnificent 17th-century Royal Hospital building, whose grounds include a formal garden, meadow and medieval burial grounds.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Café, bookshop, locker room, baby changing, reading room and response room. Also runs a programme of talks, lectures and family activities.

#### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5.30pm.  
Wednesday 10.30am – 5.30pm.  
Sunday and Bank Holidays  
12noon – 5.30pm. Closed  
Mondays, Good Friday and  
24 – 26 December.

#### Admission Free

#### Guided Tours

Guided tours on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 2.30pm. To pre-book tours, available Tuesday – Friday, please tel: +353 1 612 9967 or email: [frontofhouse@imma.ie](mailto:frontofhouse@imma.ie) at least three weeks in advance. Guided heritage tours of the historic North Range are available during the summer months.

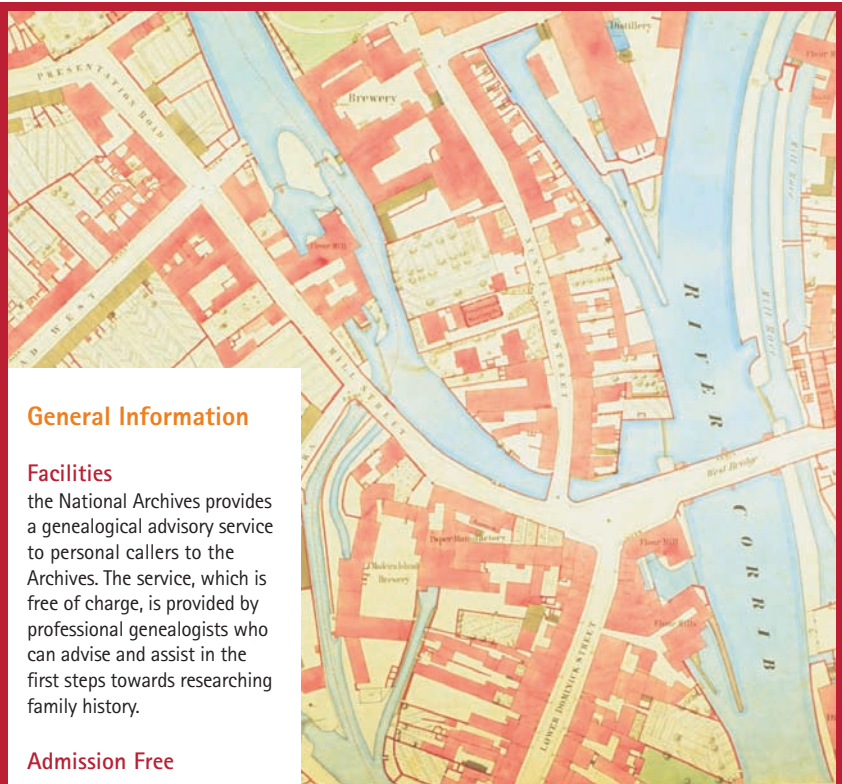
#### Access for Less Able

Wheelchair accessible.  
Wheelchair available on request.

#### How to get Here

**Bus:** Buses to Heuston Station 26, 51, 79, 90, 91 & 92.  
**Train:** Heuston Station.  
**Luas:** Red line to Heuston Station.

*Image: Alice Maher, Berry Dress, 1994, Rosehips, cotton, paint, sewing pins, 16 x 26 x 30 cm, Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art, Purchased, 1995*



## General Information

### Facilities

The National Archives provides a genealogical advisory service to personal callers to the Archives. The service, which is free of charge, is provided by professional genealogists who can advise and assist in the first steps towards researching family history.

### Admission Free

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm.  
With the exception of public holidays. Archives are produced for inspection in the reading room from 10am – 4.30pm.

### Access for Less Able

Most visitors can be accommodated. Lift to the 5th floor reading room.

### How to get Here

Bus: 16, 16A, 19, 19A, 83,  
122 to Aungier Street.  
Luas: Green line to St. Stephen's Green.

# National Archives of Ireland

The National Archives is the largest and most important institution in the Republic of Ireland with responsibility for the preservation and public availability of archives. It has custody of archives relating to the administration of the state from the late 18th-century to the late 20th-century, and many other archives dating from the 14th-century to the late 20th-century.

National Archives of Ireland | Bishop Street | Dublin 8 | Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 407 2300 Fax: +353 1 407 2333

Email: [mail@nationalarchives.ie](mailto:mail@nationalarchives.ie) Website: [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)



## National Concert Hall

The National Concert Hall is Ireland's premiere venue for the performance of live music and one of the foremost concert halls in Europe. Staging over 450 concerts a year, it plays host to some of the world's finest international orchestras and musicians including violinists Joshua Bell, Maxim Vengerov, Anne Sophie Mutter, baritone Bryn Terfel, soprano Cecilia Bartoli and orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic. As well as an array of Irish and international artists including legends, The Chieftains, Colm Wilkinson, Burt Bacharach and Tony Bennett. It is also home to the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. So from classical to jazz, opera to traditional, musicals to world music there's something for everyone at the National Concert Hall.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Terrace Café, full bar and pre-order service for interval drinks, The Music Box shop. Internet Kiosk, conference & private room hire, interactive ticket collection booths and Cloak room.

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 10am – 7pm, 2 hours prior to concerts on Sunday and bank holidays.

#### How to Book

**Box Office:** tel +353 1 417 0000 online at [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie) no booking fees or email: [boxoffice@nch.ie](mailto:boxoffice@nch.ie)

#### Group Booking Discounts:

tel +353 1 408 6793 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm or email: [groups@nch.ie](mailto:groups@nch.ie)

**Student Standby Scheme:** tickets €5 prior a performance [Student ID required].

#### Access for Less Abled

Limited stall seats available for wheelchair users. Induction loop system. Please advise the box office at time of booking of special needs.

#### How to get Here

close to St. Stephen's Green.  
**Bus:** all routes to city centre.  
**Dart:** Pearse Station.  
**Luas:** Green line to Harcourt Street.

National Concert Hall | Earlsfort Terrace | Dublin 2 | Ireland

**Box Office:** +353 1417 0000 **Telephone:** +353 1 417 0077 **Fax:** +353 1 417 0078

**Email:** [info@nch.ie](mailto:info@nch.ie) **Website:** [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)

## General Information

### Facilities

Audio Guide to permanent collection; Lecture Theatre; Multimedia Gallery, Library and Research facilities; Yeats Archive, Centre for the Study of Irish Art, Reference Library and Print Room. Gallery Shop, café and Restaurant.

**Admission is free** to the permanent collection.

### Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 9.30am – 5.30pm. Thursday 9.30am – 8.30pm. Sunday 12noon – 5.30pm. Closed 24 – 26 December and Good Friday.

### Guided Tours

Saturday at 3pm. Sunday at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Tours outside these hours may be booked through the Education Dept. tel: +353 1 663 3510

### Access for Less Able

access at Merrion Square and Clare Street. Disabled parking bays outside Merrion Square gates. Lecture Theatre equipped with loop system.

### How to get Here

**Bus:** all routes to city centre.

**Dart:** Pearse Station.

**Luas:** Green line to St. Stephen's Green.

*Image: Johannes Vermeer [1632 – 1675], 'Woman writing a letter with her maid'. Courtesy: National Gallery of Ireland [Beit Collection].*



## National Gallery of Ireland

The National Gallery of Ireland was founded by an Act of Parliament in 1854 and opened to the public in 1864. The collection, which comprises some 13,000 works of art, contains the most important and representative collection of European and Irish art with masterpieces by Fra Angelico, Caravaggio, Vermeer, Poussin, Goya, Rembrandt, Titian, Goya, Zurbáran, Poussin, Gainsborough and Reynolds. There is also a National Portrait Collection and a special room dedicated to the artistic works of Jack B. Yeats. An audio guide to the permanent collection is available free from the Information Desks. Special exhibitions and education events are part of the Gallery's annual programme and are listed in the quarterly Gallery News or visit our website [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie)

National Gallery of Ireland | Merrion Square West and Clare Street | Dublin 2 | Ireland

**Telephone:** +353 1 661 5133 **Fax:** +353 1 661 5372

**Email:** [info@ngi.ie](mailto:info@ngi.ie) **Website:** [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie)



## National Library of Ireland

Established in 1877, the National Library of Ireland's holdings of books, manuscripts, prints and drawings, maps, photographs, newspapers, music, ephemera and genealogical material comprise the most outstanding collection of Irish documentary heritage in the world. The Library's Genealogy Advisory Service is designed to assist all of those who wish to research their family history in Ireland. The award-winning exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* will run until the end of 2008. A new exhibition, *Strangers to citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600 - 1800 (in association with the Louvain 400 and Flight of the Earls commemorations)* will open in 2-3 Kildare Street in October 2007 and will run for a year. See our website [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) for other events, including readings, lectures and children's activities.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Reading rooms, genealogy advisory service, lecture room, exhibitions, café and shop.

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Wednesday 9.30am – 9pm. Thursday to Friday 9.30am – 5pm. Saturday 9.30am – 1pm [Note: *The Manuscript Reading Room and Heraldic Museum close 30 minutes earlier, exhibitions close 15 minutes earlier*].

#### Admission Free

#### Guided Tours

Public tours of the Yeats exhibition take place at 3.30pm, Monday to Friday, and Saturday at 11am. Special tours of exhibitions and the Library by appointment tel: +353 1 6030277

#### Access for Less Able

wheelchair access to reading room and exhibition area.

#### How to get Here

**Bus:** all routes to city centre.  
**Dart:** Pearse Station.  
**Luas:** Green line to St. Stephen's Green.

National Library of Ireland | Kildare Street | Dublin 2 | Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 603 0200 Fax: +353 1 676 6690

Email: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie) Website: [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)





## General Information

### Facilities

Reading rooms, exhibition area and shop.

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm.

Saturday 10am – 2pm

*[exhibition area only, for the duration of an exhibition].*

Closed Sunday and Bank Holidays.

### Admission Free

### Access for Less Able

wheelchair access to exhibition area and reading room.

### How to get Here

**Bus:** all routes to city centre.

**Dart:** Tara Street. Station, 10 minute walk from Tara Street.

**Luas:** Red line to Jervis Street. 5 minute walk from Jervis Street.

# National Photographic Archive

The National Photographic Archive houses the photographic collection of the National Library, comprising approximately 610,000 photographs. While most of the collections are historical there are also some contemporary collections. Subject matter ranges from topographical views to studio portraits, and from political events to early tourist photographs. The Library maintains an active collecting policy and additional material is constantly added to the collections. An on-going programme of exhibitions runs throughout the year.

National Photographic Archive | Meeting House Square | Temple Bar | Dublin 2 | Ireland

**Telephone:** +353 1 603 0374 **Fax:** +353 1 677 7451

**Email:** [photoarchive@nli.ie](mailto:photoarchive@nli.ie) **Website:** [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)



## National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology

Walk into the National Museum of Ireland on Kildare Street and you are magically transported back in time to 7000BC. The museum first opened its doors in 1890 and since then it has been filling in the blanks for us through its extensive archaeological collections. Take time at *The Treasury*, which features outstanding examples of Celtic and Medieval art, such as the famous Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Derrynaflan Hoard. Gaze in wonder at the finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts in Europe, which is to be found in *Ór – Ireland's Gold*. Ramble through Prehistoric Ireland and experience life at the time of the Vikings in *Viking Age Ireland*. *Medieval Ireland 1150 – 1550* documents life in Ireland in the age of cathedrals, monasteries and castles. The new and fascinating *Kingship and Sacrifice* exhibition centres on a number of recently found bog bodies dating back to the Iron Age. Displayed along with other bog finds from the Museum's collections, it offers you an opportunity to come 'face to face' with your ancient ancestors.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Museum café, gift shop,  
Education resource room,  
Audio-visual presentation.

#### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm – 5pm.  
Closed Mondays, including  
Bank Holidays.

#### Admission Free

#### Guided Tours

Available at frequent intervals.  
Special tours and educational  
workshops. For further details  
contact the Education and  
Outreach department at  
tel: +353 1 648 6453

#### Access for Less Able

The ground floor [including the  
café] is wheelchair accessible.

#### How to get Here

Bus: 7, 7A, 8 [Burgh Quay], 10,  
11, 13 [O'Connell Street].  
Dart: Pearse Station.  
Luas: Green line to St Stephen's  
Green.

National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology | Kildare Street | Dublin 2 | Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 677 7444 Fax: +353 1 677 7450

Email: [marketing@museum.ie](mailto:marketing@museum.ie) Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



## General Information

### Facilities

Museum gift shop.

### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm.

Sunday 2pm – 5pm.

Closed Mondays, including  
Bank Holidays.

### Admission Free

### Guided Tours

Available at frequent intervals.  
Special tours and educational  
workshops. For further details  
contact the Education and  
Outreach department at  
tel: +353 1 648 6453

### Access for Less Able

Not wheelchair accessible.

### How to get Here

Bus: 7, 7A, 8 [Burgh Quay]

Dart: Pearse Station.

Luas: Green line to St Stephen's  
Green.

# National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

Opened in 1857, this is the oldest purpose-built museum building in Ireland. One of very few Victorian cabinet style museums left in the world, it is home to a rich variety of animals, many of which are endangered or extinct. Accumulated over two centuries and drawn from a collection of over two million specimens, the zoological exhibitions boast outstanding examples of wildlife from Ireland and the far corners of the globe. You cannot miss the imposing skeletons of Giant Irish Deer or the tiny insects hidden under their protective covers. The upper floors house everything from an armadillo to a zebra – indeed this is the best place to see Spoticus the Giraffe or the 20m long whale skeleton suspended from the roof.

National Museum of Ireland – Natural History | Merrion Street | Dublin 2 | Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 677 7444 Fax: +353 1 677 7450

Email: [marketing@museum.ie](mailto:marketing@museum.ie) Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



## National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History

Collins Barracks could be said to be the National Museum of Ireland's largest artefact, having had a unique history all of its own in another life. It now completes the picture for the National Museum in Dublin and joins the two already famous buildings in the possession of the Museum. Collins Barracks has been completely renovated and restored to become the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History – charting Ireland's economic, social, political and military progress through the ages. Artefacts on display range from silver, ceramic and glassware pieces to weaponry, furniture, examples of folk life and costume. The new Military History exhibition called *Soldiers & Chiefs: The Irish at War at Home and Abroad since 1550* uses original artefacts, letters, replicas and audio accounts, showing how soldiering and war have affected the lives of Irish people. All of these pieces are displayed with imagination in innovative and contemporary galleries, which entice you to go further, look harder and examine more closely.

### General Information

#### Facilities

Museum café, gift shop and Education resource room.

#### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm – 5pm.  
Closed Mondays, including Bank Holidays.

#### Admission Free

#### Guided Tours

Available at frequent intervals. Special tours and educational workshops. For further details contact the Education and Outreach department at tel: +353 1 648 6453

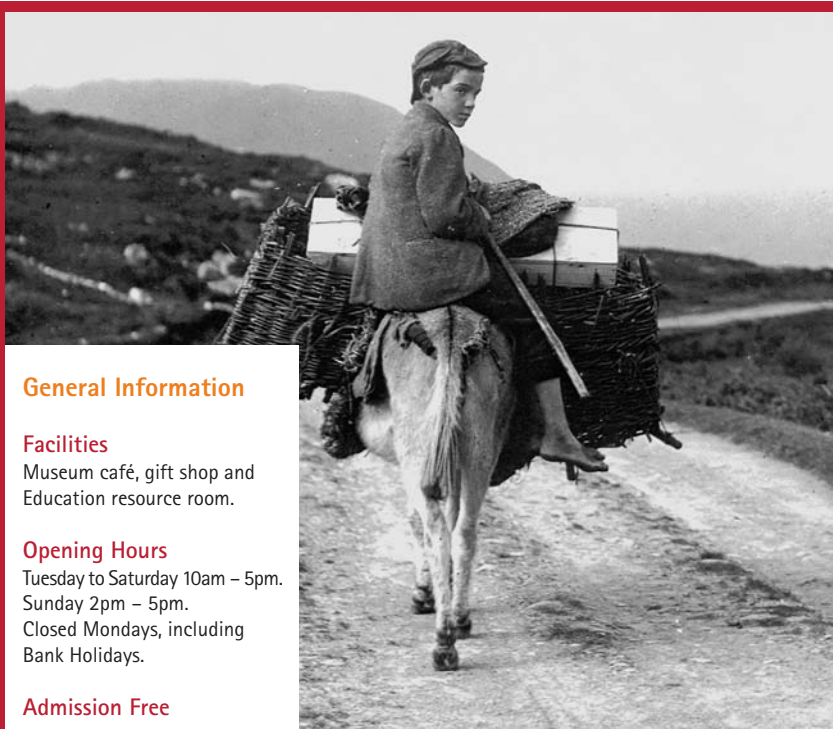
#### Access for Less Abled

Fully wheelchair accessible.

#### How to get Here

Bus: 90 [Aston Quay], 25, 25A, 66, 67 [Middle Abbey Street].  
Luas: Red line to 'Museum' stop.

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History | Collins Barracks | Benburb Street | Dublin 7 | Ireland Telephone: +353 1 677 7444 Fax: +353 1 677 7450  
Email: [marketing@museum.ie](mailto:marketing@museum.ie) Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



## General Information

### Facilities

Museum café, gift shop and Education resource room.

### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm – 5pm.  
Closed Mondays, including Bank Holidays.

### Admission Free

### Guided Tours

Available at frequent intervals. Special tours and educational workshops. For further details contact the Education and Outreach department at tel: +353 94 903 1751

### Access for Less Able

Fully wheelchair accessible.

### How to get Here

**Car:** located in Turlough village, 8 kilometres east of Castlebar, off the N5.

**Bus:** contact Bus Éireann, Ballina, at tel: +353 967 1800

**Train:** contact Castlebar Train Station, at tel: +353 94 902 1222

## National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

The first branch of the National Museum of Ireland to be situated outside Dublin, it is set in the spectacular grounds of Turlough Park House. The exhibitions tell the story of ordinary people who lived in rural Ireland. The setting encourages visitors to remember a vanished world, made real again through the vivid detail of domestic furniture and utensils, hunting, fishing and agricultural implements, objects relating to games and pastimes, religion, education, dress and footwear.

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life | Turlough Park | Castlebar | Co. Mayo | Ireland

Telephone: +353 94 903 1755 Fax: +353 94 903 1628

Email: [tpark@museum.ie](mailto:tpark@museum.ie) Website: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



## The Arts Council

Based at 70 Merrion Square in Dublin 2, the Arts Council is the Irish government agency for developing the arts. It provides financial assistance to artists, arts organisations, local authorities and others for artistic purposes. It offers advice and information on the arts to government and to a wide range of individuals and organisations. As an advocate for the arts and artists, it undertakes projects and research, often in new and emerging areas of arts practice, and increasingly in co-operation with partner organisations. The Chair of the Arts Council is Olive Braiden and the Director is Mary Cloake.

### General Information

#### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.15am – 5.30pm. Closed on weekends, public holidays and on specific days during Easter and Christmas. A full staff listing by department is given on the Council's website [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie). Prior appointment is advisable.

#### Access for Less Able

wheelchair access is available via Fitzwilliam Lane, behind Merrion Square.

#### How to get Here

10 minute walk from Grafton Street.

**Bus:** 13, 13A to Merrion Square

**Dart:** Pearse Station.

**Luas:** Green line to St Stephen's Green.

*Image: The Arts Council provides funding to hundreds of arts organisations each year including this one, the Kilkenny Arts Festival. Pictured is actor Olwen Fouere in a staging of Samuel Beckett's Lessness.*

The Arts Council | 70 Merrion Square | Dublin 2 | Ireland

**Callsave:** 1850 392 492 **Telephone:** +353 1 618 0200 **Fax:** +353 1 676 1302

**Email:** [policy@artscouncil.ie](mailto:policy@artscouncil.ie) **Website:** [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)



## General Information

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.15am – 5.30pm. Closed on weekends, public holidays and on specific days during Easter and Christmas.

### How to get Here

Rothe House is on Parliament Street in Kilkenny, directly across the road from the old parliament building and current court house.

## The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council works with individuals, organisations and local communities to ensure heritage is valued, appreciated and protected. The Heritage Council was established as a statutory body under the Heritage Act 1995 and is funded

by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Heritage Council produces a bi-annual magazine, *Heritage Outlook* that looks at a range of heritage issues. The Council operates seven different grants schemes and allocates approximately 3 million in funding annually to organisations, individuals and community groups. *National Heritage is defined under the Heritage Act as including monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects such as art and industrial works, documents and genealogical records, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens, parks and inland waterways.*

The Heritage Council | Rothe House | Parliament Street | Kilkenny | Ireland

Telephone: +353 56 777 0777 Fax: +353 56 777 0788

Email: [mail@heritagecouncil.com](mailto:mail@heritagecouncil.com) Website: [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)

# Culture Map

## Map Key:

1. Abbey Theatre
2. Chester Beatty Library
3. Irish Museum of Modern Art
4. National Archives of Ireland
5. National Concert Hall
6. National Gallery of Ireland
7. National Library of Ireland
8. National Photographic Archive
9. National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History
10. National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology
11. National Museum of Ireland – Natural History
12. National Museum of Ireland – Country Life
13. The Arts Council
14. The Heritage Council

