History & Heritage Trails

fermanagh lakelands.com
# Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism History & Heritage Trails

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Maps</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trailer 1 - Upper Lough Erne</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail 2 - Enniskillen Town</td>
<td>14-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail 3 - Lower Lough Erne</td>
<td>24-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trail 1 - Upper Lough Erne

1. Belcoo, Templenafferin, Templerushin & Holywell
2. Marble Arch Scenic Route & Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark
3. Florencecourt Church of Ireland
4. Florence Court House
5. Sheelin Irish Lace Museum
6. Cleenish Island
7. Belle Isle
8. Lisnaskea
9. Aghalurcher Church
10. Maguiresbridge
11. Castle Coole
12. The Railway Bridge

### Trail 2 - Enniskillen Town

1. Enniskillen Castle
2. The West Bridge
3. The Methodist Church
4. Headhunters Barber Shop & Railway Museum
5. St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
6. St. Macartin's Cathedral
7. The Buttermarket
8. Convent Chapel
9. Cenotaph
10. Diana's Peace Cairn
11. Cole's Monument & Forthill Park
12. The East Bridge
13. Presbyterian Church
14. Enniskillen Courthouse
15. Enniskillen Townhall

### Trail 3 - Lower Lough Erne

1. Devenish Island
2. St. Michael's Church of Ireland, Trory
3. Killadeas
4. White Island
5. Castle Archdale & World War II
6. Crevenish Castle
7. St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Ardess
8. Drumskinny Stone Circle
9. St. John's Church of Ireland, Muckross
10. Boa Island & the Janus Figure
11. Castle Caldwell & the Fiddle Stone
12. Belleek Pottery
13. Tully Castle
14. Monea Castle
15. Portora Castle

---

We would like to acknowledge the following for their input into the production of this guide:

John Cunningham, Bronagh Cleary, Charles Plunket, Charlotte Wilson & Breege McCusker.
1  Belcoo, Templenafferin, Templerushin & Holywell

Belcoo village derives its name from the Irish ‘béal’ meaning mouth and ‘cumhang’ or ‘cung’ meaning narrowing, referring to its position on a narrow neck of water between Upper and Lower Lough Macnean.

Little is known of the history of Templenafferin ruined church and graveyard (just outside Belcoo on the Garrison Rd) but the remains of an earthen enclosure suggest a monastic origin. A large bullaun stone with three indentations about 250 metres southwest is known as the baptismal font but may have pre-Christian connotations also.

Templerushin Medieval Church at Holywell has a little window in the wall of the church known as the leper window, where those with this illness could look in to observe Mass but could not attend. Near to the church there is a large spring, this is the Holywell, known as St Patrick’s Well or ‘Tub’ and founded by St Sinnell of Cleenish. There are two streams exiting the well, each flowing in a different direction. This water is reputed to be the coldest in Ireland and is thought to have healing properties for nervous and paralytic disorders.

Detour to Aghnaglack Cairn

The townland of Aghanaglack, (meaning ‘field of the hollow’) near Boho has a “double court tomb” which dates from 4000–2000 BC. The tomb consists of twin galleries aligned east-west. During excavation in 1938 the tomb was found to contain Bronze Age and Stone Age items, pots and arrowheads, some of which can be found on display at the Enniskillen County Museums.

2  Marble Arch Scenic Route & Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

Travel to Florencecourt from Belcoo via the Geopark. The loop road takes you through a “burren” landscape of limestone almost scraped clear of soil during the last ice age about 12,000 years ago. Taking in the world-famous Marble Arch Caves, the Geopark boasts some of the finest natural landscapes in Ireland and offers a window into the area’s 650 million year past.

Contact

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is host to one of Europe’s finest showcaves allowing visitors to explore a fascinating, natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers.
Tel: +44 (0) 28 6634 8855 www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com

3  Florencecourt Church of Ireland

Saint John’s is located about one mile from the village of Florencecourt in Killesher Parish. There is a wonderful background to the church ie Benaughlin Mountain. The graveyard is the burial place of the Cole family, Earls of Enniskillen and of Dr. Willis, whose father discovered the original Irish Yew tree growing on the slopes of this mountain. This Dr. Willis is highly regarded in Japan as the man who introduced western medicine to Japan in the 1860s.
4 Florence Court House

The house, formerly the home of the Cole family (who took their title as the Earls of Enniskillen from the town founded by their ancestor William Cole in 1612) is surrounded by a large area of parkland, garden and woodland, with breathtaking views of Benaghlin and the Cuiilcagh Mountains. The house was named after St John Cole’s wife Florence Bourchier Wrey who came from Cornwall. With its classical style and exquisite Rococo plasterwork, Florence Court is one of Ulster’s most important 18th century houses. Features of this magnificent demesne include pleasure grounds, walled garden, sawmill, ice house and summer house. South East of the house in the Cottage Wood you will find the Florence Court Yew (Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata') - the ‘parent’ of all Irish yew trees. The original tree was discovered in about 1760.

Contact

Every aspect of life in this classical Irish house, with its fine interiors and exquisite decoration, are brought to life on fascinating guided tours.

Tel: +44 (0) 28 6634 8249
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/florence-court/

5 Sheelin Irish Lace Museum

This museum has approximately 700 exhibits. All the five main types of lace made in Ireland are represented in the collection of Youghal Needlelace, Inishmacsaínt Needlelace, Crochet, Limerick and Carrickmacross. All the lace dates from between 1850 to 1900. Items on display include several wedding dresses, wedding veils, shawls, parasols, collars, bonnets, christening gowns etc. Sheelin antiques specialise in selling Irish lace and linens.

www.antiqueirishlace.co.uk

Detour to Aughakillymaude Mummer’s Centre

Aughakillymaude’s Mummer Centre on the Lough shore, boosts an extraordinary sculpture exhibition dedicated to explaining the living heritage of mumming and masked rituals that has parallels throughout the European Agricultural Society.

Groups / families can take the opportunity to dress up in rustic straw disguises and be photographed alongside the “Horrible Wickerman effigy”. Besides photographic displays, workshops on strawcrafts (masks / harvest love knots) or rushwork can be arranged on weekdays or weekends with experienced strawcraftsmen.

Contact the Mummers Centre to participate or witness spectacular masked ritual events throughout the calendar year or to purchase mumming DVDs, books or folklife calendars.

Contact

Aughakillymaude Mummer’s Centre
Knocknininny
Derrylinn
Co. Fermanagh
BT92 9T
T: +44 (0) 28 6774 2727 / 07971 073955
E: jim.ledwith@btconnect.com

www.antiqueirishlace.co.uk
6 Cleenish Island

Cleenish or the ‘slanting’ island, just outside Bellanaleck, is accessible by a bridge. St Sinell, a monk famous for his holiness and learning, founded a monastery on this island on Lough Erne in the early sixth century. One of his most famous pupils was St Columbanus. There's an old overgrown graveyard on the island but in more recent times Cleenish has been featured in the local newspaper after there was several different sightings of ghosts.

7 Belle Isle  www.belle-isle.com

The original house built by Sir Paul Gore in 1690 was improved and beautified in 1720 by Sir Ralph Gore, who later became Viscount Bellisle and Earl of Ross. When this island home needed repair in 1837, it was the work of Reverend John Grey Porter. His son, John Grey Vesey Porter, added the stable court, and recast the whole building in manorial style, adding the five storey tower at the south-east about 1890.

Historians may also be keen to learn about its fifteenth century native Irish inhabitants as The Annals of Ulster were compiled on Belle Isle by the scribe Ruaidhrí Ó Luinín, under his patron Cathal Óg Mac Maighnusa. Nestled close to the water’s edge and set within a landscape of lakes and islands, Belle Isle Castle has been sensitively restored and now provides self-catering and fully catered accommodation.

8 Lisnaskea

Lisnaskea meaning ‘the fort of the shield’ was once the seat of the Maguire Clan. The Maguires were crowned at the inauguration site, Skeagowra, on the Moat Fort in Cornashee townland, just outside the town. Sir Michael Balfour took control of the town during the Plantation of Ulster. In 1618, he oversaw the building of Castle Balfour. In 1821 the village came under the control of the Earls of Erne. They established the market in the town whilst bolstering and controlling development around the high street.

Lisnaskea Workhouse was built on a six-acre site on the south side of the town. It was built to accommodate 500 paupers, and the first inmates were admitted on February 25th 1843. Lisnaskea Workhouse continued to house the homeless and destitute until the 1940s.

The Famine memorial, located in what has become known as the ‘Paupers Graveyard’, was erected by Lisnaskea Historical Society, and marks the site where large numbers were buried during the height of the Famine. The Corn Market Yard in Tudoresque style dates back to 1841. There is a carved High Cross depicting Adam & Eve beneath a tree. The Cross is taken from an early monastery and provides a striking centre point to the village.

St. Ronan is said to have founded a church here in the 7th century. The ruins we see today are from the medieval period. The Maguires, the chieftains of Fermanagh, patronised this church.

9 Aghalurcher Church

St. Ronan is said to have founded a church here in the 7th century. The ruins we see today are from the medieval period. The Maguires, the chieftains of Fermanagh, patronised this church.
Castle Coole is the family home of the Earls of Belmore. Designed by James Wyatt, this magnificent neo-classical house took ten years to build and was completed in 1798. The interior of the house was created by some of the leading craftsmen of the late 18th century. Highlights of a tour of Castle Coole include the State Bedroom said to have been prepared for a visit by George IV in 1821 - a visit which he never made. The surrounding 700 acre estate is a fitting setting for the house, with parkland, Lough Coole and extensive woods. Visitors may enjoy walks in the grounds and also see the Grand Yard, the Servants’ Tunnel, The Laundry Yard and Servants’ Quarters, and historic basement.

Detour to Galloon Island

Galloon Island was once the site of a monastic church. It had four high crosses but only remnants of the shafts remain. The churchyard contains some fascinating 18th century gravestones. There was also a holy well on the island which was said to turn the hair to grey.

Maguiresbridge

Maguiresbridge is named after the bridge over the Colebrooke River, first built by the local Maguire family about 1760.

Castle Coole

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-coole

Castle Coole is the family home of the Earls of Belmore. Designed by James Wyatt, this magnificent neo-classical house took ten years to build and was completed in 1798. The interior of the house was created by some of the leading craftsmen of the late 18th century. Highlights of a tour of Castle Coole include the State Bedroom said to have been prepared for a visit by George IV in 1821 - a visit which he never made. The surrounding 700 acre estate is a fitting setting for the house, with parkland, Lough Coole and extensive woods. Visitors may enjoy walks in the grounds and also see the Grand Yard, the Servants’ Tunnel, The Laundry Yard and Servants’ Quarters, and historic basement.

Detour to Crom Estate

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/crom

Crom Estate is a nature conservation site owned by the National Trust. There are almost 2,000 acres of woodland, farmland and parkland. The Visitor Centre gives an overview of the history of the estate. The present Crom Castle (private except for the West Wing) was built for the Third Earl of Erne in the 1830s and was designed by the English architect Edward Blore who was responsible for sections of Buckingham Palace. The castle was built in a neo-Tudor style using local dark sandstone. The estate includes many features of times past including the old farmyard, the boathouse, once the home of Lough Erne Yacht Club, the tea house, the church, schoolhouse etc. The grounds also contain the ruins of the Old Crom Castle, originally built in 1611 by Michael Balfour and acquired by the Crichtons in 1655.

The Railway Bridge

On the approach to Enniskillen from Belfast there is a view of the river and a number of old columns rising from the water. These are the remains of the Weir’s Bridge - a railway bridge which took its name from Scarlet’s eel weirs nearby. The bridge carried the Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway across the River Erne from the Great Northern Railway Station at Enniskillen to the Midland Great Western Railway near Ballisodare in County Sligo. The bridge was removed in the 1960s after the closure of the railway in 1957.
**Enniskillen** is the only island town in Ireland and was built on a drumlin, lying in a strategic position between what we know nowadays as Lower and Upper Lough Erne.

In its most romantic interpretation Enniskillen derives its name from a translation of the Irish ‘Inis Ceithlean’ meaning ‘island of Kathleen’. Up until the early 1600’s, Enniskillen was mostly under the control of the Fermanagh clan—the Maguires. It then came under English control at the end of the Nine Years War when the Northern Irish chieftains were defeated and King James I made Sir William Cole, a planter from Devon, England, Governor of Enniskillen. Bridges were constructed across the east and west fords onto the island, the church was set on the highest point and the Diamond and Market Place on the next highest points of the island. Gradually a long street of thatched cabins developed between the east and west bridges establishing in general the pattern of settlement on the island.

Enniskillen was threatened during the 1641 rebellion but survived as it did again during the Williamite wars of 1689–90. Artillery forts were constructed on the mainland commanding the bridges at both ends of the island at the Redoubt and Forthill and refortified during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1705, a disastrous fire destroyed the town and in 1790, with the Napoleonic threat of invasion from the west, the tumbledown Enniskillen castle was rebuilt as barracks.

In 1841, Enniskillen had grown tenfold and in the second half of the 19th century, the arrival of the railway in 1854 brought a further boost to the local economy. Enniskillen is twinned with Brackwede, a suburb of Bielefeld in North West Germany. The partnership between the two towns was initiated in 1958 when the Fifth Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards were based near Brackwede.
Enniskillen Castle has a variety of buildings including the main castle (the Keep), the Watergate and other barrack buildings. The first castle was built by Hugh “the Hospitable” Maguire in 1428, the site chosen due to its strategic and defensive advantages. Today the Keep houses the Inniskillings Museum with artefacts from the two regiments raised in the town.

William Cole was given the island of Enniskillen at the Plantation of Ulster and he rebuilt the old castle in 1612. Two distinct turrets known as ‘The Watergate’ were added on later. The castle remained the Cole residence until a fire in 1710 when they moved to nearby Portora Castle and later to Florence Court House. Over time, the castle fell into ruin and in 1796 was rebuilt as a military barracks. The castle and the surrounding barracks remained in military occupations until 1926. Fermanagh County Museum is located within the historic Enniskillen Castle complex and reflects Fermanagh’s history, culture and environment. The nearby Boer War memorial commemorates the fallen of the Inniskilling Dragoons and Royal Inniskillings in the Boer War 1899 - 1902.

The West Bridge, originally a wooden structure with a drawbridge was built in the early 17th century. In 1698, it was replaced by a stone bridge with 8 arches, a tall tower and guardhouse. In 1775 a new bridge was built with 3 arches. By 1825, the bridge had become too narrow for the heavy traffic crossing and a new bridge with a central pier was built between 1885 and 1892 during drainage works on Lough Erne. In the 1980’s, as part of the bypass, a new bridge was built for outward-bound traffic.

The current Corinthian fronted edifice was built around 1865 and is the best classical façade in the town. The architect was William Barre, famous for designing the Albert Clock in Belfast.

In 1888 this was adjoined to the McArthur Hall. McArthur was an Enniskillener who went on to be Lord Mayor of London and generously gave to his former congregation.

The Railways which operated in Fermanagh and the border counties closed in 1957. The Johnston Family who operate this Museum have carefully collected, preserved and interpreted local railway heritage. Discover the re-constructed Railway Booking Office, the General Manager’s Office and Railway Signal Box. Remarkable collection of railway memorabilia including uniforms, nameplates, crests, lamps, tableware, timetables, tickets, photographs etc.

Contact
Discover historic Fermanagh with a tour of Enniskillen Castle Museums
T: +44 (0) 28 6632 5000
www.enniskillencastle.co.uk

www.headhuntersmuseum.com
5 St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church

The architect of the church was John O’Neill, one of the most distinguished Catholic architects working in Ulster in the 19th Century. It cost £12,000 to build and was dedicated on St Patrick’s day 1875. Built in French Gothic revival style with a narrow frontage, it had been intended to construct a large belfry and spire but it was not until 1992 that a spire was erected. The interior takes the form of a basilican nave with side aisles separated by six-bay arcades. Interesting features include an Italian Gothic High Altar, Nativity Window, Murals, Pulpit, Sculpture above the main entrance and flying buttresses on the west exterior, best appreciated from Wellington Road.

6 St. Macartin’s Cathedral

The higher of the two hills on Enniskillen town was chosen by William Cole as a site for the first church completed in 1627. Hardly any of the original church remains, but part of its tower was incorporated into the present one and can be seen above the main entrance door where there is a small, old, three light lattice window and a stone with the date 1637. It is essentially the 1842 church which remains today, visible for miles around because of its 150 ft. tower and spire. Part of the nave is the Regimental Chapel of the Inniskilling Regiments. Less than a dozen parish churches in Northern Ireland have towers with peals of eight or more bells and Enniskillen is one of these. The bells can also be chimed, and can play well known hymns like “Abide with Me” written by a former pupil of Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte.

7 The Buttermarket

The Buttermarket opened in 1835 for the buying and selling of local farm produce - particularly butter, Fermanagh’s main export in the 19th century. It is situated in the historic ‘Boston’ area of Enniskillen - a former warren of alleys between Water Street and Market Street. The market led on to a wooden quay called Boston Quay. From here you could get a ferry to the other side of the river - mainly used to get over to the workhouse where the former Erne Hospital now stands. The Buttermarket was restored and is now used by local crafts people and has an attractive gift and coffee shop.

DID YOU KNOW?

General Eisenhower paid a secret visit to Enniskillen on the 18th May 1944 and inspected 2,000 American soldiers at Portora Royal School Playing Fields in preparation for the Normandy landings and the invasion of France.
8 Convent Chapel
William Scott from Drogheda was the architect for this Byzantine type chapel in 1904. It is especially well known for its fine collection of stained glass windows made during the Tower of Glass period in the early 1900s. The 28 Irish oak stalls, each with their own individual carvings were made by locally renowned woodcarver, William Scott.

9 Cenotaph
A single bronze soldier with his head bowed in prayer tops a plinth, and was the work of an English sculptor Graffin. Those who lost their lives in two world wars and other conflicts are remembered here. More recently eleven bronze doves have been added to remember the eleven people who lost their lives on Remembrance Sunday in the Enniskillen bomb of 1987. The current memorial was designed by the local architect Richard Pierce. The bronze soldier was restored and set on a plinth in a Portland stone surround.

10 Diana’s Peace Cairn
This little round island at the foot of the East Bridge was once known as Shilling Island as it was said to resemble the old shilling coin and for a time some promoted the idea that the name of Enniskillen derived from ‘Inis Shilling’ or Shilling Island. The Peace Cairn was erected on the island by a group of young people from both traditions in 1993, the last stone being added by Diana, Princess of Wales on 14th November 1993 - Remembrance Day.
The East Bridge
The English built the first wooden bridge and drawbridge on this site in 1614 where there was a ford guarded by pointed stakes. It was replaced in 1688 by a larger stone bridge again with a drawbridge. It was connected by an underground tunnel to the Eastern Battery on Fort Hill. Enniskillen’s original boundaries were the East and West Bridges on either side of the town and a true Enniskilliner is someone who can say that she/he was born “between the bridges”.

Presbyterian Church
The present church was built in 1897 and was designed by Vincent Craig. Inside is a dramatic interior with a hipped timber roof. There is a memorial, by G.H. Swinstead, to the First World War in the form of a stained glass window called “The White Comrade”. It shows Christ appearing to two soldiers on the battlefield.

Enniskillen Courthouse
Enniskillen courthouse was the site of the original gaol and sessions house in the town until a later gaol was built in the Gaol Square. William Farrell was the architect in 1821 and although the interior has been rebuilt, the façade remains. It is a building 5 bays wide with a square portico and 4 Tuscan Doric columns set in 3 steps. It was a very primitive jail in which confinement could be a death sentence from disease or malnutrition or the activities of the other inmates.

Enniskillen Townhall
William Cole’s original ‘market house’ was here as early as 1618. The present building was opened in 1901 at a cost of £13,000. William Scott from Drogheda was the architect. The hall is designed in the Renaissance style. The general façade and most of the tower is faced with Carrickreagh dark limestone and the cornices, columns and figures are in cream Dungannon sandstone. The main doors are oak and were hand carved by the local craftsman, William Scott. The tower is 6 stories high and is topped with a copper dome. The two figures in the tower represent the two regiments raised by the town in 1688 - the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and the Fusiliers.

Other places of historical interest on the outskirts of Enniskillen include:

- Portora Royal School - one of five Royal Schools established in Ulster in early 1600s (past pupils include Henry Francis Lyte, author of Abide with Me; Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde).
- Portora Castle - residence of the Planter Cole family until they moved to their family seat in Florence Court.
- Gaol Square - where once there stood a gaol and gallows (last public hanging took place in 1849).
- Castle Coole - National Trust property; a magnificent neo-classical building built for the first Earl of Belmore and completed in 1798.
1 Devenish Island

Devenish is one of the finest monastic sites in Ireland, founded in the 6th Century by Saint Molaise. The earliest buildings are St Molaise’s House (a very small church) and the round tower close by, both with accomplished Romanesque decoration of the 12th century. The lower church, nearest the jetty, was dedicated to Saint Molaise and dates from the early 13th century. The lower graveyard contains many fine stones but the oldest (11th of 12th Century) is a long flat slab near the SE corner with a two-armed cross. On the hilltop sits St Mary’s Augustinian Priory which is of the mid-15th century and early 16th century, with church, tower and small north cloister. The priory has an intricately carved mid-15th-century high cross in its graveyard.

Devenish Island is only accessible by boat. For ferry sailing times/guided tours contact Fermanagh Tourist Information Centre T: +44 (0) 28 6632 3110

2 St. Michael’s Church of Ireland, Trory

Rebuilt and consecrated in 1778, it overlooks St. Angelo Airport, constructed in 1941 in case Germany invaded southern Ireland and was intended as a forward fighter base. The airfield was named after the then nearby residence of the Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher.

3 Killadeas

The name Killadeas comes from that of an Irish religious order called ‘Culdees’, the ‘Ceili De or Companions of God’, a monastic order prominent from the 8th century onwards on nearby islands of Lower Lough Erne. The holed stone in the graveyard is an indication of pre-Christian worship on this site. These stones were supposed to promote healing, fertility and seership. The ‘Bishop’s Stone’ in the ancient graveyard carries two contrasting features. On one side a bishop carries a crozier and bell; on the other side there is a carved face with round protruding eyes, an open mouth with protruding lips and rounded cheek and chin all above a pattern of interwoven ribbon.

Detour to Irvinestown

Irvinestown takes its name from the Irvine family who came from Scotland in the early 1600s and lived at Necarne Castle. A walk around the town brings to life the presence of the Allied RAF forces during WWII when they were stationed at nearby Castle Archdale. A sole morgue table at Necarne Castle is the only reminder of the American and RAF military hospitals there. Necarne Estate, circa 290 acres, with its myriad of trails and paths is a haven for families who can appreciate the historic sweeping parkland.

The Famine Graveyard Memorial in Reihill Park reminds us of the hunger and destitution of the 1840s in the locality, and the recently constructed Centenary Garden at Sacred Heart Church tells a story of Celtic Christianity. Eighty-four headstones of young Allied RAF men in the Church of Ireland and Sacred Heart Church graveyards show that they gave their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic. The town clock, renovated in 1734, stands guard over the town and the graveyard behind it illustrates some of the finest false relief headstones in Fermanagh.
4 Castle Archdale & World War II
www.doeni.gov.uk/niea

Castle Archdale was used as a flying boat base by RAF Squadrons and two Canadian ones during WWII (1939–1945). They flew Sunderland and Catalina flying boats and patrolled the North Atlantic searching for German U-boats. A secret agreement with the government of Ireland allowed aircraft to fly directly out over the River Erne and neutral Irish territory to the Atlantic. In later years this area became known as the Donegal Corridor. Essential air cover was given to convoys coming to the UK from America and Canada with vital supplies. In May 1941 the German battleship Bismarck was found during a routine patrol by a Catalina flying Boat from Castle Archdale. The Flying Boat Base was closed in 1957 and today it is part of Castle Archdale Country Park. The Visitor Centre has a section devoted to WWII and the natural environment.

5 White Island

White Island is renowned for the six sculptures set into the walls of an ancient monastic church dating anywhere from the 9th to the 11th century. Three of the statues are identified as representations of Christ - one in warrior attire carrying a sword and shield, a second holding a gospel book and a third holding a pair of griffins. Of the three remaining statues one is an exhibitionist female figure, known as a Sile-na-Gig, the second is a statue of David and the final figure is a statue with bell and crosier and may be interpreted as either Christ or as Saint Anthony of the Desert, the first abbot.

6 Crevenish Castle

Crevenish Castle was built by Thomas Blennerhassett, a native of Norwich in England. He obtained his Plantation land grant in 1610. An ancient tombstone bearing the arms of the Blennerhassets lies near the castle which had some restoration work carried out on it in 2007.

7 St. Mary’s Church of Ireland, Ardess

The Famine Grave at the rear is a grim reminder of the effect of the great Irish Famine of c 1845–1850. An estimated 180 people could be buried at any one level of this pit. Ardess probably means ‘the high fort’ - and its antiquity goes back to pre-reformation times where a church is recorded here in the 14th century. The earliest recorded headstone are of people born in the 1600s but probably has burials going back much further to when people used wooden rather than stone memorials.

8 Drumskinny Stone Circle

There are three parts to this monument - a stone circle of 39 stones with three entrances, a small cairn set alongside with a kerbing of stones and an alignment or line of stones, originally 24, which points due north towards the rising moon in mid December. The site is tentatively dated to the Bronze Age c 2,500 years ago. Nobody knows exactly the significance of stone circles - common explanations include places of religious significance, celebration or sacrifice; meeting places for the local tribes or forms of calendar that helped to predict periods of change in the year e.g. midsummer and midwinter when the days started to shorten or lengthen.
Boa Island & the Janus Figure

On Boa Island stand two unique stone carvings in the Caldragh graveyard, which dates from the Irish early Christian period (400 - 800 AD). The larger of these is a Janus figure, two figures back to back with pear shaped heads and interlacing between the heads representing hair. The smaller figure which is known as “the Lustyman” was originally found on nearby island Lustymore and was brought to the Caldragh graveyard in 1939. The reasons for creating these stone sculptures and the dates of their creation are not certain. They may have been part of pre-Christian religious sites, or they may have been made by early Christians who included older pagan beliefs in their grave sites.

St. John’s Church of Ireland, Muckross

Muckross means “the peninsula of the pigs.” This church was built by the Lowry Family. One of the most famous persons buried here is Sidney Barton, 1876-1946. He took part in the Boxer Rebellion in China, compiled one of the first ever, English/Chinese Dictionaries and was in charge of the British Embassy in Ethiopia when the country was captured by the Italians in 1935.

Castle Caldwell & the Fiddle Stone

The castle was built in the early Plantation period by the Blennerhassett family who originated in Norwich. It then passed into the hands of the Caldwells who originated in Ayrshire in Scotland. It was in Castle Caldwell that the initial experiments with local china clay and feldspar give rise to the world famous Belleek Pottery. At the entrance to the castle stands the “Fiddle Stone” a commemorative stone for Denis Mc Cabe, a fiddler, who drowned off a barge belonging to Sir James while entertaining his guests.

Belleek Pottery

Belleek Pottery founded in 1858 is the oldest and largest Irish Pottery. It was founded by John C. Bloomfield the local landowner, David Mc Birney, a Dublin businessman who financed the undertaking and Robert Williams Armstrong, an architect and ceramics expert who designed the building. The success of Belleek Pottery, especially among the Irish diaspora across the globe has helped make the name of “Belleek,” the best known Irish village across the world. The church of Ireland at the top of the village is open daily and contains a beautiful set of three stained glass windows unveiled in May 2009 to commemorate the three fore mentioned founders of Belleek Pottery, who were all members of the Church of Ireland.

Contact

For opening hours & tour times see: www.belleek.ie
T: +44 (0) 28 6865 9300
**13 Tully Castle**

The impressive remains of a fortified house and bawn (walled enclosure) are set on beautiful Tully Point and were first documented in 1619, shortly after being built for the Hume family, who lived there until 1641. However, the castle was attacked and burned on Christmas Eve in 1641 by Rory Maguire. On the current site, a 17th century style garden has been recreated. The site is accessible by water.

**14 Monea Castle**

This castle was originally built by the Hamilton family who played a major part in the defence of Enniskillen during the Williamite War c1689. It is one of the most complete and best-preserved of all the Plantation castles of Ulster. Building commenced in 1616 by the Rector of Devenish, the Reverend Malcolm Hamilton. Like so many of Ulster’s Plantation castles, the design of Monea reflects the Scottish origin of its builder.

**15 Portora Castle**

Portora Castle was constructed by Sir William Cole to defend Enniskillen against a water-borne invasion from the west. It is one of seven such structures erected around Fermanagh in the period of the Plantation of Ulster in the early 17th century. Sir Michael Cole and his family moved to Portora Castle in 1710 when their previous residence, Enniskillen Castle, was hit by fire. They remained there until about 1716, when Sir Michael’s son, John Cole (1680-1726), started building Florence Court.

---

**Detour - Inishmacsaint Island**

Inishmacsaint Island is accessible by land or by water. There are the ruins of an ancient church and graveyard and a magnificent ancient high Cross. The island is associated with Saint Ninnid. Churches and monasteries were being built in Fermanagh from at least the 6th century. Now these islands seem remote, but in Early Christian times the Erne was a great highway, providing a route from the sea near Ballyshannon deep inland to Leitrim and beyond, the island monasteries being ports of call on this waterway.

---

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Both Oscar Wilde & Samuel Beckett were educated at the Portora Royal School in Enniskillen.
Enniskillen Castle, situated beside the River Erne in County Fermanagh, was built almost 600 years ago by Gaelic Maguires. Guarding one of the few passes into Ulster, it was strategically important throughout its history. In the 17th century it became an English garrison fort and later served as part of a military barracks. This historic site houses two museums, Fermanagh County Museum and The Inniskillings Museum.

Opening Times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday to Friday</td>
<td>10am – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday (Apr - Oct)</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun (July &amp; Aug)</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open on selected NI &amp; ROI Bank Holidays, please check for details.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enniskillen Castle, situated beside the River Erne in County Fermanagh, was built almost 600 years ago by Gaelic Maguires. Guarding one of the few passes into Ulster, it was strategically important throughout its history. In the 17th century it became an English garrison fort and later served as part of a military barracks. This historic site houses two museums, Fermanagh County Museum and The Inniskillings Museum.

Enniskillen Castle Museums, Enniskillen BT74 7HL

Opening Times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday to Friday</td>
<td>10am – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday (Apr - Oct)</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun (July &amp; Aug)</td>
<td>2pm – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open on selected NI &amp; ROI Bank Holidays, please check for details.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enniskillen Castle Museums, Enniskillen BT74 7HL

t: +44 (0)28 6632 5000  e: castle@fermanagh.gov.uk

w: www.enniskillencastle.co.uk