



DRIVE TO DISCOVER IRELAND

7 HISTORIC PLACES
IN IRELAND YOU
CAN'T MISS



Bru na Boinne in
Newgrange

2



Dublin

1



Historic Monastery at
Clonmacnoise

3



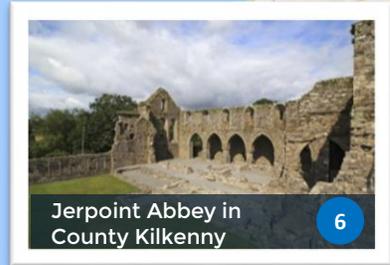
Kilkenny Castle

7



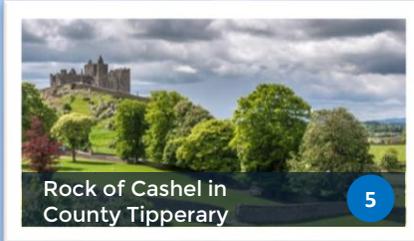
Blarney Castle in
County Cork

4



Jerpoint Abbey in
County Kilkenny

6



Rock of Cashel in
County Tipperary

5





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Dublin to Newgrange	26 miles	31 minutes
Newgrange to Clonmacnoise	81 miles	1 hours 48 minutes
Clonmacnoise to Blarney Castle	122 miles	2 hours 36 minutes
Blarney Castle to Rock of Cashel	61 miles	1 hour 13 minutes
Rock of Cashel to Jerpoint Abbey	37 miles	1 hour 7 minutes
Jerpoint Abbey to Kilkenny Castle	12 miles	21 minutes
Kilkenny Castle to Dublin	85 miles	1 hour 23 minutes
Total Distance Covered:	425 miles	

If you're planning a trip to Ireland, you'll likely want to enjoy some of the historic pubs, stunning natural landscape of the emerald isle, but you shouldn't forget the many historical sites in Ireland. In this article, we've crafted a unique and fun driving itinerary: 7 top historical places to visit in Ireland you can't miss! Each of these points of interest in Ireland offers a unique glimpse of Irish history, culture, and traditions. While some may be familiar Irish tourist attractions, others are lesser-known, allowing you to explore unique Irish landmarks without fighting crowds of travelers.

TO/FROM: Dublin Airport

In this road trip guide, you'll begin and end your journey at Dublin's Airport.

1. Dublin

The Historic City of Dublin is a UNESCO world heritage site - meaning that in addition to the fantastic pubs, restaurants, and museums available in the city, the historic city itself is a landmark of historic interest. Take a tour of the Guinness Storehouse to learn the unique history of this iconic brewery, say a prayer in St. Patrick's Cathedral, or visit Kilmainham Gaol - a beautiful former prison filled with stories of Ireland's history.

2. Bru na Boinne in Newgrange

It's a short drive to Bru na Boinne in Newgrange ... a UNESCO world heritage site which easily makes our list of historical sites in Ireland which are worth driving to. As Europe's largest and most important concentration of prehistoric megalithic art, the prehistoric monuments arranged along the north bank of the River Boyne had social, economic, religious, and funerary functions. The peaceful, prehistoric archaeological remains found at Bru na Boinne in Newgrange are ideal historic landmarks to follow Historic Dublin, as they provide a real sense of the history of the Emerald Isle.

3. Historic Monastery at Clonmacnoise

Nestled in bucolic County Offaly on the River Shannon, the historic monastery at Clonmacnoise ("Meadow of the Sons of Nos") dates back to 544. From its early days, the important location of Clonmacnoise Monastery made it a center for learning, religion, and trade and it became the most famous monastery in Ireland, drawing scholars from across Europe. Religious services are held in a modern chapel on the site today, and the historic monastery is preserved as a historic Irish ruin which is open to the public for a small fee.

4. Blarney Castle in County Cork

You've surely heard of the Blarney Stone (*Cloch na Blarnan*), and there are a number of stories which explain the origin and legends of this iconic landmark. You'll have time to contemplate them as you drive south from Clonmacnoise, through Limerick and into County Cork. The Blarney stone is said to grant those who kiss it the ability to deceive without offending, based on the legend of Cormac Laidir McCarthy (the builder of Blarney Castle), who was involved with a lawsuit. Touring Blarney Castle and learning more about the history of this famous piece of limestone is sure to impart a unique sense of the history and folklore that Ireland is famous for.

5. Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary

The Rock of Cashel is a historical site in Ireland in County Tipperary, Ireland, and according to legend, the famous stone was originally procured when St. Patrick banished Satan from a cave in the Devil's Bit, a mountain some 20 miles north of Cashel. This explosive event resulted in the famous Rock landing in Cashel, the historic seat of the kings of Munster in the years prior to the Norman invasion.

6. Jerpoint Abbey County Kilkenny

Discover the stunning ruins of a Cistercian Abbey near Thomastown in County Kilkenny. Jerpoint Abbey was built during the second half of the 12th century and it stands as a national monument of Ireland today - making it an easy choice for inclusion on our list of historical sites in Ireland. The ruins are expansive and as you explore you'll discover historical stone carvings and a square, embattled tower, and chapels filled with tomb sculptures and carvings.

7. Kilkenny Castle

Kilkenny Castle, a stunning symbol of the Norman occupation, erected on the banks of the River Nore at a strategic point where soldiers could control those trying to ford the waterway. Kilkenny Castle today is an excellent point to enjoy a picnic lunch - there are expansive grounds managed by the Office of Public Works, and the gardens and parkland adjacent to the castle are well-kept and open to the public.

From Kilkenny Castle it's just over an hour and a half to DUB Airport in your Ireland rental car, so you can plan your trip accordingly - driving straight to the airport for your return flight, or spending a few more days in Dublin exploring the many points of interest and landmarks the city has to offer.