



**IRELAND'S  
ANCIENT EAST**



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority



**ANCIENT** **MEDIEVAL**  
**ANGLO** **CHRISTIAN**

- Airport
- Rail
- Ferry
- Festivals
- Hiking
- Crafts
- Fishing



Cavan

Blackwater



**BATTLE OF THE BOYNE**



**TRIM CASTLE**



**BRÚ NA BÓINNE**



**LOUGHCREW CAIRNS**



**HILL OF TARA**



**CLONMACNOISE**



**CASTLETOWN HOUSE**

**DUBLIN**



Dún Laoghaire



**BIRR CASTLE**



**RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE**



**GLENDALOUGH**



**POWERSCOURT GARDENS**



**HOLYCROSS ABBEY**



**KILKENNY CASTLE**



**ALTAMONT GARDENS**



**WICKLOW GAOL**



**ROCK OF CASHEL**



**WATERFORD CRYSTAL**



**KENNEDY HOMESTEAD**



**LISMORE CASTLE**



**MUSEUM OF TREASURES**



**REGINALD'S TOWER**



**HOOK LIGHTHOUSE**



**BLARNEY CASTLE**



**DUNBRODY EXPERIENCE**

**CORK**



Cork Harbour



## **YOUR OWN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OF 5000 YEARS OF EUROPE'S HISTORY**

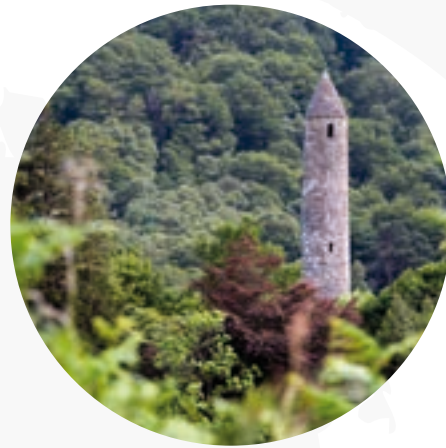
For those who love to peel back the layers of time, Ireland's Ancient East is a wonderful opportunity to experience 5000 years of European history in a compact area. Get off the beaten track to see, hear, touch and feel the imprints of the millennia of settlers in this land. Ancient Man, Early Christians, Medieval Lords, Colonial Settlers and their descendants have all been seduced by these most lush, green and fertile lands. Hear for yourself the stories from the best story tellers in the world. Take your time to discover it all – the Stone Age art, the monasteries, the castles and fortresses.



### **ANCIENT IRELAND**

Get up close to the stones and stories of Ireland's prehistoric past. Hear tales of druids and mythical warriors told by locals in a magical and inspiring way.

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### **EARLY CHRISTIAN IRELAND**

Step into Ireland's Golden Age of Saints and Scholars and visit the university and monastery sites where Ireland's pioneering saints and monks wrote some of the world's greatest illuminated manuscripts, before spreading their learning and spirituality throughout a Europe locked in the Dark Ages.

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### **MEDIEVAL IRELAND**

Explore the pathways and lush river valleys of Medieval Ireland to hear tales of invasions and rebellion, and let your imagination take flight amongst the walls of Ireland's greatest castles and fortresses, where foreign knights wrested the land from the old chieftains.

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### **ANGLO IRELAND**

Discover the stories of a time of contrasts which shaped the lives of the now settled conquerors of Ireland and those they ruled over. This is the time of Empire, Rebellion, Innovation and Industry.

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# 10 Quick Facts from Ireland's Ancient East

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- 1. Waterford City** is Ireland's oldest centre of continuous urban settlement in Ireland and is consequently Ireland's oldest City. Founded by the Vikings between 856 and 914, the city is over 1,000 years old.
- Muiretach's Cross, Monasterboice. **Co. Louth** is Ireland's most beautiful High Cross and West Cross, and is the tallest remaining Celtic high cross in Ireland.
- Newgrange in Co. Meath** is the best known Irish passage tomb and dates to c.3, 200BC. It is the oldest known deliberately orientated structure in the world.
- Loughcrew, Co. Meath** is possibly the oldest cemetery in the world and tells of Ireland's neolithic cultures. One legend has it that the so-called burial mounds were created by a witch flying overhead and dropping pebbles on the landscape.
- The Timahoe round tower in **Co. Laois** is one of Ireland's most beautiful. It was built in the 1100s. Carvings of human heads, with flowing beards and moustaches, decorate the main entrance, about five metres from the ground.
- Trim Castle, Co. Meath** is Ireland's Largest Anglo-Norman Castle. It is also the place where the film Braveheart was shot.
- Ireland's earliest known lighthouse is at **Hook Head, Co. Wexford**. It was first built in the thirteenth century, where it was maintained by local monks.
- Ballitore, Co. Kildare** is the only planned and permanent Quaker Settlement in Ireland.
- Ireland's oldest known bridge crossed the River Shannon near **Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly**. Underwater archaeology in the 1990's revealed the remains of a great wooden bridge at least 120m in length dating from 804AD.
- Lockes Distillery in **Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath** was licensed in 1757 and produced whiskey for over 200 years. Now open as a museum, it is the only sample left in Ireland of a typical small pot distillery.