AncientIreland.ie
Walking in Ancient Steps

Ancient Ireland Travel Planner

Build a heritage journey around monuments, landscapes and family connections.



Newgrange, Brú na Bóinne, County Meath — Tjp finn — CC BY-SA 4.0

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A digital guide from AncientIreland.ie

Cover: a photograph of the identified site. This guide supports research and planning; records, admission and provider terms can change.

The Ancient Ireland Travel Guide

1. Choose your story

Start with a theme: prehistoric tombs, monastic life, castles, High Kings or a family place. Choose two or three anchor stops from Monument Search instead of crossing the whole island in a few days.

2. Build a sensible route

Group nearby places and allow time for rural journeys, walking and changing weather. A map pin does not establish a public entrance or right of access. Use official information for your arrival point.

3. Book the important parts first

Confirm timed admission or guiding requirements before committing to accommodation and onward travel. Keep confirmations together and check cancellation terms.

4. Choose your base

A base near several heritage stops leaves more time on site. Compare evening transport, food options, parking and accessibility as well as room price.

5. Add family-history time

Identify the parish or townland before leaving home. Check archive appointments directly. Keep a research question and source references in your travel notebook.

6. Respect the place

Follow signs and the site team’s instructions. Leave gates as found, avoid climbing vulnerable monuments and take litter away. Conditions vary even at well-known sites.

Three heritage-route ideas

• Boyne Valley: connect Brú na Bóinne and the Hill of Tara, subject to booking and transport checks.

• Monastic landscapes: make Glendalough a main heritage day, allowing time for the valley.

• Western stones: build a regional journey around Carrowmore, adding stops after checking distances and access.

Before you set off

• Confirm entry and booking for your travel dates.

• Check transport and the last-mile journey.

• Review accommodation and cancellation terms.

• Pack waterproof layers and suitable footwear.

• Keep offline bookings and a flexible alternative day.

Sources & further reading

• OPW Heritage Card

• Irish Rail tickets

• Translink iLink

Further heritage resources

AncientIreland.org and Irish Heritage Trust reference links

Useful links

https://heritageireland.ie/visit/heritage-card/

https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/fares-and-tickets/tickets-explained

https://www.translink.co.uk/tickets/travel-cards/ilink

Travel Passes

OPW Heritage Card

Check eligible heritage sites, conditions and booking. This is not a transport ticket.

TFI Leap Card

Check supported services and the correct card for your journeys. Do not assume every route is included.

Irish Rail tourist tickets

Compare current ticket options with individual fares and the services on your route.

Translink iLink

Check zones, validity and included bus and rail services.

Compare before buying

Count only journeys and admissions you will use. Check validity, reservations and exclusions with the provider; prices are not fixed here.

Useful links

https://heritageireland.ie/visit/heritage-card/

https://www.transportforireland.ie/fares/leap-card/

https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/fares-and-tickets/tickets-explained

https://www.translink.co.uk/tickets/travel-cards/ilink

Accommodation

Before booking

• Travel time to your first stop and evening return options.

• Parking, step-free access and individual requirements.

• Total charges, cancellation terms and check-in times.

• Food and transport nearby.

Republic of Ireland accommodation

Explore the tourism directory and check individual property arrangements.

Northern Ireland accommodation

Explore accommodation listings across Northern Ireland.

A base to fit your trip

A B&B can suit a short heritage stop; self-catering may suit a longer research base; a city hotel can simplify archive visits. Review current terms directly with the property. This preview does not take accommodation bookings.

Useful links

https://www.discoverireland.ie/accommodation

https://discovernorthernireland.com/accommodation/

Your notes & next actions

Question or task	Source / date	Next action