

1 FAITHLEGG

Fáithling

Faithlegg, is located 9km east of Waterford City. The townland name may be related to the Irish for woodbine (Feathlóg) and reflects the historic wooded landscape in the area. St Ita's Holy Well (Tobar Sionnaigh) is located on the opposite side of the road to the church. St Ita (St Íde) was a sixth century princess of the local ruling family who founded an important community of nuns at Kileedy in South Limerick.

Sites of Interest:
Faithlegg House - Built by Cornelius Bolton in 1783. The gateway displays the Stag Head, the family emblem of the Powers, a wealthy merchant family from Waterford City who resided in the house until 1935.



2 CHEEKPOINT

Pointe na Síge

Cheekpoint Village, is situated on the southern shore of the Suir estuary and the confluence of the Rivers Nore and Barrow.

The presence of two quays point to its historical importance as a fishing village and harbour in the 19th century. In the late eighteenth century, Cornelius Bolton developed the harbour and established manufacturing industries and a hotel. At this time Cheekpoint was a thriving prosperous town, being the station at which the mail packets from England for Waterford stopped.

There were cotton, rope, and hoisery factories here which then disappeared following the building of a new pier at Dunmore East and the subsequent transfer of the mail packet station from Cheekpoint to Dunmore East.

Fishermen from Cheekpoint used two types of boat on the river, the punt and the prong. The Prong is a timber boat similar to the widely known Currach of the west coast. In previous generations, most local fishing families owned at least one Prong. They were also widely dispersed along the River Barrow, from Cheekpoint to New Ross.

Sites of Interest:
Daisybank House - built c. 1765 and historically used as a harbour master's house and hotel.
Barrow Bridge - Fifteen -span railway viaduct built between 1902 and 1906 by the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Company
Quayside Limekiln - used for burning lime to fertilise agricultural land and for use in limewashing of houses.
The Mount - Gothic folly tower dating from c. 1750 situated overlooking the River Suir on an elevated site. The tower may originally have been intended as a navigational beacon.



5 DUNMORE EAST

Dún Mór

Dunmore East, (from the Irish Dún Mór, meaning Great Fort) has been an important fishing port for many centuries. The Great Fort refers to a promontory fort said to have been located on the southern outskirts of the town. The remains of a seventeenth-century castle are situated on the promontory between Counsellors Strand to the north and Ladies Cove to the south.

In about 1640, Lord Power of Curraghmore, who owned a large amount of property in the area, built a castle on the cliff overlooking the strand, of which just one tower now remains. The development of the village southwards from the earlier settlement toward the harbour began in 1814 when the British Government decreed that Dunmore was to serve as the location of the packet station for the entire South of Ireland.

An important landmark in the harbour is the elegant lighthouse designed by the Scottish engineer Alexander Nimmo (1783 - 1832).

Sites of Interest:
Villa Marina - (now The Haven Hotel), built in 1864 for the Quaker industrialists, the Malcomsons, to the designs of the noted architect John Skipton Mulvaney.
Fisherman's Hall - built in memory of a young member of the Malcomson family in the 19th century, who inaugurated a trust fund to help the needy within a three mile radius of Dunmore.
The Terrace - Picturesque thatched houses originally constructed for tourist accommodation in the early 19th century.
Saint Andrew's Church - built in 1817 and subsequently considerably enlarged in the late nineteenth century.
Woodland Walk - Enjoy exploring the 80 acres of woods given to the people of Dunmore East in the 1920s by the 7th Marquis of Waterford.
Coastal Cliff Walk - This walk, from the harbour to Portally Cove, gives impressive views of the Hook Peninsula.



Tramore, (Trá Mhór - Great Strand) originated as a small fishing village and developed as a centre for tourism around 1770, when the first card room and hostelry was opened on the Main Street. In 1778 a Waterford merchant named Bartholomew Rivers moved to Tramore and established a number of new developments such as a thatched church, a fish house, assembly rooms and the Grand Hotel. Horse racing began on the beach in 1785.

In 1837 the first sea wall was built and in 1853 the construction of a single railway line from Waterford's Railway Square to the Terminus in Tramore resulted in an increased popularity, not only of the racecourse but of the town as a seaside resort. The railway ran until December 1960 and at 7 miles long was unique in Ireland as it was not connected to any other line. The promenade was erected in 1914 and served as a popular walking route in Tramore.

Sites of Interest:
Coastguard Station - Built in 1875, this former coastguard station reflects the importance of Tramore's maritime heritage. The building is now used as an Arts Centre and allows spectacular views over Tramore Bay.
Doneraile Walk - Laid out by Lord Doneraile as a private promenade for his family and friends in the early 19th Century. Features of interest

include an ancient cannon gun and the memorial to commemorate the 363 people from the *Sea Horse* who drowned when the ship wrecked in Tramore Bay in 1816.

Metal Man - Navigation Beacons constructed in 1823 following a number of shipwrecks in Tramore Bay to prevent navigators from mistaking Tramore Bay for Waterford Harbour. Two pillars were erected at Brownstown Head and three pillars at Westown now recognised as the iconic Metalman. Legend has it that hopping barefoot three times around the Metal Man Pillar will guarantee marriage within a year!

Tramore Burrow and Back Strand - Noted for a variety of coastal wildlife, including rare plants in summer and wetland wildfowl in winter. The burrow is so named for its historic use as a rabbit warren. Look out for concentrations of shells in the form of "kitchen middens" - important evidence of the diet of our ancestors dating back to Neolithic times.



3 PASSAGE EAST

An Pasáiste Thoir

Passage East, is a scenic harbour village centred on two interlinking squares that are overlooked by tall cliffs to the west and faces out onto the Barrow and Suir estuary. The place name stems from the town's role as the western terminal for a ferry route that extends across the estuary and links Passage East with Ballyhack in County Wexford.

In August 1170, this was the landing place for Strongbow, Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, a year after the initial Anglo-Norman landing at Bannow, Co. Wexford, in 1169. Strongbow's force of 200 knights and 1,000 men went on to besiege and take the city of Waterford.

The original settlement developed around a medieval waterfront fort that was constructed to defend the river approaches to Waterford City.

The existing layout of Passage East is similar to that which is represented by the Philips map of 1685.

Plans to construct an enormous star fort never came to fruition but elements of the defensive nature of the town can be seen in the present layout including the parade squares. Elements of 16th and 17th century houses still exist in the fabric of houses that are present today.

Sites of Interest:
Bastion Fort - The sub-circular corner tower is the only visible remains of the medieval fort constructed in the 16th century. Five gun loops are evident in the structure.
St. Anne's Church of Ireland - This former church dates to 1746 and occupies a prominent site on top of the cliff overlooking the town and is now a private residence.



4 CROOKE

An Crúc

Crooke, the village of Crooke (An Crúc - old Scandinavian for a bend) lies 1km to the south of Passage East. A house of the great medieval religious order of the Knights Templar was founded at Crooke before 1180. Following the suppression of the order in 1307, the house at Crooke passed to the other great religious military order of the medieval period, the Knights Hospitallers (or Knights of St. John) in 1327.

By the suppression of the monasteries in 1541, the possessions of the former monastery at Crooke had reduced to 120 acres and it is likely that the church functioned as a parish church (the more significant Hospitaller house being located at Killure, approximately eight kilometres to the west).

Sites of Interest:
Crooke Historic Graveyard - includes a marker to commemorate the unknown "croppy" (or Irish rebel) associated with the 1798 rebellion. The marker commemorates the mass execution and transportation of rebels at Passage East and the nearby Geneva Barracks. St. John's Well is located to the south east of the graveyard.

Crooke Tower House - is located 50m to the south of the church. The castle is traditionally thought to have been built by the le Poer family of Curraghmore.
Church of Saint John the Baptist c. 1840 The church has an attractive and finely detailed western entrance front and the interior incorporates a range of features including cast-iron ends to the pews designed by R. Graham of Waterford and stained glass windows by Mayer of Munich and London.
Geneva Barracks - Site of a planned utopian colony for Geneva democrats who were displaced following a failed Swiss revolution in the 1780s but never came to fruition and then developed as a British military barracks. The barracks gained notoriety during the 1798 rebellion when it was used as a prison for captured Irish insurgents who were kept there in brutal conditions. The barracks were subsequently abandoned in 1841 and the only surviving remains comprise ruined walls in a pasture field.



7 DOLMEN TRAIL

Rian Cromleacha

The area within a ten mile radius of Tramore is rich in megalithic structures signifying early pre-historic habitation in this area. Megalithic tombs were used as communal burial monuments in the Neolithic times i.e. between 4500 and 6300 BC.

There are four types in Ireland - Court Tombs, Portal Tombs, Passage Tombs and Wedge Tombs. They all have in common a large cairn of earth and stones that sealed a burial chamber which was built with large stones and was accessed by an entrance feature.

These large stones must have been put in place by ramps or a system of timber levers and platforms. The burials found during excavation of these tombs were typically cremated and often accompanied by grave goods such as pottery, ornaments and tools.

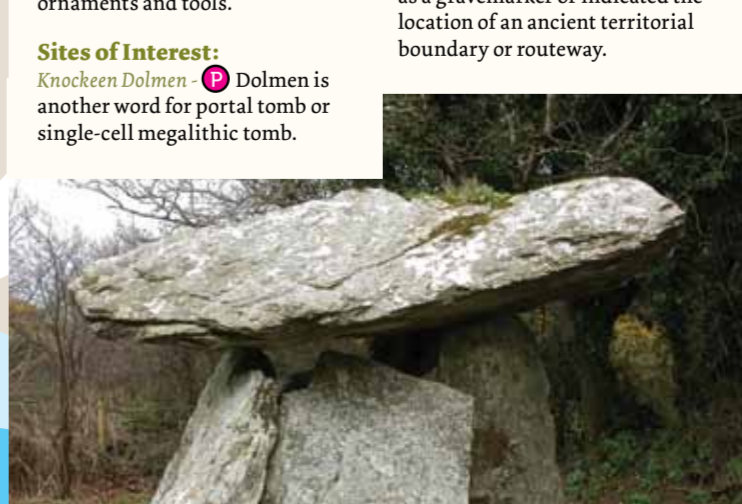
Sites of Interest:
Knockeen Dolmen - Dolmen is another word for portal tomb or single-cell megalithic tomb.

Said to be one of the most beautiful of its kind in Ireland, this dolmen is constructed of local stone. There are a total of 174 recorded Irish Portal tombs, with the majority in the northern half of the country, but with a notable concentration in the southeast.

Gaultstown Dolmen - This impressive portal tomb is constructed of local stone and contains a rectangular roof stone that rests on two portal-stones and an end stone with two side stones and a sillstone.

A cist burial found within 10m to the southwest of the tomb may have once shared the same cairn (or man-made pile of stone) that would have once covered this portal tomb.

Ballymoat Standing Stone - An example of a Bronze Age ritual monument that may have acted as a gravemarker or indicated the location of an ancient territorial boundary or routeway.



Rian Cromleacha

Matthewstown Passage Tomb - One of 230 known Irish passage tombs, such as Newgrange. The majority of these tombs are found in the northern half of the country, with a number of small clusters in the south, including three examples in Waterford. Passage tombs are so named as they contain a burial chamber accessed by a passage way.

Carrigauranry Wedge Tomb - Wedge tombs are so named because the burial chamber narrows at one end (usually decreasing in height and width from west to east). There are over 500 known wedge tombs in Ireland particularly concentrated in Counties Cork and Clare and only two examples in Waterford (the other in Munmahogue 6km to the north).

These tombs were probably built between the late Neolithic and middle Bronze Ages, a period when new metal-working technologies were being introduced.





PORT LÁRGE STAIRIÚIL - AN CÒSTA

A Guide to Waterford's Coastal Archaeology and Built Heritage from Waterford Estuary to the Blackwater River.

HISTORIC WATERFORD THE COAST



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DUNHILL

Dún Aill

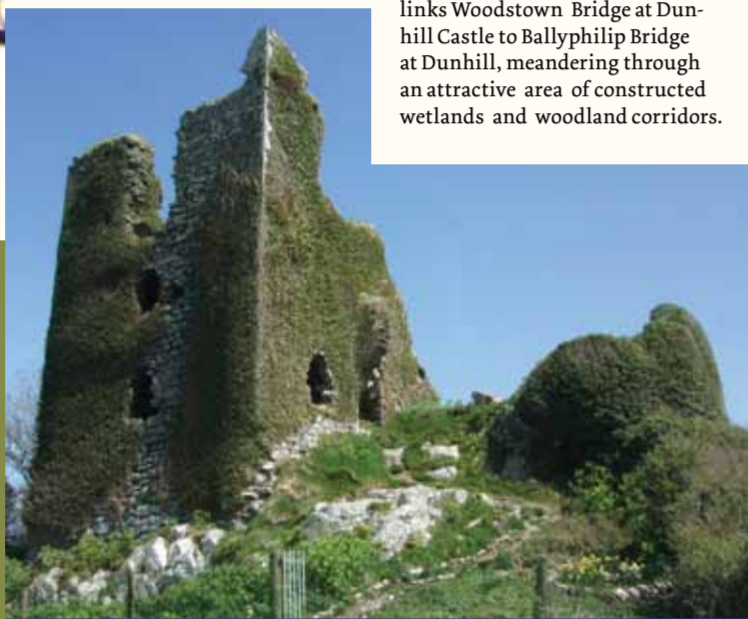
Dunhill, translates as "cliff fort" referring to the impressive Dunhill Castle that can be viewed from Annestown. The village lies 6 miles from Tramore and has many sites of archaeological interest. A good example of thatch can be seen in the village centre.

Dunhill Castle - Built by the la Poer family in the early 1200s. The la Poers (Power) of Dunhill were infamous in the 14th century as they launched many attacks on Waterford City. The Castle was besieged and sacked in 1649 by Cromwellian forces, with the outer defences destroyed. The Castle was then given to Sir John Cole, but neither he nor his descendants ever lived there.

Dunhill Portal Tomb - This megalithic structure is noted for its impressively sized roofstone which weighs 30 tonnes. The effort of transporting, raising and resting the roof stone onto the orthostat must have required considerable co-ordination and group effort on behalf of the pre-historic community that built the site.

Ballynageeragh Portal Tomb - This tomb faces to the southwest and is situated in pasture on a broad plateau. Cremated bone, flints and charcoal fragments were discovered in the tomb when it was investigated and conserved in 1939-40.

Anne Valley Walk - A 2km walkway links Woodstown Bridge at Dunhill Castle to Ballyphilip Bridge at Dunhill, meandering through an attractive area of constructed wetlands and woodland corridors.



COPPER COAST

Còsta an Chopair

A history of copper mining in the mid 1800s has given the name Copper Coast to this stretch of coastline, including Tankardstown, Knockmahon and Bunmahon, extending from Fennor to Stradbally.

Many of the Copper Coast miners and their families emigrated to America and found work in the copper mines of Montana and Michigan. The mining heritage has merited designation of the area as a UNESCO Geopark in 2004, the first to be designated in the Republic of Ireland.

Sites of Interest:
Tankardstown Engine House Complex - Conserved engine house complex from the mining industry, including remains of an engine house, boiler house and large chimney.

Osborne Terrace - Knockmahon. Row of miner's cottages built c. 1830

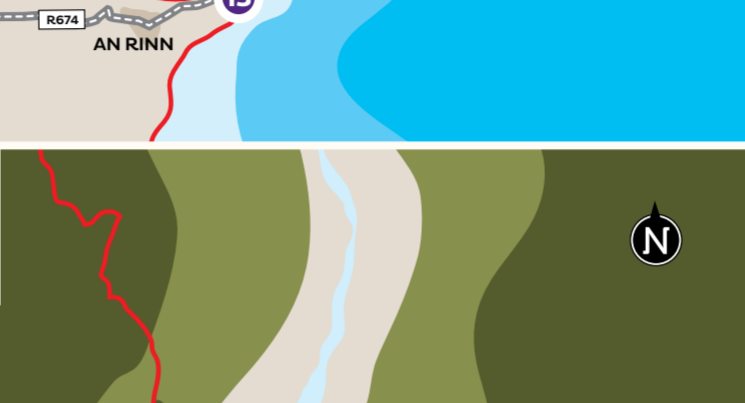
Knockmahon Church - Church of Ireland church built c. 1820 and now visitor centre for the Copper-coast Geopark. Pay them a visit to learn much more about the geology and especially the mining heritage of the Copper Coast.

Promontory Forts - Coastal defence systems on cliff headlands that date from the Iron Age to beginning of Christianity. Examples are found at Garrarus, Islandikane, Kilfarassy, Dunabrattin, Knockmahon, Ballynarrid and Ballyvooney all along the Copper Coast but are largely inaccessible and best appreciated from aerial imagery.



AN RINN

An Ghaeltacht



An Rinn, (Rinn Ó gCuanach) - an Ghaeltacht is lú sa tír, a chuimsiúnna paróiste na Rinne agus an tSean Phobail.

Tá radharcanna álainne trasna Chuan Dhúin Garbhán ó leithinis na Rinne agus tá dhá ché iascáireachta sa pharóiste - Baile na nGall agus Heilbhic, chomh maith le roinnt tráinna agus còbh álainn in Heilbhic.

Tá rian na Lochlannaigh le feiscint i logainmneacha an cheantair agus deirtear go dtagann an focal 'Heilbhic' ón frása Lochlannach 'dail loméadanach, agus séard is brí le Baile na nGall ná an 'áit na n-eachtrannaigh.'

Diól Spéise:
An Coinigéar - síneann an dumhach seo níos mó ná 2km trasna Chuan Dhúin Garbhán. Tagann an t-ainm ón sean-Fhraincís - 'Coney' (coinnín) agus 'Garth' (clós nó cró) agus tugtar 'An Cois' ar an áit go háitiúil.

Teachíní Gharda an Chósta, Heilbhic - ardan de chúig theach de chuid Gharda an Chósta ó lár na 1800daí.

Reilig an tSeanchluain - Tá comhartha uai ghe sa reilig stairiúil seo ag dul siar chomh fada le lár na 1700daí.

An Chailleach Bhéara - uaigh meigiliteach ó 2,000R.C., deirtear, atá lonnaithe i mBaile na Móna, An Sean Phobal. Sé an t-aon carn cúirte dá leithéid san oir-dheisceart.

An Rinn, (or Rinn Ó gCuanach or 'Ring') is the smallest Gaeltacht area in the country and a great place to experience the Irish language firsthand.

The peninsula affords fine views over Dungarvan Bay, with two fishing harbours, Baile na nGall and Heilbhic, a number of beautiful beaches and a secluded cove at Heilbhic.

Local placenames reflect a Viking settlement in the area in the early medieval period. Heilbhic is thought to derive from the Viking phrase for 'bare-faced cliff' and Baile na nGall means 'place or homestead of the foreigner.'

Sites of Interest:
An Coinigéar - this Sand Spit stretches for over 2km across Dungarvan Harbour. The name, meaning 'rabbit warren,' comes from Coney Garth - conin/coney is Old French for an adult rabbit and Garth was an enclosure.

Heilbhic Coastguard Cottages - Terrace of five coastguard cottages dating from the mid 1800s.

Seanchluain Graveyard - This historic graveyard includes grave markers dating back to the mid 1700's.

An Chailleach Bhéara - Megalithic Tomb at Baile na Móna, An Sean Phobal is an early Bronze Age court cairn and is the only example of its kind in the southeast.

WELCOME / FÁILTE

The coastline of Waterford has many stories to tell. Evidence of the first human settlers some 7,000 years ago, followed by the invasion of the Vikings and the Anglo-Normans, have all left their mark along the coastline - including megalithic burial tombs and iron age promontory forts. The traditions and trials of past habitations are also in evidence - development of Christianity as evidenced by ancient churches and monasteries, the extent of defence structures for strategic settlements and, in more recent centuries, our industrial heritage as displayed along the Copper Coast. The coastal route from Cheekpoint to the Blackwater Estuary in County Waterford is of high scenic quality and passes through a number of towns and villages including Dunmore East, Tramore, Stradbally, Dungarvan and Ardmore. This guide aims to enhance your discovery of Waterford's Historic Coast whether by bike, on foot or by car.

Historic Waterford is part of a series of heritage tourism guides commissioned by Waterford County Council.



Also look out for the Walk Waterford Guide, which details a series of 20 recreational walks around the county, for all ages and abilities.

Useful Web Addresses:
www.itsafeeling.com
www.archaeology.ie
www.buildingsofireland.ie
www.heritagecouncil.ie
www.waterfordcoco.ie
www.irishtrails.ie
www.discoverireland.ie/walking
www.dungarvanmuseum.org
www.coppercoastgeopark.com

Private land - permission required for access.
See website for opening hours.

Emergency Contact:
Phone for Local Emergency Services.
999 or 112

Tourist Offices:
Waterford: +353 (0)51 875788
Lismore: + 353 (0)58 54975
Dungarvan: + 353 (0)58 41741

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STRADBALLY

An tSráidbhaile

The origins of this picturesque village go back to medieval times as evidenced by archaeological testing around the church and graveyard and environs of the village.

In the 1800s, the village was described as a single street, a number of lanes, possessing well-built houses and was the former site of a salmon fishery that had been discontinued by that time. The village has won numerous awards in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Heading south from the village, the public road passes a number of notable structures and natural amenities.

Sites of Interest:
St. James Church - dates to 1786 and the graveyard contains remains of an earlier medieval church.

Cove Cottage - Thatched cottage built c. 1810. One of the finest buildings in Co. Waterford, blending vernacular materials with formal composition.

Stradbally Cove - Sheltered beach with cliffs on both sides. The River Tay runs into the sea here. At the beach is a two-bay Limekiln built around 1800, used for burning lime to fertilise agricultural land and for use in limewashing of houses.

Ballyvoyle Railway Viaduct - An impressive four-span railway viaduct over the River Dalligan. Built in 1923, incorporating the fabric of an earlier viaduct in 1878, both bridges were badly damaged by explosions during the Irish Civil War.

Woodhouse Estate - Impressive wrought iron gates mark the entrance to Woodhouse estate, an attractive wooded landscape along the River Tay dating back to the 16th century and now comprising a Georgian House and associated gate lodge and estate houses.



DUNGARVAN & ABBEYSIDE

Dún Garbhán agus Dún na Mainistreach

Dungarvan, meaning Garbhán's Fort, suggests the presence of an early medieval ringfort and an association with the early Irish saint Garbhán. The origins of the town go back to the 12th century and the settlement expanded after the construction of Dungarvan Castle in the early 19th century. The houses of the medieval inhabitants were built of timber but no traces survive.

Abbeyside, on the opposite side of the Colligan Estuary from Dungarvan, contains part of the surviving remains of an Augustinian Abbey, which was founded in 1290 by Thomas Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald. The abbey had already fallen into ruins by 1654 and its remains, which comprise the chancel and tower, are now incorporated into St. Augustine's Church. The former site of a medieval tower house is located in a field to the north of the abbey.

Sites of Interest:
Dungarvan Castle - also known as King John's Castle, is one of the few royal castles built in Ireland in the

1200s. An Anglo-Norman fortification founded in 1185, it is built in a very strategic location on the mouth of the River Colligan. The castle was converted into an RIC barracks in 1889 and remained in use as a Garda Barracks until 1987 and is now a visitor attraction run by the OPW.

Old Market House - Now an Arts Centre, this building dates from the late 17th century. A courthouse and town hall were in existence on this site in the 1640s and the present Market House incorporates part of this town hall.

Museum - Housed on the ground floor of the Town Hall, this museum houses a collection of permanent and temporary exhibitions on local history and heritage of County Waterford.

Devonshire Bridge - A single-arched bridge of rusticated sandstone built in 1816. The stone was imported ready cut from Runcorn in Cheshire.



ARDMORE

Aird Mhór

Ardmore, from the Irish 'Aird Mhór', meaning 'Great Height', is considered to be one of the oldest ecclesiastical centres in Ireland, founded by St. Declan in 416 AD. This predates St. Patrick's arrival in Ireland and highlights the importance of Ardmore in the history of Christianity in Ireland. The hillside above the village contains the remains of one of the most impressive early monasteries in the country.

Little is known of the history or layout of the monastery prior to 1170 when it was a recognised cathedral with a bishop. There are a number of church buildings and monuments within the present boundary wall and the most visually striking is the 12th century round tower.

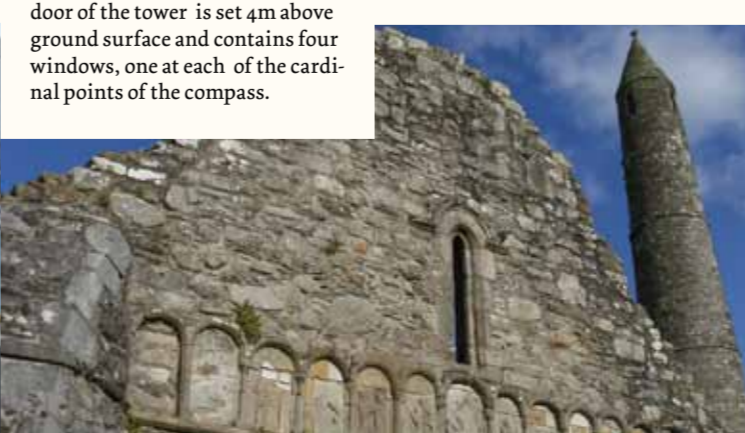
Sites of Interest:
Ardmore Tower - 12th century round tower of four storeys that stands to a height of 29m. The round arched door of the tower is set 4m above ground surface and contains four windows, one at each of the cardinal points of the compass.

Ardmore Cathedral - The main standing church in the graveyard dates to the 12th century and may contain elements of an earlier structure. The church contains two ogham stones that were found elsewhere on site and moved into the interior for safe keeping.

St. Declan's Oratory - Small building to the east of the church reputedly containing his grave.

The Cliff Walk - 5km way-marked walk along the Cliff Path, taking in St. Declan's Stone, St. Declan's Well, The Coastguard Station, The Watchtower, a WWII Lookout and Fr. O'Donnell's Well.

St. Declan's Well - Pilgrims traditionally visited the well on St. Declan's feast day 24th July when they made a sign of the cross using water from the well and recited prayers. The tradition of devotions that takes place on a saint's feast day is known as a pattern.



BALLYNATRAY

Baile na Trá

The Blackwater Estuary extends from Youghal New Bridge to the Ferry Point peninsula and is one of the most scenic areas of Co. Waterford, with a number of historic sites including the landscape demesne at Ballynatray.

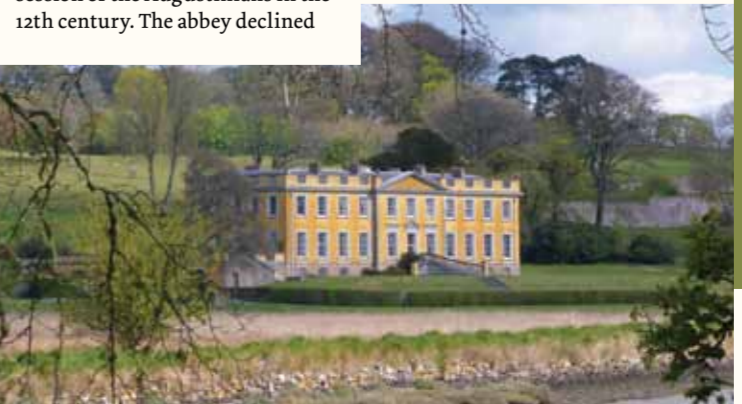
Sites of Interest:
Ballynatray House - a late 18th century, classical style Country house constructed on the site of an earlier stone house or castle that was recorded in the 17th century. The landscape demesne overlooks the Blackwater River and is amongst the finest in southern Ireland. The gardens feature in the Waterford Garden Trail and are open to visitors during set periods of the year.

Molana Abbey - is situated in the demesne of Ballynatray House and reputed to occupy the site of a 6th century church associated with St. Molana, that came into the possession of the Augustinians in the 12th century. The abbey declined

during the medieval period and was among the possessions of Sir Walter Raleigh in the late 16th century. Remains include a nave and chancel church, with cloister and graveyard.

Templemichael - site of the medieval parish of Templemichael, located to the south of Ballynatray. The medieval church was in ruins by the 18th century, and was replaced by the existing Church of Ireland church in the late 18th/early 19th century, which itself is now in ruins.

Templemichael Castle - is adjacent to the church ruins, east of the graveyard and comprises a tower house and bawn. This five-storey castle was constructed by the Fitzgerald family in the late 16th-century and was reputedly attacked by Cromwell's forces in 1649. A circular tower is located 4m NE of the tower and boundary walls extending to the west and south may have formed the bawn wall but they are now attached to the tower.



TRAIL OVERVIEW

HISTORIC WATERFORD - THE COAST is a guide to Waterford's coastal archaeology and built heritage from Waterford Estuary to the Blackwater River and can be enjoyed as a driving route, cycling trail or on foot around Waterford's coastal towns and villages.

The route commences at the village of Cheekpoint and runs south along Waterford Estuary, taking in the coastal settlements of Passage East, Crooke and Dunmore East. Here you can explore Waterford's maritime heritage, seeing the Cheekpoint Prong in the harbour, while south of Crooke is the site of New Geneva, an 18th century planned utopian colony for Swiss democrats. Dunmore East has several attractive features, including the elegant lighthouse and terrace of thatched houses.

Explore the Doneraile Walk in Tramore with panoramic views over Tramore Bay, once known as the Graveyard of Ships and take in views of the iconic Metal Man from Newtown Cove. West of Tramore there are many promontory forts along this section of coastline, dating from the Iron Age. A rich prehistoric landscape can be discovered inland from Tramore by following the Dolmen Trail that includes megalithic tombs over 5,000 years old. The Copper Coast between Fennor and Stradbally explores the mining heritage of the area and the Geopark Centre is located in Bunmahon.

West of Bunmahon the Historic Waterford trail runs towards Stradbally and then on to Abbeyside and Dungarvan, where you can visit Dungarvan Castle, Dungarvan Museum and the Old Market House Arts Centre. West of Dungarvan lies the Gaeltacht area of An Rinn, as well as Ardmore, where you can see the impressiv remains of St. Declan's medieval church. A cluster of medieval sites can also be explored in the Ballinatray area on the west bank of the River Blackwater.

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