Athy Heritage Centre & Museum

Directions back to Athy Heritage Centre. 10 minutes

Take a right turn at Belan, followed by the fist left in the direction of Athy, whereupon you will join the R 418 which will bring you into the town of Athy.

From here head to The Heritage Centre in Athy where the Shakelton exhibition and museum can be viewed

Tour will end with a audio & visual tour. Other tailored offerings are available with advanced notice such as specialised talks, guest speakers etc.



Quaker Silhouettes



It was tradition that Early Friends believed that to have your portrait painted was very expensive and unnecessary. They thought that kind of money could be spent on help others. Instead they began to have silhouettes cut out of black paper.

They also reasoned that since they were copies of our shadows which are cast by Light - they were in closer keeping with our belief in the Light with in. These portraits often were better likenesses than paintings.

This process became a high fashionable form of art. & here at the Clanard Court we aid you in creating your very own. The morning of your tour you will join us for your shoot and your personalizes Silhouette will be ready for collection on return from your tour activity.



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Clonard Court Hotel

Start at the Clanard Court Hotel. – Morning breakfast, accompanied by information session relating to the surround area and relevant history and facts.

Tour guest s will have Silhouettes taken and also receive a brief pack containing full schedule for the day.

Suggested time scale 8.00am- 10.25



Journey to Burtown House and Gardens on the N78 - Burtown is located between Athy and Ballytore, half a mile before the M9 motorway.

Burtown House & Gardens

At their heart is a 300 year old house surrounded by the legacy of previous generations much created by Isabel Shackleton ,cousin of explorer Earnest who planted the great sweep of golden aconites beneath the trees in early spring.

The gardens are made up of several areas, including large



herbaceous borders, shrubberies, a rock garden, a yew walk divided by a pergola, a sundial garden, an old orchard, a walled organic vegetable garden and a large woodland garden.

Visitors can take a break from their garden walk to enjoy homemade cakes and scones with homemade lemonade and apple juice in The Gallery Cafe situated in a beautiful courtyard attached to the house, You can sit in the gallery itself or in the stunning courtyard.



Directions from Burtown House: Continue on the N78 over the M9 motorway, until you come to a T, whereupon you take a left turn onto the R448. Arrive after 1 mile.

Crookstown Craft & Gift Shop

Journey to Crookstown Craft Centre: 20-35 minute stop. Here Tours may view the arts , crafts and attraction on site, gift shop etc.

There are specialized offering which create potential photo opportunities e.g.: simulator plane etc. Many tours will be attracted for the souvenir/ traditional Irish crafts on display.





Directions from Crookstown: Head back to the R448 and take a right in the direction of Carlow (south). Take the first right after 1/2 a mile, signposted Ballytore. Journey down the hill past Glanbia, the Mary Leadbetter Museum is on your right.

Ballitore Library & Quaker Museum Journey to Quaker village of Ballytore and the Mary Leadbetter Museum: 30 minute stop.

The Ballitore Library and Quaker Museum is housed in the restored Meeting House of the Society of Friends in Ballitore County Kildare. Ballitore is a charming village founded by the Quakers in the 1700's. The village still retains a spirit of simplicity and modesty consistent with Quaker values. Due to the writings of Mary Leadbeater and her correspondence with such people as Mary Edgeworth and Edmund Burke, Ballitore is widely known. The Quakers from Yorkshire who founded Ballitore, transformed the valley into rich fertile farmlands, and developed the town as a Quaker Settlement. In fact, Ballitore is the only planned and permanent Quaker Settlement in Ireland.

Ballitore is the home to several historical buildings. The Museum, which is incorporated into the library contains a selection of artefacts and memorabilia of a mainly local nature. Items of Quaker interest include a wedding dress and bonnet



worn by Marian Richardson at Ballitore in 1853. In the entrance hall are the door and lintel stone from the original Shackleton home at Harden in Yorkshire which was built in 1660. Also in the entrance hall is a ledger dated 1807-1810 for the Shackleton mills at Lucan.

Take a left in the village of Ballytore, continue past The Meeting House, The Old Mill and Griesemount House onto the R448, and head in the direction of Carlow (south).Take the second left into the villages Timolin and Moone which run into each other.The a right turn in the village of Moone through the gates of Old Belan house. Continue down the hill past Moone Abbey (you are now on the Belan Avenue), over the humpback bridge, past the gates of Moone Abbey, whereupon you arrive at Moone High Cross on your right hand side.

Moon High Cross

In Moone, Co Kildare stands the second tallest high cross in Ireland. The shape of which is quite unique, and consists of three parts, the upper part and base were discovered in the graveyard of the abbey in 1835 and re-erected as a complete cross, but in 1893 the middle section of the shaft was discovered and the cross was finally reconstructed to its original size, now standing at 17.5 feet the cross has been erected inside the ruins of the medieval church. The theme of the cross is the help of God, how God came to their assistance in their hour of need,

Daniel in the lions pit, the three children in the fiery furnace and the miracle of the loaves and fishes amongst the scenes depicted. The monastery is believed to have been founded by St Palladius in the 5th century and dedicated to St Columcille in the 6th century, and the cross constructed from granite during the 10th Century



Belan House

Turn around and head back down the hill from The High Cross Inn to the humpback bridge, taking a right before the bridge to continue up Belan Avenue.

You will be passing the old Mill of Belan, its deer park, 3 different follies on the landscape when you will arrive at the old

hexagonal gate lodge of Belan, with a view of the great ruins of Belan's stables which once were attached to this great house, once the largest mansion in Ireland.

