



Floor Plan English

General Information

Admission to Museum is Free

Website:

www.museum.ie

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm.

Sunday 2pm - 5 pm.

Closed Mondays (including Bank Holidays).

Further Information

Dublin -

T: 01 677 7444 Fax: 01 677 7450

E: marketing@museum.ie

Turlough Park -

T: 094 903 1755 Fax: 094 903 1628

E: tpark@museum.ie

Cloakroom

Cloakroom facilities are available at all our Museum venues. There is no charge for this service.

Parking

Free parking at Collins Barracks and Turlough Park.

Museum Shops

Located in Kildare Street, Merrion Street, Collins Barracks and Turlough Park. The Museum Shops stock a comprehensive selection of books, gifts, children's interest, postcards, specially commissioned jewellery, ceramics and textiles. Open Museum hours.

Museum Cafés

Located in Kildare Street, Collins Barracks and Turlough Park. The Museum Cafés serves coffees, teas, pastries and a wide variety of sandwiches and delicious meals. Open Museum hours.

Access

Collins Barracks and Turlough Park are completely wheelchair accessible.

Kildare Street - Ground floor exhibitions, Museum gift shop, Museum Café and restrooms are wheelchair accessible.

Merrion Street - Ground floor exhibitions and toilet are accessible to wheelchairs.

Visitor Safety

Primary carers are responsible for the safety of children in their care while visiting the National Museum of Ireland. For further information consult our Child Protection Policy, available on our website www.museum.ie.

Education Resource Rooms

This is a resource for the public to further explore and respond to the Museum and its collections, and provides activity and research spaces, books and handling material. Please contact the Education and Outreach Departments.

Education and Outreach Programmes

Explore the Museum's collections through the Education and Outreach programme, which includes: Adult Gallery Talks, drop-in events, storytelling, lectures and activity sheets.

Booking Details

Dublin Booking Information.

For bookings or further information on events in Dublin, please contact the Education and Outreach Department.

T: 01 648 6453 Fax: 01 679 1025

E: education@museum.ie

Booking Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm

Turlough Park Booking Information.

For bookings or further information on events in Turlough Park, please contact the Education and Outreach Department.

T: 094 90 31751 Fax: 094 90 31498

E: educationtph@museum.ie

Booking Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 10am - 2p.m.

Calendar of Events

Our quarterly Calendar of Events can be downloaded from our 'What's On' page on www.museum.ie. Schools and groups wishing to visit should contact our Bookings Office.

Temporary Exhibitions

For information on current and forthcoming temporary exhibitions, please contact our Marketing Department.

T: 01 6486453

or 1890 687386, ext 453

E: marketing@museum.ie

www.museum.ie

Corporate Services

The Museum offers a range of exclusive spaces for meetings and private events. These areas vary in size and décor and can cater for 100 people for a private dinner to 200 for a drinks reception. please contact our Marketing Department for more information.

T: 01 6777 444 ext 428 for bookings.

E: events@museum.ie

www.museum.ie

museum

National Museum of Ireland

Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

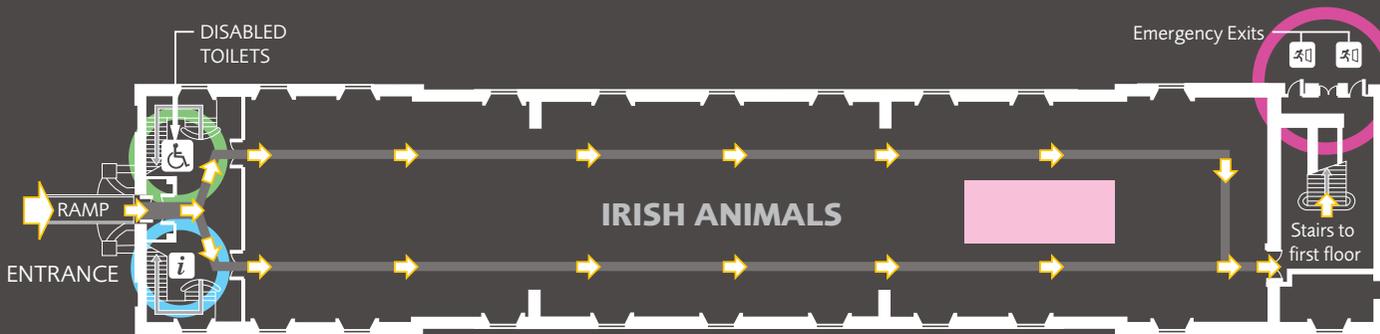
Natural History



FLOOR PLAN

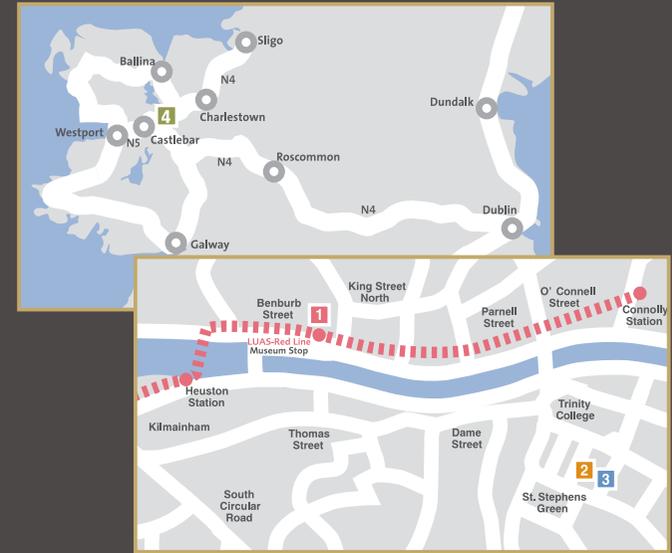


FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

- Reading Area
- Discovery Zone/ Education Area
- Toilets with baby changing facilities
- Emergency Exits
- Reception area



The National Museum of Ireland

- 1 Decorative Arts and History
Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7
- 2 Archaeology
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
- 3 Natural History
Merrion Street, Dublin 2
- 4 Country Life
Turlough Park, Castlebar, County Mayo





Exhibition Galleries

Ground Floor

Irish Fauna

This floor is devoted to the variety of Irish animals, starting with the impressive skeletons of the extinct giant Irish deer. These magnificent animals inhabited a landscape that was shared from time to time with the woolly mammoth, hyena and horse.

The cold climate of the last phase of the ice age put an end to these mammals and all that remains are their bones, found in caves or in sediments beneath our boglands.

When the climate warmed again Ireland was colonised by the animals that fill the rest of the gallery.

Irish mammals occupy the front half of the room. Family groups by the leading Irish taxidermy firm of Williams and Son are firm favourites and include badgers, foxes, pine martens and otters.

Ireland's ancient story is written in its rocks. Cases in the window spaces include fossils 500 million years old. Ancient oceans, deserts and coal swamps each have their stories preserved in stone. Minerals that are used to make the materials in our homes are here, along with gemstones and rocks of all ages.

The walls are lined with birds, some of which are now rare visitors or even extinct in Ireland. The golden eagle from Co. Mayo is from one

of the last areas to see these birds until a reintroduction programme commenced almost a century later.

Ireland is an island. Much of the gallery is dedicated to marine animals including our much admired sunfish and basking shark. The numerous groups of invertebrate animals are also well represented – jellyfish, crabs, starfish and shellfish.

River fish include sturgeon from a very different Liffey, before Dublin changed to the major city it is today. A record specimen of trout weighing 11.8 kilos was caught in 1894 at Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath and takes pride of place.

Please lift the protective covers on the cases at the back of the room to see the variety of Irish insects with guides on how to identify each species and tips on making a wildlife garden. Ireland has 16,000 species of insects, which reflects the diversity of these animals. Museum research on their distribution assists in the monitoring of our environment.

Record examples of crabs and lobsters complete the array of marine animals at the back of this floor. You should now use the grand stone staircase to reach the first floor. This was the original entrance hall of the Museum which was constructed as an extension to Leinster House.



1 First Floor

Mammals of the World

The main exhibition floor has everything from an aardvark to a zebra. These show the amazing variety of mammals inhabiting all corners of our planet from the Arctic polar bear to the Indian rhinoceros. All walks of life are represented from the hunters and the hunted of the African savannah to the pouch bearing marsupials of Australia.

The mammals on this floor are arranged by animal groups. First are the marsupials, including kangaroos and the extinct thylacine. There are mammals with scales (pangolins), spines (echidnas) and those that lay eggs (platypus).

Cases of dolphins are dwarfed by the skeletons of their relatives hanging from the roof. The fin whale is 20 metres long, suspended above the smaller skeleton of a humpback.

The museum boasts several species of rhinoceros, some now on the edge of extinction.

The giraffe was installed in 2003 as part of a continuing restoration programme. Note its close relative the okapi, a shy creature of the forest, not discovered until the 20th century.

The Barrington collection of birds along the north wall includes many which crashed into Irish lighthouses giving the first sample of migrations around our coasts.

The black colour of the large mammals is because taxidermists used oil to keep thick skins from cracking. The elephant is a case in point. The large tusk weighs 80 kilos, a reminder of the threat to these animals from the ivory trade.

Carnivores are next, from the tiger shot by a king to the polar bear shot by an Irish explorer, Leopold McClintock. Mammal teeth are a good guide to diet. Compare the sharp teeth of the carnivores to the gnawing teeth of the nearby rodents.

The last animals on your tour are primates - lemurs, monkeys and apes. Note the features we share with them, forward facing eyes and grasping hands - we are primates too.