

Ground Floor

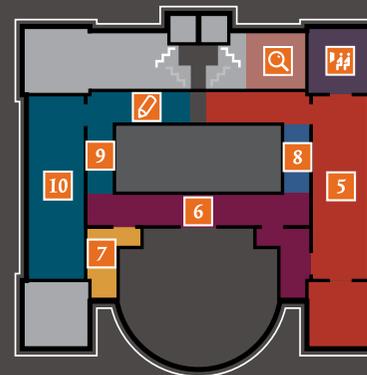
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|----------------|--|
| Museum Shop | 1 Pre-Historic Ireland |
| Museum Café | 2 Ór - Ireland's Gold |
| Toilets | 3 The Treasury |
| Administration | 4 Kingship & Sacrifice |
| Reception | 4a Ceramics & Glass from Ancient Cyprus |

Floor Plan

English

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



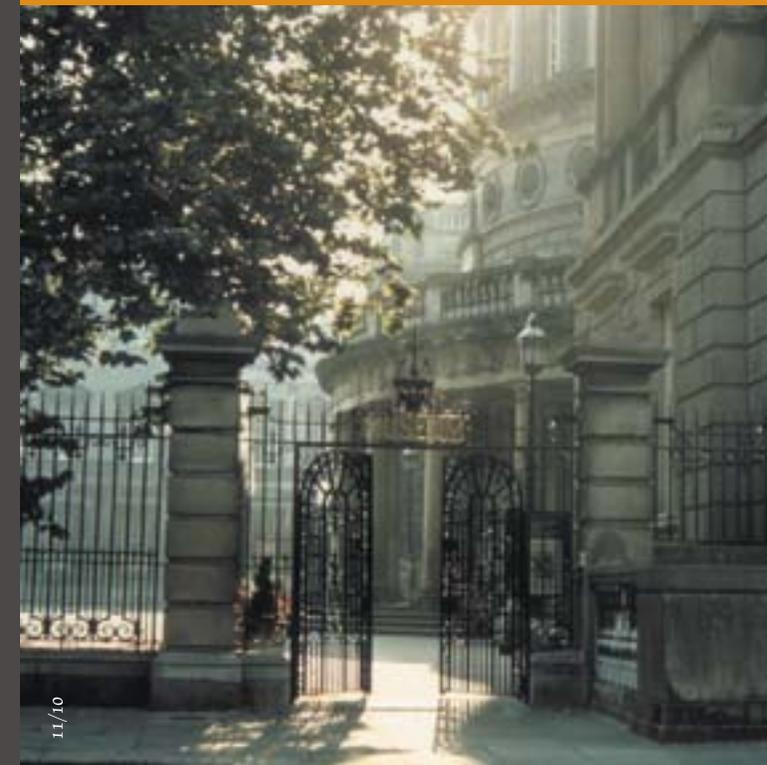
First Floor

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|-------------------------|--|
| Administration | 5 Viking Ireland |
| Lecture Theatre | 6 Medieval Ireland |
| Activity Cart | 7 Ancient Egypt |
| Education Resource Room | 8 Life & Death in the Roman World |
| Audio Visual Room | 9 Temporary Exhibition Space |
| | 10 Temporary Exhibition Space |

museum

Archaeology

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

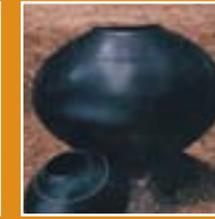


Welcome to the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology, at Kildare Street. On display, you will find artefacts dating from 7000BC, exhibited in seven galleries.

The archeological exhibitions trace the development of Irish civilisation from the arrival of the first people in the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age to Late Medieval Ireland. Separate exhibitions introduce visitors to the ancient civilisations of Egypt and Cyprus.

The National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street was officially opened in August, 1890. Designed by Thomas Newenham Deane and Thomas Manly Deane, the Museum building has been described as 'an accomplished exercise in Victorian Palladianism'. The marvellous domed rotunda or entrance hall is 19 metres high. The classical columns of Irish marble in the rotunda are mirrored in the colonnaded entrance.

The interior is richly decorated with motifs recalling the civilisations of Greece and Rome. The mosaic floors featuring Classical motifs were installed on the ground floor by Oppenheimer of Manchester and the majolica door surrounds were manufactured by Burmantoft of Leeds. The zodiac mosaic in the rotunda is particularly striking.



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.

Guided Tours

Available daily during Museum opening hours. Group tours and education programmes can be arranged through 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



Exhibition Galleries

1

Prehistoric Ireland

This exhibition traces the archeological riches of the Prehistoric period in Ireland - the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. The first section illustrates the life of the hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age, c.7000-3700BC. Artefacts include stone tools and weapons from Mesolithic sites.

Life in a farming settlement in the Neolithic, or New Stone Age c.3700-2500BC, is shown through displays featuring objects such as a saddle quern, which was used to grind corn, pins made from animal bones, pottery and shells. Passage tombs, such as Newgrange, are of a Neolithic date, and the exhibition features a reconstruction of a typical tomb. Ceremonial events and symbolism are also illustrated through ritual objects, the finest of which may be the carved mace-head from the passage tomb at Knowth, Co. Meath. The Bronze Age, c.2400-500BC was a time of great change and innovation because of the introduction of metalworking. The skill of the metalworkers can be seen in the

bronze tools, weapons and cauldrons on display.

The exhibition concludes with a reconstructed Iron Age burial from a bog in Co. Galway, thought to be a ritual sacrifice. Other finds preserved in bog and wetland environments may be seen in a display on the first floor landing, ranging from a wooden plough of Bronze Age date to a Late Medieval boot of wood and leather.

2

Ór - Ireland's Gold

This exhibition focuses on the National Museum's collection of Bronze Age gold objects, one of the greatest museum collections in Europe. Visitors can see how the skills of the goldsmiths developed from the sun discs and lunulae of the Early Bronze Age, c.2200-1700BC, to the torcs, collars, car-spools and lock rings of the Late Bronze Age, c.1200-600BC. Many of the objects on display were found in hoards, and were discovered during farming or turf cutting. Because many hoards were found in bogs it appears that the people of the Bronze Age regarded them as special places. A section of the exhibition explains the geological background of the gold used to produce the objects on display.

3

The Treasury

This exhibition traces the development of Irish art from the arrival of Celtic peoples to Ireland in the last centuries of the Prehistoric era to the beginning of the Medieval period c.1200AD. An audio-visual presentation lasting 16 minutes, provides an introduction to the Treasury, and may be viewed with a commentary in English, Irish, French or German.

The arrival of the Celts to Ireland coincided with knowledge of iron working, and the first section of the exhibition shows the skill of the Celtic metalworkers. This part of the exhibition has the important hoard of gold objects from Brougher, Co. Derry, which includes a miniature gold boat. The second section of the exhibition illustrates the art of the Early Middle Ages, the Golden Age of Irish Art. This was the period following the introduction of Christianity in the 5th century. Masterpieces on display include the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch, and the Clonmacnoise Crozier.

4

Kingship & Sacrifice

Following a discovery of two Iron Age bog bodies at Oldcroghan, Co. Offaly and Clonycavan, Co. Meath in 2003, a team of international specialists worked to examine these human remains. This exhibition gives an overview of the results of their analysis and, along with other bog bodies from the National Museum of Ireland collections, offers the public an opportunity to come 'face to face' with their ancient ancestors.

This exhibition also highlights a radical new theory based on the observation that the bog bodies were placed on significant boundaries that link them with sovereignty and kingship rituals during the Iron Age. Research also indicates that there is other related material connected with inauguration rituals of kings and that these rituals can be traced back into the Bronze Age.



4a

Ceramics & Glass from Ancient Cyprus

This exhibition focuses on Cypriot artefacts in the collection of the National Museum of Ireland, many of which have never been exhibited before. The collection has its origins in a number of 19th-century donations, and was expanded through some purchases in the early 20th century. Most of the pieces are ceramic and probably come from tombs uncovered in the 19th-century.

The artefacts range in date from the Bronze Age, approximately 2500 BC, to the late Roman period, about 300 AD, and are arranged chronologically. The exhibition also includes five clay figurines on loan from The Cyprus Museum, Nicosia. The variety of styles and decoration visible in the artefacts from each period illustrates the unique blend of cultural influences that characterises the archaeology of Cyprus.

5

Viking Ireland

This exhibition documents the Viking Age in Ireland from the first recorded Viking raid in 795AD to 1170AD.

The 1st section illustrates the Viking invasions with weapons and other objects found in the Viking graves at Islandbridge and Kilmainham, Dublin. The 2nd section highlights rural activities including farming, fishing, spinning and grinding corn. A slave chain, measuring 10 metres, and a human skull from Co. Roscommon, are reminders of the existence of slavery in Viking Ireland. The 3rd section features scale models of Viking Dublin and a typical house of the period. Trades practiced in Dublin included carpentry, blacksmithing, comb making and leatherworking. Commercial activity is illustrated by coins, scales and weights, as well as by rare imported materials, such as amber, silk and a walrus skull. The final section deals with the Church in the Viking Age, and includes the Cross of Cong, a masterpiece of art from the 12th century, and a plaster cast of the doorway of Cormac's Chapel, at Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

6

Medieval Ireland

This exhibition deals with life in Ireland from the English or Anglo-Norman invasion of the mid 12th century to the Reformation in the mid 16th century. The 1st section, entitled: "Power: Kings, Lords and Warriors," deals with the English colonisation of Ireland. Life in castle and manor is illustrated through a variety of objects. The 2nd section, entitled: "Work: Merchants, Farmers and Artisans," focuses on daily life in town and country. Tools and products of a range of craftsmen in the town are displayed beside farming tools and products of the country. The 3rd section, entitled: "Prayer: Bishops, Pilgrims & Parishioners," contains all of the principal reliquaries and pieces of art from the Late Middle Ages, including the Cathach of St. Columba, the Shrine of St. Brigid's Shoe and carved wooden statues from Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

7

Ancient Egypt

This exhibition introduces visitors to the complex civilisation of Egypt from the Predynastic period, c.5000BC to the Roman period c.395AD. The display presents artefacts that portray life, death and religious practices in Ancient Egypt. This exhibition features four mummies, three of which are encased in elaborately painted mummy cases. Jewellery, cosmetics and related articles reflect the Ancient Egyptians' love of personal adornment. The exhibition concludes with the conversion of Egypt to Christianity in the first centuries AD, an event that could be said to mark the end of the civilisation of Ancient Egypt.

8

Life & Death in the Roman World

This exhibition features objects that have been in storage in the National Museum of Ireland since the early 1920s. The objects were collected primarily in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, not just for public display but also to assist scholars in the study of classical art and architecture. The collection includes glass vessels, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, coins, gemstones and architectural fragments from places as geographically diverse as Egypt, Austria and England.

Introducing the exhibition is a display of Etruscan material followed by an exploration of the themes of 'Everyday Life'; 'Death, Burial and the Afterlife'; 'Religion'; 'Personal Adornment and Dress'; 'Entertainment'; and 'Imperial Power in the Roman world'. The exhibition concludes with the introduction of Christianity.

9

Temporary Exhibition

For information on current and forthcoming temporary exhibitions, please contact the Marketing Department on (01) 677 7444.

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