

Ard-Mhúsaem
na hÉireann
National Museum
of Ireland

English



Kildare Street
Map

Welcome to the National Museum of Ireland at Kildare Street

Located in an ornate neoclassical complex in Dublin's city centre, the Museum houses Ireland's Archaeology Collection. Explore our oldest artefacts, including a stunning trove of ancient gold and uncover the fascinating stories of our ancestors. Learn about the archaeology of the peoples who lived in Ireland in the past, including Prehistoric, Viking and early Christian.



The National Museum at Kildare Street opened originally as the Dublin Museum of Science and Art in 1890. Designed in a grand Victorian Palladian style, it's known for its striking Irish marble columns, domed Rotunda and mosaic floors. Here, Ireland's rich history meets stunning architecture, ready for you to explore.



The Museum plays a vital role in collecting, curating, preserving, and showcasing some of the world's finest collections related to Ireland's rich heritage. Our work extends beyond our galleries, engaging with diverse communities near and far, as well as with schools, families, researchers and international visitors.

We host events, workshops, and activities year-round that celebrate our Collections and culture. Whether exploring with an activity trail, attending talks, or participating in workshops, there is something for everyone. Check out our website for upcoming events or visit the Museum Reception for more information.



Kildare Street is one of four National Museum of Ireland locations in Dublin and Co. Mayo. The Museum contributes to the collective memory and identity of many people locally, nationally and internationally.

Kildare Street



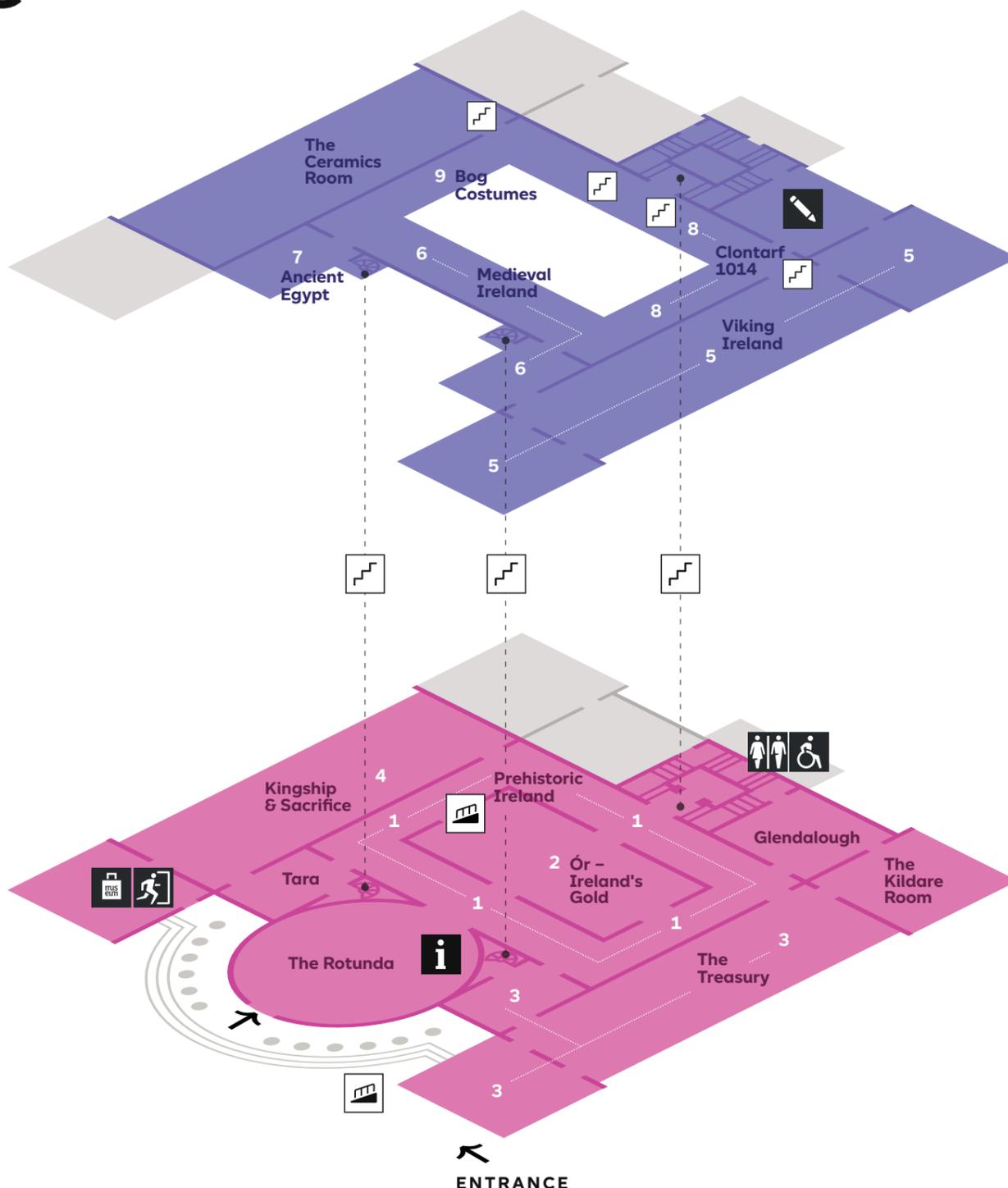
The Rotunda

A striking architectural feature, showcasing Neo-classical influences. Its grand domed structure, rising 20 metres high, is inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. Inside, classical marble columns, sourced from counties Cork, Kilkenny, Galway, Limerick and Armagh.



Mosaics

The historic mosaic floor of the Rotunda portrays the signs of the zodiac and was designed by Ludwig Oppenheimer Limited. These mosaics can be seen throughout the Museum building with motifs that recall the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome.



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Please note the first floor is accessible via stairs only.

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All ground floor exhibitions are accessible.

Facilities

- Reception/Information
- Learning Resource Room
- Accessible toilets
- Toilets & baby changing
- Museum shop
- Exit
- Ramp access
- Stairs

Museum Shop

Discover a range of products inspired by the Museum's collection, perfect for a unique gift or memento. Museum guidebooks are also available, offering in-depth information on our displays.

Museum Talks, Tours & Events

For information on upcoming talks, tours and events please ask at reception or scan the QR code below.



Prehistoric Ireland

AREA 1

Human settlement in Ireland from the stone tools of the first hunter-gatherers around 7000 BC, to the bronze weapons of the Late Bronze Age around 500 BC.



Knowth macehead
E70:50479

Ór - Ireland's Gold

AREA 2

Prehistoric goldwork ranging in date between 2200 BC and 500 BC.



Gold lunula
2010:246

The Treasury

AREA 3

The development of Irish art from the last centuries of the Prehistoric era to the Medieval period c.1200AD.



Ardagh chalice
1874:99



Corleck head
1998:72

Kingship & Sacrifice

AREA 4

The deposition of human sacrifices and other votive objects in bogs related to kingship rituals in the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

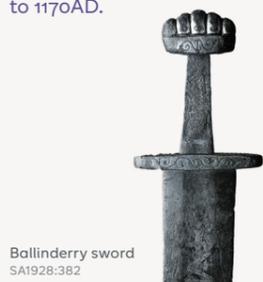


Ralaghan man
1930:69

Viking Ireland

AREA 5

The Viking Age in Ireland from the first recorded Viking raid in 795AD to 1170AD.



Ballinderry sword
SA1928:382

Medieval Ireland

AREA 6

Life in Ireland from the English or the Anglo-Norman invasions of the mid 12th century to the reformation in the mid 16th century.



Shrine of the Cathach
R2835

Crozier
R1561

Ancient Egypt

AREA 7

The complex civilisation of Egypt from the Predynastic period, c.5000BC to the Roman period c.395AD.



Kneeling wooden figure
1954:160

Wooden coffin/Sarcophagus
(A6I)1881:2228

Clontarf 1014

AREA 8

The best-known battle in Irish history but one of the least understood.



Iron axe with wooden handle
2013E213:2

Bog Costumes

AREA 9

Ancient clothing from Ireland's bogs.



Male costume
W1, W2, W3

Opening hours

Sunday – Monday: 13:00 – 17:00

Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00

Everyone is welcome and admission is free at all of our locations.

Follow us and find out more at [museum.ie](https://www.museum.ie)



Explore other National Museum of Ireland locations



Collins Barracks
Dublin, D07 XKV4

Collections include Decorative Arts, Design, Military History and stories of continuity and change across Irish society.



Turlough Park
Co. Mayo, F23 HY31

Home to the National Folklife Collection and stories from the remarkable everyday of Irish life.



As a charity, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help us preserve, protect, and share collections that celebrate Ireland's history, culture, and its place in the world. Scan the QR code to donate.