



Day Trips from Dublin

Brú Na Bóinne p158

Neolithic passage tombs that are a highlight of any visit to Ireland.

Glendalough p163

The remains of an early Christian monastic settlement nestled in a beautiful glacial valley.

Howth p168

Seaside village with terrific restaurants at the foot of a bulbous head with fine walks.

Enniskerry & Powerscourt Estate p170

A Palladian mansion with a stunning garden and even better views of the surrounding countryside.

Castletown House & Around p174

Ireland's largest Palladian home, built for the 18th century's richest man.

Dalkey p175

Compact village by the sea with a nice harbour and coastal walks.



TOP SIGHT BRÚ NA BÓINNE

The vast Neolithic necropolis known as Brú na Bóinne (the Boyne Palace) is one of the most extraordinary sites in Europe. A thousand years older than Stonehenge, it's a powerful testament to the mind-boggling achievements of prehistoric humankind.

The complex was built to house the remains of those who were at the top of the social heap and its tombs were the largest artificial structures in Ireland until the construction of the Anglo-Norman castles 4000 years later. The area consists of many different sites; the three principal ones are Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth.

Over the centuries the tombs decayed, were covered by grass and trees, and were plundered by everybody from Vikings to Victorian treasure hunters, whose carved initials can be seen on the great stones of Newgrange. The countryside around the tombs is home to countless other ancient tumuli (burial mounds) and standing stones.

Visitor Centre

The superb interpretive centre, whose spiral design echoes that of Newgrange, features an excellent series of interactive exhibits on all aspects of pre-Celtic history, including a full-scale replica of the burial chamber at Newgrange. There's a good film introducing the complex, a decent **café** (dishes €4.50-12; ☺ breakfast & lunch; 📖) and a bookshop.

Newgrange

A startling 80m in diameter and 13m high, Newgrange's white round stone walls, topped by a grass dome, look eerily futuristic. Underneath lies the finest Stone Age passage tomb in Ireland – one of the most remarkable prehistoric sites in Europe. Dating from around

DON'T MISS

- ➔ Newgrange
- ➔ Brú Na Bóinne Visitor Centre

PRACTICALITIES

- ➔ ☎041-988 0300
- ➔ www.heritageireland.ie
- ➔ Donore
- ➔ adult/child visitor centre €3/2, visitor centre & Newgrange €6/3, visitor centre & Knowth €5/3, all 3 sites €11/6
- ➔ ☀9am-6.30pm May-Sep, to 5pm Nov-Jan, 9.30am-5.30pm Feb-Apr & Oct