

WEXFORD

READY TO PEEL BACK THE LAYERS?

Try our suggested 7-day travel itinerary
for holidays in Wexford steeped in
history, fun and adventure

7-DAY GUIDE

**DISCOVER MORE
AT VISITWEXFORD.IE**



WELCOME TO YOUR 7-DAY SELF-GUIDED TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR EXPLORING WEXFORD













Explore all that Wexford has to offer - from food to adventure
to - heritage on this family friendly 7-day tour.

The times throughout the guide are just suggestions, stay as
long as you like at each location and venture off the beaten track
in between if you like. This is Wexford your way! Keep an eye
out for our insider tips from locals along the way on places to
eat, or things to see. There are also suggested detours to other
attractions if you have time.

We advise contacting attractions directly for large group
bookings as group access and bus parking will differ from the
information in this guide.

Please note: If you are travelling with people with visual,
hearing and/or mobility impairments, please contact venues
directly for access information. While a large number of the
venues listed will have systems in place, we can't confirm or
guarantee it in this guide.

The information in this guide was correct at the time of writing.

-  Time
-  Location
-  Parking
-  Website
-  Required Fitness Level
-  Food & Drink
-  History & Heritage
-  Sea & Coast
-  Farm & Countryside
-  Nature
-  Shopping
-  Entertainment
-  Local Tips

DAY 1

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Irish National Heritage Park



L 10.00am (stay approx 2 hours)

P Wexford town

P Free on-site parking

U irishheritage.ie

M Moderate

Start your time in Wexford by visiting the past. The Irish National Heritage Park will take you on a gentle woodland walk, surrounded by wildlife.

Dotted throughout the trees you'll see beautifully reconstructed buildings that take you from the first people to arrive on the island around 9000 years ago, up to the Celts, the Vikings and even a small monastery.

Book ahead and do the Viking Life Experience to try on clothes, make some Viking pennies and learn what life was like in Weissford 1000 years ago.

STOP 2

The Wilds Café & Lifestyle Shop



L 12.30am (stay approx 1 hour)

P Enniscorthy – 20 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U thewilds.ie

M Low

Just 20 minutes away, you'll find The Wilds - an award-winning café and lifestyle shop.

Here, you'll find welcoming staff, stunning décor and a gorgeous menu that proudly showcases local food producers and farmers, traditional dishes with a modern twist and something to suit all tastes. Vegan & coeliac options available.

Be sure to browse the store after a tasty meal to take home some beautiful homewares or locally produced food and drink.

DAY 1

WEXFORD

STOP 3

Enniscorthy Castle



L 1.45pm (stay approx 45 mins)

P Enniscorthy - 4 min walk

P Paid on street parking

U enniscorthycastle.ie

M Moderate

Leave the car at The Wilds Café and take the short walk down the hill to visit Enniscorthy Castle. This castle has more than a few claims to fame, the first being the birthplace of the term 'wallop'.

Your self-guided tour takes you all the way to the roof, currently the only castle in Ireland that offer access to the rooftop. Enjoy exhibits of Eileen Gray's acclaimed works and set pieces and props from the Oscar-nominated movie 'Brooklyn' which was partly filmed in the town along the way.

STOP 4

Ferns Heritage Village & Castle



L 3.00pm (stay approx 2 - 3 hours)

P Ferns – 15 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U fernsvillage.ie

M Low

Staying with medieval Ireland, we'll head back to the car for the short drive to Ferns Heritage Village - once the great capital of Leinster and home to ancient Celtic Royalty.

Book into the Medieval Experience before your visit and take the quiz to find out if you have what it takes to be a Celtic King and learn some of the quirkier medieval history!

Afterwards, you can visit Europe's smallest cathedral, take in the fantastic street art and climb to the top of Ferns Castle for some incredibly scenic views.



Local Tips

For your evening meal, how about Italian? Alba Restaurant in Enniscorthy is a firm favourite with locals. Expect locally sourced fresh meat cuts, fish & seafood with the finest Italian imports.

DAY 2

WEXFORD

STOP 1

New Ross Street Focus



L 10.00am (stay approx 1 hour)

P New Ross

P Paid parking at Quay Park

Y facebook.com/newrossstreetfocus/

M Moderate

Take a walking tour with Myles from New Ross Street Focus and discover the hidden history of this intriguing medieval town.

From hidden alleyways to American presidents and award-winning street art, there is so much to discover.

The town of New Ross will come to life as you hear the stories of the town's incredible and extensive history. Keep an eye out for the fact plaques along the way!

STOP 2

Dunbrody Famine Ship



L 11.30am (stay approx 1 hour)

P New Ross

P Leave car at Quay Park

Y dunbrody.com

M Moderate

No visit to New Ross is complete without climbing aboard this restored 18th-century passenger ship.

Called 'coffin ships' by the Irish peasantry, this interactive museum tells the story of the hundreds of people who emigrated during the the Great Famine with the hope of better lives abroad in the US and Canada.

Take a tour below the decks and hear the insightful stories of the journeys taken aboard this very ship from the costumed tour guides.

DAY 2

WEXFORD

STOP 3

The Cracked Teapot



L 1.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P New Ross - 5 min walk

P Leave car at Quay Park

Y visitwexford.ie for more info

M Low

A truly great spot for lunch is The Cracked Teapot, tucked away in one of the historical side streets of New Ross.

This warm and inviting tearoom is a popular spot with locals and with their reputation, it's no surprise. Chef Tina specialises in delicious vegan and vegetarian dishes and proudly features local producers on the menu.

Top tip, don't skip dessert! The fresh bakes are not to be missed.

STOP 4

Full & Plenty Farm Shop



L 2.30pm (stay approx 20 mins)

P New Ross - 2 min drive

P Free on-site parking

Y fullandplenty.ie

M Low

After collecting the car, make a quick pit stop at the Full & Plenty Farm Shop and grab a cup of Moyee Coffee and some snacks for the road.

This award-winning farm shop is a great place to pick up a few souvenirs and if you're self-catering, you can pick up plenty of delicious locally produced groceries, from farmhouse milk to freshly baked sourdough bread.

The shelves are packed with fresh organic produce and delicious food and drink products from Wexford producers.



Did you know?

Did you know that Sparrows are not native to America? They also arrived in the US along with migrants from Ireland in the early 1800s.



Fun Fact

The roads leading to the quay here were once plagued by highwaymen - the most notorious being Freney the Robber and his horse Beefsteaks. He ended up going straight and took a job with Revenue.

DAY 2

WEXFORD

STOP 5

The Kennedy Homestead



L 3.00pm (stay approx 45 mins)

P New Ross - 10 min drive

P Free on-site parking

📍 dunbrody.com

🌿 Low

Discover more about the story of John F. Kennedy's family with a visit to his ancestral home at the Kennedy Homestead.

This tiny farmhouse has grown into a modern farm, but is still home to the same family. They have maintained the original house, including the adapted car seat that US President JFK used when he came for tea!

This experience provides a fascinating insight into America's first family and their undying connection to Ireland.

STOP 6

Slieve Coillte



L 4.00pm (stay is optional)

P New Ross - 12 min drive

P Free on-site parking

📍 visitnewross.ie

🌿 Moderate

Take a short detour to the summit of Slieve Coillte where you can drive to the very top, so it is accessible to everyone. From the summit, the views are absolutely breathtaking and on a clear day, you can see all the way to up to the Dublin Mountains and across to Tipperary.

You'll also have magnificent coastal views of Hook Lighthouse and the Saltee Islands in the distance. Just below you is the longest bridge in Ireland - the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge - which crosses the Waterford Estuary of the River Barrow.

DAY 2

WEXFORD

STOP 7

JFK Memorial Park & Arboretum



L 5.00pm (stay is optional)

P New Ross

P Free on-site parking

📍 visitnewross.ie

🌿 Moderate

On the slopes of Slieve Coillte is the JFK Memorial Park & Arboretum - a beautiful parkland offering stunning views of the coastline as far as Waterford.

A tree from every country in the world is planted here, so this is not a normal woodland walk! Words cannot describe the peaceful atmosphere, coupled with the breathtaking beauty of the place in high season when the flowering rhododendrons are in full bloom.

Fun Fact



The little village of Campile is only 5km from the JFK Arboretum. This tiny village's creamery was bombed in WW2. The jury is still out on why, but arguments flow from a lost pilot low on fuel, a warning shot to the Irish government or as a moral damaging exercise as the butter produced here went to soldiers fighting on the front line!

If you have time



Campile is home to the best 99 in Ireland as voted by listeners of Today FM. Drop into Hayes Daybreak and try one for yourself. They even have a sundae named "The Bomb."

Did you know?



This entire area was once forested, stretching all the way to the Wicklow Mountains. Legend has it that the mythical warrior Fionn Mac Cumhaill used to hunt for deer here after being awarded lands in North Wexford by the Celtic High King Cormac Mac Airt.



Local Tips

Enjoy an evening meal at Aldridge Lodge but be sure to book ahead, their waiting list can be months long! No room at the inn? Why not try the new Strand Bar overlooking the golden sands of Duncannon Strand.



Fun Fact

Did you know there is reputed to be €4 million worth of Spanish gold still hiding somewhere under Duncannon Strand!

DAY 3

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Waterford Estuary Tours



L 10.00am (tour approx 2 hours)

P Ballyhack

P Free on-site parking

Y visitwexford.ie for more info

W Low

This morning takes you to the fishing village of Ballyhack to meet skippers Bob and Walter.

You will be touring the Hook Peninsula by water as you sail out to sea passing by Duncannon Fort, Loftus Hall and the iconic Hook Lighthouse along the way.

You'll hear plenty of stories, including the tale of Dollar Bay and the pirate treasure still believed to be buried under the golden sands of the bay.

STOP 2

Kilmokea Country Manor & Gardens



L 12.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Campile - 15 min drive

P Free on-site parking

Y kilmokea.com

W Low

Our next stop embraces everything dry land has to offer. The gardens at Kilmokea Country Manor create a wonderfully relaxing walk for adults and the surprises hidden amongst the trees make it great fun for younger visitors.

The gardens are packed full of unusual plants like towering banana trees. The wild garden contains everything from dragons to a Wild West outpost, and the kitchen gardens grow lots of delicious fresh vegetables for use in their Conservatory Café.

DAY 3

WEXFORD

STOP 3

The Pink Teacup Café



L 1.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Kilmokea Country Manor

P Free on-site parking

Y kilmokea.com

W Low

Light lunches are served here from 12 noon to 3pm. The organic delights have become a favourite of many regular garden visitors.

Enjoy homemade soups of mushroom & parsley, courgette & brie, carrot & mint or Mediterranean roast tomato served with Kilmokea home-baked brown bread filled with cranberries, herbs, sundried tomatoes or cheese. Wash the tasty delicacies down with a pot of tea and enjoy the views of the gardens from the conservatory.

STOP 4

Hook Lighthouse



L 2.30pm (stay approx 1.5 hours)

P Hook Head - 30 min drive

P Free on-site parking

Y hookheritage.ie

W Moderate

Heading down the Hook Peninsula towards Hook Lighthouse, there are plenty of interesting detours you can take like Slade Castle and Dollar Bay.

You'll spot Loftus Hall looming along the Hook Peninsula - Ireland's most haunted house. Your stop sits right at the end of the peninsula - Hook Lighthouse.

A World Heritage Site and one of the region's most popular attractions, this place will blow your mind - even if it's not windy that day! Your tour takes you from the medieval coal stores at the tower's base all the way to the viewing platform on the top.



Fun Fact

The estuary may look quiet today but once this area was busier than the M50 on a Bank Holiday Friday and was plagued with river pirates who wouldn't think twice about chucking you into the water & making off with your boat!



Local Tips

Take the super quick detour to Slade Harbour for a gorgeous photo opportunity of a tiny medieval harbour and castle, once home to a Norman merchant family.

DAY 3

WEXFORD

STOP 5

Tintern Abbey



L 4.00pm (tour approx 2 hours)

P 25 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U colcloughwalledgarden.com

M Moderate

Leaving the Hook behind, stop at the stunning Tintern Abbey. Built by a handsome knight in shining armour for his love, it is known as 'Tintern De Voto' or 'Tintern of the Vow'.

It sits in a commanding spot overlooking the sea, but the real hidden gem here is found by following a winding path through the trees - the beautiful woodland walking trails.

Tintern Abbey became a private home to the Colclough family and here, you will find their walled gardens. The gardens are filled with fruit and vegetables and a bounty of floral displays true to the original garden plans. You'll even find a 200-year-old pear tree that's still producing fruit.

Fun Fact



The first custodians of Hook lighthouse were a group of monks that lived in a nearby. These monks, who are thought to have aided in its construction, warned sailors about the dangers of the Hook peninsula by lighting beacons of fire.

If you have time



Take a stop at The Vine Cottage and Bar and enjoy a drink overlooking the waters.

Did you know?



The area is called Saltmills because of the Iron Age Salt Mills that once stood here. When you see how far the water recedes at low tide, it makes perfect sense!

Fun Fact



Courtown became a holiday destination when a railway line from Dublin to Gorey was added in 1863, which made it one of the oldest resort destinations in Ireland.

DAY 4

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Seal Rescue Ireland



L 10.00am (stay approx 2 hours)

P Courtown

P Free on-site parking

U sealrescueireland.org

M Moderate

Leaving the history behind us, today we move to the north of the county to Courtown to visit Seal Rescue Ireland.

The only centre of its kind in the Ireland, it is a hub of marine biology with students coming from every corner of the world to work here and contribute to their conservation efforts..

When you visit, you can spend a morning learning all about the seals, how they end up here, how they are rehabilitated and best of all, feeding time. Get the opportunity to feed the seals in their care, just be sure the crafty heron doesn't steal too many!

STOP 2

Pirates Cove



L 12.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Courtown - 10 min walk

P Free on-site parking

U piratescove.ie

M Moderate

Staying in Courtown, pay a visit to Pirates Cove - an indoor leisure centre. It is home to a sprawling mini golf course that takes you through waterfalls, aboard a pirate ship and into hidden caves.

It is fun for all the family and with a bowling alley, kids soft play area, zorbing and even more, you just might decide to spend the whole day here!



Local Tips

Enjoy dinner at Cistin Eile in Wexford Town, relaxed and casual but a well known secret amongst the Opera crowd!

DAY 4

WEXFORD

STOP 3

The Kitchen at Gorey



- L** 1pm (stay approx 1 hour)
- P** Gorey – 10 min drive
- P** Paid parking options
- 🖱** visitwexford.ie for more info
- 🏠** Low

Head into Gorey and find The Kitchen for a tasty lunch.

Their wood-fired pizzas are a popular choice with the locals as well as visitors and they do a great selection of family meal deals that doesn't sacrifice on quality.

The extensive menu features the very best of local ingredients, making the tastiest and freshest dishes.

STOP 4

Explore Gorey



- L** 2.00pm (approx 3 - 4 hours)
- P** Gorey
- P** Paid parking options
- 🖱** lovegorey.ie and gallivanting.ie
- 🏠** Moderate

Time to explore the town. Book a walking tour at the Tourist Office with Lorraine from Gallivanting.ie and discover just how gory Gorey's history is!

Head down 'Boutique Boulevard' to visit some of the many award-winning clothing boutiques and art galleries, and stop for a drink in French's Pub afterwards. Opened in 1775, it is the oldest Pub in Wexford and has changed very little in all that time.

DAY 5

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Johnstown Castle



- L** 10.00am (stay approx 4 - 5 hours)
- P** Johnstown
- P** Free on-site parking
- 🖱** johnstowncastle.ie
- 🏠** Low

A stunning castle and sitting on acres of beautiful garden grounds, you can easily spend a day exploring this place. Start off with the agricultural museum and after a stop for lunch in the café, take a tour of the castle itself.

Afterwards, take some time to explore the gardens. The meandering walk takes you by the ruins of the original castle that was built here 800 years ago. Make sure you pick up some peacock feed at the visitor centre to feed the amazing peacocks patrolling the grounds.

STOP 2

Explore Wexford Town



- L** 2.00pm (stay approx 2 - 3 hours)
- P** Wexford Town – 10 min drive
- P** Paid parking options
- 🖱** visitwexford.ie
- 🏠** Moderate

Before dinner, get to know Wexford town a little more by taking an evening walking tour. You may be surprised by the hidden history of this Viking town with links to the US Navy, the Archbishop of Canterbury and even Zorro!

Afterwards, choose from many of the fantastic restaurants that the wonderful town of Wexford has to offer. Perhaps enjoy dinner at La Côte, an award-winning restaurant right on the quay which serves seafood dishes with the freshest catches from nearby Kilmore Quay.

DAY 6

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Saltee Islands



L 10.00am (stay approx 4 hours)

P Kilmore Quay Harbour

P Parking at Kilmore Quay

W salteeferry.com

M Moderate

Today's travels take us back out onto the water. Head down to the fishing village of Kilmore Quay and you'll meet Declan Bates who will take you on a tour of the area known as the graveyard of a thousand ships! But don't worry, you're in safe hands. The name comes from the pirate and buccaneers that haunted this coastline for hundreds of years.

Sail out to the Saltee Islands and along the way, you'll hear the wonderful tale of the uninhabited island's own monarch. The island is home to an array of wildlife, including puffins who inhabit the islands from April to mid-August each year.

STOP 2

Kilmore Quay



L 2.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Kilmore Quay

P Free & paid parking

W thelittlesaltee.com

M Low

Back on solid ground, you're bound to be hungry from your day of exploring islands. Make a stop at The Little Saltee Restaurant and Takeaway.

Renowned along the east coast of Ireland, it is considered to be one of the top chippers in the country and with fish this fresh and tasty, it is no wonder!

Be sure to try a rissole, a Wexford delicacy. They consist of a scrumptious blend of potatoes, breadcrumbs and herbs which is then fried.

DAY 6

WEXFORD

STOP 3

Tacumshane Windmill



L 3.00pm (stay approx 30 mins)

P Tacumshane – 20 min drive

P Free parking at Meylers Millhouse

W meylersmillhouse.com

M Low

Just 20 minutes away is Meyler's Millhouse and this cute little pub has something rather special; a fully functioning windmill.

Built in the mid-1800s, this perfectly miniature windmill was once one of many that dotted the coasts and hills of Wexford but sadly, this is the only one remaining. Just ask at the bar for the key and explore the workings inside. Be sure to check out the revolving roof!

STOP 4

Our Lady's Island



L 4.00pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Our Lady's Island – 7 min drive

P Free on-site parking

W ourladysisland.ie

M Low

Finish the day with a gentle stroll at Our Lady's Island. This spectacular place has the most magical atmosphere, a pilgrimage site for centuries and prior to that, it was a sun temple for a group of female druids.

Even today, it retains a sense of peacefulness rarely found in our busy world. After your stroll, grab an ice-cream in the local shop to unwind and watch the sun set over the lake.



Local Tips

On your way home, make a quick stop at Cushens Pub. Now in ownership of the 3rd generation of Cushens, this spot is cosy, friendly and the food while simple is tasty, hearty country faire. Be sure to try the pork ribs!



Local Tips

For dinner, try the Lobster Pot; quirky, quaint and an institution in Wexford.

DAY 7

WEXFORD

DAY 7

WEXFORD

STOP 1

Regan Organic Farm



L 10.00am (stay approx 1.5 - 2 hours)

P Enniscorthy

P Free on-site parking

U reganorganicfarm.ie

M Moderate

Your final day takes you away from the coast and into the rich agricultural fields of Wexford and your first stop is at Regan Organic Farm.

Supplying poultry and eggs to many of Ireland's top hotels and cookery schools, your tour takes you out across the fields to see what free range really means. Pigs, hens, turkeys and alpacas all roam freely in large enclosures with some of the best views of the mountains in the area.

STOP 2

The Village at Wheelocks



L 12.00pm (stay approx 2 hours)

P Enniscorthy - 15 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U thevillageatwheelocks.ie

M Low

You cannot explore Wexford's food without sampling the county's famous strawberries. And where better to do so than at one of the oldest berry farms in the county!

Wheelocks is a convenient place for lunch too. You'll find the food is farmhouse faire with an emphasis on local produce.

Afterwards, spend a while picking strawberries to take home and learn a little about the different strains of berries. Check out the farm animals on the short woodland walk with a coffee in hand before heading to the next stop.

STOP 3

Macamore Buffalo Farm



L 3.30pm (stay approx 1 hour)

P Ballygarrett - 25 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U macamorebuffalo.ie

M Moderate

Your next foodie experience is a visit to Macamore Buffalo Farm. Here, Chinese water buffalo enjoy the muddy fields of Ballygarrett.

Farmer Liam switched from sheep and never looked back, with buffalo meat proving to be leaner, healthier and extremely popular. On a tour of the farm, you'll learn all about its benefits while also getting up close with some of these gentle giants.

STOP 4

Gallivanting.ie



L 5.00pm (stay approx 2.5 hours)

P Courtown - 18 min drive

P Free on-site parking

U gallivanting.ie

M Moderate

Try your hand at some foraging as you explore Courtown Woodlands with your tour guide Lorraine from Gallivanting.ie.

Discover the abundance of food growing on the forest floor, from wild garlic to hawthorn berries, along with which commonly found leaves are tasty and which ones you can use to make homemade soaps.

You'll end your trip with a wealth of knowledge on foraging!

? Did you know?

Wexford produces a light and sweet barley due to it's added hours of sunshine. Wexford's barley is used primarily in the drinks industry, so those golden fields you pass will one day end up as stout, beer or whiskey!

🏠 Local Tips

Enjoy dinner with an award winning steak at the Ashdown Park Hotel. Winner of numerous food awards, this hotel raise their own prime beef cows and grow all their own vegetables and salads.