Visit Downpatrick
The Home of Saint Patrick
The ancient medieval town of Downpatrick offers visitors the unique history of Saint Patrick, a wealth of visitor attractions, superb hospitality offerings and some of County Down’s most beautiful scenery.

Located just 40 minutes from Belfast and 2 hours north of Dublin, Downpatrick is renowned as a must-see destination for any trip to Ireland. From fabulous stone circles to our medieval Down Cathedral, award-winning Museum or the most famous Irish export of all – Saint Patrick – the town provides an exciting range of activities and places to relax and stay.

Don’t forget to pay your respects at the National Grave of Ireland’s Patron Saint before visiting The Saint Patrick Centre to discover his story, and seeing the 10th-century Downpatrick High Cross in stunning surroundings in Down County Museum on the Mall. Whilst in Saint Patrick’s Country also visit the first church in Ireland at Saul, founded by Patrick in 432AD and where he died on the 17th March. Then drop in to visit Saint Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church on St Patrick’s Avenue to see the wonderful mosaics which depict the only shrine to Saint Patrick in Ireland.

The story of Ireland starts here!

For more information:
Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre
T: +44 (0) 28 4461 2233
VisitDownpatrick

All aboard for the Magic of Steam!

Experience train travel the way it used to be, on Ireland’s only full size heritage railway, running from Downpatrick’s town centre through the drumlin countryside to the historic Inch Abbey.

For more information:
• St Patrick’s Day
• May Bank Holidays
• Easter Eggspress
• Summer weekends
• Halloween Spooktacular
• Santa’s Lapland Express
• New Year diesel day

You can also explore our museum, carriage collection, stations, signal cabin and model railway.

For more information:
W: www.downrail.co.uk
@downrail
@downrail

All aboard for the Magic of Steam!
Explore the ancient paths

Unlock the story of Saint Patrick walking the scenic Lecale Way

Offering fascinating clifftop and hill walks local man Duane Fitzsimons opens the folklore and stories of the area. Get a true flavour of the area with a lunch after. If you fancy a shorter walk, tours are available in Ardglass, Downpatrick, Strangford and Portaferry.

Tours run throughout the year and can also be arranged by request.

For more information:
T: +44 (0) 7835441933
W: www.lecalepeninsula.com
E: lecalepeninsula@live.com

Discover
Down Cathedral

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, where the mortal remains of Saint Patrick lie buried. As well as being a major visitor attraction it is a place of pilgrimage and prayer for all people.

Down Cathedral was built in the 12th Century and is the medieval Cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of Down. It stands on Cathedral Hill beside the National Grave of the Patron Saint of Ireland and is the episcopal seat (Cathedra) for the Church of Ireland Bishop of the Diocese of Down.

The Cathedral is a stunning piece of medieval architecture, restored in the Georgian era, and has fabulous German stained glass as well as one of the most famous organs in Ireland. It hosts major festivals and services for the Diocese, the highlight being the annual St Patrick’s Day celebrations on 17 March. The Cathedral is also home to a small congregation who worship here Sunday by Sunday.

The Cathedral is open every day for daily prayer and because of this unique situation and historic association with Saint Patrick, it serves as a focal point for Christians of all denominations. Tours are available.

Admission:
£3 suggested voluntary contribution

Opening hours:
Monday to Saturday 9.30am – 4pm
Sunday 1pm – 4pm

For more information:
T: 028 4461 4922
Investigate the Saint Patrick Centre

The Saint Patrick Centre is the only permanent exhibition in the world which tells the story of Ireland’s patron saint.

An IMAX cinema, bold graphics, sculpture, combined with video and audio techniques allow visitors to explore Patrick’s life and the major impact of Irish missionaries in Dark Age Europe – a legacy which remains to this day.

Facilities at the Centre include:
• Interpretative Exhibition
• Art Gallery
• Restaurant
• Terraced Gardens
• Craft and Gift Shop
• Visitor Information Centre
• Conference Facilities
• 180° Audio Visual Flight Around Ireland

Opening hours:
Monday-Saturday
9am – 5pm
Sunday during July and August
1pm – 5pm

Price List
Adults £5.75
Children £3.50
Concession £4.50
Family (2 adults and 2 children) £14.00
Auditorium only £3.50

For more information:
T: 028 4401 9000
W: www.saintpatrickcentre.com

Sensational Down County Museum

A visit to Down County Museum brings 9,000 years of history to life for visitors of all ages. The Museum is located in the historic buildings of the late 18th century County Gaol of Down.

Our permanent exhibition, ‘Down Through Time’, tells the story of the County from the arrival of the first people 9,000 years ago to the celebration of the new millennium in 2000.

A new extension houses the 10th-century Downpatrick High Cross, a farming and maritime gallery, and the story of the gaol and its prisoners, many of whom were transported to Australia.

Opening hours:
Monday – Saturday
10am – 4.30pm
Sunday
1.30pm – 5pm

For more information:
T: 028 4461 5218
W: www.downcountymuseum.com

Down County Museum
Experience Down Arts Centre

Located in the heart of Downpatrick, Down Arts Centre is the operational base for the arts in Downpatrick and the surrounding area.

Part of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Down Arts Centre produces a busy programme of events all year round, including exhibitions, live theatre and music events with a wide range of classes and workshops for all ages. Down Arts Centre programmes and delivers the annual Newcastle Summer Season entertainment programme.

Opening hours:
Monday and Wednesday - Friday 9.30am - 5pm
Tuesday 12pm - 8pm
Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm

For more information:
T: 028 4461 0747
W: www.downartscentre.com
E: downartscentre@nmandd.org

Heritage Gallery

Holdings include Ordnance Survey Parish memoirs compiled in the 1830s and a selection of specialised and antiquarian books for family history research.

These include street directories, Griffith’s Valuation, Gravestone inscriptions, Ireland’s Memorial Records and Grand Jury Records of the County administration prior to 1898.

The Gallery also holds a selection of County Down journals, maps, newspapers, photographs and postcards, and online resources from www.librariesni.org.uk, including: Documenting Ireland: Parliament People and Migration (DIPPAM) - online virtual archives of documents and sources relating to the history of Ireland and its migration experience from the 18th-late 20th centuries.

Visits to the Heritage Gallery are welcomed from groups, societies and schools. Please contact us to make arrangements for a tour, talk or family history workshop. Events and exhibitions take place in the Gallery throughout the year. Details of forthcoming events may be found on the Downpatrick Library and Local Studies Downpatrick pages on www.librariesni.org.uk.

Opening hours:
Monday and Wednesday - Friday 9.30am - 5pm
Tuesday 12pm - 8pm
Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm

For more information:
Downpatrick Library,
Market Street, Downpatrick BT30 6LZ
T: 028 4433 3980 /028 4461 2895
E: localstudies.down@librariesni.org.uk
W: www.librariesni.org.uk
Denvir’s of Downpatrick

Dining • Accommodation • Functions

The oldest coaching inn in Ireland to continually operate as such, Denvir’s remains very much part of the local community.

It is well worth a visit to check out the original features such as the large open fireplaces, but also to hear some of the history which staff will be only too willing to relate to you. A great place to relax, dine, and socialise!

For more information:
Denvir’s of Downpatrick
14-16 English Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AB
T: 028 4461 2012
W: www.denvirs.com
E: info@denvirs.com

Whitewater Brewery
Tours and Tap House

Our adventures started flowing on the banks of the Whitewater in 1996 – upriver in the Mountains of Mourne, on our 5th generation family farm. We developed our first brew in my great grandfather’s shed.

Over the years we experimented and produced many different beers. Some of them were first of their kind in Ireland, some were last of their kind, and some still remain with us to this day.

With hard work and perseverance our beer, born in a barn by the river, was really flowing – until eventually we reached a point where we needed a ‘bigger shed’!

Join us for a look around our brewery, see how we make some of our award-winning brews, then head back to the new tap house where you can try some ales and hear some tales!

Tours cost £12 per person plus booking fee and lasts for 60 minutes (booking essential).

For more information:
Whitewater Brewing Company
Lakeside Brae, Clarkhill Road
Castlewellan, Co Down
T: 028 4377 8900
E: brewery.whitewater@gmail.com
Downpatrick Racecourse

Dating back to 1685, Downpatrick Racecourse is the oldest racecourse in Ireland. It has long been a hub of local life and attracts visitors from far and wide for great sport, entertainment, and fun.

We host 10 fixtures each year, with our feature being the Ulster National in March. We race over jumps and also host evening racing in the warmer months. The racecourse is set in the idyllic countryside of County Down and makes for a brilliant day out whether you are a racing fan or new to the sport. Our top-class facilities and warm welcome are renowned across Ireland and have won us prestigious awards in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Just one mile from the historic town of Downpatrick, a race meeting at Downpatrick Racecourse is the perfect way to experience local life and enjoy an exciting sport at which the Irish are undoubtedly the best in the world.

Throughout the season we host various themed racedays, including a Family Day in July and Ladies Day in August. A two-day Festival is our June highlight.

Downpatrick Racecourse’s modern facilities can be enjoyed by everyone from large groups to small parties and individuals. Our superb hospitality suite seats 400 and private boxes can also be booked for groups of 10 people or more, allowing a special, bespoke experience. Beyond this, a wide range of public bars and function rooms can cater for any event or function you may be thinking of holding.

As one of only two racecourses in Northern Ireland, we are proud to host the great sport of horse racing and at the same time contribute to the social and cultural life of Downpatrick and the surrounding area. Feel free to contact our friendly staff should you have any questions or enquiries. We will hope to see you at the track soon!

For more information:
W: www.downpatrickracecourse.co.uk
T: 028 44 612054

St Patrick’s Golf Club

St Patrick’s Golf Club, Downpatrick (formerly Downpatrick Golf Club) had its official beginning in 1929 and is well known for extending a warm welcome to its visitors who come from near and far.

This parkland course measures 6,120 yards, and with tight tree lined fairways, fast and true greens and well-placed bunkers, provides a serious test of shot making. Holes of note are the difficult first, the par four seventh with views from the Isle of Man to Slemish Mountain in Antrim and the par three eleventh, one of the most challenging par threes in Northern Ireland.

In the Clubhouse we have a fully stocked Pro-shop and to help you unwind after your round, we have an excellent restaurant and bar with numerous beverages - including 'the black stuff' - for you to enjoy.

Check out the links below to see what the Club and County Down has to offer. We look forward to offering you a warm welcome, and we promise you won’t be disappointed!

For more information:
St Patrick’s Golf Club
Downpatrick
43 Saul Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6PA
W: www.stpatricksgolfclub.com
T: 028 4461 5947
Saul and Slieve Patrick

Saul Church was built in 1932 to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of Saint Patrick’s arrival here in 432AD.

The original church was a timber barn or ‘sabhall’ given to Patrick by the local ruler Dichu, and which gave its name to the place where Patrick lived as a missionary and died in 461 or 493. Here you can see in the ancient graveyard a tiny building constructed in the late 16th century in the ruins of a medieval abbey, which was known as Saint Patrick’s house!

Overlooking Saul is the huge statue of Saint Patrick, carved from Mourne granite, and erected on the hill known as Slieve Patrick in 1938. Around the statue are bronze reliefs showing Patrick lighting his fire at Tara, being met by Dichu at Saul, and on his deathbed being given the last rites by Saint Tassach, from nearby Raholp. From the top of the hill there are amazing views of the Mourne Mountains, Slieve Croob, Strangford Lough, and even Scotland and the Isle of Man on a clear day! Near Slieve Patrick is the Catholic Church of Saul, where part of an ancient altar associated with Saint Patrick can be seen.

Wesley Memorial in the Grove

John Wesley (1703-1791) was the founder of the branch of the Christian church known as Methodism.

The Methodist Church now numbers hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. His aim was to change society by bringing warmth and personal conviction to the practice of Christianity. During his long life he travelled ceaselessly on horseback to proclaim the love of God for all people. He visited Ireland on 22 occasions and came to Downpatrick four times, in 1778, 1785, 1787, and 1789, drawing large crowds to hear him preaching at the Grove.

The Wesley Memorial is in the form of a Mourne granite boulder, marking the spot where John Wesley preached. In his Journal for 13 June 1778, he wrote: ‘I took my stand in the middle of the Grove, the people standing before me on the gradually rising ground, which formed a beautiful theatre.’ He based one of his Downpatrick sermons on the text ‘Acquaint thyself now with Him, and be at peace’. Various inscriptions relating to Wesley may be seen inserted in the ground around the boulder.
Authentic Food trail of County Down

We travel off the beaten track to meet local Producers – hear their story and sample award winning food and drink.

Meet the local oyster farmer and visit his beds where you can pick your own oysters and afterwards enjoy a feast in the Oyster Shac. This is a truly authentic experience!

You will meet other local producers and taste amazing local food from soda bread to craft gin, from raw milk cheese to award winning chocolate. Lunch is included in the tour. Bring a healthy appetite!

**Duration:**
Full and half day options are available

**Cost:**
£70 per person

**Interested in St Patrick?**
We work closely with local guide, Duane Fitzsimons and we can incorporate the history of Saint Patrick into the day.

Visit the site of the first church founded by Saint Patrick in Ireland at Saul and his resting place at Down Cathedral.

**For more information:**
T: +44 (0) 7711 484 850
W: www.nifoodtours.com
E: info@nifoodtours.com

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**Contact Details**

**Downpatrick Accommodation**

1. **Denvir’s Coaching Inn**  
   Licenced Guest House  
   14-16 English Street BT30 6AB  
   T: 028 4461 2012

2. **The Mill at Ballydugan**  
   Licenced Guest House  
   Drumcullen Road BT30 8HZ  
   T: 028 4461 3654

3. **The Granary Guest Accommodation**  
   3 Drumcullen Road BT30 8HZ  
   T: 028 4461 3654

4. **Ballymote House B&B**  
   84 Killough Road BT30 8BJ  
   T: 028 4461 5500

5. **Dunleath House B&B**  
   33 St Patrick’s Drive BT30 6NE  
   T: 028 4461 3221

6. **Gate Lodge at Oakley B&B**  
   6 Glen Road Ballydargan BT30 8AY  
   T: 028 4485 1351/075 1688 2501

7. **Inch School B&B**  
   78 Belfast Road BT30 9AY  
   T: 078 8402 1351/075 1688 2501

8. **Number Nine B&B**  
   9 Knockchree Road BT30 6RP  
   T: 028 4461 3907

9. **Paddy’s Sleepy Orchard B&B**  
   3 Saul Brae  
   T: 028 4461 5750

10. **Tyrella House B&B**  
    90 Clanmaghery Road BT30 8SU  
    T: 028 4485 1422

11. **Ballydugan Cottages Self Catering**  
    7-11 Lake Road BT30 8HY  
    T: 028 44839519 / 07792224954

12. **Mill Cottages Self Catering**  
    113 & 115 Ardglass Road BT30 7DX  
    T: 028 4461 2767

13. **The Burren Tyrella Self Catering**  
    66 Clanmaghery Road BT30 8SU  
    T: 079 2176 0371

14. **Dunnanelly Country House B&B Crossgar**  
    26 Rocks Chapel Road BT30 9BA  
    T: 077 1277 9085

15. **Nutgrove House B&B**  
    19 Nutgrove Road BT30 8QN  
    T: 028 44 81 1566/079 7745 4497

16. **Sally Gardens Cottage Self Catering**  
    71a Vianstown Road BT30 8AB  
    T: 077 1141 3882

17. **The Cottage School House Self Catering**  
    12 Bishopscourt Road BT30 7NU  
    T: 079 2210 0023

**Taxis and Transport**

1. **Translink Depot**  
   Market Street BT30 6LZ  
   T: 028 4461 2384

2. **Translink Call Centre**  
   T: 028 9066 6630

3. **Circular Taxis**  
   T: 028 4461 5116

4. **Downpatrick Taxis**  
   T: 028 4461 4515/028 4461 2958

5. **Mi Cabs**  
   T: 077 4785 5533

6. **Mouse Cabs**  
   T: 079 7994 6658
How to find us

Downpatrick is ideally located between Dublin and Belfast and a must-see visitor destination. The town is 2 hours north of Dublin and 40 minutes south of Belfast between the Mountains of Mourne and scenic Strangford Lough.

Come off the A1/M1 at Newry North/Camlough Exit (2nd turn off after the Border) – and follow the A25 along St Patrick’s Trail.

Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre
The Saint Patrick Centre, 53a Lower Market Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6LZ
Tel 028 4461 2233