

Hear the stories of

# Kildare



A SERIES OF FREE AUDIO GUIDES TO  
HELP YOU DISCOVER SOME OF

*Kildare's Incredible Locations*



## Introduction

County Kildare Audio Guides lead you through the stories and personalities that have helped to shape the county. Kildare history stretches back through millenia. The county's origins stretch into the distant past. Overlooking the Curragh to the south-east stands Dún Áilinne, the seasonal home for a series of ancient Leinster Kings, and the legendary band of ancient warriors, the Fianna, hunted over the plains of the Curragh. It is with the arrival of a devout woman that this area became famous throughout Ireland and throughout the Christian world. Kildare derives from the Irish 'Cill Dara' meaning Church of the Oak. It was named after the church founded here under an oak tree by St Brigid around 480 A.D. Over time this site developed into a great "Monastic City, a place where visitors and pilgrims were welcome and plentiful, a place famous across Europe.

The region became a key base for the Norman invaders and their famous leader Strongbow, and the audio guide describes how it was the scene of tragedy during the 1798 Uprising. In its later history, it became a venue for aristocratic horse racing enthusiasts, and a vital stage in Ireland's first great motor race.



The Story of Kildare



Kildare Monastic Trail



Kildare Town Heritage Centre



Celbridge Heritage Trail



The Story of The Curragh

AUDIO TRAILS



# *The Story of County Kildare*



Hear the Story of County Kildare, a place that has been at the centre of Irish history for millennia. County Kildare is situated in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East and has a long and fascinating story. Sometimes known as the Short Grass County, the landscape here is a mixture of fertile plains, rolling hills and extensive bogs and is dotted with a range of historic sites. County Kildare is on the doorstep of Dublin and has long been a portal between the capital and the rest of Ireland. This guide will give you a flavour of some of the people and places that have shaped County Kildare.



## **The Story of Kildare**

Download your audio guide for free from [abartaheritage.ie](http://abartaheritage.ie)





# *Kildare Monastic Trail*



Explore the Ancient Monasteries of County Kildare. Kildare is at the heart of the dawn of Christianity in Ireland, and some of Ireland's most famous saints like Brigid, Colmcille and Patrick have strong links with the county. This audioguide will lead you to atmospheric ruins of ancient monasteries, where you will encounter some of Ireland's best preserved round towers, panel by panel descriptions of high crosses and fascinating tales of history and folklore. Discover the final resting place of Arthur Guinness, unlock the secrets of the spectacular High Crosses, climb the steps of an ancient round tower.



## **Kildare Monastic Trail**

Download your audio guide for free from [abartaheritage.ie](http://abartaheritage.ie)





# Kildare Town Heritage Trail



Kildare Town Heritage Trail, narrated by local guide Liam Quinlivan, will lead you around the wonderful Heritage Town of Kildare. Kildare's origins stretch into the distant past, but are with the arrival of a devout woman that this area became famous throughout Ireland and the Christian world. Kildare derives from the Irish 'Cill Dara' meaning Church of the Oak. It was named after the church founded here under an oak tree by St Brigid around 480 A.D. Over time Kildare developed into a great Monastic City, a place where visitors and pilgrims were welcome and plentiful, a place famous across Europe.



## **Kildare Town Heritage Trail**

Download your audio guide for free from [abartaheritage.ie](http://abartaheritage.ie)





# *Celbridge Town Heritage Trail*



Straddling the River Liffey Celbridge, is home to a host of interesting stories and historic buildings and has connections with an array of significant figures from the past. The Celbridge Heritage Trail tells the story of Celbridge's associations with some of these figures such as Arthur Guinness, Jonathan Swift, William Conolly, and Henry. The tour, beginning at Castletown House, the 18th Century stately home of Speaker William Conolly will lead you in their footsteps as you explore one of Ireland's most architecturally beautiful towns.



## **Celbridge Heritage Trail**

Download your audio guide for free from [abartaheritage.ie](http://abartaheritage.ie)





# *The Story of The Curragh*



Situated in the heart of County Kildare the Curragh is a truly unique landscape. The circumstances by which this remarkable natural feature was created are fascinating and the combined forces of humankind and nature have shaped the Curragh over many millennia, resulting in an exceptional array of internationally important flora and fauna. Crafted with the help of local historians and experts *The Story of the Curragh* helps to tell the story of this remarkable landscape. You'll find chapters on the physical geography, flora and fauna, archaeology, history, folklore, myths and legends, the military history, the equine industry and much more.



## **The Story of The Curragh**

Download your audio guide for free from [abartaheritage.ie](http://abartaheritage.ie)





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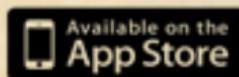
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or

<https://soundcloud.com/abartaaudioguides>

Audio Tours:

[www.guidigo.com/Tour/Ireland/Kildare/](http://www.guidigo.com/Tour/Ireland/Kildare/)



This is an Action of the  
County Kildare Heritage Plan.

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