

Carton House Walking Trails and Activities Guide

We want everyone to enjoy the natural beauty of our Estate, so we have a few rules to make sure that the natural flora and fauna are respected and protected.

- Leave no trace. Please bring all your rubbish with you.
- Please keep your dog on a lead and scoop the poop!
- We have many rare plant and flower species that are protected. Please don't pick anything, take a photo instead!
- Respect the animals and birds that you might meet on your way. Please don't feed them.
- If you do come across any animals that are hurt or distressed please let us know.
- The walks run alongside our golf courses. It is strictly forbidden to enter any part of the golf courses. Be mindful of stray golf balls!
- Please stay on paths/roads at all times.

There's so much to experience at Carton House.

Magnificent buildings steeped in history, stunning scenery, jogging trails, fantastic golf courses and luxurious spa treatments are just some of the delights that await.



Contact Us

To find out more about our on-site activities just ask our Guest Services Team located in the main lobby.
email: guestservices@cartonhouse.com
phone: +353 1 505 2000

About Carton House

'Carton' comes from the old Irish name 'Baile an Cairthe' or Land of the Pillar Stone. The 1,100 Estate stretches over two counties, Kildare and Meath, with a boundary wall of over 8km.

The lands at Carton belonged to the FitzGerald family from 1176. The FitzGeralds, who were part of Strongbow's invasion of Ireland, were one of the most influential families in Irish history. In 1739, Robert FitzGerald, nineteenth Earl of Kildare, commissioned renowned architect Richard Castles to build Carton House. It cost a mere £26,000 to build at the time! Castles was also responsible for some other great Irish Houses including Leinster House, now home to the Dail.

In 1747, James, the 20th Earl of Kildare married Lady Emily Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond and great-granddaughter of Charles II. Lady Emily was instrumental in the development of the house and estate. She created the Chinese Boudoir (bedroom to Queen Victoria) and decorated Shell Cottage with magnificent examples of shells from all around the world. One of Emily's 23 children was the famous Irish Patriot Lord Edward FitzGerald, who was a leader of the 1798 rebellion.

The Palladian style house has some splendid architectural features including a fine staircase designed by Richard Morrison and the baroque splendour of the Gold Salon with its impressive stucco work, crafted by the famous Franchini Brothers of Switzerland. Carton House has also been the location of many films including Scarlet, the sequel to Gone With The Wind. Other movies and dramas filmed here include Barry Lyndon, Aristocrats and The Treaty.

Carton House has now been carefully restored to its former glory by new owners, The Mallaghan family, who have transformed the house and estate into a luxury hotel and resort, while retaining many of the original features that make Carton House so unique.

Activities at Carton House

Xtreme.ie

Located just behind the main House, Xtreme.ie provide a high octane Team Building and Corporate Events experience. The Xtreme crew are experts in creating hi-energy, bespoke team-building programmes. Test your stamina with exhilarating zip lines; get off-road and in a powerful 4x4 jeep or try one of the challenging obstacle courses designed by experts from the World-renowned US "Survivor" TV series. Think you can handle it? Go on, give it a try!

www.xtreme.ie



Treasure Hunts

Why not get the kids to take part in a Treasure Hunt? It's a fantastic way for them to find out a little bit more about the history of the Carton Estate. It's also the perfect way to get close to nature and hopefully spot some birds and animals too!

Cycling

One of the best ways to explore Carton is on two wheels. There are 9km of cycling trails running throughout the Estate. We'll supply the map and the bikes, you supply the pedal power!



Tennis

Perfect for those with a competitive streak or just for fun! Our two outdoor tennis courts are available for residents' use. No pre-booking required just ask Guest Services for equipment.

Fishing

Our rivers and lake are simply teeming with fish – perfect for a spot of fly-fishing. The biggest is the River Rye, known as the Rye Water. It boasts one of the richest chalk streams in the country. This creates excellent conditions for rich fly-life, which the brown trout just can't resist. Why not let us take you out on a fishing trip with your own Ghillie?

The Glashroonareen River is part of a salmon sanctuary and breeding ground. A lot of the spawning for the River Liffey takes place there. The salmon weir at the spray waterfall, just down from Shell Cottage, is the perfect vantage point for spotting these magnificent fish leaping up river in November. Their homing instincts bring them back to us every year.

The fly-fishing season for brown trout runs from March-September. The winter pike season runs from September to March. All fishing trips must be accompanied by a Ghillie.

Snooker / Games Room

Take a trip underground to our traditional games room which houses a full size snooker table and arcade games.



Golfing at Carton House

World Class Golf - First Class Location



Montgomerie Championship Golf Course.

Host venue of the Irish Open and numerous other golfing competitions, Carton House boasts a superb golfing pedigree. The Golfing Union of Ireland (the oldest golfing union in the world) has its headquarters and National Coaching Academy here. We also have two magnificent golf courses, designed by the legendary Colin Montgomerie, and Mark O'Meara to choose from – or why not try both! If you don't have time for a full 18 holes we will try to accommodate you with something to suit your schedule. Golf clubs are also available to hire.

Two Championship 18 Hole Golf Courses

The O'Meara Course

Located on the North side of the River Rye, The O'Meara explores the rolling pastures and gently tiptoes around the ancient specimen trees that punctuate the landscape.

The Montgomerie Course

The Montgomerie blends a storybook setting with the exciting and challenging qualities of links golf. The first tee, on Prince of Wales Island, sits on Meath land. So golfers can drive from Meath and land in Kildare!

GUI National Academy

Established in 2006 and set in 22 acres, the Golfing Union of Ireland National Academy features unique practice facilities and opportunities.

Hire a golf buggy! There's no better way to experience all that the resort has to offer, just ask Guest Services.



The Spa & Leisure Centre at Carton House

Leave the world behind and enter a warm, calm, heavenly retreat at the Carton House Spa and Leisure Centre.



Spa

Located in the converted stable house our Spa offers total sanctuary for our guests. Treat yourself to a sumptuous Darphin spa treatment in one of our luxurious therapy rooms and get complimentary use of the Swimming Pool, Steam Room, Sauna, Jacuzzi and Gym along with the use of our Relaxation Room.

Fitness

There's nothing like a few lengths of the pool to blow off the cobwebs. And if that's not enough, we've got a state of the art gym to put you through your paces. Don't forget to wind down with a sauna or steam. Perfect for soothing those aching muscles!

Dining Options at Carton House

These walls have seen many magnificent banquets and feasts throughout the centuries. We'd like to continue with this great tradition.

We offer the best in formal and informal dining. Spend a romantic evening in the Linden Tree Restaurant, sampling the best in fine wine and regional specialties. You could also treat yourself to Afternoon Tea in the splendour of the Main house or enjoy a steaming bowl of chowder and the newspapers in the cosy Kitchen Bar. The lively Clubhouse is perfect for a summer BBQ or a post-round snack for our golfing guests.



The Linden Tree Restaurant.

DID YOU KNOW?

Princess Grace of Monaco, Queen Victoria and Marianne Faithfull were among a number of famous guests to visit Carton House over the years.



Staying at Carton House

A space for everyone...

There are 165 bedrooms at Carton House, many with their own private balcony and all situated in the mature cedar tree estate taking advantage of a space that is extremely rare in modern 4 star hotels in Ireland. All rooms have custom-made beds and gleaming bathrooms with walk-in power showers and most with separate bathtubs.

In the main house, 18 of the original suites have been entirely refurbished to accommodate every modern luxury expected by today's discerning business and leisure guest. Individually fitted with four poster beds, bespoke design furniture, glass fittings and lavish fabrics, the historic suites offer guests that little bit of extra luxury.

We will anticipate any request you might have with our extensive in-room dining facilities, menus and around-the-clock guest service. Just ask, we'd be delighted to help.

Things to do Outside the Estate

There's just so much to experience at Carton, you won't want to leave! But if you do fancy venturing a bit further during your stay here are some of our firm favourites.

St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The National Seminary for Ireland and a Pontifical University located in the village of Maynooth. The College grounds contain a number of Georgian and neo-Gothic buildings, gardens and squares, but the highlight of the tour has to be the College Chapel. Pull open the squeaky door and you enter the world's largest choir chapel, with stalls for more than 450 choristers and some magnificent ornamentation.

phone: +353 1 628 5222
www.maynoothcollege.ie

Maynooth Castle

Near the entrance to St Patrick's College you can see the ruined gatehouse, keep and great hall of this 13th-century castle, home of the FitzGerald family. The castle was dismantled in Cromwellian times. Entry is by a 45-minute guided tour only; there's a small exhibition on the castle's history in the keep.

phone: +353 1 6286744
maynoothcastle@opw.ie

History of National Science Museum, Maynooth

Over the centuries the College has amassed a considerable amount of scientific instrumentation and religious antiquities. In order that these were correctly cared for, catalogued and accessible to the general public, it was decided that a museum should be opened to contain them.

phone: +353 1 7083780
www.nuim.ie/museum/

Castletown House, Celbridge

Just a short distance from us is Castletown House, another wonderful example of a Palladian style house. Through careful restoration, Castletown House can now be enjoyed by everyone and is the perfect spot for a picnic. While you're there take a tour of the house.

phone: +353 1 628 8252
www.castletownhouse.ie

Lullymore Heritage Park, Rathangan

The Park is set on 60 acres of breathtaking landscape and explores Irish heritage, culture and environment with woodland/peat land trails, gardens and exhibitions.

phone: +353 45 870 238
www.lullymoreheritagepark.com

Arthur Guinness' Grave, Oughterard

Buried in a small cemetery that dates from the 6th century the final resting place of Arthur Guinness is well worth a visit. The site also contains the remnants of a Round Tower and numerous tombs.

The Steam Museum & Lodge Park Walled Garden, Straffan

Large scale early locomotive models. Original working stationary steam engines.

phone: +353 1 627 3115
www.steam-museum.ie

Donadea Forest Park, Donadea

Take a trip to Donadea Park. The (now ruined) castle, church, walled garden, ice-house and lake are set in over 250 hectares of splendid parkland. Nature trails, walks and a café make it perfect for a family day out.

phone: +353 57 867 8503
www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Tully

The seat of the Irish Bloodstock Industry, the Irish National Stud is home to some of Ireland's finest thoroughbreds. Tour the Stud, visit the fabulous gardens or learn a bit more about the Sport of Kings in the Horse Museum.

phone: +353 45 521 617
www.irishnationalstud.ie

Kildare Village Outlet Shopping

For all you fashionistas Kildare Village is a must. This luxury outlet village has an impressive range of designer brands from clothing to jewellery, shoes and accessories.

phone: +353 45 520 501
www.kildarevillage.com

CARTON HOUSE
HOTEL - GOLF - LEISURE



At Carton House
explore the outdoors



Carton House
in the community

Carton in the Community

Carton House has been investing in projects through our 'Carton in the Community' initiatives...

These initiatives include supporting clubs, schools and environmental projects in the expansive grounds of the hotel and local area. We believe it is important to work with local organisations, groups and individuals to help improve and support our own community.

However, it is equally important for us to broaden our own skills and learn through local knowledge and engagement. To this end, we have established partnerships with a number of local groups such as Maynooth Post Primary (through the annual 10km run), Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade and Maynooth GAA.

These ongoing commitments are demonstrated through numerous 'Carton House in the Community' activities. We are proud to support a wide range of programmes and initiatives that benefit all in our local community.

CARTON HOUSE, MAYNOOTH,
CO KILDARE, IRELAND.
T: +353 (0)1 5052000
www.cartonhouse.com



Carton House Estate... explore its rich diversity.



Watch out for...



Wildlife

The Estate's rich, rolling grassland, meandering rivers and wild wooded areas are home to a rich diversity of native animals and birds. We've created and nurtured specific habitats so that the deer, foxes, badgers, squirrels and hares feel right at home. We're also delighted to have an otter set tucked into the reeds beside **Tom's Weir**. Follow the Yellow Walk down through **River Meadow** and you might catch a glimpse of them. But be very quiet, they're notoriously shy!



Birds

Carton has an impressive range of birds including herons, cormorants, kingfishers and swans. Many migratory birds such as Brent geese like to come and holiday with us in the winter and there's a flurry of woodland favourites too. Don't forget to bring your binoculars!

The Estate boasts some magnificent birds of prey including falcons, hawks and buzzards. Look carefully and you might see one hovering over its next snack, or soaring high in the sky over Tyrconnell Tower.



Plants and Flowers

Parts of the Carton Estate have a Designate Special Area of Conservation Status. As a result of this, we've been able to protect and nurture many exotic trees, plants and flowers, brought back to Carton House over the years by adventurous botanists.



For tree lovers we have magnificent Oriental Planes, Persian Ironwoods, Tiger Spruce and Yellow Oak. We've also planted acres of native Irish species - Beech, Oak and Ash. The Yellow Walk borders 37 acres of native trees. In fact a total of 100,000 trees were planted as part of our woodland regeneration project. The deer love to hide in this untamed part of the Estate.

Each season brings its own beauty to our woodland and glades - snowdrops, crocuses, bluebells and carpets of pungent wild garlic.

The Gardens

Formal gardens were a statement of the Estate owner's position in society. The more formal the gardens, the more lofty your status! Huge amounts of work went into creating these incredibly ornate gardens. There were also private areas created for the family to enjoy.

Carton boasts a fine formal garden which has impressive sweeping views across the estate. The garden is a wonderful example of the fine topiary that was very much in fashion at the time. In addition, many acres were left untamed for hunting deer. The thunder of hooves and the call of the bugle was a common sound across the estate, as the

Walking Trails

The Red Walk

3km



This walk takes you past some of Carton's most beautiful buildings and secret hideaways. Using the two Oriental Planes as your starting point, take the original Carriage Walk down towards the Boathouse. The Walk then follows the Rye Water down to the Black Bridges and Shell Cottage before climbing gently up hill, looping around the imposing Tyrconnell Tower before bringing you back to the Formal Gardens.

The Yellow Walk

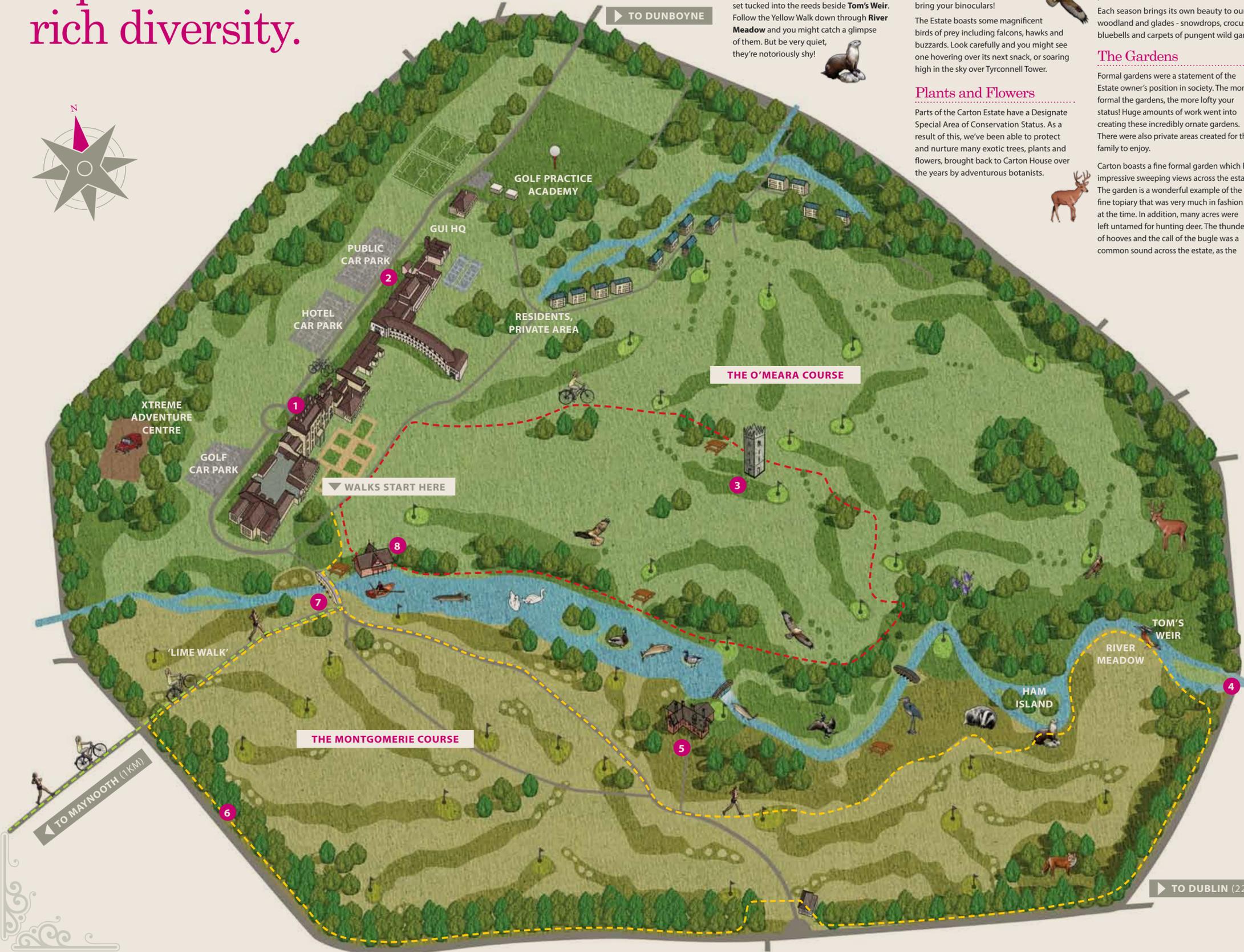
6.5km



This walk meanders through the Montgomerie Course before swinging left and hugging the boundary of the Estate. The Yellow Walk will take you past our native tree plantation, where our resident deer love to hide. This Trail is great for jogging. Parts of it are semi-wild so don't forget to wear sensible shoes or boots.

The Lime Walk

This beautiful 20 minute walk leads directly from the Estate into the historic town of Maynooth. Once a tree-lined avenue leading up to the main House, the Walk was donated to the people of Maynooth by former owners, the Brocketts.



1 The Main House

The Gold Salon
This barrel-vaulted room has a gloriously ornate Baroque style throughout, with stucco work crafted by the famous Franchini Brothers of Switzerland. Have a look at the ceiling; it's covered in intricate gold swirls and delicate motifs.

The Chinese Boudoir
It's hard to not be impressed when you enter the Chinese Room. Unapologetically extravagant, this room once housed the four-poster bed in which Queen Victoria slept. The stunning gilt-wood and hand-drawn papyrus wallpaper were commissioned from China by Lady Emily. **viewing by appointment only.*

The Print Room
Take a little time out to study some of the characters in Carton's history including the 1st Duke and Duchess, James and Emily or one of their children, the famous Irish Patriot Lord Edward FitzGerald. You can also examine the famous FitzGerald Coat of Arms adorned with the "monkeys" and view the Manor Of Maynooth book proudly displayed.

The Bell Room
The Bell Room has an impressive array of bells, each carefully labeled so that when it rang, the servants knew exactly what room they were being summoned to.

2 The Water Tower

Water was pumped in here from all the rivers in the estate. Water was harnessed as a main source of power on the Estate. Even the Gold Salon's magnificent organ used water power. How ingenious!

3 Tyrconnell Tower

This magnificent folly was originally built by Richard Talbot, 1st Earl of Tyrconnell, then rebuilt as a famine relief project. The tower stands proudly, like a giant chess piece, at the top of a grassy hill. In the distance is Connolly's Folly, capped by a distinctive obelisk. This was built on land that was originally part of the Carton Estate.

4 The Black Bridges

The Black Bridges are made from black limestone found on the estate.

5 Shell Cottage

Shell Cottage is quite simply the stuff of fairy tales. Through the Gothic windows lies a magical room decorated with a breathtaking assortment of shimmering shells from the four corners of the world. This beautiful little cottage was originally built in the eighteenth century and later remodeled for the arrival of Queen Victoria. It was frequently used as a reception lodge for "luncheon" on fishing afternoons. It's seen its fair share of other famous people too including Marianne Faithfull, Princess Grace of Monaco and Peter Sellers. **viewing by appointment only.*

6 Hooker's Gate

Used to smuggle ladies of the night into the estate for clandestine trysts!

7 The White Bridge

Called after the limestone that it was made from and designed by Thomas Ivory.

8 The Boat House

The Boathouse was built in mid-18th century. Boats used to row from here down the lake, past Duke's Island and Ham Island mooring at Shell Cottage.

